



Mundra Port becomes 1st gateway in India to receive Panamax tanker

Exim News Service

IN a first for any ex-im gateway in the country, Mundra Port accommodated a Panamax-size tanker, *m.t. Theresa Mediterranean*, on September 11. The vessel has a DWT of 77,788, LOA of 229 metres and a draught of 14.8 metres.

This is yet another 'first' for Mundra Port and a feather in its cap.

m.t. Theresa Mediterranean carried a cargo of 36,202 tonnes of crude palm oil, 1,500 tonnes of RBD palmolein and 770 tonnes of crude palm kernel oil.

The vessel loaded the oil cargo at Panjang in

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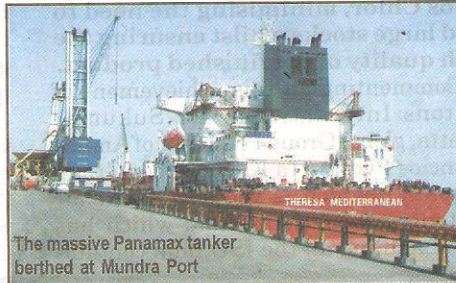
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Indonesia on August 30. The receiver of the cargo was Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL). Unloading was done at rates up to 656 tonnes per hour.

With the oilseed crop affected by lack of rains, imports are expected to increase. Strategists at AWL believe that they can achieve economies of scale by bringing in large parcels of vegetable oil. This was a trial shipment and certainly was well implemented.

Mundra Port may be the only gateway to have the capability to handle such massive vessels, which are fully loaded, at least in the foreseeable future.

Port officials feel that bigger



The massive Panamax tanker berthed at Mundra Port



The Master of the vessel, Capt. Naing, is all smiles as he is welcomed at Mundra Port

vessels laden with vegetable oil may call in the future. They expect to handle vegetable oils at over 1,000 tonnes per hour.

Besides having adequate tank capacities, the Port also has a railway siding, which makes it convenient to transport the liquid cargo by BTVN rakes, or tank containers, to other parts of the country.