

MAKING WAVES

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MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

Foundation Laid for Freight Corridor Project

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 5 October laid the foundation stone in Mumbai for the Western Railways' dedicated freight corridor project. Costing Rs. 2200 crore, it is the country's largest single infrastructure project, and will link ports in the west to industries across northern and central India.

Source: The Hindu, 6 October 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/06/stories/2006100617821600.htm>.

Reliance to Build Big Port

The Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance group proposes to build India's largest port Rewas as part of its Navi Mumbai SEZ, which would have same draft as of Suez Canal and virtually double that of JNPT, the deepest port in India. The group plans to invest more than Rs 3000 crore in developing the port, which is located around 10 nautical miles or 16 Km south east of Mumbai harbour, and awaits environmental clearances to launch construction.

Source: Hindustan Times, 9 October 2006.

Incentive for Operators in Inland Water Transport

Centre will soon come out with a comprehensive package of incentives to encourage private participation in inland water transportation, stated by Susheel kumar, Vice-chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). The authority is willing to go for equity participation in joint ventures with private operators to help them set up and run operations in the country's leading waterways.

Source: The Economic Times, 23 October 2006.

AP Ports to be Ready in 2008

Andhra ports of Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam would become operational during 2008, Chief Minister YS Rajasekhara Reddy said. Private investments in the AP ports would amount to Rs 61.5 billion.

Source: The Economic Times, 30 October 2006.

Jindal to Develop Port Close to its Jaigad Power Plant Site

OP Jindal group, which is setting up a 1,200 mw power plant at Jaigad in southern Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district, has decided to build and operate a port in the Dhamankul Bay of Jaigad, at a cost of Rs 4bn (\$88m). Group subsidiary, JSW, would develop up to four bulk cargo berths at the proposed port in Jaigad. In the first phase, it will have a mechanized cargo handling system with an annual capacity of 8m tonnes, said Captain B V Sharma, director of JSWIL and joint managing director and CEO of South West Port.

Source: 30 October 2006. <http://www.marinescienceandtechnology.com/>.



SHIPBUILDING

Govt. of India Plans to Set up Two World-Class Shipyards

Two shipyards of international standards are being planned in India. One yard will be located on the west coast and the other on the east coast of the country. For the yard on the western coast, the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) has been asked to manage the Expression of Interest (EoI). As for the eastern front, the Ennore Port has been given the charge. To be built in phases, the yards will be operational in three years from the time the contract is awarded.

Source: The Times of India, 11 October 2006.

The Order Book of Domestic Yards has Crossed Rs 13,700 Crore

The order book of the Indian yards, which was hovering around Rs 1,500 crore in 2002, has crossed Rs 13,700 crore in September 2006 and is expected to touch Rs 81,000 crore by 2018. Of the Rs 13,700 crore orders to be executed over 3-4 years, about 124 ships worth around Rs 9,700 crore are being built for foreign firms.

Source: The Economic Times, 16 October 2006.

SCI Signs Biggest Contract for Tankers

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has signed contracts with STX Shipbuilding Co of South Korea for building and delivering six new buildings LR-I size product tankers. This is the largest shipbuilding contract in terms of value signed by SCI since its inception. This is also the largest contract ever signed by STX Shipyard.

Source: The Economic Times, 30 October 2006.



SHIPPING

Asian Shipping Lines Face Threat

Asian container shipping firms are under a double threat from looming oversupply and a potential economic slowdown in the US – and lower fuel prices will not rescue them.

Source: the Star Online, 2 October 2006.

[http://thestar.com.my/maritime/story.asp?file=/2006/10/2/maritime/15587102&sec=maritime.](http://thestar.com.my/maritime/story.asp?file=/2006/10/2/maritime/15587102&sec=maritime)

India to Scrap 56% of Ships

The Indian shipping industry will be required to spend about \$4 billion on fleet renewal, as 56 per cent of the ships owned by Indian companies will have to be scrapped in five years, according to the Indian National Ship owners' Association.

Source: Shiptalk, 2 October 2006.

[http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1019&rcid=161&pcid=141&cid=161.](http://www.shiptalk.com/index.asp?ItemID=1019&rcid=161&pcid=141&cid=161)

Shipper's Launch Global Forum

At its annual meeting in Antwerp, Belgium, shippers from around the world agreed to formally recognise themselves as the Global Shippers' Forum (GSF), formerly referred to as the Tripartite Shippers Group (TSG). India, as a member of the ASCOBIPS (Association of Shippers Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), which in turn is a member of the Asian Shippers Council, has also welcomed the new development.

Source: The Economic Times, 9 October 2006.

SCI Starts New Service

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has announced starting of its new weekly service from the Far East to Middle East via India from 11 November 2006. With the commencement of the new service named hyper Galex, SCI will offer its services to destinations other than India, without transshipment enroute. Also start of this service augurs well with SCI's recent plans of expansion in all fields of shipping.

Source: The Economic Times, 30 October 2006.

Mercator to Consolidate Presence in Coal Transportation

Mercator, the second largest private shipping company in India, has bought 2 Kamsarmax dry bulk vessels of 85,000 DWT. Mercator Lines' recent acquisition of these two vessels will help the Mumbai based shipping major consolidate its stake in coal and iron ore transportation. The ships will fly foreign flags "to avoid high taxation regime" in India.

Source: The Economic Times, 30 October 2006.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/229450.cms>.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Open Letter to Kofi Annan

The people of Tamil Nadu have claimed that Sethusamudram project is going to be financially unviable and an ecological disaster. They have written an open letter to Kofi Annan, Secretary General of United Nations to interfere in the project, and ensure transparency.

Source: The Economic Times, 9 October 2006.

AMET Launches MBA in Shipping & Logistics

Chennai based Academy of Maritime Education and Training (AMET) has launched master of Business administration course in shipping & logistics through distance learning mode for the benefit for seafarers. The MBA has been designed in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Open University with focus on shipping & logistic management.

Source: The Economic Times, 23 October 2006.



MARITIME SECURITY

Japan to Ban North Korean Ships

Japan is set to ban all North Korean ships from Japanese ports as part of additional sanctions against the communist regime over its declared nuclear test, the National Public Safety chief said.

Source: Guardian Unlimited, 11 October 2006. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,-6139902,00.html>.

Sri Lanka Bans Small Boats Totally in Colombo Harbor Area

Sri Lanka Navy totally banned all dinghies and other small boats in the sea along the coastal zone from Wellawatta, south of Colombo to Uswetakeyiyawa, north of Colombo. However, the trawlers are allowed to arrive and leave this restricted area between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thorough security measures are followed in this zone by Sri Lanka Navy due to threats of attacks to the Colombo harbour from Tamil Tiger rebels.

Source: Colombo Page, 24 October 2006.

<http://www.colombopage.com/archive/October24141804SL.html>

Hawaii to Host 10th Western Pacific Naval Symposium

The U.S. Navy and Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet have invited naval leaders from 22 countries to Honolulu for the 10th Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), scheduled for 30 October to 2 November, to discuss maritime security and other issues affecting the region's navies. WPNS members are Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, the United States and Vietnam. Observers are Bangladesh, Canada, Chile and India.

Source: Navy newsstand, 29 October 2006.

http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=26329.



MARITIME COOPERATION

Japan, South Korea Begin Joint Marine Survey near Disputed Islands

A Japanese coast guard vessel left a southern port on 7 October to take part in a joint marine survey with South Korea in waters claimed by both countries, Japan's coast guard said. The 7-14 October joint survey is part of efforts to defuse a long-simmering row between Japan and South Korea over the Sea of Japan islets called Takeshima in Japanese and Dokdo in Korean.

Source: International Herald Tribune, 7 October 2006.

http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2006/10/07/asia/AS_GEN_Japan_SKorea_Disputed_Islands.php.

Navy Plans Joint Exercises with U.S., Russia

The Indian Navy will match skills with two of the world's biggest navies in quick succession next year. A flotilla will sail for the Pacific Ocean to exercise with U.S. forces towards the middle of 2007. It will then join the Russian Navy off the coast of Vladivostok for a round of joint exercises.

Source: The Hindu, 24 October 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/24/stories/2006102401061300.htm>.

Indian, U.S. Navies to Conduct Counter-Terrorism Exercise

For the first time, the Indian and United States Navies will practise expeditionary manoeuvres off the Konkan coast in the coming days. These will be followed by a simulated, joint semi-urban counter-terrorism exercise in Belgaum, Karnataka.

Source: The Hindu, 27 October 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/27/stories/2006102704701300.htm>.

India to Restore Cargo Shipping Service with Pakistan

Ahead of crucial Foreign Secretary-level talks, the Indian government decided to restore cargo shipping services with Pakistan after a gap of 35 years to substantially bolster sea trade.

Source: Hindustan Times, 27 October 2006.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1830141,00020008.htm



MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Concern over Oceans despite Receding Oil & Chemical Threats: UNEP

A rising tide of sewage is threatening the health and wealth of far too many of the world's seas and oceans, a new report by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) says. Recognising that good progress has been made in curbing oil and chemical pollution, the world body says much greater effort is needed to meet the threat being posed by sewage. An estimated 80% of marine pollution originates from

the land and this could rise significantly by 2050 if the coastal populations double in just about 40 years.

Source: UNEP, 4 October 2006.

<http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=486&ArticleID=5364&l=en>.

Marine Scientists Report Massive "Dead Zones"

The number of ocean "dead zones" has grown from 150 in 2004 to about 200 in 2006, said Nick Nuttall, a UNEP spokesperson. Dead zones can encompass areas of ocean 100,000 square kms in size where little can live because there is no oxygen left in the water. Nitrogen pollution, mainly from farm fertilisers and sewage, produces blooms of algae that absorb all of the oxygen in the water.

Source: Inter Press service news Agency, 5 October 2006. <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=35008>.

Rising Seas Could Leave Millions Homeless in Asia

Millions of people could become homeless in the Asia-Pacific region by 2070 due to rising sea levels, with Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, China and Pacific islands most at risk, says Australia's top scientific body. A climate change report by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) found global warming in the Asia Pacific region could cause sea levels to rise by up to 16 cm (six inches) by 2030 and up to 50 cm (19 inches) by 2070.

Source: Reuters, 9 October 2006. <http://today.reuters.com/News/CrisesArticle.aspx?storyId=SP93549>.

Southern South Africa Waters Designated as Special Area by IMO

Environment Meeting

Amendments to MARPOL designating the waters off Southern South Africa as a Special Area under the MARPOL Convention for the prevention of pollution by ships, have been adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which met for its 55th session from 9-13 October, at Westminster Central Hall, London.

Source: IMO, 18 October 2006. <http://www.imo.org>.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY

Scientists to Fake Oil Spills

A group of Arctic oil spill experts who recently met in Halifax say they plan to create artificial spills in northern waters to learn how to clean them up. Six oil companies are backing a series of international experiments aimed at improving technology for cleaning up spills in the frigid waters of the Arctic.

Source: Marine Technology Reporter, 18 October 2006.

<http://www.mtronline.net/mt/mtStories.aspx?ShowStory=1006722080>

New Seal for Shipping Industry on Anvil

A group of 12 countries led by Singapore is completing an international standard that is expected to save the global shipping community to the tune of S\$64 million. The global standard- to be called ISO 18185-dictates a proper approach to read seal numbers on freight containers. It also checks seal conditions electronically using radio frequency identification technology to speed up and improve services.

Source: The Economic Times, 23 October 2006.



Port Security Bill Clears Congress

In its last major action before beginning its midterm election recess, Congress approved a \$3.4 billion maritime security bill that some lawmakers say will eventually lead to all cargo being scanned at foreign ports before being put on ships bound for the United States. The House approved the bill, 409-2, while the Senate passed it on a voice vote.

Source: Goveexec.com, 2 October 2006

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35168&dcn=todaysnews.

New Shipping Law in Australia

A new shipping law came into effect around Australia from 6 October 2006. According to this law all ships longer than 70 metres and all tankers transiting Torres Strait and the Great North-East Channel must be guided by a marine pilot. Shipping companies will be liable for penalties of up to \$275,000 if they fail to comply with the amendment to Australia's Navigation Act.

Source: ABC News online, 6 October 2006.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200610/s1756723.htm>.

Indian Court Acquits Crew of Grounded Taiwanese Ship

Indian court acquits crew of grounded Taiwanese ship on the ground that the distressed seamen had the right under the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention to the right of innocent passage through the territorial waters of any state and along with the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, to enter into any nearby state to save their lives and property. Justice K R Udayabhanu also ruled that the administrator has a duty to repatriate all the crew in distress under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Source: 6 October 2006. <http://business-times.asiaone.com/sub/shippingtimes/story/>

New Policy for Alang Yard

The Gujarat Government on 18 October declared a new policy for the allotment of plots at Alang to try to revive Asia's largest ship-breaking yard in Bhavnagar district in the Saurashtra region.

Source: the Hindu, 19 October 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/19/stories/2006101905741400.htm>.

New Shipping Protocol Approved

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing and ratifying a revised protocol on shipping services between India and Pakistan that will allow lifting of cargo between the countries by third country vessels. Also, Indian and Pakistani ships would be able to lift cargo destined for third countries. This is expected to enhance tonnage under both flags and result in competitive shipping rates.

Source: The Hindu, 28 October 2006. <http://www.hindu.com/2006/10/28/stories/2006102804231200.htm>.

Concerns over UK Regime

Indian shippers have raised concerns over the proposed UK security regime since it could arguably create supply chain anomalies, while the European Shippers Council (ESC) is reportedly concerned that the proposals "could represent a serious barrier to intra-community trade". According to Western India Shippers Association

(WISA), the law will also put the UK out of tune with all its main trading partners by increasing costs and making the economy less competitive.

Source: The Economic Times, 30 October 2006.

FISHING

Only 50 Years Left' for Sea Fish

Writing in the journal *Science*, the international team of researchers says Stocks have collapsed in nearly one-third of sea fisheries, and the rate of decline is accelerating. There will be virtually nothing left to fish from the seas by the middle of the century if current trends continue. According to the researcher fishery decline is closely tied to a broader loss of marine biodiversity.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6108414.stm>.

U.S. Vows to Work against Destructive Fishing

President Bush called for a halt to all types of destructive fishing on the high seas saying the United States will work to eliminate practices such as bottom trawling that devastate fish populations and the ocean floor.

Source: MSNBC, 3 October 2006. <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/15117680/>.

Cut on Fishing Pressure on Bluefin Tuna

Scientists have warned that fishing pressure on bluefin tuna must be substantially cut if a collapse of both the fishery and the stock is to be avoided. The standing committee on research and statistics of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) has recommended a reduction in fishing mortality (measure of fish killed by fishing).

Source: 6 October 2006, http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press_corner/press_releases/com06_65_en.htm.

Suggestions and contributions are welcome. Requests for subscription and cancellation may be sent to the address below.

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