

# THE HINDU BusinessLine

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## Chennai Port geared to handle large vessels

Our Bureau

*Is now the deepest among major ports, says Cyril George*



Cyril George, Chairman, Chennai Port Trust  
Chennai, May 31:

Chennai Port is now the deepest among major ports, thus enabling it to handle large ships, said Cyril George, Chairman, Chennai Port Trust.

Draft at Bharathi Dock is now 17.5 m, at Ambedkar Dock 15.5 m, at Jawahar Dock 14 m, at CITPL 15.5 m and at DP World 13.4 m. The port can handle container vessels of around 8,000 TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units).

This is a major achievement for the port, the dredging works for which was completed last week, he said. The port reported a 4.7 per cent decline in cargo handling to 50.06 million tonnes (mt) in 2015-16 as against 52.54 mt in the previous year.

Despite this, the port managed to report an 82 per cent increase in net surplus due to handling of higher revenue generating shipments such as project cargo, he said.

### **Stiff competition**

In 2015-16, the port's two private container terminals together handed a total of 1.56 million TEUs, which was the highest handled till date, surpassing the 1.55 million TEUs handled in 2011-12, said George.

The port, he said, continues to face stiff competition from the five neighbouring ports of Kakinada, Krishnapatnam, Karaikal, Kamarajar and Kattupalli, which share the same hinterland and serve the same trade community. Road congestion leading to Chennai Port, metro rail work, and opening of Gate No. 1 on 24/7 basis are the other hurdles facing the port.

Also, delays in taking up the north-bound Ennore-Manali road improvement project and south-west bound Maduravoyal project have affected the port's performance.

However, to decongest the road, the port has opened eight lanes to the '0' gate complex, is widening internal roads, automating gate procedure, and monitoring terminal gate management, he said.

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