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CTL BHP International Expo & Conference 2025 concludes as a resounding success

Exim News Service
 MUMBAI, March 16
EXIM India's CTL BHP International Expo & Conference 2025 (March 11-12), the 15th edition, South Asia's premier, mega cargo and logistics exposition and conference, concluded on March 12 at the Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai with resounding success, featuring a dynamic line-up of events that drew in industry leaders and visitors in large numbers.



Among the industry luminaries who graced the event were (from left) Mr Rajen Shah, Mr Vishal P. Mehta, Mr Devki Nandan, Mr Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Capt. Deepak Tewari, Mr Vivek Kele and Mr Sanjeev Harale

The event was marked by great enthusiasm, fanfare and eager participation from the entire spectrum of the maritime, cargo and logistics industry.

Leading lights at the inauguration

The inauguration ceremony, graced by key sectoral luminaries, marked the beginning of a dynamic event featuring well over 100 exhibitors showcasing their innovative solutions and services. The exhibition hall buzzed with activity as industry professionals and enthusiasts thronged the venue, eager to explore the latest advancements in cargo and logistics.

The expo was inaugurated by:

★ Mr Gopal Krishna, IAS, Former Shipping Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India & Chairman, CSC (Conciliation and Settlement Committee)

11th Tuesday - 12th Wednesday, March 2025
 Pavilion I & II, Jio World Convention Centre, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai

- ★ Mr Rajen Shah, Chairman & Managing Director, S J Logistics India Limited
 - ★ Ms Shannon Gonzales, Global Senior Director, Project & Energy Services, Expeditors
 - ★ Mr Rajith Aykkara, Vice President, Bahri Line
 - ★ Mr Ashish Sheth, Chairman & MD, Sarjak Container
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★ Mr Dushyant Mulani, Director, Khimji Poonja Freight Forwarders Pvt. Ltd & Chairman, Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations in India (FFFAI)

★ Mr Rajiv Jalota (Retd. IAS), Advisor, Indian Ports Association

★ Dr P. K. Raut, Deputy Director General of Shipping, Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India

Following the inauguration, the event proceeded with an insightful inaugural session that set the tone for the day. Four technical sessions followed, each delving into pertinent topics related to shipping, cargo, logistics and ex-im trade. Thought leaders and experts from various sectors shared their knowledge and perspectives, providing valuable insights into current trends and challenges facing the industry.

The theme of the conference is 'Transformative Era in Shipping & Logistics – The Indian & Global Perspective'.

CTL BHP 2025: Inaugural Session – Bullish on India

The Inaugural Session was graced by:

★ Mr Gopal Krishna, IAS, Former Shipping Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India & Chairman, CSC (Conciliation and Settlement Committee) & Event Convener

★ Mr Rajiv Jalota (Retd. IAS), Advisor, Indian Ports Association

★ Dr P. K. Raut, Deputy Director General of Shipping, Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India

★ Mr Rajen Shah, Chairman & Managing Director, S J Logistics India Limited

★ Mr Ashish Sheth, Chairman & MD, Sarjak Container Lines Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Marc Oliver Willim, Global Head of Chartering, Austral Asia Line Pte Ltd

★ Mr Stefan Peeck, Technical Project Cargo Manager, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company SA

★ Mr Dushyant Mulani, Director, Khimji Poonja Freight Forwarders Pvt. Ltd & Chairman, Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations in India (FFFAI)

★ Mr Rajith Aykkara, Vice President, Bahri Line

One of the most striking observations of this session was that the next decade is going to India's decade in logistics. There was general consensus that the country's growing economy, rapid infrastructure development, especially pertaining to logistics, focus on digitisation and technology, and forward-looking government initiatives will take the sector to new heights with world class facilities and surging multi-cargo



The exposition was inaugurated on Day 1 by (from left) Mr Dushyant Mulani, Mr Ashish Sheth, Mr Rajith Aykkara, Ms Shannon Gonzales, Dr P. K. Raut, Mr Rajiv Jalota, Mr Rajen Shah and Mr Gopal Krishna



The Inaugural Session being addressed by Mr Gopal Krishna as (seated from left) Mr Ashish Sheth, Mr Stefan Peeck, Mr Rajen Shah, Mr Rajiv Jalota, Mr Marc Oliver Willim, Dr P. K. Raut, Mr Dushyant Mulani and Mr Rajith Aykkara look on

rektor, Jolstr Industries Pvt. Ltd & Managing Director, GIVVEN Logistics Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Pradeep Berde, Lead Logistics, Larsen and Toubro Energy

★ Mr G. Rajesh Sharma, Head-Logistics Sourcing (Corp Exim) & Head - Exim & Intl Logistics (TBWES), Thermax Limited

★ Mr Pratap Singh Chauhan, Head Exim, Jindal Stainless Limited

The discussion was about challenges faced by bulk and project cargo in India and in the world. One speaker pointed out that project cargo movement on Indian roads was a nightmare despite the good work by Mr Gadkari as Minister. It was pointed out that some time it took a year to reach its destination. Another speaker pointed out the difficulty he faced in sending project cargo from India to West Africa and Latin America. Online bidding by non-serious logistics service providers was another problem faced by the project cargo sector.

Second Technical Session: Constraints and Opportunities

in the Break Bulk sector in a resurgent Indian economy

★ Mr Ramesh Babu, Founder & MD, Seashell Logistics Pvt. Ltd (Session Chairman & Moderator)

★ Mr Denis Bandura, Managing Director, BBC Chartering Mideast DMCCO

★ Capt. Atuldudd Sharma, Managing Director, Höegh Autoliners India & Head of Sales – Middle East, India & Sri Lanka, Höegh Autoliners

★ Mr Supal Shah, CEO, Sarjak Container Lines Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Vishwa Pai, Director, Prolog India Private Limited

★ Mr Christopher Phillips, Director, Seatech Shipping & Projects (India) Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Rahul Agrawal, CEO-Projects, Express Global Logis-

volumes to and from global destinations. But India could do with more de-regulation, it was also pointed out, to free entrepreneurs from needless regulatory barriers.

First Technical Session: Global Trends and Challenges in Break Bulk and Project Cargo Logistics

★ Dr Sharmila Amin, Chairperson & Member Board, Globe Forwarding Agencies Pvt. Ltd (Session Chairman & Moderator)

★ Mr Dinesh Tek, Head - Indian Subcontinent, Multimax Shipping PTE LTD

★ Mr Bibhudendra Maharana, Managing Di-

tics Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Girish Pandey, Director, Transglobal Projects India

★ Mr Jay Kumar Patro, HOD – Logistics, Plasser (India) Private Limited

★ Mr Vishwas Pendse, Head Supply Chain, Tema India Ltd

There was a general impression that project cargo sector is booming in India and investors should take advantage of it. However, it was cautioned that logistics service providers should be chosen very carefully and preferably partnered in profit and loss. It will make them more responsible towards the projects. Another point was that the people handling project cargo should know the condition of ports to be able to handle it efficiently.



The Second Technical Session had as participants (from left) Mr Jay Kumar Patro, Mr Vishwa Pai, Mr Christopher Phillips, Mr Denis Bandura, Mr Ramesh Babu, Mr Supal Shah, Capt. Atuldudd Sharma, Mr Rahul Agrawal, Mr Vishwas Pendse and Mr Girish Pandey

Third Technical Session: Shippers Perspective on Infrastructure, Regulations & Logistics Services

★ Mr Xerrxes Master, MD, Master Group of Companies (Session Chairman & Moderator)

★ Mr Lenny Abrao, MD, Abrao Group of Companies

★ Ms Shannon Gonzales, Global Senior Director, Project & Energy Services, Expeditors

★ Mr Anand Iyer, Head – Corporate EXIM & Commercial, Thermax Ltd

★ Mr Shaikat Shaikh, Head - Logistics & Warehousing, Wirtgen India Pvt. Ltd. - A John Deere Company

★ Mr Gopinath Phargade, Head - Logistics, Prodair Air Products India Pvt. Ltd

The discussion was about the close relationship between the shippers and the logistics service providers. Speakers likened the relationship to a couple, who fight but needed each other to survive. The emphasis was on trust between them. Collaboration was another buzzword during the discussion for shippers and LSPs. The regulations aspect from the gov-

ernment side was also discussed and reduction in road permits etc. were recommended. Ease of taxation/duties was felt necessary for the export and import sector to flourish.

Fourth Technical Session: Empowering Women in Shipping & Logistics – Rising to the Challenges

★ Ms Rukhsana Vohra Mithani, Director, SAI MARI-TIME & MANAGEMENT (P.) LTD. & Representative, JSL Alliance (Session Chairman & Moderator)

★ Ms Geetha Sheth, Assistant Vice President, J M Baxi Ports & Logistics

★ Ms Anjeeta Mehta, General Manager – Human Resources & Business Process, Samsara Group

★ Ms Rashmi Kulkarni, Regional Head – Ocean Freight, Asia Pacific, ISSGF India Pvt. Ltd



The Third Technical Session had as participants (from left) Mr Shaikat Shaikh, Mr Anand Iyer, Mr Xerrxes Master, Ms Shannon Gonzales, Mr Lenny Abrao and Mr Gopinath Phargade

★ Ms Sanjna Vardhan, General Manager, Procama Logistics Pvt. Ltd

★ Ms Deepa Joshi, Commercial Director Feeder India, Unifeeder, a DP World Group Company

★ Ms Snehal Niraj Khedkar, Project Logistics Manager, Fluor Corporation

The discussion was women having work life balance in the industry. The general opinion was that it is good and companies have



The Fourth Technical Session was enhanced by the presence of (from left) Ms Deepa Joshi, Ms Anjeeta Mehta, Ms Geetha Sheth, Ms Rukhsana Vohra Mithani, Ms Rashmi Kulkarni, Ms Snehal Niraj Khedkar and Ms Sanjna Vardhan

been cooperative in this matter. Women were in agreement that supportive husbands and teams were very important. Some speakers mentioned their passion for logistics to be in the sector. They all felt that industry was supportive. However, it was pointed out that

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women were fewer in the top positions in the logistics sector in comparison to banking and technological sectors. They narrated experiences about working late night with male colleagues without any difficulty.

Heavylift Masterclass and visitors galore

The day concluded with a highly anticipated Heavylift Masterclass, conducted by **Mr Karsten Behrens, Managing Director, SAL Engineering**, which offered attendees a deep dive into the complexities and nuances of heavy cargo transportation. It equipped participants with practical knowledge and advanced techniques.

The overwhelming footfall and enthusiastic participation on the first day of the exhibition underscored the significance of this event for the cargo and logistics community. With a diverse array of exhibitors and a wealth of knowledge-sharing opportunities, the event promises to continue delivering exceptional value and fostering meaningful connections.

The interest and enthusiasm continue on Day 2

The second day too commenced with an **expo inauguration ceremony**, where leading luminaries of the cargo and logistics industry cut the ceremonial ribbon, officially opening proceedings. This set the tone for a day brimming with insightful sessions and lively discussions.



Mr Karsten Behrens conducted the Heavylift Masterclass

The exposition was inaugurated on Day 2 by:

- ★ Mr Unmesh Sharad Wagh, IRS, Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
- ★ Capt. Deepak Tewari, MD, MSC Agency (India) Private Limited & Chairman, Container Shipping Lines Association (India)
- ★ Mr Rajen Shah, Chairman & Managing Director, S J Logistics India Limited
- ★ Mr Vivek Kele, Director, Teamglobal Logistics Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Sanjeev Harale, President, Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association (BCBA) & Founder, Interport Clearing Services
- ★ Mr Vishal P. Mehta, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Djibouti in India & CEO, Rushabh Sealink And Logistic Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Devki Nandan, Chairman, Indian Maritime Centre; President, Indian Private Ports & Terminals Association;



The exposition was inaugurated on Day 2 by (from left) Capt. Atuldudd Sharma, Mr Vivek Kele, Capt. Deepak Tewari, Mr Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Mr Devki Nandan, Mr Vishal P. Mehta, Mr Rajen Shah and Mr Sanjeev Harale

tion; Vice President, Society of Affordable Redressal of Disputes; and Managing Director, JSW Middle East Liquid Terminal and JSW Overseas FZE

★ Capt. Atuldudd Sharma, Managing Director, Höegh Autoliners India & Head of Sales – Middle East, India & Sri Lanka, Höegh Autoliners

Key sessions

Three pivotal sessions followed (**CTL 2025**), each addressing key aspects of logistics and supply chain, including container transportation, multimodal logistics, supply chain & warehousing, the impact of technology, importance of adhering to the changing regulations and safety standards in hazardous cargo movement, etc. These were marked by the presence of esteemed industry leaders who put forward their pertinent views facilitating knowledge sharing. Attendees had the unique opportunity to gain insights from these thought leaders, making the sessions highly informative.

Inaugural Session – CTL 2025 – Best Global Practices in Multimodal Logistics in a new era of technological advancement and rapid infrastructure development

- ★ Capt. Deepak Tewari, MD, MSC Agency (India) Private Limited & Chairman, Container Shipping Lines Association (India)
- ★ Mr Vivek Kele, Director, Teamglobal Logistics Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Devki Nandan, Chairman, Indian Maritime Centre; President, Indian Private Ports & Terminals Association; Vice President, Society of Affordable Redressal of



The Inaugural Session was graced by (from left) Mr Sanjeev Harale, Mr Vivek Kele, Capt. Deepak Tewari, Mr Devki Nandan and Mr Sanjay Kushwah

Disputes; and Managing Director, JSW Middle East Liquid Terminal and JSW Overseas FZE

★ Mr Sanjay Kushwah, Managing Director – India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh, Hapag-Lloyd India Pvt. Ltd

★ Mr Sanjeev Harale, President, Brihanmumbai Custom Brokers Association (BCBA) & Founder, Interport Clearing Services

The distinguished speakers emphasised on geopolitics and its impact on logistics and shipping trade. An example being the Israel-Gaza conflict that continues despite efforts to end it. The Red Sea crisis has harmed global trade, it was pointed out. Now with Trump in the US, tariff threats have become the new normal. China, Canada, India don't know what to expect from the mercurial Trump. Of course, India has not responded in a belligerent manner like China or Canada

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The Fifth Technical Session had as participants (from left) Mr Ankur Dekivadia, Ms Kruti Jobanputra, Mr Amit Maheshwari, Mr Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Mr Shyamal Kumar Bakuli, Mr Vinay Koka and Mr Pankaj B. Mali

(Continued from page 26)

and is quietly working on a trade deal. Another speaker praised government efforts to ease Customs clearances through technology. The plan is to have an integrated Customs system to clear goods in an hour. A point of discussion was port congestion, which, it was pointed out, will be a challenge. It was highlighted that the trade would benefit from the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport in Kerala, an automated facility.

Fifth Technical Session: Enhancing Efficiency and Transparency in Supply Chain & Warehousing through Technology

- ★ Mr Shantanu Bhadkamkar, MD, ATC Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd (Session Chairman & Moderator)
- ★ Ms Kruti Jobanputra, Director, JW Group
- ★ Mr Amit Maheshwari, Founder & MD, Softlink Global Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Vinay Koka, Head of Sales & Partnerships – India Region, ODeX India Solutions Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Ankur Dekivadia, Deputy General Manager - SCM, Safari Industries (India) Ltd
- ★ Mr Pankaj B. Mali, Lead – Imports/Exports & Bangladesh operations, Mondelez Foods India Pvt. Ltd
- ★ Mr Shyamal Kumar Bakuli, General Manager – Commercial & Logistics, Grasim Industries Limited (MBDD)



Panelists in the Sixth Technical Session were (from left) Mr Mayur Kapasi, Mr Jayyannt Lapsiaa, Mr R. K. Rubin, Mr Shashi Kallada and Mr Manoj Murmu

The eminent speakers pointed out that enhancing efficiency and transparency in supply chain & warehousing through technology was possible but is not the only thing. In fact, they said that AI and other technologies may be enabled but cannot bring efficiency on their own. What is important is to use AI to increase efficiency. Investment in technology should be taken as investment, not as expense. A speaker pointed out that technology has helped cut costs by employing fewer workers. Transparency was another buzzword during the discussion and speakers felt that all stakeholders should be transparent in their dealings with each other.

Sixth Technical Session – Adapting to Evolving Regulations and Safety Standards in HAZCHEM Transportation – The Way Forward

- ★ Mr R. K. Rubin, Founder and Managing Director, Transcon Group (Session Chairman & Moderator)
- ★ Mr Shashi Kallada, Consultant & Trainer - Dangerous Goods By Rail, Road, River and Sea

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- ★ Mr Jayyannt Lapsiaa, President, All India Liquid Bulk Importers & Exporters Association
- ★ Mr Mayur Kapasi, Head Customs Operations, BASF India Limited
- ★ Mr Manoj Murmu, Purchase Head, Aarti Industries Ltd

The discussion was about hazardous materials that needed special care in handling. IMDG Code and its implementation was a key focus of the deliberation. Eminent industry veterans pointed out that India lacks proper infrastructure to handle hazardous materials at its ports. A speaker made the point that hazardous cargo moves on the same streets as normal goods, which is far from ideal. A representative from a manufacturer asserted that his company fully adheres to the IMDG Code. Emphasis was also on proper training of the workforce handling hazardous chemicals.

The event concluded with a **HAZCHEM Masterclass** by Mr Shashi Kallada, Consultant & Trainer - Dangerous Goods By Rail, Road, River and Sea on 'New Developments & Safety Standards in HAZCHEM Cargo Movement'. He elaborated on the critical importance of safe and secure handling of hazardous and dangerous cargo, the necessity of adhering to all the relevant rules and regulations, and following the global best practices.



Mr Shashi Kallada conducted the HAZCHEM Masterclass

Another value addition was the **Consultant Clinic**, where experts in export-import matters, GST issues, insurance, and legal issues addressed queries and suggested solutions to those seeking advice.

There were also a few **Lucky Draws** over the two days, which saw winners take home exciting prizes.

The footfalls continue

The second day again saw impressive turnout, with visitors flocking to the exposition in large numbers. The event proved to be a showcase of the best products and services in the cargo and logistics sector, offering a platform for companies to exhibit their latest innovations and solutions. The diverse range of exhibits attracted visitors keen on exploring new business opportunities and networking with key industry players.

The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and collaboration, as participants conferred on relevant issues and explored potential partnerships.

As the curtain fell on CTL BHP 2025, participants across the board were all praise for the event, hailing it as an invaluable occasion that fostered learning, networking and business growth. The next edition is eagerly awaited!

