

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 2023

I. Export Performance

- The overall export (merchandise and services) for November 2023 is estimated at USD 62.58 Billion, registering a positive growth of 1.23 percent over USD 61.82 Billion in November 2022.
- Merchandise exports during November 2023 were USD 33.90 Billion.
- For the month of November 2023, under merchandise exports, 15 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in November 2023 as compared to same period last year (November 2022). These include Iron Ore (2207.38%), Fruits & Vegetables (31.14%), Meat, Dairy & Poultry Products (19.91%), Oil Meals (17.22%), Mica, Coal & Other Ores, Minerals Including Processed Minerals (16.62%), Gems & Jewellery (11.97%), Spices (11.3%), Coffee (11%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (7.33%), Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Made-Ups, Handloom Products Etc. (6.33%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (5.9%), Carpet (4.22%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (2.17%), Handicrafts Excl. Hand Made Carpet (1.17%) and Electronic Goods (1.09%).

II. Bilateral Trade

- A delegation led by Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) visited USA for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) ministerial meeting between 13th - 16th November 2023. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United States of America and the Republic of India was signed to enhance innovation ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake under the framework of the United States – India Commercial Dialogue on 14th November 2023. A start up industry roundtable, as a kick-off event under “Innovation Handshake”, was also held, co-hosted by U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), supported by NASSCOM and Start Up India. Bilateral meetings were held with Ambassador Katherine Tai, USTR, and US Secretary of Commerce, Ms. Gina Raimondo on India-USA trade and investment issues. During the IPEF Ministerial meeting, the first-of-its-kind IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement was signed. The Agreement is expected to make IPEF supply chains more resilient, robust, and well-integrated, and contribute towards economic development and progress of the region as a whole.
- CIM held a meeting with a delegation led by Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Brazil on 3rd November 2023.
- A formal inauguration meeting for the India-Oman (CEPA) was held virtually on 20th November 2023. Subsequently, the first round was held from 27th - 29th November, 2023 in New Delhi.

- Commerce Secretary and DG (Trade), European Commission had a virtual meeting on 22nd November, 2023.
- Special round of the India Peru Agreement negotiations for the Chapters on Services and Movement of Natural Persons was held on 21st November 2023 in New Delhi.
- A virtual meeting on 23rd November 2023 was held by Additional Secretary, DoC, with the DG, Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chile.
- The 6th session of India-Ethiopia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6th – 7th November 2023.
- India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) intersessional meetings were conducted virtually on digital trade, Government procurement, ROO, Legal & Institutional and Environment track in November, 2023.
- A meeting of India-EU Chief negotiators to discuss the modalities for Services & Investment chapter and to assess the progress of negotiations in recently concluded 6th Round was held from 20th to 21st November 2023 in Brussels.
- 20th round of India-EFTA negotiation was conducted during 20th-29th November, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

III. **SEZ**

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of November 2023 have approved the proposals for investment of Rs. 603.81 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 7,617 persons.

IV. **Export Infrastructure**

- During the month of November 2023, a total amount of Rs. 2.395 Crore was released for various projects under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES):
 - i. Rs. 35.25 Lakh was released as 3rd tranche of 2nd & final installment to Andhra Pradesh Trade Promotion Corporation Limited (APTPC) for “Development of Export Warehousing Facility at AEP, Gajuwaka, Vishakapatnam.
 - ii. Rs. 1.69 Crore was released as 2nd tranche of 1st installment to Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC) for creation of “Pharma Lab Baddi- Phase-II at Solan, Himachal Pradesh.
 - iii. Rs. 35.25 Lakh was released 4th tranche of 2nd & final installment to Andhra Pradesh Trade Promotion Corporation Limited (APTPC) for “Development of Export Warehousing Facility at AEP, Gajuwaka, Vishakapatnam.

V. **Export Promotion**

- A committee was constituted for devising a way forward for smooth facilitation of Exports of food supplements containing Botanical Extracts from India. The second meeting of the said committee was held on 7th November 2023 and its third and final

meeting was held on 17th November 2023 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi wherein the recommendation of the committee was finalized.

- Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) participated in “Poznan Stone 2023” Poland, from 22nd to 24th November 2023 with 14-member exporters.
- Projects Export Promotion Council of India (PEPC) circulated information about 63 upcoming projects in Infrastructure, Water, Power and Consultancy to its members in November 2023.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) in its endeavour to promote the export of plastics products participated in PLASEURASIA 2023 , Istanbul-Turkey from 22nd to 25th November 2023.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) extended membership to 14 new Companies during November 2023. SHEFEXIL participated in Food Ingredients Europe 2023, Frankfurt, Germany, during 28th to 30th November 2023.

VI. APEDA

- On 9th November 2023, APEDA flagged off first banana consignment to Netherlands from Baramati, Maharashtra through sea route.
- To establish Uttar Pradesh’s Purvanchal region as an emerging agri-export hub, a flag off of Marigold to the United Arab Emirates via air, sourced from APEDA-registered Varanasi-based FPO, M/s Madhujansa Fed FPO Ltd was done on 20th November 2023.
- APEDA coordinated the historic shipment of water chestnut from Varanasi to UAE on 20th November, 2023. This export, involving 400 Kg of water chestnuts, was sourced and promoted by FPOs based in Varanasi.
- APEDA, in collaboration with its Regional Offices, organized programs across seven States, partnering with the Cashew Association, exporters, and stakeholders on 23rd November 2023. Activities included interaction sessions, a networking platform, knowledge sharing, and discussions on industry trends and challenges.
- In a pivotal role as an export facilitator on National Cashew Day, APEDA flagged off Cashew Nut shipments to Bangladesh, Qatar, Malaysia, and the USA on 23rd November 2023. Bangladesh will receive its first-ever shipment of Cashew Nuts, originating from Odisha.
- APEDA participated in World Food India 2023 from 3rd – 5th November 2023 in New Delhi. APEDA showcased agricultural and processed food products, including tea, coffee, and spices, featuring contributions from prominent exporters, startups, women entrepreneurs, FPO/FPCs, government bodies, and corporates. Exhibitors from 28 States and UTs, encompassing North East, Himalayan regions, J&K, and others, actively participated in the event. APEDA hosted a Knowledge Seminar on 5th November, 2023, featuring a context-setting presentation on "Unlocking Value Addition in India’s Agri Export – Leveraging Innovation and the Startup Ecosystem," followed by a panel discussion with industrialists from the four commodities.

VII. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 116 farms, formed 28 new cluster farms and organised 2375 training programmes during November 2023.
- 5 exporters, 1 handling centre, 1 peeling shed 2 Conveyance and 1 other non-edible handling centres were issued certificate of registration during November 2023. Currently, 431 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.
- MPEDA had organized a 4-day Seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) training programme for the technologists of the seafood industry in Bhubaneswar from 7th - 10th November 2023. 25 technologists from the seafood processing units in and around Bhubaneswar participated in the training programme.

VIII. Plantation Sector

- Tea Board participated in the reverse Buyer-Seller Meet (RBSM) in the “World Food India 2023” from 3rd – 5th November 2023 in New Delhi with value-added exporters and a number of buyers from countries like UAE, Russia, Egypt, France, Japan, Qatar visited the stalls.
- Around 150 one-on-one B2B meetings between buyers and sellers were arranged towards negotiations by Tea Board during November 2023.
- A 3-day training program was organized by the Tea Board at Agartala from 21st - 23rd November 2023 for the stakeholders in association with Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP), Kolkata on various aspects of packaging to bring in value addition.
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) has developed an efficient technology for separation of skim rubber from the residue of Latex Centrifuged factory, which will save time, labour and energy in November 2023. The technology was successfully demonstrated to a group of centrifuged latex processors in Kerala.
- Spices Board participated in World Food India (WFI), held at Delhi from 3rd – 5th November 2023 by setting up stall as well as organizing Reverse Buyer Seller Meet with participation of 24 overseas buyers. The Board participated in Knowledge session of WFI and coordinated participation of two experts from Spices export sector for panel discussion during the seminar on Unlocking Value Addition in India's Agri Exports; Leveraging Innovation & the Startup Ecosystem" which was held on 5th November 2023, during the event.
- Spices Board also organized one day Saffron Day Celebration on 8th November 2023 at India International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC), Dussu. It was attended by farmers and traders from locality, staff members of IIKSTC and Advanced Research Station for Saffron and Seed Spices of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (ARSSSS SKUAST-K).

IX. Export Credit and Insurance

During November 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 62,276 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 103.83 Crore, issued 835 policies, added 1,032 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 17.89 Crore.

X. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 14,647 Authorizations/Scrips under various FTP Schemes viz., 11,317 under Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), 9 under Service Exports from India's (SEIS), 1,801 under Advance Authorizations and 1,520 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during November 2023.
- Amendment in import policy condition of Gold under HS Code 71081200 under Chapter 71 of Schedule -I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notification No. 44/2023 dated 20/11/2023. In addition to nominated agencies as notified by RBI (in case of Banks) or nominated agencies notified by DGFT (for other agencies) and Qualified Jewelers (as notified by IFSCA) through IIBX, valid India – UAE TRQ holders as notified by IFSCA can import gold through IIBX agencies the TRQ and can import obtain physical delivery of the same through IFSCA registered vaults located in SEZs as per the guidelines prescribed by the IFSCA.
- Notice for Calcined Petroleum Coke (CPC) Manufacturers regarding import of Raw Pet Coke -reg. was notified vide Notification No. 34/2023-24 dated 16/11/2023.
- Incorporation of Policy Condition for export of non-basmati rice under HS Code 10063090 was notified vide Notification No 43/2023 dated 11/11/2023.
- Imposition of Minimum Export Price on export of Onions was notified vide Notification No. 45/2023 dated 23/11/2023.
- Export of Food commodities through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) was notified vide Notification No. 46/2023 dated 30/11/2023.

XI. DGCI&S

Indian Trade Journal(ITJ) is a weekly publication by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) to keep the Indian trading community informed about the latest business opportunities in India and abroad. The online journal published during November 2023 contained information about 151 tenders of Central/State Government/Ministries/Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

XII. DGTR

- On 6th November 2023, the USDOC issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on *Common Alloy Aluminium Sheet from India (C-533-896)* for the period 14th September 2020 to 31st December 2021. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Final Rates
Hindalco Industries Limited	2020-2021	37.90%

- On 20th November 2023, the USDOC issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on *Off the Road Tires from India (C-533-870)* for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021, after correction of ministerial errors in calculation. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Previous Final Rates	Revised Final Rates
ATC Tires Private Limited	2021	2.20%	2.17%
Balakrishna Industries Limited	2021	0.33%	0.32%
Companies not selected for individual examination	2021	2.20%	2.17%

- On 6th November 2023, the USDOC issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on *Paper Shopping Bags from India (C-533-918)* for the period 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Preliminary Rates
Aero Plast Packaging Solutions Private Limited	2022	5%
Velvin Paper Products	2022	2.37%
All Others	2022	3.47%

- On 6th November 2023, the USDOC issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on *Stainless Steel Flanges from India (C-533-878)* for the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Preliminary Rates
Chandan Steel Limited	2021	2.60%
Pradeep Metals Limited	2021	4.04%
BFN Forgings Private Limited	2021	2.82%

- During the month of November 2023 Trade Defence Wing (TDW) submitted various questionnaire responses, briefs and comments before different investigating authorities in the following Countervailing Duty (CVD) and Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) investigations and reviews initiated by other WTO member countries against exports from India:

Date of Submission/Response	Product	Case No	Issuing Authority	Type of Proceeding	Remarks
06/11/2023	Finished Carbon Steel Flanges from India	C-533-872	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed Case Brief on behalf of GOI

XIII. GeM

- 2 lakh crore GMV:** GeM has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing a GMV of over INR 2 lakh crore in the FY 2023-24, as of 30th November 2023.
- Collaboration with Godrej Capital:** Data of 15,000 MSMEs of Maharashtra was shared with Godrej Capital team for reaching out to these MSMEs during November

2023. 1500+ sellers have shown interest and 395 sellers have initiated their journey on GeM portal.

- 116 training sessions and 13 events were conducted in November 2023 for various Buyer and Seller organizations with a total participant count of 6026 with 3600+ Buyers and 2400+ Sellers.
- **MoU with Marwari Catalysts:** To promote the Startup Runway Initiative, GeM inked an MoU with one of the largest Rajasthan-based Global Startup accelerators, Marwari Catalysts during #StartupXchange, held in Jaipur from 3rd – 5th November 2023.
- **MoU with UBUNTU Consortium:** GeM inked an MoU with UBUNTU Consortium in Bengaluru on 18th November 2023.
- **MoU with KASSIA:** GeM inked an MoU with the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) in Bengaluru on 18th November 2023.
