



ASSOCIATION OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS OF INDIA

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AMTOI takes the lead in simplifying GST for the trade



With the Union government planning to give exemptions and concessions to various sections of the shipping industry, it was felt that the Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI) should take the lead in educating the members of the trade. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was ceremoniously introduced on the stroke of midnight on July 1, 2017 and was no doubt a historic step. Since its implementation, though, across the country, the situation for businesses has been pretty much chaotic, exacerbated by the lack of clarity on a number of taxation issues on one hand, and a limited

understanding of the new regime that was introduced, on the other hand. The logistics industry was among the most affected. AMTOI, being the apex body for the industry, was inundated with queries on GST. To its credit, most doubts were dealt with quickly and efficiently by AMTOI. However, with the persistent and wide-ranging nature of queries, AMTOI decided to engage the services of subject matter experts to tackle the questions posed. Accordingly, renowned legal and tax consultant Mr K. Vaitheeswaran, from Chennai, was brought to provide a series of talks and host interactive sessions for the members of AMTOI. Mr Vaitheeswaran was engaged to conduct such sessions for the benefit of the trade even prior to the implementation of the new tax regime, so that the industry could be well prepared.

All the seminars and the interactive sessions were well received by the industry. According to Mr O. P. Gupta, Promoter and Managing Director, GRT Global Logistics, the sessions were informative with many new perspectives being developed. While he had some specific suggestions for the topics to be covered in future sessions, Mr Gupta said, "The sessions were positively beneficial, relevant, practical and gave us additional help in our preparedness for GST."

Cabinet approves agreement between India & Philippines on cooperation & mutual assistance in Customs matters

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the signing and ratifying of an agreement between India and the Philippines on cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs matters.

The agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences. The agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries. The agreement will enter into force after the necessary national legal requirements have been fulfilled by both the countries,



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COSCO SHIPPING Ports partners PSA Singapore to launch a new berth in COSCO-PSA Terminal



COSCO SHIPPING Ports Ltd and PSA Corporation Ltd have signed a memorandum of understanding to mark the launch of a new berth at COSCO-PSA Terminal (CPT) in Singapore. Established in 2003, CPT has served as a hub for container shipping in the South-East Asia region.

The launch of the third berth follows the CSP supplemental agreement signed with PSA on March 18, 2016, which replaced the original two berths in CPT located at PasirPanjang Terminal 1 with three new and larger berths at PasirPanjang Terminal 5. These agreements are timely as the importance of Singapore as a pivotal regional maritime hub grows in tandem with the advent of mega vessels and new alliances in the shipping industry. The first two berths had earlier commenced operations on January 1, 2017, with an annual handling capacity of 2,000,000 TEUs.

OCEAN Alliance, of which COSCO Shipping Corporation is a major member, commenced operations on April 1, 2017. With the strategic reshuffle of shipping routes by OCEAN Alliance, throughput will continue to grow at Singapore's Port.

Paradip Port creates all-time record in vessel movement

Paradip Port successfully completed the movement of 24 vessels within 24 hours on December 3, 2017. Nine vessels were handled in the first shift, 7 in the second shift and 8 in the third shift by the Marine Department of Paradip Port Trust (PPT). A total of 2,37,341 tonnes of cargo was handled on the day, highlighted a release.

Commenting on the commendable performance, Mr A. K. Mohapatra, Deputy Conservator (I/c) and Harbour Master, PPT, said, "This has been possible due to agile marine pilots of PPT, concerned stevedores and the cooperation extended by the Traffic Department. The previous record stood at 19 vessels handled by PPT in a single day." He also thanked Mr Rinkesh Roy, Chairman, PPT, for his exemplary guidance.

Paradip Port is now gearing up to regularly handle Capesize vessels inside the harbour in order to enhance its cargo throughput as it is vying for the coveted top position in the country with a slew of infrastructure augmentation and modernisation initiatives,



VOC Port contributes to rehabilitation in storm-hit Nagercoil

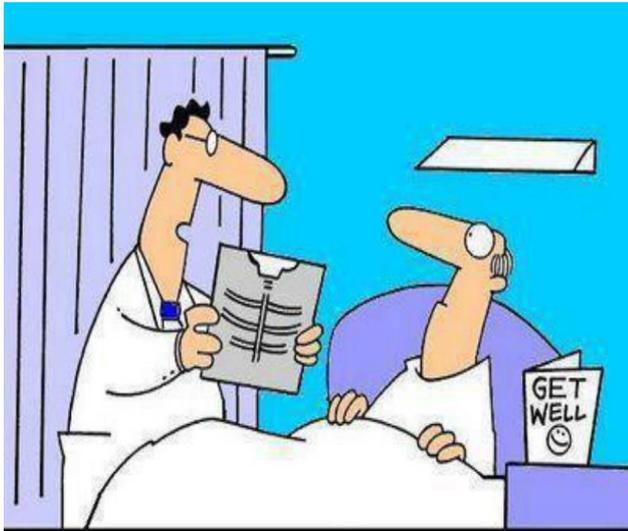
V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust has been extending a helping hand to the needy through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives by spending Rs 3 crore every year. It has now come to the aid of those affected by the storm that hit Kanyakumari District, by providing 10 mobile cranes of Port users, at the request of the District authorities, for rendering rehabilitation services in the Nagercoil area.

The first lot of 7 cranes was despatched on December 4, 2017 in the presence of the DRO, Tuticorin. The Port has made arrangements for sending a total of 10 cranes mobilised from users.

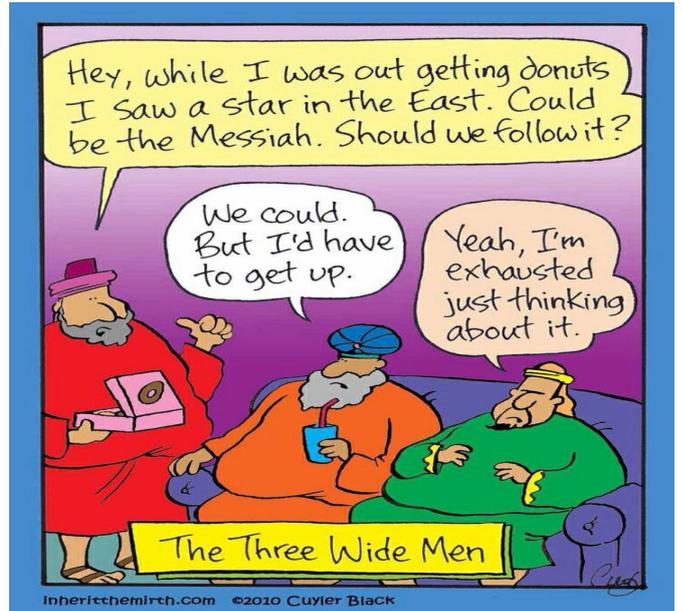
In a statement, the Port Chairman emphasised that VOCPT is committed to extend a helping hand to the public in times of emergencies. The Deputy Chairman, Traffic Manager, Deputy Conservator, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Mr Karthikeya Prabhu, Joint Managing Director, Diamond Shipping Agencies and other Port users were present while flagging off the cranes from Tuticorin to Kanyakumari,



Humor



"Your x-ray showed a broken rib, but we fixed it with Photoshop."



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