



सीमा शुल्क मुख्य आयुक्त का कार्यालय, बेंगलुरु अञ्चल

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS BENGALURU CUSTOMS ZONE;

केंद्रीय राजस्व भवन, क्वीन्स रोड बेंगलुरु -560001

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CCCO/TECH/TGRV/CCFC/1/2020-S AND I-O/o CC-CUS-ZONE Bengaluru

Date: as e-

signed

F. No. CCCO/TECH/TGRV/CCFC/1/2020-S AND I

Date: as e-Signed

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CCFC MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) was convened under the Chairmanship of the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Bengaluru Zone on **06.03.2026 at 03:00 PM** in hybrid mode at the Conference Hall, C.R. Building, Bengaluru to review issues relating to movement and clearance of import and export consignments in light of the evolving global situation arising from disruptions in the Gulf region, as directed by the Board vide letter **F. No. 520/05/2026-Cus.VI** dated: 05-03-2026.

02. The Meeting was attended by Commissioners of Customs of the Zone- AP&ACC, BCC and MCC, representatives from Partner Government Agencies (PGAs), Custodians, Port authorities, Airline and Courier operators, Steamer agents, Postal authorities, Trade representatives including MSME associations and other stakeholders as appended in the Annexure to the Minutes.

03. The Chief Commissioner welcomed the participants and highlighted that the evolving situation poses challenges to smooth movement of Air cargo, Sea cargo, Land cargo and Postal consignments. He observed that the disruptions will not be limited to vessels or flights directly impacted but may create a ripple effect across the downstream supply chains and stated that the evolving situation is being closely monitored by all the field formations of the Zone since 1st March 2026. He assured the stakeholders that the Customs Administration is taking all proactive measures to mitigate the disruptions and to facilitate cargo movements.

04. The proceedings of the Meeting were structured as under:

- a. Review of Sea Cargo operations
- b. Review of Land Cargo (ICD) operations
- c. Review of Foreign Post Office (FPO) operations
- d. Review of Air Cargo and Courier operations
- e. Suggestions from stakeholders

05. Overview of the situation: The Chief Commissioner emphasized the need for close coordination among Customs, logistics operators, Custodians and Trade stakeholders to ensure uninterrupted trade facilitation during the current disruptions affecting international cargo movements in view of the prevailing situation and requested the participants to apprise the operational challenges being faced in movement of goods due to re-routing of vessels and cancellation or rescheduling of flights.

A. Sea Cargo

06. Sea Imports: It was informed by the Commissioner, Mangaluru Customs that one HPCL LPG vessel (Vessel: Pine Gas) carrying approximately 23,000 MT LPG was presently stuck near the Strait of Hormuz owing to the prevailing disruptions. On a query by the Chief Commissioner, it was intimated that if the conflict continues through March 2026 there could be a significant LPG supply shortfall and as many as 09 LPG vessels would be impacted, along with 04 vessels each of Bitumen and Crude. On another query by the Chief Commissioner, it was intimated that the Shipping Lines are not in a position at present to predict alternative routes or suggest any remedial measures.

07. The impact on imports of Sea cargo was quantified as below:

Already Impacted

Sl.	Commodity	Main Importer	CTI	No. of Vessels impacted	Quantity impacted
1.	LPG	IOCL, HPCL, BPCL	27112000 27113000	01	23,000 MT

Expected to be Impacted in March 2026

Sl.	Commodity	Main Importer	CTI	No. of Vessels impacted	Quantity Impacted (app.)
1.	LPG	IOCL, HPCL, BPCL	27112000 27113000	09	200,000 MT
2.	Crude	MRPL	27090010	04	400,000 MT
3.	Bitumen	IOCL	27132000	04	12,000 MT

08. The Chief Commissioner directed that the Customs formations should coordinate with the importers of LPG to understand the contingency plans and the manner in which Customs can offer assistance in cases of diversions or transshipments at short notice.

(Action: Commissioner, MCC)

09. Sea Exports: It was informed that the impact on exports is expected to be minimal since the vessels do not move directly from Mangaluru Port to the Gulf region. The vessels move from Mangaluru Port to the Gateway Ports such as Cochin, Colombo, or Mundra, from where cargo is routed onward and, therefore, the impact will primarily be felt at Gateway Ports rather than at Mangaluru Port. It was also informed that exports of **vegetables valued at approximately Rs. 30 Lakhs** may be affected in March 2026 but these consignments are not stuck at the Port as they are being diverted before reaching the Port for export.

10. On a request by the Chief Commissioner regarding exports of MS/HSD, it was stated by the representative of M/s MRPL that since their primary focus at present is on catering to the domestic supply, the exports of MS/HSD are not likely to be impacted in the short-term.

B. Land Cargo

11. **Imports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Bengaluru City Customs that no significant dip has been noticed in Import TEUs at the ICDs, primarily because a large proportion of the inward consignments does not come from the Gulf region.

12. **Exports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Bengaluru City Customs that **64 export TEUs are currently held up at ICDs/CFSS** since the Liners have not moved them to Gateway Ports. On a query by the Chief Commissioner, it was intimated by the representatives of M/s CONCOR and M/s CWC that till the Shipping Lines issue the Form 13, the goods cannot move from the ICDs to the Gateway Ports and at present, the Form 13s are not being issued by the Shipping Lines for Gulf bound cargo.

13. The Chief Commissioner directed the Commissioner, Bengaluru City Customs to do an ABC analysis of the stuck cargo with the help of the Custodian, with specific focus on perishables and Pharma products to prevent their deterioration.

(Action: Commissioner, BCC)

C. Postal Operations

14. It was informed by the representative from DoP that approximately **600 export articles are currently stranded** at the FPO due to cancellation of outbound flights (like Etihad) and Postal exchanges with countries in the Gulf region such as **Iran, Iraq and Kuwait** have largely been suspended. On a query by the Chief Commissioner, it was intimated that many other options are being explored including **alternate routing through available flights and return-to- sender options for critical consignments**.

15. The Chief Commissioner directed the Commissioner, Bengaluru City Customs to carry out a comparative analysis of the EXIM volume of TEUs and Postal consignments during the first week of March 2026 vis-à-vis the first/last weeks of February 2026.

(Action: Commissioner, BCC)

D1. Air Cargo

16. **Imports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo that around **17 cargo flights had been cancelled** during the period from 1st March 2026 to 5th March 2026, impacting **import cargo of 649 MT which has not arrived**. On a query by the Chief Commissioner, it was intimated that the Airlines are not in a position to predict alternative routes at present.

17. **Exports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo that around **17 cargo flights had been cancelled** during the period from 1st March 2026 to 5th March 2026, impacting **export cargo of 731 MT which had got stuck**. These flights were DHL, FedEx, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Etihad, Indigo etc., which are used commonly for both import and export cargo of Air Cargo as well as Courier consignments.

D2. Air Cargo (Courier)

18. **Imports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo that around 10 cargo flights had been cancelled during the period from 1st March 2026 to 5th March 2026, impacting import Courier consignments of 11 MT which have not arrived.

19. **Exports:** It was informed by the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo that around 14 cargo flights had been cancelled during the period from 1st March 2026 to 5th March 2026, impacting export Courier consignments of 1.50 MT which had got stuck. These flights were DHL, FedEx, Qatar Airways, Emirates, Etihad, Indigo etc., which were used commonly for both import and export cargo of Air Cargo as well as Courier consignments.

20. On a specific observation by the Chief Commissioner that the Courier export cargo appears to have been the least affected, it was intimated that in view of their nature, the Courier consignments were being re-routed by the Indian Courier operators via Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Bangkok and other alternate hubs.

21. It was also intimated by the Authorized Couriers that with the assistance of the Customs officers, a large number of export consignments of perishables and Pharma products had been Shut-Out and Back-To-Town permissions had been given to avoid their deterioration.

22. The Chief Commissioner directed the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo to ensure that all assistance is tendered in a timely manner during the process of Shut-Out and Back-To-Town of export cargo in deserving cases.

(Action: Commissioner, ACC)

E. Suggestions from stakeholders

23. **International Transshipment at Bengaluru:** It was requested that International Transshipment permission may be given to cargo arriving from Japan and meant for Dubai, which would be landed at Bengaluru Airport.

The Chief Commissioner directed the Commissioner, Airport & Air Cargo to examine the application in terms of Section 54 of the Customs Act, 1962, Circular No. 6/2007-Cus. dated 22-1-2007 and other legal provisions and take a suitable decision immediately. He stated that once operationalized, the proposal has the potential to turn Bengaluru, owing to its location, as a Temporary International Cargo Hub.

(Action: Commissioner, ACC)

24. **Customs functioning on holidays:** It was requested that in case of exigencies, the Customs officers should function on Holidays for clearance of cargo.

The Chief Commissioner stated that most formations in the Zone are already working on a 24x7 basis. He further stated that as and when required, the Commissioners will ensure that officers are available round the clock for smooth movement of cargo.

(Action: All Commissioners)

25. **Waiver or deferment of storage charges:** It was represented that Custodians should consider waiver or deferment of storage charges for export cargo affected by the disruptions since the Gulf situation has particularly affected the entities in the MSME Sector.

The Chief Commissioner requested that a representation in this respect may be forwarded which would be taken up with the appropriate authorities for suitable redressal.

26. Freeze on freight and insurance charges: It was represented that there should be a freeze on freight and insurance charges as they have increased abnormally in the last few days, which has severely affected the profitability of the importers and exporters.

The Chief Commissioner stated that while these are purely commercial considerations between the contracting parties, if a representation highlighting the issues is forwarded, the issues would be taken up with the appropriate authorities for consideration.

27. Clear communication channels: It was requested that there should be clear communication channels with the Trade regarding the re-routing of goods, disruption/resumption of flights/vessel etc. It was suggested that since Customs has a dedicated website and is in regular contact with the Custodians, Courier Operators, Shipping Lines etc., the information may be posted on the Customs Website and updated periodically.

The Chief Commissioner directed the Commissioners to ascertain the feasibility of obtaining the requisite information from the Custodians, Courier Operators, Shipping Lines etc. and posting it on official website by way of **Cargo Status dashboard / Periodic Bulletins**.

(Action: All Commissioners)

28. Speedier clearance of Liquid Bulk Cargo: It was requested that a mechanism should be established to ensure speedier clearance of Liquid Bulk Cargo at the Ports and Discharge permissions should be expedited.

The Chief Commissioner stated that the Discharge Permissions are already being given in the minimum possible time but any suggestions to further expedite the process would be most welcome. Regarding the speedier clearance of Liquid Bulk Cargo at the Ports, the Chief Commissioner highlighted the recent initiative taken at Mangaluru Port wherein with a view to reducing the import Dwell Time in Sea Cargo, the Boarding Procedure has been completely streamlined. According to the new procedure, the event of 'Entry inwards' has been advanced from the point of completion of boarding formalities by the Boarding Officer to the point of reporting of the vessel at the 'Pilot Station/ 'Boarding of Pilot'. This has enabled discharge of cargo immediately after the berthing of vessels.

F. Summation

29. Risks Identified

- **Potential LPG supply shortage** if disruptions continue through March 2026
- **Deterioration of perishables and pharmaceuticals** if cargo remains stuck in Ports, ICDs, Air Cargo Complexes and International Courier Terminals
- **Export delays** leading to customer dissatisfaction and business losses
- **Rising logistics costs** affecting MSMEs and exporters
- Container vessels are increasingly being **re-routed through Gateway Ports such as Cochin, Colombo and Nhava Sheva**, which may result in possible congestion at Gateway terminals
- **Rising freight costs, insurance premiums and storage charges**, which are putting financial pressure on exporters
- Some Shipping Lines are re-routing cargo through **transshipment hubs such as Singapore and Colombo**, which may lead to further **increased transit times and freight costs**

30. Action Points

- Diversion of perishable cargo before port arrival if export movement is uncertain
- ABC analysis of stuck export cargo to identify perishables and Pharma products
- Expedited Back-to-town and transshipment options to be offered where appropriate
- Manual permissions may be used in exceptional circumstances
- DoP to explore alternate routing options /direct flight options or return-to-sender arrangements for stranded postal export articles
- International Transshipment decision to be expedited by Commissioner, ACC
- Customs to engage regularly with Shipping lines, Custodians and Gateway ports to address issues relating to container movement, especially related to issuance of Form 13
- Customs to explore the option of having Cargo Status dashboard / Periodic Bulletins on the official website in co-ordination with Shipping Lines, Custodians and Logistics operators
- Customs to expedite processing of IGM Amendments, Late Fees waivers, Demurrage waivers and Provisional assessments (where documents are delayed) in deserving cases

31. The Chief Commissioner thanked the participants for attending the Meeting at short notice and emphasized the importance of continuous coordination among all stakeholders during this dynamic and fast evolving situation.

32. The Meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks.

This issues with the approval of the Chief Commissioner.

संलग्न: ऊपरोक्त अनुसार

Digitally signed by
Parashivamurthy M. K
Date: 07-03-2026
20:46:56

भवदीय,

(परशिवमूर्ति एम. के. / Parashivamurthy M.K.)

अपर आयुक्त / Additional Commissioner (CCO / मु.आ.का.)

1. All Members of CCFC
2. Others as per Mailing

list Copy to:

1. Commissioner of Customs, Airport & ACC Customs Commissionerate, Bengaluru.
2. Commissioner of Customs, City Customs Commissionerate, Bengaluru.
3. Commissioner of Mangalore Customs, Mangalore.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S No	Name (S/Shr/Smt/Ms/Dr.)	Designation	Organisation
1	SP Singh	Commissioner	Bengaluru City Customs
2	Vinitha Sekhar	Commissioner	Mangaluru City Customs
3	Sucheta Sreejesh	Commissioner	AP & ACC
4	Parashivamurthy MK	Addl. Commissioner	CCO Bengaluru
5	MS Prithvi	Addl. Commissioner	Bengaluru City Customs
6	Nitish Karnatak	Joint Commissioner	Bengaluru City Customs
7	Sandeep Gunjal	Joint Commissioner	AP & ACC
8	N Jayaram	Asst. Commissioner	CCO Bengaluru
9	Anuradha	Asst. Commissioner	AP & ACC
10	Soma Chaudhary	Jt Director	FIEO
11	Krishna Reddy	Sr Gen Manager	CONCOR
12	Balachander	Terminal Manager	CONCOR
13	P Dorababu	Asst Director	AEPC
14	Prabhu R	Superintendent	FPO
15	TK Sahu	Jt Commissioner	FIEO
16	Thulasiram	Gen Manager	Sattva CFS
17	V Chandra Kumar	Vice Chairman	ACFI
18	Mahadeva BS	VZ Operation	Menzis Aviation
19	Belli Gowda	Hon President	BCHAAL
20	Girish Narayan	Hon Secretary	BCHAAL
21	Hari Rao	Jt Secretary	BCHAAL
22	Balasubramaniam	MC Member	BCHAAL
23	Manjunath	MC Member	BCHAAL
24	Shanre Gowda	Member	BCHAAL
25	Abdul Rehman	Member	BCHAAL
26	Vasukeesh	Member	BCHAAL
27	Pradeep	Member	BCHAAL
28	Dushyant	Member	BCHAAL
29	Ravi Gowda	Member	BCHAAL
30	Arun	Member	BCHAAL
31	Madhusudhana	Member	BCHAAL
32	Manjunath	Member	BCHAAL
33	Anand	Member	BCHAAL
34	Prasad	Member	BCHAAL
35	Kumar	Member	BCHAAL
36	Jagadish	Member	BCHAAL
37	Hari A	Sr Executive	ARAMEX
38	Martin	Sr Executive	UBX Cargo
39	Clement	Manager	Reliable Log
40	Hongirana R	Office Executive	Grandslam Express
41	Manjunath	Sr Executive	Unique
42	Suresh	Sr Executive	Linex
43	Hrushikesh	Executive	Budget
44	Philip CC	President	CHA Assn Mangaluru
45	Prashant CG	President	Steamer Agent Assn Mangaluru
46	K Preetha	Office Executive	FASSAI Mangaluru

47	Subhas Chandra Pai	Gen Manager	MRPL
48	Pavan Mruthyunjaya	Gen Manager	FEDEX Courier
49	Jayant	Manager	LAPSIAA
50	Adani Lakshmi	Manager	Adani Logistics
51	Rafi	Manager	CWC CFC
52	Danisha Minu	Dy Director	FIEO
53	Kusumakara	Sr Manager	WFS
54	Sanjay Kumar	Manager	Arrow
55	Santosh	Manager	Indigo
56	Vyshakh Krishnan	Sr Executive	UPS
57	Praveen	Chairman	KASSAI
58	Naga Satyanarayan	Manager	BIAL
59	Vivek	Executive	HHL
60	Harish Kumar	Dy Traffic Manager	NMPA
61	Aishwarya Arora	Sr Executive	PEPC
62	Shivaa Kumar	BCIC	BCIC
63	Ram Prakash	EXIM	EximeseaClear
64	Gurumurthy	FA & CAO	NMPA
65	Lokesh BK	Manager	DHL Express
66	Benjamin	Generaal Manager	SIATI
67	Srinivasaan	Executive	Marigold CFS
68	NP Gunasekhar	Representative	ADORN Logistics
69	Nakeeran	Representative	All Argo
70	Kishore Kumar	Executive	PCF Pvt Ltd