

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 July 2022

I. Trade Performance

- India has achieved merchandise export of USD 35.24 billion in July 2022, almost at similar levels of USD 35.51 billion in July 2021. This has been achieved despite measures to control inflation (Iron Ore & Pellets, Iron and Steel, Petroleum Products, etc.) and the continued disruptions of supply chains due to Covid and Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- Organic and Inorganic chemicals (7.93%), Electronic goods (46.08%) and Rice (30.20%) showed positive growth in July 2022 over corresponding month of previous year.
- Value of non-petroleum exports in July 2022 was 29.82 USD billion, registering a positive growth of 0.48% over non-petroleum exports of USD 29.67 billion in July 2021.

II. Export Infrastructure and Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of July 2022 have approved the proposals of investments of Rs 3377.08 Crore which will also provide employment to approx. 11002 persons.
- TEPC participated in Telecom Investor Round Table focusing on Investment opportunity and Telecom reforms organized by Department of Telecommunication on 30th July 2022, Mumbai.
- ESC received Exhibition Excellence Awards 2022 for Indiasoft 2022 on 8th July 2022 for being the Best Technology Event in the year 2021-2022.
- ESC signed a MoU with Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) on 15th July 2022. The JK Government had organized a seminar “Launch of District Export Action Plan.
- Plexconcil organised a webinar on Introduction to Trade Remedy Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade for Plastic Industries on 29th July, 2022.
- CAPEXIL organised a Webinar Programme with SIDBI, Chennai on “Role of SIDBI in Propelling Growth of MSME” held on 15th July, 2022.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 291 farms, formed 3 new cluster farm and organised 201 campaigns benefiting 1610 farmers during July 2022.

- It issued 1620 DS 2031 certificates, 578 catch certificates for EU, 36 catch certificates for Non- EU, 17 ICCAT documents, 9 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 15 Duty free import certificate, 1 RCMC(Ordinary) and 1 RCMC(Temporary).
- MPEDA organized a webinar in association with ICICI Bank on the topic 'Leveraging Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to grow exports' on 28th July 2022. 80 exporters participated in the webinar.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- Indian Tea Promotional event was organized during the Annual International Tea Festival at "Slavianski Bazaar", Vitebsk, Belarus on 17th July, 2022 and an interaction in hybrid mode was organized by Embassy of India, Baku, Azerbaijan in association with Tea Board India on 7th July, 2022.
- Coffee Board conducted 155 various extension activities viz., Demonstrations, Village Level Meetings, Vocational Trainings, Farmer's Field Schools, Capacity Building Programme on different aspects of coffee cultivation benefiting about 1,802 coffee growers in coffee growing regions during the month.
- India Rubber Meet 2022 (IRM 2022), the sixth edition of the biennial event, was held at Kochi, Kerala on 22nd and 23rd July 2022. The theme was 'Natural Rubber for Sustainable Future', which addressed the challenges and opportunities of rubber sector with focus on innovative ideas and strategic planning for a more sustainable future.
- An MoU was signed between Rubber Board and Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat on 5th July 2022 to evaluate the feasibility of cultivating rubber in south Gujarat region. One hectare of rubber plantation will be established in Peria farm of the University and pilot trials will be initiated in 13 research farms of the University for evaluation in the different agro-climatic conditions of the region. Rubber Board is in a concerted effort to increase the area under natural rubber in the country to increase the production of natural rubber with focus on non-traditional region.
- Fluorescent Rubber Band manufacturing unit set up by Kendugadi Rubber Producers Society with the technical and financial support from Rubber Board in the remote tribal hamlet of Mayurbhanj District in Odisha was inaugurated on 12th July 2022. With this project, value addition of rubber is made in the farm itself, which will raise the income of the tribal rubber growers.
- Spices Board in collaboration with the Indo-German Cooperation on Agricultural Market Development (AMD) Project and National Institute of Agricultural Marketing (NIAM) jointly organizing an International Webinar on "Spices exports from India to EU markets- Best Practices and Challenges" on 5th July 2022. The webinar had sessions from national and international experts, EU spice association etc and provided an opportunity for participants to enhance their knowledge on emerging best practices and challenges related to spice exports and imports.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During July 2022, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 55,004 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 93 Crore, issued 921 policies, added 1190 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 20 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Hon'ble CIM and Minister for Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan held a meeting on 20th July 2022 at New Delhi to discuss issues regarding market access of Bhutan's agricultural products.
- Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Commerce Secretary and Mr. James Bowler, Permanent Secretary, Department of International Trade, United Kingdom met on 21st July 2022 in New Delhi and signed 2 MoUs viz. Recognition of Certificates of Competency of Seafarers and Mutual Recognition of Educational Qualifications of India and the UK. The Framework Agreement on Healthcare Workforce between India and UK to facilitate Indian Nurses and Nursing Associates seeking to work in NHS, UK was signed.
- First Round of negotiation of India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was held from 27th June to 1st July 2022 in New Delhi. During the negotiations, 52 sessions were held on 18 chapters. The next Round has been scheduled from 3rd to 7th October 2022 in Brussels to take forward the negotiations.
- Fifth round of India - UK FTA negotiations was held from 18th to 29th July 2022 in hybrid mode, in person in New Delhi, India. The negotiations took place in 15 policy areas i.e. Goods (GMA), Intellectual Property, Financial Services, Telecoms, Trade Remedies, Subsidies/SOEs, Procurement, Services, Core Text, Investment, Rules of Origin, Disputes, TBT, Intellectual Property and Procurement.
- The third round of India-Canada Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA)/Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations was held from 4th July to 8th July 2022 in Ottawa, Canada.
- On 15th July, 2022, Australia has confirmed market access for Pomegranate Arils from India to Australia. In this context, the import conditions for India's pomegranate (arils) protocol were published by the Australian side and is available in the website of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's Australian Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) portal since 5th July 2022.

7. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 21370 Authorizations/Scripts 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 July 2022.
- Implementation of MoUs between Government of Republic of India and (i) the Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar for import of urad and tur from Myanmar, (ii) Government of Republic of Malawi for import of pigeon peas from Malawi, (iii) Government of Republic of Mozambique for import of pigeon peas from Mozambique

VIII. GeM

- GeM has crossed INR 50,000 crore GMV in just 123 days in the current FY as compared to 224 days in FY 21-22.
- Following High value contracts awarded for Healthcare Security Service (Apprx. Procurement of 130 Cr) by
 - i. Safdarjung Hospital of INR 85 crore
 - ii. Lady Hardinge Medical College of INR 28 crore
 - iii. PGIMER Chandigarh of INR 18.5 crore
- A functionality has been implemented to allow registration of various co-operatives as Buyer on GeM. Two new Organization types (MCCS, SSCS) has been created along with Domain Whitelisting for Cooperatives Users. Primary user registered under Cooperatives has to get verified by respective verifying authority to complete their registration.
- The functionality has been developed and deployed wherein the VLE[village level entrepreneur] will facilitate the onboarding of the Cooperatives buyers. The VLE will authenticated at the GeM end, her/his activities at GeM will be logged, and will be able to do changes in the buyer profile pages with restricted access to VLEs. CSC will facilitate the GeM Links on CSC Portal for VLEs.
