



PUBLIC RELATIONS CELL

PRESS RELEASE

Shri Mansukh Mandaviya Hon'ble Minister of State for Shipping (Independent Charge), Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India inaugurated the commencement of the 4th season of the Costa's homeporting in India on 8th November 2019 at Mumbai Port. Commending the Costa Line for its pioneer role in homeporting their ship in Mumbai & continuing year after year with better & bigger ships, he emphasized the importance attached to the cruise business by Shipping Ministry and gave an account of the various measures taken by the Government of India which saw four-fold jump in cruise ship calls in two years & the launch of two homegrown cruise lines in India.

He brought out the potential of Cruise to generate employment and economic activity across the different strata of businesses; while it also preserves foreign exchange within country and fulfills the aspirations of the rising middle class to have Cruise experience in their own backyard, which has a long coastline of 7500 kilometres.

As is customary to welcome a maiden voyage of a ship in a port, Shri Sanjay Bhatia, IAS, Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust exchanged plaque with captain of ship in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Minister and presented the continued commitment for development of cruises infrastructure & improvement in regulatory framework to achieve Target of 1000 ship calls & 1 million passengers in India in 5 years.

Costa Victoria debuted in 1996 and underwent a major refit in year 2004 and a modernization program in 2013. It is a 75010-ton ship with capacity to accommodate upto 2400 passengers & 800 crew.

Mumbai, dated 9th November 2019

Sd/-
(V.R. Joglekar)
CHIEF PRO