



# TALK

April 2026

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

## WAI SPOTLIGHT

# Podcast Launch – ‘Bharat ki Logistics Kranti’

The Warehousing Association of India (WAI) debuted its podcast series, India’s Logistics Transformation, on the **CARGOTALK** YouTube channel. The inaugural episode featured Mr Mohit Kapoor, Chairperson, Projects & Events, WAI, and Dr Surendra Ahirwar, IRTS Executive Director (Traffic Commercial, Ministry of Railways).

The discussion highlighted how the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy are driving transformation by integrating 36 ministries and 1600 geographic information systems (GIS) data layers.

**PMGS National Master Plan and NLP are driving transformation by integrating 36 ministries and 1600 GIS data layers**

This integration enables faster clearances, streamlined planning, and multimodal, cost-efficient logistics. It also emphasised the shift from siloed functioning to synchronised governance, positioning logistics as a key enabler for a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

## From industry forums to impactful action



## Express Logistics Panel Discussion

Mr Manu Raj Bhalla, President, WAI shared insights at a panel discussion organised by Aviral Consulting in Mumbai on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 on the theme: 'The Relevance of Express Logistics in Building Competitive Advantage.'

The discussion emphasised that express logistics has evolved beyond parcel movement to become a key driver of:

- Economic growth
- Supply chain resilience
- Digital commerce
- Global trade integration

As India progresses toward a US\$ 5 trillion economy goal, express logistics will play a critical role in enhancing national competitiveness.



## WAI Strengthens Industry Commitment at Logistics Awards



Mr Mohit Kapoor participated as a jury member at National Logistics Awards held at Vanija Bhawan, New Delhi. This participation reflects WAI's commitment to recognising industry excellence and fostering innovation across the sector.

The evaluation of LEAPS 2025 applications was conducted by an Expert Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February at Vanija Bhawan. Covering key segments of the logistics ecosystem, the process was carried out through structured sessions to ensure a comprehensive and balanced assessment. The evaluation was facilitated via a standardised digital framework, with support from the LEAPS Coordination Team, ensuring efficiency and transparency throughout.

## WAI Representation at FICCI GatiShakti Summit

Mr Mohit Kapoor participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> FICCI GatiShakti & Warehousing Summit 2026, held on 19<sup>th</sup> March at FICCI Federation House, New Delhi. The summit brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and technology providers to advance integrated, multimodal, and digital logistics networks. Key discussions focused on strengthening warehousing and cold chain infrastructure through investment, innovation, and policy reforms.

Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy, the summit contributed to high-level discussions on emerging trends and India's evolving logistics landscape.



## LogiStore India highlights need for standardised warehousing

LogiStore India 2025, an initiative by the Confederation of Indian Industry, convened senior leaders from across India's logistics and warehousing ecosystem in New Delhi, with a clear focus on advancing efficiency, standardization, and infrastructure-led growth. Manu Raj Bhalla, President, Warehousing Association of India, was among the key industry voices, bringing attention to the critical role of structured warehousing in strengthening supply chain performance.

The Warehousing Association of India contributed meaningfully to the discourse, emphasizing the need for robust grading frameworks, adherence to safety benchmarks, and the adoption of globally aligned best practices. The association's perspective reinforced the importance of a more formalized and performance-driven warehousing ecosystem—integral to enhancing India's logistics competitiveness and supporting long-term economic growth.



## Grade A Warehouses: Opportunities & Pathways to Standardized Success

### Key Highlights:

- Emerging trends in Grade A warehousing
- Investment potential and economic benefits
- Role in cost efficiency and business growth
- Importance of SOPs for operational excellence

The session reinforced the shift toward standardised and future-ready warehousing infrastructure.



## Powering Vision 2030 with Logistics Excellence

### Powering Vision

Organised by Transport Logistics India - Messe Munchen, the session was held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. Moderated by Mr Ketan Jadhav (Partner, EAC), the panel featured Mr Manu Raj Bhalla along with other industry leaders.

The focus was on strengthening Make in India through logistics performance & enhancing efficiency to attract global investment

### Key Highlights:

- Strengthening Make in India through performance
- Enhancing efficiency to attract global investment
- Supply–demand perspectives on manufacturing growth
- Logistics as a key enabler of Vision 2030

The discussion emphasised the importance of logistics excellence in driving sustainable economic growth.



At LogiMAT India (14 February 2026), Mr Manu Raj Bhalla attended the panel discussion on Transport Logistics India 2026 – Messe München

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Industry–Academia Interface Conference on Logistics and Warehousing 2026



GreatLakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, in collaboration with WAI, successfully organised the conference on Logistics and Warehousing. The conference explored the transformative role of AI in supply chains, operations, and

manufacturing ecosystems. Mr Seshadri Kulkarni, Executive Director, WAI addressed the conference, while Mr Arun Pandit and Ms Puja Tiwari contributed to panel discussions with their expertise.

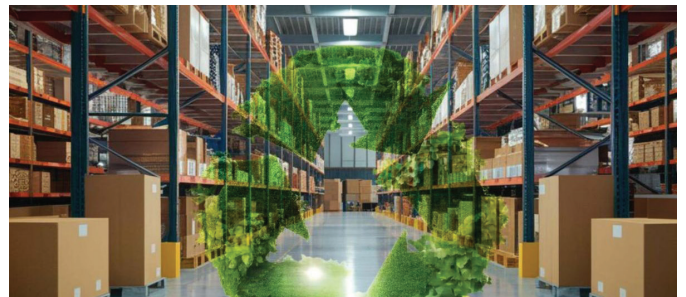
## Fortifying India's warehousing landscape



WAI plays a transformative role in fortifying India's logistics and warehousing landscape. Through a focused approach on sustainability, digital innovation, and infrastructure development, WAI is driving initiatives enhancing operational efficiency, improving connectivity, and supporting long-term industry growth. These efforts are aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, aimed at building an integrated and cost-efficient logistics ecosystem.

## Sustainable warehousing expansion

WAI is advancing sustainable growth through the development of next-generation Grade A warehousing facilities. A notable milestone is the 450,000 sq ft warehouse at One Samruddhi Park, Bhiwandi, designed with a strong focus on eco-efficiency. Equipped with solar installations, energy-efficient systems, and seamless highway connectivity, this facility reflects WAI's commitment to building environmentally responsible and future-ready infrastructure.



## Digital and collaborative platforms



In its pursuit of digital transformation, WAI is fostering enhanced collaboration across the logistics ecosystem. By implementing advanced digital platforms, the association is enabling stronger stakeholder connectivity and elevating 4PL (Fourth-Party Logistics) capabilities. The integration of technologies such as AI and IoT is further streamlining operations, improving inventory management, and driving overall efficiency within the sector.

## Infrastructure upgrades and logistics parks

WAI is also focused on strengthening India's logistics backbone through strategic infrastructure development. This includes the expansion of warehousing facilities near key hubs such as Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) to facilitate smoother EXIM cargo movement. Additionally, the development of multimodal logistics parks across the country is set to enhance connectivity, reduce transit times, and optimise supply chain performance.



## Rating and Grading Process of WAI

**W**AI, in collaboration with DPIIT, is supporting the refinement and finalisation of the Warehousing Grading and Rating System (WGRS) to drive standardisation across India's warehousing sector.

The framework aims to establish a structured evaluation mechanism covering key parameters such as infrastructure, safety, operational efficiency, and technology adoption, enabling consistent grading of warehouses across the country. A key focus area is the inclusion of modern technologies within the assessment criteria, including Internet of Things (IoT), automation systems, digital inventory management, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), reflecting the evolving needs of a



technology-driven ecosystem. Through this initiative, WGRS seeks to promote transparency, encourage modernisation, and enhance the overall quality and competitiveness of warehousing in India.

## WAI contribution to BIS Standards



**I**n collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and other stakeholders, WAI is advancing efforts to standardise warehousing practices across the country.

Led by industry experts, this initiative aims to enhance efficiency, strengthen safety frameworks, and align India's warehousing ecosystem with global standards.

### Purpose

The collaboration focuses on streamlining warehousing operations through standardisation and digitisation, driving greater efficiency and consistency across the ecosystem.

### Industry Leadership

The initiative is supported by industry leaders, including Mr Manu Raj Bhalla (President), Mr Arif Siddiqui (Vice President), along with key members such as Mr Seshadri Kulkarni, Executive Director, and Mr Sunil Tyagi, Honorary Secretary, WAI.

### Overall Objective

The overarching goal is to bridge the gap between industry and government, fostering a more structured, transparent, and globally competitive warehousing sector in India.

## DPIIT Constitutes Warehousing Task Force



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, has constituted a Warehousing Task Force to strengthen India's warehousing ecosystem and improve logistics efficiency.

This initiative builds on ongoing efforts under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and the National Logistics Policy, with stakeholder consultations highlighting the need for greater standardisation, formalisation, and technology adoption in the sector.

### Key Aspects of the Warehousing Task Force:

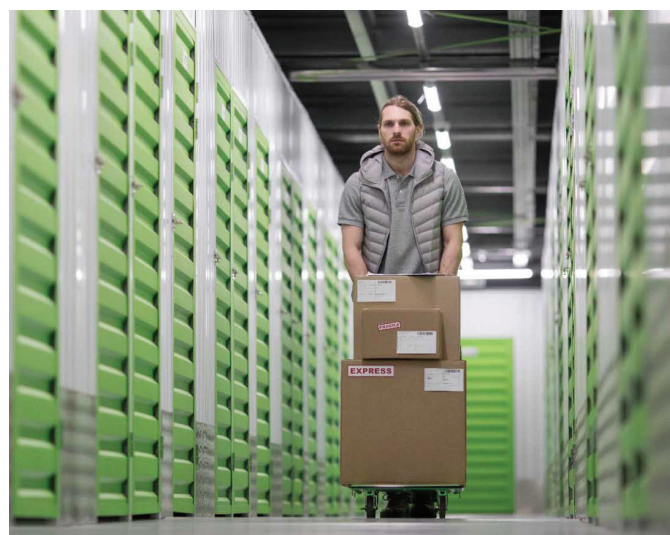
- **Data Integration:** Integration of warehouse data with the PM GatiShakti portal
- **Standardisation & Rating:** Development of grading and rating frameworks
- **Formalisation:** Promotion of registration and formalisation of warehouses
- **Incentives:** Identification of financial and regulatory support mechanisms
- **Technology Adoption:** Encouraging AI, IoT, and automation in warehousing
- **Gender-Responsive Infrastructure:** Focus on inclusive warehousing practices
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthening training and workforce development

### Objective & Scope:

The Task Force will develop a national framework for warehouse mapping and formalisation, recommend classification systems, and support integration with digital platforms. It will also address policy measures, operational standardisation, and the development of the Warehousing Grading and Rating System (WGRS), while promoting sustainable and technology-driven warehousing practices.

### Deliverables:

- Interim report within three months
- Comprehensive report within five to six months covering mapping, classification, incentives, and WGRS





## WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO WAI

Godrej Koerber Supply Chain Limited

Speciality Urethanes Pvt Ltd

Kelley Material Handling Equipment  
India Pvt Ltd

OneAlpha Ventures Limited

Seabird Logisolutions Limited

Niaara Weldfab Industries

Gravique Pvt Ltd



## 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](http://www.warehousingindia.org/membership)

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