

MONTHLY REPORT

CRUISE SHIPPING

NOVEMBER 2021



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PORT ANALYSIS

Cruise Vessels Under J M Baxi & Co. Agency - Oct 2021

Cruise Vessels Under J M Baxi & Co. Agency - Oct 2021	
Port	No of Calls
Cochin	2
Diu	1
Kadmat	3
Mormugao	3
Mumbai	8
Port Blair	2
Total	19

ALANG YARD RECORDS HIGHEST CRUISE SHIP ARRIVALS IN A YEAR

Prompted by the Covid pandemic, the arrivals are equivalent to the total number of cruise ships that have arrived at Alang in the past 10 years between 2011 and 2020.

A total of 14 cruise ships – once famous for their outlandish decor and revellers on high-seas – were on the shores of Alang ship-breaking yard in Gujarat in the past 12 months to be dismantled. Prompted by the Covid pandemic, the arrivals are equivalent to the total number of cruise ships that have arrived at Alang in the past 10 years between 2011 and 2020. “One or two passenger ships get beached at Alang every year. However, cruise ships came in large numbers during the last 12 months. The 14 passenger ships that have come between November 2020 and October 2021 is the highest Alang has ever seen in a single year. The numbers are so high that the cruise ships account for 10 per cent of 150-odd vessels beached at Alang in the last 12 months,” said Captain Rakesh Mishra, port officer at Alang. Two passenger ships – MV Bluefort and MV Roger – arrived in the past 21 days of October alone. While MV Bluefort is a 42-year-old RO-Ro vessel built in Germany, MV Roger is a 48-year-old vessel registered in Spain. “Most of these cruise vessels were significant employers with each having 400 members as staff. With cruise tourism taking a hit during the last 1.5 years, the ships without regular clientele could neither pay the salaries of the staff or maintain the vessels,” Captain Mishra added. Though not as big as some of the other cargo vessels that arrive at Alang, these 14 ships together account for 2.05 lakh metric tonne of Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT) – the weight of the ship excluding the fuel, boilers, stores, passengers, etc. The biggest of the cruise ships to arrive at Alang in the last 12 months is MV Karnika, a dolphin-shaped luxury cruise liner with home port at Mumbai. Weighing 31,046 LDT, Karnika, with 614 crew members, failed to restart operations after the lockdown and was the first ship to arrive at Alang during the Covid phase. Four cruise ships, including MV Ocean Dream (MV Dream) that used to ply on routes near Japan, MV Marco Polo and MV Columbus (MV Colus) that plied on European cruise routes arrived in January. According to the Ship Recycling Industries Association of India (SRIA), the pandemic forced cruise ship owners to sell their vessels. With cruise tourism shutting down completely, these owners faced bankruptcy as they were unable to cope up with interest on loans, insurance costs, crew and vessel maintenance, and other anchorage charges incurred on the parked vessels. “The cruise vessels have been steadily trickling into Alang during the last one year. Another large cruise vessel is expected to arrive at Alang before Diwali. This could also be the last to come this year as the cruise industry is slowly picking up,” said Haresh Parmar, honorary secretary of SRIA. Parmar, who is a shipbreaker at Alang, said cruise ships contain less amount of steel in comparison to a cargo vessel. “But the pricing of cruise ships is almost similar to cargo vessels. The passenger ships that have come during the pandemic were loaded with spares and other items. Usually, cruise owners move the spares and furnitures to other functional vessels before the sale,” he added.

Source: The Indian Express

SHIFTING OF INDIA TOURISM OFFICE GAINS PACE

Central PWD to speed up process

The long-awaited shifting of India Tourism office from Willingdon Island to Fort Kochi, which was till recently considered amongst the most happening heritage and beach tourism hubs in Kerala, is set to gain momentum after getting caught in red tape for over two years. India Tourism decided to shift its office from near BTP Berth on the island, to the ground floor of the Folklore Cultural Theatre, located next to the bus stand and ro-ro ferry terminal in Fort Kochi, soon after Cochin Port Trust requested it to relocate. This followed a decision to let out the port's spaces for long-term lease.

Fair-rent certificate

Soon after, it approached the Central PWD (CPWD), seeking fair-rent certificate for the office space it proposed to take on rent in Fort Kochi. This is mandatory in order to zero in on the rent that ought to be paid to the Kochi Corporation, after assessing the age of the building, its present condition and the value of the extent of space available, among other parameters, sources said. The tourism office on Willingdon Island augured well for tourists who arrived at the BTP Berth in cruise liners and for those who boarded ships to Lakshadweep. Cruise ships would henceforth call at the new international cruise terminal a little away from the office. As for Kochi city, offices of Kerala Tourism, KTDC and Ernakulam DTPC are located on the same road. In contrast, Fort Kochi is always a happening place and such offices must be easily accessible for tourists who are in search of information and guidance, they added.

It is expected that shifting office to Fort Kochi will help India Tourism play a proactive role in tidying the heritage streets and the beachfront which has been crying for upkeep. Awareness and cleanliness initiatives too could be initiated in tandem with different stakeholders. Sadly, the premises of the folklore theatre building in Fort Kochi are dirty and ill-maintained and would need considerable preening up. Official sources said the CPWD will shortly begin the process of assessing the rent, as per parameters mentioned in its manual and hand over the fair-rent certificate to India Tourism.

Source: The Hindu



CENTRE ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS, MAKES NEGATIVE RT-PCR TEST MUST

Once they land in India, all passengers will have to undergo thermal screenings and show the self-declaration forms at the airport.

All international travellers arriving in India need to present a negative RT-PCR report for Covid-19, according to new guidelines issued by the Centre. The rule comes into effect from October 25 midnight, and is applicable to all those arriving via air, sea and land. Additionally, all travellers are required to submit a self-declaration form on the online portal <http://www.newdelhairport.in> prior arrival. The RT-PCR result should be supplemented by a self-declaration on the authenticity of the report with the understanding that they will be liable for criminal prosecution if found to be inauthentic. All passengers have also been advised to download Aarogya Setu app on their mobile devices. Once they land in India, all passengers will have to undergo thermal screenings and show the self-declaration forms at the airport. Symptomatic patients and their contacts maybe isolated as per protocol. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also set in place separate protocols for travellers from countries with whom India has a reciprocal arrangements for mutual acceptance of WHO approved COVID-19 vaccines. Fully vaccinated passengers from such countries will be allowed to proceed with their plan, though they are required to self-monitor their health for 14 days post arrival. For partially vaccinated or unvaccinated passengers from those countries, home quarantine of seven days is required. Such travellers are also required to submit samples for testing at the airport, and if they test negative on the eighth day, they will be allowed to self-monitor their health for a week. For citizens of countries with whom India has no reciprocal arrangements, seven day quarantine and testing of samples on first and eight day are applicable. The same procedure is applicable for travellers arriving via sea or land, with the exception of the online registration before arrival.

Source: The Indian Express

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