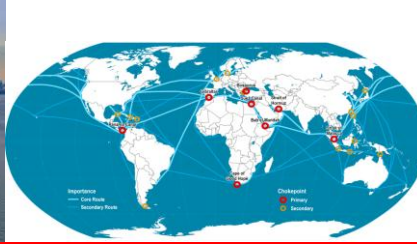


## Indian Maritime News Express

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 21

Mumbai –India

### International Ports & Shipping Review



### Adani Ports won't handle containers from Iran, Pakistan or Afghanistan



*The Adani Ports and Sez will not handle EXIM containerised cargo originating from **Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan** at all its terminals from **15th November**, it said in a statement.*

In a statement on Monday, Adani Ports and Logistics said it will not handle "EXIM [Export-Import] containerised cargo originating from Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan" starting November 15.

This trade advisory will apply to "all terminals" operated by APSEZ [Adani Ports & SEZ], including third-party terminals at any APSEZ port, the statement went on to add.

One of the country's largest commercial port operators, Adani Ports and Logistics has a presence across 13 domestic ports in seven states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

In September, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized containers with nearly 3,000 kg of heroin from the Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch, managed by Adani Ports. Officials had pegged the value of the seizure at an estimated Rs 21,000 crore.

**Imported from Afghanistan's Kandahar, the containers were addressed to a trading firm based in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and arrived at Mundra from Iran's Bandar Abbas Port.**



**APSEZ [Adani Ports & SEZ],-Mundra File photo**

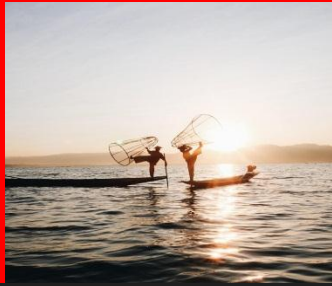
The move came about a month after the massive drug haul from the Adani Group-run Mundra port in Gujarat's Kutch district. On the night of September 14-15, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized nearly 3,000kg of Afghan heroin mixed with talcum powder worth ₹21,000 crore from the port, feeding a drug network extending all over India, including New Delhi and Noida. Officials said the consignment had originated from Afghanistan and arrived from Bandar Abbas Port in Iran.

According to reports, the estimated value of the seized heroin per kilogram is about ₹5-7 crore in the international market. Days later, the [National Investigation Agency \(NIA\)](#) took over the case as there were "clear international narco-terrorism linkages".

Last Saturday, the NIA conducted searches at various locations in different states in connection with the drug haul. An official said various incriminating documents, articles and other items were seized during the raids. **(Source: India Today/Hindustan Times/Mint)**







## Asian Shipping & Ports Sector

### **39 approvals needed to release goods from Chattogram port**



Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh need as many as 39 approvals from various government agencies before their goods are released from Chattogram port, a sad circumstance that hurts businesses, a new report said.

"Very often, the Chattogram port faces severe congestion for the delay in releasing the goods, eventually raising the cost of doing business for the users," said the Bangladesh Business Climate Index (BBX) report, which was launched virtually yesterday.

The Policy Exchange, Bangladesh (PEB), and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) jointly prepared and introduced the country's first such index to measure business climate.

The report said small businesses, particularly those involved in trading goods, suffered the most as they needed certificates from government agencies, but they did not have much knowledge and financial capability.

Regulatory complexities, scarcity of land, poor infrastructure, and poor road connectivity are major trade barriers, although Bangladesh has progressed a lot and economic development is laudable.

Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Ltd, called for making rules easier for everybody. "Running businesses outside of Dhaka is really difficult," he said, adding that businesses also needed to move beyond the capital city.

A former president of the MCCI, Manzur termed the need to obtain 39 approvals from government agencies as challenging. Businesses also faced higher costs during importing and exporting goods through the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), he said.

"We want better business and investment climate. We have to think in a new way and do things differently. Now is the time," said Rupali Chowdhury, president of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking at the launch, Ito Naoki, Japanese envoy to Bangladesh, described the country's economic development as wonderful that grew even during the Covid-19 pandemic. He said a lot of Japanese companies were expanding their operations in Bangladesh.

Japanese investors are following the China Plus One Policy, focusing their investment in other countries rather than only in China. "Bangladesh is a preferred destination for Japanese investors," Naoki said.

In the next five years, the state of infrastructure will change for the better. Tokyo is implementing some mega infrastructure projects such as the third terminal at the HSIA and the metro rail in Dhaka and the power stations at Matarbari and Cox's Bazar.

The Japanese Economic Zone will go into operation next year, in a significant development, as it would help attract investors from the East Asian country.

Rizwan Rahman, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, applauded the index, saying it would be helpful for businesses. He suggested quick dispute resolutions and regulatory reforms to support businesses.

Abul Kasem Khan, chairperson of the Business Initiative Leading Development, wanted to know what measures had been taken to make the One-Stop Service Centre functional. About 1,000 firms in all eight divisional cities were reached to prepare the index, according to Masrur Reaz, chairman of the PEB.

"We hope the economic development of Bangladesh will continue," said Nihad Kabir, president of the MCCI, while moderating the discussion. "The picture is different when we move from Dhaka to Chattogram," she said, indicating the business concentration in the capital.

Salman F Rahman, the adviser to the prime minister on private industry and investment, praised the index. The World Bank has lost its Ease of Doing Business Index, whereas Bangladesh launched its own index, which is remarkable, he said. Last month, the World Bank Group decided not to publish the Doing Business report anymore amid the allegations of data irregularities.

The adviser said the government would also facilitate the launch of the logistic index in the country to show Bangladesh's growing infrastructural strengths. He urged trade bodies to carry out research instead of lobbying the government to realise trade benefits only.

Md Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, suggested easing procedures to create jobs for the unemployed youth.

(Source: Daily Star)

## Indian Ports Sector

### Protest against Jawaharlal Nehru Port to be relaunched in Raigad

Protest against Jawaharlal Nehru Port to be relaunched in Raigad In all, 256 families, predominantly the fishing community, have been evacuated from Sheva village and they have been living in transit camps since 1984

Protesting against what they describe as “all-round failure” for 37 years to resettle the people of erstwhile Sheva village displaced due to the development of Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Raigad district, the project affected families have decided to

resume their ‘Channel Bandh’ agitation blocking ship movements to the country’s largest container port. The ‘Channel Bandh’ agitation, launched on February 26, had been suspended due to the intervention of Raigad MP Sunil Tatkare and promises by the...

Raigad District Collector and the police that the issue would be resolved. (Deccan Herald)



### NTK protests against quarrying in Kanniyakumari for Vizhinjam port

Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) organised a protest in Thuckalay in Kanniyakumari district on Sunday against quarrying operations being carried out in the district for the construction of the Vizhinjam International Seaport Project in Kerala.

Claiming that mountains of the Western Ghats in the district were being quarried for the project, NTK’s chief coordinator Seeman, who led the protest, questioned why the Kerala government was not sourcing materials for the project by quarrying mountains in its own geographical limits.

Pointing out that the project was awarded to the Adani group, he alleged that the Union government’s priority appeared to be to protect the interest of the group rather than the larger interests of the country.

He said the quarrying would have severe environmental impacts, particularly on water resources. Highlighting the need to protect natural resources, he urged the Tamil Nadu government to take measures to stop quarrying activities in the district for the port project. (Source: The Hindu)



## International Logistics Review

### 80,000 containers are piled in the Port of Savannah: SCM in crisis.



- The Port of Savannah is overwhelmed with shipping containers as the supply chain crisis continues.
- There are nearly 80,000 containers stacked up on the docks, The New York Times reported.

The Port of Savannah, like [other ports around the US](#), is approaching crisis point, according to a report by [The New York Times](#). It has nearly 80,000 containers - 50% more than normal - stacked up, and the person that oversees the port says he's "never had the yard as full as this."

About 700 containers have been left there for a month or more, per The Times. In September, 4,500 containers sat in the port for weeks, waiting to be collected by the trucks or boats that take them to their next destination, The Times reported.

These issues have become [common in ports around the world](#).

After falling shipping demand in the first half of 2020, a surge at the end of that year led to delays, port traffic jams, and blockages [across the supply chain](#).

A lack of shipping containers and dock workers made it worse. Now, containers are getting jammed up in ports because of both rising demand and [a continuing shortage of staff to unload them and take them to their destination](#).

Around the world, other containers are stuck at sea on ships that are waiting to find a spot in port. [Insider's Grace Kay reported](#) earlier in October that nearly 500,000 shipping containers were stuck off the coast of Southern California.





## Indian Logistics Sector

### Trade thru 5 land ports suspended for Puja



Trucks carrying imported goods from India are waiting to unload goods at the Burimari land port of Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat. The photo was taken on Tuesday. Photo: S Dilip Roy

Trade through Banglabandha, Hili, Birol, Sonahat and Burimari land ports is set to remain suspended for six days beginning yesterday for Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community in Bangladesh and neighbouring India.

Exporters, importers and clearing and forwarding agents of both countries on Saturday decided to stay off work during the period, reports our correspondents in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon. However, immigration services will be available. Trade will resume on October 17.

Banglabandha land port is in Panchagarh, Hili and Birol in Dinajpur, Sonahat in Kurigram and Burimari in Lalmonirha (**Source: The Daily Star**)

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## Intra Asia Trade

### Cambodia's Bilateral trade with US soars 28.5% in first 8 months

**Phnompenh-11 Octo.** Bilateral trade between Cambodia and the US in the first eight months of 2021 totalled \$5.4994 billion, surging by 28.47 per cent versus \$4.2805 billion in the same period of last year, according to the US Census Bureau (USCB). Cambodia-US trade has avoided dipping into negative territory, even as SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, continues its global path, disrupting a fair share of production chains.

In January-August, Cambodian exports to the US amounted to \$5.2206 billion, a 27.88 per cent year-on-year uptick, and imports were worth \$278.8 million, climbing by 40.59 per cent, the USCB reported. The Kingdom's trade surplus with the US widened by 27.2 per cent from \$3.884 billion to \$4.942 billion.

In August alone, the Kingdom's exports to the US were valued at \$922.1 million, up by 33 per cent year-on-year from over \$692.5 million, and imports clocked in at \$43.0 million, up by over 52 per cent from \$28.2 million in August 2020.

Hong Vanak, director of International Economics at the Royal Academy of Cambodia, told The Post on October 9 that the positive trade performance between the two countries was due to a number of key ingredients, such as improvements in diplomatic ties and shifts in production conducive to meeting the needs of the US market.

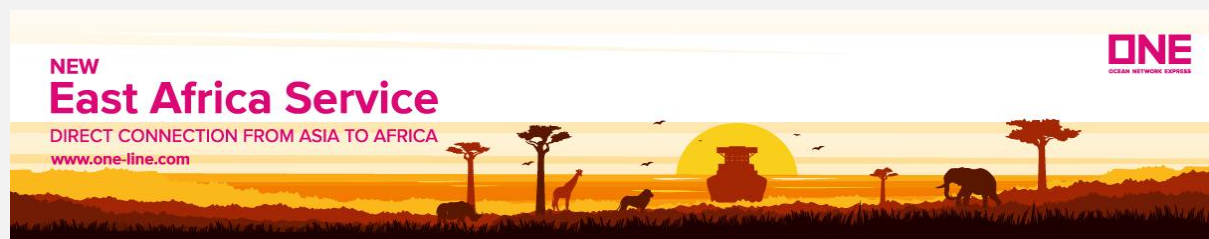
He also attributed the solid trade growth momentum to "trouble" in countries that export to the US market, mainly a reference to Myanmar. "As the US has always wanted good relations with ASEAN countries, I remain optimistic that Cambodia's export market will be even larger in the future," Vanak said. Bilateral trade between the Kingdom and the US amounted to \$6.9213 billion in 2020, up 17.89 per cent from 2019, data from the American Chamber of Commerce in Cambodia (AmCham) show.

(Source: <https://www.phnompenhpost.com>)

### Thailand: Sharp increase in fruit exports

Thailand's fruit export between January and August this year generated 169 billion THB (about 5 billion USD). According to the Thai Ministry of Commerce, this is an increase of 46 percent year-on-year. The ministry intends to launch a series of measures to better manage the supply of fruits next year, said Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce Jurin Laksanawisit.

Measures will focus on boosting distribution, local consumption, online and in-person sales, connecting businesses, improving the potential of farmers and exporters, and controlling prices fruits, Jurin said. Thailand's fruit supply is expected to increase to 3.5 million tonnes next year, up 8 percent year-on-year. (Source: [en.vietnamplus.vn](https://en.vietnamplus.vn))





## India's Foreign Trade.

### India: Afghanistan onion imports resume via Pakistan.



Land route via Pakistan

**New Delhi-11 Octo-**The bilateral trade between Afghanistan and India is slowly returning to its normal equilibrium after the regime change in the former nation. After dry fruit, now shipments of onions have started arriving from Afghanistan. A couple of Afghan trucks laden with onions reached the Integrated Check Post (ICP), Attari.

Talibanis had earlier sealed Afghanistan's Torkham and Chaman borders with Pakistan, the only two land routes used for trade activities between India and Afghanistan. The ICP, Attari, which facilitates India's trade with Pakistan and Afghanistan, has been receiving goods only from Afghanistan since New Delhi abrogated Article 370 in August 2019.

Indian traders import dry fruit, onions and apples from Afghanistan. There has been a bumper crop of onion in Afghanistan. Red onions brought from Afghanistan's Balkh and Ghazni through the ICP are being supplied to Tamil Nadu, Andhra, MP, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi, HP, Punjab and J&K. It takes about two weeks for a consignment to reach India. (Source: [tribuneindia.com](http://tribuneindia.com))

### Indian exporters found opportunities for business with Mauritius

Indian businesses will get a chance to explore wider prospects of trade and investment opportunities in Mauritius, in the post Covid-19 scenario, during a virtual interaction to be held this week with the Indo-Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and officials from the Consulate of Mauritius in India.

"India and Mauritius have recently entered into a limited free trade agreement covering 310 export items for India, including food and farm products, textile articles, plastics, chemicals and electronic product. There is a huge possibility for Indian businesses and exporters to increase their exports to Mauritius as well as rest of Africa using Mauritius as a gateway. The conference will focus on the wide canvass of opportunities, especially in post-pandemic times," an official tracking the matter told *BusinessLine*.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) is organising the business interaction on October 14 in collaboration with the Indo-Mauritius Chamber of Commerce.

“In the last five years, India has been among the leading trading partners of Mauritius. In 2020, India represented 10 per cent of Mauritian total imports and ranked third in their main countries of import. In the recent years, main items of exports of India to Mauritius have been petroleum products, pharmaceuticals and rice. India is also a major supplier of raw materials for the local industry like supplying yarn and fabrics to the textile and clothing industry,” FIEO pointed out in a note.



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### **Pandemic support**

New focus areas have also opened up post-pandemic in Mauritius. The priority areas are Covid-19 vaccines, vaccines for immunisation programmes in Africa and preventive vaccines, as per the Mauritian government. “The country is providing a host of incentives such as exemption on registration fees, land transfer taxes and VAT on construction in addition to lower corporate taxes and full tax credit on cost of patent acquisition,” officials have earlier said.

Indian manufacturers and exporters can also use Mauritius as a gateway to export more to the African market which has about 1.3 billion consumers as the island-nation is part of several free trade arrangements with the region including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement which has been implemented from January 1, 2021.

“Indian businesses can get into certain arrangements with their Mauritian counterparts wherein the essential part of the production of a particular commodity can take place in India, while some value addition can happen in Mauritius and the final product can then be exported to a number of countries across Africa,” the official explained.

India’s trade with Mauritius took a hit due to the Covid-19 pandemic with exports falling to \$423 million in 2020-21 from \$1.07 billion in 2018-19. **(Source: Business Line)**

## **Indian Maritime News Express**

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