

Transworld Shipping Agencies and Shreyas Relay Systems felicitated by Cochin Port Trust on Port Day

Transworld Shipping Agencies has been honoured with the award for handling the highest number of container vessels and Shreyas Relay Systems with maximum number of containers handled in Cochin. The award was presented on Cochin Port Day, May 26, 2017, which is celebrated in commemoration of the entry of the first ship into Cochin Harbour. Krishnakumar, branch manager and Rajeev, operations manager for Transworld Shipping and Abe Joseph, branch manager and Santhosh Kumar for Shreyas Relay Systems received the prestigious award from the chief guest. Many best performing Port users were felicitated during the day. The chief guest of the function was Mr Nageswara Rao, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kerala. Mr P. Raveendran, Chairman of Cochin Port Trust, presided over the function.

India Govt to begin work on India-Myanmar-Thailand highway project from June

To strengthen connectivity with Southeast Asia, the government is likely to kick-start work on highway from Meghalaya to Myanmar, as part of the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral pact, from next month. "We will probably start work on Meghalaya to Myanmar project from next month. The cost of the project is Rs 5,000 crore," Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari told reporters. India, Thailand and Myanmar are working on a 1,400 km long highway that would link the country with Southeast Asia by land for the first time in decades, a move which would give a boost to trade, business, health, education and tourism among the countries. Further, addressing the conclave on green ports and oil spill management here, the Union minister said the government is planning waterway connectivity up to Myanmar via Bangladesh using Brahmaputra river, and expects the project to be completed soon.

India-Chabahar shipping route debuted

A container ship carrying 300 TEU of rice from India's Kandla Port in Kutch District of Gujarat docked at Iran's Chabahar Port last week in a first such voyage to directly connect Kandla to Chabahar, Managing Director of Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran Mohammad Saeednejad said. "Direct transaction of goods from the port of Kandla to Chabahar would result in saving \$750 per forty-foot container and a one-day reduction in the time of transportation. The costs of transport from Chabahar to Kandla would also be cut by \$500 for each forty-foot container," ISNA quoted him as saying. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said earlier this month that Kandla Port will soon be connected with Iran's Chabahar Port to give a boost to India's international trade. "The linking [with Chabahar] means Kandla will cement its feet like Angad did," the prime minister said on May 22 during a visit to Gujarat, referring to a mythical episode from Ramayana where the character puts his feet down in King Ravana's court and nobody could move it, however hard they tried.

Kandla Port to generate 200 MW solar, wind energy

The Ministry of Shipping is exploring the possibility of setting up 200 MW solar and wind energy projects on 1.5 lakh acres of land at Kandla Port in Gujarat, Union Minister for Shipping and Transport Nitin Gadkari said here on Tuesday. The land is low-cost and economically viable for investment in solar and wind energy projects from which the energy can then be wheeled through the national grid. "The cost of solar energy per unit has dropped to Rs 2.63 per unit and capital cost has also come down, which will help all ports cumulatively save Rs 600-700 crore annually," Gadkari said. He was addressing a conclave on 'Green Ports and Oil Spill Management - 2017' in Mumbai organised by Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE) along with the Ministry of Shipping, Sagarmala, Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Shipping Corporation of India (SCI).

Toyota wants to ship left-hand drive cars from India

Japanese auto major, Toyota, plans to make India a larger export base by shipping left-hand drive cars from the country. Currently, the Indian subsidiary of the world's second-largest vehicle maker produces only right-hand drive cars and exports some of these. "We just produce right-hand drive cars in Indian plants. We would want to be an export hub for left-hand drive vehicles in the future," Akito Tachibana, managing director at Toyota Kirloskar Motor told. For Toyota's India-made right-hand drive cars the international market is limited, as cars in most countries have steering on the left hand side. Two of Toyota's big markets -- Thailand and Indonesia -- are right-hand drive but the company has large manufacturing capacities in both these countries. Toyota has an installed capacity to manufacture 310,000 vehicles in India at its two plant located at the outskirts of Bangalore. However, it just sold 156,112 units in the year ended March 31, 2017.

Volvo cars first to benefit from China's 'one belt, one road'

The cars have been transported to Belgium via the recently opened, China-Europe railway link. Volvo Cars says that the connection brings down the time it takes to transport vehicles to Europe by two thirds compared with the naval route, meaning customers receive their car faster after ordering. Swedish auto maker Volvo Cars has become the first automaker in the world to export China made cars to Europe by train via China's new 'One Belt, One Road' trade initiative, said the company in a media statement. The first set of Volvo S90 sedans, built at its Daqing plant in China, will arrive at a distribution centre in Zeebrugge, Belgium this week. The cars have been transported to Belgium via the recently opened, China-Europe railway link. Volvo Cars says that the connection brings down the time it takes to transport vehicles to Europe by two thirds compared with the naval route, meaning customers receive their car faster after ordering.

Amazon launches direct air freight service to China

Retail giant Amazon has launched direct cargo flights from the US to Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province. The planes which were carrying products, including food, clothes and household appliances ordered by Chinese buyers, flew from New York, Chicago and Los Angeles to the Chinese transportation hub, Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday. Zhengzhou Xingzheng International Airport offered good logistics services to cross-border e-commerce platforms, sources with Amazon logistics services provider WherExpress. The airport provided swift customs clearance, and the imports will now be distributed to consumers nationwide. Amazon had said in March that it was "currently developing the air cargo service (for China) and will introduce it soon". The airport in Zhengzhou posted 275,000 tonnes of throughput of imported cargo in 2016, which included imported fruit, aquatic products, meat and live Australian cattle.

Public Indian ports cut container dwell times further

Though the pace of growth at India's major, or public, ports slowed in the fiscal year that ended in March, the government's aggressive efforts to cut logistics costs have led to a steady improvement in container dwell times. An analysis of new port productivity data shows the biggest beneficiary of those efforts has been Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), with the overall average dwell time there down to 2.54 days from 3.06 days previously. That dramatic change could largely be a result of the direct port delivery (DPD) push by the Nhava Sheva Customs, which facilitates the clearance of import shipments within 48 hours of landing at the port. A congestion-free operation also had a positive impact on JNPT's quayside productivity in the last year, with average pre-berthing times down to 0.80 days from 1.21 days previously, average ship turnaround times down to 2.01 days from 2.44 days, and average gross berth productivity up to 78.58 moves per hour from 69.46 moves per hour, statistics show.

Japan's three main shipowners announce new joint venture, located in Singapore

Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd., Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd., and Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha have announced that their new joint venture (JV) will operate under the tradename "Ocean Network Express." The establishment of this new JV, which will integrate the three companies' container shipping businesses (including worldwide terminal operation businesses, excluding those in Japan), was previously announced in the "Notice of Agreement to the Integration of Container Shipping Businesses" released on October 31, 2016. Establishment of a holding company is currently planned in Japan, and an operating company is planned to be incorporated in Singapore. In addition, regional headquarters of the operating company will be set up in Singapore, Hong Kong, United Kingdom (London), United States (Richmond, VA), and Brazil (Sao Paulo). The establishment of new JV will officially be announced once all anti-trust reviews are completed. The service commencement date for Ocean Network Express is April 1, 2018.

India customs to launch online rotation number for berthing

The Customs department proposes to introduce an online facility for generation of 'Rotation Number' required by vessels for berthing at ports as part of trade facilitation measure. Port authorities, especially the Customs, issue the number to a vessel to indicate its turn for berthing for loading or unloading. Currently, for allotment of rotation number for a vessel that calls on a port, the shipping line or its agents file an application with the Customs House in a prescribed format. After confirmation of the particulars, details are entered into the system and the 'rotation number' is generated by the Indian Customs EDI System (ICES). The Customs department has now reviewed the present system, a circular said. With a view of simplifying the generation of 'rotation number' for vessels, it said a facility has been developed on ICEGATE portal for online application and self generation of the number by shipping lines or their agents. "Under the proposed facility, the shipping lines or agents...using their digital signature would have an option of 'Rotation Number Generation' on the ICEGATE user menu," it said.

Adani Ports starts constructing transshipment port in Kerala

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), has started construction of the first berth at the country's international transshipment project of deep-water multi-cargo port at Vizhinjam in Kerala. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan performed the groundbreaking ceremony in the presence APSEZ CEO, Karan Adani, among others. "We are happy with the progress made so far in developing India's first-ever transshipment port at Vizhinjam. The port is very strategically located for access to prominent international waterways; this project will enable India to be strategically positioned as a global transshipment hub," Adani said. Currently, more than one million TEUs of Indian cargo get transshipped annually through foreign ports such as Colombo in Sri Lanka. The project will be Kerala's first-ever deep-water container transshipment port, with a deep draft of 20.5 meters and the first phase of the berth being constructed will be 800 metres in length.