

## MILESTONES IN THE HISTORY OF PORT OF COCHIN

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1341	Closure of the ancient port of Muziris and widening of Cochin Gut.
1400	Visit of Ma Huan, Chinese Ambassador and Nicolo Conti, Italian traveller.
24 December 1500	Arrival of Portuguese Admiral Cabral.
27 September 1503	Foundation stone laid for the first Portuguese Fortress in India.
1663	Capture of Cochin by the Dutch.
20 October 1795	The Dutch surrendered to the British.
1836	First chart of Cochin harbour made.
1859	Arrival of Captain Castor, first Port Officer.
1870	Aspinwall's memorandum suggesting developing a sheltered harbour in Cochin.
1880	Memorandum by Cochin Chamber of Commerce to Duke of Buckingham.
1900	Memorandum by Cochin Chamber of Commerce to Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of India.
1904	Chamber of Commerce offer to finance experimental dredging.
1915	Alan Campbell's proposal to extend the railway line to Candle Island via Bolghatty, to reclaim land and build deep water piers there.
1918	Report of Sir John Wolfe Barry & Partners.
13 April 1920	Arrival of Sir Robbert Bristow
9 July 1920	Appointment of ad hoc Committee under the Chairmanship of E.F. Thomas, I.C.S., Collector of Malabar.
1921	Approval for experimental dredging.
1922	Experimental cut on outer bar started.
1924	Approval of Third Stage
May 1926	Commissioning of dredger "Lord Willingdon"
30 March 1928	Sand bar at the mouth of the harbour was cut open.
26 May 1928	Commanded by Capt. Bullen s.s. "Padma" of Bombay Steam Navigation Co. became the first vessel to cross the channel and enter the harbour.
August 1928	Croxteth Hall" the first foreign going vessel entered the harbour.
13 March 1929	Widening of channel completed.
1930-31	Port was thrown open for vessels upto 30ft draft.

1 August 1936	Administration of Cochin Harbour taken over by the Government of India under the Major Port Trusts Act.
12 August 1936	Maharaja of Cochin laid the foundation-stone for the Fourth Stage works.
2 June 1939	The first ocean-going ship "Braunfels" berthed alongside Mattancherry wharf.
13 September 1948	s.s. "Bharat Kumar", first vessel to berth in the expanded Mattancherry wharf.
15 August 1953	s.s. "Jayabrahma", first vessel berthed alongside South Coal Berth.
31 December 1955	Commissioning of the North Tanker Jetty.
6 February 1956	First tanker, s.s. "British Fortune" berthed alongside South Tanker Jetty.
11 November 1959	Commissioning of North Coal Berth.
24 February 1964	Cochin Port Trust constituted.
19 May 1964	Commissioning of Ernakulam Wharf.
1966	Experimental loading of palletised cargo started.
13 December 1969	Open berth Q9-555'6" was commissioned.
27 November 1973	First container vessel "President Tyler" to enter any Indian Port was berthed in Ernakulam Wharf.
13 March 1978	First Ro-Ro ship s.s. "Gauguin" called at the Port.
7 September 1978	Cochin Fisheries Harbour (first stage) commissioned.
27 April 1979	Container Freight Station inaugurated.
11 November 1981	Commencement of work on Integrated Development Project.
12 January 1984	Cochin Oil Terminal commissioned.
15 June 1984	Linking of Cochin Port with Coimbatore ICD.
September 1985	Preliminary report on Vallarpadam Mother Terminal was handed over to Shri P.P. Nayyar, Secretary to Government of India, Department of Surface Transport.
1984-85	Dedicated Fertilizer berth commissioned.
1992-93	Container Freight Station commissioned.
1993-94	DLB Merger to create composite manpower for cargo operations.
1994-95	Dedicated container facility 'Rajeev Gandhi Container Terminal' commissioned.
1996-97	The 'New Administrative office' commissioned.

2001-02	Boat Train Pier (BTP) reconstructed as 330 mtr long Multi Purpose Berth.
2007-08	Off shore Crude Oil handling facility (SBM) commissioned.
2008-09	Cochin emerges as India's major cruise terminal.
2010-11	Most significant developments since Bristow period. Commencement of first phase of International Container Transshipment Terminal with 1 million TEU capacity. A four lane road and a new link rail to the national rail grid from the terminal created. LNG terminal work commenced. Sri N Ramachandran Chairman of the Port Trust during the period 2006-2011 led the major infrastructure development efforts.
2012-13	LNG Regasification terminal commissioned. First LNG vessel M.V. Wilenergy' berthed. Cochin Port emerges as India's major bunkering terminal. Dedicated International cruise facility centre commissioned.

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#### *References*

1. *Cochin Saga* by Sir Robert Bristow, C.I.E. published by Bristow Memorial Society
2. *A Queen's Story – Five Centuries of Cochin Port* by D. Babu Paul IAS.