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வ.உ.சிதம்பரனார் துறைமுக ஆணையம்  
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### VOC Port to augment capacity to serve the trade

V O Chidambaranar Port, an iconic and thriving seaport has positioned itself as one of the leading containers and bulk handling Port in South India with a capacity of 81.05 Million Metric Tonnes per Annum. The Port has handled a cargo volumes of 13.17 Million Tonnes including 2.47 TEUs of containers during this financial year 2024-25 upto 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, marking a overall growth of 5.29% and 4.73% respectively. The Port has set a target of handling 50 million Tonnes of cargo despite capacity constraints at the present. To accomplish the set target, the Port is forging ahead with initiatives for capacity augmentation and cargo evacuation plans to increase productivity and reduce the turn-around-time of the vessels calling the Port. With identified potential volumes in the primary and secondary hinterland, the Port is in the process of upgrading its infrastructure to provide more efficient handling at reduced per unit cost and to increase its market share in the region.

To augment the capacity of the bulk cargo handling at the Port, the North cargo berth-III (NCB-3) with Length overall (LOA) of 306 metres will be dredged by the Port by October this year to handle vessels upto 14.20 metres draft. The dredging will also be done parallelly in the entrance channel, approach channel and turning circle area of the Port. The NCB-3 will also be mechanized by M/s. JSW Infrastructure Ltd., in a span of 18 months with shore unloaders, capable of discharging 7 Million Tonnes per annum. The interim operations of the terminal on completion of dredging shall commence using 2 Harbour Mobile Cranes (HMC) with capacity of 100 – 120 Tonnes, to handle 2 million Tonnes within this Financial year 2024-25.

To give a fillip to the container trade, the Port's 3rd Container Terminal 'Tuticorin International Container Terminal', operated by JM Baxi Group, will have a draft of 14.20 metres, LOA of 370 metres and capacity to handle 6 Lakh TUEs of containers. Structural works, surface treatments, and installation of fenders & bollards have been completed and the works like berth refurbishment, fixing of crane rails, cabling etc. are being executed in a faster pace to be commissioned by September 2024.

In addition, Port has also planned to deploy a floating crane and 3 barges to handle additional 2 Million Tonnes of bulk cargo at anchorage in a couple of years. To handle smaller vessels of around 120 meters of LOA and parallel body length 52 metres to 55 metres in the Port's oil jetty, 2 mooring dolphins with necessary infrastructure will be constructed by the mid of year 2025.

The Port is also in the process of removal of the existing conveyor system and modification of 3 hoppers at Coal Jetty-2 (handed over by TANGEDCO) to facilitate the lighterage of fertilizer / Fertilizer raw material vessels. The jetty has a draft 12.7 metres. The modification works have been targeted for completion by July 31, 2024.

Additionally, the Port is also set to install link conveyor at Coal Jetty-1 for lighterage of coal vessels with arrival draft of 13 metres. Aimed at utilizing the idle time of CJ-1, the Port intends to enhance its capacity by 0.72 MMTA, with a target completion of construction of link conveyor by October 30, 2024.

To increase the throughput of North Caro Berth-2, Port has proposed to deploy an additional Harbour Mobile Crane with a capacity of 100 Tonnes to enhance the capacity to handle 25,000 tonnes a day. Additional berth area of around 5000 Sq. metres each in NCB-2 and NCB-3 shall be made available by backfilling with dredged materials and it will be completed by November 2024. Exclusive

two crawler cranes for seamless handling of Windmill blades will also commissioned a berth No.5-6 by the Port by the end of September 2024.

Shri Susanta Kumar Purohit, IRSEE, Chairperson, VOC Port Authority, in his message stated that 'with the above planned developments, the Port is set to increase the throughput by over 50 million tonnes by the end of this financial year. The Port is taking all efforts to provide the necessary infrastructure to the EXIM trade for seamless cargo handling and evacuation. Our goal is to create a world-class seaport that not only meets but exceeds the expectations of our partners. By prioritizing innovation and sustainability, we aim to facilitate seamless operations, reduce lead times, and enhance overall customer satisfaction.

The above details were released in a Press-Release by V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, today.

Public Relations Officer