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H. K. Joshi given additional charge as MD of India Ports Global *Arun Kumar Gupta lays down office after a stellar career*



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Exim News Service
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI,
Sept. 20

MS H. K. Joshi, CMD of The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), has been given additional charge as the Managing Director of India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) for a period of three months with effect from September 20, 2020 or until further orders,

as per an official communiqué from the Ministry of Shipping.

This follows the superannuation of Mr Arun Kumar Gupta on

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Ms H. K. Joshi



Mr Arun Kumar Gupta

International transport & integrated supply chains seen critical in recovering from the pandemic

Exim News Service
GENEVA, Sept. 20

THE early responses to restraining the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted all transport

operations, leading to severe disruptions of supply chains and trade flows worldwide.

In a statement released last week, eight UN organisations

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SCI's service between India & Maldives set to commence today—Page 10

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	HYUNDAI PLATINUM	064E	25/09/2020	26/09/2020	TBA	27/09/2020	28/09/2020
	HYUNDAI PRIVILEGE	074E	02/10/2020	03/10/2020	TBA	04/10/2020	05/10/2020

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SCI's service between India & Maldives set to commence today

Exim News Service

MUMBAI, Sept. 20

THE Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is all set to commence a new direct container and break-bulk cargo shipping service, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Shipping with the support of Ministry of External affairs, between India and Mal-

dives. The maiden direct voyage is scheduled to be flagged off from Tuticorin on **Monday, September 21, 2020**, SCI said in a communiqué to the stock exchanges.

The service, also calling Kochi, will deploy a container-cum-break-bulk vessel that can carry 200 TEUs and 3,000 metric tonnes of break-bulk cargo, with the turnaround time of the

vessel being 10-12 days. There will be two or three services every month, it has been reported.

The ship is expected to carry electrical machinery and equipment, white goods such as televisions and home appliances, pharmaceuticals, medicines, iron and steel, construction material, sand, clothes, fabric and textiles, bathroom fittings and furniture, and perishables, including fruits, vegetables, eggs and foodgrains, it is learnt.

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stress that international transport and integrated supply chains are critical in recovering from the pandemic and achieving sustainable development goals.

“Ensuring that ships keep moving, ports remain open and cross-border trade continues flowing requires further reforms into digitalisation and the dematerialisation of processes. Many of our UNCTAD solutions help to achieve this,” said UNCTAD Secretary-General Mr Mukhisa Kituyi.

“It is important to highlight that these solutions help ensure smoother trade and the protection of transport workers and the population from the virus,” he added.

Dr Kituyi signed the statement alongside the heads of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (UNECLAC), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESWA).

How to maximise contribution of international trade to recovery

The signatories call on all governments to maximise the contribution of international trade and supply chains to a sustainable socio-economic recovery through greater use of international legal instruments and standards, as well as strengthened regional and sectoral cooperation.

United Nations instruments – such as the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), UNECE-administered TIR Convention and its eTIR International System, the CMR Convention – facilitate the use of a safe and efficient trade and intermodal transport system. These instruments allow for moving cargo across

International transport

borders without requiring physical checks and for reducing contact between people.

Single windows enable traders to communicate electronically with all agencies involved. International standards for data exchange, such as those developed by UN/CEFACT also help reduce physical contact and enhance streamlined processes.

The signatories support further digitalisation of trade and Customs procedures, using global United Nations standards, to ensure the fast and secure exchange of data and information concerning cargo and means of transport and contactless clearances.

They encourage all governments to take a risk-based approach to restoring air, inland and maritime connectivity with minimal restrictions, while preventing the spread of Covid-19, protecting the health and safety of drivers, crew and border

agency personnel, as well as strengthening public confidence in trade and transport means.

They call upon governments to embark on the process to review international and regional trade agreements, as deemed necessary, and ensure they contain provisions to fa-

facilitate trade and transport in times of crisis and pandemics.

They urge countries to take appropriate action in facilitating and dematerialising trade and transport value chains.

They also reiterate support to countries to ensure a sustainable socio-economic recovery from the pandemic, said a communiqué.

H. K. Joshi given additional charge

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September 20 after 5 years as MD of IPGL. He is also a former CMD of SCI.

A stalwart of the maritime sector in India, Mr Gupta's over 44 years of service comprised 39 years with SCI and 5 years with IPGL.

In a farewell communiqué to the trade, he deemed these over 4 decades as extremely rewarding and professionally fulfilling, with the stint at IPGL (which is developing the Chabahar port project in Iran) giving him immense satisfaction. He says: “Setting up an organisation from the ground level was indeed an experience. Not to mention the challenges of the strategic project, starting from contract negotiations to commencement of terminal operations at Chabahar. It was a long, slow but steady journey. The project has been really a dream come true for me.”

He also highlights that he learnt the nuances of corporate level management while at the helm at SCI.

Govt highlights measures taken to promote exports in past few months

Exim News Service

NEW DELHI, Sept. 20

SINCE March 2020, during the Covid-19 pandemic, regular meetings were held with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Industry Bodies and Associations to discuss issues and problems faced by the exporters and ways to promote exports during the pandemic. The issues raised by them were taken up with the concerned Ministries/Departments for early redressal.

As per an official communiqué, the government has taken the following key steps to boost exports:

- ★ The validity of Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) extended by one year i.e. up to 31-3-2021 and relaxations granted and timelines extended due to Covid-19.

- ★ Extension of export obligation period in respect of Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) authorisations under Foreign Trade Policy (FTP); extension of Letter of Permissions (LoP)/Letter of Intents (LoI) of Export Oriented Units; various relaxations to SEZ units as a measure to make them functional and to ease compliances and simplification and liberalisation of procedures of trade remedial investigations.

- ★ Interest Equalization Scheme on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit has been extended by one year i.e. up to 31-3-2021.

- ★ Line Ministries have notified various sectoral incentive packages, such as Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and PLI

Scheme by Department of Pharma for Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).

- ★ Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreements' utilisation by exporters.

- ★ A comprehensive “Agriculture Export Policy” is under implementation to provide impetus to agricultural exports related to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries and food processing sectors.

- ★ Promoting and diversifying services exports by pursuing specific action plans for the 12 Champion Services Sectors.

- ★ Promoting districts as export hubs by identifying products with export potential in the district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters/manufacturers to scale and generate employment in the district.

- ★ Strengthening ecosystem for adoption/implementation of mandatory technical standards for goods, services and skilling.

- ★ Energising Indian missions abroad towards promoting our Trade, Tourism, Technology and Investment goals.

- ★ Package announced to support domestic industry, including through various banking and financial sector relief measures, especially for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which constitute a major share in exports.

This information was given by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Piyush Goyal, in a written reply to Parliament last week.