

## **SEASON'S FIRST CRUISE LINER MV VIKING ORION ARRIVES AT MORMUGAO**

The luxury cruise liner season 2018-2019 began on a high note at the Mormugao Port with the arrival of the first cruise liner MV VIKING ORION at the cruise berth terminal on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018. The luxury cruise liner arrived from Mumbai port and is on its maiden visit to Goa. The cruise liner arrived with 884 foreign guests and 470 crew members to the state from Mumbai port via Muscat. The cruise liner had earlier commenced the cruise circuit from Athens. With the arrival of the first cruise liner, the luxury cruise season on the tourism circuit of Goa for the year 2018-2019 was officially thrown open. This year the Mormugao Port is expecting to host around 39 foreign luxury cruise liners at its cruise berth terminal.

Shri G.P. Rai, Chairman (i/c) MPT visited the cruise ship at the cruise berth terminal along with the Heads of Department, Dy. Commandant CISF, and extended a warm welcome to the Master Capt. Rune Lockling. Shri G. P. Rai Chairman (i/c) welcoming the Master, Officers, and crew on board the cruise liner impressed upon the Master that the State of Goa is a much favoured tourist destination for cruise passengers on the west coast of India due to its rich cultural heritage, pristine beaches, heritage monuments and world famous cuisine which blends the East and West cultures. He also reminded the Master on the visit of their sister cruise ship MV VIKING SUN to Mormugao Port during the last cruise tourism season on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Chairman (i/c) also updated the Master about the cruise ships that are scheduled to arrive at Mormugao during the current season.

The Master of the visiting cruise liner was all praise for the Marine Officers of the Mormugao Port for smoothly piloting and bringing the cruise ship alongside the cruise terminal berth on schedule. He was impressed with the infrastructural facilities for handling big cruise ships at MPT and complimented the Chairman (i/c) and officers for the clean and imposing pier. He was happy with his ship's maiden visit to Goa port and expressed the desire to visit Goa again in future. The Master of the cruise liner and the Chairman (i/c), MPT later exchanged commemorative plaques as a gesture of goodwill and friendship. The Customs and Immigration and the CISF have done a commendable job in facilitating the smooth transition of the first cruise ship and guests on board.

The visiting guests and crew availed the facilities provided by local tour operators Trail Blazer India Pvt Ltd., to explore the beaches and other tourists spots in Goa. The visiting guests were immediately taken for sight-seeing tours across Goa in luxury coaches and taxis by the travel agents. The vessel sailed on its onward voyage to Colombo, Sri Lanka later in the evening. M/s. Inchcape Shipping Services were the Shipping Agents for the cruise liner and provided the necessary logistical support to the vessel.





