

Tech-based cargo system launched at Karaikal Port



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A mechanised bulk cargo handling system at Karaikal Port was inaugurated by Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy on Tuesday.

The technology-enabled system with environment-friendly features, established at an investment of Rs. 600 crore, will push up cargo discharge to a maximum of 40,000 metric tonnes a day.

Besides improving efficiency, the system will reduce docking duration for gearless ships to less than two-and-a-half days. As the cargo is inter-carted in closed conveyor systems, environment protection is ensured.

“Through mechanisation, we offer improved handling system for bulk shipments at our port. This improved efficiency of port operations through mechanisation helps in faster turnaround of ships arriving at Karaikal and also our cargo dispatch rates will increase significantly by rail or road,” G.R.K. Reddy, Chairman and Promoter-Director, said.

“This fully automated bulk handling system will help better discharging of cargo from ships through ship unloaders and dispatch the cargo through wagon loading and truck loading stations via conveyors system with a capacity 4,000 tonnes per hour, facilitating faster turnaround of vessels, rakes and trucks.”

The state-of-the-art infrastructure includes two stacker-reclaimers and a belt conveyor system of 5.7 km. The port has handled 55 million metric tonnes of cargo so far catering to regional and international markets, a press release said.

The port also has plans for further expansion including addition of warehousing facilities.