

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 the month October 2024.

I. Export Performance

- The cumulative overall exports during April-October 2024 is estimated at USD 468.27 Billion, as compared to USD 436.48 Billion in April-October 2023, with an estimated growth of 7.28%.
- Merchandise exports during October 2024 was USD 39.20 Billion, as compared to USD 33.43 Billion during October 2023, registering a positive growth of 17.23%. The cumulative value of merchandise exports during April-October 2024 was USD 252.28 Billion, as compared to USD 244.51 Billion during April-October 2023, registering a positive growth of 3.18%.
- Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery exports registered an increase of 27.68% from USD 24.56 Billion in October 2023 to USD 31.36 Billion in October 2024.
- Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in October 2024 include Engineering Goods, Electronic Goods, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Rice and RMG of all Textiles.
- Engineering Goods exports increased by 39.37% from USD 8.08 Billion in October 2023 to USD 11.26 Billion in October 2024.
- Electronic Goods exports increased by 45.69% from USD 2.36 Billion in October 2023 to USD 3.43 Billion in October 2024.
- Organic & Inorganic Chemicals exports increased by 27.35% from USD 2.14 Billion in October 2023 to USD 2.72 Billion in October 2024.
- Rice exports increased by 85.79% from USD 0.57 Billion in October 2023 to USD 1.05 Billion in October 2024.
- RMG of all Textiles exports increased by 35.06% from USD 0.91 Billion in October 2023 to USD 1.23 Billion in October 2024.

II. Bilateral Trade

- A bilateral meeting between Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) and Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina was held on October 8, 2024 in New Delhi wherein India's elevation to Annex-1 for pharma products, enhanced custom duty by India on edible oil, antidumping duties imposed by Argentina were discussed. CIM emphasized upon engaging bilaterally to resolve the market access issues and advised that both sides may work out a solution after assessing the demands on each side. An interactive session led by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry; Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina and Ambassador of India to the Republic of Argentina, in association

with Ministry of External Affairs & Confederation of Indian Industry was held on October 8, 2024 in New Delhi on similar issues.

- Commerce Secretary met the delegation led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia on October 14, 2024 in New Delhi. This meeting highlighted the growing emphasis on strengthening ties between their respective countries, particularly in sectors crucial for sustainable development and innovation.
- A meeting between Commerce Secretary and Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia was held on October 15, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss areas of mutual cooperation; ways to reduce trade barriers between the two countries; and ways to successful early completion of India-Australia CECA negotiations, building on the outcome of the Ind-Aus ECTA, which came into force from December 29, 2022.
- A meeting between Commerce Secretary and a European Union delegation led by the EU Sanctions Envoy from the European Commission was held on October 24 2024 in New Delhi to discuss global trade issues, specifically the EU's sanctions against Russia.
- The 21st Session of the India-Finland Joint Commission (JC) meeting was held on October 17, 2024 in New Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce and Director-General of the Department for Asia and Oceania, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland co-chaired the meeting from the Finnish side. During the JC Session, both sides highlighted opportunities for deepening cooperation in potential sectors like sustainability, digital partnerships, education, textiles, logistics, energy space science, research, emerging technologies, innovation, startup collaborations, and mobility issues.
- 2nd intersessional meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Sub-committee on National Treatment and Market Access (SC-NTMA) at Joint Secretary level was held virtually on October 25, 2024. During the meeting, discussions on trade data, transposition, non-papers, draft text and possible timelines were held and it was decided to continue discussions on these and other issues in 4th SC-NTMA meeting scheduled during November 2024.

III. **Export Infrastructure**

- During the month of October, 2024, amount of Rs.7,279 Crore was released for the projects under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme:-
 - i. Rs.54.40 Lakhs (final tranche of 2nd & final installment of TIES Grant) to Export Inspection Council (EIC) for the project 'Construction of office cum laboratory complex of export inspection agency at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh'.
 - ii. Rs.1.3275 Crore (1st tranche of 2nd & final installment of TIES Grant) was released to Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) for the project 'Plug and Play Infrastructure at Belagavi District, Karnataka'.
 - iii. Rs.25 Lakhs (1st tranche of 5th installment of TIES Grant) to Council for Leather Exports (CLE) for the project 'Creation of additional ZLD capacity in VISHTEC CETP'.

- iv. Rs.2.33 Crore (4th tranche of 1st installment of TIES Grant) to Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) regarding project 'Setting up common infrastructure facilities at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Niryat Suvidha Kendra at Chunar Tehsil, Mirzapur -U.P.'.
- v. Rs.1.50 Crore (Second tranche of 2nd & final installment of TIES Grant) to Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone Ltd. (AMTZ) for project 'Establishment of Centre for Hollow Fibre Membrane extrusion for hemodialysis'.
- vi. Rs.60.50 Lakhs (2nd tranche of 2nd & final installment of TIES Grant) to Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) for the project 'Border Haat at Huroi East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya'.
- vii. Rs.72.25 Lakhs (2nd & final installment of TIES grant) to 'Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA)' for the project 'Integrated Export Pack house for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Bihta, Patna'.

IV. **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)**

- During the month of October 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1799.83 Crore that is expected to provide employment to 16,775 persons.

V. **Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)**

- We are opposed to being a party to the IFD, and are also not in agreement with its proponents for its inclusion as a plurilateral agreement in the WTO, based on the views from Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and other stakeholders.
- This is for several reasons, including, taking legally binding obligations at the multilateral level, which shall impact our autonomy for taking investment related decisions including through the government route and it may also amount to legitimizing the investment objectives of a country, known for pushing its Belt and Road Initiative

VI. **Export Promotion**

- Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) circulated information about 82 upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power, consultancy to its members in October 2024.
- PEPC participated in Powerline TransTech India 2024 Exhibition and Conference at IICC Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi on October 7-9, 2024. The event was focused solely on power transmission, bringing together utilities, transcos, policymakers, regulators, developers, EPC contractors, technology providers, equipment manufacturers, service providers, consultants, etc.
- PEPC participated at Philippines Rail 2024 organized by Bricasa Consulting Pvt Ltd at Philippines on October 21-22, 2024. The event was a unique platform to gain insights into the rail infrastructure of the Philippines and its neighbouring countries, network with company leaders, explore investment opportunities, and contribute to shaping the future of the rail transportation sector.

VII. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- MPEDA enrolled 127 farms and conducted 78 antibiotic campaigns in October 2024.
- During October 2024, 15 exporters, 1 processing plant, 2 storage facilities, and 1 peeling shed were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 433 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storage facilities are present.

VIII. Export Credit and Insurance (ECI)

- During October 2024, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.) earned a premium of Rs.101.80 Crore, issued 1015 policies, added 1081 new buyers, and settled claims worth Rs.19.65 Crore.

IX. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 16,879 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 2,338 under Advance Authorizations, 29 under Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS), 12,779 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1,733 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during October 2024.
- DGFT issued following Notifications during the month of October 2024: -
 - i. Alignment of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Schedule consequent to changes in the First Schedule of Customs Tariff Act w.e.f. 01.10.2024 reg was notified vide Notification No. 39/2024-25 dated October 28, 2024.
 - ii. Amendment in Export Policy of Non-Basmati White Rice under HS Code 1006 30 90 - reg was notified vide Notification No. 37/2024-25 dated October 23, 2024.
 - iii. Procedure for export of sesame seeds to the United States of America (USA) reg was notified vide Notification No. 38/2024-25 dated October 10, 2024.
 - iv. Amendment in import policy of parts of lighter covered CTH 9613 of Chapter 96 of Schedule-I (Import Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022 vide Notification No. 36/2024-24 dated October 13, 2024.
 - v. Imposition of Minimum Import Price on Synthetic Knitted Fabrics up to 31.12.2024 vide Notification No. 33/2024-25 dated October 1, 2024.
 - vi. Streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat products -reg vide Notification No. 34/2024-25 dated October 1, 2024.
 - vii. Amendment in Export Policy condition of Cough Syrup under Chapter 30 of Schedule-II (Export Policy) of ITC(HS) 2022 vide Notification No. 35/2024-24 dated October 1, 2024.

X. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

- DGTR has issued Final Finding(s) on the following investigations in the month of October 2024:
 - i. Suo-Motu of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Telescopic Channel Drawer Slider" from China PR.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has finally imposed duty on the recommendation of DGTR on the following product(s) in the month of October 2024:

- i. Imposed Anti-dumping duty (ADD) on Isopropyl Alcohol imported from China PR for 5 years, pursuant to final findings of DGTR.
- ii. Imposed ADD on Sulphur Black imported from China PR for 5 years pursuant to final findings of DGTR.
- iii. Imposed ADD on Cellophane Transparent Film imported from China PR for 5 years pursuant to final findings of DGTR.
- iv. Imposed ADD on Thermoplastic Polyurethane (TPU) imported from China PR for 5 years pursuant to final findings of DGTR.
- v. Imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of "Unframed glass mirror" falling under tariff item 7009 91 00 originating in or exported from China PR for a period of 5 years.

XI. Government eMarketplace (GeM)

- During October 2024, 201 training sessions and 24 events were conducted for various buyers and sellers' organizations. 13,698 buyers and sellers participated in these events.
- On 24 October 2024, GeM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Sikkim in Gangtok, Sikkim, to drive greater adoption of the platform across the state and enhance public procurement.
- On 10 October 2024, GeM participated in the Indian Army – Walunj Auto Cluster partnership programme at Sambhajinagar, Maharashtra. Senior Officers from the Army, about 100 entrepreneurs from Sambhajinagar and Startup incubator MAGIC, office bearers of Laghu Udyog Bharti, and GeM participated in the event.
- GeM showcased their products and services of PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries in the 'Exhibition-cum-Trade Fair' held on 27 October 2024 at Thrissur and Tripura. The event brought together artisans, craftsmen, and microentrepreneurs supported under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.
- 27 bids have been awarded which are greater than Rs.100 crores. Central Coalfields Limited (Subsidiary of Coal India Limited) has awarded a bid for "Handling, Transport and Other Mining Services – Percentage Quote Based" for Rs.3,006 Crores. Bokaro Steel Plant (Organisation under Ministry of Steel) has awarded a bid for "Ferro Manganese, high carbon, Silico Manganese for Rs.487 crore in October 2024"
