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South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026 sees the convergence of leading government officials, maritime & logistics industry leaders in Chennai

Exim News Service

CHENNAI, July 23

17th SOUTH EAST CEO CONCLAVE & AWARDS 2026
CARGO • LOGISTICS • MARINE • PORTS
Wednesday, 22nd July 2026, ITC Grand Chola, Chennai

EMINENT policymakers associated with the maritime and logistics sectors, senior government and private port officials, representatives from transport and logistics entities both public and private, as well as the entire spectrum of solutions providers in shipping and logistics made their presence felt at *Exim India Shipping Times*' **South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026,** the 17th edition, on **Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai**.

The event brought together decision-makers, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, leading professionals, industry stalwarts and multifarious achievers who astutely conferred on topical issues, acclaimed some of the best in the fraternity,

Award Winners List on pages - 9 & 10

and effectively interacted and networked with the aim of further advancing the sector in South India and beyond.

(See box: DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPATION)

Insightful deliberations at the CEO Conclave

The theme of this year's Conclave, "**Industry, Infrastructure & Logistics – An Era of Rapid Transformation in South India**," set the tone for an engaging and forward-looking discussion on the region's evolving logistics landscape.

The session was expertly moderated by **Ms Devi James Melchior, Senior Vice President – Logistics, K-Indev Logistics**, and featured an eminent panel representing diverse segments of the supply chain. The discussion examined the current state of the industry, emerging opportunities and challenges, infrastructure requirements, and the future trajectory of cargo handling and logistics in South India.


Mr. Gopal Krishna, IAS


Mr. N. Sivasailam, IAS (Retd.)

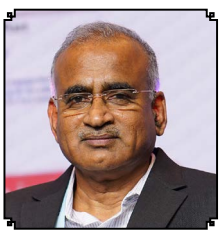

Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retd.)


Mrs. J. P Irene Cynthia, IAS

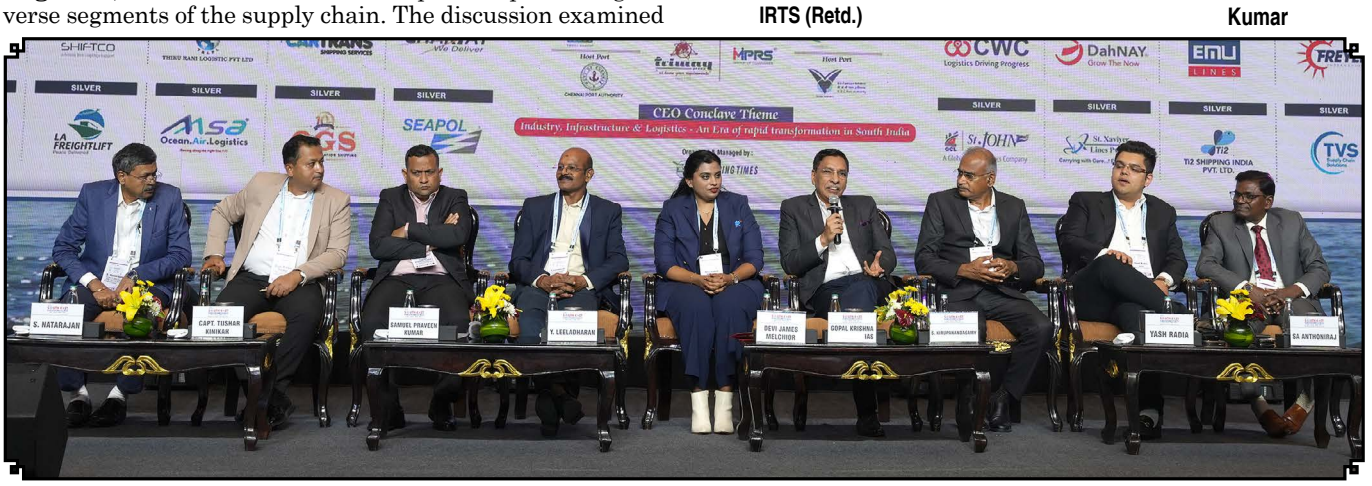

Mr. Rajesh Soundararajan, IAS


Ms. G. Gayatri, IRTS


Mr. P. Raveendran, IRTS (Retd.)


Mr. S. Kirupanandasamy


Mr. Samuel Praveen Kumar



The event was enriched by the insights of (from left) Mr S. Natarajan, Capt. Tushar Kinikar, Mr Samuel Praveen Kumar, Mr Y. Leeladharan, Ms Devi James Melchior, Mr Gopal Krishna, Mr S. Kirupanandasamy, Mr Yash Radia and Mr SA Anthoniraj

Among the important topics discussed were:

- ❖ Ongoing and future expansion plans at Chennai Port
- ❖ South India's emergence as a major container shipping hub
- ❖ Growth of Container Freight Stations (CFSs) and Inland Container Depots (ICDs), and their connectivity with gateway ports

Appointments - 5, 11

Continued on page 4

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South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026



POSTHUMOUS FELICITATION

Late Mr Haji M. S. Tajudeen, Seapol Group of Companies



Late Mr Haji M. S. Tajudeen of the Seapol Group of Companies for his leadership and pivotal role in shaping the growth and transformation of the logistics services industry in South India. Received by Mr Tajudeen's brother Mr M. S. Saifudeen, and his sons Mr T. Mohamed Kaiser and Mr T. Abdul Basith

Continued from page 3

❖ Logistics requirements of the fast-growing renewable energy and project cargo sectors

❖ The evolving role of Customs Brokers in a technology-driven environment

❖ Strategies for Logistics Service Providers (LSPs) to deliver seamless end-to-end solutions amid supply chain disruptions

The distinguished speakers and panellists shared valuable perspectives that kept the packed audience fully engaged throughout the Conclave.

DR SHRI PRAKASH CARGO & LOGISTICS IMPACT AWARD



Dr K. Chandramohan, NTC Group

Key insights

Ms Devi James Melchior noted that India is rapidly emerging as one of the world's top five logistics markets, with South India playing a pivotal role in this growth story.

Mr Y. Leeladharan, Chairman, The Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents' Association, and Heading Agency Division – Chennai and East Coast Ports, James Mackintosh & Co. Pvt. Ltd., highlighted transhipment opportunities, port expansion and mechanisation, digital and paperless processes, and industrial growth across South India as key drivers of

Continued on page 6

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PUBLIC)



Mr N. Sivasailam *(center)*, IAS (Retd), Former Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce

South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PRIVATE)



Dr Bashir Rajan Babu *(center)*, Indev Infra Private Limited

FELICITATIONS

NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD



For its vital role in providing strategic guidance on maritime policy in India

ABRAO GROUP



For 90 years of setting the highest standards in shipping & logistics across South India

NTC GROUP



For 25 years of setting the standards in logistics excellence

Continued from page 4

trade expansion.

Mr Gopal Krishna, IAS, Former Shipping Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, and Chairman, Conciliation and Settlement Committee (CSC), stressed the importance of greater accountability among service providers and underscored the role of conciliation in effective dispute resolution.

Mr S. Kirupanandasamy, Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority, spoke about the successful resolution of congestion issues at the port and ongoing infrastructure modernisation initiatives aimed at improving turnaround times and increasing throughput capacity.

Capt. Tushar Kinikar, General Manager & Terminal Head, MIDPL – Kattupalli Container Terminal (APSEZ), observed that one out of every three containers moved in India originates

Continued on page 7

THE EMINENT AWARDS JURY

JURY CHAIRMAN

- **Mr. Y. Leeladharan,** Chairman, The Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents' Association and Heading Agency Division - Chennai and East Coast Ports, James Mackintosh & Co. Pvt. Ltd.

JURY MEMBERS

- **Mr. Ahmed Ashraf**, Vice President Cum Secretary, Tuticorin CFS's Association & Managing Director, AMA Logistics Pvt Ltd & SEC Services Pvt Ltd
- **Mr. K. Balaji**, EC Member, The Chennai Customs Brokers Association & Managing Partner, Carrier Cargo
- **Mr. S. Ramesh Srinivasan,** Director, iGreen Shipping & Logistics Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan S,** DGM – Terminal Head (ICD Malur/Bangalore - Adani), Adani Logistics Limited



The Awards Jury was felicitated on the occasion by Ms G. Gayatri, IRTS, Area Head – Southern Region, Container Corporation of India Ltd. They were (from left) Mr S. Ramesh Srinivasan, Mr Y. Leeladharan, Mr Ahmed Ashraf and Mr K. Balaji

South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026

Continued from page 6

from South India. While new terminal capacities are being created ahead of demand, he emphasised the need for supporting logistics ecosystems and corridor connectivity.

Mr Samuel Praveen Kumar, Director (Marketing & Corporate Planning), Central Warehousing Corporation, outlined CWC's evolution into an integrated end-to-end logistics service provider, enabled by investments in infrastructure, technology, and innovation.

Mr S. Natarajan, President, Chennai Customs Brokers' Association (CCBA), and Chairman-Elect, Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI), remarked that Customs Brokers have evolved from traditional clearing agents into trusted consultants and strategic supply chain partners.

Mr SA Anthoniraj, CEO – Project Logistics, Freight Forwarding & CHA, NTC Logistics India Pvt. Ltd., highlighted NTC's role as a strategic logistics partner for the recent Vikram-1 launch and discussed India's growing prominence in renewable energy production and equipment manufacturing, with South India serving as a key growth engine.

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DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPATION

- ★ **Gopal Krishna, IAS, Former Shipping Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Government of India & Chairman, CSC (Conciliation and Settlement Committee)**
- ★ **N. Sivasailam, IAS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce**
- ★ **Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retd.), Chairperson, National Shipping Board**
- ★ **J. P Irene Cynthia, IAS, Managing Director, Kamarajar Port Limited**
- ★ **Rajesh Soundararajan, IAS, Deputy Chairperson, V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority**
- ★ **G. Gayatri, IRTS, Area Head – Southern Region, Container Corporation of India Ltd**
- ★ **P. Raveendran, IRTS, Principal Chief Commercial Manager (Retd.), Southern Railway**
- ★ **S. Kirupanandasamy, Traffic Manager, Chennai Port Authority**
- ★ **Samuel Praveen Kumar, Director (Marketing & Corporate Planning), Central Warehousing Corporation**
- ★ **S. Natarajan, President, Chennai Customs Brokers' Association (CCBA) & Chairman-Elect of Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI)**
- ★ **Y. Leeladharan, Chairman, The Chennai & Ennore Ports Steamer Agents' Association and Heading Agency Division - Chennai and East Coast Ports, James Mackintosh & Co. Pvt. Ltd.**
- ★ **Devi James Melchior, Senior Vice President – Logistics, K-Indev Logistics**
- ★ **Yash Radia, Director, MPRS Group of Companies**
- ★ **SA Anthoniraj, CEO - Project Logistics, Freight Forwarding & CHA, NTC Logistics India Pvt. Ltd.**
- ★ **Capt. Tushar Kinikar, General Manager & Terminal Head, MIDPL - Kattupalli Container Terminal (APSEZ)**



Some of the award winners





South East CEO Conclave & Awards (SECC) 2026

Continued from page 7

Mr Yash Radia, Director, MPRS Group of Companies, spoke about South India's importance as a hub for agro commodities and emphasised the need for logistics providers to balance cost, timeliness and efficiency. Reflecting on market volatility, he noted that disruption does not stop momentum—it merely redirects it.

Celebrating excellence at the Awards

Excitement reached its peak as industry leaders and professionals gathered for the **South East – Cargo & Logistics Awards 2026**. With the hall filled to capacity, the awards ceremony recognised exceptional achievements by organisations and individuals across the maritime, cargo, shipping and logistics sectors in more than 35 categories.

Among the highlights were the presentation of:

★ **Dr Shri Prakash Cargo & Logistics Impact Award - Dr K. Chandramohan, NTC Group**

★ **Lifetime Achievement Award (Public) – Mr N. Sivasailam, IAS (Retd), Former Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce**

★ **Lifetime Achievement Award (Private) – Dr Bashir Rajan Babu, Indev Infra Private Limited**

Worthy felicitations

One of the poignant moments of the evening was the posthumous recognition of **Late Mr Haji M. S. Tajudeen of the Seapol Group of Companies for his leadership and pivotal role in shaping the growth and transformation of the logistics services industry in South India**. The honour was received by his family members on his behalf.

The others felicitated were:

National Shipping Board: For its vital role in providing strategic guidance on maritime policy in India

Abrao Group: For 90 years of setting the highest standards in shipping & logistics across South India

NTC Group: For 25 years of setting the standards in logistics excellence

The Awards Jury, headed by Mr Y. Leeladharan, was also felicitated.

Adding a touch of excitement to the celebrations, a **Lucky Draw** segment saw two attendees walk away with attractive prizes.

A resounding success

The event concluded with networking cocktails and dinner, providing delegates with further opportunities to strengthen business relationships and exchange ideas.

With its blend of thought-provoking discussions, recognition of industry excellence and high-value networking, SECC 2026 once again reinforced its position as one of South India's premier platforms for maritime, cargo and logistics stakeholders, fostering collaboration and charting the course for the industry's future growth.

A detailed pictorial feature on the event will be brought out soon.

Global port throughput volumes show resilience despite challenges

Adani now a global terminal operator

Exim News Service

LONDON, July 23

GLOBAL port throughput volumes in 2025 demonstrated remarkable resilience, rising 6.5% YoY to 994 mteu, despite challenging geopolitical conditions, according to Drewry's Global Container Terminal Operators Annual Review & Forecast 2026/27. As a group, the global terminal operators (GTOs) outperformed the global market, increasing their equity-adjusted volumes by an average 8.9% YoY, which increased the GTOs' share of the global market from 48.8% in 2024 to 49.9% in 2025.

The top spot in the equity-adjusted rankings has been retained by PSA International, with an equity-adjusted throughput of 69.9 mteu, up 5.3%.

Eight of the 19 operators that qualify as GTOs in 2025 achieved double digit growth in equity-adjusted throughput, with recent entrants AD Ports and Adani and major hybrid operators CMA CGM, MSC Group, APM Terminals and Hanseatic Global Terminals continuing their aggressive growth trajectory from last year.

With relatively few privatisation opportunities remaining, we identify that container terminal concessions are entering a new maturity cycle as long-term agreements awarded during the port privatisation waves of the late 1990s and early 2000s are now approaching the end of their initial concession tenure. Given this, many GTOs are proactively managing their portfolio maturity and working closely with concessioning authorities well ahead of renewals to align objectives.

While M&A deals have continued apace, geopolitical fragmentation has seen the rise of regulatory protectionism to delay and even block major deals, clearly illustrated by the stalemate situation that has emerged from the TiL-BlackRock bid for Hutchison Ports' international portfolio. Financial investors remain committed to the sector, with Macquarie taking a 50% stake in Australia's Patrick Stevedores via its acquisition of Qube, and Stonepeak setting up a new platform–United ports LLC–with CMA CGM, which will acquire a portfolio of CMA Terminal assets.

Eleanor Hadland, author of the report and Drewry's senior analyst for ports and terminals said: "While monetisation of terminal assets is not a new strategy, CMA CGM's deal with Stonepeak demonstrates further that partnership can generate win-win outcomes for investors and operators."

Capital investment across the sampled companies was up 23% in 2025, with GTOs focusing on growing their portfolios, upgrading existing infrastructure and expanding their automation and digital capabilities. GTOs are projected to add a combined 186 mteu capacity to their portfolios between 2025 and 2030, but there is an element of double- counting in these figures due to the joint ownership structures across the sector.

Greenfield projects are also firmly back on the agenda, accounting for 23% of the projected net increase in GTO portfolio capacity. Four operators—MSC Group, CMA CGM, Adani and HGT—are projected to add greenfield capacity of 4 mteu or more by 2030, with the first two each adding over 8 mteu. It is no coincidence that these two are 'hybrid' operators, wholly- or majority-owned by carriers, which are much better placed to guarantee volumes for greenfield developments due to matched ownership.

Only a few GTOs are assessed to be truly global, and Drewry notes that size, shipping line affiliation and 'first-mover' advantage are the key determinants of a GTO's geographic reach. DP World and MSC Group have terminal investments in all 10 world regions, while four GTOs (APM Terminals, Hutchison Ports, CMA CGM and ICTSI) operate in nine world regions. PSA, which topped the equity-league table in 2025, operates in eight world regions, with no terminal assets in Africa or Oceania; China Cosco Shipping and Evergreen operate in seven world regions. Although there was no change in the geographic scope of operations for any of the GTOs between 2024 and 2025, for several of the GTOs, recent M&A activity and greenfield investments have strengthened their positions in key markets.

Across the industry, decarbonisation of operations is the most pressing environmental issue. All 19 companies featured in the global operator league tables have published a commitment to achieve net zero, with the timeline varying between 2040 and 2060. There is a broad consensus on the pathway to decarbonisation of terminal operations, focusing initially on improving the efficiency of operations (to reduce overall energy consumption) and over time switching to lower carbon fuel (primarily renewable electricity).

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CARGO • LOGISTICS • MARINE • PORTS
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South East - Cargo & Logistics Awards 2026

Congratulations to all the Winners

CATEGORY	WINNER
DR. SHRI PRAKASH CARGO & LOGISTICS IMPACT AWARD	**Dr. K. Chandramohan, NTC Group**
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PUBLIC)	**Mr. N. Sivasailam, IAS (Retd.), Former Special Secretary (Logistics), Department of Commerce**
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PRIVATE)	**Dr. Bashir Rajan Babu, Indev Infra Private Limited**
CONTAINER HANDLING PORT OF THE YEAR	**Chennai Port Authority (Based on Volume)**
	V. O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Based on Growth)
CONTAINER HANDLING TERMINAL OF THE YEAR	**Adani Ennore Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd.**
CONTAINER SHIPPING LINE OF THE YEAR - EUROPE TRADE LANE	**Maersk**
CONTAINER SHIPPING LINE OF THE YEAR - FAR EAST TRADE LANE	**Wan Hai Lines Ltd.**
CONTAINER SHIPPING LINE OF THE YEAR - AMERICA TRADE LANE	**CMA CGM (Based on Volume)**
	Hapag-Lloyd (Based on Growth)
CONTAINER SHIPPING LINE OF THE YEAR - AFRICA TRADE LANE	**Mediterranean Shipping Company**
NVOCC OF THE YEAR - MIDDLE EAST TRADE LANE	**AWATAC Container Line Pvt. Ltd.**
SHIPPING AGENT OF THE YEAR	**Samsara Group (Based on Volume)**
	Abrao Group (Based on Growth)
SHIPPING AGENT OF THE YEAR - DRY BULK OPERATOR	**Seaport Shipping Pvt. Ltd.**
SHIPPING AGENT OF THE YEAR - RO-RO	**Cartrans Shipping Services**
NVOCC OF THE YEAR	**Ti2 Shipping India Pvt. Ltd.**
CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION OPERATOR OF THE YEAR (CHENNAI REGION)	**Allcargo Terminals Limited (Based on Volume)**
	Ennore Cargo Container Terminal Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Growth)
FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR (EXPORT)	**DahNAY Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Volume)**
	VS Trans Lojistik Limited (Based on Growth)
FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR (IMPORT)	**Glottis Limited (Based on Volume)**
	TVS SCS Global Freight Solutions Limited (Based on Growth)
LCL CONSOLIDATOR OF THE YEAR (EXPORT)	**Teamglobal Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Volume)**
	EMU Lines Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Growth)

Continued on page 10

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LCL CONSOLIDATOR OF THE YEAR (IMPORT)	**FreightBridge Logistics Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Volume)**
	Worldtron Logistics International Pvt. Ltd. (Based on Growth)
CUSTOMS BROKER OF THE YEAR	**Indev Infra Private Limited**
CUSTOMS BROKER OF THE YEAR (SME)	**VS Trans Lojistik Limited (In Export Segment)**
	Sea Sky Exim Pvt. Ltd. (In Import Segment)
FUMIGATION COMPANY OF THE YEAR	**Fumigation Services Pvt. Ltd.**
CARGO / MARINE SURVEYOR OF THE YEAR	**Master Marine Services Private Limited**
CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION OPERATOR OF THE YEAR - BENGALURU REGION	**Central Warehousing Corporation**
NVOCC OF THE YEAR - TUTICORIN REGION	**Promise Shipping Line Pvt. Ltd.**
CUSTOMS BROKER OF THE YEAR - TUTICORIN REGION	**St. John Freight Systems Ltd.**
FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR - TUTICORIN REGION	**St. Xaviyer Lines Pvt Ltd**
ICD OPERATOR OF THE YEAR - TUTICORIN REGION	**St. John Freight Systems Ltd.**
FREIGHT FORWARDER & CUSTOMS BROKER OF THE YEAR - COIMBATORE REGION	**Gloshipping and Logistics Pvt. Ltd.**
MOST DIVERSIFIED LOGISTICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR	**Triway Group**
DIGITAL FREIGHT LOGISTICS SOLUTION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR	**Abrao Group**
WOMAN PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR	**Mrs. J. P. Irene Cynthia, IAS, Managing Director, Kamarajar Port Limited**
YOUNG LOGISTICS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR	**Mr. Prassanna Srivatssan B.S., KPS Worldwide Logistics Pvt. Ltd.**
END-TO-END LOGISTICS SOLUTION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR	**Worldtron Logistics International Pvt. Ltd.**
DYNAMIC LOGISTICS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR	**Mr. Saravanan, Apollo World Connect Limited**
INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SOLUTION PROVIDER OF THE YEAR	**J-ARK Logistics Pvt. Ltd.**
LOGISTICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR	**Thiru Rani Logistic Pvt Ltd**
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SMART LOGISTICS	**Shiftco Shipping & Logistics India Pvt. Ltd.**
SPECIAL JURY AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION IN SHIPPING & LOGISTICS INDUSTRY	**Adv. (Capt.) V. J. Pushpakumar, Ruubrik Legal**
DYNAMIC WOMAN PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR	**Ms. Srividya T J, Freight Consolidators**
MOST PROMISING SHIPPING & LOGISTICS COMPANY OF THE YEAR	**MSA Shipping Pvt. Ltd.**