

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 2021.

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in April 2021 were USD 30.63 Billion, as compared to USD 10.36 Billion in April 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 195.72 per cent. In Rupee terms, exports were Rs. 2,28,071.76 Crore in April 2021, as compared to Rs. 78,951.41 Crore in April 2020, registering a positive growth of 188.88 per cent.

- The commodities/commodity groups which have recorded positive growth during April 2021 vis-à-vis April 2020 are Gems & jewellery (9271.21%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (1684.62%), Carpet (1352.68%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (1275.46%), Leather & leather products (1201.44%), RMG of all textiles (927.08%), Cotton yarn/fabs./made-ups, handloom products etc. (618.26%), Man-made yarn/fabs./made-ups etc. (587.01%), Other cereals (451.39%), Ceramic products & glassware (444.45%), Electronic goods (372.62%), Oil meals (279.49%), Cashew (260.48%), Mica, Coal & other ores, minerals including processed minerals (241.21%), Engineering goods (238.27%), Petroleum products (191.53%), Tobacco (187.4%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (174.61%), Iron ore (172.16%), Oil seeds (169.04%), Meat, dairy & poultry products (148.81%), Tea (146.31%), Marine products (107.94%), Spices (97.56%), Coffee (75.02%), Organic & inorganic chemicals (68.54%), Rice (61.64%), Plastic & Linoleum (51.89%), Fruits & vegetables (25.4%) and Drugs & pharmaceuticals (23.43%).

- Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in April 2021 were USD 23.62 Billion, as compared to USD 9.08 Billion in April 2020, registering a positive growth of 160.24 per cent.

II. Export Promotion

- PEPC Member Company M/s KEC International Limited transmission and distribution business has secured orders of Rs. 326 Crore for T&D projects in India and the America.
- L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering (LTHE) has been ranked as the 'Top EPC Contractor in the Middle East' by Oil & Gas Middle East magazine, the region's leading publication focused on the upstream oil and gas industry.
- PEPC member company Larsen & Toubro Construction was honoured at the fourth edition of Dubai's Tardier Awards for providing the best working conditions for workmen at their various project sites across the UAE.

III. APEDA

- First consignment of non-basmati rice exported from Paradip port, Odisha and flagged off to Vietnam on 3rd May 2021 to strengthen rice exports especially from eastern region.
- A flag off ceremony was organised on 29th May 2021 to export Village rice to Ghana and Yemen. Two consignments of 4.5 MT of patented lotus variety brand name Village Rice sourced from Kumbakonam, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu by a start-up Farm were sent.
- The first shipment of Shahi litchi flagged off from Bihar to UK on 24th May 2021. This is a GI tagged litchi from Bihar and about 524 Kg were exported with the support of Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar.
- 'Mango Festival of India' and 'Buyer Seller Meet' for Indian mangoes was organized by Embassy of India, Tokyo on 28th May 2021 in partnership with APEDA and Invest India under 'One District One Product' initiative of GoI. Three varieties of Indian mangoes (Alphonso, Kesar and Banganpalli) were selected for the event and 425 Kg of these were exported from India.

IV. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 115 farms, formed three new cluster farms, 2 in Andhra Pradesh and one in West Bengal, conducted 6 Capacity building programs benefiting 43 farmers. QC Lab & Microbiology lab, Kochi and QC Lab Porbandar have got NABL accreditation certificate.

- MPEDA issued 1732 DS-2031 certificates to USA, 665 Catch certificates to EU, 24 Catch certificates for Non- EU, 25 ICCAT documents, 23 Non-Radio Activity certificates and 18 Duty free import certificate.
- NaCSA conducted 42 meetings, wherein 314 farmers attended on adoption of Better Management Practices (BMP) for Aquaculture, farmers crop planning, e-Santa e-commerce platform, MSCS - Cooperative Societies and on creating awareness to farmers on abuse of antibiotics in shrimp farming areas in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal.

V. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board issued 94 license during the month.
- On the occasion of International Tea Day on 21st May 2021, promotional creatives, videos were posted on social media platforms. 'My India Tea Star' contest and Drawing/Painting Competition on the theme 'India and Tea' launched on social media platforms. A Webinar entitled "International Tea Day and its significance vis-a-vis the Indian Tea Industry" was organized.
- Provisional Tea Auction Prices during May 2021 have shown significant increase in comparison to the same period of last year. All India Auction Prices are seen at Rs. 182.77 per Kg as against Rs. 146.04 per Kg, an increase of Rs. 36.73 (25.15%).
- Coffee Board conducted three webinars to understand the problems / issues of the stakeholders due to COVID19 pandemic and addressed issues such as movement of workforce, movement of the transport vehicles, issues at port by taking it up with authorities concerned. Directorate of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi approved Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) as a "Host Institute" under the scheme "Support for Entrepreneurial and Managerial Development of MSMEs through Incubator".
- The Rubber Board successfully initiated the Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) for NE region with the financial support of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) by transporting the first consignment of around 10,000 root trainer nursery plants to Guwahati during May 2021.
- The Rubber Board conducted 157 trainings programmes under farmer education and training programmes, benefiting 2,037 farmers and also, organized 164 batches of field trainings on different topics for 955 participants.

- The Rubber Board, under the convergence with MGNREGS, completed the cultural operations in 163 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 260 rubber growers. The Board also certified 104 rubber plantations covering an area of 70 ha.
- The Spice Board conducted webinars for promotion of Domestic Selling & Global Selling of Spices through E commerce platforms were jointly organized with Amazon on 19th & 27th May 2021 for the benefit of spices stakeholders including exporters.
- The Spice Board issued 701 Certificates of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES).

VI. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During May 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 27,626 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 52 Crore, issued 392 policies, added 450 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 8 Crore.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during May 2021, value of exports supported was Rs 2.85 crore and value of insurance covers worth Rs 2 crore were issued.

VII. Bilateral Trade

- Hon'ble Prime Minister virtually attended India–EU Leaders' meeting held at Porto, Portugal on 8th May 2021. On trade and investment fronts, the Leaders agreed for resumption of negotiations for a balanced, comprehensive and mutually beneficial Trade Agreement, launch of negotiations for a stand-alone Investment Protection Agreement, negotiation on a separate Agreement on Geographical Indications, and formation of India-EU Joint Working Groups on Regulatory Cooperation, Resilient Supply Chain and Cooperation on WTO issues. The Leaders also agreed to resolve long standing bilateral market access issues as a priority.
- The 'Declaration' on the launch of the Enhanced Trade Partnership [ETP] was signed by the HCIM and the UK SoS, Ms. Truss during the virtual interaction between the two Ministers held on 4th May 2021 and the announcement on the launch of ETP was made by the Prime Ministers of India and the UK during the Virtual Summit between the two leaders on the same day. Both sides have committed to work towards a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) along-with an Interim Agreement on a wide range of areas of mutual interest.
- In last week of April 2021, Indonesian newspapers had reported about a temporary ban being imposed on import of Indian bovine meat on account of spread of COVID-19 in India. Subsequently, on 1 May 2021, Cambodia also imposed a temporary ban on import of bovine meat from India. The matter was actively

pursued with both countries through our Missions. As per latest inputs received from the industry, Indonesia has subsequently resumed importing from India. Cambodia has also informed that they have started releasing bovine meat containers which had already arrived at its ports after carrying out tests and assured to release the containers which were in transit at the time of ban after tests. Cambodia also assured to lift the ban once the pandemic situation in India gets better. FT(ASEAN) Division is in regular touch with EoI Cambodia and making sustained efforts to persuade Cambodia to lift the ban early.

- With the persistent efforts of DoC and Indian Mission, Philippines vide Executive Order dated 15th May 2021 reduced MFN duty on import of rice to 35% for a period of one year. The effective import duty on Indian rice in Philippines was 50% as against 35% applicable for India's main competitors i.e. Vietnam and Thailand under ASEAN FTA. The reduction in duty is expected to facilitate enhanced rice exports to Philippines.
- Development commissioner of various SEZs during the month of May, 2021 has approved the proposals of total investment Rs.8395 Crore, which will provide employment to approx. 19741 persons.
- Korea has agreed to allow inspection of Indian mangoes by APEDA and National Plant Protection Organisation (instead of Korean inspectors), before exports to Korea. This is being done on monthly basis and few consignments of mangoes have already been exported to Korea.

VIII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 18,228 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from Indias (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of May 2021.
- As part of IT Revamp of its exporter/importer related services, DGFT has introduced a new online module for filing of electronic, paperless applications for export authorizations with effect from 17th May 2021.
- In view of the current situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided that Regional Authorities (RAs) of DGFT will not insist on valid RCMC (in case where the same has expired on or before 31st March 2021) from the applicants for any incentive/ authorization till 30 September 2021.

IX. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 111,113 Crore as on 31st May 2021. There are 6,95,432 MSEs vendors registered on GeM Portal as on 31st May 2021.
- GeM has created 16,332 product categories and 187 service categories during May 2021.
- GeM has provided online (due to COVID-19) training to its 4,044 users (2,277 buyers & 1,767 sellers) for capacity building.
- GeM held 8 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / Start-Ups / Artisans / Weavers / SHGs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefiting 441 participants.
- Gem has made available 315 COVID-19 related categories (Medical and auxiliaries) with 169,126 unique products in COVID-19 in medical categories and 139,066 unique products in auxiliaries' categories.
- Temporary COVID hospitals, Oxygen Cylinders, PSA Oxygen Plant, Ambulance, Cold Chain Equipment, Rapid Response Diagnostic Laboratory, Oxygen Kits, Oxygen concentrators, Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Sample Collection Kits, Real Time PCR (ICMR Specs), Ventilator, Viral RNA Extraction Kits, Automated Nucleic Acid Extraction Machine, masks, diagnostic kits PPE, Vinyl/rubber gloves, cardiac monitor and other vital products are on-boarded on GeM in the list of COVID categories.
- Disinfection Service, Ambulance service are added under COVID-19 related requirement. Also six new COVID Medical categories i.e. : Rapid Response Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (i-LAB), basic facility for COVID hospital, Temporary Hospital, ICU Facility / Ward for COVID-19 patients, Isolation Facility/Ward for asymptomatic patients, Isolation Facility/Ward for patients with mild symptoms have been added over GeM portal.
- There are 34,993 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 35,751 sellers in COVID-19 auxiliaries' categories on the portal.
- Prioritization of Product/ Brand Approval for COVID-19 categories in the Queue Management System and taking them up on highest priority has been enabled.

- Extension of delivery period by 30 days beyond expiry of original Delivery Period has been enabled.
- A new page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers has been created.
- Introduction of Delivery Lead Time Filter for L1 purchase up to INR 5 lakh has been done to help a buyer in filtering sellers with the lead time for supply suited to a buyer's needs.
