



ASSOCIATION OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS OF INDIA

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The Indian Customs and Department of India Posts held a first ever joint conference to deliberate on streamlining of imports and exports by post. The conference, held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi last week, had the presence of Commissioners of Customs from all the states having Foreign Post Offices (FPOs). They were accompanied by their counterpart Post Master Generals.

Imports and exports by post are the 6th highest cited citizen grievances under CPGRAMs. Customs and the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) have worked together since a year to liberalise, reform and align laws relating to imports by post.

Since 2016, e-commerce exports have been allowed through FPOs under MEIS incentives from the post offices in Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. Now, Customs may be leading the reform race by permitting e-commerce exports through all FPOs, though without MEIS benefits for now.

One of the major bottlenecks in the postal system is the absence of professional logistics companies that can facilitate SMEs going global through online presence and leaving postal logistics to third parties.

In order to cater to the SMEs and what may come as a major boost to the 'Make in India' programme, Custom officials are proposing new simplified procedures for exports through India Post.

In a progressive move, Amazon and DHL had been invited to make presentations on global best practices and identifying bottlenecks faced by exporters in India. "From a private sector perspective, it was great to see Customs and Posts coming together to find solutions for Indian e-commerce," observed

Dr Pritam Banerjee, Director (South Asia) from DHL. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mr Sunil Sawhney, said that improvement in infrastructure at Foreign Post Offices and leveraging strengths of the postal department's pan-India outreach can unlock massive export potential.

The Customs is planning some of these initiatives on the back of introducing non-intrusive technologies like x-ray scanning at Foreign Post Offices to expedite release of goods. These measures are also likely to control smuggling of narcotics as evidenced from the recent seizure of 300,000 tablets of psychotropic substances. In order to strengthen law enforcement, Customs will scan mail bags at the airports itself for identifying suspect consignments and contraband items, said a release.

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The government has started to promote merchant exporters, who, even after contributing almost a third of India's exports in value terms, cannot avail of some incentives meant for manufacturer exporters. It is said that the slow growth in India's exports has prompted the government to take this line.

Merchant exporters are those who do not own manufacturing facilities but buy goods from manufacturers here and sell the same to overseas customers. They have the capacity to procure goods from many sellers and sell them to foreign buyers after negotiating the best prices. They are usually able to negotiate prices with buyers, sellers and shipping lines that are better than regular exporters.

The Department of Commerce is thinking of ways to reduce the cost of credit to them, reports said.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi, has given its approval to the following proposal of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion:

- * Development of Freight Village, an Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), at Nangal Chaudhary, Haryana on 886.78 acres of land, to be implemented by the project Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in two phases.
- * Financial sanction of Rs 1,029.49 crore for development of Phase I and in-principle approval for development of Phase II of the project. Expenditure on Phase I comprises cost of entire land, at Rs 266 crore, including cost of the land to be used for development of Phase II.
- * Investment of Rs 763.49 crore by National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT), which includes Rs 266 crore as equity and Rs 497.49 crore as debt in the SPV; and
- * Bidding for trunk infrastructure development by SPV on EPC basis.

The project has enormous economic value in terms of direct and indirect benefits and multiplier effects on the economy. The economic benefits will include creation of employment, reduction in fuel costs, boosts to exports, reduction in vehicle (trucks) operating cost, reduction in accident related costs, increase in collection of taxes by the state government, reduction in pollution, etc., highlighted a release.



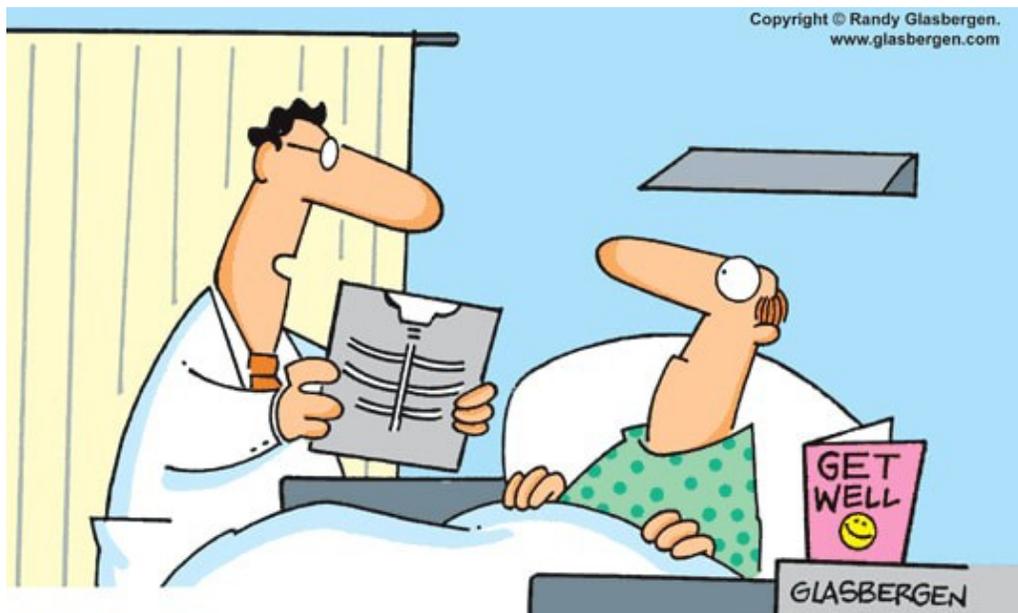
The movement of goods has been implemented in Assam from May 16, 2018 and will be implemented in May 20, 2018, said an official release.

The Council, e-Way Bill system for inter-state movement of goods was rolled out from April 2018 in the states/ Union Territory of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Puducherry. Till May 13, 2018, more than four crore and fifteen lakh e-Way Bills have been successfully generated, which includes more than one crore e-Way Bills for intra-state

With the roll-out of the system in these states/Union Territory, it is expected that trade and industry will be further facilitated insofar as the transport of goods is concerned, thereby eventually paving the way for a nationwide single e-Way Bill system. Trade and industry and transporters located in these States/Union Territory can register/enroll on e-Way Bill portal, namely, www.ewaybillgst.gov.in at the earliest without waiting for the last date, the release stressed.



**“It’s easy to snack healthy at work!
I get Vitamin C from coffee, Vitamin D
from donuts, Vitamin B from bagels...”**



“Your x-ray showed a broken rib, but we fixed it with Photoshop.”