

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 March 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India achieved an all-time high annual merchandise exports of USD 417.81 billion in FY 2021-22, an increase of 43.18% over USD 291.81 billion in FY2020-21 and an increase of 33.33% over USD 313.36 billion in FY 2019-20.
- Major commodity groups covering 78.97% of total exports and showing positive growth in March 2022 over corresponding month of previous year are Engineering goods (12.61%), Petroleum products (104.39%), Gems and Jewellery (0.31%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (15.76%), RMG of all textiles (16.52%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (16.76%) and Plastic and Linoleum (12.78%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in March 2022 was 33.00 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 4.28% over non-petroleum exports of USD 31.65 billion in March 2021 and a positive growth of 73.94% over non-petroleum exports of USD 18.97 billion in March 2020.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of March 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 1719.45 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 7962 persons.
- PEPC member company M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has secured a project from a prestigious client for the Supply, Installation, Testing, and Commissioning of water distribution network and large meter connections in Dubai. The scope includes water distribution networks of 137 Km GRE Pipelines, micro tunnelling works, SCADA and associated Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Works.
- PEPC member KEC International Limited has secured orders for Transmission & Distribution projects in Middle East and Americas.
- 'Establishment of Warehousing infrastructure at SIPCOT Hi-Tech SEZ Oragadam, Tamil Nadu' project by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) supported with financial assistance of Rs. 3.21 Crore under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).
- A MoU between Department of Commerce and MMTC Limited for F.Y 2021-22 has been signed on 10th March 2022.

- Dispute between State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC), a CPSE under Department of Commerce and Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) for resolution under AMRCD Mechanism has been finalized and D/o Consumer Affairs has agreed to settle the claim of STC by payment of Rs. 14.25 Cr. The order of AMRCD Committee has been sent to Department of Consumer Affairs for implementation.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 371 farms, formed 2 new cluster farm and organised 9 training programs benefiting 194 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 1094 DS 2031 certificates, 868 catch certificates for EU, 46 catch certificates for Non- EU, 77 ICCAT documents, 26 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 02 Duty free import certificate, 2 RCMC (Ordinary) and 2RCMC (Temp).
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 58 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 3,61,768 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- Rs.31.07 Crore were disbursed to 3888 beneficiaries under the Tea Development Scheme in North Eastern Region during the April to March, 2021-22.
- Indian Tea Tasting session was organised in Moscow, Russia from March 15th-17th, 2022 where Embassy of India, Moscow showcased Madhya Pradesh as a tourist destination and the image of Indian tea as its major commodity of export to Russia. The event was attended by more than 10,000 visitors and more than 600 exhibitors.
- Coffee Board conducted 401 various extension activities viz., Demonstrations, Village Level Meetings, Vocational Trainings, Farmers Field Schools, Capacity Building Programme on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefitting about 3834 coffee growers in coffee growing regions during the month.
- Central Coffee Research Institute organized a webinar's on "Drought and Shade Management in Coffee" & "Current Status of Coffee Pests and Their Management." to the coffee growers on 17th & 25th March, 2022, respectively. Around 519 coffee growers actively participated.
- The projects on "Extent of adoption of recommendations for scientific rubber cultivation by growers", "Socio-economic impact of natural rubber cultivation under the block planting scheme in Tripura" and "Study on MSME sector" were completed and reports submitted.
- To address the long-standing demand of the growers, Spices Board in association with the Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd. has devised a 'weather-based insurance' scheme for small cardamom, which was launched by the Hon'ble CIM.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During March 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 1,00,337 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 174 Crore, issued 1529 policies, added 1861 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 280 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Hon'ble CIM, as special envoy of Hon'ble Prime Minister, visited Dubai from 27th-29th March 2022 to attend the INVESTOPIA Summit held on 28th March 2022, the World Government Summit held on 29th March 2022, and India's National Honour Day Celebrations at Dubai Expo 2020 on 29th March 2022. Hon'ble CIM, inter alia, attended various events to promote the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Business community of both sides interacted in a very healthy and positive environment.
- A delegation led by Shri B.V.R Subrahmanyam, Commerce Secretary, Department of Commerce was deputed to Canberra, Australia from 28th February – 2nd March 2022 to speed up the ongoing India-Australia FTA negotiations. Virtual meetings were held at officers' level and Chief Negotiator level on regular basis to finalize the text, legal scrubbing of text and market access issues. On 26th March, 2022 the matter was submitted before Cabinet and Cabinet has accorded its approval for signing India-Australia Free Trade Agreement.
- India and UK formally launched FTA negotiations on 13th January 2022. During March 2022, during second round of negotiations, discussions took place on SPS, TBT and GRP chapter under India-UK FTA. 40% of the SPS chapter was agreed and cleaned.
- The 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment (MDTI) was held in New Delhi on 11th March, 2022 in which the Ministers agreed to formally re-launch the negotiations for India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and also consider an Interim Agreement or Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) that could bring early commercial gains to both the countries. It was also agreed that the Interim Agreement would inter alia, include high level commitments in services and may also cover any other areas mutually agreed upon.
- A Commerce Secretary level bilateral meeting was held between India and Bangladesh on trade and transit issues in New Delhi on 4th March 2022. In the meeting, issues related to 24*7 operationalization of Petrapole-Benapole Integrated Check Post (ICP), finalization of Joint Study on CEPA, Railway infrastructure at borders of the two countries, early resumption of Border Haats, etc. were discussed.
- As part of follow-up actions on India-Mauritius CECPA, a draft Note for the Cabinet for inclusion of Chapter on General Economic Cooperation (GEC) and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM), approved by Hon'ble CIM, has been circulated to Ministries/ Departments seeking their comments. Based on the comments received, the proposal will be processed further, for seeking approval of the Cabinet for finalization of these chapters.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 37,456 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 the month of March 2022.

VIII. GeM

- Total order value in FY 21-22 as of 31.03.22 has reached INR 106,748 Cr. as compared to Rs 38,585 Cr. in the FY 20-21. The total order value in FY 21-22 increased by approximately 176% as compared to FY 20-21.
- An MoU was signed with Usha Silai School, a CSR-initiative of USHA Sewing Machines, representing 29K+ USHA-trained seamstresses across India on 08th March 2022 below initiatives: -
 - i. GeM has launched a new service vertical “Stitching and Tailoring Services” on the GeM portal in partnership with USHA International Ltd., through its Silai School Program.
 - ii. The service will open new opportunities for Usha Silai Women and self-help groups in urban and rural areas to enhance their livelihood incomes through sewing orders placed by various Government departments and agencies and fulfil the 3 percent procurement target set aside for women MSE entrepreneurs.
