



India's new National Logistics Policy framework to become globally competitive

Launched on September 17, the much-awaited policy framework caters to all the key stakeholders across the country's vast yet fragmented logistics landscape. The new framework comes with a special emphasis on streamlining processes for seamless coordination, and reduction in overall logistics cost, besides pushing employment generation and skilling of the workforce. Notably, while launching the policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "From 13 to 14% logistics cost, we should all aim to bring it to single-digit as soon as possible. This is a low hanging fruit, if we have to become globally competitive." The PM further asserted that the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan will support the National Logistics Policy. The government further stated that Unified Logistics Interface Platform ULIP will bring all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal, freeing the exporters from a host of very long and cumbersome processes. Under the mega policy vision, a new digital platform Ease of Logistics Services - e-logs has also been started. Through this portal, industry associations can directly take up any such matters which are causing problems in their operations and performance with the government agencies. A complete system has also been put in place for the speedy resolution of such cases.

The world's first CNG terminal to be set up in Gujarat

A consortium of the UK-based Foresight Group and Mumbai-based Padmanabhan Mafatlal Group will develop the world's first CNG Terminal at an estimated cost of Rs 4,000 crore near Bhavnagar port in Gujarat. The foundation stone for the ambitious CNG Terminal project with a cargo capacity to handle 1.5 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project would be developed on a public-private-partnership (PPP) model along with Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) which is managing the Bhavnagar Port currently. The upcoming CNG Terminal will have the world's fourth largest lock gate system apart from ultra-modern container terminal, multipurpose terminal, Ro-Ro terminal and liquid terminal, said a senior GMB official, adding that the upcoming brown field project will have direct door-step connectivity to the existing roadway and railway network connecting to the largest industrial zones, Dedicated Freight Corridor and northern hinterland of India. The promoters have already signed an agreement for the supply of CNG and development of CNG Export Terminal with RAK Gas, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

Hutchison Ports Sohar to develop, manage and operate Khasab Port

The Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology (MTCIT) has joined hands with the Oman International Container Terminal Company (Hutchison Ports Sohar) to develop, manage and operate Khasab Port in Musandam governorate from October 1. The agreement was signed by H E Saeed bin Hamoud al Ma'awali, Minister of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, and Andy Tsui, Managing Director, Middle East and Africa, Hutchison Ports. According to H E Ma'awali, the port has a competitive advantage due to its proximity to the Strait of Hormuz. "The port will be one of the most important economic drivers in the Musandam governorate as it will stimulate economic movement and facilitate services for ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz." As per the agreement, during the first two years, the company will conduct a detailed feasibility study on all terms agreed with the ministry based on the results of a commercial study. The commercial study cites requirements for the port's infrastructure and expansion plan, as well as development, operation and management mechanisms.

Salalah Port to soon welcome large container ships

Salalah Port is planning to attract very large container ships and raise its handling capabilities, after the company's board of directors approved the conclusion of an agreement to lease 10 cranes that would allow the port to deal with this type of container ships, which can accommodate more than 14,500 containers. The company said in a disclosure on the website of the Muscat Stock Exchange that the lease agreement will be signed with "ABM Terminal BV" after obtaining the approval of the shareholders on this proposal, which will be discussed at a meeting of the ordinary general assembly of the company during the coming period. M Terminal BV is a shareholder in Salalah Port Services Company and owns 30 per cent of the company's total capital of OMR 17.9 million. The Board of Directors of Salalah Port Services Company approved an investment of no more than 66 million US dollars to establish the necessary infrastructure for the delivery and installation of equipment. Salalah Port Services said that a commitment agreement was proposed to provide capacity to support the development. The container terminal will serve very large container ships and will be conditional on the completion of development work.

MSC enters air cargo market

The world's largest container shipping company, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA aims to enter the air freight market, starting the development of a new MSC Air Cargo solution. According to a recent announcement, MSC Air Cargo has been under development for several months and the new solution will be available from early 2023, following the delivery of the first of four MSC-branded Boeing 777-200F aircraft that will be operated by Atlas Air, a subsidiary of Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc. "This is our first step into this market and we plan to continue exploring various avenues to develop air cargo in a way that complements our core business of container shipping," stated MSC chief executive officer, Soren Toft. MSC has appointed Jannie Davel, formerly of Delta Cargo, Emirates SkyCargo and DHL, to develop its air cargo business and to build the team that will run the new sector of MSC. Commenting on the new initiative, Toft said, "We are delighted to announce the development of MSC Air Cargo and to welcome Jannie Davel to spearhead this exciting new offering for MSC clients."

Major Chinese ports report container volume growth from January to August

Chinese container ports have seen a 4.1% increase in the period January-August 2022, compared with the same months last year, with 194.4 million TEU. In the same period, China's ports have moved 10.24 billion tons, which represents a marginal 0.1% year-on-year decrease. Ports of Shanghai, Ningbo&Zhoushan and Shenzhen lead the box volumes race with 31 million TEU, 24 million TEU and 19 million TEU respectively, while Dalian, Yinkou and Lianyungang are in the last places with 2.7 million TEU, 2.9 million TEU and 3.4 million TEU, respectively. Yinkou was the only port on the list that reported a container volume year-on-year decrease (-19.3%) for the period January-August 2022. On the other hand, Beibu Gulf, Dalian and Ningbo&Zhoushan achieved the largest percentage increases with 20.1%, 13.7% and 10.9%, respectively.



Direct Container Shipping From Chittagong To Dubai

Imports from Dubai now come to Chattogram via Colombo port. The consignments are unloaded from the mother vessel and then loaded into smaller feeder vessels in Colombo. Export consignments are also sent to Dubai via Colombo. Saif Powertec Limited is set to launch a direct container shipping service on Chattogram-United Arab Emirates route, slashing the shipping time to 18 days from current 45 and reducing freight cost by US\$ 150-200 per 20-foot equivalent unit (TEU). Three of Saif Powertec vessels will sail from Dubai in the UAE in November. According to the news report the Colombo, transshipment pushes up both the freight cost and shipping time. The direct service will cut out the freight handling charges and time at the Lankan port. Saif Powertec ships will be carrying 1,700 TEUs of goods on each trip, and commute from Chattogram to Dubai every ten days, said Ruhul Amin Saif Powertec Managing Director, Ruhul Amin.