



TALK

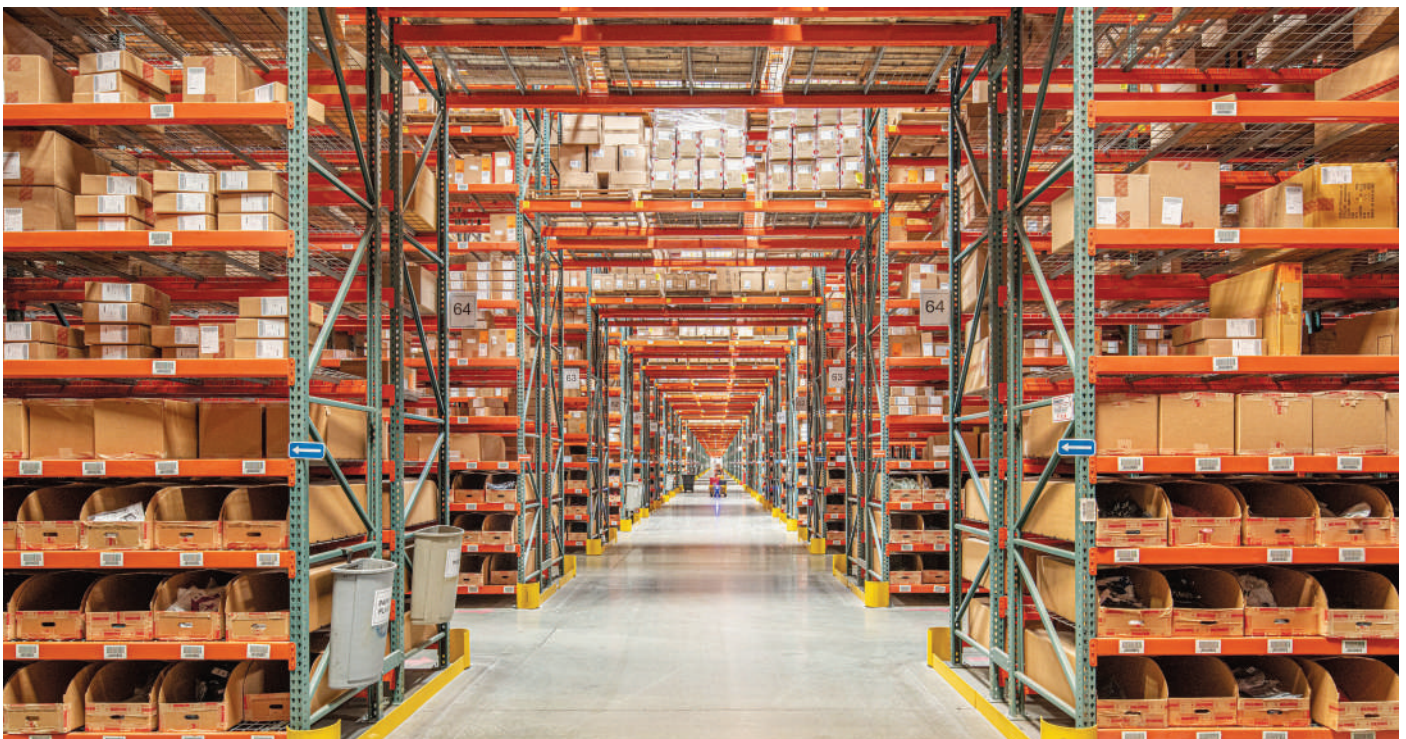
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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WAI SPOTLIGHT

WAI participates in Intralogistics Warehousing & Expo

Manu Raj Bhalla, President, WAI, and Arif Siddiqui, VP, WAI, participated in Intralogistics Warehousing & Expo held in Pune recently. The show was organised to showcase smart warehousing solutions, seamless supply chain and world-class logistics ecosystem. The show provided opportunity to connect with supply chain professionals from across India to experience the future of intralogistics.



WAI INTERVIEW



Overcoming hurdles, investing in infrastructure & technology for growth

Collaborating with technology providers to offer incentives for implementing innovative solutions such as WMS, IoT devices, and automation technologies. Engaging with government, policymakers, and regulatory bodies to advocate for policies to promote growth of the warehousing sector would be WAI's key growth strategy in the coming months, says Arif A Siddiqui, Vice President, WAI.



Arif A Siddiqui
Vice President, WAI & Founder
& Director, Coign Consulting

What is your vision for the warehousing and logistics sector?

Continued investments in modern warehouses, cold storage facilities, and transportation networks will be crucial. This will involve public and private sector participation (PPP) to enhance efficiency and connectivity across India. The integration of technologies such as IoT, Artificial Intelligence, automation, and data analytics will optimise warehouse operations, improve inventory management, and enhance overall supply chain visibility and efficiency. With the increasing demand for faster and reliable delivery services, there will be a focus on developing last-mile delivery (LMD) solutions, including alternative delivery methods such as drones and autonomous vehicles.

Environmental concerns and sustainability will become paramount in the warehousing and logistics sector. Adoption of eco-friendly practices such as green buildings, electric vehicles, and efficient energy management will be encouraged. Efforts in regulatory reforms, including simplification of tax system, state logistics policies, faster clearance, approval procedures, and streamlining of transportation regulations, will boost the sector's growth and attract more investment. Strengthening ties with global markets and integrating into global supply chains will open new prospects for Indian warehousing and logistics companies.

Overall, the warehousing and logistics sector is poised for continued growth in the coming years, driven by factors



such as technological advancements, infrastructure development, and favourable government policies. However, addressing challenges such as infrastructure bottlenecks, regulatory hurdles, and skill shortages will be crucial to realising the sector's full potential.

What is crucial to your mind to succeed in the coming years?

Industry advocacy and representation: It is crucial to advocate for the interests of the warehousing and logistics sectors, representing members' concerns, and influencing policy decisions at the national and state levels. Building relationships with government agencies, policymakers, and stakeholders will be essential to drive regulatory reforms and address sector-specific challenges.

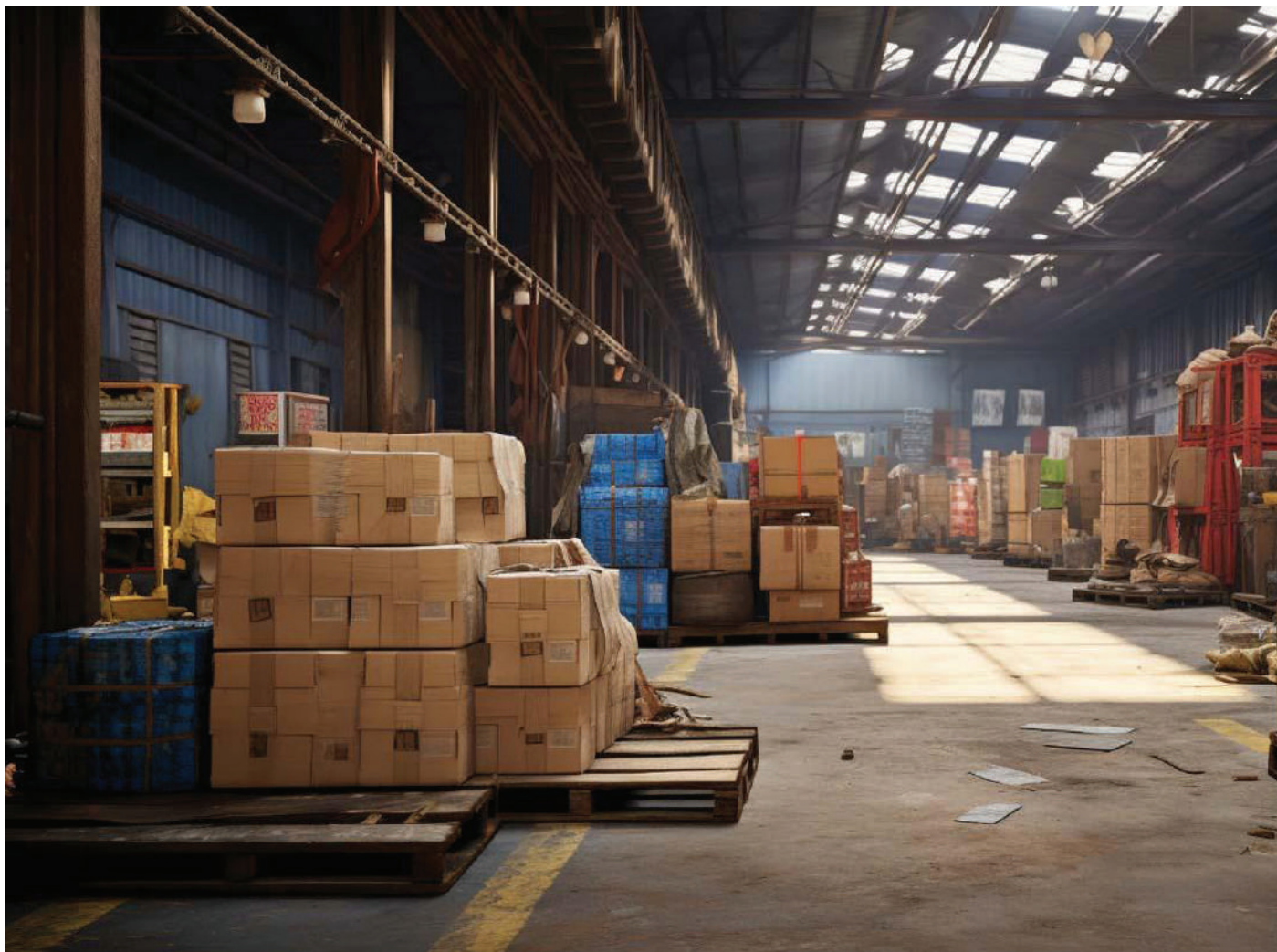
Skills development and talent management: Investing in skills development programmes and talent management initiatives will address the shortage of skilled manpower in the industry.

Providing training opportunities, certifications, and career advancement pathways can attract and retain talent, while ensuring a skilled workforce capable of meeting evolving industry demands.

Share with us WAI's upcoming projects and growth strategies?

Conducting research studies to gather insights into industry trends, challenges, and opportunities can provide valuable data to members and guide strategic decision-making. This could include market analysis, technology trends, regulatory updates, and best practices in warehousing and logistics. Organising training workshops, seminars, and certification programmes to enhance and update skills and knowledge of professionals in the sector. The topics could range from supply chain management and logistics operations to safety, security, and sustainability practices. Collaborating with technology providers to offer member discounts or incentives for implementing innovative solutions such as WMS, IoT devices, and automation technologies. Engaging with government agencies, policymakers, and regulatory bodies to advocate for policies and regulations that promote the growth and development of the warehousing and logistics sector.

Building relationships with govt. and stakeholders will be essential to drive regulatory reforms



ing sector. Hosting networking events, conferences, and trade shows to bring together stakeholders, thought leaders, and experts for knowledge exchange, business networking, and collaboration opportunities. Exploring opportunities for international partnerships and collaborations to facilitate international trade, technology transfer, and market expansion.

What are the current challenges? Can you suggest some solutions?

Infrastructure bottlenecks, including roads, ports, and warehouses, leads to congestion, delays, and hike in transportation costs. The solution for this is to increase investments in infrastructure development projects such as road and rail networks, ports, and modern warehouses. PPPs can be leveraged to expedite infrastructure projects. Poor last-mile connectivity in urban and rural areas obstructs timely delivery and increases transportation costs. Improving it through initiatives such as building more distribution centres, implementing alternative delivery methods such as EVs, and leveraging technology for route optimisation. Cargo theft, tampering, and security breaches pose risks to warehousing and logistics operations. Enhance

security measures through the implementation of access controls, CCTV surveillance, alarm systems, and security audits. Collaborate with law enforcement agencies and private security providers to mitigate security risks.

Concerns such as pollution, carbon emissions, and waste generation need to be addressed in warehousing and logistics operations. Promote eco-friendly practices such as green building designs, energy-efficient technologies, electric and hybrid vehicles, and sustainable packaging materials. Implement waste management and recycling programmes to reduce environmental impact. Addressing these challenges, requires a concerted effort from the government, industry stakeholders, and technology providers. By implementing the suggested solutions, the warehousing and logistics sector can overcome hurdles and achieve sustainable growth and efficiency.

Poor last-mile connectivity in urban and rural areas hampers timely delivery and increases transportation costs

INDUSTRY UPDATES

DP World opens new Grade A warehouse in Goa



DP World has commenced warehousing operations in Loutulim, Goa. Located 31 km from the Mormugaon Port, 23 km from the Dabolim airport, the warehouse is compliant with all safety standards and provides seamless connectivity to the Goa-Bangalore-Pune highway. With three operating docks and 2,620 pallet positions, the 27,512 sq. ft. facility is fully equipped to handle and store chemical products. The facility provides dedicated pump room, advanced fire sprinklers and Rockwool insulation on the roof.

ESR's new 50,000 sq. ft. distribution centre in Delhi

ESR Urban Distribution Centre in Delhi is ready for fit-outs starting this June. The first phase, a 50,000 sq. ft. G+2 RCC building, will be ready for fit-outs in June, allowing businesses to save time and launch operations quickly. Located near the upcoming UER 2 and 0.5 km away from NH44, the project boasts seamless connectivity to Rohini, Mundka, Najafgarh, Dwarka, IGI Airport, and Gurugram. "This isn't a building; it is a gateway to unlocking agility and efficiency in Delhi's supply chain. Faster deliveries and happier customers; that is the future we are building together," stated the company's post.



RENK Group expands India ops with 92k sq. ft. facility in Hosur



RENK Group accelerates its presence in India with a new factory. Spanning 92,000 sq. ft., this in Horizon Industrial Park Hosur, in Tamil Nadu's Defense Industrial Corridor will produce gearboxes, transmissions, and other essential mechanical components for military and civilian applications. "We are happy to have emerged as the partner of choice for RENK Group and look forward to the collaborative journey of growth and success that is poised on the horizon," stated the company's official LinkedIn Post.

RDCEL enters North East, opens warehouse in Guwahati

Rockingdeals Circular Economy (RDCEL) has finalised a significant agreement to establish a new warehouse in Guwahati, marking its entry into North East. Covering an area of 10,000 square feet, the warehouse is poised to meet the escalating demand for affordable and authentic products in the region. This latest addition elevates the company's total warehouse capacity to 60,000 square feet, enhancing its operational prowess and ensuring streamlined service delivery to customers nationwide.



Sustainable warehousing has become necessity

Sustainability is multifaceted, and it is plausible to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions due to the warehousing and logistics industry in more ways than discussed so far. Warehouses can be planned right from the point of conception with the goal to optimise connectivity.

In today's age, combating climate change is not just an option—it is a collective ethical responsibility that lies with everybody and every organisation. Alongside this ethical obligation, there is an awareness among consumers regarding environmental issues, which shows through the current shift in their consumption patterns, compelling businesses to scrutinise their products and their manufacturing and supply operations.

The first step lies in designing for sustainability. Warehousing developers are leveraging the vast roof surfaces to instal solar panels that help to reduce the associated energy costs. Apart from augmenting energy production, energy-efficient retrofits such as LEDs for illumination, solar-powered streetlights and smart meters for monitoring and

optimising consumption contributes to offsetting a facility's energy impact. In our case, Horizon has added 7.4 MWP rooftop solar capacity and plans to expand this to 20 MWP by this December saving 10 to 15 per cent energy costs. We aim to achieve 35 per cent renewable energy capacity.

Constructing insulated buildings with eco-friendly materials helps in reducing the building's heat absorption.

With tech and and rising demand for green solutions sustainable products have become accessible

These materials typically incur higher costs compared to conventional options. But with technology and rising demand for eco-friendly solutions, sustainable products have become accessible and cost-effective. This shift has democratised sustainability within the sector thereby making it a viable choice for warehouses of all scales—from small-scale operations to large logistics facilities.





Most warehousing and logistic parks are built in steel. For it reduces the frequency of replacements and contributes to cost savings and operational efficiency of a warehouse's lifespan. Steel from these structures can be recycled thus minimising waste generation and promoting resource conservation. At park level, warehouses can encourage waste management practices by segregating all waste and recycling the collected waste. Onsite compost pits can be used for processing and upcycling horticulture waste into fertiliser.

Warehouse parks can have supportive infrastructure for EVs to promote use of greener transportation. These efforts towards emission reduction align with CSR and contribute to global initiatives aimed at combating climate change. Industrial parks can be more than just workspaces. Certain Grade A developers create humanistic spaces that promote biodiversity via large, landscaped zones, shaded rest areas, urban forests, lily ponds and open gyms. These spaces help rejuvenate the workforce and contribute to the park's microenvironment positively.



Most firms operating in the sector are making sustainability a cornerstone of their operations. By integrating sustainable features into their warehouse facilities, businesses demonstrate their commitment to environmental responsibility and social stewardship. It is also attractive to investors when businesses are Environmental, Social, and Governance compliant, and adhere to ethical social and environmental standards.



Mahendra Waghule
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Horizon Industrial Parks

*(The views expressed are solely of the author.
The publication may or may not
subscribe to the same)*



We welcome new members to WAI

Avanti Hydro Power LLP
AWH All Warehouses and Industrial Parks Private Limited
Barabazaar Transport Company Private Limited
Cold Steel Corporation
Dewas Techno Products Pvt. Ltd.
Durafloor Concrete Solutions LLP
H.A.M. Enterprises

Indelox Services Private Limited
Lynkit Solutions Private Limited
Merrill Estates Pvt. Ltd.
Nayyar Packers
Precision Pyramid Pvt. Ltd.
Shah Realtors
Shivani Services
Siemens Limited





WHY JOIN THE WAREHOUSING ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

- Advocacy and Policy Making
- Networking and collaboration
- Standardization of practices
- Access to specialized documents
- Adoption of innovative technologies



For more information on becoming a WAI member, visit www.warehousingindia.org/membership