



# COCHIN PORT TRUST

# Newsletter



Dec 2017- May 2018

## From Chairman's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

The Major Ports in India are currently undergoing a major changeover, thanks to the initiatives under Sagarmala and Ease of Doing Business taken up by the Ministry of Shipping. The Major Ports are striving hard to attain the global standards to excel in their services. This is very important to survive in the new age maritime sector where minor ports in private sector are outpacing the growth of major ports.

We at Cochin Port have taken commendable steps in increasing productivity, enhancing service standards and achieving RFD targets set by the Ministry of Shipping. The RFD achievements with respect to curtailing expenses on security, overtime etc and attaining higher operating surplus during last financial year have been lauded by the Ministry of Shipping. It is definitely a very good sign that Cochin Port could achieve a net profit of 13.55 cr. in the year 2017-18. This indeed is a turnaround on the financial front as we have overcome the loss registered continuously during the last 10 years and the growth is 150% from net loss of 27.17 cr. registered in 2016-17.

The Port has achieved an all-time high cargo throughput of 29.14 million metric tonnes for the year 2017-18 recording an impressive growth of 16.51% over 2016-17. Incidentally, the cargo growth rate is the highest amongst all the Major Ports of India. Container traffic grew by 13% during the same period. There was impressive growth in the traffic of crude oil, POL, cement etc. Progressive steps such as improved highway network, ease of doing business initiatives and introduction of GST regime by Govt of India have helped to increase arrival of more cargo from the hinterland to Cochin.

However we have to ensure optimum utilisation of the port infrastructure. The determination of the state government is bearing fruit in the case of laying GAIL pipelines as its first stage is being completed in June 2018. This will help increasing the handling of LNG at Cochin Port in the coming days. Though there are concerns over delay in construction of the LPG storage plant by IOCL, it is expected that government interventions would pave the way for completion of this project without further delay.

Our financial turnaround has proved once again that a committed team with indomitable spirit can create wonders.

I solicit wholehearted support of the port community and continued hard work by my colleagues in further keeping Cochin Port in this growth mode for ensuring a robust future.



Best Wishes,  
A.V. Ramana



Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala was Chief Guest on the occasion of 'Cochin Port Day' celebrated in commemoration of the entry of first ship into Cochin Harbour. The construction of the inner harbour from the year 1921 is deemed as the transformation of Cochin as a modern and safe port. The first ship-SS Padma entered the inner harbour through the widened and deepened Cochin Gut on 26.05.1928.



Cochin Port Day was celebrated on 25.05.2018 at Samudrika Hall, Willingdon Island. Shri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala was Chief Guest on the occasion.

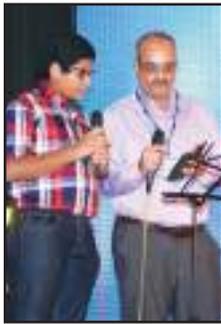
Shri P. Nageswara Rao, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Central Tax, Central Excise & Customs delivered key note address. The function was presided by

Shri. A. V. Ramana, Chairman (i/c), Cochin Port Trust. Shri. Prakash Iyer, President, Cochin Steamer Agents' Association, Shri. A. A. Abdul Azeez, President, Cochin Customs Brokers' Association, Shri Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager and Shri G. Vaidyanathan, Chief Engineer of Cochin Port Trust spoke on the occasion. Trustees of Cochin Port Trust, representatives from the Trade, employees and pensioners of

the Port & their families were present.

Awards were given to the Best Performing Port Users and outstanding employees of the Port. This was followed by a variety of entertainment programs presented by the employees and family members.

'MV Lagoons', passenger ship and the Coast Guard ship berthed at BTP Jetty were visited by thousands of people.



## Shri A. V Ramana to hold the charge of Chairman, Cochin Port Trust



Shri A V Ramana, Deputy Chairman has been entrusted with the additional charge of Chairman, Cochin Port Trust by the Ministry of Shipping, Govt of India on 08.06.2018.

He had joined Cochin Port Trust as Deputy Chairman in August 2016. Shri A V Ramana is a ME (Mechanical) from BITS Pilani. He was Chief Mechanical and Electrical Engineer, Kolkata Port Trust and was instrumental in facilitating integrated container operations through OOM (Own Operate

and Maintain) model. He also worked as Chief Administrative Officer, Indian Ports Association and Deputy Director, Indian Maritime University. Having 28 years experience in Ports sector, he was associated with Sethusamudram Public Hearing Committee, Member of the Chennai based technical committee regarding infrastructural issues related to Indian Maritime University (IMU) and also associated with preparation of the statute for IMU.

## Cochin Port Trust Makes a Turn-Around

Cochin Port Trust has made a turnaround in the financial front by making a net surplus of about Rs. 13.5 crore overcoming the loss registered continuously during last 10 years. The Port achieved an all-time high cargo throughput of 29.14 million metric tonnes (MMT) for the year 2017-18 recording an impressive growth of 16.51% over 2016-17. Incidentally, the cargo growth



Shri P. Raveendran, Chairman & Shri A.V. Ramana, Dy. Chairman addressing the Press Meet on 05.04.2018

rate is the highest amongst all the Major Ports of India. Container traffic grew by 13% during the same period.

During 2017-18 the Port handled a total traffic of 29.14 MMT as against 25.01 MMT during 2016-17, registering a growth of 16.51%.

The total number of containers handled during 2017-18 is 5.55 lakh TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) and during 2016-17 is 4.91 lakh TEUs registering a growth of 13%.

POL (Petrol, Oil & Lubricants) handling improved from 15.79 MMT during 2016-17 to 18.66 MMT during 2017-18, registering a growth rate of 18.17%.

Cochin is the most preferred cruise destination port in India with 42 cruise vessels called at the Port during 2017-18.

Cochin Port handled Coastal Steel Cargo of Rastriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam by Coastal Shipping with effect from October 2017.

The Port could attract river sand & Illmenite sand vessels during the current year and handled 1.33 lakh & 0.37 lakh respectively during 2017-18. Introduction of Incentive/ Penalty Scheme under Berthing Policy of Govt. of India w.e.f. 04.06.2017 has helped to achieve higher productivity in handling POL & Cement.



## Cruise tourists with e-visa exempted from Biometric enrolment

To make India attractive to cruise passengers and to promote cruise tourism in the country, Ministry of Home Affairs at the request of Ministry of Shipping, has exempted cruise tourists arriving with e-visa from the requirement of biometric enrolment for a period of three years i.e. till 31.12.2020. This will facilitate expeditious immigration clearance of cruise passengers with e-visa enabling them to spend more time on shore. Exemption of biometric on arrival of cruise is an important decision criteria for cruise lines to include a destination in their itinerary.

The Ministry of Shipping has been working towards providing customer

friendly & hassle-free logistic process for embarking and disembarking of passengers through a simplified immigration clearance procedure. As per the schedule of arrivals of the cruise ships for the current cruise season 2017-18 & 2019-20, many of the cruise ships coming to India are mega ships with 2000-4000 passengers on board. E-Visa has been in place in the five major ports in India i.e. Mumbai, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin & Chennai. Most of the cruise passengers are expected to arrive on E-Visa. Biometrics of the passengers were required at port of first arrival for immigration clearance. With the existing facilities in the cruise terminals at 5 major

ports, the immigration procedure was taking more than the internationally accepted norm of clearing all cruise passengers within 90 minutes.

This simplified immigration clearance procedure is a series of steps to attract and enhance cruise passenger experience at major ports. Earlier, the standard operating procedures (SOP) to handle cruise was revised and is being implemented uniformly at all ports. In November 2017, major ports reduced their tariffs by 42 – 67% for 3 years to make it attractive for cruise lines to visit India. Major ports now charge a single comprehensive uniform rate of USD 0.35 per G.R.T.

**Shri P K Sinha, Cabinet Secretary** (02.04.2018)



**Trade Meet at Alleppey**

(05.12.2017)

A trade meet was conducted at Alleppey with the coir exporters. The meeting was attended by Shri Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager & senior officers of Traffic Department.



Dr. Alok Verma from Norfolk Sister City Orgn, USA and Cdr Jose, the Chair of Kochi Sister City Organisation (22.01.2018)

**Delegates of National Defence College** (22.03.2018)



Meeting with Steamer Agents of Cochin on business prospects & Ease of Doing Business initiatives (05.01.2018)

**Delegation from Inchcape Shipping Services, Dubai** (27.02.2018)



Mr. Roger Harris, Executive Director & Mr. Chirag Bahri, Regional Director, International Seafarers Welfare and Assistance Network in South Asia (06.02.2018)

**Mr. Robert Burgess, Consul General of the United States, Chennai (04.12.2017)**



Mr. Adam Gannaway, Consular Officer, US Consulate, Chennai (13.04.2018)

**MoU for exclusive berthing facility for Naval ships (05.01.2018)**



Cochin Port Trust and Indian Navy has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for utilising the Q2-Q3 berths at Mattacherry Wharf of Cochin Port for berthing Indian Navy ships. The MoU was signed on 05.01.2018 on behalf

of Cochin Port Trust by Shri. Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager and Commodore Deepak Kumar, Chief Staff Officer (Ops), Southern Naval Command for Indian Navy.

As per the MoU, Cochin Port's Q2 and Q3 berths at Mattacherry Wharf, totaling 228m

of quay length, was handed over to Indian Navy for 5 years for berthing their ships.

Indian Navy had requested for exclusive berthing facility in Cochin Port for berthing their ships during reconstruction period of their berths. In view of the national interest involved, Cochin Port examined the request and decided that Cochin Port's oldest wharf, Mattacherry Wharf, can be spared since it is no longer suitable for berthing big cargo ships due to limitation of draft and displacement.

This is a landmark decision in the history of Cochin Port and will go a long way in the combined efforts of the Port and Navy for ensuring the safety of the nation.

**Meeting of Committee of Cruise Task Force (07.03.2018)**



Committee of Cruise Task Force constituted by Govt. of India meeting with the stakeholders held at Samudrika-Cruise Passenger Facilitation Centre of Cochin Port on 07.03.2018. The Committee witnessed the operation of the two cruise ships - Costa neoClassica and Pacific Princess and took stock of the implementation of SOP of cruise ships stipulated by the Ministry of Tourism.



## Republic Day Celebrations

Shri A.V. Ramana, Dy. Chairman, Cochin Port Trust hoisted the National Flag at the Port and addressed the gathering on the occasion of 69<sup>th</sup> Republic Day. Cultural programs were staged by CISF personnel and family members.



## Maiden call of cruise vessel M.V. Mein Schiff 5 (26.02.2018)

Shri A.V. Ramana, Dy. Chairman exchanges plaque with Captain of cruise vessel MV Mein Schiff 5 on maiden call at Cochin Port. The ship arrived from Mumbai with about 2500 tourists & 1000 crew & left for Goa after a day's visit to 'God's Own Country'.



## Ship for World Youth Leaders Programme (12.02.2018)

Ceremonial & traditional welcome was given to MV Nippon Maru, the Ship for World Youth Leaders Programme (SWYLP) on arrival at Cochin Port.

SWYLP is a prestigious programme of Govt of Japan in which around 350 participants from Japan, Australia, Bahrain, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, UAE & India are participating.

SWYLP aims at developing ability to deal with different cultures & communication skills between Japanese & youths from the participating countries.



**Ambedkar Jayanthi Celebrations (14.04.2018)**

Ambedkar Jayanthi was celebrated at Cochin Port on April 14. Dy. Chairman Shri A.V. Ramana paid tributes and spoke on the occasion. Shri Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager, Shri G.Vaidyanathan, Chief Engineer and Capt. Joseph J. Alapatt, Deputy Conservator were also present.



**TOLIC Awards (13.03.2018)**



1<sup>st</sup> prize of Hindi Inhouse Journal (Cochin Lahar) & 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for official language implementation being received from Chairman, Cochin TOLIC (PSU) by Smt. C. Premakumari, Secretary & OL officer (i/c), Cochin Port Trust, during valedictory function of Joint Hindi Fortnight Celebrations.

**Cochin hosts All India Major Ports Volleyball & Beach Volleyball Championships**



The 42<sup>nd</sup> All India Major Ports Volleyball & Beach Volleyball Championships were held at Cochin Port from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2017. Over 100 players from Mumbai, Goa, Tuticorin, Paradip, Chennai, Kolkata, Vishakhapatnam and Cochin participated in the championship.

Cochin Port Trust emerged champions in both Volleyball and Beach Volleyball.

Prizes were distributed by Shri A.V.Ramana, Dy. Chairman during the valedictory function held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017.



Dy. Chairman, Cochin Port Trust with the members of Cultural Team, who have been runners up in 20<sup>th</sup> All India Major Ports Cultural Meet 2017.



Cochin Port Football Team which won runners up trophy in the All India Major Ports Championship held at Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata.



Cochin Port Trust Team secured Gold Medal in the All India Major Port Badminton Team Championship held at Kamarajar Port, Chennai from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Shri Joy T Antony, Sr Accountant, GAD won the Gold Medal in Men Singles.

## National Safety Week

47<sup>th</sup> National Safety Week was conducted in Cochin Port Trust from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The Safety Flag was hoisted at Ernakulam Wharf by Shri Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager, CoPT and administered the Safety Pledge to all those assembled there. Safety Pledge was taken by individual departments by the respective officers of

the individual sections. Essay Competition on "Safety in Handling Hazardous Cargo" Elocution Competition on "The Key to Safety is in Your Hands" and Quiz Competition on "Safety Health and Environment" were conducted. Awareness programme on Basic Fire Fighting was held at Electrical Testing Section by CoPT Fire Service.

A presentation on First Aid and Trauma Care was taken by Dr. A. P. Sudhir, Medical Officer, CoPT to the employees of CoPT. Prizes were awarded during the Valedictory Function chaired by Shri G. Vaidyanathan, CE & CME, CoPT.



## Photographs of 1936-40 handed over to Heritage Museum (12.02.2018)

About 25 rare old pictures on the making of port of Cochin, particularly of construction of the rail-road bridges to Willingdon Island, were handed over to Cochin Port Maritime Heritage Museum at a function held at the Museum on 12.02.2018. The photographs and some old writings on the making of the Port were handed over by Shri.R. Shivashankar, son of Late R.T. Ramachandra who was the Resident Engineer in charge of bridge works for Cochin Harbour during 1936-40. The photographs and other documents were received by Shri A.V. Ramana, Deputy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust.



Late R.T. Ramachandra

Speaking on the occasion, Shri A.V. Ramana recollected the contributions made by Ramachandra in providing the much needed rail-road connectivity to Willingdon Island as the Resident Engineer in the team of Sir Robert Bristow who created the modern port of Cochin. Of these, the Venduruthy Rail-Road Bridge and Mattanchery (old) bridge remain as engineering marvels even

today. He also recounted the writings on R.T. Ramachandra as a great philanthropic, who used to keep a portion of his income to educate the children in his village.

Shri. Goutam Gupta, Traffic Manager, Cochin Port Trust and Smt. C. Premakumari, Secretary (i/c) also spoke on the occasion.



## Celebrating empowerment of women



Women members of the crew of Cochin Port Dredger - Nehru Shadabdi on International Women's Day (08.03.2018). Smt. Sreelatha N and Smt. Jayasree C. B, have been working on board the dredger of Cochin Port Trust for the last 24 years and 18 years respectively.

## New Appointments



**Shri Deepak Chaturvedi**  
Chief Vigilance Officer



**Smt. C. Premakumari**  
Secretary



**Shri R.N Harikrishna**  
Chief Mechanical Engineer



**Dr. Roy Thomas**  
Chief Medical Officer



**Capt. Joseph J. Alapatt**  
Deputy Conservator

## COCHIN PORT TRUST

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