

No.A1/SOP/Geopolitical Disturbance/MiddleEast/2026/T

Dated: 16.03.2026

Trade Notice No.03/2026

Sub : Waiver of Ground Rent charges for Middle East bound export containers stranded inside Port Area due to geo-political disturbances.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has issued a SOP for Major Ports to comply to mitigate hardships faced by the port users due to the ongoing geo-political disturbances in the Middle East. In line with the above SOP, Cochin Port Authority (CoPA) is committed for extending all possible assistance to the EXIM community to tide over the crisis.

As a measure, the following decision has been taken to mitigate the difficulty to exporters.

1. CoPA in coordination with IGTPPL (the Terminal Operator of ICTT) is facilitating storage of stranded containers in the port premises.
2. CoPA/IGTPPL in consultation with Customs and SEZ authorities is facilitating storage of export containers from other location to Middle East at ICTT as temporary transshipment cargo.
3. CoPA/IGTPPL in consultation with Customs and SEZ authorities is arranging to provide additional storage area to the Terminal for stacking such additional cargos.
4. CoPA/IGTPPL shall give priority for handling perishable cargo.
5. CoPA will provide bunkering capacity as required
6. Requests from Port Users regarding reduction, waiver or remission of charges (such as Storage charges, Change of vessel charges, etc.) may be considered on a case-to-case basis depending on the prevailing circumstances at the port for those direct Middle East bound export laden containers, which were lying inside from 28th February 2026 or those which had gated in till 07:00 hrs on 08.03.2026 only. If the vessel came as per schedule or within 3 days of declared schedule, then the cargo is not eligible for waiver consideration per this circular. Such Waiver is also not applicable for containers where the shipping line being aware of the geo political situation has agreed to specific commercial terms (rates, freetime etc) and conditions with the terminal for handling such Middle East bound cargo at the terminal.
7. CoPA trust that Shipping Lines being an important partner to the Port ecosystem will ensure that these benefits are passed on to the end customer.

This Trade Notice is applicable to all cargo/vessels destined directly for Middle East from ICTT, Cochin that are affected due to the ongoing geopolitical crisis in West Asia and shall remain in force until further orders or until withdrawal/modification of the SOP by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.

The members of the trade may be advised accordingly.

Yours faithfully



Capt. Himanshu Shekhar
Traffic Manager

To

The Kerala Steamer Agents' Association, Cochin
The Cochin Custom Brokers' Association, CoChin
The CEO, IGTPPL

Copy to: PS to the Chairperson/PS to the Dy. Chairperson/All HoDs

