

## Hon'ble Minister reviews development of ICTT Vallarpadam

Minister of State for Shipping (I/C) Shri Mansukh Mandaviya reviewed the development activities of Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port. It is envisaged as first transshipment port of India, managed by DP World.

Shri Mandaviya directed officials to chalk out the strategy to tackle the various challenges and actualise the vision of transshipment facility on Indian port to ensure that Indian cargo transship through Indian Port. Resolving various issues of Vallarpadam Terminal is one of the top priority of the Ministry of Shipping.”

Transshipment hub is a terminal at the port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination. International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) is located strategically on the Indian coastline. It successfully fulfills all the criteria which are needed to develop it as trans-shipment hub which include: Best positioned Indian port with regard to proximity to International sea routes; located at least average nautical distance from all Indian feeder ports; entails a connectivity which has multiple weekly feeder connections to all ports on West & East Coast of India, From Mundra to Kolkata; proximity to key hinterland markets of India; infrastructure to manage large ships and capacity to scale it up as per requirement.



Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port is proposed to be developed as most preferred gateway for South India and leading trans-shipment hub of South Asia (15.07.2020).

## Traffic update

With the Covid-19 Pandemic continuing to disrupt world economy and international trade, Cochin Port suffered decline in cargo throughput and ship calls in the ongoing year 2020-21. Cochin Port registered the total throughput of 7.76 MMT in 2020-21 (Apr-Jul), a decline of 32.78% over the same period of 2019-20. POL throughput registered 4.54 MMT and Container throughput, 1.67 Lakh TEUs, in 2020-21 (Apr-Jul), declining respectively by 40.71% and 17.64% over the same period of 2019-20. On a positive note, Containers exhibit signs of recovery with the rate of decline in growth over the corresponding period of 2019-20 continuously falling in the past four months of 2020-21. Also, the container throughput of 54,503 TEUs in July, 2020 registers a growth of 6.41% over that of July, 2019, a first since the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic.



## First Coastal Shipment of FACT flagged off

In a move that redefines the partnership between Government owned corporates, Cochin Port Trust (CoPT) and Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT), two of the leading PSUs in Kerala, the first containerised consignment of fertilisers meant for coastal shipping from Cochin to Haldia, West Bengal flagged off on 28.07.2020.

Since 2019, FACT was planning to look beyond South India and to enter the eastern markets as a part of their plan to build up a pan-India presence. They were gearing up to market Ammonium Sulphate in West Bengal and was looking for a viable mode of transport. At this point, the Business Development Team of Cochin Port stepped in and offered them a solution

by way of 'door to door' movement using coastal shipping which has lot of advantages like avoidance of multiple handling, elimination of any chance of contamination & pilferage, less damage to the cargo etc. Finally, the efforts put in by all the stakeholders resulted in shipment of first lot of 20 TEUs containing 560 Tons through M.V. SSL Vishakhaptnam operated by M/s. Shreyas Shipping and Logistics Ltd., a Transworld Group Company.

The containers after stuffing at FACT, Udyogmandal, were jointly flagged off by Dr. M. Beena, IAS, Chairman, Cochin Port Trust and Shri Kishor Rungta, CMD, FACT on 28.07.2020. The containers were shipped from ICTT, Vallarpadam on 29.07.2020.



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Speaking on the occasion, Dr. M. Beena, IAS, Chairman, Cochin Port Trust, thanked FACT for agreeing to undertake modal shift of their cargo bound for West Bengal market. She opined that a small step taken today will result in bigger coastal shipments in the coming days, which is in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for higher utilisation of the water ways and to reduce congestion on the commonly used mode of transport like Road and Rail. Shri Kishor Rungta, CMD, FACT spoke on the occasion highlighting the need for reaching out to new market by the company through a cost effective mode of transport to remain complete in the market. He thanked Chairman, Cochin Port and her team and also the carrier M/s. Avana Logistek, a subsidiary of Shreyas Shipping, for the support extended to make such a shipment happen. Incidentally, promotion of coastal shipping is one of the focus areas of 'Sagarmala', the flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India and this initiative of CPT and FACT will bolster cost effective coastal shipping of fertilisers from 'Factory to Farmer'.

The event also marked another milestone of CoPT-FACT partnership in signing of an MoU for the reconstruction of SCB for handling liquid ammonia at a cost of Rs.20.90 crore with Rs.9.59 crore to be funded under 'Sagarmala' programme and the balance to be shared by Port and FACT. Shri Amal Kumar Mehera, Deputy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust and Shri A.S. Kesavan Nampoothiri, Executive Director (PC), FACT executed the document in presence of Chairman, Cochin Port Trust and CMD, FACT and other senior officials (28.07.2020).

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## Evacuation of expatriates from Maldives



Cochin Port extended helping hand in 'Operation Samudra Setu' by throwing open its resources for facilitating the smooth transition of Indian expatriates who were evacuated by the Govt. of India from Maldives amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust reviewed the operational preparedness and infrastructural arrangements with senior port officials in order to ensure hassle-free evacuation of repatriates through the port in addition to the reviews by officials from the district administration, police, CISF, Port Health Organisation, Bureau of Immigration and the Indian Navy.

The disembarkation exercise, including the movement of passengers from the vessel to the terminal area, were carried out under the administrative control of the officer representing district administration, Ernakulam and the Medical protocols as per the directions of the officer representing district medical authority. The onward transport of passengers to institutional quarantine centers were coordinated by the Regional Transport Officer. Before arrival at Cochin, on board the vessel, the Navy collected the self e-declaration data filled by all passengers and also identify the passengers symptomatic of COVID-19.

The symptomatic passengers were disembarked first, followed by other passengers (district wise) in batches of 50 persons. Ambulance for transport of symptomatic passengers to quarantine centres was arranged by the district medical officer and District Administration. The disembarked passengers went through further statutory verifications for clearances inside the Samudrika Cruise Terminal where Port Health Organisation arranged thermal screening, verified the self declaration form, BSNL issued mobile SIM cards to the passengers.

Passengers installed Arogya Setu app on their mobiles while inside the Terminal. District Administration and District Police provided basic guidance to the passengers. This was followed by immigration and Customs checks, baggage scanning etc. The passengers once cleared by all statutory organisations were transported to different districts in KSRTC buses arranged by the Regional Transport Officer. Private vehicles with proper separations were made available for certain category of passengers. Visitors/relatives/friends of the arriving passengers were not permitted to the Terminal area.

The first group of 698 Indian expats evacuated from Maldives arrived at Cochin Port on 10.05.2020 by the ship 'INS Jalaswa' of Indian Navy. The ship berthed at BTP Jetty and the disembarkation procedures were carried out at Samudrika Cruise Terminal. The group comprised 595 males and 103 females. Of this, 14 were children below 10 years and 19 pregnant women. Though majority of passengers are from Kerala and Tamil Nadu there were repatriates of 18 other states/UTs in the ship. Passengers showing covid symptoms were disembarked first followed by others in small groups, district-wise (10.05.2020).



The second Indian Navy ship INS Magar with 202 evacuees from Maldives arrived Cochin Port on 12.05.2020, consisting of 91 repatriates of Kerala, 83 of Tamil Nadu and 28 belonging to 15 other states/UTs. Patients and other priority passengers were disembarked first. (12.05.2020).



The third group of Indian expatriates from Maldives arrived at Cochin Port by INS Jalashwa on 17.05.2020 with 588 expats. There are 588 expats from Maldives. This was the second trip of INS Jalashwa. In all, the Port has facilitated safe transit of 1488 Indian expats from Maldives (17.05.2020).





**Crew Changes of Indian Seafarers at Cochin Port during the pandemic**

The speed at which COVID 19 pandemic spread of the across the globe and the ensuing lockdown around the world including the shutdown of international flights happened meant that it did not give any time for people to react. An unforeseen consequence of this was the seafarers who are essential in keeping the world's supplies moving were left stranded across the world's oceans. Many of them had done long tenures on board and needed to be taken off and replacements taken out to relieve them. Without international travel this turned impossible.



DG Shipping being the nodal agency, immediately realised the enormity of the problem and at once set about creating a procedure to enable seafarers to join and leave ships at Indian Ports and be permitted to travel by road to and from their homes despite the lockdown. The Ministry of Home Affairs also enabled this by incorporating this provision in all their lockdown announcements. This enabled the signing off of Indian seafarers from ships that were calling at Indian Ports. This was only a minority as the majority of the seafarers were sailing on ships on international voyages.

The next step for the DG Shipping was to enable crew change at anchorages of the Indian Ports such that ships on international voyages were able to change Indian Seafarers even without entering the ports. Accordingly, an SOP was developed in coordination with the Customs, Immigration and Port Health Organisation.

Once the crew changes at anchorages started, Cochin Port became the main choice due to the location of the port next to major shipping lanes. Ships passing across the Indian Ocean started diverting to Cochin in order to enable change of their crew at the anchorage of Cochin Port.

Since May 2020, when crew change operations commenced at the anchorage of Cochin Port, more than 10000 Indian Seafarers were changed from about 500 ships, with about 90% of the operations taking place at the anchorage.



Apart from the anchorage, three cruise ships of the Holland America Line berthed at Cochin Port to land about 250 crew members.

Cochin Port also helped by the District Health Authorities, Port Health, Seaport Immigration and the Customs who extended their full cooperation to enable the crew changes.

When the usual hub ports for crew changes such as Singapore, Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Hong Kong were not permitting crew changes, Indian Ports led by Cochin Port were providing this service. This has earned Cochin Port a great name among the shipping companies and recognition from many quarters including a certificate of appreciation from the Nautical Institute branch in London.

### Certificate of appreciation from Nautical Institute

The Nautical Institute (London) India SW Branch awarded a certificate of appreciation to Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust on 09.07.2020 for the tremendous efforts of Cochin Port in carrying out crew change of Indian seafarers in Cochin Port. The certificate was presented by Capt. Tom Joseph (President) and Capt. Vinod Naveen (Secretary). Capt. J.J. Alapat, Deputy Conservator, Cochin Port Trust was present. Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust stated that the crew change in the Covid-19 scenario was possible thanks to the cooperation of all the agencies concerned such as the Customs, Bureau of Immigration, Port Health Organisation, district administration and health authorities and the steamer agents by adhering to the guidelines of the DG Shipping and Ministry of Home Affairs. Chairperson also stated that the great response by the shipping industry to choose to call Cochin Port is a sign of confidence in the port. Among the many ships that have called at Cochin anchorage for crew change included three of the largest ships in the world with container carrying capacities of over 20000 TEUs. Crew changes of over 5000 seafarers from almost 300 ships since the lockdown in March till July without any adverse incident till date despite the onset of the monsoons is a great credit to all stakeholders including the tug operators who are carrying out these operations in difficult conditions. Cochin Port is committed to the welfare of Indian seafarers during the pandemic and to offer its services to world shipping in these tough times (09.07.2020).



Thanks to all our efforts, so many seafarers have managed to get back to their homes and families just as many others have been able to continue their employment despite the travel restrictions. The seafarers expressed their gratitude across social media platforms.

The efforts seem all the more relevant, worthwhile and satisfying, Cochin Port is committed to provide this service too as long as it is needed.

### Cruise vessel arrives for repatriation of 138 Indian seafares

Cruise vessel MV Veendam arrived at Cochin Port on 12.06.2020 for the repatriation of 138 Indian seafarers. On its arrival at the BTP berth. Standard COVID procedures including thermal scanning of the disembarking crew followed by swab collection for Covid-19 test were done. After disembarkation procedures by Customs, PHO, Immigration etc, the crew were shifted to paid quarantine facilities (12.06.2020).







Regular sanitisation in progress at various offices/workplaces in Cochin Port Trust



Employees of Cochin Port Trust at work wearing personal protective equipments



COVID-19 awareness hoardings, banners, posters displayed at main entrances, office premises, canteens and prominent locations in the Port area. .



Thermal screening and sanitiser facility arranged all entrances & offices of the Port.



### World Environment Day

World Environment Day was observed at Cochin Port. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson and Shri A. K. Mehera, Deputy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust planted saplings near the new administration building. Saplings were also planted at various locations of the Port (05.06.2020).



### International Nurses Day



International Nurses Day was observed at Cochin Port Trust Hospital (12.05.2020).

### International Day of Yoga

International Day of Yoga was observed by the employees and families of Cochin Port Trust and CISF CoPT Unit with great fervour by performing yoga at their work places and homes (21.06.2020).



## COCHIN PORT TRUST

Willingdon Island, Cochin - 682 009.  
Ph: +91 484 258 2006  
www.cochinport.gov.in

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