

SMART LOGISTICS

Creating value from Emerging Technologies and Green Practices

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Recent developments such as establishment of logistics division in Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI, allowing infrastructure status for logistics, initiating national portal for logistics e-market place and announcement of multimodal logistics parks prompted logistics sector transformation. Unlike relatively matured manufacturing sector in the country, the emerging logistics sector imposes additional responsibility on the key players in organized logistics sector to support logistics MSME development and transformation. Smart logistics may provide the required pathways for such rapid transformation and may enable logistics sector to shorten the developmental stage to become globally competitive.

The 4th industrial revolution is unfolding with experimental technologies such as IoT connected devices, big data, data analytics, robotics, machine learning, sensor technologies, and artificial intelligence. Each of these technologies are used together to optimize manufacturing processes, assist manufacturers, and keep workers safe. The new revolution also entails next generation supply chains are digitally enabled and are driven by 'smart logistics'. Indian logistics sector is 4th largest employer industry in the country and surprisingly majority of players are unorganized and fall into MSME segment.

Current global scenario indicates wide gap between the velocity of new industrial revolution and readiness of MSME logistics players in the country. The Government of India's initiative through National Productivity Council and IIT D – AIA foundation for smart manufacturing are notable steps to bridge this divide. There is a need to take up such well-structured initiatives for the benefit of rapidly growing Indian logistics sector. May be its time for us to focus on smart logistics initiatives. Such initiatives would accelerate the transformation of unorganized logistics sector and may also bridge the gap.

Smart logistics initiatives may involve storage and transport segments and enable smart manufacturing to realize the desired outcomes. New approaches may be experimented in areas of ambient and temperature controlled storage and transport, logistics infrastructure management, multimodal transportation, safety and security, documentation and regulatory compliance. The benefits may include optimized logistics processes, assist logistics service providers and improve cargo and work force safety. This conference would bring together key stakeholders who may deliberate on various perspectives of smart logistics and develop actionable recommendations.

The sessions include:

- Technologies for improving customer service, regulatory compliance, safety and security
- Logistics 4.0: Emerging trends in sustainable supply chain
- Co-creating smart multi modal logistics networks