

### Shreyas Shipping & Logistics Ltd acquires yet another vessel, christens her SSL DELHI

Shreyas Shipping & Logistics Ltd, the Mumbai-listed unit of Dubai headquartered Transworld Group, has acquired a 33,500 DWT, 2,466 TEUs capacity vessel and named it M.V SSL DELHI (Ex Hansa Liberty built 2000). The acquisition boosts the fleet of Shreyas Shipping to 10 vessels, all Indian flagged, and helps the company expand presence in coastal trade and feeder service on India's eastern coast. SSL joined the fleet on 23 February. Shreyas Shipping will induct another ship, a 1,100 TEUs capacity ship named M.V SSL Kolkata (built 2007) by the first week of March.

### DP World Wins Dispute over Djibouti Terminal

Dubai-based port and terminal operator DP World has been cleared by the London Court of Arbitration of all charges of misconduct in connection with a concession to operate the Doraleh Container Terminal (DCT) in Djibouti. In 2014, Djibouti accused DP World of bribing Abdourahman Boreh, the head of the country's port and free zone authority, to secure the 50-year concession to run the DCT. Djibouti has been ordered to bear all costs of the arbitration. The port operator has continued to operate the DCT during the court proceedings. The DCT is said to be "the most technologically advanced" container terminal on the African east coast.

### Dubai Customs bags international award in CSR category

Dubai Customs bagged the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category's "Middle East Business Leaders Award 2016". The award, organized by The American Leadership Development Association (ALDA) in cooperation with the International Leaders Magazine and sponsored by The Federation of GCC Chambers, is a mark of recognition toward the achievement acquired by the business leaders. Khalil Saqer, Director of Corporate Communication Department in Dubai Customs received the award in London from Stephen Timms, British Member of Parliament (PM) on behalf of Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, DP World Group Chairman and CEO, and Chairman of Ports, Customs and Free Zone Corporation (PCFC).

### DP World Company launches 'smart' online platform

Dubai-based global marine terminal operator DP World said one of its companies, Dubai Trade, has launched an integrated 'smart' online platform that connects supply chain stakeholders over a secure network to ensure ease of doing business with the emirate. Dubai Trade, the 'smart' window for cross-border trade, last year added "LogiGate" to its portfolio of innovations. It stands as a transportation and warehousing marketplace that enables cargo owners to book competitive haulage and storage services using a smart phone. In building their own systems and programs, Dubai Trade is ensuring long-term technological investment that can be applied to new markets and business sectors around the world.

### Salalah Port's profit rises on higher volume growth

Despite uncertain global economic conditions, the Port of Salalah's container terminal handled 3.33mn TEUs in 2016 compared to 2.57mn TEUs in the previous year, posting a growth of 29 per cent. The Port's general cargo terminal handled 13.04mn tons during 2016, registering a moderate growth of four per cent compared to the previous year volumes, Salalah Port Services Co (SPSC) said. Helped by higher volume growth, the consolidated net profit of SPSC rose 10.5 per cent to RO5.73mn for the year ended December 31, 2016 compared to RO5.18mn in the previous year. SPSC board recommended distributing a cash dividend of 20 per cent on the paid-up equity share capital of the company.

### Big carriers see 2017 as turn-around year for container shipping

Sharply rising spot rates lifted Asia-Europe contract prices, and vessels outbound from China in east-west trades were more than 95 per cent full, reports IHS Media. Credited was greater capacity management from container lines in the fourth quarter and into 2017. This, it was felt, pushed up freight rates, tracked on Market Data Hub, leading to the optimistic outlook for the industry in 2017. Mediterranean Shipping Co (MSC) chief executive Diego Aponte said the container shipping industry was on the right track, and that the unprecedented consolidation during 2016 and the Hanjin collapse would generate more rational behavior in carriers.

### Rail connectivity to ports to strengthen cargo movement

Rail connectivity is to be provided to the Kollam, Azhikkal and Ponnani ports as part of the government's efforts to strengthen the cargo movement in minor ports. Coastal and inland navigation services will be strengthened to ease rail and road traffic in the State, Governor P. Sathasivam said in his customary address to the Assembly on Thursday. The Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation is examining the feasibility of transporting LPG through inland waterways with the support of LPG companies. The rail connectivity from the Ponnani port to the Tirunavaya station is being worked out.

### India proposes direct rail link to Kathmandu from Delhi & Kolkata; mulls cargo train to Bangladesh

India is pushing for better land connectivity with neighboring Nepal and Bangladesh for effective sub-regional cooperation despite the obstacles created by the absence of SAARC Motor Vehicles and Railways Agreements. Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu announced this during a recent trip to Kathmandu. Besides, the Modi government, has asked the state-owned Container Corporation (Concor) to explore ways to run a cargo train to Bangladesh to enhance bilateral trade, ahead of PM Sheikh Hasina's proposed visit to India. "These two railway tracks (Delhi-Kathmandu & Kolkata-Kathmandu) must be built soon to increase Nepal's connectivity with India," Prabhu said.

### Singapore the 'big winner' from container alliance reshuffles

The Port of Singapore is set to be the big winner on the Asia – Europe trade following container shipping alliance reshuffles from 1 April, according to Alphaliner. With both THE Alliance and the Ocean Alliance kicking off on 1 April, along with Hyundai Merchant Marine and Hamburg Sud cooperating with 2M the Asia – Europe trade is set for a major shake-up. The "big winner" will be Singapore, with Rotterdam remaining the key port in Europe, while in Asia both Port Klang and Hong Kong will lose out. Following the start of the new alliance Singapore is set to attract 34 weekly calls on Asia – Europe compared to 29 previously.

### Le Havre Port Authority keen on working with Chennai ports

Ports of Chennai, Kamarajar and Katupalli can take a cue from Haropa — ports of Le Harve, Rouen and Paris — on how three competing ports located proximally can come together to serve the trade. "The three ports have their own strengths. But, we complement each other, not compete," said Herve Martel, CEO, Le Havre Port Authority, who was in Chennai as part of a promotional roadshow. There are many similarities between Haropa and the three ports in Chennai. "We would be more than happy to share our experience on issues like port connectivity systems, IT systems and Customs that are common for the three French ports," he said.

### India: Ship agents body appeal to CBEC to withdraw service tax circular or defer it to Oct 1

In order to avoid claims and disputes ending into long standing legal battles, Mumbai and NhavaSheva Ship Agents Association has appealed to the Central Board of Excise and Customs to withdraw the notification 1/2017, 2/2017 & 3/2017 on service tax completely or defer to Oct 1. In a letter addressed to Najib Shah, chairman of CBEC, MANSA said, "The implementation of such taxation countervails the Governments earnest efforts in achieving ease of doing business lest it might lead to loss of business to Indian enterprises. It may be noted that the meagre earnings the Ship Agent realized for attending and rendering services to the ships are far below the required level of resources for meeting the payment of the prescribed Service Tax as proposed".