

### Shreyas Shipping JV with Japanese firm Suzue Corporation

Shreyas Shipping shares rallied as much as 14.55 percent in morning trade Tuesday on signing joint venture agreement with Yokohama-based Suzue Corporation of Japan. The Indian ship owning subsidiary of Transworld Group said the joint venture company would capitalise on the possibilities in international freight forwarding, customs clearance service, warehousing services, land transport services and other related logistic services. Additionally, the joint venture will also focus on land bank development for commercial purposes in Indian sub-continent and Japan. Shreyas Shipping said geographies covered by the agreement initially included Indian sub-continent and Japan, with the possibility of extending to South East Asian nations.

### India's Sagarmala moves to implementation stage

The flagship programme of Indian Ministry of Shipping – Sagarmala, has moved from the conceptualization and planning to the implementation stage. The Sagarmala project is introduced to harness India's 7,500-km coastline will promote port-led development in the country. As a part of the programme, more than 400 projects have been identified across the areas of port modernization and new port development, connectivity enhancement, portlinked industrialization and coastal community development. To create awareness about the Sagarmala programme among the stake holders and to engage with them, the Ministry is organising a series of workshops over the next 6–8 months under the aegis of the Sagarmala Programme. As per the concept approved by the Government of India, the projects identified under Sagarmala will be taken up by the respective Ports, State Governments or Maritime Boards and Central Ministries mainly through private funding or PPP mode.

### Soon, half of JN Port shipments to come under DPD

Substantial cost and time savings in importing shipments through direct port delivery (DPD) are driving back importers to Jawaharlal Nehru (JN) Port from nearby ports. Implementation of DPD has helped ease the clearance process of shipments, and congestion at the port, which gears up for the commissioning of the first phase of the fourth container terminal, which is under construction. DPD facilitates movement of import cargo as it helps deliver the shipment from the port to the importer's warehouse or factory directly. Many importers have welcomed this game-changing move and some more are looking at re-routing their containers from other nearby ports to JN Port. Clearance of containers, which used to take a week, takes up to 48 hours now. Once the first phase of the fourth terminal is commissioned in December, Jawaharlal Nehru Customs House (JNCH) expects more importers to benefit from DPD.

### Union Alliance to raise standards at DP World

A new global union alliance formed of unions based in DP World terminals is looking to improve standards in health and safety, automation and contract labour. According to International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), the ITF DP World global union alliance is setting out its first series of objectives during ITF dockers' conference in Cape Town, South Africa this week. "This alliance is part of our ongoing response to global multinationals that behave differently depending on where they are operating in the world," Paddy Crumlin, ITF president and dockers' section chair, said. "We are standing up to say that whether you're in India, Canada, South America or the UK, union busting activities will not be tolerated and there is a global network of unions ready to demonstrate that," Crumlin added. The alliance includes 17 unions organising in DP World terminals across the globe.

### P&O Maritime buys Spanish marine services operator Reyser

Dubai-headquartered P&O Maritime, a subsidiary of DP World, has acquired fellow marine services operator Reyser (Remolques y Servicios Maritimos) of Spain from Bergé y Cía for a sum said to be less than 5% of the group's net asset value (\$475m). Reyser owns a fleet of 151 vessels and provides harbour towage, mooring, bunkering and other marine services to 10 ports in Spain under long-term contracts, as well as to international LNG terminals at Saint John, New Brunswick in Canada and Point Fortin in Trinidad and Tobago. Breakdown of the Reyser fleet by type is 20 tugs, 53 mooring boats, 5 bunkering vessels and 73 ships conducting environmental work. "This is all part of our broader strategy to grow complementary sectors in the global supply chain such as industrial parks, freezones and logistics supported by new technologies adding value for all our stakeholders," said DP World Group chairman and ceo Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem.

### Southwest India shippers turn to Cochin for transshipment

DP World-operated International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), or Vallarpadam Terminal, at India's Port of Cochin is looking to cement its position as a transshipment gateway for southwestern hinterland shippers on the back of its ample feeder connectivity to ports on both coasts. That effort comes as the government works to encourage coastal shipping through lifting of cabotage restrictions to allow foreign-flag ships to transport domestic cargo, which would help generate more gateway traffic for Indian major ports and, in turn, lower logistics costs for shippers as the need to transship containers over foreign hub ports is avoided. "ICTT is directly connected to other ports at Mundra, Nhava Sheva (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust), Goa, Mangalore, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Kattupalli, Krishnapatnam, and Tuticorin through an array of feeder services offered at the terminal," DP World Cochin told.

### JSW Infra frontrunner to buy APM Terminals' stake in Gujarat Pipavav Port

Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Infrastructure is the frontrunner for an acquisition of APM Terminals' 43.01 per cent stake in Gujarat Pipavav Port (GPPL), sources close to the development said. According to media reports, Gautam Adani-led Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) had initiated talks for acquisition with GPPL for stake buy in the private port. However, sources suggest that JSW Infrastructure could be financially better positioned for the acquisition. "JSW Infrastructure is ready to pay a premium to acquire a stake in Gujarat Pipavav since through this acquisition it is looking to get an indirect listing on the stock exchanges," a banking source close to the development told. The JSW Group company has been having plans to come up with an initial public offering (IPO) in 2019-2020. Its ports and terminals in Maharashtra and Goa have an operational capacity of 33 million tonnes at present.

### Iran may link Chabahar port with Central Asian corridors

The key Iranian port of Chabahar where India has a key stake is not only being expanded as a gateway to Afghanistan but also being considered as an entry point to Central Asia following Hassan Rouhani's re-election as the Iranian President. Tehran is considering a plan to link the strategically-located Chabahar port with various intra-Central Asia transport corridors. Chabahar currently connects India with Afghanistan through road and plans are on by Tehran to build rail link with Delhi's support. The Rouhani government's plan to also link Chabahar with various Central Asian transport corridors will open up a second route for India's outreach to landlocked Central Asia apart from International North-South Transportation Corridor (INSTC) that also passes through Iran. The subject among other bilateral issues may come up for discussion if Rouhani meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a pull aside on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Astana on Friday.

### Government nod to India-Cyprus pact on merchant shipping

The Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval to the agreement signed in April between India and Cyprus on merchant shipping, aimed at enhancing cooperation between the two nations for sea trade development. "The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the agreement between India and Cyprus on merchant shipping, which was signed in April 2017," the Ministry of Shipping said in a statement. The agreement in merchant shipping will pave the way for cooperation in eliminating any hindrances which may hamper the development of sea trade between the two nations, it said. The pact will encourage participation in the transport of goods between the countries and also from third countries. The MoU further seeks to enhance cooperation for employment, improvement of conditions of work and for the welfare of seafarers employed on each other's vessels.

### Shipowners welcome council conclusions on EU maritime transport policy

European Transport Ministers adopted yesterday conclusions on the priorities for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2020. The conclusions endorse the content of the so-called "Valletta Declaration" adopted at the informal ministerial conference organised by the Maltese Presidency end of March. "With the current EU strategy for maritime transport policy 2009-2018 coming to an end in less than two years' time, we are pleased that the Council is identifying what to prioritise next", commented ECSA Secretary General Patrick Verhoeven. "The conclusions adopted today set out the right priorities and challenges: competitiveness, simplification and digitalisation, decarbonisation and the reduction of air emissions", he added. ECSA believes that these priorities must be developed beyond 2020 and calls for an ambitious shipping strategy for the period 2019-2028. For EU shipping to flourish, it needs a stable, forward looking policy and regulatory framework with a global orientation.

### New shipping operator could increase competition for Matson, Pasha

Philly Shipyard said that it has initiated construction of four new containerships and is currently in "advanced discussions" with a major U.S. shipping operator to use the vessels to establish a new service between the Mainland and Hawaii. In a release, the shipyard said, "Several prominent investors and lenders in the U.S. shipping market have expressed interest in taking part in this opportunity. In addition, a highly regarded maritime leasing company has issued an indicative offer with preliminary terms for a bareboat charter structure." Shane Peters, a spokesperson for Philly Shipyard, told Pacific Business News the shipyard initiated the process of constructing the vessels after analyzing and studying the Hawaii market. Philly Shipyard said the new vessels "are a continuation of the series of similar containerships currently under construction at Philly Shipyard for the Hawaii trade-lane."