

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 May 2024

I. Export Performance

- Total exports of merchandise and services in May 2024 is estimated at USD 68.29 Billion as against USD 61.95 Billion in May 2023, registering a positive growth of 10.25%.
- Merchandise exports grew by 9.10 % to USD 38.13 Billion in May 2024 as compared to USD 34.95 Billion in May 2023.
- Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery exports registered an increase of 8.83% from USD 26.27 Billion in May 2023 to USD 28.60 Billion in May 2024.
- The main drivers of merchandise exports growth during May 2024 include Petroleum Products, Engineering Goods, Electronic Goods and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.
- Petroleum Products exports increased by 15.75% from USD 5.85 Billion in May 2023 to USD 6.78 Billion in May 2024.
- Exports of Engineering Goods increased by 7.39% from USD 9.30 Billion in May 2023 to USD 9.99 Billion in May 2024.
- Electronic Goods exports increased by 22.97% from USD 2.41 Billion in May 2023 to USD 2.97 Billion in May 2024.
- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals exports increased by 10.45% from USD 2.08 Billion in May 2023 to USD 2.30 Billion in May 2024.

II. Bilateral Trade

- The 4th stock take meeting for the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was held on May 7, 2024 in virtual mode. The meeting was co-chaired by the Commerce Secretary from the Indian side and the Director General (DG) (Trade) from the European Commission. During the meeting, issues relating to India-EU FTA negotiations were discussed and guidance on the way forward was provided to the respective negotiating teams.
- A delegation from India led by the Additional Secretary held a Joint Trade Committee meeting with Ghanaian counterparts in Accra, Ghana on May 2–3, 2024. In a comprehensive dialogue, both sides undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties, acknowledging the vast untapped potential for further expansion.

- An Additional Secretary level meeting was held on May 14, 2024 in New Delhi with the Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to discuss key issues related to Australia's skill gap and shortages in various areas and also issued related to efforts for the early conclusion of the Ind-Aus Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- An Additional Secretary-level meeting with the Ambassador of Uzbekistan was held on May 14, 2024, in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss bilateral trade issues.
- The 5th India-Ukraine Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation was held on May 15, 2024 at Additional Secretary level in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to enhance bilateral trade through the reduction or elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers.
- An Additional Secretary-level virtual meeting with the Directorate General for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chile was held on May 20, 2024 to negotiate the text of the Terms of Reference for the India-Chile Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- The 3rd session of the India-Zimbabwe Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was held on May 12–13, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi at Economic Adviser level from the Indian side. 17 members of the Zimbabwean delegation visited New Delhi for the India-Zimbabwe JTC. Both sides reviewed bilateral trade and agreed to make concerted efforts towards enhancing bilateral trade.
- In the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), deliberations were held at the Chief Negotiator (CN) level on the outstanding issues on May 7, 15 and 31, 2024 in virtual mode. Discussion on services and goods schedule was also held during these meetings.
- The UK Trade Commissioner for South Asia met the Chief Negotiator of the India-UK FTA on May 14, 2024 to discuss trade relations between India and the UK, including FTA negotiations, in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.

III. **SEZ**

- During the month of May 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs have approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 2157.81 crore which is expected to provide employment to 22,825 persons.

IV. **Export Promotion**

- The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) organized the participation of 14-member companies at the Electrical Wire Processing Technology Expo (EWPTE) in Baird Centre, Milwaukee, WI, USA from May 14–16, 2024. A virtual B2B meet was also organized by ESC on May 21, 2024 with Bridgeway Trade Company for sourcing electronic goods and spare parts from India on the request of the Embassy of India in Moscow, Russia. ESC also organized the participation of 24 electronics and IT companies in the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX) Africa in Morocco from May 29–31, 2024.
- The Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC) organized a virtual meeting on "Banking Challenges in Trade with Russia on May 17, 2024 to discuss

the challenges encountered in Rupee-Ruble trade due to the sanctions on Russia and Russian banks and the selling of Rupees at a premium rate in Russia over the past few months. In a significant development for India's electronics industry, MEDEPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Messe Munchen India (MMI) to usher in national and international buyer delegations to Electronica India and Productronica India 2024.

- The Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) along with its member companies participated in the Procurement Forum for the Davos City Public Transport Modernization Project (DPTMP) on May 20, 2024 in virtual mode, which was organized by the Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr). PEPC, along with its member companies, also participated in a webinar on “Compliances for Setting Up Business in the US”, organized by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce at the National Informatics Centre on May 29, 2024. PEPC also participated in a market-sounding seminar organized by the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning (OTP), Ministry of Transport, Thailand on May 30, 2024. Information about sixty-five upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power and consultancy was circulated by PEPC to its members in May 2024.
- The Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) participated in the 33rd Abu Dhabi International Book Fair from April 29–May 5, 2024. CAPEXIL organized a webinar on exports and trade with the Office of Zonal Additional D.G.F.T., Chennai and also with the Office of the Principal Commissioner of Customs (Air Cargo), Chennai, in virtual mode on May 16, 2024 in which 128 members participated.
- The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics, and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL) organized a webinar on the subject “Doing Business with the Republic of China” on May 3, 2024 in which 52 members participated. CHEMEXCIL also organized a webinar on the subject “Doing Business with Africa” on May 10, 2024 in which 67 members participated, and a webinar on the subject “Doing Business with the ASEAN Region with a Focus on Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam” on May 17, 2024 in which 69 members participated. CHEMEXCIL also organized a workshop on the subject “Growing Opportunities from Free Trade Agreements: An Industry Perspective” on May 2, 2024 in partnership with The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL).
- The Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL) organized participation at the Indian Pavillion at NPW 2024 from May 6–19, 2024 in Orlando, USA. PLEXCONCIL, jointly with the North Orissa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NOCCI), organized the Export Awareness Seminar and PLEXCONNECT 2024 Roadshow at Balasore, Odisha. The event focused on the export opportunities of plastic goods and the benefits of participating in PLEXCONNECT 2024.
- Shellac Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL) participated in Vitafoods Europe 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland from May 14–16, 2024. It also extended membership to 28 new companies in May 2024.

V. APEDA

- APEDA flagged off the first consignments of 7.53 MT of “Banganapalli Mangoes” from Karnataka to the United Kingdom on May 19, 2024 through a sea protocol developed in collaboration with CISH, 300 kg of “GI-tagged Mankurad Mangoes” from Goa to the United Kingdom on May 26, 2024, 600 kg of “Snow Peas” from Kashmir to the United Kingdom sourced directly from the farmers of Chokor village in Pulwama, Kashmir on May 29, 2024 and 53,000 units of “Kulfi” from Chennai, Tamil Nadu to Malaysia on May 31, 2024 sourced from M/s Pohieer Dairy Pvt Ltd through the sea route.
- APEDA organized two days of training from May 3–4, 2024, with the Association of Biodynamic India (BDAI) for the “Irula Tribal Women Self-Help Group” in Tamil Nadu. The primary objective of the event was to sensitize and empower the tribal women about plant protection measures, organic and demeter certification, the installation of solar dryers, pulverizers, packaging machines and the marketing of value-added herbal and medicinal products, etc.
- APEDA participated in Macfrut 2024, a specialized international horticulture trade event organized during May 8–10, 2024 in Rimini, Italy. Different varieties of mangoes were promoted by Indian exporters during the event.
- APEDA participated in the “International Juice and Beverages Conference” held on May 28, 2024 in Bangalore, organized by the All-India Food Processors Association (AIFPA), International Fruits and Vegetables Juice Association. The main objective of this conference was to bring the global juice community together on a single platform.

VI. MPEDA

- MPEDA enrolled 135 farms, formed 6 new cluster farms and organized 485 training programmes during May 2024.
- During May 2024, 11 exporters, 3 processing plants, 5 storage facilities, 3 peeling sheds and 2 handling centres were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 433 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU-approved cold storage facilities are present.
- MPEDA, in association with DoC, organized a Chintan Shivir with Stakeholders for “Enhancing Seafood Exports” at Bangaram Island, Lakshadweep, on May 10–11, 2024.

VII. Export Credit and Insurance

- During May 2024, ECGC Ltd. has supported exports of Rs 1,31,068 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 104.60 Crore, issued 828 policies, added 1,139 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 8.42 Crore.

VIII. **DGFT**

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 17,154 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 2,225 under Advance Authorisations, 16 under Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS), 13,472 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1,441 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during May 2024.
- Amendment in Para 2.31 of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 and ITC HS 2022 Schedule 1 Import Policy - reg. was notified vide Notification No. 13/2024-25 dated May 20, 2024.
- Extension in Import Period for Yellow Peas under ITC(HS) Code 07131010 of Chapter 07 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule –I (Import Policy) -reg. was notified vide Notification No. 12/2024-25 dated May 8, 2024.
- Export of food commodities through National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) was notified vide Notification No. 11/2024-25 dated May 6, 2024.
- Amendment in the Export Policy of Onions was notified vide Notification No. 10/2024-25 dated May 4, 2024.
- Modification of SION E-125 for export of Shea Stearine was notified vide Public Notice No. 07/2024 dated May 29, 2024.
- Enabling provisions for import of inputs that are subjected to mandatory Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by Advance Authorisation holders, EOU and SEZ - regarding was notified vide Public Notice No. 04/2024-25 dated May 10, 2024.

IX. **DGTR**

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has issued Final Finding of the following investigations in the month of May 2024:
 - i. Sunset review investigation of anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Chlorinated Polyvinyl Chloride (CPVC) – whether or not further processed into compound from China PR and Korea RP.
 - ii. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Trichloro Isocyanuric acid” originating in or exported from China PR and Japan.
- Issuance of final/provisional findings/disclosure against exports from India:
 - i. The USDOC issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on Certain Paper Shopping Bags from India (C-533-918) for the period 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022 on May 24, 2024. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Company	Subsidy Rate ad valorem (percent)
Aeroplast Packaging Solution Private Limited	4.81
Velvin Paper Products	2.38
All other	3.39

- ii. The USDOC issued Final Results of Administrative Review of Countervailing Duty on Forged Steel Fluid End blocks from India (C-533-894) for the period 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022 on May 31, 2024. The final rates of duties are as follows:

Company	Subsidy Rate ad valorem (percent)
Bharat Forge Limited	3.77

- iii. The USDOC issued Preliminary Results of New Shipper Review of Countervailing Duty on Carbazole Violet Pigment 23 from India (C-533-839) for the period 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2022 on May 21, 2024. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Period	Preliminary Rates
Sudarshan Chemical Industries Limited	2022	8.98%

- iv. The USDOC issued Preliminary Results of Administrative Review Countervailing Duty on Organic Soyabean from India (C-533-902) for the period 9/3/21 - 12/31/22 on May 30, 2024. The preliminary rates of duties are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Subsidy rate 2021 (percent ad valorem)	Subsidy rate 2022 (percent ad valorem)
Shri Sumati Industries Private Limited	7.99	4.08
Shanti Worldwide	261.80	261.80

X. **GeM**

- During May 2024, 157 training sessions and 7 events were conducted for various buyer and seller organizations. About 8300 buyers and sellers participated in these events.
- A total of 32 eLearning courses for buyers have been added in six languages to the New Interactive eLearning Course Portal until May 2024.
- GeM held a session with the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) in Srinagar on May 24, 2024 to address some of the key challenges faced by the Valley's sellers in effectively leveraging GeM to secure Government tenders.
- GeM and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) signed an MoU in New Delhi on May 17, 2024. The agreement aims to onboard SC/ST MSEs and DICCI members as sellers, promote entrepreneurship and significantly enhance their presence on the platform.
- GeM and the Seamless Tube Manufacturers Association of India (STMAI) inked an MoU on May 16, 2024 in New Delhi with a vision to strengthen and promote a healthy business ecosystem in the country.
