

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND SANTA CLAUS WELCOMES CRUISE TOURISTS

The Cruise Berth terminal at the Mormugao Port resembled a Christmas Party zone with scintillating music and melodious Carols filling the air and Santa Claus making his presence felt to ring in the Christmas spirit, as the Officials of the Goa Tourism Development Corporation, Government of Goa, welcomed the honoured guests arriving on luxury cruise liner **MS COSTA NEO CLASSICA**, which arrived on 21st December morning from Colombo, Sri Lanka. The visiting guests were overwhelmed with the rousing welcome accorded to them ringing in the Christmas spirit thousands of miles away from home.

The luxury cruise liner arrived with 1229 high end guests from Italy (436), Indian origin (179), France (133), Russia (104), Israel (45) and other nationalities from across the globe. The vessel had 569 members of the crew on board. The Immigration bureau which is operating its counters at the cruise terminal extended all assistance and extended e-Visa facilities. The operation of the Pre-paid taxi counter is proving to be a big boon to the visiting guests, with several of them opting to avail this facility to take them to their favourite locations in and around Goa. All the services provided to the visiting guests on arrival at the cruise berth terminal by the various agencies are functioning smoothly with a clockwork precision without any iota of delay thereby giving the guests optimum time to spend on shore to visit as many places as possible during their short stay which in turn translates into a economic advantage to the local entrepreneurs.

The Port as usual extended facilities of meet and greet for the members of the family of the Goan crew members. The logistical support extended by the Port authorities to all the stakeholder to handle the cruise liner smoothly without any operational delays has come in for much praise from all concerned. The Mormugao Port authorities are leaving no stone unturned to make cruise liner tourism flourish in the State of Goa and support the economic progress of the local industry and the vision of the MOS.

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, Vasco da Gama, were the Ship Agents for the cruise liner, while the ground arrangement for sight-seeing tours was handled by the main operator M/s. International Travel Bureau. 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. The cruise liner sailed to Mumbai with the guests later in the evening.

In the meantime, the 9th luxury cruise liner of the season, MV CELEBRITY CONSTELLATION is scheduled to visit the port for the second time on 27th of the month, it had earlier visited the port on 11th December 2017 .



