



## ASSOCIATION OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT OPERATORS OF INDIA

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### Commerce Ministry discussing strategies to make Indian exports more competitive: Suresh Prabhu

The Commerce Ministry is working on a strategy to revitalise India's exports, working with key exporting ministries to formulate sectoral, commodity and territory specific export strategy. Meetings with concerned ministries and stakeholders have been held, after which a matrix of specific action points have been prepared sector-wise, commodity-wise and territory-wise, said Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, Mr Suresh Prabhu, at the Export Summit 2018 in New Delhi last week.

He pointed out that India's exports rose by 9.8 per cent in 2017-18, which is the highest rate of growth in six years. This positive growth in exports has taken place at a time when there are a lot of negative headwinds globally. He further stated that he is personally monitoring the progress, and regular meetings are being held with sectoral ministries, export promotion councils and exporters. Certain issues which were affecting the growth of exports have been specifically taken up with the Department of Revenue and Ministry of Environment.

### Govt to make interlinking of rivers a reality: Gadkari

The Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Water Resources, Mr Nitin Gadkari, has said that the government will make interlinking of rivers a reality. This would fulfil the water needs of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Soon after laying the foundation stones for five National Highway improvement works of the state Public Works Department covering a length of 177 km with an estimated cost of Rs1,500 crore, Mr Gadkari also dedicated to the nation 145 km of the four-lane National Highway stretch that connected North Karnataka with Telangana which was built at a cost of Rs 1,544.18 crore. "Interlinking of rivers helps harvest rainwater effectively and provides a solution to our water scarcity woes. Our government is committed to water conservation and resolving inter-state water disputes," he said.

On the proposed Godavari-Krishna-Cauvery linking, the Minister said that around 3,000 tmc of water from the Godavari that would flow into the sea during the monsoon could be utilised if the rivers were linked.

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## **APM Terminals Pipavav registers net profit in Q2 on back of increase in container volume**

As per APM Terminals Pipavav's (Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd) standalone financial results for the second quarter ended September 30, 2018, the company reported a net profit of Rs 552 million for Q2FY19 as against Rs 442 million in Q2FY18. Revenue from operations for the quarter under consideration stood at Rs 1,711 million as against Rs 1,517 million in Q2FY18.

EBIDTA for the quarter was at Rs 975 million as against Rs 828 million during the same quarter last year. EBIDTA margin stood at 57 per cent in Q2FY19 as against 55 per cent in Q2FY18.

## **Indian construction equipment a growing sector, says study**

The demand for Indian Construction Equipment (ICE) grew by 24 per cent in FY 2017-18, up from 13 per cent in FY 2015-16, and the sector crossed 90,000 units for the first time due to increase in infrastructure expenditure, according to an ASSOCHAM-Feedback consulting joint study.

The Indian Construction Equipment industry grew despite the hiccups of emission and GST during April and July 2017, respectively. Demonetisation also had a negligible effect on the industry growth, conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) jointly with consulting firm Feedback.

The government, which is a major demand driver, also plays a facilitator's role through policy and regulations. It is the largest end customer accounting for nearly two-thirds of the demand for ICE products and hence has a very significant impact on the industry. Also, its role in setting policy and regulation has a further impact on the industry.

Be it GST or 'Construction, Earthmoving, Material Handling, Mining (CEMM) Act' or the RERA Act for the real estate sector or the sand mining policy or the 'concrete site mix usage, land acquisition guidelines', the ICE industry looks to the government to act as an enabler. Its policy for facilitating export growth helps the ICE manufacturers reach out to existing and new markets, adds the study.

## **India improves rank by 23 positions in Ease of doing business**

The World Bank released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR, 2019) on Wednesday in New Delhi. India has recorded a jump of 23 positions against its rank of 100 in 2017 to be placed now at 77th rank among 190 countries assessed by the World Bank. India's leap of 23 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that last year India had improved its rank by 30 places, a rare feat for any large and diverse country of the size of India. As a result of continued efforts by the government, India has improved its rank by 53 positions in last two years and 65 positions in last four years.

The Doing Business assessment provides objective measures of business regulations and their enforcement across 190 economies on ten parameters affecting a business through its life cycle. The DBR ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier (DTF), a score that shows the gap of an economy to the global best practice. This year, India's DTF score improved to 67.23 from 60.76 in the previous year.

# Humor

