

Iran offers India to run phase one of Chabahar Port

India's presence in the strategically located Iranian port of Chabahar — Delhi's primary gateway to landlocked Afghanistan — is all set to get a big boost. Tehran has recently proposed to Delhi to manage phase one of the port built by Iran even as the two sides are still negotiating terms and conditions of Delhi's role in expanding phase two of the port where the Modi government wants to invest Rs 150 crore, or \$235 million. Tehran has offered Delhi management rights for two years for phase one of the port and such rights could be renewed by another decade. Last year, the three sides had signed an agreement for operation of Chabahar Port.

DP World sees encouraging start to the year

Dubai-based port and terminal operator DP World Limited has handled 16.4 million TEUs across its global portfolio of container terminals in the first quarter of 2017, with gross container volumes growing by 5.7% year-on-year on a reported basis. "There are signs of a gradual improvement in the market environment in 2017 and our portfolio has had an encouraging start to the year delivering ahead-of-market growth. The robust performance was delivered across all three regions, which once again demonstrates that we have the relevant capacity in the right markets," Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said. DP World said that the first quarter witnessed a steady start to the year and all three regions delivered growth, especially the company's terminals in Europe and the Americas. UAE also stabilized and handled 3.7 million TEUs, growing 1.8% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2017.

Chittagong Port to have bay container terminal

Bangladesh has initiated a move to construct a bay container terminal with loan from India to enhance the capacity of Chittagong Port which will reduce congestion at the port, officials said. Plans are also afoot to construct a terminal at the proposed Payra Deep Sea Port, modernise Mongla Port, and construct Dry Dock in Chittagong. According to an official at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), such projects were taken to develop the country's ports under a \$4.5 billion fresh third Line of Credit (LoC) from India to be given against 17 projects selected so far. Another official at the Ministry of Shipping said that the coastal area adjacent to Halishahar, Chittagong was primarily identified for the establishment of the Bay Container Terminal.

Indonesia, Philippines launch shipping route

Indonesian President Joko 'Jokowi' Widodo and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte launched a ferry route between the two countries. The roll-on, roll-off (ro-ro) ferry is set to ply the Davao-General Santos-Bitung route. With the launch of the service, both leaders expected a boost in trade. Jokowi said the trade between the two countries would increase with the new route, which is expected to cut shipping time of goods. "It will cut the amount of time for the transportation of goods between the two regions from 5 weeks to 2 days. This launch is happening at a favorable time. Last year, trade between our countries increased by more than 30% from the year before," Jokowi said. "This route shall be the first of many routes to be formed for the international Ro-Ro network envisioned by our ASEAN leaders to provide more accessibility and opportunities for our countries," Duterte said.

New shipping alliance schedules cause freight chaos

Freight forwarders have described the Asia-Europe schedules of the Ocean and THE alliances as 'organized chaos' this week, with thousands of containers stranded in Asia and Europe. The Ocean Alliance brings together the recently formed China Cosco Shipping, with Evergreen Line, CMA CGM, and OOCL in a vessel- and slot-sharing agreement, while THE alliance consists of NYK Line, MOL, "K" Line, Hapag-Lloyd, and Yang Ming Line. Commentators say there is very little chance of vessels hitting itineraries before June as the two major shipping alliances transition ships and containers from previous schedules to their new alliance hubs. The move has proven more complicated than expected, according to one shipping alliance member. The shipper added that it had containers stranded at terminals between Asia, the Middle East and Europe. He admitted that phasing-in and -out had been "a disaster", resulting in big gaps appearing in network coverage.

Panama Canal performing above initial expectations

The expanded Panama Canal has performed way above what was expected since its inception. It has gained 15 new liner services; transited six neo-Panamaxes and has had more than five liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels a week transiting the canal. The canal expansion has brought more business for US east coast ports, which are still in the process of deepening port access channels to be able to accommodate the larger container ships now able to use the Canal. This has resulted in a record month for US east coast ports — headlining Charleston's 28% increase in cargo volumes; Philadelphia's 34%; and Savannah's 16%. It also pointed out that next month a 13 000+ TEU-capacity ship from a liner service newly re-routed through the Canal would be calling thereafter at the ports of Virginia, Charleston, and Savannah, and will be their largest ever.

MPA Singapore unveils first standard for LNG bunkering

Singapore has taken a further step on its path to becoming a liquefied natural gas (LNG) bunker-ready port as the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) launched its first standard for LNG bunkering. The first Singapore Technical Reference (TR) 56 for LNG Bunkering was unveiled on April 28 by the MPA Singapore, SPRING Singapore and the Standards Development Organisation @ Singapore Chemical Industry Council (SDO@SCIC). This standard provides a safe, efficient, sustainable and transparent technical framework for conducting LNG bunkering operations in Singapore, thereby offering greater assurance to local and international LNG bunker buyers and suppliers. MPA's LNG bunkering pilot program commenced early this year and will utilize TR 56 to guide the implementation of operational protocols by licensed LNG bunkering suppliers.

DP World facilitates advanced healthcare for the Mundra taluka

DP World in association with the TAI Foundation managed 'The Mundra Institute of Medical Science' has transformed the landscape of healthcare in the Mundra taluka since its inauguration six months ago. The hospital, equipped with advanced health care facilities such as digital x-rays, oncological surgery, chemotherapy and laser stone removal provides easy access to healthcare facilities to the residents of the villages of Mundra taluka. The facility has catered to thousands of patients since its launch in October 2016. The Out-Patient Department has treated over 7000 patients, the In-Patient Department has facilitated more than 800 patients, and over 900 patients have benefitted from the x-ray facilities at the hospital. In addition to this, the hospital has hosted a total of 8 health camps to ensure fitness and wellbeing within the community.

CMA CGM, Adani Team Up on Mundra Ports' New Terminal

CMA Terminals (CMAT), a part of French shipping giant CMA CGM, and India's port developer Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) have signed an agreement to jointly operate container terminal 4 at Mundra Port for 15 years. The partners have completed the CT4 project three months ahead of schedule making Mundra Port the largest container-handling port in the country. The port is already the country's number one multi-purpose port facility. As the only container terminal on the west coast of India where the world's largest container ships can call, CT4 has four units of 65 tonnes capacity of rail mounted quay cranes capable of handling 18,000 TEU vessels and super post and ultra large container vessels (ULCV) and an annual capacity of 1.3 million TEUs.

Major ports in India to take satellite port route for expansion

The government-run ports in Chennai, Paradip and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai are developing satellite ports as part of their expansion plans. A satellite port can either be one that is already existing or is created near a port that is reaching capacity. While Chennai and Pondicherry ports signed an agreement on 14 March to convert the one in Pondicherry as a satellite port for Chennai, Paradip Port Trust has begun the process of developing its outer harbor. Similarly, Mormugao port in Goa is also exploring options to expand port infrastructure, including constructing a satellite port at Betul in Goa. JNPT, which ships more than half the containerized cargo passing through India's ports, is building a new port at Vadnavan Port in Maharashtra.

SCI adds largest Suezmax tanker to its fleet

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has added another Suezmax tanker to its fleet of 69 vessels. With the addition of this vessel, SCI's tonnage which has reached 6.01 million deadweight, for the first time. The company now commands a fleet of 70 owned vessels of diverse types like very large crude oil carriers, product tankers, bulk carriers, cellular container vessels, crude oil carriers, LPG/ammonia carriers and offshore vessels. SCI has acquired the South Korean, 2007-built, secondhand Suezmax tanker from Liberian owner Fidelity Shipping Inc. on April 26, 2017. The vessel has been renamed *M.T. DESH ABHIMAAN*, which, at deadweight of 158,710 tonnes, is now the largest vessel in SCI's fleet of seven Suezmax tankers. The vessel has a gross tonnage of 81,084 tonnes and has been classed with ABS and IRS. Energy transportation continue to remain the core business segment for SCI and the induction of this vessel in the fleet, is expected to strengthen the company's position in the energy transportation sector.

Rotterdam to shape Gujarat's port development

In a major boost to Gujarat's future maritime development, the Port of Rotterdam has agreed to a strategic tie-up with the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to lend its expertise on a slew of projects including planning for new ports and churning out skilled professionals in shipping and transport sectors. Rotterdam will help GMB, the regulator of maritime activities in the state, in framing a detailed strategic plan report for future projects and skill development by working closely with the proposed International Maritime University. Ajay Bhadoo, vice-chairman and CEO of GMB said, "The Port of Rotterdam has agreed for a tie-up in two important areas. One in strategic planning for port development which includes the entire coastline. They will chalk out a detailed plan on building new ports, capacity addition and connectivity and advise us on the commodities and cargo we should focus on and even areas which we should not venture into.