



V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT TRUST
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PEARL Digest

Newsletter from VOC Port

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VOC Port-Tangedco MoU

It will be a win-win situation for both, says Shri Nitin Gadkari



V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) to upgrade Coal Jetty-I & II in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Nitin Gadkari said that when the project goes on stream, it will be a win-win situation for both the Port and Tangedco as Tangedco will be able to utilize the services of VOC Port in a more cost effective manner.

When the ₹ 800 crore upgradation work is completed, Coal Jetty-I & II will be able to handle 24 MTPA, which is around four times more than the current handling capacity of 6.25 MTPA. "It would

make coal handling by the jetties much more voluminous and efficient, and thus bring down logistics costs. This would also allow for cheaper production of electricity, which would be very beneficial for industrial growth," said Shri Nitin Gadkari pointing out the benefits of this project.

With the upgradation of the coal jetties, Tangedco will be able to handle additional volume of coal cargo for the upcoming new power plants in Uppur and Kadaladi in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu. In addition to this, there will be quicker turnaround of vessels with the deployment of high tech handling equipments like two ship unloaders, each with a minimum 2000 TPH capacity and a high capacity conveyor system of 4000 TPH.

The upgradation will give a competitive edge to VOC Port and will help to maintain its lead position in coal handling. The project is the outcome of Ministry of Shipping's Project Unnati, under which a study, 'Unlocking National Ports Potential' was done to improve the handling capacity of CJ-I & II.

The MoU was signed by Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and Shri (Dr.) M. Sai Kumar, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, TANGEDCO. Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise, Government of Tamil Nadu Shri P. Thangamani and Union Minister of State for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways Shri Pon Radhakrishnan were present on the occasion.

Pearl Digest celebrates



Pearl Digest celebrates



Port organises 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sammelan' at Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu



Achievements of the Government of India in the last three years were propagated at the 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sammelan' held at Tenkasi in Tirunelveli district, which was organised by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust. Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan, Union Minister of State for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping in his Chief Guest address said that the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has led the country to excel in all the sectors in the past three years.

"During the last three years, the centre has implemented various schemes like Ujwala, Jan Dhan Yojana and Skill Development for the benefit of the weaker sections of the society, which have helped in achieving the goal of inclusive growth," he said.

On the progress in shipping sector, he pointed out that India is registering a positive growth even as the shipping sector worldwide is seeing a downward trend. "The Sagarmala programme launched by the Prime Minister last year aims to increase the capacity of Major and Non-Major Ports to 3,000 MTPA from the present 1,054 MTPA

and Major Ports have been consistently increasing their capacity and making profits over the last few years," Shri Pon Radhakrishnan said.

Lauding the performance of V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, he underlined that the Port is rapidly increasing its handling capacity, and is consistently handling increased volume of cargo. He further added that when the Enayam Port Project is implemented, Tamil Nadu will become the first state to have four Major Ports.

Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in his address said that this is the first time in the last few decades, or perhaps since independence, the shipping and logistics industry is getting this much focus.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Enayam Port, India Post, Co-optex, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Indian Coast Guard and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (Hudco) had set up stalls at the programme. Attractive visual displays kept at the stalls and pamphlets informed the visitors about the various projects and initiatives taken and the benefits to the public.



'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar: A Rare Visionary and an Inspiration to all'



The seminal contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in nation building and his pivotal role in the path towards achieving social emancipation was remembered during the 127th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in his address recollected how Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gained eminence by fighting against all odds, which are just unimaginable now.

"He is a rare visionary, who cannot be confined to any boundaries. He is just more than whatever we can imagine. A noted jurist, profound scholar, daring leader, intellectual revolutionary, valiant fighter and emancipator of the poor and downtrodden, crusader against the

caste system, statesman, national leader, teacher, lawyer, parliamentarian, administrator, journalist, negotiator, social scientist, activist and so on," he pointed out.

Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose also narrated the life history of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and explained that how from being a victim of untouchability he became a saviour of the suppressed classes. "His life is a lesson for every citizen of India and an inspiration to those who aim to excel," he added.

Chief Guest Shri Nellai Kannan in his address pointed out the ideals that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stood for and asked everyone to emulate the visionary leader to achieve equality. Shri S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust in his address stated that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is a multi-faceted personality and excelled as a constitutionalist, economist, sociologist, jurist, philosopher, anthropologist, orator, prolific writer and social reformer.

Shri Nellai Kannan distributed prizes to the winners of various competitions conducted among the employees of the Port. He also distributed prizes to the SC/ST students who scored highest marks in 10th & 12th exams during the last academic year.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Schools celebrate Annual Day

The Annual Day Celebrations of Harbour Schools functioning under V.O. Chidambaranar Port Educational Agency was held at the Harbour Higher Secondary School campus. The annual reports of the three schools were presented by Shri A. Rosary Eugene Sahayaraj, Headmaster, Harbour Hr.Sec. School.

Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust & Patron, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Educational Agency presided over the function and inaugurated the New Hi-Tech Smart Class Room. In his presidential address, he congratulated the achievements of students and teachers during the last academic year and appreciated the initiatives taken by the Educational Committee for achieving all-round development.

He announced that three more Smart Class Rooms will be provided to the School and the School will also be equipped with a Digital Library for the welfare of the students. Apart from this, two sets of uniforms and shoes will be provided free of cost to the students. Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose also honoured the students and teachers for excelling in academic and other extra-curricular activities.

The Chief Guest Smt. P. Gangadevi, Principal, Arasan Ganesan Matriculation School inaugurated the new Computer Lab at the school premises. In her address, she advised the students to stand by good values throughout their life and wished them to reach new heights in their studies.

Shri S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust inaugurated the Herbal Garden and offered his felicitations. The students presented a plethora of cultural programmes exhibiting their talents, which was appreciated by the onlookers.



News in Pictures



Shri Barun Mitra, Joint Secretary (Ports), MoS and Shri Arun Narendhranath, Officer on Special Duty, MoS visited the Port on July 6th, 2017 and held discussions on future infrastructure development.



The first Board Meeting of the newly constituted Board of V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust was chaired by Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman of Board of Trustees on July 7, 2017.

From PIB

Development of Thiruvananthapuram and Chennai Sea Route

The Ministry of Shipping is in the process of developing jetties and terminals for development of coastal and inland water routes for passenger and cargo transportation. The state governments have been requested to submit proposals for construction of jetties etc. under the scheme. The Ministry of Shipping has sanctioned construction of jetties at Cuddalore Port (Berth-1), coastal berth at Cuddalore Port (Berth-2) and extension of passenger berthing facility at Kanniyakumari Port in Tamil Nadu on the recommendation of the Government of Tamil Nadu. This information was given by Minister of State for Shipping and Road Transport and Highways, Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.



V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust has received the OHSAS 18001:2007 certificate, which is an internationally recognised standard for Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) management systems.

VOC Port bags award for Special Achievement in Maximum Capacity Addition for 2016-17

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, the vibrant seaport of South India has bagged the Special Achievement Award from Ministry of Shipping for Maximum Capacity Addition on 19.05.2017. V.O. Chidambaranar Port leads all Major Ports by adding 44.94 MTPA capacity in 2016-17, whereas the total capacity addition by all Major Ports was 100.37 MTPA during this period. With the above capacity addition, the capacity of Indian Major Ports has crossed 1,065 MTPA.

Shri S. Anantha Chandra Bose, Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust received the prestigious award from Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways in the presence of Shri Rajive Kumar, Secretary (Shipping) and Shri Rabindra Agarwal, Joint Secretary (Sagarmala). Shri S. Natarajan, Deputy Chairman, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust was also present during the awards ceremony held at Goa.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port bagged the prestigious award for awarding four capacity addition projects like (1) Upgradation of Coal Jetty-I and

Coal Jetty-II, (2) Development of North Cargo Berth-III, (3) Deployment of Additional Harbour Mobile Cranes at VOC-III & VOC-IV berths and (4) Construction of Shallow Draft Berth for handling Construction Material.



Implementation of the above projects would lead to capacity addition of 44.94 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) and add to the existing capacity of 46.78 MTPA of the Port.

The Annual awards were conferred by Ministry of Shipping for achievements in productivity enhancement, increase in cargo growth rate, Reduction in Turnaround Time of Ships, increase in operating surplus, achievement in Swachh

Bharat and growth in other operational parameters among the Major Ports of India.

It is pertinent to note that V.O.Chidambaranar Port handled an all-time record Cargo Traffic of 38.64 million tonnes in 2016-17 and surpassed the previous year's achievement of 36.85 million tonnes, registering an increase of 4.37%.

VOC Port bags National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2016

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust has bagged the prestigious National Award for Excellence in Cost Management for the year 2016 from The Institute of Cost Accountants of India under the Transportation and Logistics category. On behalf of the Port, Smt. S. Shanthi, Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer received the award from Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines in the presence of Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs in a function held at New Delhi on 18.07.2017.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port is receiving this award for record fourth time and it is a matter of great pride. The Port has received this prestigious award during the year 2008, 2012 and 2015 under the Service-sector category. The Port has bagged this award for its initiatives towards reduction of cost per tonne, optimization of manpower, savings in electricity by installation of energy efficient

LED lightings, implementation of solar energy systems and reduction of overall cost of handling by mechanization in Port operation.

These initiatives have resulted in improved efficiency, quick evacuation of cargo and reduction in logistics cost to the EXIM Trade.



It is also pertinent to note that during 2016-17, the operating ratio of the Port was 41.46%, which is the best among the Major Ports of India. The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, a statutory body under an Act of Parliament, presents awards for excellence in Cost Management to promote and recognize cost management practices in the Corporate Sector.

The awards were conferred on organizations for excellence in various

categories like Manufacturing, Healthcare, Consulting, Banking, Financial Services & Insurance, Power Distribution & Transmission, Telecommunication & Information Technology, Infrastructure & Construction Services and Transportation & Logistics.

Port Users' column

T. Velsankar, Joint Managing Director, PSTS Logistics Private Limited



It is indeed a privilege to be a stakeholder of V.O. Chidambaranar Port and I am fortunate to associate with this port in particular and logistics industry in general for the past four decades. I am proud to state that my father P.S.T.S. Thiraviarathinam Nadar, a doyen of shipping industry was instrumental in the formation of Port of New Tuticorin under the Major Port Trusts Act.

Since inception, the Port and the stakeholders like stevedores, steamer agents and custom agents work as a family and extended their unstinted support for the growth of the Port and the tradition still continues. I vividly remember the daily berthing committee meeting, which was then a vibrant forum and meeting place for exchange of ideas, where all the veterans in the logistics industry like A. Kripanithi, Stanish Machado, Joe Villavarayar, myself and also a representative from the SPIC used to attend the meeting religiously. The attendees come to the meeting after thorough homework and with all permutation and combination to berth their vessels as expeditiously as possible.

Even from the earlier stage, Tuticorin has carved a niche for itself in the shipping arena. Tuticorin labourers were much sought after for their exemplary skill and the deft operation of the winches. It is a preferred destination for the Food Corporation of India for their import of food grain and fertilizers when the country was reeling under acute shortage of foodgrain and fertilizers. The coal required for Southern Railway for running the steam engine also was imported at Tuticorin Port. It used to be panoramic view to see the small sailing boats of carrying capacity 200 to 300 MT ferrying the cargoes to and from the ships and a beeline of labourers carrying the cargo on head load in bamboo baskets or gunny sacks.

VOC Port is proactive and they are much ahead of other Ports in modernization, expansion and upgradation of the infrastructures. VOC Port is progressing fast and is now acclaimed as one of the fastest growing Port. It is a preferred destination for importers and exporters alike and above all its user-friendliness and ease of doing business are laudable.

India needs to be globally competitive for translating Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Make in India scheme into reality.

Besides manufacturing competitiveness, as 80% of the volume of the cargoes is imported/exported through seaport, the competitiveness of Port is imperative for optimizing the logistical cost which constitutes about 20% of the cost of the material.

It gives me immense sense of satisfaction that I got a rare opportunity to contribute to the growth of the Port in the capacity of Board of Trustee for VOC Port Trust for 8 years, President of Tuticorin Stevedores' Association, President of Custom House Agents' Association and President of Tuticorin Steamer Agents' Association, to name a few.

The break bulk cargo market was ruling the roost before the advent of containerization. Stevedores then are equipped with the plethora of gears and slings and equipment for handling different type of break bulk cargoes. The net slings used for the transfer of cargo to and from the ship were replaced by grabs, and then HMC came into existence. The cumbersome methodology of wharf dumping and shore handling by Pay Loaders were eliminated by the Closed Conveyor System and Ship Unloaders, the next technological advancement. Cargo specific terminal will be in place at all the Ports sooner or later.

SPIC was a major industry to come up in Tuticorin in the 1970s and providing employment opportunities to tens of thousands both directly and indirectly and after the advent of SPIC there is a marked improvement in the socio economic development of the town. With the Port as nucleus, Tuticorin is the preferred location for the Copper Smelter Plant of Vedanta Resources and it is gratifying to note that they are all set to doubling up their capacity. They are one of the prestigious Port users and their cargo constitutes a major volume in the non-thermal coal cargo category.

Competitiveness is now the thrust area of the Ports and it is incumbent on my part to caution the stevedoring fraternity that at the faster pace at which the modernization and mechanization are taking place in the Port sector, the traditional stevedoring practice will be rendered redundant and become a thing of the past in the near future. It is time for us to unlearn and relearn to cope with the emerging trend of cargo handling at Port for our own sustainability.

VOC Port is not resting with its past laurels. It is a dynamic Port and endeavouring to improve its products and services constantly. What we have achieved is very little. The future is going to be more complex and challenging. Let us rededicate ourselves with renewed vigour and energy for facing the challenges ahead.



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