

TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS SECTOR

JANUARY 2025

CARGO

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs amended the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018

On January 16, 2025, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs amended the Sea Cargo Manifest and Transshipment Regulations, 2018. The applicability of new regulations for most ports has been deferred until March 31, 2025. This extension allows stakeholders additional time to comply with the updated manifest filing requirements.

Official Notification: [Deferral of New Sea Cargo Manifest Rules](#)

RAILWAYS

India to shift focus to railways from road transport in infrastructure push

As of January 20, 2025, reports indicate that India plans to prioritize railway modernization in the upcoming 2025/26 budget. Allocations for the Railways Ministry are expected to rise to between ₹2.9 trillion and ₹3 trillion, supporting network expansion and the addition of 400 high-speed Vande Bharat trains by March 2027. In contrast, the Road Transport Ministry anticipates a modest 3%-4% budget increase, reflecting a strategic shift to enhance rail infrastructure.

Official Notification: [Shift in Infrastructure Focus to Railways](#)

TRANSPORT SERVICES

GST Rates on Transport Services

As of January 27, 2025, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates for transport services have been delineated based on the mode of transportation. For road transport services provided by Goods Transport Agencies (GTAs), a 5% GST applies if the Input Tax Credit (ITC) is not availed, and a 12% GST applies if ITC is availed. Certain goods, such as agricultural produce and defense equipment, are exempt from GST when transported by GTAs.

Official Notification: [GST on Transport Services in 2025 For Road, Rail, Air & Water Ways](#)

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MARCH 2025

PORTS

Bill to update 169-year-old shipping law gets approval

In March 2025, the Lok Sabha passed the Bills of Lading Bill, 2025, replacing a 169-year-old colonial-era law. This modernization aims to streamline and update the legal framework governing bills of lading, aligning it with contemporary international practices.

Official Notification: [Bills of Lading Bill 2025](#)

DGFT implements system-driven rule based Faceless Automation for ad-hoc Input Output Norms Fixation

On March 3, 2025, the DGFT notified the fixation of a new SION at SION A-3684 under the 'Chemical and Allied Product' category (Product Code 'A'). This standardization aims to streamline input-output norms for specific chemical products.

Official Notification: [Fixation of New Standard Input Output Norms \(SION\)](#)