



Published Date: 02 Jan 2016

## High tide or low tide? This app can tell

**At your fingertips | Details on ports, jetties and ferries along state's coastline to be made available**

**Dhaval Kulkarni @dhavalkulkarni**

### Advantage seafarers

Locations of lighthouses, which will also be mapped out on Google Maps, and details of weather and cyclonic conditions like wind velocity, tides, oceanic temperature and weather images, will help seafarers navigate their ships. Information about tides will also be uploaded. In case of high tides, with waves above 4 metres, automatic alerts will be generated.

Mumbai: Are you one of those seafarers looking for any specific information on ferry services – their locations, timings or frequencies – operating on the state's coastline? Or trying to figure out water sports facilities in one of those sea-side villages on the Konkan coast?

Worry not. The Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) is launching a mobile app which will provide all such details at your fingertips.

Enlarge Image

"We are developing such an app with details on ports, jetties and ferries," said an official, adding that information about water sports facilities would also be uploaded.

"We are planning to make the app available on Android and later on the Apple system. It will be useful for seafarers, coastal residents, fishermen, ferry operators, passengers and the general public at large," the official said. The app and the new portal being developed by the MMB will be launched this month.

The Maharashtra Maritime Info app will also have details of the five groups of non-major ports, availability of cargo facilities and weather and hydrographic information.

It will have locations of watersport facilities and the motorised or towed activities like canoeing, kayaking, water rafting, skim boarding, rubber boats, jet skis, speed boats, which, in turn, will be linked to Google Maps so as to help tourists.

Maharashtra has around 60 functional water sports sites and the MMB has launched the 'Maharashtra Water Sports Policy 2015' to promote water sports on the state's coastline. It is looking at issuing permissions for more sites. "These sites will be gradually integrated into the app ecosystem," he added.

Locations of lighthouses, which will also be mapped out on Google Maps, details of weather and cyclonic conditions will help seafarers navigate their ships.

Three days' information about tides, which is published in a tide table by the MMB's hydrographic department, will be uploaded. The app will also have facilities for emergency alerts from the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and storm signals.

In order to protect beaches, including those in Mumbai, the

MMB is working on a project to arrest rampant erosion at these sites. The app and website will enable the people to report erosion on the state's 720-km coastline and upload photos.

Copyright restricted. For reprint rights [click here](#)