

Transworld Group unveils new identity to announce its Transformational journey...

Transworld Group hosted a grand and melodious musical event "Valli & Sivaswamy Memorial Concert" for the trade on 20th July, 2018 at Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai. The Grand Musical evening celebrating four decades of existence was a musical confluence of traditional and contemporary expressions. Featuring Grammy Awardee Ghatam Vidwan Vikku Vinayakram along with his group of prodigious percussionists, joined by Guest Artist for the evening, Shankar Mahadevan enthralled the audience with his hallmark vocals. Mr. Ramesh S. Ramakrishnan – Chairman, Transworld Group welcomed the invitees for their gracious presence and extended his heartfelt gratitude for their immense support extended to the Transworld Group for the last 4 decades. The Group, unveiled its new identity, with the statement "TRANSFORMATION IN MOTION". In his speech, he highlighted "This evening is a tribute to the vision of my father, Late Mr Sivaswamy, who founded the company over forty years ago and also a celebration of the nurturing bonds and successes that we have collectively achieved to build Transworld into a leading global logistics and shipping organization. Transworld is a company that is rooted in traditions but is driven by the promise of tomorrow. We don't just see ourselves in the business of logistics and shipping... we are aligned to a higher purpose of 'Delivering Prosperity' to all the constituents that we engage with."

"The Game of Change" a book launched by Mrs Geeta Ramakrishnan – Director, Transworld Group

"The Game of Change" a book by Mrs. Geeta Ramakrishnan, Director, Transworld Group unveiled coincide with the grand and melodious musical event of "Valli & Sivaswamy Memorial Concert" hosted by Transworld Group for the trade on 20th July, 2018 at Trident, Nariman Point, Mumbai. The first copy of the book was presented to Hon'ble Justice K.R. Shriram, Shri Vikku Vinayakram, Shri Hariharan and Shri Shankar Mahadevan. Sharing few insights on the book, Mrs Geeta highlighted that this book will inspire the readers to reflect on the art of change, offering easy to use techniques to help implement the desired change in the areas of life. This mega trade gathering was well attended by stalwarts from maritime and logistics industry, and distinguished Dignitaries from the various industries. The Book will available on Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com/Game-Change-Unleash-Success-Happiness/dp/0648340201>

India pursuing offers to build ports in B'desh, Sri Lanka

To counter China's "string of pearls" policy to encircle India and dominate the sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, New Delhi is quietly working on its own plan to expand its areas of influence in the region by lapping up offers to develop ports in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. "We are already building a port at Chabahar in Iran and have offers for two more from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka that are being pursued," said Nitin Gadkari, minister of road transport, shipping and highways. Noting the importance of ports in growth and development, the minister said, "We need to change the thinking in the country and make people understand that only countries that have good ports have become strong global economies." "If India has to realise its dream of becoming an economic power, we will need to buy ports globally. And the time now is appropriate to turn our vision into action," he said. Seeking to boost its strategic interest in the region, India has committed to invest over \$500 million to develop Chabahar port in Iran which would provide a sea-land access route to Afghanistan. It is trying to make this port operational by 2019 to have greater access to CIS countries. Further, it is also looking at having presence at the Indonesian port of Sabang.

Kazakhstan's Aktau port to launch container shipments with Iranian ports

The port of Aktau and the ports of Iran will launch container shipments in 2019, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Kazakhstan Railways Maksat Kabashev told Trend. He also stressed that without regular container shipments the total cargo turnover between the port of Aktau and the ports of Iran from January to May 2018 amounted to 568,605 tons. Kazakhstan Railways also plans to purchase 5,000 containers in 2018. Iran had one of the key positions in the geography of markets for export of Kazakh grain and flour in 2017 (2 million tons), along with Uzbekistan (2 million tons), Tajikistan (1 million tons) and Afghanistan (2.1 million tons), according to Kazakhstan Railways. Shipments in the direction of these countries in grain equivalent increased by 364,000 tons in 2017. Transportation of goods to Iran increased by 26 percent in the mentioned period. The main increase in transportation volumes occurred in November-December 2017. Iran becomes a noticeable foreign policy factor affecting the transport networks of Kazakhstan and the whole of Central Asia. In the medium term, Kazakh companies expect an expansion of Iran's regional role and increase of their cargo flows to the Islamic Republic.

Singapore maintains top spot as Asia-Pacific region continues to strengthen

Singapore remains unmoved at the top of the International Shipping Centre Development Index for the fifth successive year, according to a report published by the Baltic Exchange and Xinhua, China's news agency. The index covers 43 of the world's largest ports and cities, and the Asia-Pacific region now makes up 50 percent of the top 10. Singapore maintains its leading position for the fifth consecutive year due to the strategic opportunities brought about by the "Belt and Road" initiative. Hong Kong overtook London – for the first time in five years – to take second place, although London is still assessed to be the top professional maritime services location. Shanghai moved up to fourth place due to its rapidly developing modern shipping logistics and shipping services systems, in addition to the coordinated development of its regional shipping counterparts. Tokyo held ninth position, while Busan returned to the top 10, replacing Athens, because of its strategy of vigorously developing its transshipment ports. The impact of the overall weak economy in the European region meant London's overall development was behind that of Hong Kong, while Hamburg dropped to seventh position.

New container services to call at Liverpool

The deep-water container terminal Liverpool2, operated by Peel Ports, will welcome a new transatlantic container service from 2M – the alliance between shipping giants Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC). 2M's TA2 service previously visited Felixstowe, but has switched to Liverpool on a temporary basis. In addition to this, Maersk's South American service, Colombia Express, will also begin calling at the Port of Liverpool. This will be the final port of call for these services before they head across the Atlantic, linking Liverpool with such US ports as Savannah and Charleston. Mark Whitworth, Chief Executive of Peel Ports, commented: "This news demonstrates the impact which our investment in Liverpool2 has had in re-shaping UK logistics, and disrupting traditional approaches to shipping. "Our objective is now to secure these or similar services in the long-term by delivering the cost, congestion and carbon emission benefits that Liverpool2 in particular will offer shipping lines and cargo owners." Asbjorn Kops, Trade and Marketing Director of Maersk, said: "After resuming a service in Liverpool two years ago, via a feeder connection, we have been able to offer flexibility to our customers in the North West region."

Dubai ranked among top five in latest International Shipping Centre Development Index

Dubai has scored a new milestone in its bid to cement its leadership in the international maritime sector after it was selected as one of the world's top five in the International Shipping Centre Development Index (ISCD). Backed by legal and legislative excellence, Dubai is known for its advanced infrastructure, world-class maritime and logistics capabilities—a competitive environment conducive to trade, business and investment, and innovative free zones that match the world's best. According to a recent report by the London-based Baltic Exchange and the Xinhua News Agency, Dubai has overtaken Hamburg, which fell from fourth to seventh place, confirming anew the emirate's reputation as one of the leading maritime shipping and logistics centers in the world. H.E. Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Chairman of the Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC) and Chairman of Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA), was not surprised that Dubai has been included in the top five, noting that the emirate was the first and the only city to reach the world's most competitive and attractive maritime clusters. Last year, Dubai ranked fifth in the list of the world's top maritime capitals.

Norway to bring maritime expertise to Expo 2020 Dubai

Norway will showcase its latest oil and gas, maritime and seafood developments in oil during Expo 2020 Dubai. Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg confirmed the country's participation in the world fair in a letter delivered by Jens Eikaas, Norway's Ambassador to the UAE, to Reem Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Co-operation and director general of the Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau. Under the theme, 'Pioneers of the ocean space', Norway will present its research and share how it manages its ocean industries, that account for about 70 per cent of the country's total export revenues. "Like the UAE, Norway is a country that understands the value of the world's oceans and the need to protect them so we are excited to see the ideas and innovations that they will bring to Expo and the world in 2020," Ms Al Hashimy said. Ocean industries are expected to provide more than 40 million jobs by 2030 in sectors including offshore wind energy, fishing, tourism, shipping and port operations, according to estimates from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Bilateral trade between Norway and the UAE was at Dh898.6 million in 2016. Norway's top exports include petroleum and gas, fresh fish and aluminium.

DP World JV makes first investment in Indian logistics firm

Hindustan Infralog Private Limited (HIPL), a joint venture between DP World and the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), has acquired a 90 percent stake in Continental Warehousing Corporation (Nhava Seva) in India. Founders, the Reddy family, will retain the remaining 10 percent shareholding and will remain involved in the business operations, a statement said. It is the first investment of HIPL, the recently created investment vehicle between DP World and NIIF to invest up to \$3 billion in ports, logistics and related sectors. DP World Group chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, said: "We're pleased to announce the completion of this acquisition and look forward to beginning this new growth journey, enabling India's great commerce and trade potential. We will continue our efforts to grow into complementary sectors of the global supply chain and look for opportunities where our customers want us to be." CWCNSL was founded in 1997 and is a logistics provider of warehousing, container freight stations, inland container depots, private freight terminals and integrated logistics solutions. Its logistics network is spread across key locations in India covering a total area of over 400 acres and providing over 660k TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) capacity.

DP World signs agreement with Chinese company to boost international trade

An agreement to jointly construct a new 'Traders Market' at DP World's flagship Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone in Dubai on a total build up area of three million square metres has been signed between the global trade enabler and the Zhejiang China Commodities City Group, ZPG, providing further impetus to China's Belt and Road Initiative. DP World is building the 'Traders Market' within the Jebel Ali Free Zone Area located in Jafza South next to the Expo 2020 Dubai site. The market will include clusters of traders from all over the world, offering a wide range of products at one site. They will be divided by sector, ranging from household goods, building materials and food and beverage, to cosmetics and healthcare, energy and power, and engineering and technology. Apart from promoting the Chinese government's Belt and Road initiative, the 'Traders Market' will help Chinese, local and international manufacturers benefit from Dubai's strategic location as a business and trade hub. It will also enable trade within the GCC, MEA and India Subcontinent regions, widening market reach for goods and serving as a platform to trade at competitive prices.

Consolidation between top tier carriers unlikely

The consolidation between top tier carriers such as French liner giant CMA CGM and its German counterpart Hapag-Lloyd is unlikely, according to Simon Heaney, Senior Manager for Container Research at Drewry. As explained by Heaney, the merger of carriers of such size would probably be challenged by regulatory authorities amid fears of breaking fair competition rules. "We've all seen the news about CMA CGM and Hapag-Lloyd so I don't discount the possibility, but I think M&A between the top tier carriers is unlikely, partly because of competition laws. The industry is still highly fragmented and from a carrier point of view in need of further consolidation, but I think it will come from lower down the pecking order," Heaney said. The reports on potential merger talks between the duo emerged earlier this month with Reuters writing that CMA CGM had made an exploratory approach to Hapag-Lloyd over a possible merger. However, a Hapag-Lloyd spokesperson said that "there is no substance on these market rumors." Be it as it may, carriers across the board have been eager to consolidate with their peers as a way of attaining cost efficiency in a market struggling with overcapacity headwinds.

NYK and Adani joint venture on track

NYK Auto Logistics India (NALI) has signed an agreement with transport and port operations provider, Adani Logistics, to provide finished vehicle services using freight trains. The NYK division already provides integrated services for carmakers in India that include road-based inland delivery between plants, dealers and ports, as well as pre-delivery inspection. Adani offers integrated port processing and rail services for the finished vehicle sector across the country as part of the wider Adani Ports and SEZ parent company. Together NALI and Adani Logistics are aiming to meet the increased demand for domestic distribution of vehicles in the country as production volume grows and said they intend to do so using rail, offering greater multimodal choice to carmakers across India's vast distances and lessening the impact on the environment. The impact of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR) regulation, which was introduced in 2016 and limits the length of road-based car carrier equipment, also means that an alternative mode is necessary to take the pressure off capacity constraints now impacting the 15,000-plus car transporter fleet in the country.