

PRESS RELEASE

RO-RO barge completes two lakh truck movements.

The RO-RO barge introduced in February, 2011 to avoid the movement of ICTT Vallarpadam bound container trucks through Ernakulam city roads has completed a total carriage of two lakh container trucks as on 05.11.2015. The barge named 'Sakra Transporters' commutes between Willingdon and Bolgatty Islands. The barge, which can carry 20 container trucks, has been a big support to avoid day time movement of container trucks from South Kerala. The movement of container trucks through Kundannoor Junction to Vallarpadam via the very busy city road stretches of Vytila, Palarivattom and Edappally is avoided by availing RO-RO barge. As the container trucks are not permitted on the city roads during day time the alternate route takes up to 45 Km.

The container trucks from Kollam and Alleppey take a deviation from Kundannoor to Willingdon Island and are driven into the barge at the Willingdon Island RO-RO jetty. The barge moves through the canal and reaches the Bolgatty RO-RO jetty where the trucks are driven out and move towards the ICTT. The movement through the canal takes only twenty minutes.

This is the first RO-RO container movement introduced in the country. The service is by a double ended ferry craft which facilitates driving in through either side and therefore, saves operational time. Similar services are being attempted by other Ports in the country. The service is operated by the LOTS shipping company of Cochin.

The service is jointly managed and supported by Cochin Port Trust and Inland Water ways Authority of India.

(RO RO- Roll On Roll Off)

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