



# Gujarat Junction 2025 and Exim Star Awards 2025 see topical insights, worthy accolades and abundant interaction with the entire fraternity gathered under one roof

Exim India's **Gujarat Junction 2025** and **Exim Star Awards 2025**—the 15th edition—once again reaffirmed their stature as the region's most definitive gathering of the maritime, cargo and logistics fraternity. Held on **Friday, December 19, 2025**, at the **Radisson Hotel Kandla, Gandhidham**, the event was marked by enthusiasm, anticipation and vibrant participation.

## CEO Roundtable: Insights & Vision

The proceedings opened with an engaging **CEO Roundtable**, featuring a distinguished panel of leaders from across the cargo and logistics spectrum. Centered on the theme **“Gujarat: Leading the Charge in Port & Logistics with Comprehensive Development”**, the discussion captivated the audience with thought-provoking insights and forward-looking perspectives.

The session was expertly moderated by **Mr Mitesh Dharamshi, General Manager – Kandla, Parekh Group**, whose incisive questions drew out relevant opinions on Gujarat's logistics landscape and future trajectory. Covering operational, regulatory and policy dimensions, the dialogue was enriched by interactive exchanges with delegates, adding depth and dynamism.

Among the eminent participants who graced the event were:

- **Mr C. Harichandran, OSD, Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla**
- **Dr Rajesh Kumar Nagora, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Mundra**

Senior officials from ICDs, CFSs and rail operators, including CONCOR, also lent their presence.



Mr C. Harichandran, OSD,  
Deendayal Port Authority (DPA),  
Kandla



Dr Rajesh Kumar Nagora, IRS,  
Additional Commissioner of Customs,  
Mundra

## Awards Gala: Honouring Excellence

Excitement reached its peak during the **Exim Star Awards 2025**, where winners across more than 30 categories were honoured with trophies and certificates amid uplifting music and applause.

The highlight of the evening was the **Lifetime Achievement Award** presented to **Mr Sadashiv P Shetty of Meridian Freight Forwarders Pvt. Ltd.**, who received a standing ovation for his outstanding contribution to the industry.

## Felicitations & Lucky Draw

The event also celebrated two landmark contributions to the sector:

- **Velji Dosabhai & Sons Pvt. Ltd.** – Recognised for over a century of commitment to logistics excellence.
- **Mundra Customs** – Honoured for its pivotal role in modernising and simplifying trade processes.

The **Awards Jury**, chaired by **Mr Dhiren Mehta**, was felicitated for its meticulous efforts. Adding a touch of fun, a lively **Lucky Draw** brought surprise and joy, with two winners walking away with exciting prizes.

## Consolidating Premier Status

With its blend of insightful deliberations, deserving accolades and prolific networking, **Gujarat Junction 2025 and Exim Star Awards 2025** once again underscored their position as the premier platform for the region's maritime and logistics community.

A summary of the views expressed at the **CEO Roundtable**, along with the awards and felicitations photo-feature follows.



The CEO Roundtable was graced by (from left) Mr Devashish Patyal, Mr Shanu Gupta, Mr Manoj Katar, Mr Rahul Jain, Mr Mitesh Dharamshi, Mr Avtar Singh Sohal, Mr Jeet Shah and Mr Dilip Chudasama



## DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPATION

- C. Harichandran, OSD, Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla
- Dr Rajesh Kumar Nagora, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Customs, Mundra
- Mukesh Oza, Group President & CEO, Samsara Group (virtually)
- Mitesh Dharamshi, General Manager - Kandla, Parekh Group
- Avtar Singh Sohal, Chief Commercial Officer, Samsara Group
- Manoj Katar, COO, Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ)
- Rahul Jain, CEO, Saurashtra Freight Pvt. Ltd.
- Dilip Chudasama, Sales Director - Area India, Hapag Lloyd India Pvt. Ltd.
- Jeet Shah, Director & CFO, S J Logistics India Limited
- Devashish Patyal, Deputy CEO, INTECH Group
- Shanu Gupta, Director, Rishi Kiran Logistics Pvt. Ltd.



Some of the award winners



# The CEO Roundtable saw pertinent insights and persuasive views from an eminent panel

**Jeet Shah, Director & CFO,  
S J Logistics India Limited  
(Welcome Address)**



Mr Jeet Shah began by describing Gujarat as India's leading logistics and cargo hub, and highlighted the salient features of its two key ports – Mundra and Kandla (Deendayal). He emphasised that the state is a powerhouse of business and a primary region driving the country's ex-im trade, with excellent connectivity to especially Central and North India. He also appreciated the resumption of liner shipping services through the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

**Mukesh Oza, Group President & CEO,  
Samsara Group (Guest of Honour virtually  
delivering Keynote Address)**



Mr Mukesh Oza emphasised that Gujarat stands tall as India's maritime and logistics backbone, which is not incidental but the result of decades of vision, sustained investment, policy support and a strategic emphasis on connectivity, efficiency and industrialisation. He highlighted Gujarat's port infrastructure as massive, diversified and globally competitive, and its integrated logistics connectivity that has created an efficient, end-to-end trade corridor from hinterland factories to international markets. The state has systematically tied ports to industrial clusters, urban centres and logistics hubs, creating seamless movement of goods and massive supply chain efficiencies. He also highlighted Gujarat's expansive development plans in ports, logistics, connectivity and other infrastructure, including a proposed large-scale port city, a maritime hub similar to Singapore or Dubai. The project includes a multi-cargo port with capacity of 250-500 million tonnes per annum and an integrated city with residential, commercial and industrial zones. Today, Gujarat is India's maritime flagship, a comprehensive integrated logistics and trade engine with the latest expansions, investments and policy momentum. It is strongly positioned to support India's export ambitions, industrial growth, global trade integration and economic transformation. It is a privilege for all of us to be stakeholders in this journey, he added.

**Dilip Chudasama,  
Sales Director - Area India,  
Hapag-Lloyd India Pvt. Ltd. (Panelist)**



Mr Dilip Chudasama said that the second half of 2025 was challenging for container shipping and expected 2026 too to be a testing year for carriers with the likelihood of a volatile market. There will be a lot of cost and operational focus, smart capacity moves will be made by carriers, smart cost management will be looked at, and how to better utilise assets will be considered. As regards returning to the Red Sea and Suez Canal, it will be a wait-and-watch approach before a firm decision is taken. Only when it is safe for assets, cargo and people will Hapag-Lloyd return to transiting through the Suez Canal, he said.

**Devashish Patyal, Deputy CEO,  
INTECH Group (Panelist)**



Mr Devashish Patyal emphasised that technology and digitisation have been empowering the entire spectrum of logistics, and are today not just tools for cost reduction, but can be used to optimise and scale, to obtain the best productivity, and seamlessly move the cargo. Technology is the enabler for the next generation of logistics. AI will have a disruptive impact and will enhance efficiency and productivity, he added. He also made the point that Gujarat's logistics acumen will be key for Viksit Bharat 2047.

**Shanu Gupta, Director,  
Rishi Kiran Logistics Pvt. Ltd.  
(Theme Presentation)**



Mr Shanu Gupta highlighted that Gujarat's four major ports and 50 plus non-major ports cater to almost 41% of India's demand, which coupled with other infrastructure like multiple ICDs/logistics parks facilitate smooth cargo handling and operations. Gujarat offers exactly what manufacturers want by connecting roads, ports and ICDs to an international market at a faster and competitive rate. Besides, Gujarat is a coastal shipping hub, home to India's first international finance city, Gift City, home to India's maiden maritime arbitration centre, enables ship leasing and purchase operations, and is soon likely to get its own shipbuilding yard, he added. Development is a constant in Gujarat, so there is a lot more coming up, be it capacity and other augmentation at ports like Mundra and Deendayal (recognised as a green hydrogen hub), new logistics and industrial facilities, and enhanced connectivity.

**Avtar Singh Sohal,  
Chief Commercial Officer,  
Samsara Group**



Mr Avtar Singh Sohal reiterated the Samsara Group's commitment to serving the fraternity.

**Mitesh Dharamshi,  
General Manager - Kandla,  
Parekh Group (Moderator)**



Mr Mitesh Dharamshi, in brief remarks, made a pertinent comment that bulk, dry bulk and break bulk cargo logistics will always be around due to some of their inherent advantages. He stressed the importance of technology adoption in the sector, to survive in business and grow to the next level. He also lauded the topical theme of the event.

**Manoj Katar, COO,  
Adani Ports & Special Economic  
Zone Ltd (APSEZ) (Panelist)**



Mr Manoj Katar highlighted the planned expansion of Mundra Port's container handling and other capacity in the coming years, alongside the upgrades to its rail infrastructure both inside and outside the port, equipment etc. He also made the point that there will be no shortage of cargo for the new ports coming up or planned.

**Rahul Jain, CEO,  
Saurashtra Freight Pvt. Ltd. (Panelist)**



Mr Rahul Jain highlighted that CFSs work with all stakeholders, not just ports, as customers, vendors, or even both. These include liners, CHAs, terminal operators, shippers and consignees, so there is ample scope for providing value-added services. Empty container storage, cargo storage, last mile delivery, container/cargo handling outside the CFS were mentioned. He emphasised that CFSs will continue to be relevant despite DPD and DPE, expanding their service offerings. Warehousing is today a booming business. CFSs can provide similar services. There exists huge opportunities in India, he stressed.



# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Mr. Sadashiv P Shetty, Meridian Freight Forwarders Pvt. Ltd.**

## PORT OF THE YEAR - CONTAINERISED CARGO & NON-CONTAINERISED CARGO

Deendayal Port Authority  
(IN NON-CONTAINERISED CARGO SEGMENT)

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (Mundra)  
(IN CONTAINERISED CARGO SEGMENT)

## TERMINAL OF THE YEAR - COASTAL CARGO



## Kandla Container Terminal

## CONTAINER SHIPPING LINE OF THE YEAR - EUROPE TRADE LANE



## Mediterranean Shipping Company



Container Corporation of India Ltd.  
(IN PUBLIC SEGMENT)



CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION OPERATOR OF THE YEAR



Saurashtra Freight Pvt. Ltd.

SHIPPING AGENT OF THE YEAR (NON-CONTAINERISED)



Samsara Group



FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR (CONTAINERISED)



CKB Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd.

FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR (MULTICARGO)



V. Arjoon Shipping Pvt. Ltd.



FREIGHT FORWARDER OF THE YEAR (PROJECT CARGO)



EPT Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd.

EMPTY DEPOT OPERATOR OF THE YEAR



Samveda India Group of Companies



IT & SOFTWARE COMPANY OF THE YEAR



Intech Creative Services Pvt. Ltd.

NVOCC OF THE YEAR (GP)



WINWIN MARITIME LIMITED



a c t infraport limited  
(IN IMPORT SEGMENT)



## YOUNG LOGISTICS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (MALE)

## A photograph showing three men standing in front of a blue backdrop with white stars. The man on the left, wearing a grey blazer, is presenting a trophy to the man in the center. The man in the center, wearing a grey blazer, is also holding a framed certificate. The man on the right, wearing a black vest over a white shirt, is standing next to them. Above the men, there is a small portrait of Mr. Umang Thakker and his name and company name, Kalash Global Logistics Pvt Ltd. The backdrop contains text about Mr. Umang Thakker's achievements and his role as Managing Director of Kalash Global Logistics Pvt Ltd.

**Ms. Beena Tikyani**  
Parekh Group

The journey of Ms. Beena Tikyani in the shipping industry is a testament to her dedication and expertise. As a Group is proof that the future of the Indian shipping industry is not just about the frontlines of excellence, but also the experience, she stands as an example of professional growth, customer centricity and consistent achievement, strong communication, deep process understanding, stakeholder trust, contributing to the spectrum of the industry. CHA, freight operations, customer experience.

For her all-round professional achievements, she has been honored with the title of Woman Professional of the Year 2025.

A photograph showing Mr. Kalyan Deshpande, Chairman of CKB Global, presenting an award to Mr. Satish Dasal, Chief Operating Officer of CKB Global. Mr. Dasal is holding a framed certificate and a trophy. The background features a large screen displaying Mr. Dasal's portrait and text about his career and achievements.

A photograph showing three men on a stage. The man in the center, Mr. Tarun Rathod, is wearing a dark suit and a white shirt, and is holding a framed certificate and a trophy. He is flanked by two men in dark suits. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a white shirt. The man on the right is also wearing glasses and a white shirt. In the background, there is a large screen displaying a portrait of Mr. Tarun Rathod and text about his role at Hapag-Lloyd India. The text on the screen includes: "Mr. Tarun Rathod", "Hapag-Lloyd India Pvt. Ltd.", "Manager for Hapag-Lloyd India at Hapag-Lloyd India", "successfully", "executing commercial strategy", "to name a few. A seasoned", "industry, primarily in the", "over the last 10 plus years", "For his pivotal role in", "Mr. Tarun Rathod is the", "Portfolio", "Terminal, Brand Promotion", "with over 10 years of experience in", "has achieved significant", "in company", "Strategic", "Planning", "Operations", "Main", "Region,".

Mr Tarun Rathod, Hapag-Lloyd India Pvt Ltd



THE RISING STAR IN FREIGHT FORWARDING AWARD



Mr Javed Khan, Silverline Logistics

DYNAMIC CFS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Mr Sudhesh Bola, Landmark CFS (P) Ltd



YOUNG LOGISTICS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (FEMALE)



Ms Nisha Thacker, Maersk Line India Pvt. Ltd.

DYNAMIC LOGISTICS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR



Mr Prushat Joshi,Asia Shipping International Transport Pvt. Ltd.

FELICITATIONS

Mundra Customs



For its pivotal role in simplifying and modernising the export and import processes to benefit the trade

Velji Dosabhai & Sons Pvt. Ltd.



For over 100 years of unwavering commitment to logistics excellence

THE EMINENT AWARDS JURY



The Jury Members were felicitated by Mr Mitesh Dharamshi (second left). They were Mr Umang Sharma (first left), and Mr Dhiren Mehta, Mr Jayesh Rajde and Mr Manoj Mishra (third, fourth and fifth from left)

JURY CHAIRMAN

- Mr. Dhiren Mehta, Director, A D Mehta Clearing Agency

JURY MEMBERS

- Mr. Jayesh Rajde, Director, J R Roadlines Private Limited
- Mr. Manoj Mishra, Director, Conocean I 2 Agencies India Pvt. Ltd
- Mr. Umang Sharma, Director, Blue Pacific Shipping & Logistics Pvt. Ltd.



## LUCKY DRAW WINNERS



**Mr. K.V.V. Giri**  
(Goodrich Maritime Private Limited)



**Mr. Meet Pitroda**  
(Oasis Shipping Private Limited)

## THE FRATERNITY MADE ITS PRESENCE FELT IN NUMBERS





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# Thank You



*Event Partners, Speakers, Panelists,  
Jury, Supporter & Delegates  
for making*

**GUJARAT JUNCTION 2025 & EXIM STAR AWARDS 2025**  
*a Grand Success*

## EVENT PARTNERS

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				 <b>JR Group</b> POSSIBILITIES ACROSS BOUNDARIES	
				 <b>KAMALENTERPRISE</b>	
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