

DP World awarded 30-year concession for the South Container Terminal at Jeddah Islamic Port

Global trade enabler DP World has been awarded a 30-year Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) concession by the Saudi Ports Authority (Mawani), for the management and development of the Jeddah South Container Terminal at the multi-purpose Jeddah Islamic Port. Under the agreement, DP World will invest up to \$500 million to improve and modernise the Jeddah Islamic Port, including major infrastructure development to enable the Port to serve the ultra-large container carriers (ULCC's), which are considered the world's largest mega containerships. Established in 1976, the Jeddah Islamic Port is on the red sea and the largest port in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with annual volumes of over 6 million TEU's. As a crucial link on the world's busy east-west trade route and the Kingdom's main commercial centres, the Port currently handles approximately 60% of the country's sea-imports and is a strategic hub that connects East-West cargo. Developing Jeddah Islamic Port will contribute to achieving Saudi Vision 2030 as the project is considered a key milestone towards achieving the targets of The National Industrial Development and Logistics Vision Realization Program, one of the Vision's major initiatives.

Saudi Logistics Hub strengthens trade relations between Saudi Arabia, India

The Saudi Logistics Hub, a government initiative mandated to support the growth of Saudi Arabia's logistics sector, wrapped up its global roadshow of the year with final stop in India's thriving city, Mumbai. The event highlighted Saudi Arabia's efforts to transform the country's logistics sector and promoted opportunities for cooperation with India. Drawing the participation of business leaders from the logistics industry, the roadshow aimed to introduce the Saudi Logistics Hub, attract investments to Saudi Arabia's logistics sector and strengthen the country's ties with key global logistics markets. Saudi Arabia and India have stepped up trade and investment cooperation in recent years. In 2018, India was Saudi Arabia's third largest export market and fifth largest import market, valued at US\$ 5.5 billion and US\$ 28.4 billion respectively. Saudi Arabia currently commands a 55 percent share of the logistics industry in the GCC region. Over the last decade, the country has invested more than US\$100 billion in its transport and logistics infrastructure, resulting in a comprehensive nationwide network. In 2019, Saudi Arabia achieved a 47 percent increase in the number of new foreign transport and logistics companies, according to the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority.

China Yingtan to build integrated cargo port

Yingtan port in China's Jiangxi province is to start the construction of its cargo terminal project at the end of this month to improve domestic waterway transportation. The RMB4.45bn (\$636m) port construction project consisting 19 cargo berths including four multi-purpose berths and two general cargo berths in Yujiang port area, with an annual handling capacity of 3m tonnes and 60,000 teu, as well as 13 cargo berths in Guixi port area with an annual handling capacity of 6.8m tonnes and 150,000 teu. The project will be divided into three phases with the first phase project of Yujiang and Guixi to be completed in 2021 and 2022, constructing two berths and three berths respectively. Yingtan is a core inland port in Jiangxi province, and the new project will be able to promote fast development of local shipping business, said Xu Zhixian, deputy director of Yingtan Ministry of Transport. The port project is invested by the state-owned Jiangxi Provincial Port & Waterway Construction Investment Group, which is engaged in port and shipping infrastructure construction, investment and management.

APM Terminals' Vado Gateway inaugurated

As previously discussed, APM Terminals has a 50.1% stake in Vado Gateway, while Chinese interests hold the balance – Cosco Shipping Ports 40% and Qingdao Port International 9.9%. The most modern port construction in Italy in more than 20 years, Vado Gateway is also the first to be built with project finance (€43M) out of a total investment of €450M, of which €180M from APMT. The operator is the customer of Grandi Lavori Fincosit and Genoa-Savona port authority (ASpMLO), which awarded APMT a 50-year concession. The first regular services will start calling in February 2020. ME2, which connects the Mediterranean with the Middle East and India, has up to now called at SECH Genoa. MMX, connecting the Mediterranean with Canada, has been a customer of LSCT La Spezia Container Terminal. Initially there is 450m of deep water quay, with a depth of 17.25m alongside. By July 2020 the quay will be 700m long. Vado Gateway will be able to accommodate ULCS of the current generation up to 22,000 TEU and beyond. Capacity at regime will be 0.9M TEU/year. Speaking at the inauguration, Paolo Cornetto, Managing Director, APM Terminals Vado Ligure Spa, expressed concern about the state of the motorways connecting the port with northern Italy.

India to open new ports to connect Iran's Chabahar

India, Iran and Afghanistan have decided to open Mormugoa and New Mangalore Port in addition to JNPT, Mundra, Kandla and Cochin as part of designated route under the Chabahar Agreement for connecting South Asia's biggest country to strategically located port. This was decided at the second meeting of the Follow-up Committee for implementation of the trilateral Chabahar Agreement between India, Afghanistan and Iran at the level of Joint Secretary/ Director General held here recently. All the three countries welcomed steady progress in port operations by India Ports Global Ltd company since the taking over of the port operations at Shaheed Beheshti Port at Chabahar in December 2018. It was recognized that over 5 lakh tons of cargo has been handled successfully. This includes exports from Afghanistan through Chabahar Port which began in February 2019. A study will be conducted by Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) to streamline cargo transit through Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar. It was agreed to finalise the protocol to harmonise transit, roads, customs and consular matters. Till that time, the TIR Convention will continue to be used for cargo movement.

First trial shipment of Varanasi (India) vegetables via sea route to Dubai flagged off

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in its endeavor to promote exports from agriculture produce rich regions of India is today sending the first trial shipment of vegetables by sea route from Varanasi to Dubai. Considering the potential of production of fruits and vegetables in Varanasi Region comprising of 5 districts namely, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Chandauli, Mirzapur and Sant Ravidas Nagar, APEDA is in the process of setting up Agri export hubs in these 5 districts of the Varanasi region. The first trial shipment of one container of fresh vegetables was flagged off Friday by Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chairman APEDA, and Deepak Agrawal, Commissioner, Varanasi Region, in the presence of Kaushal Raj Sharma, District Magistrate, Varanasi. In its efforts for setting up of Agri Export hub, APEDA organized an Export Promotion Programme and Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) for fresh vegetables this year in Varanasi which was attended by 100 farmers of the region and exporters from Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Uttar Pradesh. The BSM provided a platform to link the FPOs and progressive farmers to prominent exporters.

Uzbekistan keen to connect India via Afghanistan & Iran

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is keen that India joins a railway project in Afghanistan that will help in stabilising the landlocked country and connect it to Eurasia and Iran. The railway, almost 650 km in length, which will connect Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat cities and will later be extended to Kabul, is a major project agreed to by President Ashraf Ghani and President Mirziyoyev. The preliminary surveys for the project have already been completed. "Uzbekistan support a greater presence of India in Central Asia that will also help Afghanistan," sources said. "India's proven record and experience of projects in Afghanistan," sources said. Uzbekistan has an interest in opening trade and connectivity routes all the way to the Indian Ocean. The project, for which Uzbekistan has already pledged \$500 million, could become another major regional connectivity project for India, after its construction of the Zaranj-Delaram Highway in Afghanistan and the Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar, Iran. India is committed to building rail route, from Chabahar to Zahedan on the Iran-Afghan border, and President Mirziyoyev is keen to join the transit trade agreement signed by India, Afghanistan and Iran. India also wants to connect Central Asia via INSTC and through Ashgabat agreement that includes Oman.

India; Andhra Pradesh Govt clears plan to develop 2 Major Ports

Andhra Pradesh cabinet on Friday cleared the proposals for the development of two major ports at Ramayapatnam and Machilipatnam in Prakasam and Krishna districts. Both the ports would require a sum of INR 21,933 crore for development, top official sources said. The cabinet, which met at the Secretariat here under the chairmanship of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, approved the detailed project reports (DPRs) prepared by RITES for the two ports. Also, the cabinet cleared the proposal for the creation of two special purpose vehicles for the development of these ports. The state government selected Ramayapatnam for developing a new deepwater port in lieu of the Dugarajapatnam port, proposed under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 after the latter was found unviable. Accordingly, a DPR has been prepared for this and it estimated the project cost to be INR 10,009 crore in three phases. As per the DPR, the port would have 16 berths with a total handling capacity of 138.54 million tonnes per annum. An extent of 3,634 acre of land is required for the port, of which 3,093 acre has to be acquired. The state government will develop this port with financial assistance from the Centre, Industries and Commerce Department Principal Secretary Rajat Bhargava told.