

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 June 2021.

I. Trade Performance

- As per trade alert data, India's merchandise exports in June 2021 was USD 32.46 Billion, an increase of 47.34% over USD 22.03 Billion in June 2020 and an increase of 29.7% over USD 25.03 Billion in June 2019. The highest ever merchandise export in a quarter of USD 95 billion has been achieved from April to June, 2021 despite the severity of the second wave of COVID-19.
- Top 5 commodity groups of export which have recorded positive growth during June 2021 vis-à-vis June 2020 are: Other Cereals (237.96%), Petroleum Products (105.2%), Man-made Yarn/Fabrics/Made-ups etc. (81.62%), Gems and Jewellery (80.49%), and Meat, Dairy and Poultry Products (61.8%).
- The value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in June 2021 was USD 25.69 Billion, registering a positive growth of 38.53% over USD 18.54 Billion in June 2020 and a positive growth of 33.61% over USD 19.23 Billion in June 2019.

II. Export Promotion

- PEPC member company Ashoka Buildcon received a letter of acceptance (LoA) from Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation, a state-owned company of the government of the Republic of the Maldives for the project involving design and construction of 2,000 social housing units in Hulhumale, the Republic of Maldives, on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis. The total value for the project is estimated to be around \$140.33 Million (around Rs 1,018.36 crore).
- MoU between ESC and BSE Ltd (earlier known as Bombay Stock Exchange) was signed (on 1st June 2021) to create awareness about benefits of listing among information and communications technology (ICT) SMEs and startups. So far, 337 companies have been listed on BSE.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 131 farms, formed three new cluster farms, 4 in Andhra Pradesh and one in West Bengal, conducted 12 capacity building programs benefiting 180 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 2022 DS 2031 Certificates, 656 Catch certificates to EU, 20 Catch certificates for Non- EU, 28 ICCAT documents, 8 Non-Radio Activity certificates and 9 Duty free import certificate.
- MPEDA Website: The new updated website of MPEDA with user specific portals was launched by Chairman MPEDA on 14th June 2021. The new website will facilitate all the stakeholders and overseas importers to effectively utilize information, services and facilities of MPEDA for the betterment of the trade.
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 298 registrations were done and an amount of Rs. 3,11,735 was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals. 3 new AOCs in Korukollu, West Godavari and Karlapalem, Guntur District were inaugurated during the month.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board issued 123 licenses during the month.
- Central Coffee Research Institute of Coffee Board, organized a webinar on “Pre - monsoon Disease Management measures in coffee” on 11th June 2021. Around 400 coffee growers participated in the webinar. Coffee Board also organized a webinar on “Weather and its impact on crop prospects for the season 2021-22”, wherein around 105 coffee growers from Kerala participated in the webinar.
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) under the Rubber Board obtained an Indian patent on “Stable Free Radical Assisted Devulcanization of Rubber” (Patent No. 370393, date of grant: 28.06.2021) for the term of 20 years.
- As a part of the credit linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) for NE region with the financial support of Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA), the Board transported 2.07 lakh root trainer rubber nursery plants to Guwahati during June 2021.
- Developed a new technology to reduce the processing time of the skim latex from two days (48 hours) to 2 - 4 hours.
- Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) developed two special adhesives with superior performance for rubber to rubber and rubber to metal adhesion under the RPIC project titled “Rubber lining of storage tanks” and proposed two inventions

viz., “Water-based contact adhesive from NR latex” with superior performance and “Production of highly transparent natural products” for filing Indian patents.

- The Rubber Board conducted 256 trainings programmes under farmer education and training programmes, benefiting 3,358 farmers and also, organized 208 batches of field trainings on different topics for 1,605 participants during June 2021.
- The Rubber Board, under the convergence with MGNREGS, completed the cultural operations in 65 ha of rubber plantations benefiting 139 rubber growers. The Board also certified 131 rubber plantations covering an area of 92 ha.
- The Spice Board issued 489 Certificates of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES) through online mode during June 2021.
- During the month, 4461 pre-shipment samples were drawn and 2557 stuffing supervisions were carried out by the Spice board.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During June 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 32,422 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 87 Crore, issued 860 policies, added 827 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 26 Crore.
- Under National Export Insurance Account, during June 2021, value of exports supported was Rs 6.71 Crore and value of insurance covers worth Rs 1 Crore were issued.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- Commerce Secretary of India and Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica has signed Protocol for establishment of India-Costa Rica Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) under MoU on Economic Cooperation signed between India and Costa Rica in April 2013. Signing of Protocol has cleared the path for holding the first meeting of JETCO.
- India-Canada CEPA negotiations have been resumed / revived after a lapse of almost three years; and from 1st June to 3rd June, 2021, bilateral discussions were held and both sides discussed the broad scope of the CEPA interim agreement. On goods, both sides agreed to exchange the trade and tariff data in 2nd week of June 2021, followed by exchange of wish list/ priority list in 2nd week of July 2021 and first round of signaling meeting thereafter.

- The India- EU Senior Officials' Dialogue on WTO issues was agreed to be set up as part of the Joint Statement of India-EU Leaders' Meeting held on 8th May 2021. The aim of the dialogue is to identify areas of co-operation and bridge the gap in the areas where EU and Indian positions diverge on WTO matters. The Senior Officials Working Group will steer work at the technical level and facilitate discussions at the WTO, including to ensure a successful 12th Ministerial Conference and subsequent Ministerial Conferences. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of this Dialogue have been finalized in June 2021 and the first meeting under the agreed ToR is likely to be held shortly.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 18,011 Authorizations/Scripts under various FTP Schemes viz., Importers/Exporters Code (IEC), Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS), Service Exports from India's (SEIS), Advance Authorizations and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) during the month of June 2021.
- The export policy of Injection Remdesivir and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) falling under the ITC (HS) Codes has been changed from Prohibited category to Restricted category with immediate effect. The export of Remdesivir Injections/ API against the Advance Authorizations will not require a separate authorization/ permission.

VIII. Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

- Total transaction value on GeM portal has crossed Rs. 117,157 Crore as on 30th June 2021.
- GeM has created 16,332 product categories and 172 service categories during June 2021.
- GeM has provided online (due to COVID-19) training to its 9,085 users (7,489 buyers & 1,596 sellers) for capacity building during June 2021.
- GeM held 8 webinars exclusively for MSMEs / Start-Ups / Artisans / Weavers / SHGs for capacity building and onboarding on GeM, benefiting 511 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 36,601 sellers in COVID-19 medical categories & 36,767 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.
- “The Green Gold Collection” [<https://gem.gov.in/national-bamboo-mission>], a unique initiative of the National Bamboo Mission and GeM, was launched by Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri. Parshottam Khodabhai Rupala on 3rd June 2021. The collection showcases a range of exquisitely handcrafted bamboo and bamboo products, handicrafts, disposals and daily utility products on the GeM portal, and aims to provide bamboo artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs in rural areas with market access to Government buyers.
- A new page for tracking COVID-19 categories and the number of sellers has been created.
- The promotion of Geographical Indication [GI] products is being facilitated through GeM portal by designating GeM as the authorized user of 370 GI products and enabling the accreditation/ benchmarking of components used through provenance producer tracing, improvement of quality, scale up of sales volumes in value chains so that branding, promotion and marketing can be undertaken professionally.
