

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 August 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India has achieved merchandise export of USD 33.0 billion in August 2022, almost at similar levels of USD 33.38 billion in August 2021.
- Amongst the major products, exports of Electronic goods (50.68%) , Rice (42.32%), Organic and Inorganic chemicals (13.35%) registered impressive growth during August 2022.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of August 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 1833.89 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 7473 persons.
- PEPC organised Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 26th August 2022 at Hyderabad. Representatives from ECGC and Exim Bank briefed upon GOI Schemes & Products of ECGC and Exim Bank respectively for Project Exports & associated processes.
- IPC India and ESC organised Seminar and B2B on "India's Transformation into Emerging Tech, Industry 4.0, Mobile & Device Manufacturing Hub" in Delhi and on "India Emerging Aerospace Electronics Hub" in Bangalore on 2nd and 4th August respectively. The events were graced by a number of national and international speakers, exhibitors and delegates.
- On 30th August 2022, ESC apprised Electronics and IT exporters of Odisha about various market opportunities with regards to electronics and IT exports. Webinar Presentation was given to the exporters on various Government schemes on manufacturing and export, export incentives, export promotion schemes, role of EPCs, export related issues, TBTs, etc.
- A virtual meeting with regard to creation of a separate Export Promotion Council (EPC) for Medical Devices was held and it was agreed that a separate EPC for medical devices sector may be created under the administrative control of Department of Pharmaceuticals, being the line ministry for the medical devices sector. It has also been agreed that the EPC shall be established with Headquarters in YEIDA, Greater Noida,

Uttar Pradesh and regional offices in Andhra Pradesh (in AMTZ, Visakhapatnam) and Telangana (in Hyderabad).

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 260 farms, formed 4 new cluster farm and organized 202 campaigns benefiting 926 farmers during August 2022.
- It issued 1727 DS 2031 certificates, 530 catch certificates for EU, 62 catch certificates for Non- EU, 18 ICCAT documents, 11 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 8 Duty free import certificate and 7 RCMC(Ordinary).

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- Tea Board participated in various fairs/exhibitions viz. 9th Indian National Exhibition cum Fair at Kolkata during 4th-8th August 2022, 25th National Trade Exhibition at Kolkata during 24th-27th August 2022, India Geographical Indications (GI) Fair 2022 held from 26th-28th August 2022 at Greater Noida and Tea Culture Symposium & Taiwan Agribusiness Prospect at Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Tea Board sponsored an interactive programme on Oolong tea manufacturing technique and tea packaging for the small tea growers of NE.
- Three Tea Estates in North Bengal viz. Dharanipur Tea Estate, Red Bank Tea Estate and Surrendranagar Tea Estate, which were closed from many years were reopened.
- Coffee Board issued two advisory notes viz., “Mid-Monsoon Nutrient Management & Control of Black Rot in Coffee Plantation” and “Indiscriminate Use of Urea in Coffee Plantation” through Extension Network for the benefit of coffee planters during the period under reporting.
- Coffee Board organized 20th Edition of National Barista Championship 2022 from 2nd – 7th August, 2022 at Bengaluru in association with Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI) and United Coffee Association of India (UCAI) with wide participation and support from Coffee Stakeholders. A total of 59 baristas participated in the event and the winners will represent India in the World Barista Championship 2022 Melbourne, Australia in September, 2022.
- The Rubber Board has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DY Patil Agriculture and Technical University, Talsande, Kolhapur to explore the feasibility of cultivating rubber in the Kolhapur region of Maharashtra. As per the MoU, the University will establish a rubber plantation in one-hectare area with technical support from the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII).

- Rubber Board had prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Kerala Rubber Ltd (KRL) – a Government of Kerala formed company for promoting value addition of natural rubber (NR) produced in the State with private participation.
- RRII being a host institute for MSME incubation programme, two innovative projects have got approval from Ministry of MSME which entitled for 15 lakhs grant for each project and 1 crore for infrastructural development at RRII.
- Rubber Board successfully completed the development of rubber based “grow bags” for agri/horticultural activities and transferred the know-how to the client which is an innovative project registered under Rubber Products Incubation Centre (RPIC).
- Spices Board conducted Entrepreneurship Development Training Program for Sikkim & North Bengal region on 24th August 2022. 40 entrepreneurs across the state of Sikkim attended the event.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During August 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 54,826 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 75 Crore, issued 980 policies, added 1033 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 24 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- The first meeting of the India- Mauritius High- Powered Joint Trade Committee was held on 1st August, 2022 in New Delhi, to discuss various outstanding issues, including Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) on qualifications by professional bodies, as under India- Mauritius CECPA.
- The Union Cabinet (in its meeting held on 17.8.2022) approved the inclusion of a Chapter on General Economic Cooperation (GEC) and an article on Auto Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) in the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. The inclusion of the GEC Chapter in the India-Mauritius CECPA will facilitate and promote all forms of economic cooperation beneficial to the citizens of India and Mauritius. ATSM is a volume-based trigger safeguard mechanism which will allow India and Mauritius to protect their domestic industry against sudden surge in imports of products on which preferential access have been provided for under the Agreement, subject to threshold limits etc. specified under the provisions of ATSM.
- India and Canada are negotiating CEPA. During August 2022, third round of negotiations under India-Canada CEPA were held.
- An inter-sessional meeting of India- UK FTA negotiations on Trade in Services was held in hybrid mode in London, UK between 23rd - 26th August, 2022. Discussion was held on text and market access offers in services.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 19,760 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during August 2022.

VIII. GeM

- Government of Uttarakhand has issued an order for making it mandatory for all State buyers to make procurement of Goods and Services through GeM.
- The GeM- IRePS (Railway procurement portal) integration has been made live as per the revised approach. As per revised integration strategy, all railways tenders along with corrigendum will be visible to all sellers of GeM and the system will provide them an opportunity to participate in such tenders. Further, GeM sellers will be able to see tender decisions made on IRePS. Additionally, an advanced tender search functionality is also provided for easy and faster search of tender for participation with different criteria of filter and search parameters. This will increase transparency, competition and accessibility of Railways tender to GeM sellers for participation.
- 92 new categories were successfully created in a short span of time by the Category team along with OEM mapping in each of these categories for launch of ODOP Catalogues by Hon'ble CIM.
- With effect from 01.08.2022, GeM has initiated the onboarding of Multi State and Single State cooperatives as buyers on GeM. On 09.08.2022, the initiative was formally launched by Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Amit Shah. In the month of Aug'22 over 300 Single State and Multi-State cooperatives have been onboarded.
