



Transworld Group companies – SRSL (Shreyas Relay Systems Ltd) and BSL (Balaji Shipping Line) won the Logistics Asia award partnered by Economic Times for the Best Shipping Line of the year - Coastal and Non-Vessel Owing Common Carrier (NVOCC) of the year respectively at the LOGISTICS SUPPLY CHAIN EXHIBITION & CONFERENCE - LOGISTICS EVENT 2016 organized at Gujarat University Exhibition (Ahmedabad) on 3 December. This is a moment to cherish for the entire Transworld Group and was made possible by the hard work, dedication and commitment of the management and staff in an extremely challenging time for the shipping industry globally.

### Going strategic with 2M the best bet for Hyundai Merchant Marine

Getting into a strategic cooperation with Maersk Line and the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) via their 2M vessel sharing alliance and not becoming a fully-fledged member is the best Hyundai Merchant Marine could have bargained for in the backdrop of a difficult year for the South Korean container line, according to Drewry Shipping Consultants. The carriers have agreed that HMM will become a full member of the 2M network alongside Maersk Line and MSC, but will instead only get access to the two carriers' East-West network through a strategic cooperation.

### Sri Lanka to sell 80% stake in Hambantota Port to Chinese firm

Sri Lanka has agreed in principle to sell an 80% stake in a deep-water port on the island nation's southern coast, close to one of the world's busiest sea lanes, to a Chinese state-owned company. According to an agreement signed a few days ago, China's state-owned China Merchants Port Holdings Co. would pay about \$1.1 billion for buying the stake and adjoining land in Hambantota district. Sri Lanka's ports authority would own the balance 20%. The port, in Hambantota, lies along an important trade route linking the Middle East and Asia.

### JNPT's direct port delivery becoming a hit with importers

The re-worked direct port delivery (DPD) services introduced by JNPT is becoming a hit with more shippers opting for the scheme after the port authority relaxed customs norms and set up a dedicated centre to facilitate the program designed to improve port productivity. The JNPT customs directorate has issued a notice publishing a list of 467 importers who can use the DPD, which enables import containers to be delivered directly to pre-approved clients instead of waiting in a container freight station for clearance, which reduces cargo dwell times and inland costs for shippers.

### Bangladesh-India to sign MoU on ports

Bangladesh and India will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to permit India to use Chittagong and Mongla seaports to ferry goods. The two Asian neighbours discussed the finer details of the MoU during the Bangladesh-India shipping secretary-level meeting held on 7 December. Bangladesh's Shipping Secretary Ashok Madhab Roy said that they have given permission to India to use Chittagong and Mongla seaports but have not decided on the fee yet. "It is a vital matter and it will be fixed during the settlement of standard operating procedure (SOP) which is required to operationalise the deal on the port use," Roy said.

### Indian PSUs to test viability of International North-South Transport Corridor.

India's state-owned firms could be the first users of the International North-South Transport Corridor which is expected to become operational next year. The corridor has been tested for dry runs, but to test its viability and boost two-way trade, the government is likely to first ask PSUs to send and receive consignments to and from Russia. "Taking the route would be commercially viable only if there is two-way trade and that is possible only with state-run enterprises," said a government official. The 7,200-km long network will facilitate shipments through a multi-modal transport system comprising rail, road and waterways.

### Indian, Chinese firms to get Payra port deals

Indian and Chinese companies are set to sign deals on four major components of Payra seaport -- the third in Bangladesh that is being constructed at an estimated cost of \$16 billion. A primary agreement on a major component of the port is likely to be signed with India Ports Global during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to New Delhi this month. The two neighbouring countries' have discussed the details of the agreement on the construction of a multipurpose (container) terminal at the port. India Ports Global is a joint venture between Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust and Kandla Port Trust.

### India weighs pruning consignment examination to 10 per cent

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) to prune the examination of consignments at ports to just 10 per cent of the present value through "risk-based criteria" in a bid to improve ease of doing business. CBEC will follow up with the heads of all agencies (port regulators, airport terminal operators, etc) to address the issue of bringing down the number of consignments for examination to 10 per cent through risk-based criteria, according to an advice issued by the PMO.

### Pakistan's biggest port starts test operations

Pakistan Deep Water Container Port (PDWCP), the country's biggest port, started test operations yesterday by accommodating the first container ship, APL Japan. Official sources said the vessel took alongside berth No 4 of the port at 3pm for loading around 1,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of export cargo. However, the vessel having a draft of 12 metres and an overall length of 262 metres is a small vessel for a big port like the PDWCP, which has a designed draft of 18 metres and operational draft of 16 metres. The port, located at Keamari groyne east of Karachi Port, has the capacity to handle mother ships.

### Iran to expand shipping feet for the first time in a decade

Iran's state-owned shipping company is in advanced talks with Korean shipyard Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. for a \$650 million order for container ships and tankers. The deal, when finalised, will be Iran's first fleet expansion in a decade and is part of plans by Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines and Iranian Offshore Oil Co. to spend up to \$2.5 billion to modernize their fleets. Iranian shipping companies haven't modernized their fleets since 2006, when the United Nations imposed sanctions against Tehran over its uranium-enrichment program. The sanctions began to be gradually lifted in January.

### Dubai's foreign trade steady in challenging times

Despite the slow pace of economic recovery by many of its key partners, Dubai's non-oil foreign trade has maintained steady momentum, with direct exports on the rise. While Dubai posted a sharp increase in the volume of traded goods in the first half of 2016, with shipments rising by 19.5 per cent year-on-year to 49 million tonnes, the value of its external trade eased marginally compared to the same period last year, according to the latest data issued by Dubai Customs in October. Dubai's non-oil trade was valued at Dh647 billion.

### No breakthrough on axing inland haulage and terminal handing charges in India

Container shipping lines and India's director general of shipping have failed to evolve a consensus to stop collecting inland haulage charges and terminal handling charges. Container shipping lines and India's maritime administration have been holding talks after the latter claimed in a September notice that the lines have agreed to stop levying IHC and THC as part of 25 different surcharges that are set to be abolished. Lines have vehemently denied the claim stating that there is no way that a shipping line can agree not to charge landside charges such as IHC and THC.

### Container volumes grew 8 per cent in November at India's 12 major ports

India's government-run major ports posted strong growth in container volumes in November backed by capacity upgrades and paperless cargo processes that will get further traction with the rollout of a single window system in the next few months. India's 12 major ports together handled 702,000 twenty-foot-equivalent units during the month, an increase of 8 percent over the same month last year, according to the shipping ministry. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, which runs India's biggest container port, handled 372,201 TEUs in November up 2.2 percent from 364,000 TEUs in November 2015.