

मुख्य आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क का कार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS
चेन्नै सीमा शुल्क क्षेत्र
CHENNAI CUSTOMS ZONE
सीमा शुल्क भवन, नं.60, राजाजी सालै, चेन्नै-600 001.
CUSTOM HOUSE, NO.60, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI 600 001.

07-03-2026

फा.सं./F.No.S2/109/2015-Prev.Tech

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

As mandated by Board vide letter No. 520/05/2026-Cus.VI dated 05.03.2026, a Special Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) meeting was held on 06.03.2026 (Friday) at 02.30 PM through Virtual Mode.

2. The following officials from Customs Department, PGAs and other Stakeholders attended the meeting:

S/Shri/Smt

1. Dr. Manjula Dundappa Hosmani, Commissioner (ACC / Airport)
2. D.Lakshmikantha, Commissioner (In-situ) [Export]
3. D.S.Sangeetha, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
4. Tej Kumar, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
5. Rajesh Vithalrao Shelke, Addl. Commissioner (CCO)
6. Gopi Dhonthireddy, Addl. Commissioner (Preventive)
7. A.Govindaraj, Addl. Commissioner (Audit)
8. Kishor S, Addl. Commissioner (Export)
9. N.Madhusudhana Reddy, Addl. Commissioner (Import)
10. Dr.Mahesh Chavan, Joint Commissioner (Export)
11. J.Dinesh Raj, Joint Commissioner (General)
12. Shubhdeep Kaur, Joint Commissioner (ACC)
13. Dr. Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO)
14. Amutha Chellappa, AD, NCTC (Cargo)
15. D.Dwarakanadha Reddy, AD, DGTS, CZU
16. V.P.Vinod Kumar, Asst. Commissioner (Import)
17. R.Jones Ferling Raja, Asst. Commissioner (Import)

18. Assistant Commissioner (Group 6), Import
19. K.Thambidurai, Chemical Examiner Gr.I, CRCL
20. G.Sendhil Kumaran, Sr. Dy. Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority
21. Port Health Officer (PHO), Chennai
22. Om Pragesh, Chief Manager (Traffic), Kamarajar Port Ltd.
23. Vivek Nair, GM, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
24. U.Ameer, Adani Kattupalli Port Ltd.
25. Geemon Joseph, Director, DP World
26. M.S.Shakul, DGM, CCTL - DP World
27. T.Prasad, DGM, CCTL - DP World
28. K.Balachandran, Associate Director, CITPL - PSA
29. T.R.Balachander, Operations Manager, CITPL - PSA
30. Dr. P.Manavalan, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO
31. Nitin M Jadhav, Asst. Drugs Controller (Import), CDSCO
32. Aswini Muthu, Drugs Inspector, CDSCO
33. S.D.Dayanand, Head, CNBO, Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS)
34. Gowththam B, Scientist 'D' / JD, BIS, Chennai
35. S.M.Mohan, Deputy Director, RPQS, Chennai
36. Dr. M.Kannan, Joint Director, FSSAI
37. Rahul Nandy, GM (Cargo), AAICLAS
38. Bureau of Immigration (BOI), Chennai Seaport
39. S.Nataraja, President, CCBA
40. Divakaran Nair, Vice President, CCBA
41. S.Balaji, Vice President, CCBA
42. R.N.Sekar, Secretary, CCBA
43. R.Kumar, Treasurer, CCBA
44. S.S.Sivashankar, Customs Committee Head, CCBA
45. Y.Leeladharan, Chairman, Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents Association (CHENSAA)
46. Krishnan, Representative of CHENSAA
47. A.V.Hari, Representative of MSA
48. Bharani, Representative of Hapag Lloyd
49. S.Padmanabhan, Secretary, NACFS-National Chapter
50. S.Kannan, Vice-Chairman, NACFS, Chennai Chapter
51. Manager - C&O / CONCOR ICD, Tondiarpet (ICD/TNPM)
52. S.Selvanayagi, Joint Director, FIEO SR

3. Members of the following organizations did not participate in the Video Conference.

1. AQCS
2. CWC, DPE, Thiruvottiyur
3. Textile Committee
4. WCCB

4. Shri Rajesh V Shelke, Additional Commissioner (CCO) greeted everyone and stated that the special CCFC meeting was being conducted as mandated by the board. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss import-export issues arising from the prevailing global situation due

to the ongoing Gulf crises. He informed the House that as the Principal Chief Commissioner is not available at the Station, Principal Commissioner, Preventive Commissionerate, would chair the meeting and requested Shri Istikhar Baig, Principal Commissioner to Chair the meeting and deliver the opening remarks.

4.1 The Chairperson greeted and welcomed everyone to the Special CCFC meeting. He stated that the meeting had been organized to discuss concerns regarding the movement and clearance of cargo in the light of the ongoing crisis situation in the Middle East caused by the conflict. He requested all participants to share any difficulties they were facing at present or they foresee in the future. He added that if possible, solutions would be provided at the local level; otherwise, the issues would be escalated to the Board so that the difficulties and hardships could be minimized. He encouraged all participants to discuss the situation frankly and share their views.

4.2 Dr. Venugopalan Nair, Deputy Commissioner (CCO), then thanked the Chairperson and reminded everyone that the meeting was a special CCFC meeting. He clarified that issues from previous agendas or matters unrelated to the current global crisis would not be discussed. He informed the participants that a separate CCFC meeting would be held once the Principal Chief Commissioner returned from Delhi. He reiterated that the meeting was specifically intended to discuss the crisis affecting the Gulf region and its impact on trade. He requested participants to share only those issues related to Customs or other agencies that were directly connected to the ongoing crisis and its impact on trade and cargo movement. He then opened the forum for discussion and invited participants to present their views.

5. Shri R.N.Sekar, Secretary, Chennai Customs Brokers Association (CCBA) stated that once they became aware of the war situation and after receiving a communication from Export Commissionerate yesterday, they immediately circulated a notice to their members to assess the inventory of containers lying at the port, including containers already moved for departure and those unloaded at ports such as Mundra and JNPT and found that the number of containers currently lying at Chennai port after LEO was relatively low. However, they were still awaiting feedback from members and had already collected some details of containers for which the LEO (Let Export Order) had been issued but which had not yet reached their destination countries.

5.1 Shri Sekar further reported that some vessel operators had offloaded containers destined for Gulf countries at Mundra and other ports during transit. Some vessels that could not reach their destinations had been diverted back to Indian ports such as Nhava Sheva. In certain cases, containers were being unloaded at Nhava Sheva and rescheduled for shipment again. He stated that they had identified several containers in such situations and a complete picture of the same would be known only in the coming days.

5.2 The Secretary, CCBA, requested that a simplified procedure be introduced for containers shut out or returned. He explained that the current process was lengthy and involved multiple steps, including cancellation of the LEO, examination, scanning and approval from the Port authorities and Customs officials. Further, in the case of some cargo, which was time-sensitive in nature, he suggested that a simpler mechanism be introduced so that exporters could quickly retrieve containers from the Port or CFS.

5.3 Shri Sekar also mentioned that some containers contained sensitive or hazardous cargo and delays could create additional risks. Therefore, he suggested establishing simplified procedures for such cases and requested that storage charges or penalties be waived by Ports for containers affected by the crisis.

5.4 Regarding the Air Cargo situation, he explained that some shipments had already received LEOs and were ready for export but had to be withdrawn due to the crisis. He mentioned that Customs authorities had already provided directions for cancellation of shipping bills and that nearly 200 shipping bills have been cancelled so far. He also pointed out that there was currently a shortage of officers, as many have retired and the remaining officers were overloaded with work.

5.5 The Chairperson responded by stating that the department would do their best to simplify procedures wherever possible. He assured the participants that the Commissioners' would discuss the situation and ensure that there would be no major inconvenience. Dr. Venugopalan Nair, DC, CCO then requested Shri Sekar to provide detailed information about the containers that had been unloaded at JNPT or were expected to return so that the authorities could present accurate data to the board.

5.6 Shri R.N.Sekar, Secretary, CCBA responded that they had already identified around ten shipping bills for cargo that had been unloaded and expected more containers to return in the coming days. He assured that CCBA would provide daily updates and submit the necessary details to the Commissionerates.

(Action: Secretary, CCBA)

6. Shri Y. Leeladharan Chairman, Chennai and Ennore Port Steamer Agents Association (CHENSAA) explained that many shipping lines had already cancelled vessels bound for the Persian Gulf region and had stopped accepting new bookings. He mentioned that several containers already on board were being offloaded at transshipment ports such as Colombo or other nearby ports. He added that shipping lines were exploring possibilities to redirect these containers to Indian ports.

6.1 Shri Leeladharan further stated that around 4,000 TEUs of containers were on board one vessel, and the operators had attempted to offload them at Chennai, but the Terminal authorities had informed them that there was no space available. As a result, the vessel had proceeded to JNPT to offload the containers. He also explained that shipping lines were trying to connect these containers to alternative vessels wherever possible.

6.2 Shri Leeladharan then invited Shri A.V.Hari, representative from MSC, a major shipping line, to provide more details about the current situation. Shri Hari stated that their Company had stopped accepting Gulf cargo bookings with effect from Monday. He explained that all containers already on board would be offloaded at the nearest available transshipment port as "end of the voyage". He listed ports such as Colombo, Ennore, Nhava Sheva, Mundra and Walvis Bay as possible offloading points. He added that circulars had already been issued to customers explaining the situation and the next course of action. They have also provided a detailed write-up on the present situation and their proposed course of action (copy enclosed).

6.3 The Additional Commissioner, CCO, then requested Shri Leeladharan to submit a written note explaining the current scenario from the shipping lines perspective so that it could be forwarded to the Ministry. Shri Leeladharan agreed and assured that he would submit the required details before the end of the day. Shri. Leeladharan submitted a detailed write-up on the situation. (copy enclosed)

(Action: Chairman, CHENSAA)

6.4 Shri Leeladharan, CHENSAA emphasized that exporters whose containers had been offloaded during transit might wish to retrieve their cargo due to the perishable nature of some goods. He mentioned that Port authorities had already discussed waiving certain Port charges and that further discussions would be held with senior officials. The Addl. Commissioner (CCO) reiterated that the main objective of the meeting was to understand operational difficulties faced by the trade and to prepare a preliminary report for the board.

7. Shri Rahul Nandy, GM (Cargo), Airport Authority of India (AAI), Cargo Terminal stated that nearly 450 Metric Tons of cargo were currently lying at the Terminal, awaiting export orders. He explained that some exporters were withdrawing shipments while others were transferring cargo from passenger flights to freighter aircraft. He requested faster Customs approvals for airline changes, withdrawals, or transfers so that congestion at the terminal could be reduced.

7.1 Dr. Manjula Dundappa Hosmani, Commissioner, ACC responded that instructions had already been given to officers to prioritize such requests due to the Middle East situation. She assured the participants that any specific cases could be brought directly to her attention for immediate remedial action.

7.2 Shri Sekhar, CCBA explained that many exporters were trying to reroute cargo through alternative Airlines instead of bringing it back. However, he noted that several operational challenges existed, including dismantling pallets and repackaging cargo according to the requirements of different Airlines.

7.3 The Additional Commissioner, CCO then requested Shri Rahul Nandy, GM (Cargo), AAI Cargo Terminal to submit a written report explaining the additional dwell time caused by these procedural changes so that it could be included in the report to the Board.

(Action: GM (Cargo), AAI Cargo Terminal)

8. Shri Sekhar suggested appointing a single Nodal Officer to coordinate procedures involving multiple Commissionerates, as this would help avoid delays and simplify the processes for both Sea and Air Cargo.

9. The Chairperson responded that operational issues would be addressed immediately, while policy-level matters would be forwarded to the Board. He assured participants that the suggestion regarding a Nodal Officer would be discussed with the Commissioners and a decision would be taken soon.

10. The Chairperson concluded the Meeting by thanking all the Members.

11. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

12. This issues with the approval of the Pr. Chief Commissioner of Customs, Chennai Zone.

Digitally signed by

Venugopalan Nair

Date: 07-03-2026

18:26:08

(Dr.VENUGOPALAN NAIR)

(डॉ. वेणुगोपालन नायर)

उप आयुक्त सीमा शुल्क (मु.आ.का.)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS (CCO)

Copy submitted to

The Joint Secretary (Customs)

CBIC, North Block, New Delhi.

Copy to:

The Deputy/Assistant Commissioner (EDI), Custom House, Chennai

(With a request to upload the minutes of the meeting in the Chennai Custom House website)