

Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI)

A Brief Note on the Association:

- Customs clearance of cargo at ports was handled by three kinds of people who were regulated by the customs. Dalal or “pass writer” was the oldest known category predating even the establishment of the Bombay Port Trust in 1873 and the enactment of the Customs Act in 1878. Dalals were responsible for preparing documents at the customs. The first known dalal was said to be Dosabhoy Mistry who secured a license to transact business as far back as in 1858, the year East India Company made its exit from the country.
- Muccadams were another kind of people engaged in the physical handling of cargo at the docks and had no authority to process documents through Customs. The firm Curumsey Damji was said to be functioning as Muccadams around 1858. The third kind of people emerged towards the end of the eighteenth century. They were clearing agents licensed by the Sea Customs Act, 1878. They could assume the activities of both the Dalals and Muccadams and they also had the added authority of signing documents on behalf of merchants.
- In 1960, with the New Custom House Agents Licensing Rules with modifications to the then existing CHA Licensing Rules 1957 were notified. A need for a joint representation to the Government and common action was felt. Accordingly, a joint conference of all Clearing Agents Associations of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin, and the Karachiwala Association was held in Mumbai. It was during this meeting that it was resolved to form a federation of all the customs clearing agent's association in India. On 2nd December 1962, former Union Minister of Finance Late. Shri Morarjee Desai inaugurated the Federation of Customs Clearing Agents Associations of India (now. Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India). The Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Jamnagar, Goa, Kandla and Bhavnagar Associations formed the Federation.
- Today, Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) is the Apex Body and the Sole Representative of 28 Member Associations from all over India representing 6500 Custom House Agents (employing over 1,00,000 'people). In addition, organization who are directly or indirectly connected with freight forwarding, shipping and commerce are also members of FFFAI.

- The main object of FFFAI is to organize united action to project and promote the interest of the professional in all its aspects at the national level; and for that purpose to co-ordinate the activities of the Custom House Agents' Associations and their members; to collect and disseminate information to members on subject of common interest; to take part in conference; to help members to acquaint the authorities with their common problems, to protect and to improve the common benefits, to get redressal of legitimate grievances by all peaceful and constitutional means and procedures to exercise beneficial supervision over the clearing trade with a view to maintain a high standard of integrity and public confidence; to evolve a code of conduct of ethics for the Custom House Agents and /or members of the Federation.
- To further its aims and objects, the Federation enrolled as a National Association Member of the FIATA (International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations) in 1965.
- In pursuance of its aims and objects, the FFFAI plays a constructive role in maintaining a constant rapport with the Customs, Port Trusts, Airport Authorities, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Central Warehousing Corporation, Central Excise, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), etc. to make its own contribution in the formulation of Policy and administrative measures and simplification of various procedures, For this constructive role, the Federation has been accorded official recognition and is represented on several official, semi-official forums of various central ministries like Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Commerce and other Trade Bodies.
- FFFAI is being invited by the Ministry of Finance to give presentation on the Union pre-budget for formulating the policy structure in direct and indirect tax.
- FFFAI comments are invited for the SCOPE Session, CCG meeting held by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Directorate General of Export Promotion.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry had invited FFFAI to do study on dry run The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) project and submit recommendation.
- FFFAI launched its own training and education wing in the name of Indian Institute of Freight Forwarders (IIFF) on 7th January 2005 by the hands of Mr. Issa Baluch – President of FIATA and Mr. P. K. Srivastava – then CMD of Shipping Corporation of India. IIFF is the only institute in SAARC region to conducts Diploma course in Freight Forwarding which is approved by FIATA.

- As on date FFFAI has total member strength of 2139 which includes 28 associations from major and minor ports. The Executive Committee of FFFAI consists of 109 members who are representatives of various Member Association nominated by them.

Registered Office:

Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India
 311-313, Mahinder Chamber, Opp. Dukes Factory,
 W. T. Patil Marg, Chembur Mumbai – 400 071
 Tel: 022-67107495/ 96
 Email: info@ffai.org

List of FFFAI Office Bearers:

S No	Name	Designation	Email ID
1	Mr. A. V. Vijayakumar	Chairman	vijay@ffai.org
2	Mr. Shankar Shinde	Chairman – Elect	shankar@ffai.org
3	Mr. P. S. Atree	Vice Chairman	psatree@ffai.org
4	Mr. Rajesh Verma	Vice Chairman	rajeshverma@arship.com
5	Mr. Vinod Sharma	Vice Chairman	vinod@bestagency pune.com
6	Mr. Sudip Dey	Vice Chairman	Sudipdey1964@gmail.com
7	Mr. Alan Jose	Vice Chairman	alan@ffai.org
8	Mr. Mandava Satyanarayana	Vice Chairman	rmyashokint@gmail.com
9	Mr. Dushyant Mulani	Honorary Secretary	dushyant@ffai.org
10	Mr. Sudhir Agarwal	Honorary Treasurer	intimecargo@gmail.com
11	Mr. S. Ramakrishna	Immediate Past Chairman	rama@ffai.org
