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Kochi port receives its first coastal steel consignment

The Kochi port on Sunday received the first coastal consignment of steel from Rashtriyaspat Nigam Limited (RINL). The arrival of the consignment is the result of efforts by the Union government under the 'Sagarmala' project to move cargo along coastal routes. The Centre has embarked on an ambitious development project for sea ports. "Coastal shipping is one among the several initiatives under Sagarmala, the flagship development project of the Ministry of Shipping,"



said a press release here on Monday. MV Sabarimalai, the coastal cargo vessel carried 5,000 tonnes of steel consignment from RINL's Visakhapatnam plant. It was the first steel consignment from RINL which was moved by the coastal route. The company used to transport its consignments for distribution in Kerala by rail.

Paradip Port Trust 'can hold rates till 2019'



Paradip Port Trust, located in Odisha, has received the regulator's nod to hold rates till March 2019, as India's fastest-growing state-owned port pulls out all stops to retain existing customers and lure new cargo to reach the goal of 100 million tonnes (mt) by March 2018. The existing rates were approved by the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) in March 2011 when it ordered an across-the-board reduction of 32 per cent

in the cargo-handling charges and maintained status quo on all other rates at the port. The rates at major port trusts are revised every three years, according to the rules. The port trust has been extending the validity of the existing rates set in 2011 with the approval of TAMP and the last extension ended on September 30. The rates took effect from October 1 and will run through March 2019, which means the port will be operating with the same rates for eight years.

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C/o. CKB, 1st Floor, 20, Raja Bahadur Mansion, Ambalal Doshi Marg., Fort, Mumbai - 400 023.

Tel. : +9122 6637 0021

Fax : (91-22) 6637 0022

Email : info@amtoi.org

Editorial Team:

Mr. Xerxes P. Master

Mr. Vivek Kele

Catalysing Multimodalism

www.amtoi.org

Dedicated freight corridors project to have multiplier effect on the logistics

The commissioning of dedicated freight corridors (DFCs) is expected to benefit the Indian Railways (IR) in the medium to long term and will be a game-changer in the Indian logistics industry. As per an ICRA note, the DFCs will add incremental capacity to the railway network and would also have a positive multiplier effect on the logistics industry in India. Shedding more light, Shamsher Dewan, Vice President and Sector Head- Corporate Ratings, ICRA, said: "Currently IR account for 30 per cent of total freight movement in India and are a preferred mode of transportation for long haul and bulky commodities such as Coal, Iron Ore, Fertilizers, Steel and Cement." In the first phase, the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) and the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) will be commissioned. The WDFC is being financed by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).



Highways works worth INR 8 lakh cr. planned: Gadkari



The Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Mr Nitin Gadkari, has said that highways works worth Rs 8 lakh crore will begin before the end of 2018 under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. He was speaking to media persons in New Delhi recently after the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, approved Phase I of BharatmalaPariyojana. Bharatmala is a new umbrella programme for the highways sector that focuses on optimising efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps.

Mr Gadkari said that Bharatmala will be a major driver for economic growth in the country, and help realise Prime Minister, Mr Modi's vision of a 'New India'. He said the programme has been designed to bridge the gaps in the existing highways infrastructure so as to make the movement of man and material more efficient. Special attention has been paid to fulfil

the connectivity needs of backward and tribal areas, areas of economic activity, places of religious and tourist interest, border areas, coastal areas and trade routes with neighbouring countries under the programme.

JNPT to invest 800 cr to develop 2 dry ports

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is likely to make ready the Jalna and Wardha dry ports over the next 18 months. The Jalna port will come up close to Aurangabad, with an annual capacity of 20,000 TEUs. Wardhwa will come up near Nagpur, with another 20,000 TEU annual capacity. Around 400 crore will be spent on each of the two ports. According to C UnniKrishnan Nair, Chief Manager (Traffic), JNPT, work has begun on developing the two dry ports on a public-private partnership basis. "Development work on Jalna and Wardhwa has already begun and should be ready within 18 months," he told on the sidelines of a conference organised by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Land has been obtained for both the projects."



Humor

