



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

National Apex Body of CUSTOMS BROKERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN INDIA

FFFAI/MIINUTES/310/2022

29.10.2022

Minutes of the 10th EC Meeting on 30.09.2022 at ITC Maratha, Mumbai

A) Members Present

| Sr.No. | Office Bearers | Representing Association | Attendance |
|--------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Mr. Shankar Shinde - Chairman | Nashik CHA Association | 10/10 |
| 2 | Mr. A.V.Vijayakumar - I.P.Chairman | FFFAI | 10/10 |
| 3 | Mr. Dushyant Mulani - Chairman Elect | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 09/10 |
| 4 | Mr. S.Nataraja - Vice Chairman | Chennai CHA Association | 10/10 |
| 5 | Mr. Amit Kamat - Vice Chairman | Goa CB Association | 09/10 |
| 6 | Mr. Sudip Dey - Vice Chairman | Calcutta CHA Association | 10/10 |
| 7 | Mr. Kartik A Pancholi - Vice Chairman | Ahmedabad CB Association | 09/10 |
| 8 | Mr. Vinod Sharma -Honorary Secretary | Pune CHA Association | 10/10 |
| 9 | Mr. Sudhir Agarwal - Honorary Treasurer | Nagpur CHA Association | 10/10 |
| | Executive Committee Members | Representing Association | Attendance |
| 10 | Mr. Devang A.Joshi | Ahmedabad CB Association | 05/10 |
| 11 | Dr. Darshan Mashroo | Ahmedabad CB Association | 07/10 |
| 12 | Mr. Sailesh Bhatia | Aurangabad CHA Association | 03/10 |
| 13 | Mr. Kiran Rambhia | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 07/10 |
| 14 | Mr. Vinayak Aparaj | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 06/10 |
| 15 | Mr. Paresh Thakkar | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 05/10 |
| 16 | Mr. Hiren Ruparel | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 04/10 |
| 17 | Mr. Nirav Thakker | Brihanmumbai CB Association | 08/10 |
| 18 | Mr. Mannu Choudhary | Calcutta CHA Association | 04/10 |
| 19 | Mr. R N Sekar | Chennai CHA Association | 10/10 |
| 20 | Mr. Vishal Dadha | Chennai CHA Association | 09/10 |
| 21 | Mr. C.B.Bujangaram | Chennai CHA Association | 07/10 |
| 22 | Mr. Suraj Muraleedharan | Cochin CB Association | 02/10 |
| 23 | Mr. R Rajesh Kumar | Coimbatore CH & SA Association | 05/10 |
| 24 | Mr. Puneet Jain | Delhi CB Association | 08/10 |
| 25 | Mr. Bhim Singh Jain | Delhi CB Association | 04/10 |
| 26 | Mr. Vikrant Gogia | Delhi CB Association | 05/10 |
| 27 | Mr. Kiran D. Nagare | Nashik CHA Association | 04/10 |
| 28 | Mr. Pradeep Kale | Pune CHA Association | 08/10 |
| 29 | Mr. Rajdeepak Bhargava | Pune CHA Association | 06/10 |

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| | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 30 | Mr. G .Sambasiva Rao | Visakhapatnam CB Association | 08/10 |
| | Nominee of Associate Members | Port | Attendance |
| 31 | Mr. Balu S Govindrajan | Chennai | 07/10 |
| 32 | Mr. Vijayakumar Damodaran | Chennai | 06/10 |
| 33 | Mr. M.A.Zahir Hussan | Chennai | 08/10 |
| 34 | Mr. Ganpat P.Korade | Mumbai | 08/10 |
| 35 | Mr. Maruti R.Gadge | Mumbai | 06/10 |
| 36 | Mr. Karan Kiran Rambhia | Mumbai | 06/10 |
| 37 | Mr. Soheli Kazani | Mumbai | 03/10 |
| 38 | Mr. Tej Mayur Contractor | Mumbai | 09/10 |
| 39 | Capt. Ashish Samarth | Pune | 04/10 |
| 40 | Mr. Chirag Vinod Sharma | Pune | 01/10 |
| | Advisors | | Attendance |
| 40 | Mr. R. Radhakrishnan | FFFAI | 02/10 |
| 41 | Mr. Samir J Shah | FFFAI | 09/10 |
| 42 | Mr. S.Ramakrishna | FFFAI | 09/10 |
| | Women Wings | | |
| 43 | Mrs. Philomena Pereira | Mumbai | |
| 44 | Ms. Chaitaly Mehta | Mumbai | |
| | INVITEES | | |
| 45 | Mr. Bhagwan Singh | President- Pune CHA Association | |
| 46 | Mr. S.Gopalkrishnan | Chennai | |
| 47 | Mr. Ketan Desai | Mumbai | |
| 48 | Mr. Sanjeev Harale | Mumbai | |
| 49 | Mr. Nailesh Gandhi | Mumbai | |
| 50 | Mr. Kamal Shah | Mumbai | |
| 51 | Mr. Paresh Sangani | Mumbai | |
| 52 | Mr. Ramesh Joshi | Mumbai | |
| 53 | Mr. Sanjay Shingote | Mumbai | |
| 54 | Mr. K. Thakker | Mumbai | |
| 55 | Mr. Rahul Bhojane | Mumbai | |
| 56 | Mr. Ashok Saini | Mumbai | |
| B) | Member Not Present -Request for leave of | absence received | |
| | Executive Committee Members | Representing Association | Attendance |
| 1 | Mr. Rajesh Verma - Vice Chairman | Ludhiana CHA Association | 06/10 |
| 2 | Mr. Shashidhar V Hebbar - Vice Chairman | Bangalore CHA Association Ltd | 06/10 |

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| | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | Mr. Girish Narayan | Bangalore CHA Association Ltd | 06/10 |
| 4 | Mr. Dileep T. Abraham | Coimbatore CH & SA Association | 04/10 |
| 5 | Mr. Sreeram Bhagawathi | The Kakinada CB Association | 03/10 |
| 6 | Mr. Narinder M Prabhakar | Ludhiana CHA Association | 02/10 |
| 7 | Mr. Avtar Singh | Ludhiana CHA Association | 03/10 |
| 8 | Mr. Philip C C | Mangalore CHA Association | 04/10 |
| 9 | Mr. Shareef M | Mangalore CHA Association | 02/10 |
| 10 | Mr. Pramod Soneta | Mundra CB Association | 05/10 |
| 11 | Mr. R.K.Mehrotra | Noida Custom Brokers Association | 04/10 |
| | Nominee of Associate Members | Port | Attendance |
| 12 | Mr. C.S. Nagendra Prasad | Bangalore | 06/10 |
| 13 | Mr. Jogesh Sethi | New Delhi | 04/10 |
| 14 | Mr. Palvinder Singh | New Delhi | 08/10 |
| 15 | Mr. Vaneet Aggarwal | New Delhi | 08/10 |
| 16 | Mr. C. Karthikeya Prabu | Tuticorin | 06/10 |
| C) | Member Not Present -Request for leave of | absence Not received | |
| S.No | Executive Committee Members | Representing Association | Attendance |
| 1 | Mr. R.Suresh Kumar | Association of CHA – Thiruvananthapuram | 03/10 |
| 2 | Mr. B.N.Rajmoghon | Association of CHA – Thiruvananthapuram | 07/10 |
| 3 | Mr. Roopesh Kumar N | Bangalore CHA Association Ltd | 03/10 |
| 4 | Mr. Basanta Basu | Calcutta CHA Association | 02/10 |
| 5 | Mr. S Balaji | Chennai CHA Association | 09/10 |
| 6 | Mr. Divakaran P Nair | Chennai CHA Association | 08/10 |
| 7 | Mr. Adil Khan | CB Association Hyderabad | 04/10 |
| 8 | Mr. P.S.Raj Kumar | CB Association Hyderabad | 03/10 |
| 9 | Mr. T Abhimanyu | CB Association Hyderabad | 03/10 |
| 10 | Mr. Alan Jose | Cochin CB Association | 01/10 |
| 11 | Mr. V. S. Pradeep | Cochin CB Association | 02/10 |
| 12 | Mr. G.A.Kalyana Moorthy | Coimbatore CH & SA Association | 03/10 |
| 13 | Mr. Kailash Gupta | Delhi CB Association | 01/10 |
| 14 | Mr. Rajender Kumar Goyal | Delhi CB Association | 01/10 |
| 15 | Mr. Devendra Singh Bhadoria | Delhi CB Association | 05/10 |
| 16 | Mr. J. A. D'souza | Goa CB Association | 02/10 |
| 17 | Mr. Anurag Vijayvargiya | Indore CHA Association | 02/10 |
| 18 | Mr. Amit Kumar Jain | Indore CHA Association | 05/10 |
| 19 | Mr. Mandava Satyanaryana | The Kakinada CB Association | 06/10 |

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| | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 20 | Mr. Dinesh Gupta | Kandla CB Association | 05/10 |
| 21 | Mr. Dhiren Chhaya | Kandla CB Association | 04/10 |
| 22 | Mr. Hemchandra Yadav | Kandla CB Association | 01/10 |
| 23 | Mr. Amit Khanna | Kanpur CB Association | 02/10 |
| 24 | Mr. Vinod Kumar Mehrotra | Kanpur CB Association | 02/10 |
| 25 | Mr. Manoj Kotak | Mundra CB Association | 04/10 |
| 26 | Mr. T.V.Sujan | Mundra CB Association | 04/10 |
| 27 | Mr. Prasad S. Auguri | Nagpur CHA Association | 04/10 |
| 28 | Mr. Vipin Vohra | Noida Custom Brokers Association | 02/10 |
| 29 | Mr. Pankaj Lodaya | Pipavav Customs Broker's Assn | 01/10 |
| 30 | Mr. Chirag Shah | Pipavav Customs Broker's Assn | 01/10 |
| 31 | Mr. Arun Sharma | Rajasthan CHA Association | 01/10 |
| 32 | Mr. Jagvir Singh | Rajasthan CHA Association | 02/10 |
| 33 | Mr. Sunil Sharma | Rajasthan CHA Association | 01/10 |
| 34 | Mr. L Cecil Machado | Tuticorin Customs Broker's Assn | 08/10 |
| 35 | Mr. A.S. Ramaswamy | Tuticorin Customs Broker's Assn | 07/10 |
| 36 | Mr. J. Pinto Villavarayar | Tuticorin Customs Broker's Assn | 08/10 |
| 37 | Mr. Rolland Williams | Visakhapatnam Association | 02/10 |
| 38 | Mr. KRB Prakash | Visakhapatnam CB Association | 04/10 |
| 39 | Mr. Sujit Chakroborty | West Bengal CHA Society | 04/10 |
| 40 | Mr. Shankar Prasad Verma | West Bengal CHA Society | 00/10 |
| 41 | Mr. Subhash Chandra Ghosh | West Bengal CHA Society | 02/10 |
| | Nominee of Associate Members | Port | Attendance |
| 42 | Mr. Belli Gowda | Bangalore | 05/10 |
| 43 | Mr. Chandrachari B.R. | Bangalore | 02/10 |
| 44 | Mr. R. Kumar | Chennai | 09/10 |
| 45 | Mr. T.V. Gopu | Chennai | 09/10 |
| 46 | Mr. S. Padmanbhan | Chennai | 03/10 |
| 47 | Mr. Mohamed Amzad GMR | Chennai | 04/10 |
| 48 | Mr. Thomas Alan | Cochin | 01/10 |
| 49 | Mr. Syed Jameel Uddin | Hyderabad | 01/10 |
| 50 | Mr. V.R.R. Bhagawathi | Kakinada | 02/10 |
| 51 | Mr. K. Suresh Kumar | Trivandrum | 05/10 |
| 52 | Mr. M. Vijay Raghavan | Tuticorin | 03/10 |
| 53 | Mr. S. Sasikumar | Tuticorin | 02/10 |
| 54 | Mr. R. Sreedhar | Tuticorin | 03/10 |
| 55 | Mr. P. Jeyanth Thomas | Tuticorin | 04/10 |
| 56 | Mr. J. Manikandan | Tuticorin | 04/10 |

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Agenda no.1: Meeting call to order by Hon Secretary Welcome Address by Chairman –FFFAI

Mr. Vinod Sharma welcomed all the Executive Committee Members and Board of Advisor for 10th Meeting held on 30nd Sept 2022 at ITC Maratha, Mumbai.

He requested Chairman Mr. Shankar Shinde to address the house.

Chairman Mr. Shankar Shinde welcomed all the Executive Committee Members and Board of Advisors for the 10th Executive Committee meeting and extended festival greetings on occasion of Navratri and Durga Pooja. He was glad to note that in spite of festival being celebrated across India members have attended the meeting in large number which shows commitment of members towards FFFAI. Due to festival season it was decided to have one day meeting instead of two days hence we conducted one virtual Executive Committee Meeting.

He thanked President Mr. Dushyant Mulani , IPP -Mr. Kiran Rambhia and Managing committee of Brihanmumbai Custom Broker Association for hosting 10th Executive Committee Meeting and extending warm welcome & hospitality to Members attending meeting, BCBA has always been known as great host Association creating benchmark with high standards of meeting arrangements

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Chairman read out Anti-Trust Statement (Annexure A) and informed Hon Secretary to read out and proceed with the Agenda , **if any points to be included**

Hon. Secretary informed house that the additional Agenda of INSTC Tender be included in Agenda for discussion which was accepted and added to Agenda than regular circulated Agenda.

Hon. Secretary requested Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association to give welcome address.

Dr. Niraj Thakker welcomed the Executive Committee Members for the 10th Executive Committee meeting and said BCBA team is available for any assistance required by the members. He requested President Mr. Dushyant Mulani to address the house.

Mr. Dushyant Mulani welcomed all the members for the 10th Executive Committee Meeting and said it is always pleasure to have FFFAI team as FFFAI is the symbol of unity, togetherness and seldom any other institution in India does it. He requested house to applause for FFFAI. He thanked Mr. Shankar Shinde – Chairman for giving the honour to BCBA for hosting the EC Meeting. The knowledge content is unparalleled and convention was testimony of that.

BCBA team welcomed all the Office Bearers of FFFAI offering shawl.

Announcement

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Mr. Vinod Sharma informed that Pune Customs House Agents Association had their election and following members were elected as Office Bearers and Committee members for the term 2022-2024. He congratulated newly elected team of Pune Custom House Agents Associations.





| Name | Designation |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Bhagwan Singh | President |
| Mr. Mr.S.P.Kulkarni | Vice President |
| Mr. Mr. Shirokar Jha | Honorary Secretary |
| Mrs. Vinod Sharma | Hon. Jt. Secretary |
| Mr. Sunil Dhoe | Honorary Treasurer |
| Mr. Pradeep Kale | Immediate Past President |
| Mr. Rajdeepak Bhargava | Committee Member |
| Mr. Murli Nagrani | Committee Member |
| Capt. Ashish Samarth | Committee Member |
| Mr. Sivakumar K.G. | Committee Member |
| Mr. Yogesh Shinde | Committee Member |
| Mr. Kunal Anil Ghag | Committee Member |

Chairman Mr. Shankar congratulated all the newly elected Officer Bearers and Committee Members for the term 2022-2023 and seek their active participation of Pune Custom House Agents Association under the leadership of Mr. Bhagwan Singh.

Agenda no.2: To note and grant leave of absence to all who have intimated

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Mr. Vinod Sharma informed that we have received leave of absence from the Executive Committee members and if the house approves leave of absence can be granted.

The house unanimously approved to grant leave of absence to the members who have sought.

Agenda no.3: To confirm the minutes of the 9th Executive Committee Meeting held on 22nd September, 2022 for the term 2021-2023. (Already sent by e-mail to members)

Mr. Vinod Sharma stated that minutes of 9th Executive committee meeting which held on 22nd September, 2022 virtually were circulated in advance. He inquired with the house, if there were any observation.

As there were no observations on the minutes of the 9th Executive Committee Meeting held on 22nd September, 2022, the minutes was unanimously approved by the house.

Agenda no.4: To Report and discuss action arising out of the minutes of the 9th Executive committee meeting held on 22nd September, 2022

Mr. Vinod Sharma informed that there are few actions arising points from the minutes of the 9th Executive Committee meeting.

- a. **Mr. A. S. Ramasamy to forward note on the issue faced by them and representation made by them.**

Mr. Dushyant Mulani stated that points raised by Mr. A. S. Ramasamy was delay in assessment under Faceless Assessment. FFFAI had detailed discussion with CBIC Chairman, Member (Customs), JS (Customs) and Director (Customs) that demurrage and detention charges paid by the trade is huge.





FFFAI is in dialog with CBIC to come out with Faceless Assessment version 2.0. The anonymize escalation mechanism which was introduced is also not useful. It is required to have centralized monitoring system. FFFAI has made representation to CBIC Chairman stating that it is urgent need to bring out time limit monitoring through EDI system i.e. 12 hours for air consignment and 24 hours for sea consignment.

Mr. Amit Kamat to forward note on GMP Certificate

Note from Mr. Amit Kamat is awaited.

Agenda no.5: To consider and adopt the Secretarial Report for the year 2021-2022;

Mr. Vinod Sharma informed that Secretarial Report for the year 2021-2022 was circulated in advance and is also tabled in the meeting. He requested house for the suggestion if any.

Mr. Shankar Shinde congratulated each and every Executive Committee members for providing the inputs for including the Annual Secretarial Report

As there was no observation, the house unanimously adopted the secretariat report.

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Agenda no.6: To consider and adopt the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Auditors Report for the year ended 31st March 2022:

Mr. Sudhir Agrawal informed that Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Auditors Report for the year ended 31st March, 2022 has been circulated in advance and is also tabled at the meeting. He stated total revenue increased 72% whereas expenditure increased by 48% because of that income over expenditure increased by 2.24 times hence whatever surplus we used to have earlier we have cross the surplus of sixty lacs hence there is phenomenal increase in surplus for the year ended 31st March, 2022.

Income increased as below ;

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Associate membership fees increased by | 43% |
| Allied membership and entrance fees increased by | 71% |
| IIFF receipt increased by | 50% |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Current liabilities decreased by | 45% |
| Investment increased about | 18% |

He informed that there were three cases in income tax which were going on for long time regarding interest being assessed and tax by the assessing officer. Out of these three cases in one of case decision has come in our favour and we have got the refund. We are quite hopeful that another two cases will also be resolved in matter of time.





He further stated that convention account are under preparation and will be ready soon. He updated that as on date there is no liability outstanding as we have cleared all the bill of the vendors. As far as income is concern except for one sponsorship payment which is under process balance all payment of sponsorship has been received. We will be have good surplus and within a year we will be able to double our deposit and may purchase new premises.

He said for last three years he is been Honorary Treasurer and is very fortunate that all the three years have been good in terms of revenue because the organization was doing phenomenal and leadership quality right beginning.

Mr. Pradeep Kale informed that he had two observation in the Income & Expenditure statement.

a. Misc Income

Earlier year it was Rs. 22,000/- but now it is Rs. 2,44,395/-

b. On Expense side

There are GST expenses.

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Mr. Sudhir Agarwal replied that whenever FFFAI endorse the new application of FIATA, FIATA provide CHF 50 as FFFAI administrative share for each new member enrolled during the year. Hence amount shown in Misc income is the share which we received from FIATA.

He stated with regard to GST expenses it is required to change the nomenclature.

As there were no other observation in Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Auditors Report for the year ended 31st March, 2022 it was unanimously approved by the house.

Agenda no.7: To discuss and decide about celebrating FFFAI Diamond Jubilee on 2nd December,2022 at New Delhi.

Mr. Shankar Shinde requested Mr. Amit Kamat – Convenor of Diamond Jubilee to brief the house about Diamond Jubilee celebration which is scheduled on 2nd December, 2022 and we intend to celebrate at New Delhi.

Mr. Amit Kamat informed that as all aware that FFFAI will be completing 60 years on 2nd December, 2022 hence it is Diamond Jubilee which is proud moment for all. We have draft plan about celebrating Diamond Jubilee in such a way that it becomes memorable event for the trade and industry. He thanked Mr. Puneet Jain – President of Delhi Custom Brokers Association for consenting to host the Executive Committee Meeting coinciding with the Diamond Jubilee celebration.

He brief the house about the structure of the event.

- Executive Committee Meeting in the half session
- Diamond Jubilee celebration in the second half
 - Inaugural function
 - Cabinet Minister





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- Tea break
- Panel discussion
 - Senior Bureaucrats
 - Industry leade
- High Tea
- Valedictory function
 - Release of Documentary film since its inception
 - Release of Diamond Jubilee Souvenir cum Coffee Table book
 - CSR activities
 - Jury Award for the companies who have completed 100 years in the logistics industry.

He stated that entire expenses of the Diamond Jubilee we propose to source it out from the advertisement which will be published in the souvenir.

He requested members to give their suggestions, ideas by which Diamond Jubilee celebration can be made memorable event not only for members but for logistics industry. Also requested the support of all the Executive Committee members and especially the Delhi and Noida association to make the event grand success.

9 Mr. Shankar Shinde clarified that there will two different publication one is Souvenir and one will be Coffee table book. As souvenir will contain advertisement, articles, message and coffee table book will contain the history of FFFAI.

Members are requested to kindly update their profile on FFFAI website. The revamped website will be more of interactive discussion forum rather than passive way of website. FFFAI will be investing into IT infrastructure as we have signing MOU with ULIP, e-KYC.

FFFAI is also trying to integrate Track Your Cargo with API under Ministry of Commerce & Industry and ULIP but there are lot fields which they have share with us. Initially we will go with all the field for the benefit of the members.

Mr. Devang Joshi suggested the following:-

- a. National Logistics Policy – how the cost could be reduced for ICD location
- b. Future of FFFAI and its members on international front

Mr. Nailesh Gandhi stated that for award we should try and find niche service provider from All India as they will be one who will be benefitted under National Logistics Policy because each multinational park will be looking out for these niche service provider for the last mile activities and FFFAI is the fantastic platform to look at the development of All India based members.

Further he stated if can have one day for discussion on National Logistics Policy, ULIP and Gatishakti more from business session point of view. He stated to discuss with KPMG to shaping us as it is national change which is happening.

Mr S Ramakrishna stated that on the CSR activity, we have lost quite number of people in our fraternity during the COVID, we should analysis that and if we could do something for their family would be very good gesture during our Diamond Jubilee.

311-313, Mahinder Chambers, W. T. Patil Marg, Chembur, Mumbai – 400 071

Tel: 022-67107495/ 96 | Fax: 022-67107500 | Email: info@ffjai.org | Website: www.ffjai.org





Dr. Darshan Mashroo stated that under ULIP, Freight Forwarder category is missing while registering. He requested to inform ULIP to include the Freight Forwarder category also.

Mr. Sohel Kazani informed that Secretary (Shipping) was in Mumbai and the main presentation was with stakeholders about exploring Inland Waterways, passenger water transport, cargo waterways and connect with the National Logistic Policy. He informed that he will share the presentations made by various stakeholders. The outcome of the meeting was that there are two parts of the National Logistics Portal namely IT platform where all the Government authorities are putting their programs and we need to pick up from software for using API. Second is the tool which has been designed and has multi layers of Government authorities and stakeholders who have information and various data points. There is vital portion mentioned in the mythology that every industry leader has to device tool study all the available platform and give suggestion to NLP there is where FFFAI can come and give suggestion for integration.

Mr. Shankar Shinde informed that FFFAI is working on integration of IT with the vendor and recently we have been introduced to the vendor who is working on block chain so we will have block chain also integrated into the system where safe, security aspect is also important with regard to data.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia informed that ULIP is Private Limited Company not owned by the Government. It is joint venture partly paid by the Government and NEC – Japanese Company which basically was for tracing of containers Port to ICDs. It is Private limited company for profit and not doing statutory obligation to the trade.

Mr. R. Radhakrishna stated that we have twenty eight associations hence while celebrating Diamond Jubilee the funds should be collected from this association and should not approach shipping lines, carriers etc. The funds can be collected by way of advertisement and each association can contribute Rs. 5 lacs. We can also target Rs. 1 lacs from ten members.

Agenda no.8: Presentation by Secretariat

Report by Honorary Secretary (All Reports sent by Email)

Mr. Vinod Sharma informed the house the points received have been forwarded to respective council which can be discussed in the respective agenda of the council.

Agenda no.9: Open brief discussions and Presentation on:

CUSTOM

Mr. A.V. Vijayakumar stated that it is almost two years Faceless Assessment was introduced and figure shows lot of improvement, the trade facilitation has increased and dwell time has decreased drastically but parallely non-assessed document, non-facilitate document the dwell time increase multi-fold. Though anonymize escalation mechanism system was introduced but the feedback received from the members states that even that is not much effective. The information collected from DG System is that about sixty percent of escalation is completed on the same day. The circulars, advisory issued by CBIC & DG System is not monitored by the local association.





He requested local association should raise with their local Chief Commissioner and Commissioner to make it successful implementation of Faceless Assessment otherwise it will continue. It is require that every local association provide the difficulties faced by their members along with evidence to FFFAI so that strong representation can be made to CBIC.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia stated that when there FAG bill of entry then how local association can address it, it is CBIC who can monitor it unless there is any provision for it and local association may pick up the provision. He said it is understood that the local Commissionerate can pull bill of entry but it's not in practice it remains in FAG appraiser only irrespective of delay.

He requested to clarify the corrective actions with respect to local association so that they can put forward to local Commissionerate more effectively.

Mr. A. V. Vijayakumar agreed that there were lot of delay since officers were not attending the documents. Subsequently based on FFFAI representation circular was issued for auto escalation of bill of entries to higher level if not assessed in time bound manner also it was represented that Officers cannot raise the unwanted queries and maximum number of queries to be raised by the officer was limited to three and if more than three queries to be raised then it has been approved by the Commissioner.

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Mr. A. V. Vijayakumar stated it is required to make TSK very effective through local Commissionerate as current TSK is very ineffective. National Assessment Centre team is analysing the auto escalation method and submitting the report every day but results will not be known to us immediately but they are working on the same.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that it is PAG Commissioner who has to take the initiative and shared the example of Noida Commissionerate that Noida Commissioner everyday morning takes the list of bill of entries which are not cleared at FAG which approx.. eighty percent cases gets cleared hence if every PAG Commissioner takes the initiatives and local association takes up in PTFC meeting there are chances of issues getting mitigated. He further that importer should represent the issue to CBIC informing that particular FAG officer has given nasty examination order.

Mr. S. Nataraja appreciated local association for sharing the inputs/ difficulties faced by them locally and how they are getting remedy for their grievances. Though FFFAI is representing the issues to the Board but the representation made by the local association will help FFFAI to make representation more appropriate and strong.

Mr. S. Nataraja stated that at Chennai, Committee has been formed wherein there are few members from Customs and few from Custom Brokers all the points are being consoling along with their officials which is escalated through Chief Commissioner of Customs to the Board though the same points are represented by FFFAI. The representation made to local Chief Commissioner of Customs will have added advantage to the representation made by FFFAI.





He further stated that because of continues efforts the RMS touched eighty four percentage average across the country. There are five different parameters.

- i. Assessment only
- ii. Examination only
- iii. Assessment and Examination
- iv. Nil assessment nil examination
- v. First check.

The Board had issued various circular but the Officers at ground level were not implementing but we had point out time to time with supportive documents and also uploaded the same. He requested local association to take up the issue with their local Commissioner and through local Commissioner represent the issue to the Board.

Mr. Shankar Shinde thanked Mr. S. Nataraja and said support of local association is required to make the FFFAI representation more strong.

He further said the second action point was about the type of shipment which should go to PAG or FAGs. We had identified Liquid Bulk, break-bulk, charter vessel, reefer and perishable commodity and had requested all those ports who handles break-bulk and perishable to provide proof how it effects demurrages and detention, vessels, chartered vessels or even after clearance discharges are taking place. He requested Associations to provide the cases along with detailed time line enabling FFFAI to make appropriate representation for exempting such of shipment by the FAG.

He added that there are cases where the cargo goes of RMS assessment but if it goes for registration and from registration it goes for examination where the bill of entries are generated without examination order the same is sent back to the Groups for examination order hence all the RMS facilitated bill of entries are like non RMS equivalent. Though the system shows the RMS is higher but practically it is not.

Mr. R. N. Sekar stated that at Chennai the issue was taken up in CCFC meeting that there are bill of entries allotted for assessment to FAG but particular for FTA (Free Trade Agreement) after submitting all the documents like certificate of origin, etc., bill of entry got assessed and no examination was prescribed but in the examination column they are asking for the verification of various documents which is not visible to importer or Custom Brokers only Officer can view. The issues was taken up locally and Chennai Chief Commissioner has requested Chennai to submit the points and Chief Commissioner will also address the issue.

Mr Sanjeev Harale stated that IKEA imports pillow stuff with feathers and single window marks it to animal quarantine hence intervention was fine but now the pillows are being imported with non-feather material and stuffed with polyester still single window is marking to animal quarantine. The animal quarantine department are ripping out which is cause loss to the importers.

Mr. Shankar Shinde requested to share such cases with FFFAI so that appropriate representation can be made.



Mr. Dushyant Mulani stated that FFFAI is trying for e-KYC to be done with NICDC endeavour is to have the importer – exporter verification is done digitally by this agency and we should get certificate. He further stated that there is issue of marking bill of entries to unrelated PGAs and few PGAs like Plant Quarantine, AQ are not completely on EDI platform which takes lot of time. He requested members to provide the feedback along with copy of bill of entry regarding unrelated items which are getting marked to PGAs. FFFAI has recently made representation to CBIC and Government department including DGFT.

The important aspect which came out of Board of Trade meeting was that for DGFT related issued online grievance mechanism which members can put their grievances.

FFFAI has received the feedback pertaining classification being changed by FAG Officer without raising a query or even if raising query without providing personal hearing or following principle of nature justice, valuation being enhance. We have made representation to the Board in this regard.

With regard to post clearance audit department across the country, audit department is not supposed to raise demand notice under Section 28 (4) because it is not as per the regulation which was set up in 2018, they can raise only in 28(1) which provides them time limit of only two years for recovery of customs duty with interest and they cannot go beyond two years if they have to go they have to follow the process either through SIIB or through jurisdiction Customs Commissionerate with detailed investigation why 28 (4) to be invoked. However across the country they are merely giving 28(4) demanding five years differential duty with interest and also fine penalty. Though our members have replied but they are issuing the show cause notice and making the Customs Brokers co-noticee to such differential duty which is being demanded. Involving Custom Brokers in such interpretative issue is not warranted. The issue has been discussion among Office Bearers to make detailed representation to CBIC that Custom Brokers should not made co-noticee for such interpretative issue.

He requested members to provide such instances where Custom Brokers are being made co-noticee which will enable FFFAI to make appropriate representation.

He stated that Faceless Assessment has taken legal turn hence it is required to be accurate while filing our documents. It is observed that with slight omission or oversight of our staff is causing trouble to us and e-sanchit is one of the tool which will hold against Custom Brokers. Members should be accurate in filing the documents which is very important under Faceless Assessment.

There are few judgements which will be explained by Mr. Joshua Ebenezer. In the meantime members can discuss the issue in this regard.

EDI

Mr. Nataraja stated apart from day to day attention, collecting the points appeal to DG System to get remedy. The twelve important points were raised to DG System out which five points remaining balance are sort out. The following five points are yet to be solved.

- a. Public enquiry module not working frequently and proxy error
- b. Partial shipment clearance option still not enabled
- c. Multiple licence registration technical issues continues in FAG
- d. EGM Error Rectification Auto mechanism
- e. Currently no option for change of port code in case of change vessel port of berthing





He informed about the issues sorted out.

- a. Error 140 and delays in EX bond release
- b. Digital signature error at Kolkata and Delhi
- c. Non receipt of examination order copy after goods registration
- d. Delays in GSTIN integration with IEC
- e. Online AD code error and difficulties faced by trade
- f. Incorrect update in anonymous escalation Mechanism for FAG Assessment
- g. Delays in duty update and Improvisation of duty integration in ICEGATE

He thanked committee members of EDI Committee for interacting with EC Members and collecting the points and submitting to DG System. The EDI representation is being sent through FFFAI and closing following up with DG System to resolve them.

CBLR

Mr. Kartik Pancholi stated that are few outcome in CBLR namely representation made on G card examination on Pan India basis. Due to continuous efforts of Past Chairmen, current Chairman there are positive effect in CBLR we are able to get the Custom Brokers License lifetime validity and recently there is notifications issued about compulsory membership of the local association in each commissionerate.

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He stated that CBLR Committee would like to organise a seminar for the local members at each location as would like to explain the points which are generally ignored. Most of the Custom Brokers should pursue the opportunity to act as auditor by virtue of CBLR.

Mr. Joshua Ebenzer while addressing the house stated that customs stands on 3 pillars 1) Classification 2) Valuation 3) Rules of origin and if anyone is not updated on these it is required that members updated themselves. As informed by Mr. Kartik Pancholi that Custom Brokers can act as auditor by virtue of CBLR and said qualification of Customs Officer needs to have three fundamental abilities namely classification, valuation and origin later on others.

He made details presentation on following points. (Detailed presentation attached as annexure)

- a. Probe, arrests, bail under GST Act
- b. Procedure for Compounding of Offenses under Customs Act, 1962
- c. Data Publishing of Import and Export Detail under Sec. 135AA
- d. Uniform examinations orders at all customs stations
- e. Landmark judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of 26th August 2022 *insolvency and bankruptcy code 2016 to prevails over Customs Act 1962*
- f. Compounding offences

Mr. Joshua Ebenzer stated members have lost their track while replying to the query because in most of the queries are replied without quoting the case laws and when the case laws are quoted along with importer letter members have succeeded in most of the cases.





Mr. Samir Shah informed that they have been licensed 1984 and till now we have never written any letter on importers letterhead and have always written on our letterhead on behalf of our client. He stated that he is slight disagreement of quoting a case law and have never quoted any case law but have quote the content of the case which is left open for the Officer to interpret. Custom Brokers are licenced hence we should write on our letterhead as we are competent enough.

Mr. Kartik Pancholi stated we have been informed by Mr. R. N. Sekar that bill of entry has been assessed under RMS but Officer has internally inserting instruction to examine the goods whereas bill of entry was cleared under RMS. In such importer should be asked to write a letter requesting the Officer to issue the speaking order as the bill of entry was already assessed under RMS without examination.

Chairman opened the floor for the members to address the issues related to Customs, EDI and CBLR.

Mr. Sohel Kazani stated that it was discussed in certain stakeholder meeting and LPI that assessment is only Faceless as far as examination is concern they are looking at the scanner which can examine everything and make that simplify process of physically going there. Examination process they are working on it.

Mr. S. Ramakrishna stated that at the airport once the out of charge is given it is not require to go Custom officer for gate pass signed.

Mr. Sudip Dey clarified that at the airport in the gate pass name of the Custom Officer is printed hence custodians are instating to obtain the signature of the Custom Officer which is incorrect.

Chairman requested Mr. S. Ramakrishna to prepare note on the same and forward to FFFAI.

Mr. Paresh Thakker stated that there are two issues.

- a. Timing of the process is not coming on export side. The issues has already been addressed by FFFAI and BCBA but still there is no solution
- b. The purpose of bringing the RFID seals was for tagging to be done on timely basis. It is required to have universal reader.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia stated in export system chooses package number which needs to be examined if it is LCL then is fine but it does for FCL cargo and randomly the package number are given due to which consignment gets 100% examined.

He further said in import container is taken as unit of packing but in export it is not considered that FCL container should be considered as unit of packing then they can open and examine 10% or 20%. This is the long pending issue for which FFFAI has made representation in the past.

Mr. Mannu Choudhary stated that in few days CBLMS will be implemented. Few days back at Calcutta they had session on CBLMS in Custom House and during the session it was observed that there is section where importer and ex porter can register themselves who is doing self-clearance. He suggested that e-KYC should be opened for all the importer exporter and not only for the importer and exporter who are doing self-clearance and Customs Brokers should be authorised on this module.





Mr. Ganpat Korde informed that all formalities are going under Faceless Assessment but amendments have to be manually though it is defined in system in reality it has to be done manually. The another issue is for getting refund it is required to submit all the documents manually. He suggested that custom should have similar process like IT and GST for claiming the refunds and all the document should be uploaded in the system.

Chairman requested Mr. Ganpat Korde to prepare the note on the same and forward to FFFAI for addressing further.

MSME COMMITTEE

Dr. Darshan Mashroo stated that MSME has organized one webinar for the members to explain them how to get register under MSME. We are planning to conduct another webinar regarding payment and how the query to be uploaded on the website. If any association would like to webinar or seminar at their location MSME committee members will visit that location to explain the members.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia stated that there is fallacy in MSME registration. The matter had gone to Supreme Court and the person who had invoked MSME for the payment lost the battle.

What is the fallacy?

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The fallacy stated that this is applicable to MSME holder prospective from date of registration. Hence if there is dispute arises and claimed under MSME the pending amount which is prior to MSME registration is not considered under MSME.

He stated that intent of legislator is to give protection to the MSME hence as FFFAI we should represent to the Government about this anomaly.

Mr. Kartik Pancholi responded saying that in the first webinar members were made aware of the basic of MSME and at the same time has to be done after registration because intimation to the client that you are registered under MSME is equally important also your invoice should reflect that you are registered under MSME Act.

In second phase we will be emphasising about the financial benefits after registering under MSME. Thereafter the dispute resolution about the payment. How to proceed further legally, what the requirements in that particular case.

Mr. Shankar Shinde stated that we have good relation with MSME Secretary Shri B. B. Swain and can have meeting to get the clarification if any required.

Shipping Line

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia requested members to inform about the issues faced with shipping lines if any.

Mr. Devang Joshi stated that MSC shipping specially for hazardous cargo are asking for compulsory DGD survey. He said exporters not keen into invite MSc or Surveyor to come and survey the cargo at factory premises because the cargo is DG cargo the people those who appointed as surveyor not enough qualified, neither they don't know much about the DGD certification.





There was long debate with MSC team along with DG cell and informed that they can relax if the customer is registered online and also reports are uploaded online. The charges which is being collected by MSC is incurring cost to the exporter.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia responded saying that we all are aware that globally many vessels are catching fire, so many accidents are happening hence shipping Line are trying to minimize the accident by increasing the process. As per his knowledge MSC is the only shipping lines who is doing but it is being done one time for one commodity.

Mr. Vinod Sharma stated that shipping lines are still asking for security cheques and insurance.

Mr. Sailesh Bhatia replied that majority to shipping lines have stopped it could be freight forwarders or NVOCCs which we can initiate through AMTOI.

Airport /Airline Issue

Mr. Dushyant Mulani stated that recently AERA has increased terminal handling charges across the country. Some of the associations have protested given logical explanation why charges should not be increased yet across the country there is some increase. At major aircargo terminals they have sought an increase of free time from 48 hours to 36 hours. He requested each and every association should protest to protect the Custom Brokers.

Mr. R. N. Sekar informed that at Chennai they have received circular from AERA that charges are not being increased. Mr. R. N. Sekar informed that communication received from AERA will be forwarded to FFFAI.

Mr. Dushyant Mulani informed that FFFAI would be organising webinar on handling of Lithium batteries which has come as Gazette notification guidance which will be enacted very soon.

Social Media/ News Letter

NEWSLETTER

Mr. Amit Kamat stated after gap of four to five years FFFAI Newsletter was re-launched on 2nd December, 2021 during the Foundation Day of FFFAI. FFFAI bulletin are published on quarterly basis and till now we have published three quarterly bulletin and fourth bulletin will be published soon.

The bulletin contains the following;-

- i. Activities of FFFAI
- ii. Webinars conducted by different committees of FFFAI A
- iii. Activities undertaken by Member Association at their respective location
- iv. National events and national news in so far as Government of India and its various activities
- v. Activities, events, landmark achievement, articles, interviews of the other logistics associations
- vi. International news in logistics of WCO, FIATA, IFCBA
- vii. Cover story, articles from eminent personality





Quarterly bulletin is circulated online to all its members. Printed version of the bulletin is being forwarded to all Government department and also to national and international association. We have received good response from various sectors in logistics and government department. It has led to tremendous proliferation of FFFAI.

He thanked Member Association for providing the articles, events for including in the bulletin. He also thanked other association who have been sending articles events for including in the bulletin. He thanked all the Office Bearers and Dr. Nirav Thakker for their guidance and support. He stated that Mr. Ratan Paul collected the information and Ms. Jasleen Kaur support him for setting up the pages apart from FFFAI Secretariat support.

He further stated that apart from quarterly newsletter we have started with monthly newsletter from April 2022 onwards and every month FFFAI e-newsletter is being forwarded to members and is also uploaded on FFFAI website.

Social Media

Mr. Amit Kamat informed that it was initiative and encouragement of Chairman Mr. Shankar Shinde. He was very keen that FFFAI should be on Social Media platform. We were not aware of the importance of being in Social Media but we have not only got response but even the membership of FFFAI increased.

He requested convenor Dr .Nirav Thakker to give the presentation on Social Media.

Dr. Nirav Thakkar gave representation on social media rich and said the number of followers increasing day by day (on facebook, twitter, Instagram, linkein). He requested members to retweet the message tweeted on Twitter.

He further stated QR code information is also available on the FFFAI website and members can scan the QR and join the same.

Mr. Shankar shinde said we were to organize webinar on social media how it could be useful not only for FFFAI but also for individual to promote their organization on various platform. He stated that we need to have list of Executive Committee Members whose account are yet to created or created but are have not part of FFFAI Social groups.

Women Wing

Ms. Chaitaly Mehta gave presentation about women wing committee and said membership of women wing crossed Fifty plus and hope to cross Seventy Five members. She thanked President of all the Member Associations for encouraging Women in their location to be part of the Women Wing. In July we had got the permission from MSC Shipping to take Women on-board to view the actual operation but had to cancel due to bad weather condition. During the 24th Biennial Convention there were record number of Women participated also two of the Women members are speakers during the convention. There were few Women members who have attended the Convention first time and got the lucky draw which excited them a lot.

She thanked Mr. Manoj Singh – Senior Vice President, Cargo and his team for briefing the Women. The event which was scheduled for two hours which turned into four hours. We had opportunity to visit the perishable area, pharma zone, non-accessible areas were opened for the Women.





Ms. Chaitaly Mehta also share some upcoming event:

- a. Meeting with Ms. Nadia (UAE)
- b. Planning for psychological aid training for both men and women,
- c. Visiting airport, ports at other locations also.
- d. Interview quiz in pipeline.
- e. Sailing session for interested members at Mumbai and Chennai.

Agenda no.10: To discuss and update about Indian Institute of Freight forwarder

Mr. Tej Contractor stated that we had lot of training programs, workshop in order to spread skill development. He further stated that second trimester of the diploma course was conducted and out of forty six students, thirty six students have passed. There is practice of conducting re-exam for the students who are success in the first attempt in certain papers hence re-exam was conducted for which also result has been declared. The third batch has been commence with thirty students and we have conducted exam of page one and page two. The program consists of three trimester which goes roughly around ten and half months. The next batch will be announce shortly.

IIFF has tied up with certain Institution to conduct the courses and this institutes are predominantly conducting logistics program and have trained faculty who are part of the program in addition to that they have participants. We will shortly have students graduating from this institute. Every week with review meeting with this institute to review the lesson plan.

He stated that IIFF had workshop wherein logistics board is being played. One workshop was in the classroom with WISTA member and second was at Port of Antwerp in JNPT. IIFF also had meeting with one of COE about career opportunity in logistics. He requested that it is required to up skill in order to get fresh talent.

He was pleased to inform the house that FIATA Diploma course in Freight Forwarding has been re-validated for another four years and handed over the re-validated certificate to Chairman and other Officer Bearers of FFFAI.

Mr. Shankar Shinde informed Mr. Tej Contractor to brief the house about the FIATA Bill of Lading.

Mr. Tej Contractor stated that FIATA bill of lading was launched during the FFFAI 24th Biennial Convention with the hands of Honourable Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The SOP for FIATA Bill of Lading is almost ready and should be able to roll out FIATA Bill of Lading in week or two. FIATA Bill of Lading will be available to members at the cost of Rs. 500/- per Bill of Lading. FFFAI is also on verge of issuing electronic FIATA Bill of Lading.

Mr Shankar Shinde informed that we are starting with FIATA Bill of Lading but the day will come when FFFAI will have its own Bill of Lading which will actual be Atmanirbhar Bharat and we will process applying to ICC for approvals.

Agenda no.11: To announce the date and venue of the next EC Meeting

Mr. Vinod Sharma informed that next Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held at New Delhi and requested Mr. Puneet Jain to brief the house.





Mr. Puneet Jain informed that Delhi Custom Brokers Association is glad to host the next Executive Committee Meeting coinciding with the Diamond Jubilee celebration at New Delhi. He on behalf of Managing Committee would like to invite Executive Committee Members at New Delhi on 2nd and 3rd December, 2022. He requested Noida Association to support Delhi Custom Brokers Association for hosting Executive Committee Meeting.

Agenda no.12: Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

Webinar on lithium battery: International regulation on lithium battery we will announce the date of webinar shortly

Mr. Shankar Shinde informed that we have informed that there will be INSTC Dry run Project again and queried to the house whether FFFAI should participate as we need to prepare the proposal for the same. Earlier we have worked on the three projects and also around five conference on INSTC which has given good mileage for our outreach. This time they may come out in tender form. The dry run will be mainly on Chabahar port connectivity to CIS to various destinations. He wanted the approval of the house whether we can participate in the Dry Run even if comes at the cost of advances or EMD or investment whether we could go ahead.

The house unanimously agreed to participate in the tender to bid for INSTC Dry Run Project. And requested Executive Committee members and Mr. Sohel Kazani to initiate with documentation study and participate in the dry run project as he was part of earlier project and is aware of execution.

Vote of Thanks

Mr. Vinod Sharma thanked Brihanmumbai Customs Brokers Associations for hosting 10th Executive Committee Meeting and making excellent arrangement for the same. He also thanked Executive Committee Members, Board of Advisors for attending the meeting in large number even though there is festival season.

As there was no matter for discussion the meeting concluded with vote of thank to the Chair and recital of National Anthem.

For Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

Vinod Sharma
Honorary Secretary

To: All Executive Committee Members of FFFAI

To: All Member Associations of FFFAI

To: All Board of Advisors of FFFAI

To: All Nominees of Associate and Allied Members

