

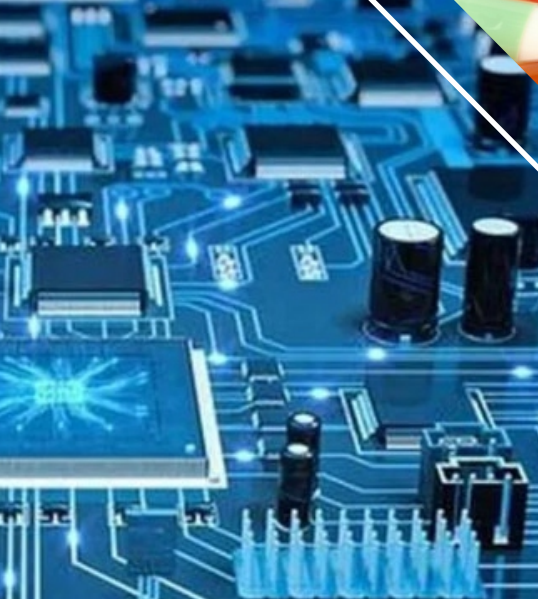


Ministry of Commerce & Industry  
Department of Commerce  
Government of India

# ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

Department of Commerce





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# OVERVIEW

## 1. GLOBAL ECONOMY

The global economy remains resilient with steady growth despite multiple challenges in the recent years. The path has been turbulent, beginning with pandemic-induced supply-chain disruptions followed by geo-political conflicts and extreme weather events which led to a worldwide food and energy crises, a significant spike in inflation, and tightening of monetary policy. Global growth is expected to remain below historical standards on account of the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, geo-political conflict, the slow rise in productivity, and the growing geo-economics fragmentation. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF)<sup>1</sup> 2024, global growth is estimated at 3.3 per cent in 2023 and is projected to slow down during 2024 and 2025 at the same rate of 3.2 per cent, respectively. However, in comparison to the pre-pandemic average, the recent prediction for global growth in five years at 3.1 per cent still remains below normal. Persistent structural barriers such as ageing population and low productivity are major detriments to many economies impeding their maximum potential growth.

The aggregate output of the Advanced Economies (AEs) is expected to rise from 1.7 per cent in 2023 to 1.8 per cent in 2024 and 2025, respectively. In contrast, the aggregate output of Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is expected to grow by 4.2 per cent both in 2024 and 2025, as compared to 4.4 per cent in 2023.

## 2. GLOBAL TRADE

Global trade has slowed down more than anticipated in 2023, as the global economy faces a challenging and uncertain environment. Global merchandise trade turned upwards in the first half of 2024 with a 2.3 per cent year-on-year increase, which should be followed by further moderate expansion in the rest of the year and in 2025. The rebound comes on the heels of a slump in 2023 driven by high inflation and rising interest rates.

As per World Trade Organization (WTO)<sup>2</sup>, world

merchandise trade volume is expected to grow at 2.7 per cent in 2024 and 3.0 per cent in 2025, as compared to (-) 1.1 per cent in 2023. The 2.7 per cent growth in merchandise trade in 2024 is a significant upgrade as compared to the WTO's forecast of April 2024, which projected a growth of 2.6 per cent. Global trade, however, has displayed remarkable resilience over the past few years despite continuous shocks including COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions and the geo-political uncertainties. Trade patterns have varied across regions/countries.

On the export side, in 2024, Asia is expected to register the strongest growth of 7.4 per cent and followed by Middle East at 4.7 per cent and South America at 4.6 per cent. All other regions are expected to see positive export growth except Europe where exports are expected to contract by 1.4 per cent. On the import side, in 2024, Middle East is expected to record the strongest import growth of 9.0 per cent, followed by South America at 5.6 per cent and Asia at 4.3 per cent. Other regions are expected to see modest growth except Europe where imports are expected to contract by 2.3 per cent.

## 3. INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

The ongoing geo-political headwinds have impacted India's merchandise exports in 2023-24 resulting in a slight decline of (-) 3.10 per cent in exports to US\$ 437.07 billion from the previous year's high of US\$ 451.07 billion. However, the non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports have shown resilience and escalated from US\$ 315.64 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 320.21 billion in 2023-24, which is a positive growth of 1.45 per cent. Merchandise exports for the period April-December 2024 were US\$ 321.71 billion as compared to US\$ 316.65 billion during April-December 2023, registering a positive growth of 1.60 per cent.

- ❖ The share of India in global merchandise exports increased from 1.70 per cent in 2014 to 1.82 per cent in 2023. During the same time period, India's ranking among global merchandise exporters climbed from 19<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> place.

<sup>1</sup>International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2024, "Policy Pivot, Rising Threats",

<sup>2</sup>World Trade Organization (WTO) 2024, "Global Trade Outlook and Statistics", Update: October 2024.

- ❖ Merchandise imports also declined from US\$ 715.97 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 678.21 billion in 2023-24, registering a negative growth of (-) 5.27 percent. Merchandise imports for the period April-December 2024 were US\$ 532.48 billion as compared to US\$ 506.39 billion during April-December 2023, registering a growth of 5.15 per cent.
- ❖ Merchandise trade deficit narrowed down from US\$ 264.90 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 241.14 billion in 2023-24. Merchandise trade deficit stood at US\$ 210.77 billion during April-December 2024 as compared to US\$ 189.74 billion during April-December 2023.

#### 4. INDIA'S SERVICES TRADE

India has been a major player in services trade and is among the top ten services exporting countries. India's services exports have experienced a phenomenal trajectory in commercial exports over the years in the global market. From 2014 to 2023, India's services exports surged from US\$ 156.61 billion to US\$ 336.92 billion, showcasing an impressive Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.88 per cent. During the same period, India's rank has improved from 8<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, maintaining its position as a key player among global competitors.

- ❖ Services exports continued to grow reaching US\$ 341.06 billion in 2023-24, with a growth rate of 4.84 per cent compared to US\$ 325.33 billion in 2022-23. Service exports during April-December 2024 stood at US\$ 280.94 billion, registering a positive growth of 11.61 per cent vis-à-vis April-December 2023 (US\$ 251.71 billion).
- ❖ Services imports were recorded at US\$ 178.31 billion in 2023-24 as compared to US\$ 182.05 billion in 2022-23, a decline of (-) 2.05 per cent. Service imports during April-December 2024 stood at US\$ 149.67 billion, registering a growth of 13.69 per cent vis-à-vis April-December 2023 (US\$ 131.64 billion).
- ❖ A surplus of US\$ 162.75 billion was recorded in services trade for 2023-24, which is higher than the trade surplus of US\$ 143.28 billion in

2022-23. Services trade surplus stood at US\$ 131.27 billion during April-December 2024 as compared to US\$ 120.07 billion during April-December 2023.

#### 5. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE DURING 2024 (JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024)

- ❖ The second edition of Bharat Mobility Global Expo, 2025 was organized from 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 on a much larger scale across three venues in Delhi. It is an industry led event and supported by Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Heavy Industries. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 in Bharat Mandapam.
- ❖ The Expo underscored India's commitment to reshaping global mobility with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. More than 9.8 lakh visitors witnessed the Expo across the three venues during the Expo. Germany, UK, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan had their Pavilions and further, individual country exhibitors from Ireland, Spain, Thailand and USA also participated in the Expo.
- ❖ India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations were formally re-launched on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 as follow up of India-EU Leaders announcement in Porto on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Negotiations cover 23 policy areas/chapters. Nine Rounds of negotiations have been held till September, 2024.
- ❖ Consequent to the meeting of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H.E. Sir Keir Starmer on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the UK announced the relaunch of the India-UK Free Trade talks early next year. The UK and India will continue to negotiate towards a comprehensive and ambitious Free Trade Agreement.
- ❖ The 14<sup>th</sup> Round of Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) negotiations between Sri Lanka and India took place from

24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Most of the tracks are finalised except the trade in goods.

- ❖ India is negotiating a Trade Agreement with Peru covering trade in goods & services. The 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations were held from 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 respectively. Both sides aimed at understanding priorities and concerns of each other, ensuring that the negotiations were rooted in mutual respect and benefit.
- ❖ The 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. The Economic Ministers or their representatives from all the 10 ASEAN countries viz. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the meeting. Discussions were held on the issue of substantial conclusion of the ASEAN India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Review negotiations by 2025.
- ❖ During year 2024, four rounds of AITIGA negotiation were held. The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> AITIGA Joint Committee (JC) and related meetings have been held in India in February 2024 and November 2024 respectively. The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> AITIGA JC was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in May 2024 and in Jakarta, Indonesia during July-August 2024 respectively. JC is working towards making AITIGA more effective, user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses. The review will target addressing injury to industries from the existing AITIGA and the inequitable tariff liberalization by all the partner countries. The review is targeted to conclude in 2025.
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was hosted by India in Vanija Bhawan, New Delhi on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The meeting discussed the potential areas of cooperation to drive mutual growth. Both the parties conversed about the focus sectors like Shipping, Textile, Health, Indian Pharmacopoeia, Power, Transport & Connectivity, ICT, 5G Telecom Stack and MSME Sector as key avenues for collaboration. The discussion also touched on how this cooperation could lead to long-term benefits, helping both the countries to achieve their goals more effectively while fostering a spirit of mutual support and collaboration.
- ❖ India is also engaged in negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Australia building upon the market access commitments in Trade in Services under India- Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA).
- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-Taiwan Working Group on Trade (JS-DG level) was held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to discuss the issues related to market access, non-tariff barriers, supply chain diversification, etc. During the meeting, the operationalization date of Mutual Recognition Agreement signed between India and Taiwan was decided as 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- ❖ CSLM between Indian and Bhutan held on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2024. 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).
- ❖ In the Ministerial Conference 13 (MC-13) of the WTO held from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 in Abu Dhabi, UAE, the following interventions were made during the Ministerial Conference:
  - In the Ministerial Conversation on Trade and Sustainable Development, including Trade and Industrial Policy and Policy Space for Industrial Development, it was submitted that India is cognizant of its responsibilities. India has put forward and propagated a sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation including through a mass movement for LiFE- "Life Style for Environment" as a key to combating climate change.

- With respect to Ministerial Conversation on Trade and Inclusion, it was submitted that India do not share the enthusiasm of proponents to widen the remit of the WTO, in disregard to the treaty provisions, to launch new discussion on distributional issues in WTO and that this would be an overreach of the WTO to the domestic policy space of Members.
- Further, India reiterated that it does not support the linking of trade with social issues like women economic empowerment and those concerning MSMEs because these are best addressed under the appropriate international conventions.
- A paragraph has been incorporated in Draft Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration on the recognition of the role of (Multilateral Trading System) MTS towards the achievement of UN 2030 agenda and its SDGs in so far as they relate to the WTO mandate. The outcome was in line with the India's position.
- India's paper on Technology transfer and transfer of know-how in the context of environmentally sound technologies elicited interventions in the committee of trade and environment (CTE) from member countries. The roadmap suggested in our paper could form the basis for a possible Ministerial Declaration in MC14 on environmental sound technologies/climate resilient technologies.
- India delivered a presentation in relation to 3<sup>rd</sup> thematic session of Committee on Market Access on supply chain resilience – programme. This presentation highlighted India's Data stack and public digital infrastructure, Advantages of PM Gatishakti and guidelines for successful transition towards a more efficient supply chain ecosystem powered by digital technology.
- ❖ The upgrade negotiations for India Korea CEPA were initiated in 2016 and so far 11<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations have been held with last round held in Seoul in July 2024. The Sub-Groups and Joint Working Groups constituted under the institutional mechanism of India-Korea CEPA are discussing issues related to market access, investment, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade in the upgrade negotiations.
- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of JWGTI was hosted by India in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The meeting discussed various measures to improve the value and the quantum of trade and to promote investment. Both the sides were unanimous on the need for having more interaction for concrete mutual benefits.
- ❖ A Joint Trade Committee meeting with Nigeria was held during 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The comprehensive dialogue undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. Both sides agreed to the early conclusion of the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement.
- ❖ The sixth Session of India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Indian side informed that necessary approvals for signing the MoU on cooperation between National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) of India and MSME Development Agency (MSMEDA) of Egypt have been obtained. Both sides expressed their desire for an early signing and operationalization. Both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade and investment including that in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), pharmaceuticals and health sector, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, petroleum and mining, MSME Sector, customs matters, services sector, IT services, electronics manufacturing, apparel manufacturing, renewable energy - green hydrogen, food security, international trade settlement and digital payments, transport and trade disputes etc.

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

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

- ❖ New Foreign Trade Policy was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and it came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The aim of the new FTP 2023 initiatives is to establish a predictable and equitable environment, promote best and sustainable trade practices, achieve deeper, wider, and more value-added penetration into global markets, enhance efficiency and ease of doing business by reducing transaction costs, and integrate India into the global value chains.
- ❖ Assistance provided through several schemes to promote exports, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) and Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme.
- ❖ Interest Equalization Scheme on pre and post shipment rupee export credit has been extended by three months up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. The scheme has been formulated to give the benefit in the interest rates being charged by the banks to the exporters on their Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credits.
- ❖ Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme which was notified till 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 has been extended till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The scheme creates a mechanism for reimbursement of taxes, duties and levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level, but are incurred by the export entities in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products.
- ❖ The Department of Commerce through DGFT 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.
- ❖ In the Union Budget 2024-25, the Government proposed the establishment of E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs) to empower MSMEs and traditional artisans to access international markets. These hubs will operate under a seamless regulatory and logistics framework and provide comprehensive trade and export-related services, including warehousing, packaging, labelling, certification, logistics, and returns management for cross-border e-commerce.
- ❖ For Technology Upgradation for Boosting Engineering Exports, EEPIC India Technology Centre has provided various Technological solutions to their MSME members by Additive Technology and Reverse Engineering through initiatives taken up by 3D Design and Development Centre.
- ❖ DGFT launched the online JanSunwai Facility on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 for empowering trade by providing transparency.
- ❖ DGFT has launched upgraded version of a new system for generating Electronic Bank Realisation Certificates (eBRC) system on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 that eliminates the need for paper and associated costs.
- ❖ The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes for 14 key sectors, with an outlay of Rs. 1.97 lakh crore, aim to enhance manufacturing capabilities and exports.
- ❖ General Administration of Customs (GACC) has granted market access for the export of key fish species which are of high value, from India including *Pampus chinensis* (Chinese pomfret), *Pampus argenteus* (silver pomfret), and *Scylla serrata* (mud crab).
- ❖ Listing of Milk and Milk products, Egg and Egg Products and Fish and Fishery Establishment by Russia. Based on credible inspection and certification protocol of EIC, Russian authorities approved four establishments for milk and milk products, two establishments of egg and egg products, and two establishments for fish and fishery. This achievement highlights India's increasing credibility in adhering to strict international food safety and quality standards.

- ❖ IPEF agreements for Pillar III (Clean economy), Pillar IV (Fair economy) and overarching agreement signed on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2024.
  - ❖ Bharat Mart, a global trade hub for Indian exporters launched in Dubai. It provides Indian MSMEs affordable access to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), African, and CIS markets, enhancing exports to these regions.
  - ❖ Lab-Grown Diamond Project started by IIT-Madras for indigenous production under the 'Make in India' initiative.
  - ❖ Trade Connect e-platform, a single window initiative to help exporters, MSME's access new markets launched.
  - ❖ GeM registers 1.69 lakh women-led MSMEs, empowering women in Government procurement process.
  - ❖ Launch of Aabhar Collection: On 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, GeM launched its signature initiative called "The Aabhar Collection" as part of its #Vocalforlocal outlet store marketplace. The Aabhar collection showcases over 120 exquisite and hand-crafted gift items and hampers, featuring select products from One District One Product (ODOP) and Geographical Indication (GI) categories with prices ranging from Rs. 500 to Rs. 25,000 to be used by Government Buyers for all their official events/ ceremonies etc
  - ❖ National Programme of Organic Production (NPOP) is set to benefit approximately 20 lakh farmers from 5,000 grower groups through enhanced export opportunities. It is expected to drive organic exports beyond US\$ 1 billion by 2025-26, benefiting approximately 20 lakh farmers.
  - ❖ ECGC has extended the scope of its Whole Turnover Export Credit Insurance for Banks (WT-ECIB) Scheme to export credit working capital limits up to Rs. 80 crore w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
  - ❖ India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with European Free Trade Association (EFTA) on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Under TEPA, EFTA has committed to promote foreign direct investments by US\$ 100 billion in India in the next 15 years, and to facilitate the generation of million direct employments in India, through such investments.
  - ❖ Issues of particular interest at multilateral trade negotiations including Agriculture, Public Stockholding (PSH) for Food Security Purposes, Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and other significant negotiations at the WTO that directly impact India's interests, were deliberated.
  - ❖ A Retreat with the officers of the Commercial Wings of Indian Missions in 20 identified countries of significance to enhance India's export potential was organized from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in New Delhi.
    - The 20 countries, were Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Türkiye, UAE, United Kingdom, USA and Vietnam.
    - The Retreat served as a pivotal platform to deliberate on pressing challenges and future opportunities in promoting India's export growth and to make concerted efforts to align strategic initiatives tailored for enhancing India's presence in global markets amidst the complexity of international trade dynamics.
    - The retreat also highlighted the "Eyes and Ears Framework" for Mission Abroad and EPCs, outlining action points and Key Performance Indicators for Market Intelligence, Capacity Building, Event Collaboration, and Strategic Planning. The strategies include promoting advanced technologies, marketing "Brand India", providing access to international quality standards, and ensuring importers' availability.
- These initiatives underline the Government's dedication to expanding India's trade and fostering inclusive development, positioning India as a global economic powerhouse by 2047.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

## 1. VISION AND MISSION

The long-term vision of the Department is to leverage trade for economic growth, make India a major player in the world trade, and assume a leadership role in international organizations, commensurate with India's growing importance. The policy tools adopted involve focusing on goods, services and countries through targeted interventions.

## 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, 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, Four Additional Secretaries, Thirteen 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

There are two Attached Offices, ten Subordinate Offices, ten Autonomous Bodies, five Public Sector Undertakings, one Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

namely GeM, thirteen Export Promotion Councils, one Advisory Body namely BOT and four Other Organizations under the administrative control of the Department. 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) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which is headed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. Since 1991, the 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 exports, DGFT has since been assigned the role of a "facilitator". The shift was from restrictions 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, 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. DGFT also issues authorizations to exporters/importers and monitors 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)

S. No.	Regional Office	S. No.	Regional Office
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.***

The 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, Department of Commerce (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. These committees are overseeing the formulation and implementation of State Export Promotion Strategies in consultation with Export Promotion Councils and Regional Authorities of DGFT.

## **(ii) Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**

Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) 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 does trade remedy investigations, which are quasi-judicial in nature, 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) Special Economic Zones (SEZs)**

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 development 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.

Offices of Development Commissioners of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are 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.

### **(iii) Pay and Accounts Office (Supply)**

The payment and accounting of the Supply Division, including of DGS&D are performed by the office of Chief Controller of Accounts (Supply Division) under the Departmentalized Accounting System, through its Regional Pay and Accounts offices at New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Consequent upon Union Cabinet's Decision to close the DGS&D w.e.f. 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, the office of CCA (Supply) has been discontinued and residual works are now being handled by the CCA (Commerce) with the skeletal staff and 01 PAOs, in New Delhi. The work of RPAO (Supply), Mumbai and RPAO (Supply), Kolkata and RPAO (Supply), Chennai has been overtaken by RPAO

(Commerce), Mumbai, RPAO (Commerce), Kolkata and RPAO (Commerce), Chennai respectively.

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

The Secretary, as Chief Accounting Authority in the Department of Commerce, performs the functions of the Department related to finance and accounts with the assistance of the Financial Adviser and Chief Controller of Accounts.

There is a common Accounting Wing for both the Department of Commerce & Ministry of Textiles. The Accounts Wing, Department of Commerce functions under the supervision of Chief Controller of Accounts (CCA) who is assisted by a Controller of Accounts (CA), Deputy Controller of Accounts (DCA), Assistant Controller of Accounts (ACA) and 05 Pay and Accounts Offices (PAOs) (2 PAOs in Delhi and one each at Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata and 01 PAO of Supply in Delhi. 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, renders 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 Officers (DDOs) & payment of final GPF cases, loan & advance, Grants-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 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. The Office of CCA also proactively assists the Department in onboarding of various Central Sector Schemes on the Central Nodal Agency system of fund flow as prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.

There is an Internal Audit Wing under the jurisdiction

of the Department of Commerce, which handles the internal audit work of the Departments involving 120 units under the Department. The role of internal audit is to study the accounting and implementation of prescribed procedure with a view to ensure that they are correct & adequate.

## **(C) Autonomous Bodies**

### **(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 a non-Executive Chairman, the Secretary, who is the Chief Executive appointed by the Government of India, 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 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 such as Members of Parliament (two from House of People and one from Council of States), representatives of various interests of rubber industry such as rubber producing, processing, trading and rubber product manufacturing sectors, labour interest, representatives of Governments of principal rubber growing states and the Executive Director.

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. The functions of the Board also include collection of statistics of rubber, promoting marketing of rubber and undertaking labour welfare activities.

Rubber Board has extension offices in all rubber producing states which includes two Zonal, 53 Regional/Development and 135 Field offices. The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII), established in 1955, is situated at Puthupally in Kottayam District, 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 National Institute for Rubber Training (NIRT) located at Kottayam 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 stakeholder's. Tea Board has two Zonal offices at Guwahati (Assam) and Coonoor (Tamil Nadu), 15 Regional Offices and 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, the Tobacco Board was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1976 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 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.

#### **(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 and is led by the Chairman (appointed by the Central Government). The Secretary is the Chief Executive of the Board. 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 of spices and export promotion & quality management of spices exported from India. The Board is headquartered at Kochi, Kerala and has 83 offices across the country, which include export promotion offices, development offices, Quality Evaluation Laboratories (QEL), Indian Cardamom Research Institute (ICRI) & regional 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 implemented by the Board include support for, infrastructure development; value addition; product development; strengthening quality evaluation infrastructure; establishing market linkage of farmers and exporters with international buyers; setting up primary processing facilities in the major growing centres (Spices Parks); undertaking trade and brand promotion activities for Indian spices including co-participation of stakeholders in international fairs and exhibitions; monitoring quality and safety compliance of spices exported from India through the QEL; 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 constituted under the MPEDA Act, 1972 under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry has the 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 products exporters, processors and aqua culturists for ensuring timely advice to the stakeholders. MPEDA has three Trade Promotion Offices at New York (presently functioning at CGI office New York), Japan and New Delhi and five full-fledged Quality Control laboratories. MPEDA has also set up three registered societies viz, Rajiv Gandhi Center for aquaculture (RGCA) for promotion of diversified aquaculture to support export promotion by technology transfer, Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) 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, 1985.

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 16 Regional offices at Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Jammu, Srinagar, Ladakh, Tripura, Varanasi, Bhopal and Vishakhapatnam.

APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products as provided in First Schedule of 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
- ❖ Green Pepper in Brine
- ❖ Cashew Nuts and Its Products

Basmati Rice has been included in the Second Schedule of APEDA Act.

In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the import of sugar as well.

APEDA also functions as the Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for organic exports. "Organic Products" for export are to be certified only if Produced, Processed and Packed as per the standards laid down in the document- "National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)".

#### **(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 caters 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 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)**

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was set up on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2022 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+' in 2023.

The National Institute of Ranking Framework ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in Management category in 2024. The Institute has achieved the AACSB business accreditation and was awarded the certificate on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

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.

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 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 Chennai (1971), Kolkata (1976), Delhi (1986), Hyderabad (2006), Ahmedabad (2017) and Lucknow (2023). A new centre of IIP has been constructed at Bengaluru. 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 materials, 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 1956 and played an important role in country's economy by arranging 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, from time to time.

STC has a paid-up equity of Rs. 60 crore. As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the shareholding of Government of India in STC's equity was 90 per cent. Presently, STC is not carrying out any business activity.

##### **(ii) MMTC Limited**

MMTC Limited was incorporated in 1963 primarily to regulate the international trade of Minerals and Metals. The Company has an authorized Capital of Rs. 200 crore and paid-up equity capital of Rs. 150 crore. The shareholding of GoI in MMTC is 89.93 per cent. The balance is held by financial institutions and public.

The Company was acting as a canalizing agency for export of iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore/concentrate and was a nominated agency for import of gold & silver and urea, besides trading in other commodities. Currently, MMTC is not undertaking any business activity.

MMTC Transnational Pte. Ltd. (MTPL) Singapore is a wholly owned subsidiary company of MMTC 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. The company is currently under liquidation.

MMTC-PAMP India Pvt. Limited (MPIPL) is a joint venture unlisted company between MMTC Limited and PAMP Ventures S.A (an affiliate of PAMP SA), Switzerland incorporated in 2008, which operates a Precious Metals processing facility at District Mewat, Haryana. Total Equity of MPIPL is Rs. 67.10 crore and MMTC is holding 26 per cent stake in the Joint Venture.

### **(iii) PEC Limited (Project & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd.)**

PEC Limited was incorporated as a subsidiary company of State Trading Corporation in 1971 as “The Project and Equipment Corporation of India limited” and became an independent Company in 1991. The name of the company was changed to PEC Limited on 25<sup>th</sup> November 1997. The main functions of the PEC Limited included export of engineering equipment and projects, import of bullion and trading in industrial raw material and agro commodities. The Company has not undertaken any business activity since September 2019. The Financial Statement of the company is prepared on “None going Concern Basis”.

### **(iv) 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 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.

### **(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 per cent 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.

In addition, ITPO undertakes promotion of trade in goods and services connected with or relating to fairs, exhibitions, conventions in India and abroad. It also explores new markets for traditional items of export and develop exports of new items with a view to maintaining, diversifying and expanding the export trade.

ITPO has three subsidiaries, namely, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation (KTPO), Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) and ITPO Services Ltd. (ISL) with ITPO’s shareholding of 51 per cent in TNTPO & KTPO and 100 per cent in ISL. ITPO also has a 50:50 Joint Venture, namely, National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) which is under Liquidation. Further, Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) at Pampore is a Joint venture Company between the Government of Jammu and Kashmir with 51.25 per cent equity share, ITPO with 40 per cent equity share and the remaining equity owned by The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and The Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC).

### **(E) Government e Marketplace (GeM)**

Government e Marketplace is an online platform that facilitates end-to-end procurement of goods and services by various Central/State Ministries, departments, organizations, public sector undertakings (PSUs) Panchayats, and Cooperatives. The Government’s concerted efforts to harness the power of digital platforms to achieve ‘Minimum Government, Maximum Governance’ led to the genesis of GeM in 2016. The

online portal was established with a clear objective to eliminate age-old manual public procurement processes that were riddled with inefficiencies and Transparency related issues. GeM is a paperless, cashless and contactless ecosystem for Government buyers to directly purchase products and services from pan-India sellers and service providers through an online platform. GeM was envisioned to utilise the agility and speed that come along with a digital platform to reinvigorate public procurement systems and bring about a lasting change for all stakeholders. GeM covers the entire gamut of procurement process, right from vendor registration and item selection by buyers to receipt of goods and facilitation of timely payments.

GeM has recently launched special initiatives like 'The Aabhar Collection' to promote India's rich cultural heritage and support local artisans and craftsmen. GeM has further reduced transaction charges to 0.30 per cent with a cap of Rs. 3 lakh for orders above Rs. 10 crore while exempting orders up to Rs. 10 lakh, and simplified the fee structure to support MSMEs and enhance their participation. Further, GeM is currently in the process of completely revamping its portal with the use of next gen technologies and updates. GeM's continued evolution with cutting-edge technologies and its focus on transparency, sustainability, and inclusivity position it as a pivotal tool in India's public procurement landscape.

#### **(F) Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)**

The Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are organisations of exporters, registered as non-profit organizations under the Companies Act 2013/ Societies Registration Act 1860. Roles and functions of these Councils are guided by the Foreign Trade Policy, which also recognizes them as registering authorities for exporters. At present, there are thirteen Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), as mentioned below, under the Department of Commerce:

##### **(i) Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL)**

Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council, popularly known as CHEMEXCIL was constituted in 1963 under Companies Act 1956

in Mumbai with the objective of promoting export of Dyes and Dye Intermediates, Basic Inorganic, Organic Chemicals including Agro Chemicals, Cosmetics, Soaps, Detergents, Toiletries & Essential Oils, Speciality Chemicals, Lubricants and Castor Oil. The Council's head office is located in Mumbai and it has four Regional Offices at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and New Delhi.

##### **(ii) Chemicals & Allied products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)**

Chemicals & Allied products Export Promotion Council (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 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 14 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.

##### **(iii) Council for Leather Exports (CLE)**

The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) was set up in July 1984. It is a non-profit company registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 entrusted with export promotion activities and development of the Indian footwear and leather industry and is the apex organisation of the industry.

CLE undertakes multifarious activities which are directed towards assisting its members in extending their global reach for increasing their exports. These activities include disseminating market information, trends and policy implications on commercial, technical and technological developments in the Indian leather industry, participating in major International fairs and specialized trade shows across the globe, organizing buyer-seller meets in India and abroad, B2B meets in focus countries, organizing webinars on topics of interest to the industry,

promoting design development through organizing designers fair in India, submitting proposals and representations to the Government on issues relating to Export Import Policies/Procedures, Duties, market development activities etc., for the overall development of the leather industry. The Council also publishing in-house periodicals to keep the exporters abreast of all developments (publications include monthly magazine 'Leather News India', Exporters Directory and Facts and Figures of Exports of Leather and Leather Products), facilitating implementation of Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) and promoting, facilitating and attracting Joint Ventures, technical collaborations and strategic alliances, FDI etc.

CLE serves as a connecting bridge between Indian leather exporters and buyers all over the world. CLE has its registered Head Office at Chennai and five Regional Offices at Kanpur, Kolkata, New Delhi, Chennai & Mumbai and extension offices at Agra and Jalandhar.

#### **(iv) 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 9500 out of which around 60 per cent are SMEs. EEPC India facilitates sourcing from India and boosts the MSMEs 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) The Plastics Export Promotion Council**

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) was established in 1955 and registered under section 25 of Companies Act 1956, with the aim of promoting the exports of Plastics & Linoleum products from India and represents over 3,000 exporters primarily MSMEs who manufacture/trade in plastics products ranging from plastics raw materials to semi-finished and finished items. PLEXCONCIL maintains five offices across India-Mumbai (Head office) and regional offices at Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.

The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the product panels are Consumer & house ware products, Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments, 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 and Merchant Exports.

#### **(vi) Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC)**

The Sports Goods Export Promotion Council (SGEPC) was established in the year 1958 with an objective to promote the exports of Sports Goods from India. In the Year 2001, export promotion of Toys was also entrusted to the SGEPC. The SGEPC is managed by a Committee of Administration (COA), which consists of elected representatives from the Indian Sports Goods & Toy industry and includes Government representatives. The COA is headed by the Chairman.

The SGEPC's range of activities includes activities that spur the Indian Sports Goods & Toy industry's performance on the one hand and the activities that help 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, which was re-christened to Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007. The Council's registered office is located at Kolkata and has no additional branch or regional office.

SHEFEXIL is the designated nodal agency for export promotion of key products, like Nutraceuticals, Extracts/ Botanicals, Herbs, Guar Gum, Shellac & Lac based products. SHEFEXIL is mandated for export promotion of 8 unique panels which are Nutraceuticals, Vegetable Saps & Extracts, Plant and Plant Portions (Herbs), Guar Gum, Shellac & Lac based products, Other Vegetable materials, Fixed Vegetable Oils, Cakes & Others and North East 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 and Chennai. There are 4603 members in the Council.

The products and services falling under the purview of Pharmexcil are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates, Excipients, Finished Dosage Forms (FDF), Biologics & Vaccines, Surgicals, Nutraceuticals, Collaborative Research, Contract Manufacturing, Clinical Trials & Consultancy, and Regulatory Services.

Apart from acting as an interface with the Government, the Council also offers professional advice to its members in areas such as compliance with regulatory requirements, guidance on market and product potential for exports, technology up-gradation, trade related help, etc. Pharmexcil also acts as a nodal agency for issue of Registration cum Membership certificates (RCMC), Certificate of Origin (CoO) Non-preferential; Certificate of Export Performance; Payment of Duty/GST Certificate to member companies for availing bank guarantee exemption and Advance Authorisation. The Council participates in important exhibitions and fairs in various countries and also organizes international conferences and Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSM) in India.

#### **(ix) Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)**

SEPC is an Export Promotion Council set up by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. As an Export Promotion Body, SEPC is dedicated to facilitating the growth of Indian service exports. As an advisory body, it actively contributes to the formulation of policies of Government of India and acts as an interface between the services industry and the Government of India.

SEPC has been instrumental in promoting Indian services exports and in projecting India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high-quality services. It organizes a large number of promotional activities both in India and abroad, such as Buyer-Seller Meets (BSM), trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilions / information booths in various exhibitions to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian services industry.

Further, SEPC keeps abreast of the trends and opportunities in international markets for services and assists members in taking advantage of such opportunities in order to expand and diversify their exports. Members of SEPC can avail the benefits of various schemes of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

#### **SEPC has a mandate to promote the following service sectors**

- ❖ Accounting/Auditing and Book Keeping Services

- ❖ Advertising Services
- ❖ Architectural Services and related services
- ❖ Consultancy Services
- ❖ Distribution Services
- ❖ Educational Services
- ❖ Entertainment services including Audio-visual services
- ❖ Environmental Services
- ❖ Healthcare services
- ❖ Hotel and Tourism related services
- ❖ Legal Services
- ❖ Maritime Transport Services
- ❖ Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/Management Services
- ❖ Printing & Publishing 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 Equipment's & Accessories
- ❖ Other Project Goods

**(a) Sectors of Development**

PEPC, has been actively engaged in the development and promotion of project exports in major sectors of economic and industrial development such as construction of dams, hydroelectric & 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 buildings, hotels & tourist resorts etc.

**(b) Markets**

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

- ❖ Asia
- ❖ Africa
- ❖ Middle East
- ❖ North America

**(xi) Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZ Units (EPCES)**

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES) was set up in January 2003 to service the export promotional needs of EOUs & SEZs in the country. Over the years, EPCES has made an endeavor to facilitate consultations between different stakeholders including industry, policy makers, bank, financial institutions and multilateral agencies to facilitate greater competitiveness in the Indian EOUs & SEZ sector.

EPCES is the only scheme specific & Multi-product Council and represents major industrial sectors, like Textiles, Garments & Yarn, Gem & Jewellery, Leather Goods, Food & Agro products, Electronics & software, Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals, Engineering, Minerals, Granites & other stones, Plastic & Rubber goods etc.

EPCES has also been recognized by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India vide

DGFT Public Notice No. 59/2002-7 dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003 and is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.

The objectives of EPCES includes promoting exports from India and to earn more foreign exchange for the country, facilitating interaction between the EOUs/SEZs community and Government both at the Central and State level, providing benefits of Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme rendered by the Central Government to Indian Exporters for assisting their export market development efforts and collaborating with other export promotion councils/export promotion organizations in India and similar bodies in foreign countries as well as with international organizations working in the field.

### **(xii) Oilseeds & Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)**

The Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) has a storied history that began in 1956 as the Indian Oilseeds & Produce Exporters Association (IOPEPA). It was formally recognized as an Export Promotion Council by the Ministry of Commerce & Ministry, Government of India, in 2006. While export promotion remains central to its mission, IOPEPC plays a pivotal role in fortifying India's domestic Oilseed supply chain, collaborating closely with farmers, shellers, processors, and exporters to elevate quality standards nationwide.

Driven by a commitment to foster self-reliance in Oilseed and Oil production, IOPEPC works to reduce dependency on imports by promoting excellence in quality and processing. To achieve this mission, IOPEPC has formalized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with leading agricultural institutions such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research in Hyderabad, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the Directorate of Groundnut Research in Junagadh. These partnerships enhance innovation, research, and best practices in the Oilseed sector.

The Council undertakes numerous initiatives to support its members and the industry, organizing awareness programs and training to elevate quality in Oilseed exports. IOPEPC also conducts market

studies to facilitate access and resolve trade barriers with Government support. Through buyer-seller meets and participation in international trade shows, the Council actively promotes trade while maintaining comprehensive data and statistics for the Oilseed sector. Additionally, it assesses Government policies to provide strategic insights to its members and shares vital market intelligence through research reports and crop surveys.

Through these ongoing efforts, IOPEPC strengthens India's Oilseed value chain, fosters collaboration across sectors, and promotes a sustainable ecosystem for the growth and prosperity of the industry.

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

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is an EPC established in 1966 by the Government of India to promote the country's Gem and Jewellery industry. It is headquartered in Mumbai and has around 10,000 members. GJEPC organizes Reverse Buyer Seller Meets (RBSMs) and participates in international events/exhibitions to showcase industry innovations and export promotion. It is also running training institutes like Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery (IIGJ) at locations like Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur etc.

### **(G) Advisory Body**

#### **Board of Trade (BOT)**

The Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP), a platform for regular discussions between the Central Government and State Governments/ Union Territories on international trade, was merged with the Board of Trade (BoT) in July 2019. This merger aimed to streamline the consultation process. The Board of Trade now serves as the primary advisory body for discussions and consultations with trade and industry. Currently, the Board of Trade consists of 29 non-official members, 25 ex-officio members, and 39 official members, including the Director General of Foreign Trade as Member Secretary, the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, the Ministers in Charge of Trade and Commerce in States and UTs as Members, and the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister as Chairperson.

The Board of Trade (BoT) serves as an advisory body to the Government, offering recommendations on policy measures related to the Foreign Trade Policy. This aims to enhance India's trade performance. The BoT provides a forum for State Governments and union territories to express their regional perspectives on trade policy. Additionally, it functions as a platform for the Government of India to inform State Governments and union territories about global developments impacting India's trade. The BoT plays a crucial role in facilitating discussions on trade-related matters with industry bodies, associations, Export Promotion Councils, and State and Union Territory Governments.

The last Board of Trade meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Mumbai. The meeting was attended by various dignitaries, including ministers, secretaries, and representatives from the Government, State Governments, financial institutions, and the Board of Trade. The Hon'ble CIM opened the meeting, emphasizing the Government's mission to achieve US\$ 2 trillion in exports by 2030 and the robust growth in the service sector. Several key events took place during the meeting like Launch of Jan Sunwai portal, Launch of ECGC's revamped ERP Portal SMILE followed by presentation by DGFT and various states. Various stakeholders, including state representatives, EPCs, and industry associations, raised concerns and suggestions related to trade barriers, quality standards, export promotion, and infrastructure challenges. Representatives from different states shared their respective export initiatives, challenges, and expressed their support to the Central Government initiatives in promoting the external trade.

## **(H) Other Organizations**

### **(i) Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)**

FIEO provides the crucial interface between International Trading community of India with the Central and State Governments, Financial Institutions, Ports, Railways, Surface Transport and all engaged in Export Trade Facilitation. FIEO serves directly or indirectly the interests of over 200,000 exporters from every Industry and Services sector in the country.

FIEO is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with its Headquarters in Delhi, Regional Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, and Chapters in Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Indore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Vijayawada, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Guwahati.

### **(a) Major Activities and Achievements**

- ❖ During the fiscal year 2024-25 (till November 2024), FIEO orchestrated a total of 515 strategically located export promotion programs across India as well as abroad, devising strategy and streamlining the process for exporters to seamlessly market their products.
- ❖ FIEO actively addresses exporters' concerns by liaising with relevant authorities to facilitate prompt resolution.
- ❖ Through diverse communication channels, FIEO offers exporters the opportunity to engage in online discussions with its experts on matters pertaining to international trade, enabling them to seek clarifications on policy issues and more.
- ❖ The FIEO website, accessible at [www.fieo.org](http://www.fieo.org), provides up-to-date trade policies, publications, global business prospects, and links to international trade promotion organizations.
- ❖ Members have the option to upload product photographs, company logos, and detailed company profiles on the FIEO website, enhancing their visibility.
- ❖ FIEO arranges interactive sessions with policy makers, ensuring that critical trade matters are brought to the Government's attention for swift resolution.
- ❖ Being an integral part of various committees and task forces established by both Central and State Governments, such as the Board of Trade, Parliamentary Standing Committee, FIEO provides crucial insights on a range of trade policies.

- ❖ Throughout the year, FIEO organized interactive video conferences with Indian Ambassadors in various countries, fostering discussions on business promotion, challenges, and opportunities for Indian exporters.
- ❖ During the year 2024-25 (upto November 2024), FIEO has pursued important issues with the Government regularly which finally got resolved viz:
  - Extension of RoDTEP scheme for exports made from DTA Units and AA/EOU/SEZ Units
  - Extension of Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit
  - Provision for extending export related benefits i.e., Drawback, RoDTEP/RoSCTL for exports made through courier mode
  - Addition of different Departments and Ministries for exemption under mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by Advance Authorisation holders, EOU and SEZ for goods to be utilised/consumed in manufacture of the goods export products
  - Re-introduction of Facility to view scrip wise shipping bills after generating the scrip
  - Updation of the new HSN CODE 29061110 of NATURAL MENTHOL in the RoDTEP List
  - Exemption of compensation cess against imports into units of SEZ/ SEZ developer for authorised operations
  - Streamlining of physical examination process of chemical containers to avoid delays
  - Launch of Exchange rate Automation Module (ERAM)
- ❖ In the current fiscal year, FIEO has undertaken the following key research projects in association with respective State Governments:
  - Formulation of export policy, supplemented by an export strategy, for the State of Rajasthan
  - Preparation of export strategy for the State of Arunachal Pradesh

In addition to the above, FIEO publishes many monthly and weekly bulletins, reports, articles etc. on various topics with the objective to keep the trade and industry updated on the latest happenings in the international trade sector. FIEO recognizes exporters and export facilitators and confers “Niryat Shree” and “Niryat Bandhu” Awards respectively to encourage the exporters to perform better in year to year. Furthermore, to encourage & motivate the members, FIEO organizes Export Excellence Awards on Regional basis.

#### **(ii) Indian Diamond Institute (IDI)**

Established in 1978 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, the Indian Diamond Institute (IDI) is a leading vocational education institution focused on Diamond, Gems and Jewellery. Sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and supported by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, IDI offers comprehensive training programs covering various aspects of the industry, including Diamond Manufacturing, Grading, Jewellery Designing, Manufacturing and Gemology IDI plays a pivotal role in skill enhancement, training customs officials in Gold Appraising, Rough Diamond Sorting, Diamond Grading, and upgrading the skills of employees in MSME G&J units through the Centre for Entrepreneur Development (CED), Government of Gujarat. The institute's Gemological Laboratory conducts testing and identification of Diamonds, Gem Stones, and Jewellery, issuing quality reports. Its Diamond Grading Laboratory is authorized by the DGFT, MoC&I, for certification and grading of Diamonds.

#### **(iii) National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI)**

The Union Cabinet in its meeting dated 30.06.2021 approved the winding up/voluntary liquidation of NCTI. Currently, NCTI is under liquidation process.

**(iv) Price Stabilization Fund Trust (PSFT)**

The Price Stabilisation Fund Trust was registered on 11<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup> September

2013 i.e. upto 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The activities of PSFT were closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 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.

# GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE SITUATION

## 1. GLOBAL ECONOMY

- ❖ The resiliency of the global economy has been tested over the last four years with extreme weather, emergence of geo-political conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. All these elements produced supply chain disruptions, food and energy crises, and led Governments to adopt multifaceted policy approach to save lives and livelihoods. Overall, the world economy has shown resilience, but this conceals regional disparities in performance and persistent vulnerabilities.
- ❖ As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2024<sup>1</sup>, global growth is estimated at 3.3 per cent in 2023 and is projected to slow at the rate of 3.2 per cent during 2024 and 2025. However, the recent prediction for global growth in five years, at 3.1 per cent, is still below normal when compared to the pre-pandemic average. Ageing populations and low productivity are two examples of persistent structural barriers that are preventing many economies from reaching their full potential. Price pressures still exist in some nations, but overall, the fight against inflation has been won.
- ❖ The aggregate output of the Advanced Economies (AEs) is expected to rise from 1.7 per cent in 2023 to 1.8 per cent in 2024 and 2025. The forecast is higher by 0.1 per centage point for 2024 as compared to the July 2024 WEO Update projections mainly on account of revision in the US growth rate. In contrast,

the aggregate output of Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs) is expected to grow by 4.2 per cent both in 2024 and 2025, as compared to 4.4 per cent in 2023. The growth projections as per the World Economic Outlook (WEO) of IMF are as follows:

**Global Growth Projections (%)**

	2023	Projections		Difference from July 2024 WEO Update	
		2024	2025	2024	2025
World Output	3.3	3.2	3.2	0.0	(-)0.1
Advanced Economies	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.1	0.0
United States	2.9	2.8	2.2	0.2	0.3
Euro Area	0.4	0.8	1.2	(-)0.1	(-)0.3
Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs)	4.4	4.2	4.2	0.0	(-)0.1
Emerging and Developing Asia	5.7	5.3	5.0	(-)0.1	(-)0.1
China	5.2	4.8	4.5	(-)0.2	0.0
India	8.2	7.0	6.5	0.0	0.0

**Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2024**

### Trend in Global Growth



<sup>1</sup>International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO), October 2024, "Policy Pivot, Rising Threats",

## 2. GLOBAL TRADE

- ❖ Global merchandise trade turned upwards in the first half of 2024 with a 2.3 per cent year-on-year increase, which should be followed by further moderate expansion in the rest of the year and in 2025. The rebound comes on the heels of a slump in 2023 driven by high inflation and rising interest rates. As per World Trade Organization (WTO) 2024<sup>2</sup>, world merchandise trade volume is expected to grow 2.7 per cent in 2024 and 3.0 per cent in 2025, as compared to (-)1.1 per cent in 2023. The 2.7 per cent grow in merchandise trade in 2024 is a significant upgrade as compared to the WTO's forecast of April 2024, which projected a growth of 2.6 per cent. Global trade has displayed remarkable resilience over the past few years despite continuous shocks including COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions and the geo-political uncertainties. The demand for trade-intensive manufactured goods was particularly affected by the lingering effects of high energy prices and inflation, but over the next two years, this is expected to improve gradually as inflationary pressures ease. There are downside risks to the forecasts on account of the geo-political tensions and policy uncertainty.
- ❖ Trade growth has shown a varied pattern across regions/countries. On the export side, Africa registered the strongest growth of 4.3 per cent in 2023, followed by North America at 3.7 per cent and South America at 2.3 per cent. Other regions registered modest and negative export growth, as per WTO data. In 2024, Asia is expected to register the strongest growth of 7.4 per cent followed by Middle East at 4.7 per cent and South America at 4.6 per cent. All other regions are expected to see positive export growth except Europe where exports are expected to contract by 1.4 per cent.
- ❖ On the import side, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) recorded the strongest import growth of 17.9 per cent, followed by the Middle East at 8.5 per cent. All other regions registered negative growth in 2023. In 2024, Middle East is expected to record the strongest import growth of 9.0 per cent, followed by South America at 5.6 per cent and Asia at 4.3 per cent. Other regions are expected to see modest growth except Europe where imports are expected to contract by 2.3 per cent.
- ❖ Trade growth across major regions of the world as per WTO is as below:

### Merchandise Trade Volume Growth

	<i>(Annual % change)</i>					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
World Merchandise Trade Volume	(-) 5.3	9.0	2.2	(-) 1.1	2.7	3.0
<b>Exports</b>						
North America	(-) 9.2	6.4	3.9	3.7	2.1	2.9
South America	(-) 5.0	6.7	3.0	2.3	4.6	(-)0.1
Europe	(-) 8.5	6.9	1.8	(-)2.6	(-)1.4	1.8
CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)	(-) 1.1	(-)0.8	(-)1.9	(-)4.5	4.5	1.7
Africa	(-) 7.2	3.8	(-) 2.5	4.3	2.5	2.2
Middle East	(-) 6.4	(-)1.6	3.8	1.1	4.7	1.0
Asia	0.6	13.1	0.2	0.3	7.4	4.7
<b>Imports</b>						

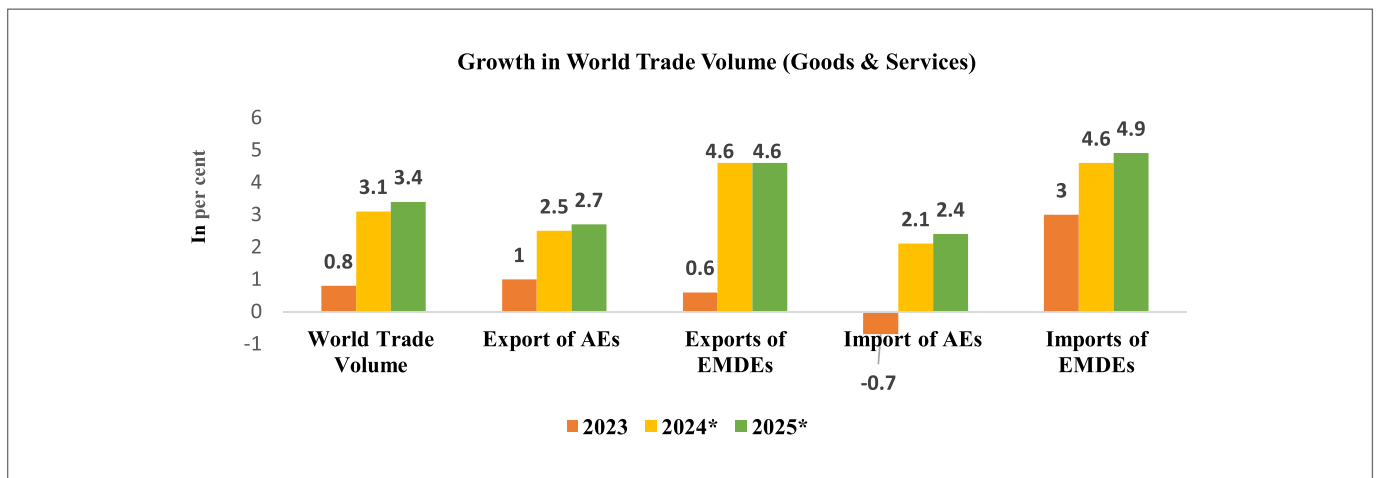
<sup>2</sup>World Trade Organization (WTO) 2024, "Global Trade Outlook and Statistics", Update: October 2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
North America	(-) 5.2	11.9	5.7	(-) 2.0	3.3	2.0
South America	(-) 9.9	24.9	4.1	(-) 4.5	5.6	1.7
Europe	(-) 8.2	7.5	4.4	(-) 5.0	(-)2.3	2.2
CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)	(-) 5.2	9.4	(-)5.7	17.9	1.1	1.7
Africa	(-)13.9	5.8	6.5	0.1	1.0	1.1
Middle East	(-) 8.7	12.9	10.5	8.5	9.0	(-)1.1
Asia	(-) 1.0	10.3	(-)1.0	(-) 0.7	4.3	5.1

**Source: WTO press release dated October 2024**

**Note: \*Projections**

- ❖ As per the IMF, the growth in world trade volume (Goods & Services) was 0.8 per cent in 2023 and is expected to increase significantly to 3.1 per cent in 2024 and 3.4 per cent in 2025.



**Source: IMF World Economic Outlook, October 2024**

**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

Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, UK and USA since January 2024. Export growth exhibited mixed trend in all these economies except Korea and USA it shows positive growth as per WTO data.

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

Period	Brazil	Canada	China	Germany	India	Japan	Korea, Republic of	UK	USA
Jan-24	16.79	-4.32	8.90	2.57	7.02	1.09	18.26	11.06	0.82
Feb-24	13.95	5.76	5.38	0.82	8.30	-0.53	5.51	4.24	6.37
Mar-24	-13.51	-1.32	-7.78	-5.07	-0.97	-2.46	3.29	-0.29	0.82
Apr-24	13.22	2.49	2.25	9.98	8.52	-3.12	13.80	2.36	5.64
May-24	-6.40	-1.01	7.65	-1.68	11.82	4.45	10.22	-4.27	4.73

Period	Brazil	Canada	China	Germany	India	Japan	Korea, Republic of	UK	USA
Jun-24	-2.01	2.76	8.58	-6.34	2.89	-2.52	6.00	-1.89	4.96
Jul-24	9.30	2.44	8.64	4.89	6.05	1.36	14.01	-5.67	5.96
Aug-24	-7.04	-4.18	9.90	0.56	-3.09	6.52	11.81	-1.56	5.38
Sep-24	-1.17	-1.24	5.23	3.96	6.88	4.33	8.88	3.18	2.22

**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, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Japan, Korea and UK and USA. Imports growth exhibited mixed

trend in all these economies since January 2024 except USA. For India, import growth has been positive for most of the months in 2024 except March as per WTO data.

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

Period	Brazil	Canada	China	Germany	India	Japan	Korea, Republic of	UK	USA
Jan-24	3.13	-1.07	18.47	-3.19	1.44	-15.49	-4.98	1.58	0.07
Feb-24	7.16	6.45	-4.84	-3.41	11.10	-7.50	-9.61	1.03	5.67
Mar-24	-3.78	0.93	-1.01	-5.43	-5.49	-12.08	-8.85	-1.41	0.40
Apr-24	15.48	6.47	11.17	5.47	13.71	-2.43	7.58	7.43	7.82
May-24	4.15	-1.57	3.62	-6.05	8.02	-0.21	-0.28	-2.94	4.79
Jun-24	12.43	-4.18	-1.58	-6.64	4.30	-4.44	-6.36	7.69	3.83
Jul-24	19.10	3.25	8.83	5.44	9.13	5.13	10.76	3.80	12.00
Aug-24	16.46	-0.56	1.79	-1.12	4.38	2.12	7.13	7.77	5.58
Sep-24	21.47	0.25	1.60	5.80	4.02	7.34	3.00	12.80	9.17

**Source: WTO Database**

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

# 3

## Chapter

### TRENDS IN INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE

## 1. OVERVIEW

- ❖ Despite persistent global challenges, total exports (merchandise + services) surpassed the highest record of 2022-23. India's total exports reached US\$ 778.13 billion in 2023-24 as against US\$ 776.40 billion in 2022-23, registering a positive growth of 0.22 per cent. Total exports during April-December 2024 estimated at US\$ 602.64 billion as compared to US\$ 568.36 billion in April-December 2023, registering a positive growth of 6.03 per cent.
- ❖ Total imports (Merchandise & Services) were US\$ 856.52 billion in 2023-24 as compared to US\$ 898.01 billion in 2022-23, exhibiting a negative growth of (-)4.62 per cent. Total imports during April-December 2024 estimated at US\$ 682.15 billion as compared to US\$ 638.03 billion in April-December 2023, registering a growth of 6.91 per cent.
- ❖ Trends in overall trade in the last ten years are given below:

### Overall Trade

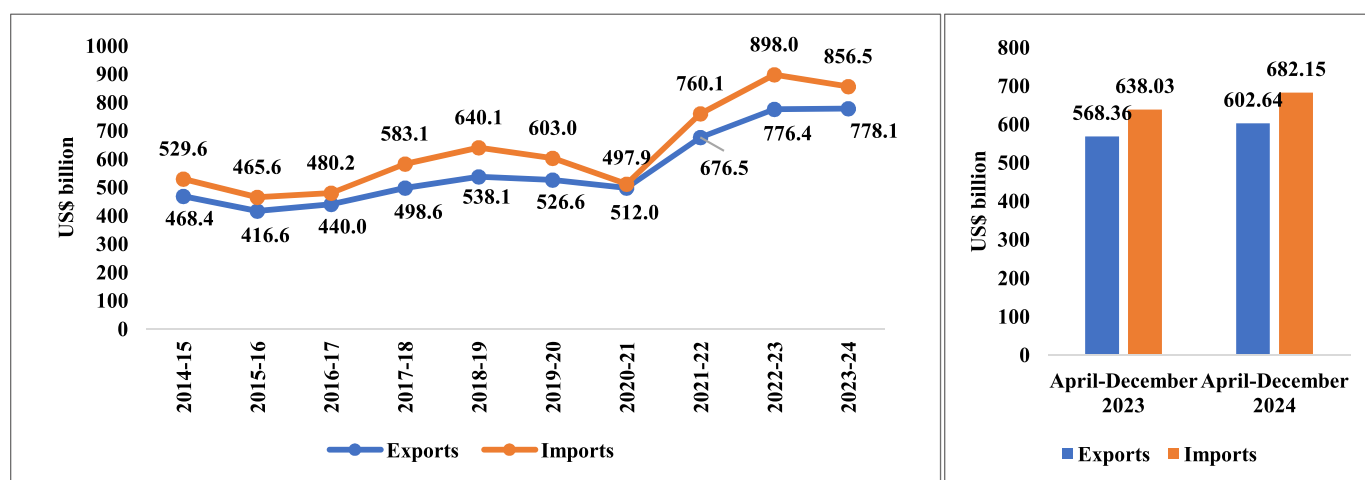
(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No.	Year	Exports	Growth%	Imports	Growth%
1	2014-15	468.45	0.48	529.61	0.13
2	2015-16	416.60	(-)11.07	465.64	(-)12.08
3	2016-17	440.05	5.63	480.21	3.13
4	2017-18	498.62	13.31	583.11	21.43
5	2018-19	538.08	7.91	640.14	9.78
6	2019-20	526.55	(-)2.14	602.98	(-)5.80
7	2020-21	497.90	(-)5.44	511.96	(-)15.09
8	2021-22	676.53	35.88	760.06	48.46
9	2022-23	776.40	14.76	898.01	18.15
10	2023-24	778.13	0.22	856.52	(-)4.62
	Apr-Dec 2023	568.36		638.03	
	Apr-Dec 2024*	602.64	6.03	682.15	6.91

Source: DGCI&S and RBI

\* The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for November 2024. The data for December 2024 is an estimation.

### India's Overall (Merchandise & Services) Trade in last 10 years



Source: DGCI&S and RBI

## 2. INDIA'S MERCHANDISE TRADE

- ❖ The ongoing geopolitical headwinds have impacted India's merchandise exports in 2023-24 resulting in a slight decline of (-)3.10 per cent in exports to US\$ 437.07 billion from the previous year's high of US\$ 451.07 billion. However, the non-petroleum and non-gems & jewellery exports have shown resilience and escalated from US\$ 315.64 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 320.21 billion in 2023-24, which is a positive growth of 1.45 per cent. Merchandise exports for the period April-December 2024 were US\$ 321.71 billion as compared to US\$ 316.65 billion during April-December 2023, registering a positive growth of 1.60 per cent.
- ❖ Merchandise imports also declined from US\$ 715.97 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 678.21 billion in 2023-24, registering a negative growth of (-)5.27 per cent. Merchandise imports for the period April-December 2024 were US\$ 532.48 billion as compared to US\$ 506.39 billion during April-December 2023, registering a growth of 5.15 per cent.
- ❖ Trends in merchandise trade in the last ten years are given in the table below.

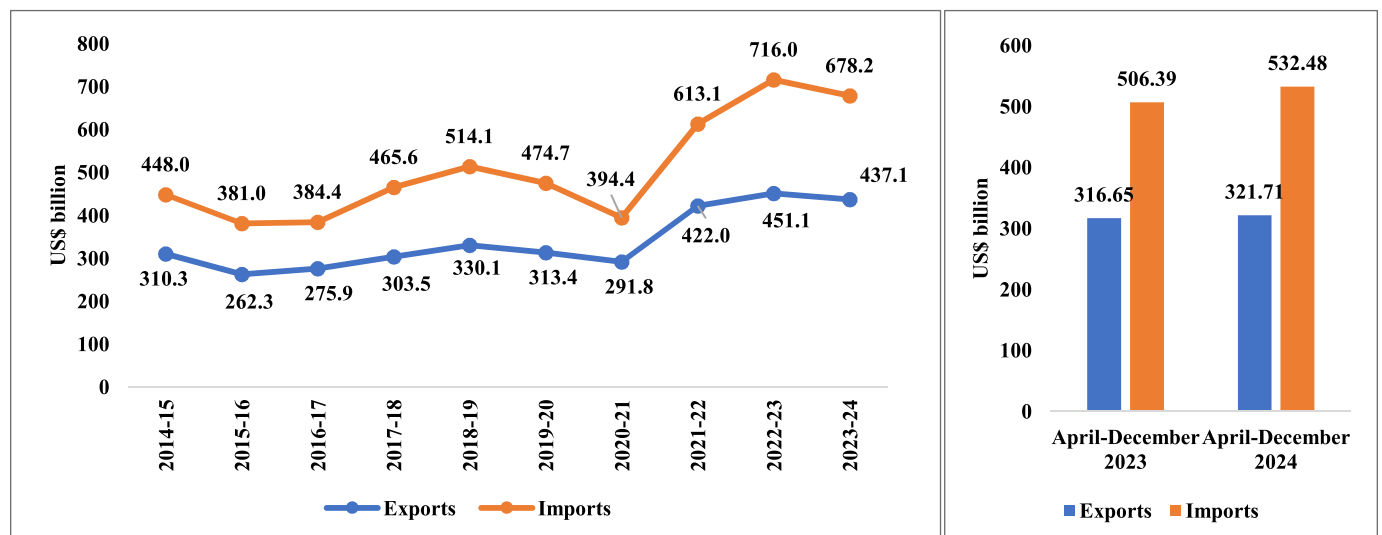
### Merchandise Trade

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No.	Year	Exports	Growth%	Imports	Growth%
1	2014-15	310.34	(-)1.29	448.03	(-)0.48
2	2015-16	262.29	(-)15.48	381.01	(-)14.96
3	2016-17	275.85	5.17	384.36	0.88
4	2017-18	303.53	10.03	465.58	21.13
5	2018-19	330.08	8.75	514.08	10.42
6	2019-20	313.36	(-)5.06	474.71	(-)7.66
7	2020-21	291.81	(-)6.88	394.44	(-)16.91
8	2021-22	422.00	44.62	613.05	55.43
9	2022-23	451.07	6.89	715.97	16.79
10	2023-24	437.07	(-)3.10	678.21	(-)5.27
	Apr-Dec 2023	316.65		506.39	
	Apr-Dec 2024 (P)	321.71	1.60	532.48	5.15

Source: DGCIS, P stands for Provisional

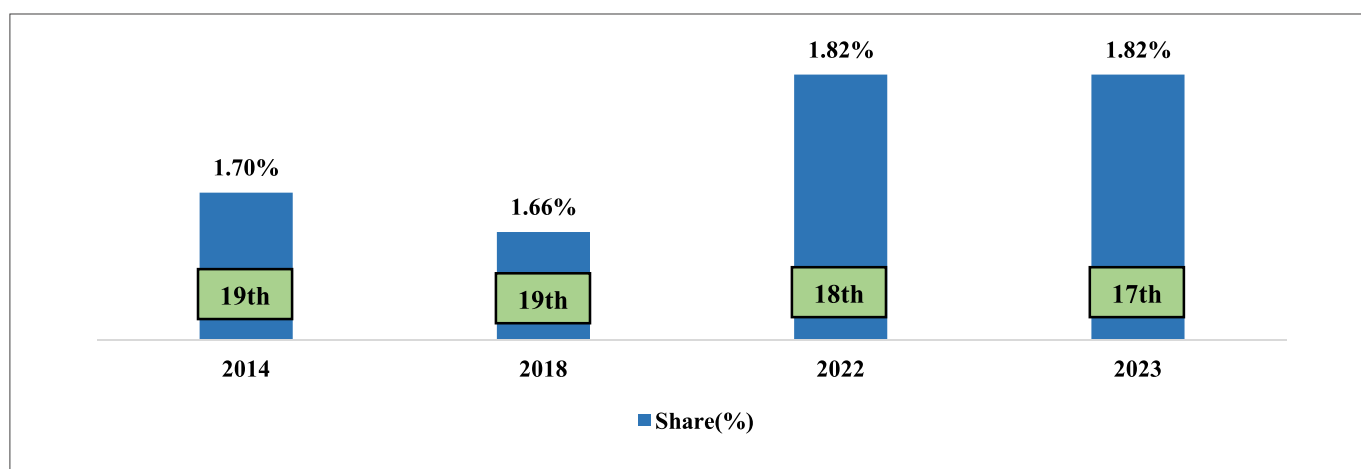
### India's Merchandise Trade in last 10 years



Source: DGCIS

- ❖ The share of India in global merchandise exports increased from 1.70 per cent in 2014 to 1.82 per cent in 2023. During the same time period, India's ranking among global merchandise exporters climbed from 19<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> place.

### India's Rank and Share in World Merchandise Exports



Source: WTO database

### 3. INDIA'S SERVICES TRADE

- ❖ Services exports continued to grow reaching US\$ 341.06 billion in 2023-24, with a growth rate of 4.84 per cent compared to US\$ 325.33 billion in 2022-23. Service exports during April-December 2024 estimated at US\$ 280.94 billion, registering a positive growth of 11.61 per cent vis-à-vis April-December 2023 (US\$ 251.71 billion).
- ❖ Services imports were recorded at US\$ 178.31 billion in 2023-24 as compared to US \$ 182.05 billion in 2022-23, a decline of (-)2.05 per cent. Service imports during April-December 2024 estimated at US\$ 149.67 billion, registering a growth of 13.69 per cent vis-à-vis April-December 2023 (US\$ 131.64 billion).
- ❖ Trends in services trade in the last ten years are given in the table below:

#### Services Trade

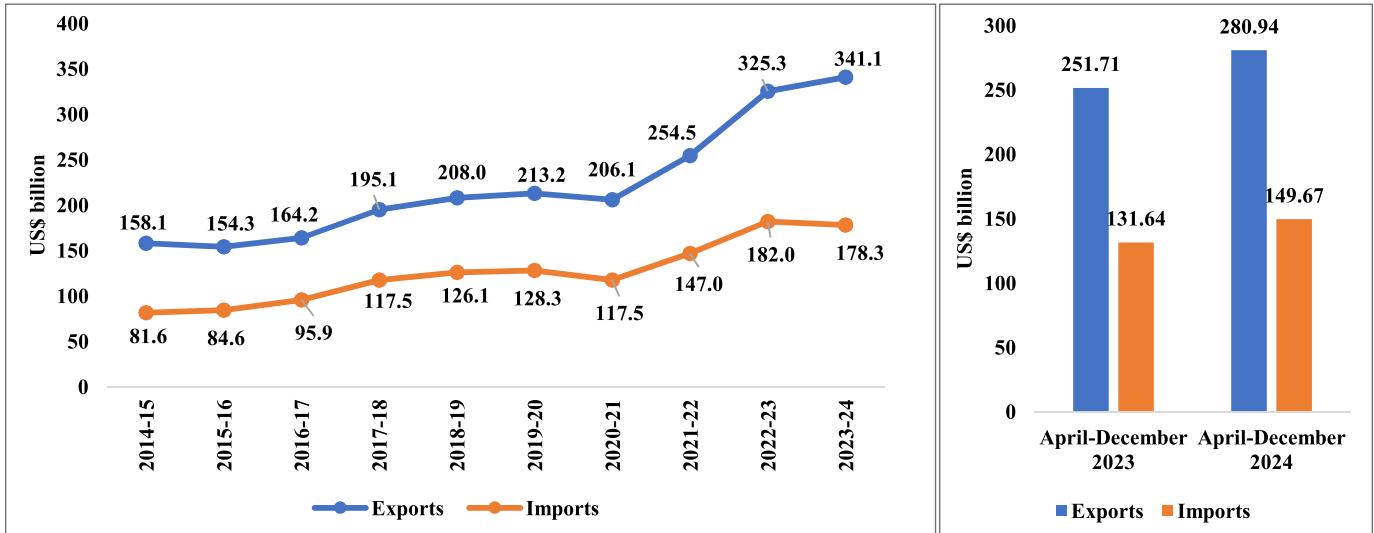
(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Year	Exports	Growth%	Imports	Growth %
1	2014-15	158.11	4.15	81.58	3.60
2	2015-16	154.31	(-)-2.40	84.63	3.75
3	2016-17	164.20	6.41	95.85	13.25
4	2017-18	195.09	18.81	117.53	22.61
5	2018-19	208.00	6.62	126.06	7.26
6	2019-20	213.19	2.50	128.27	1.75
7	2020-21	206.09	(-)-3.33	117.52	(-)-8.38
8	2021-22	254.53	23.50	147.01	25.09
9	2022-23	325.33	27.82	182.05	23.83
10	2023-24	341.06	4.84	178.31	(-)-2.05
	Apr-Dec 2023	251.71		131.64	
	Apr-Dec 2024*	280.94	11.61	149.67	13.69

Source: RBI,

\* The latest data for services sector released by RBI is for November 2024. The data for December 2024 is an estimation.

### India's Services Trade in last 10 years

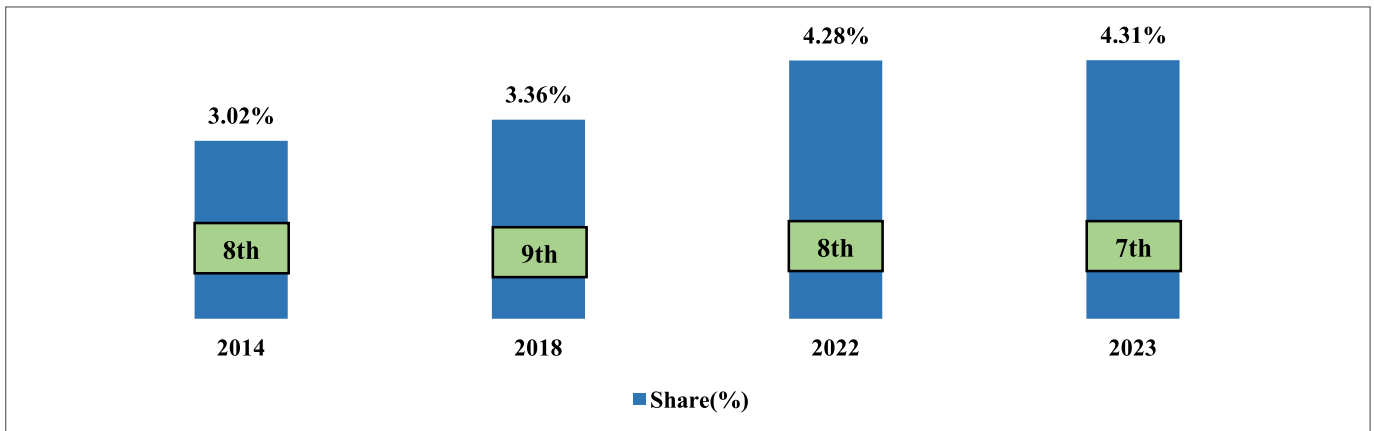


Source: RBI

❖ India's services exports have experienced a phenomenal trajectory in commercial exports over the years in the global market. From 2014 to 2023, India's services exports surged from US\$ 156.61 billion in 2014 to US\$ 336.92 billion

in 2023, showcasing an impressive Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.88 per cent. During the same period, India's rank has improved from 8<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, maintaining its position as a key player among global competitors.

### India's Rank and Share in World Commercial Services Exports



Source: WTO database

## 4. TRADE BALANCE

- ❖ Total trade deficit decreased from US\$ 121.62 billion in 2022-23 to US\$ 78.39 billion in FY 2023-24 registering an improvement of 35.54 per cent. Total trade deficit estimated at US\$ 79.50 billion during April-December 2024 as compared to US\$ 69.67 billion during April-December 2023.
- ❖ Merchandise trade deficit narrowed down from US\$ 264.90 billion in 2022-23 to US\$

241.14 billion in 2023-24. Merchandise trade deficit stood at US\$ 210.77 billion during April-December 2024 as compared to US\$ 189.74 billion during April-December 2023.

- ❖ A surplus of US\$ 162.75 billion was recorded in services trade for 2023-24, which is higher than the trade surplus of US\$ 143.28 billion in 2022-23. Services trade surplus estimated at US\$ 131.27 billion during April-December 2024 as compared to US\$ 120.07 billion during April-December 2023.

## Trade Balance

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Year	Overall Trade Balance	Merchandise Trade Balance	Services Trade Balance
1	2014-15	(-)61.17	(-)137.69	76.53
2	2015-16	(-)49.04	(-)118.72	69.68
3	2016-17	(-)40.16	(-)108.50	68.34
4	2017-18	(-)84.49	(-)162.05	77.56
5	2018-19	(-)102.06	(-)184.00	81.94
6	2019-20	(-)76.43	(-)161.35	84.92
7	2020-21	(-)14.06	(-)102.63	88.57
8	2021-22	(-)83.53	(-)191.05	107.52
9	2022-23	(-)121.62	(-)264.90	143.28
10	2023-24	(-)78.39	(-)241.14	162.75
	Apr-Dec 2023	(-)69.67	(-)189.74	120.07
	Apr-Dec 2024 (P)	(-)79.50	(-)210.77	131.27

Source: DGCI&amp;S and RBI, P stands for Provisional

## 5. MAJOR COMMODITIES OF EXPORT AND IMPORT

## Exports of Top 10 Principal Commodities in 2023-24

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Principal Commodity	2022-23	2023-24	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Petroleum Products	97.47	84.16	(-)13.66	19.25
2	Drug formulations, Biologicals	19.46	21.71	11.59	4.97
3	Pearl, precious, semi-precious stones	25.23	18.93	(-)24.99	4.33
4	Telecom instruments	12.85	17.26	34.31	3.95
5	Gold and other precious metal jewellery	12.35	13.31	7.74	3.05
6	Electric machinery and equipment	10.96	12.37	12.85	2.83
7	Iron and steel	13.40	11.86	(-)11.48	2.71
8	Products of iron and steel	9.77	9.89	1.27	2.26
9	Residual chemical and allied products	7.83	8.91	13.75	2.04
10	Motor vehicle/cars	8.72	8.25	(-)5.32	1.89
	<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>451.07</b>	<b>437.07</b>	<b>(-)3.10</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&amp;S

## Exports of Top 10 Principal Commodities in April-November 2024(P)

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Principal Commodity	Apr-Nov 2023	Apr-Nov 2024 (P)	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Petroleum products	55.02	44.09	(-)19.86	15.54
2	Drug formulations, biologicals	14.01	15.18	8.31	5.35
3	Telecom instruments	10.14	14.32	41.25	5.05
4	Pearl, precious, semi-precious stones	12.98	10.47	(-)19.29	3.69
5	Electric machinery and equipment	8.09	9.35	15.54	3.30
6	Gold and other precious metal jewellery	8.29	8.12	(-)2.04	2.86
7	Products of iron and steel	6.39	6.47	1.33	2.28
8	Iron and steel	7.53	6.20	(-)17.66	2.18
9	Motor vehicle/cars	5.60	5.90	5.40	2.08
10	Rmg cotton incl accessories	5.00	5.71	14.27	2.01
	<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>278.26</b>	<b>283.70</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&amp;S, P stands for provisional

## Imports of Top 10 Principal Commodities in 2023-24

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Principal Commodity	2022-23	2023-24	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Petroleum: crude	162.21	139.29	(-)14.13	20.54
2	Gold	35.02	45.54	30.06	6.72
3	Petroleum products	47.21	39.44	(-)16.45	5.82
4	Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc.	49.74	38.88	(-)21.82	5.73
5	Electronics components	25.13	34.36	36.76	5.07
6	Pearl, precious, semi-precious stones	30.70	23.83	(-)22.37	3.51
7	Iron and steel	17.72	18.65	5.23	2.75
8	Telecom instruments	16.38	18.46	12.69	2.72
9	Indl. Machinery for dairy etc.	15.08	16.49	9.39	2.43
10	Plastic raw materials	17.88	16.47	(-)7.90	2.43
	<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>715.97</b>	<b>678.21</b>	<b>(-)5.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCIS

## Imports of Top 10 Principal Commodities in April-November 2024 (P)

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Principal Commodity	Apr-Nov 2023	Apr-Nov 2024 (P)	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Petroleum: crude	89.81	95.06	5.84	20.12
2	Gold	32.93	37.39	13.55	7.91
3	Petroleum products	25.22	27.98	10.96	5.92
4	Electronics components	21.42	23.73	10.78	5.02
5	Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc.	25.84	22.14	(-)14.30	4.69
6	Telecom instruments	12.33	13.44	9.02	2.84
7	Computer hardware, peripherals	10.66	12.61	18.32	2.67
8	Vegetable oils	10.53	12.20	15.91	2.58
9	Indl. machinery for dairy etc.	10.78	12.11	12.29	2.56
10	Pearl, precious, semi-precious stones	15.23	11.97	(-)21.40	2.53
	<b>Total imports</b>	<b>449.24</b>	<b>472.53</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCIS, P stands for provisional

## 6. MAJOR EXPORT DESTINATIONS AND IMPORT SOURCES

## Top 10 Export Destinations of India in 2023-24

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Country	2022-23	2023-24	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	U S A	78.55	77.52	(-)1.31	17.74
2	U A E	31.61	35.63	12.71	8.15
3	Netherlands	21.62	22.37	3.46	5.12
4	China	15.33	16.67	8.70	3.81
5	Singapore	11.99	14.41	20.19	3.30
6	U K	11.46	12.98	13.30	2.97
7	Saudi Arab	10.73	11.56	7.75	2.64
8	Bangladesh	12.22	11.07	(-)9.41	2.53
9	Germany	10.14	9.84	(-)2.91	2.25
10	Italy	8.69	8.77	0.86	2.01
	<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>451.07</b>	<b>437.07</b>	<b>(-)3.10</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCIS

### Top 10 Export Destinations of India in April-November 2024 (P)

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Country	Apr-Nov 2023	Apr-Nov 2024 (P)	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	U S A	50.29	52.91	5.19	18.65
2	U A E	20.77	23.88	14.95	8.42
3	Netherland	13.46	16.31	21.15	5.75
4	U K	8.34	9.60	15.18	3.38
5	Singapore	7.81	9.40	20.37	3.31
6	China	10.28	9.21	(-)10.40	3.25
7	Saudi Arab	7.07	7.31	3.39	2.58
8	Bangladesh	7.01	7.08	1.01	2.50
9	Germany	6.29	6.83	8.57	2.41
10	Australia	5.87	5.51	(-)6.13	1.94
	<b>Total Exports</b>	<b>278.26</b>	<b>283.70</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&amp;S, P stands for provisional

### Top 10 Import Sources of India in 2023-24

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Country	2022-23	2023-24	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	China	98.51	101.74	3.28	15.00
2	Russia	46.21	61.16	32.34	9.02
3	U A E	53.23	48.03	(-)9.78	7.08
4	U S A	50.86	42.20	(-)17.04	6.22
5	Saudi Arab	42.04	31.42	(-)25.26	4.63
6	Iraq	34.39	29.96	(-)12.87	4.42
7	Indonesia	28.82	23.41	(-)18.77	3.45
8	Switzerland	15.79	21.25	34.53	3.13
9	Singapore	23.60	21.20	(-)10.15	3.13
10	Korea Rp	21.23	21.14	(-)0.43	3.12
	<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>715.97</b>	<b>678.21</b>	<b>(-)5.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&amp;S

### Top 10 Import Sources of India in April-November 2024 (P)

(Values in US\$ billion)

S. No	Country	Apr-Nov 2023	Apr-Nov 2024 (P)	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	China	68.02	74.42	9.41	15.75
2	Russia	40.20	43.91	9.21	9.29
3	U A E	27.83	40.14	44.22	8.50
4	U S A	29.34	29.63	0.97	6.27
5	Saudi Arab	20.47	19.62	(-)4.15	4.15
6	Iraq	19.10	19.05	(-)0.23	4.03
7	Indonesia	15.40	16.20	5.17	3.43
8	Switzerland	15.54	15.45	(-)0.59	3.27
9	Korea Rp	14.41	14.26	(-)1.02	3.02
10	Singapore	14.52	13.91	(-)4.22	2.94
	<b>Total Imports</b>	<b>449.24</b>	<b>472.53</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&amp;S, P stands for provisional

## 7. TRENDS IN REGIONAL EXPORTS

Over the period from FY 2015 to FY 2024, there has been a noticeable shift in India's regional exports.

The export shift across different regions is shown in the following table.

### Region-wise Exports

(Values in US\$ billion)

Region	2014-15	2018-19	2022-23	2023-24	Apr-Nov 2024 (P)	Share in 2014-15	Share in 2023-24	Share in Apr-Nov 2024 (P)
NAFTA	47.52	59.12	87.85	86.69	59.54	15.31	19.83	20.99
EU	40.18	47.87	74.85	75.94	50.66	12.95	17.37	17.86
West Asia- GCC	49.30	41.62	51.31	56.32	36.63	15.88	12.89	12.91
ASEAN	31.81	37.48	44.00	41.21	27.36	10.25	9.43	9.65
NE Asia	37.82	41.98	40.02	38.36	22.32	12.19	8.78	7.87
South Asia	20.48	25.35	28.03	25.62	16.32	6.60	5.86	5.75
Other European Countries	14.86	14.97	21.57	21.00	13.66	4.79	4.80	4.81
Latin America	11.53	9.74	17.71	14.50	10.00	3.71	3.32	3.52
West Africa	6.98	7.70	17.73	12.84	8.23	2.25	2.94	2.9
East Africa	10.15	7.38	11.07	11.40	6.82	3.27	2.61	2.4
East Asia (Oceania)	3.22	4.03	7.71	8.69	6.11	1.04	1.99	2.15
Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	5.53	4.38	8.92	9.30	5.54	1.78	2.13	1.95
Other West Asia	11.19	10.76	16.46	11.85	5.46	3.60	2.71	1.92
North Africa	5.71	5.89	8.35	7.21	4.48	1.84	1.65	1.58
Other CIS Countries	2.79	3.02	3.76	4.87	3.89	0.90	1.11	1.37
Other South African Countries	3.21	1.86	3.57	3.09	1.56	1.04	0.71	0.55
European Free Trade Association (EFTA)	1.35	1.53	1.93	1.94	1.29	0.44	0.44	0.45
Central Africa	1.25	1.34	1.57	1.49	0.90	0.40	0.34	0.32
CARs Countries	0.60	0.44	0.91	0.74	0.61	0.19	0.17	0.22
<b>India's Total Exports</b>	<b>310.34</b>	<b>330.08</b>	<b>451.07</b>	<b>437.07</b>	<b>283.70</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

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

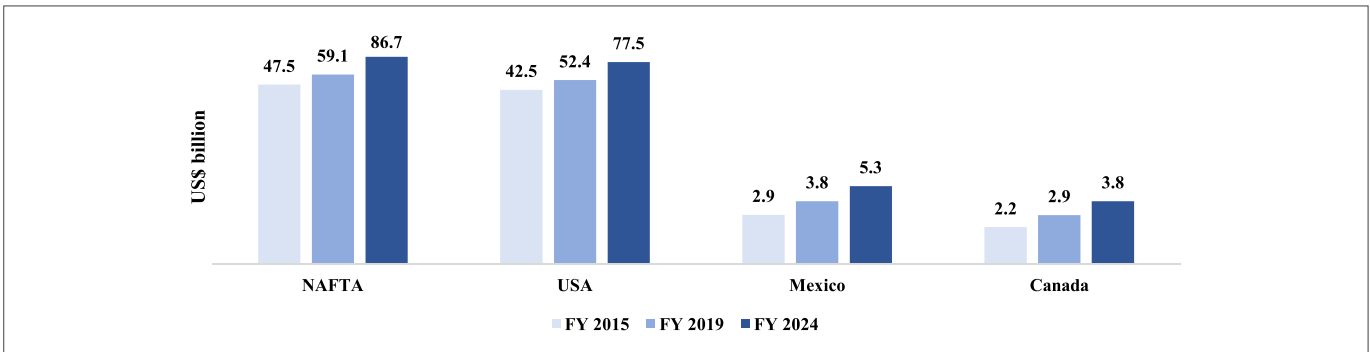
The top five regions, where significant increase in export share observed between FY 2015 and FY 2024, are discussed below in detail:

### (A) NAFTA

Between FY 2015 and FY 2024, there was a considerable increase in India's integration with NAFTA countries, particularly the United States. The

export share going to NAFTA has climbed from 15.31 per cent in FY 2015 to 19.83 per cent in FY 2024, with export values rising from US\$ 47.52 billion to US\$ 86.69 billion during the same period. The USA is the biggest driver of India's exports to this region, with its share increasing from 13.68 per cent to 17.74 per cent in India's exports during this period.

### Exports to NAFTA



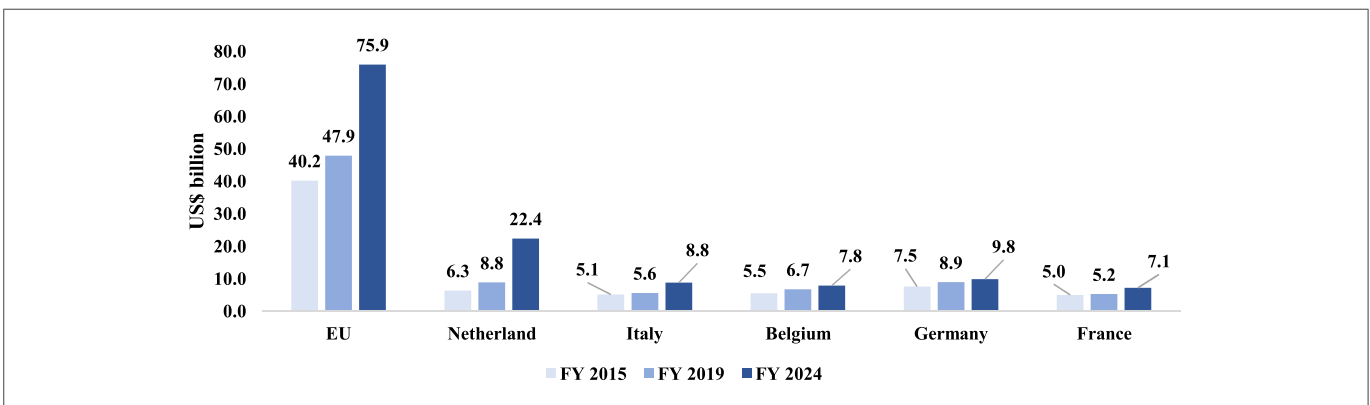
Source: DGCI&S

### (B) European Union

European Union’s share in India’s exports has increased significantly, from 12.95 per cent in FY 2015 to 17.37 per cent in FY 2024. In terms of value, India’s exports to the EU rose from US\$ 40.2 billion to US\$ 75.9 billion. When looking at specific nations, India’s

export share to the Netherlands has climbed from 2 per cent to 5.1 per cent, showing a stronger trading partnership with this EU member. India’s export share to Italy increased marginally from 1.6 per cent to 2 per cent during the same reference period. However, the export shares of other countries have remained relatively unchanged.

### Exports to European Union



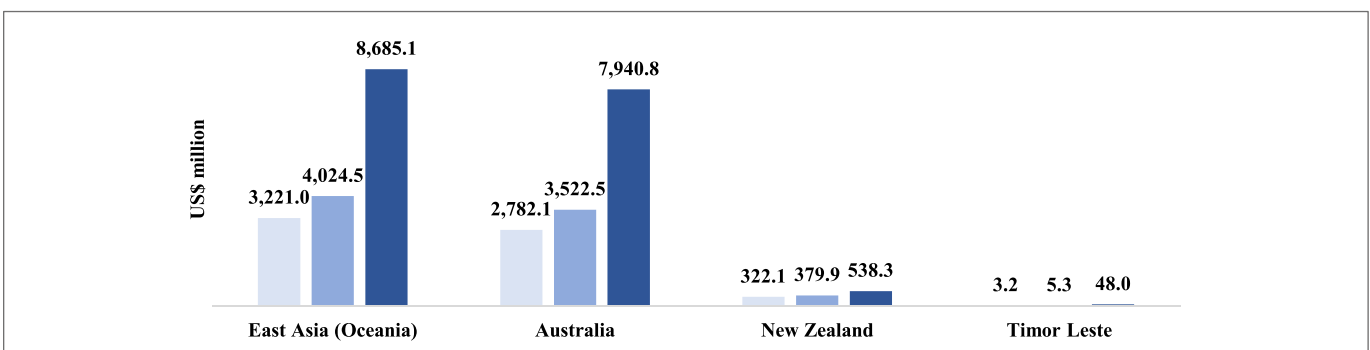
Source: DGCI&S

### (C) East Asia (Oceania)

India’s exports to East Asia surged significantly during the last decade, from US\$ 3.22 billion in FY 2015 to US\$ 8.69 billion in FY 2024. East Asia’s export share in India’s exports increased from 1.04 per cent to 1.99

per cent between FY 2015 and FY 2024. Australia, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste are the main drivers of this increase in this region. The following graph depicts the export growth in East Asia and its driving countries during the last decade.

### Exports to East Asia (Oceania)



Source: DGCI&S

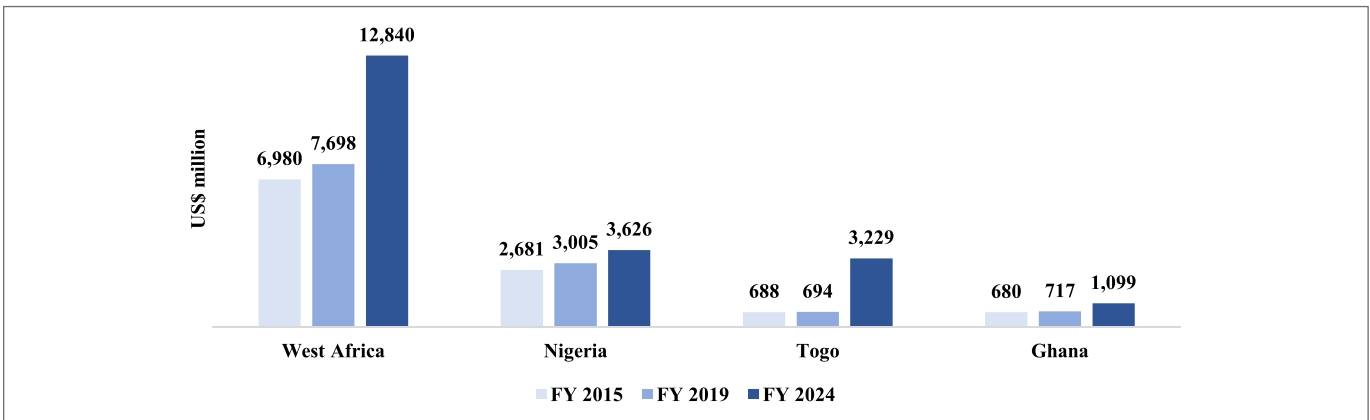
It is interesting to note that, the export growth in Timor Leste was highest, at a rate of 1382.1 per cent between FY 2015 and FY 2024.

**(D) West Africa**

Between FY 2015 and FY 2024, India’s integration with West African countries, particularly Nigeria and Togo, increased significantly. The export share

of West Africa in India’s exports has climbed from 2.25 per cent in FY 2015 to 2.94 per cent in FY 2024, with export values rising from US\$ 6.98 billion to US\$ 12.84 billion in the same period. Nigeria, Togo, and Ghana are the primary countries pushing India’s exports to this region. Togo experienced the greatest gain in export share, from 9.9 per cent in FY 2015 to 25.1 per cent in FY 2024.

**Exports to West Africa**



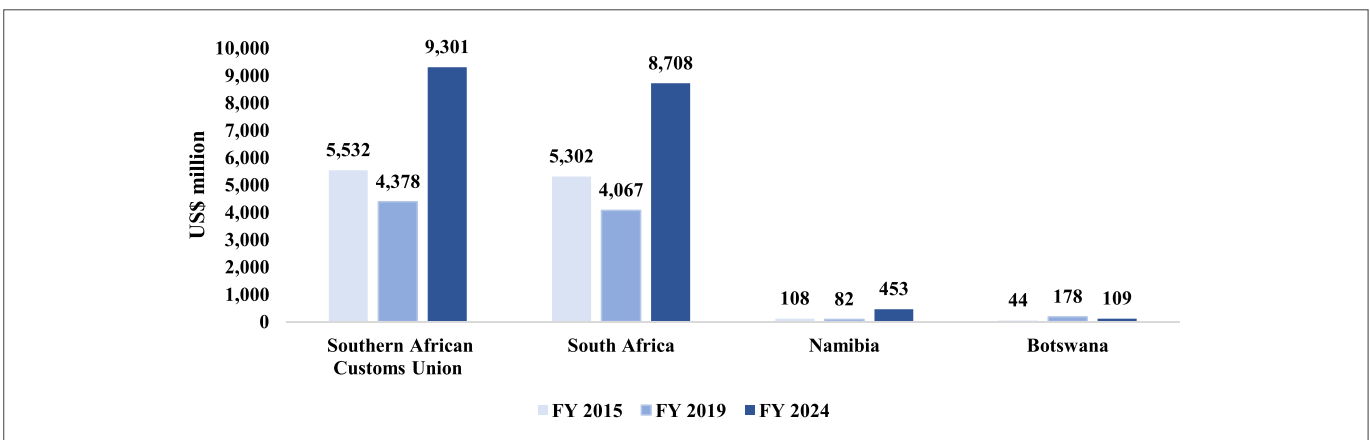
Source: DGCIS

**(E) Southern African Customs Union (SACU)**

India’s exports to SACU countries have increased by 68 per cent between FY 2015 and FY 2024. The export value has climbed from US\$ 5.53 billion in FY

2015 to US\$ 9.3 billion in FY 2024. As a result, the share of India’s exports going to SACU climbed from 1.78 per cent to 2.13 per cent during the same period. South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana are the primary countries driving India’s exports to the region.

**Exports to SACU**



Source: DGCIS

**8. COMMODITIES COMPOSITION IN INDIA’S EXPORT BASKET**

From 2014-15 to 2023-24, India’s exports grew significantly, with Electronic Goods leading the way in terms of share followed by Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Engineering Goods, Drugs &

Pharmaceuticals and Petroleum Products. The share of Electronic Goods in India’s merchandise exports increased by 4.65 per cent (from 2.02 per cent in 2014-15 to 6.66 per cent in 2023-24). The export shift across different QE commodities is shown in the following table.

## QE Commodity-wise Exports

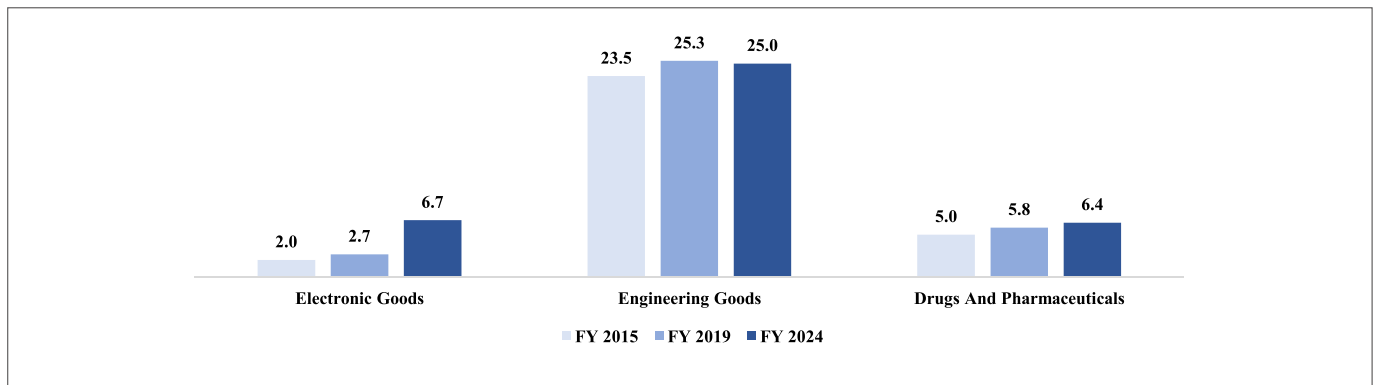
(Values in US\$ billion)

QE Commodity	2014-15	2018-19	2022-23	2023-24	Apr-Dec 2024 (P)	Share in 2014-15	Share in 2023-24	Share in Apr-Dec 2024 (P)
Engineering goods	73.07	83.62	107.04	109.30	87.22	23.55	25.01	27.11
Petroleum products	56.79	46.55	97.47	84.16	49.01	18.30	19.25	15.23
Electronic goods	6.26	8.83	23.55	29.12	26.12	2.02	6.66	8.12
Gems and jewellery	41.27	40.25	37.96	32.71	21.36	13.30	7.48	6.64
Drugs and pharmaceuticals	15.43	19.15	25.39	27.85	21.70	4.97	6.37	6.74
Organic and inorganic chemicals	14.43	22.38	30.34	29.38	21.24	4.65	6.72	6.60
Others	17.46	18.71	29.39	24.22	18.35	5.63	5.54	5.70
Rmg of all textiles	16.83	16.14	16.19	14.53	11.32	5.42	3.32	3.52
Cotton yarn/fabs./madeups, handloom products etc.	10.77	11.22	10.95	11.68	8.91	3.47	2.67	2.77
Rice	7.85	7.75	11.14	10.42	8.73	2.53	2.38	2.71
Plastic and linoleum	5.75	8.61	8.37	8.09	6.70	1.85	1.85	2.08
Marine products	5.51	6.80	8.08	7.37	5.68	1.78	1.69	1.76
Man-made yarn/fabs./madeups etc.	5.28	4.98	4.95	4.68	3.61	1.70	1.07	1.12
Mica, coal and other ores, minerals including process	3.90	4.25	5.16	4.68	3.52	1.26	1.07	1.09
Meat, dairy and poultry products	5.39	4.36	4.03	4.53	3.65	1.74	1.04	1.13
Leather and leather manufactures	6.03	5.14	4.75	4.28	3.31	1.94	0.98	1.03
Spices	2.43	3.32	3.79	4.25	3.16	0.78	0.97	0.98
Ceramic products and glassware	1.64	2.65	3.74	4.28	3.00	0.53	0.98	0.93
Fruits and vegetables	2.15	2.54	3.21	3.66	2.66	0.69	0.84	0.83
Cereal preparations and miscellaneous processed item	1.26	1.56	2.62	2.85	2.30	0.41	0.65	0.72
Iron ore	0.52	1.32	1.80	3.91	1.49	0.17	0.90	0.46
Tobacco	0.96	0.98	1.21	1.45	1.53	0.31	0.33	0.48
Handicrafts excl. Hand made carpet	1.38	1.84	1.69	1.80	1.32	0.44	0.41	0.41

QE Commodity	2014-15	2018-19	2022-23	2023-24	Apr-Dec 2024 (P)	Share in 2014-15	Share in 2023-24	Share in Apr-Dec 2024 (P)
Coffee	0.81	0.82	1.15	1.29	1.25	0.26	0.29	0.39
Carpet	1.36	1.48	1.37	1.40	1.15	0.44	0.32	0.36
Oil meals	1.32	1.51	1.60	1.71	1.02	0.43	0.39	0.32
Oil seeds	1.74	1.16	1.34	1.44	1.01	0.56	0.33	0.31
Tea	0.68	0.83	0.82	0.83	0.69	0.22	0.19	0.21
Jute mfg. Including floor covering	0.30	0.32	0.44	0.34	0.28	0.10	0.08	0.09
Cashew	0.91	0.65	0.36	0.34	0.25	0.29	0.08	0.08
Other cereals	0.87	0.35	1.19	0.52	0.19	0.28	0.12	0.06
<b>India's Total Exports</b>	<b>310.35</b>	<b>330.08</b>	<b>451.07</b>	<b>437.07</b>	<b>321.71</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: DGCI&S, P stands for provisional

#### Share of QE commodities with significant increase in share in India's total exports over the years (%)



Source: DGCI&S.

# 4

## Chapter

### **FOREIGN TRADE POLICY AND MAJOR SCHEMES**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for the period 2015-20 was replaced by a new Foreign Trade Policy in 2023. The new Foreign Trade Policy came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, following extensive discussions and consideration of suggestions received from Export Promotion Councils, leading exporters, and industry bodies, given the prevailing volatile global economic and geopolitical scenarios. The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 continues time-tested WTO-compatible schemes that facilitate exports and is designed to be nimble and responsive to trade needs.

The policy includes the Foreign Trade Policy, Handbook of Procedures, Appendices, and Aayat-Niryat forms etc. While the FTP sets out the policies and schemes for imports and exports, the Handbook of Procedures

outlines the procedures to be followed by exporters, importers, licensing/regional authorities, or any relevant authority for implementing the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy.

India has graduated from the list of Annex VII(b) of the WTO's Subsidies and Countervailing Measures Agreement, therefore, now the thrust in the new FTP 2023 is towards WTO-compatible initiatives and schemes for creating an enabling ecosystem that supports the philosophy of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (self-reliant India) and promotes local products globally. FTP 2023 also emphasizes the need for collaborative partnerships with State Governments to promote exports at the District level through awareness campaigns, capacity building, outreach programs, and infrastructure upgrades.



**Release of FTP-2023**

## 2. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY OBJECTIVE

Various initiatives undertaken by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the Department of Commerce to boost exports from India are guided by the ideals, principles, and policies

articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. These initiatives include opening new sectors for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), improving the business environment, removing regulatory barriers, recognizing startups, and introducing schemes like

the Production Linked Incentive Scheme to enhance production, attract investments, and create jobs.

The aim of the new FTP 2023 initiatives is to establish a predictable and equitable environment, promote best and sustainable trade practices, achieve deeper, wider, and more value-added penetration into global markets, enhance efficiency and ease of doing business by reducing transaction costs, and integrate India into the global value chains. The Government intends to introduce groundbreaking reforms to strengthen relations with different countries, setting a robust foundation to achieve its strategic vision of becoming a global export hub.

FTP 2023 is dynamic and evolutionary and has been formulated based on WTO rules looking at the needs of trade and industry. Efforts have been made to streamline the closure/regularization of old pending cases under Amnesty.

FTP 2023 focuses on process re-engineering and automation to facilitate ease of doing business for exporters. It also prioritizes emerging areas such as dual-use high-end technology items under the Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment, and Technologies (SCOMET) category, collaboration with States and Districts for export promotion, and facilitating e-commerce exports.

### 3. MAJOR SCHEMES

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

- ❖ Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) creates a mechanism for reimbursement of taxes/duties/levies, which are currently not being refunded under any other mechanism, at the central, state and local level, but which are incurred in the process of manufacture and distribution of exported products. The major component of such taxes is electricity duty and VAT on fuels used in transportation/distribution.
- ❖ The RoDTEP Scheme is being implemented by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue in an end-to-end IT environment.

- ❖ The schedule of eligible export items under RoDTEP is notified under Appendix 4R which contains 10,642 eligible export items (HS lines at 8-digit level) and their corresponding rates of remission.
- ❖ RoDTEP scheme operates under a budgetary framework and Rs. 17,951 crore has been allocated for implementing the scheme in FY 2024-25 as per RBE 2024-25. Under RoDTEP scheme, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 till November 2024, the benefit of Rs. 53,549 crore has been granted to the exporters.

#### (B) 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. A brief of these schemes is given below:

##### (i) Advance Authorization (AA) Scheme

Advance Authorization (AA) is a WTO-compliant duty exemption scheme detailed under Chapter 4 of the New Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. AA scheme allows duty-free import of inputs, which are physically incorporated or used in the making of the export product. Under the 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 of 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 the DFIA Scheme operational from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 the 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 2015-20.

### (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 the demand raised by the industry, findings like posts, pushbacks, and 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, the Advance authorisation scheme for the import of precious metals for exports of gold medallions and coins and fully mechanized jewellery has been discontinued.

### (iv) Issuance of Authorization under Duty Remission Schemes

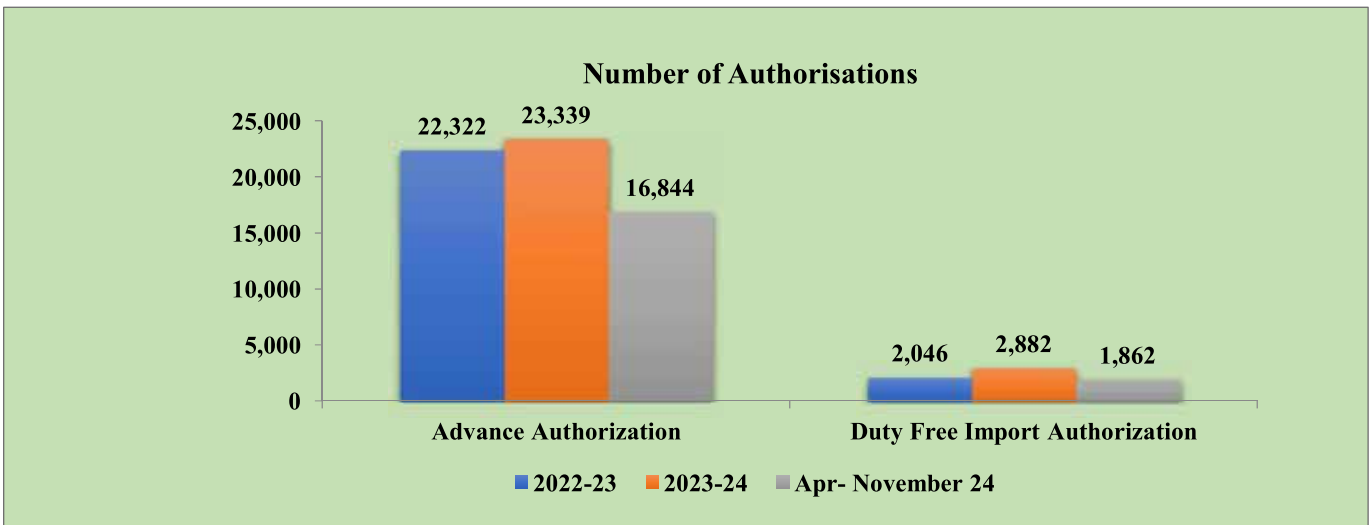
Authorizations are issued under the various schemes, viz., Advance Authorization and Duty-Free Import Authorization (DFIA). Details of number of authorizations issued, CIF value of imports and FOB value of exports under various schemes during 2022-23, 2023-24 and April-November, 2024-25 are given in the following table:

*(Values in Rs. crore)*

Duty Remission Schemes		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (April- November 2024)
Advance Authorization	Number of Authorization	22,322	23,339	16,844
	CIF Value of Imports	2,48,599	2,95,269	183,825
	FOB Value of Exports	5,01,528	5,09,346	308,845
Duty Free Import Authorization (DFIA)	Number of Authorization	2,046	2,882	1,862
	CIF Value of Imports	5,442	8,023	5,718
	FOB Value of Exports	7,277	12,313	6,487

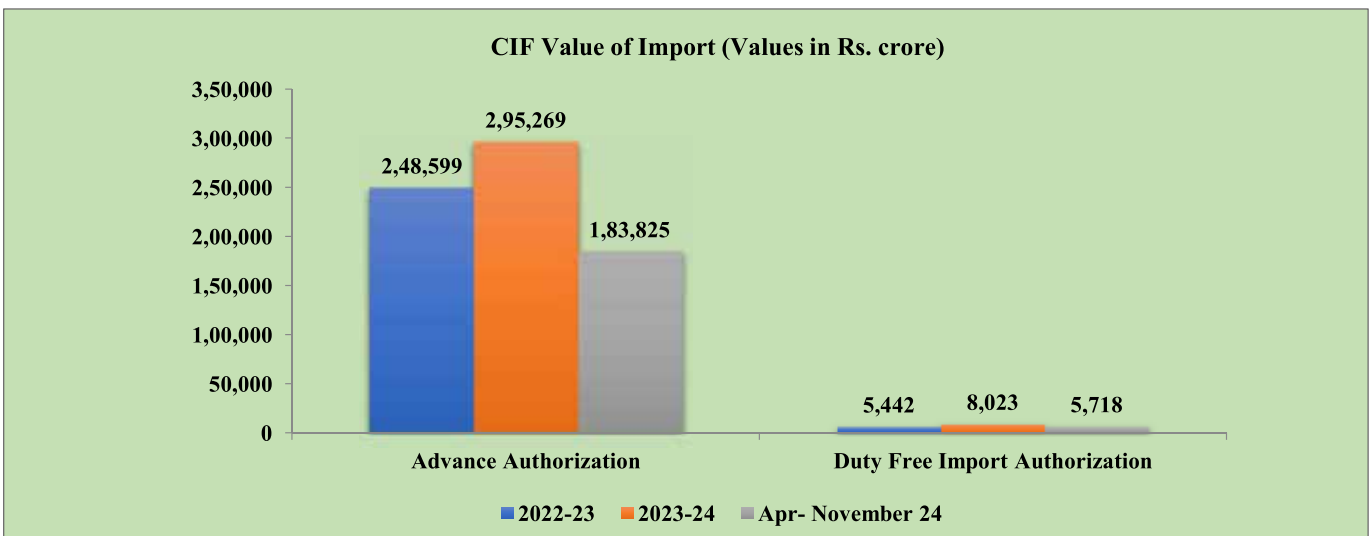
Following figure depicts the number of authorizations issued under various export promotion schemes

during 2022-23, 2023-24 and April-November 2024-25.



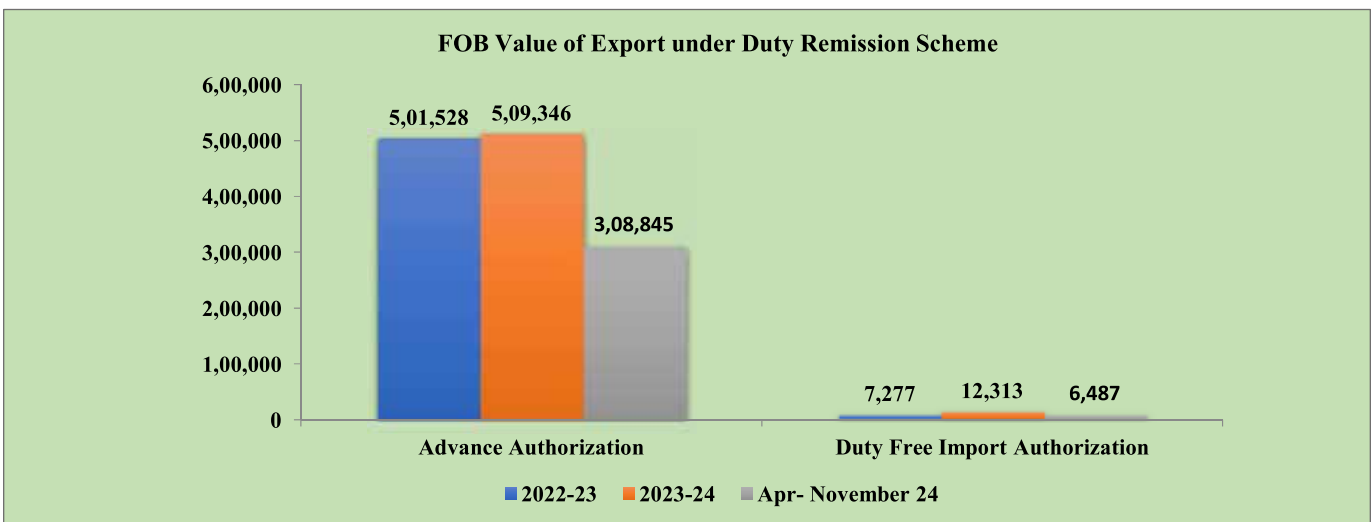
Following figure depicts the CIF value of import under various export promotion schemes during 2022-23,

2023-24 and April-November 2024-25.



Following figure depicts the FOB value of export under various export promotion schemes during

2022-23, 2023-24 and April-November 2024-25.



Following figure depicts the percentage share of various export promotion schemes in issuance of total number of scrips during April-November 2024-25. It shows that the highest share of 49.00 per cent

scrips was issued under AA Scheme during April-November 2024-25 followed by EPCG scheme with 35.06 per cent.



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

- ❖ Capital Goods as defined in Chapter 11 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. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme also covers a service provider who is certified as a Common Service Provider (CSP) by the DGFT – HQs, Department of Commerce in a Town of Export Excellence or Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Region and apparel Parks (PM MITRA).

Import under EPCG Scheme shall be subject to an Export Obligation (EO) 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 Authorisation. EO shall be fulfilled by the Authorisation holder through export of goods which are manufactured by him, or his supporting manufacturer / service rendered by him, for which the EPCG authorisation 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. EO may be fulfilled both by physical exports as well as deemed exports. Deemed export supplies shall also be eligible for benefits available under paragraph 7.03 of FTP.

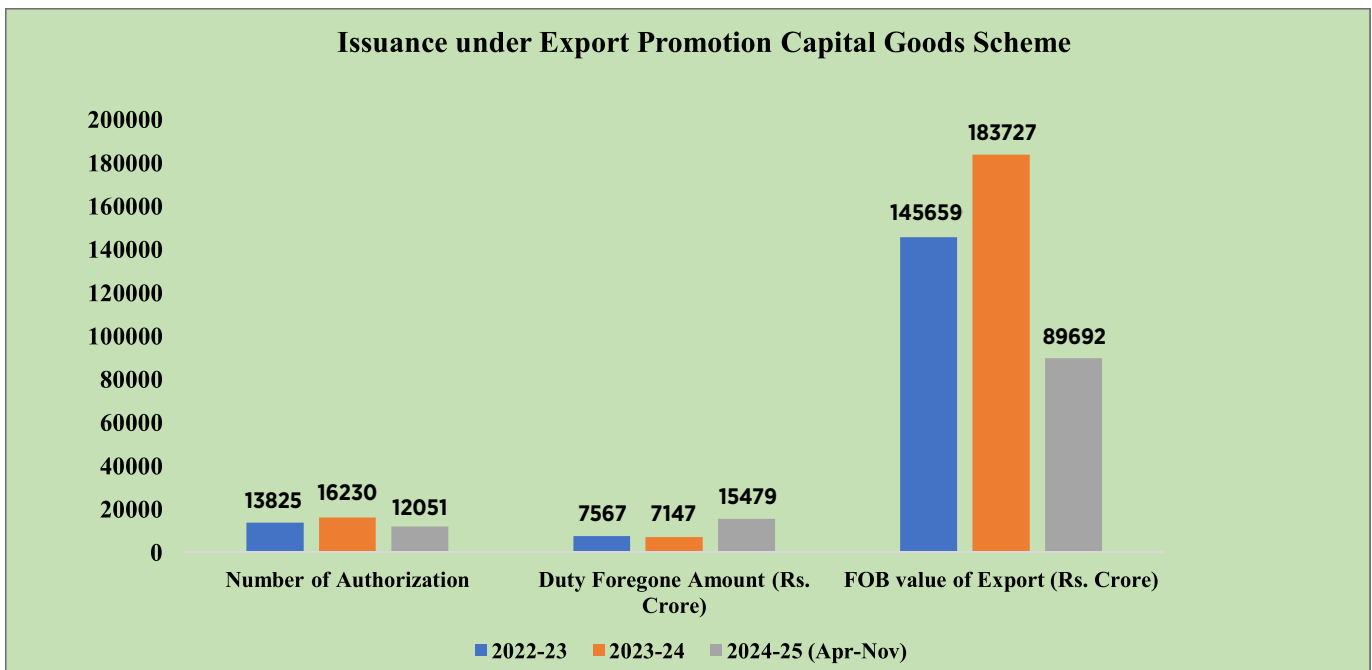
With a view to accelerating exports, in cases where Authorisation holder has fulfilled 75 per cent or more of specific export obligation and 100 per cent of Average Export Obligation till date, if any, in half or less than half the original export obligation period specified, remaining export obligation shall be condoned. For exporters of Green Technology Products, Specific EO shall be 75 per cent of EO as stipulated. For manufacturing units located in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, specific EO shall be 25 per cent of the EO.

In the FTP, 2023, Dairy sector has been exempted from maintaining Average Export Obligation. The PM MITRA scheme has been added as an additional scheme eligible to claim benefits under CSP Scheme of EPCG. Further, Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) of all types, Vertical Farming equipment, Wastewater Treatment and Recycling, Rainwater harvesting system and Rainwater Filters, and Green Hydrogen are added to Green Technology products i.e. they will be eligible for reduced Export Obligation requirement.

Details of the Authorization issued under EPCG Scheme for the years 2022-23 and 2023-24, and 2024-25 (April-November) are given in the table as follow:

**(Values in Rs. crore)**

<b>Issuance under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme</b>			
<b>Years</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25 (Apr-Nov)</b>
Number of Authorization	13825	16230	12,051
Duty Foregone Amount	7567	7147	15,479
FOB value of Export	145659	183727	89,692



### (E) 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, and attract investment for export production and employment generation. The units undertaking to export their entire production of goods and services [except permissible sales in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA)], may be 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. An Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/Electronics Hardware and Technology Park (EHTP)/Software Technology Park (STP)/Bio-Technology Park (BTP) unit may export all kinds of goods and services except items that are prohibited in Indian Trade Classification based on Harmonized System (ITC-HS). EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP unit shall be a positive net foreign exchange

earner. Entire production of EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP units shall be exported, but some exemptions are allowed subject to the conditions specified in FTP/HBP.

The EOUs can also procure excisable goods, falling in fourth schedule of Central Excise Act, 1944 from DTA either under exemption or under refund route. Supplies from DTA to EOU/EHTP/STP/BTP units for use in their manufacture for exports are eligible for “Deemed Export benefits under Chapter 7 of Foreign Trade Policy”. 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. 72 crore allocated for the FY 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 58.77 crore has been utilized till November 2024.

### (F) Deemed Exports

Deemed exports are those transactions/supplies in which goods supplied do not leave the country and payment for such supplies is received either in Indian rupees or in free foreign exchange. The deemed export scheme is one of the effective instruments to incentivize domestic production-led exports and provide a level playing field to domestic manufacturers in certain specified cases, strengthen domestic production and boost economic activities, develop the skills of domestic human resources (Make in India) and generate employment.

**(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) Categories of Supply eligible for Duty Drawback on Deemed Exports**

- ❖ Supply of inputs against Advance Authorization through Advance Release Order (ARO) route - Drawback is refunded only if an ARO has been issued under the Advance Authorization making the Authorisation invalid for direct import and allowing procurement indigenously (domestic market).
- ❖ Supply of goods (inputs/capital goods) to Export Oriented Units/Software Technology Parks/Electronics Hardware Technology Parks/Biotechnology Parks for which only drawback is refunded.
- ❖ Supply of capital goods sourced from indigenous supplier (through invalidation, if no Advance Authorisation is taken against invalidation) under EPCG Authorisation for which drawback is refunded.
- ❖ Supply of goods to projects financed by multilateral or bilateral Agencies under International Competitive Bidding (ICB), turnkey contracts, Projects under Customs Notification No. 50/2017-Customs dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Projects under United Nations or International organization and nuclear power projects through National Competitive Bidding or ICB.

**(iii) Refund under Drawback and Terminal Excise Duty (TED) for deemed exports**

- ❖ Exports are zero rated supplies as no

taxes and duties are imposed. This is done to ensure that the exports are not burdened with taxes & duties, and can compete in the international market. Similarly, the deemed exports are also zero rated, and to ensure this universal principle, the taxes and duties imposed on inputs/capital goods etc. supplied under deemed exports are either exempted or refunded.

- ❖ Zero rating of deemed exports under the scheme of Drawback/TED, wherever exemption is not allowed, the refund of custom duty and central excise duty (as per Schedule 4 of Central Excise Act, 1944) paid on such supplies is refunded through the route of All Industry Rate (AIR) drawback fixed by Department of Revenue (DoR) or under the Brand Rate fixation route.
- ❖ After introduction of GST regime, only few items (such as fuel) attract Central Excise Duty (as per Schedule 4 of Central Excise Act, 1944) for which TED refund is provided. For refund of drawback and TED, apart from provisions of Chapter-7 of FTP/HBP, the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 1995 as amended in 2017 are also applicable.

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 total amount of Rs. 150 crore allocated for the financial year 2022-23, an amount of Rs 20.12 crore was utilized from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- ❖ Out of the total amount of Rs. 140 crore allocated for the financial year 2023-24, full amount of Rs. 140 crore has been utilized till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- ❖ Out of the amount of Rs. 130 crore allocated for the financial year 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 56.10 crore has been utilized till November 2024.

#### 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 2024 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> 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 December 2017, a Monthly Bulletin on 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 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>. Data Analytics Unit (DAU), Statistics Division, DGFT has developed two Dashboards namely Monitoring Dashboard of Department of Commerce and Data Analytics Dashboard.

#### 5. TARGET SETTING AND MONITORING FOR MERCHANDISE EXPORT 2024-25

India's merchandise export amounted to US\$ 281.97 billion during the period April-November for the year 2024-25. Further, for the FY April-November (2024-25) the export of US\$ 281.97 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 close monitoring at all levels, supported by

export promotion measures, Merchandise exports from India crossed US\$ 400 billion in last three consecutive years and managed to break the barrier of US\$ 330 billion which was the highest in the past.

With close monitoring by country/region/mission/products/commodity groups/Export Promotion Councils at different levels, supported by export promotion measures, in the April-November (2024-25), India has achieved exports of US\$ 281.97 billion, which is 60.2 per cent of the provisional export target of US\$ 468.23 billion.

In addition, 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, a portal-NIRYAT (National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade) has been developed and 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.

#### 6. 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.

## 7. MATTERS RELATED TO EXPORTS

### (A) Districts as Export Hubs

The Department of Commerce through the 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 AtmaNirbhar 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 the 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 Centre, 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 SEPC and DEPC has

been constituted in all 36 States/UTs. District Action Plans drafted for 590 districts. Products/Services with export potential identified in 734 Districts.

### (B) Rupee Trade

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has amended the Foreign Trade Policy vide Notification No. 33/2015-20 dated 16<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Further changes have been introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy vide DGFT Notification 43/2015-20 dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Public Notice 35/2015-20 dated 9<sup>th</sup> November 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. The issue relating to Payments and Receipts on Imports/Exports have been detailed under Para 2.52 and 2.53 of Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.

### Merchanting Trade

As per Para 2.39 of Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, Merchanting Trade involving shipment of goods from one foreign country to another foreign country without touching Indian ports, or shipment of goods within one specific foreign country, involving an Indian intermediary is allowed subject to compliance with RBI guidelines, except for goods/items in the CITES and SCOMET list.

### (C) New Foreign Trade Policy

The New Foreign Trade Policy has come into force w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 after series of discussion and consideration of suggestions received requests from Export Promotion Councils, leading exporters, and industry bodies that in view of the prevailing, volatile global economic and geo-political scenario. The Foreign Trade Policy 2023 is a continuation of time-tested schemes facilitating exports as well as a document that is nimble and responsive to trade

needs. The Government plans to focus on introducing path breaking reforms to strengthen its relations with different countries, which will help in setting a robust foundation to achieve its strategic vision of becoming an export hub globally.

#### **(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 dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Board of Trade, inter alia, advises the Government on policy measures connected with the Foreign Trade Policy 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<sup>th</sup> September 2024. 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 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, trade remedial, trade facilitation measures undertaken by customs, Government e-Marketplace etc. Hon'ble Commerce &

Industry Minister launched e-Platform "Initiative for Trade Connect Platform" during the meeting.

Ministers from states made interventions in the meeting, giving their state-specific suggestions, and 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 controls list of the international conventions and obligation 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 Chemical, Organisms, Material, Equipment and Technologies) is India's National Export Control List of dual use items munitions and nuclear related 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 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 SCOMET list was also updated in August 2023 as per the recent changes incorporated under various export control regimes. The provisions to control the dual use items have been incorporated in Chapter IV A 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 applications 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), General Authorisation for export of Droned (GAED), Repeat Order Authorisation, Stock and Sale Policy, General Authorization for Export of Telecommunication-related items under SCOMET Category 8A5 Part 1 (GAET), General Authorization for Export of Information Security items (GAEIS) under SCOMET Category 8A5 Part 2 and relevant amendments made under these General Authorizations to expand the scope of these policies for liberalizing exports of SCOMET items.

Multiple sector specific outreach events have also been organized in the past 1 year in different parts of the country focusing on sensitizing Indian Exporters regarding India's export control compliance and relevant SCOMET regulations. Recently, A National Conference on Strategic Trade Controls (NCSTC), was organized focusing on India's Strategic Trade Control (Export control) system and International best practices for export of dual-use goods and technologies.

#### **(F) Export Authorization for Restricted Items**

The Export Cell deals with Export Policy of various items under Schedule 2 of ITC(HS) Classification for Export and Import, categorized as "Free", "Restricted" or "Prohibited". 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 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 Export Authorisation.

#### **(i) Facilitative measures to boost exports**

- (a) Export Policy of Onions under ITC HS Code 07031019 was notified from 'Prohibited' to "Free" subject to MEP of USD 550/MT. Later the MEP was removed amending export policy as "Free". Export of additional 10000 MTs of onion to UAE was allowed through NCEL under G2G request.

- (b) Export of essential commodities such as eggs, potatoes, onions, rice, wheat flour, sugar, dal, in the prescribed quantity was allowed and Export of stone aggregate and river sand was allowed through CAPEXIL to Maldives. Further, export of these commodities was notified to be permitted through 6 Custom Stations namely- Mundra, Tuticorin, Nhava Sheva (JNPT), ICD Tughlakabad, Kandala & Vishakhapatnam Sea Ports.
- (c) The time period for export of Broken Rice to Senegal & Gambia for the quantity notified vide Notification No. 46/2023 dated 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 has been further extended till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- (d) The policy condition of Non-Basmati & Basmati rice under ITC HS Code 10062000, 10063010, 10063090, 10064000 & 10063020 was revised as:
  - i. Export to EU Member States and European countries, namely United Kingdom, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland permitted subject to issuance of certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council/Export Inspection Agency
  - ii. Certificate of Inspection by Export Inspection Council/Export Inspection Agency shall not be mandatory for export to remaining European countries with effect from the date of Notification for a period of 6 months.
- (e) Export Policy of Non- Basmati White Rice having ITCHS Code 1006 30 90 was notified on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 from "Prohibited" to "Free" subject to MEP of USD 490/MT. Later, the condition of MEP was also removed on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 allowing export of non-basmati rice without any restriction. During the period of prohibition, export quota for 1000 MTs Kala Namak Rice under ITCHS Code 10063090 was allotted, export of

- 14,000 MT of non-Basmati white rice was permitted to Mauritius, 200000 MT of non-Basmati white rice to Malaysia and 1,000 MT of non-Basmati white rice to each of Namibia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, all facilitated through NCEL.
- (f) The Export Policy of De-oiled Rice Bran under chapter 23024000, 23069019, 23069029, 23069090 was notified from 'Free' to "Prohibited" till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- (g) Allocation of 8606 MTRV of raw cane sugar to USA under TRQ Scheme for Fiscal Year 2025 and allocation of 5841 MTs of Sugar for EU for the year 2024-25 (October 2024-September 2025) was notified.
- (h) The Export of red sanders wood by MoEF&CC (Government of Odisha) was re-notified for further 12 months i.e till 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.
- (i) The policy condition for cough syrup under Chapter 30 was revised as:
- i. Cough Syrup shall be permitted to be exported subject to the export sample being tested and production of Certificate of Analysis (CoA) issued by any of the following laboratories:
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
  - CDL, Kolkata, West Bengal
  - CDTL, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
  - CDTL, Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - CDTL, Hyderabad, Telangana
  - RDTL, Chandigarh
  - RDTL, Guwahati, Assam
  - Any NABL accredited State Drugs Testing Laboratory
- Bee Pharmo Labs Pvt. Ltd Thane, C2 Hatkesh Udyog Nagar, Mira Bhayander Road, Mira Road (East), Thane-401107, Maharashtra
  - Oasis Test House, 24-A, B Sardar Patel, Industrial Estate, Narol, Ahmedabad-382407, Gujarat
  - Shriram Institute of Industrial Research (A unit of Shriram Scientific and Industrial Research Foundation), 19-University Road, New Delhi-110007
- ii. In case, the manufacturers are exporting the Cough Syrup to USA, UK, Canada, EU, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Republic of Korea and Switzerland, the requirement of testing from the laboratories mentioned at (i) above may be waived off, in view of approval granted by these countries' regulatory agencies for plant/section engaged in manufacturing and export of Cough Syrup.
- iii. Further, if Cough Syrup is manufactured in a plant/section approved by regulatory agencies for above mentioned countries at (ii) for any product, such Cough Syrup shall be permitted to be exported to any country without testing as mandated at (i) above.
- (j) While streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products, new policy condition 08 under Chapter 02 and policy condition No. 02 under Chapter 16 of the Schedule II of the Export Policy are inserted against ITCHS Codes 02013000, 02023000, 02041000, 02042100, 02042200, 02042300, 02043000, 02044100,

02044200, 02044300, 02045000,  
02061000, 02062100, 02062200,  
02062900, 02068010, 02068090,  
02069010, 02069090, 16021000,  
16025000& 16029000 as-

- i. Specified Meat and meat products shall be allowed to be exported as Halal certified to the countries listed below, only if such products are produced or processed and/or packaged in a facility certified under the “India Conformity Assessment Scheme(I-CAS)-Halal” of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ii. After the shipment(s) are made, the exporter shall provide valid Halal Certificate(s) issued under I-CAS by a Certification Body accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) to the buyer in the importing country listed below.
- iii. In addition to the requisite conformity with I-CAS, the export of specified meat and meat products to countries wherein regulation(s) for import of Halal products are notified, the producer/supplier/exporter shall also meet the importing country’s requirements and regulations, as applicable, and shall provide valid certificate(s) to the buyer in the importing country issued by Halal Certification Bodies approved under the National Halal system of the Importing Country.
- iv. The Policy Conditions and Procedures thereof for the Export of Non-Halal Certified Meat and Meat products remain unchanged.
- v. The List of Countries wherein the above-mentioned conditions for Export of specified Halal Meat &

Meat products is mandated is as follows:

- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Malaysia
- Oman
- Philippines
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates

- (k) Minimum Export Price of USD 2000/ MT F.O.B. on Export of Honey under HS Code 04090000 has been extended till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

#### **(ii) Harmonization of 8-digit Export Policy**

Export Cell, DGFT, is in the process of harmonizing the 8-digit HS Code-based Export Policy for Chapters 40-98 and syncing the already notified the 8-digit Export Policy for Chapters 1-39. It has been decided to issue a common notification to publish the 8-digit HS Code-based Export Policy in accordance with the latest ITC HS, as per the Finance Act 2024, for all Chapters (i.e., Chapters 1-98) at once. The policy is under finalization stage and will be notified soon in public interest.

#### **(iii) Restricted Export License**

- ❖ The applications for issuance of export authorization for ‘Restricted’ items (other than SCOMET items) e.g. as Onion seeds, dried seeds, nux vomica, live animals, seaweeds, Pomfret, frozen & bovine semen, non-Basmati Rice Paddy

(Husk) other than seed quality, fodder material, chemicals under Montreal Protocol, Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength, Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing or containing less than 70 per cent by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals, Raw Human Hair, Silica sands and quartz sands, chrome ore, sandalwood oil and agar oil, Red Sanders wood in log form and roots exclusively of cultivation origin obtained from private land (including Pattaland), Vintage motor cars, parts and components thereof manufactured and raw human hair are processed in Export Cell and considered by an EXIM Facilitation Committee (EFC) chaired by Addl. DGFT in charge of export and comprising representatives of various Ministries and Departments. EFC meets once a month and based on NOC/comments of subject commodity Divisions of the DOC and Administrative Ministry/Department concerned, cases are decided and Restricted Export Authorisations are issued from DGFT HQ only.

- ❖ During the year 2024-25 (up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024), 86 export authorizations were issued for export of raw human hair under ITC HS code 0501 00 10 / 0502 00 20 subject to MEP of US\$ 55000/ MTs.

During the year 2024-25 (up to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024), 184 Export authorizations were issued against restricted items.

## 8. MATTERS RELATED TO IMPORTS

Import Policy Division in DGFT is entrusted with the general provisions regarding imports as laid down under Chapter-2 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), Handbook of Procedure (HBP), Aayat Niryat Forms (ANF) and Appendices. In addition, the Division also 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), Registered Exporters System (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 Policy Division also grants import authorisation for "Restricted" items; besides allocating quotas under the Preferential Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ), Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Tariff Rate Quota and Safeguard Quota.

A list of such major initiatives and non-tariff measures imposed on the recommendation(s) of the administrative Ministry(s)/Department(s), and after consultations with relevant stakeholders, on the grounds of 'Principles of Restrictions' as laid down under Para 2.07 of Foreign Trade Policy 2023, are as follows:

### (i) Restriction

Import policy of some of the items have been made 'Restricted' following the 'Principle of restriction' and import of these items is thereafter require an Import Authorization from DGFT. Restricted items includes Defense/Security items, New Pneumatic tyres, Live animals & birds, Mercury, waste & scrap items, Pet Coke, second hand/used goods other than capital goods, Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and parts of Cigarette lighters.

### (ii) Prohibition

Import of some of the items has been 'Prohibited' 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 Wildlife (animals & birds) & their products, Ozone depleting substances, Shark fins etc.

**(iii) Import Monitoring System (IMS)**

In order to assess emerging import situation and enabling concerned administrative Ministry/ Department to undertake appropriate policy measures, the Government has implemented Import Monitoring System (IMS) for four items, namely, Steel, Coal, Non-ferrous Minerals, and Paper. Import is permitted for such notified items with prior automatic registration number granted through dedicated online system.

**(iv) Quality Control Order (QCO)**

For protection of human, animal or plant health, environment, prevention of unfair trade practices, national security etc., the Government has notified instrument of technical regulations in the form of QCOs. Presently 180 QCOs covering 756 product lines are either already implemented or in the process of implementation.

**(v) Implementation of TRQ/Quota/QR**

The Import Division notifies and administers quotas under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ), Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Tariff Rate Quota, Safeguard Quota and procedure for administration of TRQ from time to time as committed in WTO and various FTA/CECA.

**(vi) Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)**

The Import Division participates in the FTA negotiations to negotiate the modalities of implementation, in case of commitment in trade in goods.

**(vii) Inclusion of New ITC(HS) Codes**

In order to reflect changes in the global trade environment and to facilitate import/export in relevant classification, new ITC(HS) Codes have been notified and some of the codes not in use, have been deleted or merged with other codes. During the last three years (2022-2024), total 369 new HS codes including 40 HS codes in the year 2024 have been notified under ITC(HS) 2022, Schedule -I (Import Policy).

**9. 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 "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" Abhiyan. Some of the key initiatives are:

**(i) Trade Connect ePlatform**

DGFT launched Trade Connect ePlatform (<https://www.trade.gov.in/>) on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, as a unified hub for international trade inquiries and information. This platform connects entrepreneurs and exporters with key government entities, including EPCs, Indian Missions abroad, DGFT offices, and EXIM Bank, facilitating efficient communication and support. It offers a wealth of resources, such as international trade data, country guides, FTAs, trade events, and eCommerce marketplace insights. Additionally, it supports education through learning materials and enables reporting of trade disputes and barriers faced in foreign markets. This initiative aims to bolster exports to US\$ 2 trillion by 2030. The initiative is part of Department of Commerce's 100-day plan. Key features include:

- ❖ Trade Agreements and Tariff explorer - To understand benefits of FTAs and tariffs for Indian products
- ❖ Product Guide and Country guide - To understand top markets, certification and compliance requirements, non-tariff barriers, anti-dumping duties and connect with buyers in various markets
- ❖ Global eCommerce Guide - Information on top countries, categories and eCommerce portals in the world
- ❖ Trade Events Worldwide - Information on events in India and abroad
- ❖ Source from India - Foreign buyers can discover verified Indian exporters to source from
- ❖ Ask an Expert - Get expert assistance on trade-related queries.



### (ii) Self-Certified eBRC Initiative

The DGFT has launched a new system for generating Electronic Bank Realisation Certificates (eBRC) that eliminates the need for paper and associated costs. Exporters can now self-certify and create eBRCs online, bypassing visits to banks and the hassle of physical documents. This system supports bulk generation via Excel and offers API access, streamlining the process significantly. The introduction of Self-Certified eBRCs has improved efficiency for Indian exporters, saving them over Rs. 125 crore annually. By minimizing paperwork, the initiative has made it more accessible for SME and E-Commerce exporters. The move towards digital documentation has expedited clearance times, increased transparency, and lowered operational costs, representing a major advancement in trade facilitation.

### (iii) E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEH)

The recent E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEH) initiative represents a thoughtful response to the growing demands of cross-border e-commerce by providing specialized infrastructure such as warehousing, logistics support, and streamlined customs clearance. These hubs are designed to reduce the complexities and costs associated with global trade, particularly for MSMEs. ECEH offers a more accessible pathway to international markets, ensuring that Indian exporters can operate more efficiently and competitively.

### Key Advantages:

- ❖ Brings stakeholders under one roof near a port/airport- based location
- ❖ Provides for predictability and shortest possible turnaround time due to:
  - Screening and custom checks at time of entry
  - Self-sealing + No custom or BCAS formalities at gateway port/airport & export order given at ECEH
  - Provision of outposts of quality and certifying agencies in ECEH
  - Easy re-import policy for E-Commerce returns or rejects
  - Provides a new architecture for “Fulfilled by e-tailer” model where warehousing is in India

### (iv) Jan-Sunwai Facility

The Jan Sunwai Facility was established on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to streamline communication between stakeholders and authorities on matters related to Trade and Industry. This initiative is designed to enhance transparency and operational efficiency by offering direct access to relevant officials and minimize need for in-person office visits. Key features of the facility include dedicated video conference links that allow exporters to connect with individual

officers for immediate discussions and timely responses, with issues raised being consolidated for further review. Additionally, exporters can submit formal requests for on-demand video conferencing with concerned officials, who have the flexibility to share remarks, schedule or reschedule meetings, and close requests. This facility fosters a more responsive and collaborative environment for exporters.

#### **(v) E-Certificate of Origin Platform**

Electronic Platform for Preferential Certificate of Origin was made live in September 2019. In view of Covid crisis, on-boarding of the remaining trade agreements was expedited to allow electronic issuance to avoid physical movement during the lockdown. Various FTA partner countries were persuaded to accept the e-COOs. Issuance of Non-Preferential CoOs was also initiated from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021. 122 issuing agencies, 280 specific offices and 820 issuing officers are currently on-board the given platform. Around 36 Lakh + CoOs have been issued from the e-platform till date.

#### **(vi) 24x7 Auto-Generation of e-IEC**

Importer-Exporter Code (IEC) serves as a mandatory business identification number for engaging in export-import activities in India. The IEC is applied for and automatically approved online, operating 24/7 in a rule-based environment without any manual intervention. This process includes validation with external systems through API-based message exchanges. IEC data is electronically transmitted to the Customs Port within an hour of issuance. The entire process, from indicating an intent to export or import to actual shipping under an IEC, can be completed in an electronic, paperless manner within a few hours on the same day.

#### **(vii) Automation of FTP Processes**

DGFT has achieved significant progress in automating various FTP processes based on systems-driven business rules, without any intervention of any approving officer. This includes the issuance, invalidation, revalidation, and extension of Advance Authorisations and EPCG authorisations. This automation has dramatically reduced processing times and enhanced transparency, improving resource allocation and efficiency for exporters.

#### **(viii) Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN)**

UDINs on all electronically issued documents enhance document authenticity, allowing easy verification of authenticity of documents whether presented as printouts or electronic copies.

#### **(ix) Reducing Compliance Burden Initiative**

A task force was formed to identify and streamline regulatory processes. Under this initiative, 47 compliances were reduced or streamlined. Significant improvements include the online submission of applications, auto-approval systems, and efforts to minimize processing fees and documentation requirements.

#### **(x) Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES)**

The Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES) was implemented by the DGFT in December 2023 in coordination with the Department of Revenue (DoR). By automating data exchanges between India and Republic of Korea, EODES enhances efficiency, ensures compliance with international trade agreements, and expedites the export process for Indian businesses.

#### **(xi) Russia-Ukraine Helpdesk**

In response to geopolitical challenges, DGFT operationalized a helpdesk to support stakeholders in navigating trade-related issues arising from the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

#### **(xii) Modernisation of DGFT IT Systems**

The following improvements have been implemented recently to extend greater facilitation and ease of doing business to trade and Industry:

- ❖ DGFT has launched an updated website, Mobile App and Chatbot, making DGFT related processes completely paperless, user-friendly, and easy to navigate. The new platform used 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 is proven to:

- Significantly reduce the time taken for issuance of DGFT documents.
  - Ensure real time data interchange with sister departments in trade ecosystem.
  - Provides transparency to exporters/importers through real time monitoring of the status of applications.
  - Ensure the paperless, contactless 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, using exporters/importers profile data, timely information related to notification, application status etc. among others would be 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 App. The App was launched by Hon'ble CIM on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
  - ❖ This new system facilitates two-way online communication & processing, e-verification of the authenticity of DGFT issued documents and authorizations to provide a paperless, contactless 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.
  - ❖ It provides paperless, electronic processes for managing the lifecycle of AA/EPCG/DFIA/Import/Export Licencing et al. Requirements for physical submission of any documents or any office visits under various earlier trade procedures have been done away with.

### **(xiii) Implementation for Internationalization of Rupee Trade**

Provision of Vostro Account for realization has been enabled in DGFT online modules to promote trade settlement in Rupees. The given implementation has been made under the AA & EPCG modules.

### **(xiv) Promotion of Cross-Border Trade in the Digital Economy**

With the evolving global trade landscape, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified a regulatory framework for cross-border trade of goods and services in the digital economy, particularly to facilitate and streamline cross-border e-commerce exports.

#### **Importance of Focus on E-Commerce Exports:**

- ❖ **Rapid Growth in Cross-Border E-Commerce:** Global cross-border e-commerce is projected to reach US\$ 800 billion by 2025 and US\$ 2 trillion by 2030, constituting about 6.6 per cent of total merchandise exports. This rapid expansion offers a substantial opportunity for India to tap into growing global demand.
- ❖ **Outpacing Global Growth:** The global e-commerce market is expected to grow by 10.4 per cent in 2024, much faster than the global economy (3.1 per cent) and global retail industry (4.1 per cent). This trend underscores the potential of e-commerce to drive economic growth and exports.
- ❖ **India's Competitive Position:** India ranks as the 7<sup>th</sup> largest market globally in terms of domestic e-commerce revenue, reaching US\$ 87.5 billion in 2023 and exhibiting the highest growth rate (22.6 per cent) among major economies.
- ❖ **High SME Participation:** Approximately 62 per cent of Indian SMEs use domestic e-commerce platforms, highlighting the sector's importance for small businesses and the potential to expand their reach to international markets.
- ❖ **Strength in Top-Selling Categories:** India has significant strengths in many of the top-selling categories in cross-border e-commerce, making it well-positioned to expand its market share in global e-commerce.

#### **Key Initiatives**

- ❖ **Export Benefits for E-Commerce:** Extending export incentives such as RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products), RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes), and the Drawback Scheme to exports

made via courier, boosting the e-commerce sector and streamlining trade processes.

- ❖ **Courier and Postal Exports:** Facilitating exports up to Rs. 10,00,000 per consignment through registered courier services and Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras. These centres operate in a hub-and-spoke model with Foreign Post Offices (FPOs) to support artisans, weavers, craftsmen, and MSMEs in remote regions, allowing them to reach international markets efficiently.
- ❖ **Outreach and Capacity Building for cross-border e-commerce:** DGFT, in partnership with Customs Authorities, the Department of Post, industry, and knowledge partners, is conducting outreach activities, workshops, and skill development programs to promote e-commerce exports. A special focus is placed on creating electronic content and increasing awareness of e-commerce rules and processes for exporters.
- ❖ **E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs):** Designated warehousing and fulfillment hubs shall provide MSMEs and artisans with centralized infrastructure for cross-border e-commerce, offering streamlined regulatory and logistics frameworks. The hubs should enable exporters to warehouse goods and ensure expedited delivery to international markets. Pilot launch of ECEH has been initiated in consultation with Department of Revenue (CBIC), Ministry of Civil Aviation (BCAS) and various industry stakeholders.

This structured focus on promoting e-commerce exports aligns with India's broader strategy to boost exports, capitalize on emerging digital trade channels, and establish a strong presence in the fast-growing global e-commerce market.

## 10. 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 Jammu & Kashmir 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 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Period i.e. FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 with total outlay of Rs. 360 crore.

During FY 2024-25, one meeting of the Empowered Committee on TIES has been held on 27.08.2024.

A total of 66 projects have been sanctioned under TIES 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. Of these 66 projects, 28 projects are completed.

### (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 per cent: 35 per cent, i.e. 65 per cent 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. Further, participation of exporters from North Eastern Region, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and hill areas, exporters belonging to SC/ST and women exporters would also be eligible for assistance in the priority sector funding.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, i.e. up to 31<sup>st</sup> 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.
- ❖ 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. 210.92 crore have been approved under the Market Access Initiative Scheme for 244 proposals from the Export Promotion Councils and Trade Bodies etc. for undertaking export promotion activities in physical mode during FY 2024-25.

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
2021-22	200.00	140.00	140.00
2022-23	200.00	190.00	190.00
2023-24	200.00	250.00	250.00
2024-25	200.00	-	174.56 (as on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024)

**(C) Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS)**

The Champion Services Sector Scheme (CSSS) was approved by the Government of India on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to give focussed attention to 12 services sectors. These services are namely Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT&ITeS), Tourism & Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and 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.

Services sector contributes significantly to India's GDP, FDI inflows, exports as well as job creation. The Government of India had approved creation of an earmarked fund of Rs. 5000 crore under Scheme during 2019-20 to 2023-24 to support sectoral initiatives of the nodal Ministries/Departments identified for the champion sectors in services. The main objectives of the Scheme were sectoral and cross-cutting issues including domestic regulatory reforms, new initiatives, new infrastructure and new skills. Some of the initiatives /programmes that were carried out by various Ministries/Departments under CSSS are Department of Telecommunication - Setting up of Digital Communications Innovation Square and Brand Building of India as Telecom Manufacturing and Services Destination; Ministry of Ayush - Skill development in Ayush Sector and Establishment of Ayush Grid; Ministry of Tourism - Extending Incentives for improving Air Connectivity; MeitY - Next Generation Incubation Services; M/o Information & Broadcasting - Promotion of Shooting of Foreign Films in India, etc. This Scheme has since been concluded on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.

# 5

## Chapter

### EXPORT PROMOTION MECHANISM

## 1. EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCILS (EPCs)

The Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) are organisations of exporters, registered as non-profit organizations under the Companies Act 2013/ Societies Registration Act 1860. Roles and functions of these Councils are guided by the Foreign Trade Policy, which also recognizes them as registering authorities for exporters. At present, there are thirteen Export Promotion Councils (EPCs). The details of various EPCs are as follows:

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

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) is an EPC established in 1966 by the Government of India to promote the country's Gem and Jewellery industry. It is headquartered in Mumbai and has around 10,000 members. GJEPC organizes Reverse Buyer Seller Meets (RBSMs) and participates

in international events/exhibitions to showcase industry innovations and export promotion. It is also running training institutes like Indian Institute of Gems and Jewellery (IIGJ) at locations like Delhi, Mumbai and Jaipur etc.

Trade promotion activities undertaken by GJEPC during 2024-25:

#### ❖ Domestic Events

- International Gems and Jewellery Show (IGJS) Jaipur 2024: 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) Premiere: 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (at Jio World Convention Centre-Mumbai) and 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Mumbai
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of LGD BSM in Surat: 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2024



*Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal at the IIJS Premiere 2024 in Mumbai*

#### ❖ Participation in International Shows/Activities

- JCK Las Vegas 2024: 31<sup>st</sup> May to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024, Las Vegas, USA
- India Pavilion at Jewellery and Gem Asia Hong Kong 2024: 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024
- Vicenza Oro Fall 2024: 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Italy
- India Pavilion at Jewellery & Gem World Hong Kong 2024: 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- International Gems and Jewellery Show (IGJS) Dubai 2024: 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Watch and Jewellery Middle East Show 2024: 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Sharjah, UAE

**(B) Council for Leather Exports (CLE)**

CLE's Export Promotion Events (MAI &amp; Self-financing for FY 2024-25 (April-March))

S.No.	Event and Dates	No. of participants	Scheme
1	Africa International Footwear & Leather Products Exhibition, Nairobi, Kenya, 29 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	33	MAIS
2	Visit of Footwear and Leather Industry Delegation to Guangzhou, China, 29 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024	18	Self-financing
3	8 <sup>th</sup> International Bangladesh Leather & Footwear Expo, 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	02	Self-financing
4	Global Sourcing Expo, Sydney, Australia, 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	04	Self-financing
5	Expo Riva Schuh Garda Fair, Italy, 15 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	46	MAIS
6	Visit of Footwear and Leather Industry Delegation to HCMC, Vietnam, 8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	35	Self-financing
7	Shoes & Leather Fair, HCMC, Vietnam 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	14	MAIS
8	Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA (Jointly with EPCH), 19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	10	MAIS
9	Euro Shoe by CPM Moscow, Russia, 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	11	Self-financing
10	Visit of Footwear and Leather Industry Delegation to Moscow, Russia, 26 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	22	Self-financing
11	MIPEL – The Bag Show, Milan, Italy, 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	04	Self-financing
12	Lineapelle Fair, Italy, 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	02	Self-financing
13	Fashion World Tokyo Fair, Japan, 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	14	MAIS
14	Visit of Footwear and Leather Industry Delegation to Tokyo, Japan, 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	12	Self-financing
15	B2B event for the Indian Footwear Component Manufacturers with the Global Footwear and Apparel brands in Guangzhou, China, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	13	Self-financing
16	Leather tech Bangladesh, 21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2024	05	Self-financing
17	Footwear & Leather Show, Melbourne, Australia, 19 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> November 2024	02	Self-financing
18	Dubai International Footwear and Leather Exhibition, 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	40*	MAIS
19	Expo Riva Schuh Fair Garda, Italy, 11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	35*	Self-financing
20	Designer Fair, Chennai, 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2025	35*	MAIS
21	Sourcing at Magic, Las Vegas, USA, 10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	5*	Self-financing
22	DILEX – Reverse BSM, New Delhi, 20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025	200 exhibitors* 225 overseas buyers*	MAIS
23	APLF, Hong Kong, 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	42*	MAIS
24	Fashion Access Fair, Hong Kong, 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	15*	Self-financing
25	India Footwear & leather Product Show, Saudi Arabia, March 2025	25*	Self-financing

\* **Expected No. of participants**

**Webinars organized by CLE during 2024-25**

following six webinars for the benefit of members.

During April-October 2024, CLE organized the

1	Radio Frequency Dryer application in leather skin drying	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
2	Schemes/support measures of SIDBI	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
3	Cross-Border Payment Mechanisms	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
4	Export Credits and other facilities and recent GST changes	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
5	EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)	4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
6	Services of SBER Bank	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

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

Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council, popularly known as CHEMEXCIL was constituted in 1963 under Companies Act 1956 in Mumbai with the objective of promoting export of Dyes and Dye Intermediates, Basic Inorganic, Organic Chemicals including Agro Chemicals, Cosmetics,

Soaps, Detergents, Toiletries & Essential Oils, Speciality Chemicals, Lubricants and Castor Oil. The Council's head office is located in Mumbai and it has four Regional Offices at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Kolkata and New Delhi.

During April-November 2024 CHEMEXCIL organized following export promotional events/activities:

S. No.	International Events
1	The 23 <sup>rd</sup> China International Dye Industry, Pigments and Textile Chemicals Exhibition (CHINA INTERDYE 2024) at Shanghai, China, 17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
2	Coating Expo Vietnam 2024 in conjunction with Color & Spechem Vietnam and Agri Vietnam 2024, 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
3	CHEMSPEC EUROPE 2024 (The 37 <sup>th</sup> International Exhibition for Fine and Speciality Chemicals), 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
4	India Pavilion at BEAUTY ISTANBUL 2024 from 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> October 2024 -Istanbul, Turkey
5	India Pavilion at KHIMIA 2024 Expocentre Fairgrounds, Moscow, Russia 21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Export Promotional Activities**

S. No.	Date	Topic
1	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	Webinar on current legal framework for doing business in Russia
2	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Webinars on various DC (MSME) schemes
3	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Webinars on Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) and Custom Faceless Assessment
4	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Webinars on ZED certification
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024	Seminar cum workshop on growing opportunities From Free Trade Agreements - An Industry Perspective
6	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Webinar on Doing Business with China
7	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Webinar on Doing Business with Africa
8	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Webinar on Doing Business with Vietnam, Indonesia & Singapore
9	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Webinar on How to identify and manage geopolitical risk
10	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Virtual B-2-B meeting Indian exporters and Angola importers

S. No.	Date	Topic
11	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Webinar on global economic outlook and hedging solutions for managing risk in association with SBI bank
12	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Seminar on workshop on CHEMEXCIL membership awareness, export incentives, logistics, and procedures on 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2024
13	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Webinar on U.S. Federal Contracting
14	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Webinars on K-Reach Regulations
15	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Webinar on post-budget analysis of impact of Union Budget 2024 on export/import
16	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	Webinar on Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and regulatory implications
17	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Webinar on EU's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) - opportunities and risks for the Indian chemicals industry
19	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Webinars on K-reach regulations
20	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	Webinar on Macro understanding new US FDA cosmetic regulations
21	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Webinar on EU's upcoming regulation eco-design for sustainable products regulations (ESPR)
22	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	Dual seminar sessions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breaking the chains of fear-transform safety into profit</li> <li>• Online compliances for exporters with specific details on EBRC module</li> </ul>
23	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	Physical Seminar on EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) & Quality Control Orders (QCOs) at The Orchid Hotel, Mumbai
24	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	Workshop on FTA Fundamentals: Equipping MSMEs for Internationalization" at Fairfield by Marriott, Vadodara, Gujarat, India.

### (D) Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL)

The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) was established in 1955 and registered under section 25 of Companies Act 1956, with the aim of promoting the exports of Plastics & Linoleum products from India and represents over 3,000 exporters primarily MSMEs who manufacture/trade in plastics products ranging from plastics raw materials to semi-finished and finished items. PLEXCONCIL maintains five offices across India-Mumbai (Head office) and regional offices at Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Ahmedabad.

The Council is presently entrusted with the export promotion activities of the product panels are Consumer & house ware products, Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments, 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 and Merchant Exports.

During April-November 2024 PLEXCONCIL organized the following export promotional events/activities:

S. No.	International Events
1	CHINAPLAS 2024, 23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
2	NPE - 2024 from 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
3	Complast Nepal, 28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

S. No.	Domestic Event
1	Reverse Buyer Seller Meet cum Exhibition in PLEXCONNECT-2024 India from 7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Export Promotional Activities

S. No.	Date	Topic
1	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with DGFT RA – Nagpur, MSME, E-Commerce & DIC, organized a Seminar on “Export Awareness and Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, Nagpur Maharashtra
2	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with the IPF, organized a Seminar on “Export Awareness and the Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, in Kolkata
3	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with the FIEO (Odisha Chapter) and DEP&M (MSME Department, Government of Odisha), organized a “Seminar on Export Awareness on Plastics and the Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, in Odisha
4	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with the Gujarat State Plastics Manufacturers Association (GSPMA), organized a “Seminar on Export Awareness on Plastics and the Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
5	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Plastics Manufacturers’ Association (TAPMA) organized a “Seminar on Export Awareness on Plastics and the Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, in Chennai
6	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly in collaboration with the Plastic Cluster, Sambhaji Nagar, organized a “Seminar on Export Awareness on Plastics and the Plexconnect 2024 Roadshow”, in Aurangabad, Maharashtra”
7	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024	PLEXCONCIL organized a “Webinar for International Buyers- To learn about PLEXCONNECT-2024 & International Buyer Registration”
8	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	PLEXCONCIL organized a “Webinar on Export Opportunities on Plastics and for Plexconnect 2024”
9	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	PLEXCONCIL jointly with North Orissa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NOCCI) organized Export Awareness Seminar on Plastics and PLEXCONNECT 2024 Roadshow at Balasore, Odisha
10	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	PLEXCONCIL organized a one-day Seminar during PLEXCONNECT- 2024, in Mumbai, in which the following session was conducted Session on “Creating New Markets for Indian Exports - The Role for Trade Finance & Credit Insurance” Session on “Reverse Engineering for Import substitution plastic products” Session on “Requirements for Green Buildings - Moving towards (Net Zero) Energy Waste, Water and Carbon” Session on “Food contact regulations on Plastics Material” Session on “Automobiles – The Future is Plastics”
11	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2024	PLEXCONCIL organized a Webinar on the “Importance of Trade Credit Insurance”
12	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	PLEXCONCIL organized a Webinar on “Export Awareness Sessions and Updates on GST and Credit Finance”
13	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	PLEXCONCIL in association with Lakshmi Kumaran & Sridharan Attorneys (L&S) organized a webinar on Latest Amendments under GST/FTP in relation to Exports.
14	21 <sup>st</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	PLEXCONCIL participated at the Odisha Plast International Expo 2024 (21st to 24th November 2024) held at Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
15	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	The Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with PLEXCONCIL, successfully hosted a Virtual Buyer-Seller Meet connecting over 35 companies from Guatemala and 20 from India

S. No.	Date	Topic
16	29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	PLEXCONCIL in co-operation with Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, conducted a training session on "Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), PCFC & Essential Documentation for Export/Import"

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

Chemicals & Allied products Export Promotion Council (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 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 14 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.

During April-November 2024 CAPEXIL organized following export promotional events/activities:

S. No.	International Events
1	COVERINGS 2024 Exhibition, at Georgia World Congress Centre, Atlanta, Georgia, USA during April 22 <sup>nd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
2	33 <sup>rd</sup> Abu Dhabi International Book Fair from 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 to 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
3	Paper One Show, Dubai for Packaging Products during 16 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
4	FRANKFURT Book Fair, Frankfurt, Book and Publication products during 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Export Promotional Activities

S. No.	Date	Topic
1	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	CAPEXIL conducted Webinar Programme on Marine Insurance & Forex Facilities in association with "M/s. National Insurance Company Ltd., Chennai and also with Punjab National Bank, Chennai", through virtual mode
2	23 <sup>rd</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> April 24	CAPEXIL organized Awareness Program (Virtual) regarding US ITC has initiated anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on Imports of Ceramic Tiles from India
3	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	CAPEXIL organized Webinar Programme with O/o Zonal Additional D.G.F.T., Chennai and also with O/o Principal Commissioner of Customs (Air cargo), Chennai", through virtual mode
4	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	CAPEXIL organized Virtual B2B Meeting between Indian Exporters and Dominican companies dealing in Ceramics and Sanitary ware products
5	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	CAPEXIL conducted Webinar Programme with "Office of Chennai Port Trust, Chennai and also with M/s. Container Corporation of India Ltd., Chennai", through virtual mode
6	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Organized Virtual Meetings between Indian Exporters of Ceramic Tiles & two separate Consultancy firms regarding the Initiation of extension of Safeguard Measures on Ceramic flags and paving, hearth or wall tiles 690721, 690722 & 690723 by Indonesia

S. No.	Date	Topic
7	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	CAPEXIL Conducted Webinar Programme with State Bank of India, Chennai and also with M/s. ECGC Ltd., Chennai, through virtual mode
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL organized Panel Meeting of the Ceramics & Allied Products including Refractories Panel through virtual mode
9	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL organized Interactive Meeting (virtual) USDOC CVD investigation on Ceramic Tiles from India (C-533-929) organized by Trade Defence Wing, Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Department of Commerce, Government of India
10	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL conducted webinar on “Use of Artificial Intelligence in International Business” at Chennai in association with “Department of Management Studies, IIT, Chennai & MSME Department of Tamil Nadu (FaMe TN) Chennai
11	16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL organized Interactive Session (virtual) with the Senior Officials of Embassy of India, Brazil on to explore the possibilities of various trade promotional activities including Trade Delegation to Brazil for Exhibition cum BSM as per advice of the Indian Mission as well as to organize more & more Virtual B2B Meets in coming months
12	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL in association with Handicraft Export Promotion Council organised Interactive Meeting with all concerned stakeholders
13	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL organized Interactive Session cum Export Awareness Webinar for the MSME Member Exporters
14	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	CAPEXIL organised Webinar Programme on “Accreditation: Assuring Quality, Regulatory Compliance & Facilitating Trade” in association with “Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Kolkata and National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies, Quality Council of India (NABCB), New Delhi”
15	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	CAPEXIL organized Virtual Buyer Seller Meet for the Indian Ceramic Industry with the Mexican Buyers in association with the Embassy of India Mexico City, Mexico and Morbi Ceramic Manufacturer Association
16	14 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	CAPEXIL organized a Webinar with “Foreign Post, Chennai and also with Small Industries Development Bank of India, Chennai,” through virtual mode
17	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	CAPEXIL participated in Pre-Launch Event of Vibrant Buildcon Expo at Morbi, Gujarat
18	11 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	CAPEXIL organized Stakeholders Consultation Meeting with Pet food exporters on virtual mode
19	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	CAPEXIL organised the Miscellaneous Panel Meeting at Sivakasi
20	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	CAPEXIL conducted Webinar Programme with “Export Inspection Agency, Chennai and also with MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Chennai”.
21	7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CAPEXIL attended the interactive session organized by FIEO with the support of Embassy of Brazil in New Delhi
22	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CAPEXIL attended the meeting with Missions of North East Asia countries, China, Japan and Korea, under DoC
23	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CAPEXIL organized 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ceramic Panel meeting (Virtual) to discuss and consider ceramic panel related issues for the financial year 2024-25
24	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CAPEXIL organized Webinar programme with “Director General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata and also with Exim Bank of India, Chennai

S. No.	Date	Topic
25	18 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	CAPEXIL organized Ossein & Gelatin Panel4QB25 (S.-8No)15 (.)]Tt73 94.6156 743.129

S. No	Event Name	Region	Country	Commodity Name	Event Start Date	Event End Date
6	Spielwarenmesse International Toy Fair 2025	Europe	Germany	Toys	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
7	New York Toy Fair 2024	NAFTA	United States	Toys	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
8	SGEPC India RBSM for Sports Goods 2025		New Delhi, India	Sports Goods	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025

## (H) 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 Equipment's & Accessories
  - Other Project Goods

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

### (i) Sectors of Development

PEPC, has been actively engaged in the development and promotion of project exports in major sectors of economic and industrial development such as construction of dams, hydroelectric & 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 buildings, hotels & tourist resorts etc.

### (ii) Markets

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

- ❖ Asia
- ❖ Africa
- ❖ Middle East
- ❖ North America

### (iii) Export Performance

Total value secured		
Years	2023-24 (FY 2023-24)	2024-25 (till October 2024)
Values in Rs. crore	1,45,299.24	64,125.04
Values in US\$ million	37,044.39	7,644.17

The contracts were secured in Power transmission & Distribution, Solar, Hydrocarbons, IT Infrastructure & Industrial Plant Project sectors.

The range of value of contracts secured is US\$ 0.01 million (Manual Drilling Tool) to US\$ 1,498.80 million (build two-Gigawatt scale Solar PV plants).

The contract basket is fairly spread in various countries with contracts being secured in Bangladesh, Australia, United Arab Emirates, America, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Pennsylvania, Mexico, Canada, Scotland, Germany, France and Kenya during FY 2024-25.

The contracts in FY 2024-25 have been secured primarily in PT&D (Power Transmission & Distribution) & Industrial projects sectors. This reflects the technical & financial maturity of Indian Project Exporters in these sectors.

## (I) Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)

Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has been set up by the Government of India to promote and develop export of telecom equipment and services from India.

TEPC as a Council plays a critical role in furtherance of Telecom export from the India and assists its member companies in easy facilitation of their respective exports. The Council caters to the complete Telecom Ecosystem including Telecom Hardware Manufacturers, Telecom Service Providers, Telecom Software Vendors and Consultants. Export promotion continues to be a major thrust area for the Government. In a view of the prevailing macro-economic situation, Government emphasis is on exports promotion activities and to facilitate it, various measures are being undertaken through Market Access Initiative Schemes from the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry India to support the various export.

TEPC has been working with the entire eco-system of Indian telecom exporters as well as various departments of Government of India to deliver and create end-to-end telecom solutions. Keeping in mind the caliber of Indian Manufactures and demand of developing countries, TEPC felicitates various projects in the field of Telecom Digital connectivity. TEPC has invited its members for consortium approach to provide a platform to perform and deliver their respective services to clients outside India. It will also help in sharing the individual expertise of the members and promote the Telecom equipment & services from India to the developing world.

### Vision

- ❖ TEPC shall continue to promote telecom exports from India
- ❖ Promote and accentuate Telecom Exports from India.
- ❖ Create a healthy environment for growth of Telecom Ecosystem including manufacturing & Services Sector in India.
- ❖ Encourage both private and overseas Investments in India under Foreign Direct

Investment.

- ❖ Encourage Strategic Alliances, MOUs, and technical/Financial collaborations to boost trade.
- ❖ Support local IPRs & R&D activities for Design in India and making of World Class telecom products.

## (J) Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) is India's apex trade promotion organization which was incepted in 1989. The Government of India has entrusted upon ESC to promote India's exports of Electronics, Telecom, Computer Software and IT Enabled Services.

Over the years ESC has built a strong membership base of over 2500 manufacturers and exporters from across the length and breadth of the country covering a wide gamut of Electronics and Software Industry:

### Consumer Electronics

- ❖ Electronic Components
- ❖ Instrumentation
- ❖ Telecommunication
- ❖ Computer Hardware and Peripherals
- ❖ Computer Software and IT Enabled Services

ESC has taken numerous initiatives to accelerate the export of Electronics and Software from India like:

- ❖ Provides commercially useful information and assistance to their members in developing and increasing their exports
- ❖ Undertakes Market Research/Studies and publicity Campaigns in overseas markets
- ❖ ESC facilitates business interface between Indian and foreign companies through:
  - Participation in Globally renowned Tradeshows/Expositions
  - Buyers-Seller Meets
  - Reverse Buyer Seller Meets
  - Conferences/Congress

- Match-making and Contact Promotion
- Act as a link between the Government and member exporters in resolving various policy issues
- Maintains India's export figures for the sectors of electronics, Computer software/Services and ITeS. ESC publishes an annual statistical year book having detailed analysis of India's export performance

During the year 2024-25, India exported Electronics to a tune of US\$ 19.07 billion (April-October 2024) and software export is estimated to have reached to a level of US\$ 121.75 billion.

### International Engagements

#### ❖ **InnoEX 2024 (13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 2024)**

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council participated in CES 2024 edition from 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 with a delegation of 19 comprising of Electronics and Software companies. The delegation got an overwhelming response during the show.

#### ❖ **Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo 2024 (14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2024)**

ESC organized 14 member companies participation at Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo (EWPTTE) held in Baird Centre, Milwaukee, WI, USA from 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2024. EWPTTE attended more than 3,000 visitors, 200 exhibitors & participation from 25 countries. The show provided the opportunity to network with industry leaders, end user decision makers in the Cable & Wire Harnesses sector. The India pavilion was inaugurated by Shri T. D. Bhutia, Deputy Consul General of India, Chicago.

#### ❖ **IoT Solutions World Congress (21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024)**

ESC organized 14 member companies participation at IOT SOLUTIONS WORLD CONGRESS held in Barcelona, Spain. The India Pavillion was inaugurated by Shri Dinesh Patnaik, Ambassador of India, Spain.

#### ❖ **GITEX Africa (29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2024)**

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council organized a participation of 24 Electronics and IT companies to GITEX Africa, Morocco from 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The meet was addressed by Shri Rajesh Vaishnav, Ambassador of India, Morocco. The Indian participants got an overwhelming response during the show.

#### ❖ **ELECOMP (29<sup>th</sup> June-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024)**

The Council organized a delegation visit to Tehran, Iran from 28<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July 2024, coinciding with the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of Elecomp 2024 – Iran's Premier Electronics and Computer Software Trade Exhibition.

#### ❖ **GITEX DUBAI (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October 2024)**

The Council organized the largest ever Indian participation at GITEX Dubai. The India Pavilion was inaugurated by Indian Ambassador UAE Shri Sunjay Sudhir. Shri Consul General of India to Dubai, Shri Satish Kumar Sivan also was present. 100 Indian ICT companies are displaying their products and solutions at the GITEX 2024 in 12 pavilions under the banner. The high-tech products on display include solutions and devices relating to Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Mobility, Sustainable Technologies, Fintech, Banking Solutions.

#### ❖ **MIPCOM (21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> October 2024), France**

The Council organized India's vibrant participation at MIPCOM 2024! From India, the participation was of 18 Indian companies exhibited from software sector. The event turned out be a grand success.

#### **(K) Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC)**

The Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC) has made dynamic strides in 2024-25, strengthening its commitment to promoting Indian exports of mobile devices and electronic products while addressing significant challenges in the global market. This year's report highlights MEDEPC's key initiatives, collaborations, and policy

support activities aimed at advancing the interests of our members and driving India's export growth in the electronics sector.

### (i) Export Performance and Industry Growth

In 2024-25, India's electronic goods exports reached an impressive US\$19.07 billion (April-October 2024), with smartphone exports alone contributing US\$10.68 billion (April-October 2024). This success underscores the critical role that Indian mobile phone manufacturers have played in positioning the country as a global leader in smartphone exports. Building on this momentum, MEDEPC is now turning its attention to other high-potential segments, such as laptops, air conditioning units, and smartwatches.

With the introduction of the PLI IT Hardware 2.0 scheme, MEDEPC is engaging with laptop manufacturers to replicate the success seen in the smartphone sector. Additionally, in collaboration with industry associations, we are exploring ways to expand air conditioner exports and support manufacturers in entering new markets. The smartwatch industry is another focus area, where we are working with Indian manufacturers to address challenges and enhance their competitive edge internationally.

### (ii) Key Initiatives and Collaborations

MEDEPC has spearheaded numerous initiatives to boost the export of mobile and electronic devices, collaborating closely with industry bodies, trade associations, and government agencies:

- ❖ **Collaboration with ELCOMA:** In March 2024, MEDEPC held a significant meeting with the Electrical Lamp and Component Manufacturers Association of India (ELCOMA). This partnership enabled us to identify barriers to exports within the lighting industry and develop actionable strategies to drive export growth in this sector.
- ❖ **Advocating Policy Reforms:** MEDEPC has been an active advocate on policy issues affecting electronic and mobile exports. Collaborating with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), we've supported initiatives around regulatory reform, exporter incentives,

and streamlined customs processes. We have also contributed to discussions on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), ensuring Indian exporters' interests are well-represented in these trade negotiations.

- ❖ **Promoting FDI for Component Manufacturing:** MEDEPC continues to advocate for a time-bound approval process for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to establish a robust component manufacturing ecosystem. Our efforts aim to reduce import dependence, enhance local manufacturing, and streamline the issuance of Indian visas for technical personnel, enabling smoother technology transfers and plant setups.
- ❖ **Customs and IGST Reforms:** In response to MEDEPC's recommendations, the government reduced customs duties on critical components, per Custom Notification 9/2024 (dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024). MEDEPC has also championed the call for an IGST exemption under the Manufacturing and Other Operations in Warehouse Regulations (MOOWR) scheme. This exemption will be pivotal in maintaining cost competitiveness for Indian exporters.

MEDEPC remains committed to addressing the needs of all members, advocating for improved export procedures, resolving operational issues, and representing them effectively before relevant authorities.

### (iii) International Engagements

MEDEPC represented India in several key international events, showcasing Indian innovations and expanding market opportunities for our members:

- ❖ **GITEX Africa 2024:** Held in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May, this event allowed MEDEPC's delegation to present India's advancements in manufacturing and electronic innovation across the WANA and African regions. This platform fostered connections and offered insights into market demands for AI, IoT, cybersecurity, digital finance, and healthcare technology.
- ❖ **Expand North Star 2024, Dubai:** MEDEPC organized the India Pavilion under the MAI grant, hosting 41 exhibitors at Dubai's largest

startup event from 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This participation demonstrated India's leadership in AI, fintech, IoT, and digital health and highlighted the nation's contribution to global digital transformation.

### **(L) 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 9500 out of which around 60 per cent are SMEs. EEPC India facilitates sourcing from India and boosts the MSMEs 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 nearly a quarter of

India's total merchandise exports. Within the sector, MSME sector accounts for 35-40 per cent of the total exports.

India's engineering exports stood at US\$ 75.47 billion in April-November 2024 viz-a-viz US\$ 69.32 billion during the same period last fiscal, registering a positive growth of 8.87 per cent. Share of engineering exports to total merchandise exports was 26.87 per cent during April-November 2024 as compared to 24.91 per cent during the same period, last year. During April-November 2024, 27 out of 34 engineering panels exhibited a positive year-on-year growth. The panels which registered significant growth in exports during the April-November 2024 vis-a-vis April-November 2023 were Aircrafts and Spacecraft parts and products (growth of 264 per cent), Tin and products (growth of 45 per cent), Ships Boats and Floating products and parts (growth of 37 per cent), Lead and products (growth of 24 per cent), Two and Three Wheelers (growth of 20 per cent), Industrial Machinery like Boilers, parts, etc. (growth of 19 per cent) and Electrical Machinery (growth of 16 per cent).

Region wise, North America and European Union remained India's topmost destinations for engineering exports with share of 20.2 per cent and 17.1 per cent respectively, in India's total engineering exports during April-November 2024. WANA registered highest growth of 25.3 per cent during April-November 2024 vis-à-vis the same period last year followed by ASEAN (growth of 14.7 per cent) and CIS (growth of 11.5 per cent).

During April-November 2024, USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Germany were the top five exporting destinations.

#### **(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, under the aegis of Department of Commerce, is undertaking Brand "India Engineering" campaign since 2014. The initiative is implemented with the support of India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF), a Trust under Department of Commerce. In April-November 2024, EEPC India was supported by IBEF

for campaigning Brand “India Engineering” for the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS). IBEF is also supporting EEPC for campaigning Brand “India Engineering” for the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, scheduled to be held during 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

EEPC India also plays a leading role in building Brand India image by organizing exhibitions around the globe. International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) became the latest concept in marketing Brand India across the world. The XII edition of the event was held in Chennai in 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with participation of over 300 exhibitors and 300 overseas buyers.

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**

Department of Commerce, in partnership with EEPC India, has been attempting to devise ways to move into higher technology space. One of the key initiatives is to enable upgradation of technology for boosting engineering exports. This is being attempted through bridging the gap between leading R&DLabs 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.

Some of the key technology up-gradation initiatives undertaken by EEPC India during the year include:

- ❖ EEPC India Technology Centre has provided various Technological solutions to their MSME members by Additive Technology and Reverse Engineering through initiatives taken up by 3D Design and Development Centre.
- ❖ A number of Seminars/Workshops/Webinars/ Industry Meets were organized by EEPC India to empower MSMEs with the latest know-how of advanced technologies, enable value addition of products and to provide a platform to connect with engineering clusters in India and interact with leading Technological Experts and R&D labs and Academic Institutes across India.
- ❖ EEPC has signed MoUs with the following institutes/technology centres for Technical Cooperation:
  - The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi to utilize their expertise and experience to aware the Indian MSMEs about conservation of energy, energy audit, green energy, compliances relating to carbon foot prints control, sustainability, etc. and provide consultancy and advisory services for the same.
  - National Accreditation Board for Testing Calibration Laboratories (NABL), New Delhi to sensitize MSMEs members about accreditation process through workshops/seminars/awareness programs and disseminate information on latest regulation in terms of testing, inspection and calibration.
  - Institute for Auto Part and Hand Tools Technology (IAHT), Ludhiana to leverage their expertise to bridge the technological gap and sensitize the Indian MSMEs about the related latest technologies through workshops/seminars/industry meets and avail their facilities of testing, inspection and calibration for EEPC India members.
  - Research and Development Centre for Bicycle and Sewing Machines

(RDCBSM), Ludhiana to utilize their knowledge and experiences to sensitize the Indian MSMEs about the related latest technologies through workshops/ seminars/ industry meets and avail their facilities of testing, inspection and calibration for EEPC India members.

EEPC India organized several events/seminars for technological upgradation and boosting India's engineering manufacturing competitiveness and exports:

- ❖ Entrepreneurship and Engineering Start Ups in collaboration with leading industry experts in Kolkata
- ❖ Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) -Challenges and Solutions in collaboration with TUV SUD.
- ❖ Empowering Tomorrow and Shaping the Future collaboration with National Accreditation Board for Testing Calibration Laboratories (NABL) in Kolkata
- ❖ Low-cost user-friendly AI-ML driven automation for Indian MSMEs in collaboration with leading industry experts
- ❖ Enhancing Global Market Reach for Indian Engineering Sector collaboration with CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CMERI), Centre of Excellence for Farm Machinery (CoEFM), Ludhiana in Jalandhar
- ❖ Green Welding Practices and Impact of Robotic Arc Welding Automation amongst Engineering MSMEs in collaboration with Indian Institute of Welding (IIW), India

#### (iv) Export Promotion Activities

- ❖ Department of Commerce undertakes various export promotion activities through EEPC India. These activities include organizing International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) , Bharat Mobility Global Expo and product - specific Seminars/Conferences, Export Awareness Programmes etc. in India, organizing exclusive India Engineering Exhibitions (INDEEs) outside India, participation in various

product - specific international exhibitions, etc. to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian engineering industry and to provide the overseas buyers with true value as propagated by Brand "India Engineering". Participation in global trade exhibitions enable Indian exporters to showcase their innovations to a broader audience, fostering valuable partnerships and opening doors to new markets.

- ❖ International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS): It is the flagship event in the engineering sector, and is considered to be the largest sourcing show organised within India for the engineering products, particularly for MSMEs. The XII edition of the event was held in Chennai in 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 with participation of over 300 exhibitors and 300 overseas buyers. Advocating #SmartSustainableEngineering as the theme, this event aimed to minimize the environmental impact of manufacturing at the product cycle, from resource extraction and production to product use and disposal.

#### ❖ Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

- The second edition of Bharat Mobility Global Expo, 2025 was organized from 17-22 January, 2025 on a much larger scale across three venues in Delhi NCR viz, Bharat Mandapam (ITPO), Delhi; Yashobhoomi (India International Convention and Expo Centre), Dwarka; and India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.
- The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 is an industry led event and supported by Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Heavy Industries. The Expo was coordinated by Engineering Export Promotion Council India (EEPC India) with the joint support of various industry bodies and partner organizations- SIAM, ACMA, IESA, ATMA, ISA, NASSCOM, ICEMA, AICMA, MRAI, ITPO, Invest India, IBEF, CII, Yashobhoomi and IEML.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 in Bharat Mandapam on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025.



- The Expo underscored India's commitment to reshaping global mobility with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. The Expo saw a gathering of industry experts, policymakers, government officials, business leaders, and innovators deliberating how mobility can catalyze growth, bridge disparities, and protect our environment.
- The Expo was spread over 200,000 sq. metres of Exhibit Area. As part of the event 09 concurrent Shows, and 24 Conferences/Seminars were held across the three venues. More than 9.8 lakh visitors witnessed the Expo across the three venues during the Expo. Germany, UK, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan had their Pavilions and further, individual country exhibitors from Ireland, Spain, Thailand and USA also participated in the Expo.
- A total of 1,500 exhibitors participated, and 239 launches, including vehicle launches, auto components, construction equipment and more, took place during the Expo. The Expo showcased technologies and products of Indian companies that are setting a global benchmark in mobility solutions.
- ❖ During the year EEPCC also participated in other major internationally acclaimed engineering

events, viz., Hannover Messe, 2024, Germany- the leading industrial trade fair; FEIMEC 2024, Sao Paulo, International Fair of Machine Tools and Equipment; CWIEME, 2024, Berlin, Germany- the leading trade fair for coil winding, transformer, generator and electric motor manufacturing, and e-mobility; Agritechnica Asia, 2024, Bangkok, a premier trade fair for agricultural technology and innovation in Asia; JIMEX, 2024, Amman, Jordan- a leading Industrial Engineering Event; SUBCON, 2024, Birmingham, UK- the UK's largest subcontract manufacturing supply chain show; ACHEMA, 2024, Frankfurt, Germany- the leading show for the process industry; Arab Pharma, 2024 Amman, Jordan- region's largest & premier exhibition on comprehensive Pharma Manufacturing; Eurobike, 2024, Germany- the world's biggest cycling trade show; International Fastener, 2024, USA- North America's largest fastener event for all types of fasteners, machinery & tooling, and other industrial products; Automechanika Frankfurt, 2024, Germany- a leading international trade fair for the automotive industry; Elmia Subcontractor 2024, Sweden- Europe's leading subcontractor fair.

- ❖ EEPC organized two virtual events viz., Indian Railways Sourcing Week 4.0, 2024 - a premier virtual event dedicated to connecting Indian engineering companies with Railways procurement needs; India MSME Defence Week, 2024 - a webinar series with MSMEs, Defence Startups, Innovators & Entrepreneurs, Existing & Potential Vendors & Suppliers to Defence Sector, MSMEs seeking Defence Technologies, MSMEs exploring Export & International collaboration opportunities, Industry Professionals, Traders and Businesses.
- ❖ EEPC India in partnership with India Exim Bank organized a Stakeholder Consultation on "Engineering Excellence: Driving India's Exports to US\$300 billion by 2030". This was attended by the relevant sectors of both upstream and downstream industry including Indian Steel Association (ISA), Association of Indian Medical Device Industry(AIMED),

Indian Primary Copper Producers Association (IPCPA), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) from the Auto industry, Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA), Textile Machinery Manufacturers Association (TMMA) and Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Trades Association Ltd. (RATA).

- ❖ Extending its regular agenda, EEPC India also published several reports/studies to make the members aware about the international trends and opportunities in order to enhance their global footprints.

### **(M) Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC)**

Major Promotional activities/events undertaken by SEPC during 2024 - 2025 are as follows:

- ❖ SEPC organized International Legal Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi with the theme The Legal dimensions of Global Trade @ 2047. Conference was aimed at exploring challenges faced by Indian legal practitioners, both under domestic laws and foreign regulations, and to identify strategies for the legal sector to catalyze India's cross-border trade in legal services.
- ❖ SEPC, with the support of Department of Commerce, Government of India, organized an India pavilion in the International Educational Service Sector Event i.e. Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX), held from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Dubai, UAE.
- ❖ SEPC organized its maiden India pavilion in Artificial Intelligence Expo 2024 from 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 in Seoul, South Korea with a view to create more business opportunities for Indian firms in AI driven technologies, AI development and data analytics.
- ❖ SEPC, in association with Carbon Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), organized a Business Delegation to Baku, Azberbaijan from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and held discussions with stakeholders including diplomats, industry

leaders and industry chambers to seek collaborations and work out an action plan for COP 29 to be held in Baku.

- ❖ SEPC participated in IGNITE Maharashtra (2.0) 2024 on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024, an initiative of Directorate of Industries, Government of Maharashtra and presented benefits of SEPC for Service Exporters.
- ❖ SEPC organized a Round Table discussion meeting on Gaming Industry held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 at Hyderabad.
- ❖ SEPC organized an India Pavilion at Gamescom from 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and participated in Devcom Conference at Cologne, Germany.
- ❖ SEPC organized a one-day National Conference on Transforming Higher Education and Skilling Towards Viksit Bharat@2047 28<sup>th</sup> September IHC, New Delhi. The conference featured over 45 distinguished speakers from various institutions and industry and about 350 delegates participated in the deliberations.
- ❖ SEPC along ESC and NASSCOM organized an India Pavilion at GITEX Global 2024 at Dubai from 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October 2024 with participation of over 400 Indian Companies including Start-Ups.
- ❖ SEPC organized an India Pavilion at MIPCOM from 21<sup>st</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at France and mobilized participation of companies in M&E sector.
- ❖ SEPC organized third edition of conclave on Global Services Export Conclave (Hybrid Mode) on “Design, Engineering, Construction, R&D and Environmental Services: Infrastructure, Space, Energy (incl. Nuclear) and Defence” on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- ❖ SEPC participated in World Travel Market 2024 from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at London, UK and by mobilizing more than 50 companies including inbound tour operators, airlines and hoteliers from the Indian Travel Industry to showcase India’s vibrant cultural diversity and the vast range of tourism products and immersive experiences.

## Webinars

- ❖ Work for webinar “Framework of Export Trade Finance Schemes - Cost Reduction Approach was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.
- ❖ SEPC organized a webinar on “Global Economic Outlook & Hedging Solutions for Managing Forex Risk” on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

## (N) Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC)

The Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) has a storied history that began in 1956 as the Indian Oilseeds & Produce Exporters Association (IOPEPA). It was formally recognized as an Export Promotion Council by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, in 2006. While export promotion remains central to its mission, IOPEPC plays a pivotal role in fortifying India’s domestic Oilseed supply chain, collaborating closely with farmers, shellers, processors, and exporters to elevate quality standards nationwide.

Driven by a commitment to foster self-reliance in Oilseed and Oil production, IOPEPC works to reduce dependency on imports by promoting excellence in quality and processing. To achieve this mission, IOPEPC has formalized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with leading agricultural institutions such as the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research in Hyderabad, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the Directorate of Groundnut Research in Junagadh. These partnerships enhance innovation, research, and best practices in the Oilseed sector.

The Council undertakes numerous initiatives to support its members and the industry, organizing awareness programs and training to elevate quality in Oilseed exports. IOPEPC also conducts market studies to facilitate access and resolve trade barriers with government support. Through buyer-seller meets and participation in international trade shows, the Council actively promotes trade while maintaining comprehensive data and statistics for the Oilseed sector. Additionally, it assesses government policies to provide strategic insights to its members and shares vital market intelligence through research reports and crop surveys.

Through these ongoing efforts, IOPEPC strengthens India's Oilseed value chain, fosters collaboration across sectors, and promotes a sustainable ecosystem for the growth and prosperity of the industry.

### **Trade Promotion and Trade related activities undertaken in 2024-25**

The Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering growth and development within the Oilseeds sector. Through a series of targeted capacity-building and educational initiatives, the Council aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and the operational efficiency of both traders and farmers. During the fiscal year 2024-25, the Council organized several key programs aimed at supporting the sector's expansion and efficiency.

#### **(i) Capacity Building and Educational Programs**

##### **❖ IOPEPC's Participation in AICRP on Groundnut Annual Group Meeting (2024)**

IOPEPC participated in the Annual Group Meeting (AGM) of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Groundnut, held at the Rajasthan Agricultural Research Institute, Durgapur, Jaipur, Rajasthan, from 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> April 2024. During the event, IOPEPC shared valuable insights on the export of Oilseeds and Oils from India.



*Shri. Khushwant Jain, Chairman, Convenor Groundnut and Groundnut Oil Panel and Director IOPEPC at Annual Group Meeting (AGM) of All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Groundnut*

##### **❖ IOPEPC formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs, Native Produce, and Animal By-products (CFNA)**

IOPEPC participated in the China International

Sesame Conference (Spring) held in Qingdao, China, on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024. During the conference, IOPEPC formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the China Chamber of Commerce of Foodstuffs, Native Produce, and Animal By-products (CFNA). This MOU marks a significant step in strengthening collaboration between the organization, with a focus on the Oilseeds sector. The agreement aims to enhance mutual interests and create synergies that will benefit both parties. It will facilitate the exchange of market insights and information, supporting Indian exporters in refining their strategies for exporting key commodities such as Sesame Seeds and Groundnuts to the Chinese market.



*Shri Rutuparna Dole, Chairman, IOPEPC signing MoU on "Strategic Cooperation Agreement" with Ms Chen Ying, Director of Cereals and Oils Department, China Chamber of Commerce for IMP and Exp of Foodstuffs Native Produce and Animal By-Products (CFNA)*

##### **❖ IOPEPC's Capacity Building Programs and Trade Meetings in Rajkot and Kolkata (2024)**

As part of its ongoing efforts to support the growth and development of the Oilseeds sector, IOPEPC organized two significant capacity-building programs and trade meetings in 2024. The first event took place in Rajkot on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024 followed by a similar gathering in Kolkata on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024. These events were designed to provide valuable opportunities for traders and industry stakeholders to enhance their understanding of industry best practices, explore emerging market opportunities, and engage with key experts and influencers.

A key feature of both events was the presentation of crop survey results through remote sensing technology, offering traders critical insights into crop

yield forecasts and production trends. This data-driven approach helps industry professionals make informed decisions, optimize trade strategies, and better understand the dynamics of the Oilseeds market.



Trade Meeting at Rajkot: From Left to Right: - Shri Sanjiv Sawla, Past Chairman and Director IOPEPC, Shri Sanjay Shah, Past Chairman and Director IOPEPC, Shri Jay Chandarana, Honorary Secretary and Director IOPEPC, Shri Rutuparna Dole, Chairman IOPEPC, Shri Kishore Tanna, Past Chairman and Director IOPEPC, Shri Rajesh Bheda, Past Chairman and Director, IOPEPC, Shri Khushwant Jain, Past Chairman and Director IOPEPC



Trade Meeting at Kolkata (L to R) Prof. D. K. Swain, IIT Kharagpur, Prof H. N. Mishra, IIT Kharagpur, Shri Ashok Agarwal from Edible Agro India, Shri Sanjay Shah, Convener Crop Survey and Director IOPEPC, Shri Mukul Gupta, Joint Convener of the Sesame Seeds and Sesame Seeds Oil Panel, Shri Nilesh Vira, Immediate Past Chairman and Director IOPEPC, Shri Vishal Agarwal, Edible Agro India

#### ❖ **Participation in Meeting on Strengthening Supply Chain and Risk Mitigation in Peanut Exports**

IOPEPC participated in a key meeting organized by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, focused on “Strengthening of Supply Chain and Risk Mitigation in Peanut Export.” The meeting was aimed to

raise awareness about the export process for Peanuts and Peanut products, while addressing the challenges and obstacles faced by stakeholders in the export value chain. IOPEPC representatives shared their insights and expertise, contributing to the discussions on improving the export landscape for Peanuts.

#### ❖ **Engagement in MSME Export Facilitation Centre Proposal**

As part of the MSME initiatives under the “Viksit Bharat” program, IOPEPC participated in a virtual meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024, regarding the establishment of an Export Facilitation Centre at the National Institute of MSME in Hyderabad. The meeting, organized by the Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner (AD&DC) of the Ministry of MSME, brought together representatives from various export promotion councils, including IOPEPC. The objective was to gather expert inputs for the layout plan and operational strategy of the proposed Export Facilitation Centre, aimed at supporting MSMEs in enhancing their export capabilities.

#### ❖ **Launch of IOPEPC’s New Website and Enhanced Digital Presence**

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024, IOPEPC successfully inaugurated its newly revamped website, marking a significant step in enhancing its digital engagement with stakeholders and the wider Oilseeds export industry. The updated platform offers a more user-friendly interface, improved navigation, and easier access to the latest information about IOPEPC’s initiatives, services, and resources.

In addition to the website launch, IOPEPC has also expanded its social media presence across platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. These efforts are aimed at increasing visibility, fostering greater engagement, and creating a more dynamic, accessible channel for communication with exporters, stakeholders, and industry professionals.

#### ❖ **IOPEPC Engages in High-Level Discussions with Thailand’s ACFS to Enhance Groundnut Export Standards**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024, IOPEPC participated in a high-level meeting with a delegation from Thailand’s National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food

Safety Standards (ACFS) at the APEDA Head Office in Delhi. The meeting, chaired by APEDA's Director (BEDF), focused on assessing and enhancing India's quality control measures in peanut processing facilities to align with international standards.

During the discussions, IOPEPC shared valuable insights on the current state of India's groundnut industry, highlighting key aspects of quality assurance. Additionally, IOPEPC emphasized the importance of fostering sustainable agricultural practices through direct engagement with farmers, ensuring the long-term competitiveness and compliance of India's Groundnut exports with global market expectations.



*Shri Sanjiv Sawla, former Chairman and current Director of IOPEPC, and Shri Tushar Thumar, Groundnut and Groundnut Oil Panel Member with Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Director (BEDF) APEDA and other APEDA officials along with the delegation from Thailand's National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Safety Standards (ACFS) at the APEDA Head Office in Delhi*

#### ❖ **IOPEPC Strengthens Global Ties at China's International Peanut Conference 2024**

IOPEPC actively participated in the China International Peanut Conference 2024, organized by the China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Foodstuffs, Native Produce, and Animal By-products (CFNA) from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2024, in Xingcheng City, Liaoning Province, China. During the conference, IOPEPC presented a comprehensive overview of India's peanut market, focusing on key aspects of groundnut production, export trends, and market opportunities. The conference also featured an insightful field visit to the Xingcheng National Peanut Planting Base and the Xingcheng Peanut Industry Park, where participants learned about advanced cultivation and processing techniques.

#### ❖ **IOPEPC Hosts the 6th Global Oilseeds Conference (IGOC) 2024**

IOPEPC successfully hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Oilseeds Conference (IGOC) from 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October 2024, at

The Westin Goa. As a key annual event, IGOC serves as a critical platform for global stakeholders in the oilseeds sector to exchange ideas, explore emerging market trends, discuss regulatory changes, and address technological advancements.

Since its inaugural event in 2019, IGOC has grown in significance, consistently attracting top industry leaders, policymakers, and international delegates. Over 230 delegates attended IGOC 2024, which featured informative sessions focusing on the dynamics of the groundnut and sesame seed markets. Industry experts provided detailed analyses of supply, demand, and pricing trends, while panel discussions addressed both domestic and international perspectives on these key crops. Additionally, the conference presented the results of crop surveys for Groundnut and Sesame in key growing regions, offering valuable insights into production forecasts and trends.

This initiative reflects IOPEPC's ongoing commitment to advancing the global Oilseeds industry by fostering collaboration, facilitating knowledge-sharing, and highlighting opportunities for growth and innovation across the sector.



*L to R: Shri Sanjiv Sawla, Past chairman, current Director IOPEPC, Shri Rutuparna Dole, Chairman of IOPEPC, Guests of Honor: Shri Santosh Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Abhishek Dev, Chairman of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Shri. Jay Chandarana, Secretary IOPEPC, Shri Nilesh Vira, IPC, IOPEPC*

#### (ii) **Government Collaboration on Domestic Issues**

##### ❖ **Certified Seeds and Quality Assurance**

IOPEPC has advocated for the need to improve the Seed Replacement Rate (SRR) and Varietal Replacement Rate (VRR) for Groundnuts and Sesame, which are currently below 25 per cent. The Council has raised concerns about the issues related to using

stored seeds from the previous seasons and the sale of quality seeds under misleading labels (truthful label). These concerns have been communicated to the Ministry of Agriculture to seek solutions and improve seed quality and availability.

### **(iii) International Advocacy and Market Access**

On the international front, IOPEPC has been active in advocating for favorable trade terms and expanded market access for Indian Oilseeds.

#### **❖ Development of SOP for Sesame Seed Exports to the U.S.**

IOPEPC has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the export of Sesame seeds from India to the United States, in response to a formal request submitted to the Department of Commerce. This SOP mirrors the framework established for Sesame seed exports to the European Union, as per DGFT Notification No. 37/2015-20, to ensure consistency, regulatory compliance, and efficient trade practices.

The new SOP aims to standardize export procedures, improve regulatory adherence, and streamline the process, thereby enhancing trade between India and the U.S. It also supports the promotion of “BRAND INDIA” by ensuring that Sesame seeds meet international quality standards.

In accordance with DGFT Notification No. 38/2024-2025, IOPEPC has been authorized as the official certifying body for Sesame seed exports to the U.S. The notification, effective November 16, 2024, mandates that all Sesame seed shipments to the U.S. must be accompanied by an export certification issued by IOPEPC. This certification will involve a quality analysis performed by laboratories accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), ensuring compliance with U.S. quality standards.

#### **❖ India-Korea Trade Relations**

In the ongoing CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) upgrade negotiations between India and South Korea, IOPEPC has been at the forefront for advocating the inclusion of Sesame seeds in the list of commodities eligible for duty-free concessions. This strategic effort is part of a broader initiative by IOPEPC to enhance India's export opportunities and address the trade imbalances in

the Oilseeds sector. One of the key arguments put forth includes the existing duty-free quota that China enjoys where they are permitted to export up to 24,000 metric tons of Sesame seeds to Korea without incurring any import duties. IOPEPC has leveraged this comparison to demonstrate a clear disparity between the treatment of Indian Oilseeds and those from China, arguing that similar concessions should be extended to the Indian Oilseeds exports.

#### **❖ Advocacy for Increased Peanut Butter Export Quota to the U.S.**

IOPEPC has been actively advocating for an increase in India's export quota for peanut butter to the United States. Currently set at 1,600 MT, IOPEPC is pushing for this quota to be raised to 3,200 MT, with the long-term goal of reaching 15,000 MT. Additionally, IOPEPC contends for the reallocation of unused export quotas from other countries, such as Canada and Argentina, which have higher Peanut butter quotas, to be made available to India.

#### **❖ Indo-EU Aflatoxin Standards**

As European Union is the second-largest importer of Groundnuts, IOPEPC has been working to adjust the maximum residue limit (MRL) for aflatoxins. The Council is engaged in discussions to align the EU's permissible aflatoxin levels with those of the US, aiming for a standard of 10 ppb compared to the current EU limit of 4 ppb.

#### **❖ Indo-Japan Sesame Seed Market**

IOPEPC is actively engaging in discussions with the Japanese Oils and Fat Importers and Exporters Association (JOFIEA) to reinstate the import of Indian Sesame seeds into Japan. Historically, Japan has been a significant importer of Sesame seeds; however, in the past two decades, exports from India have dwindled due to concerns over pesticide residues, specifically Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) and Benzene Hexachloride (BHC).

In response to these challenges, the Indian Government has undertaken extensive initiatives to educate farmers on the judicious use of pesticides through various outreach programs. Concurrently, IOPEPC has been working directly with farmers to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). These combined efforts have led to a notable reduction in pesticide residues detected in Indian sesame seeds.

Given these positive developments, IOPEPC is now focusing on resuming Sesame seed exports to Japan. The ongoing dialogue with Japanese authorities aims to address any remaining concerns and re-establish trade relations, thereby reinvigorating India's Sesame seed exports to one of its historically significant markets.

Through these comprehensive initiatives, IOPEPC plays a pivotal role in advancing the Oilseeds sector, enhancing domestic and international market access, and supporting the growth and sustainability of Indian Oilseed exports.

### (O) 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.
- ❖ To promote textile products, 80 events (71 international events and 1 RBSM) were approved during 2024-25 under assistance of MAI scheme with an outlay of Rs. 6518.9 lakh.
- ❖ Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) on exports of Apparel/Garments (Chapters-61 & 62) and Made-ups (Chapter-63) has been extended till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- ❖ The other textile products which are not covered under the RoSCTL, are eligible to avail benefits, if any, under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) along with other products.

### (P) 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 and Chennai. There are 4603 members in the Council.

The products and services falling under the purview of Pharmexcil are Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), Bulk Drugs, Drug Intermediates, Excipients, Finished Dosage Forms (FDF), Biologics & Vaccines, Surgical, Nutraceuticals, Collaborative Research, Contract Manufacturing, Clinical Trials & Consultancy, and Regulatory Services.

Apart from acting as an interface with the Government, the Council also offers professional advice to its members in areas such as compliance with regulatory requirements, guidance on market and product potential for exports, technology up-gradation, trade related help, etc. Pharmexcil also acts as a nodal agency for issue of Registration cum Membership certificates (RCMC), Certificate of Origin (CoO) Non-preferential; Certificate of Export Performance; Payment of Duty/GST Certificate to member companies for availing bank guarantee exemption and Advance Authorisation. The Council participates in important exhibitions and fairs in various countries and also organizes international conferences and Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets (RBSM) in India.

#### (i) Export Performance

During 2023-24, Indian pharma exports grew by 9.66 per cent to reach US\$ 27.85 billion. India's top 5 pharma export destinations in 2023-24 were USA, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, and Brazil. The exports have continued to grow during April-November 2024 and have reached US\$ 19.21 billion with a growth of about 7.17 per cent as compared to exports in the corresponding period in the previous year. The category-wise summary of exports during April-November 2024 is as below:

**(Values in US\$ million)**

Product Category	2023-24	April-November 2023	April-November 2024	% Change	% Share
Drugs Formulations & Biologics	20536.22	13173.41	14420.24	9.46	75.08
Bulk Drugs & Drug Intermediates	4755.22	3029.04	3072.07	1.42	16.00
Vaccines	1187.99	844.74	762.41	(-)9.75	3.97

Product Category	2023-24	April-November 2023	April-November 2024	% Change	% Share
Surgicals	717.75	470.89	500.39	6.26	2.61
Ayush & Herbals	649.20	403.76	450.96	11.69	2.35
Total Exports	27846.38	17921.85	19206.07	7.17	100.00

**(Source: DGCI&S)**

In terms of regions, NAFTA, Europe and Africa accounted for about 69 per cent of total pharma exports. The top five countries for India's pharma exports during this period were the USA, UK, Brazil, France and South Africa. Exports to the USA, which represented 33.02 per cent of total pharma exports, expanded by 14.64 per cent, with a value of US\$ 6342.02 million.

### **(ii) Reducing dependency on the import of APIs**

India is heavily dependent on imports of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs)/Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) for meeting the requirements of the domestic sector as well as for manufacturing of formulations. To contribute to strengthen the country's drug security, under the Self Reliance Initiative, Pharmexcil with the financial support of Department of Commerce prepared a detailed Project Report on ways to reduce India's import dependence on APIs/KSMs/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.

### **(iii) 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, plant inspections, clinical trials etc. with a view to encourage industry to explore new and potential markets. Pharmexcil disbursed an amount of Rs. 38.69 crore to its members under MAI scheme during 2024-25 upto September 2024.

Department of Commerce also regularly interacts 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, South Korea, China, Indonesia, Latin America region, Africa, etc.

### **(iv) Global Outreach and B2B Engagements**

#### **IPHEX (International Pharmaceuticals Exhibition):**

The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the IPHEX, a flagship event of the PHARMEXCIL, was organised with the support of the Department of Commerce, Government of India on 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Greater Noida, India. The event was attended by 455 domestic exhibitors, 545 overseas delegates from 116 countries and 13,115 visitors. About 7,400 one to one business meetings took place during the three-day event. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jitin Prasada. Deputy Health Minister of Armenia, Mrs. Lena Nanunshyan and Deputy Health Minister of Ghana, Mr. Alexander Akwasi also participated in the event. IPHEX 2024 witnessed participation of Government Procurement Agency officials from Armenia, Madagascar, Uganda, Tanzania, Togo, Lesotho, Niger, Egypt, Ghana, Antigua & Barbada, Fiji, Peru. It also witnessed the presence of Food & Drug Authority Officials from Myanmar, Bhutan, Chile, Ghana, Armenia, Libya, Virgin Islands, Fiji, Ethiopia, and Vietnam.

Some of the other major events organized/participated by Pharmexcil during 2024-25 are:

- ❖ CPHI Japan in Tokyo Big Sight Exhibition Centre, Tokyo, Japan during 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- ❖ India Pavilion at Korea Pharm & Bio 2024 at KINTEX, Seoul, South Korea, 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2024
- ❖ “India-Korea Pharma Business Forum” at Korea Pharm & Bio on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 in association with Embassy of India, Seoul
- ❖ Clinical Pharmacy Congress 2024 in Excel, London, 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- ❖ 27<sup>th</sup> St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) 2024 in St Petersburg, Russia during 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- ❖ Workshop on “Medical Devices Regulations in Europe” organised by Pharmexcil & MT
  - Promedt Consulting GMBH (Germany based regulatory consultancy) at Hyatt Place, Hyderabad
- ❖ Buyer Seller Meet in CIS Region, 22<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- ❖ India Pavilion at Vietnam MEDI-PHARM EXPO in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam from 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024”
- ❖ “India-Vietnam Pharma Business Forum” on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in association with Consulate General of India at HCM, Vietnam
- ❖ 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of iPHEX organized by Pharmexcil at IEML - Knowledge Park II, Greater Noida, NCR, Delhi, 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2024
- ❖ India Pavilion at PHARMACONEX 2024-Egypt, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- ❖ CPHI Milan (Worldwide) 2024 Italy, Europe, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024

## 2. OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### (A) Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO)

FIEO provides the crucial interface between International Trading community of India with the

Central and State Governments, Financial Institutions, Ports, Railways, Surface Transport and all engaged in Export Trade Facilitation. FIEO serves directly or indirectly the interests of over 200,000 exporters from every Industry and Services sector in the country.

FIEO is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with its Headquarters in Delhi, Regional Offices in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, and Chapters in Jaipur, Kanpur, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Indore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Vijayawada, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi and Guwahati.

### Major Activities and Achievements

- ❖ During the fiscal year 2024-25 (till December 2024), FIEO orchestrated a total of 575 strategically located export promotion programs across India as well as abroad, devising strategy and streamlining the process for exporters to seamlessly market their products. Some of the international events organised by FIEO are as follows:
  - Participated in 135<sup>th</sup> Session of China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair-Phase 1, 2 & 3): 15<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024
  - Participated in 48<sup>th</sup> Edition of SEEBBE 2024 (South East Europe Belgrade Building Expo) at Belgrade, Serbia: 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2024
  - Participated in 21<sup>st</sup> Edition of Djazagro (International Trade Show for Agri, Food and Allied Products) held from 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Algiers, Algeria.
  - Participated in 19<sup>th</sup> Edition of Oman Design & Build Week in Muscat, Oman: 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024
  - Participated in the 120<sup>th</sup> Edition of “Fiore de Paris”, France 2024 at Paris, France: 1<sup>st</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> May 2024
  - Participated in 42<sup>nd</sup> Edition of EMEX 2024 (International Exhibition for Engineering, Machinery & Electronics Exhibition) at Auckland, New Zealand: 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> May 2024
  - Participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of India Fashion & Lifestyle Show, 2024 at Osaka,

- Japan: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Participated in “Food and Beverages West Africa” exhibition, Lagos, Nigeria: 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024
  - Participated in Global Sourcing Expo Australia at Sydney, Australia: 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2024
  - Participated in 8<sup>th</sup> China-South Asia Exposition (CSAE) and 28<sup>th</sup> China (Kunming) Import & Export Fair: 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July 2024
  - Participated in “PROJECT USA” at Las Vegas, USA: 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August 2024
  - Participated in the LED EXPO THAILAND + SMARTECH ASEAN 2024: 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> September 2024
  - Participated in Super Sourcing Dubai: 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> September 2024
  - Participated in INFLAVOUR 2024 at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024
  - Participated in 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition of EDIFICA” (International Exhibition for Building, Construction Industry) at Santiago, Chile: 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2024
  - Participated in the Warsaw Building, Construction and Hand Tools Exhibition at Warsaw, Poland: 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2024
  - Participated in 34<sup>th</sup> Edition of Saudi Build at Riyadh: 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2024
  - Participated in the Super Sourcing Kenya: 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2024
  - Participated in the Global Sourcing Expo, Australia: 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2024
- ❖ FIEO with the support of the Ministry of Commerce and States organised the Reverse Buyer-Seller Meets during the year 2024-25, details of the same are as follows:
    - FIEO joined hands with FaMeTN and MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu and organised a two days Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) at Coimbatore on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The RBSM witnessed participation of 28 buyers from 15 countries. More than 250 MSMEs from across Tamil Nadu had one-to-one meetings with the buyers.
- ❖ FIEO arranges interactive sessions with policy makers, ensuring that critical trade matters are brought to the Government’s attention for swift resolution.
  - ❖ Being an integral part of various committees and task forces established by both Central and State Governments, such as the Board of Trade, Parliamentary Standing Committee, FIEO provides crucial insights on a range of trade policies.
  - ❖ Throughout the year, FIEO organized interactive video conferences with Indian Ambassadors in various countries, fostering discussions on business promotion, challenges, and opportunities for Indian exporters.
  - ❖ Additionally, FIEO orchestrated a series of B2B meetings, exhibitions, and participation in international trade fairs, both physically and virtually, to further promote trade relations with different countries.
  - ❖ At the request of the Uttar Pradesh Government and with the backing of the Ministry of Commerce, FIEO again successfully facilitated the participation of over 300 international buyers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of grand UPITS show. This milestone marks a significant achievement for FIEO, representing the second instance of such a feat in a row in the organization’s history.
  - ❖ FIEO established a proactive War Room, comprising Regional Heads and key officers, under the guidance of the DG & CEO. Its primary objective is to assess the current situation, and promptly address concerns within the Exim community, ensuring swift and seamless exports.
  - ❖ Furthermore, every Wednesday, the DG & CEO conducts an Interactive Video Conference. During these sessions, exporters are apprised of the latest developments in Foreign Trade Policy and the geopolitical arena. They have the opportunity to seek clarifications on international trade matters. Following these meetings, any grievances expressed were expeditiously brought to the attention of relevant Government authorities through the dedicated department.
  - ❖ Also updated the members from time to time about the Government’s initiatives for providing

- relief to the Exim community on a real time basis in a segregated subject wise manner.
- ❖ The Indian Trade Portal, – One stop information trade portal of India developed and maintained by FIEO, currently provides information on 100+ countries, representing approximately 94 per cent of India’s exports and 96 per cent of global imports
  - ❖ To keep the Indian Exim community informed about international trade developments, FIEO have published over 4500+ trade alerts, 600+ news updates, and responded to over approx. 4300 trade and tender queries through the Indian Trade Portal.
  - ❖ Indian Business Portal is the only such marketplace that is exclusive for exporters registered in India and is custom-built to support exporters with a range of bespoke features and relevant partners integrated to build this ecosystem. The Strategic objectives of Indian Business Portal are; digitizing Indian Exporters and help them become discoverable online; promoting exports from all Indian States; showcasing India’s strength in wide range of Products & Services; encouraging virtual meetings between buyers and sellers; and providing a trusted network of Indian Exporters to Foreign Buyers.
  - ❖ 24000+ SMEs are registered on the FIEO Global Linker platform and of those 3000+ have already joined with over 1,50,000+ products and services listed on Indian Business Portal.
  - ❖ FIEO launched the “Ease of Logistics Portal, an initiative of FIEO to bring exporters and logistics service providers on a single platform to discuss and finalize business.
  - ❖ FIEO signed an MoU with North East Handloom & Development Corporation at Guwahati on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024. The MoU was signed by Dr. Ajay Sahai, DG & CEO, FIEO and Brigadier R. K. Singh, MD of NEHDC.
  - ❖ During the year 2024-25 (upto December 2024), FIEO has pursued important issues with the Government regularly which finally got resolved viz:
    - Extension of RoDTEP scheme for exports made from DTA Units and AA/EOU/SEZ Units
    - Extension of Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit.
    - Provision for extending export related benefits i.e., Drawback, RoDTEP/ RoSCTL for exports made through courier mode.
    - Addition of different Departments and Ministries for exemption under mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by Advance Authorisation holders, EOU and SEZ for goods to be utilised/consumed in manufacture of the goods export products.
    - Re-introduction of Facility to view scrip wise shipping bills after generating the scrip
    - updation of the new HSN CODE 29061110 of NATURAL MENTHOL in the RoDTEP List
    - Exemption of compensation cess against imports into units of SEZ/SEZ developer for authorised operations
    - Streamlining of physical examination process of chemical containers to avoid delays
    - Launch of Exchange rate Automation Module (ERAM).
  - ❖ In the current fiscal year, FIEO has undertaken the following key research projects in association with respective State Governments:
    - Formulation of export policy, supplemented by an export strategy, for the State of Rajasthan
    - Submitted first draft of export strategy of Arunachal Pradesh to the State Government
- In addition to the above, FIEO publishes many monthly and weekly bulletins, reports, articles etc. on various topics with the objective to keep the trade and industry updated on the latest happenings in the international trade sector. FIEO recognizes exporters

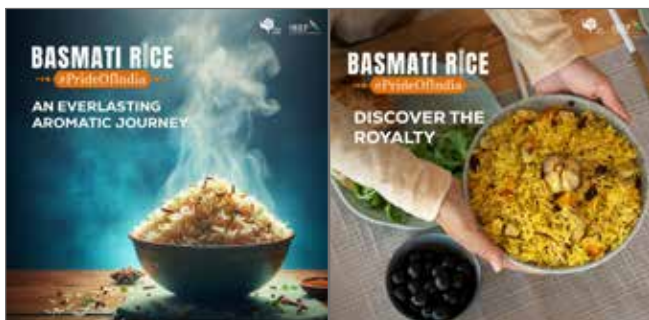
and export facilitators and confers “Niryat Shree” and “Niryat Bandhu” Awards respectively to encourage the exporters to perform better in year to year. Furthermore, to encourage & motivate the members, FIEO organizes Export Excellence Awards on Regional basis.

**(B) India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)**

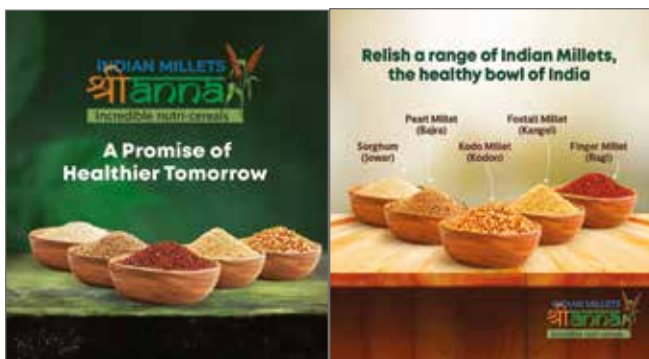
The India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) is a Trust established by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. IBEF’s primary objective is to promote and create international awareness of Brand India in overseas markets and to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge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

IBEF carried out several branding activities during 2024-25. Highlights of key initiatives are given below:

- ❖ **Promotion of Basmati Rice:** IBEF promoted different varieties of Basmati Rice under an umbrella branding campaign ‘Discover India’ in overseas markets in association with APEDA. Some of the creatives of the campaign are as follows:



- ❖ **Promoting Indian Millets (Shree Anna):** IBEF promoted the Indian Millets (Shree Anna) in overseas markets in association with APEDA. The campaign included a social media campaign, recipe contests, and offline activities. Some of the creative of the campaign are as follows:



- ❖ **Branding and promotion of Indian Organic Products:** IBEF undertook the branding and promotion of Indian Organic Products during an event titled Organic and Natural Product Expo Dubai in the Middle East region.

**(i) Event creatives**



**(ii) Website landing page**



- ❖ **Branding and Promotion of Indian Fruits:** IBEF promoted Indian Fruits in overseas markets with the campaign tagline ‘Goodness of Indian Fruits’ in association with APEDA. The campaign highlights salient features of Indian fruits along with India’s strong presence in the global market.



- ❖ **Promotion of Indian Tea:** IBEF undertook the promotion of Indian Tea and its different variants in overseas markets in association with the Tea board of India in 2024-25. The campaign highlighted the various varieties of Indian Tea and the strong export numbers.



- ❖ **Promotion of Bharat Mobility Global Expo:** Promotion of Bharat Mobility Global Expo was undertaken in overseas markets in association with EEPC India. Branding elements like outdoor advertising at the airport along with digital promotions were covered as part of the campaign.



- ❖ **Branding and promotion at Sial Paris:** In association with APEDA, various agricultural and processed food products were promoted during the largest show of food known as Sial Paris.



- ❖ **E-newsletter design for Export Inspection Council:** IBEF conceptualized and designed the quarterly newsletter for the Export Inspection Council.

### 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. So far, 24 States have prepared their Export Strategies.

### 4. RETREAT WITH COMMERCIAL WING OFFICERS OF INDIAN MISSIONS IN 20 COUNTRIES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO ENHANCE INDIA'S EXPORT POTENTIAL

- ❖ A Retreat with the officers of the Commercial Wings of Indian Missions in 20 identified countries of significance to enhance India's export potential was organized from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in New Delhi. The 20 countries, were Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Türkiye, UAE, United Kingdom, USA, Vietnam.
- ❖ Senior officials from Department of Commerce and the Department for Promotion of Investment and Internal Trade along with key stakeholders from various Ministries/Departments/Organizations, subject matter experts and academicians participated. The Retreat aimed to address the key challenges faced by India

in enhancing its global export competitiveness and focused on exploring strategic solutions for fostering multilateral trade collaboration and streamlining operational and logistical barriers to trade.

- ❖ Providing policy solutions was the central theme, emphasizing the need for innovative approaches to bolster India's competitiveness. The discussions led by Commerce Secretary and Senior Officers highlighted urgent areas of importance like addressing fluctuating global demand, enhancing logistics capabilities and implementing a unified export strategy that incorporates insights from various stakeholders. This strategic alignment was essential not only for fostering better export outcomes but also for nurturing India's broader economic aspirations, particularly the goal of realizing a US\$ 30 trillion economy by the end of the 'Amritkaal' in 2047.
- ❖ The Retreat served as a pivotal platform to deliberate on pressing challenges and future opportunities in promoting India's export growth and to make concerted efforts to align strategic initiatives tailored for enhancing India's presence in global markets amidst the complexity of international trade dynamics.
- ❖ Deliberations on Market Access Challenges revealed the hurdles faced by Indian exporters, particularly regarding non-tariff measures and regulatory constraints in foreign markets. Participants engaged in constructive dialogues to identify specific issues that impede exports of Indian goods and services, enabling a better understanding of market entry conditions and the structural challenges of trade. They further, explored strategies, and innovative approaches that can make India a dominant player in global export markets. This included discussing approaches to overcome non-tariff barriers, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), which often impede India's trade flows with these countries.
- ❖ Issues of particular interest at multilateral

trade negotiations including Agriculture, Public Stockholding (PSH) for Food Security Purposes, Fisheries Subsidies Agreement and other significant negotiations at the WTO that directly impact India's interests, were deliberated.

- ❖ A dedicated session was also held on the logistics challenges faced by exporters, including transport infrastructure, supply chain bottlenecks, and custom procedures which explored how India can enhance its logistics capabilities to streamline exports and reduce costs, supporting the broader 'Make in India' and 'Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes' to strengthen the country's manufacturing and export competitiveness.
- ❖ A significant outcome of the retreat was the emphasis on collaboration among various entities involved in export promotion and it provided a platform for sharing best practices and operational insights among Commercial Wings, which will strengthen India's approach to overcoming barriers in different markets. Moreover, there was consensus on improving data flow and communication between Missions and Capital which is crucial for formulating timely policies and strategies that reflect current global trends.
- ❖ The Missions were urged to support the One District One Product (ODOP) initiatives in their respective countries of posting, focusing on improving branding, enhancing market access, and ensuring better income for farmers through increased exports. The coordinated efforts and a proactive approach will help in capturing the emerging opportunities. The critical role played by Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the necessity of integrating India into global value chains was highlighted. With a 40-45 per cent growth in FDI inflows from the focus countries, discussions centered on enhancing the Ease of Doing Business and building robust infrastructure to accommodate the emerging needs of both domestic and international investors. The importance of PLI in capacity

enhancement and the demand for PLI 2.0 for all fiber types, including man-made fiber was also emphasized. The retreat called for initiatives to identify and resolve policy-related concerns of private businesses while promoting an environment conducive to investment.

- ❖ The collective sentiments emphasized the urgency of implementing a tiered approach that balances short-term fixes with long-term strategic objectives. This framework will guide India towards achieving more diverse and sustainable export growth, addressing both domestic capabilities and international demand in a rapidly evolving trade landscape.
- ❖ Invest India emphasized the need to align India's export strategies with global market demands, and encouraged Missions to gather data on consumer preferences, market dynamics, and potential competition to inform export strategies.
- ❖ The three-day intensive discussions concluded with a set of actionable strategies designed to propel Indian exports forward. This included the establishment of a comprehensive Data Analytics Portal to explore emerging market opportunities and the 'E-connect Portal' aimed at supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with market access information. Furthermore, participants proposed the idea of setting up specialized trade promotion organizations similar to successful international models, fostering environment that bridges government operations with business requirements effectively.
- ❖ The need for additional US\$ 662 billion in trade in Services to achieve US\$ 1 trillion by 2030 was highlighted. This included introduction of a new approach to Trade Intelligence, focusing on collaboration and data analytics. The retreat also highlighted the 'Eyes and Ears Framework' for Mission Abroad and EPCs, outlining action points and Key Performance Indicators for Market Intelligence, Capacity Building, Event Collaboration, and Strategic Planning. The strategies include promoting

advanced technologies, marketing 'Brand India', providing access to international quality standards, and ensuring importers' availability. It also highlighted the need for strategic reforms in India's maritime policies to enhance competitiveness, security, and sustainable growth in the sector. Regular trade expos, capacity-building workshops, and reverse buyer-seller meets were suggested to enhance visibility for Indian products in global markets.

- ❖ Recommendations and feedback from the Sessions were presented to HCIM in an interactive discussion on the final day, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025. Recognising the importance of the event, HCIM announced the decision to institutionalize it, emphasizing the significance of the countries represented and their contribution to India's trade, service exports, and FDI. It was suggested to include more countries with potential for growth in trade, technology, critical minerals, investments and tourism. HCIM also emphasised the need to share the insights gained from the event across Indian Missions to ensure that the benefits are accessible to all and highlighted the importance of a candid, robust and regular feedback system for better co-ordination between the Missions and the Capital. He appreciated the participants for their active involvement in the sessions, acknowledging the collective engagement and remarkable contributions made throughout the three-day event.
- ❖ The Retreat emerged as not only a forum for discussing challenges but a launchpad for a renewed commitment to enhance India's export capabilities through tailored strategies, collaborative approaches and innovative policy-making. By focusing on the nexus of trade, investment, and local industry development with concerted efforts from all the stakeholders India can fortify its position as a formidable player in global markets, ultimately contributing to its economic growth and development to become a developed nation by 2047.



# 6

## Chapter

### **COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS**

## 1. TRADE WITH SOUTH-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 neighbourhood 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 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The Agreement came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Member countries have also signed Agreement on Trade in Services and Agreement on Investment in November 2014. These Agreements came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

India and ASEAN have initiated the process for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). The Ministers in the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-India Economic Ministers meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022 endorsed the Scope of Review of AITIGA and activated AITIGA Joint Committee to undertake the review. AITIGA Joint Committee has met six times so far in May 2023, August 2023, February 2024, May 2024, July/August 2024 and November 2024.

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

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement

(CECA) was signed with Singapore on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005 which became operational from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2005. The 1<sup>st</sup> Review of India-Singapore CECA was concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Review was concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Review of India-Singapore CECA was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> February 2011 which became operational from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

#### (iii) Recent trade related activities

##### (a) 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of India and Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment (JWGTI)

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the India-Cambodia Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment (JWGTI) was held at Joint Secretary level on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in New Delhi. Both sides reviewed the bilateral trade and discussed ways to improve value and quantum of trade. Both sides identified range of potential sectors to strengthen partnership such as facilitating cross border payments, recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia, collaboration in Pharma sector capacity building and R&D, cooperation with NIC on e-governance applications, negotiation on MoU on Custom Matters, cooperation in Traditional Medicines, Investment opportunities on both sides etc.

**(b) 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of Joint Trade Committee between India and Myanmar was held at Joint Secretary level on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in New Delhi. Both sides reviewed bilateral trade and economic relations and identified key sectors to strengthen bilateral cooperation such as Textile sector, Transport and Connectivity, Capacity Building programmes, Shipping, Pharmaceuticals and Health, Power, ICT, MSME, 5G Telecom stack, Trade settlement in INR, supply of petroleum, Oil and lubricants, Gems and Jewellery.

**(c) Annual ASEAN-India Senior Economic Officials' and Economic Ministers' meetings**

The 39<sup>th</sup> SEOM-India Consultation (ASEAN-India Senior Economic Officials' Meeting), organised by ASEAN Secretariat, was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. This meeting was followed by

21<sup>st</sup> AEM-India Consultations (ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting) held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Lao PDR. The Ministerial meeting reviewed the trade and economic relations as well as the progress in the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

**(iv) ASEAN Trade**

India's trade with ASEAN countries was US\$ 120.87 billion during the year 2023-24 and US\$ 73.10 billion during 2024-25 (April-October (P)). Major destinations for India's exports and imports in the region are Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia. The major commodities of export include Petroleum Products, Organic chemicals, Bovine meat, Gems & Jewellery, Turbojets and IC engines, Floating structures and light-vessels etc. The major commodities of import include Coal, Electronic equipment and components, Vegetable Oils, Plastic & articles, Organic Chemicals, Iron & Steel.

**Country-wise trade data for ASEAN Region***(Values in US\$ million)*

Country/Region	2023-24			2024-25 (April-October) (P)		
	Export	Import	Total Trade	Export	Import	Total Trade
Singapore	14414.27	21199.25	35613.52	8452.14	12218.34	20670.48
Indonesia	5988.88	23410.61	29399.49	3462.91	14159.36	17622.27
Malaysia	7262.15	12754.01	20016.16	4625.00	7345.36	11970.36
Vietnam	5470.15	9345.07	14815.22	3082.21	6356.80	9439.01
Thailand	5038.97	9909.23	14948.2	2776.90	7011.71	9788.61
Philippines	2097.17	1433.6	3530.77	1308.33	631.48	1939.81
Myanmar	670.37	1075.65	1746.02	354.87	1039.77	1394.64
Cambodia	185.39	218.4	403.79	103.30	59.41	162.71
Brunei	67.44	218.76	286.2	29.41	69.29	98.70
Laos	12.88	99.73	112.61	7.63	8.85	16.48
<b>ASEAN total</b>	<b>41207.67</b>	<b>79664.31</b>	<b>120871.98</b>	<b>24202.7</b>	<b>48900.37</b>	<b>73103.07</b>
<b>India's Global</b>	<b>437072.03</b>	<b>678214.77</b>	<b>1115286.80</b>	<b>252207.27</b>	<b>416936.04</b>	<b>669143.31</b>
<b>% Share</b>	<b>9.43</b>	<b>11.75</b>	<b>10.84</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>11.73</b>	<b>10.92</b>

**Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata**  
**P stands for Provisional**

## 2. TRADE WITH NORTH EAST ASIA

India's bilateral trade with the North East Asia (hereafter NEA) region comprising People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Republic of Korea (South Korea), Japan, Taiwan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), Mongolia and Macao stood at US\$ 126.5 billion during (April-October) 2024-25, which is an increase of 5.02 per cent over the previous year.

### (i) Commodity Composition with NEA region

Major items of export to NEA region include pearl, precious, semiprecious stones, iron ore, petroleum products, marine products, gold & other precious metal jewellery, aluminium and its products, iron & steel, electricity machinery and organic chemicals.

Major items of import from the region include electronics components, telecom instruments, computer hardware, peripherals, industrial machinery for dairy products, residual chemicals, iron & steel, organic chemicals, plastic raw materials and electronic instruments.

### (ii) Trade Agreements

#### (a) India-Korea CEPA

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Republic of Korea was signed on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010. The two sides commenced negotiations for upgradation of CEPA in 2016 and 11 (eleven) rounds of upgradation negotiations have been held so far with last round (11<sup>th</sup>) of negotiations held on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Seoul.

#### (b) India-Japan CEPA

A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Japan was signed on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011. Under the institutional mechanism of CEPA, the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 virtually. Under the provisions of India-Japan CEPA, India has requested Japan to initiate the process of review of the Agreement for mutually beneficial gains for both the sides. The Sub-committee meetings between India and Japan were held between December 2023 to March 2024.

### (iii) Recent Trade related Activities

#### (a) China

- ❖ The bilateral merchandise trade between India and China has increased from US\$ 72 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 118 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ Regular efforts are being made to address the issues faced by our exporters in exports to China in consultations with EPCs and our Mission in Beijing.
- ❖ Trade promotion events were organised by Embassy from time to time for promotion of exports from India.

#### (b) Korea

- ❖ The bilateral merchandise trade between India and Korea has increased from US\$ 18.13 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 27.55 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ India Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) upgradation negotiations were initiated in 2016 with a view to achieve qualitative and quantitative increase of trade, get for additional market access in goods and services, strengthening of Rules of Origin, addressing of technical barriers to trade and other trade and investments related issues.
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations was held on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Seoul, South Korea.

#### (c) Japan

- ❖ The bilateral merchandise trade between India and Japan has increased from US\$ 15.51 billion in 2014-15 to US\$ 22.85 billion in 2023-24.
- ❖ Both countries have agreed to accept the e-Certificate of Origin as a step towards simplification of custom procedures.
- ❖ Under the institutional mechanism of India-Japan CEPA, the Sub-committees on Rules of Origin, Customs Procedure, Trade in services, Improvement of

Business Environment and Movement of Natural Persons have last held their meetings during December 2023 to March 2024.

#### (d) Taiwan

- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> Working Group on Trade meeting was held between India and Taiwan on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- ❖ Mutual Recognition Agreement for export/import of organic products has been operationalised w.e.f. 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### 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.

*(Values in US\$ billion)*

Bilateral Trade of India with South Asian countries and Iran in FY 2023-24				
S. No.	Country	Exports	Imports	Total Trade
1	Bangladesh PR	11.1	1.84	12.90
2	Nepal	7.0	0.83	7.84
3	Sri Lanka DSR	4.1	1.42	5.55
4	Iran	1.2	0.63	1.85
5	Bhutan	0.9	0.34	1.29
6	Maldives	0.9	0.09	0.98
7	Afghanistan	0.4	0.64	1.00
8	Pakistan IR	1.2	0.00	1.19
	<b>Total</b>	26.8	5.79	32.59

**Source: DGCI&S**

- ❖ **There is Strategic Partnership Agreement between Afghanistan & India** under which trade and commerce related issues are discussed. The third meeting of the JWG was held in October 2018 at Kabul. Trade with Afghanistan came to a halt under Taliban regime since August 2021 and India is trading cautiously with humanitarian motivation.

- ❖ **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. There is an institutional mechanism to discuss trade and commerce issues at the level of Commerce Secretary, the last meeting of which was held on 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

- ❖ **The bilateral trade between India and Nepal is governed by the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade:** 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. 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. The Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal has been revised on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023. The revised Treaty of Transit incorporates changes effected through Letters of Exchange (LoE) which inter-alia include clear identification of routes for the movement of transit cargo through roadways, railways, inland waterways and inclusion of additional locations on the India-Nepal border for the movement of bulk-cargo through rail etc. The Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) meeting on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade, between India and Nepal was held on 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> January 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

- ❖ **The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)** has been in operation since 1<sup>st</sup> 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, except 429 products. The 14<sup>th</sup> Round of Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) negotiations between Sri Lanka and India took place from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> July 2024 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Both sides delved into a spectrum of critical areas, including Trade in Goods, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Trade in Services.

❖ **There is 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:**

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 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Efforts are also being made to address the emerging challenges affecting India-Iran bilateral trade as a consequence of international developments. Efforts are also being made to address the emerging challenges affecting India-Iran bilateral trade as a consequence of international developments.

❖ **The bilateral trade between India and Maldives is facilitated by a Bilateral Trade Agreement of 1981 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 April 2024 for FY 2024-25.

❖ **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 on all tariff lines except for 25 lines related to liquor and tobacco to Least Developed Countries (LDC) under South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) which includes

Bangladesh. The 15<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between India and Bangladesh was held on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The meeting discussed various bilateral issues, including the removal of port restrictions, progress on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), harmonization of standards, supply of essential commodities, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity.

## 4. TRADE WITH AFRICA

### (i) Trade with Sub-Saharan Africa

India's total trade with Sub Saharan Africa region during 2023-24 was US\$ 71.82 billion (6.44 per cent of India's total trade with the World) as compared to US\$ 82.13 billion in 2022-23 (7.04 per cent of India's total trade with the World). While India's total exports to SSA region in 2023-24 were US\$ 38.13 billion and India's imports were US\$ 33.69 billion i.e. India is in a trade surplus with SSA as a whole.

During current FY 2024-25 (April-October), bilateral trade between India and Sub-Saharan Africa region was US\$ 41.60 billion as compared to US\$ 41.30 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-October) recording a growth of 0.72 per cent. India's exports to Sub Saharan Africa region recorded a decline of 4.90 per cent from US\$ 21.50 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-October), to US\$ 20.45 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-October), while India's imports from Sub Saharan Africa region stood at US\$ 21.15 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-October), registering a growth of 6.82 per cent as compared to US\$ 19.80 billion in 2023 (April-October).

### (ii) India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting

A Joint Trade Committee meeting with Nigeria was held during 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The comprehensive dialogue undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. Both sides agreed to early conclusion of Local Currency Settlement System Agreement.

### (iii) India-Ghana Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meeting

Joint Trade Committee meeting with Ghana was held during 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. Both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial investments. The possibilities of a MoU on Digital transformation Solutions; Local Currency Settlement System and also the opportunities offered by African Continental Free Trade Agreement were also delved upon.

### (iv) India-Zimbabwe Joint -Trade Committee (JTC) meeting

Joint Trade Committee meeting with Zimbabwe was held during 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and several areas of focus were identified for enhancing bilateral cooperation. Both sides agreed to explore MoUs for regulatory cooperation in Digital Transformation Solutions, Tele-medicines, Rough diamonds, fast payments system and traditional medicines, among others.

### (v) The 19<sup>th</sup> CII –EXIM Bank Digital Conclave

The 19<sup>th</sup> CII India Africa Business Conclave held from 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, in New Delhi, saw an impressive turnout of over 870 delegates from India and more than 1200 international participants from 47 African countries and 18 other nations. The high-level representation, included 5 Head of States and 40 Ministers from 20 African countries. It was a testament to the strong commitment to strengthening India-Africa relations. The discussions on key sectors, as well as the 380 project opportunities and over 780 B2B meetings, paved the way for promising collaborations and future growth. The exposition, featuring 47 exhibitors and presentations by 7 African missions, showcased the immense potential for joint ventures and investment.

On the sidelines of the conclave, Bilateral meeting of Hon'ble MoS with counterparts from Malawi, Chad and Somalia and Bilateral meetings of Commerce Secretary with counterparts from Zimbabwe, Somalia, Niger and Ghana 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 2024-25.

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) COUNTRIES

### (i) Bilateral Trade with the countries in West Asia and North Africa (WANA) Region

In the Department of Commerce, countries/territories in WANA region are United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain which are part of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other countries in West Asia namely Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Israel, and Yemen. Countries namely Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Sudan, South Sudan and Egypt constitute North African region. Notably, Saudi Arabia and UAE have been identified among the 20 priority export markets by the Department for scaling up India's exports. During FY 2024-25 (April-September) bilateral trade with the countries in the Region was as under:

*(Values in US\$ million)*

S. No.	Country	2024-25 (April-September)		
		Exports	Imports	Total Trade
1.	Algeria	446.81	632.97	1079.78
2.	Bahrain	345.32	403.46	748.78
3.	Egypt	1,704.63	513.54	2218.17
4.	Iraq	1,629.56	13821.11	15450.67
5.	Israel	979.33	737.09	1716.42
6.	Jordan	346.51	966.82	1313.33
7.	Kuwait	822.83	3592.01	4414.84
8.	Lebanon	161.30	54.18	215.48
9.	Libya	346.38	29.98	376.36
10.	Morocco	438.06	559.43	997.49
11.	Oman	2,029.83	3128.23	5158.06

S. No.	Country	2024-25 (April-September)		
		Exports	Imports	Total Trade
12.	Qatar	817.67	6147.16	6964.83
13.	Saudi Arabia	5,451.94	13134.70	18586.64
14.	Sudan	244.49	344.70	589.19
15.	South Sudan	9.68	0.08	9.76
16.	Syria	37.82	6.76	44.58
17.	Tunisia	167.73	73.31	241.04
18.	U Arab Emts	17,166.47	31457.18	48623.65
19.	Yemen	357.63	93.87	451.5

**Source: DGCI&S**

## (ii) Notable bilateral trade agreements with the Region

### ❖ India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

CEPA was signed on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and it came into force w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. India and UAE successfully held the second Meeting of the Joint Committee (JC) under the CEPA on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Dubai. Both sides noted substantial growth in bilateral trade during the first two years of implementation and expressed optimism in attaining the target of US\$ 100 million non-oil trade well before the year 2030.

Both sides agreed to establish a technical group of experts for the seamless exchange of trade-related data. The UAE would consider a proposal to designate the Indian Jewellery Exposition Center in Dubai as a Designated Zone, which would enhance the export of Indian jewelry. The two sides also agreed to expedite the recognition of the i-CAS Halal scheme, simplifying certification and facilitating the export of animal products to the UAE. Addressing the fast-tracking of registrations and pricing mechanisms for Indian pharmaceutical products, UAE side assured that its forthcoming domestic regulatory changes would resolve these issues. Furthermore, both sides committed to holding the First Sub-Committee Meeting on Services to, inter alia, develop Mutual Recognition Agreements in services like accountancy and nursing.

### ❖ India-GCC FTA

Discussions on the Terms of Reference are currently underway between both sides.

## (iii) Significant Trade Related Activities

### (a) UAE

During current FY 2024 (April-September), the bilateral trade between India and UAE was US\$ 48.66 billion as compared to US\$ 36.16 billion in 2023 (April-September). India's exports to UAE recorded a growth of 11.24 per cent from US\$ 15.47 billion in 2023 (April-September), to US\$ 17.21 billion in 2024 (April-September), while India's imports from UAE stood at US\$ 31.46 billion in 2024-25 (April-September), registering a growth of 52.01 per cent as compared to US\$ 20.7 billion in the corresponding period.

**High Level Task Force on Investment:** The 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the India-UAE High Level Joint Task Force on Investments (HLJTFI) took place in Mumbai in the month of October 2024. It was co-Chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and His Highness Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director of Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA). During the 12<sup>th</sup> HLJTFI meeting, the Co-Chairs acknowledged the continued growth and strengthening of the bilateral relationship between India and the UAE, including on trade and investment related matters.

**Bharat Mart:** It is a transformative physical trade hub both in B2B and B2C format which is being set up in Jebel Ali Free Zone Area, Dubai, catering to Indian exporters for establishing a wholesale & retail marketplace. This project seeks to bridge the gap between India's burgeoning manufacturing sector and untapped international markets and aligns with Government of India initiatives such as Make in India, promotion of MSMEs, among others. It will provide 1400 units comprising of showrooms, warehousing, and office space with multimodal connectivity through Jebel Ali Port, Al Maktoum International Airport and Etihad Rail. Notably, Machinery, Electrical and Electronics, Auto and Auto Component, Medical Equipment, Furniture, Apparel, Process Food, Pharma, Cosmetics and Perfumes, Plastics, rubber products and handicrafts have been identified as focus sectors. The foundation stone was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister in February, 2024 and the project is scheduled for commercial operations

in Q1 2026. Multiple road shows and business events have been conducted by DP World, CII and FIEO to promote this initiative.

### **(b) Saudi Arabia**

Saudi Arabia is one of the largest trading partner of India. During current FY 2024-25 (April-September), bilateral trade was US\$ 18.59 billion as compared to US\$ 20.43 billion in 2023-24 (April-September). The decline is owing to 13.39 per cent reduction in imports during this period. India's exports although recorded a growth of 3.55 per cent from US\$ 5.27 billion in 2023-24 (April-September), to US\$ 5.45 billion in the corresponding period during this FY. Both sides are working towards further enhancement and diversification of bilateral trade.

**Saudi Institutional Mechanism/JWG:** The Joint Working Group (JWG) on Industry and Infrastructure under the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership was convened on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The issues related to enhanced market access for Indian pharmaceutical products were discussed.

### **(c) Oman**

During current FY 2024-25 (April-September), bilateral trade between India and Oman was US\$ 5.16 billion as compared to US\$ 4.11 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September). India's exports to Oman recorded a growth of 1.11 per cent from US\$ 2 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September), to US\$ 2.03 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-September), while India's imports from Oman stood at US\$ 3.13 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-September), registering a growth of 48.76 per cent (due to increase in import of petroleum: crude, fertilizers manufactured, inorganic chemicals) as compared to US\$ 2.1 billion in 2023 (April-September).

### **(d) Qatar**

During Current FY 2024-25 (April-September), bilateral trade between India and Qatar was US\$ 6.96 billion as compared to US\$ 6.29 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September). India's exports to Qatar recorded a growth of 9.46 per cent from US\$ 0.75 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September), to US\$ 0.82 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-September), while India's imports from Qatar stood at US\$ 6.15 billion in FY

2024-25 (April-September), registering a growth of 10.92 per cent as compared to US\$ 5.54 billion in the corresponding period during the previous FY.

### **❖ First India-Qatar Joint Working Group Meeting**

An Indian delegation comprising of officers from Department of Commerce and other Ministries and organizations held a Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting with Qatari side in Doha on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The JWG meeting was co-chaired by Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce, and Director of International Cooperation and Trade Agreements at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of the State of Qatar.

Besides reviewing the state of bilateral trade, both sides also reviewed the progress of ongoing discussions for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Food Safety and on Mutual Cooperation in exchange of pre-arrival information for facilitation of trade and customs control on goods. Both sides agreed to conclude them expeditiously. The two sides also discussed a possible mechanism to activate the Joint Business Council to carry out its assigned role in following up and implementing private sector's proposals for enhancing trade and investment cooperation. Both sides identified Gems and Jewellery sector, cooperation between customs authorities, trade in local currency, pharmaceuticals, food processing and food security related issues, cooperation in MSME, etc. as focus areas to enhance and diversify bilateral trade.

### **(e) Bahrain**

During current FY 2024-25 (April-September), bilateral trade between India and Bahrain was US\$ 0.75 billion as compared to US\$ 0.58 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September). India's exports to Bahrain recorded a growth of 18.35 per cent from US\$ 0.29 billion in FY 2023-24 (April-September), to US\$ 0.34 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-September), while India's imports from Bahrain stood at US\$ 0.4 billion in FY 2024-25 (April-September), registering a growth of 39.62 per cent as compared to US\$ 0.29 billion in 2023(April-September).

### **(f) Kuwait**

Bilateral trade between India and Kuwait was US\$

10.47 billion in FY 2023-24, registering a decrease of 24.11 per cent as compared to FY 2022-23. India's exports to Kuwait were at US\$ 2.10 billion in FY 2023-24, registering an increase of 34.78 per cent as compared to FY 2022-23. India's imports from Kuwait were at US\$ 8.37 billion in FY 2023-24, registering a decline of 31.61 per cent as compared to FY 2022-23. A trade surplus of US\$ 6.27 billion in Kuwait's favour was registered in 2023-24.

### (g) Egypt

Bilateral trade between India and Egypt was US\$ 4.75 billion in 2023-24, registering a decline of 21.62 per cent as compared to 2022-23. India's exports to Egypt were at US\$ 3.52 billion in 2023-24, registering an decrease of 14.33 per cent as compared to 2022-23. India's imports from Egypt were at US\$ 1.23 billion in 2023-24, registering a decline of 37.06 per cent as compared to 2022-23. A trade surplus of US\$ 2.29 billion in India's favour was registered in 2023-24.

During current FY 2024 (April-September), the bilateral trade between India and Egypt was US\$ 2.27 billion as compared to US\$ 2.53 billion in 2023 (April-September). India's exports to Egypt recorded a decline of 6.49 per cent from US\$ 1.82 billion in 2023 (April-September), to US\$ 1.7 billion in 2024 (April-September), while India's imports from Egypt stood at US\$ 0.57 billion in 2024-25 (April-September), registering a decline of 20.5 per cent as compared to US\$ 0.71 billion in 2023 (April-September).

### ❖ India-Egypt JTC

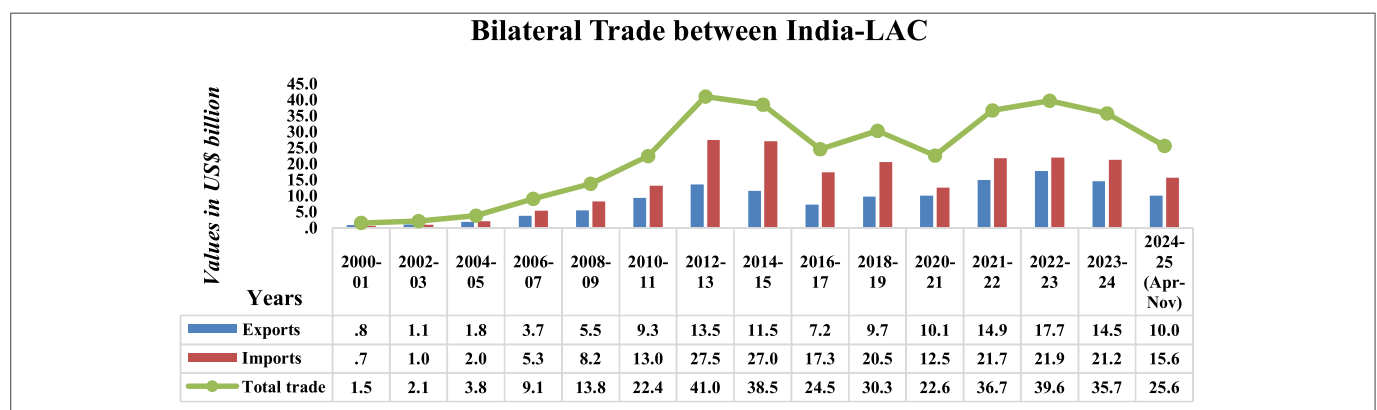
The sixth Session of India-Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi from 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 under the co-chairpersonship of Economic Adviser, Department of Commerce,

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India and Deputy Minister of Investment & Foreign Trade and Chairman of the Egyptian Commercial Service, Arab Republic of Egypt.

Both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade and investment including that in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), pharmaceuticals and health sector, gems & jewelry, engineering goods, petroleum and mining, MSME Sector, customs matters, services sector, IT services, electronics manufacturing, apparel manufacturing, renewable energy – green hydrogen, food security, international trade settlement and digital payments, transport and trade disputes etc. Both sides also discussed market access issues on agricultural products and agreed to resolve the issues as early as possible. The long-pending visit of Egyptian NPPO officials was successfully organised in the month of December, 2024. It will pave the way for grant of market access to Indian raw cotton into Egyptian cotton market.

## 6. TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICAN & CARIBBEAN REGION

Latin American & 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. The economic relations between LAC and India are still in a nascent stage and there are immense opportunities for trade, investment, and cooperation between India and Latin American and Caribbean Countries. Total bilateral merchandise trade with the region increased from US\$ 1.49 billion in 2000-01 to US\$ 25.59 billion in 2024-25 (April-November). LAC region accounts for 3 per cent of India's Global trade.



During FY 2024-25 (April-November), India's exports to LAC region stood at US\$ 10 billion and imports at US\$ 15.59 billion. India's top trading partners were Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia.

India's exports to LAC region are diversified and dominated by finished products like drug formulations, agro chemicals, petroleum products, two & three wheelers, motor vehicles & cars, auto components/parts, manmade yarn/fabrics/madeups, industrial machinery for dairy etc. India's imports from LAC region are primarily commodities which are inputs and raw materials to our industries. The major commodities are gold, vegetable oils, petroleum crude, bulk minerals & ores, sugar, copper & its products, petroleum products, other wood & its products, iron & steel, coal, coke & briquettes, inorganic chemicals etc.

There exists a huge untapped export potential in the sectors of Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals, Machinery & Mechanical Appliance, Electrical machinery & equipment, Transportation equipment, Electronics and software.

### (i) Engagement with LAC Region

#### Trade Agreements

- ❖ **India Peru Trade Agreement:** India is negotiating a Trade Agreement with Peru covering trade in goods & services. As of now 7 rounds of negotiations have been held. The last round (7<sup>th</sup>) of negotiations was held in New Delhi during 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Both sides are strategizing their approach considering their offensive and defensive interests so that the negotiations can be taken forward, keeping in view the difference in size of both the economies, manufacturing capacity, supply chain and demand.



India Peru Trade Agreement Negotiations- Round 7

- ❖ **Expansion of India-Chile PTA:** India has a Preferential Trade Agreement with Chile since 2006, which was further expanded in 2016. The scope and coverage of the PTA has been limited to 1034 TLs from Indian side and 1798 TLs from Chilean side. Chile approached India for a CEPA with them. A Joint Study Group was constituted under Article 4 of Framework Agreement to evaluate the feasibility of proposed CEPA and subsequently, the Terms of Reference were negotiated on non-prejudice basis subject to approval of the competent authority.

### (ii) Institutional Mechanisms

In order to promote India's trade with the countries in the LAC region, India is engaged with the partner countries through various mechanisms i.e. Joint Economic Trade Committees with countries like Costa Rica, Ecuador and Dominican Republic; Trade Monitoring Mechanism with Brazil and Joint Trade Committee with Argentina.

- ❖ High level interactions with LAC Countries such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Saint Kitts & Nevis etc.



Bilateral meeting of Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry with Mr. Alberto van Klaveren, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chile on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024



Interactive Session with H.E. Ms. Diana Elena Mondino, Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs, Argentina & Shri Jitin Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, India on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## 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.

(Values in US\$ million)

Bilateral Trade between India and CIS Countries					
Year	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	% Growth of Total Trade	Trade Balance
2016-17	2793.95	9322.76	12116.7	27.95	(-)6528.81
2017-18	3007.37	12875.6	15883	31.08	(-)9868.23
2018-19	3467.04	9442.97	12910	(-)18.72	(-)5975.93
2019-20	4191.84	11916.5	16108.4	24.77	(-)7724.66
2020-21	4059.2	9153.11	13212.31	(-)17.98	(-)5093.91
2021-22	4708.49	14020.8	18729.28	41.76	(-)9311.51
2022-23	4675.3	48032.28	52707.58	181.42	(-)43357
2023-24	5620.02	62698.59	68318.61	29.62	(-)57078.57
2024-25 (April-October)	4069.47	39704.65	43,774.11		

Source: DGCI&S

### India's trade with CIS Countries and World

	To World 2023-24	To CIS Countries (2023-24)	% share 2023-24	To World 2024-25 (up to October)	To CIS countries for 2024-25 (up to October)	% share 2024-25 (up to October)
India's total Export	4,36,672.13	5620.02	1.28	252,194.27	4,069.46	1.61
India's total Import	6,77,470.47	62698.59	9.25	4,16,780.78	39,704.65	9.53

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

### Country wise Export and Import of India

(Values in US\$ million)

S. No.	Country	India Exports to CIS countries			India Import to CIS countries		
		April-March 2023 (R)	April-March 2024 (A)	% Growth	April-March 2023 (R)	April-March 2024 (A)	% Growth
1	Armenia	61.37	101.06	64.69	72.89	36.09	(-)50.49
2	Azerbaijan	100.96	89.67	(-)11.18	497.58	0.74	(-)99.85
3	Belarus	43.91	43.83	(-)0.18	67.9	15.22	(-)77.59
4	Georgia	265.31	197.49	(-)25.57	167.04	100.98	(-)39.55
5	Kazakhstan	436.5	236.56	(-)45.8	205.13	95.14	(-)53.62
6	Kyrgyzstan	52.38	45.72	(-)12.7	4.19	9.34	122.97
7	Moldova	11.99	12.51	4.32	3.93	4.24	8.03
8	Russia	3,146.95	4,258.22	35.31	46,212.71	61,723.25	33.56
9	Tajikistan	49.4	51.64	4.54	0.52	0.01	(-)98.47
10	Turkmenistan	90.29	37.46	(-)58.52	101.72	74.93	(-)26.34
11	Ukraine	132.68	173.3	30.62	650.26	539.86	(-)16.98
12	Uzbekistan	283.31	372.56	31.5	48.4	98.8	104.14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,675.04</b>	<b>5,620.02</b>	<b>20.21</b>	<b>48,032.28</b>	<b>62,698.59</b>	<b>30.53</b>

Source: DGCI&S

**April-October 2023-24 and April-October 2024-25****(Values in US\$ million)**

S. No	Country	Apr-Oct 2023-2024			Apr-Oct 2024-2025			% Growth	
		Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Exports	Imports
1	Armenia	60.18	30.15	90.33	122.6	3.82	126.42	103.72	-87.33
2	Azerbaijan	49.45	0.5	49.95	60.56	1.47	62.03	22.46	196.23
3	Belarus	26.66	6.08	32.74	41.48	10.41	51.89	55.60	71.33
4	Georgia	130.06	33.83	163.89	157.8	55.14	212.94	21.33	63.00
5	Kazakhstan	133.67	42.7	176.37	159.1	96.17	255.28	19.03	125.21
6	Kyrgyzstan	27.51	1.32	28.83	24.22	3.45	27.67	-11.97	162.00
7	Moldova	8.64	3.89	12.53	5.59	0.91	6.5	-35.29	-76.65
8	Russia	2,326.91	35,652.99	37979.9	3,046.53	38,859.34	41905.87	30.93	8.99
9	Tajikistan	33.06	0.01	33.07	22.61	N.A.	22.61	-31.63	N.A.
10	Turkmenistan	21.83	70.31	92.14	28.84	92.94	121.78	32.14	32.18
11	Ukraine	99.32	259.84	359.16	102.25	571.83	674.08	2.94	120.07
12	Uzbekistan	203.49	12.88	216.37	297.88	9.18	307.06	46.39	-28.75
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,120.79</b>	<b>36,114.49</b>	<b>39235.28</b>	<b>4,069.46</b>	<b>39,704.65</b>	<b>43,774.11</b>	<b>30.40</b>	<b>9.94</b>
<b>India's total with world</b>		<b>2,44,512.95</b>	<b>3,94,178.19</b>	<b>6,38,691.14</b>	<b>2,52,194.27</b>	<b>4,16,780.78</b>	<b>6,68,975.05</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>5.73</b>
<b>% Share of CIS</b>		<b>1.28</b>	<b>9.16</b>	<b>6.14</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>9.53</b>	<b>6.54</b>		

**Source: DGCI&S**

The CIS region had a share of 1.61 per cent in India's total export and 9.53 per cent in its total import during 2024-25 (April to October 2024).

The principal commodities of export to the CIS region include Engineering goods, Pharmaceutical products, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals, Electronic Goods, Ceramic Products and Glassware, Marine Products., Mica, Coal and other Ores, Tobacco, Meat & Dairy Products . 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, Plastics, Iron and steel, Inorganic chemicals, Nuclear reactor and boilers and Paper and Paperboard.

**(i) Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation, constituting a major portion of the former USSR, continue to be India's most important trading partner in the region accounting for about 95.73 per cent of India's total trade with CIS region in 2024-25 (up to October 2024). Ministry of External Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) between India and Russian Federation. India and Russian Federation have a Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic

Cooperation as well as a Sub-Working Group on Elimination of Barriers in Trade, Economic and Investment Spheres which is led by Department of Commerce.

**(ii) Central Asian Republics**

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan constitute the Central Asian Republics. Department of Commerce (DoC) is Nodal Department for Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) and Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan respectively. Ministry of External Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for IGC matters with Turkmenistan and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas looks after IGC with Kazakhstan.

**(iii) Other CIS Countries**

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine form this group. After Russia, Ukraine is India's second largest trading partner in the CIS region accounting for about 1.53 per cent of India's total trade with CIS region during 2024-25 (April-October 2024).

Department of Commerce is the Nodal Department for the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with

Azerbaijan. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the Nodal Department for the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) with Belarus. Ministry of External Affairs is the Nodal Ministry for the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) matters with Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.

#### (iv) Initiatives for increasing bilateral trade

5<sup>th</sup> India- Ukraine Joint Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation was held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 under Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, FT(CIS) Division. 4<sup>th</sup> India-Russia Sub-Working Group on Elimination of Barriers and Restrictions in Trade, Economic and Investment Spheres was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 under Chairmanship of Shri Manish Chadha, Joint Secretary, FT(CIS) Division. 25<sup>th</sup> India-Russia Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 under chairmanship of Commerce Secretary.

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

### A. USA

The USA continues to be the largest trading partner of India with total merchandise trade of US\$ 118.29 billion in 2023-24. Export to USA stood at US\$ 77.51 billion and import at US\$ 40.78 billion in the current financial Year 2023-24. During the last six months of the current financial year (i.e., April to September 2024) India's Total trade with USA stood at US\$ 62.64 billion which was US\$ 60.04 billion in the same period of the previous FY. Export stood at US\$ 40.33 billion as compared to US\$ 38.23 billion and Import at US\$ 22.31 billion as compared to US\$ 21.80 billion in the previous year.

FT (NAFTA) division and concerned mission and posts regularly interact 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.

India-USA Trade Policy Forum set up under "Framework for Cooperation on Trade and Investment" is key pillar of bilateral engagements in

resolving the outstanding trade matters from time to time & enhance cooperation. It is held annually, co-chaired by the HCIM and USTR.

Now there are a total of six working groups under TPF, as given below:

- ❖ Intellectual Property Working Group
- ❖ Agriculture Working Group
- ❖ Non- Agriculture Goods Working Group
- ❖ Investment Working Group
- ❖ Services Working Group
- ❖ Resilient Trade Working Group

The 14<sup>th</sup> Ministerial-level meeting of India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) was held in New Delhi, on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Key highlights of the 14<sup>th</sup> TPF are as given below:

- ❖ Initiating joint initiatives in areas like critical minerals, customs and trade facilitation, supply chain, trade in high tech products.
- ❖ Establishing a Joint Facilitative Mechanism (JFM) to mitigate non-tariff barriers which would pursue mutual recognition of results from International Laboratories and establish mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs), on a bilateral basis whenever possible.
- ❖ Under the Resilient Trade Working Group, both sides deliberated on the issue of India's designation as a TAA Compliant country, this would contribute towards supply chain integration for India and the USA.

A TPF Inter-sessional meeting was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The aim of the discussion was to resolve ongoing issues and progress towards mutual goals, with the expectation of another significant TPF ministerial meeting by the end of this year or early next year.

Further, the India-USA Commercial Dialogue was re-launched in 2023 with the objective to advance the United States' and India's shared priorities of generating sustainable economic growth, improving the business and investment climate and is co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister of India and US Commerce Secretary. A review of the outcomes of

Commercial Dialogue was held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 during the visit of Shri Arun Venkatraman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce, US DoC. During the same visit, a U.S.- India Energy Industry Network (EIN) was held as a broad platform for facilitating the U.S industry involvement in the Clean EDGE Asia initiative. A roundtable on Start-ups was also held during this visit. Both Innovation Handshake and EIN are outcomes of the Commercial Dialogue.

The 6<sup>th</sup> India-USA Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum Meeting was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 respectively which was co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon'ble US Commerce Secretary, Ms. Gina Raimondo.

The Secretary and the Minister took stock of the following achievements since the 5<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting took place in March 2023 in New Delhi, India:

- ❖ **Semiconductor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** The Secretary and the Minister praised the two sides' continuing efforts to facilitate resilient, secure, and sustainable semiconductor supply chains. Since the signing of the MOU Establishing Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership under the Framework of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, the U.S. Semiconductor Industry Association and the India Electronics Semiconductor Association have completed their private sector "readiness assessment," launched under the U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology to identify near-term industry opportunities and facilitate longer-term strategic development of complementary semiconductor ecosystems. The Secretary and the Minister pledged to continue working under the MOU to facilitate collaboration between U.S. and Indian companies towards mutually beneficial business opportunities, such as investments, joint ventures, and technology partnerships; and to promote talent and workforce development to benefit both countries.
- ❖ **Innovation Handshake MOU:** The Secretary and the Minister welcomed the success of the

two roundtables convened in November 2023 in San Francisco and March 2024 in New Delhi, bringing the two countries' startup ecosystems closer together and carrying forward their ambitions under the MOU to Enhance Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake under the Framework of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue.

- ❖ **U.S.-India Energy Industry Network (EIN):** The Secretary and the Minister praised the work done on the EIN Roundtable organized during the Clean EDGE and Environmental Technologies Business Development Mission in March 2024 in New Delhi. The trade mission brought 12 U.S. companies to India to help grow sustainable and secure clean energy markets and accelerate the adoption of environmental solutions in India. Views exchanged during the EIN Roundtable helped to inform the U.S.-India Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (SCEP) Ministerial convened by the U.S. Secretary of Energy and the Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024, in Washington.
- ❖ **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF):** The Secretary and the Minister also commended the significant progress announced at the recent virtual IPEF ministerial meeting in September, including the work being done to improve supply chain resilience under the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement for the IPEF partners. They highlighted their commitment to collaborate initially in the critical areas of semiconductors, chemicals, critical minerals with a focus on batteries, and potentially healthcare products, as agreed to by the IPEF Supply Chain Council.
- ❖ **Critical Minerals MOU:** The Secretary and the Minister reaffirmed that supply chain resilience remains a shared policy priority for the bilateral commercial relationship. They signed a new MOU to Expand and Diversify Critical Minerals Supply Chains, with the aim of leveraging the two countries' complementary strengths to ensure greater resilience in the critical minerals sector. Priority areas of focus include identifying equipment, services,

policies, and best practices to facilitate the mutually beneficial commercial development of U.S. and Indian critical minerals exploration, extraction, processing and refining, recycling, and recovery.

- ❖ **INDUS Innovation:** The Secretary and the Minister launched a new effort under the Innovation Handshake agenda to accelerate innovation specifically in energy security, technology, and sustainability. To leverage the complementary strengths of the United States and India, as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> largest startup ecosystems in the world, the U.S. Department of Commerce and Indian Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, intend to invite startup companies, investors, and technology thought leaders to come together in 2025 in search of breakthrough solutions to advance “INDUS Innovation for Energy Security, Technology and Sustainability.” Targeted problem sets and other details will be announced in the coming months.
- ❖ **Expanding Startup and SME Resources in Bengaluru:** The Secretary and the Minister applauded plans to expand the U.S. Department of Commerce’s presence in India to a total of about 70 Foreign Commercial Service staff across seven cities. In Bengaluru, where the State Department is planning to open a new U.S. consulate, a new position will be created to serve as a one-stop resource for U.S. and Indian startups and SMEs and to help advance the two sides’ plans for an SME Presidents Forum to explore greater SME engagement, sharing of best practices, peer learning, support for women entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses, green technology, access to digital market platforms, and integration into global value chains.

The India-US CEO Forum was convened on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 which was attended by 6 CEOs from Indian side and 10 CEOs from US side. Both sides noted with appreciation the valued contributions of the U.S. and Indian Section CEOs and their joint recommendations to the two governments, covering

a wide range of topics. These recommendations serve to guide policy decisions that strengthen bilateral commercial and trade ties, drive economic growth and innovation, and foster a resilient bilateral partnership.

## (B) Canada

Canada is an important partner of India in the NAFTA region with bilateral trade of US\$ 8.37 billion in FY 2023-24. During the last six months of the current financial year (i.e., April to September 2024) India’s Total trade with Canada stood at US\$ 4.08 billion which was US\$ 3.93 billion in the same period of the previous FY. Export stood at US\$ 2.03 billion as compared to US\$ 1.89 billion and Import at US\$ 2.05 billion as compared to US\$ 2.04 billion in the previous year.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and investment was held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Canada where the Ministers discussed enhanced cooperation in sectors such as clean technologies for infrastructure development, critical minerals, etc. Next meeting of MDTI is due.

## (C) Mexico

It is the most important trading partner of India in Latin America with bilateral trade of US\$ 8.38 billion in FY 2023-24. In the FY 2023-24, India’s merchandise export to Mexico increased from US\$ 5.20 billion in FY 2022-23 to US\$ 5.32 billion registering a growth rate of 2.46 per cent over the period.

During the last six months of the current financial year (i.e., April to September 2024) India’s Total trade with Mexico stood at US\$ 4.44 billion which was US\$ 4.14 billion in the same period of the previous FY. Export stood at US\$ 3.08 billion as compared to US\$ 2.55 billion and Import at US\$ 1.36 billion as compared to US\$ 1.59 billion in the previous year.

The Bilateral High-Level Group (BHLG) on Trade, Investment and Economic Cooperation focuses on promoting bilateral cooperation, maintaining liaison in the economic, commercial, technical and other related fields and information exchange. The fifth meeting of the India-Mexico Bilateral High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Cooperation

(BHLG) was held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 through video conference and the next meeting of BHLG is due.

## 9. INDO PACIFIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is a 14-country plurilateral initiative designed to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, and economic growth in the Indo-Pacific region. The IPEF member countries include India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA.

The IPEF partners represent approx. 40 per cent of global GDP and 28 per cent of global goods and services trade, making it crucial for international trade dynamics. The framework is structured around four key pillars such as Trade, Supply Chain Resilience, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy.

- ❖ **Pillar I (Trade):** This pillar focuses on establishing high-standard, inclusive trade commitments without offering tariff concessions. India opted not to join this pillar and maintains observer status.
- ❖ **Pillar II (Supply Chain Resilience):** The Pillar II Agreement, signed by India in November 2023, aims to build a resilient supply chain ecosystem

critical for national security, public health, food security, citizen safety, and economic stability. This agreement came into force on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Under the agreement, three institutional bodies have been established: the Supply Chain Council (SCC), the Crisis Response Network (CRN), and the Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB). India currently serves as the Vice-chair of the Supply Chain Council, with the US acting as Chair.

- ❖ **Pillar III (Clean Economy):** This pillar aims to attract investment in renewable energy and climate-friendly technologies, facilitating collaborative initiatives in areas such as hydrogen supply chains and emissions intensity accounting. It also enables access to international climate funds.
- ❖ **Pillar IV (Fair Economy):** This pillar seeks to create a transparent and predictable investment environment by combating corruption and improving economic transparency through legal frameworks and international cooperation.

The agreements pertaining to the Clean Economy (Pillar III) and Fair Economy (Pillar IV) were signed on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2024, in Delaware, USA which came into force on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 respectively.



*Signing of Agreements for Pillar III (Clean Economy), Pillar IV (Fair Economy), and the IPEF Overarching Agreement, which took place in September 2024 during the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit to the USA.*



Investor Forum held in July 2024 in Singapore

## 10. TRADE WITH OCEANIA REGION

The FT (Oceania) Division deals with trade and investment issues related to Oceania Region, covering areas of trade policy and promotion, market access issues, collaborative and co-operative activities including deepening the economic engagement and relations with the countries in the Oceania region. Oceania region comprises of 14 countries namely Australia, Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

India's trade with Oceania region is US\$ 25680.96 million during 2023-24, with India's merchandise export at US\$ 8,685.08 million and merchandise imports at US\$ 16,995.88 million.

### Major trade activities in the Oceania region:

#### (A) Australia

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

- ❖ Australia has become India's 14<sup>th</sup> largest export market and India the 5<sup>th</sup> largest export destination for Australia.
- ❖ India-Australia Economic Co-operation and trade agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) which entered into force on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2022, is a balanced and equitable trade agreement, which will further cement the already deep, close and strategic relations between the two countries. It is expected to increase the business to business and people to people contacts for gains to both the

sides. Pursuant to entry into force of the agreement, there has been a growth of 14 per cent in India's merchandise exports to Australia in the financial year 2023-24. Further in year 2024-25 (April-October 2024), the bilateral merchandise trade has reached a level of US\$ 13.3 billion. India's Export basket to Australia, which have demonstrated growth in recent times include Ready Made Garments, both cotton as well as made yarn and fabrics, chemicals, Plastics, agricultural products including processed food such as Rice, spices, fruits and vegetables, cereal preparations.

- ❖ First Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) under Ind-Aus ECTA was held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Canberra under the co-chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary, Shri Sunil Barthwal and the Australian counterpart. The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral trade, addressing market access issues, and fostering collaboration in areas such as coastal tourism, critical minerals, and disease-free zones for shrimp. Key outcomes included the establishment of an institutional mechanism for the regular exchange of preferential import data, and a commitment to deepen economic ties through ongoing CECA negotiations and business cooperation.
- ❖ Pursuant to JCM, both the countries have created institutional mechanism and started exchanging preferential import trade data on regular basis for better monitoring of trade from both sides and moderating the policy space accordingly, as and when required.
- ❖ The 19<sup>th</sup> India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Adelaide, Australia which was co-chaired by HCIM, Shri Piyush Goyal and Hon Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia. This JMC marked significant progress in building

on the strong economic and strategic relationship between India and Australia, with a clear focus on future growth and collaboration. It also included discussions on Ind-Aus ECTA implementation issues, progress made under CECA negotiations and the collaborative and co-operative activities for further deepening of economic relations.

- ❖ India and Australia have resolved several market access issues including export of Pomegranate Arils, Pomegranate fruits, and Grapes. India is currently working on securing market access for Pineapples.
- ❖ ECTA provides for entering into Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) between the professional bodies of both countries. India is working with the Australian side for the same. Early finalization of MRA would improve mobility of professionals.
- ❖ Both the sides are actively discussing the MRA for Organic Products and the feasibility of co-operation on recognition of Indian Liquor for Australian Market.

## (ii) India-Australia CECA Negotiations

- ❖ The India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), being negotiated, builds on the foundation laid by Ind-Aus ECTA. CECA envisages a deeper and comprehensive agreement, wherein negotiations are going on and it initiated negotiations on 5 ECTA agreed themes, namely Goods, Services, Rules of Origin (ROO) - Product Specific Rules, Digital Trade and Government Procurement. In addition to the 5 CECA agreed themes, negotiations are being held on 14 exploratory areas such as Competition & Consumer Protection, MSME, Trade and Gender Equality, Labour, Environment, Space Co-operation, Innovation, Agriculture & Animal Husbandry Technology, Legal & Institutional, State Owned Enterprises,

Sports Co-operation, Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Expressions, Intellectual Property and Critical Minerals. Both the sides are working towards deeper economic integration.

- ❖ So far, Ten (10) formal rounds of negotiations and several inter-sessional discussions have been held. Substantial progress has been made in these negotiations. Further, a stocktake visit on India-Australia CECA was also recently concluded in New Delhi from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Both parties evaluated the progress made so far and outlined a path forward for the early conclusion of the CECA.

## (B) New Zealand

### (i) India-NZ Joint Trade Committee (JTC)

- ❖ Both the countries engage in trade and investment discussions under the institutional mechanism of Joint Trade Committee (JTC) based on 1986 Trade Agreement between India and New Zealand. Last meeting of JTC was held in April 2024 in Wellington, New Zealand. The JTC meeting reviewed progress on market access issues, economic cooperation projects and explored opportunities for new initiatives through creation of certain working groups in areas of mutual interest.
- ❖ Bilateral merchandise trade between India and New Zealand was US\$ 873 million in 2023-24 which has grown by 26 per cent during April-October 2024 period. There is substantial potential to improve it further given the trade complementarities between the two economies.
- ❖ India-New Zealand Industry Round Table Meeting was held in 2023. Since then, progress has been made in enhancing bilateral trade and cooperation. The focus on non-tariff barriers and the need for structural mechanisms has led

to the streamlining of trade processes, including resolving certain phytosanitary requirements such as those for export of mango and Pomegranate Arils from India to New Zealand and import of wooden logs from New Zealand.

- ❖ Both the countries are working on mechanisms to increase bilateral trade and co-operation and deepen the economic integration as well as people to people and B2B contacts, through

creation of institutional arrangements for collaborative efforts between the two economies in areas of mutual interest. Given the limited trade between the two economies, there lies a huge potential to increase the bilateral trade and co-operation.

## 11. TRADE WITH EUROPE

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

S. No.	Region and number of Countries	Name of Countries
1.	European Union (EU) (27 countries)	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 countries)	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
3.	Other European countries (7 countries)	Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey and United Kingdom.

During the period April-October 2024, total bilateral merchandise trade with Europe stood at US\$ 110.96 billion, registering a decline of 2.8 per cent over US\$ 114.16 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Exports to Europe increased by 5.84 per cent to US\$ 58.88 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 55.63 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Imports from Europe decreased by 11.03 per cent to US\$ 52.08 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 58.53 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023.

### (A) European Union (EU)

The European Union (EU) as a bloc of 27 countries is an important trading partner of India. During the period April-October 2024, total bilateral merchandise trade with the EU stood at US\$ 78.68 billion, registering a slight decrease of 0.68 per cent from US\$ 79.22 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Exports to EU increased by 8.86 per cent to US\$ 45.46 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 41.76 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Imports from EU decreased

by 11.32 per cent to US\$ 33.22 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 37.46 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023.

The European Union maintains stringent Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, technical standards and regulations to safeguard the environment and human health. These measures pose significant challenges for Indian exports. Further, emerging EU's sustainability measures such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), deforestation regulations, etc., pose considerable challenges for Indian industries and exporters. To address these issues, the Department of Commerce is actively engaging at relevant platforms, including the ongoing India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations, to safeguard India's trade interests through proactive and strategic manner.

### India-EU Free Trade Agreement

- ❖ India has re-launched negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with European Union in June 2022, after a gap of 9 years. Earlier, India and EU had been negotiating a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement

(BTIA) from 2007 to 2013 wherein 16 rounds of negotiations were held till 2013. In the re-launched negotiations, besides FTA, in which Department of Commerce is taking the lead, a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement is being negotiated by the Department of Economic Affairs. Similarly, a separate Agreement on Geographical Indications (GI) is being negotiated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

- ❖ After the formal launch of negotiations for three agreements in June 2022, nine rounds of the FTA Negotiations have been held so far. In the 9<sup>th</sup> round, which was held in New Delhi from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, both sides discussed core trade related issues covering Goods, Services, Investment and Government Procurement along with necessary rules such as Rules of Origin, SPS, TBT and Trade Remedies. The negotiations are progressing at a steady pace.

## **(B) UK**

The United Kingdom (UK) is one of the most important trading partners of India in Europe. The total bilateral merchandise trade with the UK during the period April-October 2024 stood at US\$ 13.42 billion, registering an increase of 10.26 per cent over US\$ 12.18 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Exports to the UK increased by 16.03 per cent to US\$ 8.65 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 7.45 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Imports from the UK increased by 1.12 per cent to US\$ 4.78 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 4.73 billion in the previous corresponding period April 2023 to October 2023.

### **India-UK Free Trade Agreement**

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations were launched on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 by the Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister and the UK's Secretary of State for International Trade during her visit to India. 13 Rounds of negotiations have been completed. The 14<sup>th</sup> Round of Negotiations, which began on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, was underway when negotiations were paused by the UK side in May 2024 due to their elections. After the formation

of the Labour Government in the UK, both Prime Ministers met on the side-lines of the G-20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November 2024. Both leaders agreed to take forward an ambitious UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to take the relationship to new heights in trade and investment, security and defence, technology, climate, health and education. Subsequently, the UK has announced the relaunch of the India-UK Free Trade talks in early 2025.

## **(C) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**

EFTA Trade bloc consists of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. During the period April-October 2024, India's total bilateral merchandise trade with EFTA stood at US\$ 13.24 billion, registering a decline of 14.63 per cent over US\$ 15.51 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Exports to EFTA increased by 5.15 per cent to US\$ 1.17 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 1.11 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Imports from EFTA decreased by 16.17 per cent to US\$ 12.07 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 14.40 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023.

### **India-EFTA TEPA**

The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) was signed between India and EFTA States on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The agreement comprises of 14 chapters with the main focus on market access related to goods, rules of origin, trade facilitation, trade remedies, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, investment promotion, market access in services, intellectual property rights, trade and sustainable development and other legal and horizontal provisions. The TEPA is currently under ratification process in the national Parliament/Legislature of each EFTA country.

## **(D) Other European Countries**

During the period April 2024 to October 2024, total bilateral merchandise trade with other six European Countries i.e. Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey stood at US\$ 5.62 billion, registering a decline of 22.58

per cent from US\$ 7.26 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Exports to these 6 European countries were US\$ 3.61 billion during April-October 2024, registering a decrease of 32.01 per cent from US\$ 5.31 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023. Imports increased by 3.07 per cent to US\$ 2.01 billion during April-October 2024 from US\$ 1.95 billion in the previous corresponding period April-October 2023.

## (E) Bilateral Institutional Mechanism

### India-EU Trade and Technology Council

- ❖ India-EU-Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is strategic coordination and engagement on trade and technology between India and the European Union.
- ❖ Within the framework of the TTC, three working groups have been set up. One of the three Working Groups under the TTC is for Trade, Investment & Resilient Value Chains, which is headed by the Commerce Secretary. Department of Commerce steered discussions on Trade, Investment and Resilient Value Chains under its four Sub-Groups namely (i) FDI Screening (ii) WTO dimensions (iii) Resilient Value Chains, and (iv) Market access issues.
- ❖ During the current year 2024-25, the Sub-Groups have been engaging regularly on issues of mutual interest.

## (F) Joint Commissions/Committees

Joint Commissions/Joint Committees have been set up for bilateral engagement with several European countries. During the year 2024-25, the following meetings have been held:

S. No.	Subject	Date
1.	18 <sup>th</sup> Session of India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC)	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2024, New Delhi
2.	21 <sup>st</sup> Session of India-Finland Joint Commission	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2024, New Delhi

## (G) Other Bilateral Engagements (at Ministerial level)

During the period April 2024 to December 2024, the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister (HCIM) had a number of bilateral engagements. Some of such important engagements were as follows:

### (i) EU

- ❖ HCIM met Ms. Liesje Schreinemacher, Netherlands Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation in Mumbai on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.
- ❖ HCIM met Dr. Robert Habeck, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in New Delhi and inter-alia discussed trade related issues.
- ❖ HCIM addressed the 14<sup>th</sup> India-France CEO's Forum on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in New Delhi, in which prominent French and Indian CEOs participated.
- ❖ HCIM met Ms. Sophie Primas, Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and French Nationals Abroad (France) on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in New Delhi and discussed bilateral trade and Investment issues with France.
- ❖ HCIM met Ms. Piret Hartman, Minister of Regional Affairs and Agriculture of Estonia on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 in New Delhi and discussed bilateral Foreign Trade Policy and possible bilateral cooperation opportunities in trade.
- ❖ HCIM met the Heads of Missions of the EU-27 Member States and the Delegation of the European Union to India on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The discussion was held on India-EU FTA negotiations, India-EU TTC, and India-EU WTO issues.
- ❖ HCIM met Mr. Paulo Rangel Portugal's Foreign Minister, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in New Delhi and discussed India-Portugal and India-EU trade relations.

- ❖ A virtual meeting between HCIM and Mr. Maros Sefcovic, EU Trade Commissioner was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to discuss bilateral issues of EU-27 countries.

## (ii) The UK

- ❖ A virtual meeting between HCIM and Mr. Jonathan Reynolds, UK Secretary of State for Business & Trade was held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to discuss the next steps in India-UK FTA.

### **G7 Trade Ministers' Meeting (Outreach Session)**

- ❖ HCIM-led delegation participated in the Outreach Session of G7 Trade Minister's Meeting held in Villa San Giovanni, Italy on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024. On the side-lines of the outreach session, HCIM had bilateral meetings with:
  - Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President, European Commission;
  - Mr. Todd McClay, Minister of Trade, New Zealand;
  - Dr Robert Habeck, Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Germany;
  - Mr. Jonathan Reynolds, Secretary of State for Business and Trade, U.K;
  - Mr. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy; and
  - Ms. Mary Ng, International Trade Minister, Canada.

## (iii) Others

- ❖ The HCIM met Mr. Adolfo Urso, Italian Minister for Enterprises and Made in Italy, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

## **12. INTERNATIONAL TRADE ORGANIZATIONS**

### **(A) WTO and related issues**

#### **(i) Agriculture**

- ❖ The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) serves as the pivotal multilateral framework setting out the rules and principles governing agriculture trade. It contains detailed rules regarding domestic support, market access and export competition in agriculture, among others. Currently, the WTO Members are actively negotiating improved disciplines on agriculture trade to ensure the AoA rules are effective in addressing contemporary challenges.
- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the WTO, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024, was yet another Ministerial Conference which failed to deliver an outcome in agriculture negotiations including on the mandated issues, due to the divergent positions of Members.
- ❖ At MC13 India demanded priority outcomes on mandated issues of Permanent Solution (PS) on Public Stockholding (PSH) for food security purposes, Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) and Cotton followed by other issues including Domestic Support, Market Access, Export Competition, Export Restrictions and Transparency. The developed nations including USA, UK, along with the Cairns Group Members opposed this demand and pushed for a comprehensive outcome which treated all issues at par, thus, diluting the mandates decided in the past Ministerial Conferences.
- ❖ For India, PS on PSH for food security purposes is the most critical and long-pending mandated issue at the WTO, as it impacts the livelihood and food security of millions of people. Post MC13, India is working constructively to have a

- successful outcome on this mandated issue by MC14.
- ❖ India's key ask regarding the PS on PSH is reflected in the joint proposal of G-33, ACP and African Group Proposal on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes (JOB/AG/229) which has the support of around 80 developing and LDC members at the WTO and includes:
    - Expansion in coverage of PSH programmes and crops
    - Simplified burdensome notification and transparency requirements
    - updating the outdated External Reference Prices (1986-88) for PSH crops
    - Legal certainty
    - Government to Government (G2G) exports from PSH stocks based on requests by needy countries, in case of emergency or food crises.
  - ❖ In order to strengthen the alliance for the demand of PS on PSH for food security purposes, India has taken an initiative to organize online discussion and deliberation sessions with Geneva based delegates, along with think-tanks like South Centre, Geneva, as few coalition Members had sought clarifications and also requested to consider revising some parts of the content of JOB/AG/229, without giving up the principles. Under this initiative, 2 online sessions were organised by South Centre, Geneva and one by Department of Commerce in November 2024.
  - ❖ In order to discuss important issues pertaining to WTO negotiations along with having a holistic overview on the State of Play at WTO, Geneva, a Retreat of Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the WTO was organised from 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. During the Retreat,

officials from PMI, Geneva made presentations on the State of Play and progress made in different areas of negotiations post MC13. The Officers of TNM Wing, the DGFT along with stakeholder Ministries/Departments i.e.; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Department of Food and Public Distribution (including Food Corporation of India); Ministry of External Affairs, former Secretaries/Ambassadors and Heads of CWTOS and CTIL among others participated in the relevant Sessions. Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister also had a Session with the PMI Officers.

- ❖ Post MC13, attempts have been made to dilute the mandate received in the past Ministerial Conferences on the issues of PSH, SSM and Cotton along with diverting the negotiations by introducing new issues and processes. In this direction, a submission by Brazil (WT/GC/W/939/Rev.2) in the General Council meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 based on the discussions held in Informal consultation process and a Facilitator-led process proposed by DG, WTO in the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were major attempts to dilute the mandated issues. Further, Brazil's submission JOB/AG/261 was an attempt to start informal discussions on the issue of sustainable agriculture.
- ❖ The Committee on Agriculture (CoA) oversees the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture and provides a forum for members to raise and address related questions and concerns. Its key responsibility is to monitor how WTO members are complying with their commitments. The CoA usually meets three or four times a year. In the year 2024-25, upto now 3 CoA meetings have taken place in Geneva, wherein India had raised several questions on

the agriculture policies of the developed countries and Cairns Group Members including USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Uruguay, Thailand, EU, UK, Argentina, Japan, Switzerland. A total of 120 questions were raised by India during these 3 meetings and it was among the leading countries in raising questions.

## (ii) WTO Reforms

- ❖ India is one of the founding members of World Trade Organization (WTO) and it believes that there is no alternative to this Organisation under the Multilateral Trading System, which is rules-based, non-discriminatory, open, fair, inclusive, equitable and transparent, with development objectives at its core that works on the principle of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) along with consensus-based decision making.
- ❖ India emphasizes on strengthening the WTO and also supports reforms in this direction by way of incremental, small steps, through measures which improve the overall functioning and efficiency of the organization.
- ❖ Our proposal “30 for 30” signifying 30 years of establishment of the WTO on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 suggests 30 incremental, small but transformational changes relating to working of Committees, productivity Apps, application of digital tools/digital infra, reports/studies, website content, social media engagements and organizing MCs etc. As reported, 5 out of the 30 proposals have already been implemented.

## (iii) Appointment of DG WTO

- ❖ The WTO Director-General (DG) is appointed through a process led by the General Council (GC), which consists of all Member countries. The candidates are nominated by Members, and the Council holds consultations to assess

support. The selection process aims for consensus rather than a formal vote. After multiple rounds of discussions, the GC formally appoints the candidate with broad backing. The DG serves a four-year term, which can be renewed.

- ❖ The process of reappointment of incumbent DG started on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024, with the GC Chair informing the Members about the communication received from Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala notifying her decision to seek reappointment for the second term. The appointment process to nominate candidates for the post of DG began on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and ended on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024 wherein the only application of candidature received for the post of DG at the end of the nomination process was from Dr Ngozi, the incumbent DG. As per the procedure, the special meeting of the GC was convened on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in which there was a presentation on 28<sup>th</sup> November by Dr. Ngozi on her vision for the WTO, followed by a question-and-answer session and on 29<sup>th</sup> November the GC agreed by consensus to reappoint Dr. Ngozi as Director-General for a second four-year term, set to begin on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025.
- ❖ India congratulated Dr. Ngozi on her reappointment and highlighted that it hopes that in her second tenure, the WTO will make significant strides in levelling the playing field for developing countries in the international trade relations and shall collectively be able to deliver on priority the long pending mandates.

## (B) Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- ❖ WTO's Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (the Agreement) concluded on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 during the 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC-12), held in Geneva from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to 17<sup>th</sup> June

2022. The Agreement eliminates subsidies for Illegal Unreported Unregulated Fishing, which is considered a maritime crime, and prohibits subsidies for Overfished stocks, i.e., when fish stocks are depleted. However, the key issue of prohibiting subsidies for Overcapacity and Overfishing was not concluded during MC12 as several WTO Member countries, including India, had divergent positions both regarding the approach to address these subsidies and the quantum of special and differential treatment for the developing countries.

- ❖ During MC12, India took a balanced approach regarding fisheries subsidies negotiations at the WTO. India supported the proposals aimed at prohibiting certain types of subsidies while ensured that its policy space and interests are not compromised. India's stand is that fisheries are global public commons and should be shared equitably across all nations.
- ❖ The WTO's 13<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference (MC13) took place from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, wherein negotiations concerning the third pillar (Over Capacity and Over Fishing - OCOF) took place. Due to the divergent views presented by member nations, the negotiations with respect to the OCOF pillar were not concluded. India, during the MC13 negotiations, had strongly put forward its position that India's fisheries sector is largely based on sustenance fishing undertaken responsibly and sustainably. Hence, any outcome must ensure that the rights of small-scale fishers are protected. As a result of the divergent views among member nations, no text was adopted during MC13.
- ❖ The WTO General Council (GC) meeting took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of July 2024. India, in an attempt to garner the support of other member nations, substantiated its position and highlighted the inconsistencies in the latest draft text of NGR Chair (TN/RL/W/279) by tabling three communications at the WTO before the GC meeting (TN/RL/W/282, TN/RL/W/283, TN/RL/W/284). Further, before the GC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, India

tabled a communication on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (TN/RL/W/286) highlighting the merits of the per capita subsidies intensity approach as opposed to the annual aggregate value of subsidies. Due to India's efforts and tabled communication, the text was added to the agenda of both the GC meetings for discussion and not for decision.

- ❖ Since no text was adopted during MC13, negotiations with regard to the OCOF pillar will continue to take place. It is important to note that if comprehensive disciplines are not adopted within four years of the entry into force of the Agreement, and unless otherwise decided by the General Council of WTO, the Agreement shall stand terminated.

### (C) Dispute Settlement Reforms

- ❖ The WTO Appellate Body (AB) is a permanent body consisting of seven members, each serving a four-year term, renewable once, responsible for hearing appeals from panel reports. The AB has not been functioning since December 2019, since one Member has been blocking appointments based on their view that the AB has not been acting within the bounds of the WTO Dispute Settlement (DS) Understanding. The lack of AB has effectively made the DS mechanism non-functional, and has resulted in calls for discussion to reform the WTO DS mechanism.
- ❖ As reaffirmed in the MC-13 outcome document, India remains committed to participating in discussions aimed at restoring a fully functional dispute settlement mechanism that is accessible to all WTO members by 2024. A key priority for India is the re-establishment of the two-tier dispute settlement system.
- ❖ In April 2024, the General Council formalized discussions on DS Reforms, appointing Ambassador Usha Dwarka Canabady of Mauritius as the facilitator. These discussions are focused on enhancing accessibility and refining the appeal and review mechanisms for WTO Members. India is actively involved in these ongoing discussions.

- ❖ India remains committed to securing a fully functioning DS mechanism with the key principles in the WTO DS Understanding and the WTO Agreement being preserved. India is also working on special and differential treatment under the WTO DS system to make the DS mechanism accessible and sympathetic to the needs of Developing Members and LDC Members.

#### (D) STCs raised by India at the WTO

India actively participates in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) meetings held quarterly, where member countries discuss issues related to implementing the SPS Agreement and Specific Trade Concerns (STCs). During these meetings, member countries discuss resolving the identified STCs among themselves. To safeguard and advance India's interests, in the current financial year, India has raised 28 and responded to 9 Specific Trade Concerns in the SPS Committee meetings.

The WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) committees have developed a mechanism for members to raise "specific trade concerns" (STCs) about laws, regulations, or practices of other countries. These regular discussions help ease trade tensions by providing further information and clarification, working towards mutually satisfactory solutions. Additionally, discussion of STCs can mitigate some sources of friction, sometimes by modification or withdrawal of a measure.

Some concerns are raised just once, by one Member; but others come up at many meetings, with many members expressing a concern about the same matter. Sometimes an issue comes up repeatedly because a government is signaling its support of an aggrieved domestic interest. When an issue appears on an agenda, that can provoke bilateral discussion leading to a resolution before the meeting. Issues are resolved when the Member that raised it has enough information, or when the Member maintaining the measure modifies it in some way, perhaps because it sees the merit of the concerns raised by trading partners, or because discussion in the committee helped it to learn about alternative solutions to its regulatory problem.

In the recently held, WTO TBT committee meeting, Capital based delegation led by Joint secretary, DoC, Shri Nitin Kumar Yadav participated. In this meeting, India had raised 15 Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) while there were 17 STCs raised against India. India raised the maximum no of STCs against EU (11). Through the week, we held several productive bilateral consultations with various members including – China, European Union, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, United Kingdom, United States (3 different meetings).

S. No.	TBT STC raised by India	TBT STC raised against India
March 2024	7	17
June 2024	7	15
November 2024	15	17

#### (E) Sixth Review of the SPS Agreement

The SPS Committee is mandated to review the operation and implementation of the SPS Agreement at least once every four years. The sixth review of the SPS Agreement began in November 2023 and is scheduled to conclude with the adoption of a report by March 2025. India has submitted three proposals for consideration during this review:

- ❖ Proposal on "Challenges Posed by Stringent MRLs"
- ❖ Proposal on "Adaptation of SPS Measures to Regional Conditions"
- ❖ Proposal on "Transparency"

These proposals have received strong support from like-minded member countries, particularly those who face similar challenges in the implementation of SPS measures. The proposals address issues that are critical for the trade interests of many developing countries, which may struggle with the technical and financial demands of complying with certain SPS standards. As a result, these proposals have generated significant backing, highlighting the broad consensus on the need for reform in these areas. In light of the support these proposals have garnered, the SPS Committee has decided to organize thematic sessions in March 2025, focused on two of the key

issues raised in India's proposals: Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Regionalization. These sessions will provide a platform for further discussion and debate on these critical issues, allowing member countries to explore potential solutions and share experiences. The thematic sessions are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the direction of the SPS Agreement review and could influence future amendments or guidance on how to better address the challenges posed by MRLs and the adaptation of SPS measures to regional conditions.

#### **(F) Building India's strategy on stringent MRL policy of developed world**

Dedicated session on SPS, was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 during the PMI retreat meeting held from 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 at Department of Commerce. Discussion were held among the PMI Officials and stakeholders line ministries/department/organization on the growing challenges posed by SPS measures, which are increasingly being used as non-tariff barriers by developed countries. These measures, while ostensibly designed to protect human, animal, and plant life or health, have become significant obstacles for agricultural exporters from developing countries, including India. It was highlighted the high costs associated with compliance and enforcement of these measures, which disproportionately affect exporters from Third World countries. After discussion the following short term and long-term strategies with specific action points of concerned stakeholders were proposed to protect India's interests.

- ❖ To Feedback mechanism/system for regular and timely feedback from industry on emerging trade issues.
- ❖ Prepare a data bank for all banned notified pesticides by WTO member countries.
- ❖ To map the pesticides that are used in India and Identifying their alternatives.
- ❖ Identify related commodities/products impacted - APEDA, MPEDA and Commodity boards.
- ❖ Explore submission of paper in WTO on adoption of international standards set by Codex to be adopted as global standard for

setting up of MRLs. Priorities the scientific study for pesticides that are under legislative consultations which includes preliminary and final reports accompanied by suggestions and recommendations.

- ❖ Coalition building exercises like active participation in Codex Alimentarius Commission's meetings with a focus on MRL.
- ❖ Create Awareness among stakeholders for adoption of Good Agricultural Practices.

#### **(G) 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 WTO Members and seeks to allow developing Members the space to formulate their domestic trade policy in a way that enables them to reduce poverty, generate employment, and integrate meaningfully into the global trading system. The Abu Dhabi Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed for such reasons that S&DT is integral to the WTO Agreement and should be precise, effective, and operational.
- ❖ India believes that S&DT for developing countries including LDCs is becoming more relevant, especially in the light of current global trade scenario. The principle of S&DT is supported by the African Group, African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, and LDC Group. In this regard, submissions are being made by the G-90 and African groups for S&DT. A decision on S&DT concerning SPS and TBT has been taken at MC13 based on G-90's submission. India has actively supported these proposals. In addition to above, the proposal by LDC group for seeking smooth transition from their LDC status to developing status has also been supported by India. The General Council and MC13 have adopted decisions in this regard.

#### **(H) Implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement**

- ❖ The National Committee on Trade Facilitation

(NCTF) was set up under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary under Article 23.2 of the TFA. This Committee periodically reviews the implementation of the TFA, facilitates domestic co-ordination, and takes further initiatives to improve trade facilitation in India. 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. There are also subject-specific Working Groups within NCTF to carry out action points under the National Trade Facilitation Action Plans (NTFAP) which are made effective from time to time. India is currently working on the third iteration of NTFAP (NTFAP 3.0).

- ❖ 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 TFA. Considerable progress has been made towards incorporating the World Bank's B-READY indicators into India's trade facilitation initiatives.

### (I) Trade and Environment

- ❖ India's paper on Technology transfer and transfer of know-how in the context of environmentally sound technologies elicited interventions in the committee of trade and environment (CTE) from member countries. The roadmap suggested in our paper could form the basis for a possible Ministerial Declaration in MC14 on environmental sound technologies/climate resilient technologies.
- ❖ India delivered two presentations in relation to 2<sup>nd</sup> thematic session of Committee on Market Access on supply chain resilience - programme. The presentations highlighted Indian Approach to Developing Logistics and Supply-Chain Resilience and India's experience in supply chain resiliency in the pharma sector.
- ❖ India delivered a presentation in relation to 3<sup>rd</sup> thematic session of Committee on Market Access on supply chain resilience - programme. This presentation highlighted India's Data stack and public digital infrastructure, Advantages

of PM GatiShakti and guidelines for successful transition towards a more efficient supply chain ecosystem powered by digital technology. This presentation was a result of collaborative efforts between logistics division of DPIIT and TNM-II division.

- ❖ During the 2024 Trade and Environment Week of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and International Solar Alliance (ISA) pitched for observer status within the WTO. Also, CDRI and ISA delivered a presentation highlighting their contributions to expanding renewable energy and finance, along with an overview of their accomplishments to date.
- ❖ India participated as a discussant in the joint event organized by the Permanent Mission of UK to the WTO and International Energy Association (IEA) on the Report on Steel Decarbonisation wherein India stressed the importance of common methodology for measurement of parameters like green steel and how aspects of heterogeneity play an important role in measuring the carbon emissions. We also focused upon issues of anonymity and confidentiality in data of emissions. Along with this, steps taken by India for green transition in the steel sector were also highlighted including formation of 13 task forces in the same direction.
- ❖ India made interventions in the EU's presentation on CBAM which included raising questions on aspects like exclusion of raw materials from the scope when EU heavily uses scrap for production which has a lot of embedded emissions and averaging of emissions if a production chain has multiple processes.
- ❖ India made interventions on the various carbon leakage discussions organised by EU, UK and raised questions on methodology to measure emissions, boundaries and scope, factoring in heterogeneities, consideration of raw materials, proposed ban of use of scrap by OECD countries, transfer of technology etc.,

recognition of carbon verifiers and exemption for MSME sector a under EU-ETS, consideration of CBDR-RC, carbon leakage definition, functioning of UK ETS, impact of it in reducing emissions, use of revenue collected.

- ❖ Joint event organized by India, Indonesia and South Africa on National perspective on deforestation and afforestation policies, sustainable forest management and concerns with deforestation related trade measures and highlighted India's efforts in direction of sustainable forest management. It was followed by question and answer session.
- ❖ India has participated in a total of 8 Specific Trade Concerns (STCs) in WTO against EU, particularly 4 against CBAM as well as 4 against EUDR in Committee on Market Access, Council for Trade in Goods and Committee on TBT in WTO.

#### **(J) 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. In this regard, India's Duty-Free Tariff Preference Scheme (DFTP) for LDC's Progress is noteworthy.

- ❖ India notified the Duty-Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for LDCs in August 2008. India is now providing the benefits of DFTP Scheme to 36 LDCs.
- ❖ India provides Duty Free/Preferential Market access on 98.2 per cent of the tariff lines to these countries under the DFTP scheme. Only 1.8 per cent of the tariff lines have been retained in the Exclusion List, with no duty concessions.

#### **(K) BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)**

BRICS originally an association of five major emerging economies, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, has now expanded to 9 countries with the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. BRICS Presidency is held rotationally by the Member States on a yearly basis. In 2024, BRICS presidency is with Russia. Brazil will assume the BRICS presidency in 2025.



BRICS countries accounted for around 27 per cent of the world GDP, nearly 45 per cent of the world population, and around 19.6 per cent of global merchandise trade in 2023. Exports to BRICS countries account for nearly 18 per cent of India's total exports.

The Department of Commerce in the Government of India is the nodal agency for the economic and trade issues under BRICS that are discussed under the institutional mechanism known as the "Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues" (CGETI). Under the Russian presidency in 2024, the following documents were negotiated in the CGETI and adopted in the BRICS Trade Ministers' Meeting held in Moscow on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024:

- ❖ BRICS Declaration on WTO
- ❖ BRICS Principles on Trade Facilitation in Agriculture
- ❖ BRICS Statement on Environmental and Climate-Related Trade Measures
- ❖ BRICS Statement on ensuring effective functioning of Joint Value Chains
- ❖ Fostering consumer protection in e-commerce
- ❖ BRICS Cooperation Framework on Special Economic Zones

Documents adopted by Trade Ministers are non-binding statements which reflect the intent of the BRICS countries to work together in a co-operative manner in areas of mutual interest in Trade & Investment arena.

### **(L) Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a multilateral organization, established in 2001 in Shanghai, China has now 10 member countries, namely, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus, with the last two joining the group in 2023 and 2024 respectively.



For the year 2024, Kazakhstan is the Chair for Heads of States, whereas Pakistan is the Chair for Council of Heads of Governments (CHG). The 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Ministers of SCO responsible for Foreign Economic and Foreign Trade Activities was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 under the chairship of Pakistan. For India, Department of Commerce is the nodal agency for the SCO group.

The meeting approved the following 3 documents and adopted a statement on promotion of fair trade and sustainable development:

- ❖ Framework for Cooperation between the SCO Member States in the Creative Economy Development
- ❖ Concept of creating a Base of Economic Preferences of the SCO Member States
- ❖ Concept of cooperation between trade promotion organizations of member states of the SCO

These documents reflect the broader objectives related to trade and investments, which are non-binding and more of co-operative intent.

### **(M) G20 – Trade and Investment Working Group**

#### **Activities under the Brazilian Presidency in 2024 – participation of India as member of Troika**

G20 holds a strategic importance in securing global economic growth and prosperity. It represents around 85 per cent of global GDP, 75 per cent of global trade, and two thirds of the world's population. It is a premier forum for international economic cooperation, comprising 19 countries, the European Union, and

the African Union. It plays a pivotal role in shaping and strengthening governance on major international economic issues. Since the G20 has no permanent Secretariat, conventionally every Presidency has been supported by immediate past and future Presidencies – the three comprising Troika. In the G20 system, it ensures continuity in agenda-setting.

In this context, India, after successfully concluding its Presidency in 2023, handed over the reign to Brazilian Presidency. Significantly, as an outgoing Presidency and part of Troika, India emphatically supported Brazil in accomplishing its outcomes while ensuring that the national positions/stance on issues related to trade and investment were protected/safeguarded.



For the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), Brazilian Presidency organized four meetings and pursued 4 priorities spanning from trade and sustainable development, increasing participation of women in international trade, sustainable development in international investment agreements (IIAs) and WTO Reforms. During the meetings, consensus was built on the draft text that acted as Input of TIWG to the Rio Leaders Declaration. It can be accessed at [https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2024/241024-TIWG\\_Annex\\_1\\_to\\_the\\_Leaders'\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2024/241024-TIWG_Annex_1_to_the_Leaders'_Declaration.pdf).

The Input, inter alia, contained G20 Principles on Trade and Sustainable Development, a G20 Compendium of Good Practices to Increase the Participation of Women in International Trade and a

Report on “Mapping Sustainable Development and Investment Facilitation Provisions in IIAs Concluded by G20 Members and Invited Countries” which was prepared by UNCTAD and OECD under Presidency’s initiative. Indian delegation successfully defended our national stance on Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), Special and Differential Treatment and firm opposition to any endorsement of unilateral trade measures taken by the developed countries in the guise of environmental sustainability. Indian delegation, in its various interventions, also strongly highlighted the concrete and tangible outcomes that were accomplished during its 2023 G20 Presidency.

G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 in Brasilia. The Indian

delegation was led by Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. On the sidelines, Hon'ble Minister had fruitful discussions with his UK, Germany, French, Japanese, Brazil and South African counterparts on bilateral and multilateral trade and investment issues.

During the year 2025, the G20 Presidency is now held by South Africa.

### **(N) Economic and Social Commission for Asia & the Pacific (ESCAP)**

India is one of the founding members of ESCAP, the regional development arm of the United Nations, which serve as the main economic and social development centre for the United Nations in Asia and Pacific. Consisting of 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members, with a geographical scope that stretches from Turkey in the west to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati in the east, and from the Russian Federation in the north to New Zealand in the south, ESCAP is the most comprehensive of the United Nations' five regional commissions. It is also the largest United 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 80<sup>th</sup> Session of ESCAP was held at Bangkok and online from 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The theme of the session was "Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific". The Indian delegation was led by Shri Nagesh Singh, Ambassador/Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP.

### **(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 teams 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.

### 13. TRADE IN SERVICES

#### (i) Enhancing Services Trade through Free Trade Agreements

India has bilateral trade agreements, including Trade in Services, with Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, UAE, Australia and an FTA in services and investment with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The India- EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) was signed in March 2024.

Currently, India is engaged in FTA negotiations including in Trade in Services with the UK, the EU, Oman (3<sup>rd</sup> round of negotiations held in January 2024), Peru (6<sup>th</sup> round held in February 2024), and Sri Lanka (14<sup>th</sup> round held in July 2024). India is also engaged in negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Australia building upon the market access commitments in Trade in Services under India- Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA); the 10<sup>th</sup> round of India- AUS CECA negotiations was held in August 2024.

Under the FTAs, India seeks non-discriminatory, predictable and liberal treatment in sectors of India's interest 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.

As mobility is crucial to different modes of services delivery, India pursues GATS plus commitments in FTAs for temporary entry and presence for its natural persons to ensure competitive delivery of services. Efforts are made to facilitate mobility of Indian service suppliers by way of securing meaningful commitments in different categories of natural persons (Business visas, Contractual Service Suppliers, Intra-Corporate transferees, Independent professionals). Commitments for temporary mobility of natural persons are also pursued through provisions for Post Study Work 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 (SSA).

To facilitate cross border service provision by professionals, India pursues arrangements for mutual recognition of qualifications, licensing and registration for professionals in different streams by way of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs).

#### (ii) Other bilateral trade dialogues

- ❖ As part of implementation of India-Japan CEPA, upgradation of India- Korea CEPA, implementation of India-UAE CEPA, efforts are undertaken in the respective Sub-groups set up under the Joint committees (JC) of these FTAs. The latest discussions were held in March 2024 with Japan, in July 2024 with South Korea, and in October 2024 with UAE.
- ❖ Under the Services Working Group of the India-US Trade Policy Forum Mechanism (meetings held in January and August 2024), India seeks cooperation in critical areas such as Social Security Agreement; streamlined pathways for recognising Professional Services especially in fields like Accounting, Nursing, Architecture; collaboration in Fintech; Telemedicine; and other emerging services sectors and resolution

of visa issues in an expedited manner.

- ❖ 9<sup>th</sup> Round of India-Taiwan Working Group on Trade was held in July 2024 in New Delhi. The two countries discussed various ways of enhancing collaboration in the services sector that could be mutually beneficial.
- ❖ A virtual workshop/ session on 'India-Singapore CECA: Movement of Natural Persons' was organized in association with CWS on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to make IT companies aware of mobility routes, especially ICT route, available via India-Singapore CECA, in the context of recently introduced COMPASS framework of Singapore.

### (iii) Pursuing interests in Services and E-Commerce at multilateral fora

#### Services trade

##### (a) Domestic Regulations in Services

- ❖ India has been making efforts to reinvigorate multilateral discussions in the Working Party on Domestic Regulations (WPDR) which is mandated to develop disciplines relating to licensing requirements, licensing procedures, qualification requirements, qualification procedures and technical standards.
- ❖ The Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on Service Domestic Regulation (SDR) was launched on the side lines of MC11, and concluded in December 2021 by around 70 Members. India did not participate in this JSI. India considers multilateral avenues based on consensus are the most effective means to achieve inclusive development-oriented outcomes.
- ❖ In the run up to the MC13, JSI on Services Domestic Regulation (SDR) participants were seeking to update their GATS schedules with SDR disciplines. Considering fundamental and technical concerns, India notified objections to the certification process. Based on consultation with EU and other

countries, India offered a constructive and pragmatic solution to resolve the deadlock, allowing up-dation of the proponent country schedules with assurances and clarifications which addressed India's sensitivities. Australia opted to take the S/L 80 route. Accordingly, Arbitration proceedings have been initiated against Australia which will tentatively be finalized by November 2024.

##### (b) Response to the Pandemic and Cross-border remittances

- ❖ India in recent years has actively and constructively engaged at the WTO on key issues in respect of Services, highlighting concerns and areas of interest of developing countries.
- ❖ India made submissions on cross-border telemedicine services and building a pool of globally recognised health professionals in pursuance of the decision on 'Response to pandemic'. India's proposal for a session on 'Cross-border telemedicine services' was selected for the WTO Public Forum held in September 2024 which gave India a chance to drive the dialogue on this matter.
- ❖ India's submissions on subjects of Telemedicine and Pool of Health Professional under broader theme of Response to Pandemic, and Cost of Cross Border Remittances along with thematic seminars and public forums organized on these, generated lot of dialogue and suggestions for future work.

##### (c) E-Commerce

- ❖ **Moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions**
  - India has tabled several joint submissions with South Africa in the past (WT/GC/W/747, WT/GC/W/774, WT/GC/W/798 and

WT/GC/W/833) highlighting that there is no common understanding on the scope or impact of the moratorium and that as per some estimates, the moratorium has a disproportionate impact on developing countries in terms of loss in tariff revenue as well as policy space. Through active participation, especially at the MC13 (February 2024), India emphasised that a reconsideration of the moratorium is important for developing countries particularly to preserve policy space on taxation of electronic transmissions to nurture the domestic industry

#### ❖ **Work Programme on E-Commerce**

- India supports an exploratory and non-negotiating engagement under the WPEC at the WTO. In pursuance of the MC12 decision on re-invigoration of work under the WPEC, India presented 3 papers on subjects of interest to developing countries, and made detailed interventions at the various sessions of the structured discussions. India's latest submissions on 'Consumer Protection in E-Commerce' (WT/GC/W/857); 'Role of Digital Public Infrastructure in Promoting E-Commerce' (WT/GC/W/863); and 'Promoting Competition in E-Commerce' (WT/GC/W/902) have been well received at the WTO.

## 14. **KIMBERLEY PROCESS CERTIFICATION SCHEME**

- ❖ The Kimberley Process (KP) is an UN mandated (UNGA Resolution 55/56 of 2000 and UNSC Resolution 1459 (2003) multilateral trade regime established in 2003 with the goal of preventing the flow of conflict diamonds. The core of this regime is the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) under which Member Countries implement safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certify them as "conflict free".
- ❖ The KP has 60 participants, representing 86 countries, with the European Union and its 27 Member States counting as a single participant, represented by the European Commission. KP members account for approximately 99.8 per cent of the global production of rough diamonds.
- ❖ India is a founding member and chaired KP in 2008 and 2019. Chairmanship of KP is rotated on annual basis. The Vice Chair is selected at the annual "Plenary" meeting and becomes Chair automatically the succeeding year. UAE is the KP Chair for 2024. The KP has following 6 working bodies. India is member in all bodies.
  - Committee on Participation and Chairmanship (CPC)
  - Committee on Rules and Procedures (CRP)
  - Working Group of Diamond Experts (WGDE)
  - Working Group on Statistics (WGS)- India is a Vice-Chair
  - Working Group on Monitoring (WGM)
  - Working Group on Artisanal and Alluvial Production (WGAAP)

### **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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005. The SEZ Act, 2005, supported by SEZ Rules, came into effect on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 416 formal

approvals for setting up SEZs out of which 351 have been notified. Out of the total employment provided to 31,94,104 persons in SEZs as a whole, 30,59,400 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. 12,63,578 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 13,55,220 crore in 2023-24, registering a growth of 7 percent. There has been overall growth of export of 5,834 percent over past eighteen years (2005-06 to 2023-24). The total physical exports from SEZs as on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 has been to the tune of Rs. 6,91,304 crore, registering a growth of 4.60 percent over the exports of corresponding period of the previous financial year. The total investment in SEZs till 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is Rs. 7,07,342 crore, including Rs. 6,54,159 crore in the newly notified SEZs set up after SEZ Act, 2005. 100 percent FDI is allowed in SEZs through automatic route.

Exports from the operational SEZs during the last two years and current financial year are as under:

Years	Exports		Growth over previous year (INR) (%)
	(Values in Rs. crore)	(values in US\$ billion)	
2022-23	12,63,578	157.24	28
2023-24	13,55,220	163.69	7
2024-25 (upto 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)	6,91,304	82.70	4.60

A total of 278 SEZs are exporting at present. Out of this, 168 are IT/ITES, 25 Multi product and 85 other sector specific SEZs. 6,279 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 percent 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007 the State Governments have been informed on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

### (iii) Details of Land under SEZs

1	Total land area related to 7 Central Government + 12 State/Private notified SEZs	2,080.28 Ha
2	Total land area related to 351 notified SEZs	36,603.29 Ha
3	Total land area related to 65 formally approved SEZs	5,429.74 Ha
4	Total land area related to notified and formally approved SEZs (1+2+3)	44,113.31 Ha
5	Land area related to 36 In principle approved SEZs	21,155 Ha
6	% of area of notified SEZs to that of land area of India (328 MHa)	0.012
7	% of area of notified SEZs to that of agrl. land area of India (142 MHa)	0.024

### (iv) Fiscal benefits and duty concession 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.
- (v) Erstwhile benefits to SEZ units**
- ❖ 100 percent Income Tax exemption on export income for SEZ units under Section 10AA of the Income Tax Act for first 5 years, 50 percent for next 5 years thereafter and 50 percent of the ploughed back export profit for next 5 years. *(Sunset Clause for Units becomes effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021)*
  - ❖ Exemption from Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) under section 115JB of the Income Tax Act. *(withdrawn w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012)*
- (vi) 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”.
- (vii) 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017)*
- (viii) Recent Initiatives for ensuring Ease of Doing Business in SEZs (from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024)**
- ❖ A new rule 21B was inserted in SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 to allow an aircraft leasing unit in an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), to utilise office space or manpower or both, of another unit set up in IFSC authorised to undertake aircraft leasing activity.
  - ❖ Rule 53A has been substituted in SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 according to which nothing contained in rule 53 shall apply to a Unit setup in an International Financial Service Centre providing financial service and regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority.
  - ❖ A new rule 29B was inserted in SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to allow procedure of import or export or procurement from or supply to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) of ship by a Unit in International Financial Services Centre.
  - ❖ Instruction No. 113 dated 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 was issued for Reducing Compliance Burden regarding SOFTEX Form.
  - ❖ A rule amendment has been carried out in Rule 43A of SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to allow certain category of employees to work from home upto 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.
  - ❖ A new rule 11B was inserted in SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to allow DTA IT/ITES entities to operate in Non-processing Area of an IT/ITES SEZs.
  - ❖ Instruction No. 114 dated 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023 was issued for clarification regarding powers in respect of non SEZ IT/ITES units operating in Non-Processing Area of an IT/ITES SEZs.
  - ❖ Amendment in Rule 27(6) of SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, after the word “Agencies” the words “or free of charge from foreign buyer and Export thereof to the same foreign buyer” was inserted.
  - ❖ Amendment in Rule 21B of SEZs Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, for the words “aircraft leasing”, wherever they occurs, the words “aircraft or ship leasing” was substituted.

- ❖ Instruction No 115 dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 was issued for concerns/queries/clarifications regarding with respect to newly inserted SEZ Rule 11B notified vide Notification dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.
- ❖ Amendment in Rule 29A of SEZs Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024, for the word “aircraft”, wherever it occurs, the words “aircraft or aircraft engine” was substituted.
- ❖ Amendment in Rule 18, in sub-rule (4), in clause (d), for second proviso of SEZs Rule, 2006 vide notification dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely:

*“Provided further that reconditioning, repair and re-engineering may be permitted subject to the conditions that export shall have one to one correlation with imports and all the reconditioned or repaired or re-engineered products shall be exported:*

*Provided also that only non-hazardous metal and metal-alloy wastes in metallic, non-dispersible form having no contaminants enlisted against Basel No. B1010 in Part D of Schedule III of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 generated from the reconditioning, repair or re-engineering, may be allowed to be sold in the*

*Domestic Tariff Area on payment of applicable customs duty and this shall be treated as import and will be permitted only to the actual user or to the trader for use of the actual users authorized by the State Pollution Control Board on one-time basis and subject to verification of documents specified in Schedule VIII of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 by the Custom Authority”.*

- ❖ Instruction No 116 dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 regarding Power Guidelines dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016 amended vide OM dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 allowing for Procurement/Installation of Solar Power Panels by SEZ Developer to provide power supply in common areas of SEZs.
- ❖ ICEGATE has been rolled out for all nonIT/ITES SEZs with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 making eligible SEZ units for RODTEP benefits.
- ❖ Instruction No 117 dated 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 was issued for Guidelines for Operational Framework of FTWZ and Warehousing units in SEZ.
- ❖ A rule amendment has been carried out in Rule 43A of SEZ Rules, 2006 vide notification dated 26<sup>th</sup> December 2024 to allow certain category of employees to work from home upto 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.

### State-wise distribution of approved SEZs

(As on 30th November 2024)

States/UTs	Central Government SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	State Government/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	Formal Approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Total SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)	In-principle approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Notified SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)	Total Operational SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1+2+3)	(4)	(5)	(1+2+5)	(6)
Andhra Pradesh	1	0	34	35	4	29	30	25
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Chandigarh	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	2
Chhattisgarh	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	1
Delhi	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0

States/UTs	Central Government SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	State Government/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZs Act, 2005	Formal Approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Total SEZs (including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)	In-principle approvals granted under the SEZs Act, 2005	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Notified SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)	Total Operational SEZs (Including prior to SEZs Act + under the SEZs Act, 2005)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(1+2+3)	(4)	(5)	(1+2+5)	(6)
Goa	0	0	7	7	0	3	3	0
Gujarat	1	2	25	28	5	21	24	21
Haryana	0	0	25	25	3	22	22	8
Jharkhand	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	1
Karnataka	0	0	61	61	0	50	50	38
Kerala	1	0	24	25	0	20	21	20
Madhya Pradesh	0	1	12	13	0	7	8	6
Maharashtra	1	0	46	47	13	40	41	36
Manipur	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Nagaland	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0
Odisha	0	0	7	7	0	5	5	5
Puducherry	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Punjab	0	0	5	5	0	3	3	3
Rajasthan	0	2	5	7	1	4	6	3
Sikkim	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	4	57	62	5	55	60	51
Telangana	0	0	60	60	0	55	55	37
Tripura	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	1	1	24	26	1	21	23	14
West Bengal	1	2	7	10	2	5	8	7
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>278</b>

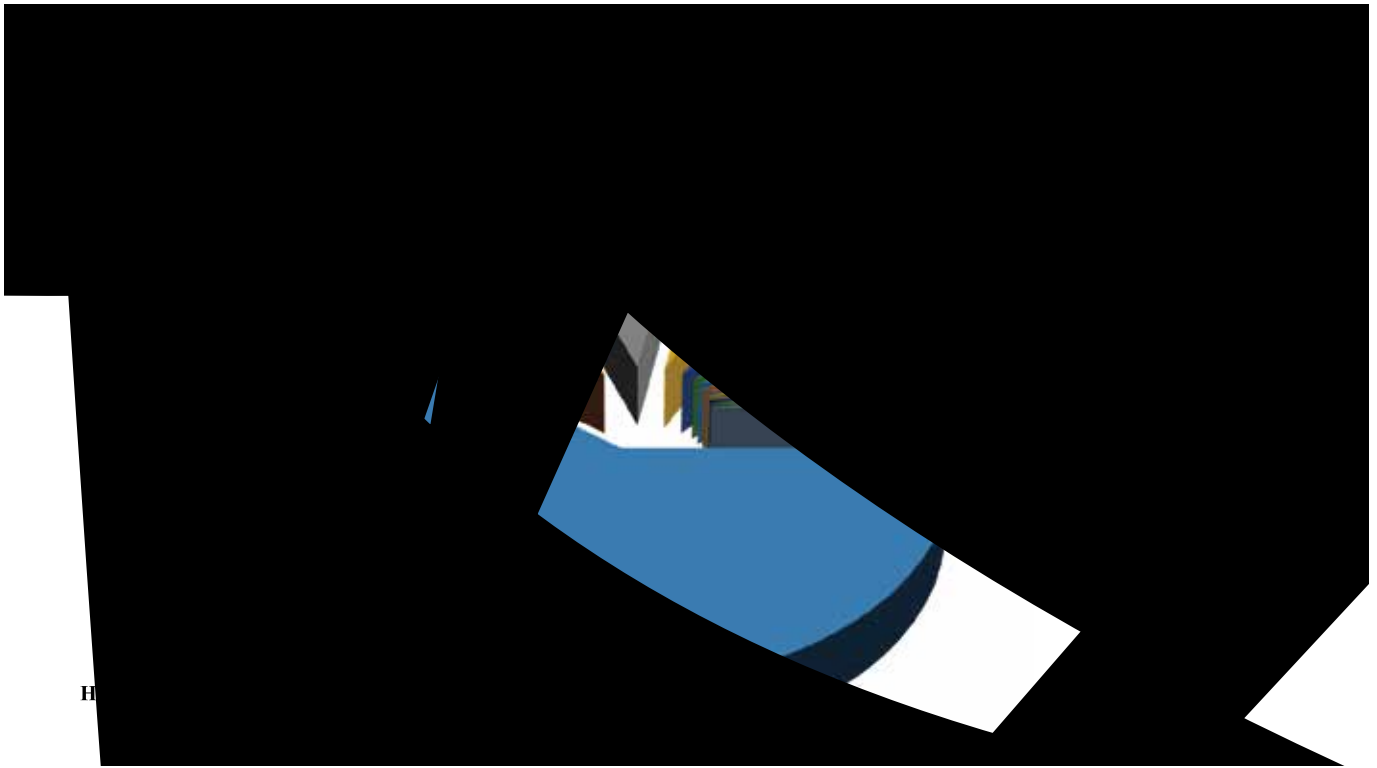
**Fact Sheet on Special Economic Zones as on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024**  
(Dedicated website: [www.sezindia.nic.in](http://www.sezindia.nic.in))

Number of Formal approvals (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024)	416
Number of notified SEZs (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024)	<b>370 (Including 7 Central Government+12 State Governments/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005)</b>
Number of In-Principle Approvals (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024)	36
Operational SEZs (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)	278
Units approved in SEZs (As on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)	6279

Land for SEZs (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024)	7 Central Govt. + 12 State Governments /Pvt. SEZs notified before SEZ Act, 2005.	Notified SEZs under the SEZ Act, 2005	Total Notified SEZs Area (1+2)	Formally Approved SEZs (416-351)	Total Area (3+4)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	2080.28 Ha	36603.29 Ha	38683.57 Ha	5429.74 Ha	44113.31 Ha
<i>Land is a State subject. Land for SEZs is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments.</i>					

INVESTMENT	Investment (As on February 2006)	Incremental Investment	Total Investment (As on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)
Central Government SEZs	Rs. 2,279.20 crore	Rs. 30,059.82 crore	Rs. 32,339.02 crore
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006	Rs. 1,756.31 crore	Rs. 19,086.84 crore	Rs. 20,843.15 crore
SEZs Notified under the Act	-	Rs. 6,54,159.43 crore	Rs. 6,54,159.43 crore
<b>Total</b>	<b>Rs.4,035.51 crore</b>	<b>Rs. 7,03,306.09 crore</b>	<b>Rs. 7,07,341.60 crore</b>
EMPLOYMENT	Employment (As on February 2006)	Incremental Employment	Total Employment (As on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)
Central Government SEZs	1,22,236 person	89,258 person	2,11,494 person
State/Pvt. SEZs set up before 2006	12,468 person	1,10,801 person	1,23,269 person
SEZs Notified under the Act	0 person	28,59,341 person	28,59,341 person
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,34,704 person</b>	<b>30,59,400 person</b>	<b>31,94,104 person</b>
Exports in 2022-23	Rs. 12,63,578 crore [US\$ 157.24 billion] (Growth of 28 percent over of FY 2021-22)		
<i>DTA Sale (Deemed exports)</i>	<i>Rs. 28,955 crore (2 percent of total production)</i>		
<i>DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)</i>	<i>Rs. 2,49,761 crore (16 percent of total production)</i>		
Exports in 2023-24 (As on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024)	Rs. 13,55,220 crore [US\$ 163.69 billion] (Growth of 7 percent over the FY 2022-23)		
<i>DTA Sale (Deemed exports)</i>	<i>Rs. 31,397 crore (2 percent of total production)</i>		
<i>DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)</i>	<i>Rs. 2,72,742 crore (16 percent of total production)</i>		
Exports in 2024-25 (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)	Rs. 6,91,304 crore [US\$ 82.70 billion] (Growth of 4.60 percent over the exports of the corresponding period of FY 2023-24)		
<i>DTA Sale (Deemed exports)</i>	<i>Rs. 22,810 crore (3 percent of total production)</i>		
<i>DTA Sale (Not counted for +ve NFE)</i>	<i>Rs. 1,04,193 crore (13 percent of total production)</i>		

**Sector-wise Distribution of SEZs in India**  
**(Number & Percentage of Operational SEZs (278) as on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024)**



## 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 (HBP).

As on 30th September 2024, 1530 units are in operation under the EOU Scheme as compared to 1560 EOUs on 30th September 2023.

### State wise distribution of functional EOUs as on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

State Wise No. of EOUs		
Zone	State	No. of Functional EOUs
CSEZ	Karnataka	368
	Kerala	89
VSEZ	Andhra Pradesh	59
	Telangana	126
MEPZ	Tamil Nadu	286
	Puducherry	09
NSEZ	Chandigarh	02
	Delhi	03
	Haryana	47
	Himachal Pradesh	03
	Punjab	7
	Rajasthan	44
	Uttar Pradesh	40
	Uttarakhand	02

State Wise No. of EOUs		
Zone	State	No. of Functional EOUs
KASEZ	Gujarat	177
SEEPZ	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	20
	Goa	16
	Maharashtra	193
FSEZ	West Bengal	28
	Jharkhand	02
	Odisha	01
	Meghalaya	01
ISEZ	Madhya Pradesh	07
<b>Total</b>		<b>1530</b>

## Exports performance by EOUs

*(Values in Rs. crore)*

Financial Year	Physical Export
2020-21	1,25,640
2021-22	1,43,351
2022-23	1,50,279
2023-24	1,38,657
2024-25 (As on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024)	60,787.45*

***\*Provisional as APRs & QPRs from some of the units are yet to be received***

EOUs are mainly concentrated in textiles and yarn, food processing, Gems & Jewellery, computer software, electronics, chemicals, plastics, granites and minerals/ores.

# 8

## Chapter

### SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

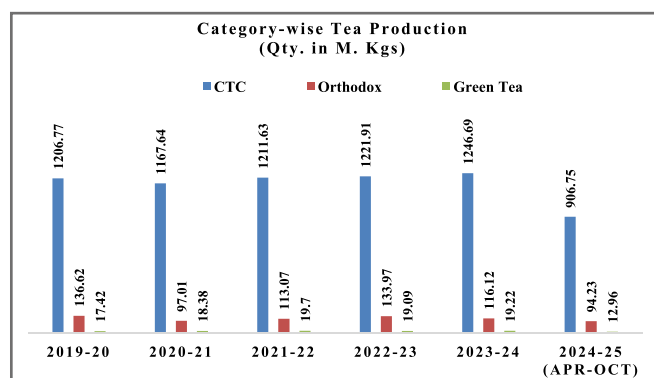
## 1. PLANTATION (TEA, COFFEE, RUBBER AND SPICES)

The plantation sector comprises of 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 skill 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

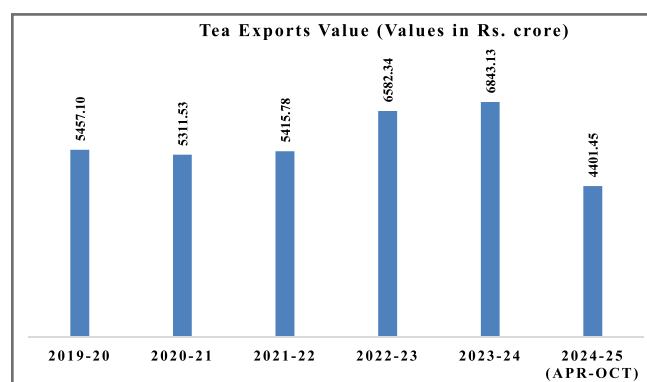
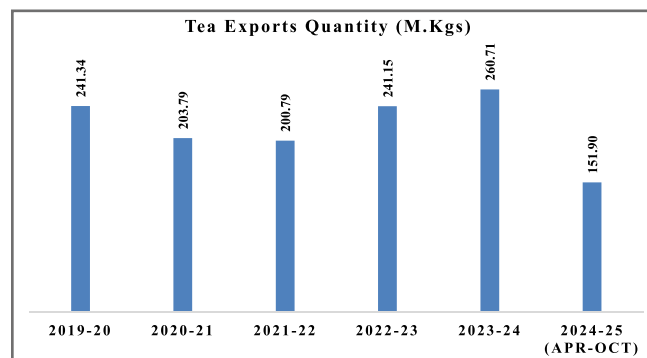
- ❖ **Tea Production:** The provisional tea production for 2024-25 (April-October) stands at 1013.95 M. Kgs. Out of the total production CTC category constitutes 906.75 M. Kgs (89.43 per cent), Orthodox category at 94.23 M. Kgs (9.29 per cent) and Green Tea at 12.96 M. Kgs (1.28 per cent). The tea production category wise during the last 5 years are given hereunder:



Source: Tea Board of India

- ❖ **Export of Tea:** India is the 4th largest exporter of tea. In view of the varied agro climatic

conditions, India offers to the world huge varieties of tea each with its own unique characteristics e.g. Darjeeling, Assam, Nilgiris, Kangra etc. During 2024-25 (April-October), India exported a quantity of 151.90 M. Kgs with value realization of Rs. 4401.45 crore, equivalent to US\$ 525.93 million. Tea exports during the last 5 years are given hereunder:

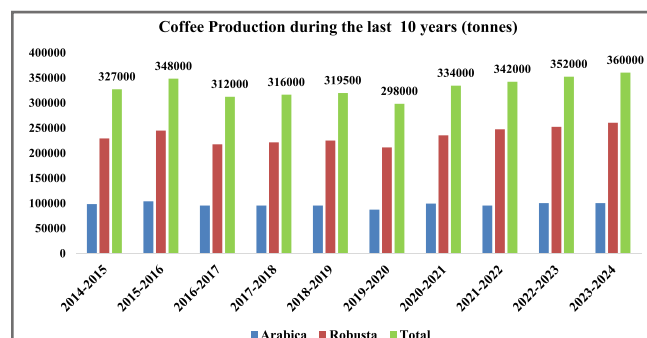


Source: Tea Board of India and from 2022-23 onwards DGCI&S data

- ❖ **Export of Value-Added Tea:** The export of value-added tea is around 15 per cent in volume and 27 per cent in value of the provisional tea export of 2024-25 (April-October).

### (B) Coffee Sector

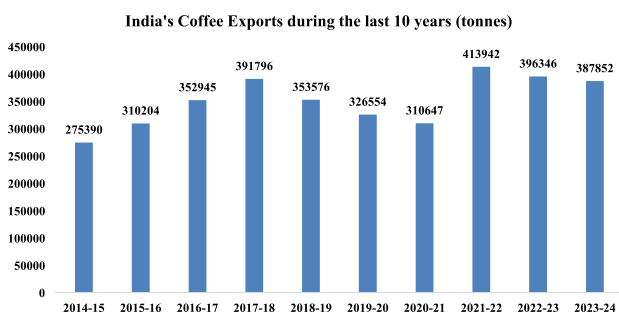
- ❖ **Coffee Production:** The Crop production for April-December 2024 is at 3,63,000 tonnes.



## ❖ Coffee Area

Coffee is cultivated in an area of around 4.90 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 and also cultivated to some extent in Non-Traditional Areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and to a lesser extent in the North Eastern States with main emphasis on tribal development and afforestation. There are about 4.23 lakh coffee holdings in the country, of which around 4.20 lakh holdings (99 per cent) constitute the small growers category 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 growers category with holding size of more than 10 hectares contributing to 25 per cent share in area and 30 per cent share in production.

❖ **Export of Coffee:** Coffee exports during April-December 2024 stands at 2,87,038 tonnes valued at US\$ 1277.19 million (Rs.10,702.05 crore).



## ❖ Performance of Value-Added Coffee Exports

Based on the export permit issued by the Coffee Board, the export of value-added coffee during the period April 2024 to December 2024 was 1,05,592 tonnes with the share of about 38 per cent of the total coffee exports during the same period.

## ❖ Research Achievement

- Under the Public-Private Partnership, 55000 three promising F1 Arabica hybrids (S.5085, S.5086 & S.5059) multiplied by Tissue Culture technology were hardened at the CCRI. During September to November 2024, 7300 hardened plants were field established in

eight locations including four locations in Tamil Nadu and four locations in Karnataka for multi-location trials. Further leaf samples of CxR elite lines and Chandragiri plants were supplied to M/s JISL for commercial multiplication of the lines.

- Under development of climate-resilient coffee using underutilized diploid species by unconventional breeding techniques, the callus cultures diploid species of Excelsa and Stenophylla coffee were subcultured into somatic embryogenesis induction media for further induction and growth of somatic embryos. The somatic embryos and plantlets of Excelsa coffee, were subcultured into half strength MS media for further growth and development of plantlets.
- The efficacy of the three fungicides found promising in control of management of coffee leaf rust during the previous year was revalidated for their performance in field level.

❖ **India Coffee App - One Stop Solution to all the Products, Services and Information provided by Coffee Board:** Coffee Board developed new integrated one stop Mobile app 'India Coffee App' for extending all the information, services and products of the Coffee Board to all the stakeholders in the coffee value chain.

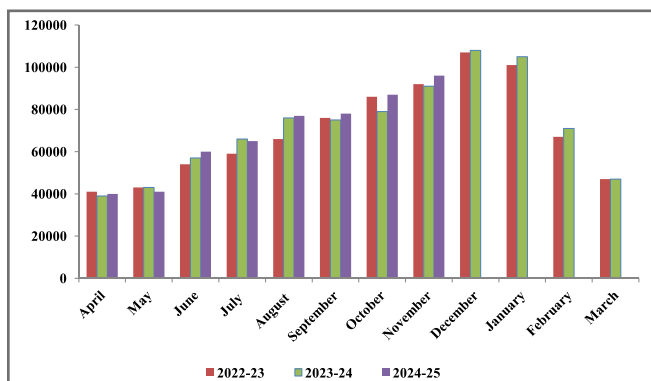
❖ **Export Promotion:** Coffee Board has involved in organizing 'VIKRAYAM' incubation Programme to create a platform for the Coffee growers and entrepreneurs for the direct exports without many intermediaries. During April 2024 to October 2024, Coffee Board has conducted three VIKRAYAM training programmes and 135 stakeholders viz., planters, budding entrepreneurs, exporters, curers and traders were benefitted from the programme.

## (C) Natural Rubber (NR) Sector

❖ NR production during April-November 2024

is provisionally estimated at 5,44,000 tonnes, recording a growth of 3.4 per cent compared to 5,26,000 tonnes produced during the same period in the previous year.

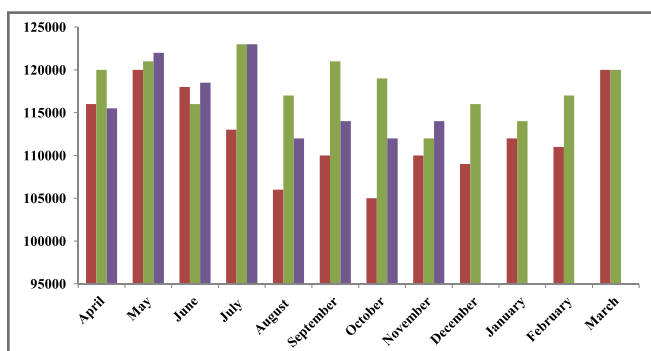
### Monthly Production of NR (Tonne)



Source: Rubber Board of India

- ❖ NR consumption during April to November 2024 is provisionally estimated at 9,31,000 tonnes, registering a negative growth of 1.9 per cent compared to 9,49,000 tonnes consumed during the corresponding period in the previous year.

### Monthly Consumption of NR (Tonne)



Source: Rubber Board of India

- ❖ India imported 4,21,365 tonnes of NR during April to November 2024 compared to 3,30,203 tonnes of NR imported during the same period in the previous year.
- ❖ India exported 2456 tonnes of NR during April to November 2024 compared to 2257 tonnes exported during the corresponding period in the previous year.
- ❖ **Increasing Area of Rubber Production:** Rubber Board is implementing a collaborative project in association with major tyre manufacturers viz INROAD (Indian Natural Rubber Operations for

Assisted Development) to develop 2,00,000 ha of rubber plantations in North Eastern States by 2025-2026. In the current year, 55965.02 ha were planted with rubber under the project. The project which started in 2021 has completed four years of implementation and rubber was planted in 1.25 lakh ha under the project. Apart from INROAD project, 2078.79 ha was planted with rubber during 2024 in traditional and non-traditional areas. Thus, the planting of rubber in 58043.81 ha during 2024, the largest area ever brought under rubber cultivation in a single year in India, is a major milestone for the Indian Rubber Plantation.

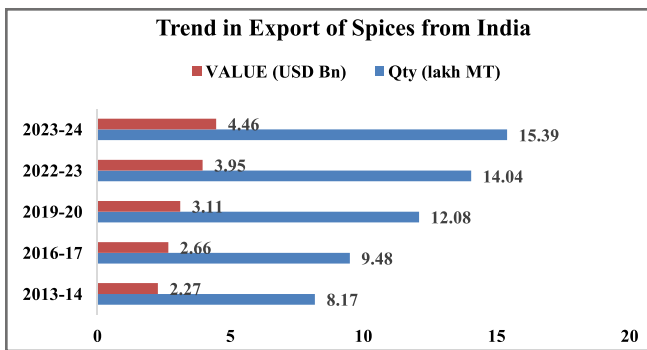
### ❖ Rubber Research

- The confined field trial of GM rubber integrated with osmotin gene for imparting stress tolerance was initiated at Taranagar Farm, Regional Research Station, Agartala.
- The mobile app CRISP (Comprehensive Rubber Information System Platform) comprising the entire aspects of rubber cultivation was developed for Meghalaya.

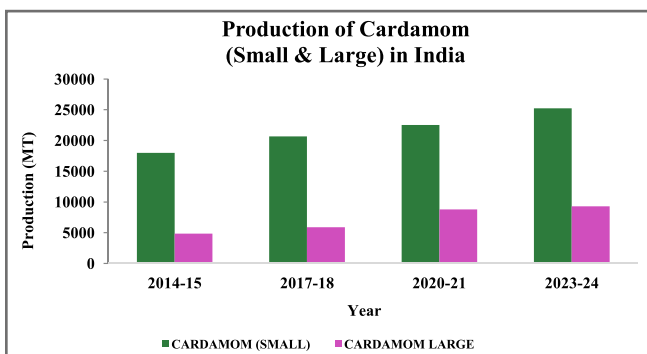
- ❖ **E-Trade Platform for rubber 'mRube':** During the period April to November 2024, there are 359 registrations and 7615 tonnes of NR worth Rs.144.29 crore was traded through this platform. As on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the total registrations are 2314 stakeholders and 32,106 tonne worth Rs. 477 crore was traded through the e-trade platform.

### (D) Spices Sector

- ❖ India is a leading producer, exporter and consumer of spices in the world.
- ❖ Further, a comparison with India's spice export of 2013-14 (8,17,250 tonnes valued at Rs. 13735.39 crore/US\$ 2267.67 million) reveals that during the 10 year period from 2013-14 to 2023-24, the export of spices from India registered a CAGR of 7 per cent in volume, 10 per cent in rupee terms and 7 per cent in dollar terms of value.



- ❖ As per quick estimate by Spices Board during April-November 2024 the export of spices and spice products from the country was Rs. 23378.60 crore (US\$ 2791.94 million) as compared to Rs. 21018.35 crore (US\$ 2544.57 million) during the corresponding period of the previous year registering an increase of 11.23 per cent in rupee and 9.72 per cent in dollar terms of value.
- ❖ The production details of Cardamom Small and Large for last 10 years is represented below:



- ❖ Spices Board holds the Chairmanship of the prestigious ISO Sub-committee on Spices. The 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of ISO/TC34/SC7 was held at AFNOR, Paris, France during 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The committee decided to take up revision of various ISO standards of spices and to work on new work item proposals for spices.
- ❖ Spices Board organised the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of International Pepper Community Research & Development (IPC R&D) committee at Kochi from 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August 2024. 15 delegates from IPC member countries including Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Indonesia participated in the IPC (R&D) meeting. The topics deliberated by the committee included the product traceability, latest research conducted

by IPC member countries, Maximum Residue Trial, other developments in pepper sector etc.

## 2. 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, the Tobacco Board was established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1976 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 non-executive Chairman appointed by the 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.

**(i) Production Activities**

- ❖ In Karnataka as on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 40,396 Flue Cured Virginia tobacco growers covering 51,316 barns are registered and an area of 69,049.30 hectares was planted. The production is estimated at 98.06 million kg as against 100.00 million kg crop size fixed by the Board (for 2024-25 Karnataka Crop).
- ❖ Board fixed a crop size of 167.00 million kg for 2024-25 crop season in Andhra Pradesh in the 163<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024. As on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 41,580 growers covering 37,967.83 barns are registered and an area of 1,05,301.08 ha was planted.
- ❖ For 2025-26 crop season in Karnataka, the crop size will be fixed during the month of February 2025.

**(ii) Extension & Development Activities**

Tobacco Board implements various Extension and Developmental schemes for improving productivity and quality of Indian Flue Cured Virginia tobacco to make it competitive in the international market. Tobacco Board arranges for supply of critical inputs (Balanced fertilizers, approved varieties of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco seed and suckericides), supply of inputs for IPM & Farm mechanization for yield and quality improvement, improving of curing practices (Glass wool/Paddy straw roof insulation of barns and Venturi furnaces), elimination of NTRMs, Post Harvest Product Management, and impart training programmes, conduct Workshops, On farm trials, Model Project Areas, Field Friend Team visits and Study tours for transfer of technology.

For sustainable tobacco production, Tobacco Board allotted Rs. 6.32 crore budget for 2024-25 financial year and out of this Rs. 1.25 crore was spent as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Totally 136 training programmes, 4 workshops, 10 study tours and 10 Field days were conducted under Transfer of Technology to growers by involving Scientists from CTRI and NIPHM. 9 special training programmes were conducted to S.T. growers and inputs were distributed during celebrations of “Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas” from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024

to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Remaining 56 training programmes, 16 Field days and 16 study tours will be carried out by the end of March 2025.

An amount of subsidy of Rs. 0.76 crore was credited into savings Bank accounts of 11,825 growers through DBT mode towards inputs supply as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 and approximately around Rs. 2.87 crore of subsidy is expected to be extended for the remaining period of the financial year. Totally Rs. 3.63 crore subsidy will be provided to growers for supply of inputs, improving of curing practices & grading, elimination of NTRMs and for Post Harvest Product Management measures.

**(iii) Tobacco Auctions**

The Auction system for sale of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco was introduced for the first time in Karnataka in 1984 followed by Andhra Pradesh in 1985.

**(iv) Progress made during 2024-25: (1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)**

- ❖ During 2024-25, a total volume of 201.75 million kg of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco crop was marketed at an average price of Rs. 292.60 per kg in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ During 2024-25, a total volume of 38.83 million kg of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco crop was marketed at an average price of Rs. 264.37 per kg in Karnataka.

**(v) Growers Welfare Fund Initiatives**

Tobacco Board is undertaking various welfare measures, to ensure overall welfare of around 76,600 Tobacco Growers and their families in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana & Odisha by establishing ‘Tobacco Board’s 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 Death Grants to the nominees of deceased growers for natural and accidental deaths and interest Free Loans to active members in welfare scheme for Daughter’s Marriage, Children Education, Treatment for major illness/Accident cases which requires surgery and Repairs to barns damaged due

to Natural Calamities/Fire Accidents. During 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 4.12 crore was disbursed in the form of Grants and Rs. 0.41 crore in the form of Interest Free Loans, totaling to Rs. 4.53 crore.

Since the inception of the scheme, Tobacco Board had provided financial relief of Rs. 87.50 crore to 22,622 members in terms of Grants and Loans so far (Grants of Rs. 72.88 crore to 17,508 members and Interest free loans of Rs. 14.61 crore to 5,114 growers) up to 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

#### **(vi) 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 Tobacco Board portal [www.tobaccoboard.in](http://www.tobaccoboard.in). For the year 2024, a total number of 1,219 traders were granted/renewed registration under various categories. The registration/renewal of registration for the Registration Year 2025 have commenced from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and a total number of 465 traders were granted/renewed registration as on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

#### **(vii) Export Performance during 2023-24**

Indian exports of unmanufactured tobacco and tobacco products have registered the highest ever exports of Rs. 12,005.89 crore (US\$ 1,449.54 million) during 2023-24.

The exports of tobacco and tobacco products during 2023-24 were 3,15,511.96 M. Tons valued at Rs. 12,005.89 crore (US\$ 1,449.54 million) as against the

exports of 2,91,181.74 M. Tons valued at Rs. 9,739.75 crore (US\$ 1,213.37 million) exported during 2022-23. During 2023-24, the exports of tobacco and tobacco products have registered a positive growth of 8 per cent, 23 per cent and 19 per cent respectively in terms of quantity, value in rupees and value in US dollars as compared to the exports made during 2022-23.

#### **(viii) Progress of exports in 2024-25 (April-October 2024)**

During the period April-October 2024, the exports of tobacco and tobacco products stood at 2,22,840.75 M. Tons valued at Rs. 9,954.02 crore (US\$ 1,189.28 million) as against 1,93,402.26 M. Tons valued at Rs. 7,114.35 crore (US\$ 861.16 million) during the corresponding period of last year reflecting an increase of 15 per cent, 40 per cent and 38 per cent respectively in terms of quantity and value in rupees and value in US dollars.

#### **(ix) 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 2024-25, Tobacco Board had participated in the following international fairs and exhibitions exclusive to tobacco:

- ❖ Intertabac/Intersupply 2024, Dortmund, Germany – 19th-21st September 2024
- ❖ World Tobacco Asia 2024, Surabaya, Indonesia – 9th-10th October 2024
- ❖ World Tobacco Middle East 2024, Dubai, UAE – 12th-13th November 2024

#### **(x) Export Facilitation**

- ❖ Tobacco Board is issuing e-RCMC in digital mode to the eligible exporters on the e-RCMC platform of DGFT.
- ❖ Tobacco Board is issuing Preferential Certificates of Origin 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.

- ❖ Tobacco Board is also one of the Local Authorities 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.

#### (xi) Finance & Accounts

##### (a) Tobacco Fund Account

As per section 17(1) of the Act 1975 - There shall be formed a Fund to be called the Tobacco Fund and there shall be credited there to:

- ❖ The fees levied and collected under this Act or the rules made there under;
- ❖ Any sums of money paid or any loans granted by the Central Government for the purposes of this Act;
- ❖ Any grant or loans that may be made by any person for the purposes of this Act;
- ❖ The sums, if any, realized by the Board in carrying out the measures referred to in Section-8.

As per Section 17(2) of the Act 1975 - The fund shall be applied for meeting the cost of the measures referred to in section 8, salaries, allowances and other administrative expenses of the Board.

In view of the above, the amounts realized by the Board are credited to the Tobacco Fund account and met the expenditure from this fund account.

##### (b) Internal Resources

- ❖ **Grant-In-Aid:** As per Section 16 of the Tobacco Board Act 1975, the Central Government may,

after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Board by way of grants or loans such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit for being utilized for the purposes of this Act.

- ❖ **Other Receipts:** As per the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act 1975, the major internal resources of the Board are service charges collected from buyers and growers for the services rendered @ 2 per cent on the value of tobacco marketed on the auction platforms, registration fees from the growers, dealers, exporters, packers, processors and manufacturers. In addition to the above, the Board realizes the contributions of the sale proceeds on the excess tobacco produced by the registered growers and unauthorized tobacco produced by the unregistered growers as per gazette notification issued by the Central Government from time to time.

The Tobacco Board did not draw any grant from the Central Government since 1991-92 due to the sufficient realization of internal resources by the Board to meet its budgeted expenditure every year.

##### (c) Budget Estimates

As per the provision of rule 21(1) of the Tobacco Board Rules 1976, the Board shall in each year, prepare Budget Estimates for the ensuing year and Revised Estimates for the current year and shall submit them for the sanction of the Central Government on or before such dates as may be fixed by the Government.

The Internal Resources and Expenditure for the years 2023-24 (R.E. & Actual) and 2024-25 (B.E. & Actuals up to December 2024 approximately) of the Tobacco Board are as under:

**(Values in Rs. crore)**

S. No.	Particulars	2023-24		2024-25	
		Revised Estimates	Actual	Revised Estimates	Actual (Up to December 2024 approximately)
1	Internal Resources (Receipts)	147.19	176.65	215.63	215.64
2	Expenditure	170.56	104.89	175.92	71.08

The financial statements for the financial year 2023-24 were submitted to the AG Audit Department on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and the audit for the accounts of the Tobacco Board was carried out from 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024. Tobacco Board had received Separate Audit Report for 2023-24 on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### 3. 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, 1985.

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 16 Regional offices at Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Jammu, Srinagar, Ladakh, Tripura, Varanasi, Bhopal, Vishakhapatnam.

APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products as provided in First Schedule of 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
- ❖ Green Pepper in Brine
- ❖ Cashew Nuts and Its Products

Basmati Rice has been included in the Second Schedule of APEDA Act. In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the import of sugar as well.

APEDA also functions as the Secretariat to the National Accreditation Board (NAB) for implementation of accreditation of the Certification Bodies under National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) for organic exports. "Organic Products" for export are to be certified only if Produced, Processed and Packed as per the standards laid down in the document - "National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)."

#### (A) APEDA's Share in Agri Exports

#### India's Export Target for 2024-25 (Quick Estimates Groups)

(Values in US\$ million)

S. No.	Commodity	Target Fixed (2024-25)	Target (April-November 2024-25)	Export Achievement (April-November 2024-25)	Shortfall of target
1	Rice	12,535	8,357	7,314	(-)1,042.50
2	Meat, Dairy and Poultry Products	5,408	3,605	3,140	(-)465.30
3	Fruits And Vegetables	3,926	2,617	2,316	(-)301.49
4	Cereal Preparations and Miscellaneous Processed Item	3,179	2,119	2,040	(-)79.49
5	Other Cereals	1,110	740	148	(-)592.49
6	Cashew	403	268	203	(-)65.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,561</b>	<b>17,707</b>	<b>15,160</b>	<b>(-)2,546.95</b>

Source: DGCI&S

## **(B) Agriculture and Processed Foods Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA**

Agriculture and Processed Foods Export Promotion Scheme of APEDA is an export promotion initiative administered by APEDA. The scheme aims to facilitate the export of agri-products by providing assistance to exporters. It achieves its objective through the following:

- ❖ Understanding the several challenges faced by agri-exporters
- ❖ Acknowledging the need for assistance to successfully navigate through these challenges and achieve objectives of APEDA
- ❖ Financial assistance is provided in three broad areas, namely: Market Development, Development of Export Infrastructure and Quality Development

### **(i) Market Development**

This component helps exporters to achieve market access in new markets and help sustain their presence in the existing markets. 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

### **(ii) Infrastructure Development**

APEDA recognizes the importance of infrastructure for growth of agro-industries and export of agricultural products in the value chain. 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. Under this component, assistance is provided for 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 like X-ray, Screening, Sortex, filth/metal detector, sensors, vibrators or any new equipment or technology for food safety and quality requirements

### **(iii) Quality Development**

To participate/engage in international trade, it is necessary to comply with Food Safety requirements of different countries. Several importing countries demand adherence to stringent Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). Some of the developed importing countries have set up MRLs at very low level. For this, high precision equipments are required to be installed by the food testing labs. Under this component, assistance is provided to comply with the prescribed standards of importing countries. 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.

## **(C) Animal Products**

India's export of Animal products during 2024-25 comprised the major products in the basket viz. Buffalo Meat, Sheep/Goat meat, Other meat, Poultry Products, Dairy Products, Animal Casing, Processed

Meat, Casein Albumin, Eggs & Milk, and Natural Honey.

### (i) Malaysian Delegation

The visit of Malaysian Delegation to 7 Indian Meat establishments was organized from 13<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 for compliance audit for export of frozen buffalo meat to Malaysia. With the support and facilitation of APEDA, Malaysian delegation visited 7 meat processing plants out of which approval has been granted for 3 meat processing units for exporting meat and offals, 3 meat plants have been kept pending for approval subject to submission of verification report towards Non-Compliance observed by Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Malaysia and 01 meat processing plant has not been approved.



### (ii) Philippines Delegation

The visit of Officials of Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Philippines to India was organized for Step I audit & verification of Indian Animal and veterinary health systems from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

On the basis of outcome report of Step-1 audit, the visit of Step 2 visit of audit mission by National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) was organized in India from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 for inspection of 34 Indian meat establishments in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Telangana. Final Report is awaited from Philippine side.



### (iii) Sensitization programmes on Quality conducted by APEDA for Meat establishments

To ensure Food Safety, Hygiene and Quality Measures while slaughtering of animals & addressing the concerned of importing countries and to sensitize the stakeholders, APEDA has organized five sensitization programs in different meat clusters across the country., i.e. at Delhi on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Nuh (Haryana) on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 and Telangana (Hyderabad) on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Approximately 500 plus participants from the meat exporting establishments attended and benefitted from the deliberations.

### (iv) Applications for approval for export of bovine meat from India

To boost export of meat and meat products from the country, APEDA is continuously following up with the importing countries through Indian Missions such as Indonesia, Philippines, Oman, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Iran, Russia, Bahrain, Azerbaijan, Lebanon and Mauritius for approval of pending applications of Indian meat establishments.

In pursuance to the follow ups, Mauritius has approved all the pending applications of the meat establishments and at present 11 meat establishments are approved for export of meat products to Mauritius. Further, the Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, Bahrain vide letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024, conveyed approval for 3 meat establishments out of 6 meat establishments for export of buffalo meat from India to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

#### **(v) Indian Conformity Assessment (i-CAS) for Halal Products**

For streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products and to bring it under the regulatory framework, APEDA jointly with National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) developed the India Conformity Assessment (i-CAS) Halal scheme. The scheme has been developed in accordance with international standards (ISO) so that the certification under the scheme is harmonized with international requirements and practices and allowing it to be benchmarked with other reputed global schemes. The guidelines cover the procedure for accreditation of Halal Certification Bodies (CBs), Certification of Halal operators and export of Halal products.

The scheme has been notified by the Government of India on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 vide DGFT Notification No.03/2023, and thereby introducing a standardized Halal certification standard for exports of meat and meat products from the country.

Further, vide notification No. 34/2024-24 dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024, issued by Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the export policy conditions of specified meat and meat products have been amended with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, wherein, the specified meat and meat products shall be allowed to be exported as Halal certified to the 15 countries listed below, only if such products are produced or processed and/or packaged in a facility certified under the i-CAS Halal of the Quality Council of India (QCI).

1	Bahrain	9	Oman
2	Bangladesh	10	Philippines
3	Indonesia	11	Qatar
4	Iran	12	Saudi Arabia
5	Iraq	13	Singapore
6	Jordan	14	Turkey
7	Kuwait	15	United Arab Emirates
8	Malaysia		

For G2G agreements for recognizing i-CAS Halal and acceptance of halal certification under i-CAS Halal in other countries, APEDA has been conducting meetings with major Indian Halal products importing countries namely Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Oman, UAE, Iran and Egypt and continuously following up with the concerned authorities in respective countries in association with Indian Missions & Territorial Division of Department of Commerce.

Since, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 halal certification is being done smoothly and 2517 certificates have been generated since the issuance of notification (16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 till 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025).

#### **(vi) Imposition of MEP on export of Honey from India**

In reference to the representation received from Honey Exporters Association of India comprising of leading exporters of Honey and Beekeepers Associations for fixation of Minimum Export price (MEP) on export of Honey, APEDA after due consultation with Honey exporters, Bee Keepers Association, DGTR sent a proposal for imposition of MEP on export of Honey from India. After due consultation by Department of Commerce with all the stakeholders i.e., Honey exporters, National Bee Board, DGFT, DGTR & Bee Keepers Associations. DGFT vide Notification No. 72/2023 dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 imposed Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US\$ 2000 per Metric Ton (PMT, till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 or until further orders, whichever, is earlier) on export of Natural Honey under ITC HS code 04090000 of Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Export Policy, 2023).

Further, DGFT vide Notification No. 45/2024-25 dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2024 extends the condition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US\$ 2000 F.O.B per Metric Ton (PMT, till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 on export of Natural Honey under ITC (HS) Code 04090000 of Schedule - II Export Policy).

## **(D) Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**

### **(i) Development of Sea Protocols**

- ❖ APEDA has taken proactive step in developing sea protocols for the export of fresh produce to long distant markets. The strategic development of protocols tailored for sea transport, aimed to optimize the export process for potential fruits and vegetables.
- ❖ APEDA in collaboration with ICAR-CISH and ICAR-NRCP developed the Sea protocol for mangoes, banana, and Pomegranate.

### **(ii) Sea Shipments of focus products**

#### **❖ Banana**

- A Sea Protocol for Banana was developed in collaboration with ICAR-CISH, Lucknow and first trial shipment of bananas were successfully shipped by sea to Netherlands in 24 days.
- Two commercial shipments were also flagged off to Russia by adopting the sea protocol developed by ICAR-CISH.

#### **❖ Mangoes**

- APEDA in collaboration with ICAR-CISH Lucknow developed Sea protocol for export of Mangoes to far away markets. The trial shipment of Banganapalli from Southern India to UK and trial shipment of Kesar from Western India to Japan via sea were carried out in May and June 2024 respectively.

#### **❖ Pomegranate**

- With the success of static trial of 60 days of Pomegranate in collaboration with ICAR-NRCP, 1<sup>st</sup> trial shipment of pomegranates was successfully shipped

to USA retaining good quality of the produce.

#### **❖ Pineapple**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> commercial sea trail shipment of pineapple from Maharashtra to Dubai in collaboration with ICAR-CCARI was carried out in June 2024.

#### **❖ Oranges**

- APEDA in collaboration with ICAR-CCRI has initiated for developing the Sea protocol for export of Oranges to Gulf Countries.

#### **❖ Ginger**

- APEDA in collaboration with Assam Agriculture University has initiated for developing the Sea protocol for export of ginger from North Eastern Region to UK.

### **(iii) MoU with various Institutes**

- ❖ APEDA signed a MoU with ICAR-CISH for development of sea protocol to long distant markets.
- ❖ During World Food India, 2024, APEDA signed an MoU with Lulu group for promotion of horticultural products across the diverse international markets.

### **(iv) Mango Promotion Programs**

- ❖ During current season, APEDA organized Mango Promotion programs in Russia, Belgium, Lithuania, Italy, Turkmenistan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, South Korea and South Africa.
- ❖ On 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024, APEDA in association with German Embassy in India and the Indo-German Cooperation on Agricultural Market Development Project successfully organized an event on “Export Debut of India’s Finest Mangoes to Europe” at the Embassy of Germany in New Delhi, India. The event focused on creating visibility of the north Indian mango varieties and promoting exports of the north Indian mangoes and processed products of mango to the EU countries.

- (v) **Mango exports to different countries:** In the current mango season, 3233.62 MT of Indian mangoes were exported to USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, UK, EU and other countries.
- (vi) **Buyer Seller Meet:** APEDA in association with Embassy of India, Malaysia organized a Virtual Buyer seller meet on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 to explore the opportunities for export of Mangoes to Malaysia. During the programme, Indian strength owing to the huge quality production and diverse mango varieties and irradiation facilities of India (out of which 3 have already been approved by the Malaysian authorities while one facility is in the process of getting approval) was briefed to the importers.
- (vii) **Market Access:** APEDA prepared a document having the compilation of Market Access of 15 focus fruits and vegetables for 31 countries. The document is a comprehensive matrix in which the products are categorized as High, Medium, Low and Very low based on various parameters like India's export volume, India's rank in export, market size, logistics, competitiveness etc. The document will help map a roadmap to gain market access in the potential markets to boost exports and accordingly the market access issues are being taken up henceforth.

## (E) Cereals Products

APEDA in collaboration with IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) organized a workshop on "Profiling of Potential Varieties of Non-Basmati Rice and Value-Added Products of Rice" at New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The workshop showcased the outcome of two pioneering research projects, "Comprehensive Grain and Nutritional Quality Profiling of Non-Basmati Rice" focusing on identifying high-quality aromatic, nutrient-rich rice low glycemic index (GI) varieties with geographical indication (GI) tag germplasm from various Indian states; and "Value-Added Products from Rice and Rice-Based Food Systems", a project aimed at creating innovative, healthier rice-based instant upma.

### (i) EU Delegation

- ❖ APEDA co-ordinated the Delegation from DG-

Sante of European Commission to evaluate the controls of pesticides in food of plant origin intended for export to the European Union carried out in India from 16<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

- ❖ APEDA organized the visit of EU Delegation to 2 Rice Processing units-one unit under the In-Process Quality Control Scheme and another unit under the Consignment-wise Inspection Scheme, basmati rice grower, laboratory and meeting with various Competent Authority to understand the system in place to control pesticides in the rice exported.

### (ii) Virtual Meeting with Maize and Other Cereal Exporters

- ❖ An interactive meeting had been organized with exporters of Maize and Other Cereals on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 in virtual mode with the objectives of identifying specific export challenges for each product, reviewing regulatory and compliance issues, discussing logistical and transportation concerns, exploring market access and trade barriers, providing updates on international market trends and demands and Gathering feedback for policy improvements and support initiatives.

### (iii) Removal of export duty on Non-Basmati Rice (Parboiled rice)

- ❖ APEDA has received various representations from Rice exporters association pertaining to export duty on Parboiled rice. APEDA has taken up the issue with Department of Commerce. In this connection, a meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (EP-Agri) on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance vide Notification No.46/2024-Customs, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 has remove the duty on export of non-basmati rice including parboiled rice.

### (iv) Removal of Minimum Export Price (MEP) on Basmati rice

- ❖ APEDA has received various representations from Rice exporters association pertaining to

removal of MEP on Basmati rice. The matter was taken up with Department of Commerce.

- ❖ In this connection, Department of Commerce vide Letter No.:12/1/2023-EP(Agri-III), dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 had directed to APEDA to remove the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of US\$ 950 per MT for registration of contract for export. The same has been implemented by APEDA vide dated 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**(v) Social media promotion campaign for Indian Millets, Basmati Rice, Organic Products and Fruits**

- ❖ APEDA in collaboration with IBEF organizing the social media promotion campaign for Indian Millets, Basmati Rice, Organic Products and Fruits from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024. This campaign is aimed to position Indian Millets, Basmati Rice, Organic Products and Fruits in International Markets.
- ❖ For the successful functioning of the campaign, APEDA has provided content for the posts, facilitated virtual meetings with top exporters of Indian Millets on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 and virtual meetings with top exporters of Basmati Rice on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to lay out the strategies and future course of action for promotion campaign.

**(vi) Sponsoring of “International Nutri-Cereals Convention 6.0 (INCC6.0)”**

- ❖ APEDA partnered with ICAR-IIMR, Hyderabad for organizing its global flagships event “International Nutri-Cereals Convention 6.0 (INCC6.0)” held at Hitex International Convention Centre (HICC) Hyderabad on 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The objective of the event was “Status, Issues, and Strategies on Mainstreaming Millets as the Commodity of the Decade”.
- DGFT has issued Public Notice No. 36/2023 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 regarding allocation of 5841 MT of Raw/Refined Sugar to EU under TRQ scheme from October 2023 to September 2024 and quota was operated by APEDA as the implementing agency. A trade Notice was hosted at APEDA website for inviting the

applications. The quota was allocated to three exporters for export of sugar to EU under TRQ.

- DGFT has issued Public Notice No. 29/2023 dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 regarding allocation of 8606 MTRV of Raw Cane Sugar to USA under TRQ scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and quota was operated by APEDA as the implementing agency. A trade Notice was hosted at APEDA website for inviting the applications.

**(vii) RCAC for Export of Basmati Rice**

<b>RCAC's issued by APEDA during 2024-25 (till 22nd October 2024) for export of Basmati Rice</b>	
Issued No of RCAC	27423
Total Qty. (MTs)	3260168.912

**(viii) Import of Sugar in 2024-25 (till 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024)**

Issued No of RCAC	39
Total Qty. (MTs)	1126521

**(F) Organic Sector**

The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is being implemented by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry for exports under the Foreign Trade Development Regulations (FTDR) Act since 2001. The aims of NPOP include policies for development and certification of organic products, national standards for organic products, accreditation of certification bodies and certification of organic products in conformity to the national standards.

**(i) Accreditation activities**

APEDA is functioning as the Secretariat for implementation of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) complying with ISO-17011 requirements. Following are the accreditation related activities during the period:

- ❖ As per the accreditation procedure outlined in NPOP, accreditation has been granted to 5 Certification Bodies by the National Accreditation Body (NAB).

- ❖ There were a total of 37 active Certification Bodies as on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.
  - ❖ During 2024-25, accreditation of one Certification Body was reinstated by the National Accreditation Body (NAB).
- (ii) Revision of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)**
- ❖ The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) implemented by the Department of Commerce is the regulatory requirement for export of organic products from the Country.
  - ❖ The NPOP regulations have been revised from time to time and the current (seventh) edition was notified by the Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT), in 2014.
  - ❖ The Current Edition of NPOP 2014 is being revised to account for the long period of ten years since last revision, for changes in the international organic scenario and global organic markets and to bring in more clarity and transparency in the process while strengthening the regulatory oversight through data analytics.
  - ❖ The Revision process started in December 2023. Inter departmental Core Committee of experts was constituted to work on NPOP drafting. Interaction meeting was organized by APEDA with all the key stakeholders seeking their comments on the NPOP regulations particularly with respect to areas needing changes.
  - ❖ First draft of NPOP 2024 was hosted on APEDA website on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 for public comments for 30 days and was further extended by 2 weeks based on stakeholder requests till 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
  - ❖ 200+ comments were received online/Offline from various stakeholders including Certification Bodies (Government and Private), Operators (Traders, Processors, Grower Group ICS), individuals, MoA&FW, Ministry of Cooperation, State Governments, FSSAI NCOL, AIOI etc. The second draft was hosted

on the APEDA website on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, seeking final comments of the stakeholders, with a deadline till 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024. Around 100 comments were received from various stakeholders, which were examined.

- ❖ The final revised draft NPOP was approved by the National Steering Committee (NSC) of NPOP chaired by the Commerce Secretary in its meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- ❖ The 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) was launched on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium (NASC Complex), Pusa, New Delhi. The regulation was released by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, in the august presence of Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Cooperation, Shri Murlidhar Mohol, Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Chairman, National Accreditation Body (NAB) under NPOP and other senior officers of Government of India.

**(iii) Registration of Unified India Organic Logo**

- ❖ The Unified logo for organic products, merging the 'India Organic' logo of NPOP and 'Jaivik Bharat' logo of FSSAI was approved during the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 co-chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ In pursuance of the above direction, APEDA initiated the procedure to get the Unified Logo registered under Section 182 of the Trademarks Act, 1999 for registration of a certification Trademark for different classes of goods. The Unified India Organic Logo has been registered with the Trade Mark Registry and certificate issued on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**(G) Geographical Indication (GI) Product (APEDA Schedule Products)**

As of May 2024, a total of 229 Geographical Indication

(GI) products have been registered, reflecting the diverse agricultural and cultural heritage of India. An updated list is now available on the APEDA website.

### **(i) Major Export Destination for GI Products**

Exports of GI products such as Basmati Rice, Mango, Pomegranates, Bangalore Rose Onions, Sangli Grapes/Raisin, Banana and products of North-Eastern Region such as Joha Rice of Assam, Black Rice (Chak-Hao), Naga Mircha, Mithila Makhana and their derived processed products. Export has taken place to potential importing countries such as UAE, Indonesia, Kuwait Iran, Thailand, Bhutan, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, etc., for the promotion of APEDA scheduled products. Special focus is given on export of GI-tagged products.

### **(ii) GI Initiatives/Achievements for FY- 2024-25**

GI products were showcased during World Food India (WFI) – held from 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024, Delhi, Sial Food (India) 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Delhi and Indus Food held from 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Noida. In World Food India, the theme of the APEDA pavilion was centered around GI products. APEDA showcased wide range of registered GI products in prominent places and also sensitized the stakeholders and visitors on their various queries related to GI products.

## **(H) Quality Division**

### **(i) Laboratory and Food safety ecosystem**

- ❖ APEDA authorizes laboratories having ISO 17025 accreditation granted by NABL. In addition, product specific authorization is granted for the purpose of food safety and monitoring of food products being exported from India.

### **(ii) Online monitoring of pesticides and aflatoxins**

- ❖ The Procedure for export of Peanut and peanut products for control of residues of agrochemicals and aflatoxins was revised for implementation to ensure importing country's requirements based on consultation with various stakeholders and the MRL set by EU.

- ❖ The Peanut traceability system was aligned with the exiting aflatoxin monitoring system based on the laboratory ecosystem.

- ❖ Sampling procedure for testing of organic food and feed products has been prepared for adoption by recognized laboratories and Certification Bodies for analysis of organic food and feed products.

### **(iii) Monitoring of rapid alerts, rejections, complaints due to food safety non-compliances**

- ❖ APEDA monitored the rapid alerts (from EU) pertaining to various products like Cereal, Organic, fresh fruits and vegetables, Processed foods and provided technical assessment to minimize export rejections and rapid alerts. In addition, non-compliances received from countries like Australia are also being monitored.

### **(iv) Audit and assessment of control system in India by Visiting Delegations**

- ❖ APEDA has co-ordinated the audit conducted by DG-SANTE of European Commission both in virtual meetings (during 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> September 2024) and onsite assessments during 24<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 on control system in India for pesticide residues in Rice, Drumstick and Peppers.

### **(v) Capacity Building and trainings**

- ❖ Capacity building programme for laboratories are being organized through NRL to sensitize them on the specific requirements of importing countries to avoid rejection or refusal of Indian consignments at the port of arrival. Further, individual handholding of laboratories is being carried out as per importing countries requirements to meet the limits set by them for agrochemicals and Mycotoxins.

- ❖ Capacity building and sensitization programmes have been organized in association with state Government officials from Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on the rejections and non-compliance received from different importing countries and official

control in those importing countries.

- ❖ The exporters of rice and fresh fruits and vegetables were sensitized on the rejections and non-compliance received from different importing countries and official control in those importing countries.

**(vi) Participation in Codex meetings and standard setting**

- ❖ APEDA participated in Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods meeting held in Panama and presented the work related to the initial phase for setting up of Total Aflatoxin level in Ready to Eat Peanut products.
- ❖ APEDA also contributed by providing inputs for the discussion paper on Appeal Mechanism in the Context of the Rejections of Imported Food under Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS).

**(vii) Review of WTO notifications**

- ❖ APEDA reviews the WTO Notifications related to the Regulations/Standards set by the importing countries on the levels of residues, mycotoxins, and other contaminants in food for import in the respective country. The notifications wherein the levels are revised by the importing countries are informed to the concerned division for dissemination of information to the exporters.

**(viii) Revision in Export Procedure**

- ❖ The European Union implementing regulation (EU) 2023/2782 of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the control of the levels of mycotoxins in food and repealing Regulation (EC) No. 401/2006 has been implemented in the Peanut.Net system as well as the Procedure for export of Peanut Products has been updated.

**(ix) Implementation of GAP certification**

- ❖ The farmers, exporters and stakeholders in the production chain are being promoted and facilitated to obtain Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Certification for better quality

control and market penetration of Indian produce. Financial assistance is also being provided to the farmers/ exporters to obtain GAP certificate.

**(x) Expansion of laboratory Network**

- ❖ The laboratory ecosystem of APEDA are being expanded for better and improved quality checks for export products from India. In this regard the laboratories for testing of Organic products, Grapes and Peanut products are being expanded to different regions of India especially the regions with less number of those specialized laboratories but possess an export potential.

**(I) Trade Promotion activities undertaken by APEDA during FY-2024-25**

**(i) Trade Fairs organized by APEDA outside India**

- ❖ Macfrut, Italy, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May 2024
- ❖ Seoul Food & Hotel, Seoul, South Korea, 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- ❖ Big Seven, Johannesburg, South Africa, 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- ❖ Summer Fancy Food Show, New York, USA, 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- ❖ Fine Food Australia, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- ❖ Asia Fruit Logistica, Hong Kong, 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- ❖ World Food Moscow, Russia, 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- ❖ SIAL Paris, France, 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024
- ❖ Middle East Organic and Natural Product Expo 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**(ii) Trade Fairs organized by APEDA within India**

- ❖ Biofach India 2024, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> August 2024
- ❖ World Food India 2024, 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024
- ❖ Sial India 2024, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December 2024
- ❖ Indusfood 2025, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**(iii) Exhibition under APEDA Pavilion WFI-2024**

APEDA booked the space of approx 2200 sq. mtrs at Hall No. 3, Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi where APEDA setup its pavilion. APEDA pavilion had an array of products, ranging from fresh fruits and vegetables to snacks, millet-based items, wines, dairy product, poultry products, cereals, and their derivatives, including organic and GI products. The showcase area had the diverse offerings from almost all States and UT. The APEDA pavilion consisted of 150 No. of stalls.

APEDA invited approx 1200 international buyers/importers and organised Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) from around 80 countries covering EU, USA, GCC, Africa, South East Asia and Australian region to show case the Indian agri and processed food products to International Market.

**(K) Other Initiatives**

- ❖ **Collaboration with ICRIER for conducting Research studies:** APEDA has onboarded ICRIER as a Knowledge partner and it is also doing a holistic study on 25+ potential products based on certain parameters. ICRIER is also working on Country specific action plans on 41 countries.
- ❖ Implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) at farm level on major focused products has been initiated. Till date, approval has been given to four exporters, supporting around 450 farmers growing mango and vegetables. The financial assistance under the scheme's Quality sub component is expected to benefit more farmers further.
- ❖ **Industry Interaction Program organised by APEDA at Dehradun:** On 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024, APEDA organized an Industry Interaction Program in Dehradun. The program was attended by the Secretary, Commerce, Government of India, along with the Secretary of Rural Development, Government of Uttarakhand. More than 150 organizations, representing diverse industries participated in the event.
- ❖ Operationalization of Perishable Cargo facility to promote export of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Biju Patnaik International Airport. With direct intervention of APEDA and coordination with the state Directorate of Horticulture, so far 12.5 MTs of Fresh mangoes and 7 MTs Fresh vegetables have been exported to Dubai from this airport. 100 Kg. Cashew nuts has also been exported from this airport.
- ❖ **Industry Interaction Meet organized at Dehradun Uttarakhand:** APEDA hosted an Industry Interaction Meet in Uttarakhand on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to enhance the export potential of the region's agricultural and processed food sectors. The event was a significant step towards fostering collaboration between industry leaders, government officials, and stakeholders to strategize for global competitiveness. The Industry Interaction brought together an esteemed gathering of senior Government officials, industry leaders and stakeholders from across various sectors. Among the key attendees were Shri Sunil Barthwal, IAS, Commerce Secretary, Government of India; Ms. Radhika Jha, IAS, Department of Rural Development Government of Uttarakhand and Shri Abhishek Dev, IAS, Chairman, APEDA. The open-hours session at the industry interaction meet proved to be a significant opportunity for engagement and collaboration. Participants from various sectors shared their insights, challenges, and innovative solutions, fostering a rich dialogue that highlighted key industry trends and opportunities. This interactive forum allowed for the exchange of ideas between industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders, creating a platform for networking and collaboration. The discussions centered around critical topics such as market expansion, technological advancements, and sustainability practices, all of which are vital for the growth of our industries. Several landmark Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the event, reflecting the strategic partnerships aimed at boosting Uttarakhand's agricultural export landscape.



while enhancing global competitiveness. The event was attended by Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The program facilitated meaningful discussions among participants including exporters, traders, FPOs, and SHGs, focusing on unlocking opportunities across Uttarakhand's agricultural sectors. The meeting emphasized the critical role of government support in facilitating the agri growth. Participants highlighted the need for robust infrastructure development and targeted policy interventions to create a conducive ecosystem for agri exports.

- ❖ **Industry Interaction Meet organized at Dehradun Uttarakhand:** APEDA organized an Interaction Meet with exporters 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024, aiming to boost Uttarakhand's export potential in agriculture and processed foods





- ❖ **Promotional Program on Kala Namak Rice at Siddharthnagar 2024:** On 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, APEDA in association with District Administration Siddharthnagar organized the promotional activities on promotion of Kala Namak Rice in domestic as well as international market. Around 350 potential buyers (national and international) were invited. The program was graced by Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The capacity building session was followed by BSM organized with exporters/traders and FPOs. APEDA facilitated the signing of MoU b/w APEDA registered exporters M/s Samp India Trade and 4 FPOs (kala namak rice producers).



- ❖ **APEDA organized International Conclave-cum-BSM in Aizawl, Mizoram** on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 wherein exhibitors from across the state displayed a wide range of agri-horti products including GI products such as fresh fruits, vegetables, processed food products, rice, honey, spices & organic products. 9 International Buyers from UAE, Nepal, Jordan, Oman, Azerbaijan, Russia, Singapore & Ethiopia along with 24 domestic exporters, State Governments, FPCs and entrepreneurs participated the event. And followed by field visit to Zopar Exports Private Limited and Reiek Multi-Farming Cluster, Mizorams on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
- ❖ **India Exports Apples to Saudi Arabia for The First Time:** For the first time ever, Apples from Ladakh were exported to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This initiative was facilitated by Department of Commerce and APEDA in partnership with Lulu Hypermarket.
- ❖ Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated the Karkichoo Apples Stall that opened at LuLu Hypermarket in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as part of the 'Lulu Wali Diwali' Festival.
- ❖ This was made possible due to APEDA's partnership with Lulu Hypermarket. A promotional shipment of 2 MT of apples - including 1 MT of Karkichoo apples from Kargil and 1 MT of Red Delicious apples from Nubra, Ladakh - are now being showcased at Lulu's Riyadh Store with the support from M/s Fair Exports (India) Private Limited.



## 4. THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MPEDA)

### (A) Organizational Structure and Function

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), a statutory body under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, was established under the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) Act, 1972, with a mandate of developing a conducive ecosystem for sustainable production of quality marine products in the country and promotion of its export from India. The Authority's headquarters is located in Kochi, Kerala, and it consists of 30 members, including a Chairman (Appointed by The Central Government). There are 18 field offices across the coastal States, including in the North East of India, to assist the marine products exporters, processors and aquaculturists in ensuring timely advice to the stakeholders. MPEDA has three Trade Promotion Offices in New York (presently functioning at CGI office in New York), Japan, and New Delhi. It also has five full-fledged Quality Control laboratories. MPEDA has also set up three registered societies viz, Rajiv Gandhi Center for Aquaculture (RGCA) for the promotion of diversified aquaculture to support export promotion by technology transfer, Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH) to educate fishers, fish handlers, processors, and other stakeholders on fish quality management, resource conservation, and sustainable fishing practices in marine capture fisheries and National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA)

to enable aquaculture farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices in the Aquaculture.

### (B) Functions of the Authority

The MPEDA Act, 1972 has assigned the following functions to the Authority:

- ❖ It shall be the duty of the Authority to promote, by such measures as it thinks fit, the development under the control of the Central Government of the marine products industry with special reference to exports.
- ❖ Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), the measures referred to therein may provide for:
  - Developing and regulating offshore and deep-sea fishing and undertaking measures for the conservation and management of off-shore and deep-sea fisheries;
  - Registering fishing vessels, processing plants or storage premises for marine products and conveyances used for the transport of marine products;
  - Fixing of standards and specifications for marine products for purposes of export;
  - Extending financial or other assistance to owners of fishing vessels engaged in off-shore and deep-sea fishing and

owners of processing plants or storage premises for marine products and conveyances used for the transport of marine products, and acting as an agency for such relief and subsidy schemes as may be entrusted to the Authority;

- Carrying out inspection of marine products in any fishing vessel, processing plant, storage premises, conveyance or other places where such products are kept or handled, for the purpose of ensuring the quality of such products;
- Regulating the export of marine products;
- Improving the marketing of marine products outside India;
- Registering of exporters of marine products on payment of such fees as may be prescribed;
- Training in various aspects of the marine products industry; and
- Such other matters as may be prescribed.

### (C) Export facilitation and promotion

Apart from the above, MPEDA participated in/ conducted the following key events:

- ❖ A Chintan Shivir workshop was organised at Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep, on 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May 2024. The Chintan Shivir was well represented by various Government Departments/ organisations, stakeholders, innovative farmers and exporters shared their field experience.



Shri Sunil Barthwal IAS, Secretary, Department of Commerce, addressing the gathering in "Chintan Shivir with stakeholders for enhancing seafood exports" held on 10th-11th May 2024 at Bangaram Island, UT of Lakshadweep.



Shri D. V. Swamy IAS, speaks in the "Chintan Shivir with stakeholders for enhancing seafood exports" held on 10th-11th May 2024 at Bangaram Island, UT of Lakshadweep



Participants in the "Chintan Shivir with stakeholders for enhancing seafood exports" held on 10th-11th May 2024 at Bangaram Island, UT of Lakshadweep

- ❖ A delegation of MPEDA officials participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> China International Shrimp Industry Development Forum and conducted an industry survey in Zhanjiang City, organised by China Aquatic Products Processing and Marketing Alliance (CAPPMA), from 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024. The visit aimed to study the latest advancements and developments in China's shrimp industry.
- ❖ Buyer Seller Meet was conducted in Qatar on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024. BSM was organised in association with the Indian Mission by inviting major marine products importers in Qatar. 9 Indian seafood exporters and 20 seafood importing companies participated in the BSM.



His Excellency Ambassador Shri Vipul, Embassy of India, Qatar addresses participating importers and exporters during India-Qatar Seafood Buyer Seller Meet



Mr. Abdul Sathar, Vice President (Professional Affairs), IBPC, delivers the welcome address

- ❖ Reverse Buyer Seller Meeting (RBSM) was organised during World Food India 2024. 34 buyers from 13 countries and 76 exporters participated in RBSM, and a total of 255 meetings were conducted.



Shri Praveen Kumar IES, Director, Department of commerce, MoC&I, Government of India and Shri D. V. Swamy IAS, Chairman MPEDA during the MPEDA Seafood Buyer Seller Meet in World Food India 2024



A view of the networking occurred during the MPEDA Seafood Buyer Seller Meet in World Food India 2024

- ❖ **Virtual Buyer Seller Meets:** MPEDA organised 4 Virtual Buyer Seller Meets with importers from Japan, Hong Kong & Dominican Republic.
- ❖ Participated in World Food India 2024, organised by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) on 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. 25 Co-exhibitors participated in the event along with MPEDA.
- ❖ MPEDA participated in International seafood shows viz. Seafood Export Global 2024, Barcelona, Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo 2024, Tokyo, Seafood Expo Asia 2024, Singapore, Seafood Expo Russia 2024, China Fisheries & Seafood Expo 2024, Qingdao and Busan International Seafood and Fisheries Expo 2024, South Korea.



Shri Jitin Prasad, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India participates in the Business Meet organized by the Embassy of India, Tokyo, titled 'The Story of India: Opportunities for Japanese Companies', held at the prestigious Imperial Hotel, Tokyo



*Shri Jitin Prasada, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India inaugurates India Pavillion in Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo 2024, Tokyo from 21st-23rd August 2024*

- ❖ **Seafood Tasting Session:** EoI - Brussels, in association with MPEDA, organized an Indian Seafood and Wine Tasting Event in Brussels on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Over 125 participants, including importers, high dignitaries, policymakers from EU institutions, members of diplomatic missions, government agencies, Belgian Chambers of Commerce, and trade associations, participated in the event.

#### (D) Export Facilitation by Registration and assistance for Export Promotion

- ❖ **Registration of Units:** 16 processing plants, 80 exporters, 22 storage premises, 5 dried fish handling centres, 2 Live Fish Handling centres, 17 peeling sheds, 1 conveyance, 1 Other Edible Handling Centre and 8 Other Non-edible Handling Centre were registered with MPEDA. The registration of exporters and entities has been completely digitized for ease of doing business.
- ❖ **Seafood Value Addition Training:** MPEDA organised 20 hands-on training programs under the Government of India's 100-day action plan, upskilling about 1,000 seafood processing workers in value-added product preparation.
- ❖ **Financial Assistance under TDSVMP:** MPEDA has released an amount Rs. 15.26 crore under the scheme of Technology Development for Specific Value-Added Marine Products (TDSVMP) for FY 2024-25.

- ❖ **Online validation of certificates:** During the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024, MPEDA issued 6075 EU Catch Certificates, 551 Non-EU Catch certificates, 171 ICCAT Swordfish Statistics Documents, 124 Japan Catch Documentation Scheme (JCDS), 13880 DS 2031 certificates, 245 non-radioactivity certificates, 23 Certificate of legal origin, 101 Duty-free import certificates and 12 RCMC certificates, electronically.

- ❖ **Implementation of TED:** In compliance to the US regulations on sustainable fishing, MPEDA organised 11 State-level workshops on the popularisation of Turtle Excluder Device (TED) and is conducting awareness programmes for trawler owners and fishers across all the country's major harbours and landing centres.

#### (E) Aquaculture Development

- ❖ **Capacity building programs:** A total of 764 awareness campaigns (including farm-to-farm) were conducted against the usage of antibiotics in aquaculture, and 54 awareness programs were conducted to propagate species diversification. Besides, 35 training programs, including eight for the Aquaculture Technicians Training Programme, were organized, and 8 farmers' meets were conducted to create awareness about MPEDA schemes.
- ❖ **Species diversification:** MPEDA, through its society RGCA, has standardized seed production and culture of diversified species like Tilapia, Seabass, Scampi, Mud Crab, etc. 4 Demonstration programs for the exportable species have been initiated during the period for the popularization of the diversified species.
- ❖ **Enrolment of farms and hatcheries:** For the traceability of aquaculture production, enrolment of farms and hatcheries is being carried out. During the period, MPEDA enrolled 993 farms with a water spread area of 5118 hectares.
- ❖ **Certification of aquaculture units (SHAPHARI):** Under the certification programme, 14 hatcheries were SHAPHARI certified since inception to produce antibiotic-free seed. The

hatcheries had successfully undergone a series of audits and tests on hatchery inputs and seeds for antibiotic residues over 8-10 months.

- ❖ 18 aquaculture farms of 266 Ha area have been SHAPHARI certified for production under Good Management Practices.
- ❖ MPEDA organised the International Conclave on “NextGen Technologies in the Seafood Sector” on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to introduce modern technologies into the industry. The event aimed to showcase technologies that can be easily integrated into the seafood value chain. The conclave was attended by 144 participants, including industry stakeholders,

researchers, academicians, and MPEDA officials. The event provided a platform to discuss practical innovations for the seafood sector.



*Inaugural speech by Shri Loknath Behera IPS (Rtd.)*



*Participants in the Conclave*

## **(F) Quality Assurance**

- ❖ **National Residue Control Plan (NRCP):** MPEDA Quality Control labs under the National Residue Control Plan tested a total of 2622 samples.
- ❖ **Pre-Harvest Test (PHT) certification:** MPEDA ELISA labs have issued 9900 PHT certificates to the farmers.

- ❖ **Commercial sample testing:** Microbiology & Molecular Biology divisions of MPEDA QC Lab, Kochi offers testing of pathogenic bacteria, viruses, and fungi in fish and fishery products and COVID-19 nucleic acid on the surface of seafood packaging materials. In addition to NRCP, the Quality Control laboratories of MPEDA also provide commercial sample testing for heavy metals and antibiotics for

the benefit of the Indian seafood industry. During April-November 2024, a total of 896 commercial samples were tested.

- ❖ **DG-SANTE Mission 2024:** The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG-SANTE) of the European Commission (EC) mission audited the Indian seafood industry from 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 to evaluate the control system in place governing the production of fishery products intended for exports to the European Union. The team inspected seafood processing units, aquaculture farms, cold storages, fishing harbours and laboratories of the Indian regulatory agencies.
- ❖ **Seafood HACCP Trainings:** MPEDA has provided Seafood HACCP training programmes to the Indian Seafood Industry. During the reporting year, MPEDA organised 6 seafood HACCP training at various locations, and 151 technologists from the Indian seafood industry benefited from these training programmes.
- ❖ **Shrimp Regulatory Partnership Agreement (RPA):** As part of the Shrimp Regulatory Partnership Agreement (RPA), the USFDA provided the Aquaculture Products Assessment Tool (APAT) to MPEDA, which is a self-assessment worksheet to be filled by the participating agencies. MPEDA collected information from other stakeholder institutions such as the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Bureau of India Standards (BIS), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, Export Inspection Council (EIC), Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR), and compiled and furnished the information to USFDA in February 2023.
- ❖ **Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS):** MPEDA participated in the 27<sup>th</sup>

session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) at Cairns, Australia held in 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 along with other Indian delegates.

- ❖ **Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47):** MPEDA participated in the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC47) held in Geneva, Switzerland from 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

## (G) Technology Extension and Support

- ❖ **National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA):** is a society functioning under MPEDA that promotes cluster farming and Good Aquaculture Practices among small & marginal aqua farmers of the country.
  - 88 farming clusters were organised in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. NaCSA has conducted a total of 788 meetings on the adoption of Better Management Practices (BMP), Crop planning and creating awareness among 8150 farmers on the use of banned antibiotics in shrimp farming for the aqua farmers from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala, and Gujarat.
  - NaCSA assisted 265 farmers in obtaining MPEDA Farm Enrolment from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Gujarat.
  - Conducted 04 Nos. of ST and 25 Nos. of SC training programs on Best Management Practices (BMP) in aquaculture and diversification of Aquaculture species; around 580 farmers attended and benefited in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal.
  - Assisted 244 farmers from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh for renewal of their Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) licenses.

NaCSA assisted 22 farmers from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and West Bengal in obtaining new CAA registrations through the Department of Fisheries of their respective States.

- 15 farmers from NaCSA Societies under the SC/ST category procured seed from SHAPHARI-certified hatcheries
- Conducted 19 campaigns with 1815 farmers from various districts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha and Tamil Nadu to raise awareness on the dangers of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and promote Better Management Practices (BMPs) among NaCSA society farmers.

#### ❖ **Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing (NETFISH)**

- A society under MPEDA, NETFISH is dedicated to addressing sustainability and quality issues in the marine capture fisheries sector through training and capacity-building initiatives. Below are the highlights of NETFISH's activities from April to November 2024.
- NETFISH conducted 2,656 grassroots-level extension programs, benefiting approximately 31,000 stakeholders in the marine fisheries sector. These programs were primarily held in and around selected harbours and landing centres across all maritime states to minimize post-harvest losses through the adoption of hygienic practices and to promote marine resource conservation, ensuring the sustainable availability of high-quality raw materials for seafood export.
- As part of the Swachhta campaign, 11 harbour/coastal cleanup programs were conducted between August and November 2024 across nine coastal States and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. These efforts were

carried out in collaboration with NGOs, government agencies, schools, colleges, and various fisheries stakeholder groups.

- To comply with the U.S. regulations and resume the export of wild-caught shrimp, MPEDA-NETFISH has been working on the implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawlers. State-level stakeholder workshops on "Implementation of Turtle Excluder Devices (TED) in Trawl Gears in India" were organized in partnership with State fisheries departments and ICAR-CIFT to highlight the importance of TED adoption. A total of 11 workshops were held across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal, with participation from key officials, boat owners, net manufacturers, net menders, and research institutes. In addition, nationwide awareness programs have reached 2,766 fishers and boat owners through 84 awareness classes. Fishing trials using TEDs on commercial trawlers will also be conducted to demonstrate their effectiveness to fishers.
- NETFISH conducted 32 seafood unit training programs, enhancing the knowledge of 1,063 processing workers, supervisors, and technologists on hygienic workplace practices.
- Twelve capacity-building programs were organised for fisherfolk in Odisha, with the support of financial assistance from Paradip Port Authority. These programs benefited 1,150 fishers and focused on fish quality, responsible fishing, and sustainable marine fisheries management.
- In collaboration with CIFNET, six skill development programs were held in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka, benefiting 530 fishers. These sessions

- covered topics such as life-saving and electronic equipment, sea safety, navigation, boat engine repair, and electronics.
- For the benefit of SC/ST fishers and seafood unit workers, 143 capacity-building programs were conducted, reaching 4,412 individuals. These programs aimed to improve their livelihoods, enhance hygiene and sanitation practices, and promote resource conservation.
  - As part of the “Marine Mammal Stock Assessment in India” project under the PMMSY scheme, NETFISH conducted approximately 5,000 fisher surveys across 80 landing sites nationwide to assess marine mammal and turtle bycatch. Under the Marine Observer program, data on 15 at-sea sightings and 20 fishery interactions involving marine mammals and sea turtles were collected.
  - Under the plastic collection program named DROP (Drive to Recover Ocean Plastic) implemented at Munambam Fishing Harbour by the initiation of MPEDA-NETFISH, through the NGO Plan@Earth and in association with Munambam Fishing Harbour Management Society (MFHMS) and stakeholder’s associations, 15500 kg of plastic wastes were recovered from the sea with the active participation of 370 fishing vessels since the inauguration of the project.
  - A group of 10 dry fishers from Umargam, Gujarat, were taken for an exposure visit to Kochi to learn about advanced techniques in hygienic fish drying, packaging, and market access. They visited facilities at NIFPHATT, CIFT, and other processing units, gaining insights into solar drying, packaging methods, and value addition. The participants expressed their intent to upgrade their practices for better livelihood opportunities and potential export markets.
  - World Oceans Day was celebrated in Mangrol to promote a clean, sustainable, and plastic-free marine environment. Speakers emphasized critical topics such as implementing TEDs in trawlers, preventing juvenile fishing, using square mesh cod ends, reducing overfishing, and promoting seaweed cultivation for a healthier marine ecosystem and a sustainable seafood industry.
  - Harbour Data Collectors stationed at selected harbours conducted 1,959 awareness programs for fishers and fish-handling workers. Various sector-related awareness messages were also disseminated among stakeholders.
  - Real-time data collection was conducted at 82 fishing harbours and landing centers. Data on species-wise fish rates from 35 landing sites was provided to NFDB on a weekly basis.
  - 45 consignments of ornamental fish intended for export were inspected and certified by NETFISH State Coordinators.
- ❖ **Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA)** is to promote diversified aquaculture by producing quality seeds for various commercially important and export-oriented aquaculture species. Apart from seed production and technology standardization, RGCA is conducting several hands-on training programmes and providing services to the aquaculture sector and functioning as Aquaculture Technology Incubation Centre of MPEDA. This centre is operating 13 projects all over India, and all the projects are first of their kind in commercial mode, which can be linked to global valid production and supply chain creations of the export economy.

**(H) Production, supply and beneficiaries through RGCA projects during 2024-25**

S. No.	Name of the Project	Name of the produce/ services	FY 2024-25	
			No. of Beneficiaries	Quantity supplied
1	Asian Seabass Hatchery Thoduvai, TN	Seabass fingerlings (Nos.)	215	4580531
2	Mud crab Hatchery Thoduvai, TN	Crab instar (Nos.)	87	1072330
3	GIFT Tilapia Hatchery Vijayawada, AP	GIFT seeds (Nos.)	5	43300
		GIFT brood-fry (Nos.)	9	13687
4	Marine Finfish Hatchery Pozhiyoor, Kerala	Seabass fingerlings (Nos.)	3	4250
		Pompano (Nos.)	7	5273
5	Aquatic Quarantine Facilities for L. vannamei, Chennai, TN	L. vannamei Broodstocks (Nos.) quarantined	195	104472
		P. monodon broodstocks (Nos.) quarantined		1197
		P. monodon PPLs (Nos.) quarantined		37256
		L. vannamei PPLs (Nos.)		357322
6	Artemia Demo Farm Tharuvaikulam & Uppoor, TN	Artemia biomass (kg)	39	369
		Artemia cyst (Tins)		626
7	Multispecies Aquaculture Complex (MAC) Vallarpadam, Kerala	GIFT Seeds (Nos.)	290	209255
		Seabass fingerlings (Nos.)	136	160657
		Etroplus suratensis seeds (Nos.)	123	41551

**(I) Contribution from RGCA Central Laboratories**

The details of seed supply by RGCA for the diversification of export-oriented aquaculture and contribution from RGCA Central Laboratories are tabulated in Tables below:

S. No	Laboratory	Testing (by samples)	Samples (Nos.)	No. of Beneficiaries
1	Mobile Aquaculture Disease Diagnosis Laboratory	Molecular diseases diagnosis (PCR)	1707	351
		Microbiology & water parameters		
2	Central Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory	Molecular diseases diagnosis (PCR)	2197	319
		Microbiology & water parameters		
		Histology		
		Disease surveillance/NSPAAD		
		Seed health		
		PCR-based species identification		
3	Central Aquaculture Genetics Laboratory		259	56
4	Food and Processing Technology		14	4

RGCA conducted 19 training programmes (147 Beneficiaries), 48 awareness programmes (1372 Beneficiaries), 3 Farmers' meet on diversified aquaculture (60 Beneficiaries) and 106 students from 15 institutions were participated in internship programmes during the period April 2024 to November 2024.

## 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 that handles all matters related to trade remedies. 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. The DGTR discharges quasi-judicial functions while conducting investigations utilizing skills of officers drawn from different services and specializations. 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 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 defense support to our domestic industry and exporters in dealing with instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries”.

## 6. 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.

### New Initiative of DGCI&S:

- ❖ An Initiation in preparation of frame work for data collection on export in service sector, is in progress based on approved recommendation on Committee of Services Statistics from Administrative Sources
- ❖ DGCI&S has successfully adopted new ITCHS classifications with effect from April 2023
- ❖ Collaboration with DGFT in the preparation of inputs for Foreign Trade Policy 2023
- ❖ Revamping of IT system and dissemination system is under way at DGCI&S
- ❖ The process of upgradation of portal and dashboard is being initiated as per IT Revamping Project

### Number of Records Processed from 2016-17 to 2024-25 (As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

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	15594897	13686885	29281782
2023-24	16504031	14473679	30977710
2024-25*	13154334	11740267	24894601

**\*Provisional and subjected to Change**

### Percentage of Records Processed by type of Record (As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

Year	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	7.70	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	93.52	6.48	0.00***	94.28	5.72	0.00***	93.87	6.13	0.00***
2023-24	93.91	6.09		94.35	5.65		94.12	5.88	
2024-25*	96.92	3.08		96.39	3.61		96.67	3.33	

**\*Provisional and subjected to Change**

**\*\*Non-EDI include SEZ also**

**\*\*\*Data received from manual ports are negligible**

### Percentage Contribution of Different Types of Transaction to the value of Trade

(As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

Year	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	0.10	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		86.14	13.86	0.00***
2022-23	78.05	21.95	0.00***	89.77	10.23		85.24	14.76	0.00***
2023-24	79.13	20.87		88.74	11.26		84.97	15.03	
2024-25*	87.33	12.67		94.17	5.83		91.59	8.41	

**\*Provisional and subjected to Change**

**\*\*Non-EDI include SEZ also**

**\*\*\*Data received from manual ports are negligible**

### Percentage Contribution of Different Types of Transaction to the Value of Trade

Number of Record Processed (As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

Year	Export			Import		
	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual
2016-17	9466880	956902	58747	7705537	481381	3577
2017-18	10367922	905418	15124	8703766	493334	1164
2018-19	12465087	895030	305	11604985	582967	640
2019-20	12771458	971827	524	11474245	612740	454
2020-21	11643991	858511	612	9464615	522455	374
2021-22	22574996	1140936	9	18494780	837505	
2022-23	14584099	1010662	136	12903880	783005	

Year	Export			Import		
	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual
2023-24	15499502	1004529		13656391	817288	
2024-25*	12749154	405180		11316058	424209	

**\*Provisional and subjected to Change**

**\*\*Non-EDI include SEZ also**

### Trade of Different Types of Transaction (As on 31st December 2024)

(Values in Rs. crore)

Year	Export				Import			
	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual	Total	EDI	Non-EDI**	Manual	Total
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	396962.81	78.80	3360954.46
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		4572774.59
2022-23	2826676.66	794871.95	1.26	3621549.88	5161452.78	588348.49		5749801.27
2023-24	2863591.97	755360.30		3618952.27	4983767.26	632275.11		5616042.37
2024-25*	2356891.23	341745.82		2698637.05	4207019.37	260323.01		4467342.38

**\*Provisional and subjected to Change**

**\*\*Non-EDI include SEZ also**

## 7. GOVERNMENT e-MARKETPLACE (GeM)

GeM plays a critical role in modernizing public procurement in India and is aligned with broader initiatives to promote digital governance and ease of doing business. Government e-Marketplace is an online platform that facilitates end-to-end procurement of goods and services by various Central/State Ministries, Departments, Organizations, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) Panchayats, and Cooperatives. The Government's concerted efforts to harness the power of digital platforms to achieve 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' led to the genesis of GeM in 2016. The online portal was established with a clear objective to eliminate age-old manual public procurement processes that were riddled with inefficiencies and transparency related issues. GeM is a paperless, cashless and contactless ecosystem for Government buyers to directly purchase products and services from pan-India sellers and service providers through an online platform. GeM was envisioned to utilise the agility and speed that come along with a digital platform to reinvigorate public

procurement systems and bring about a lasting change for all stakeholders. GeM covers the entire gamut of procurement process, right from vendor registration and item selection by buyers to receipt of goods and facilitation of timely payments.

GeM commenced its journey in the fiscal year 2016-17 with a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of Rs. 422 crore and as on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 total GMV on GeM has crossed an incredible Rs. 11.52 lakh crore since its inception. In FY 2024-25, GeM has already crossed Rs. 3.55 lakh crore in GMV as on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

As on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025, The GMV of services has reached Rs. 5.23 lakh crore, while the GMV of products has reached Rs. 6.28 lakh crore since its inception. The portal has more than 11,200 product categories and over 332 service categories. Currently, over 1.60 lakh primary buyers and more than 2.24 lakh secondary buyers are purchasing goods and services on GeM. Additionally, more than 22.44 lakh profile completed sellers and service providers are registered on GeM.

Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) have made a substantial impact on GeM, contributing to 38.16 per cent of the total order value, with over 9.93 lakh MSEs registered on the platform. These enterprises

have collectively received orders valued at more than Rs. 4.37 lakh crore as on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

GeM has recently launched special initiatives like 'The Aabhar Collection' to promote India's rich cultural heritage and support local artisans and craftsmen. GeM has further reduced transaction charges to 0.30 per cent with a cap of Rs. 3 lakh for orders above Rs. 10 crore while exempting orders up to Rs. 10 lakh, and simplified the fee structure to support MSMEs and enhance their participation. Further, GeM is currently in the process of completely revamping its portal with the use of next gen technologies and updates. GeM's continued evolution with cutting-edge technologies and its focus on transparency, sustainability, and inclusivity position it as a pivotal tool in India's public procurement landscape.

## 8. TRADE FACILITATION INSTITUTES (IDI, IIP, IIFT)

### (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 vocational education in the field of Diamonds, Gems and Jewellery. IDI was initially funded by the Government of India. Since 2001-02, IDI has been financially self-sustaining through course fees, Gemological laboratories activities and providing consultancy services. The current composition of Governing Body of IDI consists representatives of Department of Commerce (2 members), Government of Gujarat (2 members), Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) (6 members). Chairman is selected from amongst the Members of the Governing

Body. IDI offers comprehensive training programs covering various aspects of the industry, including Diamond Manufacturing, Grading, Jewellery Designing, Manufacturing, and Gemology. IDI plays a pivotal role in skill enhancement, training customs officials in rough Diamond Sorting, Diamond Grading, and upgrading the skills of employees in MSME G&J units through the Centre for Entrepreneur Development (CED), Government of Gujarat. The institute's Gemological Laboratory conducts testing and identification of Diamonds, Gem Stones, and Jewellery, issuing quality reports. Its Diamond Grading Laboratory is authorized by the DGFT, MoC&I, for certification and grading of Diamonds. IDI also regularly conducts various workshops/seminars on "Synthetic Diamond Identification" to spread awareness in G&J trade.

### (B) Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)

#### (i) Training, Education & Capacity Building Programme

- ❖ A total 127 Post Graduate in Packaging students passed out in 2023-24 and successfully placed in reputed companies.
- ❖ About 77 students passed the Diploma in Packaging through correspondence (DPC)
- ❖ 57 students passed the Certified Packaging Engineer (CPE)
- ❖ IIP conducted various training programs for exporters/traders on packaging of agricultural products, food products, handicrafts and handloom, fruits and vegetables, hardware, readymade garments, perishable commodities and meat and meat products.



*Two days training programme on Packaging of Agriculture Products at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 11th-12th July 2023*



Two days training programme on Packaging of Food products at Balangir, Odisha on 16th-17th February 2024

**(ii) Packaging Design and Development**

**(a) One District One Product (ODOP) of Uttar Pradesh Government**

The prime outcome of this project is to develop

aesthetic packaging with distinctiveness to increase the marketability of the product to create a brand and to increase export. Selected Products identified for Packaging prototype development are as follows:



**Terracotta of Gorakhpur**



**✓ Moon Craft of Prayagraj**



**Chikankari of Lucknow**



**Locks of Aligarh**



**Bone craft of Sambal**

✓ Packaging design & Development of ODOP products

**(b) Indian Oil Corporation**

Package Design & Development of transport packaging for Solar Cooker for Indian Oil



**Surya Nutan Solar Cooker: Transportation packaging**

**(c) National Thermal Power Corporation**

Design & Development of Transport as well as primary package for Ash Bricks



**Packaging Design & Development for VIKALP ASH BRICKS**

**(iii) Testing and certification**

Year	No. of Certificates issued (International Maritime Dangerous Goods) IMDG	No. of Certificates issued (International Civil Aviation Organization Goods) ICAO
2023-2024	8673	2169
2024-2025 (As on 28th November 2024)	6651	1895

**(iv) Research & Development****(a) List of R&D Projects 2023-24**

- ❖ Packaging of Metal Cupboards. Funded by: Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd.
- ❖ Development of Single Polymer Composites SPCs. Funded by: GAIL (Ongoing) Development of Packaging Standards for Bulk & Consumer Packages of Spices (Mustard Cumin, Coriander, Fenugreek, Fennel, Red chilli, Turmeric, Black Pepper and Ginger) Part-I Standards for Bulk Packaging. Funded by: Spices Board (Ongoing)
- ❖ Developing Packaging Solution for 21 (Banana, Orange, Green Chilli, Curry Leaves, Betel Leaves, Rice, Pineapple, Brinjal, Ginger, Turmeric, Litchi, Raisins, Makhana, Guava, Tomato, Jaggery, Jasmine, Lemon, Pomegranate, Rose Onion and Pomegranate Arils) Potential APEDA Scheduled Agri Products (Including Organic & GI Tagged). Funded by: APEDA

**(b) List of Consultancies and Advisory Work 2023-24**

- ❖ Kairav Chemofarbe Industries Ltd.
- ❖ J K Paper and Tubes
- ❖ Desai Products
- ❖ Jindal Aluminium Limited
- ❖ Scootsy Logistics Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ Shivam Enterprises - Pune
- ❖ Hi Tech Radiators Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ Sulzer Pumps India Private Limited
- ❖ Poddar Pigments Limited
- ❖ Rinac India Limited
- ❖ Precihole Sports Pvt. Ltd.
- ❖ Spice Board-Spice Park Puttady for bulk packaging of cardamom
- ❖ Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.
- ❖ Precihole Machine Tools Pvt. Ltd.

**(c) Research Publications in 2023-24**

- ❖ Badal Dewangan, Donal Bhattacharjee (2024). Study of Bulk Packaging for Black Mustard [*Brassica nigra* (L.) W.D.J. Koch] and

Assessment of Shelf Life for Export. Journal of Food Technology & Nutrition Sciences. RC/JFTNS-238. DOI: doi.org/10.47363/JFTNS/2024(6)165.

- ❖ Badal Dewangan and Donal Bhattacharjee (2024). "Assessment of Packaging Materials for Bulk Packaging of Mustard". Asian Research Journal of Agriculture 17 (4):849-61. <https://doi.org/10.9734/arja/2024/v17i4595>.
- ❖ Tanweer Alam, Bhardwaj, A., Sharma, N., et al. Development and Characterization of Chitosan and Beeswax-Chitosan Coated Biodegradable Corn Husk and Sugarcane Bagasse-Based Cellulose Paper. Waste and Biomass Valorization, 14, 1625-1636 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12649-022-01952-1>.
- ❖ Bhattacharjee D, Patriwar P, Ravandale V, Bandekar SH, Das B, Guduri BR, Tanweer Alam (2023). Estimation of Shelf Life and Development of Packaging Standards for Bulk Packaging of Orthodox Tea (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze) for Export, Asian Journal of Dairy & Food Research.,10.18805/ajdfr.DR-1932.
- ❖ Bidhan Das, Poulami Sarkar and Paramita Bhattacharjee (2024). Development of an Antioxidant-Rich Sugar-Free Plantain Candy and Assessment of Its Shelf Life in a Flexible Laminate. FTB: Food Technology & Biotechnology - original scientific paper ISSN 1330-9862 <https://doi.org/10.17113/ftb.62.02.24.8141>.

**(d) Intellectual Property Right (IPR)**

- ❖ Obtained Patent for Disposable Drinking Cup Apparatus (Patent No. 201821028224), featuring straw mechanism and eco-friendly materials, which enhances user experience and sustainability.



- ❖ Designed a Foldable Packaging Box with a unique opening mechanism (Patent No. IN202311019670), inspired by the flower opening process, which offers reusability and sustainability.



## (C) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)

### (i) Overview

- ❖ Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) was set up on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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+’ in 2023.
- ❖ The National Institute of Ranking Framework ranked 15th in Management Category in 2024.
- ❖ The Institute has achieved the AACSB business accreditation and was awarded the certificate on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

### (ii) Rankings of IIFT

- ❖ IIFT participated in and secured the following rankings:

S. No.	Name of Rankings	IIFT Position
1.	Times B-School Survey 2023	4 <sup>th</sup>
2.	Chronicle’s All-India B-School Survey 2023 - under All India Top B-Schools Category	5 <sup>th</sup>
3.	Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2024- under Deemed Universities (Government Private & Public - Overall) category	7 <sup>th</sup>
4.	Business Today - MDRA 2023 (Marketing and Development Research Associates)	9 <sup>th</sup>
5.	Fortune India Best B-School Ranking 2023	10 <sup>th</sup>
6.	National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023	27 <sup>th</sup>

- ❖ IIFT has been ranked as India’s Most Competitive B-School in India 2022-23 by Unstop Awards 2023, and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) under the Deemed Universities (Government Private & Public - Overall) category and 9<sup>th</sup> Rank under the Best B-Schools (Government) category.

### (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)

**(a) 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 to develop broader understanding of issues related to international business and its implications on trade policy. EMPD conducts PG Diploma and other programmes in International Business and related areas to

meet the evolving demands of the industry, producing adept leaders and managers who contribute significantly to India's trade sector.

**(b) Management Development Programmes (MDP) Division & Centre for International Negotiations**

During the year 2024-25, MDP Division and CIN at IIFT Delhi has conducted 14 programmes for Managers and Executives of various levels. Out of these, 2 programmes were Hybrid/on campus open programmes for all sectors, 12 Sponsored programmes for Government Officers (including ITS Probationers and Armed Forces officers) and Executives of PSUs. A total of 398 participants benefited from these programmes.

**Category-wise Programme details**

Programmes	No. of programmes	No. of participants
MDP- Sponsored	9	265
CIN- Sponsored	3	54
MDP - Hybrid/on campus Certificate Programmes	2	79
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>398</b>

**Sponsored Programmes of Management Development Programme Division**

S. No.	Name of Programme	Date	Name of the Organization	Programme location	No. of participants
1	Certificate Programme in International Business Excellence for TVS Motors (Batch -3)	8th February 2024 to January 2025	TVS	Bangalore	33
2	11 months Professional Training Programme for ITS probationers	2nd February 2024 to January 2025	DGFT	IIFT	5
3	24 weeks Certificate Course in International Business Management (DGR 15)	12th February to 29th July 2024	DGR	IIFT	51
4	24 weeks Certificate Course in Global Supply Chain and Logistics Management (DGR 16)	11th March to September 2024	DGR	IIFT	34
5	One week Training Programme on WTO and Intellectual Property Rights for the officers of IES	27th-31st May 2024	IES	IIFT	17
6	Training Programme on Finance for Non-finance Officers of Sonalika Tractors	26th-27th July 2024	Sonalika Tractors	IIFT	23
7	12 week training programme for ASOs of DoC	20th August-25th September 2024	DoC	Hybrid	30

S. No.	Name of Programme	Date	Name of the Organization	Programme location	No. of participants
8	24 weeks Certificate Course in Business Management (HR & Finance) (DGR 17)	12th August-24th January 2025	DGR	IIFT	47
9	One day training Programme for the officers of Indian Postal Services	4th September	Indian Postal Services	IIFT	25

### Sponsored Programmes of Centre for International Negotiations

S. No.	Name of Programme	Date	Name of the Organization	Programme location	No. of participants
1	3 day training Programme on International Trade and Negotiations for the officers of ECGC Ltd.	19th-21st September 2024	ECGC Ltd.	IIFT	28
2	3 day training Programme on Export-Import Management and International Negotiations for the officers of IOCL	24th-26th September 2024	IOCL	IOCL, at their premises	23
3	5 day training programme on Land Prots and Cross Border Trade Facilitation for Land Port Authority of India	18th-22nd November 2024	LPAI	Indian Aviation Centre	25

### MDP - Hybrid/on campus Certificate Programmes

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Date	Programme location	No. of participants at the time of admission
1	4 months certificate program in Export-Import Management (Hybrid) (Batch 21)	29th January-May 2024	Hybrid	54
2	4 months certificate program in Export-Import Management (On campus) Batch 2	27th July-November 2024	IIFT Campus	25

### Sponsored Programmes to be organized under CIN

S. No.	Name of Programme	Date	Name of the Organization	Programme location	No. of participants
1	Globe X International Trade Negotiations	25th-29th November 2024	Bharat Electronics Limited	Bangalore	25
2	International Trade Negotiations	11th-13th December 2024	Mazagoan Dock Shipbuilders Limited	IIFT Delhi	20
3	International Trade and Negotiations	16th-20th December 2024	ECGC Ltd	IIFT Delhi	30
4	Export-Import Management and Negotiations	6th-8th January 2024	CLE Agra	Agra	50
5	International Trade and Negotiations	20th-24th January 2024	ECGC Ltd	IIFT Delhi	30

### (c) 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 & international universities to enable Student and Faculty exchange,

General Academic Agreements, Joint training Programs and Research Collaborations. The Institute, through obtaining membership of renowned international institutions further consolidates the academic cooperation.

ICCD has hosted foreign delegation visits to IIFT, and also the semi-finals and finals of the Global Management Challenge (GMC) this year. ICCD has also facilitated participation in FDPs for IIFT faculty.

The following are the achievements (in progress) of International Collaborations & Capacity Development (ICCD) in 2024-25:

#### MoUs under process:

- ❖ Singapore Management University (SMU Academy)
- ❖ Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) Russia
- ❖ St. Petersburg State University Russia
- ❖ APEC Port Training Antwerp, Belgium
- ❖ University of Zaragoza, Spain
- ❖ Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)

#### Student Exchange Program

1	Outbound AY 2024-25	47
2	Inbound AY 2024-25	1

#### (d) Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division

The Graduate Studies in Management (GSM) Division of the Institute is the nodal division for long duration programmes and is headed by a Senior Professor of the Institute. The division processes the admission to the Institute's week-end MBA, besides providing administrative and academic support to full-time MBA (International Business) & MBA (Business Analytics) Programmes. It is the responsibility of the division to ensure smooth conduct of the programmes in coordination with all stakeholders, viz. faculty, students and all others concerned. The programmes of the Institute get encouraging response from corporate and government sectors.

The following programmes are currently being offered by Graduate Studies in Management Division (GSM):

- ❖ Two-year Full-time MBA (International Business)
- ❖ Two-year Full time MBA (Business Analytics)
- ❖ Two-year Six months MBA (International Business) Weekend Programme

#### (e) 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.

#### (f) 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.

#### (g) 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, Podcasts, corporate competitions, live projects, mentorship and other institute-industry interface activities for the students.

#### **(h) Corporate Relations and Placement Division (CRPD)**

The Corporate Relations and Placement Division (CRPD) is an independent Division of the Institute. The mandate for the Division is to pursue active relationship building with the corporate sector and the civil society in India and abroad.

Placement Committee, which is an elected body of the students of the MBA Full Time Programs, functions under the Corporate Relations and Placement Division. The 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.

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) concluded Final Placements for the 2022-24 batch of its Flagship MBA (IB) Program. The placement cycle saw participation from 120 reputed recruiters across diverse domains and industries. Despite challenging market conditions, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) achieved remarkable results with an average CTC of Rs. 27.3 lakh per annum and the median CTC stood at Rs. 25.0 lakh per annum. The highest international CTC offer stood at Rs. 85.40 lakh per annum, while the highest domestic CTC stood at Rs. 75.6 lakh per annum. The top 25 per cent students of the batch received an average CTC of Rs 40.6 lakh per annum.

The final placements, along with the 100 per cent

placements for the Summer Internships of the MBA (International Business) and MBA (Business Analytics) 2023-25 batches completed earlier on, mark an exceptional achievement in challenging times.

#### **(i) Journal Division**

Journal Division has taken the initiative to start a seminar/webinar 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 of such events is to foster a research culture among faculty members and students. Since August 2018 when the initiative was started, Journal Division has conducted several lectures and panel discussions.

#### **❖ FOCUS WTO Journal**

Journal Division publishes FOCUS WTO (Journal of WTO and International Business) (Print & Online) peer-reviewed quarterly journal. FOCUS WTO is an in-house publication of IIFT that publishes full-research papers, case studies, monographs, book reviews, and synopsis of doctoral dissertations in international business and management research. Journal Division has published 4 Issues of FOCUS WTO Volume 25 Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 (January-March, April-June, July-September and October-December 2023).

#### **Major Achievements**

- ❖ ISSN No. 2583-7311 (Online) for FOCUS WTO is allotted by a Network of International Standard Serial No. (ISSN) National Centre (National Science Library, New Delhi). Now FOCUS WTO has ISSN for both print and online.
- ❖ The Journal Division achieved a milestone with its first International Subscription from Germany (Massmann Internationale Buchhandlung GmbH) for FOCUS WTO.
- ❖ FOCUS WTO as a Journal has been indexed with:
  - Indian Citation Index (ICI),
  - ROAD (Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources),

- Directory of Research Journals Indexing (DRJI), and
- J Gate.
- SJIF (Scientific Journal Impact Factor)
- ❖ The journal FOCUS WTO has now gone online and has been hosted on the web portal since 2021. (The link to the same is <https://www.iift.ac.in/iift/publications.php>)
- ❖ Online submission of articles for Focus WTO has been launched under the peer review process since 2021. (The link to the same is <https://publication.iift.ac.in/#gsc.tab=0>)
- ❖ Focus WTO has now become online. All Archive has been created online since January 2021.
- ❖ **Publishing IIFT Quarterly Newsletter**  
Journal Division publishes the IIFT Quarterly Newsletter that contains the activities of the Institutes' various divisions like GSM, MDP, Aumani Affairs, CDOE, EMPD, ICCD, Ph.D. (Economics), Research, Publications by IIFT Faculty, Participation by IIFT Faculty and Students Activities.
- ❖ **Foreign Trade Review Journal**  
Foreign Trade Review (FTR) is a peer-reviewed quarterly journal having more than four and half decades of existence in the academic research fraternity. The journal is published by SAGE Publications India. This journal is included in the following abstracting and indexing databases: SCOPUS, Chartered Association of Business Schools (ABS); ABDC-B, Clarivate Analytics: Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). The Journal intends to serve as a comprehensive forum for theoretical and empirical research on International Trade and Business. IIFT has published 3 Issues of FTR Volume 58 Nos. 1, 2, & 3, and one issue is Volume 59 No. 1 (May, August, November 2023 and February 2024).
- ❖ **Uploading of Working Paper Series**  
The main aim of the Working Paper series of IIFT is to help faculty members share their research findings with professional colleagues in the pre-publication stage. The papers are published online and uploaded on the IIFT

website. A total of Sixty-eight Working Papers have been uploaded on the IIFT Website.

#### ❖ **Launching of New Journal 'IIFT International Business and Management Review Journal'**

IIFT with SAGE published a new a bi-annual peer-reviewed Journal titled "International Business and Management Review (IIFT-IBMR) Journal". The journal aims to bring together managerial issues, practices and innovations that are useful to scholars, educators, managers, consumers, other societal stakeholders and policy-makers around the world. It aims to play a significant role in shaping the content and boundaries of the management discipline while simultaneously covering the international scope of businesses, Eminent Professors from diverse fields in International Business and Management, spanning across Asia (Sri Lanka, Japan, and Thailand), Russia, USA, etc.

#### (j) **Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)**

The Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE Division) was established at the Institute in 2021 to extend quality education to even the most remote areas of the country, in alignment with the objectives of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The Online Programmes offers flexibility and support for students to pursue their educational goals while balancing their professional and personal commitments.

Currently, the CDOE division offers the following programmes:

- ❖ MBA (IB) Online Programme
- ❖ Online Certificate programme of 4 months duration on Export Import Management
- ❖ Massive Open Online Certificate Programme on Basics of Export Import Management

The division is planning to launch the following new Online Certificate programme of 4 months duration on:

- ❖ Global Trade Logistics and Port Operations
- ❖ International Trade Law
- ❖ International Business Analytics
- ❖ Machine Learning and Automation

## 9. PUBLIC SECTOR CORPORATION (ECGC, MMTC LTD., PEC LTD., ITPO, NCTI, STC, STCL LTD.)

### (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 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.

- ❖ 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. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, the paid-up share Capital of the Company is Rs. 4,338 crore. The total infusion will increase the underwriting capacity of ECGC by Rs. 88,000 crore. The details of export supported over the last five years are as under:

**(Values in Rs. crore)**

Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (till 31st December 2024)
Value of Business supported	5,61,606	6,02,801	6,18,845	6,63,602	7,34,830	5,13,487

- ❖ Thus, ECGC supports around 20 per cent of the merchandise exports from India.
- ❖ In order to further its support to Micro and Small exporters, ECGC has w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 extended enhanced coverage under its existing Whole Turnover Export Credit Insurance for Bank (WT-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. 80 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. This increase of threshold is expected to benefit around 1,000

new small exporters, in addition to around 8,000 existing exporters, by facilitating the availability of adequate and affordable export finance from banks for working capital.

- ❖ To facilitate ease of doing business by leveraging technology, ECGC has launched its revamped IT and allied systems (ERP and Client Portal), named as SMILE (System for Managing credit Insurance for Leveraging Export) Software on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The new SMILE software will integrate and manage core business processes and functions across ECGC offices, and enhance customer satisfaction through a faceless interface facilitating seamless digital processing. The upgraded Client Portal would enable exporters to apply for ECGC's products and file claims online, submit various documents and declarations digitally, track the status of their various applications, get real-time information on adverse buyers and country list, access e-copies of insurance policies/documents issued by ECGC.

- ❖ To provide additional benefits, ECGC has introduced w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024, enhanced percentage of up to 100 per cent cover to exporters who avail policy directly from the Company without involving any alternate channels/brokers.
- ❖ The Company has initiated the On-demand

Video Conference facility (e-jansunwai) for stakeholders at Regional Office level and has also set up a Common Facilitation Centre at its Head Office to assist exporters and banks, to address their grievances and guide them on any of their issues pertaining to export credit and insurance.

### Performance of ECGC for FY 2023-24, and FY 2024-25 (as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024).

(Values in Rs. crore)

S. No.	Category	Period	
		FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25 (till 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024)
(a)	Total Number of Insurance Covers (Number)	24377	19063
(b)	Total Maximum Liability (As of end of the period)	118010	136349
(c)	Total Business Covered (Risk Value)/Value of Exports Supported	734830	513487
(d)	Total Premium amount	1271	956

### (B) MMTC Limited

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. MMTC is not carrying out any business activity at present. In 2022, MMTC has been denotified as canalising/nominated agency under Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India.

#### (i) Initiatives

##### Swachh Bharat – Swachhta Action Plan (SAP)

During 2024-25 MMTC undertook SAP activities to support the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

##### (a) Cleaning Office Premises

- ❖ Display of slogans/signage and photographs related to Swachhta in office premises of MMTC at CO/Camp Offices located across India.
- ❖ Proper up-keep and continuation of cleaning up operations of offices in

MMTC Corporate Office and Camp Offices located across the country.

- ❖ Continuation of the weeding out campaign of old files/records in line with the Record Retention Schedule, by identifying and sending the same to the Record rooms in MMTC Colony.
- ❖ Regular cleaning and plantation of saplings/trees at Site Office in MMTC Colony.
- ❖ Conducting regular Swachhta pakhwada from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> November every year in all the offices of MMTC Limited.

##### (b) Swachh Vidyalaya Initiative

- ❖ Involvement of the adopted School, Nagar Nigam Prathmik Vidyalaya, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi, in the Swachhta Mission through participation in cleanliness drives.
- ❖ Beautification of the School premises i.e. cleaning, upbringing of plants, paints, plantation of saplings, repair activities etc. on regular basis.
- ❖ Health and Fitness: To boost children

for keeping themselves healthy, fit and active, regular counseling conducted and distribution of Masks and Sanitizers to School during Swachhta Pakhwada.

### **(c) Training & Development**

For further enhancing/upgrading the skills of employees in the constantly changing business scenario, 30 employees were imparted training during the year in different spheres of company's activities. The training interventions held covered both functional & behavioural trainings. The employees deputed for training programs included 4 employees belonging to SC, 3 to ST and 23 women employees.

### **(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 Organization under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology). E-Office software of NIC is a workflow-based software that is capable of digitizing the physical files, capturing noting on the file, decisions at various levels, issuing decisions as letters and notifications etc. Implementation of e-Office shall result in improved productivity/internal processes and increased transparency in the decision making. In addition, E-tendering is being followed in MMTC including E-Payments.

### **(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. 5.34 crore during 2023-24 as against the turnover of Rs. 272.55 crore registered during previous fiscal. This turnover includes domestic trade of Rs 5.13 crore. MMTC made profit of Rs. 68.21 crore in 2023-24 mainly due to interest income.

### **(v) Subsidiary Company**

MMTC Transnational Pte Ltd., Singapore (MTPL)

is a wholly owned subsidiary company of MMTC. Currently MTPL is under liquidation under Singapore Laws.

### **(vi) Joint Venture**

MMTC-PAMP India Pvt Limited (MPIPL) is a joint venture unlisted company between MMTC Ltd. and Pamp Ventures S.A (an affiliate of PAMP SA), Switzerland incorporated in 2008 which operates a Precious Metals processing facility at District Mewat, Haryana. Total Equity of MPIPL is Rs. 67.10 crore and MMTC is holding 26 per cent stake in the Joint Venture.

### **(vii) Corporate Social Responsibility**

CSR Policy of MMTC Limited is in line with Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the CSR Rules as notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. MMTC Limited incurred losses during FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. Accordingly, the CSR budget calculated in accordance with the Section 198 of the Companies Act, 2013 i.e. 2 per cent of average net profit of preceding 3 years was negative. Therefore, there was no annual CSR budget approved by Board of Directors for the year 2023-24.

### **(C) PEC Limited**

PEC Ltd. was formed on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1971 as a wholly owned subsidiary of STC. PEC Limited became an independent Company under the Department of Commerce w.e.f. 27<sup>th</sup> March 1991. Over the years, PEC Ltd. has been involved in the export and import of various essential and industrial commodities. The company is not undertaking any business at present. In 2022, PEC has been denotified as canalising/nominated agency under Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India.

### **(i) Performance**

The Company is not undertaking any business activity since September 2019. The account of the company are prepared on Non-going concern basis.

### **(ii) Human Resource**

As on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, PEC Ltd. had 35 employees out of which 09 employees were on deputation outside PEC.

**(iii) Compliance**

The company is following Government guidelines related to use of Hindi in Official Work, Citizen Charter, Public Redressal Mechanism and RTI.

**(iv) Corporate Social Responsibility & Sustainability**

With the introduction of Section 135 of the Act, the 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](http://www.peclimited.com). PEC has been incurring losses since 2014-15, hence it has no obligation of incurring CSR expenditure.

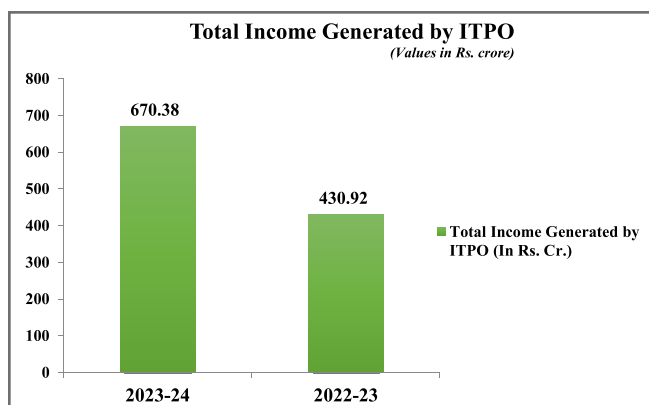
**(D) India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)****(i) Role, Functions, Organisational Structure, Strategic Initiatives & Priorities**

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 Bharat Mandapam, 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.

**(ii) Financial Highlights**

During the year 2023-24, total income generated by ITPO reached a historic milestone of Rs. 670.38 crore against Rs. 430.92 crore generated in the previous year. ITPO has achieved a surplus of Rs. 168.01 crore compared to Rs. 229.99 crore in the previous year 2022-23.



Further, the total income generated during the current year (April-September 2024) is Rs. 149.29 crore which will increase with the start of peak season during the second half of the Financial Year 2024-25.

**(iii) Events at Convention Centre**

Bharat Mandapam Convention centre has 239 events through these 12 months wherein the 169 events has been held already and 70 are approved events which are yet to be held in the remaining months till March 2025.

It has also hosted 15 VVIP events, graced by the Hon'ble President of India (5 visits), Hon'ble Vice President of India (1 visits), and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (9 visits) till 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

There has been an exceptional increase in the private sector organisers post the new rental policy with 117 private organisers and 122 Government organisers.

The venue occupancy is now at 32 per cent as per bookings till 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Total revenue as per the bookings of convention centre is Rs. 44 crore (approx) till 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

ITPO hosted UFI Delegation on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 which led to many productive conversations involving scope of collaborations, transformation and support from UFI as below:

- ❖ Plan of expansion and ITPO to become nodal in the exhibition industry and create MICE infrastructure with Government.
- ❖ ITPO's infrastructure expansion
- ❖ UFI to support with training of operations/venue management to ITPO.
- ❖ ITPO to offer more to the exhibitors/organisers from outside like being competitively priced.
- ❖ ITPO new BD policy, providing support to MICE industry & enabling global exhibitors.
- ❖ Enabling Tech Infrastructure to host current & evolving exhibitions at Bharat Mandapam.

**(iv) Few Key events at Convention Centre**

Hindi Film Shoot- Jolly LLB 3	National Space Day- 2024	Nigel Ng: The Haiyaa World Tour by Book My Show	ICA General Assembly and Global Conference,
India Today-Auto Today Shoot	Solar Festival by ISA	Laughter Fest with Dr. Kumar Vishvas by Oh Vow Events and Consultancy LLP	Amazon India Sustainability Summit 2024
Yuva Conclave	World Food India 2024	Javed Ali Live by GC India	Microsoft AI Tour
Business Today India @ 100	46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting by Archaeological Survey of India	World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24),	National Creators Award 2025

**(v) Fairs held abroad**

ITPO promoted India's International participation and organized India shows in overseas trade fairs. Till mid-December a total of 9 events were held in Europe, Africa/WANA, NAFTA, LAC, NEA etc. Some of the major events included Summer Fancy Food Show, New York (USA), FIME (Florida, USA), SIAL, Canada, Thessaloniki International Fair, Thessaloniki, Greece etc. were also successfully organised by ITPO.

**(vi) Fairs in India**

ITPO organized a number of specialized events in New Delhi during the period January 2024 to December 2024. Highlights of few major events are below:

**❖ Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav, 2024**

ITPO organized the maiden "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav" from 3<sup>rd</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Bharat Mandapam. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs and Shri. Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India inaugurated the fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. The fair was organized in a gross exhibition area of approx. 42,000 sqm, with the participation of 1371 exhibitors. This event also witnessed the participation of 16 Ministries of the Government of India with 55 constituent Departments under their umbrella.

The fair showcased a diverse array of sectors, including MSMEs, Textiles, Handicrafts & Handloom, Financial services, Defense Production, Housing, Food & Beverages, new & Renewable Energy, Tribal products,

Agricultural produce, Electrical Vehicles, Services, Packaging and Steel.

**❖ AAHAR- The International Food & Hospitality Fair, 2024**

The 38<sup>th</sup> edition of AAHAR, the international Food and Hospitality Fair, was organized by ITPO from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Bharat Mandapam. This edition was held over a gross exhibition area of 1,10,000 sqm, with the participation of over 1,700 exhibitors. The event saw the participation of 13 Ministries, PSUs, Government Bodies, Autonomous Bodies, and Commodity Boards of the Government of India. International participants from 17 countries with 80 constituents in various sectors exhibited at the fair. Over 1,00,000 Business Visitors including 453 overseas visitors from 17 countries visited the fair.

**❖ India International Footwear Fair (IIFF- 2024)**

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the India International footwear fair (IIFF) was organized by ITPO from 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at Bharat Mandapam. The fair was co-organised by the Confederation of Indian Footwear Industries (CIFI).

**❖ Delhi Book Fair & Stationery Fair, 2024**

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of Delhi Book Fair and 24<sup>th</sup> edition of Stationery Fair was organized by ITPO in association with the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP) along with its allied events, Stationery Fair and office automation and Corporate Gift Fair from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

### ❖ **India International Trade Fair (IITF), Delhi**

ITPO organized its flagship event India International Trade Fair 2024, 43<sup>rd</sup> edition from 14<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The theme for this edition was “Viksit Bharat @ 2047”. Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India inaugurated the fair on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Key Highlights of 43<sup>rd</sup> India International Trade Fair, 2024

- **Exhibition Area:** The 2024 edition covered a vast exhibition area of 1,07,000 sqm.
- **Participant Diversity:** Featured over 3500 exhibitors, representing a mix of Indian and international participants. Engaged diverse participants, including marquee companies, Self Help Groups, artisans, women entrepreneurs, SC-ST entrepreneurs, and start-ups.
- **Global Presence:** Attracted foreign companies from 12 countries, such as UAE, Afghanistan, Egypt, Sweden, South Korea, China, Lebanon, Thailand, Turkiye, Iran, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan.
- **Visitor Turnout:** The fair garnered substantial attention, drawing more than 12 lakh visitors.

### ❖ **Fairs organized by 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizers at Bharat Mandapam**

During the year 2024, approximately 96 events were organized in the ‘exhibition halls’ of the Bharat Mandapam, which includes the third-party events, ITPO’s own events and the events organized in the exhibition halls as a part of the ones in the Convention Centre. These included many government events of national importance and also few high-profile corporate ones. Few major events are below:

- Convergence India in January 2024 by Exhibitions India Group, OnePlus Launch in January 2024, Vivo Tech Day in July 2024, Lamborghini Urus SE Car

Launch in August 2024, Bharat Benz Launch in August 2024, Google for India in October 2024, Outlook Money 40 After 40 in October 2024 and Amazon Smbhav Summit in December 2024.

- With the initiative of the Department of Commerce, few first-time mega-events were also organized, such as Bharat Mobility Global Expo in February 2024, Bharat Tex 2024 Global Textile Expo in February 2024 and Startup ka Mahakumbh in March 2024.

Apart from these, other prominent Government events were Taiwan Expo in India, Global Bio India, International Conference on Green Hydrogen, India Water Week, 11<sup>th</sup> NLEPC 2024 of INPSPIRE-MANAK, World Food India, World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA), ICOLD, NIIO Seminar Swavlamban, Seoul – My Soul in India and India Development Conclave by NABARD.

The increase in the number of such events may be attributed to the extensive outreach programme undertaken during the preceding and the current year by contacting various State Governments & their Departments, Central Government Ministries and agencies, export promotion councils and associations etc.

Keeping in view the goal of giving boost to the exhibition industry, as a major venue & services provider, new rental policy (with discounted tariff) was announced for all the third-party events in the year 2024 along-with other various policy relaxations were also announced during the year, to increase the ease of doing business at Bharat Mandapam.

#### **(vii) Initiatives taken for the Stakeholders**

During the year, significant initiatives have been undertaken for improving and augmenting the infrastructure capacity and service delivery of ITPO. These include the following:

**E-Enablement for Ease of Doing Business:** Telecom Network Coverage and connectivity was successfully strengthened at Exhibition Halls, Convention Centre, Basement Parking locations and other adjoining locations within Bharat Mandapam.

Online ticketing system was implemented in a professional manner during India International Trade Fair'23, Delhi Book Fair'23, NDWBF'24, AAHAR'24 facilitating proper crowd management and ease of booking tickets online thereby avoiding long queues at Bharat Mandapam entry gates.

ITPO has strengthened its social media presence across platforms including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, alongside its corporate website and dedicated fair-related micro-sites. By consistently sharing the latest updates on ongoing and upcoming events at Bharat Mandapam, for better public reach.

#### **Customer Friendly Measures:**

- ❖ Competitive Tariff Policy
- ❖ Single Point of Contact (SPOC) System:
  - Implemented on Business Development Division's side for 3rd party events at Bharat Mandapam
- ❖ Strengthening Help Desk
- ❖ Regular Interaction
  - Initiative for regular interaction with participants and organizers
- ❖ Improvements in Online Portal

#### **(viii) Regional Trade Centres**

- ❖ **Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) at Chennai**
  - Managed by TNTPO, a joint venture of ITPO and TIDCO.
  - During 2023-24, 102 Exhibitions were held in the Exhibition Halls and 75 Events took place in the Convention Centre.
  - TNTPO earned a total income of Rs. 51.17 crore as compared to Rs. 46.87 crore in the previous year.
  - Net surplus reached Rs. 26.20 crore, considering 'Other comprehensive Income,' compared to Rs. 28.85 crore in 2022-23.
  - TNTPO has almost completed the construction of a multi-purpose (Exhibition/Convention) hall with an

area of 20,322 square meters under the expansion plan of TNTPO at an approved cost of Rs. 384.90 crore including GST. After the completion of the expansion project, there will be a total of 2 Convention Centres, 8 Exhibition Halls and 3 Conference Halls to organise Exhibitions, Conferences and Meetings, available in a total area of 36,980 square meters in an area of 34.61 acres of land.

#### ❖ **Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation (KTPO) at Bengaluru**

- KTPO located in a prime area in Export Promotion Industrial Park, Whitefield, Bengaluru.
- Managed by Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation, a joint venture of ITPO and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB).
- During 2023-24, 59 events were held at the Trade Centre in Bengaluru (TCB), and KTPO earned a total income of Rs. 16.87 crore compared to Rs. 9.30 crore in the previous year.
- The net surplus is Rs. 9.27 crore, as opposed to the net surplus of Rs. 3.83 crore in the previous year.
- New exhibition hall of 5,115 square meters which was recently constructed and in use now.

#### ❖ **Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at Pampore**

- JKTPO is a Joint venture Company with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir holding 48.75 per cent equity share.
- ITPO, EPCH, and Carpet Export Promotion Council hold 42.05 per cent, 4.78 per cent, and 4.42 per cent equity shares, respectively.

#### **(ix) Administration & HRD**

- ❖ Seven officials were appointed on deputation basis.
- ❖ Twenty-one officials were promoted in

different grade and cadre.

- ❖ One official was granted personal financial up-gradation under Incentivized Assured Career Progression Scheme (IACPS).
- ❖ Twenty-nine Young Professionals, and three Consultants were engaged in ITPO purely on contractual basis.

**(x) Celebration/Programmers/Workshops etc.**

- ❖ All Important National days etc. were observed which includes Republic Day, Yoga Day, Independence Day.
- ❖ Celebration of Har Ghar Tiranga.
- ❖ Swachhata Pakhwada.
- ❖ Floral Tributes were offered on the occasion of the Birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

**(xi) Reservation Policy of Government of India**

The Guidelines on reservation policy were complied with within ITPO. Liaison Officers have been nominated to look after the interests of SCs/STs/PwBD & OBC/ESM/EWS. In every Departmental Promotion/Selection Committee meetings, an officer of appropriate level belonging to SC/ST/OBC/PwBD/ESM/EWS and minority category had been associated to look after the interests of the candidates belonging to these categories. The provisions contained in Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995 regarding reservation in posts/services for disabled persons were also complied with.

**(xii) IECC Project**

- ❖ Construction of Phase-I redevelopment of Bharat Mandapam premises has now largely been completed and rectification/pending works are being undertaken by the executing agency.
- ❖ M/s. Sikka Associates has been engaged to prepare DPR and subsequent assistance to ITPO for developing the remaining area of Bharat Mandapam premises.

**(xiii) World Expo Osaka, Japan**

India's participation in Expo 2025 (13<sup>th</sup> April 2025 to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025) at Osaka, Japan, is part of the five-

yearly World Expositions organized under the aegis of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE). This global event is expected to host participation from over 160 countries, offering India an unparalleled platform to showcase its strengths and capabilities. The India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) is the nodal agency as appointed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The India Pavilion is being developed as an Type 'X' structure in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) as the PDMA. With active contributions from State Governments, Ministries, and corporate entities, the pavilion will highlight India's achievements in technology, culture, wellness, and sustainability. Featuring immersive exhibits, interactive displays, and thematic weeks, India's presence will maximize its visibility and influence while fostering cultural exchange, business collaboration, and strengthening its global partnerships.

**(xiv) 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.

**(xv) 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.

For the year 2023-24, the available fund of Rs. 73 lakh has been disbursed towards PM CARES, CLEAN GANGA FUND and SWACHH BHARAT KOSH in equal amount each.

**(E) National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI)**

National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) was set-up through a cabinet decision dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 1994 and incorporated on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1995 as a company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (earlier Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 as a Joint Venture between India Trade Promotion Organisation

(ITPO) and National Informatics Centre (NIC). The organization was functioning as a non-profit entity and was involved in providing customized trade information services on payment basis to the Department of Commerce, ITPO and other Government organizations. In the background of poor business, crunch of manpower and deteriorating finances, Board of Directors (BoD) of the Company decided to initiate the process of winding up of the Company.

The Cabinet in its meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 approved the winding up/voluntary liquidation of the National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) with immediate effect and utilization of the Corpus Funds & other funds available with National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI) to settle all its debts as per the Companies Act 2013 and relevant provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016. Accordingly, NCTI in its 94<sup>th</sup> BoD meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 passed the resolution for Voluntary Winding up of NCTI. It was further resolved that pursuant to the provision of Regulation 3 of IBBI (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017, and upon the passing of the Special Resolution by the shareholders (ITPO & NIC) in their meeting (AGM), the voluntary liquidation shall be deemed to commence.

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. Further, there was a long pending matter pertaining to the Income Tax Refund for Assessment Year 2014-15, which has finally been resolved and the refund of Rs. 14,93,110/- has been received from Income Tax Department.

Accordingly, the required formalities/pending issues for winding up of NCTI have been completed. However, the filing of application for dissolution of the Company before the Hon'ble Tribunal by the Liquidator is under process.

#### **(F) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC)**

STC was set up on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1956 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce

& Industry and has played an important role in the development of country's economy. STC 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 from time to time. STC was one of the nominated agency for import of bullion, urea, etc.

STC account was classified as Non-Performing Asset by the lender banks in 2018 and currently STC is not undertaking any business activity. It has downsized or closed its branch offices and downsized offices are mainly attending to legal, recovery and other important matters. In 2022, STC has been denotified as canalising/nominated agency under Foreign Trade Policy of the Government of India.

#### **(i) Performance:2023-24**

##### **(a) Turnover**

During the year 2023-24, the Company did not undertake any business activity.

##### **(b) Profitability**

During the year 2023-24, the Company reported a net profit (after tax) of Rs. 52.21crore as against net profit (after tax) of Rs. 32.89 crore reported during the year 2022-23 and the same was mainly due to enhanced rental income from JVB and reduction in establishment costs in view of overall reduction in the manpower of the Corporation.

#### **STCL Limited**

STCL Limited was incorporated as 'Cardamom Trading Corporation Limited', a Private Limited Company in 1982. In 1987 it was renamed as "Spices Trading Corporation Limited". In 1999, it became a subsidiary of The STC of India Ltd. In August 2004, it was renamed as "STCL Limited".

The Authorized 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.

Subsequent to Union Cabinet decision on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 regarding winding up of STCL Limited, the Company stopped all business activities from

2014-15 onwards. Presently Company is under closure and is pursuing various legal cases including Arbitration cases for the recovery of its dues from the business associated and adhering to other statutory requirements.

## 10. EXPORT INSPECTION COUNCIL (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 of the Central Government for notification of commodities which are subjected to quality control, standards, inspection etc. before they are exported.

The EIC provides mandatory certification for various food items, namely Fruit and Vegetable Products, Basmati Rice and Non-Basmati Rice (for export to EU), Fish and Fishery Products, Milk and Milk products, Egg and Egg products, Honey, Poultry meat and Poultry meat products, Animal casings, Crushed bones, Ossein and Gelatin, Feed additives and Pre-mixtures, Peanut and Peanut products (EU, Malaysia and Singapore), Salt, Black Pepper. Other food items that are not notified under the Act, are being certified under Voluntary Certification Scheme, as per the importing country's requirements. Export Certification is carried out by EIC's field organization EIAs and is based on two systems, namely, Consignment Wise Inspection (CWI) system and Food Safety Management Based Certification (FSMS) system which is based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP). These systems are designed in such a way to ensure the compliance to the requirements of importing countries. EIC certification is accepted globally.

In this era of rapidly changing 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 prevalence of food safety incidents.

### (i) The Major Activities of the EIC

- ❖ Approval of processing establishment 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

### (ii) Commercial Relations, Trade Agreements & International Trade organization

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 2024-25 so far are given below:

#### ❖ **Participation of EIC in Codex Committees**

Officers from EIC, as part of Indian delegation participated in the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS27) held in Cairns, Australia from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The EIC representative leading the Indian delegation presented new work proposal for development of guidance on Appeal mechanism emphasizing the need for a uniform appeal process to ensure fair practices in food trade. The proposal received support from various member countries, and the Committee agreed to take it forward.

#### ❖ **Participation of EIC in World Food India - 2024**

The Export Inspection Council (EIC) participated in the 'World Food India - 2024' (WFI) organized by the Ministry of Food Processing at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. The EIC participated by putting up a stall in the event. EIC through Posters, Brochures, Video clips etc, demonstrated the services rendered by EIC to visitors including foreign importers, Indian exporters / traders, processors, students from colleges and research institutes and public.

#### ❖ **Participation of EIC in Global Food Regulator Summit (GFRS)-2024**

The EIC participated in the Global Food Regulator Summit (GFRS)-2024 organized by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) during 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The representative from EIC participated in the regional conclave as part of GFRS 2024 on the topic "Enhancing Regional Collaboration in International Standard Setting for members of CCASIA".

#### ❖ **Capacity building in Seafood Sector**

As part of outreach programs EIC organised five capacity-building programs, focusing on fishery regulations of importing countries, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and microbiological testing. These sessions were designed to train technologists (170) to ensure the safety of seafood exports.

#### ❖ **Capacity building in laboratory ecosystem**

As part of capacity building, EIC has organized 19 capacity building programs, including hands on practical sessions focusing on analysis of various emerging residue and contaminants in various food commodities at its International Training Centre for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition (ITCFSAN), Mumbai which benefited a total of 900 laboratory analysts.

Export Inspection Agency, Kolkata has been granted Accreditation as Type 'A' Inspection Body in accordance with ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Scope Sector 03 (Fish and Fishery products) for a period of three years.

#### ❖ **Enhancing Market Access for Premium Indian Fish Species to China**

As a result of the initiatives and ongoing efforts by the Export Inspection Council, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) has granted market access for the export of key fish species from India, including *Pampus chinensis* (Chinese pomfret), *Pampus argenteus* (silver pomfret), and *Scylla serrata* (mud crab).

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Food Safety and Standards (Recognition and Notification of Laboratories) Regulations, 2018 has recognized EIA-Kochi as National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for Genetically

Modified Foods (GMOs) and EIA-Chennai as Ancillary National Reference Laboratory (ANRL) for Food Microbiology.

## 11. LOGISTICS

The Logistics Division in the Department of Commerce has been re-established in October 2023. The role of this Division to implement as user by mapping the assets of the Department of Commerce to the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP), launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021, and monitoring of transit times for imports and exports.

The Logistics Division, Department of Commerce, has finalized Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for SEZs and EoUs with consultation to SEZ division. Further, 278 assets of SEZ have been identified and mapped to the PMGS-NMP platform. The work on the mapping of assets of EoUs is ongoing and will be completed within the designated time frame.

The dwell time and the transit time of Export and Import in trade at Ports have also been monitored by the Logistics Division, Department of Commerce.

## 12. 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. Government has contributed Rs. 4,741 crore into the Trust over the years.

The total corpus available with the Trust as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 was Rs. 1,276.84 crore.

❖ As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024, 241 projects of value Rs. 61,577 crore and executed by 81 Indian Project exporters in 58 countries have been supported by the NEIA Trust. The major sectors covered under the NEIA facilities are Construction, Supply of engineering goods, Water Treatment Plants, Oil Refineries, Hydro Power Plant, Power Transmission and Distribution projects, etc. The Trust has supported the projects in the countries which are strategically important for India like Bangladesh, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Iran, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe etc.

❖ The 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. In its journey to support the Medium- and Long-Term (MLT) exports from India, the NEIA Trust, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 had paid claims amounting to Rs. 6,908.33 crore on account of defaults of overseas buyers under the various cover facilities extended. During the FY 2023-24 no fresh cover was issued by the Trust. The claim settled by the Trust amounting to Rs. 1,907.79 crore was on account of the default under the BC-NEIA facilities extended for projects in Ghana, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Suriname.

**PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN  
FOR THE WELFARE OF SCs/  
STs/OBCs, EWSs,  
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 reservation as well as other welfare measures for the SCs, STs, OBCs, EWSs and PwD 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 employees and Scheduled Castes employees of Department of Commerce (proper) has been constituted.

A statement showing total number of Government employees and the number of SCs/STs/OBCs/EWSs as on 30th September 2024 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 SCs, STs, OBCs & EWSs

### (A) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

MPEDA has appointed the Liaison Officers to oversee the welfare of SC/ST/OBC and EWS. As per Government of India guidelines, reservations are provided for these groups in recruitment and promotions. Additionally, MPEDA ensures that at least one member from the SC/ST category is included on panels for the recruitment and promotion of candidates.

### (B) The Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC Ltd.)

Government Directives/Instructions with regards to SCs/STs/OBCs/EWSs are duly complied with in PEC. No complaint has been received in the period.

### (C) Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC Ltd.)

#### (i) Liaison Officer

Liaison Officer has been appointed in Corporate Office 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 per cent 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 per cent in qualifying marks in written test
- ❖ Relaxation of up to 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 Committees 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 per cent for B type accommodation and 5 per cent 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) 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 52, NSEZ has 6, 3 and 13 employees belonging to SC, ST and OBC respectively.

**(E) Tea Board**

Tea Board follows the orders issued by Government of India for recruitment & promotion of SC, ST, OBC and EWS from time to time.

**(F) 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) meeting, officers of appropriate level belonging to SC/ST/OBC category are associated to look after the interests of the candidates belonging to these categories.

**(G) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

The welfare and development of SC/ST/OBC/EWS employees is well looked after by Authority.

**(H) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.)****(i) 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 nominated on the panels constituted for recruitment/ promotion of candidates/ employees.
- ❖ A Committee for Grievance Redressal Mechanism for SC and ST has been constituted by the Company.

**(ii) Programmes for OBC welfare**

- ❖ Reservation policy of Government of India is followed for recruitment of OBC candidates.
- ❖ Pre-Examination training for recruitment is conducted for candidates from OBC category.
- ❖ 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.

**(iii) 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 per cent of the posts are reserved for EWS category in accordance to Government guidelines.
- ❖ Liaison Officer for EWS welfare has been appointed to deal with the matters related to employees from EWS category.

**(I) 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 are being effectively utilized by SC/ST/OBC employees as and when they have complaint/grievances.

**(J) Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone (VSEZ)**

Appointed Liaison Officer to protect the interests of SC, ST & OBC Employees.

**(K) Coffee Board**

The Coffee Board has a multi-dimensional approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall welfare and development of the SC/ST/OBC/EWS employees.

**(L) Spices Board**

- ❖ The Board had constituted SC/ST cell to look after the welfare of the employees and to sort out their problems.
- ❖ The Board has nominated a Liaison Officer to look after the reservation matters relating to SC/ST employees. Grievances of SC/ST employees can be presented to the liaison officer directly.
- ❖ Representatives of SC/ST officials are included in the selection/interview panel for Direct Recruitment.
- ❖ The Liaison Officer for SC/ST (Group-A level) is participating in all the Departmental Promotion Committees/Transfer Committee etc., to represent the interest of the employees belong to SC/ST category.
- ❖ Internal Grievance Committee for Scheduled Tribes employee has also been constituted as recommended by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST)
- ❖ DPC ensures compliance with Government

guidelines regarding reservations for SC, ST, and other reserved category candidates. The committee also verifies the rosters to implement these reservations appropriately.

- ❖ The Board is implementing the post-based reservation roster for SC/ST. The instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time in this regard are also strictly adhered to.
- ❖ The memorandum regarding constitution of SC/ST cell/committees has been published in Board's website for the information of the employees belonging to the above categories, so as to enable them to submit grievances/complaints, if any.

**(M) Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS)**

Liaison Officer for SC, ST, OBC and EWS has already been appointed and all appointment related matter is taken care of with the recommendation of Liaison Officer. Direct Requirement vacancies are reported regularly to recruiting agencies for filling up of vacant posts.

**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:

There are guidelines on providing facilities to the disabled persons so that a barrier-free workplace is made accessible to the differently abled persons. In pursuance of Section 23(1) of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (PwD Act, 2016) a Grievance Redressal Officer has been nominated in Department of Commerce. A statement showing total number of PWDs in different categories as on 30th September 2024 in Department of Commerce (proper) and its associate organizations is shown at Annexure C.

#### **(A) The Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC Ltd.)**

Government Directives/Instructions with regards to Persons with Disabilities are duly complied with in PEC. In PEC, there exists a Time Scale Promotion Scheme for staff cadre. Qualifying period for promotion for employees belonging to 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) Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC Ltd.)**

- ❖ 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**

- ❖ The Board had constituted PWD cell to look after the welfare of the employee belong to PWD category and to sort out their problems. The Board had nominated a Liaison officer for reservation matters relating to PWD.
- ❖ During the year 2019 an expert committee has also been constituted for the purpose of identification of posts suitable for Persons with Disabilities as per the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The committee has been reconstituted on 16th January 2024. The Director (Research) is the Chairperson of the Committee and having other six members including one Group-B officer belongs to PwD category.
- ❖ No appointments after 22nd February 2017 have been made as per the order received from the MoC vide letter No. F. No.5/2015-Plant (Coord) dated 22nd February 2017. As instructed by the Ministry, a proposal for filling up the vacant posts by direct recruitment is submitted to the Ministry for approval. Once the proposal is approved, filling up the vacant posts would be resumed.

#### **(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. Recently a lift with Braille has also been installed in the premises in addition, six nos. of public conveniences have also been constructed by NSEZ in the Zone complex with specific arrangement for Divyangjan.

**(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.

**(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, Board is filling 4 per cent promotional vacancies in Group A, B and C.

**(H) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.)**

- ❖ PwD candidates are posted according to suitability of post to PwD employees.
- ❖ Scribe is allowed to PwD candidates 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 is appointed to deal with matters related to PwD category.

- ❖ PwD compliant infrastructure is available at Head office, ECGC Bhawan, Andheri East, Mumbai.

**(I) 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

**(J) Coffee Board**

The Coffee Board has a multi-dimensional approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall Welfare and Development of the PwD employees.

**(K) Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT)**

The following infrastructure facilities for PwD Candidates have been provided:

- ❖ IIFT Building has wheelchairs, Ramps, Railings and Lifts for easy access to classrooms, rooms etc.
- ❖ Separate washrooms for PwD in Hostel and Admin Blocks are available.
- ❖ Signage: Displayed boards, signpost in prominent places.

**(L) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**

In 2024, MPEDA reconstituted the expert committee to identify posts suitable for PwDs in alignment with the Rights to Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Secretary MPEDA chairs this committee, which also includes two other members, one of whom is a Group A officer from the PwD category. To support accessibility, MPEDA has installed a ramp for smooth movement, lift facilities, and toilets for Divyang/PwDs on the ground floor. A visually impaired employee also operates the EPABX system.

### **(M) Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**

APEDA has taken care of the welfare of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Motorized wheel chair has been provided to one of the employees to move within the office. Further, all the facilities as per rule are given to him.

### **3. PROGRAMMES UNDERTAKEN FOR WELFARE OF WOMEN**

#### **(A) Department of Commerce**

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.

#### **(B) The Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited (PEC Ltd.)**

- ❖ PEC is small organization having total 26 employees (excluding employees on

deputation), out of which 06 are women, as on 30th September 2024.

- ❖ 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.

#### **(C) Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC Ltd.)**

- ❖ Women welfare activities in MMTC 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). MMTC encourages participation of its women employees in this forum. A General Manager of MMTC, a female officer, is the Vice President-WIPS APEX. Many other women employees are member of WIPS.
- ❖ The promotion policy in MMTC 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 behavioural trainings organized by MMTC.

- ❖ In compliance to DPE Guidelines, Child Care Leave, Child Adoption Leave and Special Leave connected to inquiry of sexual harassment has been implemented in MMTC in line with similar facilities available to women employees of the Central Government.

#### **(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 session on "Cyber Crime and Preventives Measures" by a retired lady Deputy Superintendent of Police.
- ❖ The Company nominates women employees to programs/seminars/workshops for leadership development including programmes of WIPS.
- ❖ Internal Complaints Committees are in place to deal with matters related to sexual 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 Rs. 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.

#### **(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) Noida Special Economic Zone (NSEZ)**

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.

#### **(H) Coffee Board**

The Coffee Board has a multi-dimensional approach by creating an enabling environment keeping in view the overall Welfare and Development of the women employees.

#### **(I) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)**

- ❖ MPEDA has an active Internal Complaints Committee to address issues related to sexual harassment in the workplace. Women employee are encouraged to approach this committee to register any complaints related to harassment.
- ❖ Additionally, an Independent Women's Cell has been established to support the welfare of women employees. MPEDA ensures that women are well-represented in various functional and behavioural training sessions, promoting their professional growth and development.

#### **(J) Spices Board**

The sanctioned staff strength of Spices Board is 379 and existing strength is 217 as on 30th September 2024. Out of which, 60 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.

#### **(K) Visakhapatnam SEZ (VSEZ)**

Constituted Internal Complaints Committee under Sexual Harassment of Women at work place.

#### **(L) IIFT (Indian Institute of Foreign Trade)**

- ❖ Separate Residential Hostel and Mess Facilities for Female students with proper sanitation facility.

- ❖ Female Guards deputed at Girls Hostel.
- ❖ Female Housekeeping facilities are provided in all Girls Hostel for daily cleaning.
- ❖ Residential Nurse is available 24\*7 in the hostel.
- ❖ Full time Residential Female Wardens are staying in Campus.

#### **(M) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)**

In every Departmental Promotion/Selection Committee (DPC/DSC) meeting, officers of appropriate level belonging to women are associated to look after the interests of the candidates belonging to these categories.

# 10

## Chapter

### **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 law 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*. <i>(*Subject to availability of complete documents and availability of funds)</i>
2.	Approval for grant of financial assistance in respect of projects under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).	3 months* <i>(*Subject to availability of complete documents and availability of funds)</i>
3.	Approval for setting up of Special Economic Zone (SEZ).	i. Placement of cases before the Board of Approval (BoA): Within 30 days of receiving complete documents. ii. Issuance of approvals: Within 15 days of BoA approval.
4.	<b>RTI Act, 2005</b> 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.
<b>PUBLIC GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b>		
5.	Resolving Public Grievances	21 <sup>x</sup> days ( <sup>x</sup> Subject to receipt of complete details and receipt of responses from the authority which has to take a final decision on the grievance) <i>(* If longer period is likely to be involved, the complainant will be informed through an interim reply within 21 days.)</i>
6.	For taking actions by the Appellate Committee on appeals preferred against statutory orders passed by DGFT, etc.	Within 3 months <i>Note: This is subject to receipt of complete details/documents from the appellant and respondents.</i>

## 2. PUBLIC GRIEVANCES

Public Grievance Cell deals with grievances received from public and staffs, concerning Department and offices under its control, for their redressal. As per CPGRAMS, 4296 Public Grievances were disposed of during 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024 (including PMO Public Grievances). A grievance box has also been provided at Vanijya Bhawan, 16-Akbar Road, New Delhi-110011 where public as well as staff

can drop their grievances concerned to Department of Commerce.

## 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 Group 'A' and Group 'B' officers working in Department of Commerce, Indian Trade

Service officers, Board level appointees working in various Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards functioning under the administrative control of the Department.

The Vigilance Section also deals with matters related to All India Services (Conduct) Rules and Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, including Annual Immovable Property Returns of all Group A and Group B (Gazetted) officers working in the Department, furnishing of various annual/quarterly/monthly reports to PMO, CVC, DoPT etc. 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 award of punishment to the corrupt Government Servants in the Department as well as its attached and subordinate offices, Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Organizations etc., keeping a watch on movements/visits of undesirable persons in the Department, preparation of list of Officials of Doubtful Integrity and Agreed List and their postings to non-sensitive areas and also permission to initiate investigation by CBI u/s 17 A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended) and sanction for prosecution u/s 19 of the PC Act 1988 to CBI.

During the year 2024-25, from 1st April 2024, 64 investigations/inquiries were conducted and on the basis of these inquiry proceedings, in 11 cases major/minor penalties were imposed on delinquent Government Servants working in the Department and its attached and subordinate offices, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, Commodity Boards etc. under the Department of Commerce.

As a prelude to Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024, as per the directions of Central Vigilance Commission, various activities were undertaken by the Department of Commerce and its Organizations during the three-month campaign (16th August 2024 to 15th November 2024) with the following Preventive Vigilance measures as focus area:

- ❖ Capacity Building programs,
- ❖ Identification and implementation of Systemic Improvement measures,
- ❖ Updation of Circulars/Guidelines/Manuals,
- ❖ Disposal of complaints received before 30th June 2024,
- ❖ Dynamic Digital Presence



*Training Programme*



*Display of Banners*

Further, Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024 was observed with the theme “सत्यनिष्ठा की संस्कृति से राष्ट्र की समृद्धि” “Culture of Integrity for Nation’s Prosperity” by taking Integrity Pledge and conducted workshop/sensitization programmes/training programmes, display of banners and standees, Power-point presentations etc. during the period 28th October 2024 to 3rd November 2024 to create awareness amongst officers and staff members working in the Department of Commerce.



*Integrity Pledge on 28.10.2024 as part of Vigilance Awareness Week, 2024*

#### 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 forwards/transfers the online RTI Applications/Appeals received in the Nodal Account of Department of Commerce to appropriate CPIO(s)/FAA/Public Authority(ies) through online portal. RTI Cell also transfers the physical RTI Applications/Appeals to concerned CPIOs/FAAs/Public Authorities. Department of Commerce has provided a facilitation counter at main entry gate, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to facilitate citizens who want to submit their RTI Applications/Appeals in person.

At present, there are 49 Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs), who are Deputy Director Generals/Directors/Joint Directors/Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary/Deputy Director/Accounts Officer/Section Officer level officers in the Department and 31 First Appellate Authorities (F.A.A.s), who are Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Chief Controller of Accounts/Additional DGFT/Economic Adviser/Director/Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary level

officers to hear and dispose of first appeal(s) filed under the RTI Act.

Currently there are 29 Public Authorities (P.A.s) under the jurisdiction of Department of Commerce. Each of these P.A.s have their own Nodal CPIO, CPIOs and F.A.A.s 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)/FAA 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 with the interface of DoPT and Central Information Commission for all RTI Matters.

During the period from January 2024 to March 2024, 172 applications were disposed of by different CPIOs of this Department and 318 applications were transferred to other Public Authorities. During the same period, 14 appeals were disposed of by different FAAs of this Department as per provisions of the RTI Act.

During the period from April 2024 to September 2024, 368 applications were disposed of by different CPIOs of this Department and 608 applications were transferred to other Public Authorities. During the same period, 45 appeals were disposed of 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. Its functions are summarized below:

##### (A) 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 in the Department has been reconstituted. It works under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Commerce & Industry.

**(B) Committee of Parliament on Official Language**

During the year 2024-25, the Committee of Parliament on Official Language inspected many organizations under Department of Commerce wherein Additional Secretary/DDG (Official Language In-charge) and Joint Director (Official Language)/Deputy Director (Official language) participated. The assurances given during these meetings were communicated to the concerned organization for fulfilment in prescribed time.

**(C) Official Language Implementation Committee Meeting**

To review the progress of Hindi in official work in Department of Commerce, an Official Language Implementation Committee (OLIC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary/DDG incharge of the official language and its meetings are organised regularly in every quarter.

**(D) Rajbhasha Incentive****(i) Hindi Fortnight**

Hindi Fortnight was organized in the Department during 14th-29th September 2024. During this fortnight 7 competitions viz. Rajbhasha Hindi knowledge and Translation, Hindi Essay writing, Hindi Noting and Drafting, Hindi Typing, Hindi Poetry Recitation, Hindi Dictation and Extempore speech in Hindi were organized. The prize money was Rs. 5000/- (first), Rs. 3000/- (second), Rs. 2000/- (third) and Rs. 1000/- (Consolation). Large number of officials of the department participated enthusiastically in these competitions and the winners were awarded cash prizes.

**(ii) Annual Special Incentive Scheme**

To encourage the officials of the Department to do maximum official work in Hindi an "Annual Special Incentive Scheme" has been implemented under which a Cash prize of Rs. 5000/- (First), Rs. 4000/- (Second) and Rs. 3000/- (Third) is awarded. Winners of this scheme were also awarded.

**(iii) Rajbhasha Shield Yojna 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 Hindi. The performances of the offices are evaluated by a committee on the basis of the information provided in a prescribed performa and relevant documents submitted by them.

**(E) Hindi Workshops**

To encourage the use of Hindi by officials of the Department in their official work, Hindi workshops were organized by the Department, in which officers/employees were informed about Official Language policy of the Union Government/Difficulties in implementation of policy and subsequent solution.

**(F) Inspections regarding progressive use of Hindi**

The progress made in promoting the use of Hindi in the organizations under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce is monitored and reviewed through their Quarterly Progress Reports and Inspections. To review the status of progressive use of Hindi in official work, inspections of various offices under the control of Department of Commerce were also carried out by the officials of Hindi Division.

Apart from this, to review the progressive use of Hindi and to provide the requisite support, inspection was also carried out in various Sections/Division of the Department of Commerce.

**6. E-GOVERNANCE**

Project Activities undertaken by Commerce Informatics Division NIC for Department of Commerce:

- ❖ Intranet Portal of Department of Commerce: The various applications like Conference

- Room Booking System (CRBS), VIP Reference Monitoring Systems, PMO Reference Monitoring Systems, Electronic Requisition System for Stationery Items (ERSSI), System for Processing of Pre-Budget Proposals, Engagement Monitoring System (EMS) and Laying of Annual Report and Audited Account (LARAA) are operational on the Intranet portal <https://intra.commerce.gov.in> of Department of Commerce. In addition to this a centralized system for the dissemination of Office Memoranda (OM), Office Orders, Notices, and Circulars in the Department of Commerce have also been established. Intranet portal integrated with Single Sign On (SSO) Parichay, Email and SMS.
- ❖ Merchandise Import Monitoring System (MIMP): The Portal Merchandise Import Monitoring System (MIMP) has been developed and being modified as per the requirements of the Economic Division of Department of Commerce. Various stakeholders, including Ministries, will provide feedback on their respective commodities. The Economic Division will monitor and analyze commodity wise India's Imports through the Portal.
  - ❖ Development of Website of Department of Commerce to comply with Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM) Vol. 1 and Vol. 2: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has prepared an action plan for harmonizing Government of India's digital footprint. As part of this effort, a [www.gov.in](http://www.gov.in) platform is in the works to serve as the central hub for all ministries. This intended to streamline access and ensure a cohesive online experience for citizens. In this regard, the Department of Commerce website is being revamped by Communication Cell in coordination with IT Cell and NIC to adhere to the Digital Brand Identity Manual (DBIM), ensuring seamless integration with other departmental websites. This strategic move enhances online credibility and aligns with commitment towards a harmonized digital front for the citizens.
  - ❖ The Public Dashboard (<http://dashboard.commerce.gov.in/>) has options for India's Trade, Territory-wise trade including country profile, Commodity-wise trade, Trade promotion schemes, India at WTO, Trade Agreements, Plantations, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Logistics, GeM, Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, Trade Infrastructure for Export scheme (TIES), Budget and Public Grievances. It is operational on Internet.
  - ❖ The Internal Dashboard (<http://intradashboard.commerce.gov.in/>) has options for India's Trade Alert, Territory-wise trade Alert including country profile, Commodity-wise trade Alert, Trade promotion schemes, India at WTO, Trade Agreements, Plantations, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Logistics, GeM, Market Access Initiatives (MAI) Scheme, Trade Infrastructure for Export scheme (TIES) Budget, Public Grievances, Country specific Issues, Parliament Assurance, Audit Para and VIP references. It is operational on Intranet of NIC network with restricted access for officials of the Department.
  - ❖ PM Dashboard of Dashboard (PRAYAS) - KPIs Integration: KPI integration for the Department of Commerce in the PM Dashboard PRAYAS is operational. Eight Schemes with Sixteen KPIs related to Import/Export and Service Trade are operational, with data being pushed at three stages: Preliminary, Provisional, and Final for each month. Intuitive visualization has been developed for these KPIs specifically for the Hon'ble PM of India's viewing. Viewing rights for the PRAYAS Dashboard have been extended to all Ministers, and comprehensive training and demonstrations on the Dashboard have been provided to them. Government e Marketplace (GeM), also on boarded on PRAYAS Dashboard with data visualization of one scheme including 12 KPI for the Hon'ble PM of India's. Data is pushed daily basis by GeM on this Dashboard.

- ❖ E-Office Implementation in various Autonomous Bodies under Department of Commerce: The e-Office implemented across various autonomous bodies and institutions under the Department of Commerce. Commerce Informatics Division NIC is facilitating the necessary consultancy and coordination for this initiative. SEEPZ, IIP, IBEF, Coffee Board, Tobacco Board, APEDA and Rubber Board are onboarded into e-office in this year. Successfully onboarded in all Special Economic Zones and Commodity Boards with proper training.
- ❖ Upgradation of India's Trade related databases/systems: The trade-related databases on country export and import, including the Monthly Export Import Data Bank (MEIDB) and Export Import Data Bank (EIDB) system, have been upgraded with the latest open-source technology and under the process of getting Cyber Security Audit Clearance for hosting on public domain. These systems are based on an 8-digit HS code classification of commodities and encompass the Foreign Trade of Principal Commodities and Countries (FTSPCC) and the Foreign Trade Performance Analysis (FTPA) system. They provide country-wise and principal commodity-wise exports and imports data.
- ❖ Cloud infrastructure: Time to time coordination by NIC for Cloud infrastructure allocation for the organizations such as Spices Board, Rubber Board, Coffee Board, Tea Board, Export Councils of India, Special Economic Zones (SEZ), APEDA, MPEDA, MMTTC, STC, EIC, Logistics Division, ITPO, DGTR, GeM etc.
- ❖ FMS Services: Services are being provided to the users like Email, Network Management, VC Services, Anti-Virus deployment, OS Patch Management, VPN Services etc.
- ❖ Support on central Projects: NIC is providing Support on Central ICT Projects such as E-office, SPARROW, PFMS, CPGRAMS, RTI-MIS, PRAGATI, Bhavishya, LIMBS, Anubhav, Swagatam, ACC vacancy Monitoring System etc. In addition to this, services of NIC Wifi

SSID namely VAYU, ANANT, LEHAR, SARAS, DEVICE and ATITHI are being provided to the officials of DoC.

## 7. COMPLIANCE TO CYBER SECURITY GUIDELINES

- ❖ DoC has nominated Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for establishing a cyber security program, business continuity program, drafting of various security policies, reviewing and updating the cyber security policy documents, defining rules for secure and acceptable use of communication channels for the business requirements of the Department.
- ❖ A security architecture has been developed for understanding threat landscape, establishing & reviewing the risk assessment methodology and selection of appropriate controls for risk mitigation by leveraging technology. This security architecture and vision is laid out in the Cyber Crisis Management Plan (CCMP) document of DoC, which is approved by MeitY.
- ❖ Department is in compliance with the guidelines issued by CERT-IN/MHA regarding comprehensive information security strategy which includes policies and security controls to ensure the three main tenets of information security: Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability (CIA) of information- in the organization.
- ❖ A cyber security plan has been prepared & SOPs created to comply with the security advisories & alerts released from time-to-time by MHA & CERT-In.
- ❖ Awareness programs have also been conducted on cyber security awareness for users of DoC from time to time.
- ❖ CCMP has been deployed across DoC to enhance the cyber security related awareness and associated responsibility of users of ICT infrastructure to ensure a safe cyberspace within the Department.
- ❖ An external cybersecurity compliance audit of the entire ICT infrastructure (Network, Computing Devices, VC Systems and Wireless

Access Points etc.) has also been conducted through CERT-IN empanelled auditors. Reported vulnerabilities have been remediated by deploying appropriate security controls. So far as the database, applications, portals and website are concerned, these are hosted in secure NIC cloud environment and all the security measures as applicable, are taken care by Cyber Security Division of NIC.

- ❖ Website of DoC got audited by CERT-In empaneled auditors and vulnerabilities remediated as per report given by Security Audit Team.
- ❖ MHA Cyber Security audit of ICT infrastructure of DoC, analysis of network traffic capture, Firewall and EDR log analysis has been conducted by IB and compliance will be established to make the whole cyber environment safe after receipt of audit report from the IB.
- ❖ Department is following the guidelines and procedures defined by CERTIn/MeitY for monitoring of security alerts, managing incident response in effective manner, conducting cyber security awareness sessions and campaigns within the organization. There is a well-drawn mechanism in place for liaising with CERT-In, MHA and other Government Department for enriching cyber security related experience and learning methodology to thwart cyber-attacks. CISO act as a single point of contact for CERT-In and the Department.
- ❖ Network of DoC is based on appropriate architecture and its linkage with NIC network is through secure gateway and routers. Network is segregated for optimal security of internal network at Vanijya Bhawan. Media Access Control (MAC) addresses are properly bound for all the system and IT devices, DHCP is disabled and static IP is configured to prevent intrusion & for proactive prevention. Monitoring and blocking of malicious IP and domain are done by NIC Security Team at their firewall deployed at the National Data Centre.
- ❖ DoC network is segmented and security zone has been created for isolation of sensitive traffic

and to secure sensitive IT systems. Department has also taken necessary steps to ensure security of wireless access points by evaluating physical perimeter to define positioning of wireless devices thereby limiting radio transmission and coverage. All the wireless access points employ WPA-II and higher encryption for data confidentiality and integrity.

- ❖ Desktops/endpoints deployed in the DoC are properly hardened and standard user account is enabled for all user on all office systems for regular work. Department has also deployed Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) and Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) at the desktops to manage unwarranted incident at system level in automated manner.

## 8. COMMERCIAL WINGS IN INDIAN MISSIONS/POSTS ABROAD

The Commercial Wings of our Missions abroad 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 country where they are located. At present, 83 commercial wings have staff under the budgetary control of this Department. For remaining 22, only trade promotion budget is provided by the Department of Commerce. The commercial representative in the commercial wing is the first contact in the mission, for operators from private and public sectors having economic interests in that country. Out of the 105 Missions, two 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 the Foreign Services Board process. However, the process of filling up of 11 posts are being done by this Department. Out of these 11 posts, 4 posts are filled during this FY 2024-25. In order to manage the revenue expenditure of the Commercial/ Non-Commercial Wings and to support their trade activities, budgetary allocation

for these offices have been augmented from time to time. The budget provisions have been rationalised from Rs. 257.5550 crore in the FY 2023-24 to Rs. 246.00 crore in the FY 2024-25 (BE Stage).

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 inquiries, 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.

Other initiatives towards streamlining the work of the Commercial wings include:

- ❖ Integration of Web based reporting portal into Trade Connect portal: In order to avoid duplicity of work/functioning of portals, the merger of web-based portal for Missions with Trade Connect portal is under consideration/process. The Trade Connect portal is a one stop solution for all international trade related activities. In this regard, a revised proforma has been devised and will be part of trade connect portal so that the Missions can report their trade activities in real-time.
- ❖ Restructuring of Staff in the Missions: Department of Commerce is in the process of restructuring the staff in Commercial/Non-Commercial wings of Indian Missions abroad.

## 9. SWACHHATA HI SEWA 2024

'Swachhata Hi Seva' (SHS) was observed from 17th September 2024 to 1st October 2024 in the Department of Commerce and its Attached Offices, Subordinate Offices, Autonomous organisations and PSUs. The theme of the campaign was 'Swabhav Swachhata - Sanskaar Swachhata. The campaign culminated in the celebration of Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October 2024. The main focus areas of SHS 2024 were mega cleanliness drives of dirty and difficult garbage spots (Black Spots - Cleanliness Target Units), Plantation Drive ('Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam') and recognizing the contribution of sanitation workers.

SHS - 2024 focused on 3 pillars of activities:

- ❖ **Swachhata Ki Bhaagidari:** Widespread engagement with citizens, communities, and organizations to raise awareness and trigger involvement through various activities like pledges, competitions, walkathons, plantation drives etc.
- ❖ **Sampoorna Swachhata including Swachhata Lakshit Ekayi:** Mega cleanliness drives with people's shramdaan focussing on timebound transformation of difficult and dirty spots (Cleanliness Target Units (CTUs)
- ❖ **SafaiMitra Suraksha Shivir:** Central Ministries to organize Shivir for sanitation workers and their dependents in their own jurisdiction in convergence with trusted local healthcare service providers and practitioners.

Swachhata Pledges were administered by Hon'ble Minister for Commerce & Industry in the presence of Hon'ble MoS for Commerce & Industry, Senior Officers and other dignitaries. A total of 782 activities have been undertaken by DoC during SHS 2024. 139 CTUs were identified and mass cleanliness drives conducted. Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' plantation drives were conducted across organizations of DoC. Educational sessions, Swachhata quizzes, competitions & debates were conducted under Swachhata Class/Swachhata Ki Pathshaala at schools and offices of the Department.



## 10. SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 4.0

In accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a Special Campaign 4.0 for Disposal of Pending Matters was organized in the Department of Commerce from 2nd-31st October 2024. The Campaign was organized 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-31st October 2024), 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 was uploaded on SCDPM Portal on daily basis.

The Department of Commerce and its organizations organized 655 Special Campaign. During the campaign 50,036 physical files were reviewed and 35,202 files were weeded out. Scraps have been auctioned generating revenue of Rs. 83,412/- and freeing space of around 1993 Sq. Ft. Also, out of

1600 electronic files pending for review, 1539 were reviewed and 702 e-files were closed."

## 11. 'EK PED MAA KE NAAM' CAMPAIGN

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, a unique initiative combining environmental responsibility with a heartfelt tribute to mothers. This campaign was inaugurated on 5th June 2024, with the planting of a Peepal Tree by Hon'ble Prime Minister at Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi. In Department of Commerce, the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative was led by Commerce Secretary accompanied by other Senior Officers of the Department by planting trees in the Matri Van (Forest Area) which has been made in Vanijya Bhawan under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative itself.

Matri Van (Forest Area) has been designated near driveway near the Main Entry Gate of Vanijya Bhawan, the trees which have been planted in this forest area are: Ashoka Tree, Gulmohar Tree, Amaltas Tree, Bakul Tree and Jamun Tree. The activity led by Commerce Secretary was further led by officials of Department of Commerce and Trees were planted at various location in Vanijya Bhawan premises.



## 12. INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY – 2024

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry celebrated the 10th International Day of Yoga at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 21st June 2024. Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Jitin Prasada; Secretary, Department of Commerce, Shri Sunil Barthwal; and Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh along with other officials of the Ministry participated in the event.

The event commenced with a brief opening ceremony, followed by a yoga session. Participants engaged in various yoga asanas, pranayama, and meditation techniques, which allowed them to experience the rejuvenating effects of yoga.

Following its inception in the United Nations General

Assembly in 2014, the International Day of Yoga has been celebrated across the world annually on 21st June since 2015. It highlights the significance of Yoga in promoting physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. It is celebrated with the aim of spreading awareness about the multiple benefits of yoga and inspiring individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle.



# ANNEXURE

**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, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi-110107 and Vanijya Bhawan, A wing, 16 Akbar Road New Delhi - 110011
2. Directorate General of Trade Remedies, 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, 5, Parliament Street, Patel Chowk, New Delhi-110001

**(B) Subordinate Offices**

1. Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, 565, Anandapur, Ward No. 108, Sector-1, Plot No. 22, ECADP Kolkata - 700107
2. Cochin Special Economic Zone, Administrative Building, Kakkanad, Kochi, Kerala - 682037
3. Falta Special Economic Zone, 2nd MSO Building, 4th Floor, Nizam Palace, 234/4, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700014
4. MEPZ Special Economic Zone, Administrative Building, GST Road, Tambaram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, - 600045
5. Kandla Special Economic Zone, Gandhidham (Kutch), Gujarat - 370230
6. SEEPZ Special Economic Zone, Andheri (East), Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400096
7. Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone, Administrative Building, Duvvada, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh - 530049
8. Noida Special Economic Zone, Noida Dabri Road, Phase-II, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201305
9. Pay and Accounts Office (Commerce), Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi - 110107
10. Pay and Accounts Office (Supply), 2nd Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Patel Chowk, New Delhi - 110001

**(C) Autonomous Bodies**

1. Coffee Board, 1, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560001
2. Rubber Board, Sub-Jail Road, P.B. No.1122, Kottayam, Kerala - 686002
3. Tea Board, 14, BTM Sarani, Brabourne Road, P.B. No.2172, Kolkata, West Bengal - 700001
4. Spices Board, Sugandha Bhavan, N.H. Bypass, PB-2277, Palarivattom P.O. Kochi, Kerala - 682025
5. Tobacco Board, G.T. Road, Srinivasa Rao Thota, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh - 522 004
6. MPEDA House, P.B.No.4272, Panampilly Avenue, Panampilly Nagar P.O, Kochi - 682 036, Kerala
7. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, 3rd Floor, NCUI Building 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, (Opp. Asiad Village), New Delhi - 110016
8. Export Inspection Council (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India) 2nd Floor, B-Plate, Block-1, Commercial Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi -110023, Tel: +91-11-20815386/87/88, E-Mail: eic@eicindia.gov.in
9. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, IIFT Bhawan, B-21, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi -110016
10. Indian Institute of Packaging, Plot E2, MIDC Area, Andheri East Cross, Road B Post Box No. 9432, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400093

**(D) Public Sector Undertakings**

1. State Trading Corporation of India, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi - 110001

**Subsidiary of STC**

STCL Limited, 'Chandrodaya', No.10/1, II Main,

- 30th Cross, 7th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560070
2. MMTCL Ltd., Core -1, "SCOPE COMPLEX, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003
  3. PEC Ltd, F Block, 3rd Floor, Flatted Factory Complex, F & G Block, Jhandewalan Jewellery Complex, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi - 110055
  4. ECGC Limited, ECGC Bhawan, CTS No. 393, 393/1-45, Sir Mathuradas Vasanji Rd, Bima Nagar, Andheri East, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400069
  5. India Trade Promotion Organization, Pragati Bhawan, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi -110001
- (E) Special Purpose Vehicle**
1. Government e-Marketplace SPV (GeM SPV), 2nd Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, 5-Sansad Marg, Near Patel Chowk, New Delhi - 110001
- (F) List of the EPCs under the Department of Commerce**
1. Chemexcil, Jhansi Castle (4th Floor), 7-Cooperage Road, Mumbai, Maharashtra -400039
  2. CAPEXIL, Vanijya Bhavan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 3rd Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata, West Bengal -700016
  3. Council for Leather Exports, Head Office No. 1, Sivaganga Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600034
  4. EEPIC India, Vanijya Bhavan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 1stFloor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata, West Bengal -700016
  5. Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES), Flat No. A101, 10thFloor Himalaya House 23, KG Marg, New Delhi, Delhi - 110001
  6. The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, D2B, D-Tower, West Core Wing, Bharat Diamond Bourse, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai, Maharashtra, - 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 Bhavan, International Trade Facilitation Centre, 2nd Floor, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata, West Bengal -700016
  10. Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL), 101, Aditya Trade Centre, Ameerpet, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh - 500038
  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, 202-205, 2nd Floor, Nextra Building Tower - A, District Centre, Mayur Vihar Extn., Delhi - 110091
  13. Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council, 78-79 Bajaj Bhawan, Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400021
- (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 Campus, Katargam, G.I.D.C., Sumul Dairy Road, Surat, Gujarat, -395008
  3. Price Stabilisation Fund Trust, Room No. 2003, 20th floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
  4. India Brand Equity Foundation, 16th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi - 110001

## Annexure-B

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Department of Commerce (Proper)	Group A	144	0	28	0	5	0	19	0	0	0	0	For Recruitment of Group A officers, post of CSSS, CSCS, CSS	
	Group B	212*	0	31	0	5	0	52	0	3	0	0	Cadre, DoPT is Cadre Controlling Authority.	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	122	9	24	2	2	0	32	3	5	0	0	Ex. Cadre (JTO & STO), is done by Rajbhasha Vibhag. Department implements promotion/posting/transfer orders issued by Cadre Controlling Authorities.	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	* 3 vacancies (ST/OBC/EWS) reported to SSC vide letter dt. 17.11.2022 & 18 vacancies (SC/ST/OBC/EWS/UR) reported to SSC vide letter dt. 30.08.2023 (including 2 UR)	
	*Group A	44*	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	* Including one (01) supernumerary post	
	Group B	52**	0	17	0	5	0	12	0	0	0	0	* By excluding 15 officers who are on deputation. Since the cadre of ISS & IIS has been declared as a dying cadre, fresh recruitment has already been stopped.	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	18	0	5	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	** 2 officers are presently on deputation to CAT, Allahabad and AIIMS, Delhi.	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Recruitment in CSS/ CSSS and CSCS are done by DoPT.	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>SUB TOTAL (A)</b>		592	9	111	2	24	0	124	3	8	0	19	
<b>Attached Offices under Department of Commerce</b>													
Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)	Group A	122	3	19	1	8	1	22	0	2	0	SC-3, ST-1, OBC-9, EWS-2 Total - 15	
	Group B	192	0	44	0	22	0	16	0	0	0	SC-18, ST-9, OBC-12 Total - 39	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	277	8	89	3	19	0	40	2	2	0	SC-77, ST-56, OBC-92, EWS-8 Total- 233	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>SUB TOTAL (B)</b>		591	11	152	4	49	1	78	2	4	0	287	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Subordinate offices under Department of Commerce</b>													
Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)	Group A	20	0*	5	*	0	*	3	*	0	*	Vacancies are managed by Cadre Controlling Authority	* Recruitment is managed by Cadre Controlling Authority
	Group B	101	2	23	0	12	0	5	1	0	0	SC-16 and ST-6 Posts remain vacant for unavailability of eligible candidates as per Recruitment Rule.	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	115	33	18	8	9	2	41	5	0	0	Data Processing Assistant (SC-8, ST-2, OBC-4, EWS-12) posts, For UDC (SC-1, ST-1), For Lower Div. Clerk (SC-2, ST-1, EWS-1 Post), MTS (SC-2, ST-1, OBC-7 and EWS-3)	In the post of DPA, 2018 vacancies are being filled up currently. 12 EWS posts will be filled up in the next recruitment cycle.
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Total: 45	0

Name of organisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Remarks
		Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024		
MEPZ SEZ	Group A	10	0	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	*There is no such post available in the sanctioned strength.	
	Group B	70	0	13	0	0	2	0	11	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	17	0	8	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		
Kandla SEZ	Group C* (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B (Gazetted & NG)	25	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0		
Visakhapatnam SEZ	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	27	0	4	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	21		
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Visakhapatnam SEZ	Group B	12	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Falta SEZ	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	15	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	SC-02, ST-01 Total - 3	Due to non-availability of feeder grade employees (promotional post)
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	OBCs-02	
Indore SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	No such post exists
	Group A	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	All employees except one regular group B (gazetted) employee are appointed on deputation basis as there is no direct recruitment.
	Group B	11	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Noida SEZ	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A*	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	* All deputation posts
	Group B**	21	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	** 19 deputation posts
Noida SEZ	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	25	0	4	0	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks		
Cochin SEZ	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Out of the 30 Security Guards under Group C, 27 security guards are working on contract basis
	24	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	14	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SEEPZ SEZ	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	SC-1
	33	0	4	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SEEPZ SEZ	31	0	7	0	3	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	OBC-2, SC-1 Total- 3
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>SUB TOTAL (C)</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards under Department of Commerce</b>													
Spices Board	Group A	66	0	10	0	8	0	20	0	0	0	4 (SC), 2(ST) and 4 (OBC) to be filled by Direct Recruitment Total: 10	*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. Ministry vide its letter No. 5/6/2018-Plant-D dated 04.02.2020 has approved the restructuring proposal of the Spices Board. As instructed by the Ministry, a proposal for filling up the vacant posts by direct recruitment is submitted to the Ministry for approval. Once the proposal is approved, filling up the vacant posts would be resumed including reservation for EWS
	Group B	72	0	8	0	8	0	24	0	0	0	12 (SC), 4(ST) & 9 (OBC) to be filled by Direct recruitment Total: 25	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	79	0	14	0	7	0	32	0	0	0	4 (SC), 3 (ST) and 10(OBC) to be filled by Direct Recruitment. EWS* Total: 17	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	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 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
Rubber Board	Group A	145	0	29	0	13	0	17	0	0	0	**2(SC)	**These 9 vacancies are kept unfilled due to non-availability of eligible candidates with required residency period for promotion in the feeder cadre and 17 vacancies will be filled after getting sanction from Ministry for direct recruitment.
	Group B	354	0	52	0	25	0	77	0	6	0	**10(SC) **5(ST) **3(OBC) **6(EWS)	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 (promotion or appointment) without prior approval of the Ministry due to restructuring. Later on Ministry, vide letter No. 6/2/219-Plant C dated 27/04/2021 has given permission to fill up the promotional vacancies only. Moreover, Ministry vide letter F No. 6/9/2017-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 30.09.2024 there were 890 employees against the sanctioned strength of 905.
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	391	0	51	0	39	0	142	0	0	0	Total: 24	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group A	54	0	9	0	3	0	16	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 316 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 B	86	0	13	0	4	0	27	0	0	0		
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	171	0	28	0	13	0	21	0	0	0		
Group C (Safai Karmchari)	4	0	3	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 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Group A	24	0	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	** SC-1, ST-1, OBC-2, EWS-1 Total: 5	*As per APEDA Restructuring Report approved by Department of Commerce in January 2019, Group C posts once vacant are not to be filled, except in the case of promotion to the posts of Assistant/ Cash Executive.
	Group B	40	1	8	1	3	0	7	0	3	0	0	** Recruitment Rules are being revised. Accordingly posts will be filled as per roster point.
	Group C* (excluding Safai Karmchari)	13	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	86	0	22	0	4	0	19	0	0	0	0	Restructuring in Progress
	Group B	60	0	6	0	6	0	20	0	0	0	0	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	79	0	8	0	1	0	15	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	61	0	6	6	0	3	21	0	0	0	0	0
	Group B	109	0	0	21	0	8	29	0	0	0	9	0
Coffee Board	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	249	0	40	0	10	0	64	0	0	0	38	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group A	55	0	13	0	7	0	20	0	0	0	0	The restructuring proposal of MPEDA is under consideration of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and waiting for final approval. The vacant posts as per the restructuring proposal will be filled up upon approval of the restructuring proposal.
	Group B	57	0	10	0	8	0	21	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	42	0	9	0	2	0	20	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	7	0	1	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	58	0	12	0	6	0	18	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	55	0	7	0	2	0	21	0	3	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	97	0	15	0	8	0	31	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	19	0	2	0	1	0	10	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	81	0	5	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	
Group B	61	0	10	0	4	0	10	0	2	0	0	0	
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	8	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)	Group A	26	0	6	0	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	33	0	3	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>SUB TOTAL (D)</b>		<b>2749</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>192</b>		
<b>Public Sector Undertakings under Department of Commerce</b>													
State Trading Corporation of India (STC)	Group A	65	0	10	0	6	0	11	0	0	0	0	In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group A for the last 7.5 years.
	Group B	33	0	9	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group B and C for the last 27.5 years.
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	20	0	6	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	Group A	97	0	19	0	4	0	13	1	0	0	*1(ST)	* One ST vacancy of DM(Fin)in Group 'A' is unfilled
	Group B	25	0	5	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	
Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	169	0	38	0	2	0	20	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	14	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of SC Emp.	No. of SC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of ST Emp.	No. of ST category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of OBC Emp.	No. of OBC category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of EWS Emp.	No. of EWS category candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep 2024	No. of vacancies reserved for SC, ST, OBC & EWS which remained unfilled as on 30.09.2024	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Group A	24	0	9	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	8 officials are on deputation outside, have been excluded.
PEC Ltd. (Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited)	Group B	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ECGC Ltd. (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited)	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	248	0	45	0	18	0	68	0	0	0	0	
MMTC Limited (Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation)	Group B	308	5	52	1	23	0	73	0	12	0	SC-1, ST-1, OBC-1 Total: 3	
	Group C(excluding Safai Karmchari)	23	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	Recruitment in Group C and Group D has been discontinued since 2007 and 1999 respectively.
MMTC Limited (Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation)	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	161	0	37	0	12	0	24	0	0	0	0	In line with the directions of the administrative Ministry and Board of Directors, all Recruitment processes in executive 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.
SUB TOTAL (E)	Group B	83	0	21	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	77	0	19	0	9	0	14	0	0	0	0	
GRAND TOTAL	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		1349	5	287	1	101	0	238	1	12	0	4	
		5894	62	1082	16	413	3	1313	12	38	0	599	

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 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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	144	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	For recruitment of Group A officers, post of CSSS, CSCS, CSS Cadre, DoPT is Cadre Controlling Authority. Ex. Cadre (JTO & STO), is done by Rajbhasha Vibhag, Department implements promotion/posting/transfer orders issued by Cadre Controlling Authorities.
	Group B	212	0	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	122	10	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	44*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Supply Division	Group B	52**	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	* By excluding 15 officers who are on deputation. Since the cadre of ISS & IIS has been declared as a dying cadre, fresh recruitment has already been stopped. **excluding 2 officers who are presently on deputation to CAT, Allahabad and AllMS, Delhi
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Sub Total (A)</b>		<b>592</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Attached offices under Department of Commerce</b>																
Directorate of General Trade (DGFT)	Group A	122	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	* Projected to CSE 2025
	Group B	192	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	277	5	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Sub Total (B)</b>		<b>591</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Subordinate offices under Department of Commerce</b>																
Directorate of General Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S)	Group A	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Controlled by Cadre Controlling Authority All Group B posts are promotional posts and there is no provision of reservation for PwDs. 3 PwD posts remain vacant for DPA post, for MTS-1 PwD post is vacant.
	Group B	101	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	115	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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
MPEZ SEZ	Group A	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	17	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kandla SEZ	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B (Gazetted & NG)	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vishakhapatnam SEZ	Group A	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Falta SEZ	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indore SEZ	Group A	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	All employees except one regular group B (gazetted) employee are appointed on deputation basis as there is no direct recruitment.

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)						No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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 Karmchari)	25	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Noida SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	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	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Cochin SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	33	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SEEPZ-SEZ	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	33	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Sub Total (C)</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Autonomous Bodies and Commodity Boards under Department of Commerce</b>																
Spices Board	Group A	66	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	72	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	79	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Rubber Board	Group A	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	354	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	391	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vide Ministry's Letter No. 5/1004/2015-plant (coord) Dated 22.02.2017, the Board was instructed not to fill up direct recruitment vacancies without prior approval of the Ministry due to restructuring.																

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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 316 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 B	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	171	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	13	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		
	Group A	86	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Group B	60	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	79	0	0	1	1	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	61	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Group B	109	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	249	0	0	3	3	3	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	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	42	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)	Group A	24	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	*As per APEDA Restructuring Report approved by Department of Commerce in January 2019, Group C posts once vacant are not to be filled, except in the case of promotion to the posts of Assistant/ Cash Executive.	
	Group B	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	13	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		
	Group A	86	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	79	0	0	1	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		
	Group A	61	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	109	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	249	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	42	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
E x p o r t I n s p e c t i o n C o u n c i l o f I n d i a (EIC), New Delhi	Group A	24	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	Restructuring in progress	
	Group B	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	13	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		
	Group A	86	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	79	0	0	1	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		
	Group A	61	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	109	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	249	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	42	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Coffee Board	Group A	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	* The restructuring proposal of MPEDA is under consideration with the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The vacant post will be filled up as per the directions from the Department of Commerce.	
	Group B	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	13	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		
	Group A	86	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	79	0	0	1	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		
	Group A	61	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	109	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	249	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	42	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Marine Products E x p o r t D e v e l o p m e n t A u t h o r i t y (MPEDA)	Group A	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	HH-1*	
	Group B	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	13	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		
	Group A	86	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	60	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	79	0	0	1	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		
	Group A	61	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	109	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	249	0	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	42	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Name of Organisation	Group	Total no. of Employees (as on 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)					No. of PwD Employees (category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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	
Tobacco Board	Group A	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1**	** Regarding one post unfilled in Group-A i.e. Statistical Officer under PWD-HH, it is submitted that it will be filled after completion of Organisational Restructuring of Tobacco Board, which is under process at Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Dept. of Commerce.	
	Group B	55	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	97	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	19	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	81	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3		
	Group B	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (Safai Karmchhari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group A	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	33	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		
Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)	Group A	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group B	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP)	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	33	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		
<b>Sub Total (D)</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>Public Sector Undertakings under Department of Commerce</b>																
State Trading Corporation of India (STC)	Group A	65	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group A for the last 7.5 years.	
	Group B	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchhari)	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	In STC, no recruitment has taken place in Group B & C for the last 27.5 years.	
	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 30.09.2024)	Total no. of candidates recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024	No. of PwD Employees category wise (as on 30.09.2024)					No. of PwD Employees (Category wise) recruited during the period Apr-Sep, 2024					Total no. of vacancies reserved for PwDs, which remained unfilled (as on 30.09.2024)	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
India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)	Group A	97	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	25	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	169	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group A	24	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
PEC Ltd. (Project and Equipment Corporation of India Limited)	Group B	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8 officials are on deputation outside, have been excluded.
	Group A	248	0	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ECGC Ltd. (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited)	Group B	308	5	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	23	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
MMTC Limited (Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation)	Group A	161	0	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group B	83	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (excluding Safai Karmchari)	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Group C (Safai Karmchari)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Sub Total (E)</b>		<b>1349</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>5894</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>	

*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).*

## Status/Action Taken on audit observations appears in various reports of the Comptroller &amp; Auditor General of India

Customs & Excise Issues - DGFT			
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Gist of the Para	Status of the Para
1	6 of 2008 (Ch. IV)	Performance Audit was held to review of the three duty free credit entitlement schemes for (i) Status holders, (ii) Service providers and (iii) Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana (VKUY) revealed system as well as compliance weaknesses relating to issue of duty credit certificates/ scrips and in ensuring their appropriate utilization.	Final ATN returned by the Audit. However, Revised Final ATN Uploaded by the division on 12/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
2	PA 8 of 2013 (Ch. 1)	Performance Audit of Deemed Export Drawback Scheme- Revenue forgone did not include tax expenditure on drawback, deemed export drawback and TED. There was no separate head of accounts for interest payment.	ATN Returned by Audit on 28/11/2024 and preparation of Revised ATN is under process.
3	8 of 2015 Para 8.5.10 (DAP TBA)	Duty credits under the VKGUY scheme amounting to Rs. 0.20 crore were allowed in 172 records on such ineligible products, indicating absence of sufficient checks in the DGFT EDI system.	ATN Returned by Audit on 28/11/2024 and preparation of Revised ATN is under process.
4	1 of 2017 Para 4.1.1 to 4.1.5 (DAP 105)	Excess Utilization of Duty credit scrips - by re-registering with different dates, different Port codes etc.	Para pertains to Department of Revenue. Request was made for transfer of the Para to DoR to Monitoring Cell, O/o CGA.
5	17 of 2019 5.1 to 5.2 DAP-95	Schemes of Foreign Trade Policy: Persistent Irregularity regarding non-fulfilment of export obligation.	Revised ATN uploaded by the division on 20/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
6	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.	Revised ATN uploaded by the division on 06/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
7	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.	Revised ATN uploaded by the division on 19/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
8	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	Revised ATN uploaded by the Division on 24.05.2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
9	30 of 2022 Chapter IV Para No.4.2.1 (A), DAP-36	Ineligible sanction of 21 MEIS licence for ineligible export product "Marigold flower meal in pellet form".	Revised ATN uploaded by the division on 25/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
Customs & Excise Issues- EOU/SEZ			
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Gist of the Para	Status of the Para
1	18 of 2021, Chapter- IV Para No. 4.2.6(a), DAP- 94	Non-realization of cost recovery charges for Customs officers posted to SEZ/ICD/CFS.	ATN vetted by the Audit on 28/11/2024 and preparation of final ATN is under process.
2	19 Of 2022, Complete Report All Paras	Performance Audit on Working of Customs Bonded Warehouses (CBWs) and Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs).	ATN Returned by Audit on 16/07/2024 and preparation of Revised ATN is under process.

Status of Civil Paras of Rubber Board/Tea Board		
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Status of the Para
1	16 of 2021 Chapter- III (Para 3.1)	Inadequacy in Functioning of the Rubber Board such as Inadequate number of Rubber Producers Societies formed, Failure to collect and compile in a systemic manner, Discontinuation of labour welfare schemes etc.
2	8 of 2023 Entire Report	Role of Tea Board India in development of tea in India. The Audit covered the period from 2016-17 to 2020-21. This Report examined the impact of the activities undertaken by the Tea Board India towards its regulatory, Development, research, market promotion and financial management aspects to ensure that the efforts undertaken by the Board were adequate and effective towards execution of regulatory functions, increasing production and productivity of tea in India, supporting tea research activities, promotion of Indian tea in domestic and overseas markets as well as effective financial management.

Status of CAG Paras of Report No. 21 of 2023 (Figure related Paras)		
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Status of the Para
1	21 Of 2023, Chapter-3 Para No. 4.3 (annexure 4.4 S. No.7)	Draft ATN uploaded by the FT (M&O) on 09.08.2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
4	21 Of 2023, Chapter-3 Para No. 4.3 (annexure 4.4 S. No.6)	ATN is being uploaded on APMS Portal.
5	21 Of 2023, Chapter-3 Para No. 4.6 (annexure 4.7 S. No.4)	Revised ATN uploaded by the Budget Section on 30.07.2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
6	21 Of 2023, Chapter-3 Para No. 4.2.2.2 (annexure 4.3 B Sl. No.17-18)	Draft ATN uploaded by the DGFT (Audit) and EP (Agri) Divisions on 05/11/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
7	21 Of 2023, Chapter-3 Para No. 4.2.2 (annexure 4.2 S. No.5)	Revised ATN uploaded by the Budget Section on 30.07.2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.

List of Outstanding C&A(G)(Commercial) paragraphs-FT(ST)		
S. No.	Para No. & Report	Status of the para
1	4.3.1, (9 of 2010)	Final ATN, along with vetting remarks of Audit, has been furnished to Lok Sabha Secretariat (Committee of Public Undertaking Branch) for final settlement.
2	4.1) CA 3 of 2011-12)	Final ATN, along with vetting remarks of Audit, has been furnished to Lok Sabha Secretariat (Committee of Public Undertaking Branch) for final settlement.
3	4.1)8 of 2012-13(	Final ATN, along with vetting remarks of Audit, has been furnished to Lok Sabha Secretariat (Committee of Public Undertaking Branch) for final settlement.

Status on PAC Paras: SEZs		
Total Paras	Lok Sabha No./ Report No.	Status
Para No. 5,10	123rd Report of 17th Lok Sabha for the year 2024	ATR uploaded by the division on 12/04/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.
Para No. 15, 23 & 26	40th report of 17th Lok Sabha for the year 2021	Draft ATR uploaded on 05/08/2024 and necessary action from Audit is being awaited.

**Annexure-E****Year Wise Status of pending Audit Observations appears in various reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India**

Year-wise	Pending	Type of Para	Pending with CAG	Pending with section	Sent to Monitoring Cell/PAC/CoPU Branch (Lok Sabha)
2008	01	Civil	01	--	--
2010	03	Commercial	--	--	03
2013	01	Civil	--	01	--
2015	01	Civil	--	01	--
2017	01	Civil	--	01	--
2019	01	Civil	01	--	--
2020	02	Civil	02	--	--
2021	03	Civil	01	02	--
	03	PAC	03		
2022	02	Civil	01	01	--
2023	06	Civil	04	02	
2024	02	PAC	02		
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>03</b>

**Expenditure trend for the Financial Year 2024-25 (1st April 2024 to 27th November 2024)**

<b>BE 2024-25</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure (as on 27th November 2024)</b>	<b>% w.r.t. BE 2024-25</b>
5014.06	3071.30	61.25





Government of India

**Ministry of Commerce & Industry**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Vaniija Bhawan, New Delhi - 110011, INDIA