

From Chairman's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

As we are on the threshold of a new year, it is a proud moment for the Cochin Port family. The Port has registered an impressive increase in cargo handling during 2019-20 (Apr-Dec) by achieving a throughput of 25 MMT which is 7.36% growth over the cargo handled for the corresponding period in 2018-19.

There is an appreciable increase in Operating Income as well as reduction in Operating Expenditure of the Port resulting in an increase in Operating Surplus compared to the corresponding period of 2018-19. However, the payment of wage revision arrears to employees and pensioners in April 2019 has led to a reduction in the net profit during the period.

We have to aspire for much better performance in the coming days, so much so that we can gradually overcome the burden of about Rs.2600 crores in the Pension Fund and repayment of the remaining Gol loans of about Rs.500 crores.

As the GAIL pipeline connecting LNG Terminal at Cochin Port with Mangalore is in the final stage, it is expected that there would be considerable growth in the LNG throughput in the coming year.

In addition, the much delayed construction of LPG Terminal at Cochin Port has resumed recently, thanks to the support extended by the State Government. Completion of the terminal by 2022 would help Cochin Port improve the cargo traffic considerably.

I am sure, we can achieve higher productivity by optimum utilisation of our resources, can attract more cargo to Cochin by offering cost effective and reliable service, and can cope with the demands of new age logistics sector and strengthen the core areas of Port activities by redefining the work culture.

In this regard, it is pertinent to note that Cochin Port has decided to upgrade our e-Port system implemented during 2009 by migrating to the Cloud along with a new Port Operating System to replace the decade old legacy CALMS. The new Port Operating System 'PortKonnct' will be having new features and facilities available to the internal users and the stakeholders. Lot of efforts have been put in by Cochin Port team in building the new platform. The new system will be operational from January 2020.

It is a matter of great pride that Cochin Port Trust has got Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (3rd Prize) for best implementation of Hindi as official language of the Union under Board/Autonomos Institutions category of "C" Region of India. The Award has been received from the Hon'ble Union Home Minister on 14.09.2019 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, on the occasion of Hindi Diwas Celebration.

The programmes conducted as a part of 'Swachhta Pakhwada 2019' (from 16.09.2019 to 30.09.2019 and 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign (from 11.09.2019 to 02.10.2019) as directed by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Sakthi and the Ministry of Shipping were noteworthy.

Formal inauguration of the Swachhta Pakhwada and Swachhta Hi Seva (SHS) programme in the Port was done by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge) during his visit to Cochin on 20.09.2019. The Hon'ble Minister also commissioned three battery operated Buggies for cruise passengers.

It is worthwhile to note that as a result of the efforts put in by all the major ports and other organisations, Ministry of Shipping has been ranked 3rd among all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India for the implementation of the Swachhata Action Plan for the year 2018-19. In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, vide letter dated 07.10.2019 congratulated the Cochin Port and our team for achieving this success.

The various initiatives taken towards reduction of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) in the Port area, the awareness programme by setting up an SUP Christmas tree in co-ordination with the Port fraternity and the signature campaign launched towards stopping use SUPs have been lauded by public representatives.

All these have been possible due to the dedicated service put in by the employees and the officers alike. 2019 has been a strike-free year for the Port of Cochin, which would definitely help Cochin to grow as a logistics hub in the region.

Let us strive to overcome the challenges ahead and join hands to scale greater heights in the coming days. Wishing all staff & officers and their family members a happy and prosperous new year.

Best Wishes,
Dr. M. Beena IAS





2nd mainline service to Europe

ICTT Cochin Port received the 2nd mainline service to Europe with the vessel AL Rawdah of the IEX Service calling at the Port on 04.11.2019. The master of the ship was presented a plaque by Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust in a brief function held on board the ship.



Rest Shelter for Cargo handling workers

A new rest shelter for cargo handling workers at Ernakulam Wharf was inaugurated by Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust on 03.10.2019 in the presence of heads of departments, union leaders and employees of the port.



Helicopter services to tourist destinations



As a step towards adding more attractions and interesting experience to cruise tourists, a helicopter service has been introduced from Willingdon Island, Cochin by M/s. Chipsan Aviation in association with the District Tourism Promotion Council, Kerala Tourism supported by M/s. Greenix Village.

The helicopter service was formally inaugurated by Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust on 20.11.2019. About 50 passengers enjoyed the helicopter ride on the initial day. Five rides were sponsored by Steamer Agents' Association, Cochin Customs Brokers' Association, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Seafood Exporters' Association. A special ride was arranged for cancer survivors along with Dr. V.P. Gangadharan, renowned oncologist. Six meritorious students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Cochin Port Trust were also included in one of the rides.



Cochin Port is one of the most favourite cruise destinations in India. In the year 2018-19, 49 international cruise ships visited Cochin Port with 62,753 Passengers and 28,828 crew members. This has been the highest-ever cruise call in the port and Cochin Port continues to remain as the leader in cruise calls amongst the entire cruise handling ports in India.

Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust observed that 25% of the passengers arriving by cruise ships being repeat visitors, more tours and interesting experiences were to be inducted in the itinerary. Hence, as a step towards it, Cochin Port Trust identified Munnar & Jatayu Earth Centre as new destinations. Helicopter service will be operating to these tourist places during the visit of cruise ships. The helicopter rides evoked very good response from the cruise passengers as well as tour operators.

A free Mehndi (henna) designing was arranged at the Samudrika cruise terminal at Cochin Port on 20.11.2019 for cruise tourists arrived by the vessel Azamara Quest. More such initiatives are in store for cruise tourists at Cochin.



A capacity building training programme was organised by Cochin Port Trust on 01.11.2019 in association with DTPC Ernakulam for auto & taxi drivers connected with cruise tourism in Cochin.



Arrival of cruise vessel MV Costa Victoria

MV Costa Victoria arrived Cochin Port on 13.11.2019 with 1552 passengers and 791 crew. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust and Mr. Sokratis Sklavos, captain of cruise vessel exchanged plaques on board. Dr. Beena addressed a press meet held on board the vessel.



Interactive session on latest trends in shipping sector

An interactive session on 'Latest Trends in Global Maritime Trade, Port Development and Container Shipping' was conducted by Dr. Jose Paul, former chairman of Mormugao Port Trust. Dr. M. Beena IAS, chairperson and senior officers of Cochin Port Trust were present (30.11.2019).



Review of construction works of the new international cruise terminal



Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson reviewed the progress of the construction of new International Cruise Terminal at Ernakulam Wharf, Cochin Port (03.10.2019).



Security review of SPM

Shri Tom Jose IAS, Chief Secretary, Kerala conducted a security review of BCPL's Single Point Mooring (SPM) facility off Cochin coast along with Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, CoPT and senior officials from BPCL-KR, Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Kerala Police and Cochin Port Trust (19.12.2019).



'Make a handbag out of own used T-shirt'

A DIY (Do It Yourself) session on 'make a handbag out of own used T-shirt' was conducted on 06.12.2019 for the employees of Cochin Port Trust and CISF personnel with a view to equip them to find alternate solutions to plastic carrybags.

The session was conducted in the wake of instructions by Govt. of India to reduce the use of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) and the ban imposed by the Govt. of Kerala on use of SUPs with effect from 01.01.2020. The session was conducted by Dr. Nirmala Padmanabhan, Associate Professor, Dept of Economics, St. Teresa's College, Ernakulam & team of students.

The employees who brought used T-shirts and scissors were taught on the making of shopping bags that could carry up to 5 kg without any stitching in 15 minutes.



Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson and heads of the department, Cochin Port Trust were present.

Dr. Nirmala, who demonstrated various kinds of shopping bags made out of used clothes, appreciated the response received from the employees of Port and thanked Cochin Port Trust in taking the lead towards phasing out the use of single use plastic by way of upcycling used clothes.

Chairperson highlighted the importance of promoting eco-friendly alternatives to SUPs and urged all employees to inspire people around them to turn to upcycling of used clothes & materials.



Say No to SUPs

As a step towards reducing Single Use Plastics (SUPs), instructions issued for stopping the use of SUP drinking water bottles, carry bags etc in the port area from 01.01.2020. Employees were requested to bring from their homes used plastic bottles for creating an SUP art installation intended for awareness among the public against the use of SUPs.



Campaign against SUPs



A 24ft Christmas tree art installation made out of 25000 used Single Use Plastic water bottles was set up by Cochin Port fraternity at the CoPT Walkway in Willingdon Island near Kannanghat Bridge to spread awareness on the growing menace of Single Use Plastics (SUPs) during the second half of December 2019. The installation was created in 15 days by a team of volunteers from Cochin Port fraternity (Cochin Port Trust, Casino Hotel, Hotel Taj Malabar, CISF CoPT Unit, Kendriya Vidyalaya Port Trust, Petronet LNG, Hotel Trident and Cochin Steamer Agents' Association). Smt. Soumini Jain, Worshipful Mayor of Cochin lighted the Christmas tree at a function held on 21.12.2019. A signature campaign to stop the use of SUPs was launched by Shri K.J. Maxi, Hon'ble MLA by signing the signature board placed adjacent to the tree installation. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust presented mementoes to Shri Saran S.P. and Shri Jinse Berleigh of Casino Hotel who designed and led the art project.

Shri G. Vaidyanathan, Chief Engineer, Cochin Port Trust, Shri V. Thuraipandian, Chief Mechanical Engineer, Cochin Port Trust, Joseph J. Alapat, Deputy Conservator, Dr. Roy Thomas, Chief Medical Officer, Cochin Port Trust, Shri George Joseph, General Manager, Casino Hotel, Shri Siby Mathew, General Manager, Hotel Taj Malabar, Shri Jograj, Deputy Commandant, CISF, Shri Prabhakaran, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya Port Trust, Shri Jishnu Velliyath, General Manager, Hotel Trident and Shri M. Krishnakumar, President, Cochin Steamer Agents' Association were present at the function.

Earlier, Cochin Port Trust held various meetings with CISF, CoPT Unit, KV Port Trust, leading hotels and trade organisations in Cochin Port area including Casino Hotel, Hotel Taj Malabar, Hotel Trident & Cochin Steamer Agents' Association towards reducing the use of SUP in the Port area.

The SUP bottles used for creating the installation were collected from leading hotels in Willingdon Island and contributed by employees of Cochin Port Trust and students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Port Trust in a month's span. It shows the magnitude of the of SUP bottle waste being generated in a small area in such a short span. The SUP bottles used for the installation were moved for responsible recycling.



Shri Gopal Krishna IAS, Secretary (Shipping), Govt of India joins the campaign against SUPs by signing the message board at CoPT Walkway (24.12.2019).





Shri Dineshwar Sharma IPS (Retd), Administrator, Union Territory of Lakshadweep and team (03.12.2019).



Dr. L. Murugan, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes (30.12.2019).



Shri Manhar Valji Bhai Zala, Chairman, National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (18.11.2019).



Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port Trust chairing the panel discussion on Safe and Secure Ports at BIMSTEC Ports Conclave 2019, Visakhapatnam (08.11.2019).



Mr. Nitirooge Phoneprasert, Consul-General and Diplomats from the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Chennai (22.11.2019).



Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson distributes prizes to the winners of various competitions held during Hindi Pakhwada 2019 (28.10.2019).



Hindi workshop on 'Accounts and Statistics' for employees of Finance Dept. was conducted by Smt. M.C. Sheela, Asst. Director (OL), BSNL & Secretary (TOLIC) (07.11.2019).



Hindi orientation programme on Port employees by Smt. Leena T. P., Jr. Translation Officer, FSI (14.11.2019).



Awareness class on cancer by veteran oncologist Dr. V.P. Gangadharan for employees of CoPT and Port fraternity (18.10.2019).



Awareness programme on AIDS in connection with World AIDS Day (30.11.2019).



Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, CoPT interacts with the students of CEPT, Ahemdabad on developmental initiatives in Cochin Port (05.12.2019).

Vigilance Awareness Week



Vigilance Awareness Week was observed in Cochin Port Trust from 28.10.2019 to 02.11.2019. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairman inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp and administered Integrity Pledge to the employees on 28.10.2019.

Introductory address was made by Smt. Uma Venkatesan IRS, Chief Vigilance Officer, Cochin Port Trust. Competitions on essay writing/ poster designing/elocation were held for Cochin Port employees and students of nearby schools and colleges.

A talk on the theme 'Integrity - A Way of Life' was delivered by Shri. P Mohanadas, former judge and judicial member of Kerala Human Rights Commission on 01.11.2019.

MoU with KUFOS



Signing of MoU with Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies for scholarly co-operation and academic collaboration in areas of Environmental Concern and Research Relationship in the fields of Coastal Circulation, Sea Level Rise, Plastic Pollution, Dolphin Conservation & Tourism, Mangrove Forestation & Training Fishers on Navigational Basics (30.11.2019).

Run for Unity



Employees of Cochin Port Trust joined the 'Run for Unity' held at Ernakulam City. Shri V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs flagged off the event and joined the Run (31.10.2019).



Vigilance Walkathon



Cochin Port Trust employees participated in the 'Walkathon' organised by Vigilance Study Circle Kerala starting from High Court Junction and finishing at Rajendra Maidan (03.11.2019).



India wins badminton championship under coaching of Port staff



India won gold and silver in the Asia Junior (U-17 & U-15) Badminton Championship under the coaching of Joy T. Antony of Cochin Port. In the championship held at Indonesia in December, two Indian players entered the singles final securing the top medals and played each other, the first ever in the history of Indian Badminton.

Spice Coast Marathon



Spice Coast Marathon Run organised by Soles of Cochin in association with Cochin Port was flagged off by Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson, Cochin Port. Sachin Tendulkar and Tovino Thomas were the chief guests. The employees of Cochin Port actively participated in the marathon (01.12.2019).



Winners of All India Major Ports competitions felicitated

The medal winners of Cochin Port in the All India Major Ports competitions held during 2017-18 & 2018-19 were honoured with cash awards on 28.11.2019. Dr. M. Beena IAS, Chairperson and Smt. S. Uma Venkatesan IRS, Chief Vigilance Officer gave away the prizes. Shri Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager & President, Cochin Port Sports Control Board was present.



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