



Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Government of India



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

CONTENTS

Overview	02
1. Organisational Structure and Functions	05
2. Global Economic and Trade Situation	24
3. Trends in India's Foreign Trade	29
4. Foreign Trade Policy and Major Schemes	35
5. Export Promotion Mechanism	52
6. Commercial Relations, Trade Agreements and International Trade Organizations	79
7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs)	114
8. Specialized Agencies	123
9. Programmes undertaken for the welfare of SCs/STs/OBCs, Women and Persons with Disabilities	180
10. Transparency, Public Facilitation and Allied Activities	188
Annexures	197



OVERVIEW

1. GLOBAL ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

The global economy is going through a slow down on account of multiple shocks. After recovering from the pandemic-induced downfall, the global economy has lost momentum on account of Russia-Ukraine war and other factors, which is slowing down growth and broadening inflationary pressures. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2022, the global economy is experiencing a number of turbulent challenges, and the future of global economy rests critically on the successful calibration of monetary policy, the course of the war in Ukraine, and the possibility of further pandemic-related supply-side disruptions. IMF has projected global growth to decline from 6.0 per cent in 2021 to 3.2 per cent in 2022 and 2.7 per cent in 2023.

The multiple shocks being faced by the global economy is affecting various regions/countries to different degrees via impacts on global trade and output. IMF's October 2022 projections shows the aggregate output of the Advanced Economies (AEs) to grow by 2.4 per cent in 2022 and 1.1 per cent in 2023, as compared to 5.2 per cent in 2021. In contrast, the aggregate output of Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is expected to grow by 3.7 per cent in both 2022 and 2023, as compared to 6.6 per cent in 2021.

2. GLOBAL TRADE

Global trade is slowing sharply and is expected to worsen in 2023 in the wake of rising uncertainties and deteriorating economic conditions. Global trade, especially goods trade had slowed in 2022 as supply chains continued to get disrupted by the lingering effects of the pandemic along with the geo-political tensions. The World Trade Organization (WTO) in October 2022 had projected the world merchandise trade volume to grow by 3.5 per cent in 2022 and 1.0 per cent in 2023, as compared to a high growth of 9.7 per cent in 2021. While the forecast of 3.5 per cent for 2022 is slightly better than 3.0 per cent forecasted in April 2022, the forecast of 1.0 per cent for 2023 is a sharp fall from 3.4 per cent forecasted in April 2022.

Significant regional disparities persist, with some regions falling well short of the global average. The latest projections of WTO show the Middle East to have the strongest trade volume growth in 2022 for export as well as imports. However, both exports and imports of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is projected to record negative growth in 2022.

3. INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

India's Merchandise exports had shown resilience and continue to offer bright prospects for India's growth revival, despite multiple challenges. Merchandise exports touched a record US\$ 422 billion in 2021-22 surpassing the US\$ 400 billion target set for the year and registering an impressive growth of 44.62 per cent over US\$ 291.8 billion during 2020-21. A national effort with whole of Government approach and interactions with all stakeholders - line Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, Indian Mission abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Exporters and Industry Associations were held to achieve this target. A similar approach has again been followed to monitor and boost exports in 2022-23. During April-December 2022 (QE), merchandise exports were US\$ 332.76 billion as against US\$ 305.04 billion during April- December 2021.

Merchandise imports during 2021-22 registered an increase of 55.43 per cent from US\$ 394.44 Billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 613.05 Billion in 2021-22. Imports during April- December 2022 stood at US\$ 551.70 billion as compared to US\$ 441.50 billion during April- December 2021.

The trade deficit in 2021-22 was estimated at US\$ 191.05 billion as against the deficit of 102.63 billion in 2020-21. In April- December 2022, trade deficit increased to US\$ 218.94 billion from US\$ 136.45 billion in April- December 2021.

4. INDIA'S SERVICES TRADE

The services sector has been the dominant sector in India's GDP, with significant contribution to exports and FDI. The pandemic has had a significant impact on the economic growth, however, the services sector has shown resilience to the economic disruptions. Services exports in 2021-22 stood at US\$ 254.53 billion as compared to US\$ 206.09 billion in 2020-21, with a growth of 23.5 per cent. India's services export is estimated at US\$ 235.81 billion during April- December 2022 as compared to US\$ 184.65 billion during April-December 2021, a positive growth of 27.71 per cent.

Services imports were US\$ 147.01 billion in 2021-22 as compared to US\$ 117.52 billion in 2020-21, with a growth of 25.09 per cent. The estimated value of imports during April- December 2022 was US\$ 134.99 billion as compared to US\$ 105.45 billion during April- December 2021.

A surplus of US\$ 107.52 billion and US\$ 100.82 billion was generated in services trade in 2021-22 and April- December 2022 respectively.

5. INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO BOOST INDIA'S EXPORTS

Department of Commerce continues to take a number of steps to boost exports. Some of the major steps taken are as follows:

- ❖ The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has been extended upto 31st March 2023.
- ❖ Districts as Export Hubs initiative has been launched by identifying products with export potential in each district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products and supporting local exporters/ manufacturers to generate employment in the district.
- ❖ Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports like Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- ❖ In addition, assistance to the exporters of agricultural products is also available under the Export Promotion Schemes of Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA),

Tobacco Board, Tea Board, Coffee Board, Rubber Board and Spices Board.

- ❖ Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has been extended upto 31st March 2024.
- ❖ Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme is under implementation since 1st January 2021.
- ❖ India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was signed on 18th February 2022 and entered into force on 1st May 2022.
- ❖ India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement was signed on 2nd April 2022 and entered into force on 29th December 2022.
- ❖ Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilization by exporters.
- ❖ Active role of Indian missions abroad towards promoting India's trade, tourism, technology and investment goals has been enhanced.

CHAPTER 1

Organizational Functions

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

1. VISION AND MISSION

The long-term vision of the Department is to make India a major player in the world trade and assume a role of leadership in the international trade organizations commensurate with India's growing importance.

The policy tools being adopted involve a strategy focussing on the targeted commodity and country in the medium term and the Foreign Trade Policy in the long run.

2. FUNCTIONS

The Department formulates, implements and monitors the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which provides the basic framework and strategy to be followed. The Trade Policy is periodically reviewed to incorporate changes necessary to take care of emerging economic scenarios both domestic and international. Besides, the Department is also entrusted with responsibilities relating to multilateral and bilateral commercial relations, Special Economic Zones, state trading, export promotion and trade facilitation and development and regulation of certain export-oriented industries and commodities.

The Department is headed by a Secretary who is assisted by One Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, Three Additional Secretaries, Fourteen Joint Secretaries and Joint Secretary level officers and a number of other senior officers.

The Department is functionally organized into the following Nine Wings/Divisions:

- ❖ Trade Negotiation Wing - Bilateral
- ❖ Trade Negotiation Wing - Multilateral
- ❖ Territorial, Commodity & Products Wing
- ❖ Trade Policy Wing
- ❖ Trade Intelligence & Analytics Wing
- ❖ Global Trade Promotion Wing -India Trade
- ❖ Administration, Establishment & General Wing
- ❖ Finance Division
- ❖ Supply Division

The various offices / organizations under the administrative control of the Department are:

- ❖ Two Attached Offices

- ❖ Ten Subordinate Offices
- ❖ Ten Autonomous Bodies
- ❖ Five Public Sector Undertakings
- ❖ Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) created under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013
- ❖ Thirteen Export Promotion Councils
- ❖ One Advisory Body
- ❖ Five Other Organizations

A complete list of these offices/ organizations along with the postal addresses is given at Annexure A.

The broad organizational set up and major role and functions of the offices / organizations under the administrative control of the Department are discussed below:

(A) Attached Offices

(i) Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Organization is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and is headed by Director General of Foreign Trade. Right from its inception till 1991, when liberalization in the economic policies of the Government took place, this organization has been essentially involved in the regulation and promotion of Foreign Trade. Keeping in line with liberalization and globalization and the overall objective of increasing of exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of a "facilitator". The shift was from prohibition and control of imports/exports to promotion and facilitation of exports/imports, keeping in view the interests of the country.

This Directorate, with headquarters at New Delhi is headed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. It assists Government in formulation of Foreign Trade Policy and is responsible for implementing the Foreign Trade Policy and Schemes under the FTP with the main objective of promoting India's exports. Further, it is responsible for implementation of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and Rules and Regulations notified there under. The DGFT also issues authorizations to exporters and monitor their corresponding obligations through a network of 24 Regional Offices. The regional offices are located at the following places:-

S. No.	Regional Office	S. No.	Regional Office
1	Ahmedabad	14	Ludhiana
2	Bangalore	15	Mumbai
3	Bhopal*	16	Nagpur
4	Chennai	17	New Delhi (CLA)
5	Coimbatore	18	Panipat
6	Guwahati	19	Pune
7	Hyderabad	20	Rajkot
8	Indore	21	Srinagar
9	Jaipur	22	Surat
10	Jammu	23	Varanasi
11	Kanpur	24	Vishakhapatnam
12	Ernakulum (Cochin)	25	Vadodara
13	Kolkata		

**In compliance with the Order dated 04.10.2019 of the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh Principal seat at Jabalpur in W.P. 21039/2019, status quo on Regional Office of DGFT at Bhopal is maintained subject to final/further orders.*

In addition to implementation of Foreign Trade Policy and FTDR Act, 1992, regional offices provide facilitation to exporters in regard to developments in International Trade i.e. WTO Agreements, Rules of Origin and anti-dumping issues etc. in their import and export decisions in the international dynamic environment.

Recognizing that State Governments are key stakeholders in promotion of exports, DoC is now actively engaging with them for promoting exports. DoC has advised State Governments to constitute State Export Promotion Committees, under the chairmanship of Chief Secretaries, for focusing on export promotion wherein Regional Authorities of DGFT are the co-conveners. Nodal Officers at the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary from DoC have been appointed to attend the meetings of the State Export Promotion Committee. State Export Promotion Committees have been constituted in all the States/UTs. This Committee is overseeing the formulation and implementation of State Export Promotion Strategies in consultation with Export Promotion Councils and FIEO.

Regional Authorities of the DGFT have been assigned enhanced role and responsibilities to liaison with

State Governments to assist in formulation/ implementation of state export policy/strategy and to represent the Department of Commerce in the State and UT Governments.

(ii) Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) (earlier known as Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties) is an attached office of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) which was formed in 1997 has been restructured as DGTR in May 2018 by restructuring and re-designing DGAD into DGTR by incorporating all the trade remedial functions i.e. Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), Safeguards Duty (SGD) and Safeguards Measures (QRs) under a single window framework. Thus, the DGTR has been formed by merging of functions of DGAD, Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Safeguards, Department of Revenue and Safeguards (QR) functions of DGFT into its fold. The DGTR is a professionally integrated organization with multi-spectrum skill sets emanating from officers drawn from different services and specializations. The DGTR is a quasi-judicial body that independently undertakes

investigations before making its recommendations to the Central Government.

It is the single national authority for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. The DGTR provides a level playing field to the domestic industry against the adverse impact of the unfair trade practices like dumping and actionable subsidies from any exporting country, by using trade remedial methods under the relevant framework of the WTO arrangements, the Customs Tariff Act & Rules and other relevant laws and international agreements, in a transparent and time bound manner. It also provides trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

(B) Subordinate Offices

(i) Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)

The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) is the premier organization of Government of India for collection, compilation and dissemination of India's trade statistics and commercial information. The Directorate, headed by a Director General, has its office at Kolkata and is responsible for collecting, compiling and publishing/disseminating trade statistics and various types of commercial information required by the policy makers, researchers, importers, exporters, traders as well as overseas buyers. It is the first large scale data processing organization functioning as a nodal agency for export & import data, with an ISO certification 9001:2015 for compilation and dissemination of India's foreign trade statistics.

(ii) Offices of Development Commissioners of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) at Cochin Special Economic Zone, Falta Special Economic Zone, MEPZ Special Economic Zone, Kandla Special Economic Zone, SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone and Noida Special Economic Zone.

The main objectives of the SEZ Scheme are generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources, creation of employment opportunities along with the develop-

ment of infrastructure facilities. All laws of India are applicable in SEZs unless specifically exempted as per the SEZ Act/Rules. Each Zone is headed by a Development Commissioner and is administered as per the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006. Units may be set up in the SEZ for manufacturing, trading or for service activity. The units in the SEZs have to be net foreign exchange earners but they are not subjected to any predetermined value addition except (Gems & Jewellery Units) or minimum export performance requirements. Sales in the Domestic Tariff Area from the SEZ units are treated as if the goods are being imported and are subject to payment of applicable customs duties.

(iii) Pay and Accounts Office (Supply)

The payment and accounting of the Supply Division, including that of the DGS&D were performed by the office of Chief Controller of Accounts (Supply) under the Departmentalized Accounting System, through its Regional Pay and Accounts offices at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Consequent upon Union Cabinet Decision to close the DGS&D w.e.f. 31.10.2017, the office of Chief Controller of Accounts (Supply) has been discontinued and residual works are now being handled/performed by the O/o Chief Controller of Accounts (Commerce) with the skeletal staff and 02 PAOs, one each in New Delhi and Kolkata. The residual work of RPAO (Supply), Mumbai and RPAO (Supply), Chennai are being performed by RPAO (Commerce), Mumbai and RPAO (Commerce), Chennai respectively in addition to their own work.

(iv) Pay and Accounts Office (Commerce & Textiles)

The Secretary is the Chief Accounting Authority. This responsibility is discharged with the help of the Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA) on the advice of the Financial Advisor of the Ministry. The Secretary certifies the Appropriation Accounts and represents the Ministry in the Public Accounts Committee and Standing Parliamentary Committee on Accounts.

There is a common Accounting wing for both the Department of Commerce and Ministry of Textiles. The Accounts wing functions under the supervision of Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA) who is assisted by a Controller of Accounts (CA), Assistant Controller of Accounts (ACA) and 10 Pay and Accounts Offices (PAOs) {4 PAOs in Delhi and two each at Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata}. The responsibility of the Budget Division of the Ministry is also entrusted to the CCA.

CCA extends all assistance to Financial Advisor in budgeting, monitoring & control of expenditure, render Professional expertise in matters related to Financial Management System, Preparation of disclosure statements as required under FRBM Act, Annual Finance Accounts, Appropriation Accounts, Estimation & flow of Non-tax Revenue Receipts etc.

The functions of the Accounting wing include payment of claims, accounting transactions, consolidation of Accounts and other related matters like finalization & payment of pension, revision of pension with the help of Drawing & Disbursing Officer (DDO) & payment of final GPF cases, loan & advance, Grant in aid, maintenance of General Provident Fund (GPF), New Pension System (NPS), Leave Salary Contribution & Pension Contribution (LSC & PC), etc. Further, implementation and smooth functioning of PFMS (EAT/DBT/CNA/TSA) in various entities is also coordinated by the Office of CCA along with monitoring of smooth working of PFMS modules, viz. EIS, EAT, Pension, GPF, NTRP, LOA etc.

There is an Internal Audit Wing of the Department which handles the internal audit work of all the Departments. There are 347 units under the jurisdiction of Department of Commerce and M/o Textiles. The role of internal audit is to study the accounting and implementation of prescribed procedure with a view to ensure that they are correct and adequate.

(C) Autonomous Bodies

(i) Coffee Board

The Coffee Board is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, constituted under the Coffee Act 1942. The Board comprises 33 members including the Secretary, who is the Chief Executive appointed by the Government of India, a non-Executive Chairman and remaining 31 members comprising Members of the Parliament, Official members representing the interest of Coffee Growing States and members representing various interests of the Coffee Industry. The Coffee Board focuses its activities in the areas of research, extension, development, market intelligence, external & internal promotion and labour welfare measures. The Coffee Board functions with its Head Office in Bengaluru. The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) at Balehonnuru, Chikkamagaluru District,

Karnataka is the headquarters of the Research Department with a Sub-Station at Chettalli (Karnataka) and Regional Research Stations at Chundale (Kerala), Thandigudi (Tamil Nadu), Narasipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Diphu (Assam). The Extension network is spread over the traditional coffee growing areas (Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Non-Traditional Areas (Andhra Pradesh and Odisha) and North Eastern Region (Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh). The Coffee Quality Division of the Research Department is involved in setting up of quality standards, capacity building in the areas of coffee roasting and retailing business and certification of coffee as per National and International quality standards. The Promotion Department is involved in promotion of Indian Coffee in export market and also promotion of coffee consumption in domestic market.

(ii) Rubber Board

The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted under Section (4) of the Rubber Act, 1947 and functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government and has 28 other members including the Executive Director, Members of Parliament (two from House of People and one from Council of States) and representatives of various interests of natural rubber industry such as rubber growing sector, rubber manufacturing industry, labour interest, representatives of Governments of principal rubber growing states. Executive and administrative powers of the Board are vested with the Executive Director. The Board's headquarter is located at Kottayam in Kerala. Developmental and regulatory functions pertaining to the entire value chain of the Indian rubber industry are discharged by the Board by way of assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to natural rubber (NR). The functions of the Board also include collection of statistics of rubber, promoting marketing of rubber and undertaking labour welfare activities. The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), established in 1955, is situated at Kottayam and has nine Regional Research Stations (RRS) located in various rubber growing states of the country. RRII

conducts research activities for ensuring biological and technological improvement of NR in the country. The Board has a training department viz., National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) located at Kottayam and acts as the link between research and extension activities for technology transfer and has the mandate for human resource development in all sectors of the NR industry.

(iii) Tea Board

The Tea Board is a statutory body constituted under section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953 and functions under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce. The Tea Board comprises of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and 30 members appointed by Government of India representing different sections of the industry including Members of Parliament. The Board is headed by a non-official Chairman and Deputy Chairman is the executive head of the organization. There are two Executive Directors who are stationed at Zonal Offices one each at Guwahati in Assam (for entire North Eastern Region) and another at Coonoor in Tamil Nadu (for entire South India Region). The Head Office of the Board is located in Kolkata, West Bengal. The Board functions as an apex body concerned with overall development of the tea industry in India by providing necessary assistance for research and developmental activities aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality; facilitation of trade and promotion of exports so as to ensure maximum returns to the producers, including small growers; safeguarding the interests of the workers and the consumers; gathering statistical and other relevant data concerning the industry and disseminating the information to various segments of the industry, registering and licensing of different stakeholders'. Tea Board has two Zonal offices at Guwahati (Assam) and Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), 17 Regional Offices, one overseas office at Moscow which is being managed by Embassy officials.

(iv) Tobacco Board

Tobacco is an important commercial crop grown in India. In order to regulate production, promote overseas marketing and control recurring instances of imbalances in supply and demand, Tobacco Board was established by the Government of India under the Tobacco Board Act of 1975. The headquarters of

Tobacco Board is at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and is headed by a Chairman.

The Tobacco Board Act, 1975 aims at planned development of Tobacco Industry in the country. The various activities of the Board outlined in the Act for the promotion of the industry are:

- ❖ Regulating the production and curing of Virginia Tobacco with regard to the demand in India and abroad.
- ❖ Propagating information useful to the growers, dealers and exporters (including packers) of Virginia tobacco and manufacturers of tobacco products and others concerned.
- ❖ Promoting tobacco grading at the level of growers.
- ❖ Establishment of auction platforms for sale of Virginia tobacco by registered growers and functioning as an auctioneer at auction platforms.
- ❖ Maintenance and improvement of existing markets and development of new markets outside India.
- ❖ Constant monitoring of the Virginia tobacco market, both in India and abroad and ensuring fair and remunerative price to the growers.
- ❖ Purchasing Virginia tobacco from the growers when the same is considered necessary or expedient for protecting the interest of growers with the prior approval of the Government of India.

(v) Spices Board

Spices Board is a statutory body constituted under section (3) of the Spices Board Act, 1986 and functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board consists of 31 members including the Secretary, who is the Chief Executive and is led by the non-Executive Chairman, with its head office at Kochi in Kerala. Spices Board is responsible for the overall development of the cardamom industry and export promotion of 52 spices as scheduled under the Spices Board Act, 1986. The functions of the Board include research & development and domestic marketing of small and large cardamom; post-harvest quality improvement, and export promotion of spices & quality management of spices exported from India. The Board has 83 offices across the country, which includes export promotion

offices, development offices for small and large cardamom, quality evaluation laboratories (QEL), research stations, spices parks etc. The Board works with the stakeholders of the spices sector, for undertaking programs and projects for development of small and large cardamom and for promotion of export of spices.

The programs undertaken by the Board include, support to exporters for infrastructure development and value addition; organizing programs for establishing market linkage of farmers and exporters with international buyers; supporting primary processing through establishment of processing facilities in the major growing centers (Spices Parks); undertaking trade and brand promotion activities for Indian spices, including co-participation of stakeholders in international fairs and exhibitions; quality management of spices exported from India through the Quality Evaluation laboratories which provide analytical services and monitor quality of spices for export through testing and certification; facilitating primary sale of cardamom through the auction system; providing research support to stakeholders on small and large cardamom; assisting growers of small and large cardamom for production development and growers of other spices for post-harvest management; working with the regulatory bodies of importing countries, trade support institutions, intergovernmental organizations etc. for export promotion of spices, etc.

(vi) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a statutory body under the Department of Commerce Ministry of Commerce & Industry was constituted in 1972 with a mandate of developing a conducive ecosystem for marine products in the country and promotion of its export from India. The Authority has its headquarters located in Kochi, Kerala and consists of 30 members including a Chairman (Appointed by the Central Government). There are 18 Field Offices across the coastal states including one in NE India to assist the marine product exporters, processors and aqua culturists for ensuring timely advice to the stakeholders. MPEDA has three Trade Promotion Offices at New York, Japan

and New Delhi and five full-fledged Quality Control Laboratories. MPEDA has also set up three registered societies viz., Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) for promotion of diversified aquaculture to support export promotion by technology transfer, Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) for extension activities on fish quality management, and sustainable Fishing and National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) to enable aquaculture farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices in the Aquaculture.

(vii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament.

APEDA has marked its presence in almost all agro potential states of India and has been providing services to agri-export community through its Head Office at New Delhi and 15 Regional offices at Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Jammu, Srinagar, Ladakh, Tripura, Varanasi and Bhopal.

In accordance with the Section 10 of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, (2 of 1986) the following functions have been assigned to the Authority.

- ❖ Development of industries relating to the scheduled products for export by way of providing financial assistance or otherwise for undertaking surveys and feasibility studies, participation in enquiry capital through joint ventures and other reliefs and subsidy schemes
- ❖ Registration of persons as exporters of the scheduled products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed
- ❖ Fixing of standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports
- ❖ Carrying out inspection of meat and meat products in slaughter houses, processing plants, storage premises, conveyances or other places where such products are kept or handled for the

purpose of ensuring the quality of such products

- ❖ Improving of packaging of the Scheduled products
- ❖ Improving of marketing of the Scheduled products outside India
- ❖ Promotion of export oriented production and development of the Scheduled products
- ❖ Collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments engaged in the production, processing, packaging, marketing or export of the scheduled products or from such other persons as may be prescribed on any matter relating to the scheduled products and publication of the statistics so collected or of any portions thereof or extracts there from
- ❖ Training in various aspects of the industries connected with the scheduled products
- ❖ Such other matters as may be prescribed

(viii) Export Inspection Council of India (EIC)

The Export Inspection Council (EIC) was established by the Government of India under Section 3 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 to ensure sound development of export trade of India through Quality Control and pre shipment inspection and for matters connected thereof. The EIC is an advisory body to the Government of India and is headed by the Chairman. The Executive Head of the EIC is Director (Inspection and Quality Control) who is responsible for enforcement of quality control and pre-shipment inspection of various commodities meant for export, which are notified by the Government under the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. The EIC is located at New Delhi and exercises technical and administrative control over the Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs) established under Section 7 of the Act. The EIAs are headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Chennai and Delhi with a network of 24 sub offices backed by state-of-the-art laboratories accredited by NABL as per ISO 17025, spread all over India and cater to the needs of the exporters on a pan India basis. The major role of the EIC is to ensure the quality and safety of products exported, in order to meet the requirements of the importing countries. This assurance is provided

through either a consignment-wise inspection system or quality assurance/food safety management system based certification. With more than fifty years of experience in the field of inspection, testing and certification of food items as per the importing country requirements, the EIC has developed a global acceptance. The EIC certification has been recognized by India's trading partners, like, European Union, United States of America, Australia, Japan, Custom Union, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, China, South Africa, etc. The EIC has been instrumental in evolving the stakeholders including exporter fraternity to meet the changing requirements of the importing countries with rising prevalence of food safety incidents.

The EIC is always actively involved in standard setting process at national and international levels and provide feedback to ensure the interest of exporters are well protected. The EIC has adopted Quality Management System and is ISO 9001:2015 certified to ensure realization of its objectives.

(ix) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

(a) Overview

- ❖ Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was set up on 2nd May 1963 as an autonomous Institution with a focus on Foreign Trade related Research and Training.
- ❖ In recognition of its all-round achievements, the Institute was given the status of "Deemed to be University" in May 2002 by University Grants Commission (UGC) and graded as Category - I "Deemed to be University" in June 2018 by University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ❖ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited IIFT with the highest grade 'A' (currently equivalent A++) with overall CGPA score of 3.53 in 2015.
- ❖ The Institute has achieved the AACSB business accreditation and was awarded the certificate on 21st December 2021.

(b) Organizational structure and functions

The Board of Management (BoM) is the principal executive body of the Institute. The BoM consists of 11 members and is headed by the Vice Chancellor of the Institute. The Secretary, Department of Commerce is

the Chancellor of the Institute. The Vice Chancellor of the Institute is the principal executive of the Institute and exercises supervision and control over the affairs of the Institute.

(c) Institutional set-up of IIFT

IIFT has following divisions to promote and enhance education, research and cooperation in international trade:

- ❖ Executive Management Programmes (EMP) Division
- ❖ Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division
- ❖ International Collaboration and Capacity Development (ICCD) Division
- ❖ Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division
- ❖ Economics Division
- ❖ Research Division
- ❖ Division of Alumni Affairs
- ❖ Corporate Relations and Placement Division
- ❖ Journals Division
- ❖ Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

(x) Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)

The Indian Institute of Packaging is an autonomous body under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, established in 1966 under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Institute headquartered at Mumbai has its regional centres at Kolkata (1976), Chennai (1971), Delhi (1986), Hyderabad (2006), Ahmedabad (2017) and Vishakhapatnam (2021).

The Institute is engaged in various activities like testing and certification of packaging materials and packages for domestic and export market, including mandatory UN Certification of packaging for transport of hazardous/dangerous goods, training, education, consultancy, projects and research and development in the area of packaging.

The Apex advisory body of the Institute is the Governing Body which has one Chairman and two vice-chairmen and other members from industries representing various segments such as packaging materi-

als, packaging machineries and user industries. Further, some members of the Governing Body are nominated by the different Ministries/Departments and Commodity Boards of Government of India. The Director is the Head and Principal Executive Officer of the Institute who is the overall in-charge of the organization.

(D) Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

(i) State Trading Corporation of India Limited (STC)

STC was set up on 18th May 1956 primarily with the objective to undertake trade with East European countries and to supplement the efforts of private trade and industry in developing exports from the country. STC played an important role and arranged imports of essential items of mass consumption (such as wheat, pulses, sugar, edible oils, etc.) and industrial raw materials into India and also contributed significantly in developing exports of a large number of items from India.

STC has a paid up equity of Rs.60 crore. As on 31.03.2021, the share of Government of India in STC's equity was 90%. The total manpower of the Corporation as on 01.11.2022 is 153. Currently STC is not undertaking any business activity.

The STCL Ltd. (formerly Spices Trading Corporation Ltd), a subsidiary of STC, is in the process of winding up and has stopped all its business activities since 2014-15.

(ii) MMTCLimited

MMTC Limited was incorporated in 1963 primarily to regulate the international trade of Minerals and Metals. MMTCL was acting as a canalizing agency for export of iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore/concentrate and nominated agency for import of gold & silver and urea, besides trading in other commodities. Disinvestment of Neelachal Ispat Nigal Ltd (NINL), a joint venture of MMTCL and 5 other Central/State PSUs, was completed on 4.7.2022. Currently, the business operations of Company are under review.

MMTC Transnational Pte. Ltd. (MTPL) Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary company of MMTCL and was incorporated in October 1994 under the laws of Singapore with the objective to take advantage of

liberalization / globalization of trade and commerce to tap South East Asian market for trading in commodities. Since inception, the company has been engaged in commodity trading and has established itself as a credible and reputable trading company in Singapore.

(iii) PEC Limited

PEC Limited was incorporated as a subsidiary company of State Trading Corporation in 1971 as “The Projects and Equipment Corporation of India Limited” and became an independent Company in 1991. The name of the company was changed to PEC Limited on 25th November 1997. The main functions of PEC Limited included export of engineering equipment and projects, import of bullion and trading in industrial raw material and agro commodities. The Company is not undertaking any business activity since September 2019.

PEC Limited also has a subsidiary viz. Tea Trading Corporation of India Limited, which is under liquidation since 2002.

(iv) ECGC Ltd (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.)

(a) ECGC Limited

ECGC Limited, a Premier Export Credit Agency (ECA) of the Government of India, was set up in 1957 in Mumbai, under the Companies Act 1956, to provide export credit insurance services on short term (ST) and medium and long term (MLT) basis to exporters and banks to facilitate exports from the Country. ECGC covers export transactions destined to more than 200 countries of the world. The Company’s mandate is to promote exports from the country through export credit insurance to exporters on a “no-profit no-loss” basis.

The exporters obtain credit insurance cover to protect their losses in the event of occurrence of political or commercial risks like default, insolvency and repudiation in respect of payment due from the overseas buyers. The banks obtain export credit insurance covers to protect against losses that may be incurred due to default or insolvency of the exporter borrower in respect of export credit (working capital loans) extended.

ECGC w.e.f. 1st April 2022, has liberalized its underwriting guidelines in respect of Gems, Jewellery and Diamond (GJD) sector to accommodate export-accounts under WT-ECIB (i.e. Whole Turnover - Export Credit Insurance for Banks) cover having exporter-group limit of up to Rs. 100 crore and has also introduced enhanced cover upto 90 per cent (from an average 70 per cent cover) to banks providing pre-shipment and post-shipment finance, in respect of accounts with export working capital limit of up to Rs. 20 crore under its existing WT-ECIB cover w.e.f. 1st July 2022, so as to support small exporters. The new Scheme with higher cover will enable the banks holding WT-ECIB cover to reduce interest rates further to small exporters.

ECGC has been selected as one of the implementing agencies for the Capacity Building of First Time MSE Exporters (CBFTE) sub-component of the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme, by the Ministry of MSME. Under this Scheme, the MSE exporters are eligible for reimbursement of the insurance premium paid to ECGC up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per financial year subject to their Import Export Code not older than three years and they hold a valid Udyam Registration. This move is expected to encourage MSE exporters to venture into exports and reduce their transaction cost towards credit insurance covers.

(b) National Export Insurance Account Trust (NEIA)

The Government of India established NEIA Trust in 2006 to promote project exports from India that are of strategic and national importance. The trust was set up with an initial corpus of Rs. 66 crore. With the contribution of Rs. 4,285 crore by the Government of India over the years, the total corpus of the Trust is Rs. 6,289.26 crore. However, in view of the recent claims filed with the Trust, the corpus available for underwriting is Rs. 1,041.09 crore only (as on 31.10.2022).

The major sectors covered under NEIA are construction, supply of engineering goods, water treatment plants, power transmission and distribution projects, etc. while the major countries covered include Sri Lanka, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Senegal, Iran, Maldives, Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, Suriname and Mauritania. Successful project

exports enable sustained visible impact on India's capacity in executing projects abroad. NEIA through its cover for project exports helps make Indian project exporters more competitive and gain a stronger foothold in regions of national strategic interest. Successful project exports enable sustained visible impact on India's capacity in executing projects abroad.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 29th September 2021, increased the corpus commitment to the NEIA Trust from Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 4,741 crore and approved infusion of Rs. 1,650 over a period of five years, i.e. from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. Out of this a Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,574.99 crore [i.e. Rs. 744 crore during 2021-22 and Rs. 830.99 crore during 2022-23 (upto 31st December 2022)] has already been released to the Trust. The total Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,650 crore will enable NEIA to support project exports worth Rs. 33,000 crore at full capacity.

As of 31st October 2022, total 160 projects of value Rs. 44,495 crore are under various stages of execution by the Indian Project exporters under the 152 covers extended by the NEIA Trust.

(v) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) was formed in the year 1976, after re-naming Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) and merging of Trade Development Authority of India (TDA). ITPO is a Schedule 'B' Miniratna Category-I CPSE under the administrative control of Department of Commerce with 100% shareholding by the Government of India. Its Registered Office is at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The regional Offices of ITPO are located in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai ensuring representative participation of trade and industry from different regions of the country in its events in India and abroad.

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is a premier trade promotion agency of India providing a broad spectrum of services to trade industry and acting as a catalyst for growth of India's trade. ITPO is engaged in providing services pertaining to promotion/ facilitation of trade by organizing/ participating in trade fairs in India and abroad thereby increasing India's exports.

Main objectives are:

- ❖ To promote, organise and participate in industrial trade and other fairs and exhibitions in India and abroad and to take all measures incidental thereto for boosting up country's trade
- ❖ To publicise in India and abroad International Trade Fairs and Exhibitions to be held in India and invite the foreign participants to participate in them
- ❖ To undertake promotion of trade in goods and services connected with or relating to fairs, exhibitions, conventions in India and abroad
- ❖ To undertake promotion of exports and to explore new markets for traditional items of export and develop exports of new items with a view to maintaining, diversifying and expanding the export trade

(E) Government e-Marketplace- Special Purpose Vehicle created under section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (GeM-SPV)

Working on the direction set by the Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is consistently working to enhance India's public procurement ecosystem for seamless, hassle-free, transparent, and digital procurement services. The competitive benefits offered by GeM are elaborated upon in the Economic Survey 2021-22, which cites the GeM as an exemplary policy measure which has enhanced the efficiency of Government spending.

As per the Economic Survey, prior to GeM, Government procurement prices were much higher than the prices prevailing in the market and there were constant complaints about inefficiency. A comparison of prices of various commodities on the GeM portal with those of company websites or other online platforms shows that prices on GeM are on an average 9.5 per cent lower for the chosen sample. Further, 10 out of 22 commodities in the sample were cheaper on the GeM portal as compared to other platforms.

As per GeM's strategy consultant study, approximately 15 per cent reduction was observed in tendering cycle time (Bid start to Bid award, sample: 700+ contracts shared by buyers) between April 2021 to January 2022 on GeM vis à-vis outside of GeM validated GeM's efforts to drive operational efficiencies

through systemic interventions in last 6 years. Further, 92 per cent of transactions witnessed participation from 3 or more sellers as compared to approximately 72 per cent of transactions outside of GeM, based on sample data shared by buyers for 700+ contracts between April 2021 to January 2022.

Major features and functionalities deployed on the portal-

- ❖ Forward Auction- GeM has launched a new module for forward auction which can be used by various Government offices for selling various types of scrap, movable and immovable property etc.
- ❖ e-Gram Swaraj integration- GeM has successfully integrated with eGS (e-Gram Swaraj) where all the Panchayati raj buyers at different levels like Zila panchayat, Block, and Gram Panchayat, will be able to register successfully on GeM using their existing user ID of eGS system. This will bring advantage to all the 2.5 Lacs panchayats spread across the country
- ❖ Onboarding of cooperative societies as buyer on GeM - With effect from 01.08.2022, GeM has initiated the onboarding of Multi-State and Single State cooperatives as buyers on GeM. On 09.08.2022, the initiative was formally launched by Hon'ble Minister, Shri Amit Shah. 426 Cooperative Societies have been onboarded on the GeM portal so far
- ❖ Integration with Railways - The GeM- IRePS (Indian Railway e-procurement System) integration has been made live. All tenders issued by Railway along with corrigendum are visible to all sellers of GeM and the system provides them an opportunity to participate in such tenders
- ❖ Procurement Details – GeM could achieve total annual GMV of Rs. 1.06 lakh crore in FY21-22 which is 17 times more than that in FY17-18 (Rs. 6,207 Crore). GeM is expecting to achieve an annual GMV of more than Rs 2 lakh crore during the current FY 2022-23
- ❖ There are more than 63,000 buyer organizations registered on GeM. A total of 10,600 product categories and 263 service categories are available on GeM. 55.23 per cent of total order value has been awarded to MSE sellers
- ❖ Green procurement enablement @ GeM: In consultations with DoE, GeM has partnered with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to make products such as Green ACs and Green paper available on GeM. GeM has also enabled various functionalities as well as categories to support environment-friendly procurement like buy back options, forward auction, dedicated categories for waste management, handcrafts and natural products
- ❖ Technology upgrade initiatives: To ensure that business growth is supported by the platform with reliability and performance, GeM implemented various improvements like efficient caching, optimizing active storages, improving technology currency across the layers of programming languages to databases, and implemented enhanced security measures. The Platform is supporting approx. 13,500 concurrent users with some DB loads reaching ~35K QPS (Queries per Second). GeM has also engaged external security consultants for exhaustive audits and has implemented ~75 additional security directives. While load on the platform increased by 70%, the page response time has seen an improvement of 40%. On an average, the number of bids per day has also increased from 1,100 in April 2021 to 2,800 in March 2022. Corresponding seller participation per day has also increased to 15,000 from 10,000 in the same period. GeM also includes Intelligent Search using Natural Language Processing (NLP) in the Search Module, as well as intelligent virtual assistant to aid buyer/seller journeys
- ❖ GeM is also in process of implementing AI-ML based fraud detection and other smart features like buyer seller collusion, splitting of demand, Inter-seller collaborations, biased bids – Restrictive Parameters analysis etc.
- ❖ Platform enhancements / Customer experience initiatives: GeM is continuously working towards improving buyer and seller satisfaction and enhancing the platform health with implementation of more than 2400 functionalities like BOQ based bidding, demand aggregation, buy back feature, vendor rating system etc. in the last 2 years. Several of these are responsive to the unique needs of CPSEs' procurement also

As an advisory body, it actively contributes to the policies of Government of India and acts as an interface between the engineering industry and the Government. Set up in 1955, EEPC India now has a membership base of around 11,000 out of which around 60% are SMEs. EEPC India facilitates sourcing from India and boosts the SMEs to raise their standard at par with the international best practices. It also encourages the SMEs to integrate their business with the global value chain. Keeping 'Engineering the Future' as the motto, EEPC India serves as the reference point for the Indian engineering industry and the international business community in its efforts towards establishing India as a major engineering export hub.

(v) Plastic EPC

The Plastics Export Promotion Council was established in 1955 and registered under section 25 of Companies Act of 1956, with the aim of promoting the exports of Plastics & Linoleum products from India. The Council's head office is located in Mumbai and regional offices are at Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi. The Council also has a branch office at Ahmadabad. The Council functions under the guidance of its Committee of Administration (CoA) and under the overall supervision of the Department of Commerce. The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the following product panel.

- ❖ Consumer & house ware products
- ❖ Cordage, fishnets & mono filaments
- ❖ FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin
- ❖ Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates
- ❖ FRP & Composites
- ❖ Human hair & related products
- ❖ Medical items of plastics
- ❖ Miscellaneous products and items
- ❖ Packaging items - flexible, rigid
- ❖ Plastic films and sheets
- ❖ Plastic pipes & fittings
- ❖ Plastic raw materials

- ❖ Writing instruments & stationery

- ❖ Merchant Exports

(vi) Sports Goods EPC

The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC) was established in the year 1958 with an objective to promote the exports of Sports Goods and Toys from India. The SGEPC is managed by a Committee of Administration (COA), which consists of elected representatives from the Indian industry and includes Government representatives. The COA is headed by the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Regional Director.

The SGEPC's range of activities includes activities that spur the industry's performance on the one hand and the activities that helps to promote its presence internationally. The SGEPC organizes trade promotion activities like Indian participation in International trade fairs, visits of Business Delegations, promotional campaigns in international markets etc. along with various other activities to promote the exports of Toys & Sports goods from India.

(vii) Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL)

The Shellac Export Promotion Council was founded in June, 1957, under the Companies Act, 1956. Its name was changed to Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) on 08.02.2007. The Council's registered office is located at Kolkata and it has no additional branch or regional office. The Council functions under the guidance of its Committee of Administration (CoA) and under the overall supervision of the Department of Commerce.

SHEFEXIL is the designated Nodal EPC for Non Timber Forest Produce and also for products from North-East region. The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the following products:

- ❖ Shellac and Lac based Products
- ❖ Vegetable Saps & Extracts of herbs
- ❖ Guar Gum
- ❖ Plant & Plant Portion (Herbs)
- ❖ Fixed vegetable, Oil cake and others

- ❖ Other vegetable materials
- ❖ Multi products belonging to the North Eastern region

(viii) Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL)

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India was established in 2004 under the Companies Act, 1956, keeping in mind the unique requirements of the Indian pharmaceutical industry for export promotion. The Council has its headquarters in Hyderabad, with regional offices at Mumbai and New Delhi, and branch offices in Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. There are 4120 members in the Council.

The products and services falling under the purview of Pharmexcil are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API); Finished Dosage Forms (FDF); Herbal/Ayurveda; Unani; Siddha; Homeopathy; Biologics; Diagnostics; Surgicals; Nutraceuticals; Collaborative Research; Contract Manufacturing; Clinical Trials & Consultancy; Regulatory Services. A separate cell has been established within Pharmexcil to exclusively promote the Indian systems of medicines.

Apart from acting as an interface with the Government, the Council also offers professional advice to its members in areas such as patent issues, compliance with regulatory requirements, technology up-gradation, trade related help, etc. Pharmexcil also acts as a nodal agency for issue of Registration cum Membership certificates. The Council participates in important exhibitions and fairs in various countries and also organizes international conferences and buyer-seller meets in India.

(ix) Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)

SEPC is an Export Promotion Council set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India for facilitating services export from India. SEPC acts as an interface between the services industry & Government and actively contributes in the formulation of policies of Government of India.

It organizes a large number of promotional activities both in India and abroad, such as Buyer-Seller Meets (BSM), trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilion/information booths in selected exhibitions to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian services

industry. SEPC members can avail the benefits of various schemes of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Role and Functions of SEPC

SEPC serves as a platform of interaction between the services sector industry and policy makers in the Government. Specifically, it performs the following functions:

- ❖ Implements an Export Promotion Strategy to Promote Services Exports
- ❖ Facilitates Overseas Services Enquirers
- ❖ Channelizes Communication and Publicity

SEPC has a mandate to promote following service sectors:

- ❖ Healthcare Services including Services by Nurses, Physiotherapist and Paramedical Personnel
- ❖ Educational Services
- ❖ Entertainment Services including Audio-visual Services
- ❖ Consultancy Services
- ❖ Architectural Services and related Services
- ❖ Distribution Services
- ❖ Accounting/Auditing and Book Keeping Services
- ❖ Environmental Services
- ❖ Maritime Transport Services
- ❖ Advertising Services
- ❖ Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/Management Services
- ❖ Printing & Publishing Services
- ❖ Legal Services
- ❖ Hotel and Tourism related services
- ❖ Others

(x) Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC)

Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC), an export promotion council set up by the Government, is an apex coordinating agency to facilitate project exports comprising of overseas projects contracted

in any of the following modules:

- ❖ Civil Construction Projects
- ❖ Turnkey Projects

including engineering, procurement and construction (from concept to commissioning) and essentially includes civil work/ construction and all supplies specific to these turnkey projects:

- ❖ Process and Engineering Consultancy Services and
- ❖ Project Construction Items (excluding steel and cement):
- ❖ Construction Engineering Products (Fittings & Fixtures/Materials)
- ❖ Construction Equipments & Accessories
- ❖ Other Project Goods

PEPC is an Autonomous Society under control of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(a) Sectors of Development

PEPC, has been actively engaged in the development and promotion of project exports in almost all sectors of economic and industrial development such as construction of dams, hydroelectric and thermal power plants, industrial plants, utility buildings, large scale oil and natural gas pipelines, petrochemical refineries and complexes, motorways, tunnels and bridges, seaports and airports, large-scale housing projects, high-rise and prestige buildings, hotels and tourist resorts, etc.

(b) Markets

The main markets for the Indian process and construction engineering contractors and consultants have been and are:

- ❖ Asia (SAARC, Middle East, and Far East)
- ❖ Africa
- ❖ Russia & CIS
- ❖ Europe
- ❖ Latin America

(xi) Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZ Units

The Export Oriented Units (EOUs) scheme was

introduced in early 1981, primarily to boost exports by creating additional production capacity. It was introduced as a complementary scheme to the Free Trade Zones/Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Scheme introduced in the sixties. It adopts the same production regime as SEZs (erstwhile EPZs) but offers a wide option in locations.

Units undertaking to export their entire production of goods and services, except permissible sales in the DTA, as per the Export-Import Policy are referred to as export oriented units (EOUs). The EOUs function under the administrative control of the concerned Development Commissioner of Special Economic Zone i.e., under the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

The EOUs are governed by the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and its procedures, as contained in the Handbook of Procedures (HBP).

As on 30th September 2022, 1638 units are in operation under the EOU Scheme as compared to 1650 EOUs on 30th September 2021.

(xii) Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)

Indian Oilseed and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) is concerned with the Development and export promotion of Oilseeds, Oil and Oilcakes. It was formed on 23rd June 1956. IOPEPC, erstwhile known as IOPEA, has been catering to the needs of exporters since more than six decades. Besides focusing on exports, the Council also works towards strengthening the domestic supply chain by encouraging farmers, shellers, processors, surveyors and exporters with an aim to enhance the quality of oilseeds in India.

(xiii) Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the apex trade body of the Indian gems and jewellery industry has completed 56 years of its existence this year. It has approximately 8502 members as on December 2022. The Gem & Jewellery sector is among India's leading foreign exchange earning sectors. Exports of gem and jewellery from India during the fiscal year 2022-23 (upto September, 2022) registered a performance of US\$ 20,715.15

million, showing a growth of 6.87 per cent as compared to US\$ 19,383.13 million for the same period previous year. Despite of rising interest costs and sluggish demand from major export markets like the USA, Hong Kong, Israel, UK & Netherlands, Gem & jewellery exports have managed to register growth during the first half of fiscal year 2022-23 which is likely to continue further in view of supportive Government policies and ease of doing business.

(G) Advisory Body

Board of Trade (BOT)

The Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) a forum responsible for regular dialogue with State Governments and UTs on International Trade was merged with Board of Trade (BoT) an advisory body for discussion and consultation with Trade and Industry; for greater coherence in consultation process vide Notification dated 17th July 2019 and the new forum remains as Board of Trade. At present 29 non-official members, 25 ex-officio members and 39 official members including DG, DGFT as Member Secretary, MoS Commerce & Industry and Minister in Charge of Trade and Commerce in States and UTs as Member and Hon'ble CIM as Chairperson constitute the Board of Trade.

Department of Commerce has regularly held stakeholder consultations with various Industry Associations, Export Promotion Councils. As part of consultation, a Board of Trade meeting was held on 13.9.2022. The Board of Trade meeting focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), and the strategies and measures to be taken in order to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports. The Board of Trade, inter alia, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade. It provides a platform to State Governments and UTs for articulating state-oriented perspectives on Trade Policy. It also acts as a platform to Government of India for appraising State Governments and UTs about international developments affecting India's trade. It is an important mechanism for deliberations on trade related issues with industry bodies, associations, Export Promotion Councils, and State and UT Governments.

During the Board of Trade meeting, presentations were made on a variety of subjects such as India's Import/ Export Performance, restructuring of the Department of Commerce, FTAs and way forward, States export performance, District as Export Hubs, new proposed Foreign Trade Policy, trade remedial, trade facilitation measures undertaken by customs, Government e-Marketplace etc.

Ministers from states made interventions in the meeting, giving their state-specific suggestions, and also expressed their support to the Central Government initiatives in promoting the external trade.

The meeting was attended by Various State Ministers and other senior officials of key line Ministries and States, all major trade and industry bodies, Export Promotion Councils and industry associations.

(H) Other Organizations

(i) Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) was set up in 1965 as an Apex Body of Export Promotion Organisations. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with its Headquarters in Delhi. FIEO has Regional Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, and Chapters in Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Indore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Guwahati. The organization is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

FIEO has a direct membership of over 35,000. In the Foreign Trade Policy, FIEO has been designated as a Registering Authority for status holder exporting firms and also for the exporters dealing in multi-products. FIEO issues Certificate of Origin (Non-Preferential) which is required by many countries as proof of origin of the goods. It directly and indirectly serves the interests of all goods and services sector in the country.

FIEO provides a crucial interface between the exporters and the Central and State Governments, financial institutions, ports, railways, surface transport and other agencies engaged in export trade facilitation. It serves on the high-level committees constituted by the Government of India to facilitate trade. It provides vital inputs to the Government on various matters of trade.

FIEO gives “Niryat Shree” and “Niryat Bandhu” Awards to exporters and export facilitators respectively in recognition of their contributions to the exports from India. FIEO also organises State Exports Excellence Awards in order to encourage and motivate exporters from the States.

(ii) Indian Diamond Institute (IDI)

Indian Diamond Institute (IDI) was established, in 1978 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, with a focus to provide a vocational education in the field of Diamond, Gems and Jewellery. The IDI is sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and is a project of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council. The IDI conducts vocational educational level training programmes in the areas of Diamond Manufacturing, Diamond Grading, Jewellery Designing and Jewellery Manufacturing and Gemology thereby covering training of entire spectrum of Gems & Jewellery under one roof. The institute upgrades/imparts the skill to Customs Officials on Gold Appraising, Rough Diamond Sorting and Diamond Grading aspects. Institute also upgrades the skill of the existing employees of MSME G&J units under skill enhancement scheme of Centre for Entrepreneur Development (CED), Government of Gujarat. IDI is also recognized as an Anchor Institute Gems & Jewellery by Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat.

The Institute’s Gemmological Laboratory is engaged in testing and identification of Diamonds, Gem Stones and Jewellery, and issuing a Diamond Grading, Gem Stone Identification and Diamond Jewellery Quality report. The Institute’s Diamond Grading Laboratory is authorized by the DGFT, MoC&I, as per Chapter 4 of the FTP 2015-2020 for certification /grading of Diamonds. The IDI also operates Diamond Detection and Resource Centre (DDRC) at its Katargam campus to provide diamond screening services to small/medium diamond manufacturer/diamond traders/Jewellers at affordable rates. IDI also conducts various workshops/seminars on “Synthetic Diamond Identification” and “Assaying of Gold” by IS: 1418:2009 to spread awareness in diamond and Gold Bullion trade on the subject.

(iii) National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI)

Union Cabinet has approved the winding up of NCTI and liquidation process is under progress.

(iv) Price Stabilization Fund Trust (PSFT)

The Price Stabilisation Fund Trust was registered on 11th September 2003 as a Public Trust under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 jointly by NABARD and Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry initially for a period of 10 years to implement the Price Stabilization Fund scheme launched by the Department of Commerce to alleviate the hardship faced by the growers of coffee, tea, rubber and tobacco due to continued low prices of these commodities. The Trust was re-registered for a further period of ten years beyond 11.9.2013 i.e. upto 11.09.2023. The activities of PSFT were closed on 31.03.2015.

(v) India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)

The India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) is a Trust established by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. IBEF’s primary objective is to promote and create international awareness of Brand India in overseas markets and to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge about Indian products and services. Towards this objective, IBEF works closely with stakeholders across Government and industry.

(I) Vanijya Bhawan

The “Vanijya Bhawan” is a newly constructed office complex of Ministry of Commerce & Industry at 16-A, Akbar road, New Delhi. The foundation stone of the building was laid by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India on 22nd June 2018. The building was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India on 23rd June 2022.

The building comprises of six floors and two basements. It is designed in consonance with the architecture of the surrounding buildings especially the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the North-South Blocks, the Parliament House and the India Gate.

Vanijya Bhawan has been designed as a smart building while incorporating the principles of green architecture with a special focus on energy saving and improving indoor quality. It is also based on principles of universal accessibility with additional focus on visually impaired persons.



Inauguration of Vanijya Bhawan by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

CHAPTER 2



1. GLOBAL ECONOMY IN 2022-23

- ❖ The global economy is experiencing a slower than expected growth on account of a series of destabilizing shocks. Following the robust but uneven recovery after the downfall due to the pandemic; geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, policy tightening to contain high and persistent inflation, financial stress along with the lingering effects of the pandemic have slowed down the global economic growth. Many advanced economies are undergoing a period of pronounced weakness and the resulting spillovers are exacerbating other challenges faced by emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). Inflation caused by a combination of disruptions in global supply chains, the impact of Russia-Ukraine conflict on key sectors among others, is peaking and more persistent than anticipated.
- ❖ As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2022, the global economy is experiencing a number of turbulent challenges and its future rests critically

on the successful calibration of monetary policy, the course of the war in Ukraine and the possibility of further pandemic-related supply-side disruptions. Global growth is projected to slowdown from 6.0 per cent in 2021 to 3.2 per cent in 2022 and 2.7 per cent in 2023. For most of the economies, the outlook is significantly weaker than projected earlier by IMF. The forecast for 2023 is the weakest since global slowdown of 2001, with the exception of those during the global financial (2008) and COVID-19 (2020-2021) crises. Risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside and remain unusually large including intensifying geopolitical tensions, increasing inflationary trends, rising financial instability, continuing supply strains etc.

- ❖ The aggregate output of the Advanced Economies (AEs) is expected to grow by 2.4 per cent in 2022 and 1.1 per cent in 2023, as compared to 5.2 per cent in 2021. In contrast, the aggregate output of Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is expected to grow by 3.7 per cent both in 2022 and 2023, as compared to 6.6 per cent in 2021. The growth projections (% change) as per the World Economic Outlook of IMF are as follows:

	2021	Projections		Difference from July 2022 WEO Update	
		2022	2023	2022	2023
World Output	6.0	3.2	2.7	0.0	(-)0.2
Advanced Economies	5.2	2.4	1.1	(-)0.1	(-)0.3
United States	5.7	1.6	1.0	(-)0.7	0.0
Euro Area	5.2	3.1	0.5	0.5	(-)0.7
Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs)	6.6	3.7	3.7	0.1	(-)0.2
Emerging and Developing Asia	7.2	4.4	4.9	(-)0.2	(-)0.1
China	8.1	3.2	4.4	(-)0.1	(-)0.2
India	8.7	6.8	6.1	(-)0.6	0.0

Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2022

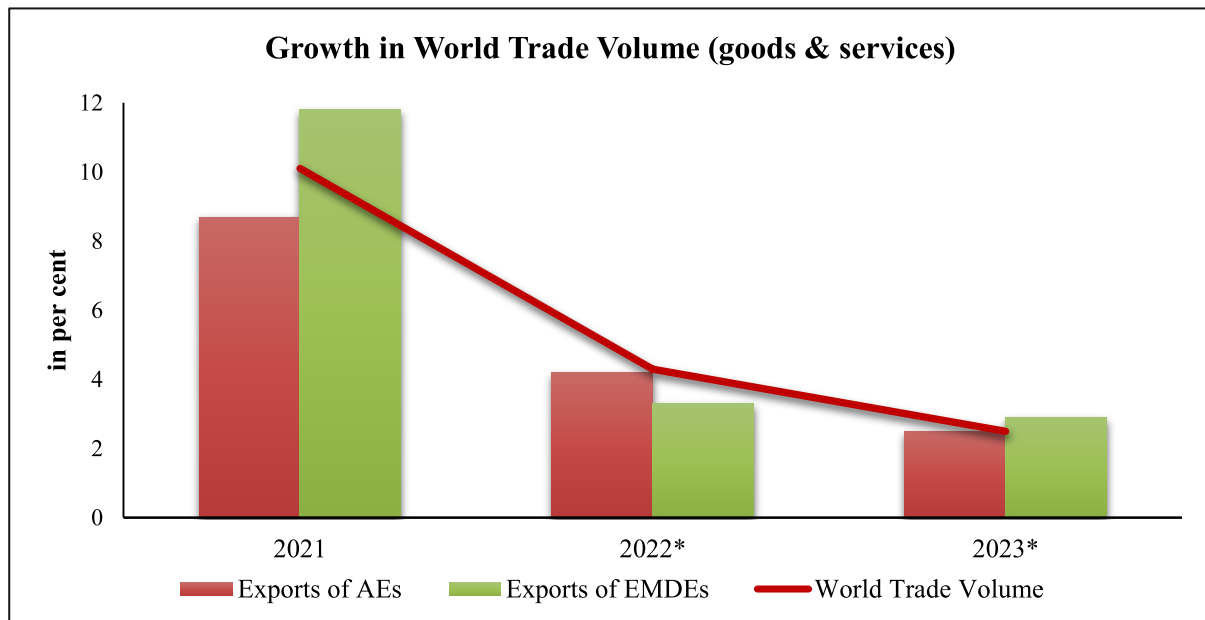
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023*
Volume of world merchandise trade	3.2	0.5	(-)5.2	9.7	3.5	1.0
Exports						
North America	3.9	0.4	(-)8.9	6.5	3.4	1.4
South America [#]	0.6	(-)1.3	(-)4.9	5.6	1.6	0.3
Europe	1.8	0.6	(-)7.8	7.9	1.8	0.8
CIS [@]	4.1	(-)0.1	(-)1.7	0.5	(-)5.8	3.3
Africa	3.2	(-)0.4	(-)8.1	5.2	6.0	(-)1.0
Middle East	4.8	(-)1.3	(-)8.9	1.4	14.6	(-)1.5
Asia	3.7	0.9	0.5	13.3	2.9	1.1

	Annual % change					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023*
Imports						
North America	5.1	(-)0.6	(-)5.9	12.3	8.5	0.8
South America [#]	4.6	(-)1.8	(-)10.7	25.4	5.9	(-)1.0
Europe	1.9	0.3	(-)7.3	8.3	5.4	(-)0.7
CIS [@]	4.0	8.3	(-)5.5	9.1	(-)24.7	9.4
Africa	5.5	3.1	(-)14.7	7.7	7.2	5.7
Middle East	(-)4.4	11.2	(-)10.1	8.4	11.1	5.7
Asia	5.0	(-)0.4	(-)1.0	11.1	0.9	2.2

Source: WTO press release dated 5th October 2022

Note: *Projections, #Refers to South and Central America and the Caribbean, @Refers to Commonwealth of Independent States

- ❖ The growth in World trade volume (goods & services) is projected to decline from 10.1 per cent in 2021 to 4.3 per cent in 2022 and further to 2.5 per cent in 2023, as per IMFWEO, October 2022.



Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2022

Note: *Projections, AEs- Advanced Economies, EMDEs- Emerging Market and Developing Economies

3. INDIA'S TRADE VIS-À-VIS OTHER ECONOMIES

The table below compares exports (merchandise + services) growth of selected economies, namely Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, UK and USA. Exports exhibited positive growth in all

these economies, except Japan, till September 2022. However, in October 2022, most of these economies registered negative growth, as per WTO data. In March, April and June 2022, India had the highest export growth among these economies.

Total Exports: Month-wise year-on-year growth (%)

Period	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	India	Japan	Korea, Republic of	UK	USA
January 2022	19.1	29.3	14.2	26.4	26.7	-1.4	17.0	21.8	14.8
February 2022	15.3	40.8	18.1	8.9	28.6	6.7	22.1	13.0	19.9
March 2022	21.2	21.0	25.2	15.1	27.7	3.5	20.3	1.5	17.3
April 2022	25.5	12.8	26.0	4.4	30.7	-3.7	13.2	9.9	19.9
May 2022	20.6	15.1	29.1	17.4	27.8	-2.2	20.7	12.9	21.1
June 2022	26.3	18.0	24.2	17.4	31.2	-1.7	7.1	6.5	21.3
July 2022	5.9	17.1	21.3	17.4	12.5	-5.0	9.0	14.7	20.7
August 2022	15.0	14.0	18.1	8.6	16.0	-0.3	6.5	23.5	21.0
September 2022	27.5	18.6	15.9	4.8	14.5	-1.5	1.3	10.1	21.5
October 2022	18.4	19.9	7.1	-1.4	-1.7	-3.4	-6.0	-3.6	12.5

Source: WTO Database

Note: Growth rate of a particular month is calculated vis-à-vis same month of the previous year

- ❖ Table below compares imports (merchandise + services) growth of selected economies, namely Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, UK and USA. Imports exhibited positive growth in all these economies since January 2022.

India's overall import growth which was 26.8 per cent in January 2022 increased to a high of 57.1 per cent in May 2022 and declined to 7.5 per cent in October 2022, as per WTO data.

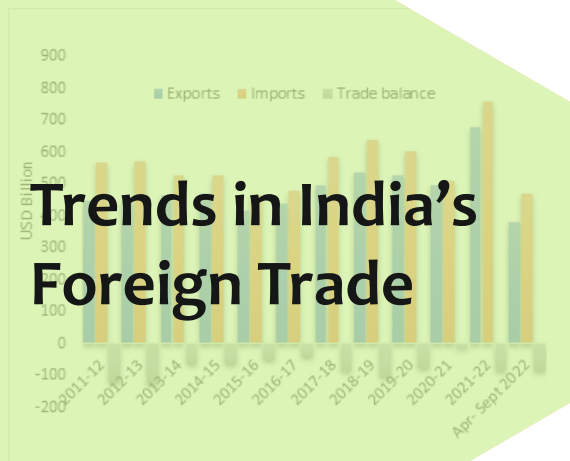
Total Imports: Month-wise year-on-year growth (%)

Period	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	India	Japan	Korea, Republic of	UK	USA
January 2022	22.7	32.7	11.5	22.2	26.8	23.8	32.7	40.2	23.0
February 2022	27.8	31.6	16.8	14.1	34.8	20.0	25.4	36.7	24.5
March 2022	28.6	28.3	20.3	2.2	28.4	16.7	25.5	37.2	26.9
April 2022	21.2	33.4	25.0	1.8	29.6	6.0	16.5	26.3	23.0
May 2022	29.2	40.6	20.2	4.8	57.1	18.1	27.7	19.7	25.8
June 2022	27.4	39.6	22.3	3.1	55.9	14.3	17.8	10.2	20.2
July 2022	28.7	34.3	18.4	3.9	39.3	13.2	19.0	14.1	15.5
August 2022	43.2	36.7	23.7	1.2	38.1	21.4	27.1	18.6	16.0
September 2022	30.0	25.9	17.5	0.0	16.4	9.9	14.9	1.5	13.9
October 2022	23.9	17.6	10.3	0.3	7.5	13.4	8.0	0.6	13.1

Source: WTO Database

Note: Growth rate of a particular month is calculated vis-à-vis same month of the previous year

CHAPTER 3



Trends in India's Foreign Trade

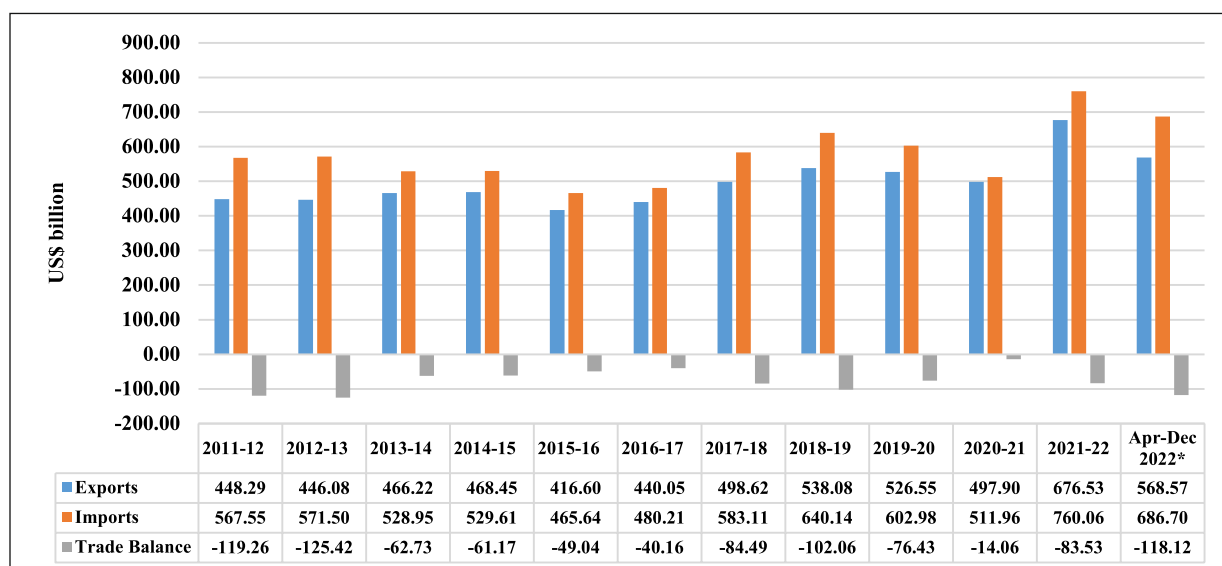
1. OVERVIEW

- ❖ India's overall (Merchandise and Services) exports in 2021-22 were US\$ 676.53 billion as against US\$ 497.90 billion in 2020-21, registering a positive growth of 35.88 per cent. For the period April-December 2022* exports were estimated at US\$ 568.57 billion as against US\$ 489.69 billion during April-December 2021, registering a positive growth of 16.11 per cent.
- ❖ Overall exports to GDP ratio have been seeing a declining trend over the past few years. However, it exhibited an increase in 2021-22 and stood at 21.30 per cent.
- ❖ Overall imports in 2021-22 were US\$ 760.06 billion,

exhibiting a positive growth of 48.46 per cent over the same period in the previous year. For the period April-December 2022* imports were estimated at US\$ 686.70 billion as against US\$ 546.95 billion during April-December 2021, registering a positive growth of 25.55 per cent.

- ❖ Overall trade deficit in 2021-22 was US\$ 83.53 billion, which was higher than the deficit of US\$ 14.06 billion in 2020-21. Overall Trade deficit for the period April-December 2022* is estimated at US\$ 118.12 billion as against the deficit of US\$ 57.26 billion during April-December 2021.
- ❖ The broad trends in overall Exports, Imports and Trade Balance since 2011-12 are indicated in the graph below:

India's Overall Trade (Merchandise & Services) since 2011-12



Source: DGCI&S, RBI database and RBI Press Releases

* Note: The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for November 2022. The data for December 2022 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. (ii) Data for April-December 2021 and April-September 2022 has been revised on pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data.

2. INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

- ❖ India's merchandise exports showed resilience. Exports for the complete financial year i.e. 2021-22 were US\$ 422 billion as against US\$ 291.81 billion during 2020-21, registering a positive growth of 44.62 per cent.
- ❖ India's monthly merchandise exports remained in the range of US\$ 30 billion to US\$ 45 billion during FY 2021-22 with the highest ever exports recorded in the month of March 2022 at US\$ 44.57 billion.
- ❖ Department of Commerce had announced a Target US\$ 400 billion merchandise exports in 2021-22.

India's merchandise exports surpassed the set target by recording exports of US\$ 422 billion in FY 2021-22. A national effort with whole of Government approach and interaction with all stakeholders – line Ministries / Departments, State Governments, Indian Mission abroad, Export Promotion Councils, Exporters and Industry Associations were done to achieve this target. A similar approach has again been followed to monitor and boost exports in 2022-23. During April-December 2022 (QE) exports were US\$ 332.76 billion as against US\$ 305.04 billion during the period April-December 2021, registering a positive growth of 9.09 per cent.

- ❖ Merchandise export to GDP ratio, after a few years of decline, exhibited an increasing trend in 2021-22. Ratio of 13.92 per cent was recorded in FY 2021-22.
- ❖ Imports during 2021-22 registered an increase of 55.43 per cent from US\$ 394.44 billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 613.05 billion in 2021-22.
- ❖ Import during April-December 2022(QE) stood at US\$ 551.70 billion, an increase of 24.96 per cent compared to US\$ 441.50 billion during April-December 2021.

- ❖ The trade deficit in 2021-22 was estimated at US\$ 191.05 billion as against the deficit of 102.63 billion in 2020-21. In April-December 2022(QE), trade deficit increased to US\$ 218.94 billion from US\$ 136.45 billion in April-December 2021.
- ❖ The broad trends of Merchandise Exports, Imports and Trade Balance since 2011-12 are given in the table below:

Merchandise Trade

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Year	Exports	Growth%	Imports	Growth%	Trade Balance
1	2011-12	305.96	22.48	489.32	32.33	-183.36
2	2012-13	300.40	-1.82	490.74	0.29	-190.34
3	2013-14	314.41	4.66	450.20	-8.26	-135.79
4	2014-15	310.34	-1.29	448.03	-0.48	-137.69
5	2015-16	262.29	-15.48	381.01	-14.96	-118.72
6	2016-17	275.85	5.17	384.36	0.88	-108.50
7	2017-18	303.53	10.03	465.58	21.13	-162.05
8	2018-19	330.08	8.75	514.08	10.42	-184.00
9	2019-20	313.36	-5.06	474.71	-7.66	-161.35
10	2020-21	291.81	-6.88	394.44	-16.91	-102.63
11	2021-22	422.00	44.62	613.05	55.43	-191.05
	April-December 2022 (QE)	332.76	9.09	551.70	24.96	-218.94

Source: DGCI&S, QE stands for Quick Estimate

3. INDIA'S SERVICES TRADE

- ❖ The services sector has been the dominant sector in India's GDP, with significant contribution to exports and FDI. The pandemic has had a significant impact, however, the services sector has shown resilience to the economic disruptions. Services exports in 2021-22 stood at US\$ 254.53 billion as compared to US\$ 206.09 billion recorded in 2020-21, which is a positive growth of 23.50 per cent.
- ❖ Services exports contribution to India's GDP has been exhibiting an increasing trend, from 7.70 per cent in 2018-19 to 8.01 per cent in 2021-22.
- ❖ India's services exports stood at US\$ 235.81 billion in April-December 2022* as compared to US\$

184.65 billion in April-December 2021, which is a positive growth of 27.71 per cent.

- ❖ Services imports were US\$ 147.01 billion in 2021-22 as compared to US\$ 117.52 Billion in 2020-21, a positive growth of 25.09 per cent. The cumulative value of imports during April-December 2022* was US\$ 134.99 billion, registering a positive growth of 28.01 per cent vis-à-vis April-December 2021.
- ❖ A surplus of US\$ 107.52 billion and US\$ 100.82 billion was generated in services trade in 2021-22 and April-December 2022* respectively.
- ❖ The broad trends in Services Exports, Imports and Trade Balance in the last ten years are given in the table below:

Services Trade

(Values in US\$ billion)

Source: RBI database and RBI Press Releases

* Note: The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for November 2022. The data for December 2022 is an estimation, which will be revised based on RBI's subsequent release. (ii) Data for April-December 2021 and April-September 2022 has been revised on pro-rata basis using quarterly balance of payments data.

4. MAJOR COMMODITIES OF EXPORT AND IMPORT IN 2021-22

Exports of Top 10 Commodities in 2021-22

(Values in US\$ billion)

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, P stands for provisional

Imports of Top 10 Commodities in 2021-22

(Values in US\$ billion)

Rank	Commodity	2020-21	2021-22	Apr-Nov 2022 (P)	Growth % 2021-22 over 2020-21	Share%
1	Petroleum: Crude	59.48	122.45	113.64	105.87	19.97
2	Gold	34.60	46.17	27.21	33.41	7.53
3	Petroleum Products	23.21	39.36	32.79	69.61	6.42
4	Coal, Coke And Briquettes etc.	16.27	31.72	37.25	94.9	5.17
5	Pearl, Precious, Semiprecious Stones	18.89	31.01	21.05	64.17	5.06
6	Electronics Components	15.30	25.94	16.27	69.58	4.23
7	Vegetable Oils	11.09	18.99	14.28	71.26	3.1
8	Organic Chemicals	11.09	17.77	13.02	60.22	2.9
9	Telecom Instruments	14.88	15.22	10.63	2.31	2.48
10	Computer Hardware, Peripherals	10.43	15.17	10.32	45.44	2.48
	Total	394.44	613.05	493.46	55.43	100

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, P stands for provisional

5. MAJOR EXPORT DESTINATIONS AND IMPORT SOURCES IN 2021-22

Top 10 Export Destinations of India in 2021-22

(Values in US\$ billion)

Rank	Country	2020-21	2021-22	Apr-Nov 2022(P)	Growth % in 2021-22 over 2020-21	Share%
1	U S A	51.63	76.18	53.14	47.53	18.05
2	United Arab Emirates	16.68	28.04	20.83	68.14	6.65
3	China	21.19	21.26	9.90	0.36	5.04
4	Bangladesh	9.69	16.16	8.10	66.70	3.83
5	Netherland	6.47	12.55	12.32	93.78	2.97
6	Singapore	8.68	11.15	8.01	28.53	2.64
7	Hong Kong	10.16	10.98	6.54	8.09	2.60
8	U K	8.21	10.50	7.31	27.94	2.49
9	Belgium	5.24	10.08	6.12	92.61	2.39
10	Germany	8.13	9.88	6.71	21.64	2.34
	Total	291.81	422.00	298.29	44.62	100.00

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata, P stands for provisional

Top 10 Import Sources of India in 2021-22

(Values in US\$ billion)

Rank	Country	2021-21	2021-22	Apr-Nov 2022(P)	Growth % in 2021-22 over 2020-21	Share %
1	China	65.21	94.57	67.92	45.02	15.43
2	United Arab Emirates	26.62	44.83	36.95	68.39	7.31
3	U S A	28.89	43.31	34.20	49.94	7.07
4	Saudi Arab	16.19	34.10	29.10	110.67	5.56
5	Iraq	14.29	31.93	24.93	123.47	5.21
6	Switzerland	18.23	23.39	12.06	28.31	3.82
7	Hong Kong	15.17	19.10	12.73	25.86	3.12
8	Singapore	13.30	18.96	14.95	42.52	3.09
9	Indonesia	12.47	17.70	21.48	41.95	2.89
10	Korea Rp.	12.77	17.48	14.24	36.83	2.85
	Total	394.44	613.05	493.46	55.43	100.00

Source: DGCIS, Kolkata, P stands for provisional

CHAPTER 4



Foreign Trade Policy and Major Schemes

1. INTRODUCTION

In order to provide policy stability during the pandemic period, the five year Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 was extended for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 and then 2022-23. The 2015-20 policy contains FTP Statement, Handbook of Procedures, Appendix and Aayat-Niryat forms. While FTP lays down the policy/schemes for import & export, Handbook of Procedures notifies the procedure to be followed (by an exporter or importer or by the licensing/Regional authority or by any authority) for purpose of implementing the provisions of Foreign Trade Policy. The procedures are contained in the following documents:

- ❖ Handbook of Procedures
- ❖ Appendices & Aayat-Niryat Forms and
- ❖ Standard Input Output Norms (SION)

The FTP for 2015-20 (as extended) seeks to provide a stable and sustainable policy environment for international trade in merchandise and services, linked rules and procedures. It is in tune with other initiatives such as “Make in India”, “Digital India” and “Skill India” to create an “Export Promotion Mission”, promote the diversification of India’s exports basket and help various sectors of the Indian economy to gain global competitiveness. It also aims at expanding Indian markets for deeper penetration into existing global markets and better integration with major regions; thereby increasing the demand for India’s products and services. The policy has been amended from time to time and new initiatives such RoDTEP, RoSCTL etc have been subsequently incorporated to give the dynamism required in the changing world economic order.

2. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY OBJECTIVE

Various initiatives undertaken by DGFT and the Department of Commerce to boost exports from India are guided by the ideals, principles and policies enumerated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India for revival and acceleration of India's economic growth, creating meaningful employment opportunities and making India Atma Nirbhar (self-reliant), by making “India as a Hub of Global Manufacturing and Trade”.

The amended Foreign Trade Policy is intended to make substantial contribution in the National GDP and unlock the great potential of Indian local businesses in global markets. It is the manifestation of India as a Brand i.e., “Brand India”.

The aim of the FTP 2015-20 with these additional initiatives is to build a predictable and equitable environment, promote best and sustainable trade practices, provide deeper, wider and more value-added penetration in global market, improve efficiency and ease of doing business by reducing transaction costs, and becoming an integral part of Global Value Chain.

To achieve this, particular emphasis is being given to technological upgradation, expanding logistics infrastructure, continued digital transformation, re-skilling and up-skilling of workforce, providing high significance to digital commerce, improve women representation, support Small and Medium Enterprises, unorganized sector and backward regions of the country, including, North East and Hilly Regions by adopting a coordinated approach at district, state and national level for global market and for optimum output.

Even though technological upgradation is the key in most high value growth-oriented sectors, in certain traditional employment-oriented sectors emphasis is on minimalist or incremental technological intervention in production techniques without disturbing the traditional ecosystem with high sensitivity and respect towards the historical, cultural and ethnic values of the artisans and tribal people especially in North-East Region, backward areas and other hill states. The policy also intends to integrate many initiatives undertaken by the State Governments and various other Departments of the Government of India towards export promotion.

3. MAJOR SCHEMES

(A) Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)

Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) has been notified on exports from 1st January 2021 by Notification No. 19/2015-20 dated 17th August 2021. The Scheme creates a mechanism for re-imburement of taxes/

Export Promotion Schemes		In FY 2021-22		FY 2020-21	
		Number of Scrips	Value of Scrips (Rs. crore)	Number of Scrips	Value of Scrips (Rs. crore)
Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS)	Number of Scrips	186004	14	14	14
	Value of Scrips	20976	8	8	8
Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)	Number of Scrips	4782	2	2	2
	Value of Scrips	2299	15	15	15

(C) Other similar Schemes under earlier Foreign Trade Policies

Scrips are also issued under various Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Focus Market Scheme (FMS), (i) Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojna (VKGUY), (iv) Served From India Scheme, (v) Served From

(vi) and (vii) Target

Scrips issued under various schemes under value of scrips till September 2021

(in Rs. crore)

Export Promotion Schemes		2020-21	2021-22	September 2023
Focus Market Scheme (FMS)	Number of Scrips	40	28	
	Value of Scrips	5	5	
Focus Product Scheme (FPS)	Number of Scrips	185	297	
	Value of Scrips	37	46	
Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojna (VKGUY)	Number of Scrips	7	5	
	Value of Scrips	0	0	
Served From India Scheme (SFIS)	Number of Scrips	5	0	
	Value of Scrips	14	0	

Export Promotion Schemes		2020-21	2021-22	April-September 2022-23
Status Holder Incentive Scrip (SHIS)	Number of Scrips	15	0	1
	Value of Scrips	13	0	0.72
Incremental Export Incentivisation Scheme (IEIS)	Number of Scrips	18	2	15
	Value of Scrips	5	1	6.31
Target Plus Scheme (TPS)	Number of Scrips	22	25	9
	Value of Scrips	32.3	93.76	23.43

Figure 1 depicts the number of scrips issued under various export promotion schemes during 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-September 2022-23

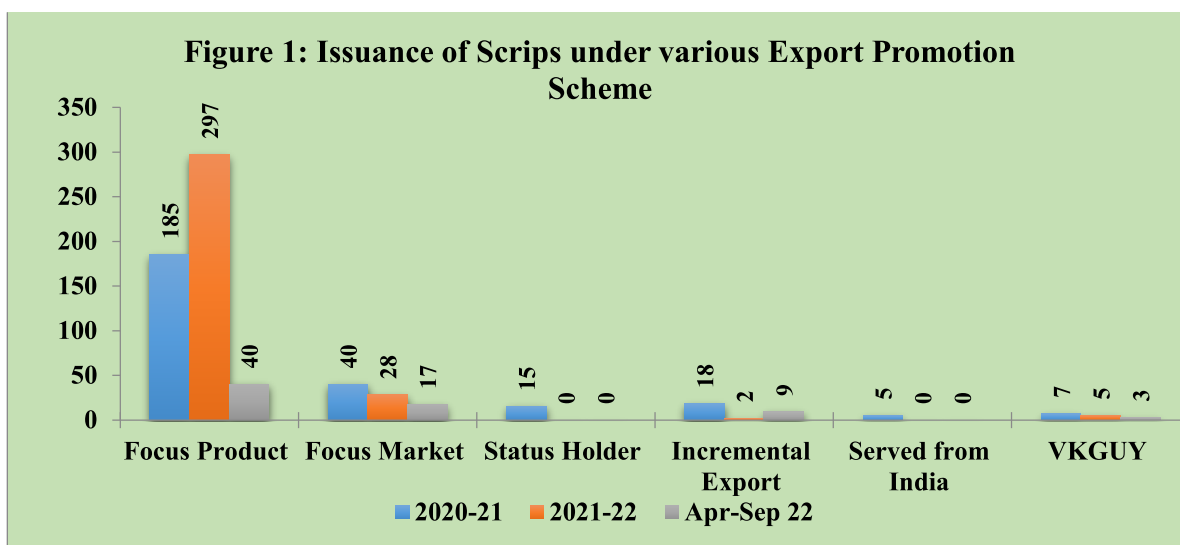
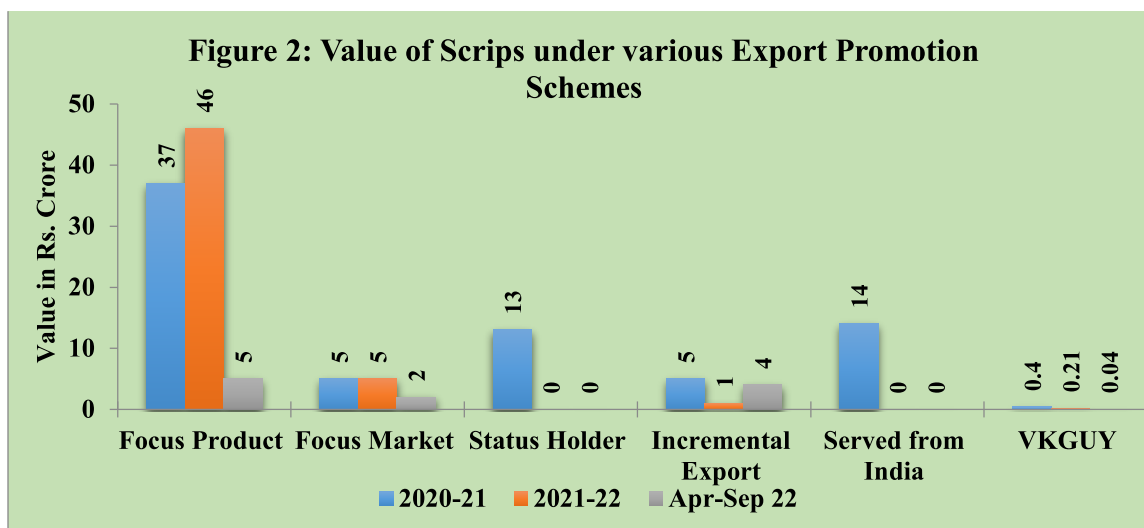


Figure 2 depicts the value of scrips issued under various export promotion schemes during 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-September 2022-23.



(D) Duty Remission Schemes

Duty neutralization / remission schemes are based on the principle and the commitment of the Government that “Goods and Services are to be exported and not

the Taxes and Levies”. The purpose is to allow duty free import / procurement of inputs or to allow replenishment either for the inputs used or the duty component on inputs used. Brief of these schemes are given below:

(i) Advance Authorization (AA) Scheme

Advance Authorization (AA) is a WTO compliant duty exemption scheme detailed under Chapter 4 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20. AA scheme allows duty free import of inputs, which are physically incorporated or used in making of the export product. Under AA scheme, all import duties on inputs, such as Basic Customs duty, IGST, Cess, Anti-dumping duty etc., are exempted. Also, local procurement of inputs in place of direct imports is allowed under AA wherein IGST for input supplies are refunded. The required quantity of inputs is calculated based on Standard Input Output Norms (SION). AA is used where an applicant generally imports first and then uses the imported inputs in his exports. However, authorization holders can import the inputs on a replenishment basis also.

All manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturers are eligible to avail AA. The inputs need to be imported within the validity of AA, which is usually 12 months from the date of issue of AA. The exports are to be completed usually within 18 months from the date of issue of AA. 15 per cent value addition (lower for G&J Sector) is to be maintained under this scheme. Proof of exports needs to be submitted to regional authorities of DGFT along with proof of realized payment in foreign currency after the completion of exports for the redemption of AA and RA issues Export Obligation Discharge Certificate (EODC).

The Scheme is more trade friendly in the sense that it grants upfront exemption from the payment of the Customs duties & IGST at the time of import of inputs to the exporter. Thus, it ensures no blocking of working capital as it provides for an upfront exemption.

(ii) Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA)

Under DFIA Scheme operational from 1st May 2006, Duty Free Import Authorization shall be issued on post export basis for products for which Standard Input Output Norms (SION) have been notified, once the export is completed. One of the objectives of the

scheme is to facilitate the transfer of the authorization or the inputs imported as per SION after exports are completed. Provisions of the DFIA Scheme are similar to Advance Authorization scheme. Minimum value addition of 20 per cent is required under the scheme. For items where higher value addition has been prescribed under Advance Authorization in the Appendix, the same value addition shall be applicable for DFIA also. Pre-export DFIA has been discontinued in FTP 2015-2020.

(iii) Schemes for Gems & Jewellery Sector

Gems & Jewellery exports constitute a major portion of our total merchandise exports. It is an employment-oriented sector. Exports from this sector suffered significantly on account of the global economic slowdown. Duty free import/procurement of precious metal (Gold / Silver / Platinum) from the nominated agencies is allowed either in advance or as replenishment. Duty Free Import Authorisation Scheme shall not be available for Gems and Jewellery Sector. The Schemes for Gems and Jewellery Sector are as follows:

- ❖ Advance Procurement/replenishment of Precious Metals from Nominated Agencies
- ❖ Replenishment Authorisation for Gems
- ❖ Replenishment Authorisation for Consumables
- ❖ Advance Authorisation for Precious Metals

In view of demand raised by the industry, findings like posts, push backs, locks which help in collating the jewellery pieces together, containing gold of 3 carats and above up to a maximum limit of 22 carats have also been allowed under duty exemption scheme.

With a view to preventing its misuse, Advance authorisation scheme for import of precious metals for exports of gold medallions and coins and fully mechanized jewellery has been discontinued.

Details of number of authorizations issued, CIF value of imports and FOB value of exports under various schemes during 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-September, 2022 are given in the following table:

(Values in Rs. crore)

Duty Remission Schemes		2020-21	2021-22	April-September 2022-23
Advance Authorization	Number of Authorization	26,136	23,031	11,234
	CIF Value of Imports	2,07,364	2,64,870	1,27,479
	FOB Value of Exports	3,62,718	3,95,094	2,96,999
Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA)	Number of Authorization	1,075	2,458	1,005
	CIF Value of Imports	1,987	4,830	2,661
	FOB Value of Exports	2,896	9,129	3,991
Replenishment License (Gem & Jewellery)	Number of Authorization	21	59	0
	CIF Value of Imports	18	68	0
	FOB Value of Exports	372	429	0

Figure 3 depicts the number of authorizations issued under various export promotion schemes during 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-September 2022-23.

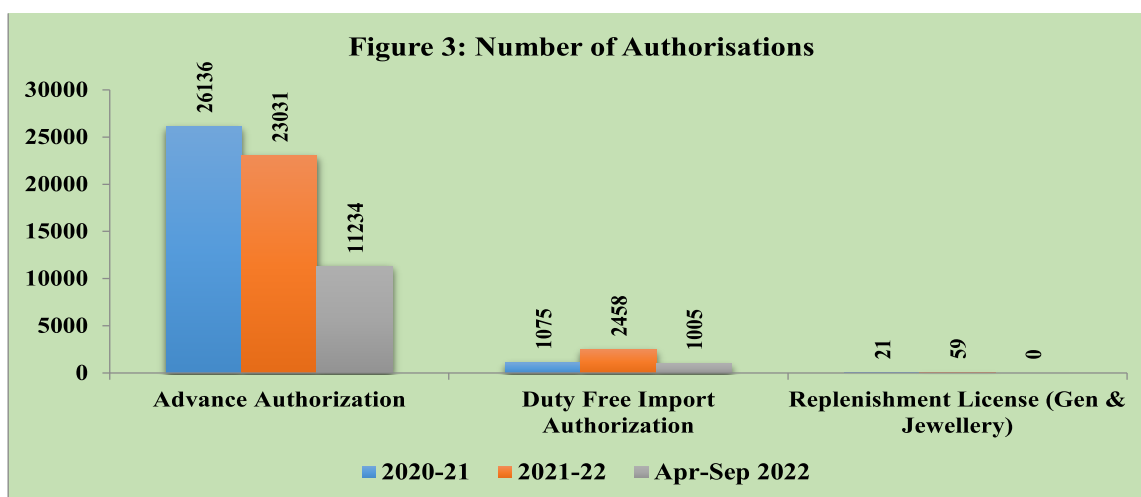


Figure 4 depicts the CIF value of import under various export promotion schemes during 2020-21 and April-September 2022-23.

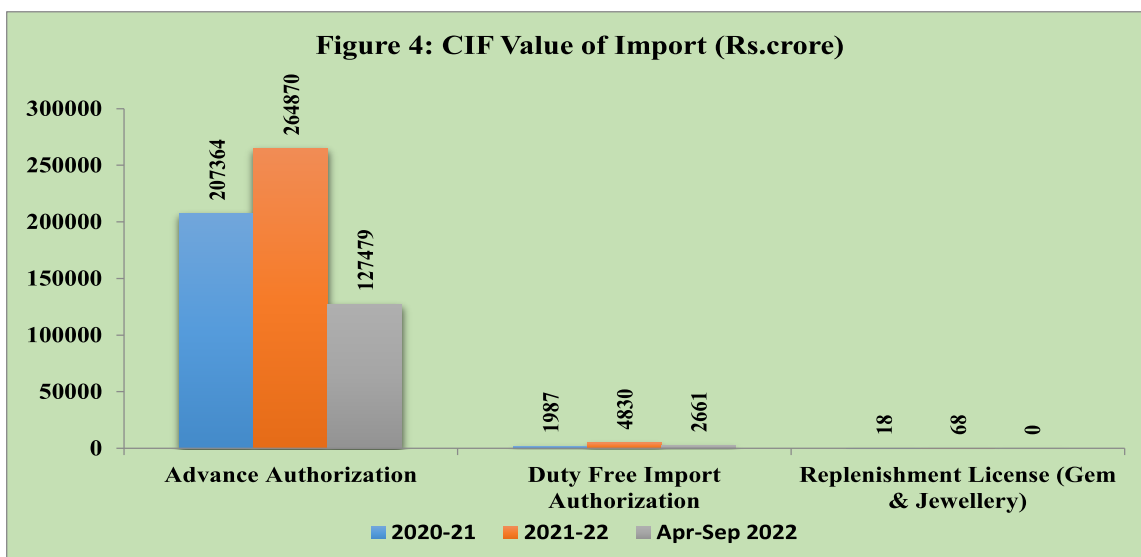


Figure 5 depicts the FOB value of export under various export promotion schemes during 2020-21 and April-September 2022-23.

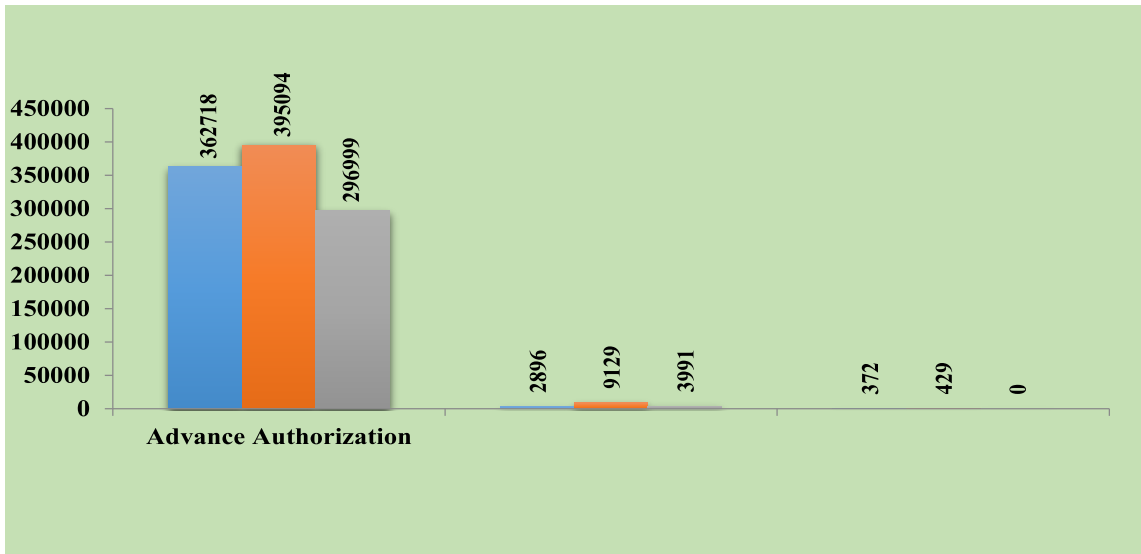
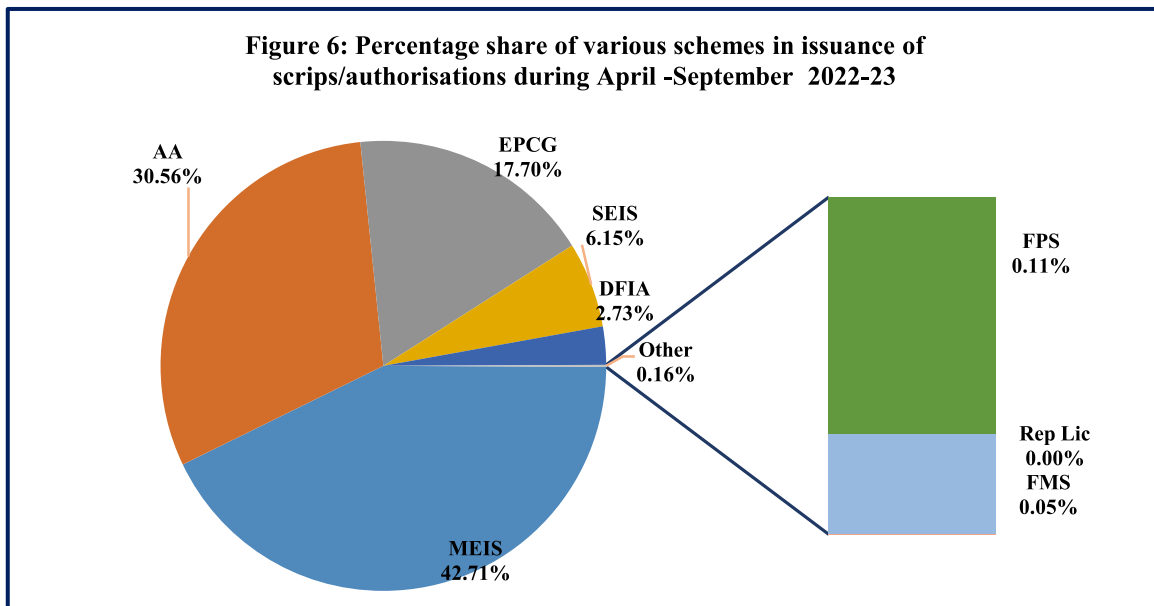


Figure 6 depicts the percentage share of various export promotion schemes in issuance of total number of scrips during April-September, 2022. It shows that the highest share of 42.71 per cent scrips was issued under MEIS during April-September 2022 followed by AA scheme with 30.56 per cent.



Interest Equalisation at the rate of 3% on pre and post shipment credit for export of products covered under 416 tariff lines already identified under the scheme.

RBI implements this scheme with the help of the banks. DGFT/DoC's role has been limited to make and approve the scheme and then to provide consolidated reimbursement of benefits to RBI. Every exporter eligible under the scheme can opt to avail upfront benefit of interest subvention from the bank. Thereafter, amount given as subvention in the interest rate to the exporters is reimbursed to the RBI by Department of Commerce for its onward release to the concerned Scheduled Commercial Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks.

(F) Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme

The objective of the EPCG Scheme is to facilitate import of capital goods for producing quality goods and services and enhance India's manufacturing competitiveness. EPCG Scheme allows import of capital goods (except those specified in negative list in Appendix 5 F) for pre-production, production and post production at zero customs duty. Capital goods imported under EPCG Authorisation for physical exports are also exempted from IGST and Compensation Cess. The Authorisation holder may also procure Capital Goods from indigenous sources in accordance with provisions of paragraph 5.07 of FTP. Authorisation shall be valid for import for 24 months from the date of issue of Authorisation.

Capital goods for the purpose of the EPCG scheme shall include:

- ❖ Capital Goods as defined in Chapter 9 including in CKD/SKD condition thereof;
- ❖ Computer systems and software which are a part of the Capital Goods being imported;
- ❖ Spares, moulds, dies, jigs, fixtures, tools & refractories; and

- ❖ Catalysts for initial charge plus one subsequent charge.

EPCG scheme covers manufacturer exporters with or without supporting manufacturer(s), merchant exporters tied to supporting manufacturer(s) and service providers. Imported capital goods shall be subject to Actual User condition till export obligation is completed and EODC is granted.

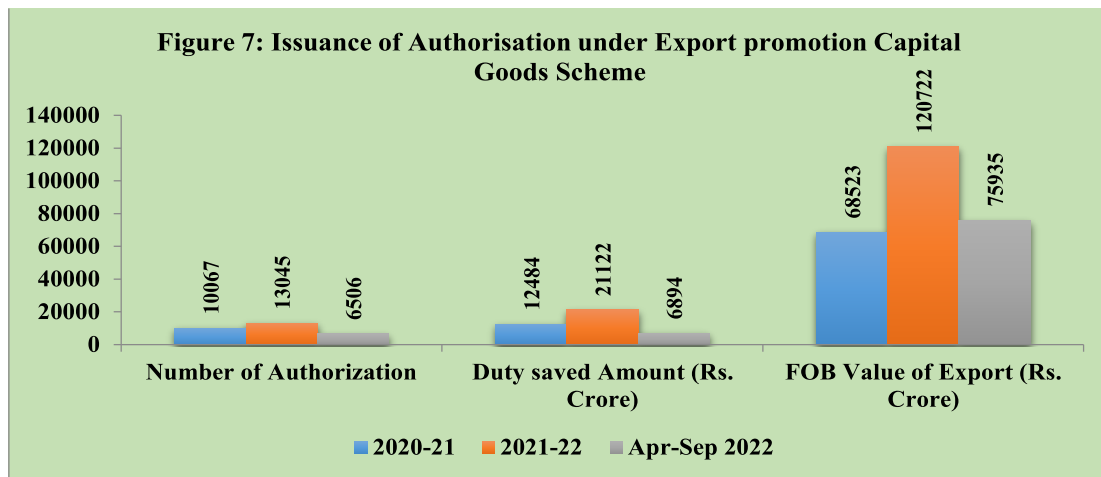
Import under EPCG Scheme is subject to an export obligation equivalent to 6 times of duties, taxes and cess saved on capital goods, to be fulfilled in 6 years reckoned from date of issue of Authorization. EO shall be fulfilled by the authorization holder through export of goods which are manufactured by him or his supporting manufacturer / services rendered by him, for which the EPCG authorization has been granted. EO under the scheme shall be, over and above, the average level of exports achieved by the applicant in the preceding three licensing years for the same and similar products within the overall EO period including extended period, if any; such average would be the arithmetic mean of export Performance in the preceding three licensing years for same and similar products. Export shall be physical export. However, specified deemed exports are also eligible for fulfillment of export obligation. For exporters of Green Technology Products, Specific EO shall be 75 per cent of EO as stipulated. For units located in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, specific EO shall be 25 per cent of the EO. With a view to accelerating exports, in cases where authorization holder has fulfilled 75 per cent or more of specific export obligation and 100 per cent of Average Export Obligation till date, if any, in half or less than half the original export obligation period specified, remaining export obligation shall be condoned.

Issuance of Authorization under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme are given in the table as follows:

(Values in Rs. crore)

Issuance under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme			
Years	2020-21	2021-22	April-September 2022-23
Number of Authorization	10067	13,045	6,506
Duty Foregone Amount	12,484	21,122	6,894
FOB value of Export	68523	1,20,722	75,935

Figure 7: depicts the number of authorizations issued under various export promotion schemes along with duty saved amount and FOB value of export during 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-September 2022.



(G) Export Oriented Units (EOUs), Electronics Hardware Technology Parks (EHTPs), Software Technology Parks (STPs) and Bio-Technology Parks (BTPs)

The objectives of these schemes are to promote exports, enhance foreign exchange earnings, attract investment for export production and employment generation. The units undertaking to export their entire production of goods and services (except permissible sales in DTA), maybe set up under the schemes. Trading units are not covered under these schemes.

Under this scheme, the EOUs etc. are permitted to import and/or procure from DTA or bonded warehouse in DTA or from an international exhibition held in India without payment of customs duty as provided under the first schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and additional duty, if any, of Customs leviable under Section 3(1), 3(3) and 3(5) and without payment of Integrated Tax and GST compensation cess leviable under section 3(7) and 3(9) of the said Act as per notification issued by the Department of Revenue.

Further, the procurement of goods covered under GST from DTA would be on payment of applicable GST and compensation cess. The EOUs can also procure excisable goods, falling in fourth schedule of Central Excise Act, 1944 from DTA without payment of applicable duty of excise. The refund of GST for supply from DTA to EOU would be available to supplier as provided under GST rules and notifications issued thereunder. Supplies from DTA to EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP units for use in their manufacture for

exports are eligible for benefits under Chapter 7 of FTP. DTA supplier is eligible for relevant entitlements under Chapter 7 of FTP, besides discharge of an export obligation, if any, on the supplier.

EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP units are entitled to following:

- ❖ Reimbursement of Central Sales Tax (CST) on goods manufactured in India. Simple interest @ 6% per annum will be payable on delay in refund of CST, if the case is not settled within 30 days of receipt of the complete application.
- ❖ Exemption from payment of Central Excise Duty on goods, falling in the fourth schedule of Central Excise Act, procured from DTA on such goods manufactured in India.

The Scheme to reimburse the CST has been extended for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with total outlay of Rs. 302.35 crore. Out of the amount of Rs. 58.32 crore allocated for the Financial Year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 40.52 crore has been utilized till September 2022.

(H) Deemed Exports

“Deemed Exports” for the purpose of the Foreign Trade Policy refer to those transactions in which goods supplied do not leave country, and payment for such supplies is received either in Indian rupees or in free foreign exchange. Supply of goods as specified in of FTP shall be regarded as “Deemed Exports” provided goods are manufactured in India.

(i) Objectives

- ❖ To provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers in certain specified cases, as may be

decided by the Government from time to time and promote domestic industry.

- ❖ To provide duty free imports and duty exemption/refund for products manufactured in India.
- ❖ To reduce the dependency on imports.

(ii) Benefits

Deemed exports shall be eligible for any / all of following benefits in respect of manufacture and supply of goods, qualifying as deemed exports:

- ❖ Duty Exemption: To provide duty free inputs for manufacture and supply under Advance Authorisation / Advance Authorisation for annual requirement / DFIA Schemes.
- ❖ TED Refund/Exemption: Refund of Terminal Excise duty paid on deemed export supplies or exemption from paying such duties.
- ❖ Duty Drawback Refund: Refund of Basic Custom Duties paid on the inputs utilized in manufacture and supply of the goods to the specified categories of deemed exports.
- ❖ The reimbursements are done based on the claims submitted to the Regional Offices of DGFT after the supplies are made and payments against such supplies are received.

The Scheme to refund the TED/DBK has been extended for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with total outlay of Rs. 695 crore. Out of the amount of Rs. 150 crore allocated for the Financial Year 2022-23, an amount of Rs. 37.53 crore has been utilized till October 2022.

4. MONITORING OF EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEMES AND DATA ANALYTICS

For effective monitoring and evaluation of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), a comprehensive Management Information System (MIS) Report on Export Promotion Schemes 2022 was brought out by Statistics Division of DGFT. The MIS report is also being compiled on monthly basis which is available in DGFT website under Statistics Report on the Home page and the link is <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=bulletin-foreign-trade-statistics>. A detailed visualization of issuance of scrips and authorisations under various export promotion schemes is available at the link <https://dashboard.commerce.gov.in/>

[commercedashboard.aspx](https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=bulletin-foreign-trade-statistics) in the Monitoring Dashboard on Department of Commerce website.

Since the constitution of a Data Analysis Unit (DAU) in Statistics Division of DGFT after mid-term review of FTP (2015-20) in Dec 2017, a Monthly Bulletin of Foreign Trade Statistics that provides a ready reference and analysis on export and import data of India on major commodities and major countries at Quick Estimates, Provisional Estimates and Final 8 digit level estimates is being brought out. The Bulletin also provides the State-wise as well as District-wise export data, which is available in DGFT website under Statistics Report on the Home page and the link is <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=bulletin-foreign-trade-statistics>. The Monthly Bulletin is also available in the Monitoring Dashboard on Department of Commerce website. The link is <https://dashboard.commerce.gov.in/commercedashboard.aspx>.

Monitoring Dashboard also provides the Geospatial data of Merchandise and Services Trade. It also reflects the trade analysis of all commodities, trade from all countries/territories comparison of balance of trade and States & District wise exports. The trade data at item level such as Principal Commodity (PC) groups (168), 2-digit, 4-digit, 6-digit, 8-digit level ITC-HS codes and analysis of top principal commodities, category – wise (Capital goods, Consumer goods, Intermediate goods and Raw materials) imports and exports, monthly and yearly comparison of trade data in the form of charts and tables are also available. It is a rich source of trade data for Territory and Commodity Division wise monitoring.

5. TARGET SETTING AND MONITORING FOR MERCHANDISE EXPORT 2022-2023

Keeping in view the critical role of exports in catalyzing economic activities which were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Commerce set an ambitious target of US\$ 400 billion of merchandise exports for the year 2021-22. The target was set in the context of export potential, past trends, recent initiatives taken by the Government and the need to push the economy. Further, the export target of US\$ 400 billion was disaggregated in terms of regions and countries as well as product/commodity groups. The Department of Commerce prepared a detailed strategy for achieving the targets and an elaborate monitoring system was put in place.

Due to tight monitoring, supported by export promotion measures, Merchandise exports from India crossed US\$ 400 billion in the last financial year, India has achieved exports of US\$ 422 billion in 2021-22. This is the first time ever in the history of Indian merchandise export that we have managed to break free of the barrier of US\$ 330 billion which was the highest in the past.

In the first 6 months of FY 2022-23 (April-September 2022), India has achieved exports of US\$ 227.5 billion, which is 48.4 per cent of the provisional export target of US\$ 470 billion. With tight monitoring by country / region/mission/products/commodity groups/Export Promotion Councils at different levels, supported by export promotion measures, India is expected to achieve the target this year also.

6. NIRYAT PORTAL

In order to supplement the offline monitoring of export performance, a real time online monitoring system for the designated export target (for 200 Countries/territories by 31 commodity groups), via a digitized data-driven framework for facilitating timely policy making/ interventions in international trade, the DoC has developed a portal- NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade), which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 23rd June 2022. The portal also displays State/UT wise export performance with respect to 31 commodity groups.

The NIRYAT portal is available at the domain name: <https://niryat.gov.in>. It is accessible to Government Stakeholders (including Embassies/HCs/Missions) and Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)/Commodity Boards/Authorities, etc through individual login and password, for regular monitoring of the export performance of their respective jurisdictions and to take necessary action, wherever required. Recently, public portal was created and is now accessible to all.

7. NIRYAT BANDHU SCHEME

Niryat Bandhu Scheme is a central Sector Scheme which commenced in 2013. Training programs under Niryat Bandhu Scheme, being implemented in in-person and online mode caters to the initial skilling needs of individuals / firms who venture into International Trade as part of the Niryat Bandhu Scheme, more than one lakh individuals (1,15,000 plus) across the length and breadth of the Country have been trained since 2013-14.

Support is also extended under the Niryat Bandhu Scheme in partnership with other stakeholders for activities like exporters' conclave, seminars and buyer seller meets to meet the needs of developing Districts as Export Hubs across the country.

8. MATTERS RELATED TO EXPORTS

(A) Districts as Export Hubs

Department of Commerce through Directorate General of Foreign Trade is working with the States and the districts to channelise the potential and diverse identity in each district of our country to make them export hubs. The Districts as Export Hubs is aimed at targeting export promotion, manufacturing and employment generation at the grass roots level, making the States and Districts meaningful stakeholders and active participants in making India an export powerhouse thereby contributing to the Atma Nirbhar mission and achieving the vision of Make in India for the world and being Vocal for Local, by significantly increasing the manufacturing and exports from urban areas while focusing on generating interest and economic activity in the rural hinterland and small towns in the country to push new businesses to export. A growing focus on exports by focusing on districts as potential export hubs is also likely to integrate India more closely with global value chain and propel India to be a significant exporter by leveraging the diversity and competitiveness in agriculture, marine, textile, pharmaceutical, chemicals and a whole lot of engineering products.

Towards this goal, Products/services (including GI products, agricultural clusters, toy clusters etc.) with export potential in all the districts of the country have been identified and institutional mechanism in the form of State Export Promotion Committees (SEPC) at State/UT level and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) at the district level has been created in all districts of the country to provide support for export promotion and address the bottlenecks for export growth in the Districts. The primary function of the DEPC is to prepare and implement District specific Export Action Plans (DEAPs) in collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders from the Center, State and the District.

District specific export action plans identifying specific actions required to support local exporters / manufacturers in producing exportable products in

adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, and reaching potential buyers outside India have been finalised by DEPCs and jurisdictional DGFT RAs in 242 districts and currently under consultation stage in 338 districts. The export performance of each district in terms of export data is now being captured to measure and rank export performance of each district.

(B) Rupee Trade

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the Foreign Trade Policy vide Notification No. 33/2015-20 dated 16th September 2022, to allow for International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR) i.e., invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports / imports in Indian Rupees in sync with RBI's A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No.10 dated 11th July 2022. Further changes have been introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy vide DGFT Notification 43/2015-20 dated 09.11.2022 and Public Notice 35/2015-20 dated 09.11.2022 for grant of exports benefits and fulfilment of Export Obligation for export realization in Indian Rupees as per the RBI guidelines. Given the rise in interest in internationalization of Indian Rupee, the given Policy amendments have been undertaken to facilitate and to bring ease in international trade transactions in Indian Rupees.

(C) Foreign Trade Policy

The government has received requests from Export Promotion Councils, leading exporters and industry bodies that in view of the prevailing, volatile global economic and geo-political situation, it would be advisable to extend the current policy for some time, and undertake more consultations before coming out with the new policy. In view of this, it has been decided to extend the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 upto 31st March 2023.

(D) Stake Holder Consultations and Board of Trade meeting

The Board of Trade (BOT) has been reconstituted by merging Council for Trade Development and Promotion with Board of Trade vide notification No. 11/2015-20 dt 17th July 2019. The Board of Trade, inter alia, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy in order to achieve the objectives of boosting India's trade. It provides a platform to state governments and UTs for articulating state-oriented perspectives on Trade

Policy. It also acts as a platform to Government of India for appraising State Governments and UTs about international developments affecting India's trade. It is an important mechanism for deliberations on trade related issues with industry bodies, associations, export promotion councils, and state and UT Governments. There were 29 new non-official members who were also invited for the first time in this Board of Trade meeting.

Department of Commerce has regularly held stakeholder consultations with various Industry Associations, Export Promotion Councils. As part of consultation, a Board of Trade meeting was held on 13.9.2022. The meeting was attended by Various State Ministers and other senior officials of key line ministries and States, all major trade and industry bodies, Export Promotion Councils and industry associations.

The Board of Trade meeting focused on export target setting, the new Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), and the strategies and measures to be taken in order to take forward domestic manufacturing and exports. During the Board of Trade meeting, presentations were made on a variety of subjects such as India's Import/ Export Performance, restructuring of the Department of Commerce, FTAs and way forward, States export performance, District as Export Hubs, new proposed Foreign Trade Policy, trade remedial, trade facilitation measures undertaken by customs, Government e-Marketplace etc.

Ministers from states made interventions in the meeting, giving their state-specific suggestions, and also expressed their support to the central Government initiatives in promoting the external trade.

(E) Special Chemicals, Organism, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET)

In consonance with the guidelines and control lists of the international conventions and obligations as well as multilateral export control regimes related to export of dual use goods and technologies, India has regulated the exports of dual use items, nuclear related items, including software and technology. SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) is India's National Export Control List of dual use items munitions and nuclear related items, including software and technology maintained under Foreign Trade Policy and is

aligned to the control lists of the all the multilateral export control regimes and conventions including the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group. The SCOMET List has been notified by DGFT under Appendix 3 to Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. The provisions to control the dual use items have been incorporated in Chapter IVA of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) (FTDR) Act, 1992, as amended in 2010.

The SCOMET List is divided into nine categories of items from Category 0 to Category 8. The export of SCOMET items is regulated and can only be allowed against a SCOMET license issued by DGFT or other agency designated for the purpose. In the recent past, steps have been taken by DGFT to ease the process of licensing by making the application process completely online, facilitating exporters by liberalising the SCOMET policy in case of certain goods and technologies through bulk licensing and general authorisation provisions such as General Authorisation for export of chemicals (GAEC), General Authorisation for export after repair in India (GAER), General Authorisation for Intra Company Transfer (GAICT), Repeat order Authorization etc. The SCOMET list was also updated as per the recent changes incorporated under various export control regimes in November 2022. Certain policy areas such as liberalising policy for export of SCOMET regulated UAVs/Drones, expanding list of chemicals under GAEC, revising stock and sale policy etc are being looked into for changes in the near future.

(F) Export Authorization for restricted items

The Export Cell of DGFT deals with Export Policy of items under Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification for Export and Import, categorized as 'Free'/'Restricted' or 'Prohibited' and items canalized through State Trading Enterprises (STEs). The Export Policy of items are reviewed in consultation with the concerned subject commodity Division of the Department of Commerce & Ministry / Department concerned and notified from time to time. Accordingly, Export Cell provides clarifications / interpretations on Export Policy of items whenever sought by individuals / firms / companies or Ministry / Department / Organization concerned. Export of items categorized as 'Restricted' in Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification for Export, is subject to Authorization / license.

9. MATTERS RELATED TO IMPORTS

Import Policy Division in DGFT is entrusted with the general provisions regarding import as laid down under Chapter-2 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and in addition, formulate/amend/regulate the items-specific import policies as laid down under the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System) ITC(HS) in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments. It also formulates and updates provisions for facilitating import and export of items.

The Division deals with trade related certifications/ mandatory compliances such as Importer Exporter Code (IEC); Registration Cum Manufacturer Certificate (RCMC); Free Sale Certificates(FSC), REX, enlistment of Agencies for issuance of Certificate of Origin (Non-Preferential), recognition of Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIA) for import of metallic waste & scrap.

Import Division has undertaken various non-tariff trade measures during the year 2022-23 to facilitate trade which were included under different chapters of Schedule-I (Import Policy).

Import Policy Division also grants import authorisation for "Restricted" items; besides allocating quotas under the Preferential Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) and Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Tariff Rate Quota.

A list of such major initiatives and non-tariff measures imposed on the recommendation(s) of the line Ministry(s)/Department(s), and after consultations with relevant stakeholders, as per principles of restrictions laid down under Chapter-2 of Foreign Trade Policy, are as follows:

- ❖ **Restriction:** Import policy of various items has been made 'Restricted' such that the import of these items is allowed only after obtaining an Import Authorization from DGFT. Some of the items restricted in recent past include Defense/Security items, New Pneumatic tyres, Live animals and birds, Gold and silver; Television sets, Mercury, Ginger, Power tillers & its components, Agarbatti, Cereals, Pets, Bio-fuels, peas, moong, melon seeds, waste & scrap items, Pet Coke, second hand/used goods other than capital goods, Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs) etc.

- ❖ **Prohibition:** Import of certain items have been prohibited since 2019 on the grounds of Principles of restrictions laid down under the Foreign Trade Policy, for protection of human, animal or plant life and health. These items include Wild life (animals & birds) & their products, Ozone depleting substances, Shark fins, Plastic wastes, Mobiles with no IMEI/ESN, Stock Lot of coated paper, Air conditioners with refrigerants and Drones.

Minimum Import Price (MIP): In order to restrict/reduce the dumping of cheap/ under-invoiced imports and safeguard domestic producers, MIP has been imposed on various items including Cashew, Arecanut, Pepper, Marble & Granite, Desiccated coconut, Peas and Mosquito killer racket.

10. INITIATIVES TAKEN FOR 'EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE'

DGFT has undertaken a series of technology-driven solutions for Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) that would give significant boost to the foreign Trade related activities of Indian enterprises and the overall "AtmaNirbhar Bharat" Abhiyan. They are:

- ❖ A new DGFT e-platform was implemented in a phased manner. The new platform uses the latest technology with Centralized & cloud-based Data storage, Open Framework based Development, Identity & Access Management, Dedicated Helpdesk facilities, Business Analytics & an AI driven virtual assistant. The new platform has proven to (a) Significantly reduce the time taken for issuance of DGFT documents (b) Ensure real time data interchange with other Ministries/Departments in trade ecosystem (c) Provides transparency to exporters/importers through real time monitoring of the status of applications (d) Ensure paperless, contact less processing of applications.
- ❖ The availability of digitized trade policy, ITC (HS) based Import/Export Policy and other documents on the new platform would help trade stakeholders in cutting down the information asymmetry related issues. Also, through the use of exporters/ importers profile data, timely information related to notification, application status etc. is intimated through the SMS and email communications.

- ❖ All information on Foreign Trade Policy Updates, Import/Export Policy, Export/ Import Statistics, status of applications, 24x7 virtual assistance is available through the DGFT Trade Facilitation Mobile App.
- ❖ The Electronic Platform for Preferential Certificate of Origin was made live for Non-Preferential CoOs w.e.f 15.04.2021. 120+EPCs, Commodity Boards and Chambers of Commerce & Industry are on boarded electronically onto the platform.

The new DGFT IT system provides streamlined online data exchange with other Government agencies including CBIC, CBDT, MCA, PFMS. This makes the system seamless and provide a whole-of-the-government approach to the exporters/importers concerned.

- ❖ This system facilitates two-way online communication & processing, e-verification of the authenticity of DGFT issued documents and authorizations to provide a paperless, contact-less interface between the importers/exporters and DGFT. Electronic real-time data exchange with Customs has led to the doing away with paper copy for the Export Promotion Schemes being operated by DGFT.
- ❖ System provides paperless, electronic processes for managing the lifecycle of AA/EPCG/DFIA/ Import/Export Licensing et al. Requirements for physical submission of any documents or any office visits under various earlier trade procedures have been done away with.
- ❖ 24x7 Auto-Generation of e-IEC (Importer Exporter Code). No need to wait on any approval for an IEC. The IEC details are automatically validated against CBDT, MCA and PFMS systems.
- ❖ Online Module is available for resolving International Quality Complaints & Trade Disputes in a transparent manner. The system brings together DGFT Regional Authorities, Indian Missions Abroad, Department of Commerce Foreign Trade Territorial Divisions onto a single platform. The Online Module allows the complainant to submit complaints online and also facilitates tracking and viewing their status online.
- ❖ In view of the current international situation, Department of Commerce and DGFT have under-

taken to monitor the status and related difficulties faced by stakeholders on Russia/Ukraine trade related issues. Department of Commerce/DGFT has operationalised a Russia-Ukraine Trade Helpdesk to support and seek suitable resolutions to issues related to India's International Trade.

- ❖ COVID-19 Helpdesk for 'International Trade Issues' was set up for extending immediate support to the trade community and mitigate any disruptions. In 2022-23, out of 1800+ requests received more than 1700+ were resolved.
- ❖ e-Meeting Management Systems released for online submission and consideration of requests for Policy Relaxation Committee, EPCG Committee et al.
- ❖ A single sign-on exporter-import dashboard along with an enhanced Bill Repository to provide a complete 360-degree view to the exporters/importers to manage their requests under the Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures.
- ❖ AI Based Virtual Assistant (ChatBot) implemented to provide any answers to trade related queries 24x7 online.

DGFT also endeavours to provide a robust rules-based Risk Management System (RMS) using Business Analytics Tools for expediting decision making.

The given systems have the potential to be organically grown into a 'Total Exporter Network' so that all international trade related services may be provided through a single system and window.

11. OTHER SCHEMES

(A) Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)

The Government of India is implementing a scheme Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) w.e.f. FY 2017-18 with the objective to assist Central and State Government Agencies for creation of appropriate infrastructure for growth of exports from the States. The Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or for up-gradation of export infrastructure as per the guidelines of the Scheme. The Central Government assistance for infrastructure creation is in the form of grant-in-aid, normally not more than the equity being put in by the implementing agency or 50 per cent of the total

equity in the project (in case of projects located in NE States and Himalayan States including J&K, this grant can be upto 80 per cent of the total equity). In addition, the States with relative poor export infrastructure, lacking institutional capacity for preparing good DPRs but have positive export potential, this grant can be upto 80 per cent of the total equity. The grant-in-aid is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 crore, normally, for each project. The Scheme has been extended for 15th Finance Commission Period i.e. FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 with total outlay of Rs. 360 crore.

During FY 2022-23 (till 22nd November 2022), one meeting of the Empowered Committee on TIES has been held on 01.09.2022.

A total of 65 projects have been sanctioned under TIES till date (22nd November 2022) and are located in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Manipur, Delhi, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tripura, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand, Punjab, Haryana, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Bihar.

(B) Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme

The Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme plays a catalytic role to promote exports of Indian goods and services by providing financial support to eligible agencies such as Export Promotion Councils, Apex Trade Bodies, etc., to undertake necessary initiatives and projects towards exploring new markets and consolidating the existing markets for Indian exports. The activities supported under the MAI Scheme include training in exports, market research, capacity building, branding, meeting statutory regulations in importing markets, etc., apart from participation in fairs and exhibitions. The normal sharing pattern is 65%: 35%, i.e. 65% of the expenditure is covered by the Government grant and 35 per cent by the industry contribution. In the case of priority sectors, the share is in the ratio of 90%:10% between the Government and the industry contribution. The priority sectors are agri and food products, handicraft, handlooms, GI Products, carpets, leather, sports goods & toys, silk, wool, jute and minor forest produce, exporters from North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and hill areas, exporters belonging to SC/ ST and women exporters.

MAI Scheme, 2021: The Government has approved continuation of the Market Access Initiative (MAI)

Scheme in a revised form, with an outlay of Rs.1000 crore over the period of five years beyond 31st March 2021, i.e. upto 31st March 2026.

Salient features of the MAI Scheme, 2021

- ❖ Focus has been brought on capacity building of exporters on standards and regulations, export packaging, export-oriented skill development and also development of districts as export hub.
- ❖ Focus has also been brought on promotion of traditional Indian products and services like AYUSH, Yoga, GI products, crafts and artisanal products including toys, tribal products, etc; promotion of e-Business tools, communication technology, etc.
- ❖ Priority sector status has been given to employment generating agri-based sectors of wool, silk and GI, in addition to the existing handicrafts, handlooms, carpets, leather, toys, sports goods, minor forest produce including jute, agricultural including food items.
- ❖ Exporters from North Eastern Region (NER), Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and hill regions and people belonging to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and women exporters would be eligible for priority sector funding and they would also be given preference in the activities under the Scheme.
- ❖ To deal with pandemic situations like COVID-19, digital / hybrid export promotion activities have been included in addition to the activities/events in physical settings.
- ❖ In order to ensure that the benefits of the Scheme reach a larger number of exporters, a maximum of three participations in a particular trade fair/exhibition would only be eligible for MAI

assistance, i.e., members who have availed assistance three times (including past cases) for a particular fair/exhibition, thereafter have to participate in that fair on their own. In the case of exporters belonging to SC/ ST/ Women and the exporters having f.o.b. value of exports of or less than Rs. 50 crore in a year, 5 participations in a particular event is allowed.

- ❖ Smaller exporters get the expenses on airfare for participating in approved export promotion activities abroad reimbursed. The eligibility of export turnover for such airfare reimbursement has been raised from Rs. 30 crore per annum to Rs. 50 crore per annum.
- ❖ On sharing basis and subject to ceiling, expenditure incurred by exporters on statutory compliances abroad (such as registration charges paid in case of pharmaceuticals, bio-technology, chemicals/ agro-chemicals, agricultural/ animal/marine products, food products; testing charges of engineering products, which require mandatory testing abroad for exports, etc.,) is provided to the exporters through the EPC concerned.
- ❖ Restriction on hosting of foreign buyers from the developed countries/ markets in the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets organized in India has been removed.

Assistance of Rs. 336.09 crore have been approved under the Market Access Initiative Scheme for 551 proposals from the Export Promotion Councils and Trade Bodies etc. for undertaking export promotion activities in physical/ virtual/ hybrid mode during FY 2022-23.

Budgetary allocation made for the Market Access Initiative Scheme during the last three years and utilisation made under the Scheme are as under:

(Values in Rs. crore)

Year	BE Provision	RE Provision	Actual expenditure
2019-20	300.00	325.00	325.00
2020-21	300.00	171.40	171.40
2021-22	200.00	140.00	140.00
2022-23 (as on 30.11.2022)	200.00	--	88.57

(C) Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS)

- ❖ Services sector represents the most dynamic aspect of international trade and foundation of the global economy. Services sector contributes significantly to India's GDP, FDI inflow, exports and job creation. In 2021-22, India's services export crossed US\$ 250 billion milestone and reached to US\$ 254 billion registering a growth rate of about 23 per cent over 2020-21 period.
- ❖ Government of India has approved the 'Action Plan for Champion Sectors in Services' to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors, namely, Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services, Tourism & Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport & Logistics Services, Accounting and

Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services.

- ❖ Till date, out of total dedicated fund of Rs.5000 crore to be utilised under CSSS, Sectoral Schemes amounting of Rs.3839.25 crore have been approved by EFC/SC for 2019-20 to 2023-24.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19 disruptions, the amount allocation under different sectoral schemes upto 2021-22 could not be utilized fully. For implementation of CSSS, the approval for continuation of the scheme within the approval financial outlay have been conveyed to Nodal Ministries/Departments whose schemes were approved under CSSS.

ANNUAL REPORT

1. EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS (EPCs)

Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are organizations of exporters, registered as non-profit organizations under the Companies Act/Societies Registration Act. Roles and functions of these Councils are guided by the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 (extended upto 31.03.2023) which also recognizes them as registering authorities for exporters. The details of various EPCs are as follows:

(A) Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC)

The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), the apex trade body of the Indian Gem & Jewellery industry has completed 56 years of its existence this year. It has approximately 8502 members as on December 2022. The Gem & Jewellery sector is among India's leading foreign exchange earning sectors. Exports of Gem & Jewellery from India during the fiscal year 2022-23 (upto November 2022) registered a performance of US\$ 26,552.63 million, showing a growth of 2.03 per cent as compared to US\$ 26,023.59 million for the same period previous year. Despite of sluggish demand from major export markets like the USA, Hong Kong, Israel, UK & Netherlands and rising interest costs, Gems & Jewellery exports have managed to register growth during the first half of fiscal year 2022-23 which is likely to continue further in view of supportive Government policies and ease of doing business.

During the year 2022-23, the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) organised the following shows:

- ❖ IJS Premiere 2022 from 4th to 8th August 2022 in Mumbai, one of the largest shows in the world.
- ❖ International Gems & Jewellery Show (IGJS) from 10th to 12th May 2022 in Jaipur.
- ❖ India Global Connect meet with Malaysia on 2nd June 2022 to understand the current business scenario with regard to the Gems & Jewellery sector and have discussions among manufacturers, exporters and importers to explore trade opportunities.
- ❖ Banking Summit on 14th October 2022 to discuss & deliberate and promote better banking & business

practices for sector's development.

- ❖ The India Jewellery Exposition (IJEX), a 365-day exhibition at Dubai to display goods and generate business throughout the year.
- ❖ Participation of Indian manufacturers in five International Shows organised at Doha Jewellery & Watches Exhibition 2022 (9th-13th May 2022), JCK 2022 (10th-13th June 2022), Vicenza Fall 2022 (9th-13th September 2022), Jewellery and Gem World Singapore 2022 (27th-30th September 2022) and 13th India Week New York 2022.

(i) Special Notified Zone (SNZ) for consignment import of rough diamonds

The SNZ created at Mumbai is in its seventh year of operations and has been conducting operations very successfully. All the major mining companies of the world are regularly conducting their viewings. It has received a very good response from the Indian diamond industry and has been especially beneficial to the MSMEs with average number of visitors per viewing at 178 and average number of companies per viewing at 73. A total of 1011 unique companies from across India have visited the SNZ and attended viewings.

Since its inception, more than 13.4 million carats of rough diamonds valuing US\$ 2.7 billion were displayed in IDTC-SNZ. Major foreign mining companies viz. ALROSA-Russia, De Beers-UK, Rio Tinto-Australia, Dominion Diamond Corp - Canada and Okavango Diamond Company (ODC)- Botswana, accounting for more than 85 per cent of global rough diamonds production worldwide, display their diamonds for viewings.

One more SNZ has been set up at Surat International Dia Trade Center (SIDC) in Surat which is the largest diamond manufacturing centre in India. The creation of the SNZ has ensured regular availability of direct rough diamond supply in the country, especially for smaller manufacturers.

(B) Council for Leather Exports (CLE)

The Leather Industry holds a prominent place in the Indian economy providing employment to about 4.42 million people, mostly from the weaker sections of the society. Women employment is predominant in

leather products sector with about 40 per cent share. The leather industry is bestowed with an affluence of raw materials as India is endowed with 20 per cent of world cattle & buffalo and 11 per cent of world goat & sheep population. The strength of leather industry in the country lies in skilled manpower, innovative technology, increasing industry compliance to international environmental standards, and dedicated support of the allied industries. India is the second largest producer of footwear, second largest exporter of leather garments, third largest exporter of saddlery & harness and fourth largest exporter of leather goods in the world.

(i) Export Performance

(a) Export Performance during 2021-22

The export of Leather and Leather products for the period April 2021-March 2022 touched US\$ 4,872.70 million as against the performance of US\$ 3,681.58 million in April 2020-March 2021, recording a growth of 32.35 per cent.

(b) Export Performance during 2022-23

The export of Leather, Leather products and Footwear for the period April-October 2022 touched US\$ 3,231.78 million as against the performance of US\$ 2,673.43 million in April-October 2021, recording growth of 20.89 per cent. The export summary for April-October 2022 vis-à-vis April-October 2021 is as under:

(Value in US\$ million)

Category	April-October 2021	April-October 2022	% variation	% share in 2021	% share in 2022
Finished Leather	263.52	256.90	-2.51	9.86	7.95
Leather Footwear	1101.64	1457.11	32.27	41.21	45.09
Footwear Components	140.44	169.63	20.78	5.25	5.25
Leather Garments	203.23	221.46	8.97	7.60	6.85
Leather Goods	707.66	804.85	13.73	26.47	24.90
Saddlery And Harness	158.64	148.11	-6.64	5.93	4.58
Non-Leather Footwear	98.3	173.72	76.72	3.68	5.38
Total	2673.43	3231.78	20.89	100.00	100.00

Source: DGCI&S

(ii) Policy Support Measures

In order to maintain the export growth momentum, the Government announced the following support measures.

- ❖ Extension of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 till 31st March 2023.
- ❖ Notification of Duty-Free Scheme under Import of Goods under Concessional Rates of Duty (IGCR) Scheme in Union Budget 2022-23. Under this scheme, exporters of leather garments and footwear & other leather products can import notified inputs/components/raw materials without Customs Duty.
- ❖ Animal quarantine clearance for import of all types of processed and finished leathers under HS codes 4104 to 4115 notified were removed Vide Notifica-

tion S.O. 4953 (E), dated 2nd December 2021 of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, as part of ease of doing business measures.

- ❖ Interest equalization on rupee export credit was notified for the period 1st October 2021 till 31st March 2024, with 3 per cent equalization for MSME manufacturer exporters exporting under any HS lines and 2 per cent for manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters exporting under 410 HS lines, including all categories of footwear as well as leather goods under 4201 & 4205.

(iii) Export Promotion Activities

On account of the Pandemic, participation of members could be organized only in 4 physical events during 2021-22, which included Reverse BSM held in New Delhi. Nevertheless, 18 Virtual Business Meets

with various countries were organized during 2021-22 in close coordination with the concerned Indian Embassies abroad.

During 2022-23, participation of exporters have been organized in 6 international specialized fairs and 1 Reverse BSM (in India) under the Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAIS). Participation in 21 more export promotion events has been planned during the period October 2022 to March 2023.

(C) Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL)

CHEMEXCIL was constituted in 1963 under the Companies Act, 1956 with the aim of promoting the export of chemical products. The Council's head office is located in Mumbai and it has four Regional Offices at New Delhi, Bangalore, Kolkata and Ahmadabad. The total membership of the Council as on 1st December 2022 is 1872. The Council is entrusted with the export promotion activities of the following products:

- ❖ Dyes & Dye Intermediates
- ❖ Inorganic & Organic chemicals, including Agro chemicals
- ❖ Cosmetics, Soaps, Toiletries and Essential oils
- ❖ Castor Oil

During FY 2022-23, Chemexcil had organized / participated in following export promotion events / activities:

- ❖ Participated in Chemspec Europe-2022 dated 31st May-1st June 2022 at Frankfurt, Germany
- ❖ Participated in Coating Expo Vietnam 2022 dated 3rd-5th August 2022 at Saigon Exhibition and Convention Centre, SECC, Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam
- ❖ Participated in 40th Dyechem Bangladesh 2022, dated 31st-3rd September 2022 at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ Participated in India International Beauty Fair at Hall 5, Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai from 16th-18th May 2022.
- ❖ Participated in China Inter dye Exhibition - 2022 via Online Match-making Platform dated 7th-9th September 2022 at Hangzhou, China.

- ❖ Participated in India Chem-2022 event at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi 2nd-3rd November 2022.
- ❖ Organized outreach Program on "GST Refunds and e-Invoicing" with GST Commissionaire Tamil Nadu along-with Chemexcil Membership awareness program on 16th June 2022 at Hotel Raj Park, Chennai.
- ❖ Organized seminar on "Growth of Exports through FTAs" at Hotel Orchid, Mumbai on 29th September 2022.
- ❖ Organized seminar On "Growth of Exports through FTA's & Global Markets & Rupee Outlook for Q4-22" 23rd November 2022 Wednesday at Vatva Industries Association

Seminars/Outreach Programs/Webinars

- ❖ Chemexcil outreach program on Unlocking Business Opportunities: India's Trade Agreement with UAE & Australia, Hotel Lalit, High Grounds, Opposite Golf Club, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru on 12th May 2022
- ❖ Chemexcil organized Membership awareness program with DIC Raigad and MMA, Mahad on 15th June 2022 at Mahad CETP, MIDC Birwadi
- ❖ Organised Export Conclave and Membership Awareness Program at DIC Palghar 26th September 2022 at TIMA HALL, MIDC, Boisar, Tal. & Dist. Palghar
- ❖ Chemexcil's participation at the Indian Exporters Summit & Business Excellence Awards with a theme: Atmanirbhar Bharat: Accelerating SME Export for a New India.
- ❖ Council has also conducted Webinars on various topics like –Boost Your Export Competitiveness through MSME Schemes, Role of ECGC in Exports and ECGC-products and its features, Global Financial Markets outlook & Managing Export Business, Bonded Manufacturing & Warehousing Scheme, Grow your Cosmetics Business globally with easy e-commerce exports, Domestic Production Opportunities in the context of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, Understanding China's Cosmetic Ingredient Safety Information Submission Platform and your compliance obligations, How to find right buyer & Market for Cosmetic Products, Digital

Marketing for Cosmetic Export / Post COVID Digital marketing, Chemical Regulatory Framework in Colombia, Forex Risk Management, Export Opportunity in Cosmetics across the world, Pan-India “Customs Authority for Advance Rulings”, How to comply with chemical regulations in China? And China's Cosmetic Ingredient Compliance, Introduction of New Pesticide Registration in China and China's Fertilizer Regulations and Risk Management, UK Chemicals Regulations: Challenges and Moving Forward, Chemical Regulatory Framework in Colombia: Latest updates, KKDIK Turkey REACH registration: SIEFs Consortia and Dossier Preparation, Interplay of Customs, FTP & GST on Cross Border transactions, Doing Business with China, Growth of Exports through FTAs, RBI Guidelines for exports- exports bills and payments, MSDS Regulation Updates and Obligation in South Korea, etc.

(D) Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL)

The Plastics Export Promotion Council was established in 1955 and registered under the Companies Act 1956, with the aim of promoting the export of Plastics & Linoleum products from India. The Council's head office is located in Mumbai and it has four regional offices at Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmadabad and New Delhi. The total membership of the Council as on 1st December 2022 is 2,676. The Council functions under the guidance of its Committee of Administration (CoA) and under the overall supervision of the Department of Commerce. The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the following product panel:

- ❖ Consumer & house ware products
- ❖ Cordage, fishnets & mono filaments
- ❖ FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin
- ❖ Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates
- ❖ FRP & Composites
- ❖ Human hair & related products
- ❖ Medical items of plastics
- ❖ Miscellaneous products and items.
- ❖ Packaging items - flexible, rigid
- ❖ Plastic films and sheets

- ❖ Plastic pipes & fittings
- ❖ Plastic raw materials
- ❖ Writing instruments & stationery
- ❖ Merchant exports

During FY 2022-23 PLEXCONCIL had organized / participated in the following export promotion events/activities

- ❖ The Council successfully hosted the Export Excellence Awards for the period 2017-2021 on the 16th April 2022 at the Taj President, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai to felicitate the stupendous achievements of exporters during the said period. The event was graced by Shri. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, as Chief Guest.
- ❖ PLEXCONCIL and Plastindia Foundation organized one of the largest Government-sponsored country pavilions at K Fair 2022- the world's No.1 exhibition for plastics held at Dusseldorf, Germany from 19th to 26th October 2022. The trade fair witnessed over 147+ MSMEs who showcased 'Made in India' products and technology to the collective plastics world. The Council, in its mega global reach-out drive to boost exports of value-added plastic products, interacted with 30+ countries, international plastics associations, chambers of commerce, trade bodies and industry associations to join hands and collaborate to boost bilateral trade.
- ❖ Organised VBSM with 16 companies with the South Korean Buyer M/s. Daiso Co, Ltd, South Korea on 26th April 2022 providing each company a time slot to meet the buyer in a separate virtual room providing access for the Indian Seller to share the screen to promote their company profile and products.
- ❖ Embassy of India, Bogota, Colombia jointly with the Council organized B2B Meeting (Virtual) with an importer of Columbia on 2nd June 2022. Colombian Importer had the opportunity to discuss with the Indian suppliers during the one to one meeting.
- ❖ Council participated in IPLAS Show 2022 held during 10th-13th June 2022 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai organized by M/s Tamil Nadu Plastics

Manufacturers Association (TAPMA). This Show was a sourcing platform for plastics and its allied industries and to showcase the advancements, growth and opportunities for the plastics particularly from Southern India.

- ❖ High Commission of India, Accra, Ghana jointly with PLEXCONCIL organized India-Ghana Virtual Meet/BSM for the Plastic sector, 2nd August 2022. In the inaugural session H.E. Mr. Sugandh Rajaram, High Commissioner of India to Ghana delivered the keynote address. Mr Arvind Goenka, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL also made a presentation on India's strength and potential of Plastic sectors for trade and business with Ghana.
- ❖ Embassy of India, Guatemala jointly with PLEXCONCIL organized India-Guatemala Virtual Meet/BSM for the Plastic sector, on 7th September, 2022.
- ❖ Council organized a Virtual Business Meeting to discuss on the India's Export performance on Plastics to Nigeria 22nd September 2022. Objective of the meeting was to discuss primarily on the India's export performance of Plastics to Nigeria.
- ❖ Council participated in 11th Plastics Japan 2022 Show, Tokyo, Japan for the first time with 6 exhibitors held during 7th-9th December 2022 at Tokyo, Japan. Plastic Japan 2022 the World's Leading Show for Advanced Plastics & Equipment. It is a specialised show for Plastic, CFRP, Cellulose Nano Fiber and Bio Plastic.
- ❖ Council participated at the "Industry Hackathon" organised by Laghu Udyog Bharti, MSME and Sharda University at Sharda university Campus on 28th December, 2022. The event marked a special invitee from MSME, Laghu Udyog Bharti and professors from Sharda University, Ministry of Heavy Industries, India Investment Forums.

Seminars/Outreach Programs/Webinars

- ❖ Council organised a Webinar on Export Credit Risk Management with ECGC Ltd on 24th June 2022; a Webinar on New Policy/Guidelines on Plastic Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibilities (EPR) and Alternative to Single Use Plastic on 28th June 2022; a Webinar on Introduction to Trade Remedy Measures and Technical Barriers to

Trade for Plastic Industries on 29th July 2022; a Webinar on Importance of Insurance and Risk Management for Plastic Industry on 23rd November 2022 on virtual Platform, a Webinar on "EU Plastics Recycled Materials updates (1616/2022/EC) for the food contact applications on 16th December 2022.

- ❖ Council in coordination with the Embassy of India, Yangon, Myanmar organized the webinar titled "Enhancing India-Myanmar Business Ties in Plastic Related Items and Polymer" on 14th July 2022 to facilitate buyer-seller interaction to promote exports from India.
- ❖ Council jointly with NSIC – SC/ST Hub Chennai organised a Capacity Building Program on "Opportunities for Exports" on 18th August 2022 at MSME Development Institute (DI), Chennai. The primary objective of the program was to bring the SC/ST Entrepreneurs to the export fold and guide them to access the international markets. The program also highlighted the various schemes and export subsidies offered by the Ministry of MSME through NSIC and MSME DI.
- ❖ Council jointly with Ministry of MSME-DFO, Mumbai along with Trade Promotion Wing of DGFT organized a Capacity building and awareness Program on Export Promotion & ZED Certification Schemes for Plastic Industry in association with District Industries Centre (DIC) - Mumbai, Department of Industries - on 21st September 2022 (Wednesday) at Mumbai.
- ❖ Council jointly with the Trade Promotion Wing of DGFT organized an Export outreach / Capacity building program for Plastic Industry in association with District Industries Centre (DIC)-Department of Industries-Daman and Daman Industries Association (DIA) on 23rd September 2022 (Friday) at Daman.
- ❖ Council organized an Export outreach / Capacity building program for Plastic Industry in association with Chhattisgarh Plastic Nirmata Sangh, Raipur on 27th September, 2022. This program provided a unique platform to share knowledge, exchange new ideas and helped Plastic Industry on guidance for export activity.

- ❖ Council jointly with TAAPMA (Telangana & Andhra Pradesh Plastic Manufacturers Association) organized a Capacity Building Program on “Opportunities for Exports - MSME Sector International Trade in Indian Rupee” in association with Additional DGFT, MSME DI, District Industries Centre (DIC)- Ranga Reddy DT, ECGC and ICICI Bank on 28th September 2022 at Conference Hall, FTCCI, Red Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ Council jointly with District Industries Centre (DIC), Department Industries & Commerce; Government of Karnataka organised a Capacity Building Program on “Technology Up-gradation & Opportunities for Exports - Plastics Sector” in association with Karnataka State Polymers Association (KSPA), DGFT, CIPET, and MSME DI on 15th December 2022 (Thursday) at Hotel Siddharta, Nazarbad, Mysuru.

(E) Chemicals & Allied products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)

CAPEXIL, a premier Export Promotion Council, was set up in 1958 under the Companies Act, 1956. The Council's Registered Office and Head office is located in Kolkata and it has four regional offices located at Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and New Delhi. The Council functions under the guidance of its Committee of Administration (CoA) and under overall supervision of the Department of Commerce, Government of India. The Council is entrusted with the export promotion activities of Chemical based Allied Products which includes Bulk Minerals and Ores, Natural Stone Products, Processed Minerals, Paper & Paper Board Products, Auto Tyre and Tubes, Rubber Products, Ceramics and Allied Products, Glass and Glassware, Plywood and Allied Products, Cement, Clinkers and Asbestos products, Graphite and explosives, Books, Publications & Printing products, Paints, Printing Ink and Allied Products, Miscellaneous Chemical Products, Ossein and Gelatin and Animal by-products. The total membership of the Council as on 1st December 2022 is 4187.

During FY 2022-23, CAPEXIL organised following export promotional events/activities:

- ❖ Organised member's participation in Covering's 2022 Exhibition at the Las Vegas Convention Centre in Las Vegas, NV from 5th to 8th April 2022.
- ❖ Organised the members participation in the Abu Dhabi International Book fair held from 23rd-29th May 2022 on self-finance basis.
- ❖ Organized participation of members in the Riyadh International Book Fair to be held from 28th September 2022 to 8th October 2022.
- ❖ Organised participation of Members in the Frankfurt Book Fair under MAI Scheme of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry from 19th to 23rd October 2022.
- ❖ Council's Book Division organized Sharjah International Book Fair covering Books, Publications and Printing Services under MAI Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India for the year 2022-23.
- ❖ Organised Virtual India Packaging Fair from 25th April to 27th April 2022 in which 20 member exporters participated in the Fair.
- ❖ Organised Virtual B2B meetings between Indian Exporters & South African Importers dealing in Kitchenware, Tableware and Pottery ware on 9th June 2022 in association with Consulate General of India, Johannesburg, South Africa.
- ❖ Organized virtual B2B Meet between selected member exporters & Japanese Importer of Processed Minerals on the 2nd September 2022 in association with the O/o Embassy of India, Japan.
- ❖ Organized “Virtual Buyer Seller Meet between Indian Exporters of Ceramic Products and Brazilian Importers” in association with Morbi Ceramic Manufacturer Association exclusively for the State of Gujarat under the Aegis of the Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo” on 5th, 6th, 8th & 9th September 2022.
- ❖ Council in association with the Embassy of India organised a Virtual Buyer Seller Meet on 28th October 2022 for sourcing of Multipurpose Paper from India between a buyer from USA and two suppliers from India.
- ❖ Council organized “Virtual Buyer Seller Meet between Indian Exporters of Ceramic Products and Qatari Importers” in association with IBPC, Qatar under the Aegis of the Embassy of India in Qatar on 01.11.2022.

Seminars/ Outreach Programs/ Webinars

- ❖ Conducted a Webinar on “Current Trend in Supply Chain Management After Impact of Pandemic” on Thursday, 28th April 2022.
- ❖ CAPEXIL conducted Seminar-Cum-Interactive Session with GST, BIS and ICICI on 27.05.2022 at Beverly Hotel. Around 50 members attended this event.
- ❖ Organised a Webinar on “Role of ECGC in Export” held on 19th May 2022, Webinar Programme on “Digital Marketing for Exports and their advantages in the current scenario” on 17th June 2022, a webinar Programme with Exim Bank on “Their Products & Services” and with MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB) on “Tamil Nadu Government Incentives & Schemes for MSME” held on 29th June 2022, a Webinar Programme with SIDBI, Chennai on “Role of SIDBI in Propelling Growth of MSME” held on 15th July 2022, a Webinar Programme with O/o Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM), Chennai, and O/o Director of Foreign Post, Chennai on 29th July 2022, a Webinar Programme with Export Inspection Council, Chennai on “Role of Export Inspection Council” & EXIM Consultants, Chennai on 16th September, 2022, a Webinar on the topic “Export Documentation and Procedures” on 26th September 2022, a Webinar Programme with Indian Institute of Packaging, Chennai, on “Role of IIP, Packaging for Export & UN Certification” on 19th October 2022, a webinar on the topic “FTA and its Potential Benefits” on 28th October 2022.
- ❖ Organized "Sensitization Workshop of Exporters/Importers" with DGCIS on 6th September 2022 at 11.00 am on WebEx.
- ❖ CAPEXIL conducted Webinar Programme with MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Chennai and National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), New Delhi on 18th November 2022.

- ❖ CAPEXIL organised a webinar on “Export Incentive Schemes for Exporters & Trade Proposition for Exporters for Export Bill Regularization” on 2nd December 2022.

(F) Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL)

The Shellac Export Promotion Council was founded in June 1957, under the Companies Act, 1956. Its name was changed to Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) on 08.02.2007. The Council’s registered office is located at Kolkata and it has no additional branch or regional office. The Council functions under the guidance of its Committee of Administration (CoA) and under the overall supervision of the Department of Commerce. The total membership of the Council as on 1st December 2022 is 769.

Shefexil is the designated Nodal EPC for Non Timber Forest Produce and also for products from North-East region. The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the following products:

- ❖ Shellac and Lac based Products;
- ❖ Vegetable Saps & Extracts of herbs;
- ❖ Guar Gum;
- ❖ Plant & Plant Portion (Herbs);
- ❖ Fixed vegetable, Oil cake and others;
- ❖ Other vegetable materials;
- ❖ Multi products belonging to the North Eastern region

During FY 2022-23, SHEFEXIL organized following Export Promotional Events/ Activities:

Council, in association with Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata Campus has arranged for Management Development Programme on Foreign Trade Management, 10 hours e-lecture series.

Export Performance

(Values in US\$ million)

EPC	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (April- November)
Chemexcil	19142.37	18267.42	17533.04	24313.88	15359.13
Plexconcil	11019.94	10011.11	9860.99	13352.23	8,177.5
Capexil	22701.83	22490.53	25787.63	31263.83	18932.85
Shefexil	2651.07	2608.72	2362.30	2779.66	1905.50
Total	55515.21	53377.78	55543.96	71709.59	44374.98

(G) Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC)

The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC) is working for the promotion of India's exports of sports goods and toys. The SGEPC represents all the leading manufacturers and exporters of sports goods and toys in India.

The SGEPC's range of activities include both that spur the industry's performance on one hand and those which helps to promote its presence internationally, on the other. With all the physical activities on hold due to pandemic, the SGEPC had a very challenging task to promote the Exports of the sector. This was overcome by providing its members virtual platforms to engage with the international buyers and to continue carrying out export business.

With the respite in the pandemic situation and travel restrictions being relaxed in 2022-23, European countries (including UK) made it possible to hold physical events again. The SGEPC was able to organize trade promotion activities like conducting a BSM in UK and Ireland, Indian participation in International Trade fairs, visits of business delegations to India and other promotional campaigns in international markets etc.

The Council is working with its members in providing all the necessary support to convert the current situation into an opportunity. The SGEPC with its focused plan and Export Promotion strategy was able to achieve the exports of US\$ 546 million.

In the year 2021-22 the Indian Sports Goods and Toys have been exported to 140 countries. The top ten destinations for export of sports Goods and Toys remained almost the same. The U.K. held the first place in top ten destination ranking followed by USA, Australia, Germany, France, Netherlands, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and Canada.

The Export Promotion Activities carried out during the year 2022-23 are:

(i) BSM in UK & Ireland (13th-17th June 2022)

BSM Sports Goods and Toys was a 2 Countries and 3-city B2B meet held in the UK & Ireland to showcase the leading Indian suppliers for Sports Goods, Toys, Games and Sportswear. 41 Indian companies displayed their products at the event held in 3 Cities.

UK is the single largest Market for Indian Sports Goods & Toys, contributing 22 per cent in the Indian exports of the sector. UK imports Sports Goods & Toys worth US\$ 8,200 million and the Indian share in UK's import is under 1 per cent. Whereas Imports of Ireland for the sector are US\$ 720 million and India exports Sports Goods & Toys worth US\$ 10 million with a share of just over 1 per cent. Hence both the Markets have huge potential.

(ii) Autumn Fair, Birmingham, UK (4th-7th September 2022)

The SGEPC organized for the participation of 11 Indian Sports Goods & Toy manufacturing companies in the event. The participation was organized to strengthen the market and increase India's Market Share in the UK market. These Companies displayed Sports Goods, Toys, Games, Sportswear and Accessories manufactured in India at the event. There were 1,726 participants in the event, exhibiting their products. The show was attended by more than 25,000 buyers from wholesale, Retail and Brands. The 11 Indian Companies showcased their products to these visitors and the Indian companies received a very positive response.

(iii) RBSM on Toys (Kids India) India (15th-17th September 2022)

India is one of the most promising and upcoming hubs

for manufacturing of toys and Sports Goods. The quality and design of the products are comparable to the international standards. However, there is a need to portray the vast production base, growth and excellence involved in this sector to the world market. As a measure to boost exports, SGEPC has been inviting buyers from outside India for the last few years. The response has been encouraging. This is the most cost-effective way to boost export as the buyers get to see the products India has to offer under one roof and it also saves the exporters the hassle of carrying their entire range to the buyers.

The Kids India, since its launch in 2013, has established itself as the largest international B2B fair for toys, children's products and sports goods. The Kids India 2022 – Mumbai was held from 15th-17th September 2022 at JIO World Convention Centre, Mumbai. This year the reverse buyer seller meet was organized for international buyers to visit 'Kids India 2022 as the event has more than 150 Indian Toy manufacturing companies exhibiting their products at the event including 30 SGEPC member exporting companies.

The buyers were happy with the overall display by Indian exhibitors and most of the buyers invited under MAI Scheme were impressed by the Indian Product quality and the Indian Exhibitors were very pleased by the quality of the buyers invited and the business enquiries generated.

(iv) Dubai Muscle Show, 2022 (28th-30th October 2022)

Dubai Muscle Show is the Middle East's largest fitness event, where fitness fanatics can meet the stars of the industry, find inspiration, access the world's best and latest fitness products, get expert advice and training tips, have a full weekend of entertainment and fun, watch exciting competitions and demos.

As part of the ongoing growth and demand from the fitness, wellness and sport professional community to have a dedicated platform in the region for networking and new business development, they have launched Dubai Active Industry. The format and event programme caters for the requirements of the industry by bringing sports industry buyers and sellers together, fostering partnerships that can spur growth, and enabling the industry to network in a dynamic environment. Over an action packed 3 days,

on 28th-30th October 2022, Dubai Muscle Show was the best opportunity for the fitness and sporting brands looking to raise awareness, generate leads and gain new customers.

Around 30,000 industry visitors came to Dubai Muscle Show with over 300 Exhibiting brands from 32 Exhibiting Countries. The countries with the largest number of visitors (in this order) were UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, India and UK. India Once again marked its presence through Sports Goods Export Promotion Council. 10 Leading manufacturers with varied product profile displayed their products in 5 different halls. The event was organized under 'Market Access Initiative' scheme of the Government of India. Total of 10 Exhibitors participated through The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council.

(v) ISPO, 2022 (28th-30th November 2022)

ISPO MUNICH 2022 was held from 28th to 30th November 2022 in physical form after a gap of more than 2 years. 1,700 international exhibitors and 40,000 trade visitors from 117 countries came to the restart of ISPO Munich at the Munich exhibition grounds over the three days. Under the motto “New Perspectives on Sports”, the world's leading sports trade fair offered a host of product innovations, a conference program featuring prominent speakers, and many well-known sports personalities as guests.

Sustainability is becoming a higher priority as each one is responsible for the planet; the sporting goods industry can do its part by using sustainable materials and production processes. Consumers are also increasingly demanding that products be made in an environmentally conscious manner and be recyclable. The industry has an opportunity to become trailblazers and to set standards before government regulators take matters into their own hands.

Alongside the product innovations of the more than 1,700 exhibitors, ISPO Munich offered extensive insights at its November premiere into the entire ecosystem of the sports industry. Just under 90 per cent of the exhibitors came from abroad, and a total of more than 50 countries were represented. The five countries with the most exhibitors were Germany, Italy, France, China and Taiwan. Around 20 per cent of them were at ISPO Munich for the first time. The 40,000 trade visitors came from a total of 117 coun-



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(iii) Progress of Project Exports during 2017-18 to 2022-23 (April to December)

Value	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (April-December)(P)
Rs. in crore	28,209	27,186	29,948.00	12,821.63	22,255.60	27,757.84
US\$ million	4,360	3,860	4,240.74	1,743.95	2,980.89	3,464.32

Source: Information received from member companies, news clippings from various print and online media platforms, P : Provisional

Activities

- ❖ PEPC Facilitated participation of its members at India Exim Bank's Summit on 'Enhancing Global Opportunities for Indian Project Exporters' 5th May 2022, The Leela Palace, New Delhi
 - ◆ At the Summit there was Experience Sharing Session by Indian Project Exporters wherein our member Project exporters Kalpataru Power, Transmission Ltd., KEC International Ltd., Afcons Infrastructure Ltd., Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd., and NBCC (India) Ltd. shared their experience on areas where Indian project exporters possess competitive advantage, what stalls their progress in some of the emerging areas and markets; and what product-market mix may be evolved to give further impetus to project exports.
- ❖ PEPC facilitated participation of members at Outreach Programme, Unlocking Business Opportunities: India's Trade Agreements with UAE & Australia organized by SEPC at Bengaluru on 12th May 2022
- ❖ PEPC organized Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 27th May 2022 at New Delhi.
 - ◆ Mr. Shashi Chaturvedi, Management Consultant (IB) spoke on Existing Government policy and applicable Regulations Project Exports & Exchange Control Regulations Project Exports & Customs.
 - ◆ There was a session on Management of Foreign Exchange Export Proceeds by Mr. Ritesh Victor, Co-Founder & Country Head- Myforexeye Fintech Pvt Ltd.
 - ◆ Representatives from ECGC and Exim Bank briefed upon GoI Schemes & Products of ECGC and Exim Bank respectively for Project Exports & associated processes.
- ❖ PEPC attended Exim Bank's 'Business Outreach Seminar for Infrastructure Projects under GoI-supported Exim Bank's Lines of Credit extended to the Government of Bangladesh' on 22nd June 2022, New Delhi.
 - ◆ At the Seminar there was Experience Sharing Session by Indian Project Exporters wherein

our member Project exporters IRCON, Rites, Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Afcons Infrastructure Ltd and Transrail shared their experiences with respect of LoC projects in Bangladesh.

- ❖ PEPC organized Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 26th August 2022 at Hyderabad
 - ◆ Mr. Shashi Chaturvedi, Management Consultant (IB) spoke on Existing Government policy and applicable Regulations Project Exports & Exchange Control Regulations Project Exports & Customs
 - ◆ There was a session on Management of Foreign Exchange Export Proceeds by Mr. Ritesh Victor, Co-Founder & Country Head- Myforexeye Fintech Pvt Ltd.
 - ◆ Representatives from ECGC and Exim Bank briefed upon GOI Schemes & Products of ECGC and Exim Bank respectively for Project Exports & associated processes
- ❖ PEPC organized Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 9th December 2022 at Kolkata
 - ◆ Mr. Shashi Chaturvedi, Management Consultant (IB) spoke on Existing Government policy and applicable Regulations Project Exports & Exchange Control Regulations Project Exports & Customs and Rupee payment mechanism
 - ◆ Representatives from ECGC and Exim Bank briefed upon GoI Schemes & Products of ECGC and Exim Bank respectively for Project Exports & associated processes
 - ◆ Mr. Praveen Kumar, Secretary PEPC gave an overview of Indian Project Exports

(I) EEPC India

EEPC India is the Council set up under the aegis of Department of Commerce for promoting exports in the Engineering sector. It is a company set up under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956 (company not for profit), keeping in view the special requirement of the Indian Engineering Sector for export promotion. EEPC India is the nodal agency for issue of Registration-cum-Membership Certificate for engineering exports throughout the country under the provisions

of the Foreign Trade Policy. The organization has its headquarters at Kolkata with regional offices in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Delhi and Sub-Regional Offices in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad (Secunderabad) and Jalandhar for providing services to exporters of engineering products. With a view to establish closer connections with the engineering manufacturers & exporters and to have a better reach, EEPC India has also opened its Chapters in 15 Tier II/Tier III cities spread across the country.

As an advisory body, it actively contributes to the policies of Government of India and acts as an interface between the engineering industry and the Government. Set up in 1955, EEPC India now has a membership base of around 11,000 out of which around 60 per cent are SMEs. EEPC India facilitates sourcing from India and boosts the SMEs to raise their standard at par with the international best practices. It also encourages the SMEs to integrate their business with the global value chain. Keeping 'Engineering the Future' as the motto, EEPC India serves as the reference point for the Indian engineering industry and the international business community in its efforts towards establishing India as a major engineering export hub.

(i) Engineering Exports Scenario

Engineering exports account for more than a quarter of India's total merchandise exports and around 3 per cent of GDP. In fiscal year 2021-22, export of engineering goods from India reached a record high to US\$ 112.1 billion, exceeding the target of US\$ 107.3 billion set for the sector, registering a growth of 46.12 per cent vis-à-vis 2020-21. The engineering sector contributed 26.56 per cent in the total merchandise exports of the country in 2021-22.

With a view to enhance Engineering goods exports, virtual meetings/interactions are held with the member exporters to discuss the opportunities and challenges to promote the exports in the Engineering sector and also with regard to organising / promoting business events, understanding of business environment, etc.

During April-November 2022, India's engineering exports stood at US\$ 70.7 billion viz-a-viz US\$ 72.02 billion in April-November 2021, registering a negative

growth of 1.8 per cent. Share of engineering exports to total merchandise exports was 24 per cent during April-November 2022 as compared to 27.10 per cent during the same period, last year. In cumulative terms, during April-November 2022, 22 out of 34 panels exhibited a positive year-on-year growth.

Region wise, during the period April-November 2022, North America and EU were India's top-most destinations for engineering exports with a share of 22.9 per cent and 19 per cent respectively, while ASEAN and West Asia and North Africa (WANA) ranked third & fourth with a share of 12 per cent each in India's total engineering exports.

(ii) Brand India Engineering

To accelerate exports by enhancing brand image of "Made in India" engineering quality and capabilities of Indian engineering products and services, EEPC India, is undertaking Brand "India Engineering" campaign since 2014. The initiative is implemented with the support of India Brand Equity Foundation, a Trust under Department of Commerce. Under the initiative, creation of e-Catalogues has been taken up to serve as a one stop solution to search quality Indian suppliers of internationally certified products and services. EEPC India have already launched e-Catalogues in eight sectors namely Pumps & Valves, Electrical Machinery, Medical Devices and Textiles Machinery, machine tools, agricultural machinery, construction and earthmoving machinery and hand tools.

With a view to popularize 'Made in India' brand image in the overseas markets, EEPC's publicity programme includes screening of Council's film titled 'Made in India' at various Seminars/Conferences, Buyer-Seller Meets and International Exhibitions, highlighting the industrial image of India. Copies of this film are distributed amongst Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations, both in India and abroad, Indian missions in identified thrust market and foreign missions in India.

(iii) Initiative for Technology Upgradation for Boosting Engineering Exports

One of the key initiatives of Department of Commerce, in partnership with EEPC India, is to enable upgradation of technology for boosting engineering

exports. This is being attempted through bridging the gap between leading R&D Labs and industry for the development of cutting-edge export-oriented technologies. For this purpose, technology meets/industry-academia interactions are organized in specific industrial clusters to identify the products and processes for R&D support. The initiative aims to sensitize the industry about various Government schemes available for technology upgradation and implementing the technology development initiatives in consultation with the industry requirements, in a cluster-based approach. Department of Commerce is working with Office of Principal Scientific Advisor and EEPC India in this endeavour.

Under the technology initiative, EEPC India has already entered into collaborations with International Institute of Waste Management (IIWM), National Institute of Design (NID) and various institutes of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) where the top scientists would help the engineering manufacturers in upgrading their technology and to help them to be at par with their global counterparts.

Recently, EEPC India Technology Centre has tied up with several NABL accredited Labs and ISO Certification Agencies with Regional as well as Pan India presence to facilitate prompt service at concessional rate related to testing of raw materials and finished products, Calibration of Instruments and Machines, Process Inspection and Pre-shipment inspections, Certification of Quality, Safety and Environment Standards.

On 28th November 2022, a tripartite agreement was signed between CSIR-AMPRI, EEPC India and TechnoS Instruments at Kolkata to promote the 'Make-in-India' Raman Spectrometer leading towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

To empower MSMEs with latest know-how in the field of Advanced Manufacturing techniques and enable value addition of products and to provide a platform to connect with Engineering clusters in India and interact with leading R&D Expert Panel and R&D labs, Academic Institutes across India and utilize their expertise, EEPC India Technology Centre organized various training Programmes and seminars involving more than 150 participants across the country.

Various technology meets and training programmes have been organized on Product Developments and Technology Upgradation for the Indian Engineering Sector, Training programmes with ISI on Six Sigma, AI, ML, etc. Several Tech Centre activities were undertaken for branding of physical events for e.g. IMTEX Bangalore, and MET+HTS Mumbai.

EEPC India Technology Centre have also proposed to sign a MoU with National Institute of Advanced Manufacturing Technology (NIAMT) in the upcoming flagship event International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS 2023) aimed towards upgradation of MSMEs by converting value added upgraded product in various segments including Micro, MSME and Big products. The Micro segment includes non-ferrous products e.g. brass casting, MSME segment including medical and surgical devices and Big products including upgraded steel products.

(iv) Export Promotion Activities

Department of Commerce undertakes various export promotion activities through EEPC India to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian engineering industry and to provide the overseas buyers with true value as propagated by Brand "India Engineering".

EEPC India in its endeavour to facilitate the members to continue the business momentum in the post pandemic time, resumed physical exhibitions/BSM/RBSM and organized/participated in various promotional activities to help the exporting community in connecting with global buyers. The physical exhibitions organised/participated by EEPC India included Hannover Messe 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Industrial Supply, Energy Solutions, Automation, Motion & Drives, Asia Pharma 2022 with focus on South Asia covering product sectors like Pharmaceutical machinery, Agritechnica Asia 2022 with focus on ASEAN covering product sectors like Agriculture machinery & Equipment, MCE Mostra 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like HVAC, Water management, Plumbing Technology, JIMEX 2022 with focus on WANA covering product sectors like Electrical, Mechanical Machinery, Automation, Subcon 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Subcontracting and manufacturing supply chain, Metaltech 2022 with focus on ASEAN covering

product sectors like Metalwork industry - equipment, technology, & instruments, Buyer Seller Meet in Dubai, 2022 with focus on WANA covering product sectors like Building machinery & components, Electrical machinery and equipment and parts, tube, pipe, and welding, pumps and valves, Machinery, mechanical parts, Automechanika, FRANKFURT 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Automotive Components, Garage & Workshop Equipments, International Technical Fair 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Automobiles, Electrical, Construction, Power Engineering & Environment, INDEE Tanzania 2022 with focus on Africa covering product sectors like Engineering, Multi-Products, Bangla Med Expo 2022 with focus on South Asia covering product sectors like Medical Device, Pharma Machinery, International Hardware Show 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Hand tools, Fasteners, DIY Equipment, International Industrial Fair of Bogotá 2022 with focus on LAC covering product sectors like Subcontracting, Industrial Machinery, India-Vietnam B2B 2022 with focus on ASEAN covering product sectors like auto components, agri-machinery, electrical & Electronic equipment and appliances, food processing machinery, textile machinery, International Fastener Expo 2022 with focus on North America covering product sectors like Industrial Fasteners, Tooling & Machinery, Nigeria Pharma Manufacturers' Expo 2022 with focus on Africa covering product sectors like Medical Device, Pharma Machinery, BAUMA 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Construction Machinery, VINAMAC 2022 with focus on ASEAN covering product sectors like Industrial Machinery, Equipment, Technology and Products, Gulf food Manufacturing 2022 with focus on WANA covering product sectors like food processing, packaging and supply chain, Elmia Subcontractor 2022 with focus on Europe covering product sectors like Subcontracting, Metalex Thailand 2022 with focus on South Asia covering product sectors like Metalwork industry - equipment, technology, instruments, Automechanika, Dubai 2022 with focus on WANA covering product sectors like Auto component and accessories. EEPC India also organised two RBSMs viz. RBSM in MET+HTS 2022 focusing on Material Engineering Technology and Heat Treatment and

RBSM in ITME 2022 focusing on Textile Machinery.

Apart from above, EEPC India also organized some of the virtual exhibitions including MSME Conclave 2022, India MSME Defence Week & RBSM 2022.

(v) EEPC India Digital Interface

EEPC India maintains a state of the art digital interface including web presence and mobile app and has already digitized most of the activities with a view to improve the delivery of services. Some of the noteworthy digital initiatives of EEPC India are online issuance of Registration cum Membership Certificate (RCMC), Certificate of Origin (both preferential and non-preferential), Member Export Returns, e-Store and Digital Catalogue, integrating with DGFT & e-Sanchit, etc.

(vi) Webinars

During the year, EEPC India in its endeavour to facilitate the members to continue the business momentum organized over 67 webinars and e-BSMs focused on Capacity Building Programmes, Technology upgradation sessions, training programmes on Foreign Trade Management, Export awareness seminar on RoDTEP, Session on MSME Training and Benefit of Schemes, Session on Trade and Logistics, Country wise bilateral B2B meeting, Seminar on GST amendments in Laws, Scrutiny, INDEE Tanzania Roadshow, Session for startups and green technologies and practice, etc.

(vii) Creation of an EPC for Medical Devices

Department of Commerce has approved creation of an Export Promotion Council for Medical Devices under the administrative control of Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, being the nodal Department for the medical devices sector.

- ❖ The proposed EPC shall be established with Headquarters in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh and regional offices in Andhra Pradesh (in AMTZ, Visakhapatnam) and Telangana (in Hyderabad)
- ❖ The Regional Office at Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) shall be set up in a period of one year, i.e., by the end of 2023 and the Regional Office at Hyderabad

(Telangana) shall be set up in a period of three years, i.e., by 2025

(J) Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)

SEPC is an Export Promotion Council set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India for facilitating services export from India. SEPC acts as an interface between the services industry & Government and actively contributes in the formulation of policies of Government of India.

It organizes a large number of promotional activities both in India and abroad, such as Buyer-Seller Meets (BSM), trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilion/information booths in selected exhibitions to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian Services Industry. SEPC members can avail the benefits of various schemes of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

(i) Role and Functions of SEPC

SEPC serves as a platform of interaction between the services sector industry and policy makers in the Government. Specifically, it performs the following functions:

- ❖ Implements an export promotion strategy to promote services exports
- ❖ Facilitates overseas services enquirers
- ❖ Channelizes communication and publicity

(ii) SEPC has a mandate to promote following service sectors

- ❖ Healthcare Services including Services by Nurses, Physiotherapist and Paramedical Personnel
- ❖ Educational Services
- ❖ Entertainment Services including Audio-visual Services
- ❖ Consultancy Services
- ❖ Architectural Services and related Services
- ❖ Distribution Services
- ❖ Accounting/Auditing and Book Keeping Services
- ❖ Environmental Services
- ❖ Maritime Transport Services
- ❖ Advertising Services

- ❖ Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/Management Services
- ❖ Printing & Publishing Services
- ❖ Legal Services
- ❖ Hotel and Tourism related services
- ❖ Others

(iii) Major promotional activities/events undertaken by SEPC during 2022-2023 (April-October 2022) are as follows:

- ❖ SEPC participated in high-level business delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal to Australia for Unlocking Business Opportunities during 5th-8th April 2022.
- ❖ SEPC participated in a Round Table discussion on Medical Value Travel on 21st April 2022 in Ahmedabad organized by Ministry of Ayush during Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit.
- ❖ SEPC participated in "Accountex": "Exploring Market Opportunities in the Finance Sector" on 11th & 12th May 2022, London to explore the opportunities for Accounting and Auditing Service in Europe and nearby regions. Accountex is the largest accounting and finance event in the UK and Europe. SEPC delegation was led by CA Sunil Talati, Chairman SEPC and Mr. Karan Rathore, Vice-Chairman SEPC.
- ❖ SEPC under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, organized an outreach event "Unlocking Business Opportunities: India's Trade Agreements with UAE & Australia" on 12th May 2022 at Hotel Shangri-La, Bengaluru in association with DGFT and the state of Karnataka.
- ❖ SEPC organized a Conference on "International Arbitration - An Indian Perspective" on 14th May 2022, at the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, India.
- ❖ SEPC led by Mr. Hirachand Dhand, Head, SEPC Entertainment Services along with select Industry representatives participated in the India Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival from 19th to 28th May 2022.
- ❖ SEPC along with selected industry representatives participated in Hannover Messe on 30th May 2022

- in Germany. It is a premier trade fair for the sectors like Automation, Motion & Drives, Digital Ecosystems, Energy Solutions, Logistics, Engineered Parts & Solutions, Global Business & Markets and Future Hub.
- ❖ SEPC visited Orlando, Florida, USA to attend the Scaling New Heights Conference cum Exhibition from 20th June to 24th June 2022 to explore a wide range of cutting-edge technology innovations designed for the small and medium sized business space in Accounting and Bookkeeping Service Sector.
 - ❖ SEPC partnered with Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR) in association with the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan to organize the 2nd edition of the Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RDTM 2022) at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur from 22nd to 24th July 2022.
 - ❖ SEPC organised a Capacity Building Programme on Leveraging FTAs on 28th July 2022 for their members to provide global opportunities in exports services and to upskill their personnel.
 - ❖ SEPC organized the curtain raiser for SANJEEVANI - India Heals 2022 on 25th August 2022 at Diwan-I-Am, Hotel Taj Mahal in New Delhi.
 - ❖ SEPC participated in India E-Commerce Show 25th to 26th August 2022 at Hotel Radisson Blu, New Delhi.
 - ❖ SEPC under the supervision of Department of Commerce, Government of India, organised a one-day brainstorming session on Services Sector on 31st August 2022 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary to have discussion on challenges, opportunities, and way forward for boosting services export from India.
 - ❖ SEPC organized a one-day conclave on Exploring Business Opportunities for Construction & Design Engineering Consultancy, Engineering, Architecture & Environmental Services on 2nd September 2022 at Le-Meridian New Delhi. The event was attended by 125 participants comprising of Industry experts & leaders of respective fields.
 - ❖ SEPC organized a Hospitality and Tourism Conclave on 9th September 2022 at Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg in New Delhi.
 - ❖ SEPC organised an interactive session on India@2047: Services Sector Exports Strategy "Skilling and Internationalization of Higher Education" on 29th September 2022 at Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister of State for Education Dr. Subhas Sarkar.
 - ❖ SEPC organised an India Pavilion at MIPCOM 2022 from 15th-20th October 2022 at Cannes, France with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The highlight of the event was the launch of logo "Positioning India as a Content Hub of the World". More than 85 delegates were a part of India Pavilion.

(K) Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)

Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) caters to the development and promotion of exports of oilseeds, oils and oilcakes. Erstwhile known as Indian Oilseeds and Produce Exporters Association (IOPEA), it was formed on 23rd June 1956, and has been catering to the needs of exporters since more than six decades. The name was subsequently changed to Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) on 5th February 2009. Besides focusing on exports, the Council also works towards strengthening the domestic supply chain by encouraging farmers, shellers, processors, surveyors and exporters with an aim to enhance the quality of Oilseeds in India.

The formation of Indian Oilseeds and Produce Exporters Association (IOPEA) was, in fact, the first organized effort to promote and protect the interests of India's export trade in commodities like Oilseeds, Vegetable Oils and Oilcakes in a collective and concerted manner through a representative body.

Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) has been accredited with ISO 9001: 2015.

(i) Implementation of procedure for Export of Sesame Seed to EU

IOPEPC is committed to boost the India's image as consistent supplier of quality Oilseeds and Oils to global markets. IOPEPC is responsible for establishing a procedure for Sesame seed export. Accordingly, IOPEPC accords recognition to warehouses and processing units which are engaged in the exports of Sesame seed to EU. The Council also issues Certificate of Exports and Health Certificate for exports of Sesame seed to EU.

(ii) Creation of Awareness amongst Farmers and Processors

The Council also organizes workshops for promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) amongst Indian farmers and training sessions for processing units for adoption of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices). The Council has developed an educative film on various aspects of GMP with an objective of exporting Groundnuts meeting the quality norms of importing countries. The Council has also created a film on GAP so that yield and quality of Groundnuts is improved and a film on GAP for cultivation of Quality Sesame Seed for exports. The Council also published informative booklet on Groundnut titled "Groundnut at A Cross Road in India" and informative booklet on Sesame Seed titled "Sesame the Super Seed of 21st Century".

(iii) Addressing Aflatoxin and Pesticides related issue at the Farm Level

The importing countries are always concerned about the Aflatoxin (in case of Groundnut), pesticide residues and other chemical and microbiological contamination in the agricultural products being supplied by other countries. In order to create awareness amongst the farmers to control Aflatoxin and use safe and permissible pesticides, the Council organizes various activities (such as workshops, distribution of pamphlets, showing films produced by Council on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on cultivation of Groundnut and Sesame Seeds) so that awareness is created amongst the farmers and the problem is minimized at the farm level itself.

(vi) Strengthening Supply Chain

Regional Meetings in various parts of India are

organized so as to strengthen supply-chain and create awareness regarding the quality issues amongst farmers, stakeholders in the trade and industry such as exporters, processors, traders, brokers and service providers in Oilseeds and Oils sector.

Following are outlines of some of the key functions of the Council:

(i) Fairs & Exhibitions

- ❖ Participation in International Trade Fairs most of which are approved under Market Assistance Initiative (MAI) Scheme of Ministry of Commerce, India.
- ❖ Participation in domestic fairs to educate the visitors regarding export potential in various markets.
- ❖ Establishing contacts with the prospective buyers by organizing exclusive Buyer-Seller Meets (BSMs) both in India as well as in overseas markets.
- ❖ Organising visits of delegation of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities.

(ii) Liaising with Government and other Agencies

- ❖ As an Export Promotion Council (EPC), IOPEPC serves as the common forum for the Indian Oilseeds (including Groundnuts) exporters, foreign buyers, R&D agencies for Oilseeds & edible Oils in India, International agencies and many other official bodies & authorities globally.
- ❖ The Council regularly communicates with Indian Embassies, trade bodies and associations in various countries in order to resolve the issues faced by exporters in international markets. The Council also takes up issues with Indian authorities such as Customs, Banks, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Plant and Quarantine authorities, ECGC Ltd, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), amongst others to ensure smooth exports from India.

(iii) Defending interests in Global Markets

- ❖ The business interest in the destination markets are defended by contesting trade distortion measures such as anti-dumping duty, safeguard

duty and works towards removing non-tariff barriers impacting Indian exports.

- ❖ During the consultations at multilateral level such as WTO, UNCTAD, the Council provides inputs to the Government to promote interests of India's Oilseeds and its derivative products.
- ❖ The Council regularly communicates with Indian Embassies, trade bodies and associations in various countries in order to resolve the issues faced by exporters.

(vi) Conducting Trade Meets, Surveys & Studies

- ❖ Conducting Crop Survey (Rabi/Kharif) to assess the supply-demand situation well in advance so that effective export strategy can be chalked out.
- ❖ Conducting market surveys and providing market intelligence through various cluster studies, research reports & journals.
- ❖ Assisting and encouraging scientific, technical and economic research for Oilseed & Oils sector.

(v) Providing Effective Dispute Settlement Mechanism

- ❖ The Council also acts as Institutional Arbitrator to provide speedy justice at much lower costs, thereby providing an excellent dispute redressal/settlement mechanism for Domestic and International trade related issues.

(vi) Training and Productivity

- ❖ To increase productivity by upgrading technical skills of professionals engaged in the sector, the Council organises various training programs at different locations throughout India.
- ❖ Upgradation of infrastructure and quality to promote the export of agri products.
- ❖ Offering professional advice and services to members in areas of technology upgradation, quality improvement, standards and specifications, certification such as HACCP.

(vii) Information Dissemination

- ❖ Circulation of Government Notification/Public Notices/Orders, Statistics, global events, Government schemes, trade enquiries and other important articles related to Oilseeds and Oils sector

through emails as well as monthly News Bulletin.

- ❖ The Council also releases an annual Souvenir which provides concise trade information and contact details of its members.

Activities undertaken / planned by the Council during 2022-23 under Export Promotion Measures

Indian Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) took multiple steps to ensure that Oilseed export continue to be on the path of growth.

Following are key Trade promotion and related activities undertaken by the Council:

(i) Capacity Building Program for Farmers in Rajkot

Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) organized a Farmer Mela jointly with ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research on 19th May 2022 in Rajkot. More than 170 farmers attended the mela. There was a panel discussion where progressive farmers from various parts of Gujarat shared their views on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

The Council, like every year, conducted the Summer Crop Survey 2022 for Groundnut and Sesame seed in Gujarat during 10th - 15th May 2022. The findings of this crop survey were presented during the Capacity Building Program held on the same day of Farmer Mela i.e. 19th May 2022 at Rajkot. More than 160 stakeholders attended the meeting. There were panel discussions on Sesame seed and Groundnut. Approximate crop size of both the Oilseeds in major growing areas were discussed. At the end, our crop survey findings were presented.

On the similar lines, Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) also organized a Farmer Mela 2022 jointly with ICAR-Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research on 25th June 2022 at Mandi in Mahoba in Uttar Pradesh (UP). More than 250 farmers attended the mela. Shri S B Singh, Additional Director (Agri), Lucknow, UP attended the mela as a Guest of Honor. There was a panel discussion wherein progressive farmers from various parts of UP shared their views on Good Agricultural Practices. Various issues faced by the farmers were also discussed.

To keep our members abreast of the latest information and to discuss how trade can contribute to

increase yield & production of Sesame seed in UP, Capacity Building Program was organized at Khajuraho on the same day of Farmer Mela i.e. on 25th June 2022. More than 50 people from various region such as Gwalior, Kanpur, Mahoba, Nowgaun, Chhatarpur attended the program.

(ii) IOPEPC's Global Oilseed Conference (IGOC), 2022

During the year, the Council organized its fourth Global Oilseed Conference (IGOC) during 4th-6th November 2022 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Dubai. The Council received excellent response to the event and about 200 participants from India and abroad attended the meeting. Experts in Oilseed trade and industry from various countries gave an overall view of markets, production, demand and supply and price forecast of Groundnut and Sesame seed. IOPEPC officials also presented very informative view on Global and Indian Groundnut, Sesame and other Oilseeds. Exporters were given awards for excellence in exports of Oilseeds and Oils during FY 2021-22. Consul General & Appellate Authority (RTI), Consulate General of India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

(iii) Trends in India's Foreign Trade related to Oilseeds and Oils

The size of Oilseed export sector (Oilseeds under the purview of the Council) is estimated at about Rs. 8,546.78 crore during 2021-22 in comparison to Rs. 9,432.93 crore in the previous year.

From export perspective, Groundnut and Sesame seeds are the two most important Oilseeds for India. While Groundnut accounted for major share of total exports of Oilseeds to the tune of 54.95 per cent during 2021-22, Sesame seed accounted for a share of 35.52 per cent in total Oilseed exports.

During financial year FY 2021-22, Groundnut exports from India decreased by about 13 per cent to Rs. 4,697 crore in comparison Rs. 5,380.24 crore in FY 2020-21. In quantitative terms the exports of Groundnut during FY 2021-22 was 5,14,163.87 tons as compared to 6,38,320 tons during FY 2020-21.

During the financial year 2021-2022, Sesame seeds exports from India declined marginally by about 12 per cent to a level of 2,42,145.56 tons from 2,73,260.32 tons from the previous year. In value terms, Sesame

seed exports decreased by about 4 per cent at 3,036.37 crore as compared to 3,159.47 crore during the financial year 2020-21.

Many African countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh enjoy 9 per cent import duty advantage over India for export to China which is the single largest importer.

(iv) Export of Oilseeds: April – October 2022

During April-October 2022 India exported 4,63,426 tons of Oilseeds valued at Rs.5,098.16 crore. The major export of Oilseeds during April-October 2022 are, Groundnut of 2,43,121 tons valued at Rs. 2,408.27 crore, Sesame seed of 1,56,449 tons valued at Rs. 2,151.57 crore, Soybean of 21,326 tons valued at Rs.164.16 crore and Mustard seed of 28,242 tons valued at Rs. 209.89 crore.

(v) Import of Oilseeds: April-October 2022

During April-October 2022, India Imported 3,30,959 tons of Oilseeds valued at Rs. 2,313.28 crore compared to 4,86,573 tons of Oilseeds valued at Rs. 3,097.61 crore. The major Import of Oilseeds are Soybean of 3,18,677 tons (including others) valued at Rs. 2,185.15 crore, Sesame seed of 8,288 tons valued at Rs. 98.70 crore and Sunflower seed of 2,528 tons valued at Rs. 14.75 crore.

(vi) Exports of Vegetable Oils

- ❖ India exported 4,12,799.95 tons of various edible oils valued at Rs. 6,384.31 crore during April-October 2022 compared to 7,90,258.08 tons of edible oils valued at Rs. 9,960.02 crore during previous FY 2021-2022.
- ❖ Groundnut Oil is the major oil exported from India and reported at 35,842 tons valued at Rs. 566.69 crore mainly exported to China (34,696 tons). India also export Mustard Oil reported at 3,126 tons valued at Rs. 66.50 crore, mainly to UAE (502 tons), USA (655 tons) and Canada (435 tons). Soybean Oil export reported at 10,536 tons valued at 161.37 crore, mainly exported to Jordan (5,000 tons) and Bhutan (4,402 tons).
- ❖ Non Edible Oil: Castor Oil recorded an export volume of 6,62,927.50 tons valued at Rs. 8,050.50 crore during the year 2021-22 as against 6,86,604.57 tons valued at Rs. 6,286.03 crore during the previous year 2020-21.

(L) TEXTILES

Initiatives/Achievements in area of Textiles Export

- ❖ India signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with UAE and Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) with Australia under which India is expected to benefit from preferential market access provided by UAE and Australia to its labour-intensive sectors including Textiles.
- ❖ Department of Commerce, under its Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme has been providing financial support to various Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Trade Bodies engaged in promotion of textiles and garments exports, for organizing and participating in trade fairs, exhibitions, buyer-seller meets etc.
- ❖ Continuation of Rebate of State and Central taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) has been approved on export of Apparel/Garments and Made-ups till 31st March 2024 at existing rates. Continuation of RoSCTL for Apparel/Garments and Made-ups is expected to make these products globally competitive by rebating all embedded taxes/levies which are currently not being rebated under any other mechanism. It will provide a level playing field to the Indian textiles exporters.
- ❖ Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) has been continued for reimbursement of Central, State and local level taxes/duties/levies, which are incurred in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported textile products covered under chapter 50-60. This will lead to cost competitiveness of exported products in international markets and better employment opportunities in export oriented manufacturing industries. The scheme is aimed at giving boost to the domestic industry and Indian exports providing a level playing field for Indian producers in the International market so that domestic taxes/duties are not exported.
- ❖ The National Technical Textiles Mission continues to promote and develop technical textiles sector in India. The fund allotted is for research and development both fundamental and applied research in technical textile sector, increasing penetration

level of technical textiles through promotion and market development activities and to create skilled and educated manpower in the field of technical textiles.

- ❖ To promote production of MMF Apparel, MMF Fabrics and Products of Technical Textiles in the country, Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles continued.
- ❖ Government has approved setting up of Seven Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore for a period of seven years upto 2027-28. these parks will enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investment and boost employment generation.

(M) Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council (PHARMEXCIL)

Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India was established in 2004 under the Companies Act, 1956, keeping in mind the unique requirements of the Indian Pharmaceutical industry for export promotion. The Council has its headquarters in Hyderabad, with regional offices at Mumbai and New Delhi, and Branch Offices in Ahmedabad, Chennai and Bengaluru. There are 4,120 members in the Council.

The products and services falling under the purview of Pharmexcil are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), Finished Dosage Forms (FDF), Herbal/Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy, Biologics, Diagnostics, Surgicals, Nutraceuticals, Collaborative Research, Contract Manufacturing, Clinical Trials & Consultancy and Regulatory Services. A separate cell has been established within Pharmexcil to exclusively promote the Indian systems of medicines.

Apart from acting as an interface with the Government, the Council also offers professional advice to its members in areas such as patent issues, compliance with regulatory requirements, technology upgradation, trade related help, etc. Pharmexcil also acts as a nodal agency for issue of Registration cum Membership certificates. The Council participates in important exhibitions and fairs in various countries and also organizes international conferences and buyer-seller meets in India.

Exports grew by 0.71 billion. This modest background of unprece-
er cent in 2020-21,
e country's generic
ndemic. Drugs and
principal commod-
he exports during

2021-22 contributed to 5.92 per cent
exports. India's top 5 pharma export
2021-22 were USA, UK, South Africa
Nigeria.

(b) Exports during 2022-23

The pharma exports during April-November
reached US\$ 16.58 billion with a growth
cent as compared to exports in the corre
period in previous year. The category-wise
of exports during April-November 2022 is as be

(Values in US\$ million)

	2021-22	April- November 2021	April- November	% Growth	% share
als	18,047.70	11,737.32			
tes	4,437.64	2,789.11			
	612.83	390.92			
	532.47	334.16			
	988.14	642.85			
	24,618.78	15,891			

Intermediates, for the benefit of Department of Pharmaceuticals. Subsequently, Government has launched Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) as well as for production of high value pharmaceutical products such as bio-pharmaceuticals, complex generic drugs, patented drugs or drugs nearing patent expiry. The schemes have also been launched for development of three Bulk Drug Parks and four Medical Device Parks across the country providing financial assistance for creation of common infrastructure facilities in these parks.

(iv) Support to the Industry

Department of Commerce supports Pharma industry through its Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme by reimbursing part of expenses incurred on product registration in foreign countries upto Rs. 2 crore per exporter per annum, for encouraging industry to register more products in new and potential markets. Pharmexcil disbursed an amount of Rs. 35.25 crore to its members under MAI scheme towards reimbursement of product registration charges during 2021-22. Department of Commerce has also been closely interacting with foreign Governments, global regulatory agencies and Indian Missions to resolve the regulatory and market access issues faced by Indian industry in accessing foreign markets. Department of Commerce is also proactively working towards establishing footprints in under penetrated/potential international markets viz. Japan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Latin America region, Africa, etc. As part of its efforts to guide the Indian industry to adhere to global regulatory standards and regulations, Pharmexcil has published Market & Regulatory Reports of the countries which are our top 30 export destinations.

(v) Global Outreach and B2B Engagements

Some of the major events organized/participated by Pharmexcil during 2022-23 are:

- ❖ Stakeholders Outreach Programme on India-UAE CEPA and India-Australia ECTA organized by Pharmexcil at Park Hyatt, Hyderabad on 23rd April 2022

- ❖ CPHI North America 2022 at Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia from 17th-19th May 2022
- ❖ Africa Health ExCon in Egypt from 5th-7th June 2022
- ❖ Participation in Korea Pharm & Bio on 14th June 2022 at KINTEX, Seoul followed by organization of India-Korea Pharmaceutical Forum
- ❖ BSMs in Asia region (Indonesia, Philippines & Vietnam) from 26th June to 6th July 2022
- ❖ BSMs in LAC region (Columbia, Bolivia, Peru & Brazil) from 30th July to 13th August 2022
- ❖ 8th Edition of IPHEX & Global Regulators Conclave organized by Pharmexcil at IEMML, Noida from 21st-23rd September 2022
- ❖ CPHI-Worldwide 2022 in Frankfurt, Germany from 1st-3rd November 2022
- ❖ Business delegation to 38th Havana International Fair - FIHAV at Havana, Cuba from 14th-18th November 2022
- ❖ CPHI India 2022 in Noida, India from 29th November to 1st December 2022

2. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

(A) Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) was set up in 1965 as an Apex Body of Export Promotion Organisations. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with its Headquarters in Delhi. FIEO has Regional Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, and Chapters in Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Indore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Guwahati. The organization is ISO 9001:2015 certified.

FIEO has a direct membership of over 35,000. In the Foreign Trade Policy, FIEO has been designated as a Registering Authority for status holder exporting firms as also for the exporters dealing in multi-products. FIEO issues Certificate of Origin (Non-Preferential) which is required by many countries as proof of origin of the goods. It directly and indirectly serves the interests of all goods and services sector in the country.

FIEO provides a crucial interface between the exporters and the Central and State Governments, financial institutions, ports, railways, surface transport and other agencies engaged in export trade facilitation. It serves on the high-level committees constituted by the Government of India to facilitate trade. It provides vital inputs to the Government on various matters of trade.

FIEO gives “Niryat Shree” and “Niryat Bandhu” Awards to exporters and export facilitators respectively in recognition of their contributions to the exports from India. FIEO also organises State Exports Excellence Awards in order to encourage and motivate exporters from the States.

Major Activities and Achievements

- ❖ FIEO conducted an analysis for identifying 75 textile districts having the potential to be developed like the Tirupur textile cluster.
- ❖ FIEO undertook a study to identify the export potential of “Uttarakhand districts bordering Nepal”.
- ❖ FIEO initiated a series of interactive sessions in association with CONCOR and Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to create awareness among the Exim community about the current scenario and future prospects, and also to address challenges faced at respective Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Integrated Check Posts (ICPs).
- ❖ Towards promotion of exports of food and agri products, FIEO took focused food and agri B2B Delegations to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. It also organized various country specific testing programs in order to facilitate certifications and testings of food products, required by the respective buyer countries.
- ❖ FIEO maintains the “Ease of Logistics Portal” (www.easeoflogistics.com) in order to mitigate the hardship faced by exporters due to shortage of containers. It has also developed “Indian Business Portal” (www.indianbusinessportal.in), as an international trade hub for Indian exporters and foreign buyers. The Indian Business Portal enables SME exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally.
- ❖ FIEO has developed and maintains the Indian Trade Portal (www.indiantradeportal.in). The portal provides key information about the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) or Preferential tariff of 93 countries, Rules of origin to avail preferential tariff, SPS-TBT measures mapped at tariff line of 87 countries, import statistics of 93 countries and India's share in their imports, etc.
- ❖ FIEO was awarded the Gold Trophy under the Institutional Game Changers category of the TIOL Taxation Awards 2022.
- ❖ FIEO organises workshops, seminars, training programmes, open house meets to draw the attention on important trade issues and help speedy resolution. It facilitates redressal of exporters' problems by taking them up with the authorities concerned and guides them on policy matters, international trade etc. Till October 2022, FIEO had organised 421 export promotion events including B2B meets and business delegations abroad.
- ❖ FIEO has entered into 110 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with international organisations, chambers of commerce and trade associations to promote international trade. It organizes many country specific programmes to prepare the exporters for various global markets. It exchanges business delegations, arranges exhibitions, organizes B2B meets with the members of trade from various countries.
- ❖ In order to ease cross-border logistics for exports, FIEO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Shypmax, a provider of logistics solutions, including international and domestic express delivery, freight forwarding, and customs clearance.
- ❖ FIEO also signed an MoU with Rubix Data Sciences Pvt. Ltd, a business intelligence company, to facilitate Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) issuance to Indian exporters and entities.
- ❖ FIEO is collaborating with Amazon Global Selling for an e-Commerce Export Immersion Series on monthly basis to educate the participants on how to register and start selling their products to international buyers across the globe with mini-

mum hassle, leveraging the power of e-market place.

- ❖ FIEO provides most of the services online to the exporting community through its website – www.fieo.org, and mobile app – Niryat Mitra. The mobile app has over 1,20,000 downloads and it covers all the information of the Indian Trade Portal and periodic updates on the matter.

(B) India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)

The India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) is a Trust established by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. IBEF's primary objective is to promote and create international awareness of Brand India in overseas markets and to facilitate the dissemination

of knowledge about Indian products and services. Towards this objective, IBEF works closely with stakeholders across Government and industry.

IBEF carried out several branding activities to support key initiatives and sectors in 2022-23. The highlights of some key initiatives are as follows:

(i) Brand India Engineering

IBEF, in association with EEPC, promoted Indian Engineering products on multiple platforms during 2022-23. Events like INDEE Tanzania 2022, Big 5, Dubai and Arab Health were covered as part of the branding and promotion plan. IBEF executed event and outdoor branding along with PR promotional activities for the promotion of Indian engineering products in these markets.



(ii) Branding Indian Rice in International Markets

IBEF, in collaboration with APEDA, promoted and branded Indian rice in international markets. A digital campaign was launched to promote Indian organic rice in BIOFACH'22 Nuremberg, the world's largest

trade fair for organic food and agriculture. The campaign highlighted different organic Indian rice to also showcase Geographical Indication (GI). Apart from this, outdoor branding including airport branding and outdoor OOH was also done under the promotional activities.



(iii) 10th India Trend Fair 2022

IBEF worked closely with Apparel Export Promotion Council and Handloom Export Promotion Council to promote Indian handloom, handicrafts and other hand-made Indian products at the India Trend Fair Japan and other overseas markets. IBEF designed a dedicated landing page to support the campaign promoting Indian Handloom.

(iv) Branding support to the Department of Commerce

IBEF provided branding support to the Department of Commerce for a wide variety of activities. Some key initiatives in 2022-23 are as follows:

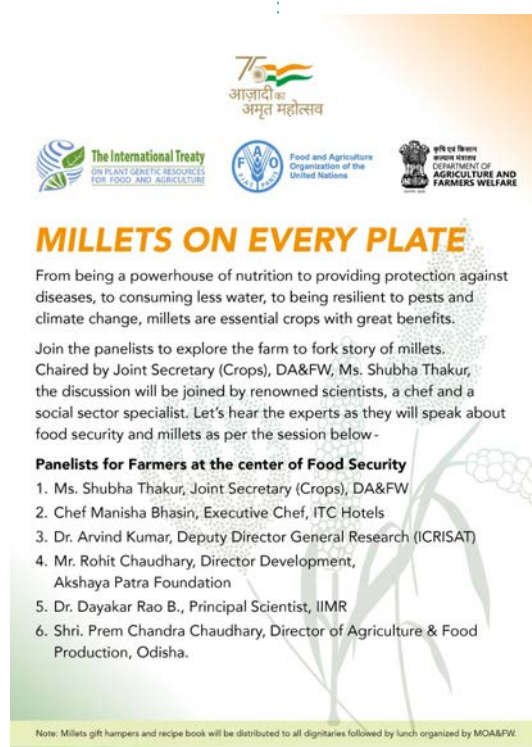
- ❖ Creation of film and social media creative for the signing of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement
- ❖ Creation of Niryat Portal and promotional AV for Niryat Portal & Vanija Bhawan along with social media creatives



(v) Branding Support for the Indian Year of Millets

IBEF is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to provide branding support for the Indian Year

of Millets. The flyer for the brand campaign was prepared by IBEF in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture.



3. STATES/UTs, SPECIFIC EXPORT STRATEGIES

In order to achieve better coordination with States and UTs the Department of Commerce has nominated Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary level officers as nodal officers for institutionalizing a mechanism for regular and effective coordination and communication with States/UTs.

The nominated nodal officers are the single contact point for all matters related to the State/UT concerning the Department of Commerce. The nodal officers visit their allotted States/UTs from time to time. They work closely with the States/UTs on various trade related matters including formulation/ implementation of 'Export Strategy' and addressing any issues or impediments to trade.

Department of Commerce has been actively interacting and engaging with the State Governments/Union Territories to create an enabling environment to boost goods and services exports from the country by way of assisting them in formulating a comprehensive export strategy based on an assessment of State's strengths. To improve export performance in partnership with the States, the States have been urged to identify items with export potential. Financial Assistance is also being provided by Department for formulation of Export Strategy of the State. So far, 24 States have prepared their Export Strategies. The Export strategies of 07 States/UTs (Bihar, Haryana, Manipur, Rajasthan, Punjab, UT of Ladakh and UT of Jammu Kashmir) are being processed.

CHAPTER 6



Commercial Relations, Trade Agreements and International Trade Organizations

1. TRADE WITH EAST ASIA

ASEAN REGION

(i) Introduction

India announced its 'Look East Policy' in 1991 with a view to seeking greater engagement with East Asian countries. In 2014, the policy was upgraded to 'Act East Policy' which focuses on the extended neighborhood in the Asia Pacific Region. In order to address the economic cooperation content of the 'Act East Policy', a continuous dialogue is maintained with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries viz. Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Summit level engagements, Ministerial meetings and official level discussions are held in order to fulfil the objectives of Act East Policy.

(ii) Trade Framework

(a) Agreements with ASEAN

India and the ASEAN signed the Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) under the broader framework of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and the ASEAN on 13th August 2009. The Agreement came into force on 1st January 2010 in respect of Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand and in case of other ASEAN countries on different dates in 2010 and 2011. India and ASEAN are presently under discussion to initiate the review of AITIGA to make it more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses, as well as responsive to the current global and regional challenges including supply chain disruptions.

India and ASEAN Member countries have also signed Agreement on Trade in Services and Agreement on Investment. These Agreements came into effect from 1st July 2015.

(b) India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) was signed with Singapore on 29th June 2005 which became operational from 1st August 2005. The 1st Review of India-Singapore CECA was concluded on 1st October 2007 and the 2nd Review was concluded on 1st June 2018. The 3rd Review of India-Singapore

CECA was launched on 1st September 2018. The scope of the review is under finalization between both parties. India is looking to expand the service schedule in the CECA for increased market access and benefits.

(c) India-Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) was signed with Malaysia on 18th February 2011 which became operational from 1st July 2011. Under the CECA, India and Malaysia have offered commitments over and above the commitments offered by them under ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

(d) India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement

India and Thailand signed a Framework Agreement on 9th October 2003 for establishing an India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement. There is an Early Harvest Scheme under this Framework Agreement comprising 83 items of mutual interest for which both sides agreed to make tariff concessions in a phased manner with 100 per cent reduction by 1st September 2006.

(iii) Recent Trade related Activities

(a) 2nd meeting of India-Brunei Joint Trade Committee

The 2nd meeting of India-Brunei Joint Trade Committee was held virtually on 11.03.2022. JS (ASEAN) co-chaired the meeting. Indian side raised the issues of facilitation for export of bovine meat and dairy products, recognition of Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) for automobile certification, pharma exports, possible cooperation in service sector etc. Both sides also discussed the opportunities available in each country for enhancing bilateral trade and investment.

(b) 1st India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) meeting

The 1st meeting of recently constituted India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI) was held virtually on 1st July 2022. The two sides reviewed the bilateral trade and discussed ways and means to enhance bilateral trade and investment. The Indian side identified agriculture

region were of the order of US\$ 49.30 billion during 2021-22, registering a positive growth of 17.07 per cent over the last year. Imports from the region increased by 40.4 per cent to US\$ 151.80 billion during 2021-22.

(i) Commodity Composition of NEA region

Major items of export to NEA region included engineering goods, pearls, precious and semiprecious stones, petroleum products, iron & steel, aluminium products, marine products, organic chemicals.

Major items of import from the region include electronics components, computer hardware, peripherals, telecom instruments, organic chemicals, industrial machinery for dairy products.

(ii) Export Target for 2021-22

An export target of US\$ 46.8 billion was fixed for NEA region for 2021-22. Against this, the achievement was US\$ 48.9 billion which was 104 per cent of target fixed.

(iii) Trade Agreements

(a) India-Korea CEPA

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Republic of Korea was signed on 7th August 2009 which came into force on 1st January 2010. The two sides commenced negotiations for upgradation of CEPA in 2016 and nine rounds of upgradation negotiations have been held so far with last round held on 3rd-4th November 2022. The 10th round of negotiations is scheduled to be held shortly.

(b) India-Japan CEPA

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan was signed on 16th February 2011 which came into force on 1st August 2011. Under the institutional mechanism of CEPA, the 6th Joint Committee meeting was held on 15th January 2021 virtually. Under the provisions of India-Japan CEPA, India has requested Japan to initiate the process of review of the Agreement to ascertain mutual gains for both the sides.

(iv) Recent Trade Related Activities

(a) China

- ❖ During 2021-22, the exports to China were US\$ 21.25 billion whereas imports were US\$ 94.17 billion. Regular efforts are being made by the NEA Division in consultations with EPCs and Mission in Beijing, to increase exports to China
- ❖ Several meetings have been held by Export Inspection Council, MPEDA and Mission with the GACC to address the COVID -19 related measures taken by GACC with respect to import of marine products.
- ❖ The new regulations introduced by the General Administration of Customs China (GACC), viz. Order Nos. 248 and 249 require manufacturers and producers of food items to register with GACC before exporting to China from 1st January 2022 onwards. Around 9,800 Indian establishments have already registered with GACC under the new regulations. Mission is extending all possible help to enterprises to register under single window registration system of GACC.
- ❖ In the year 2021, Indian companies have received regulatory approvals for 7-8 generic medicines, as compared to less than 15 approvals in last 40 years.

(b) Korea

- ❖ India and Korea commenced negotiations for upgradation of CEPA in 2016 to explore the possibility of streamlining tariffs in goods and Rules of Origin, and enhance the services, trade & investments. The Ministers of the two countries met in January 2022, to review the progress of IKCEPA upgrade negotiations and decided to conclude the upgrade negotiations along with movement on market access issues in six months. The 9th round of negotiations was held on 3rd-4th November 2022 in Seoul, South Korea.
- ❖ Exports to Korea RP increased by 72.5 per cent in 2021-22 as compared to the previous year.

(c) Japan

- ❖ On 19th March 2022, India-Japan CEPA was amended to allow fish surimi product of India with the

non-originating additive to be considered as an originating good of India so as to allow its export to Japan at preferential tariff.

- ❖ On 19th March 2022, the Protocol for making amendment in the Article 7 (Exchange of Information) of Implementing Agreement (IA) was signed between India and Japan as per Article 13 of India-Japan CEPA.
- ❖ Work plan for import of Japanese apples and relaxation of procedures of Indian mango exports to Japan, has also been signed between the respective ministries of India and Japan.

(d) Taiwan

- ❖ India and Taiwan hold meetings under the institutional mechanism of Working Group on Trade (WGT). So far, 7 WGT meetings have been held, 3 in India, 2 in Taiwan and 2 in virtual mode. 7th WGT meeting was held virtually on 23rd September 2022.
- ❖ The letters of Mutual Recognition of Organic Certification were signed by both sides during the 6th Meeting of Working Group on Trade (WGT) held virtually on 22nd October 2021. Working level meetings are now being held between APEDA and Taiwan Agriculture & Food Agency to operationalize the agreement.
- ❖ India and Taiwan signed an Agreement on Mutual Cooperation in the field of Standardization and Conformity Assessment on 18th May 2022.

3. TRADE WITH SOUTH ASIA

FT (South Asia) division in Department of Commerce looks after the trade related issues in respect of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran.

(i) Afghanistan

Under Strategic Partnership Agreement between Afghanistan & India, a Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade, Commerce and Investment functions between the two countries, at the level of Commerce Secretary, to discuss the issues related to trade and economic co-operation. The third meeting of the JWG was held in October 2018 at Kabul, where several bilateral trade and connectivity related issues were

discussed. Trade with Afghanistan came to a halt under Taliban regime since August 2021 and India is trading cautiously with humanitarian motivation.

(ii) Bangladesh

The Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh provides for expansion of trade and economic cooperation without any preferential tariffs. However, India has provided zero duty market access to Least Developed Countries (LDC) members of SAFTA including Bangladesh, on all tariff lines, except for 25 lines related to liquor and tobacco.

Both countries are engaged in strengthening the trade relations by exploring prospects of entering into a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) covering goods, services and investment through a joint study, enhancing and facilitating trade and investment relations through constitution of an India-Bangladesh CEO Forum, enhancing border trade infrastructure development between the two countries, etc.

India's exports to Bangladesh are being facilitated by identifying and resolving issues which adversely affect such exports. Efforts are being made to improve connectivity and border trade infrastructure. Efforts are also being made for removal of all port restrictions from all locations. The Sub-group on Infrastructure has been constituted to identify and resolve infrastructural and procedural constraints at specified priority Land Customs Stations between India and Bangladesh, through regular meetings. Implementation of the Agreement on use of Chattogram and Mongla port for movement of goods to and from India, since October 2019, is also expected to enhance trade linkages of the states in North Eastern India with other parts of the world, through Bangladesh.

India and Bangladesh have established Border Haats to promote well-being of the people dwelling in remote areas by establishing traditional system of marketing the local produce through local markets. In addition to the existing Border Haats at four locations, three more Border Haats in Meghalaya were inaugurated jointly by the Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 27th March 2021.

Presently setting up of border haats at nine locations in Tripura, Meghalaya and Assam are under different stages of development.

The 14th meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on Trade was held on 2nd-3rd March 2022 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Shri Vipul Bansal, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India and the Bangladeshi delegation was led by Mr. Noor Md. Mahbubul Haq, Additional Secretary, M/o Commerce, Bangladesh. In the meeting, inter-alia, issues related to border trade infrastructure, export and port restrictions and opening of LCS and other various issues, were discussed.

A Commerce Secretary Level Bilateral meeting was held between India and Bangladesh on trade and transit issues, at New Delhi on 4th March 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Shri B.V.R Subrahmanyam, the then Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, while the Bangladeshi delegation was led by Mr. Tapan Kanti Ghosh, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, paid a State Visit to India from 5th-8th September 2022 at the invitation of Prime Minister of India. Both the Prime Ministers held a restricted meeting and tête-à-tête followed by delegation level talks on 6th September 2022. During the visit, she also addressed a business event, jointly organized by Indian and Bangladesh business communities on 7th September 2022.

A Meeting between Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, India and Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Bangladesh was held on 22nd December 2022 at New Delhi. The Ministers discussed various issues of mutual interest including removal of non-tariff barriers and port restrictions, re-opening of border haats, harmonization and mutual recognition of Standards and procedures on both sides, settlement of trade in Indian rupees, strengthening connectivity and trade infrastructure, among others, to realise the full potential of India-Bangladesh economic ties. During the meeting early launch of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was also discussed.

(iii) Bhutan

The trade between India and Bhutan is governed by Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit, which prescribes free trade between the two countries. No basic customs duty is levied on import of any product from Bhutan or export to Bhutan. Further, the trade is carried out in Indian Rupees and Bhutanese currency (Ngultrum). The Agreement also provides transit facilities to landlocked Bhutan to facilitate its trade with third countries and movement of goods from one part of Bhutan to another through Indian territory.

(iv) Nepal

The bilateral trade between India and Nepal is governed by the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, which was last renewed on 27th October 2016 for a further period of seven years. Under the Treaty, India has provided duty free market access to almost all the products imported from Nepal, except few products relating to tobacco, perfumes, cosmetics and alcohol. Some tariff rate quotas (TRQs) are applicable on the import of four products, namely Vegetable fats, Acrylic yarn, Copper products and Zinc Oxide from Nepal. Both countries have agreed to undertake a comprehensive review of the Treaty of Trade. India also allows transit of third country goods destined to Nepal and export of Nepalese goods to third countries through its territory, which is governed by the India-Nepal Treaty of Transit. Under the Treaty, the transit of goods takes place through designated routes under a defined procedure.

As a bilateral mechanism to review the issues relating to bilateral trade, transit and unauthorized trade related issues, an Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) functions at Commerce Secretary level. Apart from IGC, an Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) also functions at the level of Joint Secretary.

Both sides are working on several projects to improve trade infrastructure and connectivity, including development of Integrated Check Posts (ICPs) on India-Nepal Border. The ICPs at Raxaul and Jogbani are already operational and other locations have been identified for such development, on the basis of a variety of factors including trade volume.

(v) Sri Lanka

The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) has been in operation since 1st March 2000. Under this Agreement, both countries agreed to phase out trade tariffs from each other within a fixed time frame except for those items in the Negative List of each other. India has provided duty-free market access to almost all the lines, and on 429 products no concessions are given. Tariff rate quotas have been prescribed by India on import of apparel, tea, pepper, desiccated coconut and Vanaspati, bakery shortening and margarine from Sri Lanka. Under ISFTA, Sri Lanka has provided duty-free access for almost all the products except 1,180 products, on which no tariff concessions have been provided under ISFTA.

(vi) Iran

A Joint Working Group (JWG) between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India and the Ministry of Industry, Mine & Trade in the Islamic Republic of Iran is functioning at the level of Commerce Secretary to discuss the issues related to bilateral trade between the two countries. In the last meeting of the JWG, both sides agreed to commence text-based negotiations for the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). The fifth round of negotiation was held in Iran during 12th-13th February 2020.

Efforts are also being made to address the emerging challenges affecting India-Iran bilateral trade as a consequence of international developments.

(vii) Pakistan

There is no bilateral agreement between India and Pakistan. The bilateral trade mainly takes place under the Agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA). No bilateral meeting on trade related issues, has taken place in recent past. Government has levied a duty of 200 per cent on all products originating in or exported from Pakistan.

Restrictions in the nature of prohibition of certain products and port restrictions were already in place on import of products by Pakistan from India. In August 2019, bilateral trade with India was completely suspended by Pakistan. Subsequently, partial relaxation has been provided by Pakistan for import of certain pharmaceutical products from India.

(viii) Maldives

The bilateral trade between India and Maldives is facilitated by a Trade Agreement between the two countries. The agreement does not prescribe any preferential tariffs for the imports of products into the other country, and is only a facilitative mechanism for enhancement of bilateral trade.

Under the provisions of the Agreement, India facilitates provision of essential commodities to Maldives. The relevant Notifications for this purpose were processed and issued in July 2021.

4. TRADE WITH AFRICA

Trade with Sub-Saharan Africa

India's total trade with Sub Saharan Africa region during 2021-22 was US\$ 74.86 billion as compared to US\$ 46.81 billion in 2020-21. While India's exports to SSA region in 2021-22 was US\$ 33.08 billion vis-a-vis US\$ 22.95 billion in 2020-21, India's imports were to the tune of US\$ 41.77 billion in 2021-22 as compared to US\$ 23.89 billion in 2020-21.

During the period April-November 2022 (Prov.), there has been a growth of 24.22 per cent in the bilateral trade vis-à-vis the corresponding period last year. India's exports to the SSA Region recorded a growth of 34.79 per cent, from US\$ 21.15 billion in April-November 2021 to US\$ 28.51 billion in April-November 2022, while India's imports from SSA region registered a growth of 15.37 per cent during the same period (i.e., from US\$ 25.27 billion in April-November 2021 to US\$ 29.16 billion in April-November 2022).

(i) India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)

India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) on 22nd February 2021, which entered into force on 1st April 2021.

The CECPA is the first trade Agreement signed by India with a country in Africa. The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural

Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.

The India-Mauritius CECPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries. The CECPA between India and Mauritius covers 310 export items for India. As regards trade in services, Indian service providers will have access to around 115 subsectors from the 11 broad service sectors.

India and Mauritius notified to each other, through diplomatic channels, their acceptance for inclusion of the General Economic Cooperation (GEC) chapter and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) by amendment of the India-Mauritius CECPA. The amended agreement came into force w.e.f. 1st October 2022.

The 1st session of India-Mauritius HPJTC (constituted as per mandate of the India-Mauritius CECPA) was held on 1st-3rd August 2022 in New Delhi under the co-chair of Joint Secretary (Africa), Department of Commerce.

Discussions were held inter-alia, on the areas of cooperation envisaged in the General Economic Cooperation (GEC) Chapter and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism in CECPA and Action Plan for implementation of GEC; Extension of validity period of the Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs); Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on qualifications by professional bodies, etc.

(ii) India and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

The Southern African Custom Union (SACU) is the oldest Customs Union in the world established in 1910 consisting of a group of 5 countries namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Eswatini (Swaziland) and South Africa. Five rounds of negotiations have been held so far between 2007 - 2010. A virtual Senior Official Meeting was held on 15th July 2020. Both sides agreed for early resumption of the negotiations on PTA between India and SACU. Both sides also agreed on the time lines for exchange of trade and tariff data, and submission of revised modalities for PTA negotiations. Discussions are ongoing between the two sides for re-launch of the PTA negotiations.

(iii) First Session of India Senegal JTC

The first session of India-Senegal Joint Trade Committee was held through virtual mode on 5th May 2022. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (Africa), Department of Commerce. Both sides reviewed the existing bilateral trade and investment and agreed to enhance the economic and commercial partnership between the two countries.

(iv) Third Session of India Ghana JTC

The third session of India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on 21st July 2022, in New Delhi under the co-chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Africa) Department of Commerce. During the meeting discussions were held inter-alia on review of bilateral trade, cooperation in sectors such as SMEs, Science & Technology, Trade Assistance Programme (TAP), Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on possible areas of cooperation for promotion of accounting and finance services between India & Ghana.

(v) 17th CII – EXIM Bank Digital Conclave

The 17th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Growth Partnership “Creating Shared Futures”, was held during 19th & 20th July 2022 at New Delhi, with the support of Ministry of Commerce & Industry. There were over 1,000 representatives from Government and businesses from 41 countries from Africa attending this conclave. The conclave covered ten sectoral sessions including agriculture, food processing, development and energy infrastructure, defence, start-ups, healthcare, pharma, IT, skill development and financial partnership. The Conclave witnessed participation of Hon'ble CIM, EAM and several other senior Government officers and business delegates from India. Bilateral meetings were also held by Hon'ble MoS with counterparts of Gabon and Ethiopia, in which productive discussions covering the entire gamut of bilateral trade, commerce, economic and investment ties were held.

(vi) Meeting with Indian missions in Africa Division

The Department of Commerce, in consultation with stakeholders, have set a target for Indian exports for the current financial year 2022-23.

With a view to achieve the target set for each of the countries in SSA region, virtual meetings were held

with commercial representatives of Missions in Africa to discuss the opportunities and challenges to promote the bilateral trade between India and these countries. The missions were also encouraged to continue with their efforts to engage with the Indian exporters and Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) in organizing/promoting virtual business events, understanding of business environment, requirements and available opportunities.

5. TRADE WITH WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA (WANA)

The total bilateral trade between India and WANA region was US\$ 215.83 billion in FY 2021-22. India's exports to WANA region were at US\$ 60.45 billion whereas imports from WANA region stood at US\$ 155.38 billion in FY 2021-22. Major commodities of export from India to WANA region include petroleum products, pearls, precious & semiprecious stones, gold and other precious metal jewellery, iron and steel, telecom instruments etc. Crude petroleum, petroleum products, pearl, precious & semiprecious stones, manufactured fertilizers, gold, etc. are the leading commodities imported by India from WANA region.

During FY 2022-23 (April-November), total bilateral trade with WANA region stood at US\$ 174.14 billion, registering a growth of 36.21 per cent as compared to

FY 2021-22 (April-November). Exports to WANA region increased by 28.69 per cent from US\$ 37.13 billion in FY 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 47.78 billion in FY 2022-23 (April-November). Imports from WANA region increased by 39.28 per cent from US\$ 90.72 billion in FY 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 126.36 billion in FY 2022-23 (April-November).

(i) India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

The India-UAE CEPA, which was signed on 18th February 2022 by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Minister of Economy of UAE, H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri, came into force from 1st May 2022. Department of Commerce held a series of outreach events to increase awareness of the Agreement among industry stakeholders. Resultantly, the number of Preferential Certificates of Origin (COOs) issued under this Agreement has steadily increased from 415 (May 2022) to 5140 (October 2022). Also, the value of consignments declared under these COOs has also risen significantly from US\$ 133.2 million (May 2022) to US\$ 1277.7 million (October 2022). Non-oil exports to the UAE during the period June to October 2022 grew by 8 per cent on a year-on-year basis outperforming India's global non-oil export growth (-2 per cent) during the same period.



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal and the Minister of Economy of UAE, H.E. Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri signing the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), in New Delhi on 18th February 2022.

(ii) India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Negotiations to be resumed

H.E. Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General,

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) visited New Delhi on 24th November 2022 and held a bilateral meeting with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public

Distribution and Textiles, Government of India. They have welcomed the significant progress in recent years on all matters of mutual interest across the entire gamut of bilateral economic and commercial relations between India and the GCC countries. To further strengthen the economic and commercial partnership, both sides announced the intent to pursue resumption of negotiations for conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the GCC.

(iii) Institutional Engagements with Partner Countries

❖ The 10th Session of India-Oman Joint Commission



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal and the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion of the Sultanate of Oman, H.E. Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef at the India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), in New Delhi on 11th May 2022.

❖ The First Ministerial meeting of the Economy & Investment Committee under the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) was held in Riyadh on 18th-19th September 2022 with participation of the Indian delegation led by HCIM. During the Ministerial meeting, more than 40 areas of bilateral cooperation identified by the constituent Joint Working Groups were discussed and ways of implementing priority projects to strengthen trade and investment linkages were discussed.

❖ The 5th Session of India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee and the 5th India-Egypt Joint Business Council Meeting were successfully held on 25th-26th July 2022 in Cairo.

Meeting (JCM) was successfully held on 11th May 2022 in New Delhi under the co-chairmanship of Hon'ble CIM, Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Investment Promotion of Sultanate of Oman. During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon issues cutting across trade and investment. Both sides also reviewed the progress of prospective Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements and agreed to conclude them expeditiously.

❖ Incoming visits of the HRH Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, Minister of Energy, Saudi Arabia (21st October 2022); and H.E. Dr. Nayef Falah M Al-Hajraf, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (24th November 2022) were successfully organized.

(iv) Trade Promotion Efforts in Association with Indian Missions in WANA Countries

❖ Periodic DVCs were held with Indian Missions in the WANA region, and concerned Indian Export Promotion Councils, Industry bodies, and Apex Chambers of Commerce & Industry, to increase overall bilateral trade and particularly to enhance exports from India.

❖ Indian Missions in WANA region undertook a number of trade promotion measures, including through organization of series of trade events, buyer seller meets, reverse buyer seller meets, facilitation of participation of Indian businesses in international exhibitions, business matchmaking, disputes redressal and so on.

6. TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN

Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) region has emerged as potential growth market for India with significant complementarities and synergies in trade and business. LAC region comprises of 43 countries. India is among Latin America's top ten global export destinations. Total bilateral merchandise trade with the region increased from US\$ 1.49 billion in 2000-01 to US\$ 36.67 billion in 2021-22. LAC region accounts for 3.54 per cent of India's Global trade.

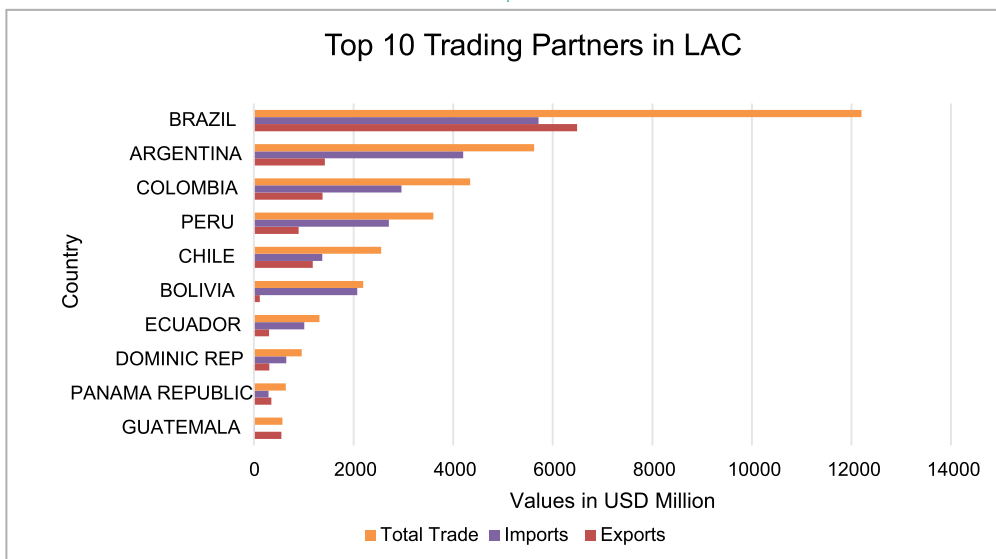
India's exports to LAC region stood at US\$ 14.93 billion and imports at US\$ 21.74 billion during 2021-22. India's exports to LAC have increased by 47.8 per cent while imports by 74.19 per cent during 2021-22 with

respect to same period of previous year. India's trade deficit with LAC has increased to US\$ (-) 6,803.65 million during 2021-22 from US\$ (-)2,375.18 million during 2020-21.

Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, Dominic Republic, Panama Republic and Guatemala are the top ten trading partners. Largest importers of Indian merchandise in LAC Region are Brazil (43.45%), Argentina (9.55%), Colombia (9.22%), Chile (7.91%), Peru (6.01%), Guatemala (3.70%), Panama Republic (2.33%), Venezuela (2.24%), Honduras (2.13%) and Dominic Republic (2.08%).

India's Imports from LAC countries is highly concentrated in the hands of a few economies. The top Importing partners of India in LAC region are Brazil (26.28%), Argentina (19.33%), Colombia (13.64%), Peru (12.45%), Bolivia (9.53%), Chile (6.31%), Ecuador (4.66%), Dominic Rep (2.98%), Panama Republic (1.35%) and Uruguay (0.74%), constituting 97.27% of India's total imports from LAC.

The graph below highlights the top 10 Trading Partners in LAC region.



Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata

India's exports to LAC region are diversified and dominated by finished products like Petroleum Products, agro chemicals; drug formulations; motor vehicles & cars; two & three wheelers; iron & steel; man-made fabrics, yarn, fabrics & made-ups; Cotton Yarn; auto components/parts; and Industrial Machin-

ery for dairy etc. India's imports from LAC region are primarily commodities which are inputs and raw materials to our industries and comprise of gold, Petroleum crude, vegetable oils, bulk minerals & ores, wood and its products etc.

(i) Engagement with LAC Region

Trade Agreements

Presently, India is having 2 Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in LAC Region:

- ❖ India-Chile PTA: India had signed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Chile on 08.03.2006 which was first expanded from 16th May 2017. Under expanded PTA, India has increased Margin of Preference from 178 to 1034 Tariff Lines offering to Chile. On the other hand, Chile has expanded Margin of Preference from earlier 296 to 1798 Tariff Lines.
- ❖ India Mercosur PTA: India had signed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with MERCOSUR (a trading bloc in South America region, originally comprising of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) which came into effect from 1st June, 2009. Under the PTA, India and Mercosur has offered Margin of Preference on 450 and 452 tariff lines to each other respectively.

(ii) Institutional Mechanisms

In order to promote India's trade with LAC region countries, consistent efforts are made to engage partner countries through various mechanisms i.e. Joint Economic Trade Committees, Trade Monitoring Mechanism, Joint Committee of Business Development Cooperation and Preferential Trade Agreements.

- ❖ India-Costa Rica Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO): Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2013 on Economic Cooperation between India and Costa Rica, protocol for India-Costa Rica Joint Economic Trade Committee (JETCO) has been signed in June 2021 with the objective to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation on the basis of mutual advantage.
- ❖ India-Brazil Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM): TMM was established consequent to the bilateral meeting held between India and Brazil on the sidelines of 3rd IBSA Business Summit held in October 2008. The objective is to identify bottlenecks and take appropriate measures to overcome operational/ tariff obstacles to bilateral trade. Five

meeting of TMM was held till now, with last meeting organized on 24th January 2020.

- ❖ Indian-Argentina Joint Trade Committee (JTC): Article XI of the Trade Agreement signed in 1981 between India and Argentina mentions creation of Joint Trade Committee. Three meeting of JTC have been held till now, the 3rd meeting was held on 20th October 2020.
- ❖ India-Ecuador Joint Economic & Trade Committee (JETCO): Within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2013 on Economic Cooperation between India and Ecuador, JETCO has been established in 2015 with the objective to promote trade, economic and technical cooperation on the basis of mutual advantage. 1st meeting of JETCO was held on 17th May 2017.
- ❖ India Colombia Joint Committee of Business Development Cooperation (JCBDC): India-Colombia Joint Committee on Business Development Cooperation (JBDC) was constituted in the spirit of an MoU on Business Development Cooperation signed on 30th April 2010. 3 meetings of JCBDC have been held till now, last meeting organized on 19th May 2017.

(iii) On-going Initiatives

- ❖ India-Chile PTA and its 2nd expansion: India-Chile PTA signed on 8th March 2006 and has been 1st expanded from 16th May 2017. Both sides have agreed for 2nd expansion of India-Chile PTA. Negotiations for the further expansion and deepening on PTA were initiated in 2019. The second and third round of negotiations were held during 8th-9th April 2021 and 6th-7th October 2021 respectively, over video-conference.
- ❖ India Peru Trade Agreement: India is negotiating a Trade Agreement with Peru covering trade in goods, services and investment. As of now, five rounds of negotiations have been held and the last round was held in New Delhi during 20th-22nd August 2019. A virtual meeting with Chief Negotiator of Peru was organized on 20th July 2021 to review the present status of the India-Peru Trade Negotiation.

(iv) Current Initiatives

- ❖ Virtual Meeting with Embassy of India- Virtual meeting with Embassy of India in LAC Region was held in February- March 2022 to formulate strategies for enhancing bilateral trade, opening up of new avenues for Indian exporters, expansion of the trade basket, to make use of the recent changes in the trade dynamics and explore possibilities of new trade agreements / expansion of existing trade agreements in LAC countries. Virtual meeting with Embassy of India was held with Indian Ambassadors on 14th and 18th October 2022 to take stock of issues prevailing in LAC countries for achieving exports targets of US\$ 17.5 billion during 2022-23.
- ❖ Virtual Meeting with EoI, Trade Bodies/EPCs & Commodity Boards - Meeting on “Review of exports and strategy for India- LAC Trade and Economic Cooperation in 2023” was held on 01.12.2022 under the co-chairmanship of Shri Akash Taneja, Additional DGFT, FT(LAC) Division, Department of Commerce and Shri G. V. Srinivas, Additional Secretary (LAC), Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ Export Achievement- For the period April- November 2022, India has achieved export target of US\$

12.22 billion (70 per cent) against the target of US \$ 17.5 billion for LAC Region.

- ❖ Limited Expansion of India- Mercosur PTA
 - ◆ India has shared Terms of Reference (ToR) along with Annex on Auto & Pharma and wish-list comprising 20 Tariff Lines of India's interest with Mercosur for Limited Expansion of India- Mercosur PTA, on 4th April 2022.
 - ◆ Both India-Mercosur has agreed to expand the PTA as substantial scope exists for both the parties to explore complementarities and benefit from increased bilateral trade.

7. TRADE WITH COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) comprises the Russian Federation, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Republic of Ukraine, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

Data regarding Bilateral trade with these countries is shown in the Table below:

Trade with CIS

(Value in US\$ million)

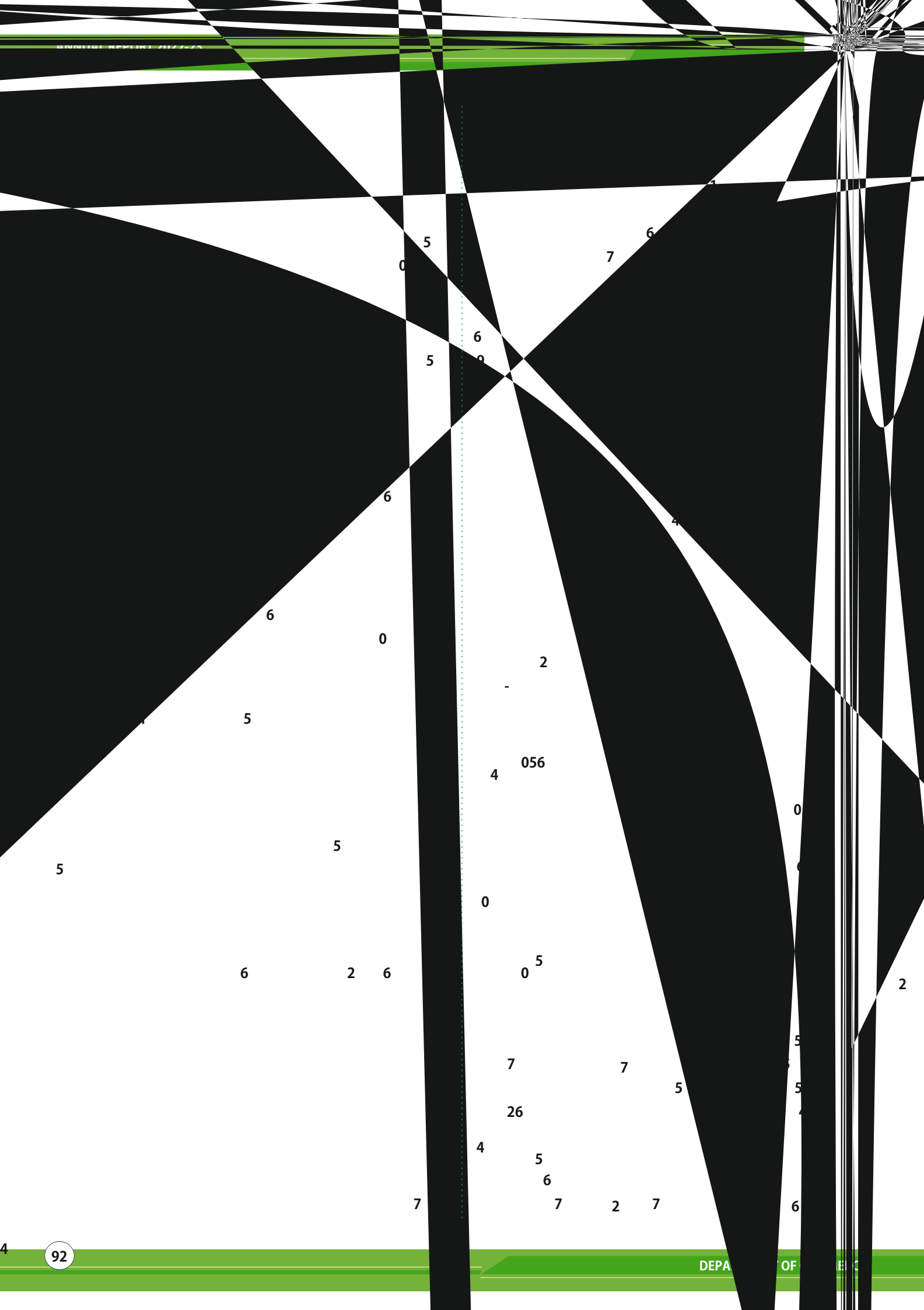
Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	% Growth of Total trade	Trade Balance
2016-17	2793.95	9322.76	12116.7	27.95	(-)6528.83
2017-18	3007.37	12875.6	15883	31.08	(-)9868.24
2018-19	3467.04	9442.97	12910	-18.72	(-)5975.93
2019-20	4191.84	11916.5	16108.4	24.77	(-)7724.67
2021-22	4708.49	14020.8	18729.28	16.28	(-)9312.3
April-September 2022-23(P)	2115.08	22365.2	24480.24	----	(-)20,250.08

Source : DGCI&S, Kolkata, (P): Provisional

The CIS region had a share of 0.91 per cent in India's total export and 5.88 per cent in its total import during 2022-23 (April to September).

The principal commodities of export to the CIS region include Pharmaceutical products, Electrical Machinery and equipment, Machinery and mechanical appliances, Organic chemicals, Coffee, Tea and

Spices, Iron and steel, Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, Chemical products, Fish and crustaceans and Meat. Important items of import to India from CIS region are Mineral fuels and oils, Animal or vegetable fats and oils, Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stone, Fertilizers, Paper and paperboard, Plastics, Iron and steel, Inorganic chemicals, Salt, Ores & Slag and ash.



After examining the recommendations of the JFS, procedural formalities for commencing the PTA are under consideration.

8. TRADE WITH NORTH AMERICA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) COUNTRIES

(A) USA

- ❖ India's exports to US are on course to meet the target of US\$ 82 billion for the financial year 2022-23 with US\$ 53.12 billion being achieved in the first eight months. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from the US also continues to be at record levels with an estimated US\$ 10 billion in the current financial year alone.
- ❖ FT (NAFTA) division and concerned mission and posts regularly interacts with the US Government on trade and commercial matters. These include discussions on the India-US Trade Policy Forum (TPF) with USTR, the India-US CEOs Forum and Commercial Dialogue with the Commerce Department, Indo-Pacific Economic Forum and other multilateral forums. The revamped India-US CEOs Forum was launched by CIM and US Commerce Secretary in November 2022.
- ❖ Trade Policy Forum (TPF) is key pillar of bilateral engagements in resolving the outstanding trade issues from time to time. It is held annually, co-chaired by the HCIM and USTR. Discussions are organized around Working Groups (WGs) on Agriculture, non-Agricultural Goods, Services & Investment and Intellectual Property.
- ❖ After the re-launch of TPF in November 2021 in New Delhi after four years gap TPF Working Groups on agriculture, non-agriculture goods, services, investment and Intellectual property were re-activated. Most WGs met virtually and separate meetings were held on issues such as WTO disputes etc. 13th Ministerial TPF meeting is expected in early 2023 in the US and both sides are working on achieving substantial agenda for the same.
- ❖ For export promotion and investments, the missions and posts regularly organize Buyer-Seller meetings, awareness building sessions and facilitates visits of trade delegations from CII and FICCI, coordinates US official and industry visits to India (eg. SIA, ORAN companies) and facilitates

engagements at the CEO level. More than 200 such meetings at various levels have been organized by the Mission over the last six months alone.

- ❖ The mission regularly reports on various policy developments on the trade and commercial front and has sent over 25 such reports to the GOI in the last six months. Mission has consistently engaged with the Department of Labor on the removal of Indian products from the TVPRA list and has facilitated the visit of the US delegation to India in this regard. Mission also regularly reports on Anti-Dumping/Countervailing duty cases that are administered by the USITC.

(B) Canada

- ❖ Indian exports to Canada are on track to exceed the target of US\$ 3.81 billion for 2022-23 with US\$ 2.9 billion being achieved in the first eight months. Total FDI Equity Inflows from Canada in India from April 2000-September 2022 amount to US\$ 3.1 billion.
- ❖ The Mission in coordination with DoC and other stakeholders has worked relentlessly to provide sophisticated market analysis for Canada and helped provide opportunities for Indian exporters. The 'guide to doing business in Canada' procured by the Mission and provided to Indian exporters has been a tremendous success. The Mission has organized and participated in 64 trade and investment activities such as business roundtables, commercial meetings, and other networking to enhance bilateral trade and investments for which essential support was provided by the DoC.
- ❖ In line with the UN declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the mission is organising several promotional activities to promote Indian millets by displaying the various varieties across commercial events and social media.
- ❖ Canada's portfolio investments to India have exceeded US\$ 55 billion in the last seven years. The Mission has been proactively engaging with prospective investors in Canada and promptly redirects investors to Invest India team to engage further with the investors.

The Fifth Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) between India and Canada was a major

success as it was agreed to formally re-launch the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations. Both sides agreed to consider an interim agreement or Early Progress

Trade Agreement (EPTA) that could be concluded early as a transitional step towards the CEPA.



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal meets The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada for 5th India Canada Ministerial Dialogue

- ❖ To enhance partnerships in the aviation sector, the High Commission of India, Ottawa, and Canada-India Business Council (C-IBC) in Montreal jointly organised an Executive Session with key aviation companies and pension fund managers which was attended by the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation of India (MOCA), Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. This was part of Mission's 'Make in India' initiative welcoming Canadian companies to invest in one of the fastest growing aviation markets globally and to set up their manufacturing units in India.
- ❖ The Mission and posts held a series of Make in India themed sector specific conferences in last financial year in sectors such as IT, renewable energy, infrastructure & manufacturing, travel, tourism & hospitality and healthcare & pharmaceuticals. The mission is also working to organize an investment conference/investment roadshow in Montreal to promote the Uttar Pradesh Global Investor Meet 2023.

- ❖ Understanding the opportunities created by global supply chain diversification due to the impact of COVID-19, the mission has been proactively reaching out to Canadian businesses and has directed them to explore manufacturing opportunities in India. Recognising the increasing need for economical IT support for Canadian companies and India's competitive strength in this area, the mission continues to support the expansion of Indian IT companies in Canada. Lastly, the Mission has leveraged its deep understanding of Canada's social, cultural and psychological trends and local presence to assist our export houses and Export promotion councils design sophisticated campaigns to derive maximum advantage of the resources utilized.

(C) Mexico

Promoting the 3Ts: Trade, Tourism and Technology in times of pandemic

- ❖ Indian exports to Mexico are on track to exceed the target of US\$ 4.91 billion for 2022-23 with US\$ 3.4 billion being achieved in the first eight months. Total FDI Equity Inflows from Mexico in India from April 2000 - September 2022 amount to US\$ 0.31 billion.
- ❖ On the trade front, this Mission continues to both, organize, and participate in various trade and investment promotion events. Effective use of Social Media and press has been used to promptly disseminate information about Indian Economy, trade and investment opportunities and trade fairs being organized.
- ❖ Major BSMs were organized to support participation of Indian businesses and companies.
- ❖ The Mission has taken up the case of anti-dumping duties imposed on a number of products of Indian origin with the International Trade Practices Unit under the Ministry of Economy of Mexico.
- ❖ The mission has been working with Mexico's Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate and ease the exports of agriculture, dairy and meat product from India through removal of SPS and TBT.
- ❖ The mission has actively pursued India's strength in the pharmaceuticals and vaccines by negotiating strategic partnerships and technology transfer agreements and MoUs.

Trade data with Australia (in 2022)

(Values in US\$ million)

	Goods*	Services**	Total
India's Exports to Australia	8283.1	4284.1	12567.2
India's Imports from Australia	16756.2	1846.7	18602.9
Total	25039.3	6130.8	31170.1
Deficit/Surplus	-8473.1	2437.4	-6035.7

*Goods data as per DGCI&S for FY 2021-22

**RBI

India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)

(a) To boost trade and investment between India and Australia, the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) was signed on

- ❖ On the tourism front, mega tourism events are being planned to promote Indian states and tourist destinations. Extensive efforts have also been undertaken to promote yoga and Ayurveda along with tourism for health and wellness.
- ❖ On the technology front, an MoU between CSIR and AMEXCID is to be signed shortly. The mission has focused on promoting academic and scientific exchanges between the two countries. The mission is exploring possibilities to establish chairs in the field of Ayurveda at eminent universities.

9. TRADE WITH OCEANIA REGION

The FT(Oceania) Division deals with India's bilateral trade relations with Australia, New Zealand, Timor-Leste and Pacific Islands countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu etc)

India's Major Trade Activities in the Oceania Region

(A) Australia

The India-Australia economic relationship has grown significantly in recent years. India's growing economic profile and commercial relevance to the Australian economy is recognized, both at the Federal and State level in Australia. Australia is an important strategic partner of India and both the countries are part of the four nation QUAD, Trilateral Supply Chain Initiative (SCRI) and the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF) for Creativity.

2nd April 2022 by the Commerce and Industry Minister of India Shri Piyush Goyal and the then Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister of Australia Shri Dan Tehan MP, in the virtual presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and the then Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. Scott Morrison.



(b) Ind-Aus ECTA came into effect on 29th December 2022, opening the way for significantly enhance the bilateral trade in goods and services and a gateway for cooperation on a number of areas. Both the countries have trade complementarities. It is expected that with the Entry into force of this agreement, will enhance opportunities for bilateral

trade in goods and services, which would create new employment opportunities as well as promote investment in the two countries. It reflects the depth of mutual trust and confidence between the two countries and will further strengthen the already existing close and strategic relations between India & Australia.



(c) Ind-Aus ECTA, which is India's first trade agreement with a developed nation in more than a decade, Australia will provide zero duty access to India for 100 per cent of its tariff lines with 98.3 per cent of the Tariff lines getting immediate duty-free access. It is expected that with this agreement, Indian businesses will gain improved market access in many product lines, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, leather & footwear,

furniture, agricultural products, engineering goods, medical products and automobiles. This will surely provide an additional comparative advantage for our already globally competitive products. As regards trade in services, Australia has offered wide ranging commitments in key areas of India's interest such as Quota for chefs and yoga teachers; Post study work visa of 2-4 yrs. for Indian students on reciprocal basis; mutual recognition of Professional Services and Work

& Holiday visa arrangement for young professionals. Overall, It is expected that with this agreement, the total bilateral trade will cross US\$ 45-50 billion in 5 years from existing US\$ 31 billion. India's Merchandise Exports is likely to increase by 10 billion by 2026-27, and likely to generate additional employment of 10 lakhs in next 5 years once implemented and will enhance mobility of students, professionals, and tourists between the two sides strengthening people-to-people ties between the two nations. Moreover, the long pending issue under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) related to IT/ITES has been resolved under this agreement which will provide a financial savings of more than US\$ 200 million per year as per industry associations' estimate.

As per the provisions of Ind-Aus ECTA, Chief Negotiators from both the Countries are discussing each other to finalise the scoping document for negotiations of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).

(B) New Zealand

India and New Zealand (NZ) have cordial and friendly relations rooted in the linkages of Commonwealth, parliamentary democracy and the English language. Bilateral relations were established in 1952 between India and New Zealand. NZ has identified India as a priority country in its "Opening Doors to India" policy notified in October 2011 which was reiterated by NZ in 2015.

Trade data with New Zealand (in 2022)

	(Values in US\$ million)		
	Goods*	Services	Total Trade
India's Exports to New Zealand	487.2	257.4	744.6
India's Imports from New Zealand	374.8	172.1	547
Total Trade	862	429.5	1291.7
Surplus	112.4	85.3	197.7

*Goods data as per DGCI&S for FY 2021-22

India-NZ Joint Trade Committee (JTC)

India and New Zealand had earlier entered into a trade agreement in 1986 with an aim to discuss the contours of a broader India-New Zealand economic dialogue to sort out the issues pertaining to trade between the two countries. The institutional machinery for the purpose created was the Joint Trade Committee (JTC). The 10th Meeting of the India-New Zealand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi on 24th June 2022 to review and take measures in furtherance of bilateral trade Partnership and

Cooperation in areas such as Agriculture, Pharmaceuticals, Textiles, Renewable Energy and Services. Both sides discussed issues of market access & co-operation in these sectors and decided to resolve them in timely & effective manner.

In a subsequent bilateral Ministerial meeting held between India and New Zealand on 20th September 2022, it was decided to create a few groups for working out cooperation in relevant fields of mutual interest. The officials from both the sides are working to take this initiative forward.



(C) Fiji

India is a committed development partner of Fiji. Indian assistance extends to sectors such as capacity building through human resource development and

training under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programmes. Every year, many ITEC slots are made available to Fijian nationals. India provides Humanitarian and Disaster Relief assistance from time to time whenever the need arises.

Trade data

(Values in US\$ million)

	Goods*	Services	Total Trade
India's Exports to Fiji	5.8	8.4	14.2
India's Imports from Fiji	0.5	1.5	2.0
Total	6.3	9.9	16.2
Deficit/Surplus	5.3	6.9	12.2

*Goods data as per DGCI&S for FY 2021-22

Services data taken from RBI

EXPO/Buyer Seller Meet with MAI Assistance

To promote the businesses with these countries and other Pacific Island countries, EXPO/Buyer Seller Meets were organized by FIEO, ICC, Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC), Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI), Pharmexcil at various places in Australia, New

Zealand and Fiji. These are likely to increase bilateral trade and enhance areas of cooperation with these countries.

10. TRADE WITH EUROPE

FT-Europe Division deals with trade relations with the following countries of Europe:

S.N.	Region and No. of Countries	Name of countries
1.	European Union (EU) (27)	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.
2.	European Free Trade Association (EFTA) (4)	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
3.	Other European countries (7)	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and United Kingdom.

During 2022-23 (April-November), total bilateral trade with Europe stood at US\$ 122.56 billion, registering a growth of 10.58 per cent over the corresponding period of previous year. Exports to Europe increased by 17.94 per cent from US\$ 52.50 billion in 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 61.92 billion in 2022-23 (April-November). Imports from Europe increased by 3.95 per cent from US\$ 58.34 billion in 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 60.64 billion 2022-23 (April-November).

(A) European Union (EU)

The EU as a bloc of 27 countries is an important trading partner of India. During 2022-23 (Apr-Nov), total bilateral trade with the EU stood at US\$ 85.58 billion, registering a growth of 17.87 per cent over the corresponding period of previous year. Exports to EU increased by 20.20 per cent from US\$ 39.36 billion in 2021-22 (Apr-Nov) to US\$ 47.34 billion in 2022-23 (Apr-Nov). Imports from EU increased by 15.01 per cent from US\$ 33.24 billion in 2021-22 (Apr-Nov) to US\$ 38.23 billion in 2022-23 (Apr-Nov).

period of previous year. Exports to these European Countries increased by 14.65 per cent from US\$ 5.26 billion in 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 6.03 billion in 2022-23 (April-November). Similarly, Imports increased by 116.86 per cent from US\$ 1.37 billion in 2021-22 (April-November) to US\$ 2.96 billion in 2022-23 (April-November).

(E) Institutional Mechanism

Institutional Mechanisms with several European

countries viz. Austria, Belgium-Luxembourg, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and UK as well as with EU have been set up.

In the year 2022-23 (April-December, 2022), meetings of following Joint Commissions have held:

SI No.	Subject	Date
1	8 th Session of India-Greece JEC	15 th April 2022
2	20 th Session of India-Finland JEC	2 nd -3 rd June 2022
3	2 nd Session of India-Croatia JEC	13 th October 2022
4	2 nd Session of India-Norway DTI	20 th -21 st December 2022

(F) Other Bilateral Engagements (at Ministerial level)

Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister had:

- ❖ Bilateral virtual interaction with French Minister for External Trade, H.E. Franck Riester on 19th April 2022.
- ❖ Bilateral Meeting with Mr. Mika Lintila, Economic Affairs Minister of Finland on 19th April 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bilateral Meeting with Ms. Anna Halberg, Swedish Foreign Minister on 25th April 2022, in New Delhi.
- ❖ Bilateral meeting with Mr. Zbigniew Rau, Foreign Minister, Poland on 25th April 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Virtual Meeting with Ms. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Secretary of State for International Trade, UK on 4th May 2022.
- ❖ Bilateral Meeting with H.E. Luigi Di Maio, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Italy on 6th May 2022 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Meeting with Ms. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Secretary of State for International Trade, UK and Business

Community in UK on 26th and 27th May in London, UK.

- ❖ Bilateral meeting with EU's Executive Vice President Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis on 17th June 2022 in Brussels.
- ❖ Meeting with Mr. Oliver Becht, Minister for Foreign Trade, France on 23rd September 2022 at Bali on the sidelines of G-20 TIMM.
- ❖ Meeting with Ms. Maria Reyes Maroto Illera, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Spain on 23rd September 2022 at Bali on the sidelines of G-20 TIMM.
- ❖ Bilateral meeting with Mr. Guy Parmelin, Swiss Federal Councilor, on 18th May 2022 (Davos), 4th October 2022 (New Delhi) and 6th December 2022 (virtual).
- ❖ Virtual meeting with UK's SoS Ms. Kemi Badenoch on 26th September 2022, 10th October 2022, 4th November 2022
- ❖ Meeting with UK's SoS Ms. Kemi Badenoch on 13th December 2022 in New Delhi.



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal in a bilateral meeting with the UK Secretary of State for International Trade, Ms. Kemi Badenoch, in New Delhi on 13th December 2022.

11. INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

(A) WTO and related issues

India is one of the founding members of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and believes that there is no alternative to the rules based, inclusive, open and transparent multilateral trading system with development objectives at its core that works on the principle of consensus-based decision making. The Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) was held in Geneva, Switzerland during 12th-17th June 2022, with Kazakhstan as co-host. India participated constructively in the negotiations in all areas which were part of agenda i.e. agriculture, fisheries, WTO response to pandemic, TRIPS, E-Commerce and WTO reform. The Conference ended in the early hours of 17th June 2022 with outcomes agreed by all 164

Members, on consensus basis, in a number of areas.

MC-12 recognized the importance of contribution of multilateral trading system to promote the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in its economic, social, and environmental dimensions, in so far as they relate to WTO mandates and in a manner consistent with the respective needs and concerns of Members, at different levels of economic development.

Member nations also recognized women's economic empowerment and the contribution of MSMEs to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and acknowledged their different context, challenges and capabilities in countries at different stages of development. They also took note of the WTO, UNCTAD and ITC's work on these issues.



Indian Delegation engaged in Negotiations at MC12, at Geneva



Indian Delegation headed by the Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal with the WTO DG and the officials of the WTO Secretariat



The Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal with Director General, WTO, Ms. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

The following paragraphs provide details about the important areas of negotiations at the WTO along with the outcomes of the MC12:

(i) Agriculture

In the area of agriculture, asymmetries exist in entitlements of the developed and developing Members at the WTO. While the developed countries carry on targeting the domestic support provided by developing countries, India has been seeking to achieve level playing field by elimination of trade distorting domestic support provided by some developed countries, as a first step in the agriculture negotiations.

A key issue of importance to India is the public stock holding (PSH) for food security purposes. At the WTO, India, along with a number of developing countries, has been demanding a permanent solution for the issue of PSH, a long pending mandated issue in agriculture negotiations. India does not want to link PSH issue with other agriculture issues and to negotiate it on a separate track, as per the decision taken in the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the WTO in Nairobi (2015). This was followed by a number of proposals by India as part of the G33 group at the WTO for a permanent solution, the latest submission made on 31st May 2022, along with the G-33, African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and African Group and has been engaging with Members to build a wider coalition on this issue.

The MC12 outcome on agriculture comprised of a Ministerial Declaration on the emergency response to food insecurity and a Ministerial Decision on exempting the World Food Programme (WFP) humanitarian food purchases from export prohibitions or restrictions. Both these outcomes attempt to respond to the demands from the international community for immediate action by WTO members to address food shortages and soaring food prices and ensure that the most vulnerable can access emergency food aid.

The Conference delivered on the agenda of food security in a very limited manner, it could not succeed in delivering on the mandated issues of agriculture negotiations, that is, a permanent solution for public stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes and a special safeguard mechanism for developing countries. The former has remained an important tool in ensuring food security during the pandemic, while the latter is a legit demand of the developing countries in order to address sudden price falls and import volume surges, affecting the livelihood of farmers adversely.

(ii) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at the MC12 on 17th June 2022, marked a major step forward for ocean sustainability by prohibiting harmful fisheries subsidies, which are a key factor in the widespread depletion of the world's fish stocks.

In order to set right the imbalance in the high subsidies given by advanced fishing nations and to achieve equity, India proposed no prohibition on subsidies granted by developing countries for low income, resource poor fishermen or livelihood fishing related activities up to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a sufficiently long transition period of 25 years for future fishing or fishing-related activities, including distant water fishing, the need to incorporate 'Common But Differentiated Responsibility' (CBDR) and 'polluter pays' principle. India also sought S&DT in fisheries subsidies.

The Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies agreed at the MC12 will prohibit subsidies from being provided for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks. Developing countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), have been allowed S&DT in the form of a transition period of two years after the entry into force of the Agreement. The Agreement also prohibits subsidies on high seas, which are outside the jurisdiction of coastal countries and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations/ Arrangements (RFMO/As).

For the Agreement to become operational, two-thirds of Members have to deposit their "instruments of acceptance" with the WTO. Members also agreed at MC12 to continue negotiations on outstanding issues, with a view to making recommendations by MC13 for additional provisions that would further enhance the disciplines of the Agreement.

(iii) WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Ministerial Declaration on the WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and preparedness for future pandemics, agreed at MC12, provides a template for a faster and globally coordinated response in this regard.

India's suggestion to place a pandemic response system by mapping manufacturing capacities and demands and matchmaking to cater to such demands, in collaboration with WHO and other international organizations, has been noted in the Declaration.

The declaration underlines the critical role of services, which was severely impacted in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, for future pandemics and

stresses the importance of facilitating the international operations of service suppliers, trade in services, including health services and ICT services while noting the importance of mutual recognition norms for services, such as, recognition of vaccination certificates and interoperability and mutual recognition of digital health application. India has benefited from the mutual recognitions underlined in the declaration and it will further boost international travel and post pandemic economic recovery along with facilitating long term ease of travel to Indian professionals, around the world.

The declaration recognizes the right of members to apply export restrictions to address acute supply-side constraints while also requiring them to exercise due restraint when taking trade restrictive measures. The declaration acknowledges the adoption by Members of such measures, including tariff reductions or adjustments on COVID-19 health products, transparency and monitoring-related measures and simplified customs procedures, among others.

India's policy space available in WTO for addressing COVID-19 pandemic or any future pandemic, has been preserved while there is an acknowledgement of the role of the services sector particularly of interest to us in the post-COVID 19 economic revival. There is also an acknowledgment of different levels of development of Member countries which has determined their response to the Pandemic.

(iv) Electronic Commerce

(a) Work Programme on E-Commerce

❖ The General Council (GC) of the WTO established a Work Programme on E-Commerce (WPEC), with an exploratory and non-negotiating mandate, to comprehensively examine all trade-related issues relating to global e-commerce, taking into account the economic, financial and development needs of developing countries. Ministerial Declarations, over the years, have called for continuing or re-invigorating the work under the WPEC. India is of the view that developing countries need to preserve flexibility to implement policies to 'catch-up' in the digital arena. India has been supporting re-invigoration of work under the existing exploratory and non-negotiating mandate of the WPEC.

- ❖ For MC12 held in June 2022, India along with South Africa and Indonesia made a submission supporting re-energization of work under the WPEC, including the development related issues under it. India stressed that increasing participation of developing countries in global e-commerce continues to be a challenge and that there has been no comprehensive assessment of the developmental aspects of global e-commerce under the WPEC. At MC12, Members agreed to reinvigorate the work under the WPEC based on its existing mandate and particularly in line with its development dimension.
- ❖ India is actively participating in the discussions related to the WPEC. India has already tabled a paper on “Consumer Protection in E-Commerce” at the WTO (WT/GC/W/857) which was introduced during the meeting of the General Council held on 19th-20th December 2022.

(b) Moratorium on Imposition of Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions

- ❖ WTO members had agreed not to impose customs duties on electronic transmissions since 1998, and the moratorium has been extended periodically at the Ministerial Meetings.
- ❖ Under the standing Agenda item, WPEC, India and South Africa made a joint submission titled 'Global Electronic Commerce for Inclusive Development' on 9th November 2021 which inter alia demonstrates that reconsideration of the moratorium is important for developing countries to preserve policy space for their digital advancement. India and South Africa also made submissions in July 2018, June 2019, March 2022 and June 2022 on the key issues associated with the implementation of the e-commerce moratorium. To take the issue forward, India proposed to further stress that even COVID-19 led extreme demand pull for e-commerce /internet, in severe lock down conditions wherein internet became necessary tool for survival, did not change much for developing countries in terms of internet usage and digital infra etc.
- ❖ At MC12, Members agreed to reinvigorate the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce (WPEC) and intensify discussions on the moratorium and

instruct the General Council to hold periodic reviews based on the reports that may be submitted by relevant WTO bodies, including on scope, definition, and impact of the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions.

(v) WTO Reform & Appellate Body Crisis

Proposals and suggestions for reforms for strengthening and modernizing the WTO have been under discussion for the last several years in various bodies. India took the initiative to present a Developing countries' reform paper “Strengthening the WTO to promote development and inclusivity” in August 2019 which was co-sponsored by Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Malawi, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Oman. The latest versions were submitted in December 2020 and in February 2022 to keep the reform discussion alive in the run-up to MC12. This got the support of more Members subsequently, in July 2022. The key elements of the proposal include:

- ❖ Preserving the core values of the Multilateral Trading System including decision-making by consensus.
- ❖ Resolving the impasse in the Dispute Settlement System: India favours restoration of Appellate Body and normal functioning of two-tier dispute settlement system.
- ❖ Safeguarding development concerns including reaffirming the centrality of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) as a non-negotiable, Treaty-embedded right for developing Members and LDCs.
- ❖ Transparency and Notifications should take into account the capacity constraints faced by developing Members, and focus on addressing these difficulties through inclusive and mutually-agreed approaches.

India is of the view that the Members first need to agree on the elements of the reform package, precise nature of the process to be adopted to carry out the discussions, before the Ministers can consider to take forward the WTO reform work.

At MC12, members agreed for carrying out the discussions on WTO reform through a member-led process in the General Council (GC) and its subsidiary

bodies. The Outcome Document reaffirms the foundational principles of the WTO and acknowledges development issues.

Further, Members also envisioned reforms to improve all functions of the WTO and conduct discussions to have a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system by 2024. In the post MC12 scenario, it is important that WTO members work towards the outcome on reform at the WTO in an inclusive manner.

Resolving the impasse in the Dispute Settlement System: The WTO Appellate Body is a permanent body intended by the DSU (Dispute Settlement Understanding) to resolve appeals on issues of law. The Appellate Body is ordinarily composed of seven members having a four-year term, with the possibility of one reappointment.

As of now, the Appellate Body is dysfunctional due to non-appointment of Members.

(vi) Special and Differential Treatment and Graduation of Developing Countries

Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions for developing members, including LDCs at the WTO recognize the differences in the level of development among members of the WTO and allows developing members the space to formulate their domestic trade policy in a way that enables them reduce poverty, generate employment and integrate meaningfully into the global trading system.

India believes in the continued relevance of special and differential treatment provisions for developing countries including LDCs. The principle of S&DT is supported by the African Group, African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and LDC Group. It is apparent that this debate on development would add another issue of divergence in the already existing challenges facing the WTO.

The MC12 outcome documents reaffirm the provisions of special and differential treatment for developing country Members including LDCs in the WTO agreements.

In addition, Ministers adopted decisions - on the Work Programme on Small Economies (WT/MIN(22)/25) and on the TRIPS non-violation and situation com-

plaints (WT/MIN(22)/26) - and a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Declaration for the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference: Responding to Modern SPS Challenges (WT/MIN(22)/27).

(vii) Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement

As a part of India's commitment under the TFA (under Article 23.2 of the TFA), a National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) was set up under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary. This Committee periodically reviews the implementation of the TFA and facilitates domestic co-ordination towards it. The NCTF as the apex committee is supplemented in its functions by a Steering Committee which is chaired jointly by the Commerce Secretary and Revenue Secretary. These committees are, in turn, supported by Working Groups with experts from relevant institutions entrusted with a specific trade facilitation measure or project.

Formulation of the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) 2017-2020 was an early measure by the NCTF. For the period 2020 to 2023, a new NTFAP has been prepared with a vision to take additional reforms to bolster trade facilitation efforts and transform the cross-border clearance eco-system through efficient, transparent, risk based, coordinated, digital, seamless and technology-driven procedures.

India has been making proactive strides in TFA implementation under the overall guidance of the NCTF. Under the aegis of NCTF, India has now become fully compliant with the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Considerable progress has been made towards Ease of doing business and transparency. There has been improvement in Release Time for Imports and Exports. Going forward, India is focusing on Exim cost reduction, increase in the efficiency of regulatory approval processes of Partner Government Agencies (PGAs) and improvements in logistics and infrastructure and achieve cargo release time targets.

(viii) Environment

India is undertaking huge efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonize the manufac-

turing sector and economy. This echoes well with what is enshrined under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and also in the preamble to the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the WTO. India has recently communicated its enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which is a step forward towards India's long-term goal of reaching net-zero which reaffirms the commitment to work towards a low carbon emission pathway, while simultaneously endeavouring to an equitable and sustainable development.

At the MC12, WTO Members recognized global environmental challenges including climate change and related natural disasters, loss of biodiversity and pollution. They noted the importance of the contribution of the multilateral trading system to promote had also reaffirmed the importance of providing relevant support to developing country Members, especially LDCs, to achieve sustainable development, including through technological innovations. This also finds coherence with the provision of funds under the UNFCCC also known as the Green Climate Fund.

(ix) Duty-Free Quota-Free Market Access

WTO Members have reaffirmed the decision at the Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali on Duty-Free Quota-Free Market Access for Least-Developed Countries and instructed the Committee on Trade and Development to recommence the annual review process on preferential DFQF market access for LDCs. Noteworthy is India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) for LDC's Progress. India notified the Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for LDCs in August 2008. Under the DFTP Scheme, market access to 85 per cent of India's total tariff lines was duty free, a Margin of Preference (MoP) was provided on 9 per cent lines and 6 per cent tariff lines were under the Exclusion List.

Out of 46 LDCs 35 have acceded to the scheme. The DFTP Scheme under HS 2017 nomenclature at the national tariff line provides duty free/ preferential market access on about 98.2 per cent of India's tariff lines (at HS 6-digit level of classification). Only 1.8% of the tariff lines have been retained in the Exclusion List, with no duty concessions.

(B) Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP)

The Agreement establishing the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) was signed on April 13, 1988 at Belgrade. The results of the first Round of the GSTP negotiations for exchange of tariff concessions were ratified by 41 countries and the agreement came into force on 19th April 1989. India extended margin of preferences (MoP) on 30 Product lines (At HS4/6 level) while receiving concessions from other countries. Some of the products where India extended tariff concessions (with MoP mentioned in bracket) are Copra (15%), Cane Molasses (30%), Portland Cement (25%), Calf Leather (30%), Aluminum tubes and pipes (15%) etc.

The second round of Negotiations was launched in the Ministerial Meeting of GSTP held in Tehran on 21st November 1991 which concluded in 1998. Due to delay in completion of administrative procedure for implementation of the second round of concessions, it was decided to drop implementation of the second round of concessions. At present, there are 42 participating countries including Mercosur under GSTP Agreement, the list of which may be accessed at the <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-agreements/global-system-of-trade-preferences>.

The third round of GSTP negotiations, launched in 2004 in Sao Paulo in Brazil, concluded in 2010. In the third round, participating countries agreed to offer 20 per cent tariff reduction on at least 70 per cent (80 per cent for the LDCs Participants) of the goods imported from within this group of nations.

The schedules of concessions under the Third Round of negotiations will be implemented thirty days after a minimum of four participants ratify their schedules and inform the GSTP Secretariat. The tariff concessions will be implemented amongst such four participants and other participants will avail of the concessions after they ratify their schedules. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting on 23rd August 2012 approved implementation of India's Schedule of Concessions under the Third Round of negotiations. It remains unimplemented as a minimum of 4 members are required to ratify the agreement.

(C) Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), a regional organization, comprising seven-member states-Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, came into being on 6th June 1997. The initiative is aimed at furthering economic cooperation on sub regional basis involving contiguous countries of South East and South Asia grouped around the Bay of Bengal.

BIMSTEC has identified 14 priority areas of cooperation where member countries have been identified to take lead in their respective areas. India is a lead country for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Environment and Disaster Management, Tourism and Transport and Communication.

In 2004, BIMSTEC members have agreed to establish BIMSTEC Free Trade Area Agreement covering Trade in Goods, Services, Investment and Customs Cooperation. So far, 21 rounds of negotiations by the Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) have taken place. The 21st meeting of BIMSTEC TNC and meetings of Working Group on Rules of Origin, Services, Investment, Customs Cooperation, Trade Facilitation and Legal Experts were held in Dhaka on 18th-19th November 2018. It was decided therein that inter-sessional meetings/video conferencing be held to expedite implementation of the BIMSTEC agreement.

- ❖ The 21st meeting of BIMSTEC Working group on Rules of Origin (WGRoO) was held virtually in Dhaka on 18-19th October 2022 to discuss the outstanding issues of RoO chapters and Operational Certification Procedure (OCP) text. Unresolved issues, after 21st meeting, will be discussed in the next round of the WGRoO.
- ❖ The 8th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Trade in Services (WGTIS) was held on 18th-19th November 2018 on the side-lines of the Twenty-First Meeting of the BIMSTEC Trade Negotiating Committee in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In this Round, the Working Group could reach agreement on certain Articles and recommended that some Articles need to be discussed further due to

disagreements between the members on the language of the legal text in the next meeting of the BIMSTEC working group on trade in services.

- ❖ Besides above, the negotiation is also on course in areas of Investment and Trade Facilitation.

(D) BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)

BRICS is an association of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" before the induction of South Africa in 2010. BRICS Presidency is held rotationally by the Member States on a yearly basis. India successfully completed its presidency tenure for 2021 and passed it to People's Republic of China which ended in 2022. South Africa has assumed presidency for 2023. BRICS countries account for 23.85 per cent of the world GDP, nearly 46 per cent of the world population, around 19.76 per cent of global merchandise trade in 2021.

The Department of Commerce in Government of India handles the economic and trade issues under BRICS that are discussed under the institutional mechanism known as the "Contact Group on Trade and Economic Issues" (CGETI). Under the Chinese presidency in 2022, the following documents were negotiated in the CGETI and adopted in the BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held on 9th June 2022:

- ❖ 12th BRICS Trade Ministers' Joint Communiqué.
- ❖ BRICS Digital Economy Partnership Framework,
- ❖ BRICS Initiative on Enhancing Cooperation on Supply Chains,
- ❖ BRICS Initiative on Trade and Investment for Sustainable Development,
- ❖ BRICS Statement on Strengthening the Multilateral Trading System and Reforming the WTO

(E) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a multilateral organization, was established in 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The SCO Charter, formally establishing the organization, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19th September 2003. India and Pakistan became the

full members of the SCO on 9th June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan. Currently SCO has eight members.

For the year 2022, the Republic of Uzbekistan was the Chair of Council of Heads of States (CHS), whereas Peoples Republic of China was the Chair of Heads of Government (CHG). During the year, the Department of Commerce engaged in the negotiation of only one of the negotiating documents, viz. “Statement of the Ministers of the SCO Member States Responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activities, on supporting the multilateral trading system”, mooted by China.

For the year 2023, India is the Chair for CHS and Kyrgyz Republic is the Chair for CHG.

(F) G20 and India

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among its members, with the country that holds the presidency working together with its predecessor and successor, also known as Troika, to ensure the continuity of the agenda. India has assumed G20 Presidency on 1st December 2022 and is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous and incoming G20 Presidencies) comprising India, Indonesia and Brazil. This is the first time the troika is consisting of three developing countries and emerging economies, providing them a greater voice.

Department of Commerce (DoC) is the Nodal Department for Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), under G20 Sherpa Track. The TIWG mandate is to undertake cooperation on trade and investment considering the priorities of G20 Presidency. As a part of India's preparedness for upcoming G20 Presidency, a dedicated G20 cell has been created and made functional within DoC. G20 Cell will be responsible for all the tasks and events related to G20 matters during India's G20 Presidency. During India's G20 Presidency TIWG related tasks will be taken up into 2 aspects: substantive and logistics.

On substantive aspect DoC has finalised 5 Priority Issues (PIs) which will be taken up for discussion under TIWG. DoC would prepare series of documents such as Issue notes, Concept Papers, Outcome/ Ministerial documents which would be circulated with the G20 member countries for discussions and

negotiations. As G20 convention, Presidency takes support from various International Organisations (IOs) who make Presentations in front of the G20 members at various meetings on current global economic issues. The level of success of the TIWG is rated by the outcomes to be achieved in the form of Ministerial Communique and other statements.

Logistics vertical will be handling overall coordination and organisation of various events. During India's G20 Presidency as part of TIWG 4 working group meetings will be organised respectively in Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kevadia and Jaipur. The 1st TIWG meeting is scheduled to be organised in Mumbai during 28th-30th March 2023. The 4th TIWG meeting will be followed by Trade and Investment Ministerial Meet (TIMM) in Jaipur. During the meetings various side events in the form of seminars/ mini exhibitions/ setting up experience zones are also being planned.

(G) IBSA (India Brazil and South Africa)

IBSA is a trilateral development initiative between three major democracies from three different continents to promote cooperation and coordination on global issues relevant to these developing countries. Formally established on June 6, 2003, through the “Brasilia Declaration”, IBSA represents a major initiative of policy coordination aiming at strengthening multilateralism, reinvigorating south-south cooperation and fostering democratization of decision making within major international instances. IBSA Trade Ministers frequently meet to exchange views on issues like WTO Doha Round. India has been holding the Chairship of IBSA from 2012.

India hosted the 10th meeting of the IBSA Working Group on Trade and Investment (WGTI) on May 23, 2013 at New Delhi.

Coffee is an important commodity in all the three IBSA countries. During India's IBSA Chairship, Department of Commerce hosted a virtual Coffee Festival during 4th-5th August 2021 in collaboration with Coffee Board of India, Bengaluru, with the Theme - Coffee, Country & Collaboration. The spread of COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a heavy blow on the coffee sector like every other industry. The IBSA Coffee festival threw light on its impact on coffee industry and deliberated on solutions and opportunities in these three countries, for future growth.

(H) Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a unilateral preferential tariff system which provides tariff exemption/reduction on products (as allowed by the GSP providing countries) originating from developing countries including LDCs. GSP scheme has been extended to Indian products by 11 countries namely, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, EU, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has developed a Common Digital Platform to facilitate the process of issuing Certificate of Origin (CoOs) under GSP Scheme, which has been made effective from 01.04.2021 for all preferential certificate of Origin (CoO). Exporters are only required to complete the details of their shipment in the CoO format online for issuance of CoO by the relevant authorized agency nominated by the Government for this purpose. However, for exports to the European Union under GSP scheme, the Registered System (REX) system is being used for obtaining EU GSP benefits, wherein the exporter needs to register for obtaining REX number and thereafter Exporter can self-certify the statement of Origin for such exports.

(I) Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)

The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI), a trilateral initiative, launched by the Trade & Industry Ministers of Australia, India and Japan on 27 April 2021 seeks to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific Region and develop dependable sources of supply and attract investment. This has become more important owing to the disruptions in supplies of raw material and intermediate goods as well as cross-border movement of professionals such as health professionals on account of the current COVID-19 crisis including recent global-scale changes in the economic and technological landscape.

The key features of the initiative are:

- ❖ Enhancing the resiliency of supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region including diversification of supply sources and increase competitiveness of sectors.
- ❖ Attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the region and strengthen mutually complementary relationship among the participants.

- ❖ While the broad objective is to promote, expand and diversify trade and investment, the specific action plans include digitisation of trade documentation, activities for promotion of trade and investment, identification of sectors for cooperation, explore other countries who could join in the initiative, capacity building, promotion of domestic manufacturing.

- ❖ The Trade and Industry Ministers of India, Japan and Australia, formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) on 27th April 2021 to enhance the resilience of supply chains in the Indo-Pacific Region and to develop dependable sources of supply and to attract investment.

To take the initiative forward, it was decided to take the following initial projects:

- ❖ Sharing of best practices on supply chain resilience; and
- ❖ Holding investment promotion events and buyer-seller matching events to provide opportunities for stakeholders to explore the possibility of diversification of their supply chains.

The second Meeting of Trade and Industry Ministers of the three countries was held on 15th March, 2022 wherein the confirmation of action taken on decisions of the first Trade Ministers Meeting and future Vision and actions of SCRI were agreed.

Following are the decisions taken in respect of future vision and action to be taken under SCRI, as per Joint Statement of the 2nd Meeting of Trade and Industry Ministers of three countries, held in March 2022:

- ❖ to identify key sectors, particularly in manufacturing and services, where the trilateral cooperation could enhance the resilience of supply chain in the sectors,
- ❖ encourage further collaboration between AusTrade, Invest India and JETRO to promote investment and business in these sectors.
- ❖ cooperation with business and academia to promote best practice and to facilitate joint projects for supply chain resilience.
- ❖ to formulate and promote supply chain principles in the region.



Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region.

Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP seeks to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges. It carries out work in the following areas:

- ❖ ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction
- ❖ Environment and Development
- ❖ Social Development
- ❖ Statistics
- ❖ Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development
- ❖ Trade, Investment & Innovation
- ❖ Transport
- ❖ Energy

ESCAP focuses on issues that are most effectively addressed through regional cooperation, including issues that benefit from regional or multi-country involvement, Issues that are trans boundary in nature, or that would benefit from collaborative inter-country approaches.

(i) Annual Session of ESCAP

The Commission meets annually at the Ministerial level to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region, to decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, to review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and program of work, and to make any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

The 78th Session of ESCAP was held at Bangkok and online from 23rd-27th May, 2022. The theme of the session was "A common agenda to advance sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific". The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.

(ii) India's contribution to ESCAP

The delivery of ESCAP's programs is supported by the regional institution and the sub-regional offices. India has worked in close cooperation with ESCAP during the year. India has also committed continued financial

support to the following regional institutions of ESCAP:

- ❖ Asian and Pacific Center for Transfer of Technology (APCTT), hosted by India in New Delhi.
- ❖ Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM), Beijing, China.
- ❖ Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), Chiba, Japan.
- ❖ Asian and Pacific Training Centre for information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT), Incheon, Republic of Korea.

(iii) Sub Regional Office in India

Strengthening India's partnership with UN-ESCAP, a Sub-Regional Office (SRO) for South and South West Asia was established in New Delhi with financial assistance from India.

The main activities of SRO are to:

- ❖ Implement the Commission's agenda at the sub-regional level by serving as a link between sub-region and Commission headquarters;
- ❖ Promote and support specific sub-region priorities and programs concentrating on the priority sectors of member States within the sub-region;
- ❖ Operate as sub-regional nodes for knowledge management and networking;
- ❖ Spearhead the delivery of technical assistance activities and act as the Commission's implementing arm in the sub-region;
- ❖ Establish close working relations with United Nations country terms within the sub-regional and promote the coordination of United Nations systems activities at the sub-regional level.
- ❖ Build strong partnerships and network with other relevant actors in the sub-region, including other sub-regional intergovernmental bodies, to promote sub-regional cooperation with a regional framework.

(L) Kimberley Process Certification Scheme

- ❖ The Kimberley Process (KP) is a joint initiative of participating Governments along with observers from industry and civil society to stem the flow of

conflict diamonds (rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate government). Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is a UN mandated (UNGA Resolution 55/56 of 2000 and UNSC Resolution 1459 (2003)) international certification scheme. It requires each participant to impose internal controls over production and trade of rough diamonds. Trading in rough diamonds with a non-participant is not allowed. All exports of rough diamonds have to be accompanied by a valid KP Certificate stating that diamonds are conflict free.

- ❖ KPCS currently have 59 participants, representing 85 countries with the European Union and its Member States counting as single participant. All major diamond producing, trading and polishing centres are members of KP. Civil Society and industry groups also actively participate in the KP. Chairmanship of KP is rotated on annual basis. The Vice Chair is selected at the annual “Plenary” meeting and becomes Chair automatically the following year. The KPCS Chair oversees the implementation of the KPCS, the operations of the Working Groups and Committees, and General Administration. The Botswana is the KP Chair for 2022 and Zimbabwe being vice Chair 2022 will become KP Chair in 2023.
- ❖ India is one of the founding members of KPCS. India was the Chair of Kimberley Process in the year 2008 and 2019.

12. TRADE IN SERVICES

(i) Bilateral engagements in services in 2022-23

- ❖ India has signed comprehensive bilateral trade agreements, including Trade in Services, with Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, UAE, Australia and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ❖ During the year 2022, India signed Free Trade Agreements (FTA) in Services with United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 18th February 2022, and with Australia on 2nd April 2022. The India- UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force on 1st May 2022 and the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) entered into force on 29th December 2022.

- ❖ Currently, India is actively engaged in bilateral FTA negotiations including in Trade in Services with the UK, Canada, the EU and Israel.
- ❖ The issues related with implementation of India-Japan CEPA and upgradation of India- Korea CEPA are also being discussed in the respective sub-groups set up under the joint committees of the trade partners. Besides, India is also engaged in bilateral trade dialogues with US under the Trade Policy Forum, with Taiwan on Trade in Services, and with many other countries.
- ❖ After the 12th India US TPF ministerial meeting held in November 2021, the Services Working Group under the TPF held two virtual meetings in April and October 2022. Constructive discussions were held by both sides and better understanding was achieved on various issues. The key issues raised from the Indian side included launching of time-bound negotiations for signing of a Social Security Totalization Agreement, simplified pathways for the recognition, licensing, verification of documents etc of the professional services and visa issues faced by Indian professionals in the US. The 13th India US TPF ministerial meeting was held on 11th January 2023 in Washington D.C., US.
- ❖ Under the new FTAs, binding market access and national treatment without limitations under the sectors of India's main interests such as professional services, computer and related services, other business services, education services, health services, social services, tourism and travel related services, audio-visual services, and construction and related engineering services are being pursued. Further, in order to amplify the impact of FTA and ensure real gains to the services suppliers, India is pursuing arrangement for mutual recognition of its professionals in different streams in the form of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) in professional services. Also, separate Annexes to promote trade in Health Services and Audio-visual services are being pursued as a part of the FTA negotiations.
- ❖ As mobility is crucial to different modes of services delivery, efforts are also being made to facilitate mobility of Indian service suppliers by way of

securing meaningful commitments in FTAs in different categories of natural persons (Business visas, Contractual Service Suppliers, Intra- Corporate transferees, Independent professionals); gaining additional commitments for the temporary movement of professionals like Yoga instructors and Chefs; including provisions on post study visa, work and holiday visa, removal of Economic Needs Test/Labour Market Tests and fairer work rights for international workers through signing of Social Security Agreement etc.

(ii) Trade Promotion through organization of international fairs/exhibitions/events

17th FICCI Higher Education Summit & Exhibition 2022

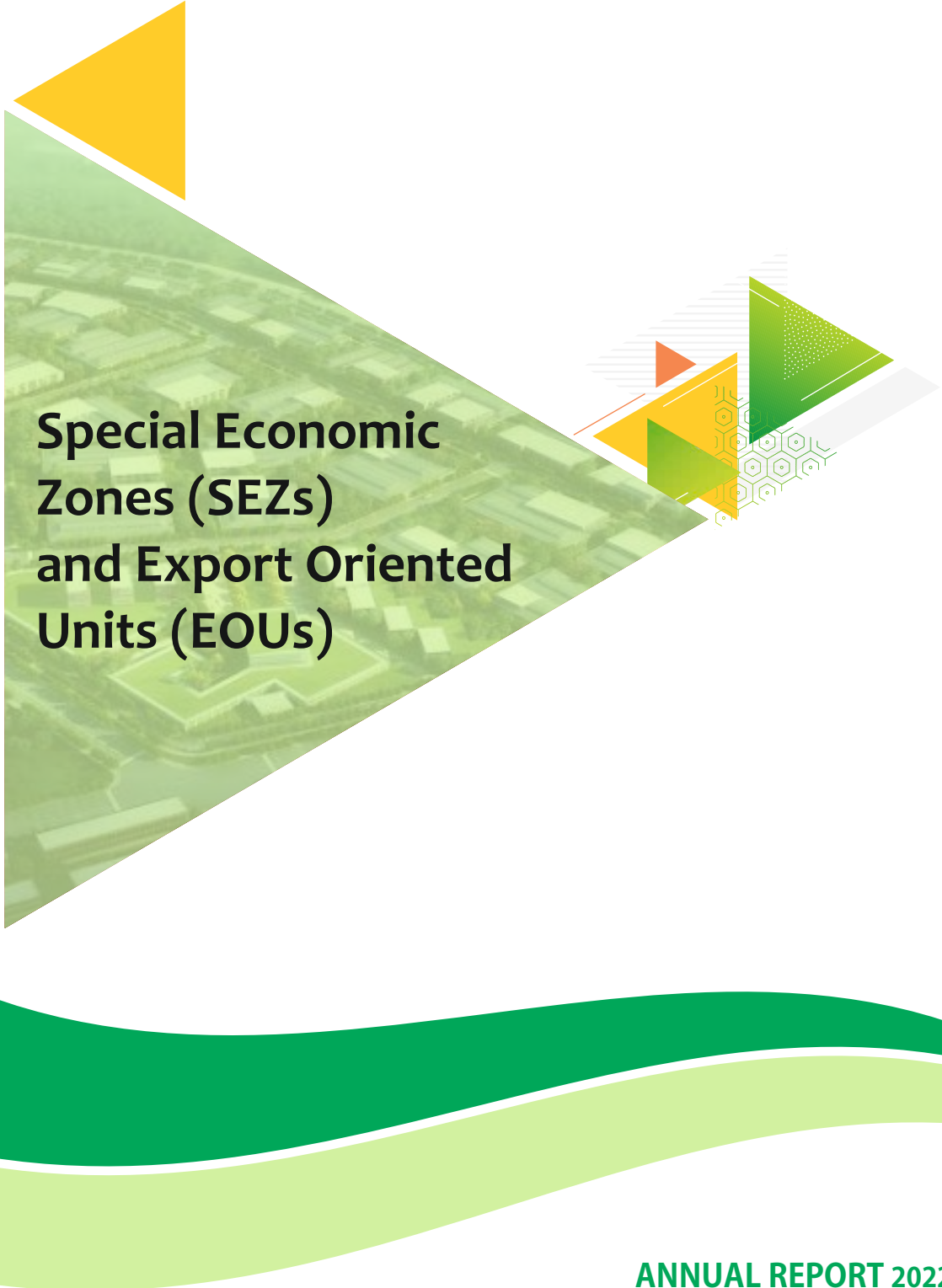
- ❖ The 17th edition of FICCI Higher Education Summit and Exhibition 2022 has been jointly organized by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The event is also supported by Ministry of Human Resource Department & Educational Consultants India Limited (EDCIL). The theme for this year Summit was “Global Destination for Higher Education: Advantage India”.
- ❖ The Summit brought together the stakeholders from the government, industry and academia to have engaging and effective deliberations to strategically adopt futuristic, disruptive and

creative processes and technologies to build an educational environment for the Global Destination for Higher Education. Foreign Hosted buyers from more than 65 countries had B2B meetings with more than 150 Indian exhibitors, participating in this 17th edition of the FICCI Higher Education Summit and Exhibition. In three days more than 6500 visitors witnessed the event.

- ❖ Main highlights of the 17th FICCI HES 2022 event were:
 - ◆ Exhibition: One-on-one interactions with top Indian Universities/Institutions, educationists, industry leaders, Vice Chancellors, Students etc.
 - ◆ Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM)- International Student recruitment through the hosted buyers from more than 65 countries from Middle East, CIS, SAARC, Africa & CLMV countries.
 - ◆ Showcase opportunities available in Indian market and encourage foreign universities to collaborate.
 - ◆ Opportunity for Indian & foreign universities/ institutions to sign MoUs with Global Universities and Institutions who are interested in Indian market.

Pursue collaborations and tie-ups for joint degrees, Dual Degree, research, student and faculty exchange programs, twinning programs, etc.

CHAPTER 7



**Special Economic
Zones (SEZs)
and Export Oriented
Units (EOUs)**

1. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES (SEZs)

Asia's first Export Processing Zone (EPZ) was set up in Kandla in 1965, followed by establishment of seven more EPZs in the country. Subsequently, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Policy was announced in April 2000 wherein various new features were incorporated. This policy intended to make SEZs an engine for economic growth supported by quality infrastructure and complemented by an attractive fiscal package, both at the Centre and the State level, with a user-friendly regulatory framework. All the 8 pre-existing EPZs located at Kandla and Surat (Gujarat), Santa Cruz (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Falta (West Bengal) and Noida (Uttar Pradesh) were converted into Special Economic Zones.

The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, was passed by Parliament in May, 2005 & received Presidential assent on the 23rd of June 2005. The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10th February 2006.

The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:

- ❖ generation of additional economic activity
- ❖ promotion of exports of goods and services
- ❖ promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
- ❖ creation of employment opportunities
- ❖ development of infrastructure facilities

In terms of the SEZ Act, 2005, an SEZ may be set up either jointly or severally by the Central Government, State Government or any person for manufacture of goods or rendering services or for both or as a free trade warehousing zone. Such proposals duly recommended by the concerned State Government are considered by the Board of Approval for SEZs. SEZs being set up under the SEZ Act, 2005 are primarily private investment driven initiatives.

(A) Current performance of SEZs

After notification of SEZ Rules in February, 2006, Department of Commerce has granted 424 formal approvals for setting up SEZs out of which 357 have been notified. Out of the total employment provided to 28,07,256 persons in SEZs as a whole, 26,72,552 is incremental employment generated after February, 2006. This is apart from millions of man days of employment generated by the developers for infrastructure activities. Physical exports from the SEZs has increased from Rs. 7,59,524 crore in 2020-21 to Rs. 9,90,747 crore in 2021-22, registering a growth of 30%. There has been overall growth of export of 4,238% over past sixteen years (2005-06 to 2021-22). The total physical exports from SEZs as on 30th September, 2022 has been to the tune of Rs. 5,92,459 crore, registering a growth of 32.17% over the exports of corresponding period of the previous financial year. The total investment in SEZs till 30th June, 2022 is Rs. 6,45,785 crore, including Rs. 6,09,036 crore in the newly notified SEZs set up after SEZ Act, 2005. 100% FDI is allowed in SEZs through automatic route.

Exports from the operational SEZs from 2005-06 are as under:

Years	Exports		Growth (%) over previous year (INR)
	(Values in Rs. crore)	(Values in billion US\$)	
2005-2006	22,840	5.08	-
2006-2007	34,615	7.69	52
2007-2008	66,638	14.81	93
2008-2009	99,689	21.71	50
2009-2010	2,20,711	46.54	121.40
2010-2011	3,15,868	69.30	43.11
2011-2012	3,64,478	76.01	15.39

Years	Exports		Growth (%) over previous year (INR)
	(Values in Rs. crore)	(Values in billion US\$)	
2012-2013	4,76,159	87.45	31
2013-2014	4,94,077	81.67	4
2014-2015	4,63,770	75.84	6.13
2015-2016	4,67,337	71.38	0.77
2016-2017	5,23,637	78.07	12.05
2017-2018	5,81,033	90.15	11
2018-2019	7,01,179	100.28	21
2019-2020	7,96,669	112.37	13.62
2020-2021	7,59,524	102.32	4.66
2021-2022	9,90,747	133	30
2022-2023 (upto 30.09.2022)	5,92,459	75.48	32.17*

*Exports growth of the corresponding period of FY 2021-22

A total of 270 SEZs are exporting at present. Out of this, 163 are IT/ITES, 25 Multi product and 82 other sector specific SEZs. 5,620 units have been setup in the SEZs till date.

(B) Impact of the scheme

The SEZ scheme has generated tremendous response among the investors, both in India and abroad which is evident from the flow of investment and creation of additional employment in the country. In addition to earning of foreign exchange and development of infrastructure, SEZs have achieved significant local area impact in terms of direct as well as indirect employment, emergence of new activities, changes in consumption pattern and social life.

(C) Some key aspects of SEZs

(i) Land requirement for SEZs

Consequent to amendment to SEZ Rules, 2006, carried out on 17th December 2019, the minimum land

area requirement for setting up a Special Economic Zone or Free Trade Warehousing Zone other than a Special Economic Zone for Information Technology or Information Technology enabled Services, Biotech or Health (other than hospital) service, is a contiguous land area of fifty hectares or more. In case a Special Economic Zone is proposed to be set up in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Goa or in a Union territory, the minimum area required is twenty-five hectares or more.

There is no minimum land area requirement for setting up a Special Economic Zone for Information Technology or Information Technology enabled Services, Biotech or Health (other than hospital) service. A minimum built up processing area requirement, based on the category of cities, is indicated in the following Table:

S. No.	Categories of cities	Minimum built-up area requirement
1.	Category 'A'	50,000 sq.mts.
2.	Category 'B'	25,000 sq. mts.
3.	Category 'C'	15,000 sq. mts.

(ii) Procedure for setting up of Special Economic Zone

After the recommendation of the concerned State Government for setting up of SEZ, the Board of Approval approves a proposal for establishment of a Special Economic Zone subject to the requirements of minimum area of land and other terms and conditions prescribed in the SEZ Act and Rules. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land could be acquired for the SEZs. If perforce, a portion of double cropped agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum

area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Central Government does not allot any land for SEZs. The Board of Approval on SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. Further, pursuant to the decision of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) in its meeting held on 5th April 2007 the State Governments have been informed on 15th June 2007, that the Board of Approval will not approve any SEZs where the State Governments have carried out or propose to carry out compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs after 5th April 2007.

(iii) Details of Land under SEZs

1	Total land area related to 7 Central Govt. + 12 State/Private notified SEZs	2,132.18 Ha
2	Total land area related to 357 notified SEZs	38,460.04 Ha
3	Total land area related to 67 formally approved SEZs	5,487.33 Ha
4	Total land area related to notified and formally approved SEZs (1+2+3)	46,079.55 Ha
5	Land area related to 35 In principle approved SEZs	21,104 Ha
6	% of area of notified SEZs to that of land area of India (328 MHa)	0.013
7	% of area of notified SEZs to that of agrl. land area of India (142 MHa)	0.026

(iv) Fiscal benefits and duty concessions offered to SEZ Developers and units

- ❖ The incentives and facilities offered to the units in SEZs for attracting investments into the SEZs, including foreign investment include:
 - ◆ Duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZ units
 - ◆ Exemption of IGST and CGST has been available for SEZ Units.
 - ◆ As per IGST Act, 2017, supply of goods or services or both to a Special Economic Zone unit is treated as "zero rated supply".
 - ◆ Other levies as imposed by the respective State Governments.
 - ◆ Single window clearance for Central and State level approvals.
- ❖ Erstwhile benefits to SEZ units
 - ◆ 100% Income Tax exemption on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50% for next 5 years

thereafter and 50% of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years. (Sunset Clause for Units becomes effective from 01.04.2021)

- ◆ Exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) under section 115JB of the Income Tax Act. (withdrawn w.e.f. 01.04.2012)
- ❖ The major incentives and facilities available to SEZ developers include:
 - ◆ Exemption from customs/excise duties for development of SEZs for authorized operations approved by the BOA.
 - ◆ Exemption of IGST and CGST has been available for SEZ Developers.
 - ◆ As per IGST Act, 2017, supply of goods or services or both to a Special Economic Zone developer is treated as "zero rated supply".
- ❖ Erstwhile benefits to SEZ Developers
 - ◆ Income Tax exemption on income derived from the business of development of the SEZ in a block of 10 years in 15 years under Section 80-IAB of the Income Tax Act. (Sunset Clause for Developers has become effective from 01.04.2017)

(D) Recent Initiatives for ensuring Ease of Doing Business in SEZs

- ❖ Method of calculation for Net Foreign Exchange earning criteria was reviewed and modified vide Notification dated 07.03.2019.
- ❖ Rule 53A inserted to facilitate the calculation of net foreign exchange for a unit in an International Financial Service Centre in view of its special nature.
- ❖ Uniform list of services to SEZ, a broad list of input services that could be utilized by SEZ units for their day-to-day operations thereby avoiding the requirement of the units to seek permission of Development Commissioners for each such instance.
- ❖ Setting up of cafeteria, gymnasium, creche and other similar facilities / amenities allowed to SEZ units.
- ❖ Delegation of powers to Development Commissioner for shifting of SEZ unit from one SEZ to another within their jurisdiction.
- ❖ An amendment to the SEZ Rules in March-2019 to allow employees of IT/ITeS SEZ units to work from home.
- ❖ Guidelines for clearance of abandoned goods/uncleared cargo laying in Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs.)
- ❖ Formalize “de-notification” process for enclaves and delink its present mandatory usage for SEZs purpose only.
- ❖ Support to enable servicification of manufacturing zones. Allowing manufacturing enabling services companies e.g. Research and Development (R&D) services, engineering design services, logistics service.
- ❖ Developers are allowed flexibility to enter into a long term lease agreement with stakeholders in Zones in line with the State policies.
- ❖ Enabling provisions for transfer of approval from one co-developer to other co-developer.
- ❖ Amendment in SEZ Act, 2005 [Section 2(v)] for enabling Trusts and any other entity notified by the Central Government to set up units in SEZ.
- ❖ Vide amendment dated 23.10.2020, a proviso in Rule 24(3) of the SEZs Rules inserted regarding admissibility of Drawback and any other similar benefit on supplies from Domestic Tariff Area to foreign suppliers in Free Trade and Warehousing Zone, where the payments are made in foreign currency by the foreign supplier to Domestic Tariff Area.
- ❖ A new rule 21A inserted in SEZ Rules, 2006 which enables setting up of Unit by Multilateral or Unilateral or International agencies notified under United Nation (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947 (46 of 1947) in International Financial Services Centre.
- ❖ Power Guidelines, 2016 amended vide OM dated 07.06.2021 allowing a unit to set up non-conventional power plants within their premises for the exclusive purpose of captive consumption subject to the condition that non tax/duty benefits stipulated under Section 26 of SEZ Act, 2005.
- ❖ Instruction No. 106 relating to the policy for worn/used clothing and plastic recycling units in SEZs was issued on 27.5.2021.
- ❖ Instruction No. 107 dated 26.08.2021 was issued for minimizing regulatory compliances for Pharma Industry. Further, integration of Food Standards and Safety Authority of India (FSSAI) with SEZ Online System has been made live.
- ❖ Instruction No. 108 dated 11th October, 2021 was issued pertaining to alternative method of transfer of space by an existing unit under Rule 74 of SEZ Rules, 2006.
- ❖ Instruction No. 109 dated 18th October, 2021 was issued which provides that reorganization including change of name, change of shareholding pattern, business transfer arrangements, court approved mergers and demergers, change of constitution, change of Directors, etc. may be undertaken by the Unit Approval Committee (UAC) concerned subject to the condition that Developer/Co-developer/Unit shall not opt out or exit out of the Special Economic Zone and continue to operate as a going concern.
- ❖ A rule amendment has been carried out in Rule 41 and 42 of SEZ Rules, 2006 vide Notification No.

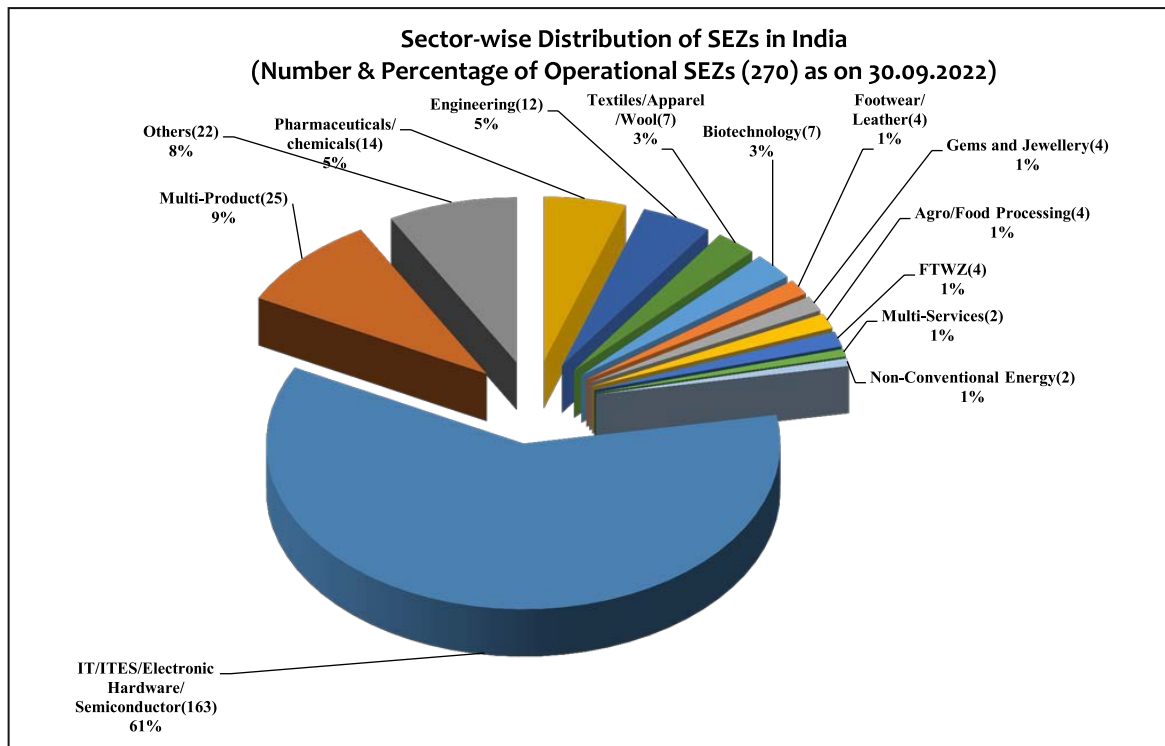
clinging units in SEZs /
 May 2022 thereby ex
 (LoAs) of the plast
 for a term of 5 y
 prescribed in t
 27.05.2021.

issued thereby laying down the guidelines
 including standard operating procedure for Work
 on Home permission for implementation of Rule
 of the SEZ (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022.

(As on 26.10.2022)		
State	Notified SEZs	Total Operational SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act)
Andhra Pradesh	28	25
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	1
Delhi	0	0
Goa	3	0
Gujarat	22	21
Haryana	22	7
Jharkhand	2	0
Karnataka	51	34
Kerala	23	20
Madhya Pradesh	7	5
Maharashtra	43	37
Manipur	1	0
Nagaland	2	0
Odisha	5	5
Punjab	0	0
Rajasthan	3	3
Tamil Nadu	4	3
Uttar Pradesh	0	0
West Bengal	5	50
	0	36
	0	0
	1	14
	2	5
	35	357

Fact Sheet on Special Economic Zones
(Dedicated website: www.sezindia.nic.in)

Number of Formal approvals (As on 26.10.2022)		424			
Number of notified SEZs (As on 26.10.2022)		376 (Including 7 Central Govt. +12 State Govt. / Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005)			
Number of In-Principle Approvals (As on 26.10.2022)		35			
Operational SEZs (As on 30 th June, 2022)		270			
Units approved in SEZs (As on 30 th June, 2022)		5,620			
Land for SEZs (As on 26.10.2022)	7 Central Govt. + 12 State Govt. /Pvt. SEZs notified before SEZ Act, 2005.	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Notified SEZs Area (1+2)	Formally Approved SEZs (424-357)	Total Area (3+4)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	2132.18 Ha	38460.04 Ha	40592.22 Ha	5487.33 Ha	46079.55 Ha
	Land is a State subject. Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.				
INVESTMENT		Investment (As on February, 2006)	Incremental Investment	Total Investment (As on 30 th June, 2022)	
Central Government SEZs		Rs. 2,279.20 cr.	Rs. 21,006.85 cr.	Rs. 23,286.05 cr.	
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006		Rs. 1,756.31 cr.	Rs. 11,706.61 cr.	Rs. 13,462.92 cr.	
SEZs Notified under the Act		-	Rs. 6,09,036.21 cr.	Rs. 6,09,036.21 cr.	
Total		Rs. 4,035.51 cr.	Rs. 6,41,749.67 cr.	Rs. 6,45,785.18 cr.	
EMPLOYMENT		Employment (As on February, 2006)	Incremental Employment	Total Employment (As on 30 th June, 2022)	
Central Government SEZs		1,22,236 person	73,039 person	1,95,275 person	
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006		12,468 person	97,656 person	1,10,124 person	
SEZs Notified under the Act		0 person	25,01,857 person	25,01,857 person	
Total		1,34,704 person	26,72,552 person	28,07,256 person	
Exports in 2020-21		Rs. 7,59,524 Crore [102.32 Billion US\$] (Decrease of -4.66% over FY 2019-20)			
DTA Sale (Deemed exports)		Rs. 20,167 Crore (2% of total production)			
DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)		Rs. 1,76,634 Crore (18% of total production)			
Exports in 2021-22		Rs. 9,90,747 Crore [133 Billion US\$] (Growth of 30% over FY 2020-21)			
DTA Sale (Deemed exports)		Rs. 27,401 Crore (2% of total production)			
DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)		Rs. 3,27,642 Crore (24% of total production)			
Exports in 2022-23 (As on 30 th September, 2022)		Rs. 5,92,459 Crore [75.48 Billion US\$] (Growth of 32.17 % over the exports of the corresponding period of FY 2021-22)			
DTA Sale (Deemed exports)		Rs. 14,255 Crore (2% of total production)			
DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)		Rs. 1,35,560 Crore (18% of total production)			



2. EXPORT ORIENTED UNITS (EOUs)

The Export Oriented Units (EOUs) scheme was introduced in early 1981, primarily to boost exports by creating additional production capacity. It was introduced as a complementary scheme to the Free Trade Zones/Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Scheme introduced in the sixties. It adopts the same production regime as SEZs (erstwhile EPZs) but offers a wide option in locations.

Units undertaking to export their entire production of goods and services, except permissible sales in the DTA, as per the Export-Import Policy are referred to

as export oriented units (EOUs). The EOUs function under the administrative control of the concerned Development Commissioner of Special Economic Zone i.e., under the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

The EOUs are governed by the provisions of Chapter 6 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) and its procedures, as contained in the Handbook of Procedures (HBH).

As on 30th Sep, 2022, 1638 units are in operation under the EOU Scheme as compared to 1650 EOUs on 30th Sep, 2021.

State wise distribution

SEZ	States	
NSEZ	Chandigarh	
	Daman	
	Haryana	
	Himachal Pradesh	
	Jammu & Kashmir	
	Punjab	07
	Rajasthan	48
	Uttar Pradesh	46
	Uttarakhand	02
CSEZ	Karnataka	380
	Kerala	84
ISEZ	Madhya Pradesh	6
VSEZ	Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Chattisgarh	68
	Telangana	128
FSEZ	West Bengal	30
	Jharkhand	02
		01
MEPZ		306
		22
KASEZ		181
SEEPZ		

CHAPTER 8



1. PLANTATION (TEA, COFFEE, RUBBER AND SPICES)

The plantation sector comprises tea, coffee, rubber and spices sectors which have importance in India's economy as this sector is related to the livelihood concerns of a large number of people employed directly and indirectly in the plantation industry and its ancillary activities. It is also a large foreign exchange earner. The plantation sector is one of the oldest organized industries in India and the mainstay of the agrarian economy of many States. The uniqueness of plantation crops lies in its massive growth potential and scope for improved lives, without migration, through traditional skills development and sustainable manner. Historically, plantations in India were promoted as a means of foreign exchange earner to overcome its acute shortage. Given this role, the sector received considerable attention of the State. This is evident as commodity boards were set for each of the crops and with legislations that empowered these boards to undertake various activities needed for plantation development.

The details of each sector are summarized as under:

(A) Tea Sector

(i) Tea Board

The Tea Board is a statutory body constituted under Section 4 of the Tea Act, 1953 and functions under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce. The Tea Board comprises of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and 30 members appointed by Government of India. The Board is headed by a non-official Chairman and Deputy Chairman is the executive head of the organization.

The Board functions as an apex body concerned with overall development of the tea industry in India by providing necessary assistance for research and developmental activities aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality, facilitation of trade and promotion of exports so as to ensure maximum returns to the producers, including small growers, safeguarding the interests of the workers and the consumers, gathering statistical and other relevant

data concerning the industry and disseminating the information to various segments of the industry, registering and licensing of different stakeholder's.

(ii) Tea in India

India is the largest producer and consumer of black tea in the world. The tea consumption in India accounts for 19 per cent of the global consumption due to its population even though the per capita consumption is lower. Almost 81 per cent of the total production is consumed within the country and balance 19 per cent is exported. Besides bringing in valuable foreign exchange, tea industry is one of the important sources for revenue for the tea growing states. The most significant feature of the industry is its ability to provide direct employment to more than a million workers, of which a sizeable number are women.

(iii) Tea growing regions

Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are the major tea growing states. They account for 98 per cent of the total production. Other traditional states where tea is grown to a small extent are Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Karnataka. The non-traditional States that have entered the tea map of India in the recent years include Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim. India produces some of the world's finest teas – Darjeeling, Assam, Nilgiris and Kangra famous for their delicate flavour, strength and brightness. With diverse agro climatic conditions, India produces medley of teas suited to different tastes and preferences of consumers. The characteristics of each region are distinct, which sets them apart from one another in many different ways.

(iv) Production

2021-2022 tea production stands at 1,344.40 million Kgs, as against 1,283.03 million Kgs in 2020-21, indicating thereby an increase of 61.37 million Kgs (4.78%), due to better climatic conditions that prevailed in major tea growing areas of North India.

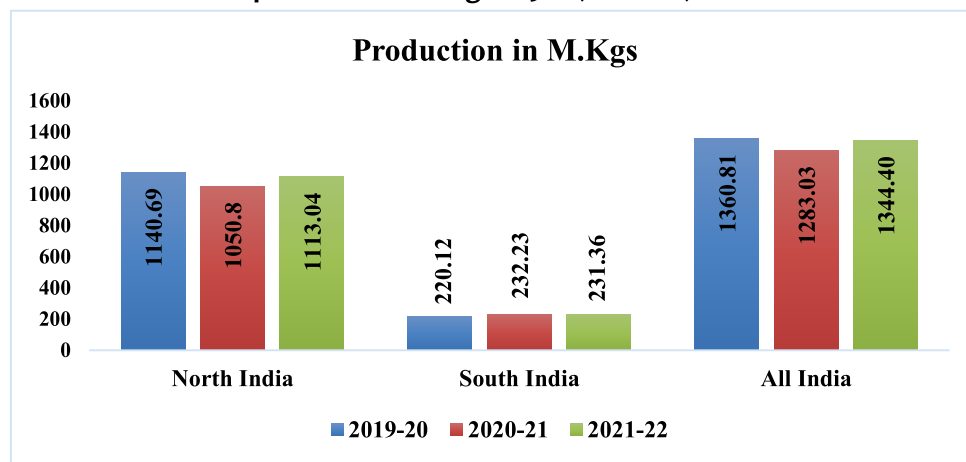
Production of Tea in India during last five financial years (in million Kgs)

Year	North India	South India	All India
2019-20	1140.69	220.12	1360.81
2020-21	1050.80	232.23	1283.03
2021-22	1113.04	231.36	1344.40

Source: Tea Board

For 2022-23: Based on the provisional data of production, the cumulative tea production during 2022-23 (April-November) is arrived at 1176.89 million Kgs at par with the corresponding period. It is expected that the tea production for 2022-23 may likely reach around 1350 million Kg, higher than last year's production of 1344.40 million Kg.

Tea production during 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22



Source: Tea Board

(v) Exports

Exports from India during the financial year 2021-22 was 200.79 million Kgs in quantity with value realization of Rs 5,415.78 crore, as against 203.79 million Kgs in quantum and Rs. 5,311.53 crore in value realization during 2020-21, indicating a decrease of 3 million Kgs in quantity but value increase of Rs. 104.25 crore. The unit price realization increased to Rs 269.72 per Kg in

2021-22, compared to Rs 260.64 per Kg in 2020-21. Out of the total exports in 2021-22 about 16.01 per cent are in the value-added form (packet tea, tea bags and instant tea) while the rest is in bulk form. Increase in export was noticed to the following countries during the year 2021-22, UAE by 9.60 million Kgs, USA by 1.40 million Kgs, Germany by 1.16 million Kgs, Singapore by 0.94 million Kgs, Iran by 0.93 million Kgs and Sri Lanka by 0.78 million Kgs.

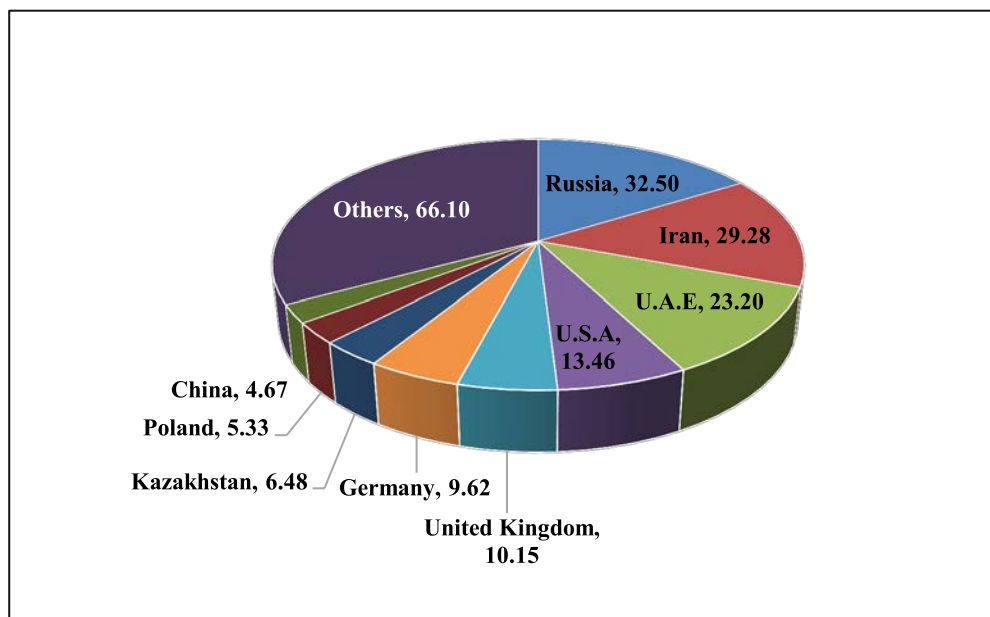
Exports of tea from India during the last three financial years

Year	Quantity (million Kgs)	Value (Rs. crore)	Unit Price (Rs/Kg)	Value (US\$ million)	Unit Price (\$/Kg)
2019-20	241.34	5457.10	226.11	768.93	3.19
2020-21	203.79	5311.53	260.64	716.86	3.52
2021-22	200.79	5415.78	269.72	726.82	3.62

Source: Tea Board

As per DGCIS data the provisional tea exports during 2022-23 (Apr-Nov), stood at 165.16 million Kgs., with FOB value of Rs.4476.08 crore and US\$ 561.74 million as compared to 134.85 million Kgs, FOB Value of Rs. 3720.34 crore US\$ 501.77 million of corresponding period in 2021-22, which indicates increase in tea exports in both quantity and value.

Direction of Indian Tea Exports in 2021-22



Source: Tea Board

(vi) Imports

The volume of tea imported during the financial year 2021-22 was at 25.97 million Kgs. valued at US\$ 50.91 million with a unit price of US\$ 1.96 per Kg. as against 27.75 million kgs. valued at US\$ 62.54 million with a unit price of US\$ 2.25 per kg in 2020-21.

During current financial year 2022-23 (April-October), provisional imports stood at 17.27 million Kgs., with value of US\$ 33.90 million as compared to 15.37 million Kgs and value of US\$ 31.50 million of the corresponding period.

(vii) Tea Development

One of the important functions assigned to Tea Board under the Tea Act includes formulation and implementation of development schemes aimed at increasing tea production and productivity of plantations, modernization of tea processing, packaging and value addition facilities and encouraging co-operative efforts amongst small tea growers and also welfare measures for tea garden workers that are supplementary to the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951. The Board is implementing the Tea Development & Promotion Scheme (2021-22 to 2025-26) which was approved by the Government with an outlay of Rs. 967.78 crore. The scheme aims at holistic development of the tea industry with special emphasis on small tea growers.

(viii) Small Growers

The Board is catering exclusively to the needs of the small tea growers through offices set up in the areas of major small grower concentrations in the tea growing States. One of the major activities being undertaken is carrying out workshops and training for the small tea growers on the best field practices, organic farming, collectivisation for moving up the value chain etc.

(ix) Tea Promotion

Overseas offices: Tea Board promotional activities are being monitored from Head Office, Kolkata as presently no overseas offices are functioning. In Moscow the work is being managed by the Embassy officials in addition to their own duties. They undertake tea export promotional activities and liaise with importers of Indian tea in the CIS region as well as the Indian Exporters.

Trends in India's foreign trade: During 2021, the six (6) major producing countries viz. China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Indonesia collectively accounted for 86 per cent of aggregate production with respective export shares of 47.45%, 20.81%, 8.33 %, 4.64%, 2.79% and 1.97%.

During the April- November period of 2022-23, the Indian tea exports have registered 11.95 per cent

growth in value realisation Y-o-Y by registering US\$ 561.74 million as compared to US\$ 501.77 million during the corresponding period last year.

During 2022-23, Tea Board carried out various promotional activities by organizing virtual B2B meetings with the tea importers of the important export destinations such as Syria, Russia, Saudi Arab, Iraq, Malaysia etc. in association with the respective Embassies/Missions/Consulates in those countries. The Board also maintained liaison work with the tea trade, attended to trade enquiries, facilitated addressing various trade-impacting issues related to Indian tea exports in the key markets in coordination with the relevant Divisions in the DoC. It had kept the tea trade informed of developments related to exports as well as dissemination of market and trade information through its Head Office in Kolkata and Missions abroad. Sustained campaign through Social Media such as Twitter, Facebook, KOO etc. has also proved to be very effective in increasing awareness about varieties of Indian teas, positive health attributes, unique characteristics of different varieties of Indian tea etc.

Tea Research: High yielding and quality cultivars have been developed. Besides, bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides, sensory aids for mechanization have also been developed. Various regulatory issues of tea (including fixation of residue limits of pesticides, addressing pesticide residue problem, iron filings, heavy metal contaminants, artificial colour, fixation of quality parameters, and packaging standards) have been handled in order to comply with both the national and international regulatory standards.

(B) Coffee Sector

(i) Coffee Board

The Coffee Board is a statutory organization under the control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India constituted under the Coffee Act 1942, an Act enacted by the Parliament. The Board comprises 33 members including the Secretary, who is the Chief Executive appointed by the Government of India, a non-Executive Chairman and remaining 31

members comprising Members of the Parliament, Official members representing the interest of Coffee Growing States and members representing various interests of the Coffee Industry. The Coffee Board focuses its activities in the areas of research, extension, development, market intelligence, external & internal promotion and labour welfare measures. The Coffee Board functions with its Head Office in Bengaluru. The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) at Balehonnuru, Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka is the headquarters of the Research Department with a Sub-Station at Chettalli (Karnataka) and Regional Research Stations at Chundale (Kerala), Thandigudi (Tamil Nadu), Narasipatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Diphu (Assam). The Extension network is spread over the traditional coffee growing areas (Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu), Non-Traditional Areas (Andhra Pradesh and Odisha) and North Eastern Region (Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh).

(ii) Coffee Area

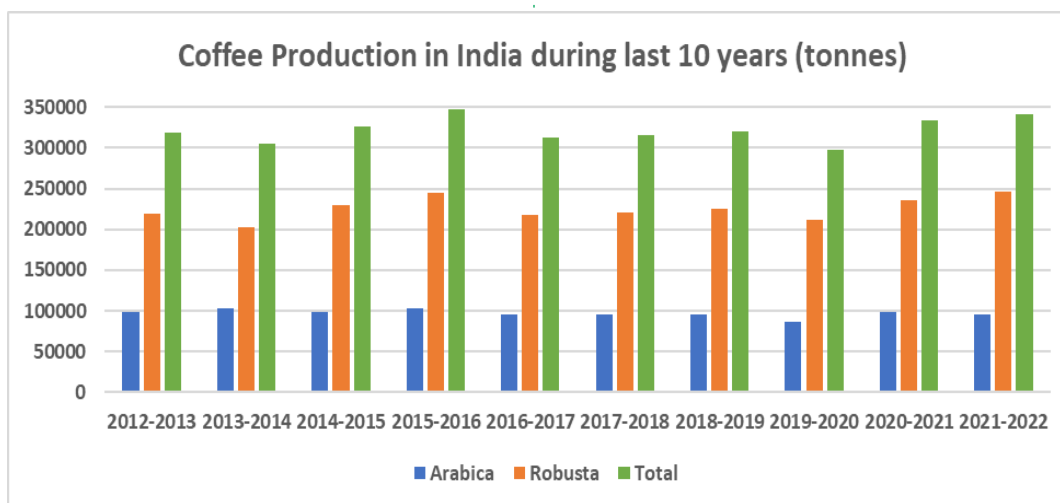
Coffee is cultivated in an area of around 4.72 lakh hectares predominantly in the traditional areas covering the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which contribute to around 97 per cent of the total production. Coffee is also cultivated to some extent in Non-Traditional Areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and to a lesser extent in the North Eastern States viz., Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Manipur with main emphasis on tribal development and afforestation.

There are about 4.07 lakh coffee holdings in the country, of which around 4.04 lakh holdings (99 per cent) constitute the small growers category (up to 10 hectares holding) contributing to 75 per cent share in area & 70 per cent share to production and the rest 1 per cent of the total holdings fall under the large grower category with holding size of more than 10 hectares contributing to 25 per cent share in area and 30 per cent share in production.

(iii) Coffee Production

The final crop estimates for 2021-22 is placed at 3,42,000 tonnes consisting of 95,000 tonnes of

Arabica and 2,47,000 tonnes of Robusta. The Post monsoon estimates for 2022-23 is placed at 3,60,500 tonnes consisting of 1,01,500 tonnes of Arabica and 2,59,000 tonnes of Robusta.



Source: Database on Coffee, Coffee Board

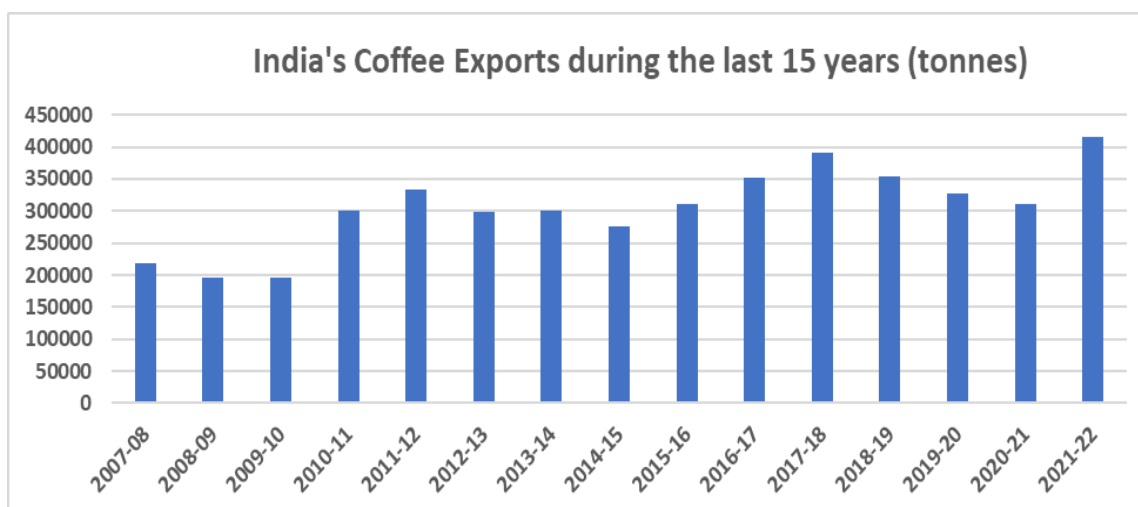
(iv) Productivity

The overall productivity of coffee during 2021-22 is 797 kg/ha. The productivity of Arabica is 448 kg/ha and that of Robusta is 1,139 kg/ha. In the traditional coffee growing areas, the productivity is high with an overall average of 951 kg/ha, consisting of 634 kg/ha in case of Arabica and 1142 kg/ha in Robusta.

(v) Export of Coffee

Coffee is primarily an Export Oriented Commodity and presently 70 per cent of country's production is

being exported while balance is consumed in the domestic market. During the year 2021-22, India exported record high export volume of 4,16,247 tonnes of coffee (including re-exports) valued at Rs. 7,699.50 crore equivalent to US\$ 1033.11 million as against export of 3,10,647 tonnes of coffee valued at Rs. 5,450.88 crore equivalent to US\$ 734.85 million during previous year. During the current year (April to December 2022), the coffee exports were 2,88,716 tonnes valued at Rs. 6,451.83 crore which is equivalent to US\$ 812.71 million.



Source: Database on Coffee, Coffee Board



g/L + Epoxiconazole 50 g/L and Tebuconazole 39.39 per cent are found effective when compared to other new systemic fungicide molecules.

- ❖ A total of 37,800 Nos. of Broca traps were supplied to 58 planters for the management of coffee berry borer pest infestation. Further, 1,085 Nos. of pheromone traps were supplied to ten planters for the management of coffee white stem borer pest infestation. In addition, 36,700 Nos. of bio-control agent (*Leptomastix dactylopii*) was supplied to fourteen planters for the management of mealy bug pest infestation.

(viii) Extension & Development Support

- ❖ Under Integrated Development Programme for Coffee (ICDP), about Rs. 24.91 crore has been extended to around 5220 coffee growers for Replantation/Expansion/Consolidation, water augmentation and Quality upgradation infrastructures, export incentive and support for value addition up to December 2022.
- ❖ Around 5,517 coffee growers have been covered under various capacity building programmes like training on coffee cultivation at Technology Evaluation Centres (TECs), village level workshops, Seminars and Vocational training programmes etc.
- ❖ Coffee Board is implementing the Project “Integrated Development Programme for Coffee and Black Pepper produced by Tribals” in Chamarajanagar, Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru districts of Karnataka with the financial assistance by Government of Karnataka covering 2,600 tribal growers.

(ix) Export Promotion

- ❖ In order to minimize regulatory compliances for ease of doing business, Coffee Board has implemented Online issuance with digitally signed coffee export documents during 2020-21 viz., Registration cum Membership Certificate (RCMC) Export permit (Form C) and ICO certificate of origin. Further, Coffee Board increased periodicity of renewal of RCMC certificate from 3 years to 5 years as per Foreign Trade Policy and the validity period of export permits (Form C) and ICO certifi-

cate of origin have been extended from 30 days to 60 days. Besides, the Coffee Board also integrated the export documents on ICEGATE platform.

- ❖ Coffee Board has involved in organizing 'VIKRAYAM' incubation programme to create a platform for the Coffee growers and entrepreneurs for the direct exports without many intermediaries.
- ❖ In order to promote Indian Coffee Exports in different overseas destinations, Coffee Board undertakes various generic promotional activities like participation in coffee centric international expos/exhibitions, buyer-seller meetings, cup tasting session, trade delegations etc.
- ❖ Board also promoted Indian coffees through digital media campaigns viz., twitter, Facebook, Instagram platforms and Board's website.
- ❖ Coffee Board in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Bahrain organized Virtual Business Network Meet on Coffees of Indian on 13th June 2022. 18 major coffee importers from Bahrain and 32 coffee exporters from India interacted and exchanged contacts.
- ❖ Coffee Board in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Beijing, China and China Coffee Association organized Virtual Business Network Meet on Coffees of India on 17th June 2022. About 23 major coffee importers from China along with China Coffee Association and 29 coffee exporters from India interacted and exchanged contacts.
- ❖ Embassy of India in Brussels, Belgium in collaboration with Coffee Board promoted Indian coffees in the India Food Festival held at Parc du Cinqantenaire in Brussels on 20th-21st August 2022. The event saw energetic participation from both Indian community as well as locals, and registered an estimated footfall of 8000-9000 persons over the two days.
- ❖ Coffee Board in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Beijing, China and China Coffee Association organized Virtual Business Network Meet on Coffees of India on 1st November 2022. 16 major

coffee importers from China along with China Coffee Association and 25 coffee exporters from India interacted and exchanged contacts.

- ❖ Embassy of India in Beijing, China in collaboration with Coffee Board conducted Indian Coffee Promotion Week at different coffee shops across Beijing from 16th to 23rd November 2022. Some of the coffee shops expressed interest in buying Indian coffee online. Indian coffee exporters are suggested to explore coming onboard the major Cross Border E-commerce platforms in China.
- ❖ Coffee Board in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Kuwait organized Virtual Business Network Meet on Coffees of India on 28th November 2022. 16 major coffee importers from Kuwait and 25 coffee exporters from India interacted and exchanged contacts.
- ❖ Embassy of India in Beirut, Lebanon in collaboration with Coffee Board promoted coffees of India in 'Art of Living 2022' Exhibition held from 30th November till 4th December 2022 at Forum de Beyrouth, Beirut, Lebanon.

(x) Market Development

- ❖ National Barista Championship 2022
 - ◆ The 20th edition of NBC for the year 2022 was organized in a grand manner in Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru in association with Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI) and United Coffee Association of India (UCAI) with wide participation and support from Coffee Stakeholders.
 - ◆ Ms. Seonhee (Sunny) Yoon from South Korea was the World Coffee Event representative for conducting Judges Calibration and officiating the semifinal and final rounds of the event. A total of 59 baristas battled it out with their elaborate 15 mins performance. Mr. Mithilesh Vazalwar M/s. Corridor Seven Coffee Roasters and Mr. Santhosh Basavaraj M/s. Third Wave Coffee represented India in the World Barista Championship 2022 Melbourne, Australia from 27th-30th September 2022.

- ❖ A one year Post Graduate Diploma programme in Coffee Quality Management is being conducted by the Coffee Board since 2001. This programme helps in developing professionally trained manpower in the area of Coffee Quality Evaluation.
- ❖ Kaapi Shastra Training Program: Totally 04 programs were conducted during 2022-23 and 96 participants have attended the program at Head Office.

(xi) Recent initiatives of Coffee Board

Coffee Krishi Taranga (CKT): Coffee Board is implementing next-level technology-enabled extension service - "Coffee Krishi Taranga" - an IVRS based mobile phone advisory service to Coffee farmers from July 2018 to disseminate advisories on Coffee production technology, weather and price related information. Encouraged by the success of Coffee Krishi Taranga service in Karnataka, the Board extended the services to the Coffee growers of Kerala and Tamil Nadu states from September 2020 and to the tribal Coffee growers of Andhra Pradesh from September, 2022. Also, Coffee Board has proposed to extend the Coffee Krishi Taranga services to all the Coffee growing States by 2023.

During the current year upto November 2022, across the four States, the Board has issued 55 weekly advisories to 77,055 registered Coffee growers and has received 7,368 number of inbound calls to record queries / listen to price information / listen to weekly advisory. All the inbound questions were answered within a window of 48 hrs.

(C) Natural Rubber (NR) Sector

(i) Rubber Board

The Rubber Board is a statutory body constituted under Section (4) of the Rubber Act, 1947 and functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Board is headed by a Chairman appointed by the Central Government and has 28 members representing various interests of natural rubber industry such as rubber growing sector, rubber manufacturing industry, labour interest, representatives of Govern-

ments of principal rubber growing states, Members of Parliament (two from House of People and one from Council of States), the Executive Director and the Rubber Production Commissioner. Developmental and regulatory functions pertaining to the entire value chain of the Indian rubber industry are discharged by the Board by way of assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to natural rubber (NR). The functions of the Board also include maintaining statistics of rubber, promoting marketing of rubber and undertaking labour welfare activities. The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), established in 1955, is situated at Kottayam, Kerala State and has nine Regional Research Stations (RRS) located in various rubber growing States of the country. RRII takes up the research activities for ensuring biological and technological improvement of NR in the country. National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) under the Board located at Kottayam acts as the link between research and extension activities for technology transfer. It has the mandate for human resource development in all sectors of the NR industry and has a significant role in the development of rubber industry.

(ii) Area under Rubber, Production and Productivity

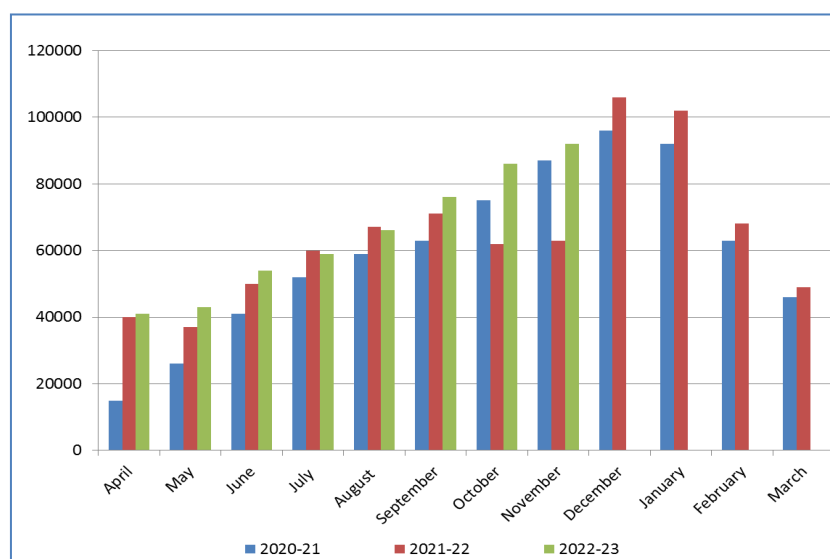
The country's total area under rubber cultivation

expanded to 8,26,660 ha during 2021-22 from 8,23,000 ha a year ago. The extent of tapped area increased to 5,26,500 ha in 2021-22 from 4,96,000 ha in 2020-21 and the share of tapped area in the total tappable area had increased to 73.3 per cent in 2021-22 from 71.6 per cent in 2020-21. The average yield, measured in terms of production per hectare of tapped area increased to 1,472 kg/ha in 2021-22 from 1,442 kg/ha in the previous year.

The country produced 7,75,000 tonne of NR during 2021-22 compared to 7,15,000 tonne during 2020-21, recording a significant growth of 8.4 per cent compared to a marginal growth of 0.4 per cent registered a year ago. Along with the increase in yield, increase in tappable area and improvement in percentage of area tapped during the year have contributed to the appreciable increase in NR production. Interventions made by the Board in promoting rain guarding and other appropriate agronomic practices, measures to control diseases, promoting self-tapping and in adopting more untapped area into tapping etc. need to be emphasised.

NR production during April to November 2022 is provisionally estimated at 517,000 tonne, recording a growth of 14.9 per cent compared to 4,50,000 tonne produced during the same period in the previous year.

Monthly Production of NR (Tonne)

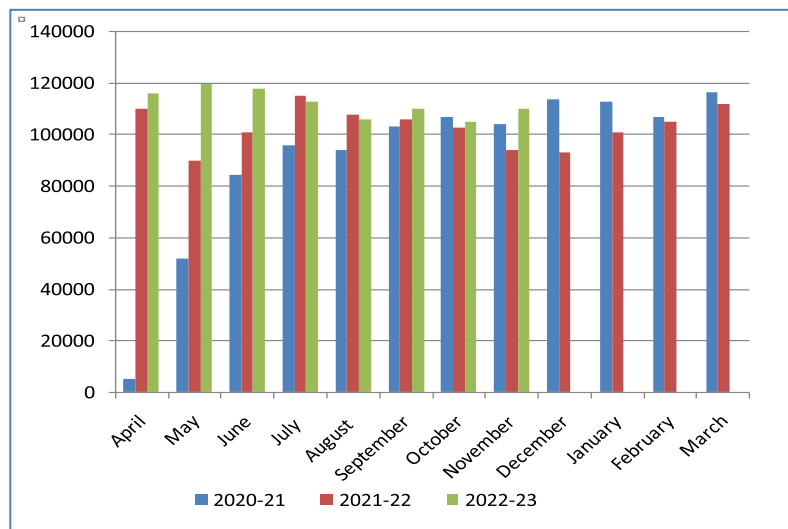


(iii) Consumption of NR

The domestic NR consumption during 2021-22 increased by 12.9 per cent to 12,38,000 tonne from the 10,96,410 tonne of NR consumed during 2020-21. The auto tyre sector registered 15.9 per cent growth during 2021-22 as against 3.2 per cent recorded during 2020-21. At the same time, the general rubber goods sector registered 5.6 per cent growth during 2021-22

compared to negative growth of 16.4 per cent recorded during 2020-21. Auto-tyre manufacturing sector accounted for 73.1 per cent of the total quantity of NR consumed in the country during 2021-22. NR consumption during April to November 2022 is provisionally estimated at 8,98,000 tonne, recording a growth of 8.6 per cent compared to 8,27,000 tonne consumed during the same period in the previous year.

Monthly Consumption of NR (Tonne)



Source: Rubber Board

(iv) Import of NR

As per data available from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the import of NR during 2021-22 increased by 33.1 per cent to 5,46,369 tonnes from 4,10,478 tonnes during 2020-21. During 2021-22, 87.5 per cent of the total NR import was in the form of block rubber. Among the source countries of import of NR into India, Indonesia dominated with a share of 25.3 per cent in the total volume imported during 2021-22, followed by Vietnam (24.4%) and Cote d' Ivoire (13.7%). Import of NR during the year 2021-22 is valued at Rs 7,702.7 crore.

As per preliminary statistics, India imported 3,78,481 tonne NR during April to November 2022 compared to 3,43,604 tonne imported during the same period in the previous year.

(v) Export of NR

The volume of NR export from the country decreased to 3,560 tonne in 2021-22 from 11,343 tonnes in 2020-

21. The country exported 43.0 per cent Ribbed Smoked Sheet (RSS), 33.4 per cent latex concentrates and 20.8 per cent Technically Specified Rubber (TSR) in 2021-22 and the main destination country was Sri Lanka. Export of NR during the year 2021-22 was valued at Rs. 53.8 crore. India exported 1,690 tonne NR during April to November 2022 compared to 2,916 tonne exported during the same period in the previous year.

(vi) Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector Scheme

The scheme "Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Natural Rubber Sector" approved by the Government for the MTEF period was extended during 2021-22 upto 30th September 2022. The scheme is continued during 2022-23. Budget Sanction for the year 2022-23 is Rs.268.76 crore. Expenditure up to December 2022 is Rs.211.48 crore.

(vii) Physical achievement in respect of major activities (2022-23)

Rubber Plantation Development & Extension

- ❖ Brought 10,260 ha under rubber planting (new planting and replanting) and continued the maintenance of 470.80 ha rubber plantations under tribal development during 2021-22. During 2022 planting season (June-November), an area of 27,965 ha (out of which 23,370.36 ha is planted under NEMITRA project) has been brought under rubber cultivation.
- ❖ Rubber Board nurseries generated 2.85 lakh quality planting material during 2021-22. Planting material generation upto November 2022 is 4.07 lakh.
- ❖ The plantation adoption programme brought 40,319 ha under tapping during 2021-22. Holding adoption upto November 2022 is 55,356 ha.
- ❖ As part of farmer education and skill development, the Board conducted skill training, seminars and group meetings benefitting 1,51,482 growers/tappers during 2021-22. A total of 1,16,685 growers were benefited through the farmer education programmes organized during April to November 2022.
- ❖ Rubber Board supported rubber growers for developing rubber plantations and other cultural operations in 8,625 ha utilizing MGNREGS resources during 2021-22. Under this programmes, Rubber Board supported 9,661 growers for undertaking activities in 8,949.4 ha during April to November 2022.
- ❖ As part of empowering growers and tappers, the Board promoted RPS, Self Help Groups & Tappers Bank and regularly monitored / supported the activities of 2,544 RPSs and 382 Group processing centers during 2021-22. During April- November 2022, support has been extended to 2,549 RPSs including 3 newly formed RPSs and 292 GPCs.
- ❖ Implemented a special scheme for ensuring availability of sheet rubber in the market with the participation of 96 RPSs and the payout was Rs. 9.98 lakh.

- ❖ A special scheme was implemented for enhancing domestic NR production with payouts of Rs.19.30 crore under the following components during 2022.
 - ◆ Rain guarding (ONE+NE)- 21,635.45 ha
 - ◆ Spraying- 8,382.98 ha
 - ◆ Modernization of GPC- 87 Nos.
 - ◆ Tool kit to women tapper- 171 kit for 15 groups
 - ◆ Incentive to RPS for group management
 - ◆ Purchase of sprayer with duster attachment- 108 Nos.
 - ◆ Repayable soft loan to 2 Rubber Board Companies
 - ◆ Sponsored Nurseries NEMITRA- 50 Nos.
 - ◆ Purchase of Augur NEMITRA- 10 Nos.
- ❖ Promoted intercropping of medicinal plants in 2.00 ha of rubber plantations in convergence with the leading Ayurveda Pharmaceuticals with financial and technical support of Kerala State Medicinal Plant Board as an ancillary income generation activity for the small growers.

(viii) Research

- ❖ Fertility maps of rubber growing regions of India were released and 385 maps were uploaded in the website of Rubber Board for visualizing the fertility status of rubber growing regions.
- ❖ Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has recommended field planting of Genetically Modified (GM) rubber (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) with osmotin gene for biotic/abiotic stress tolerance.
- ❖ 15 clones imported from five countries under RRII-IRRDB Multilateral Clone exchange programme were laid out in field trials in traditional and non-traditional areas.
- ❖ Nine new generation pipeline clones were laid out in Block trials in Morigaon (Assam) for identifying suitable clones for the region

- ❖ In Northeast India, Indian clones are increasingly replacing RRIM 600, which was the popular clone in the region. Efforts were taken to promote RRIL 429 in NE region, through establishing 12,000 polybag plants in Meghalaya for raising source bud wood nurseries and publishing of brochures.
- ❖ Conservation of Wickham clones, wild accessions and other species and evaluation of preliminary selections from wild germplasm are continued. Arboretum of 557 wild and Wickham accessions (1,731) in five plantings is maintained at Teksragre farm, Tura, Meghalaya.
- ❖ Application submitted to Review Committee on Genetic modification (RCGM), DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, seeking permission for Confined Field Trial of GM rubber incorporated with HMGR gene of the latex biosynthesis pathway for enhanced yield.
- ❖ Confined field trial of genetically modified rubber plants with MnSOD gene for abiotic stress tolerance was in progress at Sarutari farm at RRS, Guwahati. A Central Compliance Committee (CCC) constituted by members of both RCGM and GEAC visited the trial site on 26th November 2021 and gave suggestions regarding the field trial.
- ❖ Geospatial mapping and updating of rubber plantation in Tripura was completed. As of 2021, the total area under rubber in Tripura was estimated using satellite data to be 1,12,455 ha (age three years and above) which showed an expansion of 64,084 ha of rubber compared to the satellite-based estimation done in the state in 2010-2011 (48,371 ha) with an annual average expansion of 5,286 ha/year.
- ❖ A study was initiated to estimate spatial extent of rubber plantations susceptible to floods in rubber growing districts in Kerala. Delineation of rubber plantations susceptible to floods in Trivandrum (4,098 ha), Kollam (4,542 ha), Pathanamthitta (3,960 ha), Alappuzha (1,031 ha), Kottayam (5,827 ha) Idukki (1,307 ha) and Ernakulum (9,942 ha) districts were completed.
- ❖ Recommendations for weekly tapping in clone RRIL 430 was made. Growers can adopt and follow Low Frequency Tapping (LFT) viz. d3 and d7 (weekly tapping) in clone RRIL 430 with appropriate stimulation (2.5 per cent panel application, three rounds per year for d3 and 12 rounds per year for weekly tapping (d7)).
- ❖ Conducted a study on “Adoption of recommended practices by rubber growers in Kerala”. Adoption of rubber clones developed by RRIL was found to be 100 per cent among the farmers in traditional rubber growing regions.
- ❖ Conducted a study on “Impacts of natural rubber cultivation in Tripura: An inter-temporal socio-economic analysis of tribal and non-tribal rubber farmers”. The study revealed increase in household income of rubber farmers in the past one decade. The farmers were found investing the surplus generated from rubber cultivation in alternative employment options for income diversification as a risk management strategy.
- ❖ Advance Molecular Plant Pathology Lab was inaugurated at Plant Pathology Division for early detection of Pathogens and host tolerance.
- ❖ An “International Workshop on New Colletotrichum Circular Leaf Spot Disease Identification and Management” at RRIL with the Collaboration of IRRDB was conducted at RRIL on 20th-24th September 2022. Total 25 International delegates and 13 national delegates attended the workshop.
- ❖ Advanced Analysis Laboratory for Rubber Products (REACH Compliance Laboratory) to promote export of rubber products was inaugurated on 11th January 2022. Polycyclic aromatics (PAHP), phthalates, substances of very high concern (SVHC) and heavy metals can be detected using the facilities in the lab.
- ❖ Developed several products like road divider etc. in collaboration with an industry using NR/Polymeric filler technology developed in the laboratory.
- ❖ The skim latex process developed at RRIL was modified to reduce the nitrogen content of the skim rubber from 0.67 per cent to 0.44 per cent.

- ❖ MoU was executed between RRII and DY. Patil Agricultural University, Kolhapur to study the feasibility of cultivating rubber in Maharashtra and initiated experimental planting.
- ❖ MoU was executed between RRII & Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat to study the feasibility of cultivating rubber in South Gujarat and initiated experimental planting.
- ❖ A MoU was signed by Rubber board and SMPT (Societe des Matieres Premieres Tropicales Pe Ltd), Singapore, a 100 per cent owned subsidiary of Michelin, a major multinational company on 05.01.22 for research collaborations.
- ❖ MoU was signed with MG University, Kerala and Rubber Board for Research & Training Partnership and Collaboration.

(ix) Training

- ❖ Under the plan scheme, organized 262 training programmes benefitting 5,366 participants for 24,115 man days including 1,591 SC/ST beneficiaries, during April-December 2022 against the annual target of 4,200 beneficiaries from all stakeholders of the rubber industry value chain.
- ❖ Conducted 24 Nos. of educational development programmes of one week to one-month duration for 443 No. of Diploma/B.Sc./B.Tech/M.Sc./M.Tech students in Plant Science, Chemistry and Polymer Science/Rubber Technology disciplines from various Universities/Colleges.
- ❖ Under SCSP/TSP Scheme, conducted empowerment programmes for SC/ST beneficiaries-conducted 23 batches of 3-8 days' duration in LHT and LPT job roles benefitting 565 persons from NE/NT regions.
- ❖ A special certificate programme for 10 Nos. of SC/ST beneficiaries from Meghalaya was conducted in Melliponiculture at NIRT under the SCSP/TSP Scheme.
- ❖ Commenced one-year PG Diploma Course in Rubber Plantation Management for Graduates/Post Graduates in Plant Science in NE region.
- ❖ Induction training for 20 days to the newly recruited Field Officers in NE Region
- ❖ Training in rubber cultivation in Estate Sector
- ❖ Entrepreneur Development Programmes: 8 Nos. of training benefitting 64 no. of participants
- ❖ Completed the certificate courses of three months' duration in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Techniques.
- ❖ Conducted three months' certificate course in Rubber Technology and Quality Assurance in Tyre sector for 15 officials of M/s CEAT Ltd. in Online mode.
- ❖ Offered one-week offline training in Rubber Technology for Technical persons from M/s CEAT Ltd.
- ❖ Conducted 31 batches of outstation programmes benefitting 1179 participants mostly from NE/NT region on location specific topics like pre-planting operations and planting of rubber, latex harvesting, crown budding, mushroom cultivation, fertilizer application, intercropping, LFT, labour welfare schemes, disease management, apiculture, rubber products manufacture, mechanized tapping, capacity building of director board members of RPSs, ancillary income generation activities, monitoring and strengthening of RPSs/e-trading/PAN, GST registration, etc.
- ❖ Conducted 5 batches of RTP nursery training for the growers of NE Region.
- ❖ Pro-Women scheme: To address the shortage of tappers, introduced the Pro-women Scheme targeting women beneficiaries in traditional region, conducted 34 batches of LHT programmes for 510 participants.
- ❖ One week specialized training on quality control of rubber and rubber products, product analysis for Technical Personnel from Defence/Rubber Industry.
- ❖ Twenty-four batches of one-year Certificate programme on Apiculture are ongoing in twenty-three RPSs.
- ❖ Signed MoA with M/s Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), Government of Kerala for undertaking the Lab Chemist course for one batch

each of two and three months' duration for the Graduate/Post Graduate students in Chemistry. Certified 33 students and commenced the internship of the ongoing batch of 34 students at various industry workfronts.

- ❖ Signed MoU with Tripura University and M/s NSS College, Changanacherry for conducting curriculum linked programmes at NIRT and to provide support for internship/placement.
- ❖ DPR preparation for M/s Kerala Rubber Ltd., Velloor, Kottayam for promotion of natural rubber based industrialization in Kerala with focus on MSME Sector on consultancy basis.

(x) Labour Welfare Measures

During 2021–2022, Board disbursed Rs. 173.14 lakh under various Labour Welfare schemes benefitting 12,655 rubber tappers/ plantation workers. During April to December 2022, the Board disbursed Rs. 174.67 lakh under various labour welfare schemes benefitting 6,886 rubber tappers/ plantation workers.

(xi) Rubber Census

Rubber Board is conducting nationwide census on rubber using digitalized mobile application, 'RUBAC', developed in association with Digital University, Kerala to ascertain the area under rubber, new-planted area, re-planted area, the age profile of trees, discarded area over the years, level of adoption of new clones, size of holdings and details of tappers etc. Census on Rubber is progressing in all districts of Kerala State. Actions have been initiated for conducting census on rubber in Tripura State.

(xii) Other Major Initiatives taken by the Board

- ❖ Collaborative Project NEMITRA: A project named NEMITRA for supporting development of new rubber plantations in 2,00,000 ha in North East in 5 years with a contribution of Rs 1,000 crore from major tyre companies, represented by Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), was agreed and the project started in 2021. Under this project, rubber planting completed in 3,861.68 ha during 2021. During 2022 planting season, planting

was completed in 23,370.39 ha. Total planting done under the project was 27,232 ha till December 2022. Board developed a common Mobile App “RUBEXT” to capture information of beneficiaries with geotaged photographs for monitoring progress of the NEMITRA project.

- ❖ E-Trade Platform for Rubber 'mRube': The Rubber Board has launched 'mRube', an electronic market platform for Natural Rubber in July 2022. The new electronic trading platform complements the existing trade system of NR with more market visibility and to strengthen the efficacy of domestic supply chain of NR. There are 1,135 registrations and 3,692 tonne of NR was traded through the platform upto December 2022.
- ❖ Virtual Trade Fair for Rubber Products: Rubber Board has developed a Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) for Rubber and Rubber Products, which is a unique opportunity for showcasing Indian rubber and rubber products among international buyers. The fair can be accessed from the <https:// vtf.rubberboard.org.in/rubberboard>. The third edition of this platform is progressing.
- ❖ Rubber Production Incentive Scheme (RPIS): Launched by Government of Kerala in 2015-16 in association with the Rubber Board through Rubber Producers Societies is now in the eighth phase of operation. The Board is providing logistic support and the funds are made available by the State Government.

(D) Spices Sector

(i) Spices Board

Spices Board is a statutory body constituted under section (3) of the Spices Board Act, 1986 and functioning under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Board consists of 31 members including the Secretary, who is the Chief Executive and is led by the non-Executive Chairman, with its head office at Kochi in Kerala. Spices Board is responsible for the overall development of the cardamom industry and export promotion of 52 spices as scheduled under the Spices Board Act, 1986. The functions of the Board include research & devel-

opment and domestic marketing of small and large cardamom, post-harvest quality improvement and export promotion of spices & quality management of spices exported from India. The Board has 83 offices across the country, which includes export promotion offices, development offices for small and large cardamom, quality evaluation laboratories (QEL), research stations, spices parks etc. The Board works with the stakeholders of the spices sector, for undertaking programs and projects for development of small and large cardamom and for promotion of export of spices.

The programs undertaken by the Board includes, support to exporters for infrastructure development and value addition, organizing programs for establishing market linkage of farmers and exporters with international buyers, supporting primary processing through establishment of processing facilities in the major growing centers (Spices Parks), undertaking trade and brand promotion activities for Indian spices, including co-participation of stakeholders in international fairs and exhibitions, quality management of spices exported from India through the Quality Evaluation laboratories which provide analytical services and monitors quality of spices for export through testing and certification, facilitating primary sale of cardamom through the auction system, providing research support to stakeholders on small and large cardamom, assisting growers of small and large cardamom for production development and growers of other spices for post-harvest management, working with the regulatory bodies of importing countries, trade support institutions, inter-

governmental organizations etc. for export promotion of spices, etc.

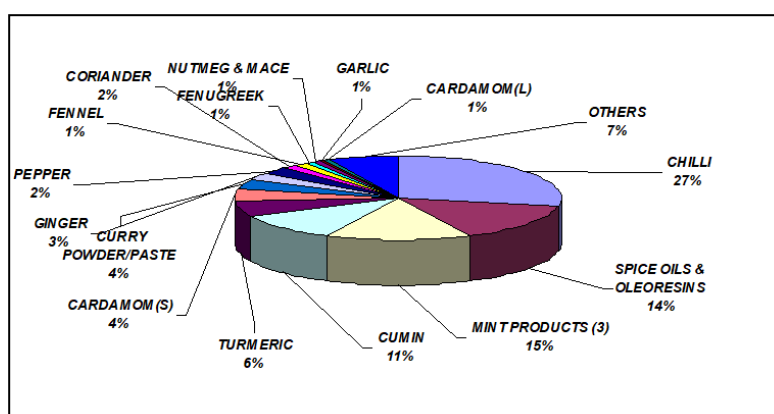
(ii) Indian Spices

India is the largest producer, exporter and consumer of spices in the world and exports spices and spice products to more than 180 countries. In India, about 10.88 million tonnes of spices are produced annually. The export of spices from India accounts for around 14 per cent of the total production. India is the global hub for spice processing and the world leader in production and export of major spices like chilli, turmeric, cumin, coriander, fennel and value-added products viz. spice oils and oleoresins, curry powder etc.

(iii) Exports

During 2021-22, India exported 15,31,154 MT of spices and spice products valued at Rs. 30,576 crore (US\$ 4,102.29 million). Export of small cardamom, a mandate crop of Spices Board, scaled new heights in FY 2021-22. During 2021-22, 10,572 MT of small cardamom, valued at Rs. 1,37,570.40 lakh have been exported from the country as against 6486 MT, valued at Rs.1,10,346.58 lakh, in FY 2020-21.

India's export of spices increased from 8,17,250 MT valued at Rs. 13,73,539 lakh (US\$ 2,268 million) in 2013-14 to 15,31,154 MT valued at Rs. 30,57,644 lakh (US\$ 4,102.29 million) in 2021-22 registering an increase of 87 per cent in volume, 123 per cent in value (Rs.) and 81 per cent in value (US\$). The major contributors of spices export basket in value terms during 2021-22 are given below:



Source: Spices Board

Export performance during 2022-23 (April-October): As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the export of spices and spice products from the country, was valued at Rs. 18,138.57 crore (US\$ 2296.20 million), as compared to Rs. 17,968.48 crore (US\$ 2425.04 million) of previous year registering an increase of 1 per cent in rupee terms over the previous year.

The major contributors in Spices Export Basket in terms of value, during April-October 2022, are Chilli (29%), Cumin (14%), Spice oil & Oleoresins (14%), Mint Products (12%), Turmeric (5%), Curry powder (4%), Cardamom (small) (3%) pepper (2%) and coriander (2%). During the same period, the major destinations

of Indian spices are China (21%), USA (15%), UAE (6%), Bangladesh (6%), Indonesia (4%), Thailand (4%), Malaysia (4%), UK (3%), Srilanka (3%), Germany (2%), Netherland (2%), Nepal (2%) and Saudi Arabia (2%).

(iv) Production of Cardamom (small & large)

The preliminary estimate for production of Cardamom (Small) in India during FY 2022-23 is 24463 MT with an average productivity of 513.68 kgs/ha registering an increase of 4.21 per cent in production over the previous year. The preliminary estimate for production of Cardamom (Large) during FY 2022-23 is 9,072 tonnes with an average productivity of 285.20 kgs/ha and an increase of 2.96 per cent over the previous year.

Production of Small & Large Cardamom (MT)	
Item	2021-22
Small Cardamom	23340
Large Cardamom	8812

Source: Estimate by Spices Board, *2022-23 preliminary estimate

(v) Major activities/achievements during 2022-23 (April-October)

- ❖ During April-October 2022, a total number of 873 exporter registrations (Certificate of Registration as Exporter of Spices, CRES) were issued by the Board thereby taking the total tally of registered exporters to more than 6,700. Also 91 Cardamom Dealer Licenses were issued by the Board's offices, thereby making the total number of licensed dealers to more than 600.
- ❖ Spices Board has established and is maintaining 8 crop specific Spices Parks in major production/market centres to empower the stakeholders of the spice industry, especially the farming community, by providing common infrastructure and processing facilities for spices. The Board has established Spices Parks at Chhindwara & Guna in Madhya Pradesh, Puttady in Kerala, Jodhpur & Kota in Rajasthan, Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu and Rae Bareli in Uttar Pradesh
- ❖ The 8 Quality Evaluation Laboratories (QEL) of the Board at Cochin, Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Guntur,

Tuticorin, Kandla and Kolkata continued providing analytical services and mandatory testing and certification of export consignments of select spices during the year. During April-October 2022, the QELs analyzed over 74,613 parameters, including Aflatoxin, Illegal dyes, Pesticide residues, Salmonella etc., in spice export consignments. Also, during the period, the Board has issued 4,211 health certificates and 18,315 analytical reports to the spice exporters, for facilitating exports.

- ❖ With a view to facilitate market linkages for boosting India's spice exports, two International Buyer Seller Meets (BSM) were organized by Spices Board, in association with Indian Missions, during April-October 2022. The BSMs were marked by the active participation of Indian exporters and leading overseas buyers and the Board is in the process of organizing more such events during the year, in association with the Missions. During FY 2021-22, the Board has conducted 12 international buyer-seller meets in association with the Indian Missions in the respective countries.
- ❖ Spices Board, in line with the initiative of Ministry of Commerce to reduce the compliance burden has

- digitized the key stakeholder compliances and accordingly has made issuance of Certificate of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES), Cardamom Auctioneer License (CAL), & Cardamom Dealer License (CDL) and submission of the Quarterly Export Returns (QER) fully online.
- ❖ Applications for covering an area of 307.3 Ha for replanting/rejuvenation of cardamom small and 399.11 Ha for replanting of large cardamom are being collected and processed for providing assistance to the farmers.
 - ❖ For assisting the farmers in mechanization of the post-harvest operations for improving the quality, Board is in the process of collecting applications for 1,200 equipments viz. Turmeric polisher, Turmeric boiler, pepper thresher, seed spice thresher, mint distillation units etc.
 - ❖ Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI), has developed a high yielding and disease tolerant Small Cardamom Clone (accession No. 594) which is in the final stage of release.

2. TOBACCO

Tobacco is an important commercial crop grown in India. In order to regulate production, promote overseas marketing and control recurring instances of imbalances in supply and demand, the Tobacco Board was established on 1st January 1976 by the Government of India under the Tobacco Board Act of 1975.

(i) Main activities

The Headquarters of Tobacco Board is at Guntur in Andhra Pradesh and is headed by a non-executive Chairman appointed by Central Government. The Tobacco Board Act, 1975 aims at planned development of tobacco industry in the country. The various activities of the Board outlined in the Act for the promotion of the industry are:

- ❖ Regulating the production and curing of Virginia Tobacco with regard to the demand in India and abroad.
- ❖ Dissemination of useful information to the growers, dealers and exporters (including packers) of Virginia tobacco and manufacturers of tobacco products and others concerned.
- ❖ Promoting tobacco grading at the level of growers.
- ❖ Establishment of auction platforms for sale of Virginia tobacco by registered growers and functioning as an auctioneer at auction platforms.
- ❖ Keeping constant watch / monitoring of the Virginia tobacco market, both in India and abroad and ensuring fair and remunerative price to the growers.
- ❖ Purchasing Virginia tobacco from the growers when the same is considered necessary or expedient for protecting the interest of growers with the prior approval of the Government of India.

(ii) Regulating the production of FCV Tobacco

According to Section 8(2) (a) of the Tobacco Board Act, one of the important functions of the Tobacco Board is regulation of Production and curing of FCV tobacco having regard to the demand for tobacco in India and abroad. This objective is being achieved through Crop Planning and fixing crop size of FCV tobacco for Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka separately every year and by registering Commercial nurserymen, tobacco growers and barn operators.

(iii) FCV Tobacco Production in India

The production of FCV tobacco in 2021-22 is 189.12 million Kg, as compared to 201.16 million Kg in 2020-21. The production of FCV tobacco in Andhra Pradesh is 120.98 million Kg. and in Karnataka 68.14 million Kg. FCV tobacco was cultivated in about 1,38,142 hectares during 2021-22 crop season.

■ Andhra Pradesh
■ Karnataka
■ Total

(iv) FCV Crop Production Policy for 2022-23 Crop Season

The state wise crop size fixed during 2022-23 crop

Crop season	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka	Total
2022-23	142.00	100.00	242.00
2021-22	130.00	97.00	227.00

(v) Extension & Development Activities

Tobacco Board implements various extension and developmental schemes for improving productivity and quality of Indian FCV tobacco to make it competitive in the international market. Tobacco Board extends subsidy to the registered FCV tobacco growers under its various schemes to encourage the growers to adopt new and improved practices. Tobacco Board provides a comprehensive package of support and extension services to growers using a wide network of qualified and trained field staff, in collaboration with ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and Research and Development wings of tobacco companies.

❖ 8,493.75 Kgs of approved varieties of seed supply was arranged by Board through ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry and ITC Research Division, Rajahmundry to FCV tobacco growers in Andhra

season in comparison with 2021-22 crop season is as follows:

Pradesh and Karnataka during 2022-23 crop season.

- ❖ An alternative procedure for procurement and distribution of fertilizers through Committee of Farmers was implemented during 2022-23 crop season in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka successfully. A quantity of 21,283.85 MT of fertilizer was distributed to growers of Karnataka. In Andhra Pradesh, a quantity of 8,140.25 MT was distributed as against the indented quantity of 8,154.70 MT in NLS region and a quantity of 2,870.925 MT of fertilizers was distributed in SLS/SBS regions.
- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, green manure crops were raised in an area of 19,480.90 ha and in Karnataka green manure crops were sown in 6,060 ha for 2022-23 crop season for enrichment of soil health which would facilitate the growers in reducing the chemical fertilizers usage and quality improvement of crop. Board also is extending a subsidy of

Rs.200 per barn to growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States who were supplied with green manure seed through Board for the promotion of this soil fertility initiative.

- ❖ In Karnataka 13.86 lakh trays and in Andhra Pradesh 7.98 lakh trays were supplied to growers for production of healthy and sturdy tobacco seedlings. The seedling production in trays will ensure better establishment in field which in turn help in uniform crop growth with no transplantation shocks and reduced insect pests and disease incidence. An amount of Rs.63.03 lakh was extended to FCV tobacco growers of Karnataka towards subsidy @ 30 per cent to SC/ST growers and 20 per cent to other category growers for production of healthy tobacco seedlings (quality improvement).
- ❖ Board is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices among FCV tobacco growers for enhancing product integrity and production of safer tobacco free of pesticide residues. During 2022-23 crop season, Board is arranging for distribution of IPM inputs such as pheromone traps, yellow sticky traps, bio pesticides, Marigold seedlings, Jowar and Bajra seeds to FCV tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ❖ Board arranged for distribution of 3,563 lts. and 3561 lts of *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Bio Pesticides to FCV tobacco growers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, respectively. Bio pesticides would aid in control of soil borne diseases, which in turn reduces the use of chemical fungicides. An amount of Rs.1.61 lakh was extended towards subsidy @ 50 per cent to all category grower beneficiaries in Karnataka for Bio pesticides.
- ❖ An amount of Rs.0.46 lakh was extended as subsidy on supply of pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps to growers in Karnataka.
- ❖ Board is procuring 9.10 lakh Marigold seedlings in Andhra Pradesh @Rs.0.75 per seedling from nurseries of CTRI Research stations, Kandukur and Jeelugumilli for distribution to FCV tobacco

growers free of cost. In Karnataka, 2.56 lakh Marigold seedlings purchased from CTRI Research Station, Hunsur were supplied at free of cost to growers.

- ❖ An expenditure of Rs.1.11 lakh was incurred towards procurement of 1,062 Kgs of Bajra seed @ Rs.40/Kg and 852 Kgs of Jowar seed @ Rs.80/Kg from Karnataka State Seed Corporation (KSSC Ltd), Government of Karnataka and were supplied free of cost to FCV growers in Karnataka for growing as a barrier/border crop on field bunds, which acts as a preventive measure from attack of sucking insect pests such as white fly, aphids on tobacco crop.
- ❖ A total of 2003 lts. of Potassium Releasing Bacteria (KRB) cultures from NIPHM, Hyderabad was supplied to FCV tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, which could aid in making Potassium nutrient to available form from unavailable form.
- ❖ Board is encouraging growers to take up natural farming practices to reduce use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. During 2022-23 crop season, 101 growers of Karnataka cultivated FCV tobacco in 101 acres in Natural Farming mode and 16 growers came forward to take up trials of natural farming in Andhra Pradesh. Board is extending an amount of Rs. 15,000 towards cash incentive to each grower for meeting expenses towards application of organic fertilizers, natural pesticides to be used in FCV tobacco cultivation in natural farming mode.
- ❖ The Board, as a part of eco-friendly measures is encouraging growers to take up raising of fast-growing tree saplings to meet the fuel requirements for FCV tobacco curing. As a part of this initiative, Tobacco Board has made it as a mandate for tobacco growers to take up planting of 10 fast growing tree saplings for renewal of grower registration.
- ❖ Board is implementing Model Project Area Scheme (MPA) with the objective of enhancing the productivity, quality and product integrity of the FCV

tobacco through intensive extension programme. During 2022-23 crop season, 19 villages in Andhra Pradesh and 10 villages in Karnataka were notified to implement Model Project Area Scheme. An extension worker is engaged for 4 months in model project village for advising the growers on Good Agricultural Practices from time to time and for collection of data. An amount of Rs.8000 /platform is being allotted towards organization of extension programs.

- ❖ Board is extending financial assistance to encourage FCV tobacco growers to implement Post Harvest Product Management practices and as part of this program, Board is arranging for supply of canvas tarpaulins to avoid admixture of Non-Tobacco Related Materials (NTRMs) in packed tobacco and is promoting construction of bulk sheds for storage of tobacco.
- ❖ Board awarded a Research Project “Evaluation of Bio Consortia for Nutrient Supplementation, Nematode /Disease Control for Enhancing Productivity and Quality of FCV Tobacco” in KLS region to ICAR-CTRI, Rajahmundry. The project cost is Rs. 5 lakh and MOU of project was done on 11.07.2022.
- ❖ To promote energy conservation in curing of FCV tobacco, Board in collaboration with trade has taken up massive energy conservation program through insulation of barns and installation of Venturi furnace by extending subsidy. During 2022-23 crop season, the roof insulation of 1,500 barns in Karnataka and 400 barns in Andhra Pradesh is targeted. Installation of Venturi furnace in 102 barns in Andhra Pradesh is proposed.
- ❖ Board is taking up grower trainings and capacity building programs of extension personnel for imparting knowledge of Good Agricultural Practices in FCV tobacco cultivation.
- ❖ Up to October 2022 an amount of Rs. 95.73 Lakh was incurred towards Extension and Developmental Schemes. Approximately, an amount of Rs. 579 Lakh will be required to meet the expenditure towards implementation of Extension and Developmental Schemes (Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka) during the current crop season.

(vi) Tobacco Auctions

The Auction system for sale of FCV tobacco was introduced for the first time in Karnataka in 1984 followed by Andhra Pradesh in 1985.

(vii) Progress made during 2022-23

- ❖ In Andhra Pradesh, during 2022-23, a total quantity of 113.46 million kg of 2021-22 Andhra Pradesh FCV tobacco crop marketed at an average price of Rs.178.88 per kg from 01.04.2022 to 28.07.2022 (the auction sales were commenced on 14.03.2022 and concluded on 28.07.2022).
- ❖ In Karnataka, during 2022-23, a total quantity of 20.57 million kg of tobacco of 2022-23 Karnataka FCV tobacco crop marketed at an average price of Rs. 238.42 per kg from 10.10.2022 to 28.11.2022 (the auction sales commenced on 10.10.2022 and are in progress).

(viii) Growers Welfare Fund Initiatives

Tobacco Board is undertaking various welfare measures, to ensure overall welfare of around 86000 Tobacco Growers and their families in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana & Odisha by establishing “Tobacco Board Growers' Welfare Schemes” in 2009-10 with the approval of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

The welfare Scheme provides financial assistance in the form of Grants to deceased members for natural and accidental deaths and interest Free Loans to perform Daughter's Marriage, Education of Dependent Children, Treatment for major illness/Accident cases which requires surgery and Repairs to barns damaged due to Natural Calamities/Fire Accidents. Since the inception of the scheme, Tobacco Board had provided financial relief of Rs.73.45 crore to 19,927 members in terms of Grants and Loans so far Grants of Rs.60.47 crore to 15,148 members and Interest free loans of Rs.12.97 crore to 4,779 growers).

During the year 2022-23 (up to 29.11.2022), an amount of Rs.3.90 crore was released to 771 grower members (Grants of Rs. 3.42 crore and interest free loans of Rs.0.48 crore).

(ix) Registration of traders

Tobacco Board grants registration to various categories of traders on calendar year basis as per Sections 11-A, 11-B (i) and 12 of Tobacco Board Act, 1975. Tobacco Board grants registration/renewal of registration under different categories viz., Processor of Virginia Tobacco, Manufacturer of Virginia Tobacco, Exporter of Tobacco, Exporter of Tobacco Products, Dealer in Tobacco, Packer of Tobacco and Commercial Grader of Virginia tobacco.

In line with the Government of India's initiative on "Digital India", Tobacco Board had introduced online system for e-filing of applications for grant of registration / renewal of registration under various categories of traders to provide a transparent and integrated electronic service to the tobacco trade. E-filing of applications has been made mandatory for obtaining registration/renewal of registration by all categories of traders through portal www.tobaccoboard.in. As on 28.11.2022, a total of 1,184 traders were granted/renewed registration under various categories for the Registration Year 2022. The Registration / Renewal of registration for the Registration Year 2022 have commenced from 4th October 2022 and a total of 195 traders were granted/renewed registration and the registration is under progress.

(x) Export performance during 2021-22

The exports of tobacco and tobacco products during 2021-22 were 2.25 Lakh MT valued at Rs. 6,880.21 crore (US\$ 923.40 million) as against the exports of 2.22 Lakh MT valued at Rs. 6,496.09 crore (US\$ 876.58 million) exported during 2020-21. During 2021-22, the exports of tobacco and tobacco products have registered a positive growth of 1.35 per cent, 5.91 per cent and 5.34 per cent respectively in terms of quantity, value in rupees and value in US dollars as compared to the exports made during 2020-21.

(xi) Progress of exports in 2022-23 (April-October 2022)

During the period April- October 2022, the exports of tobacco and tobacco products stood at 1.86 Lakh MT valued at Rs. 6,031.74 crore (US\$ 762.16 million) as

against the exports of 1.38 Lakh MT valued at Rs. 4,062.54 crore (US\$ 548.60 million) during the corresponding period of last year. During the period under report, the exports have registered a positive growth of 34.78 per cent, 48.47 per cent and 38.93 per cent respectively in terms of quantity, value in rupees and dollar terms as compared to the exports made during the corresponding period of last year.

(xii) Export Promotion

Tobacco Board is participating in the International tobacco exclusive trade fairs and exhibitions for showcasing the Indian tobacco to create brand image for Indian tobacco and promote exports. During the year 2022-23, Tobacco Board had participated in the following international fairs and exhibitions exclusive to tobacco:

- ❖ World Tobacco Europe 2022, Sofia, Bulgaria – 18th-19th May 2022
- ❖ World Tobacco Asia 2022, Surabaya, Indonesia – 7th-8th September 2022
- ❖ Inter tabac / Inter supply 2022, Dortmund, Germany – 15th-17th September 2022
- ❖ World Tobacco Middle East 2022, Dubai, UAE – 15th-16th November 2022

(xiii) Export Facilitation

- ❖ Tobacco Board is issuing e-RCMC in digital mode to the eligible exporters on the e-RCMC platform of DGFT. During 2022-23, as of 28th November 2022, a total of 33 RCMC's were issued to the exporters.
- ❖ Tobacco Board is issuing all Preferential Certificates of Origin (CoO) in digital mode to the registered exporters on the e-CoO platform of DGFT.
- ❖ Tobacco Board is also issuing Certificate of Authenticity for export of specified lines of unmanufactured tobacco to European Union member countries. During 2022-23, as of 28th November 2022, a total of 671 numbers of Certificates were issued to the eligible exporters.
- ❖ Tobacco Board is also authorized for registration of exporters under EU REX system for self-certification of the origin of goods being exported

to EU under the GSP scheme. As on 28th November 2022, a total No. of 46 exporters have been registered under EU REX system through Tobacco Board.

3. AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (APEDA)

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established in 1985, by the Government of India, under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act passed by the Parliament. APEDA with its headquarters at New Delhi, is headed by the Chairman. It has 14 Regional Offices at Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Chennai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jammu, Kochi, Kolkata, Ladakh, Mumbai, Srinagar and Varanasi.

The primary objective of APEDA is to undertake the development and promotion of export of following products

- ❖ Products in First Schedule to the APEDA Act
 - ◆ Fruits, vegetables and their products
 - ◆ Meat and meat products
 - ◆ Poultry and poultry products
 - ◆ Dairy products
 - ◆ Confectionary, biscuits and bakery products
 - ◆ Honey, jaggery and sugar products
 - ◆ Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds
 - ◆ Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
 - ◆ Cereals and Cereal products
 - ◆ Groundnuts, peanuts and walnuts
 - ◆ Pickles, chutneys and papads
 - ◆ Guar Gum
 - ◆ Floriculture and floriculture products
 - ◆ Herbal and medicinal plants
 - ◆ De-oiled rice bran
 - ◆ Cashew Nuts and its Product
- ❖ Products in Second Schedule to the APEDA Act

APEDA is responsible for registration and protection of the Intellectual Property rights (in India or outside India) w.r.t Special products listed in Second schedule. Currently, Second Schedule contains only Basmati Rice.

In addition to this, APEDA is also responsible for monitoring the import of sugar.

APEDA also functions as the Secretariat of the Certification Bodies under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for Organic exports. The products are certified as 'Organic Products' for export as per the standards laid down by National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

(i) Agriculture Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA

APEDA under its Plan Scheme titled 'Agriculture & Processed Food Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA' provides financial assistance to registered exporters under three sub-components (Market Development, Infrastructure Development and Quality Development) for creation/upgradation of infrastructure to increase Agri exports.

(a) Market Development

It covers structured marketing strategies for export of food products, market intelligence for taking informed decisions, international exposure, skill development, capacity building and high-quality packaging. The assistance under this component covers the following:

- ❖ Participation in International trade fairs
- ❖ Exchange of trade delegations
- ❖ Organizing buyer seller meets
- ❖ Developing packaging standards for new products and upgrading the existing standards

(b) Infrastructure Development

The scheme component covers both fresh produce and processed food products. The objective of the scheme is to reduce losses caused due to spoilage and to ensure quality production of agro products. To achieve this, it seeks to set up post-harvest handling facilities. The assistance under this component covers the following:

- ❖ Infrastructure such as pack house facilities with packing/grading lines
- ❖ Pre- cooling units with cold storages and refrigerated transportation etc.
- ❖ Cable system for handling of crops like banana
- ❖ Common infrastructure facilities
- ❖ Pre-shipment treatment facilities such as irradiation, Vapour Heat Treatment (VHT), Hot Water Dip Treatment (HWDT) for compliance with Phyto-Sanitary requirements of importing countries.
- ❖ Infrastructure for processing facilities (processed food sector) for addressing missing gaps which may include equipment's like X-ray, Screening, Sortex, filth / metal detector, sensors, vibrators or any new equipment or technology for food safety and quality requirements

(c) Quality Development

Several importing countries demand adherence to stringent Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). For this, high precision equipment's are required to be installed by the food testing labs. The assistance under this component covers the following:

- ❖ Installation of quality management systems,
- ❖ Laboratory testing equipment,
- ❖ Hand held devices for capturing farm level peripheral coordinates for traceability systems and testing of samples etc.
- ❖ Testing of water, soil, residues or pesticides, veterinary drugs, hormones, toxins, heavy metal, contaminants etc.

(ii) Budget of Agriculture Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA

Budget Allocation Statement for 2021-22

(Values in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Plan Scheme	Amount
1.	Grant in aid-Subsidies	
a)	Market Development	48.00
	Total (A)	48.00
2.	Grant for creation of Capital Assets	
a)	Infrastructure Development	24.60
	Total (B)	24.60
3.	Grant in aid general	
a)	Quality Control	7.00
	Total (C)	7.00
4.	North Eastern Area (NER)	
	(i) Grants in Aid (General)	2.00
	(ii) Subsidies	2.00
	(iii) Creation of Capital Assets	1.40
	Total (D)	5.40
	Grand Total (A+B+C+D)	85.00

(iii) APEDA's E-Governance Initiatives

- ❖ **Reduction in Mandatory Documentation:** APEDA has reduced the number of mandatory documents required for registration of Traders, Exporters, etc. with no documents required for Merchant Exporters. Merchant exporters can now obtain RCMC with their IE Code and paying necessary fees only.
- ❖ **Auto-Renewal:** APEDA has implemented automatic renewal of Registration of Exporters for issuance of RCMC and registration of Pack houses. During 2021-22, 1938 RCMCs and registration 15 Pack houses are auto-renewed.
- ❖ **National Single Window System (NSWS):** APEDA has integrated its Exporter Registration System with NSWS and the same can be accessed through NSWS.
- ❖ **Integration of APEDA services with Kisan Suvidha:** Kisan Suvidha is an omnibus mobile app developed to help farmers in getting real time information related to weather, market prices, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agriculture machinery, dealers, agro advisories, plant protection and IPM practices etc.
- ❖ **Integration of APEDA services with Kisan Rath:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed mobile application "Kisan Rath" to facilitate farmers & traders in searching transport vehicles for movement of Agriculture & Horticulture produce. APEDA has integrated its services with Kisan Rath.
- ❖ **Strengthening of Traceability & Certification Systems:** APEDA has implemented Traceability & Certification Systems for agriculture exports namely, Tracenet for export of Organic Products, Hortinet for Grape, Pomegranate, Mango, 43 Vegetables, Citrus Fruits, Betel Leaves, Onion and Banana, Meat.Net for Buffalo Meat, Sheep & Goat Meat, etc., Peanut.net for Groundnut products and Basmati.net for Basmati rice exported from India.
- ❖ **Enhanced Lab Module:** APEDA has integrated Lab Test report of APEDA recognized Laboratories

with Tracenet, making it easier for monitoring quality of India's organic exports.

- ❖ **Spike in Farmers Registration under TraceNet:** In 2021-22, APEDA has added more than 9 lakh farmers on Tracenet and the total farmers registered so have reached 24.99 lakh. About 80,000+ farmers are registered on Basmati.net for facilitating monitoring and export supply chain integration. For the first time, Hortinet introduced Farmer Registration for export of Onion, Banana, etc.
- ❖ **Video Manuals for stakeholders:** APEDA made video tutorials on digital platform to educate stakeholders about online process of traceability, Hortinet System (grapes, mango, onion, banana, citrus, vegetables etc.)
- ❖ **Enhancing Assurance in APEDA's Traceability Systems through introduction of Blockchain:** APEDA has introduced Blockchain in the traceability system viz. Garpenet and Hortinet.
- ❖ **AgriExchange App:** APEDA has launched AgriExchange App to access market information on international trade, daily trade alerts, trade leads, track status of various applications filed with APEDA, etc.

(iv) Horticulture Sector (Fresh Fruits and Vegetables & Floriculture)

(a) Mango - Market Access and Export Promotion

- ❖ **Mango Promotion Programme** was organized in first week of June 2021 in Berlin, Germany in association with Embassy of India, Berlin.
- ❖ **Virtual Mango Festival of India 2022** was conducted in Tokyo, Japan on 28th March 2022 through Embassy of India, Tokyo where the importers from Japan, exporters, APEDA and official from Eol, Tokyo interacted.
- ❖ APEDA signed Cooperative service Agreement with USDA APHIS for cooperative export of fruits from India to USA. This is going to assist in export of mango to USA in 2022.

(b) Export Initiatives

- ❖ **First consignment of Burmese grapes (aka leteku)** exported from Assam to Dubai on 26th June 2021.

- ❖ First consignment of Dragon fruits exported from Sangli District of Maharashtra to Dubai on 25th June 2021.
- ❖ First consignment of orange of 24 MT exported from Chhindwada, cluster of Madhya Pradesh to Bangladesh.
- ❖ First consignment of Mishri Variety Cherries from Kashmir Valley, Srinagar to Dubai was organized on 5th July 2021.
- ❖ First consignment of mangoes for the season 2022 to Japan was dispatched from Mumbai port on 26th March 2022 to Okinawa Airport, Japan.
- ❖ First consignment of GI tagged mangoes was exported in month of June 2021. GI tagged Jardalu mangoes exported for the first time from Bhagalpur, Bihar to UK and Malihabadi Dasher mangoes were exported from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh to UK.
- ❖ GI tagged Jalgaon Bananas were exported to Dubai in the month of June 2021.
- ❖ GI tagged King chilly (Naga Mricha) from Nagaland to London was flagged off on 29th July 2021 from Guwahati airport from APEDA recognized pack house in Guwahati for the first time.

(c) Buyer Seller Meet

- ❖ Virtual Buyer seller meet was organized in December 2021 with exporters from India and importers from Iran for exporting Indian Agri products to Iran.
- ❖ APEDA organized International Buyer Seller Meet in Shillong, Meghalaya on 29th March 2022 where the importers from Greece, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Singapore interacted with exporters and FPO's/ FPC's of NER States.

(v) Processed & Other Processed Food Sector

(a) New technology initiatives- Exporters are provided with requisite support in setting up of new technologies like Freeze drying, Individual Quick Frozen (IQF), Fruit flies scanning machines, etc. through financial assistance scheme available for

infrastructure development. APEDA also recognizes Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) certifying and implementing agencies to facilitate the exporters in establishing their FSMS plans.

(b) Peanut.net- Revised procedures for export of peanut and peanut products was released via Trade Notice No: APEDA/PPP/Q/2021 Dated 05.07.2021. To minimize the duration for granting registration to peanut shelling/grading/processing unit, the period of inspection is reduced from 1 day to ½ day and the certificate of export is issued within 24 hrs of complete application. During the financial year 2021-2022, APEDA issued 199 registration certificates for new registration/renewal of peanut units and 26,365 Certificate of Exports for export of 5.05 Lakh MT peanut.

(c) Flag off- First Consignment of GI tagged “Mihidana” was exported to Bahrain. The Sweet dish from West Bengal is being displayed for consumers at Aljazira super stores in Bahrain.

(vi) Livestock Sector

(a) Export Promotion Initiatives

- ❖ Organized a National Business Meet on boosting export of Value-Added Meat Products on 25th March, 2022 at Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi, which was attended by the officials of DAHD, MoC&I and MoFPI, Director-NRC on Pig, Director-NRC on Meat, AIMLEA, Meat Exporters etc. The event was focused on to explore trade opportunities in export of value-added meat products.
- ❖ APEDA had a meeting with Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying on market access related issues and prepared a strategy cum action plan for boosting export of livestock products such as Frozen buffalo meat, sheep/goat meat, dairy products and poultry products.
- ❖ A Virtual Buyer Seller Meet was organized in collaboration with Embassy of India, Angola and attended by the officials of EoI, Angola, trade associations of Angola, Importers and Exporters to explore the opportunities in export of agro and processed food products from India to Angola.

- ❖ A virtual sensitization program was organized for exporters in the poultry clusters on 7th June 2022 to commemorate 75th year of Independence on "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" in Namakkal, Erode and Salem.
- ❖ A virtual capacity building programme was organized on Kadaknath chicken (GI) in Jhbabua district. District Animal Husbandry Department, KVK and potential Kadaknath farmers were present during the meeting. KVK scientists advised on different ways to promote the Kadaknath chicken in Jhbabua district.
- ❖ During May 2021 APEDA along with States Department of Animal Husbandry, organized a virtual meeting with poultry exporters, laboratory and other stakeholders on various issues faced by poultry industry viz. COVID-19 related, market access, declaration of disease-free zone, etc.

(b) Market Access issues and International Cooperation

- ❖ Malaysian Inspection Mission has visited India for Review and Compliance Audit of meat establishments in India to approve the meat plants for export of frozen buffalo meat and offal to Malaysia. They visited 39 meat establishments and one Buffalo gelatin unit in two phases and all the preparations such as sensitization of exporters, stay and travel of delegates are made by APEDA.
- ❖ APEDA has invited delegations from Brunei, Indonesia, Angola, Vietnam and other countries for inspections of meat processing units to allow their units to export of frozen buffalo meat in their countries. APEDA has prepared and shared draft MoU with Department of Animal Health (DAH), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam for signing of export for buffalo's internal organs (offals) from India to Vietnam.
- ❖ Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban from export of hatched eggs (One day old) from India except from two States-Kerala and MP.

(vii) Cereals Sector

(a) Trade Promotion Activities

- ❖ A Virtual BSM was organized in association with

Consulate General of India, Ho Chi Minh City, and Peoples' Committee of Lam Dong Province on 22nd April, 2021.

- ❖ A Virtual BSM was organized in association with High Commission of India, Brunei and Department of Agriculture and Agri-food, Brunei Darussalam on 27th April 2021.
- ❖ First consignment of non-basmati rice exports from Paradip port, Odisha flagged off to Vietnam on 3rd May 2021 for boosting the India's rice exports potential.
- ❖ The shipment of Organic Barnyard and Finger Millets Shipment from Uttarakhand to Denmark flagged off on 5th May 2021. To promote organic products exports from the country, first consignment of millets grown in Himalayas from snow-melt water of Ganges in Dev Bhoomi (Land of the God), Uttarakhand was exported to Denmark.
- ❖ A flag off ceremony was organized on 29th May 2021 to export patented 'village rice' from Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu to Ghana and Yemen. Further, two consignments 4.5 MT of patented 'village rice' from Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu by a start-up Udaya Agro Farm was exported to Ghana & Yemen.
- ❖ First Consignment of Peanuts from West Bengal to Nepal was flagged off on 7th June 2021 for opening up a window of possibilities to boost the export from Eastern Region.
- ❖ The first shipment of Bhalia Wheat (GI) was exported from Gujarat to Kenya and Sri Lanka on 7th July 2021.
- ❖ An Export Sensitization Programme cum Buyer Seller Meet for FPO/Progressive Farmers of Millet, Odisha has been organized on 27th July 2021.
- ❖ A sensitization programme was organised in association with Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR) for Start-ups/FPO on 30th July 2021.
- ❖ APEDA in association with Indian Embassy organized a Virtual Buyer Seller Meet (VBSM) on 11th August 2021 with Lao People's Democratic Republic for boosting agricultural exports potential where key officials and stakeholders from food industries for both the countries participated.

- ❖ APEDA in association with Embassy of India in Lomé, Togo organized a Virtual interaction meet of Non-Basmati Rice Exporters and Togo importers on 1st October 2021

(b) Awareness Campaign for Farmers to Promote Judicious Use of Pesticides in Kharif, 2021

- ❖ To increase the availability of better-quality Basmati rice and meeting the standards of importing countries in respect of residues of pesticides, APEDA has been supporting all the 7 States in Basmati GI area to increase awareness of Basmati growers. Approx. 76 training programmes have been organized by APEDA with the support of Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF) to sensitize farmers for good agricultural practices and judicious use of pesticides.

(viii) Organic Sector

(a) Mutual Recognitions with importing countries

Taiwan- The agreement for equivalency of India's NPOP with Taiwanese organic standards has been concluded between India and Taiwan.

(b) Accreditation activities

APEDA is functioning as Secretariat for implementation of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) complying with ISO-17011 requirements. APEDA is also member of International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Following are the accreditation related activities during the period:

- ❖ As per the accreditation procedure outlined in NPOP, accreditation has been granted to one Certification Body by the National Accreditation Body (NAB) making total to 33 Certification Bodies.
- ❖ Accreditation of Certification Bodies has been extended for overseas certification in European Union, Africa in addition to Middle East, NW Asia and neighboring countries by the NAB.
- ❖ APEDA is providing technical expertise to Bhutan for developing and establishing an Organic Certification Programme.

(c) Monitoring of NPOP procedures through TraceNet online system

APEDA is providing data of Organic processors and traders from web-based traceability system, TraceNet to FSSAI for the purpose of domestic integrity verification of certified organic products. The integrated module has been developed to capture information related to high-risk products export like sampling and analysis report, testing report, etc.

(d) GI product - Export Promotion

- ❖ Many promotional activities have been carried out for GI-tagged agricultural products to create a niche market for Indian agri products brand, known for its legacy, delicacies and varieties internationally.
- ❖ Multiple trial shipments into new markets have been facilitated for GI products such as Kala Namak rice, Naga Mircha, Assam Kaji Nemu, Bangalore Rose Onion, GI varieties of Mangoes, GI-tagged Shahi Litchi, Bhalia wheat, Madurai Malli, Bardhaman Mihidana and Sitabhog, Dahanu Vazhakulam Pineapple, Marayoor Jaggery, etc.
- ❖ Naga Mircha (King Chilli) exported from Nagaland to UK, Black Rice from Manipur to UK, Assam Lemon to UK and Italy, three GI varieties of Mango (Fazli, Khirsapati, and Laxmanbhog) from West Bengal and one GI variety of Mango (Zardalu) from Bihar to Bahrain and Qatar.
- ❖ Joynagar Moa, a sweetmeat delicacy from South 24 Pargana district of West Bengal was exported for the first time to Bahrain. The first shipment of GI tagged Shahi Litchi was exported from Muzaffarpur, Bihar to London in May 2021, Banaganapalle Mango from Andhra Pradesh to South Korea, Malihabadi Dusseheri Mango was exported from Lucknow to the United Kingdom and UAE.
- ❖ In-store promotional programmes were organised in importing countries in association with foreign retailers of Doha, Qatar. Dispatch of samples of GI-tagged Nanjangud Banana from Karnataka to LuLu Group, UAE was also facilitated to enhance exports.

(f) Capacity Building and trainings

- ❖ Imparted trainings to the field samplers of authorized labs on recent methods of sampling, analysis and grading through NRL to ensure integrity of testing and certification
- ❖ Imparted hand holding programs to the stakeholders with the support of NRL on importing country's requirements such as Certificate of Conformity by Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), MRLs related to agrochemicals & contaminants and Proficiency Testing to the authorized labs for residues of pesticides and aflatoxins to ensure that the laboratories meet international competence requirements
- ❖ Imparted virtual training to Indian laboratories on Ethylene Oxide and its metabolite residues in December 2021. Proficiency Testing of ETO in food products coordinated by APEDA, NRL at NRC-Grapes Pune with EURL was organized to harmonize analytical methods of ETO. More than 100 analysts from Indian laboratories participated in the training programme.

(x) Certificates issued by APEDA

- ❖ Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) to exporters of APEDA's scheduled products. In 2021-22, APEDA issued 4,311 RCMCs.
- ❖ Registration cum Allocation Certificates (RCAC) for the export of Basmati Rice. In 2021-22, APEDA issued 30,320 RCACs with FOB value of US\$ 3.58 billion.
- ❖ Certificate of Exports (CoE) to the exporters/processors of peanuts and peanut products based on testing, processing, proper packaging etc. In 2021-22, APEDA issued 26,365 COEs.

4. THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MPEDA)

(i) Organizational Structure and Function

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a statutory body under the Department of Commerce Ministry of Commerce & Industry was constituted in 1972 with a mandate of developing a conducive ecosystem for marine products in the country and promotion of its export from India. The Authority has its headquarters located in Kochi, Kerala and consists of 30 members including a Chairman (Appointed by the Central Government). There are 18 Field Offices across the coastal states including one in NE India to assist the marine product exporters, processors and aqua culturists for ensuring timely advice to the stakeholders. MPEDA has three Trade Promotion Offices at New York, Japan and New Delhi and five full-fledged Quality Control Laboratories. MPEDA has also set up three registered societies viz., Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA) for promotion of diversified aquaculture to support export promotion by technology transfer, Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) for extension activities on fish quality management, and sustainable Fishing and National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) to enable aquaculture farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices in the Aquaculture.

(ii) Export performance

The export of marine products during April to November in FY 2022-23 has shown a growth of 3.46 per cent in US\$ earnings compared to the same period last year. USA, China and Japan are the major contributors to the seafood export basket of the country.

Marine Products export during April to November 2022

	April-November 2021-22	April-November 2022-23* (Prov.)	Growth (%)
US\$ million	5,392.96	5,579.41	3.46

(iii) Export Facilitation and Promotion

MPEDA participated in following International Seafood Fairs in FY 2022-23:

Details of International Seafood Fairs

Name of the Show	Date
Seafood Expo Global 2022, Barcelona	26-28 th April 2022
Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo (JISTE 2022), Tokyo, Japan	24 th -26 th August 2022
Fish International, Bremen, Germany	4 th -6 th September 2022
Seafood Expo Asia 2022, Singapore	14 th -16 th September 2022
World Food Moscow 2022, Moscow, Russia	20 th -23 rd September 2022
Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo 2022, Busan, South Korea	2 nd -5 th November 2022

- ❖ VIETFISH 2022: Trade delegation team including MPEDA Official and 11 exporting companies participated in VIETFISH 2022 from 24th to 26th August 2022. Delegates also participated in the meeting conducted in connection with Namaste Vietnam 2022.
- ❖ Virtual Business Meets: During 2022-23 (April-December) MPEDA organized 09 Virtual Business Meets with importers from Germany (2), Malaysia (2), Korea, Singapore, Russia, Vietnam and China.
- ❖ Virtual Buyer Seller Meets: During 2022-23 (April-December) MPEDA organized 19 Virtual Buyer Seller Meets with importers from Oman, Spain (2), Reunion, Russia (3), Japan (6), UK and China (5) in coordination with Indian Missions, regulatory agencies, Chamber of Commerce, Importer Associations etc.
- ❖ MPEDA in association with ICICI Bank has conducted on webinar on "Leveraging FTAs to grow exports" which was attended by 80 exporters. Also a Seafood Market study was completed for BENELUX & German market in association with the respective Indian Missions.
- ❖ India International Seafood Show 2023: MPEDA in association with SEAI, will be organizing the 23rd edition of India International Seafood Show - IISS (2023) to be held from 15th-17th February 2023 at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ Registration of Units: 15 processing plants, 105 exporters, 19 storage premises, 5 dried fish handling Centre, 3 Live Fish Handling Centre, 2 Fresh/chilled fish handling Centre, 16 peeling shed, 2 conveyances, 1 Other Edible Handling Centre and 5 Other Non-edible Handling Centre were registered with MPEDA during April 2022 till December 2022. The online registration of exporters and entities have been made completely digitized as part of ease of doing business.
- ❖ Online validation of certificates: To promote export, MPEDA is validating all the export facilitation certificates electronically. During the period from 01st April 2022 to 31st December 2022, MPEDA issued 7476 Catch Certificates, 346 ICCAT Swordfish Statistics Documents, 14671 DS 2031 certificates, 177 Non-radioactivity certificates, 13 Certificate of legal origin, 38 Duty free import certificates and 33 RCMC certificates, electronically.
- ❖ Upgradation of Fishing Harbours: Based on MPEDA intervention, Union Budget 2020-21 announced 05 fishing harbours – at Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Petuaghat as hub of economic activities. Central Apex Committee (CAC), Dept of Fisheries in its 7th meeting recommended the modernization of Cochin Fisheries Harbour project proposal for an amount Rs.169.17 crore and to complete project within a period of 18

months. M/s RDS Project Ltd, Kochi, Kerala has been selected as EPC contractor for executing the construction work. MPEDA is providing the technical support to Cochin Port Trust for improving the quality/sustainability aspects of the fishes landed in the harbour.

(iii) Addressing the sustainability issues of sea caught material to fulfill the importing nation's requirements

- ❖ MPEDA is coordinating with US NOAA for lifting the ban on wild caught shrimp export imposed under Section 609 US Public Law, during 2019 on alleged grounds that fishing methods followed in India are affecting sea turtle population. In June 2022, the dive evaluation study was conducted at USA jointly by NOAA and Indian experts from MPEDA and CIFT were successful and met the US NOAA specification. MPEDA is waiting an official communication from US NOAA for approval of CIFT TED design. During November 2022, MPEDA received the modified TED. The CIFT fabricated sufficient number of the modified TEDs. The TEDs would be used for conducting the field trials. India is waiting the visit by the USA NOAA team to verify the field trials of the modified TED and for conducting technical training programme.
- ❖ Marine Mammal Protection Act: US MMPA regulations would be implemented w.e.f 01.01.2024, under which imports of selected marine products designated as "Export Fisheries" under the List of Foreign Fisheries (LOFF) would be permitted only if the exporting countries develop an appropriate regulatory program for Marine Mammal Protection, comparable in effectiveness to the US programs. One of the key component in this is the availability of stock assessment data of marine mammals. In the absence of stock assessment report, CMFRI, FSI and MPEDA-NETFISH jointly conducted visual survey and by-catch estimates of marine mammals. MPEDA on behalf of India, submitted Comparability Finding Application (CFA)

of US NOAA successfully on 25th November 2021 in order to fulfill the conditions of US-MMPA. The same is under review by US authorities. MPEDA in consultation with FSI, CMFRI, CIFT, DoF & MoEF & CC submitted the reply to initial queries of US NOAA on 17th November 2022. The Final determination on India's CFA is awaiting.

- ❖ Inputs to DoC and other Ministries in connection with various ongoing FTA negotiations.
- ❖ MPEDA has been offering comments on tariff modalities, Rules of Origin, SPS TBT Texts etc, in connection with various FTA negotiations. Indian seafood exporters have been granted Zero % import tariff on fish and fishery products under the recently concluded India-UAE CEPA and India-Australia ECTA, which would be helpful in enhancing India's seafood exports to the respective markets.
- ❖ Implemented successfully the Japan Catch Documentation Scheme (JCDS) for Class II Aquatic Animals and Plants under Article 11 of the Act on Ensuring the Proper Domestic Distribution and Importation of Specified Aquatic Animals and Plants to eliminate IUU fishing as per the Japanese regulations, with effect from 01.12.2022.

(iv) Support for High End/Innovative Value Addition for Exports

Export of value added products has enhanced the unit value realization for Indian marine products. But most of the modern equipment are highly capital intensive. In order to assist the Indian seafood processors to adopt value addition, MPEDA has been operating financial assistance schemes to exporters for setting up of new units, to expand the existing production capacity for value added products and for diversifying into value addition through institutional finance. In addition to financial assistance schemes, MPEDA has been providing hands on training programs.

Financial assistance granted by MPEDA during the FY 2022-23 (1st April 2022 to 31st December 2022)

Scheme	No. of beneficiaries	Financial Assistance (Values in Rs. Lakh)
Technology Development for Specific Value Added Products scheme (TDSVAP)	4	949.20
Technology and Infrastructural Upgradation Scheme for Marine Products (TIUSMP)	1	45.55
Cold Chain Development Scheme for Large Cold Storage	2	100.71
Total	7	1,095.46

(v) Aquaculture Development

- ❖ Capacity building programmes: MPEDA has conducted a series of workshops and awareness programs for the aquaculture farmers in the coastal states, aimed at sensitizing the farmers on major issues including antibiotic residues, adoption of Better Management Practices (BMP) and diversification towards export oriented species. During April-October 2022, 759 awareness campaigns (including farm to farm) were conducted against the usage of antibiotics in aquaculture and 156 for the propagation of species diversifications. 16 training programs were organized and 5 numbers of farmers' meet were conducted to create awareness about MPEDA schemes.
- ❖ Species diversification: MPEDA has standardized seed production and culture of diversified species like Tilapia, Seabass, Scampi, mud crab etc. 5 (Five) Demonstration programmes for the exportable species have been initiated during the period for the popularization of the diversified species while 9 demonstrations are continuing from the last year.
- ❖ Enrollment of farms and hatcheries: For the traceability of aquaculture production, 1075 number of farms with a water spread area of 4795 hectares and 7 hatcheries with 1683 million capacity have been enrolled by MPEDA.
- ❖ Certification of aquaculture (SHAPHARI): Under the certification programme, one hatchery was SHAPHARI certified during the period for the

production of antibiotic free seed. The hatchery had successfully undergone a series of audits and tests on hatchery inputs and hatchery seeds for antibiotic residues over a period of 8-10 months. Seeds from the hatchery were also tested negative for all the OIE listed pathogens during the audits. Audits are progressing for 21 hatcheries. Aquaculture farm of 36 Ha areas have been SHAPHARI certified for production under Good Management Practices.

- ❖ Thailand lifted ban on L. vannamei: As a result of the continuous efforts taken by Government of India, the Government of Thailand has lifted the ban on import of frozen vannamei shrimp from India w.e.f 15th June 2022, subsequent to the Virtual audit of India's shrimp disease control system.

(vi) Quality Assurance

- ❖ NRCP: During the period of April-October 2022, a total of 7771 samples were tested by MPEDA labs under National Residue Control Plan (NRCP). PHT: total 9044 PHT certificates have been issued.
- ❖ COVID-19 Testing: Microbiology & Molecular Biology divisions of MPEDA QC Lab, Kochi is testing fish and fishery products for the detection of pathogenic bacteria, viruses and fungus including COVID-19 nucleic acid. During April-October 2022, total 2510 Commercial samples were tested for SARS COV-19 Nucleic Acid materiel in Seafood Packaging material.

- ❖ Seafood HACCP Trainings: MPEDA organized 6 seafood HACCP trainings at various locations and 166 technologists from Indian seafood industry were benefited from this.
- ❖ As part of Shrimp Regulatory Partnership Agreement (RPA), USFDA in association with MPEDA and JIFSAN is organizing a series of trainings for the benefit of Indian seafood industry. Two Seafood HACCP trainings were conducted at MPEDA head office during the month of April 2022. One Good Aquaculture Practice training conducted during the month of May 2022. Participants from MPEDA, EIA, academia and stakeholders from seafood industry were benefited from these trainings.
- ❖ One Seafood HACCP trainers training and FDA Import Operations training was also organized in association with USFDA and JIFSAN during the month of July 2022. USFDA has also proposed for sanitation training during the month of January 2023 for the benefit of Indian seafood industry.

(vii) Market specific actions on QA and Biosecurity

(a) EU Mission 2022

- ❖ European Commission on aquaculture, poultry and milk visited India from 12th to 23rd September 2022. The team audited MPEDA QC laboratory at Kochi on 14th September 2022. EU team also inspected a seafood processing facility, Nauplii Rearing Hatchery, non-organic aquaculture farm, veterinary medicinal products shops in and around Kochi to audit the operations carried out by each facility.
- ❖ The EU team audited MPEDA QC lab Bhubaneswar and MPEDA lab for pre-harvest testing (ELISA) on 19th-20th September 2022. The official report of the EU mission is awaited.

(b) China

- ❖ During the reporting year, GACC has suspended 23 seafood processing establishments indefinitely due to the presence of COVID-19 nucleic acid either on packaging material, product or on the container wall.

- ❖ As on date, GACC indefinitely suspended 99 seafood processing establishments due to COVID-19. 22 units are also indefinitely suspended by GACC due to other reasons like WSSV, Vibrio, Cadmium etc.
- ❖ Department is taking all possible measures to overcome these issues in coordination with MPEDA and EIC. As on date, GACC inspected 105 seafood processing establishments which were suspended due to COVID-19.
- ❖ Due to the continued efforts, GACC revoked the suspension of 11 seafood processing units.
- ❖ MPEDA is constantly sensitizing the exporters and other stakeholders to sort out the matter and to propagate the importance of following COVID-19 safety protocols in the value chain.
- ❖ National Workshop for promotion of quality seafood production and export: MPEDA in association with Coastal Aquaculture Authority conducted a one-day workshop with senior officials of Fisheries Department of all coastal states and related ICAR institutes during 17th June at Chennai. The workshop was chaired by Secretary Fisheries, GoI and supported by NFDB.

(viii) Technology extension and support

- ❖ NaCSA: During the period April-September 2022, around 22 farming cluster societies were organized in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal and Karnataka. NaCSA has conducted total of 778 meetings at Village and Mandal/Block/Taluk levels on adoption of Better Management Practices (BMP), Crop planning and on creating awareness to farmers on Abuse of banned antibiotics in Shrimp farming for the benefit of 8374 farmers from states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, and Gujarat. NaCSA assisted 76 farmers for obtaining MPEDA Farm Enrollment from the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal.
- ❖ 02 societies received an amount of Rs. 17,74,116.00/- under MPEDA financial assistance scheme for SC/ST Societies during 2022-2023. 04

societies received an amount of Rs. 30,82,175.50/- under MPEDA financial assistance scheme for General Societies. During April-Sept 2022, an amount of Rs. 25,20,295/- was collected through these testing of Water Quality & shrimp animal health analysis.

- ❖ To facilitate the shrimp farmers of the societies NaCSA is working on an e-commerce platform (e-Santa) to sell their product to exporters by avoiding middlemen. 32 Farmers have been registered in e-Santa platform till date.
- ❖ NETFISH: has conducted 2,958 extension programs during the period April to December 2022 benefiting around 20,000 stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector. These were conducted in and around selected harbours and landing centers in order to reduce fisheries post-harvest loss and destruction of marine resources.
- ❖ As part of the 'Swacch Sagar Surakshit Sagar' campaign of Gol in connection with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & International Coastal Clean-up day 2022, NETFISH had conducted 14 numbers of Beach/Coastal clean-up events across the 9 coastal states & Pondicherry UT during July-September 2022, sensitizing the fishers and general public about the impact of single use plastics on marine eco-system and about sanitation & hygiene required in beaches/coastal areas.
- ❖ 134 programs including Landing centre training, On-board program, one-week skill development, value addition, Sea Safety & Black clam training

were conducted for the skill development and livelihood enhancement of SC fishers. Also, conducted 82 numbers of training for processing workers, & Technologist at Seafood units with the objective to improve the hygiene and sanitary conditions. Further, 18 Nos. of training programs were conducted for fisher folks of Pondicherry with the funding from State Fisheries Department of Pondicherry, to upgrade the skills of the personal who are employed in the field of fisheries.

- ❖ NETFISH had signed a MOU with The Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET), Kochi in April 2022 for conducting joint training programs for the welfare and socio-economic upliftment of the fishers, as well as resource conservation and post-harvest quality management by imparting adequate skill development training programs under PMMSY scheme.
- ❖ As part of the Marine Mammal Stock Assessment project funded by DoF, Gol, the first phase of by-catch survey for this year was completed by conducting around 6,918 fisher interviews covering 138 selected landing sites across the 9 coastal states.

(ix) Promotion of diversified aquaculture through Technology transfer

RGCA has conducted 35 General training programmes, 16 awareness programmes on antibiotics during the period. The details of seed supply by RGCA for the diversification of export-oriented aquaculture is tabulated in Table below.

Details of seed supplied by RGCA

S. No.	Name of the project	Cumulative total Nos. of seed supply during the Financial year 2022 - 23		
		Species	Quantity (Nos.)	Supplied to
	Seed supply details (Species wise)			
1	Asian Seabass Hatchery	Seabass fry	57 lakh	Farmers/MAC/ RGCA
2	Mangrove Mud Crab Hatchery	Mangrove Mud Crab Hatchery	2.92 Lakh	Farmers
3	Aquaculture Demonstration Farm	Crablets	-	-
4	Marine Finfish Hatchery Project	Seabass Fingerlings	70,231 Nos.	Farmers

S. No.	Name of the project	Cumulative total Nos. of seed supply during the Financial year 2022 - 23		
		5	Artemia Project & Demofarm	Artemia Biomass
	Artemia Cyst	239 tins		RGCA/ Farmers
6	L.vannamei Broodstock Multiplication Centre	L. vannamei Broodstock	-	-
7	Tilapia Project	Tilapia Seed	4.07 lakh	Farmers/MAC/ Dept. of Maharashtra & Kerala/ADAK
		Tilapia Broodstock	7,800 Nos.	Farmers/MAC/ Department of Kerala/ADAK
8	Aquatic Quarantine Facility for L.vannamei	AQF (L. vannamei)	1.25 lakhs	Hatcheries
		AQF (P. monodon)	7,061 Nos.	Hatcheries
		AQF (Ppl)	1.10 lakh	Hatcheries
9	RGCA - MAC(Vallarpadam)	Tilapia Fry/Fingerlings	10.76 lakh	Farmers
		Seabass Fry/ Fingerlings	1.1 lakh	Farmers
		Etroplus suratensis Fry/Fingerlings	66,660 Nos.	Farmers
		P. monodon Post Larvae	3.7 lakh	Farmers

5. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE REMEDIES (DGTR)

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) (earlier known as Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties) is an attached office of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) which was formed in 1997 has been restructured as DGTR in May 2018 by restructuring and re-designing DGAD into DGTR by incorporating all the trade remedial functions i.e. Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), Safeguards Duty (SGD), Safeguards Measures (QRs) under a single window framework. Thus, the DGTR has been formed by merging of functions of DGAD, Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Safeguards, Department of Revenue and Safeguards (QR) functions of DGFT into its fold. The DGTR is a professionally integrated organization with multi-spectrum

skill sets emanating from officers drawn from different services and specializations. The DGTR is a quasi-judicial body that independently undertakes investigations before making its recommendations to the Central Government. It is the single national authority for administering all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures. The DGTR provides a level playing field to the domestic industry against the adverse impact of the unfair trade practices like dumping and actionable subsidies from any exporting country, by using trade remedial methods under the relevant framework of the WTO arrangements, the Customs Tariff Act & Rules and other relevant laws and international agreements, in a transparent and time bound manner. It also provides trade defence support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

Records Processed from 2016-17 to 2022-23 (As on 30th September 2022)

Years	Export	Import	Total
2016-17	10482529	8190495	18673024
2017-18	11288464	9198264	20486728
2018-19	13360422	12188592	25549014
2019-20	13743809	12087439	25831248
2020-21	12503114	9987444	22490558
2021-22	23715941	19332285	43048226
2022-23 (Till 30.09.22)	7848775	6912861	14761636

Source: DGCI&S

Percentage of Records Processed by type of Record

YEARS	Export			Import			Total		
	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual
2016-17	90.31	9.13	0.56	94.08	5.88	0.04	91.96	7.7	0.33
2017-18	91.85	8.02	0.13	94.62	5.36	0.01	93.09	6.83	0.08
2018-19	93.30	6.70	0.00**	95.21	4.78	0.01	94.21	5.78	0.00**
2019-20	92.93	7.07	0.00**	94.93	5.07	0.00**	93.86	6.13	0.00**
2020-21	93.13	6.87	0.00**	94.77	5.23	0.00**	93.86	6.14	0.00**
2021-22	95.19	4.81	0.00**	95.67	4.33	0.00**	95.40	4.60	0.00**
2022-23 (Till 30 th September 2022)	93.49	6.51	0.00	94.24	5.76	0.00	93.84	6.16	0.00**

* Non-EDI Include SEZ also

** Data received from manual ports are negligible

Percentage Contribution of Different Types of Transaction to the value of Trade

YEARS	Export			Import			Total		
	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual
2016-17	79.79	20.11	0.11	80.53	19.30	0.17	80.22	19.64	0.14
2017-18	83.57	16.33	0.1	87.40	12.55	0.05	85.89	14.04	0.07
2018-19	84.84	15.16	0.00**	89.05	10.94	0.01	87.40	12.59	0.01
2019-20	84.48	15.52	0.00**	88.19	11.81	0.00**	86.71	13.28	0.00**
2020-21	87.46	12.35	0.19	88.06	11.94	0.00**	87.80	12.11	0.08
2021-22	82.40	17.60	0.00**	88.72	11.28	0.00	86.14	13.86	0.00**
2022-23 (As on 30 th September 2022)	79.77	20.23	0.00	90.21	9.79	0.00	86.24	13.76	0.00**

* Non-EDI Include SEZ also

** Data received from manual ports are negligible

Number of Record processed

YEARS	Export			Import		
	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual
2021-22	22574996	1140936	0.00**	18494780	837505	0.00
2022-23 (As on 30 th September 2022)	7337944	510831	0.00	6514457	398404	0.00

* Non-EDI Include SEZ also

** Data received from manual ports are negligible

Trade of Different Types of Transaction

(Values in Rs crore)

YEARS	Export			Export Total	Import			Import Total
	EDI	Non EDI *	Manual		EDI	Non EDI *	Manual	
2016-17	1475633.80	371834.85	1964.90	1849433.55	2075751.56	497510.78	4413.02	2577675.37
2017-18	1634995.78	319592.69	1926.06	1956514.53	2622952.40	376483.51	1597.53	3001033.43
2018-19	1957858.04	349793.52	74.63	2307726.19	3200890.43	393283.00	501.18	3594674.61
2019-20	1875434.47	344412.99	6.72	2219854.18	2963912.85	2963912.85	78.80	5927904.49
2020-21	1888317.33	266729.34	3996.55	2159043.22	2567750.41	348093.81	113.48	2915957.70
2021-22	2592995.33	554026.10	0.06	3147021.49	4056856.75	515917.84	0.00	4572774.59
2022-23 (As on 30 th September 2022)	1461662.48	370717.65	0.00	1832380.14	2693131.47	292205.29	0.00	2985336.76

* Non-EDI Include SEZ also

** Data received from manual ports are negligible

7. GOVERNMENT e-MARKETPLACE (GeM)

In line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Government of India decided to set up Government e-Marketplace (GeM) in 2016, as a National Public Procurement Portal to revolutionize public procurement in India. In the past years, GeM has successfully transformed the public procurement space in India through its technology-driven innovations and other strategic interventions. It has made significant strides towards the pursuit of its three fundamental pillars, i.e., inclusion, transparency, and efficiency in public procurement, since its launch. GeM is an example of how digital platforms created with a strategic and clear intent to reinvigorate and reimagine legacy processes can bring about lasting change for the nation as well as the underserved. This online platform offers a cashless, contactless, and paperless experience for sellers and buyers, and is an end-to-end solution for procurement of common use goods and services by Government buyers.

GeM has processed almost 1.3 crore orders worth 3.61 lakh crore in Gross Merchandise Value [GMV] for about 65K+ government buyers. The portal has more than 10,000 product categories with over 5 million listed products. GeM has over 260 service categories and over 2 lakh service offerings.

GeM has achieved inclusivity through a thoughtful strategy focused on many aspects, in alignment with the government's Make in India initiative and policy to promote local MSEs. GeM is providing these MSEs with easy market access, which is especially important given that the majority of Indian MSEs lack a digital footprint and only a small percentage of MSEs sell or promote their business online. It is to highlight that more than 55 per cent of order value on GeM is awarded to MSEs.

In order to provide an impetus to the Make in India initiative as part of the vision of "Aatmanirbhar Bharat", and also to promote local products through the "Vocal for Local" initiative, the Government has made it mandatory for all sellers on GeM to list the Country of Origin while registering new products. Government organizations on the platform can now

see the percentage of local content in various products. Government buyers can use the Make in India filter to see products that match their preferences on local content to encourage self-reliance and boost domestic manufacturing and investment.

Key Highlights

- ❖ Running Contract Functionality through modified option clause- GeM has now provided alternate mechanism to handle rate contracts through Modified Option Clause on pilot basis for limited set of buyer and limited item category. The maximum value to be allowed will be 2300% for quantity increase & 24 months for Contract Price Validity period.
- ❖ Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) Onboarding in GeM - FPO is an aggregator for member farmers who are the producers of agricultural products. FPO sellers self-register in GeM, we label them with the FPO flag based on the list provided by FPOs. Additional vendor assessment and caution money exemptions are given to FPO for the categories that were designated for them.
- ❖ Make in India (MII) clause is now available in Services. Buyers will have an option to choose if they want MII-compliant service providers. If chosen 'yes', Service providers will have to state that they are compliant under the MII clause when participating on GeM.
- ❖ In line with the approval provided by Cabinet, GeM has enabled onboarding of Co-operatives as buyer on GeM.
- ❖ GeM has been integrated with the existing e-Gram Swaraj(EGS) System where all the procurement of Goods & Services can be done by the Panchayat on the GeM Portal. Pilot project at Gurgaon Panchayat and at Ayodhya Panchayat has already been done successfully.
- ❖ Single packet bidding - GeM now allows single packet bids, which buyers can use to make purchases. In single packet bidding both technical and financial offerings are being opened simultaneously and buyers evaluate both financial and

technical offers simultaneously and publish the evaluation results. This saves a lot of time in case of large number of bids are received.

- ❖ Push button Functionality - GeM has launched the Push button procurement functionality on experimental basis enabling buyer to buy upto Rs. 1 lakh simplifying the procurement process and require minimal intervention from buyer. This is system driven procurement enabled for the limited 50 categories.
- ❖ In FY 2021–22 alone, GeM had achieved a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) upwards of Rs. 1 lakh crore and an impressive 176 percent growth compared to FY 2020–21 whereas in the current FY (2022-23), GeM has already crossed GMV of Rs. 1 lakh crore in just 243 days as compared to 357 days in FY 2021-22. GeM is now aspiring to achieve an annual GMV of Rs. 1.75 lakh crore in current FY.
- ❖ Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Shri Piyush Goyal launched the Government e Marketplace (GeM) Seller “Samvaad Booklet” and flagged the roll-out of GeM services through Common Service Center e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV), and India Post, Department of Post, at a function held at Vanijya Bhawan in New Delhi on 21st December 2022.
- ❖ GeM is in process of implementing complete AI-ML based solution to check any fraud and anomaly on the portal. This will also assist users in taking decisions at various stages.

Benefits of procuring on GeM

- ❖ GeM offers category-based procurement that enables better price discovery.
- ❖ Pre-identified critical technical specifications with flexibility of customization.
- ❖ Pre-defined and standard Service Level Agreement (SLA) and Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) makes bid creation and contract generation faster. Buyer has an option to add additional terms and conditions while issuing the bid.
- ❖ GeM provides an option to provide multiple

consignee locations and quantity.

- ❖ A provision for LCS/QCBS method of evaluation is available for services as per recent DoE guidelines.
- ❖ In case of urgency, short-duration bids may be floated with appropriate approvals from competent authority.
- ❖ GeM has AI ML enabled decision support system
- ❖ Provides a complete procurement ecosystem to buyer-sellers and other related stakeholders
- ❖ GeM has implemented various checks and balances in system to prevent any fraudulent transaction

Steps taken towards Social Inclusion

- ❖ Social inclusion being one of its core values, GeM provides significant opportunities to various niche and yet under-served seller groups like MSEs, women, self-help groups [SHG], Divyangjan (person with disabilities), Start-ups, artisans, weavers, tribal craftsmen and Hunar-Haat craftsmen etc. to transact online seamlessly with various Government buyers.
- ❖ In this context, GeM has worked closely with Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of MSME, DPIIT, National Bamboo Mission, Ministry of Agriculture to develop 8 “GeM Outlet Stores” and provide online “access to markets” for under-served seller groups in remote rural areas. Providing online market access to under-served seller groups has reinforced the “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, “Vocal for Local”, “Make in India [MII]” initiative and Government of India's policy to promote local MSEs.

8. TRADE FACILITATION INSTITUTE (IDI, IIP, IIPT)

(A) Indian Diamond Institute (IDI)

Indian Diamond Institute (IDI) was established, in 1978 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and also under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, with a focus to provide a vocational education in the field of Diamond, Gems and Jewellery. The IDI is sponsored by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of

India and is a project of the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council. The IDI conducts vocational training programmes in the field of Diamond Manufacturing, Diamond Grading, Jewellery Designing and Jewellery Manufacturing, Gemmology, thereby covering vocational training on entire spectrum of Gems & Jewellery sector under one roof. The institute upgrade/impart the skill to Customs Officials on Gold Appraising, Rough Diamond Sorting and Diamond Grading aspects. Institute also upgrades the skill of the existing employees of MSME G&J units under skill enhancement scheme of Centre for Entrepreneur Development (CED), Government of Gujarat.

IDI is also recognized as an Anchor Institute Gems & Jewellery by Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat.

The Institute's Gemmological Laboratory is engaged in testing and identification of Diamonds, Gem Stones and Jewellery, and issuing a Diamond Grading, Gem Stone Identification and Diamond Jewellery Quality report. The Institute's Diamond Grading Laboratory is authorized by the DGFT, MoC&I, as per Chapter 4 of the FTP 2015-2020 for certification /grading of Diamonds. The IDI also operates Diamond Detection and Resource Centre (DDRC) at its Katargam campus to provide diamond screening services to small/medium diamond manufacturer/diamond traders/Jewellers at affordable rates. Gemmological laboratory also provides its identification & testing services to Custom as well as to DRI for the goods seized by them. Laboratory also provides its services

to NMDC for planning & valuation of its Rough Diamonds.

(B) Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)

The Indian Institute of Packaging is an autonomous body under the aegis of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India established in 1966 under Societies Registration Act, 1860. The Institute headquartered at Mumbai has its regional centres at Kolkata (1976), Chennai (1971), Delhi (1986), Hyderabad (2006), Ahmedabad (2017) and Vishakhapatnam (2021). The Institute is engaged in various activities like testing and certification of packaging materials and packages for domestic and export market, including mandatory UN Certification of packaging for transport of hazardous/dangerous goods, training, education, consultancy, projects and research and development in the area of packaging.

(i) Training, Education & Capacity Building Programmes:

- ❖ A total of 189 Post Graduate Diploma in Packaging students passed out in 2021-22 and successfully placed in reputed companies.
- ❖ About 125 students passed the Diploma in Packaging through correspondence.
- ❖ 49 students passed the Certified Packaging Engineer (CPE).
- ❖ IIP conducted various training programs for exporters/traders on packaging of handicrafts and handloom, fruits & vegetables, hardware, readymade garments, perishable commodities, and meat and meat products.



A two-day Capacity Building Programme on “Packaging of Fresh & Processed Foods” under “PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme” at AH & VS Training and Extension Hall, Gangtok East Sikkim was held on 23rd & 24th August, 2022



A two-day Training Programme under PMKVY -3.0 – CSSM-RPL was conducted by Indian Institute of Packaging, Kolkata Centre in association with Directorate of Skill Development, Government of Tripura at Agartala on 18th & 19th June, 2022.

(ii) Packaging Design and Development

IIP has designed & developed prototypes of Millet and Wheel chair products for Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALMCO).



Packaging prototype for wheelchairs developed by IIP on 15th June 2022 at ALIMCO, Kanpur



Packaging prototypes for millets products developed by IIP 26th May 2022 at IIMR, Hyderabad.

(iii) Testing and Certification

Year	No. of Certificates issued (International Maritime Dangerous Goods) IMDG	No. of Certificates issued (International Civil Aviation Organization) ICAO
2021 - 22	9895	1798
2022 - 23 (As on 29 th November 2022)	5782	1446

(iv) Research & Development

IIP received the following research projects.

- ❖ Developing Packaging Solution for 21 Potential APEDA Scheduled Agri Products (Including Organic & GI Tagged), sponsored by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- ❖ Equilibrium Modified Atmosphere Packaging (EMAP) of Fruits and Vegetables sponsored by UFLEX Ltd.

- ❖ Safety Evaluation of food contact Materials, sponsored by Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition -Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (NetSCoFAN-FSSAI)

(v) Other Achievements

Collaboration and Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)



IIP signed MoU with All Indian Printing Ink Manufacturing Association Ltd for conducting short term courses and training programmes in Printing, on 8th July 2022 at Mumbai

(C) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

(i) Overview

- ❖ Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was set up on 2nd May 1963 as an autonomous Institution with a focus on Foreign Trade related Research and Training.
- ❖ In recognition of its all-round achievements, the Institute was given the status of “Deemed to be University” in May 2002 by University Grants Commission (UGC) and graded as Category - I “Deemed to be University” in June 2018 by University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ❖ The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited IIFT with the highest grade ‘A’ (currently equivalent A++) with overall CGPA score of 3.53 in 2015.
- ❖ The Institute has achieved the AACSB business accreditation and was awarded the certificate on 21st December 2021.

(ii) Rankings of IIFT

- ❖ In NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) Ranking 2022, IIFT has been ranked 24th under the management category.
- ❖ Ranked amongst the Top 10 Business School in India by “Business Today – MDRA Best B-School”.
- ❖ IIFT Ranked in the Top 5 by Chronicles All India B-School Survey.
- ❖ MBA Universe B-School ranking places IIFT in the top eight.
- ❖ Outlook – B-School Survey Ranked IIFT in Top 15.
- ❖ Inside IIM MBA Ranking places IIFT in Top 10.

(iii) Organizational structure and functions

The Board of Management is the principal executive body of the Institute. The BoM consists of 11 members and is headed by the Vice Chancellor of the Institute. The Secretary, Department of Commerce is the Chancellor of the Institute. The Vice Chancellor of the

Institute is the principal executive of the Institute and exercises supervision and control over the affairs of the Institute.

(iv) Institutional set-up of IIFT

IIFT has following divisions to promote and enhance education, research and cooperation in international trade:

- ❖ Executive Management Programmes (EMP) Division
- ❖ Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division
- ❖ International Collaboration and Capacity Development (ICCD) Division
- ❖ Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division
- ❖ Economics Division
- ❖ Research Division
- ❖ Division of Alumni Affairs
- ❖ Corporate Relations and Placement Division
- ❖ Journals Division
- ❖ Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

(v) Executive Management Programmes (EMP) Division

The Executive Management Programmes Division (EMPD) has been conceived to provide training to government officials, diplomats, entrepreneurs, exporters, corporate sector and civil society members to develop broader understanding of issues related to international business and its implications on trade policy. EMPD initiates programmes designed to generate views, opinions, analysis of contemporary trade and economic issues which are of interest to different countries, particularly the developing countries.

(vi) Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division

The Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division of the Institute offers regular training programmes to the Officers/Executives of Government/ PSUs, Corporate and Private Sector in

the area of International Trade, International Marketing, Finance, Export Import Management, Global Supply Chain Management, Strategic Management, Human Resource, IT, Capacity Building for SEZs, Data Analytics, Trade Analytics etc. The division also conducts various in-service training programmes for various officers of Government of India including IAS and other All India Service.

IIFT is a nodal institute for conducting nine-month residential foundation training programme for the Indian Trade Service Probationers. Besides, Institute also conducts training programmes for the Officer Trainees of Indian Revenue Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Economic Service, Indian Statistical Service etc.

The institute is conducting a series of online certificate programmes on “Export Import Business” for exporters and entrepreneurs spread across country under Niryat Bandhu Scheme of DGFT, Government of India. Recently, at the initiative of DGFT, IIFT launched Niryat Bandhu programmes through MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform. This programme can be attended by anyone anywhere through online mode

(vii) International Collaboration and Capacity Development (ICCD) Division

The International Collaborations & Capacity Development (ICCD) Division of IIFT plays an important role in the Institute through establishing academic ties with domestic and international universities/ institutions to enable joint training and research programmes. Student and faculty exchange is an integral part of the academic collaborations. International Collaborations & Capacity Development (ICCD) Division signed the MoUs with the Universities for Joint academic activities, development of collaborative research projects, exchange of research and teaching personnel etc. The following MoUs are under discussion:

- ❖ Florida International University (FIU), USA
- ❖ International Organization for Export Trade (IOET)
- ❖ Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), USA

(viii) Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division

The Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division of the Institute is the nodal division of full time/long duration programmes. The division processes the admission to the Institute's Full Time MBA, week-end MBA and certificate programmes, besides providing administrative and academic support.

(ix) Economics Division

The M.A. (Economics – Specialization in Trade & Finance) Programme has been launched in IIFT to impart advanced knowledge in Economics. The Programme is conducted simultaneously in Delhi and Kolkata. The Programme assimilates curriculum & teaching pedagogy from the economics departments of the best universities of the world. Emphasis is laid on the latest developments in the field of theoretical Economics and their empirical applications. In addition to classroom interactions, careful attention is provided to each and every student in tutorial as well as group classes. The Ph.D. in Economics (full-time) Programme offered at IIFT is one of the most preferred research degree programme available in Indian and Overseas Universities/Institutes.

(x) Research Division

Research holds great significance in the growth of the Institute as it provides a strong interface between creation of knowledge and training. The institute has developed substantial consultancy capacity in analyzing international business scenario and developing appropriate corporate strategies.

The Institute has also been successfully bidding for both national and international projects. The Research Division keeps organizing crucial national and international conferences on contemporary themes from time to time, which brings together eminent resource persons both from multilateral bodies, government sector and renowned academic institutions. The Ph.D. Programme (Management) offered by the division is immensely well-acclaimed.

(xi) Division of Alumni Affairs (DAA)

The DAA has been carrying out all the regular annual activities like the Regional Chapter Meets, the IIFT Conclave, the Grand Alumni Reunion, Alumni Roundtable, Batch Meets, and various other activities to keep the alumni engagement with the Institute growing and meaningful. IIFT alumni holds top positions in different professions across the corporate, public sector, media, sports and academia. Alumni provides considerable help, support and guidance regularly for organizing summer and final placements, Guest Lecture Series, corporate competitions, live projects, mentorship and other institute-industry interface activities for the students.

(xii) Corporate Relations and Placement Division (CRPD)

Placement Committee, which is an elected body of the students of the MBA International Business Full Time Program, functions under the Corporate Relations and Placement Division. Placement Committee has the mandate to reach out to the corporate sectors and administer the summer internships and the final placements process at the Institute.

The Placement Committee is guided by the Head of the Division in these endeavours. The Placement Committee does the pitching, inviting company stalwarts for guest lectures, engaging corporate sectors for the summer internship programme and securing final placements of the graduating students.

IIFT concluded the final placements for the 2020-22 batch of its flagship MBA (IB) Programme. The placements witnessed an average CTC of Rs. 25.16 lakh per annum and the median CTC stood at Rs. 24 lakh per annum. The highest CTC offered stood at Rs. 80 lakh per annum, while the top 25 per cent students of the batch received an average CTC of Rs. 34.3 lakh per annum. 82 companies participated in the placement process.

The final placements, along with the 100 per cent placements for the Summer Internships of the 2021-23 completed earlier on, mark an exceptional achievement in challenging times.

(xiii) Journal Division

(a) Monthly Seminar Series

The Journal Division has taken an initiative to start a monthly seminar series. In this seminar, we invite external experts to present an academic research paper/topic and to interact with faculty members / research scholars at IIFT. One of the primary purposes for such events is to foster a research culture among faculty members and students

(b) Publishing Focus WTO. IB Journal and IIFT Quarterly Newsletter

Journals Division publishes an in-house quarterly publications of IIFT which publishes full-research papers, case-studies, monographs, book reviews, and synopsis of doctoral dissertation in international business and management research.

(c) Publishing Foreign Trade Review

The Journals Division publishes Foreign Trade Review (FTR), which includes Research Articles, commentary and book reviews in the domain of theoretical and empirical issues in cross-border issues.

(xiv) Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)

The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE) was set up in the Institute in 2021 to provide access to quality education to the remotest places in the country as envisaged under the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The CDOE offers the following programmes:

- ❖ Executive Post Graduate Diploma programme in International Business (EPGDIB)-Online (15 months' duration).
- ❖ Certificate programme of 4 months' duration on 'Growth and Transformation through FinTechs'.
- ❖ Online MDP on INCOTerms.

The CDOE plans to launch the following new programmes:

- ❖ Online MDPs on State-wise Export Opportunities.
- ❖ Certificate programmes:
 - ◆ FinTech in International Business
 - ◆ Product Management for International Markets.

- ❖ MBA (International Business)-Online.

(xv) Centre for North Eastern Studies (CeNEST)

IIFT in collaboration with NEC has established CeNEST (Centre for North Eastern Studies) in 2016. The secretary of NEC is also the Chairman of the Apex Body of CeNEST. The Centre includes members of Stakeholders who are representing all the Northeastern States. The Centre is involved in Training, Research, and networking in all the Northeastern States towards improving exports. The Centre has already established export clinic in Guwahati for the state of Assam, with the support of Industries Department. Through the clinic, the Centre has commenced workshops to be conducted on all the districts of Assam. The success of the Assam model has also helped the Centre to replicate the same in the other states of Northeast. The center also conducts different research studies on contemporary issues impacting International Business for the different states of North East including Assam

9. PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATION (ECGC, MMTCLTD., PECLTD., ITPO, STC, STCLLTD.)

(A) ECGC Ltd (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.)

ECGC Limited, a Premier Export Credit Agency (ECA) of the Government of India, was set up in 1957 under the Companies Act 1956, to provide export credit insurance services to exporters and banks. ECGC covers export transactions destined for more than 200 countries of the world.

The Government of India has approved capital infusion of Rs. 4,400 crore to ECGC Ltd. over a period of five years, i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 500 crore has been infused during 2021-22. The total infusion will increase the underwriting capacity of ECGC by Rs. 88,000 crore. The Government has also approved enhancement in authorized maximum liability of the Company to Rs. 1.50 lakh crore from the existing Rs. 1.00 lakh crore.

ECGC has supported total exports of Rs. 6.18 lakh crore during 2021-22. The details of export supported over the last five years are as under:

(Value in Rs. crore)

Year	2018-19	2019 -20	2020-21	2021-22	FY 2022-23 (Up to 31.12.2022)
Value of Exports Supported	6,59,926	5,61,606	6,02,801	6,18,841	4,49,989

Thus, ECGC supports around 20% of the merchandise exports from India.

In order to further its support to Micro and Small exporters, ECGC has recently made available enhanced coverage under its Export Credit Insurance for Bank (ECIB) products, indemnifying the banks providing pre-shipment and post-shipment finance, to 90 per cent from an average of 70 per cent for accounts with an export working capital limit up to Rs. 20 crore for exporters engaged in manufacturing. The enhanced coverage under ECIB is aimed at encouraging the banks to lend affordable and adequate export credit to small exporters and to expand their portfolios in the coming years. The small exporters are thus expected to reap the benefits of this move as the enhanced cover enables better

credit risk assessment and score for their accounts.

ECGC has been selected as one of the implementing agencies for the Capacity Building of First Time MSE Exporters (CBFTE) sub-component of the International Cooperation (IC) Scheme, by the Ministry of MSME. Under this Scheme, the MSE exporters are eligible for reimbursement of the insurance premium paid to ECGC up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per financial year subject to their Import Export Code not older than three years and they hold a valid Udyam Registration. This move is expected to encourage MSE exporters to venture into exports and reduce their transaction cost towards credit insurance covers.

Performance of ECGC for FY 2021-22, and FY 2022-23 (as on 31st December 2022)

(Value in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Performance Parameter	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23 (Up to 31 st December 2022)
1	Total number of Insurance Covers	24,718	20,116
2	Total Maximum Liability	1,03,879	1,07,653
3	Total Business Covered (Risk Value)	6,18,841	4,49,989
4	Total Premium Amount	1,107	832

(B) MMTCLtd.

MMTC Limited was incorporated in 1963 as an independent entity primarily to deal in exports of minerals and ores and imports of non-ferrous metals. Later, it diversified its business portfolio keeping in view national requirements / new business opportunities and various commodities like fertilizers, bullion, agro etc. were progressively added to the portfolio of the company.

Long Term Agreement for export of High Grade Iron Ore to Japan and South Korea was not continued after 31st March 2021. MMTC was delisted as a STE for import of Urea on behalf of Department of Fertilisers in November 2021. Further, MMTC has exited from Bullion operations and other canalized business and

its business operations are under review.

(i) Initiatives

Swachh Bharat - Swachhta Action Plan (SAP - 2022-23)

During 2021-22, MMTC undertook SAP activities to support the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

(a) Clean Office Premises

- ❖ Display of slogans/signage and photographs related to Swachhta in office premises of MMTC at C.O/Regional Offices located across India.
- ❖ Proper up-keep and continuation of cleaning up operations of office records in MMTC Corporate Office.

- ❖ Continuation of the weeding out campaign of old files/records in line with the Record Retention Schedule, by sending the same to the Record room in MMTC Colony and carrying out weeding of files.

(b) Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative

- ❖ Involvement of the adopted School, Nagar Nigam Prathamik Vidyalaya, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi in the Swachhta mission through participation in cleanliness drive
- ❖ Beautification of the School i.e cleaning, upbringing of plants, paints, repair etc, being conducted.
- ❖ Health and Fitness: To boost children for keeping themselves healthy, fit and active.

(c) Workshop & Seminar/Training

- ❖ Talk on hygiene awareness/ better sanitation practices was organised in association with a reputed Super specialty Hospital at the adopted school i.e. Nagar Nigam Prathamik Vidyalaya, New Delhi followed by distribution of sanitation kit.
- ❖ Door-to-door drive to change behavioural aspect of individuals residing in MMTC Colonies across India with respect to sanitation specially for dry & wet domestic wastes.
- ❖ Organising the Swachhta Pakhwada every year from 1st to 15th November period across the country with various activities.

MMTC has undertaken number of activities at MMTC Offices / Colony in the past which includes spreading awareness on the use of avoiding single use plastic bottles/ containers in offices, display of posters/ slogans/ signage/ photographs related to Swachhta (Cleanliness) in office premises, plantation of trees/ saplings in MMTC Colony/adopted school, proper up-keep and continuation of cleaning up operations including office records in MMTC Offices, sanitization of the premises of adopted school, webinar on Hygiene / Cleanliness/ Sanitation practices, distribution of sanitation kit i.e. Face Masks & Sanitizers for teachers/students of the adopted school etc.

(ii) Digital India

As a part of implementing Government of India's

initiative of Digital India, MMTC is in the process of implementing e-Office Lite from NIC (An Organisation under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology) for increased transparency in the decision making.

(iii) Clean Energy

MMTC had set up a 15 MW capacity Wind Mill project at Gajendragad in Karnataka in 2007-08. The project has contributed to the development of the area by meeting some portion of energy needs of Karnataka state. MMTC also earns income through wind generation.

(iv) Financial Performance

MMTC achieved a trade turnover of Rs. 7,840.78 crore during 2021-22 as against the turnover of Rs. 26,364.50 crore registered during previous fiscal. This turnover includes Exports of Rs. 34.41 crore, Imports of Rs. 7070.57 crore and domestic trade of Rs. 735.80 crore. MMTC suffered a Net Loss of Rs. 241.93 crore in 2021-22.

(v) Subsidiary Company

MMTC Transnational Pte Ltd., Singapore (MTPL) is a wholly owned subsidiary company of MMTC. During the Financial year 2021-22, MTPL achieved sales turnover of US\$ 456.58 million as against US\$ 486.20 million recorded during previous fiscal.

(vi) Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL)

MMTC Ltd. set up Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL) - an Iron & Steel Plant of 1.1 million tones capacity, 0.8 million tonne coke oven and by product unit with captive power plant, jointly with Government of Odisha and others. Government of India had accorded its in-principle approval for divestment of NINL, a Joint Venture Company, in which four Central PSUs i.e. MMTC, NMDC, BHEL and MECON and two Odisha Government companies i.e. OMC and IPICOL were shareholders. Government had taken the decision to disinvest NINL so that successful strategic buyer may bring in new management/technology/investment for the growth of the company and may use innovative methods for the development of the business operations of the

company, which may generate more employment opportunities. Accordingly, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the aegis of Ministry of Finance had initiated the process of disinvestment of NINL, which was completed on 04.07.2022.

(vii) Corporate Social Responsibility

For the Financial year 2022-23, there is no CSR budget approved by the Board of Directors/ CSR Committee at Board level as the company has incurred losses in the previous years i.e. 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. Accordingly, the CSR budget calculated in accordance with Section-198 of the Companies Act, 2013 i.e. 2 per cent of the average of net profits of preceding 3 years, is negative. As such, the company is not obligated to

expend the mandatory allocation under section 135 of the Companies Act 2013.

(C) PEC Limited

PEC Ltd. was formed on 21st April 1971 as a wholly owned subsidiary of STC. PEC Limited became an independent Company under the Department of Commerce w.e.f. 27th March 1991. Over the years, PEC Ltd. has been involved in export and import of various essential and industrial commodities. The Company has stopped business operations since September 2019.

(i) Performance

The overall performance of the Corporation since 2016-17 is given below:

(Values in Rs. crore)

Items	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Revenue from Operations	4,271.51	4,470.91	627.87	8.32	0.00	0.00
Profit before Tax	(92.84)	(56.96)	(499.19)	(147.02)	(129.09)	(314.29)
Profit after tax	(92.84)	(56.96)	(499.19)	(147.02)	(129.09)	(314.29)
Dividend & Corporate tax	--	-	-	-	-	-
Equity	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
Reserves	(1,139.97)	(1,193.91)	(1,693.10)	(1,840.12)	(1,969.21)	(2,163.98)
Net Worth	(1,079.97)	(1,133.91)	(1,633.10)	(1,780.12)	(1,909.21)	(2,223.98)

(ii) Sales Turnover

The Sales turnover of the Company since 2016-17 is given below:

(Values in Rs. crore)

Year	Sales Turnover
2016-17	4,254.07
2017-18	4,451.92
2018-19	617.87
2019-20	8.03
2020-21	0.00
2021-22	0.00

(iii) Exports & Imports

(Values in Rs. crore)

Item	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Exports	63.27	327.61	51.97	7.79	0.00	0.00
Imports	3,980.11	3,849.10	523.24	0.00	0.00	0.00

(iv) Human Resource

A VRS (voluntary retirement scheme) Phase-III was introduced in PEC Ltd. in 2021, under which 07 employees took VRS. As on 30.09.2022, the company has 37 employees out of which 07 employees are on deputation outside PEC.

(v) Compliance

The company is following Government guidelines related to use of Hindi in Official Work, Citizen Charter, Public Redressal Mechanism and RTI.

(vi) Corporate social responsibility & sustainability

With the introduction of Section 135 of the Act, Company has constituted a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee. The CSR Policy adopted by the Board of Directors is available on the Company's website www.peclimited.com. PEC has been incurring losses since 2014-15, hence it has no obligation of incurring CSR expenditure.

(D) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)

India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is India's premier trade promotion agency providing a broad spectrum of services to trade & industry and acting as a catalyst for the growth of India's trade.

With its Headquarters at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, and regional offices at Chennai, Kolkata, and Mumbai, ITPO ensures representative participation of trade and industry from different regions of the country in its events in India and abroad.

(i) Re-development of Pragati Maidan – IECC Project

Four Exhibition Halls were inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in October 2021. The main tunnel across Pragati Maidan Complex along with 5 underpasses of Integrated Transit Corridor Development (ITCD) Project in & around Pragati Maidan was formally launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in June 2022. The work on remaining segments of the IECC Project is on fast track and the entire project is now rescheduled to be completed by January, 2023. The G-20 Summit is to be held in the Convention Centre in September 2023, inter-ministerial meetings in connection with the G-20

Summit start happening in the Convention Centre from March, 2023. The progress of the IECC Project is being reviewed at the highest level in the Government.

The pace of construction activities at various segments of the IECC project has got the desired momentum during the last two months. Status of progress is being received at the highest level on a weekly basis.

(ii) Financial Highlights

In spite of COVID impact during the year 2021-22 total income generated by ITPO reached Rs.79.17 crore against Rs. 50.30 crore generated in the previous year. ITPO has reduced the net loss to Rs. 56.30 crore compared to loss of Rs. 84.15 crore in the previous year 2020-21. The income on deposits in the banks is now marginal in view of substantial funds/corpus having been utilized for the IECC project.

As of now the COVID impact has lessened and exhibition industry has come to normalcy and ITPO is doing well organizing events and also the third party organizers are organizing events, so it is expected the current year will be normal year in respect of income.

(iii) Domestic Fairs

In the current year ITPO organized its flagship event India International Trade Fair 2022, 41st edition from 14th-27th November 2022, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in an area of 73,000 sqm. The theme of IITF 2022 was "Vocal for Local and Local to Global". Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, Govt. of India inaugurated the fair on November 14, 2022. Bihar, Jharkhand and Maharashtra were 3 Partner States in IITF 2022. Kerala and Uttar Pradesh were Focus States. 29 States/UTs & 53 Government Departments/Ministries/PSU and 242 private participants participated in IITF'2022. 14 Foreign Countries also participated. Around 10 lakh people visited the mega event during 14 days and all the stakeholders appreciated the arrangements including cleanliness and facilities at Pragati Maidan.

Approx. 25,843 business visitors visited the fair. Overseas business visitors from Tanzania, Tunisia,

Austria, UK, USA, Bahrain, UAE, Republic of Korea, Japan & other delegations from MEA from various countries across the globe visited the IITF 2022. Aahar –International Food & Hospitality Fair of ITPO was held in ITPO in April 2022 which also attracted large number of business visitors. As normalcy returns it is expected that ITPO will bounce back to its earlier revenue income and will put out improved financial results in the coming years.

(iv) Fairs held Abroad

ITPO successfully organized participation in Anuga, Cologne (Germany), 9th-13th October 2021, in 591 sq.mtr. and inspired Home show, Chicago (USA) 5th-7th March 2022. But in the current year after relaxation in travels ITPO has organized more than 12 events abroad which includes mega participation in Sial Paris, October 2022 where more than 90 Indian Business entities participated and also AFL, Milan in December 2022.

(v) Fairs Organized by 3rd Party Organizers

Keeping in view the goal of giving boost to the exhibition industry and to provide relief to the organizers, as a major venue & services provider, various relaxations were also announced during the year.

Twenty-five (25) third-party events were held During the year 2021-22. Many first time events and marquee events were also held like car launch, government event of Skill India etc. Further, the Gati Shakti event coinciding with the inauguration of IECC Complex halls 2 to 5 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India was held in October 2021. In the current year major government and corporate events such as Drone Festival, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Indian Mobile Congress and 90th General Assembly of Interpol were held in the newly developed exhibition hall Nos. 2-5 at Pragati Maidan where Hon'ble Prime Minister was present for the inauguration.

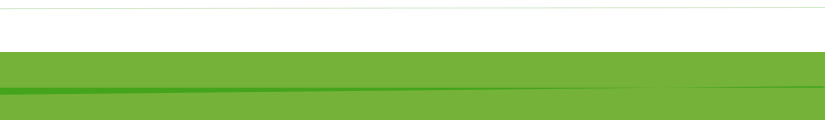
The 5G services by the Cellular Operators was launched from the Pragati Maidan by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the inauguration of Indian Mobile Congress. Apart from this the automobile

giant Volkswagen launched its new car Virtus from Pragati Maidan. In 90th General Assembly of Interpol event where the Heads of the police department of 195 countries and ministers and other prestigious international organizations participated.

(vi) Regional Trade Centres

ITPO has provided assistance to State Governments in setting up Regional Trade Promotion Centres (RTPCs) for creating Export Infrastructure in State capitals/major cities.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) at Chennai. The Chennai Trade Centre is managed by TNTPO, a Joint venture of ITPO and TIDCO. During 2021 -22, 15 exhibitions were held in the Exhibition Halls of Chennai Trade Centre and 22 events took place in the Convention Centre. Expansion project of a multi-purpose (Exhibition/Convention) hall with an area of 20,322 square meters in Chennai Trade Centre at an approved cost of Rs. 308.75 crore including GST is underway. After the expansion, there will be a total of 2 convention centres and 5 halls for exhibitions in the total area of 35,677 square meters in an area of 34.61 acres of land.
- ❖ Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation (KTPO) at Bengaluru Located at a prime area in Whitefield, Bengaluru, it covers an area of 48.35 acres. It has an air-conditioned Exhibition Hall of 5,371 Sqm. Karnataka Trade Promotion Organization (KTPO) is a joint venture of ITPO and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB). The expansion project of a multi-purpose (convention/exhibition) hall with an area of 7633 sq meters. of KTPO at an estimated project cost is Rs. 67.59 crore.is under way and it will be completed shortly. After the expansion, there would be 2 halls for conducting exhibitions and conventions with a total exhibiting area of 14,504 Sqm.
- ❖ Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at Pampore. JKTPO is a Joint venture Company. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has 51.25% equity share, India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) with 40 per cent equity share,



The Liquidation work i.e. auction of assets of NCTI, settlement of claims of ITPO & NIC, closure of Gratuity Policy with LIC of India, and appointment of agency for storage of records as per provision of Code as well as distribution of available surplus to ITPO, have been completed. A refund of Rs.14.93 lakh is pending with Income Tax department. Further; a Writ Petition has been filed by an ex-employee of NCTI in the High Court of Delhi. This petition is now listed on 19th April 2023. Thus, in view of the above issues (I Tax refund & pending WP in the Delhi High Court), the final Report along with the requisite application is yet to be submitted to Registrar of Companies, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and Hon'ble NCLT for dissolution of the Company.

(ii) Progressive use of the Official Language (Hindi)

To ensure proper implementation of the Official Language Policy of the Government of India in ITPO, an Official Language Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of CMD, ITPO and its meetings are organized regularly to ensure maximum use of official language in Hindi.

(iii) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

ITPO has been strictly adhering to the CSR and Sustainability Guidelines issued by Department of Public Enterprises and the applicable Act & Rules of the Companies Act 2013. The CSR initiatives/activities are implemented and monitored accordingly. The detailed policy about CSR initiatives of ITPO is available at <http://www.indiatrdefair.com/csr.php>.

ITPO contributed in total Rs. 7.32 crore @ 2.42 crore

each to Swachh Bharat Mission, Clean Ganga and P M Cares Fund for the year 2021-22.

(F) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC)

STC was set up on 18th May 1956 primarily with a view to undertake trade with East European countries and to supplement the efforts of private trade and industry in developing exports from the country. STC played an important role in country's economy. It arranged imports of essential items of mass consumption (such as wheat, pulses, sugar, edible oils, etc.) and industrial raw materials into India and also contributed significantly in developing exports of a large number of items from India.

Presently, STC is passing through precarious financial position due to classification of its account as NPA by the lender banks since March/June 2018. STC is negotiating One Time Settlement of dues with the Lender Banks. STC is not undertaking's any business activity and accordingly STC is continuing as a non-operative company for the time being. Also, the accounts of the Company for the financial year 2021-22 were published on non-going concern basis. The Company has closed all its branch offices (except Agra) spread across the country and has retained only skeleton staff there to attend to legal, recovery and other important matters. Further, with a view to cut down expenses the Company has offered VRS to its employees from time to time.

The overall performance of STC during, 2020-21, 2021-22 and April-June 2022 vis-a-vis figures for the corresponding period of the previous year are given below:

(Values in Rs. Crore)

	Actuals	Actuals	Unaudited	
	2020-21	2021-22	April-June 2021	April-June 2022
Exports	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Imports	12	NIL	NIL	NIL
Domestic	235	NIL	NIL	NIL
Total Turnover	247	NIL	NIL	NIL
Profit Before Tax	(51.23)	(93.97)	(6.35)	7.89

(i) Performance: 2021-22

(a) Turnover

During the year 2021-22, the Company continued as a non-operative company as no business activities were undertaken by STC. As a result, Company's turnover during the year 2021-22 was NIL as against Rs. 247 crore during the year 2020-21.

(b) Profitability

During the year 2021-22, the Company reported a net loss (after tax) of Rs. 93.97 crore as against net loss (after tax) of Rs. 51.23 crore reported during the year 2020-21. The net loss reported during the year was mainly due to the provisions of Rs. 85.42 crore (approx.) made in the books of accounts towards dues payable to L&DO.

STCL Limited

STCL Limited was incorporated as Cardamom Trading Corpn. Ltd., a Private Limited Company in 1982. In 1987, it was renamed as "Spices Trading Corporation Ltd." In 1999, it became a subsidiary of STC of India Ltd. In August 2004, it was renamed as "STCL Limited"

The authorised share capital of company is Rs. 5 crore. The paid up share capital is Rs. 1.5 crore. The entire paid up capital is held by STC of India Ltd. Its net worth was (-) Rs. 4557.10 crore as on 31st March 2021.

Subsequent to Union Cabinet decision on 13th August 2013 regarding winding up of STCL, the Company had stopped all business activities from 2014-15 onwards. Presently, the Company is under liquidation and pursuing various legal cases including Arbitration cases for the recovery of its dues from the business associates and adhering to other statutory requirements.

10. EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL (EIC)

The Export Inspection Council (EIC) was established by Government of India under Section 3 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 to ensure sound development of export trade of India through Quality Control and pre-shipment Inspection and for matters connected thereof. The EIC is an advisory body of the Central Government for notification of

commodities which are subjected to quality control, standards, inspection etc. before they are exported.

The major role of EIC is to ensure the Quality and Safety of products exported to meet the requirements of the importing countries. This assurance is provided through either consignment-wise inspection system or quality assurance/food safety management system-based certification through its field agencies i.e., the Exports Inspection Agencies (EIAs) established under Section 7 of the Act. The EIAs are headquartered at Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Chennai and Delhi with a network of 24 sub offices backed by state-of-the-art laboratories, accredited by NABL as per ISO 17025 all over India.

The EIC provides mandatory certification for various food items, namely Animal Casings, Black pepper, Basmati Rice & Non-Basmati Rice (for export to EU), Crushed Bones, Ossein and Gelatin, Egg and Egg Products, Feed Additives and Premixtures, Fish & Fishery Product, Fresh Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products, Fruit and Vegetable Products, Honey, Milk and Milk products, Peanut & Peanut products (EU & Malaysia). Other food items that are not notified under the Act, are also being certified under Voluntary Certification Scheme, as per the importing country's requirements. Export certification is carried out by EIC's field organizations Export Inspection Agencies (EIAs), and is based on two systems, namely, Consignment Wise Inspection (CWI) system and Food Safety Management Based Certification (FSMSC) system which is based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP). These systems are designed to ensure that the requirements of importing countries are complied to. EIC certification system is recognized globally.

In this era of changing dynamics of food safety regulations and certification, the EIC has transformed its role and functions to build up the confidence among the trading partners across the globe. The EIC has been instrumental in evolving the stakeholders including exporter fraternity to meet the changing requirements of the importing countries with rising food safety incidents. The EIC is actively involved in standard setting process at national and international

levels and provide feedback to ensure that the interest of exporters as well as that of importers from our trade partners are protected. The EIC has adopted Quality Management System and is ISO 9001:2015 certified organisation.

The Major Activities of the EIC, inter-alia, include:

- ❖ Approval of processing establishments based on Food Safety Management System to ensure safety and quality of commodities meant for export as per importing countries standards
- ❖ Pre-shipment inspection and certification based on Consignment Wise Inspection (CWI) to assure quality of export commodities as per laid down specification
- ❖ Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin for export products under various preferential tariff schemes
- ❖ Issuance of different types of certificates, namely, Health Certificates, Authenticity Certificates, Non-GMO Certificates etc. under various export certification schemes
- ❖ Recognition of Inspection Agencies and Laboratories

Commercial Relations, Trade Agreements & International Trade Organizations

The EIC, since its establishment is playing a crucial role in promoting export trade from India through its quality control & inspection activities by ensuring compliance of the requirements of importing countries. The quality assurance activities of EIC help to facilitate world wide access for Indian exports and instil confidence in the importers as well as importing countries authorities about quality and safety of Indian products. In line with the national and international needs, EIC continues to strive to achieve Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)/Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)/Equivalence Agreements/Recognitions/Cooperation Arrangements with the major trading partners. These arrangements facilitate acknowledgement of EIC's Certification System by regulatory authorities of importing countries and avoid multiple border inspections.

The EIC has transformed its resources and service quality with specific aim to fulfil the initiatives taken by Government of India on ease of doing business and digital India with core objective to provide increased opportunity for export of food commodities vis-a-vis International needs. The EIC is actively collaborating with other stakeholders, like, other promotional boards, exporters, importing countries authorities, industry associations, chambers of commerce in building infrastructure, skill upgradation, technical competence and analytical capability. The EIC proactively developing its own competence to meet any future challenges related to SPS measures imposed by the developed countries.

The key activities of EIC/EIAs during the year 2022-23 so far are given below:

- ❖ Seafood HACCP Training Course for Fish and Fishery Products
- ❖ Officers from EIC and Export Inspection Agencies (EIA) participated in “Segment 2-Seafood HACCP Training Course for Fish and Fishery Products” during 18th-19th April 2022, at International Training Centre for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (ITC-FSAN), EIA Mumbai. The training was jointly conducted by the EIC, US-FDA &The Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN). The training was attended by 30 participants from Government Regulatory Bodies, Industries and Academia.
- ❖ Awareness Programs on Certificate of Origin under India-UAE CEPA for Gems & Jewellery Exporters
- ❖ EIC sensitised Indian exporters on Rules & Procedure of Issuance of Certificate of Origin (CoO) under recently signed agreement between India and UAE-CEPA, during an event organized by 'Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, on 6th May 2022.
- ❖ Training under Biosafety Capacity Building project
- ❖ Export Inspection Agency -Kochi, under Biosafety Capacity Building project by FAO-Sri Lanka, organized Hands-On Laboratory Training on, 'Detection of Genetically Modified Organisms/ Living Modified

Organisms' from 13th June to 16th June 2022, for participants from Sri Lanka. Officers from EIC and EIAs imparted the training to various stakeholders during the four days training program. The training was jointly organized by the EIC, Food and Agriculture Organization, Ministry of Environment Government of Sri Lanka and Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) & Global Environment Facility (GeF). Various technical sessions were conducted by EIA officials emphasizing on the modern tools and techniques involved in detection of GMO/LMO in food commodities.

- ❖ FDA Import Operations Training Programmes
- ❖ The EIC in collaboration with the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) conducted FDA Import Operations Training Programmes from 22nd to 29th August 2022 across pan India locations. The programmes were conducted at EIC followed by Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. Through these programmes, more than 300 exporters/regulators were apprised on the requirements to ensure that the compliant products are offered for import to the U.S.

11. NATIONAL EXPORT INSURANCE ACCOUNT (NEIA) TRUST

- ❖ The Government of India established NEIA Trust in 2006 to promote project exports from India that are of strategic and national importance. The trust was set up with an initial corpus of Rs.66 crore. With the contribution of Rs. 4,665.99 crore by the Government of India over the years, the total corpus of the Trust is Rs. 6,707.92 crore. However, after providing for the claims filed/ likely claims/Defaults reported with the Trust, no corpus is available for underwriting (as on 31st December 2022).
- ❖ The major sectors covered under NEIA are construction, supply of engineering goods, water treatment plants, power transmission and distribution projects, etc. while the major countries covered include Sri Lanka, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Tanzania, Senegal, Iran, Maldives, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Cameroon, Suriname and

Mauritania. NEIA through its cover for project exports helps make Indian project exporters more competitive and gain a stronger foothold in regions of national strategic interest. Successful project exports enable sustained visible impact on India's capacity in executing projects abroad.

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 29th September 2021, increased the corpus commitment to the NEIA Trust from Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 4,741 crore and approved infusion of Rs. 1,650 over a period of five years, i.e. from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. Out of this a Grant-in-aid of Rs. 1,574.99 crore [i.e. Rs.744 crore during 2021-22 and Rs. 830.99 crore during 2022-23 (upto 31st December 2022)] has already been released to the Trust.
- ❖ "As of 31st December 2022, a total of 153 projects of value Rs. 42,641 crore are under various stages of execution by the Indian Project exporters under the 200 covers extended by the NEIA Trust."

12. WORLDEXPO 2020

World Expo is the world's oldest and largest event. It is being held from 1851, once in 5 years for a duration of 6 months and is organized by BIE (Bureau International des Expositions), Paris. World Expo 2020 was held in Dubai from 1st October 2021 to 31st March 2022. This was the first expo held in MEASA (Middle East, Africa and South Asia) region and also the largest World Expo till date. The main theme of World Expo 2020 was "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future". The main theme was further branched into three sub themes of the Expo viz. - Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability. 192 countries participated in World Expo 2022 and more than 24 million visitors visited the Expo over a period of 6 months.

India was one of the major participants at World Expo 2020, Dubai. Department of Commerce (DoC), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India was the nodal department for organizing India's participation in the event. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) was the Industry partner and NBCC was the construction partner and Project Management Consultant (PMC)

of India Pavilion. India Pavilion was constructed on a plot of 4,614 sq. meters with a display area of about 10,000 sq. meters. The location of India Pavilion was in a prominent area of the Opportunity District. The immediate neighbours of the Indian pavilion were pavilions of Japan, Israel, Italy, USA, Germany, Singapore and Kazakhstan. The India Pavilion at World Expo at Dubai was inaugurated by Hon'ble CIM on 01.10.2021 in the presence of several dignitaries from the UAE government as well industry leaders.

The display inside India Pavilion showcased the best of India across multiple areas including India's prowess in emerging technologies, vibrant start-up eco-system, besides investment opportunities across multiple sectors including textiles, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure, services, etc. as well as our rich art and heritage through dynamic display of digital and immersive content from participating states, sectors as well as the Indian corporates. The pavilion also featured a unique dynamic façade consisting of multi coloured moving blocks to represent "India on the move". While the moving blocks created multiple patterns during day-time, in the evening, the façade was transformed into a giant


screen to display rich thematic AV content through projection. The India pavilion gave the visitors, insight into the multifaceted dimensions of the Indian economy and maintained the growing interest of visitors.

India Pavilion was one of the most visited pavilions with more than 1.75 million visitors. The Pavilion was recognized as "one of the most iconic" at Expo 2022 by American institute of Architects. The pavilion was also declared as one of the most prominent pavilions at Expo by Gulf News, a prominent daily. More than 2000 business programmes, G2B & B2B meetings were conducted at the pavilion with focus on investment opportunities & mutual areas of collaboration. Total of 107 MoUs/Lols were signed with value of about Rs. 80,000 crore. More than 433 start-ups were featured at India Pavilion through more than 20 editions of specially curated ELEVATE pitching sessions as well as in the India Innovation Bus. The India Innovation hub at the India Pavilion was a remarkable initiative to promote India's shining startups, bringing the whole ecosystem of innovation under one roof and realizing it to the advantage of all players.



India Pavilion at World Expo, Dubai

CHAPTER 9



**Programmes
undertaken
for the welfare of
SCs/STs/OBCs, Women
and Persons
with Disabilities**

The Department of Commerce liaises with the attached and sub-ordinate offices, autonomous bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Commodity Boards under its administrative control for proper implementation of the directions of the Government of India related to the reservation as well as other welfare measures for the SCs, STs, OBCs, EWSs and PwDs categories.

There are two separate Liaison Officers (one for SC/ST/PwD and other for OBC/EWS) functioning in the Department of Commerce. The Liaison Officers ensure prompt disposal of the grievances of the SC/ST/OBC/PwD/EWS category employees and also take care that the various benefits admissible to the reserved categories are complied with by the associate organizations of the Department. In addition to this, separate 'Internal Grievance Committee' for Scheduled Tribe community employees and Scheduled Castes community employees of Department of Commerce (proper) have been constituted.

A statement showing total number of Government employees and the number of SCs/STs/ OBCs/EWSs as on 30.09.2022 in Department of Commerce (proper) and its associate organizations is at Annexure B. The welfare activities undertaken by different organizations attached to this Department are given in the succeeding paragraphs.

1. WELFARE OF SC, ST, OBC & EWS

(A) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

Nirmala Nagar Project in Tummala, Bapatla District, AP: MPEDA has adopted "Nirmala Nagar" – an exclusive hamlet of Scheduled Tribe Aquaculture farmers under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) with an aim to provide electric power connection to the farming areas, installation of bio security measures such as crab fencing and bird scare netting etc. at every pond and providing water testing devices.

MPEDA has allotted an amount of Rs. 2.03 crore from the ST fund as the 75% contribution towards the implementation of this project and balance 25% as contribution from District administration. District administration has given directions to the Electrical Department for execution of works and Department

of Fisheries is carrying out process for internal electrification from electric poles to the farms.

Extending technical assistance to SC/ST farmers and hatchery operators through field visits and organizing regular capacity building programmes such as Trainings, awareness campaigns, farmers meets etc.

Financial assistance for demonstration programme to SC/ST farmers on culture of diversified species like Sea bass/Crab/Soft shell crab/GIFT/Scampi and Pearl spot.

(B) The Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC Ltd.)

For the welfare of SC, ST, OBC & EWS Government Directives/Instructions with regards to SCs/STs/OBCs/EWSs are duly complied with in PEC. Qualifying period for promotion for employees belonging to SC/ST categories is relaxed by one year in each stage of promotion.

(C) Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC Ltd.)

The total strength of employees in MMTC as on 30th September 2022 was 536 (including Board level executives and MICA employees), out of which 113 (21.08%) employees belong to SC category, 64 (11.94%) to ST category and 62 (11.57%) to OBC category. Women employees represented 20.34% (109 employees) of the total manpower.

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe

(i) Liaison Officer

Liaison Officers have been appointed in Corporate Office as well as Regional Offices to ensure compliance of the orders and instructions of the Government Directives pertaining to reservation and other concessions as admissible.

(ii) Relaxation/Concessions

- ❖ The concessions/relaxations extended to candidates belonging to SC/ST category in Direct Recruitment are as below:
- ❖ Age relaxation upto 5 years,
- ❖ Relaxation of 5% in qualifying marks in written test/ personal interview,

- ❖ Relaxation in percentage of marks in prescribed educational qualifications to the extent specified under the recruitment rules,

As regards departmental promotion following relaxations are provided:

- ❖ For promotion from staff cadre to officer cadre, relaxation of 5% in qualifying marks in written test.
- ❖ Relaxation of upto 5 w.p.m. given in typing test in promotion to Junior Assistant post,
- ❖ One year relaxation in qualifying period for promotion within staff cadre, under seniority-cum-fitness.

SC/ST representative is nominated in all Selection Committee for Direct Recruitment and Departmental Promotion.

(iii) Training

In order to upgrade their functional and soft skills, SC and ST employees are nominated from time to time to various In-house training programmes as well as programmes conducted by esteemed institutions.

(iv) Quarter allotment

Reservation in quarter allotment is provided to SC and ST employees to the extent of 10% for B type accommodation and 5% in respect of C & D type accommodation.

(v) Meetings

The Company has in place “Structured Meetings Scheme” in which the Management meets various representative bodies of employees periodically in order to discuss and resolve issues on service matters and welfare measures. In line with this philosophy, meetings with Federation of MMTC Staff Unions, which has good number of representation in the executive body from employees of SC & ST categories, were periodically held.

(vi) Internal Grievance Redressal Committee

An Internal Grievance Redressal Committee has been setup at Corporate Office for redressal of the grievances of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes employees.

(D) Spices Board

The Board had constituted SC/ST & OBC Committees for looking after the welfare of the employees and to

sort out their problems. The Board had nominated a Liaison Officer for reservation matters relating to SC/ST/OBC. Apart from this an internal Grievance Committee” for Scheduled Tribes employee was also constituted as recommended by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST), New Delhi.

(E) Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ)

All Government directives/instructions with regard to SC, ST, OBC and EWS are duly complied with by NSEZ. As against total employees of 57, NSEZ has 8, 3 and 17 employees belonging to SC, ST and OBC respectively.

(F) Tea Board

Tea Board follows the orders issued by Government of India for recruitment & promotion of SC, ST, OBC & EWS from time to time.

(G) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)

Guidelines on reservation were complied within ITPO. Liaison Officers have been nominated to look after the interest of SC/STs/OBCs/EWSs. In every Departmental promotion/Selection Committee (DPC/DSC) meetings officers of appropriate level belonging to SC/ST and minority category are associated to look after the interests of the candidates belonging to these categories.

(H) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

The welfare and development of SC/ST/OBC/EWS is well looked after by Authority.

(I) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.)

(a) Programmes for SC & ST welfare

- ❖ Pre-Examination training for recruitment is conducted for candidates from SC & ST category.
- ❖ The representatives of SC & ST Union are nominated for training on reservation for recruitment and promotion in Government companies
- ❖ Liaison officer for SC & ST welfare has been appointed to deal with the matters related to employees from SC & ST category.
- ❖ Reservation is provided to SC & ST candidates in recruitment and promotion as per Government of India rules.

- ❖ At least one member from SC & ST category is appointed on the panels constituted for recruitment/promotion of candidates/employees.
- ❖ A Committee for Grievance Redressal Mechanism for ST has been constituted by the Company.

(b) Programmes for OBC welfare

- ❖ Reservation policy of Government of India is followed for recruitment of OBC candidates.
- ❖ Liaison officer for OBC welfare has been appointed to deal with the matters related to employees from OBC category.
- ❖ Due consideration is given to appointment of members from OBC category on recruitment panels.

(c) Programmes for EWS welfare

Government of India policy pertaining to Reservation for EWS category has been implemented in ECGC Ltd. In the direct recruitment of probationary officers 10% of the posts are reserved for EWS category in accordance to government guidelines.

(J) Rubber Board

Rubber Board appointed Liaison Officer to attend the grievances of SC, ST, OBC and EWS category employees. Liaison Officer maintains statutory registers to file the complaints/grievances. Board periodically monitors such complaints, if any, and disposes of such grievances in time. The services of the Liaison Officer is being effectively utilized by SC/ST/OBC employees as and when they have complaint/grievances.

(K) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone(VSEZ)

Appointed Liaison Officer to protect the interest of SC, ST & OBC Employees.

(L) Coffee Board

The Coffee Board has a multi dimension approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall welfare and development of the SC/ST/OBC/EWS employees.

(M) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

IIFT implements the reservation policy in admissions and recruitment in accordance with an Act of Parliament for the time being in force. Apart from this, anti-

discrimination committee for welfare of SC, ST and OBC has been constituted.

(N) Falta Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

All benefits/welfare measures as applicable to each category are always extended to them.

2. PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN FOR WELFARE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES(PWDS)

Section 34 (1) of 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 inter-alia states that every appropriate Government shall appoint in every Government establishment, not less than four per cent of the total number of vacancies in the cadre strength in each group of posts meant to be filled with persons with benchmark disabilities of which, one per cent each shall be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and one per cent for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (d) and (e) namely:-

- (a) Blindness and low vision;
- (b) Deaf and hard of hearing;
- (c) Locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;
- (d) Autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness;
- (e) Multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness in the posts identified for each disabilities

Scheme for staff cadre. Qualifying period for promotion for employees belonging to SC/ST and Persons with Disabilities categories is relaxed by one year in each stage of promotion. Further, a Complaints Register is being maintained at Head Office. No complaint has been received till date.

(B) MMTCLtd.

- ❖ In order to have easy access to office premises, ramp has been provided for physically challenged employees.
- ❖ PwD employees are posted to positions, taking into account their disability, to enable them to perform their job efficiently.
- ❖ Office lifts have auditory signals announcing the floor destination. Some of them have floor requisition buttons in Braille symbols. Also, there is separate washroom for Divyangjan employees in the office premises.
- ❖ The company provide for special casual leave for 4 days in a calendar year for PwD employees for specific requirements relating to disabilities of the official.
- ❖ Further, there is provision of 10 days special casual leave in a calendar year subject to exigencies of work for the differently-abled employees for participating in conference/ seminars/ trainings/ workshop related to disability and development to be specified by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- ❖ Liaison Officer appointed to look after reservation matters for SCs/STs also act as the Liaison Officer for reservation matters relating to person with Disabilities.

(C) Spices Board

Spices Board has nominated a Liaison officer for looking after the reservation matters and grievances of persons with Disabilities.

During the year 2019 an expert committee has also been constituted for the purpose of identification of posts suitable for Person with Disabilities as per the Right to Person with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Director (Finance) as the Chairperson of the Committee and having other four members including one Group-B officer belongs to PwD category.

(D) Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ)

This office is already equipped with features like corridors, reception, toilets, staircases with handrails etc. accessible to persons with disability. A dedicated parking slot has also been reserved for divyangjan in the service centre building. In addition, six nos. of Public conveniences have also been constructed by NSEZ in the Zone complex with specific arrangement for divyangjan. One of the units in NSEZ (Idemia) has donated wheelchairs and divyangjan friendly bathroom fittings as part of its CSR. The wheelchairs have been put at strategic places in the office and Standard Design Factories (SDFs) in the zone.

(E) Tea Board

Tea Board is following the orders issued by Government of India as applicable from time to time.

(F) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)

Guidelines on reservation were complied within ITPO. Liaison Officers have been nominated to look after the interest of PwDs. The provisions contained in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act 1995 regarding reservation in posts/services for disabled person have also been complied with.

(G) Rubber Board

Rubber Board appointed Liaison Officer / Grievance Redressal Officer to attend the grievances of Persons with Disabilities. He maintains statutory register to file the complaint/grievances and Board periodically monitor such complaints, if any, and dispose in time. Board celebrates the "International day of Persons with Disabilities" on 3rd December every year by organizing speeches of eminent persons with disabilities and honour the employees of the Board who are differently abled. Board provided 'ramp' for the smooth movement of PwD employees and also the facility of lifts. Visually handicapped employees are engaged in the operation of EPABX. Board provided unisex toilet facilities to PwDs. As per OM No.3612/1/2020-Estt(Res-II) dated 17/05/2022, action is being initiated by Board to fill up 4% of promotional vacancies in Group A, B and C.

(H) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

As per Government norms, the reservation for PwDs is 4% of total strength in all grades. Against the existing staff strength of 80, two incumbents are physically handicapped. APEDA has taken care of the welfare of persons with disabilities (PwDs). APEDA has provided motorized wheel chair to one of the employees to move within the office. Further, all the facilities as per rule are given to them. So far no complaints have been received from them.

(I) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.)

- ❖ PWD candidates are transferred according to suitability of post to PWD employees.
- ❖ Scribe is allowed to them in recruitment and promotional examination.
- ❖ PWD employees are posted in disability friendly/accessible office locations. Government reservations policy for recruitment of PWD is strictly followed.
- ❖ Liaison officer for PWD has been appointed to deal with matters related to candidates from PWD category.
- ❖ PWD employees were extended the facility of work from home during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- ❖ PWD compliant infrastructure is available at new office premises at Head Office, ECGC Bhawan, Andheri East, Mumbai

(J) Visakhapatnam SEZ

- ❖ Accessible approach and ramp at entrance building of VSEZ has been made available.
- ❖ Provided Lift
- ❖ Construction/Provisions of Toilet
- ❖ Earmarking of parking place.
- ❖ Provision for disabled friendly building.
- ❖ Appointed Liaison officer for welfare of PwDs.

(K) Coffee Board

The Coffee Board has a multi dimension approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall Welfare and Development of the PwD employees.

(L) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

IIFT implements the reservation policy in admissions and recruitment in accordance with an Act of Parliament.

(M) Falta SEZ

All benefits/welfare measures as applicable to each category are always extended to them.

3. PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN FOR WELFARE OF WOMEN

An independent Women Cell has been set up in the Department of Commerce with the following functions:

- ❖ Coordination with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women and other concerned agencies in respect of the matters connected with welfare and economic empowerment of women and other related issues.
- ❖ To review plan schemes and other programmes of the Department of Commerce and to ensure that the aspect of women's welfare, development and empowerment are promoted through the programmes/schemes.
- ❖ All matters relating to Gender Budgeting and inclusion of Gender issues in the Annual Report/Performance Budget.
- ❖ Prevention and Redressal of sexual harassment at work place. Constitution of Complaints Committee in Department of Commerce, its attached/subordinate offices, PSUs, autonomous bodies etc; monitoring their performance and providing necessary help and guidance.
- ❖ Observing Awareness Week for prevention of sexual harassment of women along with Vigilance Awareness Week.
- ❖ Other incidental matters relating to the subject.

(A) The Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC Ltd.)

- ❖ PEC is a small organization having total 29 employees (excluding employees on deputation), out of which 04 are women, as on 30.09.2022.
- ❖ In compliance with the terms of Section 4(1) of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace

(Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, 'Internal Complaints Committee' has been re-constituted in PEC for prevention and redressal of sexual harassment of women at workplace.

- ❖ A comprehensive policy for Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of women employee in PEC has been adopted with the approval of the Competent Authority.
- ❖ During the year, no complaint has been received from any employee.

(B) MMTCLtd.

- ❖ Women welfare activities in MMTCLtd are derived out of the broad guidelines of the National Policy on Women Empowerment and objectives of the Forum of Women in Public Sector (WIPS). MMTCLtd encourages participation of its women employees in this forum. A General Manager of MMTCLtd, a female officer, is the Vice President-WIPS APEX. Many other women employees are member of WIPS.
- ❖ The promotion policy in MMTCLtd gives equal opportunity of selection to deserving & meritorious candidates at every level up to below board level irrespective of gender.
- ❖ There is an active Internal Complaint Committee at Corporate Office as well as at Regional Offices to deal with issues related to sexual harassment of women at workplace. Women employees are free to approach the Complaint Committee to register any complaint related to sexual harassment. From time to time, efforts are made to sensitize women employees of their rights under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013.
- ❖ Good representation of women employees is ensured in various functional and behavioral trainings organized by MMTCLtd.

(C) Spices Board

The sanctioned staff strength of Spices Board is 379 and existing strength is 249 as on 30.09.2022. Out of which, 68 are women employees. A woman (Group A level) officer of the Board has been appointed as "Women Welfare Officer" to sort out the difficulties/

problems, if any, or to bring them to the notice of the higher authorities along with suggestions for possible solutions. The grievances of women employees are timely and properly attended.

(D) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

The welfare and development of women employees is well looked after by Authority. APEDA has formed a Committee for receiving complaints against sexual harassment against women at work places. The committee also includes women officers.

(E) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.)

- ❖ Programs on issues related to women are conducted on Women's Day including cancer screening camps and seminars on Cancer Awareness etc.
- ❖ The Company nominates women employees to programs/ seminars/workshops for leadership development.
- ❖ Internal Complaints Committees are in place to deal with matters related to harassment at workplace.
- ❖ Due consideration is given to appointment of women member on recruitment and promotion panels.
- ❖ The company has a scheme for reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by women employees having infant child below two years while attending promotion panel / official training accompanying the women employee, for the child as well as one attendant as per their respective eligibility.
- ❖ A scheme for reimbursement of Crèche expenses up to a limit of Rupees 5000/- excluding taxes, till the infant attains the age of two years is in place for women employees of ECGC Ltd. Provision has been made for creche facility at new office premises at Head Office, ECGC Bhawan, Andheri East, Mumbai
- ❖ The Company has a scheme for grant of two days special leaves to women employees till their child attains the age of 2 years.
- ❖ Pregnant women employees were extended the facility of work from home during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(F) Rubber Board

As per the Sexual Harassment of Women at work place (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, Internal Complaint Committee is constituted consisting of four members including one member from outside, well versed with social work activities (details published in the website of Rubber Board). The committee meeting is being held in each quarter and no complaint is reported during this period.

(G) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone

Constituted Internal Complaints committee under Sexual Harassment of Women at work place.

(H) Noida SEZ

In accordance with Section 4 of sexual harassment of women at work place, (prevention, and redressal) Act, 2013 an internal committee exists in this office.

(I) Coffee Board

The Coffee Board has a multi dimension approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall Welfare and Development of the Women employees.

(J) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

The institute has constituted Internal Complaints Committee for prevention, prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women at work place.

(K) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

❖ A Health Check-up campaign conducted during August 2022 for all the employees of MPEDA under the initiation of Women cell of the Organisation.

❖ Organized a health safety talk by the Chief Gynecologist Dr. Annamma Babu (MBBS, DGO, MD) from Medical Trust Hospital – Ernakulam on 5th August, 2022.

(L) Falta SEZ

All benefits/welfare measures as applicable to each category are always extended to them.

4. WOMEN CELL

An independent Women Cell has been set up in the Department of Commerce with the following functions:

- ❖ Coordination with the Department of Women and Child Development, National Commission for Women and other concerned agencies in respect of matters connected with welfare and economic empowerment of women and other related issues.
- ❖ Review of the schemes and other programmes of Department of Commerce and to ensure that the aspect of women's welfare, development and empowerment are promoted through the programmes/schemes.
- ❖ All matters relating to Gender Budgeting and inclusion of Gender issues in the Annual Report/Performance Budget.
- ❖ Prevention and redressal of sexual harassment at work place. Constitution of Complaints Committee in Department of Commerce, its attached/subordinate offices, PSUs, autonomous bodies etc. monitoring their performance and providing necessary help and guidance.
- ❖ Other incidental matters relating to the subject.

CHAPTER 10



**Transparency,
Public Facilitation
and Allied
Activities**

1. CITIZENS' CHARTER

The Department of Commerce is committed to act with integrity, judiciousness, transparency, accountability and with courtesy and understanding in dealings with the trade and public. All the services and commitments are to be delivered to citizens in most effective and efficient manner.

The Department will strive to evolve procedures in Foreign Trade Policy to maximise public benefits and is committed to simplify various requirements necessary under rules in force, in the context of a globalized and liberalized economy. The Department will continuously engage in the process of consultations with client groups and give timely publicity to all changes in laws and procedures relevant to the Department. Standards of services provided:

S. No.	Services/Transaction	Maximum Time Limit
1.	Approval for grant of financial assistance under Market Access Initiative(MAI) scheme.	3 months from the date on which proposals are received in E & MDA Division.
2.	Approval for grant of financial assistance in respect of projects under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).	3 months* (*Subject to availability of complete documents and availability of funds.)
3.	Approval for setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ).	Placement of cases before the Board of Approval (BOA) within 60 days from the date of receipt of State Government's recommendations and complete documents; Issue of approval letter within 7 days of approval of BOA, subject to security clearance.
4.	RTI Act, 2005 i. Provide information or reject the request for any of the reasons specified in the RTI Act, 2005. ii. Disposal of appeals preferred under RTI Act, 2005.	i. Within the time limits prescribed in the RTI Act, 2005. ii. Within the time limits prescribed in the RTI Act, 2005.
PUBLIC GRIEVANCE MECHANISM		
5.	Resolving Public Grievances	30 ^x days (* Subject to receipt of complete details and receipt of responses from the authority which has to take a final decision on the grievance) (* If longer period is likely to be involved, the complainant will be informed through an interim reply within 30 days.)
6.	For taking actions by the Appellate Committee on appeals preferred against statutory orders passed by DGFT, etc.	Within 3 months Note: This is subject to receipt of complete details/documents from the appellant and respondents.

2. PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Public Grievance Cell deals with grievances of staff of this Department and offices under its control for speedy redressal. As per CPGRAMS, 5587 public grievances were disposed of during 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022 (including PMO and COVID-19 related Public Grievances). A grievance box has also been provided at the Information and Facilitation Counter situated at Gate No. 14, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.

3. VIGILANCE WING

The Vigilance Section in the Department, with the Joint Secretary & Chief Vigilance Officer (JS&CVO) as the Divisional head, deals with the complaints and vigilance cases of Board level appointees working in various Public Sector undertakings, Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards functioning under the administrative control of the Department, Indian Trade Service officers and Group 'A' and Group 'B' officers of Department of Commerce.

The Vigilance Section also deals with matters related to AIS(Conduct) Rules and CCS(Conduct) Rules (including Annual Immovable returns of all Group A officers of the Department), furnishing of various Annual/Quarterly/Monthly reports to CVC and DoPT. Vigilance Section also handles activities such as conducting of regular and surprise inspections of sensitive offices as part of preventive vigilance, review and streamlining of procedures, which appear to afford scope for corruption or misconduct and for initiating other measures for the prevention, detection of corruption and other malpractices and punishment to the corrupt in the Department as well as its attached and subordinate offices and Public Sector Undertakings, keeping a watch on movements/visits of undesirable persons in the Department, preparation of list of officials of Doubtful Integrity/Agreed list and their postings to non-sensitive areas and also sanction for prosecution to CBI u/s 19 of Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act and permission to initiate investigation by CBI u/s 17 A of PC Act.

During the year 2022-23 (upto December, 2022) about 63 investigations/inquiries were conducted and on the basis of these inquiry proceedings, in 15 cases major/minor penalties were imposed in attached and subordinate offices, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies/Commodity Boards and the Department of Commerce.

Vigilance Awareness Week was observed by conduct of workshop/sensitization programmes, pledge taking, display of banners etc. during the period 31st October, 2022 to 6th November, 2022 to create awareness amongst officers and staff. The Vigilance Awareness Week was observed with the theme “Bhrashtachar Mukht Bharat – Vikasit Bharat” (Corruption free India for a developed Nation).

4. RIGHT TO INFORMATION

- ❖ The Department of Commerce (DoC) has implemented the Right to Information Act, 2005 and has put in place all necessary systems and procedures on the website of the Department.
- ❖ RTI Applications are filed online using the RTI Online Portal managed by DoPT and RTI Cell forward/transfer the online RTI Applications/ Appeals received in the Nodal Account of Department of Commerce to appropriate CPIO(s)/FAAs/ Public Authority(ies) through online portal. RTI Cell also transfers the physical RTI Applications/Appeals to different concerned CPIO(s)/ FAAs/Public Authority(ies). Department of Commerce has provided a facilitation counter at main entry gate, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to facilitate citizens who submit their RTI Applications/Appeals in person.
- ❖ At present, there are 34 Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) of Directors/Deputy Secretary/ Under Secretary level officer in the Department and 17 First Appellate Authorities (FAAs), who are Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director level officers to hear and dispose off first appeal(s) filed under the RTI Act. Shri Lakshman Rao Athukuri, Deputy Director is the Nodal CPIO, Department of Commerce and Shri Anant Swarup, Joint Secretary has been designated as Transparency Officer, Department of Commerce.
- ❖ Currently there are 31 Public Authorities (PAs) under the jurisdiction of Department of Commerce. Each of these PAs have their own Nodal CPIO, CPIOs and FAAs for implementation of the provisions of the RTI Act. It is to be noted that Department of Commerce is itself a Public Authority. In smaller Public Authorities, mostly Nodal CPIO himself is the only CPIO of the particular public authority whereas in larger Public Authority

like Department of Commerce, DGFT etc, Nodal CPIO acts as Central Point for disbursing RTI Applications/Appeals to appropriate CPIO(s)/FAAs and is responsible for all matters of RTI pertaining to that Public Authority including conducting Annual Transparency Audit, issuing User ID/Password to individual CPIOs/FAAs for accessing Online RTI portal and form the interface with DoPT and Central Information Commission for all RTI Matters.

- ❖ During the period from January to December 2021, 463 applications were disposed off by different CPIOs of this Department and 721 applications were transferred to other Public Authorities. During the same period, 51 appeals were disposed off by different FAAs of this Department as per provisions of the RTI Act.
- ❖ During the period from January to December 2022, 370 applications were disposed off by different CPIOs of this Department and 446 applications were transferred to other Public Authorities. During the same period, 41 appeals were disposed off by different FAAs of this Department as per provisions of the RTI Act.

5. OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The Official Language Division monitors the progressive use of the Hindi and implements the Official Language Policy set out by the Department of Official Language in the official work of the Department. The activities of Official Language Division during 2022-2023 are as follows:

(A) Meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti

There is a Hindi Salahkar Samiti in the Department of Commerce to review the progressive use of Hindi in official work of the Department as well as various organizations under its administrative control. Hindi Salahkar Samiti has been reconstituted.

(B) Committee of Parliament on Official Language

During the year 2022-23, the Committee of Parliament on Official Language inspected organizations under Department of Commerce wherein Joint Secretary (Official Language In-charge) and Director (Official Language)/Deputy Secretary (Official Language in-charge)/ Assistant Director (Official Language)

participated. The assurances given during these meetings were communicated to the concerned organizations for their early fulfilment.

(C) Rajbhasha Incentive

(i) Hindi Fortnight

Hindi Fortnight was organized in the Department during 16th-30th September 2022. During this fortnight 7 competitions viz. Rajbhasha knowledge and Hindi Anuvaad, Essay writing, Noting and Drafting, Hindi Typing, Recitation, Dictation and extempore speech in Hindi were organized. The prize money was 5000/- (first), 3000/- (second), 2000/- (third) and 1000/- (Consolation). The Officials of the Department participated enthusiastically in these competitions and prizes were distributed to the winners.

(ii) Annual Special Incentive Scheme

To encourage the officials of the Department to do optimum official work in Hindi, an “Annual Special Incentive scheme” has been initiated under which a cash prize of Rs. 5,000/- (first) 4000/- (Second) and 3000/- (third) each will be awarded. Under this scheme, a provision has been made to provide a total number of 60 prizes (for Hindi and non-Hindi speaking officials).

(iii) Organisation of Hindi Workshops

To encourage the use of Hindi by officials of the Department in their official work workshops are organized.

(iv) Organisation of OLIC Meeting

To review the progress of Hindi in official work in Department of Commerce, meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) are organised in every quarter. During year 2022-23, meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee were organised from time to time.

(v) Rajbhasha Shield Yojana for Attached/ Subordinate offices

This incentive scheme is being implemented in the Department for its attached/subordinate offices for many years. Under this scheme, shields/trophies are awarded to the offices for their performances in the field of official language. The performances of the offices are evaluated by a Committee on the basis of

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Hon'ble PM of India. Viewing rights of the PRAYAS Dashboard are provided to all the Ministers. All the Ministers were given Demonstration/ Training on the Dashboard.

- ❖ **E-Office Implementation in various autonomous bodies under Department of Commerce:** e-Office is being implemented in various autonomous bodies/institutions under Department of Commerce. The necessary consultancy/ coordination for the same is being done by Commerce Informatics Division NIC. All 7 SEZs have been taken on-board on Commerce e-office instance and e-office has been implemented. Training has also been provided to all the officials of the SEZ's. The implementation of e-office in MMTC has been completed and for Rubber Board, e-office is under implementation.
- ❖ **Upgradation of India's Trade related databases/ systems:** The trade related databases on country export and import namely Monthly Export Import Data Bank (MEIDB) and Export Import Data Bank (EIDB) system based on 8-digit HS code classification of Commodities and Foreign Trade of Principal Commodities and Countries (FTSPCC) and Foreign Trade Performance Analysis (FTPA) system based on principal commodity classification providing country wise and principal commodity wise exports and imports of the country are being upgraded with latest open source technology. These systems are under security audit clearance for implementation on cloud.
- ❖ **Dashboard for the Department of Commerce:** To monitor the various trade Statistics and other activities of the Department of Commerce, a dashboard has been created using Business Intelligence (BI) tools. The dashboard for public viewing has been placed at Department's website while other version having the internal issues also, is available at Intranet portal for viewing by the officers in the Department. The dashboard is deployed at NIC Cloud environment. The URLs for the dashboard are <https://dashboard.commerce.gov.in> and <https://intradashboard.commerce.gov.in>.
- ❖ **Trade Analytics Dashboard:** To monitor and present the country's trade details in better presentable form, a dashboard on country's

merchandise trade is being developed with the help of Centre Excellence for Data Analytics (CEDA) of NIC. DGCI&S's monthly trade data based on 8-digit HS Code classification of commodities and principal commodities are to be used for providing trend analysis of country-wise and commodity-wise trade of the country. The dashboard is to be implemented at NIC Cloud environment.

- ❖ **System for Reporting by Indian Missions Abroad:** A web-based system is being developed for reporting by the Indian Commercial Missions abroad. The missions can report on country specific monthly, quarterly and annual data on trade in goods, services, trade defence measures, trade promotion activities conducted, investments, logistics etc. The system is deployed in NIC Cloud environment.
- ❖ **Maintenance of Trade related databases/ systems:** The trade related databases on country export and import are being maintained. It includes Export Import Data Bank (EIDB) system based on 8-digit HS code classification of Commodities and Foreign Trade of Principal Commodities and Countries (FTSPCC) system based on principal commodity classification providing country wise and principal commodity wise exports and imports of the country. The systems are being updated with latest data available from DGCI&S. The systems are accessible on Internet from Department of Commerce website.
- ❖ **The Intranet Portal of Department of commerce:** The Intranet Portal has various applications for the Department users.
 - ◆ Conference Rooms Booking System (CRBS) provides on-line booking of the conference rooms and equipments (Laptop, LCD projector and overhead projector) for the meetings and query on the availability of the room through Intranet Portal.
 - ◆ Electronic Requisition System for Stationery Items (ERSSI) facilitates the users in the Department in electronic submission of their requisition for stationery items and query on the status of their requests through Intranet Portal.

- ◆ VIP Reference Monitoring System is implemented to monitor the timely processing and action taken on the VIP reference received in the Department through the Commerce Secretary Office.
- ◆ System for Processing of Pre-Budget Proposal is implemented to consolidate process and monitor the pre-budget proposals received from different organizations/ agencies and trading communities through its commodity/ territorial divisions in the Department as an annual exercise.
- ◆ A centralized portal for Dissemination of OM/ Orders/Notices/Circular in the Department has been created to maintain and disseminate the Office Memorandum/ Office Orders / Notices / Circulars issued by the sections / divisions in the Department time to time.
- ❖ **Access to World trade Atlas:** The Department of Commerce has an agreement with M/s IHS Global Limited, UK for providing access of trade database called World Trade Atlas of more than 80 countries in lieu of Indian Trade Data from DGCI&S. A secure access control mechanism has been devised to provide access for the Global Trade Atlas (GTA) on Connect to the authorized users only. User creation on GTA system and coordination between DGC&IS and IHS Global Limited for any issue/clarification related to transfer of trade data is being done by NIC.
- ❖ Coordination for NIC Cloud infrastructure allocation for:
 - ◆ Spices Board
 - ◆ Rubber Board
 - ◆ Coffee Board
 - ◆ Export Promotion Councils of India
 - ◆ Special Economic Zones (SEZ)
 - ◆ APEDA
 - ◆ MPEDA
 - ◆ MMTC
 - ◆ EIC
 - ◆ ITPO
- ◆ Tea Board
- ◆ STC
- ◆ DGTR
- ◆ GeM
- ❖ **Facility Management Service (FMS):** Team of NIC officers providing following Network Services over NICNET:
 - ◆ Email services
 - ◆ Network Management
 - ◆ VC Services
 - ◆ Anti-Virus deployment
 - ◆ OS Patch Management
 - ◆ VPN Services
- ❖ **Support on central Projects:** Support on Central Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Projects such as:
 - ◆ E-office
 - ◆ SPARROW
 - ◆ PFMS
 - ◆ CPGRAMS
 - ◆ RTI-MIS
 - ◆ PRAGATI
 - ◆ Bhavishya- Online Pension and Payment tracking System
 - ◆ LIMBS
 - ◆ Anubhav
 - ◆ E-Visitor
 - ◆ ACC vacancy Monitoring System.

7. COMMERCIAL WINGS IN INDIAN MISSIONS/ POSTS ABROAD

Commercial Wings are part of 105 Indian Missions abroad for facilitating and promoting Indian Trade. They serve as an extension of the Department of Commerce (DoC) to coordinate, disseminate responses from the Government and report on the significant trade and economic developments in the mission country. The commercial representative in the commercial wings is the first contact in the

mission for economic operators from the private and public sectors. Out of the 105 commercial wings, 2 Missions have a special commercial orientation - the Permanent Mission of India to the World Trade Organization, Geneva and the Department's Mission at Brussels.

The budget for the commercial wings is provided by the Department of Commerce. However, the administrative control over these posts is with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Most of these posts are filled up by the MEA through Foreign Services Board process. In order to strengthen the Commercial Wings and increase their activities, budgetary allocation for these offices has been augmented from time to time. The budget provisions have been enhanced from Rs. 179.59 crore in BE 2018-19 to Rs. 230.12 crore in BE 2022-23.

The Commercial Wings of our Missions abroad focus on various tasks relating to India's trade with the concerned host country. It involves:

- ❖ Collection and transmission of trade, economic and investment information.
- ❖ Monitoring of economic, commercial and trade policy developments; monitoring of bilateral economic and commercial relations, both at the Government-level as well as at the level of business communities of the two countries.
- ❖ Market research, surveys and critical analysis of ongoing trade.
- ❖ Trade and investment promotion including the handling of trade and investment enquiries, promotion of merchandise & services trade, promotion of investment & joint ventures and assistance in resolution of trade disputes.
- ❖ Analysis of emerging trends relating to multilateral and regional institutions with a focus on India's trade and investment etc.

In pursuant to the directions given by the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister and the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister through Video Conferences held in the years 2020 and 2021, Missions have been advised to actively work on/continue their efforts on the following:

- ❖ A modified proforma to capture matters related to tourism, trade, technology, resolution of non-tariff barriers has been shared with missions for keeping track of action taken and providing regular feedback.
- ❖ Guidance notes in consultation with the Ministry of Tourism and Department of Science and Technology, highlighting various actionable areas under tourism and technology have been prepared and circulated among Missions/ Commercial Representatives for compliance.

Other initiatives towards streamlining the work of the Commercial wings include:

- ❖ **Web based reporting:** The Department of Commerce is in the process of stabilizing a portal to enable submissions on the revised proforma (capturing all the three aspects of trade, technology and tourism) online. The test portal is already operational and the missions have been conveyed the details for accessing it. The online dashboard is expected to markedly improve the reporting, data management and performance evaluation of the commercial wings.
- ❖ **Reporting trade opportunities in real time:** Missions have been advised to pro-actively focus their efforts in alerting Export Promotion Councils/Exporters to export opportunities in their respective countries on real time basis. Missions have been asked to post export opportunities especially those based on public tenders on the India Trade portal serviced by FIEO. Some Missions have commendably supported these objectives through regular submissions.

8. SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

In accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat of Hon'ble Prime Minister, a Special Campaign for Disposal of Pending Matters was organized in the Department of Commerce from 2nd to 31st October 2022. The Campaign was implemented in the Department of Commerce and its organizations. The main focus areas of the Campaign included effective disposal of public grievances, references from the Members of Parliament, Parliament Assurances, Cleanliness drive, disposal of scrap and weeding out of files.

During the Campaign Period (2nd to 31st October 2022), all out efforts were made by the Department and its Subordinate Office/autonomous organizations to dispose of all references identified during the Preparatory Phase. Progress is uploaded on SCDPM Portal on daily basis.

The Department of Commerce and its organizations have organized 138 Swachhata campaign. During the

campaign 81419 physical files were reviewed and 49959 files were weeded out. 1000 physical files were transferred to National Archive for preservation. Scraps have been auctioned generating revenue of Rs. 50,33,534/- and freeing space of 17786 Sq. Ft. Also out of 64249 electronic files, 29170 have been reviewed and 27790 e-files were closed.

ANNEXURES



ANNEXURE-A
Attached Offices/ Subordinate Offices/ Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings/ Export Promotion Councils/Other Organizations under the Department of Commerce
(A) Attached Offices

1. Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi – 110011.
2. Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Jeevan Tara Building, 4th Floor, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001. Ph.:011-23348653, 23348654

(B) Subordinate Offices

1. Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 565, Anandapur, Ward No. 108, Sector- 1, Plot No. 22, ECADP Kolkata – 700107
Phone: 91.33.24434055 (4 lines) Fax: +91.33.24434051
2. Cochin Special Economic Zone, Administrative Building, Kakkanad, Kochi – 600030, Kerala.
3. Falta Special Economic Zone, IInd MSO Building, 4th Floor, R.No. 44, Nizam Palace Complex, 234/4, AIC Bose Road, Kolkata – 700020, West Bengal.
4. MEPZ Special Economic Zone, National Highway 45, Administrative Office Building, Tambaram, Chennai – 600045, Tamil Nadu.
5. Kandla Special Economic Zone, Gandhidham, Kutch-370230, Gujarat.
6. SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400096, Maharashtra.
7. Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone, Administrative Building, Duvvada, Visakhapatnam – 530046, Andhra Pradesh.
8. Noida Special Economic Zone, Noida Dabri Road, Phase-II, Noida – 201305, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.
9. Pay and Accounts Office (Commerce), Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi-110107.
10. Pay and Accounts Office (Supply Division), 16-A, Akbar Road Hutments, New Delhi – 110011.

(C) Autonomous Bodies

1. Coffee Board, 1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi,

Bangalore – 560001, Karnataka.

2. Rubber Board, Sub-Jail Road, P.B. No.1122, Kottayam – 686002, Kerala.
3. Tea Board, 14, BTM Sarani, Brabourne Road, P.B. No. 2172, Kolkata – 700001, West Bengal.
4. Tobacco Board, P.B.No.322, Guntur – 522004, Andhra Pradesh.
5. Spices Board, Sugandha Bhawan, N.H. Bypass, PB-2277, Palarivattom P.O. Kochi – 682025, Kerala.
6. Marine Products Export Development Authority, MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue, Kochi – 682036, Kerala.
7. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, NCUI Building, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, New Delhi – 110016.
8. Export Inspection Council of India, 3rd Floor, NDYMCA Cultural Centre Building, 1, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi-110001.
9. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, B-21, Institutional Area, South of IIT, New Delhi – 110016.
10. Indian Institute of Packaging, B-2, MIDC Area, P.B.No. 9432, Andheri (East), Mumbai – 400096, Maharashtra.

(D) Public Sector Undertakings

1. State Trading Corporation of India, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001.

Subsidiary of STC

- STCL Ltd., No. 7A, "STC Trade Centre", 3rd Floor, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru – 560096, Karnataka.
2. MMTC Ltd., Scope Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
 3. PEC Ltd, "Hansalaya", 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001.
 4. Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd., 10th Floor, Express Towers, P.B. No. 373, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021, Maharashtra.
 5. India Trade Promotion Organization, Pragati Maidan, Mathura Road, New Delhi – 110001.

(E) Special Purpose Vehicle

1. Government e Marketplace SPV (GeM SPV), Jeevan Bharti Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110 001

(F) List of the EPCs under the Department of Commerce

1. Chemexcil, Jhansi Castle (4th Floor), 7-Cooperage Road, Mumbai-400039, Maharashtra
2. CAPEXIL, Vanijya Bhawan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 3rd Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal
3. Council for Leather Exports, No.1, CMDA Tower II, 3rd Floor, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai-600008. Tamil Nadu
4. EEPC India, Vanijya Bhawan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 1st Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal
5. Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES), 8-G, Hansalaya, 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
6. The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Office No. AW — 1010, Tower — A, G-Block, Bharat Diamond Bourse, next to ICICI Bank, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400051
7. The Plastics Export Promotion Council, Dynasty Business Park, Ground Floor, B-Wing, Office No.2, Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra – 400059
8. The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, 1-E/6, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi- 110055

9. Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL), Vanijya Bhawan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 2nd Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal
10. Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil), 101, Aditya Trade Centre, Ameerpet, Hyderabad — 500038, Andhra Pradesh
11. Services Export Promotion Council, DPT-417, 4th Floor, Prime Towers, Plot No.79 & 80, Pocket-F, Okhla Industrial Area Phase – I, New Delhi – 110020
12. Project Export Promotion Council of India, 411, Surya Kiran Building (4th Floor), 19, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi – 110001
13. Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council, 78-79 Bajaj Bhawan, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021, Maharashtra

(G) Other Organizations

1. Federation of Indian Export Organizations, Niryat Bhawan, Rao Tula Ram Marg, Opp. Army Hospital (Research & Referral), New Delhi-110057.
2. Indian Diamond Institute, Katargam, GIDC, Sumul Dairy Road, P.B. No. 508, Surat-395008, Gujarat.
3. National Centre for Trade Information, NCTI Complex, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi –
4. Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, Room No.2003. 20th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place. New Delhi - 110001.
5. India Brand Equity Foundation, 20th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

ANNEXURE-B

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Recruitment of Group A officers, post of CSSS, CSCS, CSS Cadre, DoPT is Cadre Controlling Authority. For Ex. Cadre (JTO & STO), is done by Rajbhasha Vibhag. Department implements promotion/posting/tran sfer orders issued by Cadre Controlling Authorities. Therefore, the information is 'Nil'
	Group A	145	0	22	0	5	0	15	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	178	0	20	0	4	0	26	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	130	1	30	0	8	0	31	0	1	0	0	
Department of Commerce (Proper)	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Supply	Group A	70	0	10	0	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	The Indian Inspection

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1 Division	2 Group B*	3 49	4 0	5 10	6 0	7 2	8 0	9 0	10 9	11 0	12 0	13 0	14 Service (IIS) & Indian Supply Service (ISS) Cadres are declared as dying cadre after winding up of DGS&D on 31.10.2017. So far CSS, CSSS and CSCS are

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
													Group-B officers who were working in GeM-SPV on deputation are yet to be declared as surplus and being redeployed.
SUB TOTAL (A)		601	1	105	0	28	0	82	12	1	0	0	
Attached Offices under Department of Commerce													
Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)	Group A	133	6	16	1	10	0	15	1	1	1	SC-1, ST-1, OBC-2, EWS-1	
	Group B	282	0	54	0	29	0	13	0	0	0	SC-24, ST-13	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	480	0	157	0	44	0	50	0	2	0	SC-98, ST-70, OBC-118, EWS-8	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SUB TOTAL (B)		895	6	227	1	83	0	78	1	3	1	336	
Subordinate offices under Department of Commerce													
Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DCCI&S)	Group A	18	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0		Controlled by ISS/IES Cadre Controlling Authority
	Group B	119	0	28	0	13	0	4	0	0	0		SC-12 ST-6
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	89	5	10	0	9	1	36	2	0	0		SC-21, ST-05, OBC-12, EWS-16
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
MPEZ SEZ	Group A	5	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Group B	61	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfulfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	25	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kandla SEZ	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	34	0	6	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	2 (SC)	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Visakhapatnam SEZ	Group A	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	13	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	8	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	16	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	6	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	12	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	All candidates are appointed on deputation basis as there is no direct recruitment.

Total
no. of
Employ
ees (as
on
30.09.2
022)

Group

Name of
organisation

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group B	74	0	11	0	7	0	13	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	36	2	8	0	3	1	15	0	0	0	OBC-7, SC-4, ST-2, EWS-2	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	SUB TOTAL (C)	643	12	126	0	42	2	122	3	0	0	89	
Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards under Department of Commerce													
Spices Board	Group A	71	0	10	0	7	0	19	0	0	0	4 (SC), 1 (ST) and 3 (OBC) to be filled by Direct Recruitment	*No appointments after 22.02.2017 have been made as per the order received from the MoC vide letter No. F No. 5/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22.02.2017 except one post of Scientist-B. Ministry vide its letter
	Group B	89	0	10	0	12	0	27	0	0	0	3 (SC), 1 (ST) & 8 (OBC) to be filled by	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	89	0	15	0	8	0	35	0	0	0	Direct recruitment	No. 5/6/2018-Plant-D dated 04.02.2020 has approved the restructuring proposal of the Spices Board. As per the approval, the Ministry has advised to fill up the vacant post within the strength of 379 by promotion/Selection in the ensuing 3 years as per approved Recruitment Rules. Spices Board has submitted the draft Recruitment Regulations (RR) to the Department of Commerce, New Delhi for approval. On approval of the RR filling up the vacant

Name of organisation	1	2	Total no. of Employees on 30.09.2022	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
														posts would be resumed including reservation for EWS.
		Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
		168	0	32	0	15	0	23	0	0	0	0	Vide Ministry's Letter F No. 5/1004/2015-Plant(coord) dated 22.02.2017, the Board was instructed not to fill up any vacancies (promo).
Rubber Board	Group A												

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Ministry, vide Letter No. 6/2/2019-Plant C dated 27/04/2021 has given permission to fill up the promotional vacancies only. Sanction was accorded by Ministry for filling up 34 vacancies of Field officer vide letter dated 28.12.2021. Moreover, Ministry vide letter F.No.6/09/2017-Plant-C dated 11/11/2019 had reduced the sanctioned staff strength from 1649 to 905 as part of rationalization and restructuring of Rubber Board. As on 30/09/2022 there were 1057 employees against the sanctioned strength

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Tea Board	Group A	56	0	7	0	4	0	16	0	0	0	0	of 905. Hence, Board is now under the process of reducing the excess
	Group B	99	0	16	0	4	0	28	0	0	0	0	In the Restructuring Plan as submitted before the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Tea Board has projected for 312 officials (excluding the post of Chairman, Tea Board which is a nonexecutive post) for all categories. On the
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	200	0	31	0	13	0	21	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		other hand, Tea Board has also been advised by the Plantation Division, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India that no vacant post should be filled up by Direct Recruitment or promotion without their prior permission vide letter No. 5/1004/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22.02.2017. As a result, the process for filling up of vacancies has been kept pending
Agriculture and Processed Food	Group A	20	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
	Group B	29	0	6	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	1	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	29	0	4	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	3	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Export Inspection Council of India (EIC)	Group B	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Coffee Board	Group A	62	0	4	0	5	0	19	0	0	0	2	

Name of
organisations

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees on 30.09.2022	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
													Commerce & Industry and waiting for final approval. The vacant post will be filled up as per the directions from Department of Commerce.
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	9	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	69	0	13	0	8	0	19	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	66	0	10	0	4	0	23	0	3	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	130	0	23	0	8	0	36	0	0	0	0	
Tobacco Board	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	25	0	3	0	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi	Group A	47	0	4	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	SC-5,ST-5,OBC-12,EWS-7	The institute has delegated the work of cadre restructuring to National Productivity Council and the same is under process. The institute may initiate the filling up of backlog vacancies in accordance with the same and upon finalization of Cadre Review Exercise. The institute has delegated the work of cadre restructuring to National Productivity Council and the same is under process. The institute may initiate the filling up of backlog vacancies in accordance with the same and upon finalization of
	Group B	43	0	10	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	EWS-4	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	5	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	ST-3,SC-3,EWS-4,OBC-9	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata	Group A	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Cadre Review Exercise.
	Group B	9	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kakinada	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks					
										No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	Group B	36	0	10	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0**	*In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group A for last 5 years (approx). ** In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group B and C for the last 26 years (approx.)	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	27	0	10	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0**		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0**		
	Group A	88	4	19	1	3	0	15	2	0	0	* 1(ST)		
	Group B	33	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	279	1	57	0	7	0	26	1	0	0	0	* One ST vacancy of DM(Fin) in Group 'A' is unfilled * One ST vacancy of DM(Fin) in Group 'A' is unfilled	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	20	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	27	0	9	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	7 officials on deputation outside have been	
	Group B	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
	Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)													
	PEC Ltd.(Project													

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
and Equipment Corporation of India Limited)	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7 officials on deputation outside have been excluded.
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ECCG Ltd.(Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited).	Group A	257	0	45	0	19	0	61	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	278	16	50	4	21	1	73	2	0	1	SC(11),ST(10),OBC(13),EWS(7)	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchhari)	19	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	Recruitment in Executive officer level final result is under process. Thereafter

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	vacancies will be filled up in SC, ST, OBC and EWS categories. Recruitment in Group C and Group D has been discontinued since 2007 and 1999 respectively.
	Group A	240	0	49	0	19	0	26	0	0	0	0	In line with the directions of the administrative Ministry and Board of Directors, all recruitment processes in executive
	Group B	168	0	35	0	32	0	3	0	0	0	0	
MMTC Limited	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	57	0	9	0	4	0	13	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

cadre have been stopped since 2019 as the company is downsizing and winding down its operations which may eventually lead to its closure. Recruitment in staff cadre has been stopped since 1992. In line with the directions of the administrative Ministry and Board of Directors,

Group C
(Safai
Karmchhari)

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of SC Emp	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2022	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
													closure. Recruitment in staff cadre has been stopped since 1992.
	SUB TOTAL (E)	1622	21	344	5	125	1	239	5	0	1	57	
	GRAND TOTAL	6947	80	1257	18	500	5	1227	33	13	8	644	
SC - Scheduled Castes, ST - Scheduled Tribes, OBC - Other Backward Classes, EWS - Economically Weaker Sections													

ANNEXURE-C

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Department of Commerce (Proper)	Group A	145	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Recruitment of Group A officers, post of CSSS, CPCS, CSS Cadre, DoPT is Cadre Controlling Authority. For Ex. Cadre (JTO & STO), is done by Rajbhasha Vibhag. Department implements promotion/posting/transfer orders issued by Cadre Controlling Authorities. Therefore, the information is 'Nil'. * The Indian Inspection Service (IIS) & Indian Supply Service (ISS) Cadres are declared as dying cadres after winding up of DGS&D on 31.10.2017. So far CSS, CSSS and CPCS are concerned, DoP&T is Cadre Controlling Authority and hence,
	Group B	178	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	130	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Supply Division	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**
	Group A	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B*	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks	
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	recruitment is done by DoP&T only. ** After winding up of Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals on 31.10.2017, the entire Group – B & C officials were declared as surplus and all the posts were abolished. There is no further recruitment w.e.f. 01.11.2017. However, 5 Group-B officers who were working in GeM-SPV on deputation are yet to be declared as surplus and being redeployed.
SUB TOTAL (A)		601	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attached offices under Department of Commerce																
Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)	Group A	133	6	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	282	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	480	0	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SUB TOTAL (B)		895	6	3	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Subordinate offices under Department of Commerce															
Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DCCI&S)	Group A	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Controlled by ISS/IES cadre controlling authority
	Group B	119	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	89	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MPEZ SEZ	Group A	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	Group B	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kandla SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B Gazetted	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

No. of PwD Employees
(ca)

No. of PwD Employees
category wise (as on
30.09.2022)

Total no. of
candidates
recruited
during the
period Jan-
Sep,2022

Total no. of
Employees (as
on 30.09.2022)

Group

Name of
Organisation

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks	
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
	Group A	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	30	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Noida SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	26	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	18	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cochin SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	36	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 post of LDC reserved for HH category		
SEEPZ-SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SUB TOTAL (C)		643	12	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	
Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards under Department of Commerce															
Spices Board	Group A	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	89	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	89	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group A	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rubber Board	Group B	419	34	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	470	0	2	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group A	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tea Board	Group B	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
															In the Restructuring Plan as submitted before the Ministry of Commerce &

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep, 2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	200	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		Industry, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India, Tea Board has projected for 312 officials (excluding the post of Chairman, Tea Board which is a non-executive post) for all categories. On the other hand, Tea Board has also been advised by the Plantation Division, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India that no vacant post should be filled up by Direct Recruitment or promotion without their prior permission vide letter No. 5/1004/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22.02.2017. As a result, the process for filling up of vacancies has been kept pending.
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Group A	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Group B	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	29	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	As per restructuring approved by MOC&I, the posts of Group C will not be filled up and stand abolished once the restructuring is implemented.
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Export Inspection	Group A	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Restructuring in progress

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Council of India (EIC), New Delhi	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	91	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group A	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marine Products Export Authority (MPEDA)	Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding S)														

*The restructuring proposal of MPEDA is under consideration with Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The vacant post will be filled up as per the directions from Department of Commerce

HH-1*

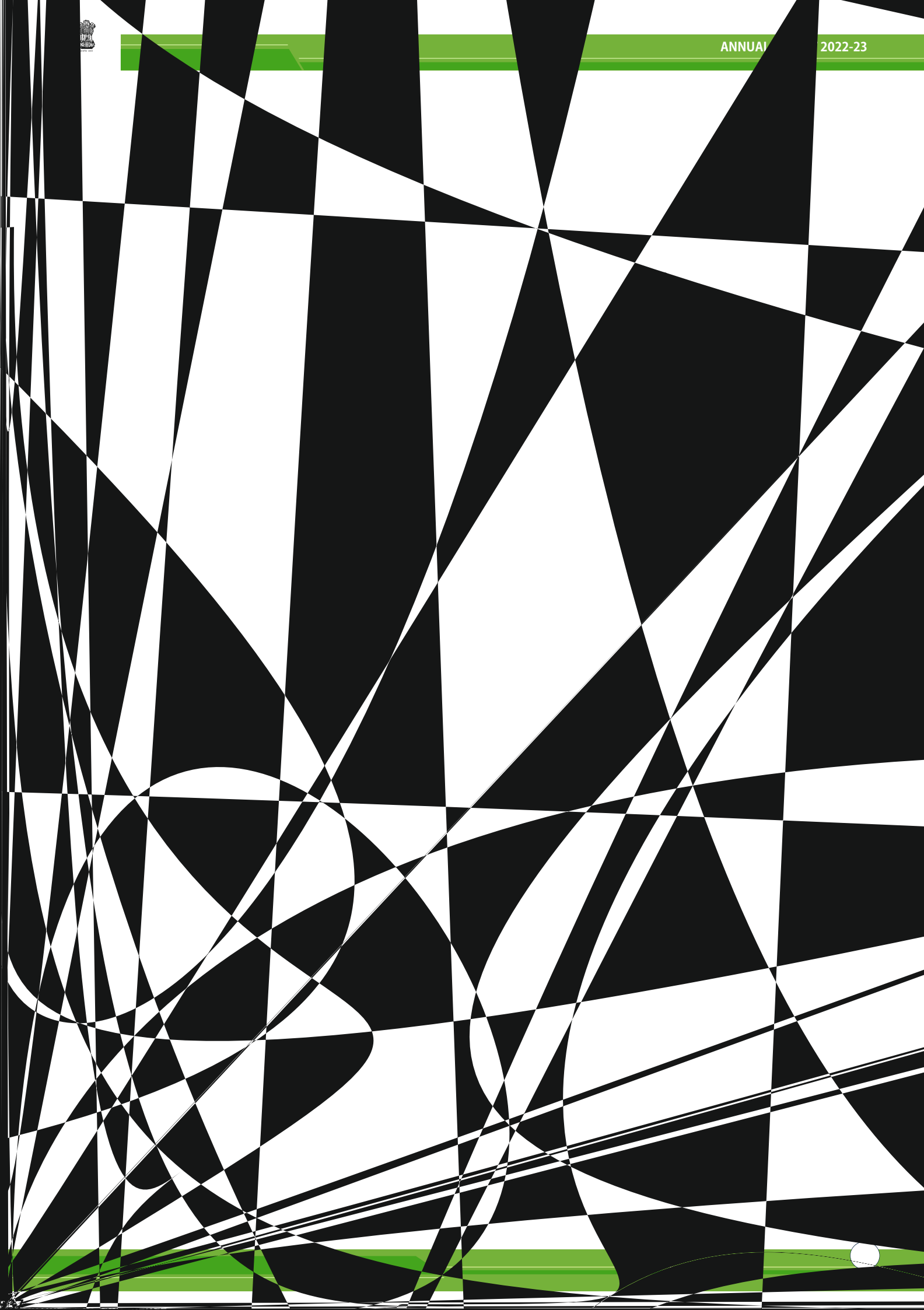
Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks	
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Trade(IIFT), Kolkata	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade(IIFT), Kakinada	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		119	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee Board	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	341	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tobacco Board	Group A	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
														1**	**One post is vacant in Group A i.e. Statistical Officer, which will be filled after	

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep, 2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	130	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	finalization of organizational Re-structuring.
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	25	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	39	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SUB TOTAL (D)		3186	34	16	11	33	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Public Sector Undertakings under Department of Commerce															
State Trading Corporation of	Group A	91	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group A for last 5 years (approx)

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep,2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1 India (STC)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group B & C since last 26 years (approx).
	Group B	36	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	Group A	88	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	279	1	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	20	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PEC Ltd.(Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited)	Group A	27	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECCG Ltd.(Export	Group A	257	0	3	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	278	16	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	7 officials on deputation outside have been excluded.

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2022)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Jan-Sep, 2022	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2022)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Jan-Sep.2022					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2022)	Remarks
				A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited).	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MMTC Limited (Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation)	Group A	240	0	1	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	168	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUB TOTAL (E)		1622	21	10	9	28	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	
GRAND TOTAL		6947	74	34	28	85	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	17	

A (blindness and low vision); B (deaf and hard of hearing); C (locomotor disabilities including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy) and 'D&E (D: autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness + E: multiple Disabilities from amongst A to D including deaf-blindness).



S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Gist of the Para	Status
	DAP-84	on DTA clearance etc.	HC of Madras.
7.	17 of 2019 5-4 DAP-44	Non-compliance of provisions of Other Export Promotion Scheme has led to irregularities such as short levy of duty on DTA clearance, etc.	Reply is pending from RA Bangalore. Reminders have been issued to RA for early settlement of the para.
8.	17 of 2019 5-4-5-2 DAP 56	Non/short imposition of late cut as per applicable rates.	Revised ATN uploaded by the Division on 03.10.2022 and necessary action from Audit is being pending.
9.	5 of 2020 Chapter-3 Entire Report	Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) – Substantial delay in issuance of MEIS scrips, Incorrect adoption of foreign exchange rates, Discrepancies between scrip value and actual entitlement etc. Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) - Delay and deficiencies in functioning of Risk Management System, Consequences of ineffective RMS, etc.	Recommendations/ comments sent to CAG on 01.03.2021. Reply in r/o 9 recommendations, out of 14 accepted by CAG. 5 recommendations re-examined. Para-wise ATNs has been sought from all concerned RAs/SEZs. 46 RAs/SEZs are to send para specific comments in ATN formats. Para specific comments are awaited. All RAs have been reminded from time to time. Some RAs issued show cause notices and recoveries are under process. Comments of RA Kolkata received on 29.08.2022. Consolidated reply is being sent to CAG.
10.	17 of 2020 Chapter-3 (DAP 110	Subject Specific Compliance Audit on Show Cause Notices and Adjudication process -Deficiencies in the process, and procedures leading to adjudication, lack of proper follow up of adjudication and review orders and deficiency in monitoring and internal controls.	Paras under examination (DAP-110 CH-III)-Reply from RA-Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Kolkata have been received and sent to CAG on 24.12.2021.CAG has vetted some paras and sought further comments in r/o some para vide APMS comments dated 01.04.2022. Vetted comments mainly pertains to Customs are under examination.
11.	10 of 2021 Complete Report	Advance Authorization Scheme - The substantial delay in issue of AAs indicated failure of the automated system in achieving the objective of simplification of procedures and ease of doing business. Ineffective Implementation of the Scheme - Allowing duty free imports after the validity period, no time limit prescribed in FTP/HBP for seeking revalidation of licenses etc.	ATN uploaded by the Division on 20/07/2022 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
12.	18 of 2021 Chapter- IV Para No. 4.2.4(a) DAP- 104	Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) (a) Grant of excess duty credit due to misclassification.	Incorrect classification resulted in excess grant of duty credit. Majority of the amount has been recovered. RA Madurai has been requested to recover the remaining amount and furnish the ATN for settlement of the audit para.
13.	18 of 2021 Chapter- IV	Non-fulfilment of export obligation against EPCG license involves financial implication.	Amount recoverable through enforcing bank guarantee has been recovered. CAG sought details of remaining recovery. Detail of



S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Gist of the Para	Status
22.	Chapter- IV Para No. 4.2 DAP- 80	Scheme has led to irregularities such as incorrect grant of duty credit under MEIS.	ATN uploaded on 01/12/2022 for settlement.
23.	18 of 2021 Chapter- IV Para No. 4.2 DAP-50	Non-compliance of provisions of Other Export Promotion Scheme has led to irregularities such as incorrect grant of duty credit under MEIS.	ATN uploaded on 01/12/2022 for settlement.
24.	19 of 2022 Chapter- IV Para No. 4.2 DAP-49	Non-compliance of provisions of Other Export Promotion Scheme has led to irregularities such as incorrect grant of duty credit under MEIS.	ATN uploaded on 01/12/2022 for settlement.
25.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.1 (A), DAP-36	Performance Audit on Working of Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBWs) and Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs).	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
26.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (A), DAP-95	Ineligible sanction of 21 MEIS licence for ineligible export product "Marigold flower meal in pellet form".	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
27.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (B), DAP-77	Issue of SEIS license for ineligible service provided.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
28.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (C), DAP-41	Incorrect grant of SEIS benefits on services rendered prior to 1 st April 2015 resulted in grant of incorrect incentive after deduction of late cut of five per cent.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
29.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (D), DAP-57	The Department had granted incorrect SEIS benefit for the service exported during 21 st February to 31 st March, 2021.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
30.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (E), DAP-81	Excess grant of SEIS scrips due to non-imposition of late cut for delay in submission of claim.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
31.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.2 (F), DAP-110	Incorrect computation of SEIS duty credit.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
		Incorrect grant of SEIS duty credit, which was recoverable from the firm along with applicable interest.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.

S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Part of the Para	Status
32.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2 Annexure-7, Sr.No.1, DAP-33	Non-compliance to provisions of Export Promotion Schemes: Benefits availed not recovered at the time of re-shipment.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
34.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2 Annexure-7, Sr.No.2, DAP-78	Non-compliance to provisions of Export Promotion Schemes: SEIS incentives granted on services prior to 1 st April 2015.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
35.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2 Annexure-7, Sr.No.3, DAP-88	Non-compliance to provisions of Export Promotion Schemes: Incorrect grant of SEIS scrip on Service Tax and GST receipts.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.

Non-compliance to provisions of Export Promotion Schemes: Excess grant of SEIS

Annexure-7, Sr.No.3, DAP-88

S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Gist of the Para	Status
41.	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4-2 Annexure-7, Sr.No.10, DAP-102	Non-compliance to provisions of Export Promotion Schemes; Non fulfillment of Export obligation under Advance authorization Scheme.	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.

Custom & Excise/Issues to EOU/SEZ's			
S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Gist of the Para	Status
1.	17 of 2020 Chapter- IV Para No. 4-12-3 DAP- 60	Non-levy of penalty for gate passes not surrendered and expired.	Vetting Comments Received from Audit on 08/12/2022. Preparation of Final ATN is under process for settlement of Audit Para.
2.	18 of 2021 Chapter- IV Para No. 4-2.6(a) DAP- 94	Non-realization of cost recovery charges for Custom officers posted to SEZ/ICD/CFS.	ATN uploaded by the division on 18/11/2022 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
3.	18 of 2021 Chapter- IV Para No. 4-2.3(a) DAP- 133	Sale of rejects in DTA without payment of duty by the unit contravened the aforesaid provisions of FTP.	Final note corrigendum called by the Audit on 09.12.2022 and preparation of the same is under process.

Status of Civil Paras EIC/APEDA/Rubber Board		
S. No.	CAG Report/Para No. & DAP No.	Status
1.	Para No.2.2 of Report No.18 of 2015	The matter is sub-judice.
2.	Para No.4.1, Report No. 4 of 2018 (Chapter-IV)	Vetting comments received from Audit on 22.10.2021 and Audit remarks that Para stands till full recovery of amount pointed in audit and the same may be intimated to Monitoring Cell. Necessary action is in progress in this case.
3.	16 of 2021 Chapter- III (Para 3-1)	ATN returned by Audit to Division on 31.10.2022 and preparation of Revised ATN is under process.
List of Outstanding C&AG(Commercial) paragraphs-FT(ST) Section- STC Limited/MMTC		
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Status
1.	(4.3.1) 9 of 2010	Para is pending as the matter is sub-judice.
2.	(4.1) CA 3 of 2011-12	Para is pending as the matter is sub-judice.
3.	(4-1) 8 of 2012-13	Para is pending as the matter is sub-judice.

Status of PAC Paras- SEZ	
Total Paras	Status
09	ATR uploaded by the division on 24/11/2022 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.

ANNEXURE – E

Status/Action Taken on audit observations appears in various reports

Sl. No.	Year	Nature of Paras	Details of the Paras/PA reports on which ATNs are pending				No. of ATNs pending with other reasons (Sub-judice)
			No. of ATNs not sent by the Ministry even for the first time	No. of ATN pending with Audit	No. of ATNs sent but returned with observations and Audit is awaiting their resubmission by the Ministry	Sent to Monitoring Cell/PAC Branch (Lok Sabha).	
1.	2008	Customs & Excise Issues	--	01	--	--	--
2.	2010	Commercial	--	--	--	--	01
3.	2011	Commercial	--	--	--	--	01
4.	2012	Commercial	--	--	--	--	01
5.	2013	Customs & Excise	--	01	--	--	--
6.	2014	Customs & Excise	--	--	01	--	--
7.	2015	Customs & Excise	--	01	--	--	--
		Civil	--	--	--	--	01
8.	2018	Civil	--	--	01	--	--
9.	2019	Customs & Excise	--	01	02	--	01
10.	2020	Customs & Excise	--	--	02	--	--
		Civil	--	--	01	--	--
11.	2021	Customs & Excise	01	04	08	--	--
		Civil	--	01	02	--	--
		PAC	--	09	--	--	--
12.	2022	Customs & Excise	18				
		Civil					
		PAC					
		Total-59	19	18	17	--	05

