

Exports from Rajasthan: On the Cusp of a Logistics Revolution

Today, to support incremental exports from India, the logistics industry is facing major challenges like demands of on time delivery, infrastructure bottlenecks, capacity and workforce imbalances, security concerns and changing customer needs. Apart from this, fuel costs, expenditure on implementing expensive business processes and technology as well as responding to environment issues are dwarfing the success of the logistics industry. In order to address the concerns that exporters from Rajasthan face on a day to day basis, World Trade Center Jaipur in collaboration with Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan and Rajasthan Export Promotion Council (REPC) organized a webinar on “Logistics Ease to Exporters” at the office of the Commissioner of Industries, Udyog Bhawan, Jaipur.



In Photo (L-R) - Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, Mr. P.R. Sharma, Joint Director, Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan and Mrs. Archana Singh, IAS, Commissioner Industries and Investment & NRI, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Mrs. Archana Singh, IAS, Commissioner, Industries and Investment & NRI, Jaipur chaired the session and motivated the participants with her welcome address. She ensured that the Government of Rajasthan will help gather support from all government departments to ensure cost and time efficient logistics network to exporters from all sectors and districts, so that sacred capital and manpower resources could be deployed to add value through hi-tech manufacturing and capacity building.

Dr. Samit Sharma, IAS, Managing Director, The Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited (RSIC), Government of Rajasthan, informed that the Corporation is operating Inland Container Depots (ICD's) at Jaipur and Jodhpur. It is also operating an Air Cargo Complex at Sanganer and Jaipur. Major emphasis has been given to ensure that two more ICDs, one at Bhiwadi and another at Bhilwara become fully operational in due course.

Mr. Naresh Bundel, IRS, Joint Commissioner, Customs, Jaipur, assured the exporters that the department is leaving no stone unturned to provide speedy clearances of materials and merchandise.

Mr. C.K. Mishra, ITS, Joint DGFT, Udyog Bhawan, Jaipur, in his speech, shared that the Director General of Foreign Trade plans to revamp IT infrastructure for upgradation of logistics in a bid to provide paperless and transparent solutions to the problems faced by industry and trade in the movement of goods and services across the country.

Mr. Sunil Gupta, IRTS, C.G.M., Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR), Jaipur, after sharing the story of CONCOR's humble beginning, mentioned that it is now the undisputed market leader having

the largest network of 63 ICDs/CFSS in India (59 terminals and 4 strategic tie-ups). In addition to providing inland transport by rail for containers, it has also expanded to cover management of Ports, air cargo complexes and established cold-chains. “It has and will continue to play the role of promoting containerization in India by virtue of its modern rail wagon fleet, customer friendly commercial practices and extensively used Information Technology” explained Mr. Gupta. He further shared that the company has developed multimodal logistics support for India's International and Domestic containerization and trade. “Although rail is the main source of our transportation plan, road services are also provided to cater to the need of door-to-door services, whether in the International or Domestic business,” Mr Gupta stated.

Mr. Tara Chand Meena, IAS, Director, Rajasthan State Agriculture Marketing Board, Government of Rajasthan, shared that the Rajasthan State Agriculture Marketing Board has devoted itself wholeheartedly to the development of Agricultural Marketing since its inception in 1974. The objective of the Marketing Board is now not limited to providing infrastructure development for agriculture marketing, but cover the post-harvest management and agricultural marketing development activities as well.

Mr. J.S. Balhara, Director, Jaipur International Airport, Jaipur, in his speech highlighted that air cargo logistics plays a vital role in the economic development of a nation. He explained that airlines, air cargo terminal operators, ground handling service providers, integrated express service providers, forwarders, domestic cargo transport service providers and custom house agents are the key players in the entire air cargo supply chain. Thus, the air cargo industry presents a wide variety of service providers coming together to move goods, both domestically and internationally with a single-minded purpose of faster and efficient delivery. “These business entities in air cargo logistics industry in turn interact with a number of cross-border regulatory agencies and the principal among them is the customs establishment” informed Mr. Balhara. He also mentioned that speedier services in the air cargo supply chain facilitate large number of business entities to become more competitive. Mr. Balhara further explained that globally, more than one – third of the value of goods traded is transported by air and therefore, air cargo industry is considered as a barometer of global economic health. “India’s international air trade to GDP ratio has more than doubled in the last twenty years” concluded Mr. Balhara.

Mr. Harish Sharma, Additional Transport Commissioner, Rajasthan and Mr. Rajendra Singh, Additional Commissioner (IT), State Tax, Rajasthan, responded to a number of questions raised by major exporters from Rajasthan.

Mr. P.R. Sharma, Joint Director, Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur, proposed the vote of thanks.

The webinar was held on October 20, 2020.