

MV CELEBRITY CONSTELLATION OPENS A NEW CHAPTER IN CRUISE TRAFFIC AT MORMUGAO

Mormugao Port played host to yet another luxury cruise liner ON 11TH December, when **M.V. CELEBRITY CONSTELLATION** of the Celebrity Cruises arrived at the port with 2099 high end guests and 937 members of the crew. The cruise vessel having a Length Over All of 294 metres and a draft of 8.17 metres even keel was deftly guided to the cruise berth terminal by the Ports' experienced Pilots Capt. Rajiv Raturi and Capt. Rajat Saxena under the close supervision and meticulous planning of the Dy. Conservator Capt. Anuj Kumar Bhisnoi, Marine Advisor Capt. Sharad Karnad, Harbour Master Capt. Manoj Joshi from the Marine side, and Shri Vipin Menoth Traffic Manager, and Shri Jerome Clement Sr. Dy. Traffic Manager from the operations, Traffic Department.

The berthing programme for the cruise liner was well planned and executed with clockwork precision by keeping all necessary contingency plans on standby as required in such a precise operation. The Port Management took the decisive call of bringing the large luxury cruise liner alongside the cruise berth terminal for the first time, thereby facilitating better facilities and ease of operation to all the operators' engaged in cruise tourism at the Port. Smooth berthing of the cruise liner with 294 metres LOA at the cruise berth terminal opens a new chapter in cruise traffic at Mormugao. On its earlier visits the cruise liner was accommodated at the General cargo berth No. 10 at the cost of cargo handling operations. In future, all such large luxury cruise liners will be berthed alongside the cruise berth terminal with all required infrastructure in place which in turn will help to enhance the image of the port and make Goa a favoured destination to other cruise liner operators. The cruise liner will make its second visit to the port once again on 27th December 2017. This is the seventh cruise liner to visit the Mormugao Port during the current cruise tourism season.

The Officials of the Goa Tourism and Development Corporation and Port officials were present at the cruise berth terminal to receive the high ends guests and assist them for smooth disembarkation and sightseeing excursions. Rich and colourful cultural pageantry of Goan culture and a traditional welcome awaited the visiting guests at the cruise berth terminal. The Immigration Bureau extended E-Visa clearance facilities on landing at the cruise terminal to the cruise liner visitors.

The Port extended facilities of meet and greet for the members of the family of the Goan crew members. By doing this MPT is not only contributing to the economy of Goa, but is also filling the gap between the family of the sailors, as such facilities are not quite prevalent at other ports.

The visitors were taken for a sight- seeing tour of Goa's famous tourists locations of churches, temples, beaches in the north and south Goa, spice gardens, Panjim city etc. M/s. J. M. Baxi & Co were the Ship Agents for the cruise liner, while the ground arrangement for sight-seeing tours was handled by the main operator M/s. Travelsmith Adventure Pvt Ltd. Luxury coaches and tourists taxis were at the disposal of the visiting guests to take them around sight-seeing in Goa. All the operations were carried out smoothly without any hassles. All the stakeholders involved in handling the foreign guests are happy with the logistical support extended by the port officials to make cruise tourism flourish in the State of Goa. The cruise liner sailed to Mumbai with the guests later in the evening after a satisfying Goan experience.





