

### Shreyas Shipping & Logistics Ltd takes delivery of 3 vessels

Shreyas Shipping and Logistics Limited, a part of Transworld Group announced the acquisition of three vessels comprising of two container vessels and one multipurpose vessel. The fleet of Shreyas Shipping, Indian-flagged ship owning unit of Transworld Group, was expanded with the Indian-flagged containership MV Hansa Langeland, built in 2003. The 1,581 Teus. Handysize containership has since been renamed SSL Ganga. On October 12, the company finalized the purchase of the MV Queens Quay from Germany's ER Schifffahrt. The Panamax containership, also built in 2003, has since been renamed SSL Brahmputra. "The SSL Brahmputra is our largest Indian flag vessel and is a sister vessel of the OEL Jumeirah," And finally, the latest vessel acquisition is MV Amsterdam, which has since been renamed SSL Balaji. The general cargo ship built in 2007 joins the Shreyas fleet as the second multi-purpose vessel after the SSL Sabarimalai. In addition, Shreyas Shipping has sold a 1989-built Feedermax SSL Sagarmala for scrap to a breaking yard in Bangladesh. The company's fleet is comprised of 13 vessels, including 12 containerships and one small dry bulk vessel.

### Transworld Group bags GCC Best Employer Brand Awards 2017

Transworld Group has been accredited with GCC Best Employer Brand 2017 award at the Employer Branding Awards function held at Dubai on 11th Oct 2017. Transworld Group is recognized by World HRD Congress as the Best Employer Brand for the second consecutive year. The Employer Branding Award is a platform to celebrate the best in Employer Branding in several countries. With over Six years of existence the network of Employee Branding Institute is increasing in size and stature with several HR leaders from over 36 Countries. The Award is in recognition of Excellence in Work Culture, Management practices, Employee engagement initiatives, Staff happiness index etc.

### DP World to expand port and logistics facilities in Dominican Republic

DP World is to build a new 400 m berth at the port of Caucedo in the Dominican Republic. DP World ceo Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem met with Dominican Republic President Danilo Medina recently and discussed plans to expand the port of Caucedo and its logistics operations. Building on nearly \$400m in existing investments DP World and its partners are looking to further expand operations. "The Dominican Republic has tremendous potential as a logistics hub and we're pleased to be working in partnership with the local government to maximise on these opportunities. Adding another berth at DP World Caucedo ensures we remain competitive and can serve the growing demand for our services in the region," said Bin Sulayem. "We're also working on expanding the logistics park in Caucedo to attract new businesses and creating an ideal platform for the Dominican Republic to develop into a major hub for trade globally." Caucedo Logistics Centre is a joint venture between DP World and Caucedo Development Corporation providing regional distribution facilities.

### Dubai signs maritime cluster MoUs with Hamburg and Vancouver

Dubai Maritime Cluster Office (DMCO) of Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA) has signed Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) with Germany's Maritimes Cluster Norddeutschland and Canada's Vancouver International Maritime Cluster. The MoUs were signed on the sidelines of the Dubai Maritime Agenda 2017 and aimed to support efforts of Dubai and the entire UAE to position itself as attractive destinations for regional and global shipowners, port operators and maritime investors. "We confidently look forward to the influence of these new partnerships on the development of an integrated framework and a clear roadmap for promoting investment opportunities available in the maritime clusters of Dubai, Hamburg and Vancouver," Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, chairman of the Ports, Customs & Free Zone Corporation in Dubai and chairman of DMCA. "It will also enable maritime industry leaders to contribute more to exploring the future of a global maritime sector empowered by innovation and technology as key pillars for developing marine clusters in line with accelerating changes in the global maritime sector."

### Dubai Maritime cluster connecting regional and global maritime shipping networks

Dubai Maritime City Authority (DMCA), has been bustling with activities to make Dubai as the maritime hub for the world. Maritime transport plays an important role in the development and growth globally. According to the Ministry of Shipping in India, around 95 per cent of India's trading by volume and 70 per cent by value is done through maritime transport and India is among the top 20 leading countries having large number of merchant fleets in the world. Increasing investments and cargo traffic point towards a healthy outlook for the Indian economy and Dubai has created world class infrastructure which is providing a long lasting competitive advantage in the maritime industry. Some of the interesting details that underline the importance of Dubai and DMCA in the maritime space are: The international survey conducted by Menon Business Economics Group, DMCA has been ranked in the top 5 in 'Competitiveness and Attractiveness Index' in 2017, DMCA currently supports 76,000 jobs in Dubai maritime sector, The industry has grown 25% in last 4 years in Dubai.

### Ports see little upside, more problems from alliances

Ports having to deal with mega-vessels potentially have to face all the challenges but with little of the upside from any increase in call size. In addition, the alliances will also present challenges for multi-operator split ports, noted Arcadis Asia head of transportation and logistics Jonathan Beard. "The alliances will make our interchanges not only bigger but also more complicated, so our inter-terminal transfers will become more and more complicated," he said. This means challenges for split ports such as Busan and Shanghai as well as multi-operator ports such as Hong Kong when compared to single operator, single terminal ports such as Jebel Ali and Singapore will be when all the facilities are completely moved to Tuas, Beard added. "Consolidation of the shipping lines has a big impact on the terminals as they become bigger and control more volumes," said HPH Trust ceo Gerry Yim, adding that all alliance partners naturally have to be accommodated, along with the complexities that brings. "The problem for us is not so much the alliances but the mega vessels," he said as he concurred with Beard that on a call size basis numbers have not risen.

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### Amsteel to operate first bulk, general cargo terminal berth at King Abdullah Port

King Abdullah Port has signed an agreement with AMSteel, a company specialized in operating ports and handling steel shipments. Through the agreement, AMSteel will operate the first bulk and general cargo terminal berth for a period of 25 years. King Abdullah Port management expects to operate the first bulk and general cargo terminal berth starting the second quarter of 2018. "Signing this agreement comes within the framework of developing our capabilities in the field of bulk and general cargo," said Eng. Abdullah M. Hameedadin, Managing Director of the Ports Development Company, owner and developer of King Abdullah Port. "It will enable us to actively contribute to promoting this industry due to its economic benefits and its support for the development journey in the Kingdom." He added: "We at King Abdullah Port are keen to cooperate with entities that are experienced and knowledgeable in order to enable ourselves to develop business at the port and contribute to the development of the maritime transport industry in the Kingdom, in line with the objectives of Vision 2030."

### Tuas mega port will boost S'pore as global maritime hub: PM Lee

While Singapore has enjoyed much success as a maritime hub, it cannot rest on its laurels, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in a Facebook post yesterday. While Singapore has a port in a strategic location, there are "ports in the region competing for business" and "new trade routes opening up", he added. "The Tuas mega port will strengthen our international maritime hub. We must do all we can to keep the path ahead smooth sailing," said the PM. He also shared a time-lapse video by Facebook user Jeffhk, which he described as "spectacular". Jeffhk, a seaman on a mega-container ship, took the 10-minute video over 30 days in a journey from the Red Sea across the Indian Ocean, through the Malacca Strait into Singapore, and then across the South China Sea before arriving in Hong Kong. PM Lee said it was the closest he would get to his dream of sailing on a container ship. "The vastness of the ocean contrasts with the lights and activity in ports, especially PSA Singapore. It's one of the busiest ports in the world, but few of us ever get to see it in action." The new Tuas port - twice the size of Ang Mo Kio town - will be opened progressively from 2021.

### Ships in India soon may run on methanol: Nitin Gadkari

Ships in India may soon run on methanol as Centre is drawing up plans in this regard, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said today. Gadkari also stressed the importance of developing waterways for their cost effectiveness. "To cut the high cost of logistics in the country, inland waterways are being developed in a major way while methanol will soon be made the fuel for ships," the Road Transport, Highways and shipping Minister said. He was speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony for an inland waterway project in river Krishna in Vijayawada. "Methanol requires coal. Coal is an indigenous fuel available in AP, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh," the minister said. He said exports can be increased by reducing the cost of logistics, which will, in turn, create more employment. "Cost of road travel worked out to Rs 1.50 while rail travel cost Re 1, whereas by water it is just 20 paise. That's the reason waterways are very important. "In China, the logistics cost is 8-10 per cent, in European countries it is 12-14 per cent and in India it is 18 per cent. Soon, all shipping here will be converted to methanol.