

LIVRO GLOBAL SHIPPING **NEWS**

1. Indian port strike averted

The threat of a nationwide strike by Indian port workers, scheduled for 17 December, has been averted following successful negotiations between worker unions and government officials. The strike could have disrupted 12 state-owned ports and involved around 18,000 workers. Union representatives had emphasised that their demands were not new but reflected commitments previously made. According to GAC Hot Port News, the Central government has honored the Bipartite Wage Negotiation Committee (BWNC) agreement between port management and dock worker federations, effectively preventing the strike. It was reported that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways would issue instructions to the Indian Ports Association to implement the revised wage agreement, and a productivity-linked reward scheme agreed upon with the unions.

Source: <https://www.worldcargonews.com/> 12-12-2024

2. RSGT expanding international reach

In an interview with Seatrade Maritime at Saudi Maritime & Logistics Congress, Hamdi Nadhrah, Managing Director/ Deputy CEO at Red Sea Gateway Terminal, speaks about RSGT's investments in the terminal since extending its lease agreement with Mawani in 2019, and the opportunities RSGT is pursuing on the international stage. Nadhrah speaks on the company's environmental progress in Jeddah through new low-emissions equipment, and its achievement of cutting all diesel generators in the port. The Jeddah port operator is seeking growth locally and internationally through new cargo types and a new company focused on overseas opportunities. Find out more in his interview about RSGT's investment in the gateway to Bangladesh, Chittagong, and the expansions earmarked in the coming years. Nadhrah teases RSGT's next move on the international stage as it pursues a new MoU in the North of Africa to bring its expertise to a new market.

Source: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/> 09-12-2024

3. Freightos sees trans-Pacific container rates ease

Freight rates for trans-Pacific Ocean container transport from Asia to the United States fell for the week ending Dec. 6, as time ran out for importers to frontload shipments ahead of potential labor issues at U.S. ports in January. Asia-U.S. West Coast prices fell 20% to \$3,910 per forty-foot equivalent unit, according to the Freightos Baltic Index, and Asia-U.S. East Coast prices fell 16% to \$5,145 per FEU. The weaker trans-Pacific rates contrasted with Asia-North Europe prices, which increased 19% to \$5,324 per FEU, and Asia-Mediterranean prices, up 15% to \$5,895 per FEU as shippers wrestle with longer lead times due to the shutdown of Asia factories for Lunar New Year, which begins Jan. 29. "Rates may already be increasing on pre-Lunar New Year demand as Asia-Europe/Mediterranean shippers need to ensure they move sufficient inventory out of Asia before the holiday slowdown or risk extended waits due to diversions around the Cape of Good Hope for containers that move only after Lunar New Year," said Judah Levine, head of research for Freightos, in analysis accompanying the data. Shipping lines connecting Asia to Europe and the Mediterranean have diverted services away from violent attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, and on longer voyages around the Horn of Africa.

Source: <https://www.freightwaves.com/> 11-12-2024

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4. GenFlat score tyre shipment contract for collapsible containers

GenFlat Holdings is a manufacturer of collapsible containers that require just 25% of the space to be shipped on the backhaul as traditional empty containers. Retailer Discount Tire has struck an agreement with GenFlat to use its containers on a closed loop for tyre exports from Thailand to the US West Coast. The containers will be shipped full of tyres from Thailand and then collapsed for the return voyage with four of the collapsed units taking up the same space as a normal single empty container. Drew Hall, Chief Executive Officer of GenFlat Holdings, “We have always believed that our containers offer transformative benefits for retailers. Seeing Discount Tire embrace this technology underscores the value of our sustainable solutions.” The company says the collapsible containers optimise space, reduce costs, and minimise emissions. Scott Spata, Chief Supply Chain Officer at Discount Tire, “At Discount Tire, we are always looking for innovative ways to reduce our environmental footprint. By integrating GenFlat’s cost-effective and sustainable container solution, we are confident we will achieve unprecedented reductions in carbon emissions and capital investments.”

Source: <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/> 12.12.2024

5. Hapag-Lloyd increases rates from Middle East & Indian Sub to North America

German ocean carrier Hapag-Lloyd has announced that a General Rate Increase (GRI)/General Rate Adjustment (GRA) will be introduced for shipments from the Indian Subcontinent and Middle East to North America. This adjustment will apply to all containers gated in full on or after 15 January 2025 and will remain in effect until further notice. The GRI/GRA of US\$1,000 per 20’ or 40’ unit will apply to dry, reefer, and special containers, including high cube equipment. Hapag-Lloyd noted that the Indian Subcontinent and Middle East region includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan, while the North America region includes the United States and Canada.

Source: <https://container-news.com/> 11-12-2024.

6. Retailers urge talks to avoid US east coast port strikes

Retailers and other leading trade associations are urging US east coast and Gulf Coast box terminal bosses and unions to hold talks to avoid potential strike action in January. A temporary contract between the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and US Maritime Alliance (USMX) agreed in October after three days of strikes is due to expire on January 15, sparking concerns of further industrial action. In the past, industrial action at US ports has resulted in modal shift to air as shippers have looked to avoid port logjams. The US National Retail Federation (NRF) and a coalition of 267 other trade associations wrote to both groups to express their concerns about a potential second strike, which could take place just days before the government transitions to the new Trump administration. “We know significant issues remain between the parties,” the letter said. “However, we continue to believe the only way to resolve these issues and come to an agreement is to actually stay at the negotiating table. “The continuing start and stop of the negotiations leads to further uncertainty in the supply chain, which continues to cause challenges. The three-day strike in October had a significant impact on supply chain stakeholders that rely on the east coast and Gulf Coast ports.

Source: <https://www.aircargonews.net/> 09.12.2024