

Transworld HR goes Digital

As a part of the digitalisation initiative, a global Human Resources Management System - MyTransworld was launched in Transworld Group. This portal has been developed by the renowned enterprise software provider Ramco Systems. This future-ready HR tech platform will completely automate the Global HR processes, User Interface and integrate with the Business ERP systems across businesses and locations, which will positively impact the people experience, communication and workplace efficiency in the Group.

China starts cargo service linking Tibet with Nepal

China has launched a new cargo service linking Tibet and Nepal recently as dozens of trucks carrying goods left the Tibetan border port of Gyirong en-route to Kathmandu. The new rail and road cargo service linking Guangdong, Tibet and Nepal, aims to boost trade with the South Asian neighbour as China pushes forward its Belt and Road (Silk Road) initiative. A freight train covered the 5,200-kms distance between Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, and Xigaze in Tibet. Trucks will be deployed for the remaining 870 kms of the journey, carrying goods to Gyirong and then to Kathmandu.

India sets deadline for port gate automation

The Indian government has set a deadline of 31 March 2017 for all its 12 state-run ports to automate gate procedures using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology in a move aimed at improving productivity and reducing logistics costs. "Implementation of RFID systems will eliminate manual checking of documents at port gates and enable real-time tracking of movement of vehicles, men, and materials. This would reduce congestion and also cost of operations at ports," the Ministry of Shipping said in a statement, adding that some of the ports have already implemented RFID.

Bangladesh plans cash incentives to boost merchant ships

Bangladesh Bank has recommended giving cash incentives to the business of ocean-going ships flying Bangladesh flag. In a letter to Bank and Financial Institutions Division, the nation's Central Bank said cash incentives could be given against foreign currency earnings of fleet owners at a rate fixed by the government. Bangladesh Bank also advised bringing the ocean-going ship business under the revised Industrial Policy 2016. The number of Bangladesh ocean-going merchant ships declined sharply to less than 30 from 72 in 2013. Reputational risks and double taxation in various international ports have been blamed for the decline.

Myanmar urged to reverse its new cargo policy

Myanmar should re-assess the recent changes to its cargo collection and release policy on the shipping industry and the supply chain as it contravenes the spirit of customary international practices and may lead to considerable market distortion, the International Chamber of Shipping, has said. The new policy makes it mandatory for shipping lines to set a uniform tariff when collecting detention charges from consignees who fail to return their containers on time. Cargo will be released upon presentation of B/L directly to the Shipping Agency Department (SAD) without consent from shipping lines, and before the settlement of ocean freight and charges between consignee and shipping lines.

Morbi ceramic industry to set up warehouses in 11 countries

Morbi Ceramic Association (MCA), India's largest cluster for ceramics, will set up its own dedicated warehouses in 11 countries, in a bid to shield small manufacturers from influx of Chinese products in the global market and to boost exports. The Association will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with various trade organisations and associations in USA, Latvia, Vietnam, Africa, Thailand and other countries for the warehouse project. According to MCA, small players can park their ceramic products and supply it as per demand. Morbi is home to about 650 ceramic units and is the world's third largest ceramic cluster after Italy and China.

Cargo crime a constant threat to global supply chain, says TT Club

Freight insurance and risk management specialist TT Club has asked logistics operators and freight forwarders to put strong due diligence mechanisms in place to avoid becoming a victim of the ever-changing and increasingly challenging world of cargo crime, especially in managing their road freight operations. TT Club said cargo theft continued to be a constant and evolving threat to the global supply chain, apparently often involving insider knowledge coming from within cargo owners, logistics providers or their sub-contractors and even involved drivers in certain cases.

Pakistan deep water port to open in January

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will inaugurate the state-of-the-art deep water container port at Karachi in January, the Federal Secretary for Ports and Shipping, Khalid Pervaiz, has said. The port has three berths with a designed draft of 18 metres and operational draft of 16 metres, that can dock the world's biggest vessels and help the port become a transshipment hub. The South Asia Pakistan Terminals (SAPT), is owned and operated by Hong Kong's Hutchison Port Holdings.

Indian cabinet clears Major Port Authorities Bill

India's Shipping Ministry has secured cabinet approval to shake-up the institutional structure of 11 of the 12 ports owned by the union government by converting them into authorities from the current trustee model of management. The Major Port Authorities Bill, when cleared by Parliament, will give full autonomy to these ports to take decisions, helping them perform with greater efficiency, impart faster and transparent decision-making, better project execution capability and evolve into landlord ports. The new law does not provide for a rate regulator such as TAMP to set rates at these ports. The port authorities and the private terminal operators would be free to set rates.

Expansion of King Abdullah Port on track

The work for Berth 5 and Berth 6 at King Abdullah Port in Rabigh will be completed in a few weeks, the port's developer has announced. The two berths are part of the port's strategic expansion plan, which aims to significantly boost capacity as well as its standing in the maritime industry both regionally and internationally and help achieve the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030. "With the two new berths, the port's annual capacity will rise to 4 million TEUs as of the beginning of the first quarter of 2017," said Abdullah Hameedadin, managing director of the Ports Development Company, the owner and developer of King Abdullah Port.

FMC clears vessel-sharing agreement of THE Alliance

The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) has approved the proposed five-carrier "THE Alliance" vessel-sharing agreement to operate in U.S. trades. Under the terms of the agreement, which is expected to be operational in April, the members are permitted to share vessels, charter and exchange space on each other's ships, and enter into what the FMC called "cooperative working arrangements." The five members of "THE Alliance" are Germany's Hapag-Lloyd, Taiwanese carrier Yang Ming Line, and Japanese carriers Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha ("K" Line), Mitsui O.S.K. Line (MOL), and Nippon Yusen Kaisha (NYK).