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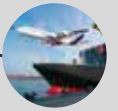
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# FREIGHT MARKET UPDATE

Ex INDIA



## AIR UPDATE

- Rates are experiencing an increase due to the capacity constraints, coupled with lasting situation on the ocean freight side.
- The high cost and uncertainty in ocean freight is driving more importers to air cargo, squeezing capacity and driving up prices.
- Demand for vaccines have presented a high-yield business opportunity to the industry and also added further volumes

## OCEAN UPDATE

- The lack of empty equipment remains a major issue Freight rates are still on a historical high level
- Carriers continue to apply Peak Season and/or Equipment Imbalance Surcharges, pushing on GRI in addition
- Recommend advance booking notice at least 3 weeks before cargo ready date.



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# AIR CARGO A SILVER LINING, COULD PLAY VITAL ROLE IN RECOVERY: AAPA



**P**reliminary traffic results for full calendar year 2020 released on Friday by the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) underscored collapse of international airline operations as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.

The 69 million passengers carried by Asia Pacific airlines in 2020 represented only 18 per cent of volumes recorded in 2019, an extent of decline in 12 months not seen in the region's history of commercial aviation.

Offered seat capacity was similarly just 19 per cent of the levels recorded in 2019 while international passenger load factor averaged a lowly 61 per cent.

Asia Pacific airlines account for over a third of global air cargo traffic with strong networks and logistics expertise built up over the years.

During global pandemic, the region's carriers played a vital role in transporting medical supplies including vaccines, personal

protective equipment and other essential goods even though capacity was severely restricted as a result of wide-scale grounding of passenger aircraft.

As global economic activity rebounded in latter half of the year, increase in export orders grew with rising demand for speedy delivery of merchandise by air.

In December 2020, air cargo demand improved further in freight tonne kilometres, recording a single-digit year-on-year decline of 6.4 per cent. For the calendar year, international air cargo demand fell by 15.5 per cent while offered freight capacity plunged by 24.4 per cent.

The average international freight load factor rose significantly by 7 percentage points to 66.4 per cent in 2020 with cargo yields offering a welcome boost to operating revenue, although airlines



continued to face an existential crisis with commercial passenger operations remaining at a standstill.

“The dismal numbers underline the severity of the impact of the pandemic on the airline industry,” said AAPA Director General Subhas Menon.

“The discovery of several effective vaccines towards the end of 2020 provided hope that recovery was on the horizon as large scale vaccinations of people will give governments the confidence to allow travellers from abroad without restrictions,” he said in a statement.

Menon said it will take time for the roll-out of vaccinations across the world as well as

for pandemic to recede globally. Looking ahead, many industry challenges remain as restrictions on cross border travel will continue to affect air travel demand in 2021.

“We encourage governments to step up coordination efforts on cross border risk mitigation measures and health protocols,” he said.

“The implementation of harmonised protocols incorporating the ICAO CART take-off guidance is imperative for the safe resumption of travel. Asia Pacific aviation is ready and willing to play its part in the successful re-start and recovery in the region.”

## Cathay Pacific unveils advanced fire containment bag for lithium-ion batteries in India

Cathay Pacific Cargo recently launched the Skid Fire Containment Bag (SFCB) in India to ensure safe and convenient transportation of lithium-ion batteries with an unlimited loadable weight capacity.

The cargo solution is developed to fulfil the growing global demand for lithium-ion battery shipments. Skid Fire Containment Bag (SFCB) is an advanced and enhanced version of the earlier introduced ‘Fire Containment Bag’ (FCB) which had a limited loadable weight capacity of up to 50 kg for lithium-ion batteries.

Currently, Skid FCB service has been rolled out to three ports of Cathay Pacific in India – Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai, and is also available in other ports across the network, namely – Hong Kong, Shanghai, Xiamen, Chongqing, Chengdu, Kansai, London, Taipei, Penang, Dhaka and will be progressively rolled out across Cathay Pacific and Air Hong Kong network in months to come.

One of the key advantages of Skid FCB is that it is over five times larger and can exclusively be

used for skid size shipments like larger-sized batteries used in e-vehicles. The Skid FCB is designed to transport hazardous cargo and is constructed of innovative fire-retardant material that can contain the fire within the bag, in case of the battery combusting. The bag limits the supply of oxygen, while letting the smoke escape triggering the smoke detectors on board, thus also safeguarding other shipments on board.





## BLR Airport enhances cold chain offering with new Envirotainer station

The temperature-controlled supply chain facility for international cargo at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (KIAB/ BLR Airport) received a fillip with the introduction of Envirotainer, a world leader in active cold-chain solutions for air cargo.

BLR Airport is now the fourth Airport in the country and second in south India to partner with Envirotainer. This enables pharmaceutical companies and their logistics partners to move temperature-sensitive cargo across the world while maintaining the integrity and quality of products throughout the journey.

This essentially means that temperature is maintained throughout to create an unbroken

cold chain from manufacturing to the point of consumption. Backed by two dedicated cold zones, operated by Air India SATS Airport Services (AI-SATS) and Menzies Aviation Bobba Bangalore (MABB), the new cold-chain solution will boost the movement of pharmaceutical products from major manufacturing clusters such as Hyderabad, Goa, Vishakhapatnam and other places in South India.

Pharmaceutical products account for 13 percent of the total international cargo throughput from BLR Airport each year, with USA, UK, Australia, Canada, France, Vietnam, Philippines, Germany, Nigeria, Algeria, Uganda and Russia being the top destinations.

## Emirates SkyCargo transports Brazilian satellite to Chennai

Emirates SkyCargo has executed a cargo charter to transport the Brazilian satellite Amazonia-1 from Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil to Chennai, India.



The satellite took eight years to be developed and once launched into space, will help monitor the ecosystem of the Amazon rainforest, the world's largest tropical rainforest. The satellite is due to be sent to space in February 2021 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on the East coast of India.

This is the first time that Emirates SkyCargo has transported a space satellite from South America.

The air cargo carrier had to apply for special permission to operate a Boeing 777 freighter from Sao Jose dos Campos airport to uplift the satellite. Emirates SkyCargo together with the INPE, the airport and local partners conducted two comprehensive simulation sessions ahead of the transport date to be able to transport the sensitive cargo safely from the airport.

## India starts moving Covid vaccines from Pune

India started moving the first temperature-controlled consignments of Covishield vaccines manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) from Pune to different parts of the country.

On January 3, 2021, Drugs Controller General of India VG Somani had formally approved the emergency-use of two Covid-19 vaccines, including Covishield which has been developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

SpiceJet has carried India's first consignment of Covid vaccine today. The first consignment of Covishield consisting of 34 boxes and weighing 1088 kg was carried from Pune to Delhi on SpiceJet flight 8937



## Qatar Airways resumes flights to Riyadh

Qatar Airways resumed flights to Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with a daily service on January 11. QR1164 from Hamad International



Airport to King Khalid International Airport took off in Doha at 13:45 local time and landed safely at its destination at 15:10 PM. The flight was operated by Qatar Airways' Airbus A350-1000.

Later this week, Qatar Airways will resume flights to Jeddah on January 15 (QR1188 departing DOH at 18:50) and to Dammam on Saturday January 16 (QR 1150 departing Doha at 17:10).

The national carrier of the State of Qatar continues to rebuild its network, which currently stands at over 110 destinations with plans to increase to over 125 by the end of March 2021. A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named 'World's Best Airline' by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by Skytrax. It is the only airline to have been awarded the coveted Skytrax Airline of the Year title, which is recognised as the pinnacle of excellence in the airline industry, five times.

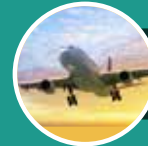
## AIR BELGIUM TO EXPAND FLEET WITH FOUR NEW CARGO AIRCRAFT

Several months ago, Air Belgium airlines had announced the desire to diversify into cargo. The company on January 29 has said that it will soon introduce four cargo aircraft with an ambition of six units by the end of 2021.

The first two aircraft should be operational by March 2021 and the first aircraft will be based at Liege Airport. At the same time, the airline will of course continue its passenger flights to the French West Indies.



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## AIR CARGO FACILITY IN COIMBATORE GOES DIGITAL



AAI Cargo Logistics and Allied Services, a 100% subsidiary of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), has implemented an Integrated Cargo Management System (ICMS 1.1 version) at the air cargo facility in Coimbatore. The aim is to modernise and computerise operations of its cargo business solutions, and go paperless.

With the introduction of the ICMS 1.1, launched from February 1, import, export and bonded trucking transactions are processed online. The new system encompasses various activities and solutions, such as e-freight compliance and a web-based feedback system and includes a mobile application.

## FLYDUBAI CARGO GETS REGULATORY NOD TO TRANSPORT DANGEROUS GOODS

Dubai-based airline flydubai can now transport dangerous goods in addition to general cargo, courier, live animals, postal mail, perishables, priority cargo and valuable cargo following the approval from the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA).

Mohamed Hassan, vice president of cargo at flydubai, said, "The role that air cargo plays in the supply chain industry has been especially highlighted during the pandemic to ensure vital goods continue to be transported to where they are needed the most. We continue to invest in the latest

technologies and look at opportunities to grow flydubai's capabilities and reach. This certification will allow us to continue to work closely with our strategic partners to deliver a wider range of products to our customers while following the highest safety standards set by the regulators and the aircraft manufacturer. The team at flydubai has undergone an intensive training programme to achieve this new milestone and we will continue to enhance our product offering in line with the latest global standards and best practices."

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**PSA MUMBAI ENHANCES EUROPE CONNECTIVITY WITH NEW EPIC/EPI3/IPI SERVICE**



The berthing of CMA CGM’s “APL New York” on January 20, 2021 marked the launch of PSA Mumbai’s 2nd direct Europe service and its 8th weekly service call.

The 9,336 TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) capacity vessel is one of the 4 deployed by CMA CGM on this service. Partners COSCO Shipping Lines and OOCL also respectively contribute 2 vessels and 1 vessel each.

The new EPIC / EPI3/IPI service connects PSA Mumbai to key Europe markets with the following port rotation: PSA Mumbai – Mundra – Jeddah – Tangier – Southampton – Bremerhaven – Rotterdam – Antwerp – LeHavre – Algeciras - Jeddah – Jebel Ali – Abu Dhabi – Qasim – PSA Mumbai.

**JNPT HANDLES 459,920 TEUS IN DEC 2020, HIGHEST IN 20 MONTHS**

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), handled 459,920 TEUs in the month of December 2020, which is the highest container volume handled in a month, ever recorded in the last 20 months.

The container traffic increased by 9.90 percent over the same month of last year and the overall traffic grew by 10.04 percent to 6.37 million tonnes from 5.79 million tonnes handled in December 2019.

Also in rail operations, the port handled a record 556 rakes in December 2020. The average monthly terminal handling time of trains improved to 4:42 hours in December from 6:18 hours in September. The average monthly turn-around time of trains (from placement to removal of trains) also reduced to 9:35 hours in December from 13:34 hours in September.

In the calendar year 2020, the total container traffic handled by the port is 4.47 million TEUs, with APM Terminals Mumbai (GTI) handling 1.69 million TEUs, DP World NSIGT - 0.77 million TEUs, DP World NSICT - 0.64 million TEUs, JNPCT - 0.56 million TEUs and BMCT handled 0.81 million TEUs. Overall traffic handled in the CY 2020 was 62.32 million tonnes including Liquid and other cargo



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## **DP World Chennai adds direct connectivity to China, South East Asia**

DP World operated Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) has added a new China–East India Service: CI5 service, enhancing its connectivity to South East Asia and China.

The service is operated by a consortium of five vessel operators – Wan Hai Lines, Interasia Lines, KMTC, Goldstar Lines and BTL.

The new CI5 service is the first-ever service from Chennai that will provide a direct connection to Pasir Gudang, Malaysia and Kaohsiung, Taiwan and will also offer direct connectivity to key ports of China in Shekou and Qingdao on the eastbound leg.



The service started with the maiden call of vessel MV Interasia Heritage on January 5, 2021. The vessel arrived from Port Kelang and carried total exchange of 4690 TEUs of which 2685 TEUs were import and 2005 TEUs export.

### **RIGHT LOGISTICS**

*Wishing you a very*



**FRENIL YOGESH TAMBE**

8th February

### **MSC ENHANCES CONNECTION BETWEEN INDIA, WEST AFRICA**

To enhance its services to customers shipping goods between India and Africa, MSC announced a new direct service from India to West Africa, the MSC India Africa Service (IAS), effective from week 3, 2021.

The MSC IAS will provide a direct, fast and reliable service to our clients further demonstrating our commitment to the Indian trade, connecting Northwest and South India to West Africa, with a call at Colombo in Sri Lanka.

On the way back, this new service will also connect South Africa directly with the Middle East, Pakistan and India.

The rotation of India Africa Service will be as follows with the first sailing MP The Law, ETD Mundra on January 24, 2021: Mundra – Nhava Sheva – Colombo – Port Louis – Tema – Lome – Cotonou – Cape town – Durban – Jebel Ali – Abu Dhabi – Port Qasim – Mundra.

For feedback / enquiries, please contact :



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