



*Press Release*

**Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the Project of Modernisation and Upgradation of Cochin Fisheries Harbour, Thoppumpady at Cochin Port Authority by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala and Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal (through Video Conference) on 11.06.2023.**

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, Shri Parshottam Rupala and Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal (through Video Conference) laid the Foundation stone for the Project of 'Modernization and Upgradation of Cochin Fisheries Harbour, Thoppumpady' in an august function at the Samudirka Hall of Cochin Port Authority in Willingdon Island in the FN on 11.6.2023.

Shri Hibi Eden, MP, Ernakulam, Shri Binoy Viswam, MP (Rajya Sabha), Shri K.J. Maxi, MLA, Kochi, Shri T.J. Vinod, MLA, Ernakulam, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, OSD, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of India, Shri. K.S. Srinivas, Principal Secretary, Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala, Dr. C. Suvarna, Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) and Dr. M. Beena, Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority, Shri Vikas Narwal, Deputy Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority were present in the Foundation Stone laying ceremony.

The function was attended by Fishermen and allied workers, Trade Unions, members from the Seafood Trade, members from the Trade Associations; Steamer Agents' Association and Custom Brokers Association, the Chambers of Commerce; Officials from the Coast Guard and Navy, and the Cochin Port community.

The Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority, Dr. M. Beena welcomed the gathering.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, Shri Parshottam Rupala addressed the gathering. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal addressed the gathering, virtually.

Shri Hibi Eden, MP, Ernakulam, Shri K.J. Maxi, MLA, Kochi, Shri T.J. Vinod, MLA, Ernakulam, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, OSD, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt. of India, and Shri. K.S. Srinivas, Principal Secretary, Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala, felicitated the function.



Shri Vikas Narwal, Deputy Chairperson, Cochin Port Authority delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The Cochin Fisheries Harbour was established by Cochin Port Trust, now, Cochin Port Authority, in 1978 as a Grant-in-Aid project of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying had accorded approval to the proposal of Cochin Port Authority for the project of Modernisation and Upgradation of Cochin Fisheries Harbour in March, 2022 at a total cost of Rs.169.17 Crore with a central financial assistance of Rs.100 Crore under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), in convergence with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, under Sagarmala.

The Cochin Fisheries Harbour has an area of 27.86 acre with a wharf length of 350 meter. More than 700 fishing vessels operate from the harbour which witnesses 10 months of fishing activity in a year with peak season during August to November. On an average, there are about 40 to 60 boats landing at the harbour which contribute to a catch of 250 Tons per day. The catch includes Shrimps, Cuttlefish, Carangids, Ribbon Fish, Seer Fish, Tuna and Marlins, which earn precious foreign exchange for the country through exports.

The Modernisation and Upgradation Project of Cochin Fisheries Harbour through Public Private Partnership (PPP) involves setting up of infrastructural facilities on par with International standards such as temperature controlled auction centres, packing units, mechanical retrieval and conveyance of fish from the fishing vessel, chilled room for storage, ice plants, water supply, fuel outlets, net mending yards, mooring facilities for the boats, vehicle parking stations, canteen facilities, etc. On completion of the project, the harbour will have four (4) large temperature-controlled Auction Halls with mechanical retrieval and conveyance for 415 Tons of Fish per day. The investment by the PPP operator amounts to Rs.55.84 Crore with the scope of creating Cold Storage, Slurry & Tube Ice Plants, Multi-level Car Parking Facility, Reverse Osmosis Plant, Dormitory (Furnishing & Finishing), Food Court (Furnishing & Finishing) and Retail Market.

The modernisation of Cochin Fisheries Harbour will better the lives of the thousands of Fishermen and allied workers who depend on the harbour for their livelihood. The modernisation and value-addition activities will also generate new employment opportunities of skilled and unskilled nature.

The modernisation of the harbour will also help in improving the unit value realization for the fish caught. There is an estimated loss of 20% to 25% of the fish catch during the post-harvest operations. With modernization of infrastructure facilities, professional management, mechanized and hygienic handling process, etc., the traffic flowing through the Harbour will be increased and the post-harvest loss will be reduced. Consequently, there



will be better price realization from domestic and export markets, earning precious foreign exchange for the country.

On completion of the Modernization Project, it is envisaged that the earnings at Cochin Fisheries Harbour from export of fish and fish products will be in the range of Rs.1,500 Crore per annum. In addition, with substantial improvement in hygiene, higher level of employment of fishermen and allied workers on a continued basis can be ensured.

The project is a vindication of the several novel initiatives in Blue Economy taken under the visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

(11.06.2023)

