

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 January 2024

I. Export Performance

- Merchandise exports during January 2024 are USD 36.92 Billion as compared to USD 35.80 Billion in January 2023, registering a positive growth of 3.12 percent.
- For the month of January 2024, under merchandise exports, 18 of the 30 key sectors exhibited positive growth in January 2024 as compared to same period last year (January 2023). These include Iron Ore (109.79%), Tobacco (47.32%), Meat, Dairy & Poultry Products (26.12%), Spices (20.5%), Cereal Preparations & Miscellaneous Processed Items (18.69%), Oil Meals (14.66%), Oil Seeds (11.34%), Fruits & Vegetables (10.61%), Plastic & Linoleum (9.55%), Carpet (9.44%), Electronic Goods (9.31%), Tea (6.92%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (6.84%), Petroleum Products (6.57%), Coffee (5.53%), Engineering Goods (4.2%), Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Made-Ups, Handloom Products Etc. (2.5%) and Organic & Inorganic Chemicals (0.3%).
- Petroleum Products exports in January 2024 improve by 6.57 percent at USD 8.21 Billion from USD 7.70 Billion in January 2023.
- Engineering Goods exports in January 2024 record an increase of 4.20 percent at USD 8.77 Billion over USD 8.41 Billion in January 2023.
- Electronic Goods exports registered an increase of 9.31 percent at USD 2.30 Billion in January 2024 over USD 2.11 Billion in January 2023.
- Exports of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Products in January 2024 recorded at USD 2.13 Billion; an increase of 6.84 percent over USD 2.00 Billion in January 2023.

II. Bilateral Trade

- A virtual meeting was held on January 11, 2024 between Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) and the UK Secretary of State to take stock of the India-UK FTA negotiations and discuss the way forward.
- The 14th India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting was held on January 12, 2024 in New Delhi. A high-level delegation led by Ambassador Katherine Tai, USTR, visited New Delhi to participate in the Trade Policy Forum meeting. CIM led the Indian side to discuss the issues. After the meeting, a joint statement was issued, which is hosted on the Department of Commerce website.
- A ministerial-level meeting between India and Switzerland was held in Mumbai on January 20, 2024. Both ministers reviewed the progress of the India-EFTA TEPA negotiations.

- A meeting between CIM and the trade representative of Thailand and Advisor to the Thai PM was held on January 23, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss bilateral relations, including economic and commercial ties.
- A high-level delegation from the UK, including the UK PM's Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), DG Trade Negotiations, Chief Negotiator, and the team visited New Delhi on January 23–25, 2024 to discuss the outstanding issues across policy areas. The delegation had a meeting with CIM on January 24, 2024 to take stock of the FTA negotiations and discuss the way forward. The delegation had detailed discussions with the Commerce Secretary on the India-UK FTA on January 23 and 24, 2024.
- Mr. Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, USA and his delegation met CIM on January 25, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss trade and investment issues between the two countries.
- A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary was held on January 2, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss the outstanding issues in goods market access in the India-UK FTA.
- Meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary were held on January 2, 17, and 30, 2024 in New Delhi. A discussion was held with line ministries concerned regarding their mandate to be provided under the India EFTA TEPA Negotiations for Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), IPR, and Trade in Services.
- A meeting under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary was held on January 4, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss the impact of the ongoing Red Sea crisis on international trade. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Logistics Division (DPIIT), CONCOR, Export Promotion Councils, association of shipping lines, and officials of the Department of Commerce and DGFT.
- A meeting of Commerce Secretary and Vice Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan was held on January 8, 2024 in New Delhi.
- A courtesy meeting of Commerce Secretary and Ambassador of India in Turkmenistan was held on January 19, 2024 in New Delhi.
- An inter-ministerial meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary on January 17, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi with representatives from the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, and Department of Commerce to assess the efforts being taken by the respective Ministries and Departments to tackle the crisis in the Red Sea.
- A meeting of the Commerce Secretary with representatives of the Department of Pharmaceuticals was held on January 24, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss pharma-related issues under the India-EFTA TEPA Negotiations.
- Dr. Seth Meyer, USDA Chief Economist, met the Commerce Secretary on January 30, 2024 in New Delhi to discuss trade issues between the two countries and also WTO-related matters.
- On January 29, 2024 a telephonic conversation was held between Commerce Secretary and DG Trade Negotiations, UK to take stock of the progress made in the India-UK FTA and discuss the next steps. A telephonic call between Commerce Secretary and British High Commissioner was held on January 19 and 30, 2024 to discuss the next steps in the India-UK FTA.

- A meeting between Commerce Secretary and the newly appointed Enterprise Singapore (ESG) CEO, Mr. Lee Chuan Teck, was held on January 31, 2024 in New Delhi. During the meeting, various investment opportunities for Singapore and technology transfer in the sector, like infrastructure, logistics, tourism, IT parks, developing smart cities, etc., were discussed.
- The 13th Round of Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ECTA) negotiations between Sri Lanka and India took place from January 8–10, 2024 in New Delhi. Both sides delved into a spectrum of critical areas, including Trade in Goods, Technical Barriers to Trade, and Trade in Services. Emphasising the need to build upon their achievements, the delegations agreed to remain open to revising their positions in light of new developments.
- The 21st round of India-EFTA TEPA negotiations was held in New Delhi from January 8–13, 2024. The negotiations were held in various chapters, viz., Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, IPR, Trade in Services, Investment Promotion and Cooperation, Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), and Customs and Trade Facilitation.
- The 14th round of India-UK FTA negotiations was held in New Delhi in hybrid mode on January 10–19, 2024. Negotiations were held in the Rules of Origin and IPR chapters.
- The Inter-Governmental Sub-Committee (IGSC) meeting on Trade, Transit, and Cooperation to control unauthorized trade between India and Nepal was held on January 12–13, 2024 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Both sides discussed mutual market access for pharmaceuticals and Ayurvedic products.
- The discussion on the modalities of the Services and Investment chapter of the India-EU FTA was held between the negotiating teams of both sides on January 15–17, 2024 in New Delhi, followed by Chief Negotiators Meeting held on January 18–19, 2024.

III. SEZ

- During the month of January 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 753.05 crore which will also provide employment to 14,831 persons.

IV. Export Infrastructure

- During the month of January 2024, a total amount of Rs. 5.485 crore was released/reassigned for various projects under Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES), as per the details given below:
 - i. Rs. 2.50 crore (3rd tranche of the 2nd and final installment) was released to the Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) for the “Expansion Project of Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.”
 - ii. Rs. 2.33 crore (1st tranche of 1st instalment) was released to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for “setting up

common infrastructure facilities at Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Niryat Suvidha Kendra at Chunar Tehsil, Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh.

- iii. Rs. 65.50 lakh (3rd tranche of the 2nd and final installment) was released to the Export Inspection Council (EIC) for “Construction of the office cum laboratory complex of EIA at Vishakapatnam.”

V. Export Promotion

- The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) organised the Mega Reverse Buyer Seller Meeting (RBSM) for ceramic products on January 7–10, 2024 at Rajkot, Gujarat, where more than 200 overseas delegates attended the event. The objective of the RBSM was to promote the exports of Indian ceramic industry products. CAPEXIL conducted a webinar programme with the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd., Chennai, and with the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), Chennai, through virtual mode on January 12, 2024 in which around 103 members and staff participated.
- The DoC held an Export Review Meeting with EPCs viz. PLEXCONCIL, CHEMEXCIL, SHEFEXIL, and CAPEXIL through VC on January 17, 2024 wherein the reasons for the shortfall in exports up to December 2023, along with issues concerning these EPCs were discussed. During the meeting, the EPCs were also sensitised to take up measures to increase export share for potential export items to Russia.
- The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics, and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) organised a webinar on “Interactive Session on Payment Mechanisms in Rupee-Ruble Bilateral Trade” on January 31, 2024 which was attended by 125 members. CHEMEXCIL organised a webinar on “Turkey REACH KKDIK and K-REACH: Outlook and Updates in 2024” on January 18, 2024 which was attended by 210 members.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) extended membership to 14 new companies in January 2024.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) mobilised the participation of its exporters at the India Pavilion at the Ruplastics Show, Moscow, held from January 23–26, 2024 in which 10 companies participated under the Council's umbrella. PLEXCONCIL mobilised the participation of its exporters at the India Pavilion at the Ambiente Show 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany, from January 26–30, 2024 in which seven companies participated under the Council's umbrella. PLEXCONCIL organised an India-Malawi virtual meet/B2B meeting for the plastic sector on January 11, 2024 jointly with the High Commission of India, Malawi. During the meeting, Malawi buyers interacted with PLEXCONCIL members regarding their sourcing requirements. PLEXCONCIL organised an India-Brussels Virtual Meeting for the Plastic Sector jointly with the Embassy of India, Brussels, on January 30, 2024 to find ways forward for enhancing plastic and linoleum exports to Belgium.
- The Project Exports Promotion Council (PEPC) organised a capacity-building programme for project exporters on January 22, 2024. Information about 94 upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power, and consulting was circulated to PEPC members in January 2024.

- The Electronics and Computer Software Exports Promotion Council (ESC) participated in the CES 2024 edition from January 9–12, 2024 in the USA with a delegation of 20 electronics and software companies. ESC participated in the BETT 2024 edition from January 22–24, 2024 in the UK with a delegation of 15 software companies. ESC organised the 24th edition of its flagship event, INDIASOFT 2024 from January 17–19, 2024 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. 150 software companies from across India participated in the event. ESC organised the 9th edition of India Electronics Expo 2024 from January 17–19, 2024 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. 50 software companies from across India participated in the event.
- Telecom Equipment & Services Exports Promotion Council (TEPC) organised Bharat Telecom (previously known as India Telecom) 2024, an exclusive international business exhibition in New Delhi on January 29–30, 2024.

VI. APEDA

- During the International Conclave-Cum-Buyer Seller Meet for Organic Products on January 12, 2024 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, the Agriculture Minister, Uttarakhand, flagged off two consignments of fresh vegetables from Uttarakhand to the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Bahrain. The strategy and vision document for the promotion of organic exports from Uttarakhand were also unveiled at the Export Conclave. Twenty buyers/importers of food products participated in the event from seven different nations, namely Russia, Hong Kong, the UAE, Uganda, Lebanon, Belarus, and Spain, reflecting the rising global interest in Uttarakhand's organic produce.
- The flag-off of "Pongal Hamper" from Nilakottai, Tamil Nadu, to Abu Dhabi was done on January 5, 2024. This initiative is the first of its kind (Pongal Celebrations) and the first shipment by the exporter.
- 20 MT of lemon, mango, and mixed pickles were exported from Karnataka to the UAE on January 5, 2024. The uniqueness of the consignment is that the lemon, mango, and green chilies have been sourced as per the One District, One Product (ODOP) of Karnataka.
- APEDA participated in Indus Food 2024, held in Greater Noida from January 8–10, 2024. The trade fair featured 85 stalls from APEDA, covering startups, FPOs, and women entrepreneurs across a range of products like organic, fresh fruits and vegetables, millets, and cashew. For the first time, a dedicated mini pavilion on alcoholic beverages and spirits was created, which was comprised of more than 15 stalls comprising a good mix of leading industry players and startups from the sector.

VII. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 74 farms, formed 39 new cluster farms, and organised 1724 training programmes during January 2024.
- During the month of January 2024, 12 exporters, 1 processing plant, 1 peeling shed, 1 dried or salted fish handling centre, 1 storage facility, and 1 other non-edible handling

centre were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 431 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU-approved cold storage facilities are present.

VIII. Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board participated in the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav held in New Delhi from January 3–10, 2024 in which small tea growers from Assam and West Bengal displayed their hand-rolled teas.
- The Tea Board also participated in Indus Food 2024, held in Greater Noida from January 8–10, 2024. The exporters actively engaged with international buyers from the UAE, Egypt, Japan, Qatar, Malaysia, Iraq, Bahrain, Oman, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Germany, Canada, Australia, the UK, etc.
- The Tea Board participated in the 34th Tripura Industries & Commerce Fair 2024, organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Tripura, at Agartala and inaugurated by CM Tripura from January 25 - February 11, 2024.
- The Tea Board participated in BATIC-2024, jointly organised by the Government of India, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Government of Assam, in commemoration of the celebration of 200 years of Assam Tea in Guwahati from January 29–30, 2024. A number of delegates attended the sessions where the issues were discussed by the panellists, including the use of tea as a beverage for improving consumption amongst the younger generations.
- The 7th edition of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) is being conducted in Kochi from January 29 to February 2, 2024 with the participation of 100 delegates from more than 30 countries.
- The Spices Board, in association with Karnataka State Spices Development Board (KSSDB) and the Dept. of Horticulture, Bellary, organised a buyer-seller meet on Chilli in Karnataka on January 9, 2024. More than 50 exporters and 200 sellers attended the programme.
- The Spices Board facilitated the signing of an MoU between M/s ITC and Jaitranan Farmer Producer Organisation (an FPO identified under the STDF-funded project “Strengthening Spice Value Chain in India”) for the procurement of cumin from members of the FPO in concurrence with the BSM for Seed Spices held at Jodhpur on January 10, 2024.
- Spices Board organised a 2-day Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme in Ahmedabad from January 30–31, 2024. 55 participants from various States, such as Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha, attended the programme.

IX. Export Credit and Insurance

- During January 2024, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 66,749 Crore, earned a premium of Rs107Crore, issued 1,022 policies, added 7,340 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 42.15Crore.

X. DGFT

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 7,246 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 2,041 under Advance Authorisations, 208 under Service Exports from India's (SEIS), 3,514 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1,483 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during January 2024.
- Amendment in Import Policy and Policy condition of Screws covered under HS code 7318 of Chapter 73 of Schedule –I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notifications No. 55/2023 dated January 3, 2024.
- Amendment in Para 2.31 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 - reg. was notified vide Notifications No.56/2023 dated January 1, 2024.
- Amendment in policy condition of silver covered under Chapter 71 of Schedule - 1 (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notifications No.57/2023dated January 15, 2024.
- Amendment in import policy condition of Glufosinate Technical covered under HS code 38089390 of Chapter 38 of Schedule - I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notifications No.58/2023 dated January 23, 2024.
- Allocation of 8606 MTRV of raw cane sugar to USA under TRQ Scheme for US fiscal year 2024 was notified vide Public Notices No. 36/2023 dated January 3, 2024.
- Extension of Validity of Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies (PSIAs) was notified vide Public Notices No. 37/2023 dated January 12, 2024.
- Enlistment of chambers /agencies under Appendix 2E of FTP, 2023 reg was notified vide Public Notices No. 38/2023 dated January 31, 2024.

XI. DGCI&S

- The Monthly Review of Foreign Trade (MRFT) Report for September, 2023 was published in January 2024.

XII. DGTR

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued the final finding of the Sunset review of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of “Aluminium Alloy Road Wheel” originating in or exported from China PR in January 2024.
- During the month of January 2024, 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
09/01/24	Certain Polyethylene	C-533-825	USDOC	CVD Administrative	Filed response to the Initial

Date of Submission/ Response	Product	Case No	Issuing Authority	Type of Proceeding	Remarks
	Terephthalate film sheet, and strip (PET film)			Review	Questionnaire on behalf of GOI
24/01/24	Common Alloy Aluminium Sheet	C-533-896	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed response to the Supplementary Questionnaire on behalf of GOI
25/01/24	Frozen Warmwater Shrimp	C-533-921	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review	Filed response to the Initial Questionnaire on behalf of GOI

- Issuance of final/provisional findings/disclosure against exports from India:

- The USDOC on January 29, 2024 issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on Certain Polyethylene Terephthalate film sheet, and strip (PET film) from India (C-533-825) for the period January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Final Rates
Jindal Poly Films Limited	2021	116.96% (AFA rates)

- The USDOC on January 29, 2024 the issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on Forged Steel Fluid End Blocks from India (C-533-894) for the period January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Preliminary Rates
Bharat Forge Limited	2022	3.76%

XIII. GeM

- GeM has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing a GMV of over INR 2.8 lakh crore with 46 lakh orders in FY 2023–24, as of January 31, 2024.
- GeM has successfully completed the transition of the online vendor assessment portal from QCI to RITES in January 2024. The new assessment portal is completely integrated with the GeM portal and is now live for sellers to apply for assessment and verification services.
- During the month, 58 training sessions and 5 events were conducted for various buyer and seller organisations, with a total participant count of 13,694.

- GeM signed an MoU with the Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) in New Delhi on January 10, 2024.
- GeM held an interactive workshop with MECON Limited, a PSU under the Ministry of Steel, in Ranchi on January 12, 2024. The workshop was on the topic of "Procurement of Services and Vigilance Measures: Leveraging Advanced Analytics on GeM." It aimed to spread awareness among participants about the procurement of services and effective vigilance measures undertaken by GeM by leveraging advanced analytics technology.
- GeM participated in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Utsav held from January 3–10, 2024 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. GeM representatives were present at the stalls to help sellers navigate the registration process and take professional photo shoots of their products for catalogue management on GeM.
