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STAGE ALL SET FOR AIR CARGO

leaders' future
innovations



AIR CARGO SECTOR MAY

fly to its potential
in days ahead

PRIORITY TO FUEL

efficiency, reducing logistics costs

DELIVERING HEALTH, WORLDWIDE

KEY FEATURES



Integrated
Cargo Terminal



Pharma Zone & Unbroken
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Tapping India's potential for becoming 'pharmacy of world'



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GSV and Indian Navy to boost logistics education, R&D

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara, inked an MoU with Indian Navy in New Delhi. Pact aims at enhancing logistics-related education, research and training for the Navy. It facilitates the exchange of expertise and case studies in AI applications, predictive analytics, and blockchain technology to elevate logistics practices.

 CT Bureau

Vice Admiral Deepak Kapoor, Controller of Logistics, Indian Navy, and Prof. Manoj Choudhary, Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti

A specified number of Indian Navy officers will have the opportunity to pursue academic degrees at the university

Vishwavidyalaya, signed an MoU representing a major milestone in bolstering India Navy's logistics capabilities and operational efficiency. The collaboration between the duo is set to strengthen the Indian Navy's logistical framework by focusing on supply chain man-

agement, multimodal transportation, and sustainability in logistics. It also aligns with national development initiatives such as the PMGS and the NLP.

The memorandum facilitates the exchange of expertise and case studies in areas such as AI applications, predictive analytics, and blockchain technology to elevate logistics practices. A specified number of Indian Navy officers will have the opportunity to pursue academic degrees at Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), alongside management development programmes designed exclusively for them.

Building on its existing partnerships with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, GSV now caters to the education and research needs of all three defence services. The university's central focus on transportation and logistics




places it at the forefront of skill development and innovation in this critical sector.

"This collaboration would empower the Indian Navy with advanced logistics capabilities and practical insights, while the university would benefit from the Navy's operational expertise," Vice Admiral Deepak Kapoor emphasised in his address.

In his speech, Prof. Manoj Choudhary highlighted the

role of efficient logistics in mobilising forces quickly and underscored the university's commitment to fulfilling its national mandate through innovation and collaboration.

Rear Admiral Rajat Kapoor and senior officials from the Union Ministry of Railways, Indian Navy, and GSV were present at the signing ceremony. It marked a significant step forward in advancing India's defence and logistics capabilities. 

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AN ERA OF SUSTAINABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY UNFOLDS

In 2025, air cargo is poised for growth driven by innovation, sustainability, and efficiency. With advancements in technology and development of eco-friendly aircraft, industry is set to enhance operational performance, thereby reducing its environmental impact. Demand for faster, reliable delivery services, especially in e-commerce and perishables, will fuel expansion. Focus on sustainability will ensure growth aligns with climate goals.



CT Bureau

As we welcome the New Year, the air cargo industry is embracing a future built on sustainability and responsibility. In 2025, responsible air cargo operations gain importance with a focus on reducing carbon footprint, adopting innovative technologies, and ensuring ethical practices throughout the supply chain.

By prioritising fuel efficiency, utilising alternative energy sources, and promoting transparent, fair business practices, the industry is paving the way for greener, more efficient logistics. Real-time tracking and operational transparency provide clients with full visibility, fostering trust and accountability. The industry is all set to welcome state-of-the-art cargo facilities to make cargo operations efficient and faster. Multimodal cargo hub at Noida International Airport, logistics park in Bangalore In-

Investment in specialised cargo handling for pharma, perishables, and e-commerce logistics, will be given importance

of transshipment cargo hubs, promoting regional connectivity, easing compliance, and fostering innovation through affordable capital access can catalyse growth in India's logistics ecosystem, according to industry leaders. Investment in specialised cargo handling, for pharma, perishables, and e-commerce logistics will be given importance.

Alliances and partnerships between small and medium businesses and big players will be forced to expand reach

HIGHLIGHTS

- MMCH at NIA and BLR Logistics Park will offer advanced cold storage solutions, and bonded warehousing capabilities.
- eco-friendly ground support equipment and green initiatives will alter air cargo
- Need airports in tier II and III cities in line with rising domestic demand.
- Firms must extend reach into Southeast Asia to unlock areas of collaboration

ternational Airport, integrated cargo complex at Ahmedabad airport, logistics centre at Mumbai International Airport and many more.

Prime Minister's Gati Shakti (PMGS) and National Logistics Policy (NLP) have opened avenues for transformative growth. The objective of NLP is to be able to lower logistics costs from 13 to 14 per cent of GDP to 8 per cent by 2030. Creation

into emerging markets. Stress would be laid on regional hubs to optimise operations and reduce transit times. As we look ahead, responsible air cargo operations will continue to play a crucial role in shaping a sustainable and resilient global economy.

 delves into thought process of industry leaders on strategic growth and responsible air cargo operations in the New Year.



Technology innovations define air cargo industry

“ The industry in 2025 will be defined by tech innovation, environmental responsibility, and evolving global demands. We are committed to conducting air cargo operations by integrating digitisation, predictive analytics, and streamlined processes into our business model. Digitisation lies at the heart of our growth strategy, enabling automated documentation, faster data recording, and reduced manual intervention. This approach minimises errors, saves time, and enhances operational efficiency. By leveraging predictive analytics, we identify challenges, optimise routes etc.”



Amit Tandon
CEO & Managing Director
Asia Shipping India

Digitisation is at heart of our growth, minimising errors and saving time

Multimodal linkage to reduce transit times

“ Air India SATS Airport Services aims to transform the industry through strategies focused on sustainability, efficiency, and technological advancement. Our expansion includes two flagship projects: MMCH at NIA and the BLR Logistics Park in Bengaluru. These facilities feature advanced cold storage solutions, bonded warehousing capabilities, and AI-enabled ops to optimise cargo flow. The multimodal linkage is to reduce transit times, with specialised handling facilities for e-commerce, pharma, and perishables. We are investing in cutting-edge technologies for predictive analytics and IoT sensors.”



Ramanathan Rajamani
CEO
AISATS

Multimodal linkage is to reduce transit time, with specialised handling

Digital technology to reduce emissions

“ We are driving a vision for the coming year, focusing on operational excellence, sustainability, and innovation. We aim to expand our Indian and global footprint by strengthening our presence in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, supported by partnerships with emerging airlines. In India, Çelebi’s is focusing on driving efficient processes to facilitate our operations. We are adopting digital technology to boost efficiency and reduce emissions. Sustainability remains central, with eco-friendly ground support equipment and collaborative green initiatives shaping our operations.”



Kamesh Peri
CEO, Çelebi Delhi Cargo
Terminal Management India

We are adopting digital tech to boost efficiency and reduce emissions

Investment must in green technology for air cargo

“ India’s air cargo and logistics infrastructure has witnessed key advancements; there remains a long road ahead to achieve global benchmarks. Though Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru airports have seen infra improvements, we need airports in tier II and III cities in line with rising domestic demand. With the current capacity of 6.5 MMT of handling capacity, we should strive to expand it to 10 MMT by 2030 to sustain growth. PMGS and NLP envision a climate through digitalisation and unified platforms and integration of multimodal linkage.”



Uday Sharma
Chief Commercial
Officer, Allcargo Gati

We need airports in tier II and III cities in line with rising domestic demand



Automation to be driving force of cargo industry

“ We are committed to upscaling our solutions to meet the sector’s needs. As we ahead to 2025, we focus on enhancing efficiency, reliability, and adaptability in cargo operations. We are upscaling our range of products with the latest automation and technology. This approach ensures we stay ahead of demands, while developing solutions to address emerging challenges. Our team works with stakeholders to design tailored systems that support seamless cargo operations. Automation will continue to be a driving force, enhancing operational speed and precision.”



Jinali Gandhi
Business Head, Global Growth & Expansion
Gandhi Automations

We are upscaling our products with the latest automation and technology

Adopt green practices and multimodal logistics

“ Implement AI-driven tools for supply chain optimisation, predictive analytics, and customer service enhancement. Adopt blockchain to enhance supply chain transparency and traceability. Provide integrated solutions that include freight forwarding, warehousing, and last-mile delivery. Introduce services such as cargo insurance, customs clearance, and real-time tracking. Explore opportunities in multimodal logistics to integrate air, sea, and land transportation and invest in specialised handling of pharma, perishables and e-commerce. Forge partnerships to expand into emerging markets is a must.”



C K Govil
CMD
Activair Airfreight

Introduce services such as cargo insurance, customs clearance

Air cargo to be shaped by AI, sustainability

“ AI, sustainability, and resilience will lead way in shaping the industry. AI will alter how businesses work—we have developed tools such as LogiTALK, an AI Co-Pilot simplifying tasks and saving time. For sustainability, we have eco-friendly solutions such as LogiCONNECT, offering real-time booking, tracking, and emission monitoring, to improve air and ocean cargo for forwarders. Partnerships, such as Softlink Global’s with IATA to roll out ONE Record initiative, highlight the move toward standardised data exchange for greener logistics. It is an exciting time as these trends take logistics to the next level.”



Amit Maheshwari
Founder & CEO
Softlink Global

Trends highlight move towards standardised data exchange for greener logistics



Demand and supply cycle to drive growth

“ In 2025, we aim to deliver value to our users, focusing on expanding in Indian market. This includes onboarding more airlines to increase capacity distribution and attract a larger forwarder base. This offers access to multiple airlines, while airlines benefit from a network of forwarders and an omnichannel presence to boost sales. Sustainability will in focus as the industry adopts eco-conscious practices. Tools for tracking CO₂ footprints and optimising routes will become essential to minimise environmental impact. Cargo platforms will play vital role in supporting green logistics.”



Poonam Faridi
Business Head, Octolooop,
CargoFlash

Airlines benefit from several forwarders and an omnichannel presence to boost sales



Automation to optimise route planning, streamline logistics

Air cargo and logistics will be key drivers of global growth, fuelled by tech innovation, sustainability efforts, and rise of e-commerce. Adoption of automation, AI, and data analytics will streamline operations, cut costs, and enhance efficiency, enabling faster deliveries.

 Ritika Arora Bhola

Experts forecast air cargo industry would experience growth, driven by technological advancements, increased e-commerce demand, and a continued push for infrastructure development next year. The rise of automation and AI will optimise route planning, improve cargo handling efficiency, and streamline logistics processes, leading to faster cost-effective operations. The demand for temperature-sensitive shipments, particularly in pharma and perishables, will continue to rise, reinforcing air cargo's role in global trade. Sustainability will be a top priority, with adoption of eco-friendly technologies, including electric and hybrid aircraft, and in-

creased investments in carbon offset programmes.


Experts forecast the Red Sea crisis, and other geopolitical disruptions will continue to affect air freight pricing, causing backlogs and rate spikes in the next year. As the data breaches and cyber-attacks become frequent, logistics firms will prioritise advanced security protocols, such as multi-factor authentication

and end-to-end encryption, to protect sensitive client data.

The continued boom in cross-border e-commerce will demand faster and flexible air freight solutions in 2025. Strict regulatory framework will call for robust compliance mechanisms, and businesses will adopt diversified and agile supply chain models to build resilience against geopolitical and market uncertainties. Youth will

participate in numbers in this business via government initiatives such as Logistics Sector Skill Council. Micro Fulfilment Centres along with MMLPs will meet the increasing need for speed and convenience.

Experts foresaw an increased dependence on coastal logistics provided by the government's focus on modernising ports and enhancing connectivity. As air cargo becomes more integrated with digital supply chains and global trade networks, the industry is likely to play a pivotal role in supporting economic growth and environmental responsibility.

 discusses with experts what the New Year has in store for logistics and air cargo sectors.

Insights

- Current market trends reflecting demand for air cargo is outpacing supply
- Utilising data analytics to understand market trends & operational performance

Impacts

- Red Sea crisis, and other geopolitical disruptions will continue to affect air freight
- Cross-border e-commerce will demand faster and flexible air freight solutions

Contd. on next page ▶



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Development to grab headlines in New Year

“ Our strategy for the New Year is no different than what it was in earlier years. We will continue to focus on creating value for our clients, improve yield and create value for our teams and partners. With the changing geopolitical landscape and change of guard in the USA, it does seem that the focus is going to shift to business. If America’s GDP grows by 1 per cent than the current levels, Asia, and specifically, India, will benefit. On the face of it, it seems 2025 should be a good year with less focus on war. Development, I feel, should be grabbing headlines. Next year looks positive.”



Shesh Kulkarni
Managing Director,
Noatum Logistics

Focus will shift to business now following change in administration in the USA

Logistics firms prioritise advanced security protocols

“ In 2025, the industry is looking at a transition—from pandemic-fuelled growth to a period of stabilisation. We observe current market trends reflecting that demand for air cargo is outpacing supply in all regions. The Red Sea crisis and other geopolitical disruptions continue to affect air freight pricing, causing backlogs and rate spikes. To mitigate fuel price risks, it is likely the air freight businesses build flexibility into their pricing models and consider hedging strategies. Logistics providers are expected to leverage AI and big data to offer hyper-personalised experiences.”



Sunil Kohli
Managing Director,
Rahat Cargo

To mitigate fuel price risk, the industry might consider hedging strategies

Inflow of young talent due to govt initiatives

“ The industry is taking a leap in terms of securing its chain of suppliers and building resilience through supply chain visibility tools. AI-driven demand forecasting tools are in vogue as they reduce inventory management errors. Many countries are opting for autonomous vehicles/automation to cope up with labour shortages. Besides complying with green transition regulations and policies, firms are reducing their CO₂ footprint with tools that help in route optimisation, better last-mile deliveries, cargo hubs, which make overall operations sustainable.”



Afzal Malbarwala
MD
Galaxy Freight

Firms are reducing their CO₂ footprint with tools that help in route optimisation

Using data analytics for knowing market trends

“ Technology has always been in the forefront of innovation in logistics. The time has come to push technological innovation and leverage AI, cloud computing, Blockchain, 5G, IoT and other tech widely. Need for transparency, efficiency and scalability is pushing the need for digital freight platforms. It has gained popularity among transporters to quickly access or download documents to move shipments. Utilising data analytics to understand market trends, operational performance and customer behaviour is essential. Real-time data can help identify opportunities and challenges.”



Rahim Bhimani
SVP, Air Cargo Practice,
Kale Logistics Solutions

There is need for transparency & efficiency for digital freight platforms

Logistics to be shaped by technology, sustainability

“ Technology and automation would continue to play a key role in optimising operations and enhancing efficiency. We are strengthening partnerships and investing in multimodal logistics to create seamless supply chain solutions. We believe growth comes from empowering people hence, workforce training and upskilling would remain a priority for us. Logistics in 2025 will be shaped by sustainability, technology, and resilience. There is a shift toward cleaner energy and eco-friendly practices. Tech is evolving fast, AI and blockchain to make supply chains smarter and transparent.”



Nikhil Agarwal
President
CJ Darcl Logistics

Tech is evolving fast, AI and blockchain will make supply chains more transparent

Digital transformation to integrate technology

“ Our growth strategy in next year revolves around innovation, sustainability, and customer solutions. We aim to drive digital transformation by integrating tech to enhance supply chain visibility and operational efficiency. Expanding infra with new AFSs and multimodal connectivity is a priority, alongside fostering green logistics through eco-friendly practices and energy-efficient processes. Partnerships with carriers and tech providers will strengthen our service capabilities and global footprint. We are committed to tailoring solutions for pharma and e-commerce.”



Vipin Vohra
Chairman
Continental Carriers

Partnerships with global carriers and tech will fortify our service capabilities

Sustainability to drive through paperless solutions

“ The air cargo industry in 2025 will be shaped by sustainability, digitalisation, and collaborative ecosystems, with an emphasis on fostering trust and transparency. Digital transformation will accelerate through AI-driven automation, blockchain-based solutions, and data sharing, enabling decision-making and strengthening stakeholder ties. Sustainability will drive operational practices, automated workflows, and paperless solutions such as Hans Infomatic’s WiseDox. Platforms, such as Cargo Community System, will foster transparency by linking stakeholders for seamless data exchange.”



Parvinder Singh
Managing Director, Hans Infomatic

Digital transformation will speed up through AI-driven automation

Faster TAT to support agile supply chains

“ Global disruptions have heightened the need for faster TAT and access to maintain trade stability. These trends spotlight air forwarding’s vital role in supporting resilient, agile supply chains in a rapidly evolving global landscape. I believe some megatrends will accelerate widespread digitalisation, and a shift towards resilient and adaptive supply chains. In line with these trends and to support the evolving consumer demands, we have anchored our strategy for 2025 on three pillars—global connectivity, digital transformation, and sustainable operations.”



Akash Agrawal
Vice President, Freight Forwarding, Middle East, North Africa and Subcontinent, DP World

Megatrends will accelerate digitalisation, and a shift to resilient supply chains

Sustainability, adopting SAF to take centre stage

“ Our strategy in the New Year is centred on enhancing connectivity and delivering faster and efficient logistics solutions. Our launch of Imphal and Varanasi routes reflect our commitment to enabling deliveries and supporting businesses in scaling their operations. We have streamlined supply chains by leveraging consultative logistics, an approach that integrates tailored supply chain solutions. This methodology is a cornerstone of our 2025 growth strategy, empowering us to deliver end-to-end solutions that drive connectivity, and foster business growth.”



Ketan Kulkarni
Managing Director, Gati Express and Supply Chain

Tailored supply chain solutions, a cornerstone of the next year’s growth strategy

Drones for commercial purposes in the offing?

“ We are focusing on expansion in Indian and cross border markets. Pharma and vaccines are a focus area. We have a huge portfolio of our products represented to Europe, Israel, Vietnam, Australia, Africa and USA. We have more digital and AI-focused plans. Air freight will remain stable till the end of 2025 and expecting an air freight growth of 3.5 per cent every year. Technological advances such as automation, AI & cloud-based platform can improve efficiency, transparency and collaborations. Demand for fast delivery will increase demand for air freight.”



Pramod Menon
Vice President, Cargo, Rainbow Aviation

Air freight will remain stable till next year-end and expect a growth of 3.5% annually



AT A GLANCE

- The rise of automation and AI will optimise route planning, improve cargo handling efficiency, etc.
- The boom in cross-border e-commerce will demand faster and flexible air freight solutions in 2025.
- Experts foresaw dependence on coastal logistics provided by gov’t focus on modernising ports.

Businesses to reduce environmental footprint

“ The growth of e-commerce will drive the need for faster and efficient logistics solutions, with digital transformation playing a key role in enhancing operational excellence and delivering superior customer experiences. Sustainability will take center stage, as businesses adopt innovative, eco-friendly technologies and practices to reduce their environmental footprint and align with global regulatory standards. Advancements in last-mile delivery (LMD), including drones, EVs, and automation, will revolutionise urban logistics, offering cost-effective and timely solutions.”



Dipanjan Banerjee
Chief Commercial Officer, Blue Dart

Digital transformation plays key role in enhancing operational excellence



Air cargo sector may fly to its potential in days ahead

Air cargo infrastructure in India has entailed collaborative efforts from govt and industry. While we have seen investments in warehousing, terminal upgrades, and technology, the ecosystem has not caught up with the pace of global trade demands. Will the true potential of air cargo and logistics be unlocked soon?



Akash Tyagi

The air cargo sector has witnessed an unprecedented growth in past two years, in cargo handling and market size. According to reports, the total cargo handled through the air cargo reached 33.6 lakh metric tonnes by end of FY2024. Also, the market size of Indian air cargo is projected to touch US\$ 63.5 billion mark by 2028-end, at a CAGR of 5.9 per cent. The air cargo sector aims to reach 10 MMT of annual

throughput by 2030, which can be turned into a reality with an upgrade of the industry's infrastructure.

To support its growth, the authorities must take various measures in the next five years which include increasing cargo terminal capacity to handle higher volumes, establishment of transshipment hubs to reduce transit times, implementation of AI, IoT and automation to enhance operational efficiency and integration of multi-modal connectivity to enable seamless movements.

2025
WHAT TO EXPECT

10 MMT by 2030
CARGO CAPACITY TARGET

US\$ 63.5 billion
PROJECTED TO REACH BY 2028

5.9 per cent
PROJECTED INCREASE PER YEAR

18.1 per cent
THROUGHPUT SURGE IN 2024

These initiatives can bring a transformatory boom in the air cargo and logistics sector, catapulting India in the ranks of big players in air cargo and logistics globally.

The Union Civil Aviation Ministry has paved the way for development of dedicated freight corridors, cargo terminals and logistics parks, which will play a vital role in the country's role in India's transformation as a leading player in global air cargo & logistics sector. Implementation of revised Open Sky policy, investment in technology, customs



simplification, and tax breaks, will play a significant role in solidifying the country's position as a top player in global logistics. The ministry has also emphasised on the need for more dedicated freighters, as most of the air cargo is being carried out in the belly hold of the passenger aircraft.

The Airports Authority of India is leaving no stone unturned in modernising air car-


MoCA stressed on the need for more freighters, as most of the cargo is being carried out in the bellies of passenger flights

go and logistics infrastructure. The initiatives include upgrading of as many as 150 smaller airports to enhance cargo han-

EXPECTATIONS IN 2025

- Investments in upgrading infra in tier II and III cities must be prioritised to bring small airports on par with tier I ones.
- Advanced cargo handling systems and digital solutions must be implemented to streamline workflows.
- PPPs must drive investment in green infrastructure, ensuring sustainability while expanding capacity.
- Physical infrastructure upgrades with advanced digital solutions, crucial for consistent growth.

dling capabilities through multimodal hubs, cold storage facilities, and digital integration. The objective of these measures is to reduce logistics time, decrease costs and establish India as a trusted global trade and transshipment hub.

Therefore,  interacted with industry stalwarts in order to discuss the present state of affairs of air cargo and logistics infrastructure in the country and what measures can be taken to enhance its quality.

Airports to be linked to road & rail networks

“ Cargo terminals at airports should be expanded to handle higher volumes of freight. Establishing strategic hubs to streamline cargo movement, reduce transit times, and optimise supply chain networks. Leveraging AI, IoT, and automation to improve cargo tracking, reduce manual processes, and enhance operational accuracy. Developing temperature-controlled facilities for perishables to maintain quality throughout the logistics chain. Airports must be connected to rail and road networks to enable seamless cargo movement. This apart, PPPs should drive investment in green infrastructure.”



Arun Chandra
Vice President, Aviation Business, BIAL

Establishing cargo hubs to streamline flow to optimise supply chain networks

Need to modernise handling at major airports

“ Improvements such as streamlined customs procedures and reduced bureaucratic hurdles have enhanced operational efficiency. However, challenges persist. The existing infrastructure has obstacles such as considerable strain, cargo handling limitations, congestion at key airports and gaps in multimodal connectivity. Also, there is a need to modernise cargo handling facilities, integrate advanced technologies, and strengthen last-mile linkage. Policy measures, such as rationalising ATF prices and providing tax perks, could serve as enablers of growth. PPPs too will play a role in driving innovation.”



Ayesha Katgara
Head, Corporate Strategy, Jeena & Company

Existing infra has handling limitations and congestion at key airports in India

Investment in tech, digitisation essential

“ Quality infrastructure is a key metric for reasons such as TAT, efficiency, and safety. If the roads are not quality prone, moving cargo from the source to the airport cargo complex becomes a challenge. Lack of infra is proportional to lack of efficiency in the overall supply chain and lack of security leads to lack of trust among stakeholders. These impact EoDB of the nation. Govts should oversee infra capabilities and keep expanding them so that airports' handling capacity increases. Investments in terms of AFSs, freight corridors, and emerging business areas are essential to stay ahead of competing countries.”



Suneet Gupta
SVP & Global Head, Cargo Community Systems, Kale Logistics Solutions

Lack of infra is proportional to lack of efficiency in the overall supply chain

Urgent need to invest in logistics infrastructure

“The standards of infrastructure in air cargo and logistics sectors in India are undergoing transformation. The govt has launched initiatives to modernise 150 underutilised airports and airstrips, which will boost air cargo capabilities and regional linkage. There are also plans to set up cargo terminals, and cold storage facilities for perishables. Automated storage and retrieval systems, mechanised cargo handling systems, and Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) systems will be introduced to enhance efficiency. There is a need for investments in logistics infrastructure.”



Pramod Menon
Vice President, Cargo
Rainbow Aviation

EDI systems, retrieval systems will be introduced to enhance efficiency



Automation, robotics to ensure quicker TAT

“India’s location between major East-West trade routes positions it as a prime transshipment hub for global cargo. Leveraging this advantage requires enhancing airport facilities, optimising operations, and establishing dedicated transshipment facilities to better utilise freight capacities. Efficient infrastructure is crucial; modernising roads, railways, and airports, and developing intermodal transportation hubs to boost connectivity and cost-effectiveness. Simplified customs processes, digitised documentation, and reduced bureaucratic hurdles would improve EoDB and minimise delays.”



Pradeep Panicker
CEO, GMR Hyderabad
International Airport

Intermodal transportation hubs to boost connectivity and cost-effectiveness



Develop cargo hubs for for smooth cargo flow

“Several initiatives must be prioritised to support the infra expansion. Primary focus should be on improving utilisation of existing cargo facilities, which are often underutilised. Development of cargo hubs is essential for smoother cargo movement. Investments in upgrading infrastructure, especially in tier II and tier III cities, should be prioritised to bring smaller airports on par with major ones. This decentralisation would help reduce congestion at primary airports. Adoption of advanced technology and automation should also be encouraged to enhance efficiency.”



Amit Tandon
CEO & Managing
Director, Asia Shipping
India

Focus must be laid on improving cargo facilities that are often underutilised

Contd. on next page ▶



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Rise in terminal capacities, transshipment hubs needed

“ Air cargo and logistics infrastructure is improving, but there’s lot of ground to cover. While we have seen investments in warehousing, terminal upgrades, and technology, the ecosystem has not caught up with the pace of global trade demands. India still relies on foreign hubs for transshipment, but what is promising is the government’s focus on logistics infrastructure. Increasing terminal capacities and setting up transshipment hubs will reduce bottlenecks and make India more competitive. Logi-Sys platforms are helping businesses manage shipments, optimise routes, and improve visibility.”



Kunal Maheshwari
Chief Growth Officer,
Softlink Global

It is unfortunate India still relies on foreign hubs for transshipment

Upgrading tech vital to modernise operations

“ The standards of infrastructure in the air cargo and logistics sectors are currently mixed. While some airports such as Delhi and Mumbai have made advancements in cargo facilities, other airports still face challenges—outdated infrastructure, inadequate capacity, and inefficiency in handling growing tonnages. Such issues lead to congestion and delays. Technology adoption is lagging in certain areas, which limits operational efficiency. To support infra growth, the govt, terminal operators and other players must focus on key initiatives. Capacity must be increased at terminals to handle rising volumes.”



Raj Dhawan
Manager
Lambah Group

Some airports have issues like outdated infra, poor capacity, and inefficiency in handling

Tech upgrades can simplify processes, efficiency

“ Air cargo and logistics have progressed under UDAN scheme. Infrastructure for swift cargo movement remains largely underdeveloped compared to Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. While tier-1 airports offer advanced cargo handling, smaller cities face limitations in warehousing, cold chains, and congestion, affecting seamless operations and global competitiveness. Technology upgrades can streamline processes and improve efficiency. The construction of multimodal parks will play a crucial role in enhancing the overall logistics infrastructure.”



Aditya Shah
Executive Director,
V Trans India, & CEO,
V Xpress

Construction of multimodal parks will play vital role in enhancing logistics infra



Witnessing growth in infra, focus on global trade

“ The government is proceeding towards a promising future in the aviation sector. While the number of operational airports have doubled from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024, the UDAN scheme stresses the goal of increasing it to 350 to 400 by 2047. For faster customs clearance, the govt introduced Turant Customs programme. Besides SWIFT, e-Sanchit and ULIP make the process hassle-free. IGIA has set up a Transshipment Excellence Centre to reduce operational shortages. India has inked 13 RTAs and FTAs with many countries and regions. We are seeing growth in infra and focus on global trade.”



Afzal Malbarwala
Founder & Managing
Director, Galaxy Freight

India has inked 13 RTAs & FTAs with many nations. We are witnessing growth in infra



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‘Skilled workforce needed to achieve Viksit Bharat 2047’

Knowledge is the power of any business. The industry needs skilled manpower to reach the country’s goal of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047. FFFAI along with its training arm IIFF is committed to fulfill the target set by the Government of India, says **Dushyant Mulani, Chairman, FFFAI**.

CT Bureau

Surjit Bhujabal, IRS, Member (Customs) CBIC inaugurated the Southern Chapter of Indian Institute of Freight Forwarders (IIFF), recently in Chennai. The Southern Chapter was launched in association with the Chennai Customs Brokers Association (CCBA). IIFF is the training and skill development arm of the Federation of Freight Forwarders’ Associations in India (FFFAI). Dr. Ram Niwas, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone and S. Viswanathan, IAS, Deputy Chairman, Chennai Port Authority witnessed the inauguration programme.

Dushyant Mulani, Chairman, FFFAI; Amit Kamat, Chairman Elect, FFFAI; Shankar Shinde, I.P., Chairman, FFFAI; R. N. Sekar, Presi-



Dignitaries taking part in the lamp lighting ceremony to inaugurate FFFAI-IIFF Southern Chapter in Chennai

dent, CCBA; S. Nataraja, Honorary Secretary, CCBA; Sudip Dey, Hony. Secretary FFFAI were present on the occasion.

In his address, Surjit Bhujabal, Member, (Customs) CBIC, emphasised the role being played by Customs Brokers in facilitating international trade and EoFB. Complimenting FFFAI and CCBA for their initiative of launching IIFF

skill development chapter in Southern region of India, he advised them to focus on supporting women entrepreneurs and MSMEs through the skill development exercise.

Stressing the importance of skill development for end-to-end logistics, including customs broking and forwarding, Mulani said the courses and endeavours of FFFAI through



Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India

IIFF created a new chapter in logistics’ success story. “Knowledge is the power of any business. This industry needs skilled manpower to reach India’s goal of being Viksit Bharat by 2047. FFFAI with its training arm IIFF would fulfil the target set by the government,” he said.

Guest of Honour Dr. Ram Niwas spoke on imparting training to the CB community, factors behind the success of EXIM industry in India. He lauded FFFAI for creating job avenues by providing education/training to aspirants.

IIFF’S CONTRIBUTION

The IIFF is playing a vital role in promoting customs brokers, forwarders and LSPs. It has trained thousands of youths and women in the field of customs clearance and logistics. IIFF is the only institute in India accredited by FIATA to offer diploma courses.

OBJECTIVES OF FFFAI-IIFF

- Promote professionalism in the field of Customs Clearance.
- Integrate Freight Forwarding and Logistics with Customs Clearance.
- Reskill and upskill the existing custom brokers, freight forwarders and their operating staff.
- Create a vision for growth and compliant trade environment.
- Enhance industry standards and adopt best practices.
- Generate opportunities for first time entrepreneurship.
- Emphasise on use of digital technologies and AI.
- Create a pool for manpower resources with latest learning tools and digital technology.
- Creating higher inclusion of women in the field of Customs Clearance and Logistics.

End-to-end visibility with logistics, customs tower

Kale Logistics Solutions unveils Logistics & Customs Control Tower (LCCT), an electronic platform for cross-border trade and for exchange of information, data, and documents. It assists in reducing administrative and compliance costs and aids in reducing paperwork thereby enhancing sustainability benefits.

Lack of end-to-end visibility, inefficiencies in manual processing, data entry duplication, limited data sharing and compliance delays, are some of the pressing challenges for exporters. Around 60 per cent of companies report inadequate visibility into their supply chains, leading to inefficiency such as inventory mismatches, delayed shipments, and increased costs, among others.

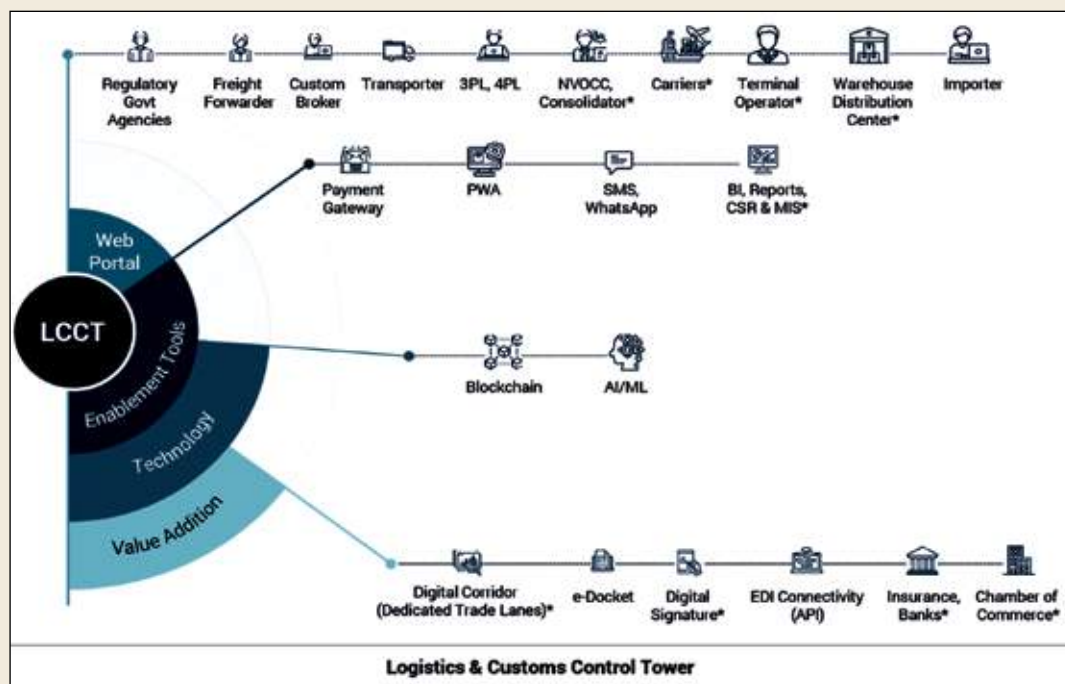
This causes problems in export-import operations, where delays at airports, ports, miscommunication between carri-

LCCT is an electronic platform for cross-border trade and for LSP's for exchange of information, data, and documents

ers, and regulatory bottlenecks can lead to losses in terms of revenue as well as reputation.

To address these challenges, exporters and importers are turning to logistics control towers, which act as centralised hubs for real-time data collection, analytics, and decision-making. By doing so, businesses can take corrective action, manage risks effectively, and capitalise on opportunities.

One of the most effective enablers of such visibility is the logistics control tower, a technology-powered platform that centralises data, enhances communication and decision-



making across supply chain operations. LCCT from Kale Logistics Solutions is an electronic platform for cross-border trade (manufacturers-exporters-importers) and logistics service providers for exchange of information, data, and documents. It also assists in reducing administrative and compliance costs and aids in minimising paperwork thereby enhancing sustainability benefits. LCCT as a platform integrates data from various sources and offers unified data visibility for all stakeholders. Here are some of them:

Monitor shipments in real-time: Stakeholders, by tracking every shipment from origin to destination, can anticipate and mitigate disruptions. For instance, predictive analytics in control towers can reduce transit delays by 25 per cent on average.

Optimise costs: The ability to identify bottlenecks and inefficiencies leads to significant cost savings. Research indicates that businesses using these towers can reduce supply chain costs by up to 10 per cent.

Enhancing communication: Export-import operations often involve multiple stakeholders, including suppliers, forwarders, and customs authorities. The tower fosters seamless communication, ensuring everyone is aligned on timelines and expectations.

Regulatory compliance: With global regulations becoming more stringent, control towers simplify compliance by providing updated documentation and ensuring adherence to international trade laws.

Flexible customisation: LCCT can be tailored to meet specific trade needs. For example, if cargo movement involves temperature control or meeting specific regulatory requirements or involves multimodal transportation, LCCT can be tailored as per the exporter or importer's needs.

SUPPLY CHAIN VISIBILITY

Kale's Logistics & Customs Control Tower ensures ease of operations, and transparency in the overall EXIM process. With this, exporters can ensure cent per cent real-time visibility, on-demand and end-to-end status sharing thorough adherence to regulatory compliance, and lower time consumption for documentation. As a result, EXIM operations are future proof and seamlessly smooth.

Pharma, electronics, high-value products rely on air freight

At the recently concluded India International Cargo Show, Sanjiv Edward, President, Air Cargo Forum India, says PLI Schemes, FTAs, international collaborations, and emergence of start-ups will drive growth. If India wants to take leadership position, seamless multimodal logistics infrastructure is essential, he adds.



Air freight services have been the cornerstone of global trade, offering fast and reliable transportation across continents. As global chains become complex and e-commerce continues to expand, the need for expedited shipping and air freight has become relevant.

Important industries such as pharma, electronics, high-value goods, rely on air freight, especially for time-sensitive shipments. The logistics market was valued at US\$ 8.96 trillion in 2023, and it is expected to be worth around US\$ 21.91 trillion by 2033 at a CAGR of 9.35 per cent from 2024 to 2033.

This combines 3PL, 4PL, warehousing, air freight and logistics. This opens doors for opportunities of the industry as air freight is the backbone of high-value and time-sensitive shipments. India is showing progress in the field of aviation and that resonates with



Sanjiv Edward
President
Air Cargo Forum India

its commitment for growth. Air freight services will continue to be the cornerstone for that growth, offering fast and reliable transportation across the global supply chains. India's role in the current logistics and air freight environment can be summarised in three broad areas. Firstly, we have the vision of Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat by 2047. This initiative envisions India as a developed nation by the centenary of

“We have one lakh startups, 100 unicorns & govt has implemented schemes for acting as catalyst to growth.”

Indian independence by the year 2047. The transformative roadmap emphasises inclusive development, sustainable progress and effective governance. The country has over one lakh startups, 100 unicorns and the central government has implemented several schemes that will act as a catalyst to this growth.

The PLI scheme, boosting global manufacturing initiatives such as Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Park, the Bulk Drug Parks, and the towns of exports excellence are driving the country's economics and exports. The second area that we need to focus on is the operational cost, the government has also introduced several initiatives such as the National Logistics Policy (NLP), whose objective is to ease of doing business. “I am sure we are on the trajectory to get better in the ease of doing business and LPI,” he stressed.

The Union government is also looking at financial incentives that will boost companies for building efficient logistics infrastructure. Already tax breaks are being provided for modernising warehouses and distribution centres and

this will also be an important part in reducing logistics costs. At the same time, we need to adopt innovative technologies such as big data and blockchain. If India take the position of leadership, we must make sure that we have a seamless multimodal logistics infrastructure. We also need to work on the

2025
WHAT TO EXPECT

US\$ 8.96 trillion
Size of logistics market in 2023

US\$ 21.91 trillion
Size of the market around in 2033

9.35%
Growth of CAGR

Tax breaks
Given for modernising warehouses

multimodal logistics parks (MMLPs) and inspire international collaboration as well. It is equally important to get connected to the world, we must explore new ideas, new technology to be ahead of the curve.

There are free trade agreements (FTAs) and partnerships happening, which are the things that we need to do to make sure that we are encashing the opportunity available to us. But in conclusion, this is not just a vision for the country alone. It is a vision for the world. Together, we can ensure that the future of aviation is built on the pillars of innovation, sustainability and inclusivity.





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Over 40 organisations commit to ‘Aviation 4 All’ goals for net zero

TIACA announced it has signed a ‘Aviation 4 All’ joint declaration developed by International Aviation Forum. We are pleased to support this initiative, and we cannot wait to get to work in supporting its implementation. So far over 40 organisations have signed the declaration, says **Steven Polmans, Chair**.



CT Bureau

The ‘Aviation 4 All’ initiative was developed by the International Aviation Forum (IAF) to set out clear goals to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity. So far over 40 organisations have signed the declaration and others are encouraged to consider adding their support to the initiative.

Some of the significant points of the declaration are as follows:

Delivering on environmental commitments to provide a net zero industry; enhancing the workplace to establish an inclusive and diverse working environment, regardless of age, religion, gender, academic or physical ability or national origin; increasing connectivity to enhance global accessibility; working with the governments to enhance safety and security to protect passengers, shippers, and the workforce; integrating throughout the value chain in order to provide an improved shipper experience, adopting seamless technology-based solutions; a dedicated focus on improving the operational performance in a bid to minimise the service disruptions; delivering financial efficiencies to lower the barrier of access so that a greater percentage of the international population can reap the benefits of domes-



Glyn Hughes
Director General, TIACA



Steven Polmans
Chair, TIACA



“TIACA is thrilled to be invited to support initiatives such as the ‘Aviation 4 All’ joint declaration.”

“We are pleased to support the joint declaration, and cannot wait to get the initiative implemented.”

tic and air travel; enhancing the impact the commercial sector has on the society through prosperity and cultural integration.

“The association’s support of the ‘Aviation 4 All’ Joint Declaration is a natural extension of the work that we do on behalf of the air cargo industry. We are pleased to support this initiative, and we cannot wait to get to work in supporting its implementation,” Steven Polmans, Chair, TIACA, said.

“We are thrilled to be invited to support initiatives such as the ‘Aviation 4 All’ vision as it confirms the value the global aviation community sees in what TIACA is doing to support the international air cargo industry and the contents of the declaration are fully aligned to what we see as being vital for the sustainable growth and development of our industry,” Glyn Hughes, Director General, TIACA.



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Air cargo market reports 15 consecutive months of growth

IATA's latest report reveals a 9.8% growth in international air cargo demand. Year-to-date, available cargo-tonne kilometres have surged by 8.1% , highlighting this year as an outstanding one for air cargo capacity. says **Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA.**



CT Bureau

According to the IATA data for global air cargo market, carriers experienced a 4.5 per cent YOY increase in air cargo demand, with the Middle East-Europe standing out at an impressive 15.3 per cent growth. This performance aligns with a sustained growth in the global air cargo demand, marking the 15th consecutive month, with total demand rising by 9.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2023, and 10.3 per cent for international operations. The region's role as a key transit hub for intercontinental shipments continues to sustain its position in global air cargo.

International routes have experienced exceptional increase for five straight months, with a 10.3 per cent year-on-year increase in October. Airlines are benefiting from the rising e-commerce demand in the USA and Europe, given the ongoing capacity constraints in ocean shipping due to Red Sea conflict. Across the globe, carriers have seen consistent growth in international traffic throughout the year, industry capacity has reached record highs for 10 straight months. Year-to-date, available cargo-



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

tonne kilometres have surged by 8.1 per cent, highlighting this year as an outstanding one for cargo capacity.

"The air cargo markets continued their strong performance in October, with demand rising to 9.8 per cent year-on-year and capacity up 5.9 per cent. Global air cargo yields, including surcharges, continued to rise, up 10.6 per cent on 2023 and 49 per cent on 2019 levels," Willie Walsh, Director General, IATA, said. "While this year is shaping up to be a banner year for air cargo, we must look to the next year with some caution. The incoming Trump administration in the USA announced to impose significant tariffs on its top trading partners—

“Incoming Trump government’s announcement has the potential to upend global supply chains.”

Canada, China and Mexico—has the potential to upend international supply chains and undermine consumer confidence. The industry’s proven adaptability to rapidly evolving geopolitical and economic situations is likely to be tested as the Trump agenda unfolds,” he added.

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

Asia Pacific: Asia-Pacific airlines witnessed the highest demand growth in October, with a significant 13.4 per cent year-on-year rise in the air cargo demand. This growth was fuelled by 9.3 per cent increase in capacity. The increase in belly capacity, up by 8.5 per cent, and the expansion of dedicated freighter capacity are key contributors to the region’s impressive performance.

North America: In North America, the air cargo demand showed strong growth, rising by 9.5 per cent in October 2024 compared to the previous year. Similarly, cargo capacity also increased by 5.8 per cent, signaling an expansion in the ability of the region to meet demand.

Europe: European carriers experienced a year-on-year demand growth of 7.6 per cent

in October 2024, reflecting a positive, but moderate performance relatively to other regions. Capacity in the region rose by 3.9 per cent. The region’s reliance on air cargo for industries such as pharmaceuticals and automotives, along with a resurgence in global manufacturing activity, has helped sustain demand.

Latin America: Latin America reported the most remarkable performance in October 2024, with cargo demand rising by 18.5 per cent year-on-year, the highest growth among all regions. This surge was supported by a 5.8 per cent increase in capacity. The region’s growth

Asia-Pacific airlines sees the highest demand growth in October, with 13.4 % YOY rise in cargo demand

is attributed to several factors, including increased demand for time-sensitive goods and the ongoing strength of e-commerce.

Africa: African airlines experienced the slowest demand growth in October 2024, with a modest 1.6 per cent increase compared to the previous year. However, cargo capacity increased by 7.7 per cent, which is the highest among all regions. Despite this expansion, the slow demand growth highlights some of the challenges within the African air cargo industry.

Key Insights

- Asia-Pacific airlines sees growth in October, with 13.4 % YoY rise in demand
- Increase in belly capacity, up by 8.5 per cent contributors to the region’s performance

Predictions

- Air cargo industry’s adaptability to change is likely to be tested
- While the New Year is likely to be a banner year, the airlines must proceed with caution



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Air cargo professionals discuss future innovations



ACAAI recently held its 48th Annual Convention in Baku, Azerbaijan from 5 to 8 December 2024. It brought together global industry leaders, govt officials, and logistics experts to discuss the sector's future. The event, themed 'Wings of Innovation: Charting New Paths in Logistics', kicked off at Baku Marriott Hotel Boulevard.



Ritika Arora Bhola

The 48th ACAAI Annual Convention began in Baku, Azerbaijan, with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony, which saw a gathering of dignitaries from the industry as well as the government.

The lamp lighting ceremony featured distinguished guests, including Chief Guest His Excellency Sridharan Madhusudhanan, Ambassador of India to Azerbaijan; Guest of Honour Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor, Union Ministry of Civil Aviation; C K Govil, President, ACAAI; Dinesh Krishnan, Chairman, ACAAI Southern Region and Convention Co-Chairman; Manoj Kumar Jain, Con-



vention Chairman, ACAAI; Sameer Gogia, Executive Director, Deloitte and Sanjay Jain, First Secretary of the Indian Embassy.

Manoj Kumar Jain, Convention Chairman, delivered the welcome address, followed by the Presidential Address from C K Govil.

His Excellency Sridharan Madhusudhanan and Piyush Srivastava also shared their valuable perspectives on evolution of air cargo and logistics



sectors, highlighting the significance of global collaboration and innovation, and the significance of hosting such conferences. During the session, the dignitaries also unveiled the ACAAI 2024 Convention Souvenir.

Addressing the convention, His Excellency Madhusudan elaborated on the history of Azerbaijan and shared several anecdotes from his personal and professional experiences.

By fostering knowledge-sharing, the event supports India's aspirations to become a logistics hub

Appreciating the hard work of ACAAI members, His Excellency said, "Congratulations on the successful event, I enjoyed interacting with all the ACAAI members. I have been listening to the pioneering steps taken in the Indian air cargo industry, which has also inspired me. Keep doing the good work."

In his address, Srivastava said, "Azerbaijan is a crucial link between the eastern and western world. Similarly, India has the advantage of being the link between East Asia with America, Europe and Africa.

As such, building bonds between the logistics players of the two countries is mutually beneficial. This event recognises the industry's vital role in contributing to India's economy. It serves as a platform for industry leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers to discuss emerging trends, technological innovations, and regulatory frameworks that can boost cargo efficiency. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the event supports India's aspirations to become a global logistics hub, promoting seamless trade and economic growth. I liked the gamut of technical sessions with sessions on yoga and mindful moves. On our part, the civil aviation ministry is committed to strengthening infrastructure with initiatives and poli-



cies that support the growth of air cargo in India."

Delivering the keynote address, Sameer Gogia emphasised the role of innovation in driving the future of logistics. His speech focused on how the industry must embrace new

technologies and strategies to stay ahead in a rapidly changing environment.

Day I concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dinesh Krishnan, Convention Co-Chairman. The ACAAI convention aims to create a platform for knowl-



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As for India's trade ties with Azerbaijan, not as expansive unlike other regions, have been steadily growing

edge exchange, innovation, networking and collaborations in order to explore new opportunities within the Indian air cargo and logistics industries.

Day II began with panel discussions on Developing Indian Airports and Ecosystems around them, Driving Sustainability-Introduction to ESG, Impact of Geopolitical Tensions on Global Supply Chains with Tariff and Trades, From

Threats to Transformation: Cybersecurity and Emerging Technology in Logistics, and Logistics Gateways-Points of Innovation.

“We have chosen Baku because of its strategic geographi-

cal location, connecting Europe and Asia, and its growing prominence as a logistics and transportation hub. Azerbaijan, with Baku at its heart, is investing heavily in its infrastructure to become a major player in global supply chains. Its positioning along the ancient Silk Road, coupled with modern initiatives such as Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the Alat Free Economic Zone, makes it a compelling destination for discussions on innovation and growth in logistics. Also, Azerbaijan has a forward-looking approach to global trade, with investments in improving its port, road, and air transport infrastructure, aligning with the air cargo industry's goals to enhance connectivity and efficiency,” Govil said.

As for India's trade relations with Azerbaijan, while historically not as expansive unlike other regions, they have been steadily growing. India imports oil and gas from Azerbaijan, while exporting textiles, pharma, and machinery. The two nations have been exploring deeper ties in sectors such as agriculture, technology, and logistics. The aim could be to foster closer economic and trade relations between India and Azerbaijan, leveraging logistics to strengthen bilateral ties and enhancing India's presence in the region's supply chain network.

Insights

- It is platform for industry, stakeholders, policymakers to discuss trends
- Baku was chosen as its strategic location, linking Europe and Asia

Impacts

- Positioned along Silk Road makes Baku for discussion on innovation and logistics
- Azerbaijan has invested in improving its port, road, and air transport infra





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AI optimises routes, reduces carbon emissions in freight

Air freight and logistics are on edge of transformation, driven by AI. Potential for tech ranges from streamlining ops with real-time tracking, automated anomaly detection, optimising routes, and reducing emissions, says **Rumman Chowdhury, USA Science Envoy and CEO & Co-founder, Human Intelligence.**



CT Bureau

AI is transforming logistics and air freight into efficient, and sustainable sectors. Artificial Intelligence's (AI) ability to identify anomalies—missing shipment or a deviation caused by unexpected events such as accidents or weather disruptions—brings a new level of efficiency and control to logistics operations.

AI can even alert operators immediately, enabling swift corrective action, thereby reducing costly delays and improving overall productivity. The integration of



Rumman Chowdhury
USA Science Envoy and CEO and
Co-founder, Human Intelligence

AI in logistics sector starts with digitisation. Coupled with RFID and Internet of Things (IoT) technology, AI facilitates real-time track-

ing of goods. AI-powered logistics promise optimised routes, reduced carbon footprints, and data-driven strategies for greener shipping practices.

“There is an amazing use of confluence of technologies in logistics, such as RFID technology, radio frequency. It is these little identification tags that can go on goods, and products being shipped, so that they could get scanned automatically. Rather than the human scanning or the traditional documentation, it would all be digitised,” Rumman Chowdhury, USA Science Envoy and CEO and

Co-founder, Human Intelligence, said. AI's capabilities extend beyond data analysis; they also optimise predictive processes in logistics.

By analysing vast datasets—often involving billions of variables—AI systems can forecast future trends, from demand fluctuations to potential disruptions. This predictive capability is a game changer for logistics. “It is about moving things faster and efficiently. Absolutely. AI is fundamentally a productivity improver, which creates a streamlined, transparent, and a robust supply chain ecosystem,” Chowdhury said. ↴

1.10 lakh square feet warehouse opened by Beyond Sqfeet in Kolkata

Warehouse is designed to accommodate diverse storage needs, featuring heavy-duty racks with a capacity of 5,000 pallet positions (expandable to 8,000) for B2B businesses. West Bengal, especially Kolkata, has emerged as a key logistics and warehousing hub in eastern India.



CT Bureau

Beyond Sqfeet Supply Chain Solutions has signed a long-term strategic expansion project in Kolkata, at Ganesh Park, Ranihati, Amta, spanning over 1.10 lakh square feet. This advanced warehouse is designed to accommodate diverse storage needs, featuring heavy-duty racks with a capacity of | 5,000 pallet positions (expandable to 8,000) for B2B



businesses, non-racking area for bulk and processing, two levels of RCC blocks tailored for B2C Operations and cold

chain conversions. With existing warehouses in Dhulagarh and Dankuni, this expansion elevates Beyond Sqfeet's foot-

print in Kolkata to an impressive 2,00,000 square feet by the end of its first year of operations. Beyond Sqfeet serves major clients across various sectors, including Wellness, Fashion and lifestyle, Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals, IT, and prominent B2C brands.

This expansion underscores the firm's commitment to creating a well-connected and efficient logistics ecosystem in the region. ↴

Galaxy Freight hosts Annual Dinner for members, families

Galaxy Freight recently hosted an Annual Dinner for leaders of air cargo and their families. The stakeholders of the industry enjoyed the evening by digging into scrumptious food and danced to the foot-tapping music played at the venue.



Transforming workforce through upskilling initiatives

School of Logistics, Communication and Waterways, along with LPAI held training programme to impart training to officials. Sessions focused on logistics, warehousing, and cold chain systems, equipping officials with tools to enhance communication skills, operational efficiency, and ability to manage logistics effectively.



CT Bureau

The School of Logistics, Communication and Waterways, in collaboration with Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) organised three-day training programme for officials aimed at enhancing their professional skills. The session opened with a warm welcome by Er. Susanta Dutta, SIPARD.

Other dignitaries included Nitesh Kumar Vyas, Chairman, LPAI, Colonel Gitesh-



deep Singh Sandhu, Director (Technical), and Debasis Nandi, Manager, LPAI, Agartala Land Port. Throughout the training, 24 participants were

introduced to topics such as behavioural attitude improvement, soft skill development, and effective noting and drafting techniques. The training

covered the use of e-office tools, understanding of accounting procedures, and implementing best practices for health and hygiene.

The sessions focused on logistics, warehousing, and cold chain systems, all of which are relevant to the participants' daily responsibilities. These topics equipped the officials with the tools to enhance their professionalism, communication skills, operational efficiency, and manage logistics and health-related tasks. ↴

Kargo360 designs SaaS platform to optimise air cargo efficiency

Kargo360 is at forefront of transformative shift from manual processes to digital solutions, offering a comprehensive SaaS platform designed to optimise air logistics for airlines as well as logistics providers, says **Naveen Shandilya, Co-founder & CTO, Kargo360.**



CT Bureau

The air cargo industry, valued at an impressive US\$ 146 billion, is undergoing a transformative shift from manual processes to digital solutions. Kargo360 is at the forefront of this revolution, offering a comprehensive SaaS platform designed to optimise air logistics for airlines and logistics providers.

Kargo360 addresses key industry challenges such as underutilised cargo capacity, inefficient communication channels, and lack of data vis-



Naveen Shandilya
Co-founder & CTO
Kargo360

ibility, Naveen Shandilya, Co-founder & CTO at Kargo360 said. "With a robust product

suite, it provides end-to-end solutions, including real-time tracking, streamlined operations, and advanced analytics. Key features like a 360° customer platform, API integrations, and tailored scalability enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and drive revenue growth."

As the airlines continue to navigate the complexities of the industry, Kargo360 remains committed to delivering innovative solutions that drive tangible value. "By leveraging Kargo360's cutting-edge technology, the stakeholders can

“With a robust product suite, it provides end-to-end solutions, including real-time tracking among others.”

achieve lightning-fast logistics management, while unlocking untapped opportunities in air cargo, cost reductions and revenue optimisation. To learn more, visit www.kargo360.com," Shandilya added. ↴

Rise in engineering exports in November 2024

Trade: Export

Sl. No.	Commodities	Values in Million USD				% Change	
		NOV '23	APR '23-NOV '23	NOV '24	APR '24-NOV '24	NOV '24	APR '24-NOV '24
1	Tea	68.08	531.75	78.29	604.22	15.00	13.63
2	Coffee	86.31	804.38	100.38	1147.43	16.31	42.65
3	Rice	585.78	6448.01	1143.34	7314.43	95.18	13.44
4	Other cereals	24.96	429.25	26.81	147.58	7.40	-65.62
5	Tobacco	119.93	981.09	180.47	1369.75	50.48	39.61
6	Spices	301.34	2544.57	319.71	2791.94	6.10	9.72
7	Cashew	29.78	213.21	36.81	202.71	23.61	-4.92
8	Oil meals	150.38	1044.16	73.98	875.97	-50.81	-16.11
9	Oil seeds	114.31	888.84	116.82	868.44	2.19	-2.29
10	Fruits & vegetables	311.22	2197.36	294.54	2315.92	-5.36	5.40
11	Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items	214.67	1850.68	220.49	2039.89	2.71	10.22
12	Marine products	644.59	5227.56	759.47	4953.34	17.82	-5.25
13	Meat, dairy & poultry products	374.06	2880.31	454.04	3139.89	21.38	9.01
14	Iron ore	360.36	2074.65	105.00	1342.31	-70.86	-35.30
15	Mica, coal & other ores, minerals, including processed minerals	382.22	3034.76	344.60	3036.37	-9.84	0.05
16	Leather & leather products	331.11	2899.61	333.54	2941.82	0.73	1.46
17	Ceramic products & glassware	316.28	2925.72	295.80	2632.93	-6.47	-10.01
18	Gems & jewellery	2802.71	21407.83	2066.58	19233.48	-26.26	-10.16
19	Drugs & pharmaceuticals	2136.24	17923.64	2160.06	19206.16	1.12	7.16
20	Organic & inorganic chemicals	2071.61	17702.83	1987.42	18808.08	-4.06	6.24
21	Engineering goods	7822.25	69321.93	8897.64	76381.30	13.75	10.18
22	Electronic goods	2241.21	17661.12	3467.64	22540.52	54.72	27.63
23	Cotton yarn/fabs./made-ups, handloom products etc.	854.90	7732.15	872.20	7863.32	2.02	1.70
24	Man-made yarn/fabs./made-ups e tc.	329.51	3053.77	345.59	3188.74	4.88	4.42
25	RMG of all textiles	1021.18	8846.40	1121.35	9853.88	9.81	11.39
26	Jute mfg, including floor covering	24.87	233.96	33.85	246.06	36.13	5.17
27	Carpet	119.92	914.96	122.79	1015.31	2.40	10.97
28	Handicrafts, excl. handmade carpet	116.99	1037.67	115.04	1164.55	-1.66	12.23
29	Petroleum products	7390.03	55021.33	3717.75	44604.88	-49.69	-18.93
30	Plastic & linoleum	629.96	5192.45	698.70	5916.46	10.91	13.94
	Sub-Total	31976.74	263025.95	30490.67	267747.68	-4.65	1.80
	GRAND TOTAL	33745.88	278258.84	32114.99	284309.26	-4.83	2.17

Note 1: Exports include Re-Exports.

Note 2: The figures for NOVEMBER 2024 are provisional. Note 3: Grand total is inclusive of component 'Other

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

Petroleum imports grew in November 2024

Trade: Import

Sl. No.	Commodities	Values in Million USD				% Change	
		NOV '23	APR '23- NOV '23	NOV '24	APR '24- NOV '24	NOV '24	APR '24- NOV '24
1	Cotton raw & waste	30.61	469.33	170.73	775.83	457.81	65.30
2	Vegetable oil	1003.30	10528.31	1884.84	12203.19	87.86	15.91
3	Pulses	392.12	2091.95	488.85	3276.25	24.67	56.61
4	Fruits & vegetables	318.11	1868.12	348.32	2081.74	9.49	11.43
5	Pulp and waste paper	167.09	1283.12	167.22	1407.78	0.08	9.72
6	Textile yarn fabric, made-up articles	193.66	1546.80	224.47	1631.50	15.91	5.48
7	Fertilisers, crude & manufactured	1061.76	7780.42	1350.55	6964.16	27.20	-10.49
8	Sulphur & unroasted iron pyrites	30.14	161.43	37.08	180.47	23.02	11.79
9	Metaliferrous ores & other minerals	869.32	6365.10	861.85	7126.56	-0.86	11.96
10	Coal, coke & briquettes, etc.	3369.33	25838.66	2381.73	22143.15	-29.31	-14.30
11	Petroleum, crude & products	14934.76	115033.19	16111.07	123263.77	7.88	7.15
12	Wood & wood products	568.63	4338.22	606.16	4641.42	6.60	6.99
13	Leather & leather products	99.39	654.91	58.06	672.09	-41.59	2.62
14	Organic & inorganic chemicals	2156.41	18550.82	2297.33	19460.73	6.53	4.90
15	Dyeing/tanning/colouring materials	339.16	3721.26	321.33	2917.88	-5.26	-21.59
16	Artificial resins, plastic materials, etc.	1735.56	15292.63	1927.12	15579.20	11.04	1.87
17	Chemical material & products	844.90	9433.06	990.66	7816.18	17.25	-17.14
18	Newsprint	30.61	319.44	32.94	314.08	7.61	-1.68
19	Pearls, precious & semi-precious stones	996.70	15231.21	964.13	11972.08	-3.27	-21.40
20	Iron & steel	2495.34	15708.63	1780.98	15197.94	-28.63	-3.25
21	Non-ferrous metals	1812.29	14642.39	2115.85	17196.63	16.75	17.44
22	Machine tools	417.14	3139.64	451.29	3636.47	8.19	15.82
23	Machinery, electrical & non-electrical	3979.44	32705.75	4491.57	35102.69	12.87	7.33
24	Transport equipment	2742.25	18701.43	2598.96	20119.36	-5.23	7.58
25	Project goods	73.02	728.15	103.05	731.68	41.12	0.48
26	Professional instrument, optical goods, among others	653.29	4985.81	739.47	5508.95	13.19	10.49
27	Electronic goods	6492.34	57822.59	7620.10	63916.78	17.37	10.54
28	Medicinal & pharmaceutical products	667.68	5472.77	794.01	5879.61	18.92	7.43
29	Gold	3445.09	32925.32	14860.48	49084.24	331.35	49.08
30	Silver	482.83	2277.56	656.61	3278.14	35.99	43.93
	Sub-Total	52402.27	429618.06	67436.79	464080.56	28.69	8.02
	GRAND TOTAL	55062.11	449240.30	69951.49	486732.27	27.04	8.35


Note 1: Imports include Re-Imports. Note 2: The figures for NOVEMBER 2024 are provisional.
Note 3: Grand total is inclusive of component 'Other'.

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)


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Shift in pharma, healthcare logistics for better future

Second edition of TriNext series of Podcast on ‘Opportunities & Challenges in Pharma and Healthcare Logistics’, was jointly held by  and Triton Logistics & Maritime Pvt. Ltd., (an Abrao Group Company) in Mumbai recently. Jitendra Srivastava, CEO, Triton Logistics & Maritime, moderated the session, and the panel comprised Devang Vyas, Vijay Shetty and Mehul Gandhi.

 CT Bureau

 in association with Triton Logistics & Maritime Pvt. Ltd., (an Abrao Group Company) is back with its second round of Trinext Series podcast on ‘Opportunities & Challenges in Pharma and Healthcare Logistics’. The Indian pharma industry is, no doubt, one of the largest and fastest-growing sectors globally, known for its contributions to both domestic market and international exports. The market is valued at US\$ 40 billion and is likely to grow in the coming years, driven by in-

creasing healthcare demands of a growing population.

India is the world’s largest supplier of generic medications, accounting for 20 per cent of global exports. The healthcare sector valued at US\$ 200 billion, is projected to grow, driven by increasing demand for quality healthcare services and technological advancements. The sector is also characterised by a mix of public and private providers, with the private sector playing a dominant role in the healthcare delivery, particularly in urban areas.

The country is the world’s largest supplier of generic medications, accounting for 20% of global exports


In this session, the moderator, Jitendra Srivastava, CEO, Triton Logistics & Maritime Pvt. Ltd., (an Abrao Group Company) discussed the topic with Devang Vyas, Global

Logistics Head, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, Vijay Shetty, SVP, and Global Head, Supply Chain & Distribution, Alkem Laboratories, and Mehul Gandhi, Customer Business Partner, Supply Chain, Pharma Division, Bayer India.

Devang Vyas, Global Logistics Head, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals

In the past five years, tremendous work has been done by the industry and the government for improving the supply chain efficiency. Airport terminal operators, airlines, shipping lines, LSPs and even



Jitendra Srivastava, Devang Vyas, Vijay Shetty and Mehul Gandhi at the podcast organised by  in association with Triton Logistics & Maritime Pvt. Ltd.,

manufacturers have indulged in creating sensitivity regarding time-sensitive products, skill development and training programmes are being conducted at mass levels.

COLD CHAIN INTEGRITY VITAL

Awareness has been generated by everyone in the eco-system, as India is gearing up to become the one of the largest 'pharmacy of the world'. Today, we have advanced technologies such as AI, ML, Block Chain, mobile apps for cargo tracking and tracing, active



and passive pharma data loggers, there is transparency, a customer can check the status of his/her shipment anytime, anywhere. However, there are certain grey areas that need to be addressed. I feel maintaining the integrity of the pharma product throughout the supply chain is crucial.

OPTIMISING COLD CHAIN LOGISTICS

Pre-auditing the vendor, the supplier, the stakeholder, the partner is creating the kind of skill sets that enables one to ensure that the cold chain is adhered to throughout the chain, right from manufacturing till the distribution point. The SOPs, processes must

Risk assessment must be done at regular intervals. Cargo needs to be checked if it is attended to on the airport's tarmac

be robust. Risk assessment should be done at regular intervals. Also, cargo needs to be checked if it has been attended to on the airport tarmac. We, as manufacturers are trying to collaborate with everyone involved in the supply chain such as airports, ground handlers, terminal operators,



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Devang Vyas, Vijay Shetty and Mehul Gandhi at the podcast

logistics service providers (LSPs) to improve the efficiency and sustainable pharmaceutical transportation. Every geography has got different set of challenges, when it comes to pharmaceutical exports. A movement into Africa could be different from the USA or Latin America. Therefore, maintaining consistent temperature is crucial.

EVOLVING CONSUMER DEMANDS

We have started introducing thermal covers, which are tested and verified. We do a lot of protocol studies for temperature covers. There are thermal covers, single layer as well as multi-layer. We do use active and passive solutions for handling pharmaceutical products, including adequate containers and box pallets, which are designed to cater to the temperature requirements. A lot of investment has been gone in this regard in the past few years in sustainable packaging and technology.

**Vijay Shetty
SVP and Global Head
Supply Chain and Distribution,
Alkem Laboratories**

We have different strategies for domestic and international markets. There is a common way of distribution for branded as well as non-branded products. The products are moved from the manufacturing site, to warehouse, retailers, and final customers. We do not control the sales part.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCES

While selecting distribution partners, we analyse and observe demand in a particular market. We also keep a check on our contribution in that market. Afterwards, we see the financial part, associated with the distributors, and retail coverage network. On that basis, we onboard the distributor and make sure they are catering to those markets. This is from the India business perspective alone. From an international business perspective, it is more of B2B. For example, let us take an example of the USA market. We move pharma products to our warehouse in the USA and from our USA facility, we move it to the different distributors who are giants there, seven to eight distributors and from there, it further goes down to the value chain. These

distributors not only control from a landscape for distributing the products, but also own many of the retail networks. But in India, our sales happen through distribution network.

**Mehul Gandhi
Customer Business Partner,
SCM & O2C, Pharma Division,
Bayer India**

Demand forecasting is crucial in pharmaceutical supply chains to ensure the efficient flow of medications and meet market needs. Accurate forecasting helps prevent stockouts, reducing the risk of shortages that could affect patient care, while minimising excess inventory and associated costs. The nature of the industry, which is more often than not influenced by seasonal trends, regulatory changes, and health crises, makes forecasting challenging. Advanced data analytics, historical sales data, and market trends play significant roles in forecasting demand.

FORECASTING DEMAND

By improving forecasting, pharma firms can optimise production, distribution, and inventory management, ensuring timely access to essential medicines. Demand forecasting is all about collaboration, it's a mindful activity, earlier forecasting used to be only related to demand but we need to look at the supply

forecasting as well. Collaboration is essential as there are a lot of regulatory obstacles, one needs to focus on both external and internal factors in a bid to maintain the accuracy of the supply chains. It should not be looked upon only from the cost or working capital point of view because one may go wrong in forecasting, replenishment and in meeting the market dynamics. Everyone in the industry must work within the framework of regulatory compliances. Technology integration is a must to make it happen. Today, the world is obsessed with digitisation. The industry must adopt tools to enhance cost effectiveness and operational efficiency.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

Technology is vital to enhance pharma supply chain efficiency and demand forecasting. AI and ML enable real-time data analysis, helping firms forecast demand accurately by analysing patterns, trends, and factors such as seasonal fluctuations and market conditions. Internet of Things can track inventory in real-time, ensuring optimal stock levels. Blockchain enhances transparency and traceability, reducing counterfeiting risks and improving product safety. Automated systems streamline operations, reduce human errors, and accelerate decision-making, ultimately leading to a more efficient, responsive, and resilient supply chain. 🏠



Indian logistics hinges on technology, infrastructure

Establishment of MMLPs and DFCs are not just essential, but they are the key to unlocking a new era of logistics, marked by improved operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness, says **Anish Kumar Jha**, Managing Director, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Kuehne & Nagel India.



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How is your business shaping up in India? Share your growth strategies?

We have been able to record 13 to 14 per cent growth in India in the past five to 10 years. In terms of recent innovations, we have our global control tower here where we have scaled up from 45 to 250 people in past three years. And we have plans to go up to 400 in the next two years. It comes with a lot of technological investments though, which has been made globally. We are investing in technology, people, and infrastructure within the company.

Elaborate on your cargo facilities in India?

In India, we have 4,500 employees within the organisation. Altogether, we have 360,000 square metres of contract logistics space this year. We have plans to take it

to 450,000 square metres next year. We are growing significantly here. In terms of investments in creating capacity in contract logistics, we have set up logistics centres in Gurugram, Mumbai and Chennai.

How would you rate quality of infra for cargo flow in India?

The next phase of growth is coming from tier II and III cities in India. Infrastructure is much better now as compared to what it was many years ago, especially with Greenfield projects and development of airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The infrastructure is top class. We are happy with the development of infrastructure, especially relating to ports and the airports; it was done in the past few years. We are also pleased with the progress of investment in the ports and airports in India.

What are the challenges faced by K+N in the Indian market?

The overall supply chain efficiency in India has improved tremendously. While disruptions will remain constant and driven by complex and diverse factors in the New Year, one thing is clear: Resilience, agility, and adaptability will be the pillars of success. More than ever, we need to collaborate more closely with our customers. The future of Indian logistics hinges on substantial investments in technology and infrastructure.

Establishment of MMLPs and DFCs, enhancement of digital infra, and promotion



Anish Kumar Jha
Managing Director, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Kuehne & Nagel India

“We have 3.6 lakh sq. mts. of contract logistics space this year and hope to take it to 4.5 lakh sq. mt. next year.”

of automation in logistics are not just essential, but key to unlocking a new era of logistics. We continue to look forward to the nation's progress and investment in the infra. Talent acquisition is key for K+N India. Encouraging public-private collaborations and investing in skill development programmes will not only enhance overall efficiency of the sector but also foster a sense of collective responsibility. A cohesive 'One India' logistics ecosystem will strengthen India's global value chain linkages and contribute to economic development.

Any plans to expand business in India?

We have opened three or four new Customer Care Loca-

tions (CCLs) in India this year. Mainly these are in tier II and III cities. We are also planning to open more CCLs. We have even have opened fulfilment centres in Kolkata, Patna, and Gurugram. For Contract Logistics, we are also reaching out to tier II and III cities. The plan is firm, and we are moving ahead with the investments.

Which is the firm's preferred mode of transportation?

One of the first factors is, the expected timeline for delivery. What is the cost sensitivity of the product? How quickly the product needs to be delivered and consumed? These are factors decide the mode of transport. We prefer transporting time-sensitive products, high-value shipments—to pharmaceutical, high-tech, or fast fashion. When it comes to sea logistics, we ferry bulk and non-perishable products, industrial goods, heavy and bulky items, which are not immediately required, and can obviously take a little while longer, and less costly route for travelling.

Which investments are done in tech that enhance sustainability in operations?

Our air logistics team has shifted airport transfers from warehouses to electric vehicles (EVs). Our road logistics team uses seven EVs. We are in advanced level of discussion to put in place dedicated customer specific EVs and, are doing well in managing the sustainability agenda. We remain committed to the targets we have set out to achieve. 🚀



IICS accounts for industry transformation & growth

India International Cargo and Logistics Show (IICS) 2024, held recently in Mumbai provided a platform for collaborations, cutting-edge innovation, and insights reshaping the industry. It provided a platform to industry leaders, forwarders, airlines, logistics firms, exhibitors, and visitors to connect with each other.



The show floor witnessed participants engaging with cutting-edge technologies, services, and strategies that promise to redefine logistics operations globally. The Connect Lounge facilitated high-value business meetings, while the dynamic IICS Conference drew packed audiences to discuss themes such as multimodal logistics solutions, future of ocean and

air cargo ecosystem, digital transformation, sustainability among others. There was also representation from industries such as pharma, textiles, perishables, automotives, chemicals, FMCG, engineering goods, electronics, electricals and e-commerce.

The IICS Conference provided a platform for knowledge sharing, featuring 78 speakers across 12 focused sessions addressing the pressing

challenges and opportunities in logistics today. Discussions on topics such as future-ready supply chains, technological advancements, and sustainable practices empowered the delegates with insights to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape.

“IICS is not just an event; it is a movement. The logistics industry is entering a new era, and IICS is proud to serve as a platform where these trans-

formations take shape. The incredible energy, insights, and innovations are a testament to the industry’s potential and its critical role in driving economic progress. The IICS is a stage where the logistics industry comes together to shape the future of business. Together, we are creating a future-ready ecosystem that will set global benchmarks,” Mohit Mevani, Founder and CEO, IICS, said, speaking about the IICS 2024 significance.





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Tapping India's potential for becoming 'pharmacy of world'

We have plans to expand our pharma biz in India market, focusing on Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, says **Eric Ten Kate, Global Sector Leader, Healthcare, CEVA Logistics**. Focusing partially on medical devices and on pharma, it is looking at temperature-controlled market and road logistics.



Ritika Arora Bhola

How is your business growing in the Indian market? Tell us about recent innovations and developments.

In the Indian market, CEVA is strengthening healthcare logistics through several key acquisitions, including Stellar Value Chain Solutions, helping CEVA advance in healthcare contract logistics in the region. Another key acquisition was Bolloré Logistics, which boosted CEVA with an additional 7,000 employees and experience in pharmaceutical logistics. The acquisitions have a lot of synergy, which allows us to strengthen our infrastructure in India. Today, CEVA has temperature-controlled facilities around the globe and a freight management network which we are further developing in the Indian market.



Eric Ten Kate
Global Sector Leader, Healthcare,
CEVA Logistics

Tell us about the cargo handling, storage, transportation and cold chain products infrastructure.

We have a state-of-the-art contract logistics facility that is currently in its ramp-up phase. Our approach is globally integrated, where we strategically identify and map out the loca-

“India is high on our agenda, from a healthcare point, this is one of the markets where you need to be.”

tions of IT competence centers and the flow of cold chain cargo. This global model guides our investments, allowing us to establish robust infrastructure tailored to regional needs. In India, we've made significant investments in multiple temperature-controlled sta-



tions, creating a solid foundation for our cold chain solutions. This enables us to build a connected network, ensuring seamless integration between global standards and the unique requirements of the Indian market. Our focus is on continually developing and enhancing this infrastructure, positioning ourselves to better serve the growing demands of the Indian logistics sector, especially in the cold chain and temperature-sensitive product categories.

How does technology play a role in maintaining supply chain integrity in pharmaceutical logistics?

Technology helps us drive innovation into our operations. Leveraging advanced systems, we enable lane risk validations, ensure comprehensive end-to-end visibility and provide seamless shipment monitoring. Through CEVA's digital freight platform, MyCEVA, customers gain real-time access to rates and freight quotes, enjoy an enhanced booking experience and benefit from tailored services designed to meet diverse cargo needs. Customers can choose what's best for their shipment or shipments—prioritising speed, cost and CO₂ emissions. Our data-driven approach integrates multiple sources, allowing us to collaborate with incubators and respond proactively to challenges, such as rerouting shipments due to adverse weather conditions. By prioritising solution-based selling, we place innovation and technology at the core of our operations and exceptional service delivery for our customers.



What are CEVA's plans in India?

India is a key growth region for CEVA, particularly in the healthcare sector, where we see strong growth potential and an optimistic future. In the past, our focus was primarily on generics, but with the rise of biosimilars (biological medicine), we've expanded our approach. The recent government regulations have further fueled this growth, creating opportunities for the domestic market and also for exports. We are excited about the prospects in India and are committed to leveraging this momentum to drive further expansion.

Can you provide details on the types of cargo you are handling for transportation?

Currently, we are handling the transportation of medical device parts intending to expand into providing comprehensive end-to-end logistics solutions. We aim to become the partner of choice by driving the ease of doing business. To achieve this, we are enhancing our capabilities across various segments and developing structured blueprints within the organization. While we continue to focus on medical devices and pharmaceuticals, we are also placing a strong emphasis on temperature-controlled products and their unique needs to meet evolving market demands.

How would rate infrastructure in India for cold chain transportation and storage?

The infrastructure for cold chain transportation and storage in India has certainly improved, but there is still room for growth and enhancement. Our focus is on key cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Chennai, which are crucial hubs for this sector. India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has stated that India aspires to become the 'pharmacy of the world' and we believe the country is moving quickly in that direc-



tion. With ongoing improvements, India is well-positioned to support the growing demand for cold chain logistics, particularly in sectors like pharmaceuticals.

What kind of expectations do airlines have from freight forwarding companies? And how do you fulfill these requirements?

Airlines expect freight forwarding companies to provide reliable, efficient, and cost-effective solutions. We meet these expectations through a collaborative partnership with our carrier partners, where both sides understand the value of good pricing paired with excellent service. Trust is essential for success, and we build that through consistent engagement. We participate in monthly steering committee meetings to review the pharmaceutical business with air-

lines, ensuring alignment on key priorities.

With our presence across Europe, the Middle East, APAC and the Americas, we work closely with airlines to provide proactive customer solutions. By collaborating with strategic partners, we ensure seamless service delivery that simplifies the ease of doing business for our customers.

Can you elaborate on sustainability initiatives at CEVA Logistics?

Sustainability is a core pillar of our strategy. We are actively integrating sustainable practices across our operations, including the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and electric vehicles (EVs) to reduce our carbon footprint. Our warehouses are equipped with energy-efficient LED lighting and solar panels, further contributing to our environmental goals.

As part of our parent company, CMA CGM Group, we benefit from their fleet of LNG-powered ships, which help minimize emissions. Additionally, we are focused on advancing temperature-controlled packaging solutions and promoting a circular economy to reduce waste. For example, we use phase-changing materials in our packaging, which makes shipments lighter when returned, resulting in reduced

CO₂ emissions. These initiatives reflect our commitment to sustainability and our continuous efforts to minimize environmental impact across our logistics network.

What projects are in the pipeline for CEVA Logistics?

Following our successful merger with Bolloré Logistics, we are embarking on several strategic initiatives, including the establishment

Investing in multiple temperature-controlled stations, allows building linkage with the market

of cold chain stations across India. This effort aims to seamlessly integrate our global network with the Indian market, ensuring enhanced connectivity.

We are actively engaging with Biotech and Pharma Logistics and focusing on strengthening our in-house capabilities. A key priority is obtaining GDP certification for all our ocean-phase stations, positioning us as the provider of choice for air, ocean, and ground logistics solutions. ✈️



China Airlines Cargo completes 25 years of operations in India


Group Concorde celebrated 25 years of China Airlines' service in India at an event in Delhi NCR. Eddy Liu, Senior VP, China Airlines, and Bryan Tao, Assistant, VP, graced the event. The event concluded with a lucky draw and drinks and dinner, fostering camaraderie and toasting to future collaborations.





‘Drones most likely to deliver bulk cargo in next five years’

Drones transitioned from small-scale deliveries to becoming an integral component of logistics in healthcare and e-commerce. We have demonstrated viability of drones through pilots and commercial deployments, showcasing their capability to address demands, says **Ankit Kumar, Founder & CEO**.

 Akash Tyagi

How do you see the potential of drones in supporting logistics sector growth?

The potential for drones in logistics industry is vast. The cutting-edge technologies address challenges such as traffic congestion, limited connectivity in remote areas, and costs associated with last-mile deliveries (LMDs).

At Skye Air, we have witnessed how drones revolutionise supply chains by reducing delivery times, offering a cost-effective, and an alternative to traditional logistics models. As the industries such as e-commerce, healthcare, and agriculture continue to expand, the drones are set to become a cornerstone of the logistics ecosystem. The demand for quick commerce and faster deliveries, especially in the urban areas, underscores the significant role the drones can play in reshaping the future of logistic sector.



Ankit Kumar
Founder & CEO
Skye Air

“We have witnessed how drones revolutionise supply chains by reducing delivery times.”

What is the potential of drones and when can they carry cargo loads?

Drones in the country have transitioned from small-scale

deliveries to becoming an integral component of logistics operations across sectors such as healthcare and e-commerce. At the forefront of this transformation, we have demonstrated the viability of drones through successful pilots and commercial deployments, showcasing their capability to address diverse logistics demands. Scaling up to accom-

modate larger cargo loads will need advancements in drone technology, regulatory approvals, and infrastructure development. With initiatives, such as liberalised drone regulations and targeted incentives for the drone industry, we anticipate their deployment for heavy cargo transportation within next five years. The cornerstone of this evolution will be collaborations with industries such as FMCG, e-commerce, and logistics, fostering creation of robust ecosystem for drone-enabled cargo solutions.

How will PMGS impact on changing logistics landscape? What is the govt support to drones?

The PMGS is changing logistics landscape by driving multimodal linkage and fostering infra development. For the drone industry, this initiative marks a pivotal step toward integrating advanced technologies such as drones into the core logistics network. Complemented by government initiatives such as the Drone Shakti programme and the PLI schemes, a thriving ecosystem for drone startups is taking shape. At Skye Air, we are aligned with these efforts and recognise how PMGS aligns with potential of drone technology. By enabling inter-modal infra and offering policy support, this plan is poised to accelerate the adoption of drones in logistics operations.

Services

- Technologies address challenges such as traffic congestion, limited linkage in remote areas etc
- Quick commerce and faster deliveries underscore role the drones can play

Highlights

- In line with govt initiatives, such as Drone Shakti and PLI schemes, drone startups are taking shape
- Drones shifted to become a part of logistics ops in healthcare & e-commerce



What type of infrastructure is available at Skye Air?

Skye Air has set up an infrastructure to power drone lo-

gistics operations. Our drones are equipped with advanced technologies such as automated flight systems, real-time tracking, and intelligent payload management, among others. We operate a centralised

Powered by electricity, drones reduce the carbon footprint associated with last-mile logistics

command centre that enables seamless monitoring of drone flights, prioritising safety and operational excellence. Skye Air has formed partnerships with leading e-commerce, healthcare, and logistics players, allowing us to cater to diverse environments.

Our operations include a hub-and-spoke model, where drones take off from our central hubs and deliver to designated 'Skye Pods' installed within residential complexes. These 'Skye Pods,' serving as collection points, streamline last-mile delivery. From there, delivery personnel, referred as



'Skyewalkers,' ensure doorstep delivery, completing the logistics chain efficiently.

Do you think drone technology can play a role in achieving high standards in sustainable logistics?

Drone technology is revolutionising sustainable logistics by reducing emissions and minimising environmental impact of deliveries. Unlike the traditional delivery vehicles, which contribute to traffic congestion and elevated emissions in densely populated urban areas, drones are an eco-friendly alternative. Powered by electricity, drones reduce the carbon footprint

associated with last-mile logistics. We are dedicated to advancing sustainable drone delivery solutions that enhance efficiency, while supporting environmental stewardship. Our drone operations align with international sustainability, helping businesses meet rigorous environmental standards and adopt greener logistics practices.

What are the challenges faced by Indian logistics sector?

The logistics sector grapples with several complexities, such as fragmented infrastructure, high logistics costs, and inefficiencies in LMD systems. Urban traffic congestion,

inadequate connectivity in rural and remote areas, and absence of integrated logistics frameworks compounds these challenges.

Drone technology emerges as a transformative solution, offering expedited, adaptable, and cost-efficient delivery capabilities. Nevertheless, the obstacles such as regulatory constraints, infrastructure inadequacies, and societal acceptance, remain.

Skye Air is collaborating with public and private sectors to mitigate these barriers, advancing drone technology and fostering an ecosystem conducive to large-scale drone logistics operations. 🚀

Tech integration fortifies Indian trade

The objective of LogiMAT 2025 is to foster collaboration, showcase innovative solutions, and set a roadmap for building a unified logistics framework enhancing efficiency, reduces environmental impact, and strengthens India's global trade position.

LogiMAT 2025, by Messe Stuttgart India is all set to be held from 13 to 15 February 2025 at Bombay Exhibition Centre (BEC), Mumbai. India's premier exhibition for intralogistics, material handling, and transportation management solutions. As the satellite show of the LogiMAT Stuttgart, known for its excellence in logistics and supply chain solutions, LogiMAT India promises to be an unparalleled event in the industry.

The theme of the event is 'Building a unified logistics for Viksit Bharat 2047'. It explores the landscape of logistics in India, aligning with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. It emphasises innovation, sustainability, and operational efficiency to address the dynamic needs of the logistics sector. Industry leaders, policymakers, and experts will come together to share insights on technology integration, diversity in leadership, and global trade compliance while addressing critical areas such as e-commerce growth, cold chain logistics, and warehousing standards.





Upcoming Events 2025

JANUARY

- ▶ **Geopolitics and Multimodal Transport (AMTOI)**
8 January
India Habitat Centre
New Delhi
- ▶ **All India Cold Chain Seminar 2025**
10 to 11 January
Autocluster Exhibition Centre
Pune
- ▶ **Annual Cargo Ball**
11 January
Pullman Aerocity
New Delhi
- ▶ **3rd Maritime India 2025**
22 to 24 January
Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon East
Mumbai
- ▶ **11th PHDCCI Global Rail Convention**
23 January
PHDCCI, PHD House
New Delhi
- ▶ **World Cargo Summit 2025**
27 to 29 January
Ostend-Bruges
Belgium

FEBRUARY

- ▶ **Warehousing & Logistics Asia Summit**
12 to 15 February
BITEC, Bangkok
Thailand
- ▶ **LogiMAT India 2025**
13 to 15 February
Bombay Exhibition Centre
Mumbai
- ▶ **13th Logistics Event of India**
20 to 22 February
Pragati Maidan,
New Delhi
- ▶ **Warehousing & Intra Logistics Expo**
14 to 17 February
Bittan Market Ground
Bhopal

MARCH

- ▶ **Mega Cargo Show**
11 to 12 March
Jio World Convention Centre,
Bandra Kurla Complex
Mumbai

APRIL

- ▶ **IATA World Cargo Symposium 2025**
15 to 17 April
Dubai World Trade Centre
UAE

- ▶ **LogiPharma 2025**
8 to 11 April
Lyon Convention Centre
Lyon, France

MAY

- ▶ **FIATA RAP 2025**
21 to 24 May
Aerocity
Delhi

JUNE

- ▶ **India Warehousing Show 2025**
26 to 28 June
ICC India International Convention
and Expo Centre
New Delhi


OCTOBER

- ▶ **FIATA World Congress 2025**
6 to 10 October
National Convention Centre, Hanoi
Vietnam

NOVEMBER

- ▶ **TIACA Air Cargo Forum 2025**
4 to 6 November
Abu Dhabi Yas Island
UAE

For more information contact: talk@ddppl.com

The dates shown on the annual event calendar are subject to change. Please refer to EventTalk in  to track the changes in dates



Trendsetters of the month



Adani Ports and SEZ has placed India's largest ever order for harbour tugs with Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The eight state-of-the-art tugs, worth ₹450 crore, will expand its fleet to

152 fleet
7,340 Likes



GMR Hyderabad Air Cargo has been ranked first in imports and second in exports in the Customs National Time Release Study 2024, showcasing its leadership in cargo clearance efficiency, collecting

1,500 Likes



India's first AAI-owned zero-waste airport opened in Indore, garnering

2,500 likes
63 comments



Qatar Airways Cargo unveiled its modern air cargo warehouse, equipped with advanced operational processes, technology integrations, and innovative practices, gathering

5,203 likes



The second episode of the **TriNext Podcast** garnered impressive views. It got

6,234 views
350 likes



Developed by **Bangalore International Airport Limited**, **Express cargo terminal at 200,000 square feet** built-to-suit facility will house leading global express courier companies such as DHL Express, UPS and FedEx Express churned

3,000 likes

AI advancing your cargo business



AI on the Fly: Tools to keep your cargo business rolling

In today's fast-paced logistics world, AI is not a buzzword—it is the secret sauce to running operations smoother, faster, and smarter.

From handling piles of data to automating mundane tasks, AI tools are helping businesses streamline work and save time.

Let us kick things off with a game changer that has turned meeting minutes into business milestones!

Stop the scribbling!

Otter.ai: The AI-powered meeting guru

Ever been in a meeting that you missed jotting down key details? Or struggled to recall that one point made during a brainstorming session? Enter Otter.ai—your AI meeting assistant that turns conversations into text in real-time!

What is the buzz about?

Otter.ai records and transcribes meetings, interviews, and sessions automatically, ensuring no

point gets lost in translation. Enjoy features such as:

- Auto-transcription: Convert spoken words to text instantly
- Smart speaker identification: Know who said what
- Seamless integrations: Otter.ai auto-joins your Zoom, Google Meet, or MS Teams meetings
- Team collaboration: Highlight, comment, and share transcripts within seconds.

For cargo firms juggling global teams, remote workers, and tight deadlines, AI all are on the same page—literally!

Pro Tip: Otter.ai works on-the-go with its mobile app—ideal for logistics managers attending client calls on the move.

Final Word: Do not let meetings weigh you down

In an industry where time is money and clarity is key, Otter.ai ensures your meetings are productive and well-documented. So, say goodbye to "What did I miss?" and hello to AI-powered precision!

It's AI working smarter so you can work harder on what matters most—delivering excellence. Because in logistics, every detail matters...

Movements

HANS INFOMATIC India



Abhishek Kulshrestha has recently joined Hans Infomatic Pvt Ltd as the CEO. Before joining Hans Infomatic, he served as CEO at Delhi Cargo Service Centre and held senior leadership roles at Amazon, Flipkart, and the Indian Army.

DELHIVERY India



Navneet Kumar has been announced as the Head, Supply Chain Services, Delhivery. Previously, he held leadership roles across enterprise sales and supply chain management firms. Kumar is experienced for 17 years in enterprise sales, a release stated.

SHIPROCKET India



Vivek Sharma has joined as VP, International Shipping, Shiprocket. With 35 years of global logistics expertise, he will focus on expanding ShiprocketX and CargoX by introducing new verticals, product categories, and geographies.

ECU WORLDWIDE India



Jan Kleine-Lasthues has joined as the COO, ECU Worldwide an All-cargo Logistics' wholly owned global subsidiary. In the new role, he will oversee the global operational functions across all regions, driving ops excellence at ECU Worldwide.

ATLAS AIR USA



Klaus Goersch has been appointed as the Executive VP and COO, Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings. He has 30 years of experience. He will oversee Atlas' global flight, ground and technical ops, with responsibility for regulatory compliance.

JETTAINER Germany



Stefanie Pauly has joined as the Chief Information and Technology Officer, Jettainer. With 10 years of experience, she will work with Jettainer's IT team to develop and refine innovations to optimise processes and improve service quality.

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