

F.No.1/14/2019-EPL-I
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
(EPL-I Section)

Subject: Major Achievements of the Department of Commerce during April 2021.

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in March 2021 were USD 34.45 Billion, as compared to USD 21.49 Billion in March 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 60.29 per cent. In Rupee terms, exports were Rs. 2, 50,756.40 Crore in March 2021, as compared to Rs. 1, 59,784.62 Crore in March 2020, registering a positive growth of 56.93 per cent.
- The commodities/commodity groups which have recorded positive growth during March 2021 vis-à-vis March 2020 are Other cereals (326.44%), Oil meals (230.4%), Iron ore (194.89%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (105.26%), Electronic goods (91.98%), Carpet (89.84%), Gems & jewellery (78.93%), Engineering goods (71.3%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (67.61%), Rice (66.77%), Spices (60.42%), Cotton yarn/fabs./made-ups, handloom products etc. (55.67%), Ceramic products & glassware (53.48%), Meat, dairy & poultry products (52.79%), Drugs & pharmaceuticals (48.49%), Organic & inorganic chemicals (46.5%), Plastic & Linoleum (46.39%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (43.24%), Marine products (40.81%), Petroleum products (35.52%), Man-made yarn/fabs./made-ups etc. (31.37%), Mica, Coal & other ores, minerals including processed minerals (31.28%), RMG of all textiles (27.51%), Fruits & vegetables (23.96%), Coffee (23.27%), Leather & leather products (21.86%) and Tobacco (15.57%)
- Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in March 2021 were USD 27.42 Billion, as compared to USD 16.95 Billion in March 2020, registering a positive growth of 61.75 per cent.

II. Export Promotion

- PEPC member companies (i) Larsen & Toubro Construction secured contract worth Rs 1000- Rs, 2500 cr. from Oilfields Supply Company Saudi owned by the Dubai based Oilfields Supply Center Ltd. to design and build one of the World's largest Oil & Gas Supply Bases at King Salman Energy Park, Dammam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (ii) M/s KEC International Limited secured orders of Rs. 629 crores for Transmission & Distribution Projects in India, SAARC,, Middle East, Africa and the Americas (iii) M/s JMC Construction and Engineering Ltd has secured Rs. 1000 cr. Project for design and Construction of 2000 Social Housing Units in Hulhumale', Maldives.
- The Power Transmission & Distribution business of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has won orders to design and construct two 132/11kV Substations in Dubai, UAE. The scope of these turnkey orders involves supply of advanced equipment including Gas Insulated Switchgear.
- L&T Construction secured (Major*) Green EPC Order to establish one of the World's Largest Solar PV Plants by Capacity. This 1.5 GW Sudair Project is the largest Solar PV Plant in Saudi Arabia with PPA signed.
- CAPEXIL organized a Virtual India International Ceramic & Building Material Fair with B2B Meet, (Virtual) during 27th to 30th April, 2021 with 30 Indian Exporters under approved MAI Plan for the year 2020-21. This fair and B2B has received total visitor count of more than 12 thousand with around 240 overseas buyer. During the Event, B2B Meets has been organized by CAPEXIL between Indian Exhibitors and Importers from Chile, Colombia, Vietnam and South Africa.

III. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board issued 73 license during the month. Tea Board also participated in the "Delhi Bazaar" held in Moscow on April 17th-18th, 2021 and displayed various Indian teas. Further, the Tea Board also carried out presentation of various Indian teas.
- The Coffee Board conducted 2 webinars/capacity building programs on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefiting about 450 coffee growers.
- The Rubber board conducted 313 training programs under farmer education and training programs, benefiting 5,119 farmers and also, organized 217 batches of Field trainings on different topics for 2,992 participants.
- The Rubber Board, under the convergence with MGNREGS, completed the cultural operations in 826 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 1,123 rubber growers. Besides, the Board certified 708 rubber plantations covering an area of 507 ha.
- Coffee Board conducted 2 webinars / capacity building programs on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefiting about 450 coffee growers.

- Under Rubber Production Incentive Scheme (RPIS) of Government of Kerala, the Board confirmed 38,148 sale bills and forwarded to Government of Kerala for incentive payments.
- Executive Director inaugurated “Fish Harvesting” in Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) at Kottayam on 27th April 2021. It is a model developed for homestead farming for generating additional income for farmers.
- RRII estimated an upper ceiling of potential yield of available genetic resources of Hevea at 9 kg per tree per year and successfully regenerated five Genetically Modified plants incorporating additional copies of gene isopentenyl transferase which can increase growth rate and provide tolerance to Tapping Panel Dryness.
- RRII successfully completed the factory trials for upgrading the raw rubber properties (plasticity and plasticity retention index) of Block rubber manufactured from both fresh and dry cup-lumps.
- The 5th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) held virtually from 20th-29th April, 2021 with highest participation ever with 275 participants from 65 member countries, one member organization (EU) and 11 international observer organizations. The CCSCH5 session has been an unprecedented success. Four draft standards in respect of spices viz. Cloves, Oregano, Basil and Ginger were finalized and forwarded to the Codex Alimentarius Commission for adoption.
- The Spice board issued 204 health certificates, 2926 analytical reports and Board's QELs have tested 12,651 parameters of 8195 spice samples.
- During the month of April 2021, a total number of 1802 Certificate of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES) have been issued on line.
- MoU has been signed by the Secretary with UNDP on 5th April 2021 for developing a Block chain based Traceability Interface for Indian spices in association with UNDP and later it will be integrated with the e-Spice Bazaar portal of the Board with wider coverage of spices/states.
- The Spices Board sold a quantity of 1283 MT of cardamom (small) through e-auctions at an average price of Rs. 1229.00 per kg during April 2021.

IV. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During April 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 43,670 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 45 Crore, issued 324 policies, added 511 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 0.85 Crore.

V. Bilateral Trade

- The SFC meeting for considering continuation of PDF scheme for CLMV countries was held under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary on 29th April 2021. The PDF, a revolving fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crores, was created with the approval of Cabinet in 2016 for catalyzing India's economic presence in the CLMV countries. Four projects have so far been identified for implementation in Myanmar,

Cambodia and Vietnam and their DPRs along with Letters of Intent (LoIs) to ensure buy-ins were shared with these countries in September 2020. All three countries have shown interest in the identified projects. The SFC recommended the continuation of PDF scheme for the time being with a mid-term review. The minutes of SFC are being finalized and the proposal will thereafter be submitted for approval of Hon'ble CIM.

- The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius, which was signed on 22nd February 2021, entered into force on 01 April 2021 after completion of internal legal procedures by both sides. The CECPA is the first trade Agreement signed by India with a country in Africa.

VI. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 21640 Authorizations/Scripts under FTP Schemes i.e., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of April 2021.

VII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 112,915 Crore as on 30th April 2021. There are 6,90,245 MSEs Vendors registered on GeM Portal as on 30th April 2021.
- GeM has created 16,296 product categories and 186 service categories have been created during April 2021.
- GeM has provided online (due to COVID-19) training to its 5,021 users (4,020 buyers & 1,001 sellers) for capacity building.
- GeM held 16 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / STARTUPS / ARTISANS / WEAVERS / SHGs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefiting 558 participants.
- In order to on board sellers including MSMEs, SHGs, women entrepreneurs, artisans etc. on GeM portal, GeM had created a seller invitation module (17,523 sellers have been invited out of which 7,665 sellers have registered).
- GeM has made available 295 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 159,399 unique products in COVID-19 in medical categories and 134,077 unique products in auxiliaries' categories.
- Temporary COVID hospitals, Oxygen Cylinders, PSA Oxygen Plant, Ambulance, Cold Chain Equipments, Rapid Response Diagnostic Laboratory, Oxygen Kits, Oxygen concentrators, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sample Collection Kits, Real Time PCR (ICMR Specs), Ventilator, Viral RNA Extraction Kits, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, masks, diagnostic kits PPE, Vinyl/rubber gloves, cardiac monitor and other vital products are onboarded on GeM in the list of COVID categories.

- Disinfection Service, Ambulance service are added under COVID 19 related requirement. Also six new COVID Medical categories i.e. : Rapid Response Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (i-LAB), Basic facility for COVID hospital, Temporary Hospital, ICU Facility / Ward for COVID 19 patients, Isolation Facility/Ward for asymptomatic patients, Isolation Facility/Ward for patients with mild symptoms have been added over GeM portal.
- There are 33,017 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 34,769 sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories are available on the portal.
- 28,356 weavers and 1,49,241 artisans registered as sellers on GeM with the assistance of 28 Weaver Service Centres and 56 Handicraft Service Centres at Ministry of Textiles and 9.77 MSMEs registered with Udyam Registration Portal have been successfully onboarded on GeM as sellers.
