

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 August 2023

I. Trade Performance

- Merchandise exports during August 2023 were recorded at USD 34.48 Billion.
- For the month of August 2023, under merchandise exports, 15 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in August 2023 as compared to same period last year (August 2022). These include Iron Ore (1556.09%), Oil Meals (57.26%), Ceramic Products & Glassware (29.28%), Electronic Goods (26.29%), Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Made-Ups, Handloom Products Etc. (26%), Tobacco (20.03%), Oil Seeds (17.02%), Meat, Dairy & Poultry Products (16.46%), Cashew (14.25%), Fruits & Vegetables (14.19%), Carpet (13.15%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (12.88%), Engineering Goods (7.73%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (4.53%) and Marine Products (2.45%).

II. Bilateral Trade

- **CII India-LAC Conclave**, an outreach event on trade and investment with LAC region scaled up by the Department of Commerce (DoC) was held successfully in New Delhi during 3rd - 4th August, 2023. Around 19 Ministers/Governors from 26 countries, 350 International delegates and 600 Indian delegates were part of the Conclave.
- The 13th **BRICS** Trade Ministers' Meeting (TMM) was held virtually on 7th August 2023 under the Presidency of South Africa, wherein CIM participated. The BRICS TMM adopted the Joint Communique and outcome documents were negotiated by BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI).
- CIM held bilateral meetings with **Portugal, Republic of Guinea, Switzerland, UK and New Zealand** during the month of August to discuss trade issues.
- CIM also held bilateral meetings with **Saudi Arabia , Oman , UAE, Australia** on the sidelines of G-20 TIWG and TIMM.
- The 3rd Meeting of **India-EU** High Level Dialogue on Trade & Investment co-chaired by CIM with European Commission's Executive Vice President, Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, in New Delhi on 26th August 2023.
- Commerce Secretary held bilateral meetings with **Republic of Cuba, Peru, Chile, European Commission and UK** during August 2023.
- Bilateral meetings with regard to trade negotiations with **Peru, UK, EFTA, GCC, Australia** were also conducted during the month at the Chief Negotiators levels.
- A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary, on 2nd August, 2023 in New Delhi to discuss issues related to **India-Africa** Trade & Investment relations.

- The 5th meeting of **India-Vietnam** Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC) was held in New Delhi on 8th August 2023.
- The 20th **ASEAN-India** Economic Ministers (AEM-India) Consultation was held in Semarang, Indonesia on 21st August 2023.

III. G-20

- The G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting TIMM was held in Jaipur on 24th and 25th August, 2023. The meeting was led by CIM.
- **High-Level Principles on digitalization of trade documents** : G20 Ministers have enunciated 10 broad principles that comprehensively cover various dimensions of an effective transition to paperless trade.
- **G20 Generic Framework for Mapping Global Value Chains**: G20 Ministers endorsed key building blocks namely GVC data, its analysis, and representation and a set of indicators for developing the framework.
- G20 Ministers also issued a **Jaipur Call for Action** for enhancing access to information for MSMEs. It underpins **upgradation of the Global Trade Helpdesk** managed by the International Trade Center, Geneva.
- **Compendium of Best Practices on MRAs for Professional Services**: It will foster deeper engagements among countries to promote trade in services particularly focusing on professional services.
- **G20 Standards Dialogue**: It will bring together members, policymakers, regulators, standard-setting bodies, and other stakeholders to discuss and deliberate topics of common interest such as good regulatory practices and standards.

IV. SEZ

Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of August 2023 have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 10,187.13 crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 21,689 persons.

V. Export Promotion

Export Promotion Councils Viz. Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL), Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL), Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) and Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) conducted various webinars and awareness programs for member exporters.

VI. APEDA

- On 23rd August, 2023, APEDA facilitated a trial shipment of fruits (Pineapples, Star fruit, Lemon, Jackfruit & Mini Indian Plum) from Guwahati to Singapore. This is the first direct shipment from NER (Guwahati airport) to Singapore.
- On 22nd August, 2023, APEDA facilitated the first shipment of Cranberry and Hog Plum from Varanasi to Shahrjah. The mix consignment of 1750 KG including Hog Plum,

Cranberry, Long Beans, Pointed Guard was sent. The produces were sourced from FPO North - Agro Farmer Producer Company Ltd.

- APEDA participated in AGRA 61st International Agriculture and Food Fair, 2023 from 26th to 31st August, 2023 in Slovenia. The special focus was on millets, fruits and vegetables, value added products, rice and dehydrated products.
- APEDA participated in Fine Food, Sydney, Australia from 11th to 14th September, 2023.

VII. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 107 farms, formed 11 new cluster farms and organised 111 campaigns benefitting 991 beneficiaries during August 2023.
- 16 exporters, 6 handling facilities and 1 storage were issued certificate of registration. Currently 431 EU approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storages are present.

VIII. Plantation Sector

- Tea Board's participated at the 'India Organic & Horti Expo-2023' and concurrent show 'Empowering India-2023' held from 18th -20th August, 2023 at Maniram Dewan Trade Centre, Guwahati, Assam.
- A VC with Ambassador of India, EOI, Tehran was organized by Tea Board on 24th August 2023 to discuss the major export impediments to Iran for suitable redressal, payment issues etc.
- Tea Board organized generic promotion of Assam tea in connection with the celebration of 200 years of Assam tea through digital media and static media as outdoor media campaign at Guwahati International Airport.
- Rubber Board organized a meeting with the representatives of the major tyre manufacturing companies and office bearers of the Indian Rubber Dealers Federation (IRDF) in the context of falling rubber prices.

IX. Export Credit and Insurance

- During August 2023, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 54,716 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 62.74 Crore, issued 1,076 policies, added 1,368 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 25.04 Crore.

X. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 17,000 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., 13,469 under Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), 59 under Service Exports from India's (SEIS), 2,009 under Advance Authorizations and 1,463 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during August 2023.
- Regularization of RoDTEP for 18 HS Codes under Heading 5208 w.e.f 01.01.2021- reg notified vide Notification No.24/2023 dated 03/08/2023.
- Amendment in Export Policy of

- a. Red Sanders wood exclusively sourced from cultivation origin obtained from private land (including Pattaland) and Confiscated source notified vide Notification No.25/2023 dated 03/08/2023.
 - b. Non-Basmati Rice under HS Code 10063090 notified vide Notification No. 29/2023 dated 29/08/2023.
- Amendment in Appendix 3 (SCOMET items) to Schedule- 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2018 notified vide Notification No. 27/2023 dated 28/08/2023.
 - Amendment in Registration Fees under Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) reg. notified vide Notification No. 28/2023 dated 28/08/2023.
 - Export of Non-Basmati White Rice (under HS Code 10063090) to Bhutan, Mauritius and Singapore notified vide Notification No. 30/2023 dated 30/08/2023.

XI. DGTR

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Findings on 28th August 2023 in the Anti-Dumping Duty investigation on the imports of “Toughened Glass for Home Appliances” originating in or exported from China PR and sent to DoR for their consideration and further action.
- **Trade Defence Wing (TDW):**

During the month of August, 2023 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
03.08.2023	Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders	C-533-913	USDOC	Original CVD Investigation	Filed response to the initial questionnaire issued by the USDOC
03.08.2023	Finished Carbon Steel Flanges	C-533-872	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed part 1 of Supplementary Questionnaire Response
07.08.2023	Paper file folders	C-533-911	USDOC	CVD Original Investigation	Filed rebuttal brief

08.08.2023	Brass Rods	C-533-916	USDOC	CVD Original Investigation	Filed response to the initial questionnaire issued by the USDOC
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XII. GeM

- GeM has achieved a remarkable milestone by crossing ₹1 Lakh Crore GMV in just 145 days in FY 23-24. Further cumulative transaction value on GeM since inception has crossed INR 5 lakh crore.
- GeM inked an MoU with Indian Pipe Manufacturers Association (IPMA), in New Delhi on 22nd August 2023. This partnership aims to promote a healthy and diverse business ecosystem through the onboarding of all member sellers under the association, regardless of their size or scale, onto the platform.
- On the occasion of GeM's 7th Anniversary on 9th August 2023, 'GeM- MSE Connect Initiative' was launched as part of a focused outreach strategy. This 'Connect Initiative' aims at fostering an active partnership of various MSE organisations across the country with GeM to provide direct market linkage to their member MSEs, have a dialogue with them to understand and resolve their GeM-related issues and promote 'Make in India.'
- During the month, 159 training sessions and 33 events were conducted for various Buyer and Seller organizations with a total participant count of 10273 with 7800+ Buyers and 2400+ sellers.
