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Vol. XXXVI No. 33 MUMBAI & WESTERN INDIA : Friday, February 20, 2026

CMA CGM concludes strategic vessel order and launches a dedicated R&D hub in India, further strengthening the country's maritime and logistics ecosystem

- ★ On the occasion of Group Chairman Rodolphe Saadé's visit to India, the Group signed the final contract with Cochin Shipyard for six LNG-powered vessels
- ★ Exploring partnerships to strengthen India's container manufacturing, sustainable ship recycling and national container shipping



Exim News Service

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19

In the presence of Mr Shantanu Thakur, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and the CMA CGM Group's Chairman and CEO Mr Rodolphe Saadé, the Group reinforced its long-term commitment to India during a high-level gathering in New Delhi. The event underscored the Group's continued partnership with India's maritime sector and its ambition to support the country's growing role in global



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Karsten Behrens of SAL Engineering to conduct Masterclass on managing the complex logistics of project cargo and heavy lift shipping at CTL-BHP 2026

Exim News Service

MUMBAI, Feb. 19

MR Karsten Behrens, Managing Director of SAL Engineering GmbH, a sister company of SAL Heavy Lift GmbH, will be conducting a Masterclass on



“Project Cargo and Heavy Lift Shipping: Managing”
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17th - 18th March 2026

Pavilion J & K, Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, India

JNPA inks MoU with Port of Marseille Fos aimed at enhancing bilateral trade and maritime flows

Exim News Service

NAVI MUMBAI, Feb. 19

JAWAHARLAL Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) has marked an important step in global maritime collaboration



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CTL-BHP 2026

SAVE THE DATE

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TUESDAY WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2026

Jio World Convention Centre, BKC, Mumbai

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CMA CGM

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trade and logistics.

Deepening strategic maritime partnerships in India in the presence of the Group's top leadership

During the visit of its global leadership in India, CMA CGM signed the **final Shipbuilding Contract with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) for six state-of-the-art LNG-powered containerships of 1,700-TEU capacity.**

In parallel, CMA CGM is deeply committed to human capital development in India. **Through CMA SHIPS, the Group has already recruited 1,000 Indian seafarers, with plans to onboard 1,500 seafarers by the end of 2026, further strengthening the Group's role in the global maritime workforce.**

Building on this strategic milestone, the CMA CGM Group is actively exploring opportunities to partner with key stakeholders across India on initiatives designed to strengthen the country's container manufacturing capabilities, promote sustainable ship recycling and support the development of domestic container shipping.

Driving innovation across the global supply chain

On the occasion of its **participation in the Indian AI summit**, CMA CGM will develop its innovation presence in India to actively leverage artificial intelligence, digital solutions and advanced analytics to transform the entire supply chain, from maritime operations and port efficiency to logistics optimisation and customer experience.

As part of this commitment, **in partnership with Capgemini, CMA CGM has established a dedicated Research & Development (R&D) hub in India**, positioning the country as a key global centre for innovation within the Group. The India R&D hub plays a critical role in developing next-generation digital and AI-enabled solutions that support CMA CGM's worldwide operations

This combination of active participation and future developments reflects CMA CGM's broader vision of being a long-term partner in India's supply chain and infrastructure growth, blending global shipping expertise and competence in asset building and management, logistics excellence, technological innovation and sustainable practices, emphasised a communique.

Mr Rodolphe Saadé, Chairman and CEO of the CMA CGM Group, said: "I am pleased to be in India to deepen the strategic partnership, which has linked CMA CGM and India for nearly four decades. Today, we are strengthening our shipbuilding cooperation with Cochin Shipyard through the signing of six LNG-powered container vessels. At the same time, we are looking to expand our engagement in container manufacturing and ship recycling. This is fully aligned with Prime Minister Modi's Maritime Vision 2047 to position India as a major maritime nation. As corridors such as India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) develop, connecting India to the Middle East and Europe, CMA CGM stands ready to contribute to this new phase of global trade."

Karsten Behrens of SAL Engineering

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Complex Logistics from Start to Finish" on March 17 (Day 1) at Exim India's CTL-BHP 2026 mega cargo, transport and logistics exhibition and conference, the 16th edition, scheduled for March 17-18, 2026 at the Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai. This Masterclass is part of the event's exclusive series designed to deliver value-added insights from leading industry experts.

Mr Behrens is a seasoned professional in the heavy lift and project cargo domain. As Managing Director of SAL Engineering GmbH, he is responsible for

all engineering activities of the Harren Group. With focus on innovative transportation and installation solutions, he and his team provide answers to all maritime engineering questions.

Having a background in the development of lifting appliances and over 18 years of experience in managing heavy-lift projects, he works at the interface between sales, development and realisation in close cooperation with vessel crews, operators, clients and business partners, as per an official communique.

While SAL Heavy Lift specialises in heavy lift shipping services, SAL Engineering functions as an independent

engineering house, offering technical consultancy, design expertise, and on-site support.

CTL-BHP 2026, South Asia's premier sectoral congregation, will comprehensively explore **Cargo, Transport and Logistics (CTL)**, with special focus on **Breakbulk, Heavylift and Project Handling (BHP)**.

This year's edition promises unmatched scale and scope:

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★ **Knowledge workshops and training seminars** conducted by renowned experts.

Sugar exports surpass 2 lakh tonnes in 2025-26 marketing year

Exim News Service

NEW DELHI, Feb. 19

INDIA'S sugar exports have crossed 2.01 lakh tonnes till February in the current 2025-26 marketing year, according to the All India Sugar Trade Association (AISTA), with the UAE emerging as the top destination. The government has approved total sugar exports of 2 million tonnes this year, including an additional 5 lakh tonnes recently permitted. Sugar production is also expected to rise 13%, strengthening India's export outlook. India's sugar exports reflect strong demand from West Asia and neighbouring countries. The diversified export basket supports foreign exchange earnings and strengthens India's presence in global sugar markets, as per a report.

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