

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 2024

I. Export Performance

- Total exports of merchandise and services in April 2024 is estimated at USD 64.56 Billion as compared to USD 60.40 Billion in April 2023, recording a strong growth of 6.88%.
- Merchandise exports grew by 1.08% to USD 34.99 Billion in April 2024 as compared to USD 34.62 Billion in April 2023.
- Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery exports registered an increase of 1.32% from USD 25.77 Billion in April 2023 to USD 26.11 Billion in April 2024.
- The main drivers of merchandise exports growth during April 2024 include Electronic Goods, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Petroleum Products and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.
- Electronic goods exports increased by 25.8% from USD 2.11 Billion in April 2023 to USD 2.65 Billion in April 2024.
- Exports of Organic and Inorganic Chemicals increased by 16.75% from USD 2.14 Billion in April 2023 to USD 2.50 Billion in April 2024.
- Drugs and pharmaceuticals exports increased by 7.36% from USD 2.26 Billion in April 2023 to USD 2.43 Billion in April 2024.
- Petroleum products exports increased by 3.10% from USD 6.42 Billion in April 2023 to USD 6.62 Billion in April 2024.

II. Bilateral Trade

- A courtesy meeting was held between the Commerce and Industry Minister (CIM) and Ambassador to the Russian Federation on April 1, 2024 in New Delhi. Commerce Secretary also held a courtesy meeting with the Ambassador to the Russian Federation on April 8, 2024 in New Delhi.
- The Commerce Secretary held a meeting to review the status of the operationalization of Bharat Mart on April 1, 2024 in New Delhi.
- The Commerce Secretary held a review meeting on the status of the India-Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) FTA negotiations on April 8, 2024.
- The Commerce Secretary met the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on April 12, 2024 in New Delhi. During the meeting, both sides committed to working towards strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations.
- The Commerce Secretary held a meeting on April 23, 2024 with the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Chief Agricultural Negotiator, United States Trade Representative.

- The 11th Joint Trade Committee (JTC) Meeting was held in New Zealand on April 26–27, 2024. A delegation led by the Commerce Secretary held meetings with the Minister for Trade of New Zealand, the Acting Chief Executive and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand and the India-New Zealand Business Council (INZBC) in New Zealand to work on ways to deepen the existing bilateral relations.
- The 1st joint committee meeting under Ind-Aus ECTA was held on April 28–29, 2024 in Canberra, Australia. An Indian delegation led by the Commerce Secretary discussed various trade and prospective investment-related issues with the Australian side in Canberra as well as with the businesses in Sydney and Melbourne, aimed at strengthening the current economic ties between the two democracies and leveraging their trade complementarities, expertise, and untapped potential. It also took note of the status of the progress made under the India-Australia CECA negotiations and the possible way forward.
- The 2nd session of the India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee was held in Abuja from April 29 to April 30, 2024. The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary, DoC. Both sides undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. A business delegation led by CII also accompanied the official delegation, comprising representatives from varied sectors including power, fintech, telecommunications, electrical machinery, and pharmaceuticals.
- A virtual meeting was held on April 3, 2024 at the level of Additional Secretary with Deputy Chief of Mission, EoI, USA to discuss important trade matters that the mission could focus on and take up with its US counterparts on priority.
- The 11th meeting of the Empowered Steering Committee (ESC) on the upkeep of the Indian Pavilion constructed for the Dubai Expo 2020 under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary was held on April 16, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- An Additional Secretary-level meeting was held with Assistant USTR on April 19, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the ongoing bilateral trade issues under the India-USA Trade Policy Forum.
- An Additional Secretary-level meeting was held with the Principal Commissioner (Customs) on April 25, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi regarding the import surge of silver from the UAE post-CEPA.
- A U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) delegation visited the Department of Commerce and met Deputy Secretary, DoC to discuss trade and investment-related aspects of the textile industry on April 2, 2024.
- The 7th round of India-Peru Trade Agreement negotiations was held at Chief Negotiator level from April 8–11, 2024 in New Delhi.
- The Chief Negotiators of both sides of the India-EU FTA held meetings on April 12, April 24 and April 30, 2024 to discuss the preparatory actions for the CS-DG stock take meeting and the 8th round of negotiations.
- The Indian team headed by Additional Secretary visited the UK (April 16–19, 2024) for negotiations on outstanding issues of the India-UK FTA. The Indian Chief Negotiator met the UK Director General Trade Negotiations and the Second Permanent Secretary, Department of Business Trade (DBT), UK on April 17, 2024 and April 18, 2024 respectively, to discuss the way forward on outstanding issues in the India-UK FTA.

III. SEZ

- During the month of April 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1005.77 crore which will also provide employment to 11,608 persons.

IV. Export Promotion

- The Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) organized a virtual meeting with the Consul General of Erbil, Iraq on April 18, 2024 that was attended by PEPC members as well as non-member companies. PEPC also organized a webinar on “Value Addition to Overseas Projects” to acquaint the participants with risk mitigation, cost control, enhancing profit, and capital financial management related to project exports on April 19, 2024. Information about sixty-five upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power and consulting was circulated to PEPC members in April 2024.
- The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council [EP (E&SW)] participated in the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) 2024 edition from April 13–16, 2024 with a delegation of 19 members comprising electronic and software companies.
- The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) participated in the Coverings 2024 Exhibition in the USA from April 22–25, 2024. CAPEXIL organized a webinar on the subject “Marine Insurance and Forex Facilities Available to EXIM Communities” on April 16, 2024, which was attended by 95 participants. The council also organized a virtual awareness program on April 23 and 24, 2024 regarding the anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations on imports of ceramic tiles from India that have been initiated by the United States International Trade Commission (US ITC) and the Department of Commerce.
- The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics, and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) participated in the 23rd China International Dye Industry, Pigments, and Textile Chemicals Exhibition (CHINA INTERDYE 2024) during April 17–19, 2024, in which 90 members participated.
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) held an export awareness seminar as part of the PLEXCONNECT 2024 roadshow in Nagpur, Maharashtra on April 12, 2024. The objective of this event was to promote opportunities in plastics product exports among MSMEs, informing them about the various schemes and incentives that are available for new exporters as well as the benefits of participating on a global scale. On April 20, 2024, PLEXCONCIL organized the PLEXCONNECT 2024 Road Show in Chennai to promote exhibitor registration.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) extended membership to 32 new companies in April 2024.

V. APEDA

- APEDA participated in the 17th session of the Codex Committee during April 15–19, 2024 in Panama City, Panama. As Chair of the Electronic Working Group, APEDA presented the work on setting up the Maximum Level for Aflatoxin in Ready-to-Eat Peanuts, which has been adopted and agreed to proceed for the next phase, which will be co-chaired by the USA and India.
- On April 12, 2024, the initial trial shipment of pomegranates via sea route successfully reached the United States. The produce arrived in excellent condition, ensuring high-quality standards were maintained throughout the journey, which was flagged off on February 28, 2024 from Mumbai.

- Around 140 Farmers Producers Organizations of the North East Region participated in a capacity-building program held on April 18, 2024 at APEDA Guwahati.
- A seed distribution fair and farmer seminar were organized by the Basmati Export Development Foundation on April 20, 2024. DNA-certified seeds of basmati are being promoted for basmati export development through the fair.

VI. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 106 farms, formed 6 new cluster farms and organized 437 training programmes during April 2024.
- During April 2024, 7 exporters and 7 handling centres were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 433 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU-approved cold storage facilities are present.

VII. Export Credit and Insurance

- During March 2024, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 85,531 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 86.14 Crore, issued 446 policies, added 935 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 2.71 Crore.

VIII. India Trade Promotion Organisation

- ITPO has been appointed as the nodal agency for India's participation at the World Expo to be held in Osaka, Japan, from April 13–October 13, 2025. Notice Inviting Tender for Construction Agency was published on the website of ITPO and the Indian Embassy in Japan on April 3, 2024. The last date for the submission of bids was April 29, 2024. A participation contract was signed by the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), ITPO and Commissioner General of the India Pavilion and Commissioner General of Expo 2025 Osaka at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan on April 22, 2024.
- A number of third-party fairs were hosted at the Bharat Mandapam Complex such as:
 - Ride Asia 2024:** Ride Asia was organized from April 19-21, 2024 at Bharat Mandapam. It is a B2B event for attracting dealers, distributors, importers and entrepreneurs who are looking for new business opportunities in E – Vehicles, E – Bikes, Cycles, Sports and Fitness industry. It also caters to the B2C segment to increase awareness about Electric Vehicles Cycling, Fitness, Outdoor Sports, Cycling and provide knowledge about latest products and services
 - Collegedunia Career Carnival 2.0:** The Collegedunia Career Carnival 2.0 was hosted at Bharat Mandapam from April 20 - 21, 2024. It is an education fair that provides students with the opportunity to explore various career options and interact with representatives from numerous participating universities.

IX. DGFT

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 15,854 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 1,959 under Advance Authorisations, 12,697 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1,198 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during April 2024.

- DGFT held two Chintan Shivirs at Vanijya Bhawan on the following issues:
 - i. **Export Disabilities (April 16, 2024):** To identify the nature and kind of Export Disabilities which are affecting Indian Exports and possible ways in addressing some of them.
 - ii. **Ideate, Innovate, Integrate: Shaping the future of Indian Trade (April 20, 2024)**
- Export of 2,000 MT of White Onion under HS Code 07031019 was notified vide Notification No. 09/2024-25 dated April 25, 2024.
- Streamlining of Halal Certification Process for Meat and Meat Products was notified vide Notification No. 08/2023 dated April 23, 2024.
- Imposition of Port restrictions on supply of Prohibited/Restricted essential commodities to the Republic of Maldives during 2024-25 was notified vide Notification No. 06/2023 dated April 15, 2024.
- Amendment in Import Policy Condition for Melon Seeds under ITC (HS) Code 1207 70 90 of Chapter-12 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy)-reg was notified vide Notification No. 05/2023 dated April 5, 2024.
- Extension in import period for Yellow Peas under ITC (HS) Code 07131010 of Chapter 07 of ITC (HS), 2022, Schedule –I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 04/2023 dated April 5, 2024.
- Supply of essential commodities to the Republic of Maldives during 2024-25 was notified vide Notification No. 03/2023 dated April 5, 2024.
- Export of 1,000 MT of Kala Namak Rice under HS Code 10063090 was notified vide Notification No. 01/2023 dated April 2, 2024.
- Implementation of Melon Seeds Import Monitoring System (MS-IMS) was notified vide Public Notice No. 02/2024-25 dated April 9, 2024.
- Directives regarding submission of digitized ANFs, Appendices etc. was notified vide Trade Notice No. 01/2024-25 dated April 2, 2024.

X. DGTR

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) issued findings of the following investigations in the month of April 2024:
 - i. Final finding in sunset review investigation of countervailing duty concerning imports of “new pneumatic radial tyres for buses and lorries” originating in or exported from China PR was published on April 22, 2024.
 - ii. Preliminary finding in anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Isobutylene-Isoprene Rubber (IIR)” originating in or exported from China PR, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United States of America was published on April 16, 2024.
 - iii. Preliminary finding in anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Telescopic Channel Drawer Slider" from China PR was published on April 19, 2024.
 - iv. Preliminary finding in anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Poly Vinyl Chloride Paste Resin” originating in or exported from China PR, Korea RP, Malaysia, Norway, Taiwan & Thailand was published on April 26, 2024.

- During the month of April 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
15/04/2024	Common Alloy Aluminium Sheet	C-533-896	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Supp. Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
22/04/2024	Carbazole Violet Pigment 23	C-533-839	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/22-12/31/22)	Filed response to the Supp. Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
17/04/2024	Glycine	C-533-884	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022)	Filed response to the Supp. Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI
24/04/2024	Finished Carbon Steel Flanges	C-533-872	USDOC	CVD Administrative Review (01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022)	Filed response to the Supp. Questionnaire on behalf of the GOI

- Issuance of final/provisional findings/disclosure against exports from India:
 - The USDOC issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on April 16, 2024 on Non-Refillable Steel Cylinders from India (C-533-913) for the period 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Company	Subsidy Rate ad valorem (percent)
Bhiwadi Cylinders Private Limited	2.48
Inox India Ltd.	2.26
All Others	2.38

- The USDOC issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on April 29, 2024 on Common Alloy Aluminium Sheet from India (C-533-896) for the period 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Preliminary Rates
Hindalco Industries Limited	2022	54.12 %
Manaksia Aluminum Company Limited	2022	2.90%

Virgo Aluminum Limited	2022	5.32%
------------------------	------	-------

XI. GeM

- During the first month of FY 2024-25, GeM has seen a robust start with GMV soaring to Rs. 60,094 Crore including the contribution of Services of Rs. 46,460 Crore.
- Account Closure Enhancements has been implemented in GeM in April 2024. During the closure of an account, a validation process has been implemented to ensure that PFMS-verified primary bank accounts are available. This change aims to prevent blank beneficiary details during caution money refunds following the closure of a VAN account. It will now eliminate all blank beneficiary issues during the caution money refund.
- During April 2024, 69 training sessions and 5 events were conducted for various Buyer and Seller organizations. About 2700 buyers and sellers participated in these events.
- GeM inked an MoU with NILERD (National Institute of Labour Economics Research and Development) on April 15, 2024 in New Delhi.
- On April 22, 2024, GeM signed an MoU with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), an all-India organisation of Micro and Small industries in Belagavi, Karnataka. The objective of the MoU inter-alia is to conduct capacity building workshops & training sessions to onboard MSE members on GeM portal; conduct periodic review meetings at all levels to plug policy and technology gaps and implement feedback mechanism for ensuring ease-of-doing business on GeM portal.
