

Transworld Group acquires new ship to enhance its capacity on Chittagong and Colombo sector

Transworld group as a part of its business expansion has acquired MV OEL SHRAVAN at 1300 Hrs. German Local Time (1200 Hrs. BST/1100 Hrs. GMT) , on 4th April 2018, whilst she lay safely afloat at Majhi Inner Anchorage, Zhoushan-Ningbo, People's Republic of China. mv OEL SHRAVAN is the 23rd addition to the fleet of Transworld Group and has a TEU capacity of 1584. With this acquisition, Transworld extend its service network to cover strategic markets in South Asia to meet the needs of its customers. OEL SARAVANA will be deployed on the Chittagong and Colombo Sector.

New freight station opens at Khalifa port

Emirates Global Aluminium, the largest industrial company in the UAE outside oil and gas, and Abu Dhabi Ports have jointly opened a dedicated container freight station facility at Khalifa Port in the UAE capital. The new container freight station will help improve logistics efficiency and environmental performance by reducing truck movements within Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (Kizad) by over 290,000 km per year, said a statement from EGA. The new facility will be used to load metal into containers for transfer onto ships for export. It has been purpose built by Abu Dhabi Ports close to EGA's Al Taweelah site to reduce the trucking distance for each consignment by approximately 17 km. Last year, EGA shipped some 600,000 tonnes of aluminium from Khalifa Port, requiring over 17,000 truck movements from EGA's site to the quayside, it stated. Total emissions savings from shortening the journey to waiting ships are expected to be over 2,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year, which is similar to removing some 450 cars from the UAE's roads, it added. The new container freight station was opened by Abdulla Kalban, the managing director and chief executive of EGA and Captain Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, the chief executive officer of Abu Dhabi Ports, in the presence of senior company officials.

DP World Cochin Terminal leads India major ports' growth

The DP World-operated International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT), India's only dedicated, full-fledged transshipment gateway at Cochin Port, ended fiscal year 2017-2018 with a record-setting performance that the Dubai-based company believes will act as a catalyst for its ambitious expansion program in the emerging market economy. ICTT achieved the highest growth rate last fiscal year, which ended March 31, among all container terminals at dominant, major, or public ports in the country; this was an impressive 13.3 percent increase to 556,000 TEU handled in 2017, from 391,000 TEU in 2016, according to statistics compiled by JOC.com. Moreover, this occurred despite continued global demand challenges and ever-growing overcapacity issues in India's east coast region. In addition, the terminal handled a monthly high of 52,000 TEU in March, breaking its previous record of 51,000 TEU set in October. Further, it achieved an impressive 19 percent increase in the January-to-March quarter, compared with the same period in 2017. Officials at DP World Subcontinent told that industry-best productivity rates, improved feeder connectivity, and extended hinterland rail reach combined to deliver that stellar performance.

Port of Mobile is poised for growth across trade operations

Hiring is under way and workers are putting finishing touches on a 2.6 million-square-foot Wal-Mart import distribution center (DC) that the Port of Mobile expects to be a catalyst for growth of exports as well as inbound cargo. Wal-Mart's new import DC will be one of six such gateways through which the retail giant funnels cargo to smaller DCs and stores in the US market. It is scheduled to open in June and gradually ramp up to expected full volume of about 50,000 TEU per year. The added cargo will provide a big boost to Mobile's import volumes, which totaled 118,097 TEU of full containers last year, according to PIERS, a sister product of JOC.com. The added import volume also will provide more opportunities for exports, which totaled 132,478 TEU last year. Finding empty containers for export loads has been a chronic challenge for shippers of commodities such as resins and forest products at export-dominated Gulf ports. The new Wal-Mart just 10 miles from the Port of Mobile should help alleviate that problem. "We'll have a lot of empties here that can be loaded with exports," said Jimmy Lyons, executive director of the Alabama State Port Authority.

Middle East ports' appetite for capacity expansion won't be satisfied by volumes

The Middle East Gulf region could be faced with substantial overcapacity of container terminal and air cargo infrastructure if all planned projects proceed, a new report from Transport Intelligence (Ti) warns. Almost every major port, from Oman north to Kuwait, has substantial upgrades planned, The Middle East Investment Opportunities 2018 report says. "An audit of GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and Iran airport and port infrastructure reveals that the UAE remains the dominant location for both container and air freight traffic," it says. "Qatar's Hamad Airport is also a major transit hub. "It is clear that if certain major airport and port development projects take place, there will be excess capacity in the region. There is a risk of certain facilities being significantly under-utilised," it adds. In fact, Ti's research shows that significant underutilisation of facilities already exists in several ports: Bahrain's throughput in 2016 was around 300,000 teu, while its Khalifa Bin Salman port has an annual capacity of 1m teu; Qatar handled just under 500,00 teu, but has capacity to handle four times that; and across Oman's three container ports of Salalah, Sohar and Duqm, total throughput was 4m teu, while capacity amounted to 10.5m teu.

Port of Vancouver climbs up global rankings ladder

Alphaliner's recently released list of the top 110 container ports in the world shows the Port of Vancouver ranked at No. 45 in 2017. That's up from its No. 48 position in 2016. Vancouver is the only Canadian port in the list's top 50. The ranking reflects the record 3.3 million 20-foot equivalent units [TEUs] handled by Vancouver's container terminals in 2017, an 11% increase over 2016's total. It also supports analysts' views that trade on the robust transpacific cargo route is recovering from the dark days of 2016. In its January 30 container market trends update, U.K.-based shipping consultancy Drewry forecast global container growth to continue at around 4% for 2018, which would add another nine million TEUs to the world's total this year. Philip Damas, head of Drewry's Supply Chain Advisors, said 2018 would be the second year in a row in which every region of the world will see growth. Drewry consequently raised its 2018 global TEU growth forecast to 4.3% from 3.6%. According to Alphaliner, the top 110 container ports handled a combined throughput of 600 million TEUs in 2017 compared with 565 million in 2016. Only 12 of the 110 reported lower volumes in 2017 compared with 2017.

KICT berths Px2 service vessel of Shreyas Shipping

March 28, 2018 marked another feat in the short history of J.M. Baxi Group's Kandla International Container Terminal (KICT). The day saw the vessel MV SSL Delhi V17150 berth at the terminal under the PIX2 service, making it the fifth service out of Kandla for the Gulf and Upper Gulf Sector. The PIX2 is operated by Shreyas Shipping with the following rotation: KICT-Bandar Abbas-Jebel Ali-Mundra-Krishnapatnam- Kattupalli-Tuticorin-Cochin-KICT. MV SSL Delhi V17150, having an LOA of 207.4 m and GRT of 25,369, sailed out of KICT on March 28 itself after carrying out a total exchange of approximately 470 boxes. This is the first Common Carrier Service carrying SOC boxes to Bandar Abbas out of KICT. On the occasion, Mr Amardeep Singh Parmar, Terminal Head, KICTPL, thanked Deendayal Port Trust (DPT) and its marine department, Customs and Shreyas Shipping for their continued support in making KICT a success story. The PIX2 service will help the trade in exports to Bandar Abbas and Jebel Ali. KICT is the nearest terminal to the northern and western hinterlands of India. Hence, with this PIX2 service and the terminal's unique geography and advantages, KICTPL has successfully consolidated its position as a "Gateway to the Gulf and Upper Gulf."

APM Terminals Mumbai handles record 2.3 mn TEUs in 2017-18

APM Terminals Mumbai, which is also known as Gateway Terminals India (GTI), handled a record 2.3 million TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) during 2017-18, a company statement said. This is the terminal's highest volume performance since it was built in 2006, APM Terminals Mumbai said in the statement. "APM Terminals Mumbai handled a record 2.3 million TEUs during 2017-18. The terminal handled over 633 vessels over the course of the year," the company said. Commenting on the achievement, Ravi Gaitonde, Managing Director of APM Terminals Mumbai, said, "This success is a result of the cooperation extended by the entire trade community including the cargo owners, container freight station operators, transporters, rail operators and the port and customs authorities." APM Terminals Mumbai is part of the APM Terminals Global Terminal Network and is a joint venture between APM Terminals and the Container Corporation of India (CONCOR - a government of India undertaking). Operating from Nhava Sheva's Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), APM Terminals Mumbai is India's largest container terminal handling facility in container throughput (TEUs), representing 18 per cent of India's containerized cargo.

Wilhelmsen and Kongsberg setting up world's first autonomous shipping company

Shipping group Wilhelmsen and equipment manufacturer Kongsberg are setting up the world's first autonomous shipping company which is designed to offer the entire value chain for unmanned vessels. The two companies said the joint venture called Massterly will offer the complete value chain for autonomous ships, from design and development, to control systems, logistics services and vessel operations. Massterly which be operational from August this year plans to have land-based control centres to monitor and operate autonomous ships in Norway and internationally. "As a world-leading maritime nation, Norway has taken a position at the forefront in developing autonomous ships," said Thomas Wilhelmsen, CEO of Wilhelmsen Group. "Through the creation of the new company named Massterly, we take the next step on this journey by establishing infrastructure and services to design and operate vessels, as well as advanced logistics solutions associated with maritime autonomous operations". Kongsberg is already at the forefront of autonomous shipping development with the Yara Birkeland a 120 teu autonomous, electric-powered container vessel which is designed to operate for fertiliser company Yara in Norwegian coastal waters completely autonomously from 2020.

India to pump in over INR 10,000 crore in inland waterways development

The government will invest over INR 10,000 crore in the development of inland waterways in the next 3-5 years, with aid from the World Bank. "We are undertaking a major project on the Ganges, which is the national water-1. We aim to make the river navigatable with 3m draft, 2.5m draft and 2.2 m draft over the stretches so that 1500- 2,000 ton ships can move throughout the year," Nutan Guha Biswas, chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Shipping, told. World Bank will provide INR 5,369 crore for the navigation project from Varanasi to Haldia. Rest of the funds will be used in developing 106 notified inland waterways. "The other INR 5,000 crore will be invested in developing the other 106 notified waterways in the next five years to harness the potential of inland waterways and make it economically viable," she added. The work has already been started on the Ganges since the last two years to develop multimodal terminals in Varanasi, Sahebganj and Haldia to connect the rivers through roads and railways and directly transfer the freight from one source to another. He added that they aim to complete the project by 2020. At present, 6 million tonnes of cargo moves on the Ganges in one year and by 2020, Biswas said that they need to have 21 million tonnes of cargo moving.