



Saudi Ports Authority adds two port calls to Gulf China service

Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) has announced the addition of two ports calls, Shanghai and Singapore, to the Gulf China Service (GCS), a direct weekly service launched by Pacific International Lines (PIL) to connect China with the Gulf area in the Middle East. This will contribute to increasing the capacity to support imports and exports operations in King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam. As this addition aligns with the shipping lines' aim to expand and add new shipping services,

which will reflect positively on the efficiency of services provided for local and international importers and exporters. The Authority provides efficient direct services to customers to strengthen Saudi ports' connectivity with ports around the world. Mawani attracts major shipping lines which contribute in saving time for traders, in line with the objectives of National Transport and Logistics Strategy (NTLS) and Saudi Vision 2030 objectives of positioning the Kingdom as global logistics hub. King Abdulaziz Port in Dammam operates with a total area of 19 km², along with 43 integrated berths fully equipped to receive the largest vessels, as well as 3 advanced container terminals with 105M tonnes capacity.

New direct services link Russian and Chinese ports

Swift Line has launched new services that connect Global Ports Group's Vostochnaya Stevedoring Company (VSC) located in the deep-water port of Vostochny in Primorsky Krai, Russia with the Chinese ports of Tianjin and Taicang. SWIFT LINE calls VSC two to three times a month with the SOL HONGKONG cargo ship, which can carry more than 650 TEU, including 30 reefer containers, as well as hazardous cargoes. Delivery time between VSC and Tianjin and Taicang ports is four to five days. "New routes offered by SWIFT LINE from VSC have expanded the geography of regular direct connections to China available to our clients in the Far East," said Igor Pukhov, chief commercial officer of Global Ports Group. "The services will provide customers with more flexibility to adjust to rapid market changes and maintain uninterrupted supplies," he added. "In partnership with VSC, SWIFT LINE delivers import cargo with expedited block trains to Russia's key regions," noted Alexander Podylov director general of Vostochny Express, a railway business unit of SWIFT Transport Group. The new SWIFT LINE service is complementary to the existing services connecting the VSC terminal at the port of Vostochny with the largest ports in China and other Asia-Pacific countries.



DP World, Mawani ink partnership deal for Jeddah logistics park

In a move that highlights strong relations between the UAE and Saudi Arabia and underscores Dubai's keenness to share its expertise and experience to boost regional development, DP World and the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani) signed a 30-year agreement to build a state-of-the-art, port-centric Logistics Park at the Jeddah Islamic Port. The agreement, with an investment value of more than \$133.4mn, aims to establish a 415,000m² logistics park with an in-land container depot capacity of 250,000 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units) and a warehousing storage space of 100,000m². Future expansions could increase the storage space to 200,000m². The agreement was signed under the patronage of Eng Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Transport and Logistic Services and chairman of Mawani. The signing ceremony was attended by Omar Bin Talal Hariiri, president of Mawani; Sheikh Nahyan bin Saif Al Nahyan, UAE Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, group chairman and CEO of DP World; Mohammad Alshaikh, CEO DP World Saudi Arabia; and a delegation of senior Saudi government officials as well as representatives from DP World's leadership team.

New container service launches between Russia and India

MODUL, a Russian transport and forwarding company, has launched a new container service linking the Big Port of St. Petersburg in Russia and the largest port of India in Nhava Sheva. "The shortage of container tonnage in the Baltics that we have seen in recent months has led to a disruption in international deliveries throughout the North-West of Russia. We expect that the new service from Petrosport to India will be in demand, both in import and export," commented Albert Likholet, CEO of Global Ports, the operator of Petrosport. "We are pleased to start a new chapter in the history of Modul by launching a pilot project of a direct container service between Russia and India," said Alexander Altshuller, CEO of MODUL. "We are in the process of significantly expanding the fleet of our own containers with a view to using this equipment on the announced route as well as on other routes planned to be launched later," he added. The new connection aims to deliver Russian export cargo, including paper, chemical products, and lumber, to India and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. The service between Petrosport and the port of Nhava Sheva is operated by a ship of 1,094 TEU capacity, while the delivery time is 25 days.

Colombo port West Container Terminal expected to be operational in 2024

The Colombo port's West Container Terminal (WCT), a joint venture of the Adani group of India, the Sri Lankan company John Keells (JKH) and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA), will be able to receive its first ships in 2024, according to Rohan Maskarola, Chief Executive Officer of the Shippers' Academy of Colombo. Maskarola stated that preliminary works are underway and that the first berth should be ready by 2024. He said that although there has been some delay due to economic difficulties, work is still ongoing. According to Maritime Gateway, John Keells Holdings (JKH), the Sri Lankan Partner in WCT, plans to borrow US\$ 75 Million from a Canadian Financial Institution through privately-placed debentures. US\$ 70 million of this will be used to invest in the WCT. "While the crisis-stricken and sovereign debt defaulting Sri Lankan economy is frantically seeking dollars to cover its necessities, such as fuel and cooking gas, Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, situated in Canada, will lend the necessary dollars," Maritime Gateway said. John Keells will issue 208.2 Million Debentures, each at LKR130 to Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited. Convertible debentures will earn interest at a rate 3% per year.

China's First Intermodal Freight Train To Iran

An international freight train travelling across the Caspian Sea left from Yinchuan in China's Ningxia autonomous region for Anzali in Iran. The train also crossed the border from the Horgos port in Xinjiang. 51 standard containers totaling 1,400 tonnes in weight and \$3.06 million in value make up this train's cargo. To encourage commercial and trade interactions between Ningxia and Iran, the railway has for the first time opened up a new logistics route into West Asian nations. The route saves roughly 20 days by traveling a distance of 8,500 kilometres in about 20 days to reach Anzali. The new route saves 6,000 yuan each box as compared to the original Yinchuan-Tehran International freight railway line.

Digital India at work, PM Modi launches 'NIRYAT' portal for foreign trade transparency

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, June 23, launched the NIRYAT portal, which will dedicatedly deal with the import and export analysis of India. NIRYAT, or the National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade, has been launched by the government to provide important real-time data to all stakeholders, Modi said after launching the portal. NIRYAT has been pegged as a one-stop platform for stakeholders for easy access to critical information related to India's foreign trade by the Centre. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Vanijya Bhawan at New Delhi on the day. Launching the NIRYAT portal, Modi said, "The government has been working towards ensuring 'Citizen-Centric Governance' for the last eight years and today we have taken another important step in this direction. Today, the country is getting a gift of a new and modern commercial building and NIRYAT portal." Union minister of commerce and industry Piyush Goyal was also present during the event. "This new Vanijya Bhawan and NIRYAT portal represent our aspirations of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. It will bring positive changes in the field of trade and commerce, especially for MSMEs," PM Modi said after launching the NIRYAT portal. Users can log in to the portal with their usernames and passwords and access all import export data of the country easily. "From this portal, important information related to more than 30 commodity groups exported to more than 200 countries of the world will be available. In the coming time, information related to district-wise exports will also be available on this. This will also strengthen the efforts to develop the districts as important centers of exports", the Prime Minister said.