



भारत सरकार

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, कोलकाता क्षेत्र

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS, KOLKATA ZONE

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Date: 09-03-2026

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FACILITATION
COMMITTEE (CCFC) MEETING HELD ON 06.03.2026**

A special meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) of Kolkata Customs Zone was held on **06.03.2026 (Friday)** from **3.30 P.M.** onwards in the Board Room, Custom House, Kolkata in Hybrid Mode through Video Conferencing under the joint chairmanship of Shri Vinayak Azad, Pr. Commissioner of Customs (A&A and CCP) and Pr. Commissioner of Customs (Port), Kolkata Customs Zone.

The following stakeholders attended the meeting in person in the Board Room, Custom House, Kolkata:

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS		
Sl. No.	Name of the Attendees (S/Sh/Ms)	Designation & Commissionerate/Organisation
1	Gautam Kumar	ADC (Port)
2	Nitin Chand Negi	ADC (Port & CCO)
3	Sukhbir Singh Ahuja	ADC (CCO)
4	Mohsina Tabassum	ADC (Port)
5	Ajeet Kumar	ADC (AP & ACC)
6	Amlan Chattopadhyay	AC (Gr-I)
7	Ujjal Roy	AC (CCO)
8	Dr. Mrityunjoy Maity	CRCL, Custom House Lab
9	Manoj Kumar Chaudhary	Superintendent of Customs (CCO)
10	Tariprasad Das	Preventive Officer (CCO)
PGA/TRADE REPRESENTATIVES		
11	Jayanta Sen	Association of Shipping Interests of Calcutta (ASIC)
12	Pramod Kr. Srivastava	President, NACFS
13	Sujit Chakraborty	Chairman, Bengal National Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The following stakeholders attended the meeting in virtual mode through Video Conferencing.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS		
Sl. No.	Name of the Attendees (S/Sh/Ms)	Designation & Commissionerate/Organisation
	Murugan Morugaram S V	Asst. Director, NCTC
1	Indranil Roychowdhury	Assistant Director, DGTS, Kolkata
2	Ravi Bhushan	AD, NCTC, DGARM, Mumbai
3	Hari P	Superintendent, NCTC, Mumbai
PGA/TRADE REPRESENTATIVES		
4	Dr Jimlee Sarmah	JC, Animal Quarantine & Certification Service
5	Arindam Sen	Trade Section, Reserve Bank of India, Kolkata
6	K. Selvakumar	GM (Cargo), AAICLAS, CCU
7	Tanay Kr. Pal	SATM, SM Port Trust, Kolkata
8	Dr. Akhaya Kr Pradhan	Dy. Port Health Officer, Kolkata
9	*Name not Available*	Superintendent, Foreign Post Office, Kolkata

1. At the outset, the Chair (PC, A&A) welcomed and briefed the participants on the purpose of convening this special meeting of CCFC which is to review the prevailing situation in trade arising from the conflict in the Gulf region. The objective is to address concerns relating to the movement and clearance of import/export consignments and to elicit suggestions, if any, from the trade that may require escalation to the Board for inter-ministerial coordination or policy-level intervention.
2. The Chair highlighted that the ongoing crisis in the Gulf region has severely disrupted the supply chain of commodities, particularly oil and gas. He noted that the conflict has now entered its seventh day and cautioned that freight rates for both sea and air cargo could escalate further as the situation unfolds. While expressing hope for an early restoration of normalcy, he emphasized that the crisis carries overarching consequences for the movement of essential goods as well as passengers across the region. He urged members to use the forum to voice the grievances of trade community relating to movement or clearance issues, so that corrective action may be taken locally or escalated to the Board if required. He also invited suggestions and feedback from stakeholders to enhance facilitation in light of the prevailing scenario.
3. He then informed the members of the proactive steps taken by the zone to ensure effective coordination for such issues. Members were informed of the appointment of two Nodal Officers from each of the commissionerates who could be contacted round the clock for necessary coordination.

With the permission of the Chair, Shri Nitin Chand Negi (ADC, CCO) invited the participants to introduce themselves, following which the meeting commenced formally.

4. While reiterating the objective of the meeting, the Co-Chair (PC, Port) apprised the members that such meetings are being conducted pan India to review the impact of crisis in the Middle Eastern Region on trade and asked the members to raise any issues faced by the trade fraternity and provide their feedback/suggestions to improve the situation.

5. Shri P. K. Srivastava highlighted the freight surcharge being levied on import cargo in addition to delays caused by the Shipping Lines. He further stated that export movements to destinations in the Middle East are presently halted, with such consignments being offloaded either at ports within India or at third-country locations. This situation has led to considerable anxiety among exporters regarding the fate of their cargo.
6. He suggested that monitoring of freight rates may be necessary at the ministerial level of Ministry of Port, Shipping & Waterways to ensure that overcharging does not exceed reasonable limits, while also expressing concern about additional costs arising from the return of export cargo to exporters who may lack adequate storage facilities. While noting that it is too early to speculate on wider impacts or propose detailed measures, he cautioned that the disruption is likely to have far-reaching consequences for the trading community, particularly during the critical month of March.
7. Shri Sujit Chakraborty (BNCCI) informed that information regarding cargo destined for the Gulf is being received only in fragments. He noted that such consignments are presently stored at ports in the South and at Mundra, while it may be possible that some containers may also move up to Jebel Ali, beyond which further movement remains uncertain. He observed that regulating costs is difficult even at ministerial levels, given the varying practices and cost schedules of different Shipping Lines. He further emphasized that insurance is a major factor in cost determination, with insurance companies either charging exorbitant premiums or declining coverage altogether. With bunker prices also rising, multiple factors are contributing to cost escalation, making the imposition of a unified cap on freight rates unfeasible.
8. The Chair (PC, A & A), while agreeing that it is too soon to speculate on potential impacts, emphasized the importance of closely monitoring the evolving situation to address specific issues as they arise. He noted that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways as well as the Ministry of Civil Aviation have critical roles to play in shaping the regulatory framework. He underscored the need for an SOP adopting a liberalized approach towards incoming cargo and consignments being rerouted. He further apprised the members that the Board is proactively engaged in resolving the concerns and expressed confidence that the Board would come up with suitable policy instructions/guidelines to effectively handle the situation.
9. The Co-Chair (PC, Port) appreciated the issues raised and the suggestions proposed, noting that many of the concerns are generic in nature and would be escalated to appropriate levels, as similar meetings are also being convened across all Customs formations. He requested the members to raise issues specific to the Kolkata Customs Zone so that necessary action could be taken to resolve them locally. To apprise the members, he cited two local concerns: (i) a request received at Haldia Docks for change of port from UAE to Saudi Arabia for an export vessel, and (ii) a request at Kolkata Docks for destuffing of export cargo originally meant for the UAE.
10. Shri Sujit Chakraborty (BNCCI) informed that exporters are requesting the return of their LEO-granted containers originally destined for Dubai and Kuwait. With regard to imports, he apprised that consignments of pharmaceutical ingredients originating from Germany and the Netherlands have also been put on hold by the shipper for a tentative period of two months. He further noted that higher freight charges are also being levied on other chemical consignments bound for Kolkata.
11. The Co-Chair (PC, Port) assured the members that appropriate measures would be taken through the issuance of SOPs to facilitate either the return of cargo to the sender or the destuffing of consignments booked for the Gulf region as per the

requirement.

12. Mr. K. Selvakumar highlighted the large volume of cargo held up at the Air Cargo Complex, Kolkata, occupying mechanical systems such as containers and pallets, leaving them with very few slots for operation. He urged for an expeditious decision on allowing such cargo back to town and noted that measures such as waiver of charges are being pursued with headquarters. He added that apart from the blockage in the export cargo storage area, exports to non-Gulf destinations and all imports are proceeding smoothly.
13. The Chair noted that the major concern of importers and exporters in such situations is the demurrage charges they must bear despite no fault of theirs.
14. Mr. Jayanta Sen (ASIC) proposed that Port Custodian and CFS operators be approached to estimate the number of containers and volume of cargo meant for Gulf destinations currently on hold due to shipping restrictions.
15. The Chair directed that details of the nodal persons nominated for coordination in this regard be displayed for stakeholders' information.

Contact Details of Nodal Officers for Trade Related Issues arising from Gulf Crisis:

Port Commissionerate	Airport & ACC Commissionerate
1. Shri Abhyudoy Guha , Assistant Commissioner (Mob: 9830482866) 2. Shri Dheeraj , Appraiser (Mob: 8053194596)	1. M K Rahman , AC (Import Group and Shed), (Mob: 8961213836) 2. Shantanu Sinha , Appraiser, (Mob: 9883340818)

16. The Chair (PC, A&A) observed that, since the meeting is taking place at preliminary stage, it may not be possible at this stage to ascertain with certainty the precise nature of any other potential issues that may arise as the situation evolves. While remaining hopeful of an early mitigation of the crisis, he emphasized the importance of remaining prepared for any eventuality.
17. The Co-chair acknowledged Mr. Jayanta Sinha's remarks on altered voyage schedules on this account and confirmed that a vessel bound for Jebel Ali had to return and dock at Mangalore Port which is not a full-fledged transshipment hub. He cautioned that similar instances may arise in the coming days.
18. The Chair reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to highlight unforeseen situations where existing rules may become a constraint for effective handling of such contingencies, warranting liberalized approach. He asserted the forum's role in raising not only customs-related concerns but also incidental stakeholder issues, enabling escalation to ministerial level through the Board and onward to Partner Government Agencies.
19. The Chair welcomed the appreciation expressed by the stakeholders for the proactive role played by the Customs Department in ensuring uninterrupted facilitation of trade even during unprecedented situations like Covid and sought their continued support in sustaining this effort.
20. Stakeholders were assured of the Department's commitment to sustained trade operations with further dialogues to be convened as required.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to both the Chairs.

This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Digitally signed by

UJJAL ROY

Date: 09-03-2026

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Chief Commissioner's Office,

Custom House, Kolkata.

Copy to:

1. Sr. PS to Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata.
2. P.S. to Pr. Commissioner of Customs (A&A)/ Pr. Commissioner of Customs (Port)/ Pr. Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), West Bengal.
3. All Additional/Joint Commissioner of Customs (Port/A&A/CCP)
4. All the Stakeholders
5. DC(EDI) for uploading on Kolkata Customs Web Page.