

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 December 2022

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in December 2022 was USD 34.48 Billion.
- The sectors which have recorded positive growth in exports during December 2022 over the corresponding month of last year are Iron Ore (USD 156.74 Million; 185.76%), Oil Meals (USD 186.08 Million; 53%), Electronic Goods (USD 2295.57 Million; 36.96%), Other Cereals (USD 169.42 Million; 16.87%), Tea (USD 79.60 Million; 15.97%), Rice (USD 1017.70 Million; 13.3%), Tobacco (USD 93.19 Million; 13.07%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (USD 329.54 Million; 11.67%), Fruits & Vegetables (USD 248.32 Million; 8.03%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (USD 209.55 Million; 4.9%) and Rmg Of All Textiles (USD 1481.18 Million; 1.02%).
- Merchandise exports for the period April-December 2022 was USD 332.76 Billion as against USD 305.04 Billion during the period April-December 2021.

II. Export Infrastructure

- During the month, 'Development of Trade Promotion Centre at Gomti Nagar, Lucknow' project of Uttar Pradesh Handicrafts Development and Marketing Corporation Ltd. (UPHDMC), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh supported with financial assistance of Rs. 2.74 Crore under Trade Infrastructure of Export Scheme (TIES).
- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of December, 2022 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 3021.39 crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 14211 persons.
- Standing Finance Committee (SFC) meeting under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary was held on 2.12.2022 and the SFC approved the proposal for the construction of the new Campus of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 229.81 Cr. The capital expenditure will be borne by the Government of India and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in the ratio of 50:50. In addition to the capital expenditure, SFC has approved the operational expenditure of Rs. 40 Cr for four years from w.e.f. 2022-23 for running of temporary campus at JNTUK.

III. Export Promotion

- Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council CAPEXIL organised a webinar on "Export Incentive schemes for Exporters & Trade Proposition for Exporters for Export Bill Regularization" on 2nd December, 2022.
- CAPEXIL attended interactive session and capacity building programme on India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement(ECTA) on 14th December 2022 organized by EEPC India and Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC).
- Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) participated at the Indian Exporters Summit & Business Excellence Awards with a theme Atmanirbhar Bharat : Accelerating SME Export for a new India on 16th December 2022.

- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) took part in 11th PLASTICS JAPAN 2022 show, Tokyo, Japan for the first time with 6 exhibitors. The show was held from 7th-9th December 2022.
- Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) has extended membership to 15 new companies during December, 2022
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organised participation of 15 Media and Entertainment software companies in Asia TV Forum (ATF) during 7th-9th December 2022. ATF is Asia's largest M&E event where leading broadcasters, OTT platforms and producers from Asia participate. ATF is important for producers looking for financing or co-production opportunities. ATF also is a leading marketplace to sell Indian content. Since our culture and sensibilities are similar to other Asian countries and a large Indian ex-pat diaspora in countries like Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore make Asia the largest consumer of Indian-produced content.
- ESC organised an interactive meet with the US delegation with an objective to provide opportunities to Indian IT companies in their efforts to set up their base in the US and build business prospects.
- ESC organised a meeting of its member constituents with ITIDA EGYPT. The meeting was a preparatory meeting for a B2B Meet with Egyptian delegation to be led by the Egyptian IT Minister in January 2023.
- Information of 66 upcoming projects was circulated to Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) members in December 2022.
- PEPC organized Capacity Building Programme for Project Exporters on 9th December 2022 in Kolkata.
- With a view to have a feedback/ follow-up on the progress achieved and measures to facilitate achieving the Export Target set for the current Financial Year 2022-23, DVC meetings with the Indian Missions of Sub- Saharan African countries were held during 8th - 9th December, 2022. During the meeting, the Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA), the apex association of manufacturers in the Electrical and Electronics sector, made a presentation on their flagship event ELECRAMA (scheduled in February,2023 in India and being organized with the support of DoC), indicating the opportunities for buyers in the SSA Region and also for enhancement of exports in the sector to the SSA Region.

IV. **MPEDA**

- MPEDA enrolled 175 farms, formed 4 new cluster farms and organised 139 campaigns benefitting 1529 beneficiaries during December 2022.
- 9 exporters and 2 handling facility were issued certificate of registration. Currently 428 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

V. **Promotion of Plantation Sector**

- Tea Board India organised an "Export oriented Seminar cum Exhibition" at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh on 16.12.2022. The main objective of the seminar was to orient the participants with the essentials of the export process, effective handling of the export barriers and as well as opportunities, procedures related to export documentations with dissemination of the trends and technologies of packaging along with showcasing of exportable products & produce of the State.
- Embassy of India in Beirut, Lebanon in collaboration with Coffee Board promoted Coffees of India in 'Art of Living 2022' Exhibition held from 30th November till 4th December, 2022 at Forum de Beyrouth, Beirut, Lebanon.
- Rubber Board initiated rubber planting in North East under collaborative project with a commitment of financial support to the tune of Rs.1,000 Crore from four participating tyre companies for five years from 2021 to 2026 for developing 200,000 ha rubber

plantations. The maximum support for rubber plantation development as committed by the contributing tyre companies is Rs 50,000 per ha. Planted area achievement as on 31-12-2022 is 23370.36 ha.

- Spices Board, in collaboration with Agricultural Insurance Company India Ltd has initiated steps for development of a Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme for Large cardamom and stakeholder consultations were held in NER during December 2022.
- Spices Board is organizing the World Spice Congress-2023 as a G20 event on the sidelines of India's G20 presidency for the period December 2022 to November 2023 with focus on further strengthening India's trade ties with the G20 countries.

VI. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During December 2022, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 60,496 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 108 Crore, issued 1013 policies, added 1,254 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 96 Crore.

VII. Bilateral Trade

- India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA), signed on 2nd April 2022, came into effect on 29th December, 2022. While interacting with industry leaders, EPCs and media, Hon'ble CIM also handed over the preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO) to exporters from Pharmaceuticals sector, Textile sector and Gems & Jewellery sector for the first consignments of exports, which would be dispatched from India to Australia under Ind-Aus ECTA. Ind-Aus ECTA is the first Trade Agreement with a developed country after more than a decade and second Free Trade Agreement implemented in 2022. Given its scope and coverage, ECTA is likely to create 10 lakh jobs in India and enhance mobility of students, professionals, and tourists between the two sides strengthening people to people ties between the two nations.
- A meeting between Hon'ble Commerce & Industry Minister, India and Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Bangladesh was held on 22nd December 2022 at New Delhi. The Ministers discussed various issues of mutual interest including removal of non-tariff barriers and port restrictions, re-opening of border haats, harmonization and mutual recognition of standards and procedures on both sides, settlement of trade in Indian rupees, strengthening connectivity and trade infrastructure, among others, to realise the full potential of India-Bangladesh economic ties.
- Department of Commerce held a virtual meeting on 23rd December 2022 with Director Trade Policy Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Republic of Mauritius regarding the negotiations on additional market access under India-Mauritius CECTA. Both sides have agreed to exchange revised wish lists by mid-January 2023.
- High Commissioner of Ghana to India H.E Kwaku Asomah-Cheremeh called upon Commerce Secretary on 27th December, 2022 wherein they discussed the entire range of economic and commercial relationship, including the significant potential to boost the bilateral trade between the two countries.
- During December 2022, third round of negotiations under India-EU FTA and sixth round of India-UK FTA negotiations were held.
- The 2nd session of India – Norway Dialogue on Trade and Investment (DTI) was held in Oslo, Norway on 20th-21st December, 2022. During the session both sides agreed to enhance bilateral trade and investment, reviewed status of India-EFTA TEPA negotiations and also discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation in various

sectors such as Energy including Renewable energy, Circular economy, Blue economy, Marine and Maritime, and Fisheries.

- A virtual meeting was held with participants from DoC and concerned industry stakeholders on 8th December 2022 to review policy/procedures pertaining to allocation of Gold TRQ under India – UAE CEPA. Other issues discussed during the meeting were reduction of cost of transaction for Gold Imports under CEPA TRQ mechanism, and simplification of associated custom procedures for Gold TRQ imports.

VIII. **DGFT**

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 15,098 Authorizations/Scrips under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during December 2022.

IX. **DGTR**

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Finding of the following investigation:
 - i. Final Findings in the CESTAT Remand Case in Sunset review anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Viscose Staple Fibre” originating in or exported from China PR and Indonesia on 19.12.2022.
 - ii. Sunset review investigation of anti-dumping duty on the imports of “Monoisopropylamine” originating in or exported from China PR on 20.12.2022.
