



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

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FFFAI - IPC Shankar Shinde appointed as Vice Chairman of CCTT emphasizes on cross border trade facilitation through INSTC route



Mr Shankar Shinde

The Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations in India (FFFAI) has joined the International Coordination Council on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (CCTT) during the XXXII Plenary Meeting which was recently held in Moscow. This year the meeting was dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Council. More than 250 delegates from departments, companies and organizations from 20 countries of the Eurasian continent, heads, and representatives of international organizations and associations participated in this GLOBAL event. Other new members who also joined during this meeting were from China, South Korea, Iran, and Southeast Asian countries.

International Coordinating Council

on Trans-Eurasian Transportation (CCTT) is a non-commercial transport association with an open-ended duration, registered in the Main Register of the canton Bern (Switzerland).

CCTT was founded by the Ministry of Railway Communication of the Russian Federation (after the restructuring of 2003 - RZD OJSC; Deutsche Bahn (DB AG); Group of European Trans-Eurasian Forwarders and Operators (GETO) and Korean International Freight Forwarders Association (KIFFA).

Presently the CCTT has 96 member societies from 23 countries, including railways of Europe, Asia and the CIS states, leading shipping companies, operators and forwarders, ports and stevedoring companies, state organizations, administrations and academia, telecom and marketing companies, security services and mass media.

For more than 20 years the CCTT has achieved a high international standing and has become an efficient international forum for networking and real cooperation between all parties involved in Trans-Siberian freight transportation.

The Council participates in efforts of OSJD, UIC, UNECE Inland Transport Committee, CIT, EAEU, UNESCAP, OTIF, WCO and UPU to create new technological norms and harmonize transport law, aimed at reducing barriers to freight transportation between Asia and Europe.

The CCTT contributes to introducing advanced technologies, which

increase the capacities of border crossing points and international freight volumes.

Commenting on the importance of this event Chairman, CCTT and General Director-Chairman of the Board of OJSC RZD Mr. O.V. Belozеров said that structural changes in railway transport, the restructuring of transport and logistics chains,

the development of multimodality and the building of new intersectoral and international alliances have radically expanded the composition of the Council's participants. In his opinion, the CCTT principle "cooperation and collaboration for a common result" has repeatedly shown its effectiveness and no alternative at many stages of the development of Euro-Asian transport links.

The CCTT Plenary meet was addressed by the former

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Minister of Railways of the Russian Federation, former President of OJSC RZD, former Chairman and Secretary General of the Coordination Council on Trans-Siberian Transportation, Advisor to the General Director of OJSC RZD Mr. G.M. Fadeev, Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Mr. V.O. Ivanov, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Mrs. Armida Salsia Alishakhbana, Deputy Secretary General of the CIS Mr. I.T. Nematov, Member of the Board (Minister) for Energy and Infrastructure of the Eurasian Economic Commission Mr. A.O. Kozhoshev, Chairman of the OSJD Committee Mr. Miroslav Antonovich, Mr. Shankar Shinde, Immediate Past Chairman, FFFAI and other dignitaries.

In his report **“The role and tasks of CCTT in the formation of a**

sustainable logistics system in the Eurasian space: new approaches and effective solutions” CCTT Chairman Mr. O.V. Belozerov summed up the development of Trans-Eurasian transportation for 2022–2023 and outlined the goals and objectives of the Council for the future.

He highlighted the assistance in building a network of mutually complementary Euro-Asian routes, priority attention to multimodality issues, including the CCTT “Multimodal Transport Network” project, which is being transferred to digital mode starting this year. It is expanding the range of cross-sectoral issues, including in relation to issues of transportation of agricultural cargo and perishable products and expanding partnerships with key participants in the digitization process in transport.

At this event Mr. Mikhail

Yuryevich Goncharov was nominated as the new CCTT Secretary General starting from June 1, 2024 will be taking over from Mr. Gennady Bessonov, CCTT Secretary General.

Addressing the gathering Deputy Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Mr. V.O. Ivanov outlined the priorities for the development of the transport complex of the Russian Federation. According to him, among the most important priorities is the development of transportation along the West-East and North-South international transport routes, as well as along multimodal routes passing through the seaports of the Azov-Black Sea basin. He also drew attention to new routes connecting Russia and China through the Zabaikalsk and Nizhneleninskoye checkpoints, activities to develop the western and Trans-Caspian branches of the North-South ITC, as

well as the implementation of projects using electronic navigation seals.

FFFAI IPC Mr. Shankar Shinde made an elaborate presentation regarding importance and present developments on the International North South Transport Corridor in respect of trade facilitation including Russia, CIS countries and beyond. He also highlighted the role of the Government of India and FFFAI to promote the INSTC route and seriousness having invested in development of Chabahar Port in Iran to provide effective connectivity to Russia and CIS Countries.

Mr. Shinde stated that presently there is an increase in volumes on INSTC with India’s accession to TIR Convention. Now regular vessels are providing services to Iran. Rupee Rial – trade agreement has been signed with banks’ willingness to participate. Logistics Service Providers’ presence is increasing with volumes. In view of the opportunities with risk

associated on this route at present Insurance coverage is available.

It is pertinent to mention that the founder members of INSTC route include India, Iran and Russia. Later the following countries joined: Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Ukraine, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Republic of Tajikistan, Syria and Bulgarian (Observer).

Objective of INSTC is to increase effectiveness of transport ties to organise goods and passenger transport; Promotion of access to international market; Assistance in increasing the volume of transport; Providing safety of goods, security of travel as well as environmental protection as per International standards; Harmonisation of Transport policies and Setting up non discriminative policies for seamless movement.

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Villagers stage protest against mechanised dredging in Thane creek



The villagers engaged in manual sand mining staged a protest against reported the PTI.

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

According to the news agency, the protestors took out 150 boats to the middle of the creek between Kasheli and Gaimukh, showed black flags and

shouted slogans. According to the protestors, 20,000 to 25,000 people, including locals and tribal labourers, depend on manual sand mining, and they were afraid of losing their livelihood as mechanised dredgers were

being permitted to extract sand, as per the PTI.

Meanwhile, activist Manoj Jarange on Monday said he will set out on a tour of Maharashtra after the Diwali festival to meet Marathas and make them aware about the issue of reservation for the community, according to the PTI.

The activist earlier visited parts of western Maharashtra before he went on a hunger strike last month during the second phase of agitation for the Maratha quota.

"We will not focus on any criticism. We are asking for the right of Marathas," the activist said.

FFFAI-IPC Shankar Shinde... From Page : 4

Highlighting the Customs initiatives to facilitate the trade on this route Mr. Shinde pointed out the following aspects:

- To extend 24x 7 clearance facilities with an online system to file for transshipment permission for international operators.
- To have documents forms in English language and trade facilitation cell for professional international interface
- Effective EDI Implementation with public portal information at Bandar Abbas Terminal for container tracking and movement directly

to Road/Rail CY till destination monitoring systems

INSTC Member Countries along with other regions of CMR implementation to synchronize on commercial transport documentation of Bill of Lading and CMR delivery exchange.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and applauding the efforts of CCTT in coordination between respective Government bodies and stakeholders for cross border trade facilitation measures.

MINISTRY NEWS WHO acknowledges India's success in declining TB incidence by 16% and TB mortality reduction by 18% since 2015

New Delhi
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The World Health Organization released its Global TB Report 2023 on 7th November. According to the report, India has made tremendous progress in improving case detection and reversed the impact of COVID-19 on the TB programme.

The treatment coverage has improved to 80% of the estimated TB cases, an increase of 19% over the previous year.

India's efforts have resulted in reduction of TB incidence by 16% in 2022 (from 2015) almost double the pace at which global TB incidence is declining (which is 8.7%). The mortality of TB has also reduced by 18% during the same period in India and globally. The World Health Organization has made a downward revision of the TB mortality rates from



A TB patient attended to.

4.94 lakhs in 2021 to 3.31 lakhs in 2022, a reduction of over 34%.

In the Global TB Report 2022, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, had agreed to publish the data for India as "Interim" with an understanding that the WHO would work with the technical team of the ministry, to finalize the figures.

Following this, there were more than 50 meetings between the technical teams of WHO and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, wherein the country team presented all the newer evidence generated, the in-country mathematical modelling developed including the data from Nishay portal which captures the lifecycle of every TB patient during the course of their treatment.

The WHO team intensively reviewed all data presented and not only accepted, but also appreciated the efforts made by the country. This year, the Global TB Report has acknowledged and published the revised estimates for India with downward revision of the burden estimates, especially TB related mortality figures.

The report notes that India's intensified case detection strategies have resulted in the highest ever notification of cases – in 2022, during which, over 24.22 lakh TB cases were notified, surpassing the pre-COVID levels. The key initiatives launched and scaled up by the government like specialised active case finding drives, scaling up of molecular diagnostics to block levels, decentralization of screening services through Ayushman

Bharat Health & Wellness Centres and private sector engagement have resulted in significantly bridging the gap in missing cases.

The Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan has received a tremendous response across the country with over 1 lakh Ni-kshayMitras from all walks of life coming forward to adopt over 11 lakh TB patients.

Under Nishay Poshan Yojana about Rs 2613 Cr have been disbursed to over 95 lakh TB patients since its launch in 2018. Newer patient centric initiatives like Family Care Giver Model and Differentiated Care have been introduced to ensure further reduction in mortality and improvement in treatment success rates.

The report also notes that India has taken bold steps to prioritize TB elimination efforts with investing additional resources to the National TB Elimination Programme being implemented under the aegis of the National Health Mission.