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Kolkata – The Hub of Logistics for Bay of Bengal and Gateway to the North East and Neighbouring Countries

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BENGAL CHAMBER

Future Road Map of Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transport (IWT):

- Integrate coastal and inland waterways.
- Address first and last-mile connectivity issues of inland waterways with an offering that covers safety and integrity of service, enhances efficiency, reduces cost, etc.
- Involve the private sector in the development of inland waterways. Policy interventions such as Fixed Vessel schedule, etc which promote dependability and assurance would encourage private players.
- Maintain depth through a systematic dredging program for year round safe navigation on both National Waterway 1 & 2.
- Make both lock gates at Farakka fully operational as early as possible to increase efficiency for enhancing cargo movement.
- Amend the India-Nepal treaty to include Inland Waterways.

Future Scope of Ship Building and Repairing focussing on Ships, Barges and Boats:

- Leverage local shipbuilding expertise and technology and improve on project times.
- Shipbuilding and repair facilities to be on par with advanced ship building nations.
- Cash in on the demand for repair and upkeep of vessels that would be generated with the development of inland waterways.

Vision of Road Transport and Railways:

- Integrate the five different warehousing clusters in Kolkata through a proper transportation network and on the basis of trade to reduce logistics cost for the entire area.
- Upgrade infrastructure significantly and reduce inefficiencies and costs to sustain the growth in logistics.

Future Road Map of Warehousing, Cold Chains and E-commerce:

- Involve the private sector in infrastructure development through changes at the policy level.



- Harness Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies for further business development and growth.

Future Development of Ports and Airports:

- Focus on capacity building, developing expertise and strengthening relationships with overseas countries, particularly the neighbouring countries in the East.
- Develop the ecosystem: ports, port service providers, port users, logistics professionals, etc.
- Construct terminals for safe operations and smooth evacuation. Many inland waterways terminals are unsuitable for larger barges and the truck turning circles are inappropriate.
- Digitization is the key to the development of the sector and reduction in costs and lead time. Opt for process integration and IT integration.
- Develop innovative services such as the dedicated air courier terminal at the Kolkata Airport and the planned dedicated E-commerce terminals for further ease of movement of cargo.
- Set up mega ports in the East for the trans-shipment of cargo.

The Future of Cross-border Logistics in India and Neighbouring Countries:

- Focus on digital presence and the coordination between various stakeholders for Cross –Border Logistics with special emphasis on the India-Bangladesh Cross-Border Trade.
- Improve Data Sharing between India and neighbouring countries to bolster traceability and trust.
- Put in place a robust trade, transport and passenger facilitation systems, etc.
- Bring all requirements, facilities, infrastructure, etc for cross-border trade under one roof. Make mutual acceptance of testing certificates, a Reality.
