

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 November 2021

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in November 2021 was USD 29.88 billion, an increase of 26.49% over USD 23.62 billion in November 2020 and an increase of 15.93% over USD 25.77 billion in November 2019.
- Major commodity groups covering about 65% of the total exports that have shown positive growth in November 2021 over corresponding month of previous year: Engineering goods (36.98%), Petroleum products (145.29%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (32.54%), Electronic goods (29.83%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (40.72%), RMG of all textiles (2.72%), Marine products (28.53%) and Plastic and Linoleum (42.80%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in November 2021 was 26.06 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 18.1% over non-petroleum exports of USD 22.06 billion in November 2020 and a positive growth of 18.69% over non-petroleum exports of USD 21.95 billion in November 2019.
- Value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in November 2021 was USD 23.66 billion, registering a positive growth of 22.16% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.37 billion in November 2020 and a positive growth of 22.17% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.37 billion in November 2019.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Empowered Committee on TIES, under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, held its 15th meeting on 24th November 2021 and approved the following new project proposals with total TIES share of Rs. 71.53 Crore.
 - Construction of Trade Facilitation Centre at MEPZ SEZ, Tambaram Taluk, Kancheepuram District by Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ)- SEZ.
 - Hi-Tech Cycle Valley, Dhanansu, Distt. Ludhiana by Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Ltd. (PSIEC)
 - Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure in SIPCOT Industrial Growth Centre, Perundurai, Erode District' by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu
 - Plug & Play Infrastructure at SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam-Vadagal by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu

- Establishment of Warehousing infrastructure at SIPCOT Hi-Tech SEZ Oragadam by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu.
- GJEPC is organizing 4th edition of India Rough Gemstone Sourcing Show 2021 from 8th Nov to 10th Dec 2021 in Jaipur to strengthen the supply chain of rough gemstones, which is the critical raw material for coloured gemstones industry and will result in increase of exports from India.
- TEPC in coordination with Lagos Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) and Indian Mission in Nigeria organised a virtual India-Nigeria ICT BSM on 17th November 2021.
- PEPC member company, M/s Larsen & Toubro has been awarded project for Construction of 380kV Double Circuit Overhead Transmission Line (OHTL) in Aff, Central region of Saudi Arabia valuing USD 67.2 million.
- ESC EPC organised B2B meets in Electronics with Mali, Ghana, Malta, Argentina, Mauritius, UAE and Mozambique during November 2021.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 170 farms, formed 6 new cluster farm and conducted 119 capacity building programs benefiting 1213 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 2234 DS 2031 certificates, 1068 catch certificates for EU, 43 catch certificates for Non- EU, 97 ICCAT documents, 35 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 10 Duty free import certificate, 6 RCMC and 3 Brand name certificates for export facilitation.
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 53 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 4,56,155 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals. Rs 49.39 lakh and Rs. 419.37 lakh released under CCD-LCS and TDSVAP schemes respectively.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- A Meeting was held on 21st November 2021 at Guwahati under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister with the stakeholders of the tea industry and small growers on various issues impacting the cost competitiveness, long-term viability and sustainability of the Tea Industry including the export potential and productivity, attaining the supply-demand equilibrium, and remunerative price for the producers.
- A total of 3000 nos. of Broca traps with Broca lure and 250 liter of Broca lure, were supplied to the coffee planters, for the management of coffee berry borer. In addition, supplied 4,000 nos. of parasitoids (bio-control agent) for the management of mealy bug parasitoids.
- Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan: Planting activities envisaged for 2021 are almost complete.

- New Clone RRH 429 developed by Rubber Research Institute of India showed 100 % yield improvement (6 kg/tree/year) over Malaysian clone- RRIM 600 (3 kg/tree/year) in an on-farm trial at Mendipathar, North Garo Hills, Meghalaya.
- Spices Board implemented a cloud based live e-auction for small cardamom replacing the intranet-based standalone e-auction mechanism which was in place earlier. The live e-auction was inaugurated at Puttady, Kerala on 1st November, 2021 the new facility has digitally integrated two e-auction centres, one at Bodinayakanur (Tamil Nadu) and the other in Puttady (Kerala) thereby expanding the market opportunity for cardamom growers and traders equally.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During November 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 59,657 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 81 Crore, issued 372 policies, added 808 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 15 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- On the ongoing India and Australia FTA negotiations, both sides have exchanged Market Access offers in Goods and Services. Australia has proposed signing an in-principle agreement on the lines of Australia-UK FTA instead of the earlier agreed interim agreement. Both sides are discussing way forward for the interim agreement.
- The second round of negotiations of the India-UAE CEPA were held in Dubai from 9th-11th November 2021. Substantive progress was made on the Institutional Framework track.
- A Commerce Secretary level bilateral meeting was held between India and Bhutan on 3rd November 2021 to discuss issues related to border trade infrastructure, export of Bhutanese Agriculture Products to India, MoU on Recognition of Export Inspections and Certification between FSSAI and Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) and Amendment and operationalization of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between Bhutan Standards Bureau (BSB) and BIS. A Letter of Exchange (LoE) to include additional entry/exit points in Agreement on Trade, Commerce and Transit between India and Bhutan, was signed during the meeting.
- A virtual meeting to discuss the Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM), General Economic Cooperation (GEC) chapter and implementation issues under the India-Mauritius CECPA was held on 16th November, 2021 between the officials of India and Mauritius. The discussions on the draft text of GEC chapter and ATSM have been concluded and further action for seeking approval of the cabinet for finalization of these texts for inclusion in the CECPA, is in progress.
- India-USA Trade Policy Forum meeting held after the gap of 4 years created a very positive environment on the trade relationship between India and the US. While reconvening the TPF, the Ministers underlined its significance in forging robust bilateral trade ties and enhancing the bilateral economic relationship. The Ministers reviewed the developments across the canvass of outstanding bilateral trade issues, and

also reached convergence on certain market access issues from both sides. India and the U.S. also agreed to reactivate the TPF Working Groups, in order to discuss and address the outstanding and emerging issues of mutual concern on continuous basis.

VII. DGFT

- DGFT issued Notification No. 43/2015-2020 dated 22.11.2021 amending policy conditions for imports and exports of rough diamonds. Import and export of rough diamonds shall now be permitted only by importer/exporter registered with Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), designated importing and exporting authority of India for Kimberley Process.
