RECORD OF DISCUSSION
2nd Meeting of Council for Trade Development & Promotion

The Commerce Secretary (CS) in her opening remarks welcomed the Hon’ble Union Commerce & Industry Minister (CIM), Hon’ble Ministers from the States and senior officials from the Centre and States for the 2nd Meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion. She informed that over the year, interactions with State Governments have become more regular and formalised. Several measures are being undertaken to improve trade facilitation and ease of doing business, the result of which is becoming visible and this will gain further prominence in the coming years. She informed that the Centre has facilitated each State’s access to its DGCI&S export data to enable the State to analyse its exports patterns and take effective policy decisions.

She informed that after almost a year of slowdown in exports, there has been a revival trend in the recent months. She mentioned that while the global market will continue to grow slowly, our efforts to make our own industries competitive must continue so that our industry can compete in the global markets. She also emphasised on the need to expand the array of services exports and the need for States to enable a suitable enabling climate through policy directions.

She further mentioned that the Department has started a structured interaction with State Governments where a delegation comprising of DGFT, CMD, CONCOR, Dept of Revenue, Chairman of concerned Plantation Board; APEDA; MPEDA etc. accompany her to the State for an interaction with the State Government officials and the exporters. In these joint interactions, issues impeding exporters from the States are identified and addressed. This is in addition to the open house sessions where DGFT addresses the issues of the exporters. Some of the issues which have emerged from these interactions are the need for more dry ports in States, continuance of tax benefit to SEZ etc. She, therefore, urged the State Governments to send viable proposals for setting up of dry ports. The State Governments were requested to also examine the issue of the exemption/drawback of duties like electricity duty which are levied by the State on exports. Regarding continuing tax benefits to SEZs, CS informed that the matter has been taken up with Ministry of Finance and it is hopeful that a positive outcome would result. She urged the State Governments to resolve issues of the special zones related to tax, have an effective single window for regulatory processes and delegate suitably powers as per the SEZ Act to facilitate these special zones.

Union Commerce & Industry Minister, in her address welcomed the Members of the Council and appreciated the proactive role of the States in the continuing efforts to boost India’s exports.

She informed that in the 1st meeting of the Council, a constructive dialogue with the State Governments and UTs took place for creating an enabling environment to boost international trade. She informed that the Centre has made all efforts to resolve the issues raised by the States in the first meeting and a feedback has been provided to each State in her invitation letter itself. She appreciated those States who have formulated their export strategy in line with the Foreign Trade Policy and appointed ‘Export Commissioners’. She urged the remaining States to do the same at the earliest. She requested that the Export Commissioner be designated as the single point of contact with the interaction for all the exporters from the State.

The Union Minister drew the attention of the Council to the delinking of ASIDE scheme due to enhanced devolution of Union taxes to States as per the 14th Finance
Commission award and urged the State Governments to complete their ongoing projects with this enhanced allocation, at the earliest. She informed that on the suggestion of the State Governments, a new scheme to support export infrastructure namely the ‘Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)’ has been formulated to build infrastructure for trade promotion activities.

The issues related to testing, standards, certification, labelling and packaging requirements have a great bearing on the SPS/TBT compliance. She mentioned that as can be seen on the India Trade Portal that about 100-150 SPS notifications and a similar number of TBT notifications are being issued by WTO member countries each month. Around 50% to 60% of these measures have the potential to impact our trade. She emphasised that States and central institutions need to cooperate to build the infrastructure and ensure compliances. Three sectors where specific interventions in this regard are required can broadly be categorised as agri / marine products, forest produce and industrial products. The States through their Export Commissioners need to identify export infrastructure gaps in these areas and take remedial measures.

She drew the attention of the States towards promoting Services Exports which offsets to a large extent the deficit in our merchandise trade balance. She exhorted the States to diversify India’s exports basket by enabling more sectors and breaching new markets. She stressed that we need to diversify our export basket in services sector beyond IT and ITeS to encompass entertainment, film, medical services tourism, wellness, music, education, etc. The export strategy of the State should ensure promotion of these services also.

The Union Minister also emphasised on the need to focus on plantation crops where majority of the products except rubber are exported. However due to climate change, the shift in rainfall pattern and other climatic fluctuation quality of output of products has become unpredictable. There is a need to analyse the impact of climate change and take corrective measures to offset the impact.

Concluding her address, she informed that the process of review of the Foreign Trade Policy is due in September, 2017. The process has been started and she urged all the State Government to give their inputs for reviewing the provisions of FTP.

Thereafter, JS(Infrastructure), the Member Secretary of the Council gave a presentation on the present trade scenario. The presentation highlighted the trends in both merchandise and services trade over the last 5 years and export trends for both select commodities & services for the period since the last meeting of the Council i.e. January to November 2016 comparing it to the corresponding period in the preceding year. The recent trade facilitation initiatives taken by the Government of India like ratification of Trade facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the WTO, EXIM data access to the States, Twitter Sewa, EDI initiatives, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), launching of Single Window Interface for Facilitating Trade (SWIFT) were enumerated. The States were exhorted to create quality infrastructure for exports, streamlining process for the suitable framework for single window mechanism through legislation or policy for SEZs, skill development, ensuring quality and standards as well as other export promotion activities. Some common issues like delay in tax refunds, lack of testing lab facility, rationalisation of electricity tariff, direct air connectivity, etc. received from exporters in states were flagged.
Thereafter, representatives of the State Governments were invited to share their views and articulate their perspective on the trade policy with specific interventions required to increase exports. The points/ suggestions made by State is as under:-

**ANDHRA PRADESH**

Shri P.Narayana, Minister (Urban Development), representing Government of Arunachal Pradesh requested assistance for spices, marine and tobacco sectors. He also requested for setting up of a national accredited laboratory at Guntur and informed that creation of a university corpus fund will help in fast tracking the project for creation of university in the state. He suggested:

1) Setting up a Joint DGFT office at Guntur.  
**[Action: DGFT]**

2) In marine sector, there is requirement of scanners for examination to prevent contamination of product by opening it elsewhere and cold storage for marine products. 
**[Action: EP(MP)-DoC]**

3) Setting up of Aquatic Quarantine Facility (AQP) in Vishakhapatnam for frozen sea food is to be established. 
**[Action: D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries/ EP(MP)-DoC]**

4) USA permits imports of leaf tobacco at concessional rates from Tariff Quota listed countries as given to selected countries like Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, etc. It was requested that India be included in the Tariff Quota list to enable tobacco export to United States. 
**[Action: EP(Agri)-DoC]**

5) There is a need to establish at least two national accredited laboratories at Guntur in order to address the non-tariff measures from the Government side to abide to the crop protection. 
**[Action: D/o Science & Technology]**

6) Budgetary support may be provided for the proposed University of Logistics which is under consideration of the State Govt. 
**[Action: D/o Higher Education]**

7) Adoption of a logistics performance index similar to World Bank to bench mark ports may be considered to enable creation of world class infrastructure. 
**[Action: M/o Commerce & Industry]**

**ASSAM**

Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Minister (Industries & Commerce), a Member of the Council flagged issues for improving trade from NE states. He mentioned that half of their GDP relates to or comes from trade and commerce. Industrialisation of NER and Assam has started. Water route through Bay of Bengal is now opening and road conditions are very good. Their international airport is being upgraded/developed and it will be made world class. They are improving on connectivity during the last 6 months with much more projects. He thanked the Union Minister for revival of NEIIP policy for investment in industries and provided employment opportunities to the 44 thousand unemployed youth.
of the state. This is important for promoting NE for trade with SAARC countries. He suggested the following:-

1) Set up engagement with Bangladesh for using the ports, as the historical trade routes have not been opened up for use in NE region.

   JS, Ministry of Shipping responded that on the use of the ports, an agreement has been reached in December, 2016 and the SOP for the same is under consideration.

   [Action: M/o External Affairs, M/o Shipping, FT(SA)-DoC]

2) Investment in infrastructure to be scaled up for border trade centres. ICPs to be made of international standards and major upgradation required for trade points of NE. The matter has been taken up with LPAI.

   [Action: LPAI-M/o Home Affairs]

3) An industrial corridor from Guwahati to Mandalay and make Assam a centre point for trade and commerce with ASEAN countries was requested.

   [Action: DIPP]

4) Requirement of Visa Centre at Assam to facilitate people to move easily as they have to come to Delhi to obtain a visa.

   [Action: M/o External Affairs]

5) There is need to train 1st generation exporters on managing documentation, packaging, etc. for which organisations like IIFT, FIEO, etc. may be engaged by D/o Commerce.

   DGFT responded that there is a Niryat Bandhu Scheme to guide 1st generation of exporters. Further IIFT runs online program for the exporters to guide them which States may avail. It was suggested that if any institute of the State was willing to partner with DGFT, suitable program could be drawn up.

   [Action: State Govt., DGFT]

6) Frequent trade delegations may be undertaken from Assam to neighbouring countries of Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal, China, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to help in exploring new market for the industry as well as sector activities.

   [Action: DIPP, FT Divisions-DoC]

7) ASIDE Scheme support should be increased and special consideration may be given to Assam and North East.

   [Action: States Cell-DoC]

**CHHATTISGARH**

Shri Amar Aggarwal, Minister (Industries & Commerce), a Member of the Council sought measures to enhance the competitiveness of the tribal states by promoting forest produce. He thanked the Union Minister for resolving the issue of HMS Scrap from Raipur which was raised in the 1st Meeting of the Council. He assured submission of UC for funds provided under ASIDE by March, 2017. He suggested:-

1) Restoration of Export Incentives –The non-edible oils of sal, mango kernel and kokum have been clubbed with edible oil category by the ITC HS classification, thereby rendering them ineligible for availing 5% duty credit script under MEIS, which was available earlier under VKGUY. This may be restored, as livelihood of lakhs of forest dwellers and tribals of the State is dependent on these products.

   [Action: DGFT]
2) Phytosanitary certification services by Directorate Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Govt of India is currently not available at Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Raipur due to some technical reasons. The Directorate may be advised to look into the issue.

[Action: D/o Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]

3) Certain non-edible oil seeds like salseed oil, Aamgiri, cocum oil need to be dealt separately from edible oil category to get export incentives as Chhattisgarh is a tribal area.

DGFT responded that efforts are being made to include the forest products in the MEIS in consultation with M/o Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

[Action: DGFT, MoEF&CC]

4) As per exporters, Less than Container Load (LCL) facilities are lacking at ICD, Raipur, despite the assurance of CONCOR that the facility is being made available.

[Action: CONCOR]

5) Centre should guide and develop a mechanism for states towards harnessing their export potential based on their natural resources, as appointment of Export Commissioner only would not be suffice for the growth of exports in states. There is a lack of knowledge at state level in making its export strategy. Therefore, a mechanism is be developed which can identify resource of the State and suggest export possibility and identify assured markets for products in which States are rich in resources like herbal, Minor Forest Product in case of Chhattisgarh.

The Union Minister responded that FIEO has been mandated to assist State Government in formulation of strategy/policy for the States. She exhorted FIEO to be proactive in its handholding of the states for the identification of possibilities by ensuring formulation of strategy/policy. She further directed FIEO to convene a meeting with the State Export Commissioners on their export potential and prepare a blueprint to be acted upon.

[Action: FIEO, DoC, DIPP]

GUJARAT

Shri Rohit Bhai Patel, Minister (Industries & Commerce), a Member of the Council appreciated the Centre’s initiative in constituting this Council to facilitate a platform for the States to articulate their views. He mentioned the following:

1. The requirement of standards in exports for the developed and underdeveloped countries are completely different. He stressed the need to integrate good manufacturing practices (GMP) and checking of standards at various stages of manufacturing/assembly and need to enforce standards available in the country. The scope of adopting GMP is to be expanded from pharmaceuticals to all sectors

[Action: M/o Consumer Affairs, DIPP ]

2. There is need to initiate adoption of quality standards in government procurement to promote a culture of quality consciousness. There is need to enforce strict quality norms for government procurement.

[Action: M/o Finance, DGS&D]
Shri A.C Moideen, Minister (Industries), a Member of the Council, assured that Kerala stands committed to increase foreign trade and to create a more enabling environment for the same. The State is working on improving the ease of doing business climate in Kerala, and is planning enabling legislation for the same which will simplify clearances, bring out a common application format and make the process online. He stated the following:-

1) The withdrawal of the ASIDE Scheme, which provided funds for creation of export infrastructure, has adversely affected resource allocation to creation export related infrastructure. The continuation of the ASIDE scheme is requested so as to provide funding for crucial export related infrastructure.  
   \[Action:\text{States Cell-DoC}\]

2) There is a misalignment in the permissible loads that can be carried in a container while on a ship and while on roads. Upto 24 tonnes can be carried in a 20 foot container at sea, but only two-thirds of the same can be carried on the roads, depending on the number of axles in the carrier vehicle. This issue may be taken up with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for resolution, so that containerised trade does not face harassment enroute to/from the ports. M/o Road Transport & Highways may be requested to consider revision of the carrying capacities on road to align the same with sea, in view of the better quality of roads now available.  
   \[Action: \text{M/o Road Transport & Highways}\]

3) Despite the fact that processed food items form a major part of exports from Kerala, the State does not have an NABL accredited laboratory. Assistance of the Central Government is sought in this regard.  
   \[Action: \text{D/o Science & Technology}\]

4) Free Trade Agreements (FTA) have affected large sections of industry due to influx of cheap imports. Government of Kerala is deeply concerned over the Central Government’s move to further widen trade ties with Asia-Pacific countries. The tariff concessions offered under the Indo-ASEAN FTA and the misuse of the provisions of the Indo-Sri Lankan FTA has led to the large scale import of palm oil, tea, pepper and other spices, driving down the demand for domestic produce. Proactive measures are sought to curb liberal imports of agricultural products and ensure the livelihood security of domestic farmers.

Since agriculture constitutes the backbone of our livelihood security system, protecting domestic agriculture and the livelihoods of farming families should be stressed at the on-going negotiations. It was requested that the State Governments could also be involved while negotiating in these matters.  
   \[Action: \text{TPD, FT(ASEAN), EP(Agri)-DoC}\]

5) The bound rates for different commodities like rubber, coconut, coffee, tea, pepper and other spices, cashewnut, medicinal plants, fish & fish products, milk & milk products, meat & meat products, processed foods are high and must be adopted in the determination of import tariffs. The import tariffs on a range of products specific to Kerala have been fixed at levels well below the bound rate. The import duty in all these cases should be raised at least to the level of the bound rate.  
   \[Action: \text{D/o Revenue, TPD-DoC}\]

6) Nearly 80% of the cultivated land in Kerala is under perennial/ tree crops. Our farmers must be insulated from the crippling impact of FTAs by providing a much longer
'adjustment' period of at least 5-10 years of limited protection and additional investment support, must be provided so as to enable them to adjust to the new trade environment. During this period, the safeguards provided under FTA in terms of imposition of tariff and such other measure should be made use of to give farmers time to acquire the necessary trade capabilities.

[Action: TPD-DoC]

7) The various Commodity Boards of the Government of India such as the Tea, Coffee, Rubber, Coconut & Spices Boards, which have done valuable work in the past, need to be restructured in a manner that they can focus on ensuring income and livelihood security to small producers and plantation workers.

[Action: Plantation-DoC]

8) Cruise shipping is extremely important for Kerala especially through Cochin Port. Efforts are being made to put in an SOP for regulating the activity which needs to be finalised and implemented properly.

JS, M/o Shipping responded that there is a committee under Secretaries of M/o Shipping and Tourism on issues of port tourism, immigration etc which has framed and circulated an SOP to all the State Governments. There are around 50 cruise ships that are willing to operate from Mumbai Port. Another committee has been framed to separately look into possibilities of issue of e-visa to promote cruise tourism.

[Action: M/o Shipping, M/o Tourism, MHA]

9) A clarification regarding the authority to issue special import license for imports of fish and meat products may be provided.

[Action: D/o Animal Husbandry, EP(MP)-DoC]

10) As a lot of exports from Coimbatore come through Cochin port, a quality control facility may be set up at the ICD which the CBEC may facilitate.

[Action: CBEC]

11) Cochin is one of the ports designated by DGFT (vide PN 38/2015-16) which is allowed to import un-shredded metallic scrap till 31.3.2017 by which time the designated ports are to install and operationalise Radiation Portal Monitors and Container Scanners. Such sea ports which fails to meet the deadline will be derecognised for the purpose of import of un-shredded metallic scrap w.e.f 1.4.2017. The timeline may be extended in view of the fact that the Indian Ports Association is yet to establish the Radiation Portal Monitors and Container Scanners.

[Action: DGFT]

12) There is a difference in duty imposed on hydrated lime depending upon the port of import for e.g. it attracts a duty of 9% at Chennai and in Cochin there is a 26% duty on it. This variation in duty imposed needs to be resolved.

[Action: CBEC]

MADHYA PRADESH

Shri Rajendra Shukla, Minister (Commerce & Industry), a Member of the Council welcomed the organisation of the meeting and said it was good example of cooperative federalism and would promote healthy competition among states He informed that the state has taken measures to improve the ease of doing business by enabling at the policy level. He informed that the State has supported Thili, ICD from its own resources and ensures timely refunds. He requested the support of the Centre on the following issues:
1) To formulate a special package as part of the Centre’s efforts to promote exports from land locked states. He suggested that this could be achieved in the following ways:-

a) A dedicated space/ capacity should be provided for land locked states at nearby ports;
b) Greenfield port facility can be planned for land-locked states wherein a land locked state can also invest to create the infrastructure.

[Action: M/o Shipping]

2) Government of India may work out a mechanism for transport subsidy of non-agricultural items like pharmaceuticals, auto parts etc exported out of land locked states. These could be in the form of reimbursements compensating for the higher transportation cost. This would provide a level playing field to exporters from land-locked states when compared with exporters in the port states.

[Action: DIPP]

3) An air cargo facility at Indore in Madhya Pradesh is long overdue. Although land has been allotted for the construction of ‘Center for Perishable Cargo’ (CPC), it is not appropriate for perishable goods as it is located in the old campus and might lead to problem in shifting cargo from CPC to airfield. The Central Govt. may re-examine the issue and relocate the facility.

[Action: M/o Civil Aviation]

4) In order to make the MSME industry competitive, the MSME industry needs to gain exposure of best practices followed across the globe. 100 MSMEs per year may be considered for the international exposure. This initiative can be outside the existing MAI/ MDA scheme.

[Action: M/o MSME]

5) A scheme for enabling setting up Export Promotion Council in each state’s capital will lead to rapid industrialisation. He said that Madhya Pradesh is willing to provide space for the same.

[Action: E&MDA-DoC]

6) Exemption of export duty on iron ore concentrate originating from Madhya Pradesh – In order to save the iron ore mining industry and iron ore beneficiation industries which generate direct employment of more than 10000 direct and 50000 indirect employees, a special incentive package be given by abolishing export duty of 30% on iron ore concentrate.

[Action: CBEC]

RAJASTHAN

Shri Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, Minister (Industries), a Member of the Council sought support of the Centre in addressing issues related to the exports. He suggested the following:-

1) Freight Subsidy may be provided to Rajasthan as it is a land locked State. This will reduce input cost.

[Action: DIPP]
2) Set up ICD’s at Bhiwadi and Sirohi for tapping the potential of exports from the industrial area being developed under the DMIC project. He informed that a wide variety of products like Engineering, Chemicals, Textiles are being exported from Bhiwadi region, which is located near ICD Khathuwas in Haryana but not connected by a rail line. Now, it has become imperative to open an ICD at Bhiwadi to reduce the transit cost.

[Action: CONCOR, CWC, M/s Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation]

3) Set up a Special Notified Zone (SNZ) at the International Airport, Jaipur. A SNZ may also be set up in Jaipur at par with Mumbai for import and processing of rough precious and semi-precious stone for re-export.

4) He requested notification of Jaipur Customs Port for ATA Carnet/Temporary Import Bond (TIB) with the objective to establish ‘Jaipur’ as an international trading hub for gems and jewellery. He suggested that the Jaipur airport should be notified as a port for customs clearance under ATA Carnet Convention. He further stated that Jaipur now hosts two gems & jewellery exhibitions annually, which attract many international participants.

[Action: CBEC]

5) He urged withdrawal of restrictions placed on export of RJ crude by GoI. He stated that the RJ Joint Venture consisting of Cairn India Ltd. and ONGC Ltd. has found significant oil & natural gas resources in Barmer district in RJ-ON-90/a block. As per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), Government of India is under an obligation to purchase all domestically produced crude oil from the block. Due to restrictions placed on export of RJ crude by Government of India, RJ JV is forced to sell remaining share of crude to private domestic refineries. Fair pricing of RJ crude through international competitive bidding will benefit all stakeholders, including Government of Rajasthan in terms of realisation of increased royalty on the sale value of RJ crude.

[Action: M/o Petroleum, DGFT]

6) Sales made to Foreign Tourists/PIOs/OCI Card Holders may be treated as “Deemed Exports”. He stated that the gems and jewellery sales to foreign tourists against convertible foreign exchange should be granted the status of deemed exports.

[Action: DGFT]

7) Streamline procedures for gems & jewellery items being taken back home by foreign tourist/OCI card holders/PIOs - He proposed that jewellery items up to a value of US$ 25000 by the foreign tourist/ OCI card holders/ PIOs be permitted as part of personal accompanied baggage. The Baggage rule under Customs Act may be amended accordingly..

[Action: CBEC]

8) Extend the Indirect Tax benefit for SEZ under the Goods and Service Tax regime- Presently, excise duty on procurement of goods from DTA to SEZ is exempted and service tax on services consumed within SEZ is also exempted. Under the proposed Goods & Services Tax, the same benefits should be extended to SEZ Developer/Co-developer & Units.

[Action: D/o Revenue, SEZ-DoC]
9) Income Tax benefits for SEZ units and developer/co-developer be continued and Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) on Developer/Co-developer should be removed.

[Action: D/o Revenue, SEZ-DoC]

10) Amend the New Rule 11A inserted in SEZ Rules, 2006 as the rule approves bifurcation of Non-Processing Area into two parts:-

- Non Processing Area exclusively catering to SEZ entities and thus entitled to all the fiscal benefits envisaged under the SEZ Act/ Rules;
- Non-Processing Area catering to both SEZ & DTA entities and thus not entitled to such fiscal benefits.

The enforcement of the Rule in its current form poses practical difficulties. It should not be made applicable for projects under implementation in multiple phases and where LoAs were issued to Developers/Co-developers prior to notification of Rule 11A.

[Action: SEZ-DoC]

11) SEZ projects should be treated as infrastructure projects and loans to SEZ developers may be recognized as infrastructure project loans in place of Commercial loan. This will promote their competitiveness and boost exports from SEZs.

[Action: D/o Financial Services, SEZ-DoC]

12) Waive Export Duty on Steel used by SEZs. He stated that export duty should not be charged on steel items procured by the SEZ Developer/Co-developer for infrastructure development in SEZ. Some Developers have filed petitions in various High Courts and have got relief. Government should clarify the matter and allow refund of the same which has already been deposited by SEZ entities.

[Action: CBEC, SEZ-DoC]

13) Issue an amendment to the DGFT notification No.05/2015-20 dated 29th April 2016 regarding updation of SCOMET list (Appendix 3 to Schedule 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export & Import Items) to include and allow export & import of ‘preforms’ of Gemstones containing Beryllium for the purpose of radiation treatment and not for sale. He stated that the ‘preform’ of gemstones is an intermediate stage of manufacturing which is between rough stage and polished gemstones stage and there is a huge demand for them in various international markets.

[Action: DGFT]

14) He said that Clearance of many shipments of unworked coral are delayed in Delhi airport for more than a fortnight, for want of inspection by AQCS at Delhi Airport, due to which some of the exporters have to bear heavy demurrage charges. This is increasing the cost of raw material hence making the final product unviable for export. M/o Environment has clarified that the species red coral is neither listed in the schedule of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 nor in the Appendices of CITES. Hence the trade of the said species may be regulated accordingly, subject to the provisions of FTP.

[Action: DGFT, D/o Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries]

**JHARKHAND**

Shri C.P. Singh, Minister for Urban Development stressed the need to increase exports from the country. The state of Jharkand is major producer of rice and other agri products. The State intend to promote mineral based industry and exports in this sector. He informed that the State has formulated an export policy recently in which support for
transport subsidy, waiver of electricity duty and support for participation in exhibitions have been provided for. He said Jharkhand has been proactive in taking up labour reforms. He suggested the following:-

1) Trade data for Jharkhand be made available to the State.  
[Action: State Govt, DGCIS]

2) CONCOR ICD at Jamshedpur be made operational and dry ports be set up at Dhanbad and Ranchi also.  
[Action: CONCOR, CWC]

3) Two export promotion zones are required at Ranchi & Jamshedpur and hence be facilitated.  
[Action: State Govt, SEZ-DoC]

4) Support of centre requested to promote the exports of minor forest produce from the State.  
[Action: EP(CAP)-DoC]

5) Request a more proactive role of FIEO in the State.  
[Action: FIEO]

BIHAR

Representative from Bihar mentioned that Bihar is one of the least developed as far as industries is concerned and made the following points:-

1) In spite of sharing a long border with Nepal, Bihar is unable to tap the potential as it is not able to estimate the requirements of Nepal. An inter-ministerial committee may be set up for Bihar to examine the import requirement of Nepal and promote exports to Nepal.  
[FT(SA)-DoC]

2) Bihar has started putting up various parks such as Leather Park, Textile Park, etc. The requirement of Ministries for land is huge which does not qualify Bihar for funding under any scheme. The concerned Ministries may reconsider the land requirement for the schemes.  
[Action: DIPP, M/o Textiles]

3) Freight Subsidy may be provided for Bihar as it is a land locked State.  
[Action: DIPP]

HARYANA

Representative from Haryana informed that Haryana’s contribution to total export in the country is 4.12% and there is a growth of 24.4% in export during the last five years. They are giving priority to 100% EOU in allotment of land and 50% concessional rate for O/o EPCs for promoting Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED model). Policies have been made for assistance for technology acquisition, registration for quality certification, environment compliances, instituting state export awards, labour reforms, etc. He suggested that:-

1) Since Haryana is among the three best performing states, the state is entitled as per policy for special allocation of Rs.15 crore.  
[Action: DIPP]
2) Apparel is not separately listed in Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Act. Classification of apparel industry under Orange/Green category of pollution may be considered.  
[Action: MoEF&CC]

3) Increase in MEIS benefit from 3% to 5% on ITCHS8432 (High-Tech Agricultural Machinery) to supplement exports in markets in Africa.

    HS Code 84149019 (parts of the vacuum pumps) should be added in the ITC (HS) code-wise list of products under MEIS. The countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, Bhutan & Bangladesh be changed from the Country Group ‘C’ to either Country Group ‘A’ or ‘B’ under MEIS.

    [Action: DGFT]

4) Delay in drawback clearances by Customs on account of unnecessary queries like submission of past BRC, invoice & packing list duly attested by bank, etc. Exporters file relevant documents with customs at the time of custom clearance of their cargo. The custom officials can also verify various information online as well.

    [Action: CBEC]

5) TED (Terminal Excise Duty) claim clearance process with DGFT is very slow. Unnecessary query is raised by DGFT to submit EBRC (Electronic Bank Realisation Certificate) from supplier end for indigenous purchase.

    [Action: DGFT]

6) EPCG redemption replies are coming very slowly from Central Excise and Custom Department. All claims whether MEIS, TED or EPCG redemptions should be allowed to be processed and release online only as this will reduce manual interventions and will expedite this whole process.

    [Action: DGFT, CBEC]

7) Exporters should be able to check utilization of custom duty against MEIS license only and same may be sent as an alert message to the registered email ID of the exporter.

    [Action: DGFT]

8) One time factory stuffing and self-sealing permission should be made permissible for all ICDs instead of taking it separately for all the ICDs one by one.

    [Action: CBEC]

9) No competitor should be able to access data of other exporters shipments from different ports. In order to check this practice, buyer data should be abbreviated.

    [Action: DGFT, CBEC]

10) No charge of demurrage from importers in case of delay in clearance due to ICEGATE server problem or non-availability of customs officials.

    [Action: CBEC]

11) Credit lines should be awarded to underdeveloped countries by Indian Government more often so as to enable them import from India. The availability of these credit lines with various countries world over extended by India should be publicized at various association forums, government portals, etc. to make aware business community as a whole.

    [Action: TPD-DoC]
12) Guar gum split and powder are used for gas and oil exploration. But for deep exploration high quality of CMHPG (CarboxymethylHydroxypropyl Guar) and HPG (Hydroxypropyl Guar Gum) products which are manufactured from guar gum are used. SHEFEXIL (Shellac & Forest Products Export Promotion Council), Government of India should help to develop cheaper technology to produce value added modified qualities like CMHPG & HPG indigenously for increasing its usage in deeper shale gas exploration.

[Action: EP(CAP)-DoC]

13) To restore the facility of duty drawback for guar gum products.

[Action: CBEC]

14) Technology upgradation to make the guar gum products cost competitive and suitable for and application in the sectors of textile, mining, paper and other industries as an adhesive.

[Action: EP(CAP)-DoC]

15) Removal of import duty on guar gum from India imposed by China and to bring it at par with Pakistan.

[Action: CBEC]

16) Waiving off of excise duty levied recently on certain parts & components of agriculture implements/ machinery.

[Action: CBEC]

17) Continuation of ASIDE Scheme – Exporting units contribute in the Foreign Exchange Reserve of the country and states do not get any taxes from exporting units. Therefore, GoI may consider funding under ASIDE Scheme to the States.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

18) To augment the export potential of agro/ horticultural products, Government of India should develop and promote post harvest management facilities for grading/ sorting, cooling, packaging and transportation that will help in upgrading quality, reducing perishability and increasing the shelf life of these products.

[Action: D/o Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare]

19) Tapping potential of aviation sector – In order to tap the huge potential in the aviation sector, Government of India should encourage development of MRO hub by reducing import duty on the machinery imported for establishing such facilities.

[Action: CBEC, M/o Civil Aviation]

20) Promoting Aerospace & Defence (A&D) sector – Haryana has existing base of ancillary units which are catering to the needs of the automotive industries. A&D manufacturing sector is such sector around which large number of ancillary units are required. But given the nature and quality of products being manufactured, it needs technologically advanced vendor units. This gap could be filled if Government of India collaborates with international certification agencies to set up their branches in Haryana, who would provide certifications to A&D vendors.

[Action: M/o Defence]
22) Freight assistance for landlocked state – Haryana state being land locked and port facility being not available nearby, freight assistance/ subsidy for export oriented units located in the state of Haryana should be provided. Disbursement of such assistance/ subsidy should be automatic and hassle free, linking them with export database maintained by the Government of India.  

[Action: DIPP]

ODISHA

Representative from Odisha suggested that:-

1) The Multi-Modal Logistic Park (MMLP) at Jharsuguda is complete but not yet made operational. Similarly, ICD at Balasore is awaiting notification from CBEC. Notification for operation of Port-Side Container Terminal (PSCT) at Paradeep is required to be issued from CBEC. CBEC may be advised to expedite permission.

Chairman, CBEC responded that the delay in operation of the ICD/CFS is due to the fact that the custodian has issues with the charges levied for posting of staff.

[Action: CONCOR/ CBEC]

2) Export Inspection Agency may be advised to ensure completion of the Testing Laboratory at Bhubaneswar as early as possible. The civil work construction of the laboratory is under progress. The laboratory is expected to be operational by June, 2017.

[Action: EIA-DoC]

3) MPEDA may be advised to make the Testing Laboratory operational at the earliest possible. The testing laboratory and equipments are ready along with deployment of trained manpower party. Method validation is under progress and is likely to be completed by March, 2017.

[Action: EP(MP)-DoC]

4) Airport Authority of India is to become the custodian of the International Air Cargo Complex at Bhubaneswar Airport after which Customs will make the International Air Cargo operational. Airport Authority of India may be advised to expedite concurrence.

[Action: M/o Civil Aviation]

5) Release of one time funds for incomplete projects under ASIDE. State has sought one-time assistance for completion of the projects sanctioned under erstwhile ASIDE Scheme.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

6) Export related agencies like DGFT, ECGC, FIEO, EXIM, etc. may be advised to shift under one roof, i.e. RaptaniBhawan at BDA Indradhanu Market Complex, Bhubaneswar.

[Action:State Government, FIEO, E&MDA-DoC]

7) Funding may be provided for setting up various industrial parks in the State.

[Action: DIPP]
Representative from Tamil Nadu informed that in the previous meeting, they had requested for 100% funding for Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) under Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIIUS), which DIPP had declined. He mentioned that the leather industry, which accounts for 50% of the turnover, is currently operating at 40% of its capacity due to stringent environment norms. He suggested that:

1) Government of India may consider funding 50% of cost for CETP for leather industry.

   [Action: M/oEF &CC, DIPP]

2) Manpower issues are causing delay in the customs clearance at ports. There is a need for posting of staff in the state.

   [Action: CBEC]

3) Abolition of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) in SEZs may be re-examined, as SEZ developers are requesting conversion of areas to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), due to lack of support to SEZs.

   [Action: D/o Revenue, SEZ-DoC]

4) In electronic sector, Nokia unit operations in Chennai, which gave employment of around 15000 persons was shut down due to tax dispute, is to be revived. Foxconn, a leading electronics manufacturing firm, wants to re-start manufacturing in the unit. The assets of the unit were frozen by the taxation department. The issue of retrospective tax and de-freezing the assets may be resolved.

   [Action: D/ of Revenue, M/o Finance]

5) DIPP is supporting various industrial corridors like Chennai-Bengaluru as a part of Make in India campaign to promote exports. At one of the three nodes especially Punneri Industrial Node, initial preparatory works have been completed. DIPP has been requested to expedite detailed planning as well as the environmental impact assessment studies in respect of this particular node for speedy implementation and also to keep the State Government closely associated at all stages with the project. State Government has also requested for adequate flexibility in the institutional structure for the governance of Industrial Nodes.

   [Action: DIPP]

6) Exporters in Tamil Nadu are presently exempted from VAT, or CST. However, in post-GST scenario, exporters will be subjected to IGST and then take refund which will block their running capital and also their competitiveness. Merchant exporters suggested that they may be allowed to operate Running Bond facility similar to AR 1 form procedure of Central Excise since export will be subjected to IGST.

   [Action: D/o Revenue]

7) Market development fund of around 0.5% of export of the country should be created to support MSME exporters.

   [Action: M/o MSME]
9) Certified storage facilities at ports for international maritime dangerous goods particularly flammable liquids are required to help exporters.  
[Action: M/o Shipping]

10) APEDA may consider opening an office in the state and collaborate with farmers and universities there to bring best manufacturing practices to promote export of agri products from the state.  
[Action: EP(Agri)-DoC]

11) Permission to buy second hand machinery in leather sector under EPCG scheme under Foreign Trade policy 2015-20 because of high cost of new machinery and very this profit margin of exporters.  
[Action: DGFT]

CIM enquired about the exact requirement of CETP’s and directed the representative to take up the matter with the Finance Department of the State.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

Representative from Uttar Pradesh thanked the Centre for its support. He informed that there has been up gradation of the infrastructure connecting all the districts and suggested that:-

1) Freight subsidy to MSME exporters – Being a landlocked state the State govt has a scheme providing freight subsidy to promote competitiveness of small MSME units but requested that the Centre may consider 25% freight subsidy to MSME exporters, on 50:50 cost sharing basis to land locked states like UP to supplement out modest budgets and also to expand the assistance to medium scale exporters in order to reduce their cost of cargo.  
[Action: DIPP]

2) Green Field International Cargo Airport in Western UP - Support from Gol in establishing a Green Field International Cargo Airport in Western UP is needed urgently which will de-congest Delhi airport and give a flip to exports from the northern states.  
[Action: M/o Civil Aviation]

3) A GST Refund Rate should be fixed and refund should be credited directly in exporter’s bank account within a reasonable period after shipment like Duty Drawback in the existing system so that the exporter may get refund of GST paid timely without any procedural hassle in GST regime also. In addition, a mechanism for quick refund of IGST to the exporters should also be put in place so that his working capital is not blocked for longish periods.  
[Action: D/o Revenue]

4) Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Council has been set up by Government of Uttar Pradesh to promote the exports from the State in 15 major product categories. The Council may be given authorization by DGFT for issuing Certificate of Origin to the State exporters.  
[Action: DGFT]
5) Adhoc moratorium on establishment of White category industries in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) has been imposed by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, which needs to be urgently lifted. Dept of Commerce may kindly intervene with the concerned Ministry so that exports from Agra, Firozabad, like leather footwear, glassware and handicrafts are not adversely impacted.

[Action: M/o Environment, Forests & Climate Change]

6) UP is in a position to complete all balance ASIDE Projects by March 2017 and has released Rs 128 Cr for the same. The State has also launched its own UP Niryat Awasthapna Vikas Yojna (NAVY). Gol was requested to supplement the efforts of the State.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

7) CONCOR has rationalised freight rates for imports but has not done it for exports. CONCOR may consider reduction of rates for the exports.

[Action: CONCOR]

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Representative from Govt of Arunachal Pradesh provided the following issues for consideration:-

1) ASIDE scheme should be continued, through revival of the same with an appropriate new name and nomenclature, under NITI Aayog, to fit the “Act East Policy”.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

2) Considering the topography, Arunachal Pradesh does not fit the minimum area requirement for setting up of an Economic Zone. Therefore, the Central Government may give emphasis for consideration of the minimum area requirement for setting up of an Economic Zone in the State especially as a need based criteria considering its hilly terrain.

[Action: SEZ-DoC]

3) Construction of road from Lumla in Arunachal Pradesh (India) via Tashigong (Bhutan). The road from Lumla is motorable up to the Indo-Bhutan border point (Warongde) on the Indian Side. A small stretch of 7km from Warongde to Khinye (Bhutan) is remaining to be connected, beyond which the all weather road exists connecting all parts of Bhutan and also, Guwahati via Samdrupdzongkar (Bhutan)/ Darranga LCS in Assam. A mechanism must be evolved to construct this 7km stretch of road. The said road would serve the strategic importance of connecting the border district besides facilitating tourism and other economic activities and more importantly, improving and strengthening the bilateral relations with the neighbouring country.

[Action: MEA, FT(ASEAN)-DoC]

4) Implementation of Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar - Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) is a long term common aspiration of the people of the North Eastern Region and implementation of BCIM-EC will usher all round development in the sub-region. It shall make significant influence on many of SAARC & BIMSTEC constituent countries as well.

[Action: MEA, FT(ASEAN)-DoC]
5) The Second World War famed Stilwell road, if constructed from Pangsau Pass to Tennai (a business hub with Land Customs Station formation in Myanmar) up to Muse (China-Myanmar border), then it automatically will connect the NER to both China and Bangladesh through Myanmar as there are surface road arteries existing along this route. To achieve this, the following actions are necessitated:-

a) Re-building of Stilwell Road into Trans-Asian Highway will connect the North East India to ASEAN which would be much shorter and cheaper in comparison to the existing long sea routes and re-opening of trade route through Pangsau Pass will greatly improve the trade relation between India & Myanmar and will also benefit the local population.

b) Connecting Assam to Kunming (61kms in India, 1033kms in Myanmar and 632kms in China).

c) China re-routed through surface road connectivity of Stilwell road shall reduce the distance shorter from Kunming to Ledo in Assam which shall be approx within 1000kms, whereas the distance is much longer via the conventional existing sea-route from Kunming to Bay of Bengal, which is approx. 5800kms.

d) Railway, except for some province in Myanmar and North East India, domestic rail network is well laid. Conversion of same railway line gauge in all BCIM countries shall be required to achieve the objective with involving minimum expenditure and BCIM once land-locked will be land-linked sub-region which will play a pivotal role in economic & cultural prosperity in the sub-region. The opening of transport connectivity and trading routes within the BCIM neighbourhood can sustainably relieve the burden in the frontiers of North East India, whose market turn-over is estimated at more than US$ 50 billion.

[Action: MEA, FT(ASEAN)-DoC]

6) Creation of other infrastructure for export commodities:-

- Arunachal Pradesh is emerging as a leading producer in Kiwi, Apple, Orange and other agro-horti products which requires setting up of integrated common facility centre with facilities like cold storage, collection, sorting, grading, packaging & reefer van, etc. at feasible locations for agro-horti products for which State Government alone cannot provide the required infrastructure.

  [Action: EP(Agri)-DoC]

- To prepare the youths/ entrepreneurs who can handle exports or are interested in exports activities need to be guided and trained by the officials of DGFT, FIEO and other Export oriented organizations under M/o Commerce. Government of India to open the barrier of non-exposure to export trade by the Arunachal Pradesh youth, for which we seek assistance.

  [Action: DGFT/FIEO]

- Establishing an Industrial Corridor along the Trans-Arunachal Highway with state of the art cold chain, processing and marketing infrastructure. A series of tourism infrastructure must also be provided. This must be complimented by providing capacity building modules to upgrade skills of the locals to meet the requirement of skilled manpower in this Industrial Corridor.

  [Action:DIPP]
• Inter-State Integrated Domestic Trade Centres to be set up in feasible inter-state boundary towns.
  [Action: DIPP]

• Establishment of Organic Certification Units and Food Testing Laboratories in Border Trade Centres/ Points.
  [Action: M/o Food Processing Industries]

7) Other Issues:

• Land Customs Station, Nampong (Pangsau Pass), which was notified way back in 1951 is lying non-function at present. Govt. of India may kindly initiate early action for re-opening of LCS Nampong with required infrastructure and also for posting of a Customs Officer which will not only benefit the state of Arunachal Pradesh but also the entire North East India.
  [Action: CBEC, M/o External Affairs]

• At present, there is no Land Customs Station or Customs infrastructure on Myanmar side. Therefore, Govt. of India may also initiate for creation of minimum infrastructure for operational of Land Customs Station near Pangsau Pass on Myanmar side through diplomatic channels.
  [Action: M/o External Affairs]

GOA

Representative of Govt of Goa provided the following issues for consideration:-

1) Export duties on low grade iron ore between 58% to 60% grade (fines & lumps) may be abolished so that there will be boost to the export of low grade iron ore extracted in Goa.
  [Action: CBEC]

2) There is lack of cold chain facility of international standard in Goa. The exporters have to depend upon the agencies housed at neighbouring state. It has been suggested to set up or to authorize the agency for providing facilities for speedy testing, certification, packaging, labelling and cold chain facility of international standard in the State Goa.
  [Action: M/o Food Processing Industries]

3) The containers freight charges are very high in Goa compared to ports at Chennai & Mumbai due to low frequency of port calls by Shipping lines.
  [Action: M/o Shipping]

4) The time consumed for clearance, loading & unloading is much higher at Mormugao ports as required procedure and processes are not aligned for competitive environment.
  [Action: CBEC, M/o Shipping]

5) There is no direct connectivity from Goa port to the rest of the world.
  [Action: M/o Shipping]
6) The Mormugao port requires lot of infrastructure development in form of facilities, state-of-art cargo handling equipment and improved logistics in order to meet challenges arising from anticipated growth in trade.

[KARNATAKA]

Representative from Karnataka thanked the CIM for the positive developments on the various requests of the State and suggested the following:-

1) Sunset Clause for SEZs in 2017 – GoI has introduced Sunset Clause for SEZs which stipulates that the Developers have to complete their project before 31-03-2017 to be eligible for availing Incentives as per SEZ Policy of GoI. Because of difficulties in obtaining clearance/ approvals from Pollution Control Board, Development Authorities, ESCOMS, Water Supply, etc. some of the SEZ Developers are not able to complete the implementation before 31-03-2017. Hence, they have requested for extension at least up to 31-03-2018.

[Action: SEZ-DoC]

2) MAT & DDT for SEZs - The concept of SEZs became popular because of exemption of Minimum Alternate Tax & Dividend Distribution Tax for the units to be set up in SEZs. Subsequent withdrawal of these incentives has resulted in to a setback for the new investments. Many Developers have unsold developed land in their notified areas. Reintroduction of the exemption would boost more investment and hence more exports.

[Action: SEZ-DoC]

3) Import Duty on Cashew - Cashew industry has requested for rolling back of 9.36% of import duty imposed on raw cashew in the Union Budget, 2016. The cashew industry is losing its edge on export market. There is an urgent need to consider their request and rollback the import duty.

[Action: CBEC]

4) ASIDE Scheme – The guidelines regarding the utilisation of the balance funds of ASIDE available with the States have been made clear in the Empowered Committee on ASIDE. It was requested that it may be clarified if the interest earned out of the funds can also be utilised for approval of new projects.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

[MEGHALAYA]

The Commerce & Industries Department, Govt. of Meghalaya communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1) Joint Inspection of new Border Haats with Bangladesh Officials – D/o Commerce has already released an amount of Rs.9.30 crore as 1st instalment for immediate construction of the Border Haat. However, the officials of Bangladesh have repeatedly postponed the Joint Border Haat Management Committee Meeting and till date have not been able to fix a date for conducting the joint inspection of the proposed site. This has delayed the construction of Border Haats. Central Government may consider taking up the case with the counterpart in Bangladesh through MEA so that the projects can be completed within the given time frame.

[Action: M/o External Affairs, FT(SA)-DoC]
2) Banking facilities – To invite nationalised banks to set up their branch office in all the functioning LCS.
   [Action: D/o Financial Services]

3) Telecommunications – To instruct all mobile operators to expand their operation in the border areas which is very poor at present.
   [Action: D/o Telecommunications]

4) Testing Laboratories and Cold Storage/ Cold Chain – To consider approval for setting up of testing laboratories and cold storage/ cold chain in Shillong and Tura for convenience of the exporters/ importers.
   [Action: APEDA]

5) Trade Centre – To consider approval for setting up of trade centres in Shillong and Tura.
   [Action: TP Section -DoC]

6) Road projects – To consider sanctioning of last mile road projects connecting the Border Haats & LCS and export exit route from the main State Road/ Border Roads.
   [Action: M/o Road Transport & Highways]

7) To restore the old State Component of the ASIDE Scheme which has been delinked from Central support recently.
   [Action: States Cell, DoC]

**PUNJAB**

Punjab Small Industries & Export Corporation Ltd, Govt of Punjab communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1) MDA/MAI scheme may be extended for state agencies also.
   [Action: E&MDA-DoC]

2) Negotiate with Pakistan to reduce their negative list and allow more items for export through land route from Punjab. This will reduce logistics cost on transportation as Lahore is only 25km from Punjab. This will also ensure better access to CIS countries. Punjab may be invited during trade meeting with Pakistan.
   [Action: FT(SA)-DoC]

3) Freight subsidy may be provided for land locked states so as to reduce input cost.
   [Action: DIPP]

4) Sports goods industries at Jalandhar needs special incentives due to high input cost.
   [Action: EP(LSG)-DoC]
TELANGANA

The Industries & Commerce Department, Govt. of Telangana communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1) There is an acute shortage of personnel at the Regional Director General of Foreign Trade Office. As a result, the issue of all types of Licenses, closure of Export Obligation and all other Export related works are getting unduly delayed.

[Action: DGFT]

2) Request for release of funds to APEDA for considering the proposals submitted by the Government of Telangana for Pack Houses estimated to cost about Rs.50.00 Crores under common infrastructure. The following proposals for pack houses have been submitted to APEDA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location of Pack House</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Submitted by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Warangal</td>
<td>Vegetables and fruits</td>
<td>Marketing Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Ontimamidi, Gajwel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Bowenpally, Hyderabad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Shaadnagar, RR Dist.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Gudimalkapur, Hyderabad</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>Horticulture Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Zahirabad</td>
<td>Potato</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Action: EP(Agri)-DoC]

3) Hyderabad Pharma City - It is proposed to build a Pharma City in about 15,000 acres. A proposal is already submitted to M/o Environment & Forests seeking EC clearance. The concept master plan is shared with potential Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and infrastructure developers and the Government is in the process of inviting RFP for the same. It is requested that an Inter-Department Coordination Meeting involving D/o Pharmaceuticals, M/o Health & Family Welfare and DIPP may be called for at the earliest to have road map for infrastructure support especially for CETP. The GoI is requested for financial support of around Rs.1500 crores, for establishment of CETP in the proposed Pharma City. An amount of Rs.3000 crores as eligible under NIMZ may also be provided.

[Action: DIPP, M/o Health, D/o Pharmaceuticals, M/o Environment & Forests]

4) Medical Devices Park - The Government plans to set up a Medical Devices Park in the state in two phases: in 250 acres in Phase-I and 600 acres in Phase-II. The Government seeks financial assistance for infrastructure in setting up of the park.

[Action: M/o Health & Family Welfare]

5) Warangal-Hyderabad Industrial Corridor - The Government has proposed to have industrial clusters along with Industrial corridor and identified the following 5 clusters along the corridor:-

The Government seeks infrastructure support for the clusters and grants to develop these nodes.

[Action: DIPP]

6) Warangal Textile Park - The DPR for Phase-I of Mega Textile Park at Warangal is submitted to M/o Textiles. The Government seeks grants in infrastructure support for CETP and internal infrastructure in this park.

[Action: M/o Textiles]

7) National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zahirabad - The Government has appointed a full-fledged CEO and formed a dedicated SPV for NIMZ. An area of 5,500 acres has been acquired. The Government seeks support for establishment of CETP in NIMZ and also the grants as eligible under the scheme.

[Action: DIPP]

8) Spices Park at Nizamabad - The Government is setting up a Spices Park with a project cost of Rs.40 crores with special focus on turmeric in Nizamabad under the aegis of State Horticulture Department and Spices Board is the Knowledge Partner. The Government requests for financial support for the same.

[Action: Plantation-DoC]

9) Leather Park - The Detailed Project Report for setting up of leather Park in Warangal is already submitted to the Department of Commerce in October, 2016. The sanctioning of the park may be expedited.

[Action: DIPP]

10) Hyderabad Trade Centre - The Government, as suggested in the 1st meeting of the Council, approached the ITPO for setting up of the Trade Centre at Hyderabad on the lines of Bengaluru and Chennai. As advised by the ITPO, the Government is taking steps to get the techno economic feasibility study conducted by a reputed consultancy organisation. The Government requests for infrastructure support in setting up the Hyderabad Trade Centre.

[Action: TP Section-DoC]

11) Industrial Corridors - The Government has proposed for 6 Industrial Corridors in 2 Phases:

   Phase-I  
   Hyderabad – Warangal, Hyderabad – Nagpur, Hyderabad – Bengaluru

   Phase-II  
   Hyderabad – Mancherial, Hyderabad – Nalgonda, Hyderabad – Khammam

The industrial corridors are proposed to leverage the existing strengths for optimum utilization of resources and develop the industrial clusters along the corridors. The Government requests for infrastructure in the proposed industrial corridors.

[Action: DIPP]

12) Export Infrastructure - The M/o Commerce may consider reviving ASIDE Scheme or devise a new scheme for providing financial support to the Central and State Agencies for creation of export specific infrastructure including creation trunk infrastructure to the existing logistic facilities and logistic facilities proposed to be established in the State.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]
13) Appointment of Development Commissioner for Telangana State for Special Economic Zones - Recognizing Telangana as a new export zone and appointing an independent Development Commissioner for the smooth functioning of SEZs in the State is essential since the present Development Commissioner’s office (in Vishakhapatnam) is geographically away in another state, leading to delays in getting necessary clearance for the SEZs in the State.

[Action: SEZ-DoC]

14) Manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) locally in USA- Intervention and resolution of issue required. The US Government has made it mandatory for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) to be manufactured locally (in US). At present, nearly 80% of drug raw material requirement is met by India or China. The decision has already sent Indian pharmaceutical exporters into a tizzy, as it will significantly impact Indian drug exports. The decision of the US Government adversely affects Indian drug exports. The decision of the US Government adversely affects the plans of the State for API/formulations based bulk drugs manufacturing in the proposed Pharma City. Therefore, there is a need for Intervention and resolution of issue relating to the decision of the US Government requiring Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) to be manufactured locally, in the US.

[Action: EP (Pharma)]

15) Special package of fiscal measures and tax incentives for promotion of industrialisation and economic growth in the State (including for nine rural districts (erstwhile) identified by the erstwhile Planning Commission) - Most of the industrial clusters are located in Ranga Reddy and Medak Districts (earlier districts) and there is no significant industrial activity in all other districts. Hence, as requested earlier, the Central Government is requested to grant special package of fiscal measures and tax incentives for promotion of industrialization and economic growth in all other districts of the Telangana State.

[Action: DIPP]

TRIPURA

Representative from Govt. of Tripura provided the following issues for consideration:-

1) Removal of port restriction through the LCSs in Tripura – The total volume of trade has increased manifold from Rs.4.12 crore during 1995-96 to about Rs.384 crore during 2015-16. The trade is mostly in favour of Bangladesh where the total value of import was Rs.382 crore and the export to Bangladesh was only Rs.2 crore. The reason for this vast gap is the port restriction on number of commodities for export to Bangladesh through LCS in Tripura. However, these items are allowed to be exported to Bangladesh through other LCS of the country except Tripura. It is urgently required to remove this trade barrier and allow the commodities for export by withdrawing the port restrictions.

[Action: CBEC]

2) Setting up of 2nd ICP in Tripura by upgrading Sabroom LCS into an ICP – Agartala LCS has been upgraded into an ICP to facilitate the trade with Bangladesh. But the infrastructure available in Agartala ICP is almost saturated and there is limited scope for expansion. Hence, there is an immediate need for a 2nd ICP in Tripura. The Sabroom LCS may be the best location considering its proximity to the Chittagong port, which is only about 75kms. Moreover, once the bridge over river Feni is
constructed, this LCS would be busiest landport in terms of transit and trans-shipment. Therefore, it is proposed that the Sabroom LCS may be upgraded into an ICP.

[Action: LPAI-M/o Home Affairs]

3) Setting up of 4 more Border Haats along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura – Out of the proposed 08 Border Haats, the approval has been given for 04 only in first phase, of which only 02 are sanctioned, i.e. Kamalasagar in Sipahijala Distt. and Srinagar in South Tripura Distt. Both the Haats have been set up with funding support of M/o Commerce under ASIDE Scheme and functioning smoothly. For balance two Border Haats approved at Kamalpur and Raghna, land has been identified & Haat Management Committee constituted in the Indian side, but the same is yet to be finalised by Bangladesh side due to which there is not much progress in setting up these two Border Haats. Centre may therefore consider setting up of more Border Haats along the India-Bangladesh border in Tripura and recommend approving the balance 04 Haats as was proposed by the State Government at Boxanagar in Sipahijala Distt., Bamutia in West Tripura Distt., Ekinpur-Belonia in South Tripura Distt. and Hirachhara-Kailashahar, Unakoti Distt.

[Action: FT (SA)-DoC]

4) Introduction of new scheme of funding in place of ASIDE – DoC was earlier releasing Rs.10.25 crore to the State Government under State Component of ASIDE each year. But due to delinking of the Scheme, no fund has been released under State Component during 2015-16 and 2016-17. It is, therefore, proposed that considering the inherent disadvantages of the North East Region, DoC may introduce a new scheme, in place of ASIDE, for funding the infrastructure projects related to export.

[Action: States Cell-DoC]

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Directorate of Industries, Andaman & Nicobar Administration communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1) Direct link of sea/airways with the international market specially the south eastern countries – Though Veer Savarkar Airport has been declared as an international airport but till date no international air traffic has started. Action in this regard needs to be accelerated. Further direct sea link with foreign countries shall enhance the trade projects of the islands.

[Action: M/o Civil Aviation, M/o Shipping]

2) Development of exclusive Air Cargo Complex – The AAI is operating an air cargo complex at the Veer Savarkar Airport. In order to boost the trade of perishable and fragile goods, as well as intensify the frequency of export trading, the existing air cargo shipment facility needs to be expanded.

[Action: M/o Civil Aviation]

3) Declaration of A&N Islands as a Trans-shipment Port – A&N Islands falls in the international trade sea route. Hence, declaring one of the island in A&N Islands as a trans-shipment port will act in favour of the trade policy.

[Action: M/o Shipping]
4) Extend special package for all categories of enterprises in Andaman & Nicobar Islands at par with North Eastern States –It is a long standing demand of these islands to extend the special packages for north eastern states to A&N Islands.  
[Action: D/o DIPP]

5) Promoting pearl culture in these Islands –There is scope of making these islands a hub for pearl culture. At present there is only a single unit of marine pearl culture being operated by a Scientist/ Researcher.  
[Action: EP (G&J)-DoC]

6) Spices like Black pepper, Clove and Cinnamon have good export prospects and needs to be promoted more extensively.  
[Action: Plantation-DoC]

**PUDUCHERRY**

The Industries Department, Puducherry communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1) To set up an Export Inspection Agency in Puducherry for all the exporters.  
[Action: EIA-DoC]

2) Customs duty should be paid only for value addition of the material or product and not for the whole manufacturing material or product.  
[Action: CBEC]

3) Incentive to export to North America, Central America and South America where the sea freight is high from India.  
[Action: M/o Shipping, FT(Eur)/FT(LAC)-DoC]

4) Incentives based on the number of employees employed by the exporting unit to make cost competitive.  
[Action: DGFT]

5) The incentives given by the MEIS scheme may be improved further for the manufacturers producing from tier II cities instead of uniform percentage for all the manufacturers across India.  
[Action: DGFT]

6) Improving the speed of the internet connections to improve the communications with buyers.  
[Action: M/o Electronics & IT]

7) Payment of Interest on the EEFC balances maintained by the export units by Banks.  
[Action: D/o Revenue]
JAMMU & KASHMIR

The Industries & commerce Department, Govt. of J&K communicated the following issues for consideration:-

1. Formal sanction for establishment of International Trade Center, Pampore, Srinagar having equity participation from ITPO and EPCH.  
   [Action: States Cell-DoC]

2. The Customs and Excise Department, Gol has not so far notified the ICD Rangreth, Kashmir premises as Import/Export Facility Center due to which it has not been made operational till date. 
   [Action: CBEC]

3. At present the ICD at Jammu is non-functional due to lack of infrastructure. Exporters have no option but to send their material by road to nearest dry Port in Punjab (Ludhiana), resulting in additional cost for the import of raw material and export of finished goods manufactured in our State. The ICD at Jammu may be established on priority basis up to port for despatch of export oriented goods. 
   [Action: Central Warehousing Corporation]

4. Creation of facility for testing, certification and trace-back of finished goods in the State for ensuring Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED model) goods for enhancement of exports. 
   [Action: Quality Council of India-DIPP]

5. Airport Issues:-
   
a) Srinagar airport though having been upgraded to the level of international airports, the flight schedules for international destinations are however not being operated. There is a pressing demand for allowing international flights to operate from Srinagar airport so as to enhance export volume from the State especially in handicraft and handloom sector.

b) Air cargo complex with warehouse facility is required to be set up at Srinagar airport. 
   [Action: M/o Civil Aviation]

6. There is need to explore virgin markets like Scandinavian, Central Asia and Latin American countries for which a platform for exporters is needed. Logistic support to facilitate their participation in the newer market under MDA & MAI Schemes of D/o Commerce can be facilitated. 
   [Action: FT(Eur)/ FT(CIS)/ FT(LAC)/ E&MDA-DoC]

7. In order to increase export ratio of handicraft items, fiscal incentives need to be provided for:-
   
a) Development of product prototypes involving new design formation. 
   [Action: DC(Handicrafts)]

b) To improve schemes like pre-shipment credit facility to exporters and to continue with the interest subvention scheme. 
   [Action: DGFT]

c) To provide exemption from direct taxes, e.g. tax on profits related to exports. The Section 44AB of Income Tax Rules, 1962 allowing income tax exemption on export earnings be reintroduced for J&K state. 
   [Action: D/o Revenue]

d) The percentage of the incentives available under MEIS Scheme for all exportable handicraft items of Kashmir be increased to the level of 7% for all global destinations
(including Gulf countries) as the state is facing huge infrastructural deficiencies resulting in high transaction costs as compared to other states.

**[Action: DGFT]**

e) The exports from J&K be exempted from service tax.

**[Action: D/o Revenue]**

f) The GST on handicrafts may be kept at 0% as otherwise the exports are liable to suffer heavily in the international markets because of increased competition posed by other countries producing similar handicraft goods at low transaction cost.

**[Action: D/o Revenue]**

8. Setting up of export parks - Two towns of Kashmir Province, i.e. Srinagar & Anantnag have been declared as Towns of Excellence. The infrastructural facilities like establishment of export parks need to be created in these two designated towns. Besides, other towns like Baramulla and Budgam should also be declared as Towns of Excellence as the production levels of handicrafts goods in these districts have crossed the threshold limit of 250 crore annually.

**[Action: DIPP, DGFT]**

9. Involvement of relevant EPC’s along with action plan - Export Marketing and Management workshops and seminars need to be arranged/organized with Export Promotion Councils like EPCH so that the exporters get acquainted/conversant about/latest marketing trends/market intelligence in export business. The funds need to be earmarked for such promotion activities at state level as well.

**[Action: EPCH]**

10. Infrastructure for gemstone exports - The high value exportable merchandise units having robust growth like cutting and polishing of gemstones be established in the valley. The gems & jewellery exports from India have crossed annual target of Rs.2 lakh crore. If one percent of gemstone processing units could be establishment in the valley that would fetch business of about Rs.2000 crores annually. Besides, employment opportunities could be created for the youth of the state. The erstwhile HMT watch factory at Zainakoot could serve as infrastructural imperative for the purpose.

**[Action: EP(G&J)-DoC]**

11. Pashmina Export issues:-

a) Upgradation of Pashmina Testing Lab at Craft Development Institute and establishment of Testing Lab for carpets at IICT be approved.

**[Action: DC(Handicrafts)-M/o Textiles]**

b) Certificates and labels created for quality assurance need to be advertised within and outside the Country. BIS may also explore establishment of labs in J&K.

**[Action: BIS-D/o Consumer Affairs]**

12. Export Awards - For showing par excellence performance in export promotion, it is suggested to introduce export award scheme carrying a prize money of Rs.1.00 lakh together with a citation and Export Award Trophy. Such initiatives are envisaged to give boost to the enthusiasm of exporters for performing betting on the export front.

**[Action: State Government, FIEO]**
**Comments of President, FIEO**

President, FIEO appreciated the formulation of the new scheme supporting export infrastructure. The merchandise exporters presently avail exemption through various forms should continue under GST which will be subject to approval of the States to the exemptions as exports have both Central GST and State GST. He emphasised that States need to ensure quick refunds for exporters so that they do not face liquidity problem under GST considering that cost of credit is high in the country.

Presently inputs used in the exports can be obtained duty free through various schemes which may be continued. Exemption under export should not be treated like any other exemption which is likely to lower the revenue collection as refund of the exports is to be given.

Large export centric cities like Ludhiana, Moradabad should be directly connected with international market by upgrading these airports as international airport. Cities in land-locked states which are more than 100 km from gateway ports should be given freight subsidy to compensate the transport charges.

States may review the policies related industrial estates and their functioning and consider launch of new schemes for commodities having export potential.

**Comments of Committee Member, FICCI**

The Committee Member, FICCI stressed on the need for adopting quality and standards for both for exports the domestic markets. There is a need for narrowing the gap in availability of infrastructural facilities for quality testing, certification, packaging and labelling, common environment mitigation measures etc.

Road and rail connectivity to ports and airports needs be improved specially in land locked States and incentives provided to the exporters from such States. The States may create a conducive environment for exports and also consider subsiding power cost or a reduction of duties on power tariff for reducing the input cost of the exports.

**Comments of Co-Chairman, CII**

Co-Chairman, CII suggested the need to impress upon the US government of the benefits of Indian imports in view of the recent developments in the USA. He reiterated the need for creation of infrastructure and provide interest rate differentiation for exports.

He commented that the recent reports of exchange rate depreciation should not be considered as it places the investors in the country to a disadvantage. He informed that the rising cost of inputs and the duty refunds that are obtained are equal and to protect the domestic industry the rate of duty refunds should be reconsidered by the Department of Revenue.

He also stressed the need to create a synergy between the States and the Centre to ensure the smooth transition to GST.
Comments of Chairman, CBEC

Chairman, CBEC stated that it is the agenda of the Dept of Revenue to facilitate trade and it has made all efforts to achieve the same. The facilitation level provided is currently at 80% for imports and 70% for exports. He informed that the Single Window Interface for Trade (SWIFT), a single window clearance introduced for imports, bringing together six regulatory agencies was a major trade facilitation measure. He informed that CBEC is also working on introducing the same facility for exports which would ensure that exporters need not require going to each individual agency to get clearance.

He mentioned that CBEC closely monitors the dwell time for the export and import and data is available on the department’s website, on a daily basis, port-wise. Customs has also introduced the scheme of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) wherein the identified trustworthy economic operators who are risk free can avail the benefit of multiple schemes like filing of bill of entry, shipping bill etc much in advance; deferment of duty, paying the duty periodically i.e. once in 15 days etc. to enable movements of goods faster. He informed that the EDI infrastructure is being upgraded and significant improvements are expected. He stated that there has been reduction of the documentation required for exports.

Regarding the GST regime he indicated that the exports are to be zero rated with the taxes being refunded. He informed that the model law of GST proposes that 90% of the duty is to be refunded within seven working days and remaining 10% after due verification. Drawbacks are expected to continue being given in its present form and the CBEC is closely monitoring their timely refunds.

So far as cruise tourism is concerned, he mentioned that the activity is going on well from Mumbai, Goa, Cochin, but the suggestion of Govt of Kerala will be duly considered. However, he mentioned that the issue of the exemption for consumption of liquor served on cruise within Indian water is still under consideration.

He also stressed for the need to review the proper functioning of ICD/CFS existing in the country. He assured that the issues of manpower raised by Assam shall be resolved. Regarding the duties levied on cashew and high quality iron-ore he mentioned that it has been taken after due consultation with the line ministry. He urged the States to promote exporters from the State to attend the regular trade facilitation meetings being organised, at least once in a month, at all the major ports. He reassured that CBEC is committed to ensure ease of doing business and that imports/exports are facilitated.

Comments of Secretary, DIPP

Secretary, DIPP informed that for promoting industrial development in NER, NEIIPP has been revived in a more targeted and committed form. He also informed that a Committee under CEO, NITI Aayog has been constituted comprising representatives from line Ministries/Departments to devise a new policy for industrial development of North Eastern Region and Himalayan states in consultation with them.

On the issue of development of industrial corridors, he informed that the Union Cabinet has recently approved National Industrial Corridor Development & Implementation Trust (NICDIT), an apex council, headed by Hon’ble Finance Minister with the concerned states as Members to oversee the development of the industrial corridors across the country. Apart from the existing corridors which will continue to run in different parts of the
country, he urged the states to send detailed proposals for any new industrial corridor with justification for approval of the apex council. He assured that the views of all the States in regard of establishment of the corridors will be taken on board in the apex council.

He reiterated that the role of the States is crucial in promoting manufacturing and exports. He informed that presently about 19 agencies have established check posts in the various States. Though it is expected that some of these will be removed by adopting GST, he urged the states to work for removal of all these check posts. He pointed out that this was also one of the indicators of Ease of Doing Business.

He applauded the States in making efforts to promote reforms under the Ease of Doing Business. He informed that from this year onwards, assessment of extent of Ease of Doing Business will be based on public feedback. He therefore, urged the states to ensure that the impact of reforms is felt by end users. He requested the States to take up detailed business process reengineering if needed. He reiterated that there is a necessity to see that reforms are done regularly and number of procedures to start business in India cut down gradually. He mentioned that efforts are being made to reduce the processes to start a business to 4 and the number of days to start a business from 26 to 4 days. He complimented the States on the efforts taken but said that there was a lot to be done.

**Director General Foreign Trade** thanked the Hon'ble CIM and Hon'ble Industry Ministers from the States, Commerce Secretary, Secretary DIPP, CBEC, Chairman, Heads of Trade Body, Principal Secretary and senior officials from the line Ministry and States for making efforts to participate in the meeting and giving valuable suggestions to this forum.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
# List of Participants for 1st Meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion

 Held on 05.01.2017 in Hall No. 5 (2nd Floor)
 Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

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<th>Sl. No.</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Smt Nirmala Sitharaman</td>
<td>Minister of State for Commerce &amp; Industry (Independent Charge)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Smt Rita Teaotia</td>
<td>Commerce Secretary</td>
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<td>Shri Ramesh Abhishek</td>
<td>Secretary, D/o Industrial Policy &amp; Promotion</td>
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<td>Shri Najib Shah</td>
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<td>Shri Chander Mohan Patowary</td>
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<td>Shri P. Narayana</td>
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<td>Shri Amar Aggarwal</td>
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<td>Shri C.P. Singh</td>
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<td>Shri A C Moideen</td>
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<td>Shri Rajendra Sukhla</td>
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<td>Shri Raj Pal Singh Shekhawat</td>
<td>Minister (Industries), Govt. of Rajasthan</td>
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<td>Shri Ravi Kapoor</td>
<td>Addll. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam</td>
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<td>Shri Paul Antony</td>
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<td>Shri Vikram Kapur,</td>
<td>Principal Secretary (Ind.), Govt. of Tamil Nadu</td>
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<td>Shri L N Gupta</td>
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<td>Shri Rajneesh Dubey</td>
<td>Principal Secretary, Govt.of Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Dr. S. Sidharth</td>
<td>Principal Secretary (Ind), Govt.of Bihar</td>
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<td>Shri Pawan Aggarwal</td>
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<td>Shri G.P. Goswami</td>
<td>Asst. Commissioner (Ind), Government of Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<td>Shri V.K. Kaushal</td>
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<td>Shri Ashok Rane,</td>
<td>Director (I &amp; Trade), Government of Goa</td>
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<td>Shri Umesh Chandra Joshi</td>
<td>JS to Minister, Government of Goa</td>
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<td>Shri Devender Singh</td>
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<td>Shri K.P. Baliyan</td>
<td>PS to CM, Govt. of Jharkhand</td>
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<td>Shri P. Gopinath</td>
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<td>Shri RajendraKondepati</td>
<td>Executive Director, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh</td>
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<td>Smt. K. V. Lalitha</td>
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<td>Joint Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport &amp; Highways</td>
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<td>Shri Sudhanshu Pandey</td>
<td>Joint Secretary, DoC</td>
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<td>Ms. Sushmita Dasgupta</td>
<td>Economic Adviser, DoC</td>
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<td>Sr. Economic Adviser, MoEF</td>
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<td>Head Trade Policy and Export, CII</td>
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<td>Executive, CII</td>
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<td>114</td>
<td>Shri Abhijit Das</td>
<td>Head, Centre for WTO Studies, IIFT</td>
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<td>115</td>
<td>Shri Sumit Saraft</td>
<td>Business MGM</td>
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