

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 April 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India has achieved merchandise exports of USD 38.19 billion in April 2022, an increase of 24.22% over USD 30.75 billion in April 2021.
- Major commodity groups covering 69.27% of total exports and showing positive growth in April 2022 over corresponding month of previous year are Engineering goods (15.38%), Petroleum products (113.21%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (26.71%), Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (3.93%), Electronic goods (64.04%), RMG of all textiles (16.42%), Cotton Yarn/ Fabrics/ Made-ups handloom products etc., (5.05%) and Plastic and Linoleum (4.28%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in April 2022 was 30.46 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 12.32% over non-petroleum exports of USD 27.12 billion in April 2021.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of April 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 9085.03 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 13647 persons.
- PEPC member company M/s AFCONS International Limited secured contract for Improvement of Dharkhar to Akhaura Land Port Road (Ch: 00+000 m to Ch:11+315 m) as 4-Lane National Highway in Bangladesh valuing Rs. 617 Crore.
- On 16th April, 2022, Plexconcil successfully hosted the Export Excellence Awards for the period 2017-2021 in Mumbai to felicitate the stupendous achievements of exporters.
- SHEFEXIL participated in 5th technical meeting on ETO with EU Commission held on 5th April 2022 to promote Guar Gum, Botanical Extracts used in Food Supplements in EU to promote exports of the said products.
- SHEFEXIL identified 75 ITC(HS) codes along with assessment of market potential for preparation of a table book to promote the sector.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 114 farms, formed 1 new cluster farm and organised 101 campaigns benefiting 1124 farmers.

- MPEDA issued 1603 DS 2031 certificates, 921 catch certificates for EU, 38 catch certificates for Non- EU, 66 ICCAT documents, 32 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 30 Duty free import certificate, 9 RCMC (Ordinary) and 1 RCMC (Temp).
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 92 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 5,01,290 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The 69th Foundation Day of Tea Board India was celebrated in a Hybrid Mode (Physical-cum-Virtual) on 1st April, 2022.
- In North Bengal, two new Self-Help Groups viz. Ramnabandha Small Tea Farmer Producer Organization and Bhogramguri Farmers Producer Company Ltd have been formed with 35 and 76 members respectively.
- Two-days Waterway Conclave 2022 organised at Dibrugarh, Assam from 11th-12th April, 2022 and information on tea culture, promotion and categories of various teas was also shared with the visitors.
- 36th Aahar International Food & Hospitality Fair held at New Delhi from 26th-30th April, 2022. More than a thousand exhibitors participated in the show along with overseas participation of 374 overseas exhibitors from 27 countries.
- The Rubber Board celebrated its Foundation Day on 18th April, 2022 in a virtual meeting. The Executive Director addressed the audience and briefed the history of Rubber Board including the achievements attained and challenges to be addressed by the Board.
- Second Edition of the Rubber Board Virtual Trade Fair was launched on 18th April, 2022 with 197 Exhibitors covering different rubber product categories.
- The Logo of e-trade ie. 'mRube' was launched on 28th April, 2022 in a virtual meeting attended by stakeholders from all sectors of rubber value chain. Rubber Board is in the process of setting up Electronic Market platform(e-trade) for Natural Rubber (NR) with an objective of strengthening the efficacy of domestic supply chain for NR. Arrangements are at the final phase for commencing the e-market operations and it is slated to 'Go Live' by mid-May, 2022.
- Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) - Planted area achievement in 2021 is 3861 ha. New name of the scheme is NE - MITRA. Target area for 2022 season is 26000 ha. 3,33,600 numbers of budded stumps were dispatched to Guwahati/Silchar from Thiruvananthapuram during April, 2022.
- A Quality Testing Laboratory was inaugurated in the Spices Board Park at Jodhpur on 20th April, 2022 to facilitate the needs of the exporters and other stakeholders in the region.
- Central Coffee Research Institute organized a webinar's on "Nursery diseases in coffee and their management" on 25th April, 2022. Around 223 coffee growers actively participated.

- Coffee Board conducted On-Spot Mobile Soil Test Programme in Karnataka wherein 1893 soil samples were analyzed. In addition, Coffee effluent samples were analyzed for pollution parameters.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During April 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 60,841 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 69 Crore, issued 507 policies, added 1020 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 5 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Indonesia has emerged as the largest destination for Indian sugar for 2nd consecutive year in 2021-22. India's export of raw and refined sugar to Indonesia in year 2021-22 was USD 872.27 Mn with an YoY growth of 74.23% and share of 19% in India's global export. The export during 2020-21 was USD 500.65 Mn, a remarkable achievement since export during 2019-20 was only USD 1.77 Mn.
- After the relaunch of trade negotiations between India and Canada during the 5th Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment held on 11 March 2022, the first round of India-Canada Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations were held from 19th April to 25th April, 2022, (virtually). Issues regarding Trade in Services, Domestic Regulation, Movement of Natural Persons (MNP), Professional Services and Market Access, Financial Services, Telecommunication Services and Digital trade were discussed in detail between both the sides.
- Under the India- UK Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP), the third meeting of the India-UK Taskforce on Health Workforce was held on 13th April, 2022 with the UK side, in virtual mode. The draft Framework Agreement between India and the UK for collaboration on Healthcare Workforce was then finalized on 21st April, 2022.
- A high-level seminar on food security was organized by the WTO on 26th April 2022. India participated in the seminar with representation from the Department of Food and Public Distribution and the Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS), IIFT. Presentations were delivered at the seminar in favour of India and developing countries' demand for a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes.
- On 2nd April 2022, HCIM and the Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister of Australia signed the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement ("Ind-Aus ECTA") in a virtual ceremony, in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Australia.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 17,450 Authorizations/Scrips 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 April 2022.

VIII. GeM

- Total GeM Cumulative order value as on 30th April 2022 is INR 204,997 Cr. as compared to cumulative order value of INR 92,602 Cr. as on 30th April 2021. The order value during the month of April'22 is INR 12,564 Cr.as compared to INR 6,937Cr. during the month of April'21.
- Forward auction functionality for selling of scrap has been made live on GeM. A total of 184 no. of Forward Auction cases are closed and 30 Forward auction cases are "Live" as on 30.04.22.
- Major BID module functionality/enhancements rolled out in the month of April 22: -
 - i. Option to invite potential sellers for bid participation
 - ii. Bid Life Cycle removed from the system
 - iii. Representation and challenge window - enablement in short duration bids
 - iv. Functionality to extend RA (Reverse Auction) end date and time at Buyer End
 - v. High Value Bids (2 Cr) filter on Bid Search and Advance Search Page
 - vi. Bid offer validity to be extend to 30 days in BID to RA Case
 - vii. Declaration of Class 1 and 2 local supplier content for MII purchase Preference BID by buyer during bid submission
 - viii. MSE MII enablement in Direct Reverse Auction
 - ix. Undertaking added at seller side during participation
 - x. Annual maintenance contracts (AMC) /Comprehensive Maintenance Contracts (CMC) /Installation Testing and Commissioning (ITC) is available in the category bids which are bunched with the BOQ bid.
