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DHL strengthens China-India-Europe connectivity with new dedicated freighter service

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The new service is designed to support growing customer demand for reliable air freight capacity between China, India and Europe.

Bonn - DHL Global Forwarding is strengthening connectivity between China, India and Europe with a new dedicated freighter service connecting Hong Kong (HKG), Navi Mumbai (NMI) and Liège (LGG).

The service will operate twice weekly with a Boeing 747 freighter, with DHL Aviation serving as DHL Global Forwarding's airline supplier, providing additional dedicated capacity between China, India and Europe. The service is DHL Global Forwarding's first dedicated flight serving the Indian market.

Strengthening connectivity across strategic trade lanes

The new connection will provide customers in Hong Kong and the Mainland China market with direct dedicated capacity into the Mumbai region, while opening additional capacity from India to Europe through DHL Global Forwarding's network in Liège. From Liège, customers will also benefit from opportunities to connect cargo further into the European network.

The new service is designed to support growing customer demand for reliable air freight capacity between China, India and Europe. India is one of the fastest-growing air freight markets in Asia, supported by strong growth in manufacturing and exports. International air cargo volumes are growing strongly, particularly for high-value and time-sensitive products. The new service strengthens DHL Global Forwarding's connectivity between China, India and Europe, while dedicated capacity provides customers with greater reliability and supports the company's long-term growth ambitions in India.

Flights will depart Hong Kong and Navi Mumbai twice a week, providing regular capacity on the China-India and India-Europe trade lanes. The Boeing 747 freighter offers approximately 100 tonnes of total aircraft capacity per flight. DHL Global Forwarding is initially targeting around 25 to 30 tonnes per flight for the India sectors, equivalent to approximately 50 to 60 tonnes per week, with potential to grow as demand develops.

Henk Venema, Global Head of Air Freight, DHL Global Forwarding: "India is a strategic market for DHL Global Forwarding and an increasingly important part of our global air freight network. With this new dedicated service, we are strengthening connectivity between China, India and Europe and providing our customers with reliable capacity and greater access to key growth markets. This expansion reflects our long-term commitment to India and to supporting our customers as their trade flows grow."

The service is expected to support customers across Life Sciences & Healthcare, technology and electronics, engineering and advanced manufacturing, among other sectors. Cargo is expected to include pharmaceuticals, high-value technology components, industrial machinery and precision components, as well as other high-value and time-sensitive goods requiring reliable India-Europe connectivity.

DHL Global Forwarding plans to further expand its dedicated connectivity between India and Europe with a new Bengaluru (BLR)-Europe service in March 2027. "This is not a one-off addition. It is part of our broader ambition to build a stronger air freight bridge between India and the rest of the world. The new Mumbai service, followed by Bengaluru-Europe, demonstrates our confidence in the Indian market and our ambition to grow alongside our customers," said Venema.

The launch underlines DHL Global Forwarding's commitment to supporting the continued development of trade between China and India, while further strengthening the increasingly important India-Europe corridor.

Source: DHL Group

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