

## e-CARGO NEVSLETTER

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#### **AIR UPDATE**

- The air cargo market is becoming more volatile as hopes fade for the return of belly holds.
- Hopes for a recovery in belly hold airfreight capacity to relieve the tight lift situation are fading as passenger traffic suffers setbacks from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The airfreight market on all export trade lanes in Asia remains strong. Rates are at their peak and are expected to maintain these levels for at least the first 3 weeks of April.
- Space is tight as ocean-to-air conversions start to materialize due to impact of Ever Given crisis.
- Suez Canal backlog pushes freight to air

#### **OCEAN UPDATE**



- The Suez Canal incident leads to cut capacity and increased rates.
- Space and equipment expected to remain tight in April especially to USEC. Port congestion to continue at LAX/ LGB.
- ➤ The GRI's for 2nd half will be determined based on the equipment and demand
- ➤ Equipment situation varies from carrier to carrier.

  We see a few carriers reporting tight/lack of 40'hc
- Middle east demand is expected to pick up from April due to expectation of Ramadan seasonal peak
- Carriers are facing challenges to increase inventory supply in the short term even more with the vessel delays which are making it difficult to supply equipment regularly to core Asia demand locations.
- Accurate forecast and 3-4 weeks advance booking remain a necessity in the current market.
- Carriers continue to apply or even increase surcharges, i.e. Peak Season and Equipment Imbalance. Bunker prices are increasing. High GRI implemented for April 2021. Carrier prioritize high paying cargo. Blank sailings to continue resulting in reduced available capacity. All services fully booked until end of April, partly mid of May. Several Carriers reporting high rolling pool.
- April space no longer open, with carriers currently confirming ETDs on average for mid-May. Possible rate increase as from May, plus possible increases on PSS/EBS surcharges.
- While facing congestion at transshipment hubs. All carriers facing different pain points affecting their appetite for new business. Rate levels are on the rise. Rate increases have been successful on the FAK market during March, and more announced for April.

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Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified a new system for filing Bills of Entry (BE) for import. Tax officials feel the new system will help in a quicker clearance of goods.

Detailed provisions were made in the Finance Bill 2021. After approval by the Parliament and assented by the President, this has become an Act. Now, after consultation with trades, CBIC has notified new regulations, which prescribes different time limit for filing Bes.

BE is a legal document filed by importers or customs clearance agents on or before the arrival of imported goods. It is submitted to the Customs authority for clearance procedure.

According to the new regulations, if a consignment comes from Bangladesh, the Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan or Sri Lanka via the sea route, the BE is required to be filed latest by the end of the day of arrival. For all other countries, importers will be required to file by the end of day preceding the day of arrival at the sea port. In case a consignment arrives at an airport or a land customs station (LCS), the BE will be required to be submitted by the end of the day of the arrival.

The CBIC has clarified that the existing provision that a BE may be presented up to 30 days prior to the expected arrival of the aircraft or vessel or vehicle carrying the imported goods continues. Thus, with certain exceptions, as notified, the BE can now be filed any time from 30 days prior to the expected arrival up to the end of the day preceding the day of such arrival, the board said. "Advance-filing will help in better risk management, besides ascertaining whether goods need to be scanned. Also, the importer can pay the duty in advance," said a senior CBIC official. The board has also urged importers to file the BE well in advance and definitely by the time-lines. Non-adherence of the time-lines will attract late charges, the board said.

The board has also clarified that a time-line will be considered where the good has originally been loaded and from where it has been transhipped. For example, in respect of goods consigned from Sri Lanka by a Sri Lankan exporter, the BE is to be filed latest by the end of the day of the arrival, whereas in respect of goods consigned from Hong Kong, but merely transhipped through Sri Lanka, the BE is required to be filed latest by the end of day preceding the day of the arrival of the vessel.

The board has noted concerns from importers regarding non-availability of Master Bill of Landing( MBL)/Master Airway Bill (MAWB) within the prescribed time-limits leading to delay in filing advance BE. Accordingly, it has been decided to do away with this requirement. Here, only the reference to House Bill of Lading (HBL)/House Airway Bill (HAWB) would be sufficient at the time of advance filing.



## BLR Airport commences operations at upgraded North runway

Having received approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the refurbished and upgraded North runway at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/ BLR Airport) has commenced operation and became the first airport in south India to have operational parallel runways.

Closed for operations since June 2020, the North runway refurbishment included strengthening of the surface with fresh layers of asphalt and the addition of two new taxiways to enable efficient runway operations. The Runway will continue to be categorised as CAT I but has been enhanced with new installations such as LED Runway centreline lighting, Inset Runway Edge Lights and Taxiway centreline Lighting and two new mid-point transmissometers. All these installations will be commissioned later this year. The two operational runways at BLR Airport will provide the necessary impetus to cater to this demand and boost the growth of Karnataka and India.

## BLR Airport unveils India's first dedicated express cargo terminal

Bangalore International Airport (BIAL), operator of Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/ BLR Airport) today (March 12) unveiled India's first dedicated express cargo terminal at its premises.

The 200,000 sq ft dedicated facility will house global courier players such as DHL Express, UPS, FedEx and Express Industry Council of India (EICI). What makes the terminal different are the facts that it was entirely designed (including the floor plan) by the courier players themselves (built-to-suit) and has separate customs clearance thus decreasing the business cost and transit time. With an annual capacity to handle 150,000 metric tonnes (MT), the facility will take the Airport's overall annual cargo capacity to 720,000 MT, from the existing 570,000 MT.

The facility came from the understanding that

the growing online shopping or e-commerce market is expected to contribute to the growth of the international express/courier market as well. According to Indian Brand Equity Foundation, the Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow to \$200 billion by 2026 from \$38.5 billion as of 2017. This trend has been accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic as well. As per the report produced by Unicommerce, in the fourth quarter of 2020 India's e-commerce order volume grew by 36 percent and gross merchandise value increased by 30 percent YoY.

Meanwhile, BIAL expects e-retail shares of both Indian domestic air cargo and the airport to rise up to 50 percent. Bengaluru is also situated at the logistics centre to many mushrooming manufacturing centres in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities like Belagavi, Hubballi, Hosur, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Coimbatore and Salem



#### SNIPPETS



#### Emirates SkyCargo marks one year of passenger freighter operations

Emirates flight EK 2503 Boeing 777-300ER passenger aircraft took off from Dubai to Kuwait with 34 tonnes of belly-hold cargo that was urgently required in Kuwait. Thus today it is marking the completion of one year of using passenger flights for freighter operations.

# SriLankan Airlines aims at cargo with first freighter

SriLankan Airlines is planning to add its first freighter aircraft to capitalise on growing international trade from the country.

The airline said that it will take delivery of its of its first freighter aircraft by the winter 2021/2022.

#### Raya Airways adds Boeing 767-200F to cargo aircraft fleet

Malaysia-based RAYA Airways has added a Boeing 767-200F aircraft to its fleet in its commitment to becoming a key enabler in the supply chain ecosystem.

Mr Mohamad Najib Ishak Managing Director of Raya Airways said that new capacity reflects Raya Airways' unique position in transporting goods at high speed reliably and securely.

# Qatar Airways connects to 43 Asia-Pacific destinations this summer

By the peak of the IATA Summer Season, Qatar Airways plans to operate



over 1,200 weekly flights to more than 140 destinations. The carrier plans to rebuild its network including 43 in Asia-Pacific, 23 in Africa, 14 in the Americas, 43 in Europe and 19 in Middle East. Many cities will be served with a strong schedule with daily or more frequencies.

In Asia-Pacific, the destinations include Adelaide, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Auckland, Bali, Bangalore, Bangkok, Brisbane, Calicut, Cebu, Chennai, Clark, Colombo, Dhaka, Goa, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hong Kong, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Jakarta, Karachi, Kathmandu, Kochi, Kolkata, Kuala Lumpur, Lahore, Male, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New Delhi, Perth, Peshawar, Phuket, Seoul, Singapore, Sialkot, Sydney, Tokyo Narita, and Trivandrum.

# Dronamics launches the first drone-based cargo airline

Dronamics has launched a cargo drone airline that will manage airfreight operations for sameday delivery services



using The Black Swan, its proprietary unmanned drone.

The Black Swan can transport 350 kg of cargo in over 2,500 km for a cost that's 50% and up lower than other airplanes. It flies autonomously, can be monitored and managed remotely via satellite, and the whole system costs less than a sports car. Dronamics said the new Dronamics Airlines service will have subsidiaries in Ireland, Australia and Canada, which are countries viewed to be leaders in drone regulations.



#### JNPT HANDLES HIGHEST-EVER MONTHLY CONTAINER VOLUME IN MARCH 2021

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) handled total traffic of 7.33 million tonnes during the month of March 2021 as against 5.93 million tonnes in March 2020, which is 23.53 percent higher.

The total container traffic handled in March 2021 stood at 527,792 TEUs, which is the highest container volume handled in a month, since inception.

JNPT registered a throughput of over 4.7 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in container handling as against 5.03 million TEUs during FY 2020. The total traffic handled at JNPT during the financial year 2020-21 is 64.81 million tonnes as against 68.45 million tonnes in FY 2019-20.

JNPT has five container terminals, taking an overview of the numbers terminal wise, APM Terminals Mumbai (GTI) handled 1.66 million TEUs, DP World NSIGT with 0.78 million TEUs, DP World NSICT with 0.75 million TEUs and the Port owned JNPCT with 0.54 million TEUs. The Newly developed BMCT handled around 0.93 million TEUs during FY 2021. NSICT and BMCTPL have recorded 41.33 percent and 15.36 percent growth in FY 2020-21 in comparison with FY 2019-20 respectively.

JNPT BPCL Liquid Cargo Terminal handled the highest LPG during FY 2020-21 of 1.04 million tonnes from 70 vessels which are 22.35 percent higher as compared previous highest of 0.85 million tonnes from 57 vessels in FY 2019-20. JNPT also handled 6,097 rakes during FY 2020-21 and the rail-coefficient in FY 2020-21 (April to March) is 19.73 percent as compared to 16.14 percent in FY 2019-20 with 5,127 rakes.

The central Government is moving towards port privatisation with plans for seven public-private partnership (PPP) port projects during 2021-22.

Presenting the first ever digital Union Budget for 2021-22, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman announced the investment, worth around Rs2000 crore.

She also proposed a subsidy support scheme of Rs 1624 crore in global tenders floated by Ministries and CPSEs over five years to Indian shipping companies.

A proposal was also made to double the recycling capacity of around 4.5m Light Displacement Tonne (LDT) by 2024.

There are currently 12 major ports that are controlled by the central Indian Government.

In February 2020, the Major Ports Authority Bill was approved. The Bill aims to improve the efficiency of India's 12 major ports by enabling decisionmaking autonomy

PPP PLANS FOR INDIA'S PORTS

#### SHIPPING News



## Hapag-Lloyd to expand Asia/East Africa connections



In late April a new weekly service using seven ships with the capacity to load 2,800 TEU will be launched between Asia and East Africa.

The new EAS 3 service will offer direct calls at Shanghai, Ningbo, Nansha, Singapore, Port Klang, Mombasa, Dar es Salaam, Port Klang, Singapore and return to Shanghai. It is understood that Hapag-Lloyd will use Port Klang, Singapore and Shanghai as relay centres for the new service so that cargo moving to/from East Africa can seamlessly be connected with Hapag-Lloyd's global liner network.

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## Maersk adds new Asia / US East Coast string

"The rotation is intended to be Vung Tau, Vietnam / Yantian, South China / Panama Canal/Savannah / Charleston / Newark, while due to congestion in Savannah, the rotation will initially and until further notice swap the U.S. calls to go Charleston / Savannah / Newark.

"The service will improve speed, reliability and coverage and integrate into US East Coast landside logistics offerings. Transit times are improved from Yantian to Savannah by 3-4 days (28-29 days) and Yantian to Charleston by 7-8 days (28-29 days) over existing services. The Vietnam call has been added to provide more capacity to the rapidly growing market that has seen gains of 52% and 25% the past two years," Maersk stated.





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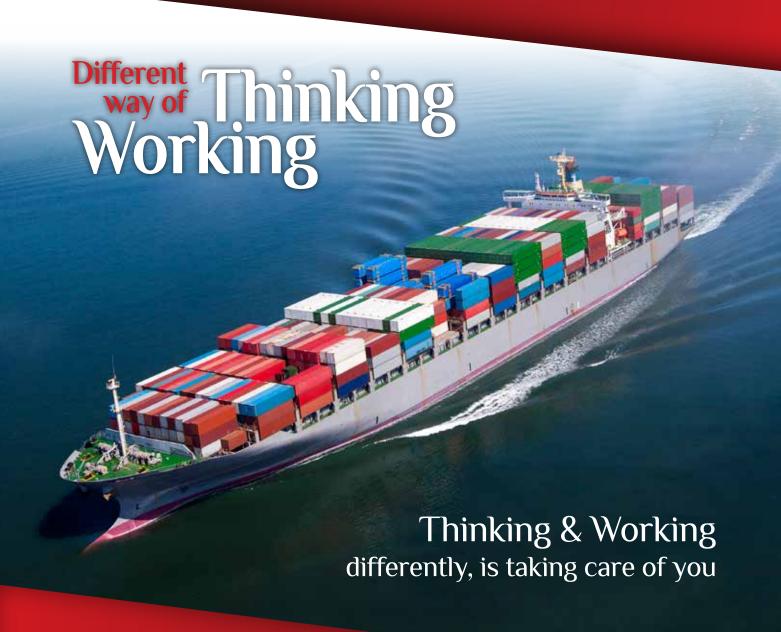
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