



# KORKAI

THE e-BULLETIN OF V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT

JAN-FEB-MAR 2021  
Volume - 5



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## From the Desk of Chairman



**T.K. Ramachandran, IAS,**  
Chairman  
V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust

Dear Colleagues,

Hello and welcome to the final edition of our newsletter for the Financial year 2020-21.

We continue to stay on course when the society at large is severely disrupted due to the rippling effects of COVID-19 and still achieved satisfactory results in the last financial year. During the last financials, the Port handled 31.79 Million Tonnes of Cargo against the previous year's achievement of 36.08 Million Tonnes, registering a decrease of 11.89%. The Port handled 7.62 Lakh Twenty Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) of Containers against previous year's container traffic of 8.04 Lakh TEUs, registering a decrease 5.22%.

The year 2020-21 had been a remarkable year in the history of VOC Port. We were privileged to have our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India dedicating the '8-laning of Korampallam Bridge and Rail Over Bridge' to the Nation and laying the foundation stone for '5 MW Ground-Based Solar Power Plant', through Video Conferencing from Coimbatore.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the world. As a gateway Port of South Tamilnadu, we remain focused on protecting our employees, supporting our customers and contributing to the societies. I am happy that we are part of logistics supply chain that ensures flow of goods throughout the pandemic.

Our clients and other stakeholders, for whom we work, keep us on our toes and we appreciate their commitment in these difficult times. I would also like to express our appreciation here for the efforts made by our workforce. With the same motivation and enthusiasm, we will also be working in the financial year 2021-2022 on leading sustainable, safe and efficient port where our customers can thrive on business success.

**T.K. Ramachandran, IAS,**  
Chairman

## Port Performance

during the Financial Year 2020-21

Traffic handled	:	31.79 Million Tonnes
Cargo volume growth	:	-11.89%
Container volume	:	7.62 Lakh TEUs
Container Volume growth	:	-5.22 %
Ship handled	:	1203
Container Moves / hr	:	29
Operation Income	:	Rs. 549.51 Crores
Net surplus after tax	:	Rs. 113.72 Crores

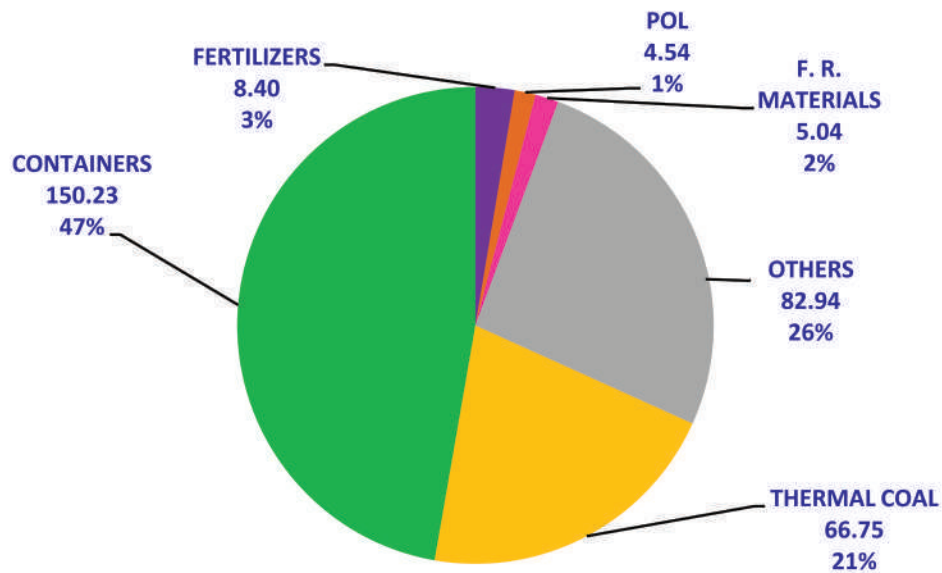
## Record Operational Performances

Sl. No	Description	Record		Earlier Record	
1	Unloading of Coal in 24 Hours	56,687 Tonnes	27.10.2020	55,785 Tonnes	19.06.2020
2	Highest Parcel size vessel	93,353 Tonnes	19.01.2020	89,777 Tonnes	25.07.2019
3	Vessel with Highest Parcel Size & capacity	1,06,529 DWT 90,208 Tonnes	19.04.2020	95,692 DWT 89,777 Tonnes	16.09.2019
4	Highest Traffic in the single month	34.29 Lakh Tonnes	August,2019		
5	Pervious year's Highest single day record	1,89,395 Metric Tonnes	12.06.2020	1,80,597 Metric Tonnes	26.07.2019
6	Pervious year's Highest single day record Container TEUs	5,628 TEUs	31.08.2020	4,524 TEUs	25.08.2019
7	Vessel with Highest draft	14.25 Metre	02.10.2020	14.20 Metre	11.02.2019
8	Previous year's longest wind blades of length	74.90 metres	21.09.2020	72.40 metres	26.05.2020
9	Highest Container TEUs handled from a single vessel	4,413 TEUs	10.01.2021	3,979 TEUs	10.02.2018
10	Highest Container TEUs handled in the single month	0.81 Lakh TEUs	March,2021	0.80 Lakh TEUs	August,2019

# Port Performance

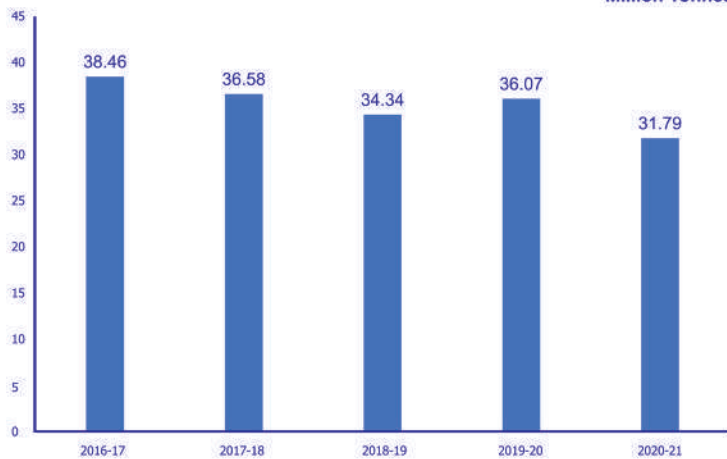
during the Financial Year 2020-21

## Cargo Profile (31.79 Million Tonnes)



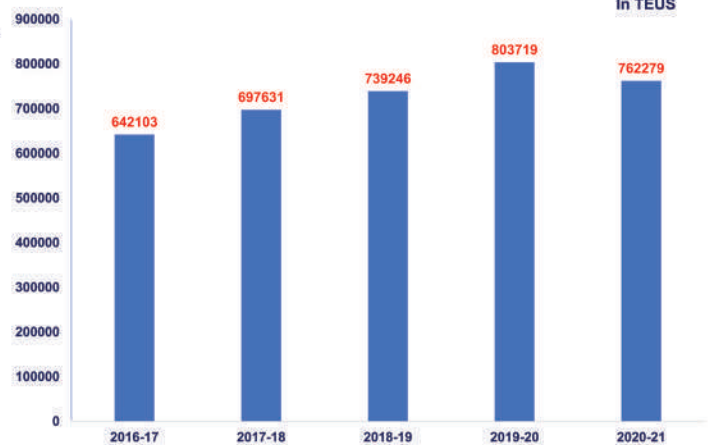
## Overall Cargo Traffic

Million Tonnes



## Container Traffic

In TEUS



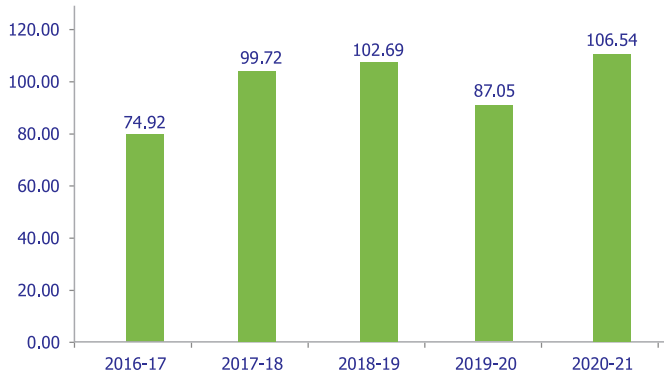


# Port Performance

## during the Financial Year 2020-21

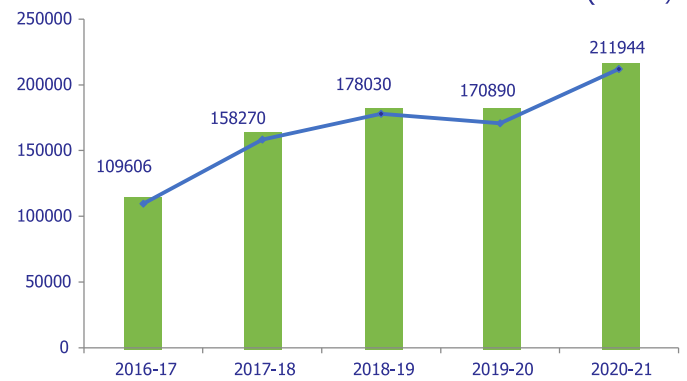
### Coastal Cargo Traffic

(in Lakhtonnes)



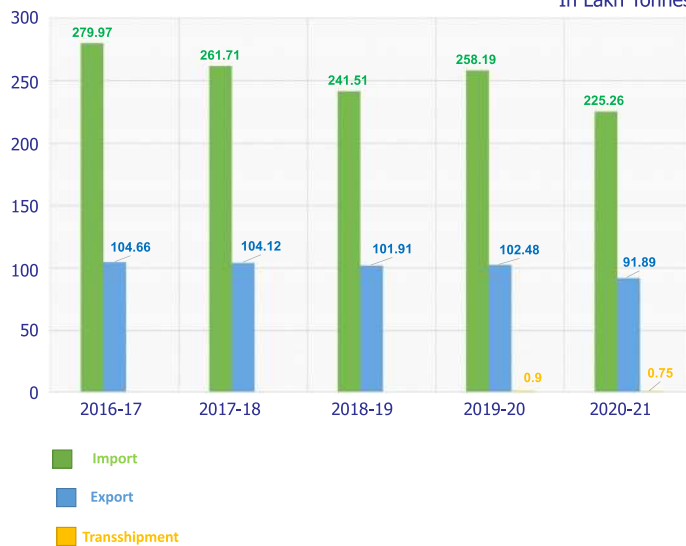
### Coastal Container Traffic

(in TEUs.)



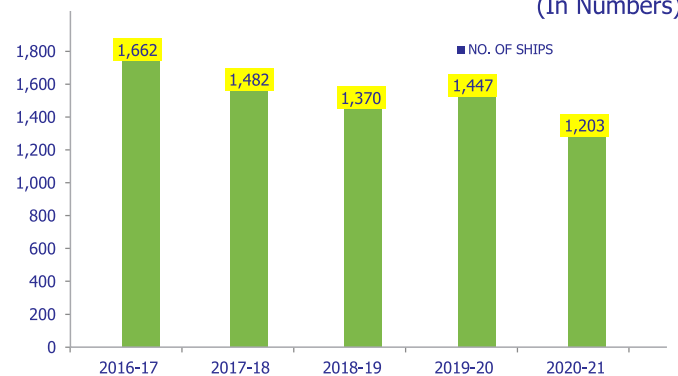
### Import / Export / Transshipment Traffic

In Lakh Tonnes



### Vessels Handled

(In Numbers)



# Events



Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS., Chairman, V.O.Chidambaranar Port Trust, unfurling the National Flag during the Republic Day Celebrations, on 26.01.2021

On 06.02.2021, V.O. Chidambaranar Port, handled windblade of length 75.60 metres, the longest of its kind handled through VOC Port.



Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, inaugurating the 120 KVA online Uninterrupted Power Supply System commissioned at a cost of Rs. 13.95 lakhs for providing uninterrupted power supply for computer systems and lightings of administrative building on 10.02.2021

# Events

## **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the '8-laning of Korampallam Bridge and Rail Over Bridge' to the Nation and laid the Foundation stone for '5 MW Ground-Based Solar Power Plant'**

On 25.02.2021, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the 8-laning of Korampallam Bridge and Rail Over Bridge to the Nation and laid the Foundation stone for 5 MW Ground-Based Solar Power Plant at VOC Port, Tuticorin, through Video Conferencing from Coimbatore.

The Project of '8-laning of Korampallam Bridge and Rail Over Bridge' was taken up at a cost of Rs.42 Crores, as an initiative under 'Sagarmala Programme'. The existing Korampallam bridge and Rail over bridge have been widened on either side to 8.5 metres for a length of 277 metres, and the existing road leading to the bridge to 10.30 metres for a length of 1.577 Km.

The 8-laning of the Port approach road will facilitate seamless entry into the Port for time sensitive cargo laden container trucks from Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Madurai etc., bound for destinations across the globe. The Project will also foster movement of Containers into the Port for quicker delivery of Containers to the importers and provide a fillip to the 'Athmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone today for the '5 MW Ground-Based Solar Power Plant', at VOC Port, Tuticorin. VOC Port has taken up the installation of grid connected 5 MW ground-based solar power plant at a cost of Rs.20 Crores and the installation of the solar power plant is to be made in an area of 25 acres.

The Project is estimated to generate 80.64 Lakh units (KWH) per annum, meeting 60% of the total energy consumption of the Port. In addition, the Project will also aid in reducing the carbon footprint in Port operations.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in his address during the inauguration / laying of foundation stone for various projects of Tamilnadu at Coimbatore on 25.02.2021, stated that "We will take further steps to make V.O. Chidambaranar Port as a Transshipment Hub of East Coast of India".



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurating the '8-Laning of Korampallam Bridge and Rail Over Bridge' and laying the foundation stone for '5 MW Ground-Based Solar Power Plant' through Video Conferencing on 25.02.2021.



# Events

## Maritime India Summit -2021

The flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, 'Maritime India Summit-2021' was organized through virtual platform from 2nd to 4th March, 2021, to showcase the global investment opportunities in the Indian Maritime Sector. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021' through video conferencing on 2nd, March 2021.

The Summit with distinct interactive sessions focussed on various aspects of Maritime sector such as developing world class Ports, latest trends and opportunities in Maritime financing, Port Led Industrialization, promoting bulk cargo, coastal shipping, cruise & passenger movement, Human Resource skilling, hinterland connectivity and Ease of Doing Business. The virtual summit also showcased various informative discussions, exhibitor pavilions and stall.

Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, VOC Port, chaired the plenary session on Ease of Doing Business, Coastal Shipping, Hinterland Connectivity and Multi-modal logistics on 3rd March 2021.

As a part of the summit, 36 MoUs were signed by the Port for a total investment of Rs. 27,000/- crores. The key MoUs include, MoU with Port of Antwerp for training of employees of VOCPT, AL Qebala Al Waty (AQAW) for setting up of Petroleum refinery and Petrochemical complex and its associated storage and infrastructure at VOCPT at an investment of Rs.20,000/- crores, M/s. LNG Alliance Pte Ltd., for Development of LNG Terminal and LNG Bunkering hub at VOCPT at an investment of Rs.2468/- crores, SIPCOT for development of Hybrid Wind & Solar Power Generation facility at an investment of Rs.1000/- crores, Frontier Shipping & Logistics for development of Cruise Tourism, Adventure Water Sports in Tuticorin and operating Ro/PAX ferry service connecting Kanyakumari -Tuticorin – Rameswaram, at an investment of Rs.275/- crores.

During the valedictory session, chaired by Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, VOCPT, summarized outcomes of plenary session 'EoBD, Coastal Shipping, Hinterland Connectivity & Multi-Modal Logistics and Session on Investment Opportunities in TN

Elaborate arrangements were made by the Port to witness all the sessions of the virtual Maritime India Summit-2021.



Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, introducing the theme of the plenary session of 'Maritime India Summit-2021', 'Ease of Doing Business, Coastal Shipping, Hinterland Connectivity and Multi-modal Logistics', to the speakers and the viewers on 03.03.2021



MoU being exchanged by Shri R. Prabakar, Traffic Manager, VOCPT, and Shri P. Jeyanth Thomas, M/s. KSE Limited, in the presence of Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, and Shri Bimal Kumar Jha, Deputy Chairman, V.O.Chidambaranar Port, as a part of Maritime India Summit-2021 on 23.02.2021.



# Events



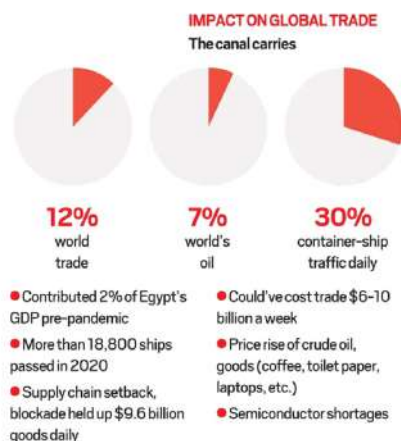
Maiden shipment of Coal for M/s. SEPC Power Private Limited, Tuticorin, arrived at 9th Berth of VOC Port on 18.03.2021. MV W-Ace, arrived at the Port with 76,997 Tonnes of Coal. Shri R. Prabakar, Traffic Manager, VOC Port, flagged off the unloading of coal from the vessel MV W-Ace.



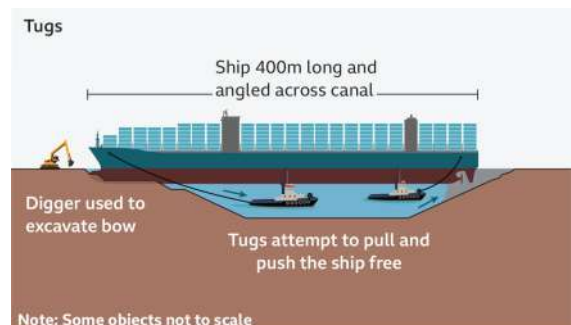
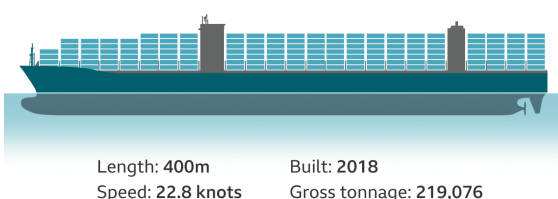
As a part of CSR activity, VOC Port distributed 30 number of Sewing machines to the fishermen communities living in Tuticorin. On behalf of the District Administration, Dr. K. Senthil Raj, IAS, Collector, Thoothukudi District, received the sewing machines from Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Chairman, VOC Port, on 19.02.2021.

# Interesting facts on Suez Canal

- ▶ Its origins date back to ancient Egypt. The Egyptian Pharaoh Senusret III may have built an early canal connecting the Red Sea and the Nile River around 1850 B.C.
- ▶ The Statue of Liberty was originally intended for the Suez Canal. The project never materialized, and in 1886, the statue was unveiled in New York Harbour. Officially called "Liberty Enlightening the World," the monument has since become better known as the 'Statue of Liberty'.
- ▶ The construction of the Suez Canal was carried out between 1859 and 1869
- ▶ The Suez Canal Authority owns and maintains the waterway.
- ▶ It is the world's longest canal without locks, which connect bodies of water at differing altitudes.
- ▶ With no locks to interrupt traffic, the transit time from end to end averages about 13 to 15 hours
- ▶ The saving in distance achieved by using the Suez Canal ranges from 23 % to 88%
- ▶ Earlier, the Suez Canal was shut down by the Egyptian Government. The blockage started in 1967 and was due to conflict between Egypt and Israel. Astonishingly, 15 international shipping vessels were moored at the canal's midpoint and remained stranded for eight years! In 1975 the conflict was eventually resolved and out of the 15 stranded vessels, only 2 remained seaworthy enough to power themselves.
- ▶ In 2015, Egypt completed a major expansion of the Suez Canal that saw the deepening of the parts of the canal and the construction of a second 35km-long shipping lane along part of the main waterway.
- ▶ The Ever Given ship, operated by Evergreen Shipping, ran aground on 23 rd March and was freed on 29 rd March
- ▶ Shipping analysts estimated that the traffic jam had held up nearly \$10 billion in trade every day.



**MV Ever Given**





# Port Performance Award for the year 2019-20



M/s. Pearl Shipping  
Agencies, Tuticorin



Handling highest number of  
Break Bulk vessels as  
Steamer Agent

M/s. Seaport Shipping Pvt  
Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest number  
of Dry Bulk Vessels as  
Steamer Agent

M/s. Atlantic Shipping Pvt.  
Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest number  
of Liquid Bulk Vessels as  
Steamer Agent

M/s. Transworld Shipping  
Agencies Pvt.Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Container Vessels as  
Steamer Agent

M/s. Sical Logistics,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
cargo including Thermal  
Coal, Fertilizer & Fertilizer  
Raw Material as Stevedore

M/s. Seaport Logistics,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
cargo excluding Thermal  
Coal, Fertilizer & Fertilizer  
Raw Material as Stevedore

M/s. Raja Agencies,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Finished Fertilizer as  
Stevedore

M/s. PSTS Shipping  
Services, Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Fertilizer Raw Material as  
Stevedore

M/s. Hari & Co, Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Other Break Bulk Cargo as  
Stevedore

M/s. Bengal Tiger Line  
(India) Pvt. Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest TEUs., as  
Container Vessel Operator

M/s MSC Agency (India)  
Pvt. Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest TEUs., as  
Container Liner

M/s. Container Corporation  
of India Limited, Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Export Containers as CFS  
Operator





# Port Performance Award for the year 2019-20



ALS Tuticorin Terminal Pvt.  
Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Import Containers as CFS  
Operator

M/s. St John Freight  
Systems Ltd– ICD,  
Tuticorin



Handling Overall highest  
Volume of Containers as  
CFS Operator

M/s.Vestas Wind  
Technology (I) Pvt. Ltd,  
Tuticorin



Exporting highest Volume  
of Machinery Cargo

M/s.Yentop Manickavel  
Sons Edible Oils P Ltd,  
Tuticorin



Importing highest Volume  
of Edible Oil as Consignee

M/s. Indian Potash Ltd.,  
Chennai



Importing highest Volume of  
Fertilizer as Consignee

M/s. Greenstar Fertilizers  
Limited, Tuticorin



Importing highest Volume  
of Fertilizer Raw Material  
as Consignee

M/s. The India Cements  
Limited, Tuticorin



Importing highest Volume  
of Other Dry Bulk Cargo as  
Consignee

M/s. ATC Tires Ltd,  
Tuticorin



Exporting Highest number  
of TEUs., as Consignee

M/s. Hi Tech Fly Ash,  
Tuticorin



Exporting highest number of  
TEUs., as Consignee

M/s. Siva Agencies,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest Volume of  
Cargo at Zone– B as  
Stevedore

M/s Mohan Mutha  
Translogistics Pvt. Ltd,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest number  
of Barges at Zone– B as  
Steamer Agent

M/s. Indian Shipping and  
Logistics Facility Private  
Limited, Tuticorin



Filing highest number of  
Liquid Bulk Cargo  
applications as Custom  
House Agent



# Port Performance Award for the year 2019-20



M/s. Sical Logistics  
Limited, Tuticorin



Filling highest number of  
Dry Bulk Cargo applications  
as Custom House Agent

M/s. Janaki Traders,  
Tuticorin



Filling highest number of  
Break Bulk Cargo  
applications as Custom  
House Agent

M/s Chakiat Agencies,  
Tuticorin



Handling highest number  
of Overseas Export  
Containers as Custom  
House Agent

M/s Kerry Indev Logistics  
Pvt. Ltd, Tuticorin



Handling highest number  
of Overseas Export  
Containers as Custom  
House Agent

M/s. Tuticorin Thermal  
Power Station (TTPS)  
Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s. NLCTamilnaduPower  
Limited (NTPL) Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s. Southern  
Petrochemical Industries  
Corporation Limited (SPIC)  
Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s. DCW Limited,  
Sahapuram



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s Dakshin Bharat  
Gateway Terminal Private  
Limited (DBGT) Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s PSA SICAL Terminals  
Limited, Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s. Wan Hai Lines  
Limited



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

M/s. Central Warehousing  
Corporation (CWC)  
Tuticorin



Excellence as Business  
Support Partner

# Retirements

Sl. No.	Name & Designation	Departments
<b>January - 2021</b>		
1	Mr. L.Amelson Peeriz , Tally Clerk	Cargo Handling Division
2	Mr. N. Ramasamy, Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
3	Mr. G.Muthuramalingam , Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
<b>February - 2021</b>		
1	Mr. T. Jebaraj Jebasingh , Peon	Traffic
2	Mr. T.Meganathan , Winch Man	Cargo Handling Division
3	Mr. P. Jeyasubramanian , Maistry	Cargo Handling Division
4	Mr. Alagar, Winch Man	Cargo Handling Division
5	Mr. L. Veeraperumal , Assistant Supervisor	Cargo Handling Division
6	Mr. M. Raman, Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
7	Mr. P. Karuppasamy , Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
<b>March - 2021</b>		
1	Mr. G. Edwin, Operator Spl. Gr	Mechanical
2	Mrs. L. Daisy, Senior Nurse	Medical
3	Mr. Aloycious Kostha , Lascar	Marine
4	Mr. M. Periasamy , Tally Clerk	Cargo Handling Division
5	Mr. S. Ganesa Viswanathan, Tally Clerk	Cargo Handling Division
6	Mr. N. Pandi , Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
7	Mr. M. Antony, Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
8	Mr. S. Vannamuthu, Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
9	Mr. M. Senthoo Pandi , Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
10	Mr. S. Veera Pandiakattapomman , Signal Man	Cargo Handling Division
11	Mr. Rajendran, Mazoor	Cargo Handling Division
12	Mr. R. Rajendran, Mazoor	Cargo Handling Division



# Hindi Corner

## राजभाषा की कहानी, मेरी अपनी जुबानी (भाग-ए)

मेरी नियुक्ति के शुरुआती दिनों में, हमारे हिन्दी अधिकारी के कक्ष में, हमारे अंशकालिक हिन्दी अध्यापक श्री पद्मनाभन पिल्लै और भारी पानी संयंत्र, तूत्तुक्कुडि के सहायक निदेशक श्री नरसिंह राम, कार्यालय समय के उपरान्त अर्थात् शाम 5 बजे के बाद, अनुवाद कार्य करते। मेरा काम था, अंशकालिक टंकक श्री एस. कण्णन द्वारा टंकण की गई सामग्री का फ्रूफ रीडिंग करना।

कभी-कभी अनुवाद करने के लिए मुझे लेख दिया जाता और मैं खुशी से उसका अनुवाद करने बैठती। थोड़ा समय लगाती पर अनुवाद पूरा करके अपने अधिकारी को दे देती। यह उम्मीद बैठाए कि मेरा अनुवाद भी सही होगा। उस अनुवाद के कागज के बारे में सोचती हूँ तो स्कूल के दिन याद आते। इतने लाल अंडे तो, मेरे अध्यापको ने भी मुझे नहीं दिए थे, जितने की मेरे हिन्दी अधिकारी, मेरे अनुवाद के लिए देते। उसे देख मन ही मन मुस्कुराती। इसका मुझे बुरा नहीं लगा क्योंकि राजभाषा हिन्दी का प्रयोग तो कुछ अलग सा होता है, जैसे कि शासकीय अंग्रेजी। धीरे-धीरे, मुझे लाल अंडे कम मिलने लगे, और एक साल बाद, सितंबर के महीने में जब मेरा एक अनुवाद, श्री नरसिंह राम जी, ने देखा, तब उन्होंने हमारे हिन्दी अधिकारी से कहा, सर अब मेरा आना बंद होगा क्योंकि आपकी हिन्दी अनुवादक पूर्ण रूप से हिन्दी अनुवाद करने में सक्षम हो गई है। यह प्रशंसा आज भी मेरे विश्वास को बनाए रखे हुए है और मैं, आज तक अपना अनुवाद कार्य, बड़े लगन से कर रही हूँ। दुख इस बात का होता है जब मुझे चिढ़ाया जाता है यह कह कर कि मीना जी, आपकी हिन्दी को देखने वाला और पढ़ने वाला कौन है, यहाँ किसे समझ आता है..... तब ना चाह कर भी मेरे जुबान से निकल पड़ता, हाँ जी, आपकी बराबरी मैं कहाँ कर सकती, आप के ऊपर अधिकारियों की कतार है, जो आपके कामों को परखते हैं, और मैं इकलौती जान किसके सहारे रहूँ, मैं अपने काम के लिए खुद जिम्मेवार हूँ।

मन ही मन सोचती, भारत सरकार ने सड़क परिवहन, वायुपत्तन, रेलवे को केन्द्र सरकारी बनाया, लेकिन काहे नौवहन को भूल गए। अगर हम भी केन्द्र सरकारी होते, स्थानांतरण होता, हिन्दी को पराए नज़र से नहीं देखा जाता, और तो और सबसे बड़ी बात, लोगों के सोच में बड़ा बदलाव आता।

उनकी बातों से मुझे अपने आप पर भी गुस्सा आता और खुद से कहती, अगर इन लोगों की नियुक्ति कर्मचारी चयन आयोग से हुई होती तो किसी को भी मुझे ऐसा कहने की हिम्मत नहीं होती। मुझे अपने आप पर फ़क्र होता है कि मैंने भी हिन्दी अनुवादक के लिए एसएससी की परीक्षा पास की और 9वें रैंक पर भी आई। परीक्षा का पेपर आज भी मेरे आँखों के सामने एक स्लैड की तरह आता है। अनुवाद का पेपरों में एक था, श्रीमती इंदीरा गांधी का अंतरिक्ष यान के कमांडर मेज़र राकेश शर्मा के साथ का वार्तालाप। लगता ही नहीं मुझे कि पत्तन न्यास में, मुझे अनुवाद कार्य करते करते 25 साल गुज़र गए। मानो लगता है जैसे कल की ही बात हो।

यह सच है कि हिन्दी अनुवाद अपने आप में एक रचनात्मक कला है। चाहे अंग्रेजी से हिन्दी में हो, या हिन्दी से अंग्रेजी, अगर आप के पास दोनों भाषाओं का पर्याप्त कमान है, तो आप ही अपने इलाके के शेर हैं। लेकिन, इस बात पर भी दुराहे नहीं होगी कि भाषा की पकड़ जितना कसा हुआ होता है, उतना ही उसका रस मीठा होता है। नौवीं कक्षा तक हिन्दी माध्यम से पढ़ने की वजह से, पत्तन न्यास का अनुवाद कार्य मुझे अच्छा लगने लगा। हर एक क्षेत्र में, चाहे वह भूगोल हो, अर्थशास्त्र हो, लेखा-जोखा हो या इतिहास हो, इसके विषय वस्तुओं का अनुवाद करना, अपने आप में चुनौती है। अनुवाद करने वाले इसे मूल्यांकन कर सकते हैं। अगर आपने, अपना अनुवाद उचित समय पर, उचित रूप से और उचित विषय-वस्तु के पर्याय से कर लिया, तो सौ प्रतिशत उसका श्रेय आपके परिश्रम पर जाता है और आपके ज्ञान भंडार की परख उन अनुवाद कार्यों में निखरने लगती है। आप अपने आप को थपथपाते हुए कह सकते हैं – शबाश, मुझे खुद पर गर्व है। मेरा अपना मानना है कि लिखाई की कमान अगर जुबान पर भी हो, तो आप सचमुच प्रशंसा के पात्र हैं। यह मैं इसलिए कह रही हूँ कि हमारे पत्तन में आने वाले हमारे मंत्री अतिथिगण मेरी हिन्दी को उत्तर भारतीय मानते हुए जब मुझे सामने देखते हैं तो चौंक जाते हैं और खुद ही बोल पड़ते हैं मीना जी तमिलियन होते हुए भी आपकी हिन्दी कितनी साफ है। तब ना मैं बड़े गर्व से कहती, सर क्यों ना हो फौजी की बेटी हूँ, देश भर घूमा है। आपको लगता होगा गहरे रंग की लडकी, दिल्लीवालों की हिन्दी कैसे बोल रही है। बस और क्या हमारे अतिथि जोर से हँस पड़ते। सबसे मजे की बात तो यह होती है कि हमारे इस वार्तालाप को हमारे सिवा वहाँ खड़े एक दो को छोड़, किसी को भी समझ नहीं आती। उनको बस यही लगता है कि मीना जी अतिथिगण को हो ना हो कोई खास बात बता रही है। थोड़े दिन तक उनकी आँखें मुझे शक के नज़रों से ही देखती हैं। मेरी खुशी का ठिकाना ही नहीं रहता। उनसे ना मुझे जलन की बू आती। चाहे सामने कोई भी हो, लेकिन अपनों से जब अपनी जुबानी में बात करने से, आने वाली खुशी को जाहिर करना, शब्दों के बस की बात नहीं।

आगे की कहानी मेरी, हमारे पत्तन के सृजनात्मक एवं रचनात्मक कार्यक्रमों पर होगी। जरूर पढ़िएगा।

एस.एस. मीना  
हिन्दी अनुवादक