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## India takes lead to run freight train from Dhaka to Istanbul

Taking a leaf from China's train to Europe, India is going to showcase its might in freight movement by running a trans-continental container train full of goods from Dhaka to Istanbul, covering a 6,000-km journey across five countries — Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. Codenamed the ITI-DKD-Y corridor, the container train's route is scheduled as Dhaka-Kolkata-Delhi-Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul. Eventually, Yangon will also be connected to Dhaka. The missing Tamu-Kalay link in Myanmar is still to be built. Indian Railways has called South Asian railway heads involved in the project to work out the nitty-gritty at a high-level meeting on March 15-16.

## Alliances clash with terminal interests

The Ports and Terminals Insight report published by global shipping consultancy Drewry has revealed that the choice of port calls by the 2M and upcoming Ocean and THE liner alliances is often "not in line" with carrier terminal ownership interests. Drewry analysed the relationship between the extent of interests in terminals that carriers have in ports in a selection of gateway and trans-shipment port markets, and the ports of call in these markets, as selected by the three major alliances that will be in place from second-quarter 2017. Gateway markets included Benelux ports, the Pacific South West and South China/Hong Kong, while trans-shipment markets covered hubs in Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean, Middle East and Central America/Caribbean. African east coast.

## 11 New services added to Panama Canal

The Panama Canal has welcomed 11 new services through the waterway since its expansion, the canal authority said, adding that this number is expected to grow further as global shipping lines re-draw plans to take advantage of the canal's economies of scale. "The Expanded Canal has had a global ripple effect on maritime trade," said the Panama Canal's Strategic Relations Manager, Marianela Dengo. "However, the true impact will be felt gradually over the long-term, and we're very excited for the growth still to come." Specifically, the ports along the U.S. East Coast have benefited considerably from the canal's expansion.

## Impact of new alliances on Asian trade

Some ports in Asia will see calls halved when new alliance service structures come into effect in April. Container trade in the region has been on the rise with Vietnam, India, Malaysia and China leading the way, but the alliances may have a detrimental impact on Asian ports. Nine of the top ten world container ports are Asian and the regional competition and alliances' concentration of shipping could mean that there are some ports that find themselves a "big-time loser", according to Olaf Merk, Administrator of Ports and Shipping with the International Transport Forum (ITF).

## New facility for next-gen technology development opens in Dubai

Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) has launched a new facility to work with companies and institutions to develop new technology such as drones and self-driving vessels. Named 'Innovation Quay', the new site will allow the major manufacturers and research bodies to conduct field studies and work on the development of new technologies like 3D technology, remotely operated vehicles such as drones and autonomous and autonomous ships. "This move is important in providing a platform for encouraging manufacturers as well as national, regional and international research institutions to conduct practical experiments to develop the most advanced technologies in the maritime sector," H.E. Sultan Bin Sulayem, chairman of Dubai Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation and president of the DMCA, said.

## Vallarpadam ICTT posts 19 per cent growth in cargo volumes

ICTT, Vallarpadam in Cochin Port has registered a 19 per cent growth in volume for the 10-month period between April and January over the corresponding period of FY15-16. This is the highest growth rate achieved much ahead of closing of the current financial year. Last year, the terminal had achieved 14.5 per cent growth over the previous fiscal year. The terminal clocked an average gross crane rate (GCR) of 32 moves per hour in 2017, which is in line with international standards. The truck turnaround time of 26 minutes, gate-to-gate, displays the terminal's operational efficiency.

## India weighs joining global customs pact

India's merchandise imports and exports may soon face minimum interference by foreign customs authorities during trans-shipments as the government weighs signing an international agreement in this regard. The Commerce Ministry is in the process of preparing a cabinet note which proposes that India become a signatory to the Convention on International Transport of Goods Under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention). The Convention will allow India to join an international customs transit system that allows containerized goods to reach their destinations smoothly without the need to be inspected every time it crosses an intermediate border.

## Concor buys rail siding at New Mangalore

With a view to expand containerized traffic between coast and hinterland, the Container Corporation of India (Concor) has acquired the rail siding infrastructure of KIOCL located at the New Mangalore Port Trust (NMPT). KIOCL, a state-run entity, built a four full-line (900 m each) railway siding on NMPT premises in 2004 to handle iron ore exports at a cost of about Rs 14 crore on NMPT's land. The company has now sold the siding to Concor as it was rarely using the siding.

## Nissan exports from Chennai plant cross 700,000 mark

Nissan India has achieved the milestone of exporting 700,000 Made-in-India Nissan and Datsun cars. The milestone was achieved in a record span of seven years since the company began exports from India. The cars, manufactured at the Renault-Nissan Automotive India plant in Chennai, have been exported to 106 countries. Guillaume Sicard, President, Nissan India, said: "The achievement of this export milestone for Nissan clearly indicates the recognition of Indian production quality and its appeal to customers on the global stage".

## Adani to expand bunkering business

The Adani Group plans to expand its share in the bunkering market by leveraging the ports it has on India's east and west coast. The idea is to use its ports to fuel ships passing through the country, taking away business from ports at Fujairah, Dubai and Singapore, and expanding the 1 million tonne (mt) Indian bunkering market valued at Rs4,000 crore to 3.5mt by 2020. Adani Enterprises Ltd, which already boasts a 40% share of the business in India, wants to add one location a year for the bunkering business, said Vinay Prakash Goel, chief executive officer, trading and mining. "Singapore accounts for a substantive share of the global bunker market due to its geographical location and facilities offered" said Goel.

## DP World Cochin and Concor enhances hinterland connectivity

DP World Cochin and CONCOR flagged off the newly dedicated weekly service between Bengaluru and Cochin, which will further enhance connectivity between Karnataka and Kerala. The train from Bengaluru will depart every Friday night and reach Cochin on Sunday morning and the train from Cochin will depart every Thursday to reach Bengaluru on Friday. This new weekly service from Bengaluru to DP World Cochin will significantly reduce transit time and cost for the local businesses/exporters in Karnataka to sectors like Middle East, Europe, Mediterranean etc. The train service reduces the transit time by 5 – 7 days for the West bound cargo by avoiding the need to route it via ports along the East coast.