

**Agreed Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Joint Working Group Between
Ministry of Industry, Mine & Trade of The Islamic Republic of Iran and
Ministry of Commerce & Industry of the Republic of India 13th - 14th
February, 2018 corresponding to 24th -25th Bahman 1396 Tehran**

The Third Meeting of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce under the framework of the Joint Commission on Economic and Commercial Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of India was held in Tehran on 13th - 14th February, 2018 corresponding to 24th -25th Bahman 1396.

The Iranian Delegation was led by H.E. Mr. Mojtaba Khosrowtaj, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade & President of Trade Promotion Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indian delegation led by H.E. Mr. Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, Director General / Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India. The lists of the members of the two delegations are attached as Annex I and II.

The meeting was held in a business-like, constructive and cooperative atmosphere.

Both heads of delegations complimented the historical and deep rooted relations between Iran and India. They observed that the current level of bilateral trade has the potential to be enhanced substantially and noted the need for increased cooperation towards that objective.

Both sides deliberated and agreed as follows:

1. Both sides while noting the agreed minutes of the 2nd JWG on trade and commerce between Iran and India held on 18th-19th November, 2015 in New Delhi, agreed to take follow up action as per decisions reflected in the record of discussions.

Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)

2. The bilateral negotiations so far on the modalities of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in the First Round of negotiations held in May 2016 in Tehran and the Second Round of negotiations held in September 2016 in New Delhi were reviewed, and then the introduction of the new system of Goods and Services Tax

(GST) in India implemented from 1st July 2017 was clarified by the Indian side. After extensive discussions, both sides agreed to start text-based negotiations for the PTA, for which the Indian side agreed to share a counter text to the PTA text which has been shared by the Iranian side. At the request of the Iranian side, the Indian side agreed to share the details of the GST rates applicable in India at the earliest. Both sides also agreed to share the import data (quantity and value in USD) for all products (in HS code at 8 digits level) country-wise for the last five years i.e. 2013-2017. The Indian side also requested an Iranian delegation to visit India at the earliest for the related text-based negotiations.

3. The Iranian side requested the Indian side to provide tariff related information for the commodities as per the list attached as annex-III to the agreed minutes, at the earliest preferably before the next (Third) round of PTA negotiations. The Indian side requested the Iranian side to share similar information for the list of commodities which would be sent to the Iranian side through the Embassy of India, Tehran.

Anti-dumping Measures

4. Referring to the Anti-Dumping duty imposed by India on some Iranian exporting goods, the Iranian side while mentioning that such measure should be applied precisely, fairly and transparently, requested the Indian side to suspend above mentioned duties on 6 Iranian goods (Crystal melamine resin, float glass, Polly Butadiene, Ammonium nitrate and Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB), Purified Terephthalic Acid) for six months to enable the Iranian companies whose products are currently subject to Anti-Dumping duties to prepare and provide sufficient documents for reconsideration of DGAD, India and reinvestigation.

5. The Indian side informed that the Anti-Dumping investigations in India are carried out in accordance with the Anti-Dumping rules fully complied with the WTO provisions, and therefore these are precise, fair and transparent. The Indian side further stated that the Anti-Dumping rules do not permit suspension of Anti-Dumping duties which have been imposed. However, the producers/exporters facing Anti-Dumping measure can apply for review after 1 year of imposition of duty by citing the changed circumstances which would warrant such a review investigation.

6. The Indian side suggested execution of an MOU for cooperation in the field of trade remedies, as per the draft shared with the Iranian side. The Iranian side suggested that a working group for trade remedies (including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguards) be established under the framework of the above mentioned MOU. The Indian side informed that the draft MOU shared with the Iranian side relates to only anti-dumping and anti-subsidy (countervailing measures) and cooperation in safeguard has not been included since there is a separate Directorate General of Safeguards under the Ministry of Finance. In case, cooperation in safeguard measures is proposed to be included by the Iranian side, the Ministry of Finance would need to be consulted. The Indian side suggested that cooperation in safeguard measures could be included in the scope of the MOU through an addendum subsequently. Both sides agreed to finalize and sign the MOU after mutual consultations.

7. Both sides agreed to notify the other party before initiating any anti-dumping and anti-subsidy (Countervailing) investigation as per the domestic law and regulations.

Business Visa

8. The Indian side highlighted that the Indian businessmen are facing difficulties in getting Iranian business visas. While the Indian Embassy is issuing visas to Iranian businessmen for upto 6 months duration with multiple entries, the Indian businessmen have to undergo medical tests and are issued only 3 months single entry visas. The Iranian Embassy in New Delhi gets approval code from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iran which is difficult and takes time. The Indian side suggested the process of issuing of business visas be made simpler and long term business visas (6 months validity with multiple entries) may be issued to genuine businessmen who are also frequent visitors. The visas for businessmen from both sides be issued expeditiously for participating in trade fairs/exhibitions/seminar or Buyer Seller Meet.

9. Both sides agreed to issue 3 or 6 months multiple entry business visas, within 3 working days, to facilitate smooth travel of businessmen of both countries and enhance cooperation in bilateral trade.

Chabahar Free Zone

10. Both sides agreed to encourage private sector investments in the other country for strengthening bilateral commercial and investment ties.

11. The Iranian side proposed cooperation in attracting foreign investment in Chabahar Free Zone for making Chabahar as a regional transportation hub using the expertise and experience of India and capability of Indian public and private sectors in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The Iranian side further suggested that since Chabahar enjoys the benefit of low electricity tariffs, invited Indian energy intensive industries including petro-chemical, steel and aluminum, to invest in this free zone.

12. The Indian side agreed to share details of investment opportunities, including in Special Economic Zones, with the Iranian side for the Iranian private sector.

Supply of steel rails through STC

13. The Indian side informed that the contract signed by RAI with STC in 2014, for supply of 100,000 MTs of steel rails manufactured by SAIL is yet to be operationalized. It has already been informed to the Iranian side that the proposal for Substitution of blooms, instead of steel rails would not be feasible since the credit of Rs 3000/- crore under EDF was provided for supply of steel rails and any change in the nature of product will not be possible. The Indian side requested for immediate operationalization of the contract for supply of rails manufactured by SAIL and mentioned that the request for supply of blooms may be separately examined on receipt of a specific proposal.

14. The Iranian side informed that the above issue relates to the JWG on Transport under the Joint Economic Commission and may be taken up in that forum.

Supply of steel plates to IGEDC

15. The Indian side informed that the contract for supply of 2.5 million MT of steel plates between STC and M/s Iranian Gas and Engineering Development



Company (IGEDC) of Iran, was signed on 13.1.2014 for a period of three years. Though IGEDC vide their letter dated 22.01.2018 has confirmed for extension of contract for one year, the same could not be operationalised due to non confirmation by IGEDC on the issues related to settlement of outstanding issues with STC as well as delinking of their bilateral issue (related to release of advance and its adjustment thereof) with ESIL from STC's contract with IGEDC. The Indian side further stated that it was learnt that the IGEDC has processed for internal approvals regarding the refund of advance given to ESIL and delinking the same from payments to be made to STC for further shipments as well as settlement of STC outstanding issues(payment of STC dues, LD waiver etc). The Indian side requested Iran for expeditious settlement of outstanding issues of STC by IGEDC and that the contract may be suitably extended so that the balance contracted quantity can be supplied/exported to IGEDC.

16. The Iranian side informed that the above issue relates to the JWG on Energy under the Joint Economic Commission and may be taken up in that forum.

Co-operation between STC and GTC

17. The Indian side stated that during the first meeting of Joint Working Group, both the sides had agreed to expand trading cooperation between STC and General trading Corporation. A MoU has been shared by India with the Iranian side which may be considered for finalization. The Iranian side stated that it would convey its comments on the draft MOU at the earliest.

INSTC

18. The Indian side highlighted the importance of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and mentioned that there were certain pending issues with Iranian side. It was also mentioned that last meeting of Experts Group and Coordination Council was held in August 2015. It was requested by the Indian side that the next meetings of the Expert group and Coordination Council may to be organised by Iran at the earliest.

19. The Iranian side informed that above issue relates to the JWG on Transport under the Joint Economic Commission and may be taken up in that forum.

Banking and Payment Issues

20. The Indian side expressed their concern at the continuing difficulties in banking and payment mechanisms which are adversely affecting the bilateral trade between both countries. The Indian side suggested that till the time such issues are resolved, both sides could consider strengthening Rupee Vostro account mechanism of Iranian banks maintained with select Indian banks for settlement of payment transactions. Both sides agreed to constitute a Joint Committee consisting representatives of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to enhance banking cooperation and resolve specific difficulties relating to payments. The Iranian side conveyed that it has presented frameworks for Iranian Rial/Indian Rupee bilateral Currency Swap and for Banking and Payment Arrangement (BPA) to the Reserve Bank of India. The Indian side agreed to follow up with RBI.

Commercial Disputes

21. The Iranian side stated that considering the increasing number of commercial disputes between Iranian and Indian companies, some of which have caused a financial loss to the Iranian companies, particularly petro-chemical companies, a joint committee could be established with representatives of both countries with an aim of resolving such disputes and take punitive action as required.

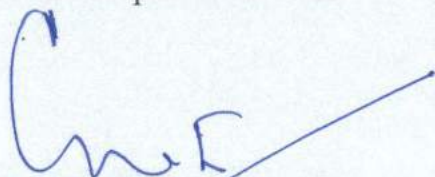
22. The Indian side informed that India has a well-established legal system to deal with the complaints raised by exporters of other countries against Indian importers, under the Foreign Trade Policy framed under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, recourse to which can be taken by the Iranian exporters. The Iranian side requested that in case the result will not satisfactory then the Iranian side may request the Indian side to examine the possibility of referring case(s) to concerned enforcement agencies. The Iranian side informed that similar procedure for settling commercial disputes would be provided for the Indian side.



23. Both sides agreed to convene the 4th Meeting of the Joint Working Group in India. The date of the meeting would be finalized by both Sides through the diplomatic channels.

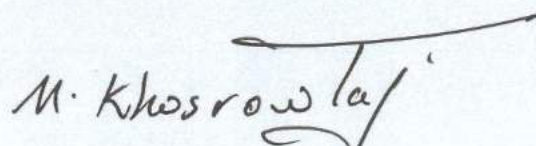
Signed in Tehran on 14th February 2018 corresponding to 25th Bahman 1396 in two originals in English, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Republic of India



Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi
Deputy Minister/Director General
Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce & Industry

For the Islamic Republic of Iran



Mojtaba Khosrowtaj
Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine
and Trade

Iranian list

1. Mr. Mojtaba Khosrowtaj, deputy Minister for export and president of Iran Trade Promotion Organization- Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade
2. Mr. Gholamreza Panah Deputy of Economic and Investment of Chabahar Free Zone Organization
3. Mr. Mojtaba Mousavian, DG of Asia & Oceania Office, TPO
4. Mr. Hossein Bamiri, commercial Attaché of I.R. of Iran in India
5. Mr. Jamal Modarresi, DG of regulations & Standards of Commerce office, Ministry of Agriculture
6. Mr. Bahram Abedi Kiasari, DG of international office of Iranian veterinary organization (IVO)
7. Mr. Shahrokh Shajari, DG of Export Promotion of Ministry of agriculture
8. Mr. Rahnama, DG of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, mines and Agriculture
9. Mr. Mahmoud Bazari, DG of export coordination of agriculture produced & food industry, TPO
10. Mr. kamali ardakani, DG of export promotion of Industrial services and production, TPO
11. Mr. Khodayar Bagheri, Deputy of DG of regulations & Standards of Commerce office, Ministry of Agriculture
12. Mr. Davood Navid moghaddam, Deputy of west Asia First office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13. Mrs. Mina Rahimi, Deputy of DG of Asia & Oceania Office, TPO
14. Mr. Mohammad Hassan Mehdi pour, Deputy of DG of Services Export Development of TPO
15. Mr. Masoud Chavoshi, Deputy of DG of Quarantine of IVO
16. Mrs. Roya seyedzadeh, Director & responsible Of India Desk, TPO
17. Mr. Farhad Goharзад, Head of international affairs Department Plant Protection Organization
18. Mr. Mousavinia, Head of the International Department of export promotion of Ministry of agriculture
19. Mr. Shahin Alaei, Head of the regulations & Standards of Commerce office of Ministry of agriculture
20. Mrs. Mandana Fazel, Senior Expert of Deputy of Exporting Markets, TPO
21. Mr. Arman Firouzi, Expert of Economic Foreign Relation of OIETAI, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance
22. Mr. Mostafa monazzami, Expert of engineering & Technical Services, TPO
23. Mr. Bahram Nazari, Expert of Deputy of Exporting Markets, TPO
24. Mrs. Zeinab hajebi, Expert of India desk of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
25. Mr. Asadollah khoshlesan, Representative of Petrochemical Commercial Co.
26. Mr. Valiyollah Faryadras, Expert of Markets promotion of Ministry of Agriculture
27. Mr. Reza Bayadi, Expert of relation affairs of Ministry of agriculture Jihad
28. Mrs. Maryam Riazi, Expert of Deputy of commotional promotion of Ministry of agriculture
29. Mr. Mohammad Malekian, Managing Director of Saba Bahar Iranian Company
30. Mrs. Mrs. Somayeh Karimi, Director of Saman bank,

Indian Delegation

1. Mr. Alok Vardhan Chaturvedi, Deputy Minister / Director General for Foreign Trade
2. Mr. Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce
3. Mr. Madnesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary , Financial Services
4. Mr. D.K. Singh, Chairman, Agricultural and processed food products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
5. Mr. Jithesh John, Director, Representative of the Department of Economic Affairs
6. Mr. Rajiv Chopra, CMD, State Trading Corporation
7. Mr. Devesh Uttam, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Tehran
8. Mr. Vinay Kumar, Counsellor (Economic & Commerce), Embassy of India, Tehran
9. Mr. D.S. Meena, Second Secretary (Commerce), Embassy of India, Tehran

AnnexIII
Iranian primery requested list for tariff accession
(subject to change)

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
1.	27090010	---Gas liquidities		
2.	31021000	- Urea, whether or not in aqueous solution		
3.	29051100	-- Methanol (methyl alcohol)		
4.	27132000	- Petroleum bitumen		
5.	28141000	- Anhydrous ammonia		
6.	29053100	-- Ethylene glycol (ethanediol)		
7.	29025000	- Styrene		
8.	8025100	Pistachios - is shell		
9.	39011039	other (film grade- Polyethylene having a specific of gravity less than 0.94)		
10.	8025210	pistachionut		
11.	78011000	- Refined lead		
12.	38170010	--- Linear alkyl benzenes (LAB)		
13.	28151200	-- In aqueous solution (soda lye or liquid soda)		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
14.	29023000	- Toluene		
15.	76011000	- Aluminium, not alloyed		
16.	29094900	Ether-alcohols and their halogenated, sulphonated, nitrated or nitrosated		
17.	39041090	other (Poly (vinyl chloride))		
18.	29094300	-- Monobutyl ethers of ethylene glycol or of diethylene glycol		
19.	79011210	--- Containing by weight 99.95% or more but less than 99.99% of zinc		
20.	39076010	Textile grade (Poly (Ethylene terephthalate)		
21.	72082500	Of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more (Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of 600 mm or more, hotrolled, not clad, plated or coated.)		
22.	39012029	Other (Film Grade-Polyethylene having a specific gravity of 0.94 or more)		
23.	27129090	Other (Petroleum jelly; paraffin wax, microcrystalline petroleum wax, slack wax, ozokerite, lignite wax,...)		
24.	27101940	--- Mine based oil		
25.	31028000	- Mixtures of urea and ammonium nitrate in aqueous or ammoniacal solution		
26.	08041040	Dates - Mozafaty		
27.	29024300	-- p-Xylene		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
28.	27122090	Other (Paraffin wax containing by weight less than 0.75% of oil)		
29.	40023900	Other (Isobutene-isoprene (butyl) rubber (IIR); halo-isobutene- rubber (CIIR or BIIR)		
30.	25201000	- Gypsum; anhydrite		
31.	70052990	Other (Float glass and surface ground or polished glass, in sheets, whether or not having an bsorbent, reflecting or nonreflecting layer, but not herwise worked.)		
32.	29391910	--- Noscapine hydrochloride		
33.	29152100	-- Acetic acid		
34.	08021200	Almonds Shelled		
35.	27129020	--- Slack wax		
36.	29321200	-- 2-Furaldehyde (furfuraldehyde)		
37.	76061190	Other (Rectangul (including square) Of aluminum, not alloyed)		
38.	27111390	Other (Butanes of containers less than 1000 m3)		
39.	25151100	(Marble and travertine) Crude or roughly trimmed		
40.	28257000	- Molybdenum oxides and hydroxides		
41.	39021099	Other (Polypropylene Textile grade)		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
42.	29173500	-- Phthalic anhydride		
43.	27111290	Other (Propane of containers less than 1000 In cm3)		
44.	79011100	(Zinc not alloyed,)Containing by weight 99.99 % or more of zinc		
45.	25210000	Limestone flux; limestone and other calcareous stone, of a kind used for the manufacture of lime or cement.		
46.	8041090	--- Other (dates)		
47.	28020000	Sulphur, sublimed or precipitated; colloidal sulphur.		
48.	72039000	- Other (ferrous products obtained by direct redyction of iron ore and other spongy ferrous products, in lumps...)		
49.	28362000	- Disodium carbonate		
50.	41051000	In the wet state (including wet-blue)(tanned or crust skins...)		
51.	29336100	-Melamin		
52.	39012049	---- Other (polyethylene having specific gravity of 0.94 or more, pneumatic grade)		
53.	39199090	--- Other (self-adhesive plates, sheets, films, foil, tape, stripe and other flat shapes , of plastics, whether or not in rolls		
54.	70051090	--- Other with a thickness of more than 4.5 mm		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
55.	08041050	--- Shahany (dates)		
56.	39012039	---- Other (polyethylene having specific gravity of 0.94 or more, injection grade)		
57.	29024400	-- Mixed xylene isomers		
58.	31023000	- Ammonium nitrate, whether or not in aqueous solution		
59.	27121010	--- Petroleum jelly of a pharmaceutical grade (domestically manufactured)		
60.	27101910	--- Engine oils		
61.	27102000	-petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals (other than crude) and preparations not elsewhere specified or included containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or of oils obtained from bituminous minerals , these oils being the basi		
62.	26011190	Iron ores and concentrates, including roasted iron pyrites. :agglomerated-Non --- other		
63.	29024100	-- o-Xylene		
64.	27074000	- Naphthalene		
65.	41053000	- In the dry state (tanned or crust skin of sheep or lambs without wool on... but not further prepared)		
66.	39021030	---- Textile grade(polypropylene)		
67.	08081000	- Apples		
68.	39041010	--- Suspension (poly vinyl chloride) not mixed any other substances		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
69.	39031910	--- General purpose polystyrene (GPPS)		
70.	28030000	Carbon (carbon blacks and other forms of carbon not elsewhere specified or included).		
71.	29221310	--- Triethanolamine		
72.	73066110	--- Of an outer diameter less than 203.2 mm (other tubes, pipes and hollow profiles ... of iron or steel)		
73.	39076020	--- Bottle grade (poly (ethylene terephthalate)		
74.	74031900	-- Other (refined copper)		
75.	74081100	-- Of which the maximum cross-sectional dimension exceeds 6 mm (copper wire)		
76.	29029000	- Other (Xylenes)		
77.	29094100	-- 2,2'-Oxydiethanol (diethylene glycol, digol)		
78.	27101990	--- Other (light oils and preparations)		
79.	51013000	- Carbonised (wool, not carded or combed/degreased)		
80.	08105000	- Kiwifruit		
81.	72022110	--- Containing by weight more than 55% but equal to or less than 80% of silicon		
82.	25221000	- Quicklime		
83.	34049000	- Other (Artificial waxes and prepared waxes, other than poly (oxyethylene) and polyethylene glycol)		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
84.	25202000	- Plasters		
85.	13019020	--- Actone (bitter, sweet)		
86.	72101100	-- Of a thickness of 0.5 mm or more		
87.	27101920	--- Grease		
88.	29336910	--- Hexamine hexamethylenetetramine		
89.	38140000	Organic composite solvents and thinners, not elsewhere specified or included; prepared paint or varnish removers.		
90.	39011099	---- Other (Other grades of primary polymers of ethylene, exception in the form of powder)		
91.	12077000	- melon seed		
92.	74092100	-- In coils(copper plates, sheets, and strips, of a thickness exceeding 0.15 mm /of copper-zinc alloys)		
93.	72024190	--- Containing by weight more than 60% of chromium		
94.	25232900	-- Other (Portland cement)		
95.	39073090	--- Other (Epoxide Resins)		
96.	25070010	--- Kaolin		
97.	28151100	-- Solid (sodium hydroxide)		
98.	51012100	-- Shorn wool		

NO.	Tariff code	Description of goods	Indian Total duties , taxes , etc. (previously)	Indian duties and taxes (currently with details)
99.	28012000	- Iodine		
100.	27121090	--- Other(petroleum jelly, other than cable jelly and pharmaceutical grade)		
101	72071200	slab		

Iranian 8 Digits HS code