

F.No.1/14/2019-EPL-I
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
(EPL-I Section)

Subject: Major Achievements of Department of Commerce during December 2023

I. Export Performance

- Merchandise exports during December 2023 are USD 38.45 Billion as compared to USD 38.08 Billion in December 2022, registering a positive growth of 0.96 percent.
- For the month of December 2023, under merchandise exports, 17 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in December 2023 as compared to same period last year (December 2022). These include Iron Ore (265.64%), Tobacco (38.94%), Meat, Dairy & Poultry Products (29.76%), Spices (27.68%), Fruits & Vegetables (25.36%), Electronic Goods (14.41%), Gems & Jewellery (14.07%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (13.5%), Plastic & Linoleum (10.43%), Engineering Goods (10.19%), Handicrafts Excl. Hand Made Carpet (9.37%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (9.3%), Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Made-Ups, Handloom Products Etc. (8.62%), Oil Seeds (8.48%), Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals Including Processed Minerals (5.17%), Carpet (3.82%) and Ceramic Products & Glassware (2.95%).
- Electronic Goods exports registered an increase of 14.41 percent at USD 2.62 Billion in December over USD 2.29 Billion in December 2022. December 2023 record is the highest monthly export of electronics in the current financial year so far.
- Engineering Goods exports in December 2023 record an increase of 10.19 percent at USD 10.04 Billion over USD 9.11 Billion in December 2022. December 2023 record is the highest monthly export of engineering goods in the current financial year so far.

II. Bilateral Trade

- Meetings of Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) with the Minister of Trade and Industry, Norway, and the State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Switzerland, were held on December 12 and 13, 2023 in New Delhi to review the progress of the India-EFTA TEPA.
- A meeting of CIM was held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Benin, on December 18, 2023, in New Delhi. In the meeting, both sides emphasised the importance of increasing bilateral trade between the countries.
- A meeting of CIM with the Minister for Trade of New Zealand was held on December 19, 2023, in New Delhi.

- The 12th session of the India-Czech Republic Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held in New Delhi on December 5, 2023. The session was co-chaired by the Commerce Secretary and Director General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic.
- A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary was held on December 14 and 26, 2023, in New Delhi, wherein discussion was held with concerned line ministries regarding their mandate to be provided under the India-EFTA TEPA Negotiations.
- A high-level UK delegation consisting of the UK PM's Chief Economic Advisor, DG Trade Negotiations, and other senior officials visited New Delhi on December 6 and 7, 2023. The UK delegation had meeting with Commerce Secretary during their visit. Apart from the high-level meetings, both sides had discussions on all outstanding issues across policy areas from December 4 to 8, 2023.
- A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on the India-UK FTA was held on December 1, 2023, to discuss the outstanding issues in the India-UK FTA.
- Chief Negotiator-level negotiations with the UK side were held on December 12–16, 2023 in London on India-UK FTA outstanding issues. And virtual negotiations on the IPR chapter of the India-UK FTA were held during December 18–20, 2023.
- The Chief Negotiators of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) had a virtual meeting on December 14, 2023 to take stock of the progress of the agreed action points of the 6th round of India-EU FTA negotiations.
- Intersessional meetings under each policy area of India-EFTA TEPA were held from December 18–22, 2023 to minimise differences towards closing the chapters.

III. **SEZ**

- During the month of December 2023, Development Commissioners of various SEZs have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 2570.96 crore, which will also provide employment to 11650 persons.

IV. **Export Infrastructure**

- During the month of December 2023, TIES released a total of Rs. 7.455 crore for various projects under TIES. The details are as follows:
 - i. 5.0 crore (2nd tranche and 3rd tranche of final instalment) was released to the Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) for the “Expansion Project of Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.”
 - ii. 65.50 lakh (2nd tranche of final installment) was released to the Export Inspection Council (EIC) for the construction of the office and laboratory complex of the EIA at Vishakhapatnam.

- iii. 59.00 lakh (2nd tranche of final installment) was released to Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Ltd. (PSIEC) for "upgradation of existing STPs in the IFPs of Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Limited"
- iv. 89.25 lakh (1st tranche of final installment) was released to Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Limited (RAJISCO) for "Air Cargo Complex at ICD Sanganer, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- v. 31.75 lakh (2nd tranche of first installment) was released to Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDC) for "Setting up of Border Haat at Kamalpur, Dhalai, Tripura.

V. Export Promotion

- Electronics and Computer Software Exports Promotion Council (ESC) organised the participation of 15 companies in Korea Softwave 2023 from November 29 to December 1, 2023. Softwave is Korea's representative software-ICT business fair.
- The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) actively mobilised member participation in the Digital Marketing and E-Commerce event organised by the Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Kolkata, from December 18–22, 2023.
- The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics, and Dyes Export Promotion Council (Chemexcil) organised a webinar on "Global Perspectives on SDS and GHS" on December 12, 2023, with partner organisation Global Product Compliance (GPC) Group, where 145 members participated.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) organised a Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) from December 7–11, 2023, in Mumbai during the Plastivision Exhibition. 101 buyers from 26 countries attended the event.
- Plexconcil and the Japan-India Industry Promotion Association (JIIPA) held virtual meetings on December 13 and 21, 2023, to identify market opportunities for the Indian FIBC sector. Plexconcil organised the India Pavilion at Arabplast 2023 from December 13–15, 2023, at DWTC, Dubai, with 73 Indian exhibitors. A total of 750 exhibitors and co-exhibitors from 35 countries participated in this event in 11 different country pavilions. About 30,000 trade visitors from 134 countries attended the show. Plexconcil signed an MOU with the show organiser for the next edition of Arabplast.
- The Projects Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) circulated information about 68 upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power, and consultancy to its members in December 2023.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) has extended membership to 18 new companies in December 2023.

VI. APEDA

- APEDA flagged off the first consignments of 20 MT Khasi Mandarin Orange from Meghalaya to Dubai on December 15, 2023; 2 MT of Colocasia from Pakur, Jharkhand, to Singapore on December 27, 2023; and 1 tonne of Assam Lemon and Flat Beans to London on December 27, 2023.
- APEDA participated in the SIAL Exhibition from December 7–9, 2023 at the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- APEDA participated in the ASEAN-India Millet Festival Buyer-Seller Meet on December 15, 2023. 11 buyers from ASEAN and 40 millets exporters participated in the event.
- APEDA organised the Export Conclave on December 21, 2023 in Bengaluru. The event acted as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and discussions on industry trends and export scenarios. Around 170 participants, including exporters, entrepreneurs, farmers, FPOs, laboratories, certification bodies, and state government officials, participated in the conclave.

VII. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 80 farms, formed 34 new cluster farms, and organised 526 training programmes during December 2023.
- 8 exporters, 3 processing plants, 1 fresh/chilled handling centre, 3 peeling sheds, 2 conveyors, 3 storage facilities, and 2 other nonedible handling centres were issued certificates of registration during December 2023. Currently, 431 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU-approved cold storage facilities are present.

VIII. Export Credit and Insurance

- During December 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 66,565 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 112.05 Crore, issued 957 policies, added 1,223 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 39.40 Crore.

IX. DGFT

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 15,586 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 12,171 under the Importers and Exporters Code (IEC), 20 under Service Exports from India's (SEIS), 1,997 under Advance Authorizations, and 1,398 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during December 2023.
- The incorporation of policy conditions for the export of non-basmati rice under HS Code 10063090 was notified via Notification No. 47/2023 dated December 7, 2023.

- The export of non-Basmati white rice (under HS Code 10063090) to Comoros, Madagascar, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, and Kenya through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) was notified via Notification No. 48/2023 dated December 7, 2023.
- An amendment to the export policy of onions was notified via Notification No. 49/2023 dated December 7, 2023.
- Amendment of Import Policy and Policy Conditions for Yellow Peas under ITC (HS) Code 07131010 of Chapter 07 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule I (Import Policy) was notified via Notification No. 50/2023, dated December 8, 2023.
- Amendment in Export Policy of De-Oiled Rice Bran was notified via Notification No. 51/2023 dated December 8, 2023.
- Amendment in Policy Condition of Sl. No. 55 & 57, Chapter 10 Schedule-2, ITC (HS) Export Policy, 2018-Reg. was notified via Notification No. 52/2023, dated December 12, 2023.
- An amendment to the export policy of food supplements containing botanicals was notified via Notification No. 53/2023, dated December 15, 2023.
- Extension in “Free” Import Policy of Urad [Beans of the SPP Vigna Mungo (L.) Hepper] [ITC(HS) 0713 31 10] and Tur/Pigeon Peas (Cajanus Cajan) [ITC(HS) 0713 60 00] under ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule I (Import Policy) till 31.03.2025 was notified via Notification No. 54/2023 dated December 28, 2023.
- Implementation of the Yellow Peas Import Monitoring System (Reg.) was notified via Public Notice No. 35/2023, dated December 13, 2023.
- Extension of Date for Mandatory Electronic Filing of Non-Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) through the Common Digital Platform to December 31, 202 was notified via Trade Notice No. 36/2023-24 dated December 26, 2023.
- Amnesty Scheme: Closure of cases of default in export obligations under advance authorization and EPCG schemes where applications have been filed with the PRC/EPCG Committee for relaxation in policy or procedure on grounds of genuine hardship or adverse impact on trade was notified via Trade Notice No. 35/2023-24 dated December 5, 2023.

X. DGCIS

- The Monthly Review of Foreign Trade (MRFT) Report was published in December 2023.

XI. DGTR

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued the final finding of the following investigations in December 2023:
 - i. Mid-term review of the anti-dumping duty imposed on the imports of “Aniline” originating in or exported from China PR
 - ii. Midterm review investigation limited to change of name of producer/exporter from Singapore regarding anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of acetone originating in or exported from the European Union, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States of America.
 - iii. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "para-tertiary butyl phenol (PTBP)” originating in or exported from South Korea, Singapore, and the United States of America.
 - iv. Anti-dumping investigations on the imports of “Self-Adhesive Vinyl (SAV)” originating in or exported from China PR.
 - v. Sunset Review investigation of anti-dumping duty on imports of “Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Sheet for Solar Module” from China PR.
 - vi. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Printed Circuit Boards (PCB)” originating in or exported from China PR and Hong Kong.
- During the month of December 2023, Trade Defence Wing (TDW) submitted various questionnaire responses, briefs, and comments before different investigating authorities in the following Countervailing Duty (CVD) and Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) investigations and reviews initiated by other WTO member countries against exports from India:

Date of Submission/ Response	Product	Case No	Issuing Authority	Type of Proceeding	Remarks
26/12/2023	Organic Soyabean	C-533-902	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed Initial Questionnaire Response
27/12/2023	Certain Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders	C-533-913	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed NSA Supplemental Questionnaire Response
11/12/2023	Certain Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders	C-533-913	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed Supplemental and New Subsidy Allegation Questionnaire Response

11/12/2023	Forged Fluid Block	Steel End	C-533-894	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed First Supplemental Questionnaire Response
13/12/2023	Forged Fluid Block	Steel End	C-533-894	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed NSA Supplemental Questionnaire Response

XII. GeM

- GeM has achieved remarkable growth in procurement, meeting a significant milestone by surpassing a GMV of over INR 2.5 lakh crore with 40 lakh orders in FY 2023–24, as of December 31, 2023.
- Procurement of services has grown significantly on GeM over the last 2-3 years, increasing from Rs. 8500 crore in FY 2020–21 to Rs. 66,000 crore in FY 2022–23. Within the first nine months of FY 2023–24, the GMV of services has already crossed Rs 1,17,452 crore.
- Over 8.87 lakh micro and small enterprises (MSEs) are registered on the GeM portal, and they have received orders totaling more than INR 3.10 lakh crore, contributing to over 48.15% of GeM's cumulative GMV.
- Furthermore, the platform has registered more than 1.55 lakh MSEs led by women entrepreneurs, fulfilling over 8.62 lakh+ orders worth INR 21,539 crore till December 31, 2023.
- In line with promoting the "Make in India" movement, GeM has played a pivotal role in supporting over 22,290 start-ups in establishing their presence in the Indian marketplace. These start-ups have successfully processed orders amounting to more than INR 20,321 crore in GMV.
