



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

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PAGE - 5

India's message to countries in the



PAGE - 6

Precaution for ships sailing to Israeli ports



PAGE - 8

Nicobar terminal awaiting clearance



PAGE - 9

First ship berths at Kerala's

Chairman CBIC addresses 60th AGM of FFFAI, calls for making India a global Manufacturing & Logistics Hub



FFFAI Office Bearers during address of the CBIC Chairman on virtual platform on 60th AGM

Addressing a gathering of the Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations in India (FFFAI) Executive Committee (EC) Members on the occasion of the 60th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Federation, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) lauded the significant contribution of FFFAI to the exim trade during its more than 60 years journey.

He spoke on a virtual platform due to sudden changes in his program, which was earlier scheduled for a physical presence. In his speech, Mr. Agarwal pointed out that being a National umbrella organization of 30 Customs Brokers Associations across the country, FFFAI has a big role to play in making India a lucrative destination for logistics and manufacturing hub.

The AGM took place on September 29, 2023 in Mumbai to elect a new team (Executive Committee) for the ensuing two years term, i.e. year 2023-25. Present at this AGM were FFFAI Chairman for the year 2021-23 Mr. Shankar Shinde, the then Chairman Elect Mr. Dushyant Mulani, other Office Bearers and representatives (Executive Committee Members) of 30 Member Associations of FFFAI. The EC members gathered from different parts of the country. A large number of FFFAI members also participated in this hybrid meeting online.

Earlier, welcoming the Chairman CBIC, Mr. Shinde said that this is a gracious moment for FFFAI to have the Chairman, CBIC to the AGM. It provided an opportunity for understanding the recent initiatives of CBIC in fulfilling the

their endeavor to make the country a successful transshipment and logistics hub.

Mr. Agarwal highlighted some key developments which were recently achieved due to the collective efforts of CBIC and FFFAI members. In his opinion, progress in digitalization, faceless assessment, Customs Broker License Management System (CBLMS) portal, Electronic Cash

target of trade facilitation to reduce logistics cost and transaction time. Mr. Shinde also highlighted FFFAI's leading role both in national and international customs broker and freight forwarding fraternity as an organization. He reiterated full support to CBIC and the Government of India in

Turn to page -3 >>

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Chairman CBIC addresses 60th AGM of FFFAI.... From Page : 1

Ledger (ECL) mechanism in ICEGATE System, reducing dwell time, etc, have been enhanced due to the effective collaboration between the Federation and CBIC. According to him, FFFAI is playing a pivotal role in improving the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) with a target of positioning India in the top 25 countries by 2030. He also praised FFFAI's support to CBIC

in conducting the National Time Release Study aiming to reduce cargo clearance time drastically. In the 2023 Study it was found that the Release Time has reduced 20% in ICDs, 11% in airports and 9% in sea ports as compared to 2022. Further he informed that thanks to FFFAI initiatives almost 99% CBs have got registered with the CBLMS Portal. **Mr. Agarwal**

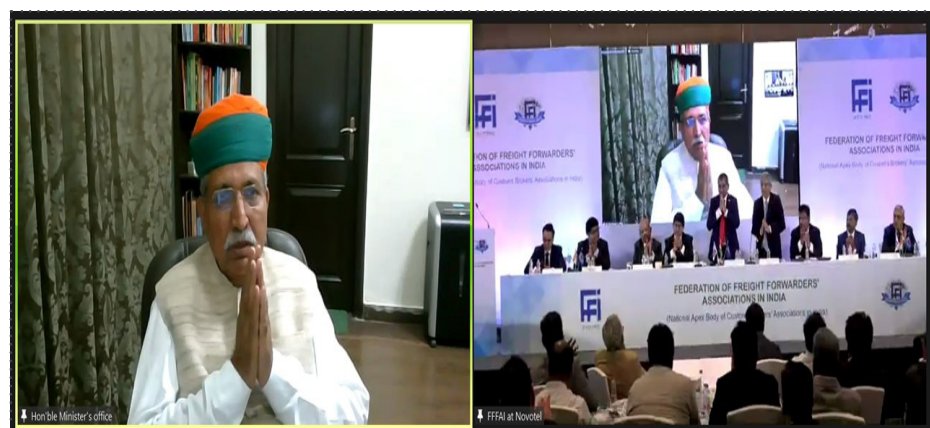
emphasized on the recently announced PM Gati Shakti Master Plan and National Logistics Policy with an objective to accelerate cargo movement through technology driven solutions and collaborations between different ministries and industry stakeholders. He underscored the Prime Minister's vision of providing a multimodal logistics infrastructure and connectivity based

on digital initiatives. The aim is to support Indian manufacturers/exporters to compete with global counterparts. The CBIC Chairman stressed that this is achievable only through an efficient end-to-end supply chain system, and reduced logistics time and cost.

The CBIC Chairman invited FFFAI for regular interactions for the larger interest of the country's manufacturing/logistics eco system as well as the economy of the nation.

Conveying sincere gratitude to the CBIC Chairman, Mr. Dushyant Mulani, the then Chairman Elect (Chairman at present) of FFFAI assured regular feedback to the CBIC and Ministry of Finance, Government of India. He said FFFAI is committed to the fast progress of the country and to achieving the goal of positioning India as a developed nation within the stipulated time i.e. by 2047.

Minister of Law & Justice invites FFFAI to suggest amendments in Laws under 'Jan Vishwas Bill'



Law & Justice Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal addressing the FFFAI AGM

The 60th AGM of the Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), completed with an encouraging address from **Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Government of India.** On this occasion the Chief Guest, Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, emphasised the recently passed Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 with an objective to facilitate Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business.

Welcoming the Minister on the virtual platform, **Mr. Shankar Shinde**, the then Chairman FFFAI, stated that FFFAI members consisting of more than 6500 Customs Brokers, Freight Forwarders and logistics professionals often face challenges due to multiple laws dealing with Participating Government Agencies (PGAs), cross border trade, etc, which need to be revisited/amended to facilitate the trade and Ease of Doing Business.

He lauded the present government's focus on acting as a facilitator rather than regulator, based on trust or 'Vishwas'.

Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Past Chairman and Board of Advisor, FFFAI highlighted the theme of the special session. He pointed out that this is the first time FFFAI is being engaged with the Ministry of Law & Justice as a stakeholder, which needs to go a long way to make the CB/FF's lives easy in terms of doing logistics business. He urged the Law & Justice Ministry to provide the logistics industry an opportunity to engage in dialogues regarding certain aspects like Show Cause Notices and quasi-judicial proceedings.

In his speech, **Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal** also emphasised the exorbitant logistics cost in India which is a deterrent to compete with the international market as far as selling Indian products are concerned. He invited FFFAI representation suggesting those legal barriers/laws hindering the

smooth logistics operations and increasing logistics costs. "We have to fulfil the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India to reach the target of a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 and to be a developed nation by 2047", the Hon'ble Minister said.

It is pertinent to mention that through the Jan Vishwas

(Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, a total of 183 provisions are being proposed to be decriminalized in 42 Central Acts administered by 19 Ministries/Departments. Decriminalization is proposed to be achieved in the following manner: -

Turn to page -4 >>





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Minister of Law & Justice.... From Page : 3

- (i) Both Imprisonment and/or Fine are proposed to be removed in some provisions.
- (ii) Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and fine retained in few provisions.
- (iii) Imprisonment is proposed to be removed and Fine enhanced in few provisions.
- (iv) Imprisonment and Fine are proposed to be converted to Penalty in some provisions.
- (v) Compounding of offences is proposed to be introduced in a few provisions.
- For effective implementation of the above, the bill proposes measures such as (a) pragmatic revision of fines and penalties commensurate to the offence committed; (b) establishment of Adjudicating Officers; (c) establishment of Appellate Authorities; and (d) Periodic increase in quantum of fine and penalties. It is also ensured that the degree and nature of punishment is commensurate with the severity of the offence.
- The AGM and the hybrid session was attended by all FFFAI Office Bearers, Executive Committee Members and a large number of members from 30 Member Locations across India. Proposing a vote of thanks to the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Mr. Dushyant Mulani, the then Chairman Elect/now Chairman, FFFAI said the Federation would soon make a presentation to the Ministry of Law & Justice to address the issues pertaining to various laws and quasi-judicial matter, so that logistics operation becomes unhindered to achieve the mission of being a developed nation.

OOCL welcomes six of twelve eco-friendly 24,000 TEU giants

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

This mega containership is named **OOCL Gdynia**. Following its naming, OOCL will have received half of the twelve eco-friendly 24,000 TEU class series vessels ordered in 2020 by the company.

“Equipped with the latest technology and green features, this series of new vessels will gradually upgrade OOCL's existing fleet. This not only can fulfill our customers and the public expectations of energy saving and carbon reduction, but also shows OOCL's determination to stay at the forefront of industry development,” **Teddy Fung**, Director of Trades at OOCL, said.

OOCL Gdynia will serve the OOCL's Asia-Europe LL3 loop line together with her sister vessels.

The port rotation is: Shanghai / Xiamen / Nansha / Hong Kong / Yantian / CaiMep / Singapore / Piraeus / Hamburg / Rotterdam / Zeebrugge / Valencia /

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These ships from the 24,000 TEU series are capable of carrying up to 24,188 twenty-foot container boxes, firmly establishing them among the world's largest container ships, measured by their carrying capacity. They exhibit impressive dimensions, with a total length of 399.99 meters and a width of 61.3 meters.



Hong Kong-based container shipping company Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL) held the naming ceremony of a 24,188 TEU newbuilding at Dalian COSCO KHI Ship Engineering Co (DACKS) shipyard



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