



ANTWERP PORT AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Port of Antwerp invests further in collaboration with India

Prince Filip of Belgium and port alderman Marc Van Peel yesterday opened a second branch office of Antwerp Port Authority in India, in the important economic growth city of Pune. Here Guarav Mane will work for the Port Authority, maintaining close contact with Indian entrepreneurs. In this way the port of Antwerp seeks to promote itself even more actively in India and to generate new trade in both directions.

The Port Authority opened its first branch office in India in 2006, in Mumbai, where it similarly has a full-time representative. The West Indian cities of Mumbai, Pune and Nasik form what is called the "Golden Triangle," with IT services, car production, manufacturing, biotechnology and other industries making it the most important economic region in India. The ports of Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva) and Mumbai Port are therefore of great importance for importing and exporting products. In view of the enormous growth potential of the region, the Antwerp Port Authority aims to appoint another representative in Nasik, the third city in the triangle.

The Port Authority has long been aware of the Indian growth potential, and so it is investing specifically in closer collaboration with businesses and local authorities in that country. Friendship treaties have been signed with the port authorities of Mundra and Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva), and partners are able to make use of the training courses offered by APEC-Antwerp/Flanders Port Training. Port of Antwerp International, the successor to Antwerp Port Consultancy, also provides specialist consulting for Indian business relations.

Antwerp is a very important European gateway for Indian exports and imports. Last year some four million tonnes of freight were carried to and from India via Antwerp. Containers, steel and petroleum derivatives in particular make up a significant proportion of the trade in both directions.

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