



Saudi Ports Authority to support shipping lines with storage fee exemptions

The Saudi Ports Authority, Mawani, announced an initiative to support international shipping lines stranded at the south end of the Suez Canal on the Red Sea coast, extending the services of Jeddah Islamic Port for ship transfers and container offloading. Contributing to the support of the global logistics sector and maritime trade, measures include an extended period of exemption from storage fees for transshipment containers – from 30 days to 60 days – for a duration of three months. The initiative underscores Saudi Arabia's commitment to mitigating the impact on global supply chains, in addition to affirming Saudi ports' readiness to adapt to shifts in the international transport market and the associated challenges. The support also reasserts the advanced capabilities of Jeddah Islamic Port and its capacity to accommodate the estimated number of containers on these vessels without affecting the port's operations. Located on the commercial maritime artery that connects the Far East, Europe and the Horn of Africa, Jeddah Islamic Port ranks first among the Red Sea ports, with a capacity of 130 million tonnes across 62 berths equipped with the latest technologies and to international specifications.

India to manufacture containers in Bhavnagar

Eyeing indigenous production of containers amid a global surge in demand, the Centre is looking to develop Bhavnagar in Gujarat as a container hub and has set up pilot projects for its manufacturing, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said. The initiative aimed at attaining self-reliance in container production eyes Rs 1,000 crore investment from private players and looks to create one lakh jobs. The move assumes significance amid reports of global shortages of containers with Indian containerised trade taking a hit owing to the staggered supply and demand shocks across geographies as per logistic majors. "India requires about 3.5 lakh containers every year. ... There is no container production in India and we have to depend mainly on China which is a global producer. Now we want to develop Bhavnagar in Gujarat as a container hub and we have selected 10 places there for its production on a pilot basis," Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told PTI. "We expect private players to invest about Rs 1,000 crore in this space. The pilot project has been successful and the initiative has been taken to realise the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", Mandaviya said.

DP World Mundra handles 10mn containers

Global Logistics Company DP World operated Mundra International Container Terminal (MICT) has set yet another record for being the first container terminal in Gujarat to successfully handle more than 13 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), and 10 mn Containers, since its inception. This milestone comes with the terminal achieving its all-time highest monthly throughput of 123,611 TEUs by handling 70 vessels in March 2021. MICT has registered a remarkable 60% Year-on-Year growth on Origin Destination (OD) volumes over March 2020, surpassing overall India's OD growth of 29.8% for the same period. MICT is the first terminal at Mundra, the largest Port on western coast of India. From handling twenty thousand TEUs in its first year of operations in 2003, the terminal has emerged as the gateway for the North and the North West regions of the country while pioneering the container revolution in the Kutch Region. MICT has achieved this breakthrough by handling more than 10,000 container vessels while serving international trade routes and contributing to the growth of India's container trade and economic development.

Panama Canal fees increase postponed for June

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has announced that it will postpone price increases on canal transit fees which were due to come into effect today, 15 April. The decision follows a joint letter sent by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), Asian Shipowners' Association (ASA), and European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA), expressing concerns over the speed of price increases that were expected to begin from mid-April. "We appreciate that the fee change is designed to adapt to changing supply and demand for the Panama Canal's service and we look forward to establishing a productive dialogue with the ACP to develop a long-term pricing strategy to provide industry with predictability on transit cost," said ICS secretary general, Guy Platten. The proposed changes represent a minimum cost increase per transit reservation of US\$20,000, which represents a 57% growth, and a maximum cost increase of US\$58,500, which translates to a 167% rise, will now start on 1 June. The letter sent on 17 March, expressed concerns over the significant increase of the fees and stated that the 15 April start-date given by the ACP was too short for the maritime industry and canal users to be able to adjust.

Hamad Port handles container volume of more than 5mn TEUs since the start of operations

Hamad Port has handled container volume of more than 5mn TEUs or twenty foot equivalent units since the start of operations. "This milestone reflects positively on the growth of the port, which is steadily making its way to becoming one of the most efficient and competitive ports in the region," said QTerminals, a terminal operating company jointly established by Mwan Qatar (51% shareholding) and Milaha (49% shareholding). The Hamad Port's second container terminal (Ct2), which began operations recently, has "robust" technological infrastructure supporting the sector. The Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani had in December 2020 inaugurated the initial operations of the CT2, which is poised to enhance the country's competitiveness. The 403,500 sqm CT2 development project comprises four phases. Full operation of Phases 1 and 2 will start before the end of 2022; while Phases 3 and 4 will be developed later to raise the port's operational capacity according to local market's needs. The equipment used at the CT2 is environmentally friendly and low in carbon emissions, said Mwan Qatar.



Transworld Group Launched 3-Week CSR Campaign

The Corporate Responsibility Team of the Transworld Group has launched a three-week CSR campaign on the occasion of the Global Recycling Day 2021. The purpose of this Campaign is to engage employees and their families to make them aware of the 5Rs viz. Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose and Recycle. As part of the Campaign, 85kg of clothes were collected on behalf of Transworld's NGO partners – Emirates Red Crescent and Bhava India during the clothes collection drive at Dubai and Kochi offices. 17 volunteers from Dubai and 19 volunteers from Kochi contributed to this drive and made it a success. Clothes donated to Emirates Red Crescent in Dubai will be distributed among the underprivileged communities, while the clothes collected in Kochi will be upcycled into reusable items by women whose livelihoods have been impacted by Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to this, an E-waste collection drive was also organized in Transworld's Mumbai and Colombo offices in close coordination with the IT team. More than 150kg of E-waste was successfully handed over to Transworld's partners viz. E-Incarnation in Mumbai and Green Links in Colombo respectively. The management congratulates and commends the employees for their time and efforts towards this campaign and their commitment to sustainable living as well.

Ocean Alliance new service connects North China and Europe

It is the first new overseas international trade shipping service at Tianjin port this year. Evergreen Marine, one of the members of Ocean Alliance, will deploy ten containerhips with a carrying capacity between 14,000 teu and 20,000 teu for the new service on weekly basis. Departing from Tianjin, the ships will call at the ports in Singapore, Colombo, Suez Canal and Europe, which could provide a fast ocean transportation solution for Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. Ocean Alliance, comprising Cosco Shipping, CMA CGM, Evergreen and OOCL, is the world's largest container shipping alliance in terms of carrying capacity.