

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 2024

I. Export Performance

- FY 2023-24 closes with highest monthly merchandise exports of the current FY in March 2024 at USD 41.68 Billion.
- Main drivers of merchandise export growth in FY 2023-24 include Electronic Goods, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Engineering Goods, Iron Ore, Cotton Yarn/Fabs./made-ups, Handloom Products etc. and Ceramic products & glassware.
- Electronic goods exports increase by 23.64% from USD 23.55 Billion in FY 2022-23 to USD 29.12 Billion in FY 2023-24.
- Drugs and pharmaceuticals exports increase by 9.67% from USD 25.39 Billion in FY 2022-23 to USD 27.85 Billion in FY 2023-24.
- Engineering Goods exports increase by 2.13% from USD 107.04 Billion in FY 2022-23 to USD 109.32 Billion in FY 2023-24.
- Exports of Agricultural commodities namely Tobacco (19.46%), Fruits and Vegetables (13.86%), Meat, dairy & poultry products (12.34%), Spices (12.30%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (8.96%), Oil seeds (7.43%) and Oil Meals (7.01%) exhibit positive growth in FY 2023-24.
- Merchandise trade deficit improves by 9.33% at USD 240.17 Billion in the current FY as compared to USD 264.90 Billion in FY 2022-23.

II. Bilateral Trade

- India-EFTA TEPA (European Free Trade Association, Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement) between India and EFTA States (Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) was signed by Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) on March 10, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- A courtesy meeting was held between Commerce Secretary and US Assistant Secretary of Commerce on March 4, 2024 in New Delhi.
- An Additional Secretary level meeting was held with US Assistant Secretary of Commerce on March 4, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss/review the progress under India-US Commercial dialogue. On March 6, 2024, US-India Energy Industry Network Roundtable and 2nd Innovation Handshake Roundtable led by DPIIT with participation of startups in the domain of CET (Critical and Emerging Technologies) was held in New Delhi. Both these events are follow-up outcomes of last Ministerial India-USA Commercial Dialogue held in March 2023.
- An introductory meeting was held through VC on March 28, 2024 between the chief negotiators of India and the Eurasian Economic Commission regarding the FTA between India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

- A VC with Indian missions and posts of top countries (bilateral trade-wise) in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region was held on March 21, 2024 under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce. During the VC, inter alia, the overall economic and trade issues with the top countries in the SSA region, export performance, and other matters related to bilateral trade, etc. were discussed.
- India-UK FTA negotiations were held virtually at the Chief Negotiator (CN)/Team Level in Goods, Rules of Origin, Services, Financial Services, Core Provisions, and TBT Annex during March 13–15, 2024. Deliberations were held virtually at the CN level on the outstanding issues in the India-UK FTA on March 20, 22 and 28, 2024.
- A meeting between a delegation from the Russian side led by the Director General of VTB Bank, Project Office, Russia and the Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce was held on March 20, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss the prospects of cooperation in the development of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- A meeting with a South African delegation led by the High Commissioner of South Africa was held on March 20, 2024 in New Delhi at Economic Adviser level. During the meeting, inter alia, economic relations between India and South Africa, market access for agricultural products, proposals regarding the India-SACU FTA and India-South Africa Joint Working Group, etc. were discussed.
- The Trade in Goods Subcommittee Meeting was held virtually at the Deputy Secretary level on March 21, 2024, wherein parties recognised the importance of the Ind-Aus ECTA in enhancing bilateral trade relations. Both sides proposed exchanging preference utilization data regularly to monitor ECTA's benefits for traders. Both sides discussed issues related to the smooth operation of TRQ administration and acknowledged the engagement through the Working Group on Whisky and Joint Dialogue on Wine. India emphasised the early conclusion of the MRA (Mutual Recognition Agreement) on organics as per the side letter of the Ind-Aus ECTA.

III. SEZ

- During the month of March 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1044.17 crore which will also provide employment to 37,600 persons.

IV. Export Infrastructure

- During March 2024, a total amount of Rs. 7.0875 crore was released/reassigned for various projects under the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) as per the details given below:
 - i. Rs. 2.33 crore (3rd tranche of the first instalment) was released to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for “Setting up common infrastructure facilities at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Niryat Suvidha Kendra at Chunar Tehsil, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh.”

- ii. Rs. 31.75 lakh (3rd tranche of the first instalment) was released to Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (TIDC) for “Setting up of Border Haat at Kamalpur, Dhalai, Tripura.”
- iii. Rs. 2.50 crore (4th tranche of the second instalment) was released to the Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) for the “Expansion Project of Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.”
- iv. Rs.1.75 crore and Rs. 19 lakhs (total Rs. 1.94 crore) (2nd and 3rd tranches of the second and final installment) were released to Andhra Pradesh Medtech Ltd. (AMTZ) for “design, construction, and manufacturing of the Technetium 99m Generator (Medical radio-isotope), Visakhapatnam.”

v. Export Promotion

- The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESCEPC) organised a delegation visit of 15 electronics and IT companies to Brazil and Paraguay from March 4–8, 2024 for a B2B meet. During the visit to Brazil, the Council signed an MOU with the Federation of Commerce, Services, and Tourism of the State of Goiás, Brazil. In Paraguay, an MOU was signed with the Chamber of Software Industry of Paraguay to boost India's electronics and IT trade in Paraguay. ESCEPC sponsored a delegation of its members to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan from March 11 to 15, 2024. Buyers from both countries showed keen interest in sourcing IT software, solutions, and services from Indian participants. A B2B meet at the Canadian High Commission, New Delhi was also organised for a Canadian delegation comprising five tech companies looking to source in healthcare, cyber security, RPA (Robotic Process Automation), etc. on March 21, 2024.
- The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) organised a “Cluster Outreach Program cum Interactive Seminar” for MSME Exporters, Members and Non-Members in the Automotive Rubber Products Manufacturers’ Cluster on March 1, 2024 at the Maratha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pune. It also conducted a webinar programme with “Reserve Bank of India, Chennai” on foreign exchange and FEMA Regulation on Trade through virtual mode on March 7, 2024. Around 116 members and staff attended the webinar.
- The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics, and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) mobilised the participation of its members in various Buyer Seller Meets Abroad, viz., India-Philippines Chemical Business Meet held on March 11, 2024; India-Cambodia Chemical Business Meet held on March 13, 2024; India-Thailand Chemical Business Meet held on March 15, 2024; India-Kenya Buyer Seller Meet (Chemicals and Cosmetics) held on March 19, 2024; and India-Ethiopia Buyer Seller Meet (Chemicals and Cosmetics) held on March 21, 2024. CHEMEXCIL also organised a seminar on BIS and QCO Standards, Global Chemical Regulatory Outlook 2024 in New Delhi on March 7, 2024 where about 60 members participated.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) extended membership to nine new companies in March 2024.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) organised a PLEXCONNECT webinar for “Recycle Material in Food Contact Material Application” on March 14, 2024. The objective of this webinar was to enhance the knowledge of participants about various regulations pertaining to recycle material in food contact material application when exporting to different countries.

VI. APEDA

- A consignment of 1600 KG of fresh turmeric was flagged off from Varanasi to the UAE on March 5, 2024. The produce was sourced from Chunar, Mirzapur. Another consignment of 1100 KG of mixed fruits sourced from Thankurganj, Bihar was flagged off on March 5, 2024 from Varanasi to the UAE.
- An Export-Oriented Capacity Development Programme on One District One Product (ODOP) cum Buyer-Seller Meet was organised by APEDA on March 4, 2024 at Gola, Dist. Ramgarh, Jharkhand. The primary objective of the event was to sensitise and empower stakeholders in the papaya sector in Ramgarh, Jharkhand.
- On March 5, 2024, APEDA collaborated with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) to host a sensitization workshop at the Horticultural College & Research Institute (HC&RI) in Periyakulam, Theni District. The event focused on educating mango growers about Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). Around 140 mango growers participated.
- APEDA participated in the 38th edition of Aahar 2024, the International Food and Hospitality Fair organised from March 7–11, 2024, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Around 120 exporters from different segments participated.
- APEDA participated in Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California, USA, organised from March 14–16, 2024 and International Food & Drink 2024 (IFE 2024) in London from March 25–27, 2024. A range of Indian food products were showcased and promoted by the exporters.
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VII. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 123 farms, formed 27 new cluster farms, and organised 2,174 training programmes during March 2024.
- During the month of March 2024, 8 exporters, 3 processing plants, 2 handling centres, 4 storage facilities, and 3 peeling sheds were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 431 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU-approved cold storage facilities are present.

VIII. Export Credit and Insurance

- During March 2024, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 1,03,225 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 165.60 Crore, issued 1,366 policies, added 1,603 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 79.04 Crore.

IX. DGFT

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 16,579 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 1,793 under Advance Authorisations, 312 under Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS), 13,106 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1,368 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during March 2024.
- Amendment in export policy of Onions was notified vide Notification No. 81/2023 dated March 22, 2024.

- Export of Onions (under HS Code 07031019)
 - i. to Bangladesh was notified vide Notification No. 63/2023 dated March 1, 2024.
 - ii. to UAE was notified vide Notification No. 65/2023 dated March 1, 2024
 - iii. to Bhutan, Bahrain and Mauritius was notified vide Notification No. 67/2023 dated March 6, 2024
- Amendment in import policy condition for
 - i. Duck Meat under Chapter 2 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule -I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 78/2023 dated March 16, 2024.
 - ii. Raw Pet Coke and Calcined Pet Coke under Chapter 27 of Schedule-I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notification No. 68/2023 dated March 7, 2024.
 - iii. Urea [Exim Code 31021010] in the ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule – I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 79/2023 dated March 18, 2024.
- Export of food commodities through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) was notified vide Notification No. 64/2023 dated March 1, 2024.
- Enabling provisions for import of inputs that are subjected to mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by Advance Authorisation holders, EOU and SEZ was notified vide Notification No. 71/2023 dated March 11, 2024.
- Amendment in export Policy of Human Biological Samples under Chapter-30 of ITC HS schedule-2 of export policy was notified vide Notification No. 72/2023 dated March 11, 2024.
- RODTEP implementation for exports of products manufactured by AA holders (except Deemed Exports) and EOU for 166 Tariff lines - reg. was notified vide Notification No. 74/2023 dated March 11, 2024.
- Incorporation of Policy condition for export of Chitin, Chitosan, Chitosan Salts, Chitosan Salts (Chitosan Hydrochloride, Chitosan Acetate, Chitosan Lactate) and Chitosan Derivatives (Chitosan Succinamide) was notified vide Notification No. 73/2023 dated March 11, 2024.
- Amendment in Policy condition of
 - i. De-Oiled Rice Bran was notified vide Notification No. 76/2023 dated March 15, 2024.
 - ii. Crude Oil under HS Code 2709 00 10- regarding was notified vide Notification No. 80/2023 dated March 22, 2024.
- General Authorisation for export of Telecommunication-related items and Information Security items covered under category 8A5 of SCOMET was notified vide Notification No. 82/2023 dated March 27, 2024.
- Imposition of Minimum Export Price (MEP) on export of Honey was notified vide Notification No. 75/2023 dated March 14, 2024.
- Imposition of Minimum Import Price on Synthetic Knitted Fabrics up to September 15, 2024 -reg. was notified vide Notification No.77/2023 dated March 16, 2024.

x. DGTR

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Finding of the following investigations:
 - i. Final Finding in Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of 'Sodium Cyanide (NaCN) originating in or exported from China PR, European Union, Japan and Korea RP was published on March 28, 2024.
 - ii. Final Finding in Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “alloy steel chisel/ tool and hydraulic rock breaker in fully assembled condition” (HRBC) originating in or exported from China PR and Korea RP was published on March 28, 2024.
 - iii. Final Finding in Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Easy open ends of tin plate, including electrolytic tin plate (ETP), measuring 401 Diameter 99MM) and 300 Diameter (73MM) in dimension" originating in or exported from China PR was published on March 28, 2024.
- During the month of March 2024, 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
08/03/2024	Certain Polyethylene Terephthalate film sheet, and strip (PET film)	C-533-825	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Supp. Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
08/03/2024	Glycine	C-533-884	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Initial Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
18/03/2024	Non-Refillable Cylinders	C-533-913	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (07/06/21-12/31/22)	Filed case brief on behalf of GOI
27/03/2024	Non-Refillable Cylinders	C-533-913	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (07/06/21-12/31/22)	Filed rebuttal brief on behalf of GOI
22/03/2024	Common Alloy Aluminium	C-533-896	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed response to the 2nd Supp Questionnaire on

	Sheet			(01/01/22-12/31/22)	behalf of the GOI
04/03/2024	Organic Soybean Meal	C-533-902	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (09/03/21-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Supp Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
21/03/2024	Frozen Warmwater Shrimp	C-533-921	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (04/01/22-03/31/23)	Filed response to new Subsidy Allegations for GOI
15/03/2024	New Pneumatic Off-The-Road Tires	C-533-870	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Supp Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
05/03/2024	Lined Paper	C-533-844	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the initial Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI

- Issuance of final/provisional findings/disclosure against exports from India: The USDOC issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from India (C-533-921) for the period 04/01/22 to 03/31/23 on March 26, 2024. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Final Rates
Devi Sea Foods Limited	2022-23	4.72%
Sandhya Aqua Exports Pvt. Ltd.; Neeli Sea Foods Private Limited; Vijay Aqua Processors Private Limited; Neeli Aqua Farms	2022-23	3.89%
Non- Selected companies under review	2022-23	4.36%

XI. GeM

- The Government e-Marketplace (GEM) has achieved a Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹ 4 lakh crore in this financial year, doubling its previous year's figure. The portal's procurement of services has been a key driver, with nearly 50% of the GMV attributed to this sector.
- As of March 31, 2024, the GMV of services has reached INR 3.10 lakh crore since its inception. The GMV of services in FY 2022–23 was INR 66,159 crore. There is a quantum jump in procurement of services in the current FY and the total GMV of services has already surpassed the figure of INR 2.07 lakh crore.
