



ASSOCIATION OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS OF INDIA

Weekly News 11.11.2017—17.11.2017

VOL 5 - ISSUE33/NOV/2017

Inside this issue:

King & Queen of Belgium grace Port of Antwerp reception in Mumbai **1**

Abu Dhabi Ports showcases role as trade & logistics hub at UAE-India Economic Forum **1**

Indian Register of Shipping increasing focus on South East Asia **2**

Industrial action planned at the Major Ports **2**

Call to expedite GST refunds to exporters **2**

Humor **3**

King & Queen of Belgium grace Port of Antwerp reception in Mumbai

Port appoints honorary representatives, sets up alumni association

Their Majesties King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium graced a Port of Antwerp reception here on November 9, 2017, which was attended by a cross-section of representatives from India's maritime, cargo and logistics trade. The Royal couple was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium, important Ministers and a high-powered business delegation comprising CEOs of about 90 Belgian companies, it is learnt.



Their Majesties King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium at the Port of Antwerp reception in Mumbai

The King and the Queen, who were on a seven day State visit to India that concluded on Nov. 11, spent some time interacting with a few of the leading lights of the maritime fraternity on the occasion.

Among the key Antwerp port officials present at this annual event were Mr Marc Van Peel, Chairman, Antwerp Port Authority and Vice Mayor of Antwerp city, Mr Jacques Vandermeiren, CEO, Antwerp Port Authority, Mr Luc Arnouts, Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Antwerp, Mr Raj Khalid, Representative of Port of Antwerp in India, and Ms Malini Dutt, also representing Port of Antwerp in India.

Abu Dhabi Ports showcases role as trade & logistics hub at UAE-India Economic Forum

Abu Dhabi Ports, the master developer, operator and manager of commercial and community ports within the emirate of Abu Dhabi, as well as Fujairah Terminals and Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD), showcased opportunities available for Indian businesses and investors during the third edition of the UAE-India Economic Forum (UIEF) held in Dubai last week. The forum seeks to discuss and evaluate business opportunities in the UAE and India, with special focus on critical sectors such as infrastructure, tourism, renewable energy and banking.



Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, said: "Abu Dhabi Ports' strategic location in the Gulf makes it an ideal gateway for Indian importers and exporters and business in general to the rapidly growing markets of the Middle East, but also a transshipment hub for onward distribution to Europe and Africa."

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Indian Register of Shipping increasing focus on South-East Asia



Hosts customer meet in Thailand

Indian Register of Shipping (IRClass), a leading classification society, hosted a customer meeting in Bangkok, Thailand as part of its efforts to increase its commitment to the South-East Asia region.

The meet was well-attended by locally-based shipowners and senior representatives from the Thai Administration. At the meeting, IRClass gave a presentation on its recent developments and revealed that it was in the process of setting up an office in Manila, the Philippines. It also shared news on major areas of research activities such as hydrodynamics, ship and offshore structure, and vibration and noise, among others, said a release.

The Managing Director of IRClass, Mr Suresh Sinha, said: "We gained authorization as a Recognised Organization (RO) from Thailand earlier this year, and this meet with the shipowners in Bangkok was vital in further consolidating our presence in Thailand."

Industrial action planned at the Major Ports

The six federations of port and dock workers have given a call for nationwide industrial action at all the Major Ports on or after November 30, 2017 in order to protect the legitimate rights and privileges of the workers. At a meeting held here recently, serious concern was expressed regarding the prevailing "anti-labour and anti-port policies" of the port managements and the Ministry of Shipping, especially the sidelining of the trade unions and national federations while taking decisions pertaining to labour issues, informed a release.



They expressed concern on the decision taken by the government to replace the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 with the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016 without considering the many suggestions made by the federations individually and jointly against the various clauses of the proposed enactment, which they say are detrimental to the interests of the workers and also affect the very survival of the Major Ports. The non-compliance of Statutory Settlements by the port managements and the Ministry was also raised.

Call to expedite GST refunds to exporters



While reacting to the trade data for October 2017, which has shown decline in exports for major manufacturing and labour-oriented sectors including textiles, garments, handicrafts, leather products, gems and jewellery, etc., Dr A. Sakthivel, Regional Chairman, FIEO (SR), said that exporters could not take advantage of the positive trends in global trade due to the serious cash crunch resulting from the difficulties faced by exporters in getting GST refund for tax paid on exports during July and August 2017.

He pointed out that irrespective of the best efforts of the Department to disburse refund claims, due to system issues, including the need for matching various heads of different returns, a majority of the claims could not be settled.

He, therefore, requested the CBEC to come forward to issue GST refunds based on details of IGST paid on exports immediately. Post-verification, if necessary, can be done at a later stage

Humor



"I'll be conducting the final phase of your job interview. I've heard a lot of good things about you!"

Sight Gags by Scott Lee, O.D.



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