

## **MINISTER FOR SHIPPING INAUGURATES FERRY SERVICE.**

Shri Nitin Gadkari the Hon'ble Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation inaugurated the Ferry Service from Baina, Vasco da Gama to Panjim on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 giving a further boost to Inland water ways tourism in the State of Goa. The Ferry service will be a great boon to the visiting tourists arriving at the Dabolim International airport and travelling to their hotels in the North Goa region.

Welcoming the Chief Guest, Shri Gadkariji and the other dignitaries present, Shri I. Jeyakumar IRTS Chairman, MPT said, 'The Ferry service from Baina, Vasco da Gama to Panjim will cut down on travel time from the airport and save a lot of time. Besides the Ferry service will give a good exposure to the visiting tourists. This is a new milestone in waterways travel and is a catalytic factor for tourism in Goa.'

The Hon'ble Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari addressing the gathering after inaugurating the Ferry Service said 'We have to commence water transport facilities and therefore the 7500 kms of coastal area we have can be used for transport of goods and passenger traffic which will help increase the country's connectivity and significantly reduce the congestion on roads. The Government has identified 111 rivers in the country to develop Inland Waterways. The new fishing harbor that is being developed at a cost of 104 crores, will be equipped with all modern facilities.

Highlighting the importance of developing cruise tourism in the country, the Minister stated that Mumbai port is developing a Cruise berth terminal at a cost of 800 crores. There is a lot of potential in the cruise tourism in India. During the next 5 years we are expecting that around 900 cruise liners will visit India. A luxury cruise ship between Mumbai and Goa will commence in the month of April 2018 where around 600 passengers could travel in luxury comfort, with several restaurants on board. The cruise tourism will benefit the hotel industry in Goa and solve the employment issues. If we get support for cruise tourism in Goa it will generate employment.

Speaking about Goa's all round development Shri Gadkari said that the Political leadership, bureaucracy, media and the people of Goa should join to march forward on the routes of development, creation of employment and sustenance of environment. He stressed that there can be no development by compromising ecology and environment. At the same time mindless and motivated activism in the guise of environment protection is stymieing the development and economic prosperity. Shri Gadkariji complimented the Chairman of the MPT Shri I. Jeyakumar for the initiatives he has taken for development in the port.

The Ferry Service which is a initiative of the Drishti Cruise & Service, facilitated by Mormugao Port Trust to boost tourism in the State is located at the Baina shore. The inaugural function held at the Baina beach was attended by Shri Shripad Naik Hon'ble Union Minister for AYUSH, Shri Narendra Sawaikar, Hon'ble MP Lok Sabha, Shri Vinay Tendulkar Hon'ble MP Rajya Sabha, Shri Francis D'Souza, Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development Govt of Goa, Shri Mauvin Godinho Hon'ble Minister for Panchayat, Shri Milind Naik Hon'ble MLA Mormugao, Smt Alina Saldanha, Hon'ble MLA Cortalim, Shri Nilesh Cabral Hon'ble MLA Curchorem, Shri Rajiv Somany MD Drishti Cruise & Services, Trustees of the Board of MPT, senior executives of MPT, members of the Shipping fraternity, officials of the private port terminals at Mormugao, and citizens of Goa.







