

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 2021

I. Trade Performance

- India's merchandise exports in September 2021 was USD 33.44 Billion, an increase of 21.35% over USD 27.56 Billion in September 2020 and an increase of 28.51% over USD 26.02 Billion in September 2019.
- Top 10 major commodity groups, covering more than 80% of total exports, that have shown positive growth in September 2021 over corresponding month of previous year are: Engineering Goods (36.70%), Petroleum Products (39.32%), Gems and Jewellery (19.71%), Organic and Inorganic Chemicals (29.61%), Drugs & Pharmaceuticals (-8.47%), Cotton Yarn/Fabrics/Madeups, Handloom Products Etc. (40.35%), RMG Of All Textiles (9.24%), Electronic Goods (26.28%), Rice (4.44%) and Plastic and Linoleum (18.45%).
- Value of non-petroleum exports in September 2021 was USD 28.53 Billion, registering a positive growth of 18.72% over non-petroleum exports of USD 24.03 Billion in September 2020 and a positive growth of 26.32% over non-petroleum exports of USD 22.59 Billion in September 2019.
- Value of non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports in September 2021 was USD 25.29 Billion, registering a positive growth of 18.59% over non-petroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 21.33 Billion in September 2020 and a positive growth of 33.14% over nonpetroleum and non-gems and jewellery exports of USD 19.0 Billion in September 2019.

II. Export Promotion

- Development Commissioners of various SEZs during the month of September 2021 have approved the proposals of total investment of Rs. 6775.45 Crore, which will also provide employment to approx. 6615 persons.

- On 29th September, 2021 CAPEXIL organised a webinar on “Indian Ceramics and Business Opportunities with Peru and Bolivia” in association with the Embassy of India to Peru & Bolivia, INCHEM, Peru, CAPICO & CNC.
- As a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", a two day programme from 21st-22nd September was organised by Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade in collaboration with the State of Jharkhand on developing districts as export hubs in association with SHEFEXIL and Economic Times.
- CAPEXIL organized the Delhi Book Fair, 2021, Virtual event from 3rd to 5th September 2021 in association with the Federation of Indian Publishers. This was the Second initiative to bridge the gap between Indian products and demand for Books, Publications, Printing & Rights across the globe in the pandemic era and thereby contribute a bit to mitigate the international business and expand our exports.
- PEPC in collaboration with Delhi Government and various stakeholders organized Vanijya Utsav on 21st and 22nd September 2021 as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", a celebration to commemorate 75 years of Independence, with a focus on economic growth, especially promotion of exports from India.

III. MPEDA

- MPEDA has enrolled 235 farms, formed 4 new cluster farm and conducted 79 capacity building programs benefiting 1377 farmers.
- MPEDA issued 2546 DS 2031 certificates, 590 catch certificates to EU, 28 catch certificates for Non- EU, 44 ICCAT documents, 23 Non-Radio Activity certificates, 11 Duty free import certificate, 03 RCMC and 1 Brand name certificate.
- Through the Aqua One Centres, 96 registrations were done and an amount of Rs.5,12,445/- was collected for testing water quality & shrimp animals.
- Certificate of Origin issued: ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (ASEAN-India FTA) -51, India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IKCEPA)-13, India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IJCEPA)-157, Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement(APTA)-219, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme-81.

IV. Promotion of Plantation Sector

- The Tea Board issued 172 licenses during September 2021.

- The Embassy of India in Kuwait organized a display of different varieties of Indian tea products during the "Made in India" Exhibition held at the Embassy on 14th-15th September 2021.
- In view of the commemoration of 75 years of Independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav was observed in majority of the Tea Estates spread all over India with tea workers participation. A total number of 5,05,528 workers/small tea growers participated in the “Rashtragaan” event followed by distribution of Tea packets bearing the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav logo to the workers by the Garden Management(s). Tree Saplings (including tea plants) numbering 1,91,304 were planted commemorating the event on 26th September, 2021.
- Coffee Board in collaboration with High Commission of India in Singapore (HCI), Singapore Coffee Association (SCA) and High Enterprise Singapore (ESG) organised Virtual Business Network Meet on Coffees of India along with cupping on 17th September 2021. 22 exporters from India and 6 major coffee importers along with Singapore Coffee Association (SCA) and High Enterprise Singapore (ESG) participated in the business interaction.
- Rubber Board organised ‘Maha Amrit Tapping Divas’ , a special tapping programme conducted on 26th September with the theme “From Farms to Foreign Lands” in rubber growing regions across India with the participation of 752,090 growers/workers/tappers.
- Credit Linked Rubber Plantation Development Plan (CLRPDP) - Planting activities are progressing up successfully. Achievement as on 27th September 2021 is 3529 ha. (Agartala zone - 2137 ha and Guwahati zone - 1392 ha).
- ICRI has planted 7,500 cardamom suckers in the cardamom nursery at its research farm in Kerala to mass multiply them and distribute 75,000 quality planting materials for the forthcoming planting season for the benefit of spice farming community.

V. Export Credit, Insurance and MAI Assistance

- During September 2021, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has supported exports of Rs 55,703 Crore, earned a premium of Rs 116 Crore, issued 1,119 policies, added 994 new buyers and settled claims worth Rs 75 Crore.

VI. Bilateral Trade

- 18th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers (AEM-India) consultations were held virtually on 14th September 2021. The Ministers exchanged views on COVID-19 related challenges and the initiatives being taken to mitigate its impact. The

Ministers noted the progress made in the Scoping exercise for AITIGA review and reiterated their commitment to finalize the scoping exercise and subsequent activation of Joint Committee expeditiously. The industry members of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) from India and ASEAN briefed the Ministers on the activities of AIBC.

- On 22nd September 2021, Shri Piyush Goyal, India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution and Textiles, and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Trade, formally launched the negotiations for the India-United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in New Delhi. The first round of the negotiations were held in New Delhi on 23rd-24th September 2021. Both sides will aim to conclude negotiations by December 2021 and sign a formal agreement in March 2022 after the completion of internal legal procedures and ratification. The Agreement when concluded is expected to increase bilateral trade in goods to USD 100 Billion within five years of the entry into force of the Agreement and also increase trade in services to USD 15 Billion.
- 9th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers Meeting (EAS EMM) was held virtually on 15th September 2021. The Ministers exchanged views on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic to regional and global economy and the measures taken by EAS participating countries to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- India and Australia have resumed bilateral FTA negotiations on five subjects: Trade in Goods, Services, Rules of Origin, Customs procedure and Legal and Institutional issues. Negotiations are happening in virtual mode. Both sides are committed to complete negotiations for the Early Harvest Agreement by December 2021.

VII. DGFT

- Regional Authorities of DGFT have issued 42,313 Authorizations/Scrips 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 September 2021.
