

CRUISE PASSENGERS HAVE A SMOOTH AND MEMORABLE VISIT TO GOA

Luxury cruise liner **M.V. CELEBRITY CONSTELLATION** arrived at Mormugao port on 20th January from Mumbai with 2004 high end guests and a crew of 940 on board. This is the vessel's 4th voyage to Mormugao port during the current cruise tourism season and the 13th cruise liner to visit the port thereby giving a big boost to cruise tourism in the state. The visitors received a rousing welcome at the cruise terminal with a rich display of Goan culture, music and folklore organised by the Goa Tourism Development Corporation. The cruise liner sailed later in the evening to Cochin port on its onward outbound destination. This cruise has started from Muscat in Oman.

The high end guests arriving by the cruise liner hailed from Germany (684), Canada (367), USA(366), France (115), Australia (89) and other nationalities. The visitors later went on shore 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, Vasco da Gama, were the Ship Agents for the cruise liner, while the ground arrangements for sight-seeing tours was smoothly handled by the main operator M/s. Travelsmith Adventure Pvt Ltd., Mr. Deepak of M/s. Travelsmith Adventure Pvt Ltd., clubbed some of the other tours pax together and accommodated them comfortably in the Luxury AC coaches which were at the disposal of the visiting guests to take them around sight-seeing in Goa.

As many as 1200 passengers had pre-booked their local excursions in advance and were on independent tour, hence they had no problems whatsoever after landing on shore. Nearly 500 guests utilized the KTC coaches that were made available at the cruise terminal for the use of the guests to ferry them to visit the heritage monuments at old Goa and the temples in and around Ponda.



Despite the call given for strike by the tourist taxi operators for the second successive day, all the local excursions in and around the state were handled smoothly by luxury AC Coaches organized by the local tour operator as well as other luxury Mini coaches arranged by the GTDC. The arrangements of Mini coaches by GTDC to ferry the pax smoothly lent additional support to the local tour operators. A few tourist taxis which were booked online by the visitors in advance were also plying smoothly to take the visiting guests for local sightseeing. This gesture on part of the tourist taxi operators exhibiting a sense of responsibility and commitment towards duty despite the call for strike has been largely appreciated by the Port and all the stakeholders in the cruise tourism industry. The guests arriving by the cruise liner did not face any sort of inconvenience for travel within the state and it was business as usual. All the guests visiting Goa had a pleasant tour experience and returned back with happy memories.

