



# V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority

## Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



## Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

**Invitation for Expression of Interest (Eoi) for operating Ferry, Cruise, Ro-Ro, Ro-Pax, Helicopter and Seaplane services from VOC Port**



**Traffic Department**

## **Brief about Expression of Interest**

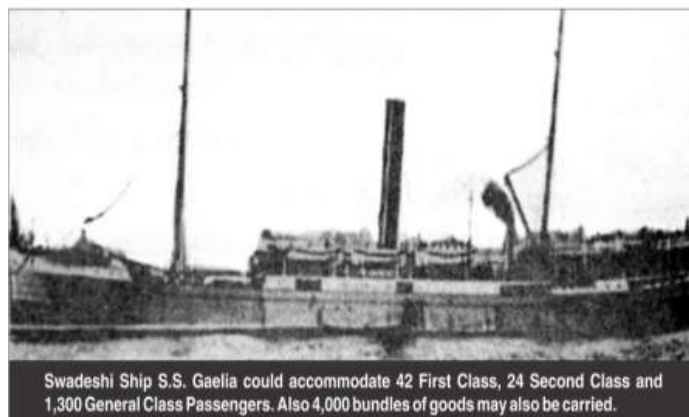
<b>Name of the project</b>	Expression of Interest – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operate Coastal and Foreign Cruise/Ferry service</li> <li>• Operate Ro-Ro/ Ro-Pax service</li> <li>• Operate Seaplane and Helicopter services from VOC Port.</li> </ul>
<b>Name of Authority</b>	V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
<b>Objective of EoI</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable regular Coastal and Foreign Ferry, Cruise ship movement from VOC Port to Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Lakshadweep, Andaman Nicobar islands, Maldives, Colombo, Jaffna, Talaimannar and other destinations.</li> <li>• Enable Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax service from VOC Port.</li> <li>• Operate Helicopter &amp; Sea plane services from VOC Port to facilitate easy travel to/from potential tourist spots in the hinterland.</li> </ul>
<b>Last date of Submission</b>	12.05.2022
<b>Contact</b>	Shri. R.Prabakar – Traffic Manager e-mail – <a href="mailto:tm@vocport.gov.in">tm@vocport.gov.in</a> Mobile: 9443389513  Shri. D.R. Yogesh - Assistant Traffic Manager e-mail – <a href="mailto:yogesh.dr@vocport.gov.in">yogesh.dr@vocport.gov.in</a> Mobile: 8300147807

## 1. Brief History of Tuticorin

In Literature, the earliest mention about Tuticorin has been made in 88 AD in Greek work "Periplus of the Erythrean Sea". From AD 124 to AD 1000, Tamil literature and historical records have highlighted the Pearl Fisheries of Tuticorin. The 7th to 9th Century AD were ruled by Pandya Kings and 10 to 12 Century AD was ruled by Chola Kings. There is a mention that there was a well guarded and natural Harbour where ships could anchor in safety in Tuticorin. Many European visitors particularly English travelers have meticulously recorded their impression of Tuticorin in 17th Century. The impression recorded by Philip Baldaeus, an English missionary, who visited Tuticorin in 1675 are graphic and valuable. The lucrative pearl fishery that flourished under the Dutch is vouchsafed by Jean De Lacome.



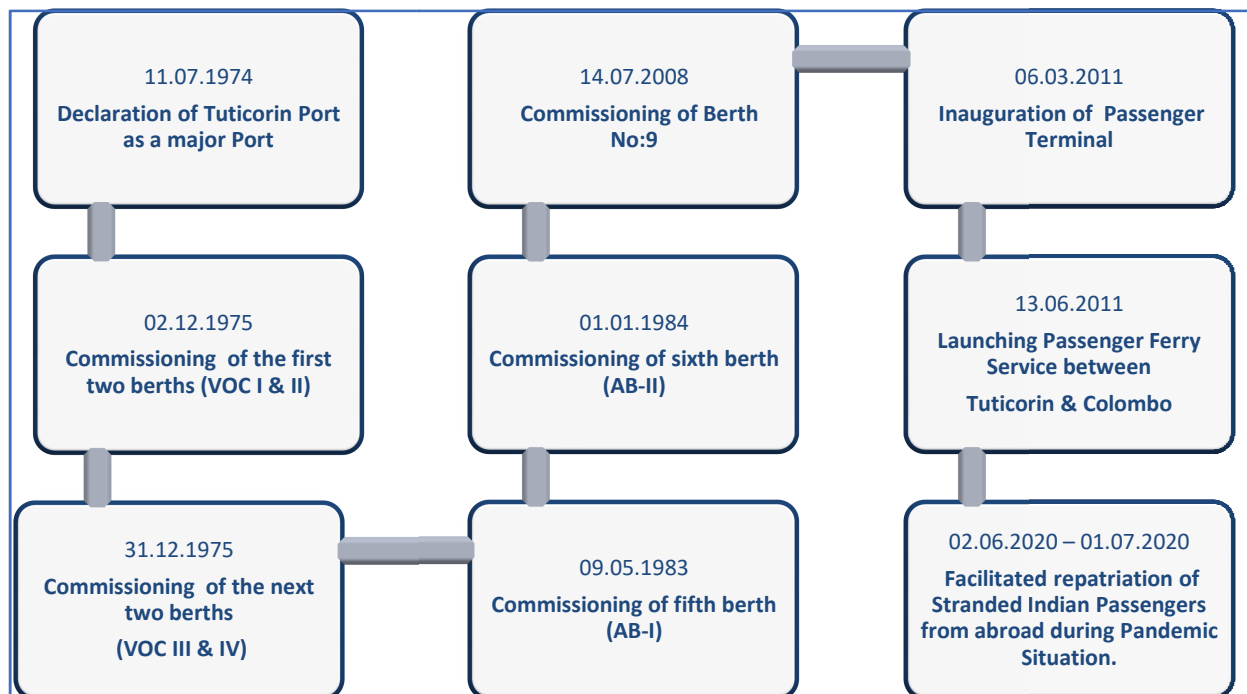
Tuticorin became the citadel of freedom struggle in the early years of 20th Century. V.O.Chidambaram sowed the seeds of Nationalism and independence with the doctrine of Swadeshi and boycott. After undergoing ordeals and struggle, he was able to launch the First Swadeshi Navigation Company in 1907. The Swadeshi vessels S.S.Galia and S.S.Lavo were operated between Tuticorin and Colombo.



## 2. About V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA) is one of the 12 Major Ports in India and the second-largest Port in Tamil Nadu. The VOC Port was declared as a Major Port by the Government of India in July, 1974. The Port is an Autonomous Body under the administrative control of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. VOCPA is strategically close to the East-West international sea routes on the south eastern coast of the India at latitude 8°45'N and longitude 78°13'E. VOCPA is accredited with Quality and Environment Management Systems QMS ISO 9001:2015, EMS ISO 14001:2015 and OHSMS 45001:2018.

## Major Milestones:



### 3. Objective of Expression of Interest

The Government of India through Ministry of Ports, Shipping and waterways and Ministry of Tourism undertake various measure to promote Port based tourism activities. Tamilnadu State Government through Department of Highways and Minor Ports (Tamilnadu), Tamilnadu Tourism Department and Tamilnadu Tourism Development Corporation has keen interest to promote sea based tourism.

The aim and objective is to make VOC Port as a Home Port for Tourism in Southern India. VOC Port is situated in close proximity to the international East-West Sea route, with short sailing distance to the international cruise tourist hotspots of the Indian peninsular region like Colombo, Maldivies, Lakshawdeep, coastal tourist destination of Rameswaram, Danuskodi/Ram-sethu, Manapad, Kanyakumari. Also, Port is well connected to the various important cities, towns of the hinterland tourist spots. In this regard, VOC Port taken several proactive measures and held a series of meeting with major Cruise/Ferry operators to capitalize the key attractions of the region and great potential for tourism. In addition to that VOC Port is well connected by road and rail connectivity with hinterland which is suitable for safe movement of wheeled cargo, such as cars, trucks, semi-trailer trucks, buses, trailers.

In order to capitalize the key attractions of the region and great potential tourism, Expression of Interest (EoI) has been invited from potential firms to operate Coastal and Foreign Cruise/Ferry, Ro-Ro/ Ro-Pax, Seaplane and Helicopter services from VOC Port.

# Objective



Enable regular Coastal and Foreign Ferry, Cruise ship movement from VOC Port to Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Lakshadweep, Andaman Nicobar islands, Maldives, Colombo, Jaffna, Talaimannar and other destinations



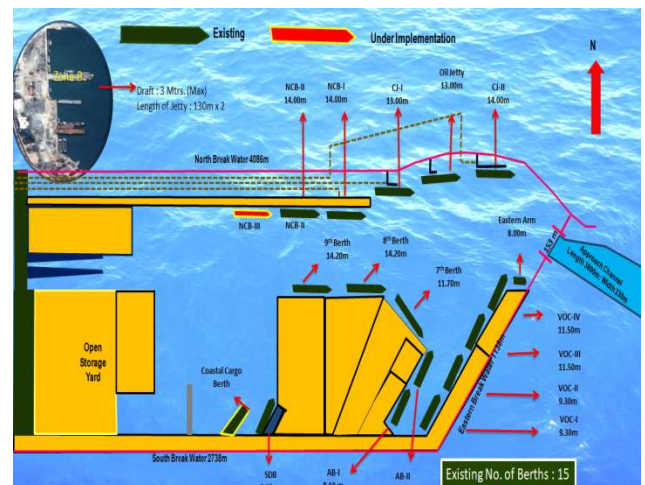
Enable Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax services from VOC Port



Operate Helicopter & Sea plane services from VOC Port to facilitate easy travel to/from potential tourist spots in the hinterland

## 4. Facilities available in VOC Port

The Port is an artificial harbour protected by two breakwaters and is connected to deep water by a dredged channel. The Port has a handling capacity of around 70 Million Tonnes per annum (MTPA). The Port has 17 Berths i.e., 2 Container Berths, 4 Coal Berths, 1 Deep draft General Cargo Berth, 1 Oil Berth, 8 General Cargo Berths and 1 Coastal Berth and can handle 14.2m draft Vessels at present. The Port is planning to deepen the channel and harbour basin to handle the vessels for drafts upto 15.5m. Parameters for berthing of vessels is enclosed in the **Annexure - I**



The Port provides necessary infrastructures such as berths, passenger terminal (3816 Sq.m), transit sheds (10,878 Sq.m), warehouses (14,940 Sq.m), open storage space (6,19,210 Sq.m), mechanical equipments, marine facilities and electrical facilities needed for the trade and as per the service requirements.

#### 4.1 Connectivity



The National Highway NH-45B connects the Port with Madurai, Coimbatore, Chennai, Bengaluru and various regions in the northern hinterland of the Country. Further, NH-7A connects the VOC Port with Tirunelveli and directly to Trivandrum (Kerala State) and other regions in the southern hinterland.



The Port is also well connected through a broad gauge railway line with southern part of the Country through Madurai, Trichy, Chennai and Bengaluru.



Tuticorin airport is situated at a distance of about 20 km from the Port. VOC Port is equipped with One Helipad.

VOC Port has a dedicated Passenger Terminal with all necessary amenities. In 2011, a passenger Ferry service was operated between Tuticorin and Colombo. Recently, **under “Operation Samudra Sethu” the Port facilitated to repatriate a total number of 2,271 Indian citizens through Indian Navy ships- INS Jalashwa and INS Airavat which called at VOC Port under four different voyages.**

#### 4.2 Passenger Terminal Facilities

The Passenger Terminal spread over an area of 3816 sq.m. Consists of the following amenities

- 300 Sq.m. Hall for arrival passengers
- 710 Sq.m. Baggage halls for outgoing (Departure) Passengers
- 4 cabins for immigration formalities
- 4 Counters for Customs Checking
- 612 Sq.m. Customs waiting halls
- 516 Sq.m Customs examination hall
- 70 Sq.m. VIP Lounge
- Facilities for modern canteen, Launch/Snack bar, hall for cabin passengers, agent's room
- Facilities for Medical Examination and First Aid
- Facilities for Child Care
- Fire Fighting Equipments



- Officers cabin for Immigration, Customs, CISF, and Public Health & Port Authority
- X-ray baggage screening facilities
- Rest Rooms for Men & Women
- Communication and Public Address facilities
- Camera Surveillance system
- Uninterrupted power supply system
- Separate parking facility

#### 4.3 **Tourist Potential**

VOC Port is surrounded by several historical places, beaches, museum, ecological parks and water sports avenues. Most of the tourist attractions such as Rameswaram, Kanyakumari, Madurai, Manapad etc., are located within a short distance of 5-170 kilometer from VOC Port. The short distance makes VOC Port ideally located for the de-berthing foreign tourist to visit such places and return back within a daylight hours. Also, some of the places in Kerala such as Trivandram which are frequently visited by Foreign Tourist are in fact closer to VOC Port than Cochin Port. A list of nearby tourist spots are attached in **Annexure- II**



### 5. **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### 5.1 **Port's role and responsibilities:-**

- Port shall extend berthing facilities and passenger terminal facilities on payment of necessary charges
- Port may provide suitable land area as available in VOCPA in accordance with Government guidelines on payment of necessary charges as per prevailing SoR from time to time.
- Facilitation and coordination with the Participating Government Agencies, State/District Authorities and stakeholders.
- Any other facilitation required, within the Port's frame work.

## 5.2 Operator's role and responsibilities

- The operator shall have the responsibility to provide the Cruise/Ferry, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax, Seaplane and helicopter service, viz., all aspects of acquisition of vessels or leasing, operations including staffing, safety, vessel maintenance, logistics and marketing etc.
- Operator shall be responsible for identifying potential itinerary, preparing feasibility report, ensuring insurance, safety and compliance to Statutory provisions, rules & regulations

## 6. Application Process

- 6.1 Application for Expression of Interest is enclosed in **Annexure – III**.
- 6.2 The application for Expression of Interest may be submitted either **jointly or severally** for the above services.
- 6.3 The application for Expression of Interest may be submitted either **by a single firm or by a consortium of firms**.
- 6.4 The application for Expression of Interest along with supporting documents, concept note/proposal with detailed action plan and timeline should be submitted as a single consolidated document by email to [tm@vocport.gov.in](mailto:tm@vocport.gov.in) with the subject “Expression of interest for operating Cruise/Ferry, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax, Sea plane and Helicopter service from VOC Port” on or before 12.05.2022 (EoI Due Date).
7. As per the directions of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the tariff for Cruise Vessels has been rationalised and the details of the same placed as **Annexure – IV**.
8. For any query/clarifications/information, please contact the under mentioned officials.

Shri. R.Prabakar Traffic Manager 9443389513 <a href="mailto:tm@vocport.gov.in">tm@vocport.gov.in</a>	Shri. D.R. Yogesh Assistant Traffic Manager 8300147807 <a href="mailto:yogesh.dr@vocport.gov.in">yogesh.dr@vocport.gov.in</a>
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## 9. Disclaimer

- Nothing in the proposal shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority. This invitation for EOI being neither an agreement nor an offer for award of work and it is not an invitation to tender.
- VOCPA reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, and to annul the selection process and reject all Expression at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Companies/Service Providers.
- VOCPA reserves the right to annul or modify the process or issue another request for EoI at a later date without assigning any reason whatsoever.

## PARAMETERS FOR BERTHING OF VESSELS

Sl No	Berth	Quay length (in m)	Parameters		Remarks	
			Permissible LOA (in m)	Permissible Draught (in m)		
1	VOC I	840	210	9.3	Draught without tide = 11.0 m	
2	VOC II		210	9.3		
3	VOC III		210	11.5**		
4	VOC IV		210	11.5**		
5	AB I	383	183	8.6	for container vessels only	
6	AB II		200*	9.3		
7	VII	370	270	11.7		for container vessels only
8	VIII	345	310	14.2***		for container vessels only
9	IX	334.5	235	14.2***	Under upgradation with tidal advantage	
10	Coal Jetty I	301	225	13.0		
11	Coal Jetty II	318	225	14.0		
12	Oil Jetty	150	150 - 228	13.0		
13	North Cargo Berth I	306	245	14.0**		
14	North Cargo Berth II	306	245	14.0**		
15	Coastal Berth West (CBW)	185	160	9.0		
16	Shallow Water Berth	140	120	5.85		
17	Eastern Arm	140	100	7.4		
<b>Note:</b>						
1. Maximum Permissible Beam = 48 m						
2. HMCs can reach cargo hold up to 31 m of the beam length of vessels.						
3. * indicates the maximum LOA by protruding to the adjacent berth.						
4. ** indicates that such vessels shall be handled utilizing the tide of at least 0.5 meters and in rising tide.						
5. ***indicates that such vessels shall be handled only during day light hours and utilizing the tide of at least 0.65 meters and in rising tide.						

**Tourist attraction at VOC Port hinterland**

Places/	Distance (from VOCPA)	Attractions
<b>Tuticorin</b>	5-50	Our Lady of Snows Shrine Basilica, Pearl City Beach, Hare Island, Aqua Outback, Manapad, pearl city beaches, Kattabomman memorial fort, Ettaiyapuram palace, Holy Trinity church, St.James church.
<b>Thiruchendur</b>	30-40	Tiruchedurmurugan temple, Tiruchendur Beach, Valli Cave temple, NaaliKinaru
<b>Tirunelveli</b>	50-70	Nellaiappar temple, Archeological Museum, District science centre, ManjolaiNellaiappar Temple, Holy Trinity Cathedral
	70-100	Papanasam falls, Manimuthar Dam, kalakadu wildlife sanctuary, Government, Subramanian Swamy Temple
<b>Courtallam (Tenkasi)</b>	120-140	Courtallam Main Falls, Five Falls, Tiger Falls Road, Chitraruvi, Mekkara dam, Gundaru dam, Thenmala Dam, Shendurnuy wildlife Sanctuary
<b>Virudunagar</b>	120-160	Pilavakkal Dam, Ayyanar falls, Kullursandai reservoir
<b>Nagercoil</b>	130-140	Nagaraja Temple, Thanumalayan Temple, Padmanabhapuram Palace, Sanguthurai Beach
<b>Kanyakumari</b>	130-145	Vivekananda Rock Memorial, Thiruvalluvar Statue, Kanyakumari Beach, Kumari amman temple, Sunset point, our lady of ransom church, padmanabhapuram palace, wax museum, Vatakottai Fort, Gandhi mandapam, St.Xaiver church
<b>Madurai</b>	150-165	Meenakshi amman temple, Thirumalai Nayak Palace, Gandhi Memorial Museum, Vandiyur Mariamman Teppakulam, Vaigai Dam, Alagar Koil, Meghamalai, Samanar Hills, Tirupparankundram Murugan, Pazhamudhir Solai, Athisayam water cum amusement park
<b>Rameswaram</b>	170-200	Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Agni Tirtham, Sri Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir & Floating Stones, Ariyaman Beach and Beach resorts, Quest Adventures Sports Academy, Gulf of Mannar marine national park, Navapashanam Temple (Devipatnam), Aadhi Jagannathaperumal temple (thirupullani), Mangalanathaswamy temple (Uthirkosamangai)
<b>Trivandrum</b>	200-220	Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Shankumugham Beach, Kuthira Malika
<b>Theni</b>	220-250	Kumbakarai falls, kurangai, suruli falls, megamalai wildlife sanctuary, Megamalai high wavy mountains, Gowmriamman temple.
<b>Kodaikanal, palani</b>	265-275	Kodaikanal Lake, Coaker's Walk, Silver Cascade Falls, Bryant Park, Bear Shola Falls, Palani arulmigushridhandayuthapnai temple.

### Nearby island

Nearby Island	Distance from VOCPA
<u>Vhan island</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Kasuwari island</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Karaichalli island</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Upputanni island</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>Puzhukunichalli island</u>	<u>53</u>
<u>Nallatanni island</u>	<u>57</u>
<u>Valimunai island</u>	<u>73</u>
<u>Appa island</u>	<u>82</u>
<u>Vaalaitheevu</u>	<u>92</u>
<u>Mulitheevu</u>	<u>96</u>
<u>Deepusagar island</u>	<u>107</u>
<u>Manauli island</u>	<u>114</u>
<u>Vishal island</u>	<u>115</u>
<u>Pullivasal island</u>	<u>120</u>
<u>Krusadai island</u>	<u>123</u>
<u>Shingle island</u>	<u>125</u>

### **Annexure – III**

#### **Application for Expression of Interest to operate Coastal and Foreign Cruise/Ferry, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax, Helicopter and Sea plane services from VOC Port**

1. Name of the organisation:

2. Organization information:

Sl.No	Particulars	Details
I.	Country and year of incorporation	
II.	Address of corporate Headquarters	
III.	Main business of organisation	
IV.	Organization Head Quarter/Branch offices details	
V.	Details of Individual(s) who will serve as point of contact: (i) Name (ii) Designation (iii) Mobile number (iv) E-mail	
VI.	Any other information the Applicant would like to include	

**Note:** Self Attested copy of certification of incorporation may be enclosed

3. Firm/Consortium/Company profile

a. Previous experience

b. Relevant previous experience (Technical Credentials)

c. Financial statement ( Minimum 3 years annual turnover and net present worth of the company based on the audited balance sheet/financial statement)

**Note:** Proof of experience, financial statement shall be enclosed

4. Preferred service (Cruise/Ferry/Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax/Sea plane/Helicopter):

5. Detailed Conceptual proposal with timeline :

6. Operational/Financial/Business model for project implementation:

7. Support expected from Port:

8. Support needed from other Government Agencies:

9. Suggestions, if any:

## Rationalization of Tariff for cruise vessels arriving in India

By Email / Speed Post

SW-15011/2/2020-MG (CNo 338503)

Government of India  
Ministry of Shipping  
(Coastal Shipping Cell)

R. NO. 546, Transport  
Bhawan, Parliament street New Delhi  
Dated: 31 May, 2021

To  
The Chairpersons,  
All Major Ports of India.

**Subject: Rationalisation of Tariff for Cruise Vessels arriving in India.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 on the subject mentioned above. Mumbai Port Trust vide letter dated 22-03-2021 had raised various issues impacting Cruise Shipping Industry and inter-alia the issue of extending the Ministry's Order dated 14-08-2020 for a further period of 5 years was also raised.

2. The issue of extending the tenure of Rationalization of Tariff for Cruise vessels was examined in the Ministry in view of the second wave of the COVID 19 pandemic and it has been decided by the competent authority to extend the rationalization of tariff for cruise vessels for a further period of one year beyond 13.08.2021 i.e upto 13.08.2022. The extension of further period will be reviewed if required.

3. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours Faithfully,

*G. Ananthanarayanan*  
(G. Ananthanarayanan) 21/5/2021

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
Tel/Fax: 011-23356988  
Email: g.ananthanarayanan@nic.in

Copy for information to:

- (i) Chairperson, Indian Ports Association
- (ii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.

SW-15011/2/2020-MG (CNo 338503)

Government of India  
Ministry of Shipping  
(Coastal Shipping Cell)

R. NO. 546, Transport Bhawan,  
Parliament street New Delhi  
Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

To

The Chairpersons,  
All Major Ports of India.

**Subject: Rationalisation of Tariff for Cruise Vessels arriving in India.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Minutes of the meeting held on 30.07.2020 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge), during which the rationalization of tariff for Cruise Vessels beyond 3rd November was discussed and the following tariff rates, as proposed by INCLA, have been approved by the Hon'ble MoS (IC):

- i. The port charges for a cruise Ship to be charged at \$ 0.085 per GRT ('Fixed Rate') and \$ 5 per passenger ("Head Tax") for the first 12 hours stay. Ports will not charge any other rate like berth hire, port dues, pilotage, passenger fee, etc.
- ii. For the period exceeding 12 hours stay, the fixed charges on Cruise Ships will be equal to the Berth Hire Charges payable as per SOR (with 40% discount as applicable for cruise ships).
- iii. Further, cruise ships making
  - a. 1-50 calls per year to get 10% rebate.
  - b. 51-100 calls per year to get 20% rebate.
  - c. Above 100 calls per year to get 30% rebate.

2. The above rationalized tariff shall be immediately effective for a period of one year, with a view to provide support to the cruise shipping business, which has been very adversely affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This would also help to ensure that cruise calls at Indian Ports do not dry up completely.


- 2 -

3. Thereafter, for the next two years, depending upon the rate at which the cruise industry revives itself, the tariff may be rationalized by splitting it into two components viz. fixed rate on ship's GRT and charges per passenger basis (head tax), in a ratio to be decided later. The volume discounts during this period would be as follows:

- a. 50-74 calls per year to get 10% rebate.
- b. 75-100 calls per year to get 15% rebate.
- c. Above 100 calls per year to get 20% rebate.

4. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours Faithfully,

  
14/8/2020

(G. Ananthanarayanan)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel/Fax: 011-23356988

Email: g.ananthanarayanan@nic.in

Copy for information to:

- (i) Chairperson, Indian Ports Association
- (ii) Joint Secretary, Ports, Ministry of Shipping
- (ii) Deputy Director General, Niche Tourism, Ministry of Tourism.