



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

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Free Trade agreement with Bangladesh

FFFAI celebrates Foundation Day -completed 60 years



FFFAI Chairman Mr Shankar Shinde and Immediate Past Chairman Mr AV Vijayakumar lighting the inauguration lamp of the Foundation Day celebration



FFFAI Chairman Mr Shankar Shinde along with other OBs and EC Members during the Foundation Day celebration on Dec 2, 2022 in Mumbai

The Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) Chairman Mr. Shankar Shinde conveys his sincere thanks to all the 28 Member Associations and more than 6500 members of FFFAI from across the country for their active contribution and support to the **60 years journey of the Federation.**

He also conveys his gratitude to other trade associations, chambers of commerce, logistics industry stakeholders, Customs Authority, and different Ministries of the Government of India for their kind support to FFFAI during the last 60 years. **FFFAI completed 60 years of its inception on December 2, 2022.** This year the Foundation Day celebration program was organized in Mumbai. The Federation will organize the Diamond Jubilee celebration program in early 2023.

"It is a proud privilege for me

to thank you all on the occasion of celebrating the Foundation Day of FFFAI on December 2, 2022, completing the 60 years of its inception. At the outset let me take this opportunity once again to congratulate each member and leader of FFFAI for being part of this 60 years successful journey," he said.

Speaking on the occasion in presence of other OBs and EC members who attended the event from across the country Mr. Shinde said that FFFAI is now well recognized by the government of India as well as the society at large as a vital entity of the end-to-end logistics/supply chain industry. "Our collective wisdom, hard work, and strong organizational strength of FFFAI supported by 28 Member Associations from across India have been the key forces behind the recognition through various

initiatives, policy announcements, and of late, by the National Logistics Policy announced by the Government of India," he said.

He also underscored the contribution of past leaders of FFFAI in strengthening the Federation. "I take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude and homage to all the past leaders of FFFAI, many of whom left us for their heavenly abode. Presently we are standing on solid ground as our leaders have built strong pillars in institutionalizing the Federation to achieve greater heights," the FFFAI chairman added.

He pointed out that taking a cue from the predecessors the present leadership of FFFAI is constantly monitoring and analyzing the entire ecosystem of the logistics industry in consultation with domain experts. "Accordingly, at present, our focus is to up-skill the domain

knowledge with effective utilization of emerging technologies. Our training arm IIFF is leaving no stone unturned in this regard. In addition, FFFAI has strengthened its Women and Youth Wings to woo women and young entrepreneurs to this highly potential and vibrant sector," he added..

At the same time, FFFAI is in constant dialogue with the Government, other Trade Associations/Chambers of Commerce, and logistics industry stakeholders for creating a collective force for this sunrise sector.

Mr. Shinde further pointed out that in pursuance of its aims and objectives, the FFFAI plays a constructive role in maintaining a constant rapport with the Customs, Port Trusts, Airport Authorities,

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Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Central Warehousing Corporation, Central Excise, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), etc. to make its own contribution in the formulation of Policy and administrative measures and simplification of various procedures. For this constructive role, the Federation has been accorded official recognition and is represented on several officials, and semi-official forums of various central ministries like the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and other Trade Bodies.

Being a national apex body of Custom Brokers, FFFAI is being invited by the Ministry of Finance to give a presentation on the Union pre-budget for

formulating the policy structure in direct and indirect tax. FFFAI comments are invited for the SCOPE Session, CCG meeting held by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Directorate General of Export Promotion. FFFAI is the only logistic association to be part of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary.

FFFAI was entrusted with the execution of the INSTC Project by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and the TIR Convention project through the Ministry of External Affairs which was very successful.

FFFAI launched its own training and education wing in the name of the Indian Institute of Freight Forwarders (IIFF) on 7th January 2005 by the hands of Mr. Issa Baluch

– President of FIATA and Mr. P. K. Srivastava – then CMD of Shipping Corporation of India. IIFF is the only institute in the SAARC region to conduct Diploma course in Freight Forwarding which is approved by FIATA.

FFFAI has also strengthened its international networking and intervention in different international issues through the IFCBA (International Federation of Customs Brokers Associations) and FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders). FFFAI's outreach holding important positions provided its members an opportunity to expand their horizons with support from these International associations.

"It is evident from facts and pertinent to highlight that the recognition of FFFAI comes from the business integrity and

working together with the Customs department, Government of India as partners in facilitating EXIM trade. This creates a greater sense of responsibility to the Nation and Fraternity we belong to for an opportunity to serve through FFFAI Platform," Mr. Shinde pointed out.

The FFFAI Chairman appreciated the support from CBIC Team for their continued proactive initiatives to keep the logistics wheel moving through contactless, paperless online initiatives which helped a lot, the transformation from manual to digital was commendable and in the true spirit of facilitation measures.

Mr. Shinde highly appreciated the recent initiatives of the Government of India viz CBLMS, 'PM Gati Shakti', 'LEADS Report', LPPT, 'Faceless Assessment', 'Turant Customs', 'SWIFT', 'DPD', AEO, etc

aiming towards fast cargo clearance, Ease of Doing Business and improvement of Logistics Performance Index of the country as per world standard.

Sharing details on the Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Association the FFFAI Chairman informed the event will be held during early 2023. Detailed programs would be intimated very soon, which would be fascinating one. "On behalf of the Office Bearers and Executive Members of FFFAI I appeal to all FFFAI members to make serious efforts to make the Diamond Jubilee a historic event and FFFAI a force to be reckoned with. I also appeal to all to further strengthen the Federation by increasing its membership for the larger interest of the ex-im trade as well as logistics industry in the country," Mr Shinde concluded.



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