



# KORKAI

THE e-BULLETIN OF V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT

OCT-NOV-DEC 2019  
Volume -1



## A gist on Korkai

In ancient times, civilized India confined to the river beds and sea Ports. In the lap of Tuticorin district, Korkai, an ancient noble city flourished was an abode of Dravidian culture and power. At that time, it was located on the banks of the river Thamirabarani and at the sea coast, forming a natural harbour.

The word 'Korkai' is believed to be originated from 'Kol' + 'Kai'. In Tamil, 'Kol' means to 'Kill' and 'Kai' means 'Arm'. Kolkai would seem to mean the hand or arm of slaughter. It may have been the poetical name for a military camp or Government headquarters. Reputed for pearl fishery, it is referred as Colchi by Periplus in 80 A.D., Kolkhai by Ptolemy in 130 A.D and Korkai in the Sangam literature. Korkai, an ancient port, is now a village called Maraimankalam at the estuary of the river Thamirabarani.

The gateway of Korkai was adorned with gold and pearls like the ancient Babylonian city. The Pearls and conches of Korkai had a good market. The splendour and grandeur of this city evoked surprise among the foreign traders. The Greeks who visited Korkai would anchor their ships in the sea and would take rest on mainland which seemed to them as a paradise on the earth.

The combined action of the sea and the river Thamirabarani over a period of 2000 years had caused excessive sedimentation and covered Korkai with sand in course of time. It is not known when exactly this happened. Now, sea has receded about 6 Kms and its invisible importance as 'Pearl City' withered long ago.



# From the Desk of Chairman



**T.K. Ramachandran, IAS,**  
Chairman  
VOChidambaranar Port Trust

Hello and welcome to the first ever digital edition of the Port's Newsletter 'Korkai'.

I wanted to start this newsletter to have a way of communicating with all the stakeholders, Port users and Officers & staff of the Port to share the happenings that are occurring across the Port.

As we conclude the end of the third quarter, on behalf of our Port, I extend a resounding "Thank you" to all the Port users, stakeholders and my fellow officers and staff who have worked so hard in bettering the last year's traffic performance by handling 26.90 Million Tonnes of Cargo and 6.03 TEUs of containers during this financial year upto December 2019 spurring a growth 4.63% and 9.30% respectively.

With so much happening at our port, we thrive in the excitement of moving forward and seeing all our employees, customers and stakeholders enjoy what we're creating.

Our growing Port is constantly engaged creating new infrastructure, new jobs opportunities and attracting new cargos. In short, new opportunities. To move forward with the global trends, VOC Port is planning to increase the width of the channel from 153 metres to 230 metres. increase the maximum draft from 14.20 metres to 15.50 metres and convert the Berth 9, Berth No. 1 & 2 as Container Terminal and Berth No.5, 6 and 10 as multipurpose berths in phases. An outer harbour is also planned with 2 Container berths with maximum draft of 17 metres. We will continue with these generational projects significantly enhancing our ability to work larger ships and serve our customers.

I thank you again for your continued interest and hope you will discover how we can play an integral role in the advancement of your business goals. Here at VOC Port, we are committed to serving the Port community by providing tangible results. I wish to hear from you. Feel free to reach out to us.

On behalf of myself and the Board of Trustees of the Port, we wish you a Happy new Year.

Thank you and enjoy the newsletter.

**T.K. Ramachandran IAS**

# Message from the Trade



**J. David Raja**

Senior Vice President (ICD Division)  
St. John Freight Systems, Tuticorin

As we all know, when we talk about the health of the Port and Shipping sector, we start with volume and growth. Growth is important to all sectors, especially to this one, since so much of the investments are tied up in large, expensive fixed assets. Volume growth leads to many good things: mounting revenues, high asset utilization, approvals for new investments, good pricing behaviour among competitors, and win-win relations between Port and Port users.

The vessels are getting bigger and bigger, Neo-Panamax ships, Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs) and today the biggest are plus 20,000 TEU carriers. Whatever a particular Port might call them, they are big which eventually puts bigger pressure on the Ports and terminal operators.

Tuticorin is the closest Indian port to the International Shipping Lanes, as close as 32 nautical miles. As of now in Tuticorin, all the cargo except far east are consolidated at Colombo Port which is 145 nautical miles away from Tuticorin port.

If we take the total volumes handled by Colombo Port, nearly seventy per cent of the volumes handled by the Srilankan Port Authorities are accounted for by Indian Origin cargo. Some experts even put it at eighty per cent. The export and import volumes that the east coast Ports tranship through Colombo port during the calendar year 2018 are Chennai over five lakh TEUs, Vallarpadam 1.78 lakh TEUs, New Mangalore Port over 72,000 TEUs and Visakhapatnam Port 1.58 lakh TEUs.

With V.O. Chidambaranar Port, being close to international shipping lanes, having the natural advantage of being protected from weather impediments, established link to Industrial clusters situated in various parts of Central and Western Tamil Nadu and feasibility to augment the infrastructure make Tuticorin Port an ideal spot to emerge as both Gateway and Transhipment port for cargo landing from both Africa and South East Asia. The East coast Ports of Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore besides Vallarpadam could easily shift their transhipment Volumes from Colombo to Tuticorin for Direct Europe / US / far east connections. The advantages of deploying bigger vessels are that the existing restrictions can be eliminated at VOC Port Trust and the transhipment of Indian Cargo at Colombo port can be reduced. With the introduction of regular container service to both Irugur and Whitefield by the Container Corporation of India, VOC Port can emerge as the leader in transhipment.

On behalf of Shipping fraternity of Tuticorin, I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year 2020.

**J. David Raja**



# Port Performance

V.O. Chidambaranar Port handled 26.90 Million Tonnes of cargo during this financial year upto December 2019 as against 25.71 Million Tonnes handled during the corresponding period of previous year registering an increase of 4.63%. It is the third highest growth among Major Ports.

The Port handled 6,03,495 TEUs. of containers during the current financial year upto the month of December, 2019 registering an increase of 9.30% surpassing the corresponding period of last year achievement of 5,52,123.

## Physical Performance Parameters

Description	April to December		% Variation
	2018-19	2019-20	
Average Pre-berthing detention (Port a/c in Hrs.)	3.36	3.12	7.14
Average Turn Round Time (Port + Non-Port a/c in Hrs.)	48.72	46.80	- 3.90
Average Output Per Ship Berth day	14,836	15,164	1.77
Container Quay Crane Moves / Hr.	27	27	

# Events

## Swachhata Hi Seva 2019

The concluding function of Swachhata Hi Seva 2019, was held on 02.10.2019. Swachh Bharat pledge was administered by Shri N. Vaiyapuri, Deputy chairman to the gathering. Street play and a rally along the port colony emphasising the importance of cleanliness was organised to spread the awareness on cleanliness. Prizes were distributed by Shri N. Vaiyapuri, Deputy chairman to the winner of various competitions conducted during the observance of Swachhata Hi Seva 2019 from 11.09.2019 to 02.10.2019.



Shri N.Vaiyapuri, Deputy Chairman, administering the Swachhata pledge during the concluding day of the Swachhata Hi Seva 2019 on 02.10.2019



Shri T.K.Ramachandran, I.A.S., Chairman, Shri N.Vaiyapuri, Deputy Chairman, and Smt. S. Shanthi, Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer receiving the National award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2018 from Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Power

## National award for Excellence in Cost Management

The Port received the National award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2018 for the category Transportation and Logistics on 25.10.2019. The award has been given for exemplary performance and initiatives of V.O. Chidambaranar Port towards reduction of cost per tonne, savings in electricity by installation of energy efficient LED Lightings, installation of Solar Energy Systems, Reduction of Overall Cost of Handling by Mechanization in Port operation which resulted in Improved Efficiency and quick evacuation of cargo. It is also pertinent to note that during the financial year 2017-18, the operating ratio of the Port was 39.28%, the best among the Major Ports of India.



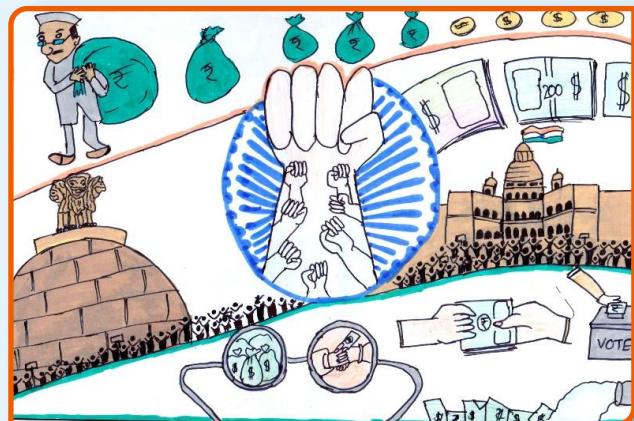
# Events

## Vigilance Awareness Week celebration

During the week long Vigilance Awareness Week celebration from 28th October to 2nd November, under the theme 'Integrity – a way of Life', Essay writing competition, Slogan writing competition and Elocution competition were conducted for the employees, School children and College Students. Sensitization seminars was organized for Contractors, Vendors and Officers & Employees of the Port. As per the CVC directives, medical camp was organized at Labour Colony wherein more than 500 persons were benefitted. In addition, painting competition was organized in association with 'The Hindu' Newspaper for school children in and around Tuticorin to sensitize the values of integrity. Around 2000 school children from 20 schools actively took part in the painting competition.



Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS., Chairman, delivering the Chief Guest address during the Valedictory function of Vigilance Awareness Week on 04.11.2019



Winner – Junior Category - D. Shanmugapriya - VIII-C, Subbiah Vidlayam Girls Higher Secondary School



Winner – Senior Category - S. Selvasekar - XI-B, BMC Martication Higher Secondary School

# Events

## Port's participation in the 'Invest Tamil Nadu Summit, 2019'

V.O.Chidambaranar Port participated in the 'Invest Tamil Nadu Summit, 2019' organised by AMRL SEZ at Chennai on 18.11.2019. Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS., Chairman, delivered a special address highlighting the facilities of the Port and introduced the 'Tuticorin SPEEDZ' (Tuticorin Smart Port Employment & Economic Development Zone), a Sagarmala initiative for providing an integrated industrial park under Coastal Employment Unit (CEU) to the eminent gathering. A stall highlighting Tuticorin SPEEDZ was also erected to highlight to facilities of Tuticorin SPEEDZ. The event was graced by Shri M.C. Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Industrial Department, Government of Tamilnadu, Shri N. Murugandam, IAS., Principal Secretary, Industrial Department, Government of Tamilnadu, policy makers, and eminent business personalities of Tamilnadu.



Shri T.K. Ramachandran, Chairman, Port Trust introducing 'Tuticorin SPEEDZ' to the eminent gathering at the 'Invest Tamilnadu Summit-2019 held at Chennai on 18.11.2019



Shri T.K. Ramakrishnan, IAS., Chairman, flagging off the Aids Awareness Rally

AIDS Prevention & Control Unit delivered awareness speech on prevention of AIDS. Leaflets sensitizing the gathering on the awareness of AIDS were also distributed

## Observance of World AIDS Day

To mark the observation of the World Aids Day, a rally from Administrative Office to Port's Green Gate complex was organised on 07.12.2019. The rally was flagged off by Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS., Chairman, V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust. In the formal function organised at the Green Gate, Dr. Purnima Viraj G Purohit, Chief Medical Officer administered the World Aids Day Pledge and addressed the gathering on this year's theme 'Communities make the Difference'. The counsellors from District



# Projects

## 25 MW onshore and offshore wind farms

The Port has proposed to install grid connected 25 MW onshore and offshore wind farms at an estimated cost of Rs.125 Crores at Port's estate. So as to identify the feasible locations, National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), Chennai has been entrusted to carry out the study, for which Port has installed Meteorological masts in two locations at the Port. The Meteorological mast has been installed with speed monitoring instruments, wind vanes, temperature sensor, Pyranometer and pressure sensor.



## 140 KW Solar Roof Top Power Plant

Port has also proposed to install 140 KW Solar Roof Top Power Plant at a cost of Rs.75.51 crores. The Solar panels would be laid at the roof top of Shopping Complex, Officers Club and Maritime Institute Buildings.

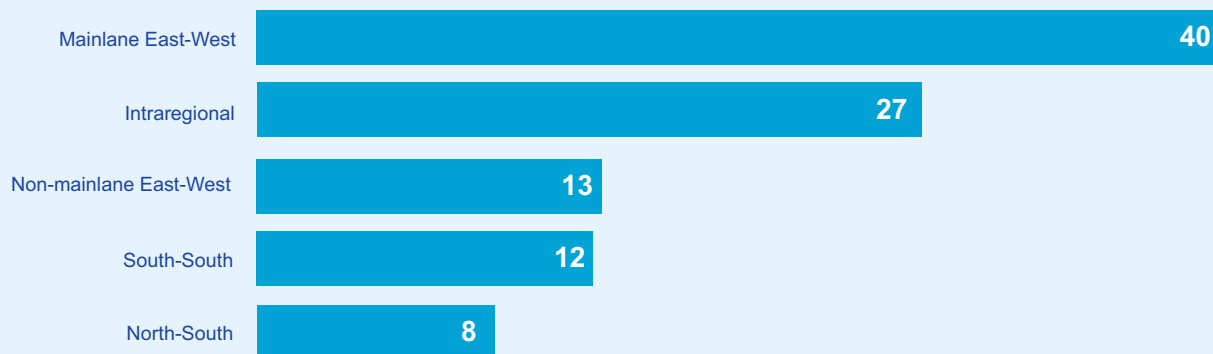
## Widening the Existing Korampallam surplus course bridge and Rail Over Bridge including widening of the existing road

The project has been envisaged at a cost of Rs.41.55 Crores and the works are underway to widen the road from TTPS Roundana to western boundary as eight lane roads including widening of Korampallam Surplus Course (KSC) Bridge and Rail over Bridge (ROB) over rail track.

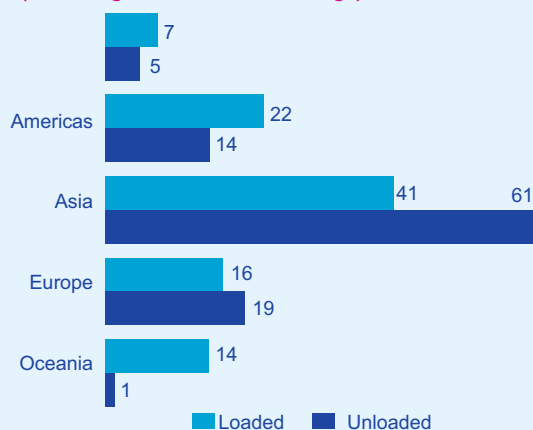


# Global maritime scenario

Global containerized trade by route, 2018 (Market shares, in percentage)



International maritime trade by region, 2018 (Percentage share in world tonnage)



World container Port throughput by region, 2017-2018 (20-foot equivalent units and annual percentage change)

	2017	2018	Annual % change 2017-2018
Africa	3,03,98,569	3,09,40,898	1.8
<b>Asia</b>	<b>48,88,52,650</b>	<b>51,05,13,120</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Europe	11,93,59,397	12,58,88,633	5.5
Latin America & Caribbean	4,88,63,196	5,16,69,025	5.7
North America	5,85,10,434	6,13,52,043	4.9
Oceania	1,20,03,344	1,28,96,887	7.4
<b>World Total</b>	<b>75,79,87,590</b>	<b>79,32,60,606</b>	<b>4.7</b>

Median time spent in port in top 25 economies by number of Port calls and market segment, 2018

Economy	No. of Port calls	Liquid bulk carriers	Dry bulk carriers	Container ships	Break bulk carriers	Liquefied natural gas carriers	Liquefied petroleum gas carriers
China	205 448	1.10	2.00	0.62	1.17	1.21	1.00
Japan	180 400	0.31	0.90	0.35	1.12	0.99	0.32
Netherlands	100 343	0.49	0.84	0.78	0.40	1.30	0.94
United States	72 485	1.64	1.84	1.00	1.79	1.28	2.03
Russian Federation	68 211	1.04	2.50	1.40	1.56	1.10	1.34
Republic of Korea	65 762	0.79	2.34	0.60	1.29	1.03	0.72
Indonesia	62 059	1.28	3.55	1.09	1.26	1.38	1.13
Singapore	60 712	0.60	0.12	0.77	0.65	2.22	1.12
Spain	59 326	0.84	2.27	0.66	1.14	1.05	0.96
United Kingdom	58 203	1.06	2.73	0.73	1.46	1.43	1.08
Germany	50 264	0.36	2.48	0.79	0.50	-	0.75
Norway	49 339	0.61	0.87	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.75
Turkey	47 488	1.11	4.00	0.63	1.52	1.31	1.36
Italy	39 265	1.29	3.55	0.82	1.93	-	1.44
<b>India</b>	<b>38 999</b>	<b>1.42</b>	<b>2.49</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.27</b>
World Total	1884 818	0.94	2.05	0.70	1.11	1.11	1.02

Source: UNCTAD - Review of Maritime Transport 2019



# Appointments / Promotion / Retirements

## Appointments



Mr. Amod Ankit  
Assistant Secretary Gr-I

October 2019



Mr. D.R. Yogesh  
Assistant Traffic Manager Gr-I

## Retirements

### October

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. N. Vaiyapuri       | - Deputy Chairman  |
| Mr. K. Raja Kanniappan | - Operator (E & M) |
| Mr. V. Ramar           | - Overseer (C)     |



### November

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Mr. D. Balaji  | - Tally Clerk |
| Mr. G. Velsamy | - Winch man   |



### December

- |                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mr. N. Kandan       | - Sukkani                   |
| Mrs. S. Avudaiammal | - Store man & Pump Operator |
| Mr. P. Kalimuthu    | - Winch Man                 |
| Mr. M. Velraj       | - Winch Man                 |
| Mr. Marimuthu       | - Winch Man                 |
| Mr. C. Gurusamy     | - Winch Man                 |
| Mr. M. Jeyaraj      | - Signal Man                |
| Mr. Murugan         | - Signal Man                |
| Mr. V. Ganesan      | - Signal Man                |
| Mr. Rajakani        | - Mazdoor                   |
| Mr. Muthiah         | - Mazdoor                   |
| Mr. Madasamy        | - Mazdoor                   |
| Mr. N. Thangam      | - Mazdoor                   |



# Hindi Corner

## राजभाषा की कहानी मेरी अपनी जुबानी

यू तो वीओसी पत्तन न्यास में राजभाषा हिन्दी का कार्यान्वयन, वर्ष 1985 से ही शुरू हो गया था, लेकिन अब उसकी गति में तेजी आई है और उसके हावभाव में भी बदलाव आया है, क्योंकि हम जो टाइपराइटर से कम्प्यूटर में आ गए हैं। सच्चाई तो माननी ही होगी कि हरेक कार्यकाल में, हरेक व्यक्ति की व्यक्तिगत क्षमता, दूरदर्शिता और उसके साथ रहने वाली टीम पर निर्धारित होती है कि क्या कदम उठाया गया, किस नक्शे कदम पर चला गया और लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति किस हद तक कामयाब हुई। यही चित्रपट, मैं हिन्दी अनुवादक आपको हमारे पत्तन में हो रहे कार्यान्वयन का विवरण देते हुए, दिखाना चाहती हूँ।

आप सबको ज्ञात होगा कि वीओचिदम्बरनार पत्तन न्यास, तमिलनाडु के दक्षिण पूर्वी तट पर, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग के काफी समीप, अनुकूल रूप से स्थित है, जो कि क्षेत्र ग में आता है। यह बात भी सबसे छुपी नहीं कि हिन्दी की मान्यता हमारे राज्य में कितना है। फिर भी हमें गर्व और फक्र होता है कि सीमित दायरे में रहकर भी हम अपनी राजभाषा हिन्दी को, अपने ही तरीके से, अपने ही ढंग से और अपने ही सीमाओं में, प्रचार प्रसार करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं और इसमें हमें सफलताएँ भी मिल रही हैं। इसके लिए राजभाषा अनुभाग, वीओसी पत्तन न्यास के अध्यक्ष, न्यासीगण, उपाध्यक्ष, सभी विभागाध्यक्ष, अधिकारीगण और कर्मचारी साथियों का शुक्र अदा करना चाहता है, क्योंकि इनके सहयोग एवं सहभागिता के बिना हमारा अस्तित्व ही नहीं होता। यह कहते हुए मैं पीछे भी नहीं हटूँगी कि पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के राजभाषा हिन्दी से जुड़े हमारे निदेशक श्री सुनील कुमार और अन्य महा पत्तनों के हिन्दी अधिकारीगण जो हमें सही वक्त पर अपने सुझावों से हमें दिशा निदेश देकर हमारी हौसला अफ़जाई करने की पूरी कोशिश करते हैं, को आज मैं अपने इस लेख में, तहेदिल से शुक्र अदा करना चाहती हूँ। आशा करती हूँ हमारा यह साथ कभी न छूटे और कोई न तोड़े।

आगे की कहानी अगले अंक में।

**श्रीमती एस.एस. मीना**

हिन्दी अनुवादक

Published by : Public Relations section  
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, Harbour Estate,  
Tuticorin – 628 004.

Email id: [sasiraj.ms@vocport.gov.in](mailto:sasiraj.ms@vocport.gov.in)

This digital edition of in-house newsletter is meant  
for private circulation only.