



Visakhapatnam Tops In Sea Food Exports

The global pandemic has affected the EXIM traffic very badly where in one of the major exports commodity Frozen Sea Food suffered too. Despite overall drop in the exports of this product, Visakhapatnam continues to be in the top position.

While Covid 19 has affected the seafood exports drastically during the 1st half of the year 2020-21, the product managed to get revived in the second half of the year specially the last quarter. As per Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA), there could have been a shortfall of 20% in FY 20-21 across the country but managed within 10% in the year and thanks to Visakhapatnam's contribution which was the highest.



In FY 21, India exported around 11.5 lakh MT of sea food worth \$ 5.96 billion translating to Rs.43,717 crores. The overall exports reduced by 6.31% in rupee terms, 10.81% in dollar terms and 10.88% in quantity terms. However, the good news is that the overall average unit value remains the same at \$ 5.18 per kg as compared to FY 20. Exports from Visakhapatnam are to the US region @ 62% followed by China @ 16%, SE Asia @ 9% and then the other European / Mediterranean countries along with Far East that follows. USA imported around 2.91 lakh MT of sea

food worth \$ 2.45 billion, retained its first position. The second largest importer is China with a market share of 15.7% imported 2.2 lakh MT of sea food worth \$ 0.94 billion.

In terms of product frozen seafood - shrimps continued to be the major item of export with 74.31% of market share. Among the shrimps, Vannamei shrimp is the topmost variety which is getting exported from India contributing around 83% of total shrimp exports both in quantity and value.

Indian marine products are getting exported across the world through almost 30 different ports through sea and air. Visakhapatnam stood first in FY 21 in terms of quantity and share, followed by Kolkata & Kochi. The year-on-year growth of sea food exports from Visakhapatnam is 23%.

To meet the continuous demand of frozen sea food, which is traditionally routed through Visakhapatnam, Visakha Container Terminal has always been on top in terms of upscaling the reefer infrastructure proactively. The expansion now at the terminal should take care of the increased demand of this product witnessed already.

JMB's Helping Hand

Whenever it comes to world class service, J M Baxi Group is always ready with open arms. In the tough days when the entire Nation is struggling with the shortage of oxygen due to second wave of COVID 19, J M Baxi Group went ahead and purchased cylinders from Singapore to supply to the states that needed it most.

While India is battling the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the shortage of medical oxygen has turned into a major crisis. Organisations, individuals, governments & private firms are working day in and day out to meet the oxygen demand of hospitals in critically affected Indian states. J M Baxi & Co. didn't hesitate to stretch its helping hand to reach out to the needy and managed to do it in the best possible manner.



A total of 1100 cylinders were purchased totaling 7200 cubic meters of oxygen carrying capacity. The oxygen cylinders were distributed to three different states: 600 to Delhi, 250 for Andhra Pradesh and 250 for Maharashtra. The cylinders were transported to India by Indian Navy and Airforce. This help came at the right moment when there was huge shortage of Oxygen in India.



This could not have been possible without the continuous support of our esteemed partners – Shipping Fraternity who always stood by the group enabling its growth. It's a proud moment for VCTPL which under the wings of J M Baxi Group has been providing 24x7 operations in the tough days of COVID 19 and will continue to support the trade to the fullest.

VCT Never Sleeps – Operational 24x7

Visakha Container Terminal an ideal gateway on the east coast of India continues to leave its footprints as a best example and ideal one for others in responding to COVID-19. The pandemic has disrupted almost all the sectors but none more so than logistics. VCT continued with the initiatives taken last year with further additions in order to safeguard its employees by following guidelines set by World Health Organisation, Central Govt. and State Govt. VCT took all measures like providing hand sanitizers, fumigating office spaces, maintaining social distancing between staff members, operators and providing personal protective equipment.



Currently the second wave of COVID 19 is spreading like wildfire not sparing anyone and is a concern for all the citizens of India. Visakha Container Terminal ensures to take all the precautionary measures to keep its employees in a healthy and safe environment. The terminal continues to be operational 24x7 without any delays to provide its best service to the trade.

Methods of social distancing has been the continuous mantra for the terminal, which is followed religiously and at the same time, rosters were prepared for the staff to attend their respective duties. The rosters are strategized in such a way that the operations are running 24x7 without any delay in service meeting the customers' requirement. Employees working on desk jobs are encouraged to work from home. Sanitizers / Liquid wash etc. were placed at various areas of each department for the safety of the employees.

The special team of COVID task force that was formed last year by the terminal are putting their best efforts to monitor and report the status of the employees and their families' wellbeing on a regular basis. In order to run the business as usual, VCT has a business continuity plan in place to avoid any disruption in operations.

Together with all the partners support from the trade, VCT has come forward to serve the nation so that there are no delays in container traffic movement. Together we can and we will see through these tough times and stand still again as rock solid.

Restrictions On Import Of Pulses Removed

After a gap of three years, India, the largest pulses producer and consumer of pulses in the world, has opened up import of Tur, Moong and Urad Dal. Traders and importers have welcomed the move; however, millers and farmers are surprised by the decision as it may suppress the prices.

The Central Government of India has taken decision to amend the pulses import policy by moving Tur, Moong and Urad Dal from 'restricted' to 'free' category. This decision was taken in order to keep a check on the increasing prices. This relaxation will be from immediate effect for the period up to 31st of October 2021.

The Open General License (OGL) under the free import policy will enable the traders to quickly import the required quantity of Tur, Moong and Urad Dal to fulfil the shortage of the pulses. Around 250,000 MT of Tur dal, 150,000 MT of Urad dal and 50,000 – 75,000 MT of Moong dal has been planned for the next few months. These pulses are mainly imported from Myanmar, Africa and neighboring countries.



The shortage of pulses in India took place due to unseasonal rains which impacted the projected crop badly. The prices of majority of the pulses are ruling higher than the minimum support price (MSP) levels by about 5-30%. Visakha Container Terminal will be ideal gateway for the pulses imports from both Myanmar and African region as the major players are from hinterland of the terminal. Moreover, the global connectivity that the terminal has with both Main Line and Feeders calling would make Visakhapatnam the obvious choice of port to import. VCT is all set and geared to support the trade and handle the envisaged growth.

Rail Over Bridge @ NAD Kotha Road

Visakhapatnam the city of destiny and a place of attraction for several tourists is ready to showcase new development. Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) has recently approved the construction of Rail Over Bridge (ROB) at NAD Kotha Road. The ROB will be constructed under the supervision of railway authorities with the VMRDA funds.

According to a release from the VMRDA, an MoU will be signed between the VMRDA and the railways for the construction of the ROB. The VMRDA has to pay Rs. 2 crores to Railways towards way leave charges, supervision charges and other departmental charges. The overall cost of construction is estimated to be about Rs. 16 crores. The ROB is expected to be ready by September 2021. Vijay Nirman Company will be helming the project.

VMRDA is also constructing a road flyover at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 crores. This would allow the seamless movement of road traffic to the Visakhapatnam Port.



Safety Counts : Heat Wave Safety

At Visakha Container Terminal, safety standards are always maintained high with no compromises. As the terminal works round the clock handling vessels, rakes and truck, all the employees give their contribution for successful operation of the Terminal. During the scorching summers the frontline warriors who work on field gets exhausted unless properly taken care of.



Quality Health Safety Environment (QHSE) team at VCT has developed awareness program about how to work safely in hot summers. This is helpful to prevent stress injuries and heat strokes. The awareness also stressed upon how to keep oneself hydrated, avoiding dehydrated liquids, wearing protective clothes, keeping oneself in shades as & when required. It is also compulsory to take regular scheduled breaks in order to beat the heat. In addition, prevention measures awareness and information were given to the employees.

VCT always prioritizes the wellbeing of its employees and their family members. Due to these safety initiatives VCT stands still amidst natural calamities and deadly pandemic like COVOD and continues to serve the Nation 24x7.

STAY HOME

STAY SAFE