

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 May 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in May 2023 were recorded at USD 34.98 Billion.
- For the month of May 2023, under merchandise exports, 13 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in May 2023 as compared to same period last year (May 2022). These include Electronic Goods (73.96%), Other Cereals (67.96%), Oil Meals (52.91%), Spices (49.84%), Iron Ore (48.26%), Oil Seeds (25.02%), Fruits & Vegetables (19.91%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (17.36%), Rice (14.27%), Tea (8.81%), Cashew (2.81%), Coffee (1.71%) and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (0.78%).
- Exports of Electronic goods increased by 73.96 percent during May 2023 at USD 2.42 Billion as compared to USD 1.39 Billion in May 2022. During April-May 2023 electronic goods exports were recorded at USD 4.54 Billion as compared to USD 3.06 Billion during April-May 2022, registering a growth of 48.06 percent.

II. Export Infrastructure

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of May 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs 2684.76 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 28446 persons.

III. Export Promotion

- Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) participated in CHEMSPEC EUROPE-2023 EXHIBITION from 24th – 25th May, 2023.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) took part in INTERPACK 2023, Dusseldorf, Germany, the largest show for packaging and processing in Europe from 4th – 10th May 2023. The PLEXCONCIL had for the first time Indian Pavilion at this show.
- PLEXCONCIL and DGFT RA Mumbai organized a webinar on Amnesty Scheme for Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme with the objective to create awareness about Amnesty Scheme for One Time Settlement of Default in Export obligation by Advance and EPCG Authorization holders.
- Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) participated in Vitafoods, Europe, 2023 - a mega Nutraceutical event held during 9th -11th May, 2023 at Geneva.
- Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) organized a Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 26th May 2023 in Ahmedabad. Information of 82

upcoming projects in Infrastructure, Water, Power, and Consultancy was circulated to PEPC members.

- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organized an Interactive Session on Pre-import condition under Advance Authorization Scheme on 25th May, 2023.
- ESC in association with Embassy of India, Thailand organized a virtual B2B meet between Indian and Thailand Electronics & IT industry on 30th May 2023 with an objective to provide opportunities to Indian fraternity to create market niches in Thailand. 36 Indian companies and 17 Thai companies attended the event and explored the business prospects.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 111 farms, formed 24 new cluster farms and organised 95 campaigns benefitting 917 beneficiaries during May 2023.
- 14 exporters, 1 processing plant, 1 storage premise and 1 peeling shed were issued certificate of registration. Currently 430 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

V. Export Credit and Insurance

- During May 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 37,387 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 89.68 Crore, issued 925 policies, added 1,831 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 4.01 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- A VC meeting was held on 30th May 2023 between H.E, Mr. D. Amangeldiev, Minister of Economy and Commerce, Kyrgyz Republic and Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry (CIM) to discuss the trade matters between Kyrgyzstan and India.
- CIM along with Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, Government of Canada, co-chaired the 6th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue in Trade and Investment (MDTI) on 8th May 2023 in Ottawa. The two sides agreed to explore enhanced cooperation in investment promotion between the two parties in near future through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) preferably in fall of 2023. Both sides committed to an annual dialogue at the official level on the margins of the Prospectors and Developers Association Conference (PDAC) in Toronto to discuss issues of mutual interest. Both Ministers agreed to rework and relaunch the Canada-India CEO forum with renewed focus and a new set of priorities. Minister Mary Ng announced to lead a Team Canada trade mission to India in October 2023.
- CIM with EAM and MoS for MeitY co-chaired the 1st meeting of the India-European Union Trade and Technology Council (TTC) in Brussels on 16th May 2023. The EU side was co-chaired by the European Commission's Executive Vice Presidents for

Trade and Digital. The Ministerial meeting reviewed the work of three Working Groups. Both sides have agreed to deepen their common work on resilient value chains, work to resolve bilateral market access issues and exchange information on each other's mechanisms on foreign direct investment screening, and also address global and multilateral trade issues. Both sides have also agreed to intensify their engagement on carbon border measures.

- CIM had a bilateral meeting with European Commission's Executive Vice President Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis on 15th May 2023 in Brussels. The discussion was focused on progress in the India-EU FTA, IPA and GIs negotiations, multilateral issues etc. In this bilateral meeting, critical issues of ongoing negotiations were discussed for finding the way forward.
- CIM met the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) delegation led by Mr. Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor, Switzerland on 14th May, 2023 in Brussels and discussed the progress made under India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade & Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) negotiations. Both sides agreed for early conclusion of ongoing India-EFTA negotiations which was initiated in 2008.
- A virtual meeting was held with Singapore Food Agency (SFA), FSSAI, MEA, Singapore High Commission and Indian Mission for exploring possibility of collaboration between FSSAI and SFA Singapore under the 'Food Security' area of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) on 10th May 2023.
- India and ASEAN have formally started the process of review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA). The 1st meeting of AITIGA Joint Committee was held on 26th May 2023 in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. The meeting discussed Terms of Reference of Joint Committee, Work Plan of negotiations and decided to finalise these inter-sessionally for endorsement by Ministers in the 20th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM)-India Consultations scheduled on 21st August 2023 in Indonesia. India stressed for incorporation of defined timelines in the ToRs for the completion of the review and suggested quarterly Joint Committee meetings with substantive conclusion of the review by the end of 2024. It was also agreed to convene 2nd AITIGA JC meeting before 20th AEM-India Consultations.
- CIM had a VC meeting with US Secretary Commerce Gina Raimondo on 22nd May 2023 to discuss the issues related to Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) and India-US Commercial Dialogue.

VII. G20 Matters

- The 2nd Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under India's Presidency of G20 was held during 23rd – 25th May, 2023 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. A presentation on Priority Issue no. 5 (WTO Reform) was made in order to introduce the subject and enable fruitful discussions and elicit interventions from the G20 Members and invitee countries. Subsequently, a Zero Draft for the Ministers' Communique was also shared with the G20 Cell, highlighting India's stand on WTO Reform. This was followed by technical discussions on proposed outcomes under other four priority issues that were discussed during the 1st TIWG meeting. A seminar on Trade and Technology was also organized in collaboration with NASSCOM and EEPC.

VIII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 16,713 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during May 2023.
- Realignment of RoDTEP Schedule w.e.f. 01.05.2023 consequent to amendments made under Finance Bill, 2023 was notified vide Notification No. 4/2023 dated 01/05/2023.
- Amendment in import policy condition of Apples under ITC (HS) 08081000 of Chapter-08 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 5/2023 dated 08/05/2023.
- Amendment in Export Policy of Cough Syrup was notified vide Notification No. 06/2023 dated 22/05/2023.
- Amendment in Export Policy of Broken Rice under HS Code 10064000 was notified vide Notification No. 07/2023 dated 24/05/2023.
- Syncing of ITC (HS), 2022- Schedule-1 (Import Policy) with Finance Act 2023 (No.8 of 2023) dated 31.03.2023 and Foreign Trade Policy, 2023-reg. was notified vide Notification No. 08/2023 dated 29/05/2023.
- Amendment in Policy condition of Sl. No. 55 & 57, Chapter 10 Schedule-2, ITC (HS) Export Policy, 2018-reg was notified vide Notification No. 09/2023 dated 29/05/2023.
- Amendment under Interest Equalisation Scheme was notified vide Trade Notice 05/2023-24 dated 25/05/2023.

IX. DGTR

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued final findings in the following cases:**
 - i. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Dispersion Unshifted Single-mode Optical Fiber" (SMOF") originating in or exported from China, Indonesia and Korea RP.
 - ii. Safeguard investigation concerning imports of Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) Suspension Resins with Residual Vinyl Chloride Monomer (RVCM) Content above 2 PPM into India.
 - iii. Bilateral safeguard investigation concerning imports of Ferro Molybdenum from the Republic of Korea under India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Bilateral safeguard Measure) Rules, 2017.

X. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- GeM has been integrated successfully with BIS where real time online validation of BIS license with BIS database would be there. In the product category page (pdp) buyer will be able to see the details of BIS license for the particular product like grade, designation, verity, type, etc. will be visible.

- UBER integration with GeM portal for spot hiring of Cab has been completed and is in the pilot phase. Once the pilot is completed, GeM will be able to offer services to various buyer organizations.
- During the month, 182 training sessions and 1 event were conducted for various Buyer and Seller organizations with a total participant count of 9817 with 8900+ Buyers and 900+ sellers.
- GeM signed an MoU with NASSCOM to enhance opportunities for businesses that provide software products and technology related services. The signing of MoU is a significant step towards augmenting domestic Market Access for Tech SMEs.
