

# UT likely to import sand, Karaikal port to turn into hub of operations

CM Narayanasamy commissions automated bulk cargo handling system at Karaikal port

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Karaikal

CHIEF Minister V Narayanasamy on Tuesday commissioned the fully automated bulk cargo handling system at Karaikal port. Addressing media, he said the territorial administration would consider importing sand to cater to demand in the construction sector.

“One of our worst woes is the lack of construction materials such as sand. Since the Karaikal Port has implemented the mechanised bulk cargo handling system, it can hopefully begin importing sand through means of sea transport, and handle it without pollution. We do not have to depend on Tamil Nadu,” Narayanasamy said on the occasion. Also, he expressed satisfaction that the port had seemingly put a full stop to its air pollution woes.

The mechanised system has been implemented in the wake of several complaints and protests



Chief Minister V Narayanasamy commissioning the automated bulk cargo handling system at the Karaikal port on Tuesday | EXPRESS

by people in villages surrounding the port about air pollution. The residents were particularly upset about the coal dust emission. The port has finally completed the process of the solution it suggested.

Chairman and promoter-director of Karaikal Port GRK Reddy said, “Automation would help us offer an improved bulk handling system thereby improving

efficiency of operations and faster turnaround times. Also, cargo dispatch rates will improve significantly.”

The fully automated bulk handling system would help better discharging of cargo from ships through ship unloaders and dispatch the cargo through wagon loading and truck loading stations through conveyors that have capacity of 4000 TPH.

## Centre cutting subsidies: CM

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CHIEF Minister V Narayanasamy on Tuesday accused the Union government of reducing subsidies progressively and meting out motherly treatment to Puducherry. Addressing media, Narayanasamy said despite challenges, the UT government has generated revenue of ₹7530 crores including ₹2000 cr through income tax, ₹1000 cr through excise duties, ₹300 cr from transport and registration of lands but the Union government allocated ₹1400 crores as the UT's share.

Later, the Chief Minister oversaw the rehearsals of armed forces on the Beach Road in connection with Liberation Day celebrations on November 1.

