

Jayyant Lapsiaa conferred with WCO Certificate of Merit

Exim News Service

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MR Jayyant Lapsiaa, President, All India Liquid Bulk Importers and Exporters Association (AILBIEA), was conferred with the World Customs Organization (WCO) Certificate of Merit on the occasion of International Customs Day at a function held in New Delhi on January 27, 2017. Mr Lapsiaa accepted the certificate from the Minister of State, Mr Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

Also present on the occasion were Mr Najib Shah, Chairman of CBEC, Dr Hasmukh Adhia, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Ms Ananya Ray, Member (Customs), CBEC.

Mr Lapsiaa was the sole representative from the trade to be conferred with this prestigious certificate, emphasised a release.



Mr Jayyant Lapsiaa (third from left) accepting the honour from Mr Santosh Kumar Gangwar, in the presence of Mr Najib Shah (extreme left) and Dr Hasmukh Adhia and Ms Ananya Ray (fourth and fifth from left)

Mumbai Port registers all-round performance in 2016

From page 3

in almost all the segments it is present in. Phenomenal increase was seen in the area of automobile handling, with 2.06 lakh vehicles passing through its shores as against 1.49 lakh in 2015, registering a whopping growth of 38 per cent. Besides, record loading of 6,312 vehicles on a single ship was achieved on August 6, 2016, surpassing the earlier figure

NileDutch looking to enhance services in India

From page 3

growing economies in the world. India is also one of the largest trading partners of West Africa. "With the investment in ports and logistics infrastructure throughout India, we expect volume to grow exponentially. Hence, the need to have a partner with extensive commercial and operational network to serve our customers better," he said.

In conclusion, Mr Choo Beng said that 2017 will continue to be a challenging year due to supply and demand imbalance in the shipping industry, but he is optimistic about

of 5,376 vehicles. This was made possible due to the proactive measures of the Port and the continued patronage by the extremely quality conscious OEMs in the segment, like Volkswagen, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, General Motors, Ashok Leyland, Eicher Motors, etc. Here, the "Make in India" campaign was well and truly supported by MbPT as over 95 per cent of the vehicles handled were export units manufactured in India, the release stressed.

Mumbai Port opened up new facilities for handling foodgrains, especially pulses and wheat, to enable increased imports in a cost-effective manner, at 1.17 million tonnes, a growth of 32 per cent. Crude oil handling increased by 15 per cent and the coastal

movement of crude oil increased by almost 35 per cent, supporting the government of India's initiative to increase coastal traffic. Besides, transshipment cargo evacuated by inland waterways increased by 27 per cent.

The vital parameters of the Port's efficiency—Turn Round Time (TRT) and Pre-Berthing Detention (PBD)—also improved, with TRT reducing to 3.55 days from 4.69 days, an improvement of over 25 per cent, while pre-berthing detention fell to 19.37 hours from 40.08 hours, improving by over 50 per cent.

Mumbai Port, being the gateway port for international cruises in India, was successful in getting an international cruise liner homeported for the first time in the country, the *Costa Neo Classica*.

Besides, *Genting Dream*, the largest ever such ship, visited India on its maiden voyage with almost 1,900 passengers boarding from Mumbai Port for the first time. Mumbai Port, being a multipurpose cargo port, is now also focused on multiple tourism segments. It aims at becoming a multi-tourism port with facilities like marina, RoPax terminal, floating restaurant, ropeway to Elephanta, etc., to come up in the near future.

Mr Sanjay Bhatia, IAS, Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust, thanked all stakeholders in the Port for their support and cooperation and assured that Mumbai Port will endeavour to improve its performance and implement projects for the betterment of all, the release emphasised.

Fleet growth seen keeping LNG shipping rates under pressure

Exim News Service

LONDON, Jan. 31

2017 will be a tough year for LNG shipowners as rates are expected to remain under pressure, according to the latest edition of the *LNG Forecaster* report published by global shipping consultancy **Drewry**.

This year has started on a positive note

about the LNG shipping market, believing that the momentum in rates will continue. However, Drewry has reiterated its outlook that the fundamentals of the LNG shipping market are not strong enough to sustain this recovery for long. Soon rates will come under pressure as seasonal demand wanes from April onwards, it said in a release.