

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 September 2024

I. Export Performance

- The cumulative overall exports during April -September 2024 is estimated at USD 393.22 Billion, as compared to USD 375 Billion in April-September 2023, with an estimated growth of 4.86%.
- The cumulative value of merchandise exports during April-September 2024 was USD 213.22 Billion, as compared to USD 211.08 Billion during April-September 2023, registering a positive growth of 1.02%.
- Non-petroleum & Non-Gems & Jewellery exports registered an increase of 9.14% from USD 24.76 Billion in September 2023 to USD 27.03 Billion in September 2024.
- Major drivers of merchandise exports growth in September 2024 include Engineering Goods, Organic & Inorganic Chemicals, Plastic & Linoleum, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals and RMG of all Textiles.
- Engineering Goods exports increased by 10.55% from USD 8.89 Billion in September 2023 to USD 9.82 Billion in September 2024.
- Organic & Inorganic Chemicals exports increased by 11.21% from USD 2.12 Billion in September 2023 to USD 2.36 Billion in September 2024.
- Plastic & Linoleum exports increased by 28.32% from USD 0.62 Billion in September 2023 to USD 0.79 Billion in September 2024.
- Drugs & Pharmaceuticals exports increased by 7.22% from USD 2.39 Billion in September 2023 to USD 2.57 Billion in September 2024.
- RMG of all Textiles exports increased by 17.30% from USD 0.95 Billion in September 2023 to USD 1.11 Billion in September 2024.

II. Bilateral Trade

- A Meeting of Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM) with delegates of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence (Norway) was held in New Delhi on September 9, 2024 to discuss follow-up action on the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- On September 20-21, 2024, the CIM visited Vientiane, Lao PDR for the 21st ASEAN-India Economic Ministers (AEM-India) meeting. The meeting saw participation from Economic Ministers of all 10 ASEAN countries with the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste attending as an observer. The Ministers reviewed trade and investment relations between India and ASEAN, reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen ties. In addition, CIM held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary for Economic Affairs, Switzerland, where they discussed the progress on ratification of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement signed on March 10, 2024, and the facilitation of a US\$100 billion FDI commitment by EFTA states under the FTA.

- On September 21, 2024, CIM also participated in the 12th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM), which was chaired by the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Lao PDR. In addition to the ASEAN nations, Economic Ministers from 8 other EAS partners attended, with the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste present as an observer. CIM engaged in multiple bilateral meetings and discussions on the sidelines of the summit, advancing India's economic diplomacy in the region.
- CIM visited Sydney and Adelaide, Australia during September 23-25, 2024, to participate in a series of high-level engagements, including the 19th edition of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) on September 25, 2024, in Adelaide, co-chaired with his Australian counterpart. The JMC discussions focused on enhancing bilateral economic relations, particularly in clean energy, education, agribusiness, and tourism, and reviewed the progress on implementing the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA). The meeting also charted the way forward for the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA), with an emphasis on collaborative projects and investment opportunities. During the visit, CIM participated in several key events, including a Business Leaders event hosted by the Business Council of Australia, a roundtable with the Centre for Australia-India Relations (CAIR), and meetings with Super Funds and select CEOs. He was the Guest of Honour at the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDIA) event, engaged with the Indian diaspora at a reception at the BAPS Temple, and toured the Lot Fourteen Innovation District in Adelaide.
- A meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary was held in New Delhi on September 19, 2024 to discuss important issues in the Trade in Goods, Investment, Transparency and Rules of Origin Chapters of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.
- Commerce Secretary Level Meeting (CSLM) between India and Bhutan was held on September 27-28, 2024 in Thimphu, Bhutan. Commerce Secretary, Government of India (GoI) and Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), Royal Government of Bhutan co-chaired the meeting. The two sides assessed the progress in bilateral trade, commerce, connectivity and investment partnership.
- A meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) for the "International Trade" topic of the World Bank's B-Ready Project was organized under the Chairmanship of AS&DGFT on September 9, 2024 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The 9th Round of India-EU FTA negotiations was held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary level in New Delhi from September 23-27, 2024. Negotiations on 20 policy areas/Chapters of India-EU FTA were covered in 78 technical sessions. Extensive discussions took place and significant progress was made in many chapters in this round of negotiations.
- A video conference meeting was chaired at Additional Secretary level on September 18, 2024 in New Delhi with representatives from 16 Indian Missions/Posts in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region. The meeting aimed to review trade performance, including the current quarter and the previous year's performance, address sector-wise issues, and discuss upcoming activities with various African countries.

- An Additional Secretary level meeting was held on September 2, 2024 with the representative from the Brazilian Institute of Pulses and Beans (IBRAFE), representative from the Government of Mato Grosso State in Brazil and Trade Division from the Embassy of Brazil in New Delhi. Representatives from DGFT, APEDA, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), Export Inspection Council (EIC) and EP(Agri) Division also participated.
- The 8th meeting of India-Myanmar JTC held on September 27, 2024 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired at Joint Secretary level and Director General, Department of Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar. Both the parties discussed the key sectors like shipping, textile, health, Indian pharmacopoeia, power, transport & connectivity, ICT, 5G telecom stack and MSME sector as key avenues for collaboration. India also welcomed the creation of the Rupee-Kyat trade settlement mechanism and anticipated fostering bilateral commerce with Myanmar in local currencies following its implementation. The meeting reiterated the commitment of completion of review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in an expedited manner to make it simple, mutually beneficial, user-friendly and trade-facilitative for businesses.
- A Joint Secretary level meeting was held with representatives of CII on September 19, 2024 to discuss the outlay of meeting with the Argentine business delegation on 8th October, 2024 and to nudge CII for finalization of the dates, venue and other preparations for the 10th CII India LAC Conclave.
- A Joint Secretary level meeting was held on September 26, 2024 with officials from the Ministry of Mines, along with representatives from the Indian Paint and Coating Association (IPCA), Federation of Indian Granite & Stone Industry (FIGSI), Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI), Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) and EXIM Bank etc. The focus of the meeting was to assess market sentiment and explore potential investment opportunities in Peru.

III. **Export Infrastructure**

- Rs. 1.50 Crore (first tranche of 2nd & final installment) was released to Andhra Pradesh Medtech Ltd. (AMTZ) for project "Establishment of Centre for Hollow Fibre Membrane extrusion for hemodialysis".
- Rs. 60.50 lakh (first tranche of 2nd & final installment) was released to Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (MIDC) for project "Border Haat at Huroi (East Jaintia Hills District, Meghalaya)".

IV. **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)**

- During the month of September 2024, Development Commissioners of various SEZs approved the proposals of investment of Rs. 1027.6 Crore that is expected to provide employment to 13,908 persons.

V. **Export Promotion**

- Project Exports Promotion Council of India (PEPC) circulated information about 78 upcoming projects in infrastructure, water, power, consultancy to its members in September 2024.

VI. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)

- APEDA participated in Fine Food Australia, a prominent trade event held in Melbourne from September 2-5, 2024. The Indian pavilion showcased ranges of Indian agricultural products, highlighting country's rich culinary heritage and processed food products.
- APEDA was a part of Asia Fruit Logistica held from September 4-6, 2024 at Hong Kong. By leveraging the opportunities and addressing the challenges, Indian exporters strengthened their position for sustainable export growth for the country's agricultural sector.
- APEDA participated in First China International Whiskey Development Conference and China Quiandao Lake International Whiskey Carnival held in Chun'an from 5-8 September 2024.
- APEDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LuLu Group International (LLC), a leading retail chain in the Middle East and Asia. The MoU outlines several key initiatives, including dedicated shelf space in LuLu hypermarkets for Indian organic products certified under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), promotional campaigns, and exposure visits for Indian FPOs/FPCs/Cooperatives to LuLu Group's infrastructure in UAE.
- APEDA participated in World Food Moscow held from September 17-20, 2024 at Moscow. The exhibition showcased India's potential as a reliable supplier of high-quality agricultural products to the Russian market.
- APEDA participated in World Food India (WFI) 2024 held in September 19-22, 2024 in New Delhi. A pavilion was developed for promotion of agricultural and processed food products which includes Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Processed F&V products, Meat, Dairy and Poultry and Honey products, Millets and its products, Rice (Basmati and Non-Basmati), various processed food and alcoholic products.
- APEDA organized a Reverse Buyer Sellers Meet (RBSM) between Indian exporters participating in the Bharat Mandapam and 800 importers from 80 countries around the world.
- The workshop titled "India's Organic Basket: Establishing Linkages between Products & Market," was held on September 20, 2024, during WFI 2024 in New Delhi. Participants engaged in discussions aimed at enhancing connections between producers and markets to boost the organic sector's growth in India.
- APEDA launched a comprehensive study titled "Promoting Agri Exports from Meghalaya" in collaboration with YES BANK, its knowledge partner, at WFI 2024. This initiative aimed to identify and unlock global opportunities for agricultural exports from Meghalaya, highlighting the region's unique produce and potential in the international market.
- APEDA's flag-off of Godawan Single Malt Whisky to the UK market on September 3, 2024 marked a significant milestone for India's alcoholic beverage industry.
- The Second Technical Meeting between India and Australia was held on September 5, 2024, at Agricultural House, Canberra. During the meeting, work plan and way forward on the organic Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between India and Australia were discussed. The Australian side agreed to proceed with the scope proposed by APEDA in November, 2023.

VII. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

- MPEDA enrolled 135 farms and conducted 87 antibiotic campaigns in September 2024.
- During September 2024, 12 exporters, 4 processing plant, 4 storage facilities, and 4 peeling sheds were issued certificates of registration. Currently, 433 EU-approved seafood processing establishments and 69 EU approved cold storage facilities are present.
- MPEDA successfully participated in WFI 2024 held in New Delhi, with 25 co-exhibitors during 19-22 September 2024. 34 buyers from 13 countries and 76 exporters participated in RBSM and a total of 244 meetings were conducted.

VIII. Export Credit and Insurance (ECI)

- During September 2024, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited (ECGC Ltd.) earned a premium of Rs.133.91 Crore, issued 1092 policies, added 1264 new buyers, and settled claims worth Rs.19.96 Crore.

IX. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)

- The Regional Authorities of DGFT issued 16,485 authorizations and scrips under various FTP schemes, viz., 2173 under Advance Authorizations, 7 under Service Export from India Scheme (SEIS), 12,716 under Importers and Exporters Code (IEC) and 1589 under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during September, 2024.
- DGFT issued following Notifications during the month of September 2024: -
 - i. Extension of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme for exports made from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) Units and AA/EOU/SEZ Units – reg was notified vide Notification No. 32/2024-25 dated September 30, 2024.
 - ii. Amendment in Export Policy of Non-Basmati White Rice under HS Code 1006 30 90 - reg was notified vide Notification No. 31/2024-25 dated September 28, 2024.
 - iii. Amendment in Import Policy Condition under ITC(HS) 08028010 of Chapter 08 of ITC(HS) 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 30 dated September 18, 2024.
 - iv. 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. 28/2024-25 dated September 13, 2024.
 - v. Extension in Import Period for Yellow 1 Peas under ITC(HS) Code 07131010 of Chapter 07 of ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule-I (Import Policy) was notified vide Notification No. 29 dated September 13, 2024.
 - vi. Amendment in Import Policy condition for Raw Pet Coke and Calcined Pet Coke under 27 of Schedule-I (Import Policy) of ITC (HS) 2022 was notified vide Notification No. 27/2024-25 dated September 4, 2024.
 - vii. Export of Red Sanders wood by Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Government of Odisha – Extension of time was notified vide Notification No. 26/2024-25 dated September 3, 2024.

- viii. SCOMET Updates 2024 – Amendment in Appendix 3 (SCOMET items) to Schedule-2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2018 was notified vide Notification No. 25 dated September 2, 2024.
- The **Trade Connect ePlatform** was launched by CIM on September 11, 2024 in New Delhi. This platform shall be a one-stop hub, to provide a variety related services and query resolution for new and existing exporters. The platform will have following features : (i) For a New Exporter – guide him/ her on what, where and how to export, (ii) Product Guide: Your Global Trade Navigator – how to identify products with export potential and regulatory compliance requirements, (iii) Country Guide: Your Trade Intelligence Companion, (iv) Trade Agreements and Tariff Explorer: Unlock FTA Benefits, (v) Global E-Commerce Guide: Thrive Online; (vi) Trade Events Worldwide: Connect and Grow; (vii) EXIM Paathshala: Master Exporting; and (viii) Sources from India: Showcase Globally.
 - The online **JanSunwai Facility** was launched by CIM on September 13, 2024 in Mumbai. DGFT has implemented the online JanSunwai Facility for bridging communication and empowering trade through an on-demand video conferencing as well as a dedicated video conference link for instant interactions with officers within a defined time window. This facility provides enhanced transparency, streamlined efficiency, audit trails, increased productivity, paperless processes, and real-time assistance for exporters and importers.

X. Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

- DGTR has issued Initiation(s) notification on the following cases in the month of September 2024:
 - i. Anti-Dumping Investigation concerning imports of Aniline from China PR.
 - ii. Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of “Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel” originating in or exported from China PR.
 - iii. Anti-dumping duty concerning imports of “1,1,1,2– Tetrafluoroethene or R-134a” from China PR.
 - iv. Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) originating in or exported from China PR, European Union, Korea RP and Russia.
 - v. Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of “certain Antioxidants” originating in or exported from China PR and Singapore.
 - vi. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)” originating in or exported from China PR and Russia.
 - vii. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Black Toner Powder Cartridge” originating in or exported from China PR.
 - viii. Anti-Dumping Investigation concerning imports of “Mono Ethylene Glycol” originating in or exported from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Singapore.
 - ix. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Copolymer Polyol of hydroxyl value ≥ 23.5 ” originating in or exported from China PR.
 - x. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of ‘Certain Cranes’ originating in or exported from China PR.

- xi. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Black Toner in powder form” originating in or exported from China PR, Malaysia and Taiwan.
- xii. Sodium Citrate originating in or exported from China PR.
- xiii. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of "Siloxane Polyoxyalkylene Copolymers having viscosity up to 2500cst" from China PR.
- xiv. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Resorcinol originating in or exported from China PR and Japan.
- xv. Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of Para Nitrotoluene (PNT) originating in or exported from the European Union.
- xvi. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels originating in or exported from China PR.
- xvii. Anti-dumping investigation into imports of Virgin Multi-layer Paperboard from Chile and China PR.
- xviii. Anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Soda Ash originating in or exported from Turkey, Russia, USA and Iran.
- xix. Anti-dumping investigation on imports of “Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch” originating in or exported from Vietnam.
- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has finally imposed duty on the recommendation of DGTR on the following product(s) in the month of September 2024:
 - i. Impose anti-dumping duty on imports of “Anodized Aluminium Frames for Solar Panels/Modules” originating in or exported from China PR.
 - ii. Impose definitive anti-dumping duty on the imports of “Isobutylene-Isoprene Rubber (‘IIR’)” originating in, or exported from People’s Republic of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and United States of America and imported into India for a period of five years.
 - iii. Impose countervailing duty on imports of Welded Stainless-Steel Pipes and Tubes originating in or exported from China PR and Vietnam.
 - iv. Continue levy of countervailing duty on Atrazine Technical imported from China PR, for 5 years pursuant to Sunset Review Final Findings issued by DGTR.

XI. Government eMarketplace (GeM)

- During September 2024, 188 training sessions and 16 events were conducted for various buyers and sellers’ organizations. About 13,233 buyers and sellers participated in these events.
- On 2 September 2024, the GeM Excellence Summit in Kolkata celebrated outstanding contributions to public procurement through the GeM platform. This event gathered key stakeholders to explore the evolving landscape of digital procurement in India. The day included training sessions focused on the latest features and updates of the GeM portal.
- On 04 September 2024, a State-level Training on GeM was organized by Department of Commerce & Industries, Chhattisgarh for nearly 300 state officials in Raipur.
- On 12 September 2024, in its ongoing commitment to evolve and embrace the latest technology, GeM hosted a comprehensive finance-related workshop in New Delhi,

addressing key challenges and opportunities for improvement in payment options integrated on GeM.

- On 27 September 2024, GeM in collaboration with the Department of Expenditure conducted a regional workshop on Public Procurement Procedures — one in a series organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- 24 bids have been awarded which are greater than Rs. 100 crores. Mahanandi Coalfields Limited has awarded a bid for "Handling, Transport and Other Mining Services - Percentage Quote Based" for Rs. 2030 crore and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd has awarded a bid for "HD Dual Pressure Visakh Retail RO" for Rs. 444 crores in September 2024.
