

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

Subject: Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during December 2020.

I. Trade Performance

- Major commodities/commodity groups which recorded positive growth during November 2020 vis-à-vis November 2019 were Other cereals (171.63%), Oil meals (72.09%), Iron ore (68.15%), Rice (25.88%), Ceramic products & glassware (21.38%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (17.99%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (17.04%), Carpet (15.59%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (14.3%), Spices (12.37%) and Drugs & pharmaceuticals (11.15%).
- The merchandise trade deficit during November 2020 was estimated at USD 9.87 Billion as against the deficit of USD 12.75 Billion in November 2019, which is a decline of (-) 25.57 percent.

II. Export Promotion

- Project Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) has compiled information of about eighty-five upcoming projects, which was circulated it to its members in December 2020, to enable them to identify and tap potential business opportunities.
- Plexconcil organized a Virtual B2B Meeting with ANIPAC – Mexico's Largest Plastics Industry Association and India Mexico Chamber of Commerce during December, 2020. The Council signed MOU with India – Mexico Chamber of Commerce for Promotion of Trade for Plastics Industry between India and Mexico.

III. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board conducted a training program on Japanese Tea Auction Model for 100 sellers and buyers at Coonoor Tea Traders Association, Coonoor during December 2020. The Tea Board also carried out preparation of instant green and black tea powder to develop green tea and black tea concentrates during December 2020.
- The Research and Extension divisions of the Coffee Board conducted 26 webinars/capacity building programmes on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefiting about 1100 coffee growers across the coffee growing regions of the country during December, 2020.

- The Rubber Board organized 213 batches of field training on different topics benefiting 2,463 farmers and conducted 512 trainings on Tapping, Beekeeping, LFT & CUT, Mushroom culture, etc, in which 7,349 farmers benefited under farmer education programmes in December 2020.
- The Rubber Board, with the objective of promoting self-tapping to make rubber cultivation as a sustainable enterprise, launched mass contact programmes with a slogan “Self-Tapping for Viable Rubber Production in Small Holdings”. As part of the target to conduct 2,000 campaign programmes with participation of 40,000 growers, the Board organized 290 campaign meetings benefiting 6,495 rubber growers in December 2020.
- The Rubber Board launched a cost effective and user-friendly/solvent free method for production of out-door rubber tiles from waste synthetic latex powder at the Rubber Products Incubation Centre (RPIC) for the commercialization of innovative ideas among entrepreneurs developed during December 2020.
- The Rubber Board, under the convergence with MGNREGS, completed the cultural operations in 1,324 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 2,958 rubber growers. Further, the Board continued the activities for revival of non-functional RPS/ GPCs and formed three Labour Groups in December 2020. Besides, the Board certified 548 rubber plantations covering an area of 390 ha and organized 521 RPS meetings benefiting 5,455 rubber farmers during December, 2020.
- Rubber Training Institute (RTI) conducted twenty-one online calendared programmes / certificate courses and one webinar befitting 419 participants from various stakeholders of rubber industry in December 2020, which included 32 participants attended webinar on “Latest trends in Tyre re-treading”.
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) of the Rubber Board procured and downloaded the landslide susceptibility map of Meghalaya from Geological Survey of India. Besides, RRII estimated spatial extent acreage of 55,953 ha rubber plantations (age three years and above) in Kannur district of Kerala using Satellite-based mapping.
- The Rubber Board issued 22 fresh and renewed three Manufacturers’ licenses, 83 fresh and renewed 14 Dealers’ licenses for trading in NR during December 2020. Total licensed Manufacturers, Dealers and Processors at the end of December 2020 after cancelling two each Manufacturers/Dealers license are 4208, 7760 and 101 respectively.
- The Spices Board issued 67 Certificates of Registration and 5 Cardamom Dealer Licenses to its exporters during December, 2020. The Spices Board also issued 2554 analytical reports and 287 health certificates to its exporters during December 2020.
- The Quality Evaluation Laboratories of the Spices Board tested 9361 parameters out of the 5574 spice samples during December 2020.

- The Spices Board sold a quantity of 2519 MT of cardamom (small) through e-auctions at an average price of Rs.1726.83 per kg during December 2020.
- The Spices Board, with a view to provide a common platform for the buyers and sellers of the spice industry to interact directly and to establish effective business linkages, organized a number of Buyer Seller Meets covering the State of Karnataka, Sikkim & North Bengal, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and the NER and a large number of sellers/producers representing progressive farmers and farmer's societies from various districts and exporters from across the country attended the BSM.

IV. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During December 2020, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 50,462 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 86 Crore, issued 1144 policies, added 1104 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 31.05 Crore.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during December 2020, value of exports supported was Rs 87.5 Crore and value of insurance covers worth Rs 8.75 Crore were issued.

V. Bilateral Trade

- The 12th Session of the India- Uzbekistan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation was held on 3rd December, 2020 under the Co-chairmanship of Special Secretary, Department of Commerce and Mr. Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan in virtual mode wherein a joint protocol covering various points viz. Development of trade and economic cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of India, expansion of investment cooperation, transport and communication, energy, engineering, textile, agricultural and livestock, cooperation in the field of mining sectors, space and environment, Information Technology, Development in the field of Education, Science and Technology, Pharmaceuticals & Health Industry, implementing modern information technologies in the activities of employment services, Tourism, Culture, Standards & Metrology, MSME Sector and On the development of the legal framework was signed.
- During December 2020, Department of Agriculture, Philippines granted Certificate of Accreditation for six buffalo meat establishments in India for export of frozen Indian buffalo meat effective from 05.10.2020 to 05.10.2023.
- M/o External Affairs organised a summit in virtual format on 17th December 2020 between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh. Both sides held comprehensive discussions on all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged

views on regional and international issues. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) of India-Bangladesh CEO's Forum was signed during the Summit.

- The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) with support from DoC organised a State of the Art 'Web Store' and 'Virtual Buyer Seller Meet' (VBSM) from 14th to 16th December 2020 under the Market Access Initiative Scheme. Around 75 Indian manufacturers and exporters dealing in textile, garments, fabrics and apparels, fibre and yarn, home and decor, khadi, jute, technical textile etc. had participated on the virtual platform to exhibit their products.

VI.DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 16194 Authorizations/Scripts under FTP Schemes i.e., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of December 2020.

VII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 75,902 Crore as on 31st December 2020. There are 407,233 MSEs vendors registered on GeM Portal as on 31st December 2020.
- Gem has created 11,897 product categories and 176 service categories have been created during December 2020.
- Gem has provided online (due to COVID-19) training to its 16,334 users (14,230 buyers & 2,104 sellers) for capacity building in the month of December 2020.
- Gem held 120 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / STARTUPS / ARTISANS / WEAVERS / SHGs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefiting 5,594 participants in association with MSME Associations under Industries Dept, MSME-DI & Dalit Industries Association, MSME-DI & Hoogly Association of Commerce, Startup seller webinar by CCS HAU Hisar, MSME Vendor Development Meet Panipat, Invest India Start-Ups session, Invest India Start-Ups session, ST Artisans Seminar by HSC-Kolkata.
- In order to onboard sellers including MSMEs, SHGs, women entrepreneurs, artisans etc on GeM portal, GeM had created a seller invitation module (13,752 sellers have been invited out of which 6,116 sellers have registered).
- Gem has made available 295 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 117,490 unique products in covid-19 in medical categories and 119,977 unique products in auxiliaries' categories.

- There 25,532 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 28,147 sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories are available on the portal.
 - 1,44,000 weavers and 27,100 artisans registered as sellers on GeM with the assistance of 28 Weaver Service Centres and 56 Handicraft Service Centres at Ministry of Textiles and 2,55,000 MSMEs registered with Udyam Registration Portal have been successfully onboarded on GeM as sellers.
 - For faster and transparent procurement to fight COVID-19, GeM made available COVID-19 related Categories i.e., Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) Sample Collection Kits, Real Time PCR (ICMR Specs), Ventilator, Viral RNA Extraction Kits, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, masks, diagnostic kits PPE, Vinyl/rubber gloves, cardiac monitor etc. Gem has also created a new page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers.
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