

Ferry service Sri Lanka and India from 10th May

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The ferry service between India and Sri Lanka that was suspended decades ago due to the terrorist activities in Sri Lanka, is to be resumed tomorrow.

Sri Lanka's Ministry of Ports and Aviation says the ferry services between the Colombo harbour and the Indian port of Tuticorin is to begin with a voyage from India.

The first ferry is scheduled to set off from Tuticorin to the Colombo harbor tomorrow. A privately-run ferry with a capacity of 500 passengers is scheduled to sail from the Tuticorin port.

The service was scheduled to resume in February this year but got delayed due to technical difficulties and later postponed when India sent one of its ferry service vessels to evacuate the Indians and Sri Lankans stranded in Libya.

The promotion of the service started on May 2nd and reportedly there are many bookings for the voyage.

The ferry service will run three trips a week between the two countries and expect to transport around 100,000 passengers per week.

The 152- nautical mile journey between Colombo and Tuticorin is expected to take 10-12 hours.

The government says the service will be a boost to the tourist industry and help the business community who travel frequently between the two countries for business.

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Re: Ferry service Sri Lanka and India from 10th May

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Ferry service between Sri Lanka and India to begin on Monday

June 10, Colombo: The passenger ferry service between Tuticorin port in India and Colombo in Sri Lanka will finally get off to a start next week, Indian media reported.

The Indian Union Shipping Minister G.K. Vasan is to launch the ship "Scotia Prince" on June 13 from the Tuticorin port.

India's first international passenger ferry service will sail from Tuticorin to Colombo twice in a week initially and will take 14 hours to reach the destination, the operator by Flemingo Liners said on Friday.

A consortium of Flemingo Duty Free Shop Pvt Ltd and Tradex Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, has obtained the license for operating the ferry service between India and Colombo initially for seven years and additional three years.

According to a company statement the 9 deck Scotia Prince has 317 well- designed cabins that can accommodate 1,044 passengers and carry 300 tonnes of cargo.

Among the facilities on board, are Broadway Lounge, Concorde restaurant and Manhattan cafe, Bars, A Disco, and a very well equipped infirmary.

The company plans to include a casino, drive in drive out facility for cars and cargo vehicles and a duty free shop inside the ship soon.

Over 40 staff on board will attend to the customer requirements and about 25 ground staff to help with Check-in procedures, immigration, custom procedures and baggage clearance, Flemingo Liners said.

The ferry service between India and Sri Lanka was suspended decades ago due to the terrorist activities in Sri Lanka.

The service was scheduled to resume in February this year but got delayed due to technical difficulties and later postponed when India sent one of its ferry service vessels to evacuate the Indians and Sri Lankans stranded in Libya.

The Sri Lankan government says the service will be a boost to the tourist industry and help the business community who travel frequently between the two countries for business.

"Tourism between India and Sri Lanka is tremendous and we wish to boost the tourism even more with the launch of our service. Through this service we wish to give travelers in India and Sri Lanka a rich high seas experience while they travel to the homeland," the CEO, Flemingo Liners P. K. Thimmayya said.

According to Flemingo Liners, tourism and trade between the two countries has always been at its peak with 126,882 Indians visiting Sri Lanka in 2010 and around 239,995 Sri Lankans visiting India.

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