Preface

Maritime ports are inevitable for India’s economic development. The very existence and sustainable development of ports depend on clean port environment. There is a notion that shipping is an over regulated industry. But in India, it is being operated under sub-standard conditions, raising crucial issues of environmental pollution in the country’s ports. The negative impacts of vessel sourced pollution on the eco-fragile coastal peninsula can be detrimental to the living conditions, health and interests of the coastal population. It can disturb marine life and imbalance the aquatic ecosystem. The present study analyses control of vessel sourced pollution in Indian ports from an economic and ecological perspective. The study investigates legal reasons behind the weak control, regulation and monitoring over vessel sourced pollution in Indian ports. The loopholes in the legal system are identified and suggestion made to implement stronger enforcement. Unless, vessel operations are properly regulated in ports, the trade and economic prospects of India will be jeopardized.

At the outset, I would like to extend profound gratitude to my guide and research supervisor, Prof. Dr. A. M. Varkey. His academic interventions and in-depth knowledge on the subject have led to the fruitful completion of this study. He has been motivating and continuously supporting me to get focused on interesting and highly relevant issues on the topic.

I offer sincere obligations and heartfelt gratitude to Dr. U. Krishnakumar, Director, Amrita School of Arts and Sciences, Kochi who has been of constant support and inspiration to me. I express sincere thanks to all the faculty members of Amrita School of Arts and Sciences, Kochi, for their support and encouragement.

My sincere thanks to Director, School of Legal Studies, library and office staff, and fellow research scholars for their continuous support. I am
grateful to senior faculty members of the School of Legal Studies, especially to Dr. N. S. Soman, Dr. N. S. Gopalakrishnan, Dr. V. S. Sebastian, Dr. Valsamma Paul and Dr. D. Rajeev for all the support extended to me during the research study.

I wish to express my special thanks to Prof. Dr. Aisha Ravindran, Chair Person, Department of English, American University of Raz Al Khaimah. I would not have been doing the research on this topic without her help and motivation.

I would like to thank my family, my parents and my elder sister, Smt. Praveena Vijayan, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, S. N. College, Nattika for their love and encouragement. I remember with much gratitude, the efforts taken by my husband Sri. A. Vineeth, Chief Engineer Merchant Navy, sharing his experience over the past two decades regarding various port facilities around the world and supporting me in all my endeavours.

At this moment, I also remember with all love and gratitude, my late father, Sri. S. Vijayan who has inspired my life, my studies and my passion for law.

Sony Vijayan

17/03/2014
Kochi.