

Citroen C3 exports to Indonesia & South Africa begin from KPL

SAJAN C KUMAR
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PCA AUTOMOBILES INDIA (PAIPL), the Indian affiliate of Citroen India and part of the global automaker Stellantis group, commenced its first shipment of new Citroen C3 cars through Kamarajar Port (KPL) to Indonesia and South Africa on Thursday.

Citroen India had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with KPL in February to commence its exports from India to countries in Asean and Africa. Sunil Paliwal, CMD, KPL, and Ghanshyam Sable of Stellantis, jointly flagged off the first consignment of cars loaded into car carrier MV Pleiades Spirit berthed at the general cargo berth.

Automobile manufacturing companies like Renault-Nissan, Toyota, Daimler, Isuzu, Caterpillar and Maruti Suzuki have been regularly exporting their vehicles manufactured in India via KPL to international markets like South Africa, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Mexico, Indonesia, Asean and European countries.

Last week, the Renault-Nissan Alliance had signed an agreement with KPL for the exports of cars man-



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ufactured in Chennai by Renault Nissan Automotive India (RNAIPL) to regional and global destinations.

The Renault-Nissan Alliance was the first car manufacturer in the region to commence exports of cars through KPL. So far, over more than 13 years, the Alliance had exported over 1.15 million cars from KPL to around 108 global destinations.

In December last year, KPL had signed a five-year agreement with

Maruti Suzuki India for export of passenger vehicles to global markets. The port will be used for exports to Africa, West Asia, Latin America, Asean, Oceania and Saarc regions by the company.

Meanwhile, KPL had registered a 13% growth in automobile exports in calendar year 2022 riding on its excellent infrastructure facilities including ample vehicle storage capacity. The port had facilitated exports of 141,022 automobiles in CY22 against 124,489 units in CY21. Nissan & Renault, Ford, Toyota, Isuzu Motors and Daimler India export through KPL.

During the year, Nissan and Renault exported 81,036 vehicles against 62,873 units in 2021, recording a growth of 39%, while Ford shipped 28,484 units against 40,716 units – a drop of 30% due its winding up of India plants.

Isuzu Motors exported 17,410 vehicles compared to 8,192 units, registering an 112% increase. Daimler India exported 5,869 units against 5,402 units, marking an increase of 8.6% while Toyota Kirloskar shipped 105 vehicles and others exported 8,000 units of automobiles.