

## Year End Review 2023 - Ministry of Commerce and Industry

### About the Ministry

- **Union Minister-** Shri Piyush Goyal
- It is responsible for administering two departments namely
  - Department of Commerce
  - Department of Industry and Internal Trade
- **Autonomous Bodies-**
  - The Marine Products Export Development Authority
  - Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
- Export Inspection Council
- Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- Indian Institute of Packaging
- **Commodity Boards**

Commodity Boards under Ministry of Commerce	Headquarters
Coffee Board	Bangalore
Rubber Board	Kottayam, Kerala
Tea Board	Kolkata, West Bengal
Tobacco Board	Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
Spices Board	Cochin, Kerala

### The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)-

- **Statutory body-** Under MPEDA Act 1972.
- **Role-** It is entrusted with the primary task of promotion of export of marine products.
- **Headquarters-** Cochin, Kerala.

### Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)-

- **Statutory body** - Under APEDA Act 1985.
- **Role** - Responsible for export promotion and development of scheduled products like honey, meat, dairy products etc.,
- **Headquarters-** New Delhi.

### Export Inspection Council (EIC)

- It is the official export -certification body of India which ensures quality and safety of products exported from India.
- It is set up under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 to ensure sound

development of export trade of India through quality control and inspection and matters connected therewith.

- **Headquarters-** New Delhi
- **Role-** To ensure that products notified under the Act are meeting the requirements of the importing countries in respect of their quality and safety.
- It is the *only organization* in India having global acceptance.

## Key Initiatives/Achievements of the Ministry

### Export Performance

- Despite global headwinds, both merchandise and services exports have robust performance.
- India's overall export (Merchandise plus Services) stood at USD 499.46 billion during April-November 2023 as compared to USD 506.52 billion during April-November 2022.

### Foreign Trade Policy, 2023

- It was launched with the aim of India's exports to 2 trillion dollars by 2030.
- Four Pillars
  1. Incentive to Remission
  2. Export promotion through collaboration
  3. Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives
  4. Emerging Areas
- It encourages recognition of new towns through Towns of Export Excellence Scheme and exporters through Status Holder Scheme.

To know more about Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 [Click here](#)

### Districts as Export Hubs Scheme

- **Aim-** To convert each district of the country into an export hub.
- *One District One Product Scheme* has been merged with this scheme; it is a part of new Foreign Trade Policy.
- It will increase production, grow exports, generate economic activity and achieve the goal of *AtmaNirbhar Bharat, Vocal for local and Make in India*.

### Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme

- **Launch year-** 2017-18
- **Objective-** To enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure, creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures.
- It will provide financial assistance to Central/State Government owned agencies for setting up or up-grading export infrastructure in States/UTs.

### Market Access Initiatives Scheme

- It is an Export Promotion Scheme envisaged to act as a catalyst to promote India's export on a sustained basis.
- It provides financial assistance for export promotion and the scheme is formulated on focus product-focus country approach to evolve specific market and specific product through market studies/survey.

### Interest Equalization Scheme

- **Launch year-** 2015
- It is a rebate of interest provided on pre and post shipment export credit like packing credit.
- The Scheme is recently extended up to March 2024.

### Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme

- **Launch year-** 2021
- It is a tax refund scheme for exporters that replaced the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).
- It would not be available in respect of duties and taxes already exempted, credited or remitted.

### Government e-Marketplace

- It is a 100% government owned National Public Procurement Portal for procurement of goods and services required by Central and State Government organizations.
- GeM endeavours to make public procurement process transparent, efficient and inclusive.
- **Startup Runaway 2.0-** It is an opportunity for Start-ups to showcase their innovative products and services to Government buyers and engage in public procurement.
- **MSME SC/ST entrepreneurs on GeM-** GeM is collaborating with various stakeholders from MSME ecosystem with special focus on entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Caste/ Schedule Tribes.
  - **Mandatory procurement** - 25% from MSMEs
  - **Sub target procurement** - 4% goods and services from MSME entrepreneurs within SC/ST communities
- **Womaniya** - It seeks to showcase products made by women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups; it promotes women entrepreneurship by aligning them with opportunities to sell their products at GeM portal.
- **SARAS Collection-** It is a store front in GeM for marketing of Self-help group (SHG) products.

### Common Digital Platform for Certificate of Origin

- It has been launched to facilitate trade and increase Free Trade Agreement utilization by exporters.
- It is designed to facilitate exporters through a secure, electronic, paperless procedures.

- Under India's Presidency, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial reached a ground breaking consensus.
- **Jaipur Call for Action**- It was issued for enhancing access to information for MSMEs.
- **G20 Generic Mapping Framework for Global Value Chains (GVCs)**- It contained key building blocks of data, analysis, and representation of GVC data.

To know more about G20 summit - [Click here](#)

### **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity**

- It was launched jointly by the USA and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region in 2022 at Tokyo, Japan.
- It has 14 partner countries including India.
- It seeks to strengthen economic partnership amongst participating countries with the objective of enhancing resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.

To know more about IPEF, [Click here](#)

- **IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement** - During the 3<sup>rd</sup> IPEF Ministerial meeting, 2023 held in San Francisco, California, the first-of-its-kind IPEF Supply Chain Resilience Agreement was signed.
- The Agreement is expected to make IPEF supply chains more resilient, robust, and well-integrated, and contribute towards economic development and progress of the region as a whole.

### **Bharat Mandapam**

- International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex was inaugurated at New Delhi.
- It will help showcase and promote India as a global business destination
- Prime Minister of India urged the nation to move ahead with the principle of '*Think Big, Dream Big, Act Big*'.

### **Vanijya Bhawan**

- It is the new premises of Ministry of Commerce and Industry located in New Delhi.
- It is designed as a smart building which incorporates the principles of sustainable architecture with a special focus on energy saving.

### **NIRYAT Portal**

- **National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade** is launched in 2022.
- It is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.

### **Invest India**

- It is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India and acts as the first point of reference for investors.

- It acts as a facilitation arm for the Government of India for two of its key initiatives “Make in India” and “Start-up”.

## **Make in India**

- It is an initiative under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan launched in 2014.
- **Role-** To promote entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development in India's manufacturing, infrastructure, and service sectors.
- **Pillars-** New processes, new infrastructure, new sectors, and new mind set.
- It was one of the first 'Vocal for Local' initiatives that exposed India's manufacturing domain to the world.

## **Start-up India**

- It was launched in 2016 with the objective of supporting entrepreneurs, building up a robust start-up ecosystem and transforming India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers.

## **Fund of Funds**

- It was launched to encourage investments in the startups.
- It does not directly invest in startups, instead provides capital to SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), known as daughter funds, who in turn invest money in growing Indian startups through equity and equity-linked instruments.
- **Mandate-** Small Industrial Development Bank of India.

## **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme**

- **Aim-** To provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry and commercialization.
- It envisages building a robust Start-up ecosystem in the country for nurturing innovation and providing opportunities to budding entrepreneurs.

## **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)-**

- It has been operationalized in 2023 which provides credit guarantees to loans extended by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- **Aim-** Providing credit guarantee up to a specified limit against loans extended by Member Institutions (MIs) to finance eligible borrowers viz. entities recognised as ‘startups’ by DPIIT PM Gati Shakti (Logistics Division).

## **Geographical Indications Registry**

- It is a statutory organization setup for the administration of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999.
- Geographical indication is a type of intellectual property right that is basically used for product protection with regards to its geographical origin.

## National Single Window System

- It was launched in 2021 to provide “end to end” facilitation and support to investors.
- It is a one-stop shop for investor related approvals and services in the country,

## PM Gati Shakti (Logistics Division)

- **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP)**- It was launched on 2021 for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.
- **National Logistics Policy, 2022**- It complements the PM Gati Shakti NMP, it lays down an overarching interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, multi-modal jurisdictional and comprehensive policy framework for the Logistics Sector.
- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** - It was launched in 2022 designed and developed by National Industrial Corridor Corporation, under the guidance of NITI Aayog.
- **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)**- The report was launched in 2022, it is an indigenous logistics performance index developed on the lines of World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index.

## Bilateral Co-operation

### India-US

- **India - United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF)** - It launched a new working group on Resilient Trade to deepen bilateral dialogue on a range of issues that can enhance the resiliency and sustainability of the trade relationship.
- **Semiconductor Supply Chains** - A MoU on Semiconductor Supply Chain and Innovation Partnership was signed between India and US to facilitate *supply chain resiliency*.
- **Innovation Handshake**- It is a joint initiative between India and US to enhance *innovative ecosystems* through the framework of India-US Commercial Dialogue.

### India-UAE

- **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** - It is the free trade agreement between India and UAE that was signed in 2022
- It covers the trade in services and investment, and other areas of economic partnership.
- India became the first country with which the UAE has signed a CEPA.
- **UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC)** - India & UAE agreed to set-up a UAE-India CEPA Council (UICC) as a B2B collaboration mechanism, with a focus on MSMEs and start-ups, for building greater economic linkages and optimizing CEPA benefits.

### India - Australia

- **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)** -India and Australia have signed the historic Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA) in 2022.
- It is the 1<sup>st</sup> free trade agreement signed by India with a developed country in a decade

and 1<sup>st</sup> time that India has taken binding most-favoured-nations (MFN) commitments even though it is only in select services.

- It is estimated to double trade between the two nations and generate one million jobs.

### Other Quick events

- **Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference** - It was held in New Delhi to stimulate the exports of millets from India and provide market linkage to the producers.
- **Spices Board** - It organized the World Spice Congress at Navi Mumbai in 2023.
- **National Turmeric Board** - The government notified the constitution of National Turmeric Board in 2023.
- It will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.

### References

1. [Department of Commerce- Annual Report 2022-23](#)
2. [DPIIT- Annual Report 2022-23](#)
3. [PIB- Year End Review Department of Commerce](#)
4. [GeM- GeM Exclusive](#)

