Chennai Port: Championing Community Empowerment and Sustainable Growth

Chennai Port, one of India's oldest Major Ports, stands as a testament to resilience and progress. Established officially in 1881, its historical roots trace back to cargo operations dating all the way to 1639 AD. Over the past century and a half, Chennai Port has played a pivotal role in catalyzing regional growth, fostering trade, and driving commerce.

Community building and Education

Chennai Port Authority focuses not only on "what to achieve" but also on "what impact it creates". It empathizes with the community and the mother earth and listens within to make the world sustainable.

Therefore, beyond its core port-related services, Chennai Port has actively engaged with the community, focusing on empowerment and sustainability. We have made significant contributions in the field of education:

1. **Empowerment through Education**:
   For over five decades, Chennai Port's school has been a beacon of learning, providing quality education to more than 50,000 students. The school boasts clean, hygienic classrooms, well-stocked libraries, fully equipped laboratories, and spacious playgrounds. The schooling is provided with minimal cost and all essentials like Textbooks, Stationeries, Uniform, etc. are provided free of cost.

2. **Specialized Support**:
   Recently, Chennai Port identified the need for empowerment of the Special Children and established the Swabodhini School and Vocational Centre for Special Children in the neighbouring deprived area . This innovative initiative currently benefits 24 autistic students with tailored education, therapy, and holistic support. The school's curriculum integrates academic, social, and life skills development. Structured learning, communication skills, sensory integration, and therapeutic support ensure individualized attention for students with autism. Through acceptance, understanding, and empowerment, the school positively impacts not only its students but also the broader community.

3. **Community Engagement**:
   Chennai Port recognized the need for improving the quality of life of its community and has provided the Sports and recreation facilities with dedicated full-sized stadium, running track, basketball court, tennis court, two volleyball courts, and a beach volleyball court to promote physical fitness and community bonding. A large community hall acts as a multipurpose space serving as a hub for cultural events, gatherings and community programmes. Through this pioneering initiative, Chennai Port provides these facilities at free of cost, ensuring healthy and quality lives to the community.

4. **Socio-Economic Development**:
   Besides securing nations' future through engaging and developing young minds, the Port's vision encompasses socio-economic development. The port recognizes fishermen as an important maritime stakeholder and, therefore, it has undertaken a large modernization project for Chennai Fishing Harbour (CFH). Chennai Fishing Harbour, one of the largest fishing harbours of India, provides fisheries-related

facilities to thousands of fishermen and shelters over 2000 fishing boats. The harbour witnesses' ingress/ egress of 30,000 persons daily for fishing activities or fish-related businesses and handles approximately 500 MT (metric tons) of sea catches daily.

Chennai Port, under the scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna, is establishing modern infrastructure and upgrading existing facilities to enhance facilities for fishermen, increase their income and generate employment opportunities which are expected to uplift lives of tens of thousands of fishermen in the region.

5. **Community Welfare**:

In addition to our flagship community empowerment initiatives, Chennai Port has actively engaged in various healthcare, welfare, and education endeavors. Healthcare and Welfare Initiatives include Women's Empowerment through training on Self Defense to Girl students, Assisting the Visually Impaired via Smart vision devices and AI technology, Emergency Services, Infrastructure Development such as water tanks, roads, hygienic toilet blocks, etc. We are improving education and training in the community through Digital Classrooms and Modern learning environment, Imparting Skill Training, Building schools and renovating school buildings, etc.

Chennai Port: Alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

The multi-facetted work of Chennai Port Authority may also be classified as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG3: Good Health & Well-being: Healthcare facilities, Ambulances, toilets and social infrastructures

SGD4: Quality Education: Port's school and special school for children with autism

SDG5: Gender Equality: Women's empowerment initiatives

SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Sewage treatment plants and sanitation arrangements

SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Upgradation of Chennai Fishing Harbour

SDG13: Climate Action: environmental monitoring, dust suppression, and electrification of equipment

SDG14: Life Below Water: Marine Water Quality monitoring to preserve delicate marine ecosystem

SDG15: Life on Land: Expansion of green belt, noise level and AAQ monitoring

Chennai Port's commitment to sustainability extends beyond compliance—it sets a benchmark for responsible port operations. These efforts collectively align with the UN SDGs, demonstrating Chennai Port's commitment to a sustainable and inclusive future. Chennai Port actively partners with neighboring ports, especially Kamarajar Port at Ennore, for effective collaboration, shared best practices and planning.

The above reflects Chennai Port's value-based commitment to community welfare, education, empowerment and sustainable growth sets a global benchmark, protecting environment, aligning perfectly with the UN's SDGs and resonating far beyond the harbor waters and enriching lives for a brighter and inclusive future for all.

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