

i-maritime News Service

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Two multipurpose berths at Haldia

The existing 12 berths at Haldia port are working to 90% capacity. The construction of two berths is in progress – one by ITD Cementation and the other by Simplex. The commissioning of these berths would increase the port's capacity by 3 million tones. There is a proposal to construct two more jetties outside the impounded dock on the riverfront, besides the three river front jetties, all handling crude, petroleum products and other liquid cargo. The plan is to mechanise operations so as to improve the capacity.

GE Shipping and GE Offshore

GE Shipping, which is now transferring its existing offshore assets and business to Great Offshore is also proposing to provide performance guarantee to its main customer for the new entity and has prepared the ground for continuing its offshore business through a wholly-owned subsidiary Greatship (India) Ltd. Greatship is planning to acquire three offshore support vessels between the third quarter of 2006-07 and third quarter of 2008-09.

Cosco Container's new service

Cosco Container Lines Co Ltd (COSCON), the Shanghai-based major container operator, is planning to launch a new container service connecting various Chinese and South East Asian ports with Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) of Jawaharlal Nehru port. Its first voyage will be from Shanghai and the port of rotation will be Shanghai-Ningbo-Hong Kong-Singapore-Colombo-NSICT-Singapore-Pasir Gudang-Laem Chabang-Hong Kong-Shanghai. The company is planning to increase its capacity from the existing 320,000 TEUs to 4,50,000 TEUs in the next two years and by 2010 to 8,00,000 TEUs.

Shipping Corporation of India stops coastal trade of thermal coal from Paradip and Ennore

By scrapping a bulk carrier, SCI has stopped its coastal shipping service of transporting thermal coal from Paradip to Ennore. The company has also stopped transporting

thermal coal from Haldia to Tuticorin for some time due to non-availability of suitable vessels. The company's proposals for acquisition of various types of vessels are yet to be cleared by the Government. Till then the company will have to completely withdraw from these services.

Chennai Port's second container terminal

The Central Government gave its in-principle approval to develop the second container terminal at Chennai Port last year. It has given security clearance to Port of Singapore Authority/Sical and Emirates Trading Agency/Gammon India but has to give to Hutchison Port Holdings. The port is expected to open the price bid. Once the bidder is finalised and approved by the Centre, the formalities of finalising the memorandum of understanding, signing of the agreement and payment of upfront fee (of about Rs 18 crore) by the BOT operator will take place.

Insurance product for ports

Insurance companies are proposing to design insurance products for Indian ports to cover costs of shipwreck disposal and oil spill clearance in the aftermath of an accident. The plan is to propose the new product as an alternative to P&I insurance scheme and shift the responsibility of the expenses for shipping lines to the ports. As the ports bear the burden of loss due to shipwreck or oil spills, the shift of bearing the expenses to the shipping lines is justified.

India's first warehousing hub at Kandla port

Kandla SEZ and IL&FS will be jointly developing a Rs 200-300 crore India's first warehousing hub at Kandla port. About 20 plots have been allotted for warehouse facility outside the port for setting up container freight stations and warehouses. International trading agencies too will have their storage facilities in the port. Kandla Port Trust has invited private participation for development of liquid tank facility for storing liquid cargoes, resulting in over 8 lakh

kilolitres of liquid storage tanks built and is operated by private parties at Kandla. These liquid handling facilities connect the tank farms directly to all its oil jetties through pipelines.

Hazy direction for SEZs

There is a proposition to fix the upper limit on the number of SEZs at 150, which has earned a lot of controversy in a liberalised economy. The argument is that this would lead to a mad rush for developing the SEZs, each may happen in a haphazard manner, and also lead to an oligopolistic situation with the developers charging higher rents than reasonable. The SEZ scheme emanates from the simple fact that development of infrastructure and enabling environment for exports across the country require massive outlay and few decades of development and if the cost of doing exports is to be reduced, we have to build island of world class infrastructure in the form of special economic zones.

Crude spill in Indian Ocean

A tanker belonging to Mitsui O.S.K. Lines spilled about 4500 tonnes of crude oil in the eastern Indian Ocean near the Nicobar islands following a collision with a cargo ship. The tanker was carrying about 250,000 tons (294 million liters, 77.6 million gallons) of crude. It had left port in Oman, bound for the Japanese port of Chiba, near Tokyo. There was no risk of further leaks and the tanker left the accident scene. It is seeking a port for repairs before continuing on to Japan.

Kolkata port invites Eols from cruise operators

The Kolkata Port Trust has invited expressions of interest (Eols) from reputed cruise operators from all over the world to promote cruise tourism in the river Hooghly as also along the east coast covering Orissa and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The first circuit for the tourism route is the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system for river cruise. On both banks of the river system there are many places of historical, architectural, cultural and religious

importance. The other coastal routes identified are Kolkata-Saugor Island-Puri and Kolkata-Saugor Island-Puri-Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Juicy Bits

- Cyprus-registered Essar Shipping and Logistics Ltd, which owns 77 per cent of Essar Shipping Ltd, has raised \$ 200 million from the overseas banking markets to part-finance its \$300-million ship acquisition programme.
- The Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) has sought permission for passenger shipping service between Kochi and Colombo considering the proximity to the ports. The company plans to buy a second-hand ship with a capacity to carry 700 passengers for the service.
- Karnataka State Government is contemplating building a fisheries harbour at Chitrapur-Kulai area in Mangalore.

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Kandla SEZ

The Kandla Port Trust (KPT) has approached the central government for developing 6,094 hectare of land at Kandla and Tuna into a port-based special economic zone so as to match international standards. KPT will invite private players to set up facilities international standards, which will match even those of Dubai and Sharjah. The proposed SEZ will be adjacent to the jetty and will have facilities such as dry cargo berths to be set up in 94 hectare, besides outer harbour berthing facilities off the slope near Tuna for handling multifarious cargo generated from the proposed SEZ.

Bharati Shipyard forays in oil rig

Bharati Shipyard has tied up with US-based drilling major Le Tourneau Inc for oil rig construction. Le Tourneau will provide Bharati designs and basic equipment package on one-time royalty. Bharati has received an order from offshore division of GE Shipping for a self-propelled cantilevered drill rig and it will be manufactured in its greenfield shipyard in the special economic zone (SEZ) at Mangalore. The company will invest over Rs 450 crore for the facility and Rs 80 crore for expanding facilities at its Ratnagiri yard.

Colachel port in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu wants to develop Colachel into an international hub and has taken up the matter with the Centre on the need to develop Colachel as a container transshipment hub. The state is in the process of preparing a detailed feasibility report. The port has a natural draft of 15 meters upto one km from the shore and 20 meter draft is available about four-five km away. The sea bottom at Colachel is rocky requiring substantial amount of blasting for dredging.

Oil spill off Guimaras island

The coastal areas around Guimaras island would be evacuated following the spill of about two million industrial oil. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is likely to use oil zapper, a bacteria to clean up the bunker fuel. This bioremediation process has

proven to be faster and cheaper as compared to other methods of cleaning the oil sludge such as incineration. Petron is said to commission services of deep sea-contractors, who shall use a side-scan zoner to determine the actual location of the wreck, a remotely piloted submersible to determine the leak, and hot tap to siphon the oil from the ship.

India's first maritime university

India's first maritime university is likely to be operational by the year-end at Chennai on the patterns of the World Maritime University in Switzerland. The shipping ministry has already procured 300 acres of land in Chennai and earmarked Rs 200 crore for the university. The university would have regional campuses at Mumbai, Kolkata and Vishakapatnam. The Indian Maritime University Bill, 2006, is at present awaiting cabinet approval.

Rickmers charters extra vessels

The German-based global break-bulk and heavy lift cargo carrier Rickmers Line has announced it will charter two multipurpose vessels from Samudera Indonesia, based in Jakarta, to add extra capacity to its India-Middle East service. Samudera will deliver each vessel to Rickmers in North Europe at the end of Samudera's westbound voyage from Asia. Rickmers will then load the vessels for eastbound voyages to the Middle East and India, redelivering them to Samudera after discharging at ports in the Mumbai/Chennai range. They will then re-load for Samudera in Southeast Asia for Europe thus completing the cycle.

Maersk launches largest container ship

AP Moller-Maersk has launched the world's largest container ship, the 11,000-TEU Emma Maersk, which was constructed at the Odense Steel Shipyard in Denmark. The mega vessel has a 14-cylinder diesel engine and 110,000 BHP. Emma is also covered with special silicone paint on her hull to reduce drag, which in turn is expected to help her reduce fuel consumption by some 1,200 tonnes per year.

Redevelopment of Sittwe port

India will soon invest \$103 million to re-develop the Sittwe port on the northwestern coast of Myanmar. This will help boost trade ties with Myanmar, bring about more development in the Northeast, will improve navigability on the Kaladan river in Myanmar and enable the opening of another trade route between the Northeast and the rest of India with southern Mizoram as the hub. The Centre had sanctioned over Rs 4 crore to develop the land customs station at Zokhawtar to facilitate border trade with Myanmar and the project was being executed by the Border Roads Organisation.

Container trading platform

Clarkson PLC in partnership with Synchronet Marine Inc will provide a platform to facilitate the trading of container freight and slot capacity online. This new Business-to-Business (B2B) self-serviced platform will enable a full spectrum of industry participants to trade (current and forward) capacity and cargo opportunities via a genuinely neutral site in a secure environment, according to a release issued by Clarkson. This multi-carrier, multi-shipper and multi-forwarder exchange is designed specifically for incremental cargo and capacity opportunities. The platform will also offer trading of ad hoc slots for full (or empty) containers among carriers and between deep sea, short sea carriers and leasing companies, and provide registered users a site for fresh and relevant container industry research and data.

Kochi to offer 50 pc discount to mainline container vessels

The Cochin Port Trust has decided to offer 50 per cent discount on vessel related charges to mainline vessels from September 1. This concession will be applicable to all container vessels of GRT 25000 and above, having capacity of 2,500 TEUs and above and connecting ports in the US, Europe or China. The discount scheme will directly benefit the mainline operators by way of big savings in vessel related charges and also by saving extra steaming time due to the ideal geographic location of Kochi on the main sea route. With mainline vessels

calling at Kochi, the need for transshipment of containers at hub ports in neighbouring countries could be eliminated. Direct calls will also help exporters and importers by avoiding delays or rollover of containers at the hub ports.

Juicy Bits

- Hutchison Ports Holdings, Kaidi Electric Company and China Harbour Engineering Company have been denied security clearance for participating in container terminal projects at the ports in Mumbai, Chennai and Vizhinjam (Kerala).
- The Government of India is expecting 94 special economic zones (SEZs) to become operational in the next 18 months.

Please send comments and suggestions to

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