

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 April 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports in April 2023 were recorded at USD 34.66 Billion.
- The sectors which have recorded positive growth in exports during April 2023 over the corresponding month of last year are Oil Meals(USD 0.20 Billion, 95.14 %), Electronic Goods(USD 2.11 Billion, 26.49 %), Rice(USD 1.00 Billion, 24.01 %), Oil seeds(USD 0.14 Billion, 18.01 %), Ceramic products & glassware(USD 0.36 Billion, 17.21 %), Spices(USD 0.36 Billion, 14.44 %), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals(USD 2.28 Billion, 10.45 %), Fruits & Vegetables(USD 0.31 Billion, 9.96 %), Tobacco(USD 0.10 Billion, 6.28 %), Coffee(USD 0.12 Billion, 4.17 %), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items(USD 0.23 Billion, 2.03 %).
- Electronics goods export share in India's total merchandise exports have increased from 4.21% in April 2022 to 6.10% in April 2023. Smartphones export stood at USD 1.07 Billion during April 2023, as compared to USD 0.50 Billion in April 2022.

II. Export Infrastructure

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of April 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 4190.77 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 20249 persons.

III. Export Promotion

- A webinar on export of Chemicals to Iran/Russia under Rupee payment held by Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) on 27th April 2023.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) with the support and guidance of Embassy of India, Mexico held its first virtual meeting on 19th April 2023 to promote the Indian plastics Industry in Mexico through the PLEXCONNECT 2023, exhibition for the Indian plastics Industry.
- Project Export Promotion Council (PEPC) along with its member companies participated in the Preparatory document for Focus Group Discussion by IIFT on Rules of Origin (ROO) on 28th April 2023 to help Government to formulate Product Specific Rules of Origin at the 6-Digit HS level and to understand the problems faced by organization in undertaking exports due to the ROOs already implemented in the existing FTAs.

- Information about 54 upcoming projects in Infrastructure, Water, Power, Consultancy was circulated to PEPC members in April 2023.
- Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) in association with Embassy of India Moscow and Govt. of Moscow region organized a webinar on “Opportunities for Indian Pharmaceutical Companies in Moscow Region, Russia”. About 150 Indian companies participated in the webinar.
- Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) in association with Embassy of India in Vietnam organized a virtual B2B meet between Indian Electronics components exporters and buyers from Vietnam on 24th April 2023. Vietnam Electronics Industries Association helped to mobilize participation of the Vietnamese electronics companies.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 98 farms, formed 49 new cluster farms and organised 188 campaigns benefitting 981 beneficiaries during April 2023.
- 5 exporters, 2 processing plants, 2 handling facilities, 3 storage premises and 2 peeling sheds were issued certificate of registration. Currently 428 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During April 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 67,260 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 68.62 Crore, issued 444 policies, added 1,149 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 7.61 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- 13th meeting of India-Thailand Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held in New Delhi. This was the first physical meeting of JTC after its revival in 2020. During the meeting, both sides discussed various market access issues and technical barriers faced by industries and agreed to resolve the same through regular and sustained bilateral discussions. India raised the restriction faced in its export of marine, poultry and meat products. Both sides also identified a range of potential commodities and sectors for strengthened partnership such as value-added marine products, smart phone, Electric vehicles, food processing, services, and pharmaceuticals.
- The 9th round of India-UK FTA negotiations was held in London from 24th – 28th April 2023. During this Round, negotiations have been held in Rules of Origin, Core Provisions, Disputes, Government Procurement, Trade Remedies, IPR and Environment chapter.
- On 26th April, 2023, a meeting of Hon’ble Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) was held with Mr. Jan Christian Vestre, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway; Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda, Swiss State Secretary at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO; Mr. Martin Eyjólfsson, Permanent Secretary of State of Iceland at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Mr. Kurt Jäger, Ambassador and Permanent

Representative of Liechtenstein to EFTA, WTO and the UN in Geneva; and Ms. Henri Gétaz, Secretary-General of the European Free Trade Association. Both sides agreed to continue their efforts to resolve all outstanding issues and to work towards deepening and strengthening the economic partnership, while contributing to a more inclusive global trading system.

- 12th session of India-Spain Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) was held in New Delhi on 12th -13th April 2023. Both sides agreed for further cooperation in the field of Civil Aviation, Railways, Renewable Energy, Shipping, Ports, Roads, Tourism, Food Processing, Pharmaceuticals, Science & Technology and Defence. The status of various MOUs was also reviewed including those of important interest for bilateral relations such as MOUs on Migration & Mobility, Agreement on Social Security, Cyber Security etc. Both sides also discussed various Market Access Issues faced by their exporters and agreed to resolve the same through bilateral discussions. Both sides expressed hope for a considerable progress in the ongoing India-EU FTA Negotiations during the upcoming Spanish Presidency of EU from July to December, 2023.
- CIM had a bilateral meeting with Mr Olivier Becht, Minister for Foreign Attractiveness and French Nationals Abroad, France on 11th April 2023, in Paris. During deliberations various aspects of trade & investment covering India-EU FTA negotiations, priority Market Access Issues and mutual topics of interest at WTO etc. were discussed.
- CIM had bilateral meetings with HE Mr. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation and Mr. Adolfo Urso, Minister of Enterprise, Italy on 12th and 13th April 2023, in Rome. During deliberations various aspects of trade & investment covering formation of JWGs in the strategic areas, India-EU FTA negotiations, convening next session of Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation etc. were discussed.
- 7th round of India-Canada EPTA negotiations was held during 3rd -6th April 2023.
- For the Comprehensive India-Australia Agreement, the 2nd round of negotiations in 4 ECTA agreed tracks and exploratory discussions on 13 subjects were held in Sydney, Australia from 17th -21st April 2023. Overall, the 2nd Round of formal negotiations/exploratory discussions were quite productive. Good progress was made in the ECTA agreed tracks and detailed work plan with indicative deadlines has been drawn up. In the tracks under exploratory discussions, the talks were positive and, in most tracks, it was decided to continue discussions based on textual proposals, on a without prejudice and non-binding basis, to bring focus and clear way forward. It is envisaged to hold the 3rd and 4th round of negotiations during 5th-16th June and 3rd-14th July respectively, so as to pave the way for early conclusion of the negotiations.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 14,145 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during April 2023.

- Amendment in Export Policy of items under HS Codes 27101241, 27101242, 27101243, 27101244, 27101249, 27101941, 27101944 and 27101949 of Chapter 27 of Schedule 2 of the ITC (HS) Export Policy. (Notification No.02/2023 and 01/04/2023)
- Streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products. (Notification No.03/2023 and 06/04/2023)
- Handbook of Procedures, 2023 was notified vide Public Notice No. 1/2023 dated 01/04/2023,
- Amnesty scheme for one time settlement of default in export obligation by Advance and EPCG authorization holders -reg. was notified vide Public Notice No.2/2023 dated 01/04/2023.
- Implementation of the Track and Trace System for export of Pharmaceuticals and drug consignments along with maintaining the Parent-Child relationship in the levels of packaging and their movement in supply chain- Extension of date of implementation regarding was notified vide Public Notice No.03/2023 dated 03/04/2023.
- Procedure for obtaining Registration Certificate for import of Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA) subject to Country-wise Quantitative Restrictions (QR) for the year 2023-24 was notified vide Public Notice No.04/2023 dated 11/04/2023.
- Extension of Validity of ANFs and Appendices issued under FTP (2015-20) was notified vide Public Notice No.05/2023 dated 11/04/2023.
- Amendments in Annexure-IV under Appendix-2A (Imports of Items under TRQ under India- UAE CEPA) was notified vide Public Notice No.06/2023 dated 17/04/2023.
- Amnesty scheme for one time settlement of default in export obligation by Advance and EPCG authorization holders – Amendment was notified vide Public Notice No.07/2023 dated 18/04/2023.
- Allocation of additional quantity of 2360 MT for export of raw cane sugar to USA under Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) for the US Fiscal Year 2023 was notified vide Public Notice No.08/2023 dated 21/04/2023.
- Amendment in Para 4.12 (vi) of the Handbook of Procedures, 2023 was notified vide Public Notice No.09/2023 dated 25/04/2023.
- Appendices & Aayat Niryat Forms of Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 was notified vide Public Notice No.10/2023 dated 26/04/2023.
- Amendment in details of an authorized agency under Appendix 2E of FTP, 2023 was notified vide Public Notice No.11/2023 dated 27/04/2023.
- New TRQ Applications under tariff head 7108 under India-UAE CEPA for FY 2023-24 was notified vide Public Notice No.12/2023 dated 28/04/2023.
- Issuance of EODC for AA and EPCG process from DGFT portal (Trade Notice No. 01/2023 dated 06/04/2023).

- New HSN Codes for Technical Textiles items in ITC(HS), 2022 Schedule -I (Import Policy)– reg. (Trade Notice No. 02/2023 dated 17/04/2023).
- Amendments under Interest Equalisation Scheme in respect of UIN- reg (Trade Notice No. 03/2023 dated 20/04/2023).
- Amendment under Interest Equalisation Scheme in respect of UIN- reg.(Trade Notice No. 04/2023 dated 21/04/2023).

VIII. **DGTR**

- **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued final findings in the following cases:**
 - i. Sunset review of anti-dumping duties levied on imports of "High Tenacity Polyester Yarn" originating in or exported from China PR.
 - ii. Sunset review investigation concerning imports of certain Hot Rolled and Cold Rolled Stainless Steel Flat Products, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China.
 - iii. Sunset Review investigation of anti-dumping duty on the imports of "Grinding Media Balls excluding Forget Grinding Media Ball" originating in or exported from China PR and Thailand.

IX. **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**

- eGS-GeM launch by Hon'ble PM at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh - Integration of GeM with e-Gram Swaraj platform successfully launched by Hon'ble PM on 24th April 2023 at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.
- GeM can now be accessed from foreign locations via a secured platform called AVD. This move will be beneficial for specific buyers from the Indian Embassies abroad.
- Conducting trainings and workshops for portal users and relevant stakeholders is a very essential component of GeM's operations. In April 2023 alone, 76 training sessions and 3 events have been conducted for various buyer and seller organisations. These workshops and events witnessed a total participation of 3800 individuals with more than 2900 buyers and 800 sellers.
