Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics &
Dyes Export Promotion Council
(Set - up by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Government of India)

CHEMEXCIL NEWS

Issue December, 2017 - January 2018

CAPINDIA 2018
ROAD SHOW, 4th January, 2018

Shri Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI briefing the media persons and participants about the CAPINDIA Event during Press Meet cum Roadshow of CAPINDIA 2018 EXPO held on 4th January, 2018 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi.

GLIMPSES OF CAP INDIA ROADSHOW

On Dias From (L-R) Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Exe. Director-PLEXCONCIL; Ms. Debjani Roy, Exe. Director-SHEFEXIL; Mr. Ashwin Nayak, Vice Chairman-SHEFEXIL;Mr. Satish Wagh, Chairman-CHEMEXCIL; Mr. Shanker Patel, President-The Green Environment Services Co-op Society Ltd; Mr. Ajay Kadakia, Vice Chairman- CHEMEXCIL; Mr. Bhupendra Patel, Regional Chairman- CHEMEXCIL; Mr. Alpesh Patel, President-Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association; Mr. S.G. Bharadi, Exe. Director-CHEMEXCIL ; Mr. V.R. Chitalia, Director- CAPEXIL

Mr. Satish Wagh, Chairman, Chemexcil Welcoming Mr. Shanker Patel, President, The Green Environment Services Co-Op Soc. Ltd.

Mr. Ajay Kadkia, Vice Chairman, Chemexcil interacting with members

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorial

Chairman's Desk

Dear Member-exporters,

"I have pleasure to bring to you bi-monthly issue of the CHEMEXCIL Bulletin for the month of Dec 2017 to Jan 2018, which contains the important activities undertaken by the Council and other useful information/notifications, etc.

The review of the FTP (2015-2020) was expected earlier this year, but was delayed due to the implementation of the GST in July and the problems faced by exporters under the new dispensation taking center stage. However, the Mid-Term Review of FTP 2015-20 was announced on 5th Dec 2017 by the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu.

To begin with, the mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20) has brought in additional relief worth ₹8,450 crore annually for the labor-intensive and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sectors. Exporters of labour-intensive items, will now be eligible for 2% higher incentives across-the-board under the popular Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).

To improve trade a "Trust based Self Ratification Scheme" has been introduced in the said Policy to allow duty free inputs for export production under duty exemption scheme with a self-declaration. Under this scheme, instead of getting a ratification of the Norms Committee for inputs to be used in the manufacture of export products, exporters will self-certify the requirement of duty free raw materials/ inputs and take an authorization from DGFT which will save time/ resources and boost exports. Currently this scheme is available only to AEO's, but we hope in future this scheme is might be extended to other categories of exporters also.

The council is aware of the issues faced by members due to delay in IGST refunds on account of matching errors, lack of information about IGST refunds from all the ports etc. These issues has been taken up with CBEC regularly by us. I am pleased to inform that CBEC has launched IGST Validation Detail Enquiry on ICEGATE using IEC holder login. This will help exporters to check the status of IGST refunds and in case of errors take corrective action. Similarly, a step by step IGST refund module on ICES has been issued to guide exporters on the causes for IGST refund delays and rectification.

The Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Suresh Prabhu committed to redress the problems informing that "It is not a one-time exercise but an ongoing effort. Commerce ministry will continuously revisit issues, identify challenges and will address them on a real-time basis,"

With exports of goods lower than $300 billion in the last two years, the government is under pressure to give the sector a major boost.

Exports in 2016-17 were $276.54 billion, compared with $314.14 billion in 2013-14.

As regards REACH (EU Legislation) you all aware that altogether 8500 substances were pre-registered by approximate 900 Indian Chemical Industry through 2-ORs (Only representatives) and actual registrations for deadline 2010, 2013 would be approximate 192 substances of 93-companies

Indian chemicals exports to EU accounts to about 35% of its worldwide exports, More than 90% of exporters are within SME category, Larger No. of companies are represented from Dyes and Pigments (including intermediates), Basic Organic Inorganic Chemicals, Flavors and Fragrance, Food additives and cosmetic ingredient, etc.

Since the third registration deadline i.e. 31st May-2018 is nearing most of our SME members are not able to register their product because of high Letter of access (LOA) cost charged by Lead Registrants in SIEF.

It has been brought to our notice by our ORs that there are several European companies has taken lead via its consortia for large number of chemical substances. It was observed that these companies are charging prohibitively high LOA cost for registration of respective substances, this is unnecessarily preventing our member companies to participate in the registration process of these substances. When these costs are compared with fresh studies along with dossier preparation costs, we understand that this could be anything between 30% - 50% of the LOA cost offered to us

We took meeting with member exporter and Only representative in Mumbai and discussed the various problems faced by them in REACH the matter was also discussed with Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India and hence we have sent communication to ECHA stating the problems faced by Indian registrants for actual registration process and requested them to take necessary action to ensure that SME from India are not prevented from registering their products due to exorbitant high LOA cost and the reply is awaited. We have also sent communication to only representatives for RAECH OPT OUT option.

I was invited at the sectoral session on 'chemicals & petrochemicals' at the Bengal Global Business Summit on 16.1.2018 I discussed and presented the issues related to policy, trade and brief about chemexcil in this session.

As regards GST update, GST Council has come with below important updates on GST the detailed updates are already sent by council to all of you on email and the copy of the same is also posted on our website. The important updates are as under

- GST Anti-profiteering Measures by the Government
- GST Inter-State e-way Bill to be made compulsory from 1st of February, 2018
- Refund of IGST/Un-utilised ITC Status/ Feed-back on pending refunds related to export transactions
- Extension of date for filing return in FORM GSTR-1, Clarifications on various aspects of return filing (such as return filing dates, applicability and quantum of late fee, amendment of errors etc)

- GST Fourteenth Amendment in CGST Rules, 2017
- GST User Manual/ FAQ's on claiming refund of IGST/ Un-utilised ITC on exports available on GST Portal
- E-way bill common website launched
- IGST Refund Status Check, IGST Validation Detail Enquiry is available at ICEGATE
- Guide on IGST refund module in ICES- step by step procedure

As regards Chemical export, overseas shipment grew by 68 % in terms of value during November 2017 to $1446 million from $887 million in November 2016. The cumulative Chemical exports during April-November-2017 recorded a higher 30% growth over the same period last year to $ 9819 million from $ 7582 million during April-November 2017.

I once again would like to inform that after two successful editions, CAPINDIA 2018, an initiative of the Department of Commerce, Government of India is being organized to once again promote India as a reliable and leading competitive source for Chemicals, Plastics, Construction, Mining and Allied Products. This is being organized in collaboration with Plastics Export Promotion Council (PLEXCONCIL), Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics and Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL) and Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXIL), and is scheduled from March 22nd -24th, 2018 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. There will be 700 exhibitors comprising of manufacturer- exporters of chemicals, plastics, Mining chemicals and allied products and we are planning to invite more than 400 foreign buyers from different parts of the world. As a chemexcil member, I believe your participation will add much value to the show in terms of showcasing the capabilities and advancement of Indian industries for Chemicals. I request all members to actively participate in this event and make this event a grand success.

I hope that you would find this Chemexcil News bulletin informative and useful. The Secretariat looks forward to receiving your valuable feedback and suggestions which help us to improve this bulletin.

Satish Wagh
Chairman,
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1. Dangerous Goods
Cleopatra, Toxicology and Transport Regulations

Shashi Kallada
Consulting & Training - Dangerous Goods by Rail, Road, River & Sea

Grieving for the death of Mark Antony, whom she loved most dearly, having no hope for her son Ptolemy Caesar to live, forget becoming emperor, Cleopatra foresaw her doomed future. What can be more humiliating to Cleopatra, who called herself the goddess Isis, the wife of Osiris, than being paraded in victory march in Rome by the triumphant Octavian, who later became Emperor Augustus Caesar.

Today, the 12th August 30 BCE, Cleopatra VII Philopator said her last words, as she applied the second asp (Egyptian cobra) to her arm:

"As sweet as balm, as soft as air, as gentle,
O Antony! Nay, I will take thee too.
What should I stay!"

When we sift through the pages of history we can see the first use of poison in warfare recorded by Homer in Odyssey, poison from hellebores used by Odysseus on his arrows. Ibn Wahshiya, an Iraqi alchemist, agriculturalist, farm toxicologist, Egyptologist and historian wrote toxicology treatise, Book of Poisons, in 9th century C.E.

Coffee, tea or cola all these beverages contain 'caffeine', in the second edition of "A Small Dose of Toxicology" - The Health effects of Common Chemicals- Steven G. Gilbert says "Most consumers of caffeine are well aware of the benefits of this drug as well as the consequences of consuming too much. Through trial and error, we have learned how to moderate our consumption of caffeine to avoid any undesirable effects. In regulating our consumption of caffeine we are applying the most basic principle of toxicology: dose/response".

What dose constitute a substance as poison in transport regulations?

During transport we do not expect the Master of the vessel or her crew to open the packages and start eating or drinking the dangerous goods. The only way people on board ships or others involved in transport of goods by Rail, Road, River or Air can be exposed to chemicals are while handling the packages which carry stains of chemicals on the exterior or while dealing with a spillage or fire. Example a crew handle leaking packages and without washing hands consume food; oral route of exposure.

Paracelsus (1493-1541) said "**All substances are poisons; there is none, which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates a poison from a remedy.**"

In transport regulations the word "toxic" has the same meaning as "poisonous".

Toxic Gases are placed under Class 2.3 (Toxic gases) and Toxic Liquids and Solids are placed under Class 6.1 (Toxic substances).

Class 6.1, for the purpose of packing toxic liquids and solids are grouped into three packing groups:

1. Packing group I: substances and preparations presenting a high toxicity risk;
2. Packing group II: substances and preparations presenting a medium toxicity risk;
3. Packing group III: substances and preparations presenting a low toxicity risk.

For making this grouping consideration from both accidental human experience and data obtained from animal experiments are taken.

The possible routes of exposures are:

– oral ingestion;

– dermal contact; and

– inhalation of dusts, mists or vapours.

Class 6.1 Grouping criteria for administration through oral ingestion, dermal contact and inhalation of dusts and mists

Packing group	Oral toxicity LD50 (mg/kg)	Dermal toxicity LD50 (mg/kg)	Inhalation toxicity by dusts and mists LC50 (mg/ℓ)
I	≤ 5.0	≤ 50	≤ 0.2
II	> 5.0 and ≤ 50	> 50 and ≤ 200	> 0.2 and ≤ 2.0
III	> 50 and ≤ 300	> 200 and ≤ 1000	> 2.0 and ≤ 4.0

LD50 of Egyptian cobra (Naja haje), Cleopatra chose for her death, is Sub- Cutaneous 1.15 mg/kg, Intra-venous 0.96 mg/kg, Intra-peritoneal 0.185 mg/kg.

For oral and dermal the dosage is calculated mg per kg body weight and for inhalation dosage is calculated by mg per litre of air we breathe. An excellent example to understand dosage is explained on coffee by Steven G. Gilbert in the second edition of "A Small Dose of Toxicology". Below table describes same.

One Mug of Coffee containing 100 mg Caffeine	
Adult 70 kg body weight	Dosage = 100 mg / 70 kg = **1.4 mg/kg**
Child 5 kg body weight	Dosage = 100 mg / 5 kg = **20 mg/kg**

What is LD50 and LC50?

LD50 (median lethal dose) for acute oral toxicity is the statistically derived single dose of a substance that can be expected to cause death within 14 days in 50 per cent of young adult albino rats when administered by the oral route. The LD50 value is expressed in terms of mass of test substance per mass of test animal (mg/kg).

LD50 for acute dermal toxicity is that dose of the substance which, administered by continuous contact for 24 hours with the bare skin of the albino rabbit, is most likely to cause death within 14 days in one half of the animals tested. The result is expressed in milligrams per kilogram body mass.

LC50 for acute toxicity on inhalation is that concentration of vapour, mist or dust which, administered by continuous inhalation to both male and female young adult albino rats for one hour, is most likely to cause death within 14 days in one half of the animals tested. The result is expressed in milligrams per litre of air for dusts and mists or in millilitres per cubic metre of air (parts per million) for vapours.

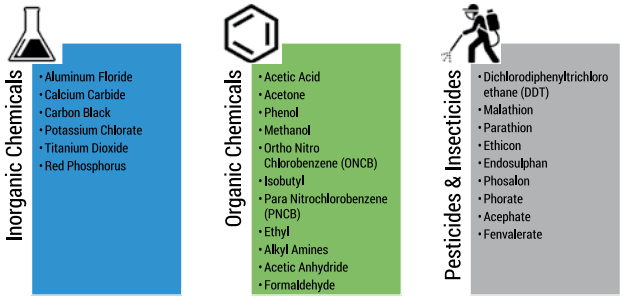
If you are involved in transporting toxic substances, then it is your legal and moral duty to ensure that the consignment strictly meets the requirements of relevant regulations for the mode of transport.

2. INDIA'S EXPORT STRATEGY WITH KENYA

Indian Chemical Industry

India, Asia's third largest producer of chemical with a market size of USD 139 billion, is growing at a brisk pace. Approximately 34% of India's export earnings can be attributed to the chemical industry, which majorly includes polymers & plastics, agrochemicals, dyes, and organic and inorganic chemicals. The country also stands as an important global player in the production of organic, inorganic, and agrochemicals.

Kenya Profile



Kenya, an East-African country, stands 23rd by area in Africa. Kenya covered a total land area of 569,140 sq. km. with an estimated population of 45.5 million in 2016. In terms of GDP, it is the 72nd largest economy of the world. The country is blessed with agriculture, which contributes more than 25% to the Keya's GDP.

Kenya's inward FDI (flows) reached as high as USD 1.4 billion in 2015, as compared to USD 1 billion in the previous year, resulting from renewed investor interest, confidence in the country's business climate, and a booming domestic consumer market. The rise in Kenya's investments is mainly due to the Chinese investments in the mining and hydrocarbon sectors. As on 2015, Kenya's FDI inward (stock) stood at USD 5.9 billion. Kenya is becoming a favored business hub, not only for oil & gas exploration but also for manufacturing exports, as well as consumer goods and services. India's role in Kenya Economy India and Kenya shared a long history as trade partners and contribute to the each other's economy.

Cumulatively, from 1996 to 2016, the FDI outflow from India to Kenya stood at around 11%. The potential

sectors for investment included: infrastructure (roads, railway and airport), energy (hydropower, geothermal and renewable), manufacturing, tourism, and banking and finance.

India's Export Strategy with Kenya

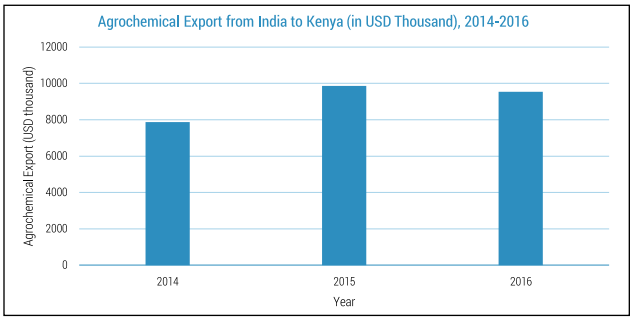
The Kenyan economy remains dependent on the large, informal, and subsistence agriculture, which accounts for over 30% of GDP, and about half of the total export of the country. Horticulture contributes the largest share of agricultural GDP (33%), followed by food crops (32%), and industrial crops (17%).

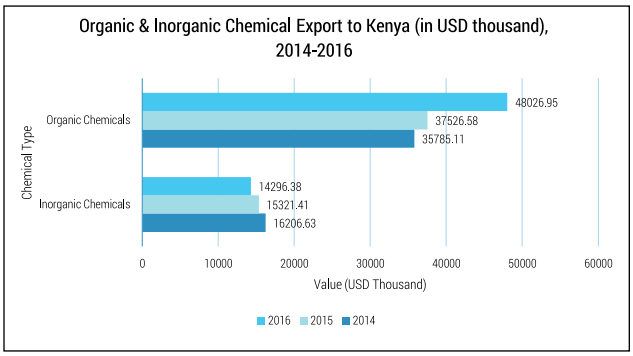
The bilateral trade agreement between the two countries has yielded fruitful results for both India and Kenya. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his visit to Kenya in July 2016, provided a new strength to the existing bilateral partnership. The two countries signed 7 MoUs/Agreements in the field of trade & developmental assistance and defence.

Further, in 2017, the Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta visited India to enhance cooperation between the two countries, which includes the field of agriculture. MoU on sooperation in the agricultural sector and allied sector and LoC worth USD 100 million for agricultural mechanization were signed during the visit.

Since, the agriculture sector contributes more than 25% to the Kenyan GDP, this agreement will likely give upper hand to India and help boost the export expecially in the agrochemical sector.

As depicted by the graph above, export of organic chemicals has increased at a very good rate. This is the result of good growth prospects in the manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and healthcare





industries. India, being an important and preferred trade partner of the country, can count and explore its opportunities in Kenya.

Kenya's "Vision 2030 Manufacturing Sector" is an open opportunity for India to strengthen its export, especially in the pharmaceutical, healthcare, food & beverage processing, and petrochemical industries (they majorly use organic and inorganic chemicals). As of now, India is expected to keep its focus on exporting organic and inorganic chemicals to tap into the manufacturing industries, which are emerging rapidly in Kenya.

Kenya's Trade Agreements with other countries

Kenya is a part of several trade blocks or trade zones and communities through which it enjoys trade between nations. Within the African region, the country has two regional trade agreements named COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) and EAC (East African Community).

In COMESA, Kenya enjoys liberal trade with 18 other African countries. Similarly, EAC is a regional intergovernmental organization of six partner states: Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Burundi, and the Republic of Uganda. The member states of EAC enjoy free movement of goods & services, labor/workers, and free movement of capital among themselves. The major focus areas under the EAC common market includes agriculture & food security, energy, environment & natural resources, industrialization, investment promotion and private sector development.

Kenya also has bilateral trade agreements with some of the major economies In Europe and Asia-Pacific, like Russia, Poland, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, China, South Korea, and Thailand.

Besides regional trade agreements, the United States and member states of COMESA are into the multilateral trade system of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The system was brought into place to recognize the essential role of private investment, both domestic and foreign, in furthering growth, creating jobs, expanding trade, improving technology, and enhancing economic development. Moreover, the AGOA (African Growth and Opportunity Act) gives Kenya a free access to the US market. Kenya majorly exports textiles, apparels and handicrafts under this act.

3. INDIA-KENYA SPECIALTY CHEMICAL TRADE

India's relationship with Kenya can be traced back to the era of sea trade. India actively contributed to the continuous progress achieved by Kenya since the historical period, through growing trade and investment partnerships between the two countries. Furthermore, both the countries enjoy a bilateral partnership, with India being the largest trading partner for Kenya, with a bilateral trade of USD 2.30 billion in 2016-17.

Kenya is not a major producer of specialty chemicals. However, for the country to support its manufacturing sector (which is the second largest consumer of chemicals after agriculture sector), the country formulated the National Chemicals Profile, which will support the existing infrastructure and capacities for managing chemicals. Specialty chemicals imported from India are used in textile, cosmetics & personal care, and plastic industries. All of these industries play a pivotal role in anchoring the country to emerge in the global market.

Currently, India's exports to Kenya are low when compared export to other nations. However, this provides huge potential for India to tap in and increase its export activities with Kenya. Kenya is expected to be one of the fastest growing nations in eastern Africa; also, it has emerged to become the prime choice for investors. India is the top source import market for Kenya, ahead of both China and UAE. Superior product quality available at affordable costs, and relative proximity between the two nations are the major factors for the developing trade relationship between the two nations.

What are the major chemicals India exports to Kenya?

The major specialty chemicals India exports to Kenya includes -

- Dyes, Dye Intermediates, Inks, & Pigments
- Cosmetic & Toiletry Chemicals/Additives
- Adhesives, modified starches, enzymes
- Engineering Plastics & Additives

GROWING FOCUS OF INDIA ON SPECIALTY CHEMICALS

At present, China dominates the global specialty chemicals market. However, India is now focused on becoming one of the global leaders of specialty chemicals in the coming years. India possesses the driving forces to emerge as a leader in the global specialty chemicals market owing to factors, such as easy availability of raw materials at competitive prices, strong base of technically skilled manpower, a domestic industry that supports 'premiumisation' of products, growing investment in R&D, and an ecosystem that firmly believes and supports innovation. The 'Make in India' campaign thoroughly supports all these forces, helping India become the top destination for the manufacturing of specialty chemicals.

India's specialty chemicals market recorded an average growth of 14% from 2010-2015. India's share in the global specialty chemicals market can increase from c.3.4% in 2015 to c.5% by 2020, provided the country continues to maintain a growth rate of around 13% through 2020.

INDIA'S SPECIALTY CHEMICALS EXPORT STRATEGY TO KENYA

As India gears up to be one of the leaders of the specialty chemicals in the global market, the

country has to continue to focus on its production scenario and establish chemical hubs in the country, while maintaining a proper ecosystem which facilitates further growth in the coming years.

One of the ways to facilitate such growth is through establishing strong economic relationships with various nations. Narendra Modi, the President of India met with Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of Kenya, at the beginning of 2017, to further strength the bilateral relation between the nations. While Kenya continues to seek greater engagement with India, India is focused to retain its leading position to be the number one trading partner of Kenya, ahead of China, while maintaining Kenya as a safe haven for investments. The 'Focus Africa' program established in 2002 has always had the objective to strengthen the trade ties between these two nations.

With India focusing on being the top export destination to Kenya, leaving China behind, helps the nation take a step toward gaining a foothold in the global specialty chemicals market, while improving its trade scenario with Kenya.

4. Latin American market in 2017-18 and prospects for Indian business

Mr. R. Viswanathan, *also known as Rengaraj Viswanathan, is a retired Indian diplomat, writer and speaker specializing in Latin American politics, markets, and culture.*

Latin America's GDP growth is projected to increase to 2.2% in 2018 from 1.3% in 2017, according to the 14 December report of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC). Although the growth of 2.2% is modest, it would be the highest since 2013.

The GDP growth prediction for the major countries are: Brazil - 2%, Mexico-2.4%, Argentina-3% and Colombia-2.6%. Panama will have the highest growth with 5.5%, followed by Dominican Republic-5.1% and Nicaragua-5%. In South America, the growth champion in 2018 will be Bolivia with 4%. Venezuela is the only country which will face GDP contraction, at 5.5%. The consolation is that the contraction would be less than the 2017 figure of 9.5%.

The growth of the region in 2018 will be driven by increase in domestic demand, higher exports and favourable growth of global economy and trade. The commodity prices which increased by 13% in 2017 are expected to maintain the same level of prices in 2018 too.

In 2017, imports of the region are estimated to increase by 11% to 949 billion dollars and exports by 9% to 929 billion. The trend of increase in trade is expected to be maintained in 2018.

The average inflation of the region has come down to 5.3% in 2017 from 7.3% in 2016. It is creditable that the inflation of the region has remained in single digit in the last ten years. The highest was 7.9% in 2015. The only black sheep is Venezuela with a four digit inflation. Argentina is struggling with a double digit inflation of 22.9% in 2017.

The ratio of external debt to the GDP of the region in 2017 was a manageable 38.6%. It is important to note that it has remained below 40% in the last decade. This means that Latin America has come out of its bad old habit of excessive external borrowing and debt default is a thing of the past.

The international reserves of the region reached 851 billion dollars in 2017, the highest in the last ten years. Venezuela is the only country with the problem of acute foreign exchange shortage.

The stronger macroeconomic fundamentals, the financial discipline of the governments and their Inclusive Development policies augur well for growth and prosperity of the region in the future.

Political developments

In the elections held in December, the business-friendly billionaire Sebastian Pinera was elected as President of Chile. Lenin Moreno, who was elected as President of Ecuador in February, is more moderate and pragmatic than his predecessor Rafael Correa who had confrontations with foreign companies and got carried away by his anti-imperialist rhetoric. Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Paraguay have changed their leftist governments with centre right ones in recent years. While the PinkTide of the last decade seems to have receded for the moment, the good news is that there is a clear trend of moving towards a pragmatic centre and avoiding extreme left or right. Even the centre-right governments have pro-poor policies and higher public spending for health and education.

In 2018, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Venezuela will have presidential elections. Although Lula is leading in the opinion polls, he faces the risk of disqualification if his conviction in the corruption case is confirmed by the Supreme Court. The right wing media gives

generous coverage to Bolsanaro, the extreme rightist candidate but he is not expected to make it. Alckmin, the non-controversial former governor of Sao Paulo state has a chance. Meanwhile the current temporary president of Brazil is pursuing some reforms, privatisation and liberalisation, some of which could materialise. The country will have more political stability in 2018 after the four scandal-filled disastrous years since 2014.

In Mexico, Lopez Obrador, the leftist candidate who lost narrowly in the last two elections, is the favourite to win. His strong personality and nationalistic position is considered as positive to stand upto Trump who heaps insults upon the Mexicans. Although Obrador is against the opening of the energy sector to private sector, he is not likely to roll back significantly the reforms already done.

In Colombia, President Manuel Santos will leave office after having achieved peace in the country with the FARC agreement. FARC, in its new avtar as a political party, will participate in the 2018 elections but they have very limited chances. The next president of the country will have a fresh start focussing on economic development free from the war burden. Thanks to the end of the guerrilla war, vast new areas of the country have now opened up for agriculture, mining, oil exploration and infrastructure development.

While most of Latin America has firm democratic foundations, three countries have remained as exceptions. The political crisis in Venezuela will continue in 2018 and could get even worse. President Maduro of Venezuela will try to get reelected in 2018 by hook or crook. Honduras is living upto its reputation of "Banana republic" with its ongoing agitation against the reelection of President Hernandez after alleged electoral malpractices. Cuba, which was opening up, has slowed down its reforms in reaction to Trump's revival of the failed policy of restrictions and isolation of Cuba. Raul Castro will step down as President in April 2018 but will continue as the communist party head.

Car wash (Lava Jato) and Odebrecht corruption scandals

The Car wash corruption scandal in Brazil has given a traumatic shock to the business and political elite of Brazil. Over 150 business leaders, executives and politicians have been arrested, of which a majority has been convicted. Many large Brazilian infrastructure companies have been blacklisted for government contracts and credit facilities. It will take quite some time for the affected Brazilian firms to come out of this stain. The Odebrecht scandal has claimed many victims among politicians in other countries too. The Vice President of Ecuador is already in jail and the Peruvian Congress had almost impeached President Kuczynski in December for involvement in the Odebrecht bribery scheme. Before 2014, Odebrecht was the largest Latin American infrastructure company and had done many prestigious projects in the region.

These scandals have given a strong anti-corruption message to the region, where corruption was accepted as part of doing business. But the scandals have left many infrastructure projects paralysed, delayed or scrapped in Brazil besides other countries. They have tarnished the reputation of the Brazilian companies and have opened the field to Chinese and other foreign firms in the region.

Latin America is more serious about India now

Trump has revived the Ugly Gringo fears of Latin Americans. Humiliated by Trump's insults and anti-NAFTA stand, Mexico is keen to diversify its trade partnership. Other Latin Americans too are disgusted by the protectionist policies and Caudillo tantrums of Trump. They are also disillusioned with Europe which is mired in trade protection, anti-immigration and other such issues. On the other hand, China has emerged as the second largest trading partner of Latin America overtaking European Union. It has given around 150 billion dollars of credit and invested around 120 billion dollars in the region. But

the Latinos are wary of the non-transparent and sometimes high-handed business practices of the Chinese and the hidden agenda of Chinese government owned enterprises. Realising the risk of the overwhelming dominant presence of China, they want to reduce their overdependence.

Caught between the bullying Trump, indifferent Europe and the trust deficit with the Chinese, the Latin Americans have started looking more seriously at India, which has become more important for Latin America's exports than any European country. In 2016, Latin America exported 16.7 billion dollars of goods to India while their exports to Germany were 14.4 billion, Spain-13.5bn, UK-10 bn, Italy-9.3 bn and France – 7.2 bn. In 2014, India was the third largest export destination for Latin America's exports after US and China. The Latin American business is attracted by India's huge and growing market. They have taken note that India has already overtaken China in GDP growth rate and the Indian population is set to exceed that of the Chinese in the coming years.

The Latin Americans perceive India as a non-threatening and benign economic partner. India's growth story within a large, diverse and sometimes chaotic but vibrant democracy resonates with Latin American aspirations and realities. The Indian culture and traditions of yoga, meditation, philosophy and Gurus are comfort zones for them. The Indian companies have a positive image in the region. The Latin Americans appreciate the contribution of Indian pharma companies to lower the cost of medicines and increase the share of affordable generics in their markets. They are inspired by the success story of Indian IT companies which have helped human resource development by employing over 25,000 young Latin Americans in their operations in the region.

India's exports to Latin America

In the fist six (April-September) months of 2017-18 fiscal year, India's exports to Latin America have increased by an impressive 17% reaching 6.2 billion dollars. It is heartening to note that the growth is seen across all the six major markets of the region: Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

India's exports to some Latin American countries are larger than the exports to some neighbouring countries and traditional trade partners. For example, India exports more to Mexico than to Thailand, Myanmar, Iran, Canada, Russia, Egypt or Nigeria.

Latin America is the largest destination for India's vehicle exports with Mexico as the largest for cars and Colombia for motorcycles. In some countries such as Guatemala and Colombia, Indian motor cycle brands are the leaders with the highest market share.

Indian companies have started getting infrastructure projects and contracts for supply of equipments and machinery in the region. Sterlite Power Grid of India has won a billion dollar power transmission line project in Brazil in the public auction held in December this year. Other major companies such as Shapoorji and Palonji, Suzlon, KEC, Praj, Paharpur Cooling and Thermax have got business in the region. BFL Hydro, a small company from Bengaluru is doing a mini hydel project in Honduras.

India's total exports to the region were 6.2 billion dollars in the period April to September 2017. It was 10.4 billion dollars in 2016-17. There is potential for India to increase its exports to 20 billion dollars in the next five years to Latin America which is a large and growing middle income (over 8000 dollars of per capita income) market of 19 countries with a total population of 615 million and GDP of over 5 trillion dollars

New paradigm of synergies and complementarities

In the past, distance was perceived as the major barrier for trade with Latin America. The economists saw Indian and Latin American exporters as competitors for the same consumer markets of the developed world, exporting raw materials and importing finished products.

But these perceptions and theories have been upended with a new paradigm of business in the 21st century. The Indian and Latin American companies and markets are discovering new synergies and complementarities.

Here are some examples of the new paradigm:

- Reliance imports crude oil from Brazil, refine it in Jam Nagar and export diesel to Brazil besides other countries. Renuka Sugar imports a billion dollar worth raw sugar from Brazil, refine it in India and then export the refined sugar to Asia and Middle East. A Brazilian firm Surya Brasil imports henna ingredients from India, makes its own brand of products and export them to twenty countries including India.
- Chile, Peru and Argentina export fresh fruits and vegetables to India.
- Two dozen Indian IT firms have been using the distance and different time zone factors as advantages by developing a new 12/12 business model in which they do near-shore delivery of services to their US clients for 12 hours from the same time zone in Latin America and shift to India for the next 12 hours. They employ 25,000 Latin American staff from Mexico to Chile.

It is worth noting that India has beaten China in export of pharmaceuticals to Latin America. What is even more impressive is that India imports substantial quantities of bulk drugs from China, converts them into finished products in India and export to Latin America.

Energy and food security

Latin America has become a regular new source for India's imports of crude oil in the last fifteen years, supplying 15-20 percent of India's global imports. Crude oil is the largest global export of Latin America, which has the capacity to double its exports in the future. Having lost a substantial part of exports to the US (which has started shale oil production), the Latin Americans are now more keen to diversify and penetrate large oil importing markets such as India and China. This fits in perfectly with India's strategic energy security policy to diversify its import sources and reduce over dependence on the volatile Middle East. In any case, the Latin American crude option has put pressure on the the suppliers from Middle East (who had enjoyed undue monopoly in the past) to better their prices and terms of supply to India.

While India has achieved self sufficiency in cereals, there is perpetual shortage of edible oil and pulses which are being imported in ever increasing quantities. India has been sourcing soy and sunflower oil as well as pulses from South America. Since the gap between India's demand and production has been widening due to the relentless increase in population and consumption, India's import from South America will go up in the future. Indian agriculture faces daunting challenges caused by the diversion of agricultural land for other purposes (residential, commercial, industrial and infrastructural uses), shortage of water and low productivity due to inadequate investment by most farmers whose land sizes are small. On the other hand, South America has vast tracts of fertile land, abundant water, advanced technologies and best practices with which the region has emerged as a global agricultural powerhouse. Argentina and Brazil are world leaders in some areas of agricultural research and innovation. The region has the potential to bring in another 40 million hectares of land into agriculture and feed an extra 500 million people.

Investment and joint ventures

In 2017, Indian firms have increased their investment in Mexico and Brazil especially in auto parts, IT and agrochemicals. It is interesting that UPL, the largest Indian agrochemical company has more revenue in Latin America than in India. This is a good time for acquisitions in Brazil where the asset prices are depressed due to the political and

economic situation. The Chinese have invested over 50 billion dollars buying up Brazilian power plants, mines and oil fields.

Mexican companies have increased their investment in India in 2017. Group Bimbo has invested 50 million dollars. Cineopolis has become the fourth the largest owner of multiplexes in India.

Aje, a Peruvian company has bet on the Indian cola market with production of Big Cola brand of soft drinks in Maharashtra.

In 2017, there have been more joint ventures in entertainment business. " Thinking of him". a film on Tagore's romance with the Argentine celebrity Victoria Ocampo was coproduced by an Argentine-India venture and was premiered in the Goa Film festival in November. Prabhakar Sharan from Motihari in Bihar became a hero in a Latin American film " Enredados: La Confusion" (Entangled: the confusion) produced in Costa Rica and released in February. It is the first Latin American film produced in the Bollywood style of songs and dance.

Conclusion

This is an opportune time for India to take the win-win economic partnership with Latin America to the next level, when the Latin Americans are the most serious about India. The appointment of Mr Suresh Prabhu as Commerce Minister of India is welcome news for economic relations with Latin America. He has been taking interest in the region in the last several years much before he became minister. He has deep knowledge and understanding of the region. A stand alone visit to the region by Prime Minister Modi and announcement of credit of a billion dollars would also help.

5. Ease of Doing Business & Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

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With Government's focus on "Ease of doing Business" & "Make in India", Mutual Recognition Agreements play an important role in seamless flow of goods from one country to another country. India has ratified Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 22nd April, 2016 & another 125 countries have also ratified them till date. Certainly, trade facilitation would be an extremely important issue for it aims at simplification, reduction in transaction costs & customs and trade partnership. All these programs ultimately lead to 'ease of doing business' & increasing competitiveness.

The growth forecast estimated by IMF is 7.4% for India in FY 2019. Naturally, if this forecast comes true, Indian exports should grow.

Parth Sarthi shome Committee in September 2014 elaborated on transaction costs in India which were estimated about 15%. There is good scope therefore to reduce the transaction costs by adopting electronic communication, simplified procedures & increasing number of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs).

Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) is a flagship program of world customs organization. AEO new program was launched in India by issuing circular no.33 dtd.22.07.2016(The entire procedure of registration is given in this circular) by CBEC. With a view to secure the international supply chain, the World Customs Organization had in June 2005 adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards to secure and facilitate global trade. Since then, this unique international instrument has ushered in modern supply chain security standards with the help of a closer partnership between Customs and business in the form of Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) program, which constitutes one of the three pillars of SAFE Framework. The AEO program seeks to provide tangible benefits in the form of faster Customs clearances and simplified Customs procedures to those business entities who offer a high degree of security guarantees in respect of their role in the supply chain. Over the years, AEO has become a flagship program for WCO Members as it offers an opportunity for Customs to share its responsibilities with the businesses, while at the same time rewarding them with a number of additional benefits. As of March, 2015, 168 out of 180 WCO Members have signed Letters of Intent committing to implement the SAFE Framework. In India, the AEO program was launched in 2011.

The prominent features of new AEO program are as under:

- Inclusion of direct port delivery of imports to ensure just-in-time inventory management by manufactures – clearance from wharf warehouse.
- Inclusion of Direct Port Entry for factory stuffed containers meant for export by AEOs
- Special focus on small and medium scale entities- any entity handling 25 import or export documents annually can become part of this program
- Provision of Deferred Payment (Custom notification no. 134/2016 dtd. 02.11.2016) of duties- delinking duty payment and customs clearance.
- Mutual Recognition Agreements with other Customs Administrations.
- Faster disbursal of drawback amount.
- Faster tracking of refunds and adjudications.

- Extension of facilitation to exports in addition to imports
- Self-certified copies of FTA/PTA origin related or any other certificates required for clearance would be accepted (DGFT PN NO. 51 dtd. 30.12.2016).
- Paperless declaration with no supporting documents. From 1st December, 2016. EP copies of shipping bill & triplicate copy of Bill of entry were discontinued in paper format vide JNCH PN NO.152 dtd. 24.11.2016.
- Recognition by Partner Government Agencies and other Stakeholders as part of this program.

Who can apply for AEO certificate?

- Anyone involved in the international supply chain that undertakes Customs related activity in India can apply for AEO status irrespective of size of the business. These may include exporters, importers, logistic providers (e.g. carriers, airlines, freight forwarders, etc.), Custodians or Terminal Operators, Customs House Agents and Warehouse Owners.
- Others who may qualify include port operators, authorized couriers, stevedores.
- Businesses that are not involved in Customs related work / activities will not be entitled to apply. This means that in general, banks, insurance companies, consultants and the like categories of businesses will not be eligible for AEO status.

Since, AEO status is internationally recognized quality mark granted by National Government, it adds significant status to the importer/exporter. It also reduces transaction cost for him.

In spite of all the above provisions the number of AEO certified companies are far too less. The total numbers of AEOs in India are 447 (up to 22.12.2017 – Source: CBEC's website). In comparison to this EU has 20,360 AEOs, Japan has 606 AEOs & Korea has 292 AEOs & China has advanced certified AEOs 3,475 & General certified AEOs 35,778 AEOs (Source: www.wcoomd.org)

We therefore need to analyze, what is the real problem of less number of applications? Is there any fear of frequent visits by customs officers or is there no actual awareness on this subject? Whatever may be the reason, we need to look at this concept seriously as it reduces transaction cost, time & makes the product competitive. With alarming rise in the Crude Oil prices our trade deficit is increasing & we need to focus on 'Ease of doing business & competitiveness". It is time; both, industry & customs should look into the details seriously & help the exporters to get AEO status.

Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) are those agreements which accept & recognize the status of AEO. In other words, if India has MRA with EU & both importer/exporter are holding AEO status then goods will move seamlessly without examination from one country to another. This reduces the transaction cost & time. Further, if the goods are sent by rail (China has started rail transport from China to UK in 2017 itself) it avoids multiple movements (loading & unloading from the ship) & services. It is therefore essential that we should have many MRAs with other countries. There are 47 MRAs between various countries already concluded and 46 MRAs are under negotiation (Source: www.wcoomd.org).

Needless to say, we need to improve our situation urgently. Negotiations with Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership are likely to conclude into 2018. We need AEOs & MRAs in large numbers, both for reducing trade deficit & generating employment by way of increasing exports. Nobody should forget at this moment that export is our national priority.

Your views are welcome!

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EXPORT STRATEGY- KENYA

BRIEF OF COUNTRY KENYA

Kenya is named after a mountain of the same name. The Kikuyu people who lived around present day Mt Kenya referred to it as Kirinyaga or Kerenyaga, meaning mountain of whiteness because of its snowcapped peak. Mt Kirinyaga which was the main landmark became synonymous with the territory the British later claimed as their colony. However, the name Kenya arose out of the inability of the British to pronounce Kirinyaga correctly.

Area: - Kenya covers an area of approximately 224,960 square miles and lies almost exactly astride the equator.

Climate:- In the low-lying districts, particularly along the coast, the climate is tropical, hot and humid. On the Plateau and in the highlands the climate is more temperate. Western Kenya and most parts of Nyanza experience heavy conventional rain and have two rain seasons, the long rains from April to June and the short rains from October to November. Kenyas warm climate is favorable for tourism during the drier season that is between September and March.

Principal commercial cities and towns

1. Nairobi: Nairobi is the capital city and a commercial center. It is situated 300 miles from the Coast and lies midway between the capitals of Uganda and Tanzania. It is the largest city in East Africa and houses two UN agencies, UNEP and Habitat.
2. **Mombasa** : Mombasa is Kenyas main port and a popular holiday city. It is situated on an island in a natural sheltered inlet. It is the only port that serves not only Kenya but land locked countries like Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan.
3. **Kisumu** : Kisumu is the Chief Port city on the shores of lake Victoria. It serves western Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.
4. **Nakuru** : Nakuru is an agricultural and industrial town in the Rift Valley basin.
5. **Eldoret** : Eldoret lies on the main road and rail route to Uganda. It is mainly an agricultural town that serves wheat and Maize farmers from the North Rift

KENYA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY:

Kenya is not a major producer of synthetic chemicals. However there is extensive extraction of minerals that contributes to manufacturing including soda ash, fluorspar, and diatomite and titanium prospects. The major toxic chemicals are not relatively significant in quantity and

are thus classified as in the category of all other commodities. The main manufacturing enterprises both large and small represent an estimated 6% of the GDP. The transport and energy sectors use petrochemicals and petroleum products and dispose generate toxic waste service stations, garages etc. The energy sector includes chemicals used in power generation using fossil fuels, batteries, oil, refrigeration/metal treatment etc.

Industries or manufacturing accounted for 18.7% of the GDP making industrialization the quickest means for generation of employment and value addition to natural resources. The main manufacturing enterprises (both large and small) are users of chemicals and represent an estimated 6% of the GDP. They include: tanneries, textile dyeing plants, dyestuff producers, metal working and electroplating shops.

Table 1G. Breakdown of Industrial Production by Region Region

Central	Sulphuric acid, fertilisers, Plastic and leathers shoes and apparels, plastic products, Vehicle parts, galvanized sheets, metal products
Coast	Petroleum Products, Cement, Plastic and leathers shoes and apparels, plastic products, Vehicle parts, galvanized sheets, metal products
Eastern	.Detergents, Cement, Ceramics, Print material, Textiles, galvanized sheets, leather, alcohol and spirits, meet
Nairobi	Basic chemicals, Petroleum Products, Cement, Glass, ceramics, Plastic and leathers shoes and apparels, plastic products, Vehicle parts, galvanized sheets, metal products
North Eastern	None
Nyanza	Sugar, ethanol, baker's yeast, lime, P.V.C products, plastic products
Rift Valley	Soda ash, Fluorspar, textiles, sugar
Western	Pulp and paper, sugar, Sulphuric acid , , detergents

Kenya has a well-established and growing informal sector comprising of 1.3 Million SMEs employing about 7.57 million people and contributes about 18- 14% of the GDP. The rapid expansion of this sector is attributed to credit schemes through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and cooperatives. 15% are in Nairobi and Mombasa while 12.2% are in other towns 65.% are in rural areas. Most of these SMEs are situated adjacent to/within residential areas, or in marginal and ecologically sensitive zones. They lack the appropriate waste management infrastructure such as sewerage and waste disposal services hence the significance of their negative environmental impacts. Their technologies are obsolete or only adapted to a particular need and hence they are inefficient in use of both energy and raw materials. The recycling sector SMEs use municipal waste as part of the input materials leading to higher toxicity. The cumulative environmental impacts from SMEs surpass that from larger industries. These SMEs products include recycled plastics, car batteries, aluminium cans, paper, and scrap metal among others.

Industry and manufacturing

Although Kenya is the most industrially developed country in the African Great Lakes region, manufacturing still accounts for only 14% of the GDP. Industrial activity, concentrated around the three largest urban centres, Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu, is dominated by food-processing industries such as grain milling, beer production, and sugarcane crushing, and the fabrication of consumer goods, e.g., vehicles from kits.

There is a cement production industry. Kenya has an oil refinery that processes imported crude petroleum into petroleum products, mainly for the domestic market. In addition, a substantial and expanding informal sector commonly referred to as jua kali engages in small-scale manufacturing of household goods, auto parts, and farm implements.

Pesticide Industry in Kenya

The pesticides industry consists mainly of firms formulating and repacking pesticide materials. The only raw material available locally is pyrethrin extracted from pyrethrum flowers. The main concern about the pesticides industry is that some pesticides such as organochlorines and organophosphates contaminate the water ecosystems and environment causing health effects to human and wildlife. In addition, organophosphate pesticides contribute to influx of phosphates into the aquatic system enhancing eutrophication. The water quality standards give the safe limit values of pesticides.

Petroleum Products in Kenya:

Hydrocarbons form the major inputs of many chemical based industries as well as energy generation. Kenya imports good quantity of crude and refined products. These include crude materials, aviation spirit, crude petroleum, motor spirit, kerosene, illuminating oil, jet fuel, gas oil, diesel oil and other oils. Some of the imported petroleum is re-exported to neighboring landlocked countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern Zaire and Uganda. The transport sector (rail, road, marine and aviation) is the largest consumer of petroleum fuels. The key products of petroleum are gasoline, liquid petroleum and butane with the rest consisting of others and chemical products like aerosol cans such as butane.

Soaps, Perfumes, Cosmetics and Other Toiletry Preparations in Kenya:

There are 43 registered manufacturers of soaps, detergents, disinfectants, cosmetics and perfumes. Most of the raw material inputs are imported; despite good potential for their local production exist. For instance sodium hydroxide, essential oils, vegetables, are readily available.

Other Chemicals Produced in Kenya: - The following chemicals are manufactured in Kenya:

- Power Alcohol:-Power alcohol is manufactured as a byproduct during the manufacture of sugar at Mumias Sugar Factory, Agrochemical and Foods and Molasses.
- Basic Chemicals
  - Sulfuric Acid is manufacture by KEL Chemicals at Thika and East African Heavy Chemicals at Webuye. KEL Chemicals also manufactures fertilizer. Sulphonic and is produced by Orbit Chemicals in Athi River.
  - Hydrochloric Acid was manufactured by the Pan African Paper Mills for its local consumption, but is currently closed.
  - Pyrethrum-based pesticides, copper oxychloride, rodenticide etc. are manufactured but have to comply with the PCPB regulations.
- Allied Metals:- Allied metals include aluminum, copper, lead, zinc and magnesium

Business Opportunities in Kenya

Kenya is most suitably and strategically located to meet the investment and business endeavours within the East African Community as well as the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) region which boasts a population of over 400 Million.

With the down of the new constitutional dispensation in Kenya, which devolves Administration to Counties, the phenomenal expansion in the infrastructure, including the recently launched, Lamu Port – South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport Corridor (LAPSSET), the investment climate has gone a notch higher and remain open in the many sectors enumerated in the National Vision 2030.

At a glance, the following areas present tremendous scope for investment:-

1. Agriculture
2. Infrastructure
3. Tourism
4. Energy

5. Manufacturing
6. Health
7. Finacial and other related services
8. ICT
9. Building & construction

Details of these sectors, including reasons for locating investment in Kenya, may be accessed from the Kenya Investment Authority website: www.investmetkenya.com

ECONOMY:-

Kenya is the economic, financial, and transport hub of East Africa. Kenya's real GDP growth has averaged over 5% for the last eight years. Since 2014, Kenya has been ranked as a lower middle income country because its per capita GDP crossed a World Bank threshold. While Kenya has a growing entrepreneurial middle class and steady growth, its economic and development trajectory could be impaired by weak governance and corruption. Although reliable numbers are hard to find, unemployment and under-employment are extremely high, and could be near 40% of the population.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the Kenyan economy, contributing one-third of GDP. About 75% of Kenya's population of roughly 44.2 million work at least part-time in the agricultural sector, including livestock and pastoral activities. Over 75% of agricultural output is from small-scale, rain-fed farming or livestock production.

Inadequate infrastructure continues to hamper Kenya's efforts to improve its annual growth to the 8%-10% range so that it can meaningfully address poverty and unemployment. The KENYATTA administration has been successful in courting external investment for infrastructure development. International financial institutions and donors remain important to Kenya's economic growth and development, but Kenya has also successfully raised capital in the global bond market. Kenya issued its first sovereign bond offering in mid-2014. Nairobi has contracted with a Chinese company to construct a new standard gauge railway connecting Mombasa and Nairobi, with completion expected in June 2017. In 2013, the country adopted a devolved system of government with the creation of 47 counties, and is in the process of devolving state revenues and responsibilities to the counties. Inflationary pressures and sharp currency depreciation peaked in early 2012 but have since abated following low global food and fuel prices and monetary interventions by the Central Bank. Drought-like conditions in parts of the country have pushed March 2017 inflation above 9%. Chronic budget deficits, including a shortage of funds in mid-2015, hampered the government's ability to implement proposed development programs, but the economy is back in balance with many indicators, including foreign exchange reserves, interest rates, and FDI moving in the right direction. Underlying weaknesses were exposed in the banking sector in 2016 when the government was forced to take over three small and undercapitalized banks. In 2016, the government enacted legislation that limits interest rates banks can charge on loans and set a rate that banks must pay their depositors. This measure led to a sharp shrinkage of credit in the economy.

Tourism holds a significant place in Kenya's economy. A spate of terrorist attacks by the Somalia-based group al-Shabaab reduced international tourism earning after their deadly 2013 attack on Nairobi's Westgate mall, which killed 67 people, but the sector is now recovering. In 2016, tourist arrivals grew by 17% while revenues from tourism increased by 37%.

(Ref. https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ke.html)

MARKET CHALLENGES-KENYA

The cost of skilled, educated labor is high by developing world standards, and unemployment and underemployment remain high. Kenya's physical infrastructure remains a key obstacle to economic development, along with government

efficiency, corruption, and weak regulatory and judicial system reliability.

Although price sensitivity of consumers and companies is high, price competition in Kenya is weak, which poses an opportunity and a challenge for new entrants.

In 2016, Transparency International ranked Kenya 145 out of 176 countries with a score of 26 out of 100 on its perceptions of corruption index. Claims of corrupt dealings, particularly in land purchases and large government contracts persist. Despite the implementation of some reforms, courts remain subject to significant case backlogs, and cases can take years to resolve. Parties often succeed in delaying cases for long periods through complicated procedural motions. Allegations of serious corruption within the judiciary persist. Outcomes of judicial proceedings to settle commercial disputes are often unpredictable.

Violations of intellectual property rights (IPR) for videos, music, software, and consumer goods continue to cause major problems. Title to land is uncertain, reducing the borrowing capacity of families and businesses and constraining Kenya's ability to broaden its capital base. Land reform is a divisive and emotional issue, complicated by tribal traditions, land sale scams, and perceived historical injustices, which Kenya has so far been unable to resolve.

In August 2016, the Government of Kenya (GOK) enacted the Banking Act, capping the maximum interest rate banks can charge on commercial loans at four percent above Central Bank of Kenya's (CBK) benchmark lending rate. The legislation also provides a floor for the interest rate that banks must pay to depositors. The cap has contracted the market for credit, especially for consumers and small and medium businesses. The IMF has warned that the restrictions will result in a continuing shrinkage in the availability of credit, which was previously growing robustly and was one of the factors behind Kenya's strong economic performance over the last eight years.

KENYA - MARKET OVERVIEW

Kenya has a market-based economy and is generally considered the economic, commercial, financial and logistics hub of East Africa. With the strongest industrial base in East Africa, Kenya has been successful in attracting overseas exporters and investors. More overseas companies are investing in Kenya and setting up local and regional operations to take advantage of Kenya's strategic location, diversified economy, entrepreneurial workforce, comprehensive air routes, and status as a regional financial center.

An additional attraction for overseas companies is the strength of Kenya's human resources. According to UN data, Kenya's population stood at 47.2 million people in 2016. Its urban areas, particularly Nairobi, are noted for their large number of well-educated English-speaking and multi-lingual professionals, and for their strong entrepreneurial tradition. Kenya is also a very "young" country with almost 79% of the population under the age of 35.

At the same time, businesses operating in Kenya face a number of challenges associated with corruption, unemployment, land titles, security, and poverty. The country's per capita GDP was $1,553 in 2016, but unemployment and poverty remain high with an estimated 40% of the population living below the poverty line.

Sustained and significant economic growth is essential if Kenya is to address its development challenges. According to the World Bank, Kenya's economy grew by 5.9% in 2016 anchored primarily on investment in public infrastructure, strong remittance inflows, low oil prices and a recovery in the tourism sector. However, 2017 growth is expected to dip to 5.5% due to an ongoing drought that has led to crop failure, higher energy prices and food insecurity as well as a slowdown in investments ahead of the elections. These elections were the second under a new constitution adopted in 2010. One of the most notable changes brought about by the new constitution was a broad devolution of power and

responsibilities from the national government in Nairobi to local governments in 47 counties.

The World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index' shows Kenya moved up 21 places in the 2017 report to position 92 globally, making it the third most improved economy in 2017. This jump in ranking came following a similar improvement of 21 slots in 2016. The government has initiated a broad range of business reforms including the areas of starting a business, obtaining access to electricity, registering property, protecting minority investors and streamlining insolvency rules. Kenya is also experiencing the fastest rise in FDI in Africa (47% increase in 2015) with the majority of foreign investment going into renewable energy projects. Kenya accounted for 67% of all private equity funding in East Africa.

(Source: https://www.export.gov/article?id=Kenya-Market-Overview)

KENYA's FTA INVOLVEMENT

Kenya has been a member of the WTO since its inception in January 1995.

The WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in December 2015. The Conference culminated in the adoption of the "Nairobi Package", a series of six Ministerial Decisions on agriculture, cotton, and issues related to least-developed countries (LDCs).

1. **ACP/Cotonou Partnership Agreement**

   Exports from Kenya entering the European Union are entitled to duty reductions and freedom from all quota restrictions. Trade preferences include duty-free entry of all industrial products as well as a wide range of agricultural products including beef, fish, dairy products, cereals, fresh and processed fruits, and vegetables. Additional information is available at African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States.

2. **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**

   Kenya qualifies for duty free access until 2025 to the U.S. market under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Some of Kenya's major products that qualify for export under AGOA include textiles, apparels, and handicrafts.

3. **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**

   Under the Generalized System of Preferences, a wide range of Kenya's manufactured products are entitled to preferential duty treatment in the United States, Japan, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Austria, and other European countries. In addition, no quantitative restrictions are applicable to Kenyan exports on any of the 3,000-plus items currently eligible for GSP treatment. Additional information is available at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

4. **Bilateral Trade Agreements**

   Kenya has signed bilateral trade agreements with several countries:

1) Argentina,
2) Bangladesh,
3) Nigeria,
4) Bulgaria,
5) China,
6) Comoros,
7) Congo (DRC),
8) Djibouti,
9) Egypt,
10) Hungary,
11) India,
12) Iraq,
13) Lesotho,
14) Liberia,
15) Netherlands,

16) Pakistan,

17) Poland,

18) Romania,

19) Russia,

20) Rwanda,

21) Somalia,

22) South Korea,

23) Swaziland,

24) Tanzania,

25) Thailand,

26) Zambia, and

27) Zimbabwe.

Additional agreements are under negotiation with several additional countries:

1) Belarus,

2) Czech Republic,

3) Ethiopia,

4) Eritrea,

5) Iran,

6) Kazakhstan,

7) Mauritius,

8) Mozambique, and

9) South Africa.

KENYA - IMPORT TARIFFS

Kenya applies tariffs based on the international harmonized system (HS) of product classification, and applies duties and tariffs of the East African Community (EAC) Common External Tariff. In general, Customs duty is levied at rates between 0% and 100%, with an average rate of 25%. Imports into Kenya are subject to a standard VAT rate of 16%, levied on the sum of the CIF value, duty, and other applicable taxes. Tariff rates can be estimated by visiting Kenya Revenue Authority.

KENYA - IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

To import any commodity into Kenya, an importer will have to enlist the services of a clearing agent who will process the import documentation through Kenya Customs electronically on the Simba 2005 system and clear the goods on your behalf.

An import declaration fee (IDF) of 2.25% of the CIF Value subject to a minimum of 5,000.00 Kenyan Shillings is payable. Customs will assess duty payable depending on the value of the item(s) and the duty rate applicable. The East African Community Common External Tariff laying out the duty rates of imported items is available.

Kenya has a pre-shipment inspection requirement (the Pre-Shipment Verification of Conformity, or PVoC) for exports destined for Kenya. Exports to Kenya must also obtain an additional Import Standards Mark (ISM), which must be affixed to a list of sensitive imported products sold in Kenya.

For a small number of health, environment, and security imports, import licenses are required. Imports of machinery and equipment classified as equity capital or loan purchases must be received prior to exchange approval; local banks will not issue shipping guarantees for clearance of imports in the absence of such approval. All imports procured by Kenyan-based importers must be insured with companies licensed to conduct business in Kenya. Importation of animals, plants, and seeds are subject to quarantine regulations.

All Kenyan imports are required to have the following documents: Import Declaration Forms (IDF); a Certificate of Conformity (CoC) from the PVoC agent for regulated products; an import standards mark (ISM) when applicable; and valid pro forma invoices from the exporting firm.

GDP (purchasing power parity): $152.9 billion (2016 est.), $142.6 billion (2015 est.) , $133.5 billion (2014 est.)

Industries: - small-scale consumer goods (plastic, furniture, batteries, textiles, clothing, soap, cigarettes, flour), agricultural products, horticulture, oil refining; aluminum, steel, lead;

cement, commercial ship repair, tourism.

Exports: - $5.747 billion (2016 est.), $5.982 billion (2015 est.)

Exports Commodities:-Tea, horticultural products, coffee, petroleum products, fish, cement

Exporting Partners: - Uganda 10.1%, Tanzania 8.6%, US 7.7%, Netherlands 7.4%, UK 7.3%, UAE 4.6%, Pakistan 4.5% (2016)

Imports: - $13.64 billion (2016 est.), $14.36 billion (2015 est.)

Import Commodities : - machinery and transportation equipment, petroleum products, motor vehicles, iron and steel, resins and plastics

CHEMEXCIL EXPORTS TO KENYA

In USD Million

Chapter No./Panel	2014-15 (Actual)	2015-16 (Actual)	% over 2014-15	2016-17 (Provisional)	% over 2015-16
(32) Dyes & (29) Dye Intermediates	9.58	9.34	-2.51	10.43	11.67
(28) Inorganic, (29) Organic & (38) Agro chemicals	35.51	38.51	8.45	39.66	2.99
(33) Cosmetics, (34) Soaps, Toiletries and (33) Essential oils	13.38	8.97	-32.96	10.03	11.82
(15) Castor Oil	0.20	0.39	95.00	0.14	-64.10
Total	**58.67**	**57.21**	**-2.49**	**60.26**	**5.33**

SOURCE:DGCI&S

DYES TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

In USD Million

Sr. No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	32041719	OTHERS PIGMENT YELLOW (ORGANIC)	0.51	0.57	1.48
2	32050000	COLR LAKES	0.55	0.59	0.95
3	32041739	OTHERS PIGMENT RED	0.55	0.82	0.84
4	32041990	OTHR INCL MIXR OF COLRNG MATR OF TWO OR MORE OF SUB-HDNG 320411 TO 320419 N.E.S.	0.64	0.75	0.68
5	32041751	PIGMENT BLUE 15 (PATHALOCYANINE BLUE)	0.56	0.5	0.61
6	32041929	OTHER AZOIC COUPLNG COMPNT(NAPTHOL OTHERS)	**0.17**	**0.42**	**0.6**
7	32041790	OTHER PIGMENTS	0.77	0.62	0.38
8	32041759	OTHERS PIGMENT BLUE	0.35	0.34	0.33
9	32042010	OPTICAL WHITENING AGENTS	0.41	0.67	0.3
10	32041740	PIGMENT VIOLETS	0.11	0.27	0.26
		TOTAL	4.62	5.55	6.43

SOURCE:DGCI&S

DYE INTERMEDIATES TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

In USD Million

Sr. No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	29051100	SATURATED METHANOL (METHYL ALCOHOL)	1.02	0.72	1.09
2	29173500	PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE	1.16	0.84	0.69
3	29270090	OTHER DIAZO-AZO-OR AZOXY-COMPOUNDS	0	0.4	0.31
4	29054500	GLYCEROL	0.04	0.01	0.02
5	29222990	OTHER AMINO-NAPHTHOLS AND OTHER AMINO-PHENOLS,THEIR ETHERS,ESTERS AND SALTS	0	0	0.01
6	29146910	1:4 DIHYDROXY ANTHRAQUINONE (QUINIZARIN)	**0**	**0**	**0.01**
7	29182110	SALICYLIC ACID	0	0	0
8	29049040	ORTHO NITROCHLOROBENZENE	0	0	0
9	29089990	OTHER HLGNTD SLPHNTD NITRATED/NITROSTD DRVTVS OF PHENOLS/	0	0	0
10	29215190	OTHR O-M-P-PHNYLENEDIAMINE DIAMINOTOLUENE AND THEIR DRVTVS S	0	0	0
		TOTAL	2.22	1.97	2.13

SOURCE:DGCI&S

INORGANIC CHEMICALS TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

In USD Million

Sr.No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	28151110	FLAKES OF SODIUM HYDROXIDE(NAOH),SOLID	2.38	5.1	3.91
2	28332100	MAGNESIUM SULPHATE	1.5	1.1	1.34
3	28183000	ALUMINIUM HYDROXIDE	1.19	0	0.82
4	28331100	DISODIUM SULPHATE	0.03	0.39	0.75
5	28365000	CALCIUM CARBONATE	0.77	0.54	0.67
6	28299030	IODATES AND PERIODATES	**0.44**	**0.56**	**0.44**
7	28061000	HYDROGEN CHLORIDE(HYDROCHLORIC ACID)	0.34	0.45	0.4
8	28011000	CHLORINE	0.25	0.27	0.31
9	28030010	CARBON BLACKS	0.63	0.4	0.27
10	31043000	POTASSIUM SULPHATE	0	0.15	0.25
		TOTAL	7.53	8.96	9.16

SOURCE:DGCI&S

ORGANIC CHEMICALS TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

Value USD in million

Sr.No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	29291020	TOLUENE DIISOCYANATE	1.5	6.17	9.83
2	11081200	STARCH OF MAIZE (CORN)	3.9	4.28	3.9
3	29153100	ETHYL ACETATE	4.67	3.11	2.32
4	27129090	OTHER WAXES OBTAINED BY SYNTHESIS/ OTHER PROCESS W/N COLOURED NES	0.09	0	0.86
5	38237090	OTHER INDUSTRIAL FATTY ALCOHOL	0.77	0.62	0.74
6	29023000	TOLUENE	**1.29**	**0.9**	**0.73**
7	35051090	OTHER DEXTRINS AND OTHER MODIFIED STARCHES	0.13	0.18	0.64
8	29011000	SATURATED ACYCLIC HYDROCARBONS	0.36	0.39	0.47
9	29094400	OTHER MONOALKYL ETHRS OF ETHYLENE GLYCOL OR OF DIETHYLENE GLYCOL	0.09	0.3	0.46
10	29153200	VINYL ACETATE	0.08	0.11	0.34
		TOTAL	12.88	16.06	20.29

SOURCE:DGCI&S

AGRO CHEMICALS TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

Value USD in million

Sr. No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	38089290	OTHERS FUNGICIDE NES	3.35	2.1	3.29
2	38089910	PESTICIDES, NOT ELSEWHERE SPECIFIED OR INC	2.71	2.21	2.43
3	38089350	WEEDICIDES AND WEED KILLING AGENTS	1.36	1.14	1.02
4	38089199	OTHER INSECTICIDE NES	0.79	2.33	0.91
5	38089320	2:4 DICHLOROPHENOXY ACTC ACD AND ITS ESTERS	0.12	0.21	0.64
6	38089390	OTHER HERBICIDES-ANTI-SPROUTING PRODUCTS	**0.63**	**0.27**	**0.34**
7	38089191	REPELANT FOR INSECTS SUCH AS FLIES,MOSQUTO	0	0	0.18
8	38089990	OTHER SIMILAR PRODUCTS N.E.S.	0.6	0.41	0.14
9	38089340	PLANT-GROWTH REGULATORS	0.03	0.12	0.12
10	38089122	METHYL BROMIDE	0	0	0.06
		TOTAL	9.59	8.79	9.13

SOURCE:DGCI&S

COSMETICS AND TOILETRIES TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

Value USD in million

Sr.No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	34021190	OTHERS(E.G.ALKYLSULPHATES,TECHNICAL DODECYLBENZENE-SUL	1.67	1.48	1.71
2	33061020	TOOTH PASTE	2.41	1.12	1.33
3	33049910	CREAMS FACE (EXCL TURMARIC)	1.97	0.4	0.82
4	33059040	HAIR DYES (NATURAL,HERBAL 0R SYNTHETIC)	1.69	0.89	0.78
5	34021900	OTHR ORNGC SRFCE-ACTV AGNTS W/N FOR RTL SL	0.37	0.13	0.54
6	34021300	NON-IONIC W/N FOR RTL SALE	**0.45**	**0.38**	**0.38**
7	25262000	NATRL STEATITE CRUSHED/POWDERED	0.79	0.63	0.34
8	38231900	OTHER INDUSTRIAL MONOCARBOXYLIC FATTY ACID	0.44	0.18	0.33
9	34022090	OTHER PREPARATIONS PUT UP FOR RETAIL SALE	0.16	0.26	0.2
10	33049920	NAIL POLISH /LACQUERS	0.18	0.09	0.14
		TOTAL	10.13	5.56	6.57

SOURCE:DGCI&S

ESSENTIAL OILS TOP ITEMS EXPORTS TO KENYA

Value USD in million

Sr.No	HSCode	Product	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
1	33021010	SYNTHETIC FLAVOURING ESSENCES	0.57	0	0.69
2	33029019	OTHER MXTR OF AROMATIC CHEMICALS ANDESSN OIL	0.29	0.46	0.49
3	33021090	OTHER MXTR OF ODORFRS SBSTNS OF A KIND USDKIND USD IN FOOD/DRINK INDUSTRIES	0.25	0.33	0.18
4	33012990	OTHERS	0	0.05	0.12
5	33012400	ESSNTL OIL OF PEPPERMINT(MENTHA PIPERITA)	0.04	0.04	0.04
6	33029012	SYNTHETIC ESSENTIAL OILS	**0.03**	**0.07**	**0.02**
7	33011990	OTHERS	0.08	0	0.02
8	33012590	OTHERS	0.01	0	0.02
9	33012911	ANISE OIL (ANISEED OIL)	0.02	0	0.02
10	33012923	DILL OIL (ANETHUM OIL)	0	0	0.01
		TOTAL	1.29	0.95	1.61

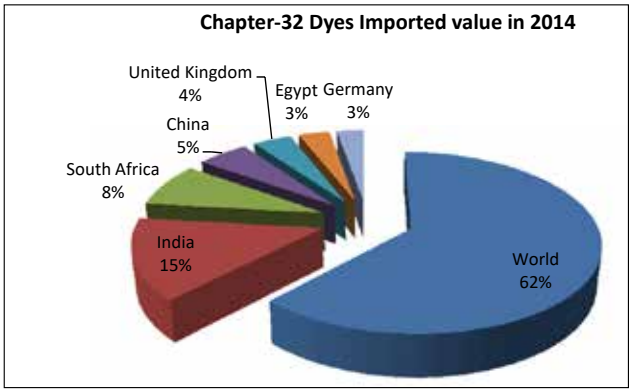
SOURCE:DGCI&S

Product: 32 Tanning or dyeing extracts; tannins and their derivatives; dyes, pigments and other colouring

Unit : US Dollar million

Exporters	Imported value in 2012	Imported value in 2013	Imported value in 2014
World	84	82	95
India	17	20	22
South Africa	8	9	12
China	9	7	8
United Kingdom	5	5	6
Egypt	3	4	5
Germany	10	6	4

Source:intracen

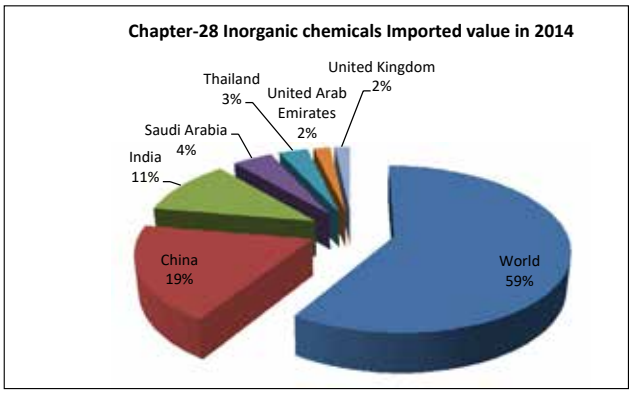


List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya
Product: 28 Inorganic chemicals; organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, of rare-earth metals, ...

Unit : US Dollar million

Exporters	Imported value in 2012	Imported value in 2013	Imported value in 2014
World	100	110	89
China	24	30	28
India	19	19	17
Saudi Arabia	3	2	7
Thailand	3	4	5
United Arab Emirates	2	2	3
United Kingdom	2	2	3

Source:intracen

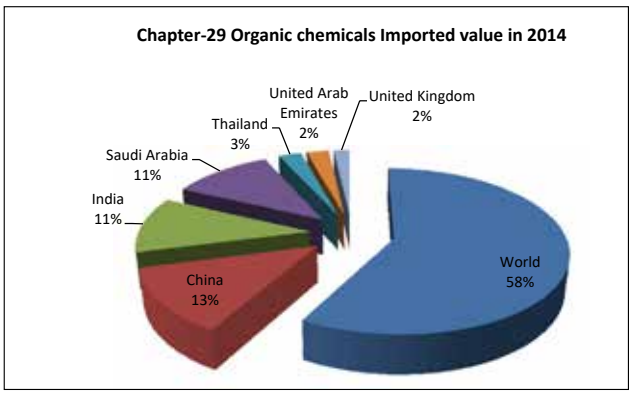


List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya Product: 29 Organic chemicals

Unit : US Dollar million

Exporters	Imported value in 2012	Imported value in 2013	Imported value in 2014
World	167	159	168
China	34	32	37
India	28	29	32
Korea, Republic of	34	32	32
South Africa	5	5	7
Germany	8	9	7
Spain	6	6	5

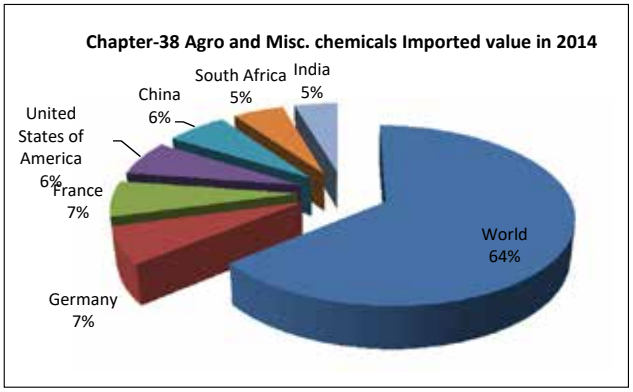
Source:intracen



List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya
Product: 38 Miscellaneous chemical products

Unit : US Dollar million			
Exporters	**Imported value in 2012**	**Imported value in 2013**	**Imported value in 2014**
World	270	292	317
Germany	24	27	33
France	25	33	33
United States of America	25	31	32
China	17	21	31
South Africa	22	19	26
India	20	20	22

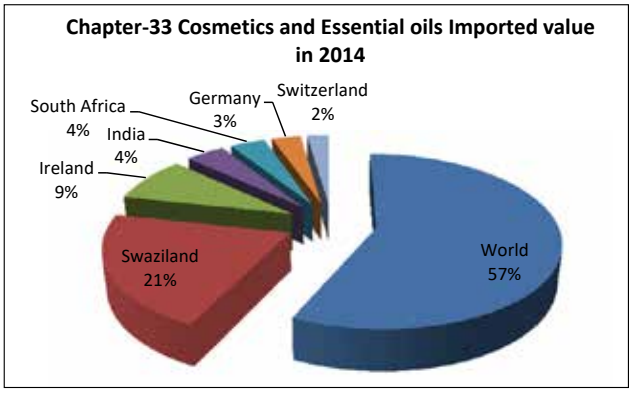
Source:intracen



List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya
Product: 33 Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations

Unit : US Dollar million			
Exporters	**Imported value in 2012**	**Imported value in 2013**	**Imported value in 2014**
World	109	127	128
Swaziland	46	57	48
Ireland	8	14	19
India	8	7	9
South Africa	8	8	8
Germany	5	6	7
Switzerland	3	4	5

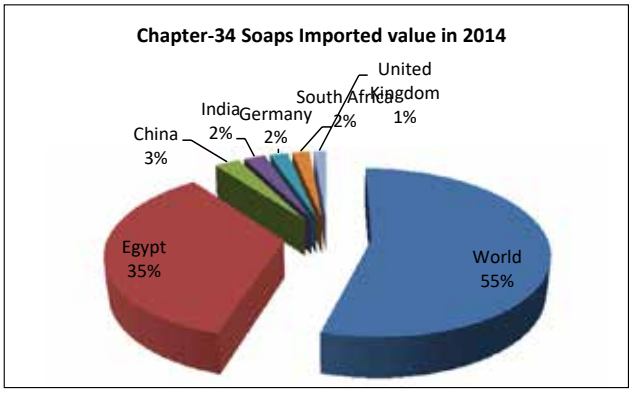
Source:intracen



List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya
Product: 34 Soap, organic surface-active agents, washing preparations, lubricating preparations, artificial ...

Unit : US Dollar million			
Exporters	**Imported value in 2012**	**Imported value in 2013**	**Imported value in 2014**
World	78	75	87
Egypt	46	46	56
China	4	4	4
India	4	3	4
Germany	3	3	3
South Africa	3	2	3
United Kingdom	2	2	2

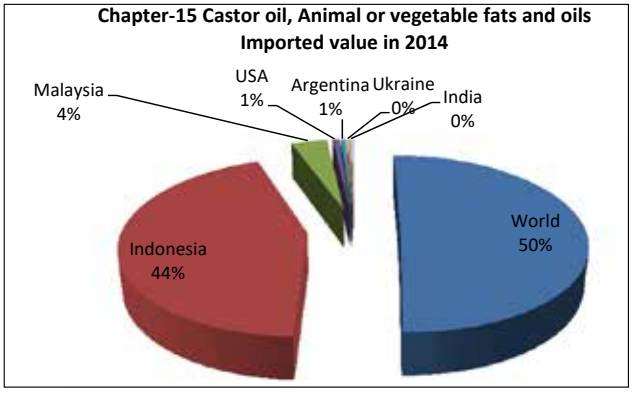
Source:intracen



List of supplying markets for a product imported by Kenya
Product: 15 Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal ...

Unit : US Dollar million			
Exporters	**Imported value in 2012**	**Imported value in 2013**	**Imported value in 2014**
World	628	563	566
Indonesia	574	460	494
Malaysia	14	25	42
United States of America	6	4	8
Argentina	2	8	6
Ukraine	5	1	4
India	0	1	2

Source:intracen



CHEMEXCIL SMS Alert service Form

1. Name of the Company:
2. Name of the applicant:
3. IEC Number
4. Chemexcil Membership Number
5. RCMC Number
6. Correspondence address.
7. Mobile Number

I undertake to abide by all terms and conditions for SMS alert facility as may be prescribed from time to time by Chemexcil.

Date Place Signature

FOR OFFICE USE RCMC No.

The aforementioned standing instruction/ details have been logged and maintained in the system after verification of company and mobile number in use

Date Name of Concern officer Signature of Authorized person.

Please mail above filled form at membership@chemexcil.gov.in

CHEMEXCIL ACTIVITIES

1. CAPINDIA 2018 ROADSHOW, BANGALORE

Shri Deepak Gupta, Deputy Director, Chemexcil welcoming the gathering of participants and media during CAPINDIA 2018 Bengaluru Roadshow

The Council, jointly with PLEXCONCIL, CAPEXIL and SHEFEXIL had organised a seminar/roadshow in Bengaluru to disseminate information on the CAPINDIA 2018 Exhibition.

Along with CAPINDIA roadshow we also organised an interactive meeting on E- Sealing as there are concerns amongst the members about the operation, procedures, availability of e-seals, readers at the shipment port etc. Members will get an opportunity to interact with CBEC approved e-seals vendor M/s. ibTrack Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru and clear their related queries about the operation, pricing, lead-time.

The Twin events where organised on 15/12/2017 at Dr. Rajkumar International Hotel, Off. Race Course Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru between 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

From the four EPC's representing CAPINDIA,Shri Ravish Kamath, Regional Chairman, Plexconcil, Dr. Debjani Roy, ED, Shefexcil, Shri Biju Thomas, Jt Director, Capexcil, Shri Deepak Gupta, Deputy Director, Chemexcil, Shri R Dayanidhi, Asst. Director, Plexconcil, Shri Vicky Moolchandani, Regional Officer, Chemexcil, Representative from Adfactor were present during the event

This roadshow was attended by total 55 participants (34 Chemexcil members, 4 Plexconcil members, 2 Capexcil members and 15 mediapersons).

Shri Deepak Gupta, Dy. Director Chemexcil welcomed the gathering and informed them about the twin events and need to organise them. Subsequently dignitaries were facilitated. Shri Kamath (RC, Plexconcil) delivered the keynote address and provided macro details of the show and potential. Shri BijuThomas made presentation of ppt for CAPINDIA 2018 informing about the exhibitors, overseas delegates, participation costs etc.

The representatives of participating EPC's encouraged the participants to avail the opportunity of participating in CAPINDIA at such economical cost.

Floor was subsequently opened for queries and sound-bytes for the local media. Media was once encouraged to give wide publicity to the show.

As a service to the members, the council had arranged an interactive meeting with M/s. ibTrack Solutions Private Limited, Bengaluru which is one of the CBEC approved vendors for e-seals.

The technical session was conducted by Mr Arjun Gorur- Project Site Engineer at M/s. ibTrack Solutions Pvt Ltd who is handling the implementation of this project all over the country. To cover the commercial aspects, ibtrack had also deputed Ms. Namrata V- Manager (Accounts).

Mr. Gorur fully explained the process of registration, RFID working, reader coverage etc. He also added that as on date ibtrack has a lead-time of 4 weeks from payment receipt due to heavy demand and import cycle.

Further, ibtrack also informed about the coverage in Southern Indian ports with their fixed readers.

The interactive meeting received good response with over 30 EPC members attending the session. Member's interacted with the speakers and were satisfied with the information provided to them.

The interactive meeting ended with thanks to the participants followed by Hi-Tea.

2. CAPINDIA 2018 ROAD SHOW, NEW DELHI

From left Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Executive Director, Plexconcil, Mr. S.G. Bharadi, Executive Director, Chemexcil Shri S K Ranjan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Mr. Satish Wagh, Chairman Chemexcil, Mr. Ashok Basak, Chairman, Plexconcil, Shri. Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Mr. R. Veeramai, President, CAPEXIL, Mr. Sumit Kumar GHOSH, CHAIRMAN, SHEFEXIL Dr. Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL

PLEXCONCIL jointly with CHEMEXCIL, SHEFEXIL & CAPEXIL had organized a Press meet cum Roadshow on 4th January, 2018 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi to highlight the unique features and benefits of participating in CAPINDIA 2018 EXPO.

The CAPINDIA Press meet cum Roadshow was attended by nearly 70-80 participants including media persons, Govt. officials, Chairmen, representatives and members of participating EPC's.

During Press Conference, Sh. Shyamal Misra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India briefed the media and requested them to give wide publicity for this event.

During the Roadshow a presentation was made to the participants to apprise about the CAPINDIA 2018 Expo to promote / generate participation for this event.

3. CAPINDIA 2018 ROAD-SHOW, KOLKATA

rom Left are Mr. T.K.Bhattacharyya, Executive Director of CAPEXIL; Mr. Soumen Guha, Regional Officer, CHEMEXCIL; Mr. Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director, PLEXCONCIL; Mr. A. K. Basak, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL; Mr. S. K. Ghosh, Chairman, SHEFEXIL; and Dr. Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL

The Council, jointly with PLEXCONCIL, CAPEXIL and SHEFEXIL had organised a Road-Show (Seminar) on Monday, January 15, 2018 in Conference hall of EEPC INDIA, Ground floor, ITFC, Vanijya Bhavan, 1/1 Wood Street, Kolkata - 700 016 at 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.to disseminate information on the CAPINDIA 2018 Exhibition.

Mr. T. K. Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, CAPEXIL, Mr. Soumen Guha, Regional Officer, CHEMEXCIL, Mr. Nilotpal Biswas, Regional Director, PLEXCONCIL, Mr. A. K. Basak, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL, Mr. S. K. Ghosh, Chairman, SHEFEXIL, Dr. Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL, were present from the Four Export Promotion Council's -

The CAPINDIA roads-how was attended by total 48 participants (15 from Chemexcil members, 15 Plexconcil members, 9 Capexcil members, 9 Shefexil members and various media persons).

Mr. A. K. Basak, Chairman, PLEXCONCIL welcomed the gathering and informed them that the 3rd CAPINDIA 2018, under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Government of India, supported by Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Government of India and

organised jointly by PLEXCONCIL, CHEMEXCIL, CAPEXIL & SHEFEXIL. This show is the India's leading show for Chemicals, Plastics, Constructions, Mining Industry & Allied Products. We jointly organize this event to explore overseas market to our member exporters.

Ms. Puja from Brand cell made power-point presentation for CAPINDIA 2018 informing about the exhibitors, overseas delegates, participation costs etc.

Mr. S. K. Ghosh, Chairman, SHEFEXIL, Dr. Debjani Roy, Executive Director, SHEFEXIL, Mr. Soumen Guha, Regional Officer, CHEMEXCIL encouraged the participants of participating in this CAP INDIA exhibition, so that they can take benefit for their future business, because our promotional activities we offered you very cheap prices to book the stall with the BSM.

Various press media was present in this show and they also provide wide publicity to promote this exhibition.

In the Vote of Thanks session, Mr. T.K. Bhattacharyya, Executive Director, CAPEXIL briefed the participants about the objective and features in our CAP INDIA exhibition and ended with thanks to the participants followed by Hi-Tea.

4. INTERACTIVE MEETING ON ISSUES FACED BY IMPORTERS (HS CODE CLASSIFICATION & FSSAI)

Mr. S.G Bharadi-ED interacting with participants during the interactive meeting on import related issues at Chemexcil Mumbai office on 16/01/2018

The council had received representations from the member-exporters citing import related issues pertaining to FSSAI mapping and HS code classifications of items specially under Chapter 29 which is leading to harassment/ DRI/ SIB related problems causing import related delays and impacting exports.

An interactive meeting of the concerned member-exporters was organised at our Chemexcil conference room Mumbai Office on 16th January-2018 at 2.00pm to consolidate the major issues and decide on further action/ or meeting with the appropriate authority along-with few of the members.

This meeting was chaired by Shri S. G Bharadi-ED and attended by other officers of the council. From industry, the meeting was attended by around 15 participants.

The participants deliberated about the issues being faced while importing items especially under chapter 29. The FSSAI mapping of dual-use items imported for non-food applications leads to wastage of time in getting NOC and also involves transaction costs.

Considering the issues faced, the council shall represent these issues to the concerned in MoF, DoC, FSSAI etc for redressal.

In this regard, all the participants were requested to send us detailed representation/ further details in next 2-3 days with HS codes, items names etc and issues faced. This will enable us build a case and also enclose the representation for reference.

5. CAPINDIA 2018 ROAD SHOW, AHMEDABAD

MR. SATISH WAGH, CHAIRMAN, CHEMEXCIL ADDRESSING MEDIA DURING ROAD SHOW

CHEMEXCIL jointly with PLEXCONCIL, CAPEXIL and SHEFEXIL had organised a Roadshow in Ahmedabad on 18th January 2018 (Thursday) at Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry to disseminate information on the CAPINDIA 2018 Exhibition. Along with CAPINDIA 2018 Roadshow, Council had also organised two programmes on Mid term Review of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) & Free Trade Agreements(FTAs) and IGST Refund on Exports. From 03-00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Since there was an inspection in Jt. DGFT's office the faculty was not able to attend and give the presentation.

Mr. Shanker Patel, President, The Green Environment Services Co-op Society Ltd, Mr. Alpesh Patel, President, Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association, Mr. Satish Wagh, Chairman, Chemexcil

Mr. Ajay Kadakia, Vice Chairman, Chemexcil, Mr. Ashwin Nayak, Vice Chaiman, Shefexil, Mr. Bhupendra Patel, Regional Chairman, Chemexcil, Mr. Sribash Dasmohapatra, Exe. Director, Plexconcil, Mr. S.G. Bharadi, Exe. Director, Chemexcil , Ms. Debjani Roy, ED, Shefexil, Mr. V.R. Chitalia, Director, Capexcil, Ms. Vaishali Zinzuwadia, Regional Director, Chemexcil, Mr. Nitin Tawade, Deputy Commissioner, Customs, Surat, were present during the Roadshow on CAPINDIA 2018

Around 155 participants (85 Chemexcil members, 18 Plexconcil members, 6 Capexil members 19 Shefexil members; 5 GCCI members and 22 media persons).

Mr. Satish Wagh Chairman, Chemexcil in his welcome address, welcomed the dignitaries on the Dias and audience giving information about the Roadshow and IGST seminar.

Mr. Alpesh Patel, President, Gujarat State Plastic Manufacturers Association (GSPMA) addressed the gathering and encouraged them to participated in CAPINDIA 2018. He expressed that CAPINDIA exhibition is the platform where the plastics industry has to come forward and showcase their products to the international business community.

Ms. Pooja from Brand Cell gave a Presentation for CAPINDIA 2018 with the information about Cap India Features, Market review, Visitor Profile, Exhibitor profile, Cost and Partnership opportunities, after which the floor was open for the Press and Media.

The PRESS and MEDIA had a happy and satisfactory interaction with the spokesperson and they look forward to be in touch with the spokes people and CAP INDIA Exhibition.

The news article for CAP INDIA were published in DNA, Western Times (English & Gujrati), The Economic Times (Gujarati), Gujarat Samachar, Jain Hind, Gujarat Today, Nav Gujarat Samay and Prabhat.

Chemexcil also had organised programme on " IGST Refund on Exports" for the exporters

The Session was conducted by Mr. Nitin Gawade, Dy. Commissioner, Customs, Surat.

Chemexcil is thankful to the Customs department and Mr. Nitin Tagade for accepting our request to come and give a presentation on IGST REFUNDS ON EXPORTS.

The Council had received and still receiving several representations from member-exporters regarding delays in getting IGST refunds from July 2017. We also received many issues viz: Missing S/B's in refund, matching errors related to IGST refunds, invoice numbering, eligibility of receiving refunds, how to claim the refund if the Shipping bill and invoice both are missing etc.

After the presentation many queries/issues were satisfactorily resolved and the members are now clear about the process.The presentation was very meticulously made and was well understood. We also have circulated the presentation to all who attended this seminar and will also send to those were not able to attend it.

6 CAPINDIA ROAD SHOW, VADODARA.

Mr. S.G. Bharadi along with other stakeholders inaugurating the CAPINDIA roadshow event at Vadodara

As part of 3rd Edition of CAPINDIA 2018, which is being organized under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, with the active support of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, jointly by the 4 Export Promotion Councils,(i.e. PLEXCONCIL, CHEMEXCIL, CAPEXIL & SHEFEXIL) from 22nd to 24th March, 2018 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, CAPEXIL in co-ordination with CHEMEXCIL had organized a Roadshow Presentation and Press Meet on CAPINDIA 2018 on 19th January, 2018 at Hotel Grand Mercure (Surya Palace), Sayajigunj, Vadodara, Gujarat. This event was attended by Shri S.G. Bharadi, Executive Director, CHEMEXCIL and Shri V.R. Chitalia, Regional Director of CAPEXIL. The total number of participants in the said event was about 60.

The above event was organized with the support from Federation of Gujarat Industries (FGI), Federation of Small Scale Industries (FSSI) & CREDAI.

7. CHEMEXCIL PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN – INDIA INVESTMENT MEET & EXPO

'ASEAN – INDIA Investment Meet & Expo' held on 22nd -23rd January, 2018 at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

Council participated in 'ASEAN – INDIA Investment Meet & Expo' organized by The Ministry of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from 22nd -23rd January, 2018 at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi.

In the Expo there were nearly 30 Foreign Exhibitors and 38 Indian Exhibitors including EPCs, Associations & Govt. bodies to display their products and showcase their strength / capabilities in specific Sectors. The categories of the visitors at the expo included CEOs, Decision Makers, Experts, Diplomats, Trade & Government Delegation and Media.

There were two stalls pertaining to CHEMEXCIL in which four of our members relating to Cosmetics, Agro -chemicals and Dyes displayed their products to showcase their strength for creating Make in India image.

This Investment Meet & Expo was positioned as a Large Scale Conference and Exhibition to showcase the best initiatives from the government and industry across various sectors of mutual cooperation. Trade Ministers, Senior government officials and global industry experts from ASEAN member countries participated in this event. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry and Trade Ministers from

ASEAN Countries. There were plenary sessions during the summit relating to Trade & Investment, Regional Value Chains etc.

Films pertaining to CHEMEXCIL, CAPINDIA & Hon'ble CIM Message were continuously displayed during the event and visitors were informed about the services being provided by the Council for the benefit of the exporters. Council displayed Bulletins and distributed Brochures of CAPINDIA 2018 to the Visitors with briefing about this mega event.

8. OUTREACH PROGRAM UNDER NIRYAT BANDHU SCHEME ON "MID-TERM REVIEW OF FTP, GST & REFUNDS AND FTA"

6. Outreach Program under Niryat Bandhu Scheme on "Mid-Term Review of FTP, GST & Refunds and FTA"

The council had received intimation from O/o Addl DGFT Mumbai for facilitating a Niryat Bandhu program at Silvassa on 25/01/2018 which will cover FTP 2015-20 Mid Term Review, GST, FTA etc. In this regard, Chemexcil co-ordinatedwith DNHIA (DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION) for mobilising participation for this session which was held at Kamat Resorts, Silvassa.

The event was attended Shri A K Jha, Joint DGFT at O/o Addl. DGFT Mumbai, Shri K M Harilal Deputy DGFT at O/o Addl. DGFT Mumbai, Shri Sambhaji Chavan, Deputy DGFT at Addl. DGFT Mumbai, Shri Prafulla Walhe, Deputy Director, Chemexcil, Shri Deepak Gupta, Deputy Director, Chemexcil, Shri R.B Shelke, Hon Secy, DNHIA (DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION), Other office bearers of DHNIA and FIA

Shri Shelke (DNHIA) - Welcomed the gathering and the panellists were also felicitated, Shri Deepak Gupta also welcomed the participants and stressed for importance of such programs. He also briefed the participants about chemexcil activities, Shri A.K Jha, Jt. DGFT- Delivered Keynote address and also informed the participants about changes such as FTP review, GST etc which will be covered, Shri Sambhaji Chavan, Deputy DGFT: Made a presentation on Mid-term review of FTP & FTA's. He also encouraged the exporters to make themselves aware of the benefits available on exports., Shri K M Harilal Deputy DGFT- Made a presentation of GST & refunds. He explained the process of claiming refund and also the reasons for the delay.

Floor was subsequently opened for Q&A with the officers of Addl DGFT Mumbai Office. The event attracted good response with more than 40 participants attending the outreach program under Niryat Bandhu Scheme. They were satisfied with the program. The council also distributed CAPINDIA 2018 leaflets for awareness.

CHEMEXCIL

9. BENGAL GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT,

From Left are Mr. Ashish Dwivedi, President Specialty Chemicals & Business Strategy - Aditya Birla Chemicals, Mr. Pankaj Mehta, Senior Vice President - Reliance Industries Ltd., Shri Satish Wagh, Chairman CHEMEXCIL & CMD - Supriya Lifescience Ltd., Mr. Deepak C. Mehta, Chairman National Chemical Committee FICCI & CMD - Deepak Nitrite Ltd., Shri P. Kamalakanth, IFS, Executive Director - West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, Mr. Ravi Kapoor, President Indian Chemical Council and MD - Heubach Colour Pvt. Ltd., Shri Ajay Durrani, Managing Director - Indian Subcontient Covestro India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. K.K. Seksaria, President Plasindia Foundation & MD - Uma Plastics Ltd., Mr. Alok Tibrewala, President Indian Plastics Federation

Bengal Global Business Summit 2018 is being organized by Government of West Bengal on 16th – 17th January 2018 at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata. Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS), the flagship Investment Summit organised by the government of West Bengal, has continued to witness the presence of significant political dignitaries and business delegates from around the globe, underlining both the primacy of West Bengal as an attractive investment destination and a stable and progressive policy regime.

A host of prominent industrialists including Shri Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director, Reliance Industries Ltd, Shri LN Mittal, Chairman & CEO, Shri Sajjan Jindal, Chairman, JSW Group, Shri Kishore Biyani, CEO, Future Group, Shri Uday Kotak, Executive Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and Shri Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, addressed the summit. Shri Harshavardhan Neotia, Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group, Smt. Jyotsna Suri, CMD, Bharat Hotels, Shri Saroj Poddar, Chairman, Adventz Group and Shri Y K Modi, Chairman & CEO, Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd, were present at the inaugural session of the summit.

Over 400 international delegates from 32 countries attended the summit. 9 countries — Japan, Germany, Italy, Poland, South Korea, France, Czech Republic, UK and UAE joined the summit as partner nations.

The International Plenary Session witnessed speeches from Ambassadors of Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Gabon. Business and Official Delegation from JETRO - Japan, KOTRA - Korea, CCPIT - Shandong, China, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre - UAE, US India Strategic Partnership Forum, Federation of Bangladesh India Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Australia India Business Council, Scottish Development International, Asia Scotland Institute — UK, Indo - Polish Chamber of Commerce, Italy and Serbia attended the summit. Sectoral sessions on Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Downstream, Textile and Apparel, Tourism, IT/ITES and Start-Up were organised on day 1 of the summit.

Shri P. Kamalakanth, IFS, Executive Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, Mr. Deepak C. Mehta, Chairman National Chemical Committee FICCI & CMD, Deepak Nitrite Ltd, Mr. Ravi Kapoor, President Indian Chemical Council and MD, Heubach Colour Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Pankaj Mehta, Senior Vice President, Reliance Industries Ltd., Shri Ajay Durrani, Managing Director, Indian Subcontient Covestro India Pvt. Ltd., Shri Satish Wagh, Chairman CHEMEXCIL & CMD, Supriya Lifescience Ltd., Mr. Ashish Dwivedi, President Specialty Chemicals & Business Strategy, Aditya Birla Chemicals, Mr. K.K. Seksaria, President Plasindia Foundation & MD, Uma Plastics Ltd., Mr. Alok Tibrewala, President Indian Plastics Federation, were present in the Sectoral session on Chemicals, Petrochemicals and Downstream

NEWS ARTICLE

1. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES INCENTIVES WORTH ₹8,450 CR TO BOOST EXPORTS

The government on Tuesday announced incentives worth ₹8,450 crore to boost exports of goods and services, mainly from labour-intensive segments and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), as well as to increase employment generation and value-addition in the country.

The move comes at a time when India's shipments had shrunk in October - the first after 14 consecutive months of positive growth - due to the impact of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The incentives were announced as part of the Mid-Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP). "The FTP will continue to be reviewed and evaluated regularly for addressing concerns of the exporters, simplification of procedures and for promotion of exports," an official statement said.

The FTP for the period 2015-2020 had set an ambitious target of $900 billion for India's exports of goods and services by 2019-20. It also aimed to raise India's share in world exports from 2% to 3.5%. Though the FTP Mid-Term Review was to be brought out before July 1, to be implemented along with the GST, it was postponed as the government wanted to consider feedback from exporters regarding GST.

Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu, speaking on the occasion, referred to the GST-related challenges faced by the exporters and said, "Any new legislation can't be made perfect in one go. For instance, the even Income Tax Act, which deals with direct tax and therefore far simpler compared to the GST (which subsumed /replaced several indirect taxes), was amended several times. We will regularly revisit and address all the operational issues relating to the GST."

He asked exporters to look at the big business opportunities worldwide, adding that the government is keen to ensure that India is a "powerful export-oriented country."

Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said the export (incentive) package was approved by the GST Council to resolve the exporters' problem of blockage of working capital. He further stated that input tax credit and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) refunds for exporters are being expedited. He said the GST will be very beneficial for exporters in the long run, and added that the new regime will also curb tax evasion.

The highlights of the FTP Mid-Term Review included "restoring the benefits under the export promotion schemes of duty free imports under Advanced Authorisation, Export Promotion Capital Goods and 100% Export Oriented Units, thus resolving the problem of blocked working capital for exporters following the roll-out of GST."

Export incentives under Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) have been increased by 2% across the board for labour-intensive MSME sectors leading to additional annual incentive of ₹4,567 crore, the government said. This is in addition to the already announced increase in MEIS incentives from 2% to 4% for ready-made garments and madeups in the labour intensive textiles sector with an additional annual incentive of ₹2,743 crore.

Further, incentives under Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) have also been increased by 2%, leading to additional annual incentive of ₹1,140 crore. A new scheme of self-assessment based duty free procurement of inputs required for exports has been introduced. A state-of-the-art Trade Analytics division has been set up in Directorate General of Foreign Trade for data-based policy actions. The initiative envisages processing trade information for specific policy interventions. Besides, a new Logistics Division has been created in the Department of Commerce to develop and coordinate integrated development of the logistics sector.

Support to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation is also being enhanced to increase insurance cover to exporters, particularly MSMEs, for exploring new or difficult markets, an official statement said.

In addition, the validity period of Duty Credit Scrips has been increased from 18 to 24 months and GST rates on transfer/sale of scrips has been reduced to zero. Issue of gold availability for exporters has been resolved by allowing specified nominated agencies to import gold without payment of IGST.

(Source:- http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/foreign-trade-policy-government-announces-incentives-worth-8450-cr-to-boost-exports/article21268303.ece dated 5th December-2017)

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF MID-TERM REVIEW OF FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

New Delhi, Dec 5 () Following are the highlights of the Mid-Term Review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 released by Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu here today:

- Scope of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) enhanced.
- MEIS incentive raised for ready-made garments and made- ups by 2% (additional annual outgo Rs 2,743 crore).
- Across-the-board increase of 2 per cent in existing MEIS for exports by MSMEs/labour incentive industries (Rs 4,567 crore).
- Annual incentive increased by 34 per cent to Rs 8,450 crore.
- SEIS incentives raised by 2 per cent with a view to boosting services sector exports (Rs 1,140 crore).
- Validity of Duty Credit Scrips increased from 18 months to 24 months to enhance their utility in GST framework.
- To focus on improving ease of trading across borders for exporters and importers.
- Professional team to handhold, assist and support exporters in accessing markets, meeting regulatory norms.
- New Logistics Division to promote integrated development of the logistics sector.
- State-of-the-art trade analytics division in DGFT for data-based policy actions.
- New agricultural exports policy to focus on increasing exports of value-added agri products.
- New Services Division in DGFT to examine Exim policies and procedures to push services exports.
- Supplies of goods and services to SEZs to be treated as zero rated under GST.
- Import of second hand goods for repair/refurbishing/re- conditioning/re-engineering made free.
- Increase focus on exploring new markets and products, raising share in traditional markets and products.
- Promotion of exports by MSMEs and labour intensive sectors to increase employment opportunities for youth.
- To enhance participation of Indian industry in global value chains.

(Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/highlights-of-mid-term-review-of-foreign-trade-policy/articleshow/61934341.cms dated 5th December-2017)

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3 . AS REACH FIXES DEADLINE FOR 3RD PHASE OF REGISTRATION, GOVT INVITES WHITEPAPER FROM CHEMICAL MSMES

New Delhi, Dec 9 (KNN) With the 3rd phase of registration deadline fixed by ECHA for registration of chemical substances for quantities 1-100 tonnes /year under the EU REACH regulations, the Ministry of Commerce has invited for feedback from the chemical industry, especially the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to explore concerns.

REACH is the Regulation of the EU on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals that was enacted on 1st June 2007, the third phase of registration is to close on 31st May 2018.

In line with the new norms, CHEMEXCIL under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry earlier organized a number of awareness seminars in various parts of the country to help the member exporters with registration process under REACH.

Responding to the reports of complications being faced by a chunk of stakeholders in the sector including the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the body has urged the MSMEs to submit feedback and suggestions through a questionnaire rolled out by the department.

The department also wishes to explore the preparedness of Indian Chemical Industry comprising of a fair share of MSMEs for EU REACH Regulations, possible registration of their substances to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) for export purposes to the European Union (EU).

Also the authority has asked the industry to fill in as to what the sector expects from the national authorities with regard to the implementation of the norm.

The questionnaire is made live and can be accessed using the following link:

https://chemexcil.in/circulars/reach---questionnaire-to-collect-information-on-awareness-of-the-eu-----reach-regulation/3097/fb3f69e8bb7f423e40a9ee9ae5459938.html

(Source:- http://knnindia.co.in/news/newsdetails/sectors/as-reach-fixes-deadline-for-3rd-phase-of-registration-govt-invites-whitepaper-from-chemical-msmes dated 9th December-2017)

4. DGFT OFFICIAL URGES STATES TO PREAPRE OWN EXPORT POLICIES

Mumbai, Dec 14 () As part of boosting exports, the top government body promoting foreign trade has urged the states to the come out their own export policy.

In spite of the continuing slowdown in the global economy we have been witnessing a positive trend in exports during the past 14 months, and enhancing our share in the global trade is the top priority of the DGFT, said a top official.

"Every state needs to come out with their own export promotion policy and Maharashtra will come out with its policy soon," additional director general foreign trade (DGFT) Sonia Sethi said here today.

On the pick up in shipments, she said "in spite of the slowdown in the world economy, we have been witnessing a positive trend in exports in the last 14 months, for which we have to complement our industries and liberalised government policies".

Addressing trade representatives at an open house, Sethi said enhancing our share in the world exports is our top priority and we will hold series of interactions with exporters to understand their concerns and grievances.

In the 2015 Foreign Trade Policy, the government had set an exports target of USD 900 billion and market share of 3.5 per cent by 2020.

Earlier this month, government offered additional

incentives totalling Rs 8,450 crore to help boost exports. It raised the incentive rate by 2 per cent under the most popular merchandise exports scheme and services exports scheme.

Exporters have been voicing concerns about challenges, with some even suggesting that they be kept out of GST and duty drawbacks be expedited as it was blocking their working capital

(Source:- https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/dgft-official-urges-states-to-preapre-own-export-policies/articleshow/62088105.cms dated 15.12.2017)

5 MAKE-IN INDIA' LED TO A RECORD $60 BN FDI INFLOW IN FY'17: COMM MIN

The Government is also increasing the focus to new emerging sectors under Make in India.

The ambitious 'Make-in India' initiative by the Government has led to a record inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) of $60 billion in the financial year 2016-17, the Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The Make in India initiative was launched on September 25, 2014 with the objective of facilitating investment, fostering innovation, building best in class manufacturing infrastructure, making it easy to do business and enhancing skill development," the Ministry said in a statement.

The Government is also increasing the focus to new emerging sectors under the Make in India initiative. These include biotechnology, aerospace and defence, new and renewable energy and information communication and telecom equipment manufacturing, it said.

There were 21 key sectors identified for specific actions in the areas of fiscal incentives, ease of doing business policy initiatives, infrastructure creation, skill development and innovation and R&D.

The Government has also shifting its focus on the export strategy. The recently revised Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), under the mid-term review on December 5, focuses on the goal of exploring new markets as well as new products.

The major emphasis of the revised FTP was on enhancing India's share in traditional markets and products, leveraging the benefits of goods and services tax (GST) by exporters, to closely monitor export performances and also to take immediate corrective measures based on state-of-the-art data analysis, the statement said.

In addition, the FTP focuses on increasing ease of trading across borders; increasing the realisations from agriculture-based exports and promoting exports from MSMEs and labour intensive sectors to increase employment opportunities for youth, it added.

"Through FTP, the Government envisages employment creation in both manufacturing and services; production of zero defect products with a focus on quality and standards along with a focus on higher value addition and technology infusion," the statement said.

(Source:- https://www.thedollarbusiness.com/news/makein-india-led-to-a-record-60-bn-fdi-inflow-in-fy17-comm-min/51548 dated 21.12.2017)

CHEMEXCIL

6. INDIA BEGINS DUMPING PROBE INTO CHEMICAL IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA

India has initiated an anti- dumping probe into alleged dumping of a chemical, used in industries such as pharma and food processing, from Russia following a complaint from domestic players.

India has initiated an anti-dumping probe into alleged dumping of a chemical, used in industries such as pharma and food processing, from Russia following a complaint from domestic players. Deepak Nitrite Ltd had filed the application before the Directorate General of Antidumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) for initiation of anti-dumping investigation and imposition of the duty on the imports of 'Sodium Nitrite' from Russia. According to the notification of the DGAD, it has prima facie found "sufficient evidence" of dumping of the chemical from Russia. It has stated that the evidences justify initiation of the investigations. DGAD is the commerce ministry's investigation arm. "The authority hereby initiates an investigation into the alleged dumping, and consequent injury to the domestic industry... to determine the existence, degree and effect of alleged dumping," it added. If established that dumping has caused material injury to domestic players, the DGAD would recommend imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of the chemical from Russia. The period of investigation covers October 2016 and September 2017 (12 months). However, for the purpose of injury investigation, the period will also cover the data of 2014-17. Sodium Nitrite is an inorganic chemical and is an oxidising and reducing agent. The product is a white crystalline powder mostly used in industries including pharmaceuticals, dye, lubricants and meat processing.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty is permissible under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime. The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a- vis foreign producers and exporters.

(Source:- http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-plastics-export-poised-to-cross-8-billion-mark-in-fy-2018/987871/ dated 24th December 2017).

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7. S KOREA, GUJARAT EYE PARTNERSHIP IN TEXTILE, CHEMICALS, TOURISM

South Korean Delegates at the meet

Businessmen from Gujarat and the South Korean government on Tuesday agreed to promote trade and investment in textiles, chemicals, automobiles, defence and skill development among others. A top Korean official said that the East Asian country is now more open to India and ASEAN to diversify its trade and investment relations. On the other hand, businessmen from Gujarat are looking at trading partners to reduce dependence on China.

"We saw lots of cotton fields here. We can cooperate in textiles. It would be better for Korean companies to invest here and form joint ventures with Indian companies," Soungeun Kim, Consul General of South Korea (Republic of Korea, ROK) told media persons in the city after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) on Tuesday. He sees the MoU as the first step in strengthening ties with businessmen in Gujarat.

Local businessmen see potential such as South Korea has developed capacities in manufacturing as well as technology sectors. "Gujarat is emerging as a hub for automobiles. Korean companies can invest in Gujarat. They can also bring their expertise, which would help us train our workforce. Korea is also well developed in the defence sector. Government of India is focusing on developing technologies within India. There is an opportunity for partnership here is as well," said Shailesh Patwari, president of GCCI.

(Source: http://www.dnaindia.com/ahmedabad/report-s-korea-gujarat-eye-partnership-in-textile-chemicals-tourism-2574291 dated 10.01.2018) January-2018)

8. INDIA- EXPORTERS TO USA ASKED TO CONTINUE FILING SPI 'A' FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE REIMBURSEMENT OF DUTY PAID ON ITEMS UNDER GSP

(MENAFN - KNN India) Exporters to USA asked to continue filing SPI 'A' for possible future reimbursement of duty paid on items under GSP

New Delhi, Jan 12 (KNN) United States of America (USA), the most important destination for Indian exports, has assured the exporters about a possible reimbursement of extra duty paid on items exported to USA after 31st December, 2017.

India exports a large number of items, duty free, under the 'Generalised System of Preference' (GSP) of USA.

As the present GSP system has expired on 31st December, 2017, exporters have to pay normal duty for items which were under GSP.

However, a recent communication from the Ministry of Commerce, has quoted the US Government's advice to the exporters of items under GSP to continue filing the SPI with US Customs as required for duty free import into USA.

At the same time, the US Government's advice has hinted at continuation of the GSP scheme on retrospective basis which may lead to reimbursement of duty paid on GSP eligible items during the intervening period.

The peculiar situation arose due to the lapsing of the GSP system and no move yet to continue the same in the future.

Besides the procedural issues, the situation becomes queerer for Indian exporters particularly the MSMEs.

The largest export from India Ready Made Garments (RMG) gets about 10% duty concession under USA GSP and till the system is reintroduced, cost of the landed goods, in USA, will surely be increased to that extent.

Commenting on the situation Animesh Saxena, a leading MSME exporter of RMG did not see much challenge.

'In the past also GSP was temporarily suspended but was re-introduced, so Indian exporters may temporarily carry the extra cost due to GSP withdrawal without increasing the landed cost of Garments, quipped Saxena.

However, in the opinion of another expert on foreign trade, the situation appears to be bleak.

The Trump administration is quite unpredictable and if the GSP is not introduced, Indian exports to USA will be priced out by other countries, mentioned the experts.

He also mentioned about the shortage of working capital the MSME exporters will face even if they want to carry the cost due to GSP withdrawal.

Government should come out with specific guidance / package to MSME exporters of items like RMG, to bear the shock of GSP withdrawal. (KNN/ DB)

(Source: http://menafn.com/1096341306/about.html dated 12th January-2018)

9. INDIA-CHINA TRADE IMPROVING IN FAVOUR OF INDIA: STUDY

NEW DELHI, Jan 13: India has seen a major breakthrough in its exports to China during last few months whereas the surge in imports for Chinese products in Indian market is on deceleration.

According to a recent study by PHD Research Bureau, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry "India – China Trade Relationship: The Trade Giants of Past, Present and Future", exports to China are expected to improve further in the coming months.

Despite substantial volume of imports from China, of lately, India's import growth from China shrunk from 65 per cent to 4 per cent during April – October 2017 whereas exports growth to China witnessed a surge from 40 per cent to 72 per cent during the same period.

With industrialization gaining pace, India's import pattern with China has shifted dramatically from intermediate goods to capital goods. India's import share of capital goods from China jumped from 47 per cent in 2011 to 57 per cent in 2016 whereas share of intermediate goods fell from 37 per cent to 29 per cent during the same period.

The study said that over the past decade, China has been able to enhance its footprint in India to a greater extent. However, the trend has seen a consistent reversal in the first half of 2017-18.

On the diversification front, China's basket of exports to India is highly concentrated towards fewer selected products. This enhances the situation of high volatility for China due to higher reliance on fewer products in the coming times.

According to the study report by PHD Chamber, India's trade deficit with China has also eased from 4.92 billion dollar in April 2017 to 4.6 billion dollar in October 2017.

China overtook UAE to become India's biggest trading partner in 2013. Presently, China is India's 4th biggest export destination whereas the biggest import source.

The trade between India and China witnessed a tremendous jump from 2.71 billion dollar in 2001 to around 70 billion in 2016. Commenting on the recent development in trade with China, Anil Khaitan, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that India's exports to China grew by 72 per cent in October 2017 whereas growth of imports from China was only 4.2 per cent.

According to Mr Khaitan, India's top ten imports from China comprise of 79 per cent of the overall imports from China.

The majority of the share is held by Electrical equipments (HS-85) at 34.5 per cent, followed by Mechanical appliances (17.7 per cent) and Organic Chemicals (9.2 per cent) among others. Conversely, India's top ten export items to China comprise of 73 per cent of the overall exports to China.

Interestingly, the intra-industry trade relationship between India and China has expanded consistently over the years. Around 53 per cent of the trade between India and China is in the form of intra-industry, or similar products. This share has increase from 28 per cent in 2007 to 53 per cent in 2016.

The overall tariff structure for products from India attracted comparatively higher tariffs from China. The simple average tariff on products such as Tobacco registered highest rates of 29.25 per cent; followed by sugar and sugar products (25.17 per cent); cereals (21.75 per cent); edible preparations (20.7 per cent) among others, he added.

India is one of the biggest manufacturers of generic pharma products. However, we are unable to export to China because of China's stringent protectionist policies, said Mr Khaitan. While Indian pharma companies are able to export their generic drugs to USA and EU, it is quite surprising that exports of generic pharma products to China are in a lackluster trajectory. (UNI)

(Source: http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/india-china-trade-improving-favour-india-study-2/ dated 14th January-2018)

10. COMMERCE MINISTRY WORKING ON NEW SUPPORT MEASURES FOR NEXT FTP

NEW DELHI: The commerce ministry is working on new schemes for the next foreign trade policy (FTP), to be released in 2019-20, with a view to boost exports, a senior government official said.

The ministry has asked all the commodity boards and the concerned ministries to identify those "support" structures, which are compliant to global trade rules.

"These support measures could be some schemes or some incentives or it could be infrastructure related. These measures should benefit maximum number of industries," the official said.

The ministry has recently released the mid-term review of the current foreign trade policy.

"We have started the work now, so that by the time we have to come with the new FTP, we would be ready with the final blueprint as we have to consult finally with the finance ministry," the official added.

The five-year foreign trade policy provides guidelines for enhancing exports with the overall objective of pushing economic growth and generating employment.

Under the policy, the government announces steps for exporters. Currently, the government has two schemes - merchandise and services export from India scheme. The Finance Ministry has to allocate funds for these schemes.

Last month, the government announced incentives worth Rs 8,450 crore to boost exports of goods and services, mainly from labour-intensive sectors.

During April-November this fiscal, the country's total merchandise exports grew by 12 per cent to USD 196.5 billion.

(Source:- https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/commerce-ministry-working-on-new-support-measures-for-next-ftp/articleshow/62497395.cms dated 14th January-2018)

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With industrialization gaining pace, India's import pattern with China has shifted dramatically from intermediate goods to capital goods. India's import share of capital goods from China jumped from 47 per cent in 2011 to 57 per cent in 2016 whereas share of intermediate goods fell from 37 per cent to 29 per cent during the same period.

The study said that over the past decade, China has been able to enhance its footprint in India to a greater extent. However, the trend has seen a consistent reversal in the first half of 2017-18.

On the diversification front, China's basket of exports to India is highly concentrated towards fewer selected products. This enhances the situation of high volatility for China due to higher reliance on fewer products in the coming times.

According to the study report by PHD Chamber, India's trade deficit with China has also eased from 4.92 billion dollar in April 2017 to 4.6 billion dollar in October 2017.

China overtook UAE to become India's biggest trading partner in 2013. Presently, China is India's 4th biggest export destination whereas the biggest import source.

The trade between India and China witnessed a tremendous jump from 2.71 billion dollar in 2001 to around 70 billion in 2016. Commenting on the recent development in trade with China, Anil Khaitan, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that India's exports to China grew by 72 per cent in October 2017 whereas growth of imports from China was only 4.2 per cent.

According to Mr. Khaitan, India's top ten imports from China comprise of 79 per cent of the overall imports from China.

The majority of the share is held by Electrical equipments (HS-85) at 34.5 per cent, followed by Mechanical appliances (17.7 per cent) and Organic Chemicals (9.2 per cent) among others. Conversely, India's top ten export items to China comprise of 73 per cent of the overall exports to China.

Interestingly, the intra-industry trade relationship between India and China has expanded consistently over the years. Around 53 per cent of the trade between India and China is in the form of intra-industry, or similar products. This share has increase from 28 per cent in 2007 to 53 per cent in 2016.

The overall tariff structure for products from India attracted comparatively higher tariffs from China. The simple average tariff on products such as Tobacco registered highest rates of 29.25 per cent; followed by sugar and sugar products (25.17 per cent); cereals (21.75 per cent); edible preparations (20.7 per cent) among others, he added.

India is one of the biggest manufacturers of generic pharma products. However, we are unable to export to China because of China's stringent protectionist policies, said Mr Khaitan. While Indian pharma companies are able to export their generic drugs to USA and EU, it is quite surprising that exports of generic pharma products to China are in a lackluster trajectory. (UNI)

(Source: http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/india-china-trade-improving-favour-india-study-2/ dated 14th January-2018)

Chemexcil Notice
NOTICE 1

EPC/LIC/DGFT/FTP_MID-TERM 5 Dec 2017

To,

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-Important Highlights of Mid-Term Review of Foreign Trade Policy (2015-20)

Dear Members,

We would like to inform you that the Mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has been released on 5th December 2017 by Shri Suresh Prabhu, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry in the presence of MoS (Commerce & Industry), Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary and DGFT.

The mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which is announced after GST roll-out, lays focus on policy measures to boost the exports of goods and services from labour intensive sectors, MSME's and to increase employment generation and value-addition in the country.

For the sake of member-exporters the highlights of the Mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 are as follows:

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REVISED FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-2020

- ENCOURAGING EXPORTS BY MSME'S AND LABOUR INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES
  - MEIS is a major export promotion scheme which seeks to promote export of notified goods manufactured/produced in India. MEIS incentives are available at 2, 3, 4 and 5% of the FOB value of exports. MEIS incentives for two sub-sectors of Textiles i.e. Ready Made Garments and Made Ups increased from 2% to 4% involving an additional annual incentives of Rs. 2743 Crore.
  - Across the board increase of 2% in existing MEIS incentive for exports by MSMEs / labour intensive industries involving additional annual incentive of Rs. 4567 Crore. Major sectors covered are leather, agriculture, carpets, hand-tools, marine products, rubber products, ceramics, sports goods, medical and scientific products and electronic and telecom components. The above increase shall be available for the period Nov. 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.
  - The validity period of the Duty Credit Scrips has been increased from 18 months to 24 months to enhance their utility in the GST framework.
  - GST rate for transfer/sale of scrips has been reduced to zero from the earlier rate of 12%
- NEW TRUST BASED SELF RATIFICATION SCHEME FOR DUTY FREE IMPORT OF RAW MATERIAL

- New trust based Self Ratification Scheme introduced to allow duty free inputs for export production under duty exemption scheme with a self-declaration. Under this scheme, instead of getting a ratification of the Norms Committee for inputs to be used in the manufacture of export products, exporters will self-certify the requirement of duty free raw materials/ inputs and take an authorization from DGFT. The scheme would initially be available to the Authorized Economic Operators (AE0s).
- The scheme will expedite export of new products by decreasing product turn-around time, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, engineering and high technology which have dynamic raw material requirements.

- NEW LOGISTICS DIVISION
  - New Logistics Division created in the Commerce Department to develop and coordinate implementation of an Action Plan for the integrated development of the logistics sector, by way of policy changes, improvement in existing procedures, identification of bottlenecks and gaps and introduction of technology in this sector.
- STATE-OF-THE-ART TRADE ANALYTICS
  - State-of-the-Art trade analytics division set up in DGFT for data based policy actions

    The initiative envisages processing trade information from DGCIS and other national and international data bases related to India's key export markets and identify specific actions to address export interests in various markets and products
- EXPLORING NEW EXPORT MARKETS
  - Focus on increasing India's exports in under and un-tapped markets in high potential regions like Africa, to cover not just trade in goods and investment but also in capacity building, technical assistance and services such as healthcare and education. Sectors like agro-¬processing, manufacturing, mining, textiles, consumer goods, infrastructure development and construction would be focus areas.
  - Greater engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean region, including encouragement of project exports through easy access to credit facilities.
  - ECGC will be strengthened and substantially expanded to ensure insurance cover to exporters, particularly MSME exporters exporting to new and risky markets.
- EXPLORING NEW EXPORT PRODUCTS
  - Focus on increasing exports of products which have become important in the world trade of late, in recognition of the fact that70% of India's exports involve products whose share in the total world exports is only 30%. Focus on promising product groups like medical devices/ equipment, technical textile, electronic component, project goods, defence and hi-tech products in addition to labor intensive and MSME products like agricultural, marine, carpets, leather, ayush and health, textiles and readymade garments, handloom, handicrafts, coir, jute products, diamond, gold and jewellery.
- GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS
  - Focus on increasing participation in high value segments of RVCs and GVCs to increase India's exports, in recognition of the fact that products manufactured through GVCs account for two-thirds of world trade in manufactured Goods. This would be facilitated by a focus on automating port and customs operations, allowing green channel clearances and bench marking the turnaround time of ships with the best global practices.
- MARKET ACCESS INITIATIVE (MAI) SCHEME

The scheme for trade promotion and facilitation administered by the DoC, namely the Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) shall continue till March 2020. The other non-Plan Scheme for export facilitation namely; Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDA) has been discontinued from 1st April 2017 but

essential components of the MDA Scheme have been incorporated in the MAI Scheme itself to address the needs of the eligible exporters under the erstwhile scheme.

Members are requested to take note of the same. The revised Foreign Trade Policy document along-with hand-book of procedures are available on below links for your reference and perusal. Subsequent notifications/circulars shall be mailed as an when issued.

http://dgft.gov.in/exim/2000/FTP-2017/ftp17-051217.pdf,
http://dgft.gov.in/exim/2000/FTP-2017/ftproc17-051217.pdf

Your feed-back in this regard may be sent to us on our e-mail id's deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in and balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in .

Thanking You,

NOTICE 2

EPC/LIC/MEIS 6th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:- MEIS Amendments to Appendix 3B of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20

Dear Members,

As you are aware, the Mid-term review of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has been released on 5th December 2017.

To encourage exports by MSME'S and labour intensive industries, DGFT has notified across the board increase of 2% in existing MEIS incentive for exports by MSMEs / labour intensive industries involving additional annual incentive of Rs. 4567 Crore.

Major sectors covered are leather, agriculture, carpets, hand-tools, marine products, rubber products, ceramics, sports goods, medical and scientific products and electronic and telecom components.

As far as items under CHEMEXCIL's purview are concerned, we are pleased to inform you that MEIS has been increased on following select tariff lines (described as per ITCHS 2017 & harmonised MEIS schedule):

- Menthol (HS code- 29061100) from 3% to 5%
- Essential Oil items (Several items under Sub heading 3301) from 3% to 5%
- Other (HS code 33021090) from 3% to 5%
- Synthetic Essential Oil (HS CODE 33029012)- from 3% to 5%
- Other (HS Code. 33029019)- from 3% to 5%
- Aleuritic Acid (HS CODE- 33029020)- from 5% to 7%
- Other (HS CODE 33074900)- from 3% to 5%

The reward rates in Table 2 of Appendix 3B, Foreign Trade Policy are revised as per Annexure to Public Notice no 44/2015-20 dated 05/12/2017. The above increase shall be available for the period Nov. 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Further, Table 3 has been incorporated in the Appendix 3B specifying the List of Ineligible categories specifying exports categories/sectors which shall be ineligible for Duty Credit Scrip entitlement under MEIS.

Members are requested to take note of these amendments. The above said PN no. 44 is available for download using below link- http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN17/PN%2044%20Eng.pdf

Thanking You,

NOTICE 3

EPC/LIC/JNCH/ DBK 7th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBEJCT:- JNCH Drawing of samples for the purpose of grant of drawback (Circular 47/2017-Customs dated 27.11.2017)

Dear Members,

We would like to inform you that the O/o Commissioner Of Customs NS-II & IV, Jawahar Lal Nehru Custom House, Nhava Sheva has issued Public Notice no. 153/2017 dtd 04/12/2017 regarding drawing of samples for the purpose of grant of drawback. This is in continuation of CBEC Circular 47/2017dtd 27/11/2017.

As you might be aware, old Circular Nos. 34/95-Cus dated 6.4.1995, 57/97-Customs dated 31.10.1997 and 25/2005-Customs prescribe monetary limits with respect to drawing of samples for the purpose of grant of drawback and giving exemptions from sampling requirements in certain situations.

In this regard, in order to further facilitate trade and enhance the ease of doing business, Board has decided to rescind the Circular Nos. 34/95-Cus dated 6.4.1995, 57/97- Customs dated 31.10.1997 and 25/2005-Customs.

The export shipments shall continue to be subjected to appropriate treatment in terms of risk criteria provided in Risk Management System (RMS). Wherever export consignments are selected for assessment or examination, the officer of Customs not below the rank of Assistant or Deputy Commissioner of Customs would determine the need to draw sample on merits of each case.

Further, since drawback payment is subject to finalisation of case after receipt of test report of samples, monitoring on regular basis at senior level shall be undertaken so that samples are drawn only where necessary and the cases are closed in a timely manner and not later than thirty days from date of let export. Customs may draw samples in case of any specific intelligence or doubt of misuse, fraud, etc.

Members are requested to take note of the same. Difficulty, if any, may also be brought to the notice of the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner in charge of Appraising Main (Export), JNCH through email/ phones (email address: apmainexp@jawaharcustoms.gov.in, Phone No : 022-27244959,) under copy to the council (on deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in and balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in)

Thanking You,

NOTICE 4

EPC/LIC/CBEC/Imports 11th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-CBEC, Clarification on Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) 'Rules, 2017

Dear Members,

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued Circular No. 48/2017-Cus dated 08.12.2017 regarding Clarification on Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017.

As you are aware, as per existing Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017, an importer in order to avail tariff exemptions is required to submit such surety or security as deemed appropriate by the Deputy Commissioner of Customs or Assistant Commissioner of Customs having jurisdiction over the premises where the imported goods shall be put to use for manufacture of goods or for rendering output services. However, authorities were given to understand that the provision of submission of surety or security in the rules was posing a major challenge for domestic industry.

As a trade facilitation measure, CBEC has issued this circular related to rules for provisions of submission of surety or security.

The details about "Category of Importer" and "Quantum of Bank Guarantee/Cash Security and requirement of surety as per above-said circular are highlighted as follows:

Category of Importer	Quantum of Bank Guarantee/cash security and requirement of Surety
a) All importer (s) who are either a department of Central Government or a State Government or a Union Territory or a Public Sector Undertaking or an autonomous institute under the said	Bank Guarantee/Cash Security-Nil Surety-Not required.
b) All importers who are Authorized Economic Operators.	
c) All importers who are manufacturers or service providers registered under GST and have been filing prescribed GST returns without fail and whose annual turnover in the preceding year is Rs. 1 crore.	Importers shall give surety for the amount of duty foregone. However, where the importer is not able to provide the surety, a Bank Guarantee/ Cash Security equivalent to not more than 5% of duty foregone shall be furnished. above
d) Importers, not covered under (a), (b) & (c) above.	Bank Guarantee/Cash Security-Not more than 25% of the duty foregone amount.

Members are requested to take note of the same. For further details, Circular No. 48/2017-Cus dated 08.12.2017 is available for download using below link-

Circular No.	English	Date of issue	File No.	Subject
48/2017	View(843 KB)	08-12-2017	F.No.450/28/2016-Cus. IV	Clarification on Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 –reg

http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2017/circ48-2017cs.pdf

Thanking you,

NOTICE 5

EPC/LIC/DGFT/FEE 12/12/2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: - DGFT, Application fee for grant of import authorization

Dear Members,

The O/o Directorate General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi has issued Trade Notice no. 22/2018 dated 11/12/2017 regarding Application fee for grant of import authorization.

The trade notice states that there are instances of importers applying for authorization for import of restricted items by submitting their applications at the concerned Regional Authority of DGFT without paying the application fee at the time of submission of application. At the same time, the application is submitted at DGFT HQrs at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi without mention of any fees paid. Subsequently, when these cases are approved, applicants submit their application at the Regional Authority along-with the fee.

With issuance of above-said Trade Notice, it is now clarified that the application fee as prescribed in Appendix 2K of FTP2015-20 is the processing fee and the importers are required to submit their applications at the Regional Authority along-with the prescribed fee and simultaneously at DGFT(HQ).

The importers are hereby accordingly informed that application for grant of import licence may only be deposited at the RA's office, after paying the applicable fees. Further while submitting their application in DGFT if they do not attach copy of the fee paid, their application will not be processed and no import authorization will be issued.

Member exporters are advised to take note of the same. The Trade Notice no. 22/2018 dated 11/12/2017 is available for download using below link-

http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/TN/TN17/Trade%20Notice%2022.pdf

Thanking You,

NOTICE 6

EPC/LIC/DGFT/EPCG 12/12/2017

To,
ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-DGFT New Appendices 5E and 5F under EPCG Scheme of FTP 2015-20.

Dear Members,

The O/o Directorate General of Foreign Trade, New Delhi has issued Public Notice no. 47/2015-2020 dated 06/12/2017 regarding introduction of New Appendices 5E and 5F under EPCG Scheme of FTP 2015-20.

The new Appendices pertain to following:

- Appendix- 5E: Computation of Annual Average Export Obligation under EPCG Scheme.
- Appendix- 5F: List of Capital Goods not permitted/ permitted subject to specific conditions for import under EPCG Scheme of FTP 2015-20.

The new appendices are available as Annexures to this Public Notice.

Members availing the EPCG scheme are requested to take note and do the needful accordingly. The said Public Notice is available for download using below link-

http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN17/PN%20No.47%20english.pdf

Thanking You,

NOTICE 7

EPC/LIC/GST/E_WAY_BILL 18th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:- GST Inter-State e-way Bill to be made compulsory from 1st of February, 2018

Dear Members,

The 24th meeting of GST Council was held on 16/12/2017 to discuss the implementation of e-way Bill system in the country.

As per press release issued by Ministry of Finance for above-said meeting, following decisions have been taken about the e-way bill system:

- The nationwide e-way Bill system will be ready to be rolled out on a trial basis latest by 16th January, 2018. Trade and transporters can start using this system on a voluntary basis from 16th January, 2018.
- The rules for implementation of nationwide e-way Bill system for inter-State movement of goods on a compulsory basis will be notified with effect from 1st February, 2018. This will bring uniformity across the States for seamless inter-State movement of goods.
- While the system for both inter-State and intra-State e-way Bill generation will be ready by

16th January, 2018, the States may choose their own timings for implementation of e-way Bill for intra-State movement of goods on any date before 1st June, 2018.

- There are certain States which are already having system of e-way Bill for intra-State as well as inter-State movement and some of those States can be early adopters of national e-way Bill system for intra-State movement also. But in any case uniform system of e-way Bill for inter-State as well as intra-State movement will be implemented across the country by 1st June, 2018.

The original press release is available for reference using below link-

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/Press%20release_161217.pdf

Members are requested to take note of the same and inform their logistics providers accordingly. Issues, if any, may be brought to the notice of the council (ed@chemexcil.gov.in & deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in).

Thanking you,

NOTICE 8

EPC/LIC/DBK_CVD 19th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-DBK, Refund/Claim of Countervailing duty as Duty Drawback

Dear Members ,

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued circular no. 49/2017 dated 12/12/2017 regarding Refund/Claim of Countervailing duty as Duty Drawback.

After Considering CBEC Circular No. 106/95-Customs dated 11.10.1995 and Circular No. 23/2015-Customs dated 29.09.2015 regarding refund/ claim of Anti-Dumping Duty and Safeguard Duties as Duty Drawback respectively, the CBEC has clarified the following:

- Since Countervailing Duties are not taken into consideration while fixing All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback, the Drawback of such Countervailing Duties can be claimed under an application for Brand Rate under Rule 6 or Rule 7 of the Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback Rules, 1995 and/or the Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback Rules, 2017, as the case may be. This would necessarily mean that drawback shall be admissible only where the inputs that suffered Countervailing Duties were actually used in the goods exported as confirmed by the verification conducted for fixation of Brand Rate.
- Where imported goods subject to Countervailing Duties are exported out of the country as such, then the Drawback payable under Section 74 of the Customs Act, 1962 would also include the incidence of Countervailing Duties as part of total duties paid, subject to fulfilment of other conditions.

The exporter will have to apply for brand rate application to O/o Principle Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Customs, as the case may be, having jurisdiction over the place of exports.

CBEC circular 49/2017 dated 12/12/2017 and the corresponding JNCH (Nhava Sheva) Public Notice No. 158/17 dated 18/12/2017 are available for download using below links respectively-

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2017/circ49-2017cs.pdf

http://164.100.155.199/pdf/PN-2017/PN_158(e).pdf

Members are requested to take note of the same and do the needful accordingly. For further information in this regard, you may contact the respective customs house and take the application forward. Persistent issues faced, if any, may be brought to our notice on e-mail id's- deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in .

Thanking you ,

NOTICE 9

EPC/LIC/ITC_IGST_REFUNDS 20th Dec 2017

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:- Refund of IGST/Un-utilised ITC Status/ Feed-back on pending refunds related to export transactions

Dear Members,

This is in continuation of our circular dated 30/11/2017 regarding IGST/Un-utilised ITC Refunds informing you about Government press release advising exporters to file Table 6A and GSTR 3B for processing of IGST Refund and RFD01A for refund of the unutilized Input Tax Credit.

Prior to the government advisory, the council has also sent refund reports received from JNCH, ACC Sahar cargo related to July 2017 exports, so that exporters can do the needful rectification wherever necessary. We hope the members have done to needful wherever necessary.

For the sake of convenience, we would like to re-summarise the process as follows:

1. Steps to file refund of IGST paid on Export of Goods

   The shipping bills filed by exporters will be deemed to be application and the refund amount is processed and paid to the taxpayer if the following conditions are satisfied:

   - GSTR-3B for the relevant tax period (for which claim is being considered) should have been filed.
   - Form GSTR-1 for the month of July or Table 6A of GSTR-1 for subsequent months must be filed.
   - Shipping bill date and number should be mentioned in Table 6A.
   - IGST amount to be paid should be shown under Table 3.1 (b) of GSTR-3B, which must be equal or greater than IGST amount shown to be paid under Table 6A.

- Exporters may, take due precaution to ensure that no errors creep in while filing Table 6A of GSTR 1 of August 2017 and onwards. In case of wrong entries made in July, Table 9 of GSTR 1 of August month would allow amendments to GSTR 1 of July 2017.
- The invoice details given under GSTR-1 should match with invoice details mentioned on shipping bill.

2. Steps for claiming refund of un-utilised credit of inputs or input services used in making exports

- Exporters shall file an application in FORM GST RFD- 01A on the Common Portal where the amount claimed as refund shall get debited from the Electronic Credit Ledger of the exporter to the extent of the claim.
- Thereafter, a proof of debit (ARN- Acknowledgement Receipt Number) shall be generated on the GSTN portal, which is to be mentioned on the print-out of the FORM GST RFD-01A and to be submitted manually to the jurisdictional officer.
- The exporters may ensure that all the necessary documentary evidences are submitted to local GST authority along with the Form GST RFD 01A for timely sanction of refund.

We hope members have taken the needful steps for claiming refund of IGST/ Un-utilised ITC. In case you are facing issues in receiving IGST paid on exports, please let us know full shipment details in tabular format such as Company name, IEC, GSTIN number, shipping bill number, port name, S/B date, IGST amount etc. Regarding, the claims of un-utilised credit, exporters have to use RFD-01A procedure, submit with local authority and follow-up. Nevertheless, you can still update us on status/ issues faced, if any.

Your replies/ feed-back, be sent to us by 29/12/2017 on e-mail id's: ed@chemexcil.gov.in, deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in .

Your timely replies/ feed-back will enable us assess the refund status and also take up with authorities accordingly.

Thanking You,

NOTICE 10

EPC/LIC/CBEC/LCS 27th Dec 2017

To
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-CBEC Customs procedure for export of cargo in containers and closed bodied trucks from ICDs/CFSs through Land Customs Stations (LCSs)

Dear Members ,

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has issued Circular No. 52/2017 dated 22.12.2017 regarding Customs procedure for export of cargo in containers and closed bodied trucks from ICDs/CFSs through Land Customs Stations (LCSs).

As you are aware, there have been persistent concerns amongst the members exporting to Nepal/

Bangladesh regarding congestion at LCS border points, interventions at the border and need for speedier clearance.

During the course of bi-lateral discussions with Bangladesh side it has been suggested that India may operationalize cross border trade by road through Gede LCS as a means of decongesting Petrapole border and providing speedier clearance.

CBEC has also taken into consideration the upcoming bi-lateral project being implemented under the auspices of the Asian Development Bank, pursuant to the Memorandum of Intent signed between India & Nepal dated 6th June 2017. Under the project, transit cargo from Kolkata to Nepal and vice versa shall be transported under Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS).

As a part of the project, facilities for locking /unlocking ECTS seals will be provided at Kolkata Port and at the border points of Raxaul, Jogbani and Sunauli. Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata (Port) shall be issuing a public notice regarding the procedures to be followed for ECTS services w.e.f. 1st February 2018.

Now, CBEC has decided to leverage the introduction of this new technology being provided under "Managed Service Provider" system to monitor and facilitate trans-shipment of consignments sealed at ICDs/CFSs and destined for export to Nepal or Bangladesh.

Exporters opting to avail the facility for export of goods to Bangladesh or Nepal may do so through the following ICDs / CFSs:

SR. No.	Name of ICDs	Name of LCSs
1	Inland Container Depots (ICDs) in Kanpur in the state of Uttar Pradesh	For exports through Raxaul, Jogbani and Sonauli
2	ICD, Durgapur, West Bengal	For exports through Petrapole and Gede
3	CFSs as specified by the Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata	For exports through Petrapole and Gede

Procedure

- The exporters will be required to bring goods meant for export to the designated ICD/CFSs, and file a Shipping Bill on EDI. The Shipping Bill shall be assessed as per EDI/RMS procedures.
- Three copies of the Shipping Bill shall be printed (including one transference copy). The original of the Shipping Bill shall be retained by the ICD while one copy (transference copy) shall be carried with the cargo by the driver in a sealed envelope to the LCS of exit. The goods to be exported shall be stuffed in a closed body truck or container, as is convenient to the exporter, and sealed with ECTS seal. The ECTS seal number shall be recorded in all the copies of Shipping Bill. The custodians shall be responsible for obtaining the ECTS seal from the MSP managing the transit project for Nepal cargo for this purpose.
- At the LCS, the transference copy of Shipping Bill shall be submitted by the driver to the proper officer of Customs. The Customs Officer shall verify the trip report through the ECTS web application and where no alert of any unauthorized un-sealing is found, he shall record the same in the transference copy of the Shipping Bill and put his name, signature, date and retain the same at the LCS for record. The officer shall remove the ECTS e-seal and allow the movement of the container/close body truck, as the case may be, across the border for export. Simultaneously, the originating ICD/CFS shall view the same trip report on the ECTS web application and where no alert of any unauthorized un-sealing is found, he shall l take a print of the same and attach it with the original Shipping Bill along with his name, signature and date.

- In case the trip report indicates any unauthorized un-sealing, the matter shall be brought to the notice of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner/Superintendent of Customs and such container/ truck shall be subjected to 100% examination. If any deviation from the Shipping Bill or invoice is detected during examination, adjudication proceedings may be initiated. The authorities may take appropriate action as per the existing rules.
- Based upon experience gained from the pilot project, the facility shall be expanded to all other ICDs in the bordering states of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and following land customs stations on a date to be specified:
    1. India-Nepal border
        a) Nepalgunj,
        b) Panitanki.
    2. India-Bangladesh border
        a) Ghojadanga
        b) Mahadipur
        c) Dawki
    3. India-Bhutan
        a) Jaigaon
        b) Darranga

The earlier CBEC Circular 18/2002- Cus dated 13th March 2002 as amended by 61/2003 dated 18th July 2003 in this regard shall stand superseded with effect 1.2.2018.

Members exporting to Bangladesh/ Nepal are requested to take note and also check for further modalities with their logistics providers. The relevant CBEC circular is available for download using below link-

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2017/circ52-2017cs.pdf

Issues if any, may be communicated to the council on e-mail id's: deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in and balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in

Thanking you ,

NOTICE 11

EPC/LIC/GSTR 01/01/ 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: - GST Extension of date for filing return in FORM GSTR-1, Clarifications on various aspects of return filing (such as return filing dates, applicability and quantum of late fee, amendment of errors etc)

Dear Members,

Kindly note that CBEC has issued notifications regarding extension of date for filing return in FORM GSTR-1. The GST Policy Wing, CBEC has also issued an important circular having clarifications on various aspects of return filing such as return filing dates, applicability and quantum of late fee, amendment of errors etc

The gist of important changes are as under-

a) Revised due dates for quarterly furnishing of FORM GSTR-1 for taxpayers with aggregate turnover of up-to Rs.1.5 crore.

As per Notification No. 71/2017 – Central Tax New Delhi, the 29th December, 2017 the revised schedule shall be as under

Sr. No.	Quarter for which the details in FORM GSTR-1 are furnished	Time period for furnishing the details in FORM GSTR-
1	July - September, 2017	10th January, 2018
2	October - December, 2017	15th February, 2018
3	January - March, 2018	30th April, 2018

(b) Extension of the due dates for monthly furnishing of FORM GSTR-1 for taxpayers with aggregate turnover of more than Rs.1.5 crores.

As per Notification No. 72/2017 – Central Tax New Delhi, the 29th December, 2017, the revised schedule shall be as under

Sr. No.	Months for which the details in FORM GSTR-1 are furnished	Time period for furnishing the details in FORM GSTR-1
1	July - November, 2017	10th January, 2018
2	December, 2017	10th February, 2018
3	January, 2018	10th March, 2018
4	February, 2018	10th April, 2018
5	March, 2018	10th May, 2018

Ø Clarifications on various aspects of return filing such as return filing dates, applicability and quantum of late fee, amendment of errors etc

Representations have been received by CBEC seeking clarifications on various aspects of return filing such as return filing dates, applicability and quantum of late fee, amendment of errors in submitting / filing of FORM GSTR-3B and other related queries. In order to consolidate the information in various notifications and circulars regarding return filing and to ensure uniformity in implementation across field formations, CBEC (GST Policy Wing) has issued master Circular No. 26/26/2017-GST dated 29/12/2017 which is available for download on below link-

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/circularno-26-cgst.pdf

Members are requested to take note of the same and do the needful as per revised dead-lines. In case of Technical Issues, please write to helpdesk@gst.gov.in under cc to deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in/ balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in .

Thanking you,

NOTICE 12

EPC/LIC/CGSTRules2017_Eway 01/01/2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBEJCT: - GST Fourteenth Amendment in CGST Rules, 2017

Dear Members,

The Central Board of Excise & Customs has notified Fourteenth amendment in CGST Rules 2017. In addition to above amendments, the date from which E-Way Bill Rules shall come into force has also been notified.

Major amendments in CGST Rules pertain to Refund formula of accumulated ITC against zero-rated supplies revised, Refund mechanism established for certain organizations, applicability of UIN etc.

From exports point of view, we have highlighted following important Notifications for your reference:

Central Tax Notifications

Notification No. & Date of Issue	English	Subject
75/2017-Central Tax ,dt. 29-12-2017	View (279 KB)	CGST (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules,2017
74/2017-Central Tax ,dt. 29-12-2017	View (113 KB)	Notifies the date from which E-Way Bill Rules shall come into force

http://www.cbec.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/central-tax-notfns-2017

Members are requested to take note of the same and do the needful. Original Notifications are available for download using hyperlink provided therein.

Thanking You,

NOTICE 13

EPC/LIC/MOC/IOGISTICS 01/01/2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT : Logistics Division (MOC), Simplification and rationalisation of export documentation for reducing transaction time and cost

Dear Members,

The Council has received communication from Shri D.P. Mohapatra, Addl. DGFT, Department of Commerce (Logistics Division) regarding Simplification and rationalisation of export documentation for reducing transaction time and cost.

As you are aware, apart from the mandatory documents like Shipping bill, bill of lading/Airway bill and Commercial invoice cum packing list, Indian exporters are made to file several auxiliary and sector/ product specific documents which often cause delay and unnecessary expenditure.

However, minimisation of transaction cost and transaction time is essential for gaining competitiveness in the global market. Keeping that in view, an effort is being made by the Logistics Division of the Department of Commerce to identify and remove the repetitive and redundant documents and to ensure expeditious documentation through maximum digitalisation and minimum human intervention.

Members are kindly requested to provide information concerning following:

- Various mandatory and auxiliary documents that are insisted by the various authorities (both at State and Central levels) in the course of exports from the point of production till the point of dispatch, along with scanned copies of all such documents and also indication about flow of documents.
- How many copies of each document is insisted by which authority and at what level, whether manually filed or filed online
- Whether any document can be removed or the required information can be clubbed with another document.

Your valuable replies/ inputs (with document scans wherever possible) be sent to us by 6th Jan 2018 on e-mail id's: deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in .

Your timely replies in this endeavour shall be appreciated and enable us submit to the concerned dept for consideration within the timelines.

Thanking You,

NOTICE 13

EPC/LIC/GST_REFUND/ FAQ's 4th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJCT:-GST User Manual/ FAQ's on claiming refund of IGST/ Un-utilised ITC on exports available on GST Portal

Dear Members,

As you are aware, claiming refund of IGST/ Un-utilised ITC on exports has been a concern for exporters due to delays on account of inadvertent errors, compliance burden etc.

From time to time, Government has issued clarifications and council is also sending mailers to create awareness amongst the exporters about the steps/ pre-requisites for processing of refunds.

For further handholding, GST Portal (www.gst.gov.in) has uploaded Manual/ FAQ's on various topics in their help section. Keeping in mind the current concerns of the exporters regarding refunds, following sections are very important (particularly MSME's) and may be referred to ensure expeditious claim processing/ error minimisation:

Refund

- Applying for Refund on Account of Export of Goods (With Payment of Tax)
- Filing Table 6A of Form GSTR-1
- GST FORM RFD-01 A
- Viewing Submitted or Saved Application for Refund
- Tracking Refund Status (ITC refunds)

All above topics related to refunds are available on following url of GST Portal:

https://www.gst.gov.in/help/refund

Members are requested to take note and may refer to User Manual/ FAQ's available on above link to familiarise with the refund claim process. In case of further utilities on the such important topics, we shall update you.

Thanking You,

NOTICE 14

EPC/LIC/e-SEALS_Updates 8th Jan 2018

To,

ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:- e- Seals Updated details of CBEC approved e-seal vendors w.e.f 5th Jan 2018
(A per Customs Circulars 26/2017, 36/2017, 37/2017, 41/2017, 44/2017 & 51/2017)

Dear Members,

This is in continuation of our earlier mailers updating you about the details of e-seal vendors approved by CBEC.

Kindly note that as per e-seal vendor details updated on CBEC portal vide F. No. 450/188/2017-Cus IV, now there are total 13 suppliers w.e.f. 5th Jan 2018.

The details of e-seal Vendors as per above update of CBEC are as follows:

Sr. No	Name of the Vendor	Contact Details
1	M/s Perfect RFID Technologies Ltd, New Delhi	Ms. Ritika Mina, Head-Business development, 512, Fifth Floor, Ansal Chamber-II, Bikaji Cama Place, New Delhi, 011-41024861,62 ritika.mina@perfectrfid.com
2	M/s ibTrack Solutions Pvt Ltd, Bengaluru	Shri Sudhendra Dankanikote Director and Chief Operating Officer, 1109, GF, 13th Cross, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru 080-25266786, 25278786 sudhendra@ibtrack.net
3	M/s Optiemus Telematics Pvt Ltd, Noida	Shri Apurba Chakraborty Sr Vice President, Plot No. 2A, wing A, 1st Floor, Sector 126, Noida 011-49202020, 49202011 helpdesk@lynkseals.com
4	M/s Infotek Software & systems (P) Ltd., Pune	Shri . Santosh Patil Business Analyst, P-14, Phase 1, I2IT campus, Rajeev Gandhi Infotech Park, Hinjawadi, Pune – 411057 Tel: 020-64730029 / 30 Mobile: +91-8411057733 email: santosh.patil @infoteksoftware.com
5	M/s Sepio Products Private Limited, Vasai (E), Palghar-401210 (Maharashtra)	Shri Darshan Gandhi Director, M/s Sepio Products Private Limited, 037, Akshay Ind. Premises Co-op. Society Ltd. Navghar, Vasai (E), Palghar-401210 (Maharashtra), Phone No. 98218 88361, Landline No. 022-28474000, 022-28473000 Email : darshan @sepioproducts.com
6	M/s Pack Seals Industries, Mumbai	Shri Piyusha Phadke Proprietor, M/s. Pack Seals Industries, 102/ 1st Floor, Utkarsh Co.op Hsg.Soc. Ltd. Anandroa Pawar High School, Ram Mandir Road, Vajira naka, Borivali(W), Mumbai-400103. Phone No.022-28183138, 28147669 Email : info@ packsealsind.com
7	M/s. Thar Shipping Lines LLP, Bangalore.	Shri Nishant Choradia M/s. Thar Shipping Lines LLP, 71, 3rd Cross, Lalbagh Road, Sudhamanagar, Bangalore-560027, Mobile : 9377359469, 8971972679 Email Id : nc@tharlines.com
8	M/s. Great Eastern IDTech Pvt. Ltd. Gurgaon (Haryana).	Shri Pradeep Kumar General Manager, M/s.Great Eastern IDTech Pvt. Ltd., 285, Udyog Vihar, Phase-II, Gurgaon-122016, Mobile 9818222201, Land Line-0124-2347431/32 Email Id : sales@geipl.com

Sr. No	Name of the Vendor	Contact Details
9.	M/s. Enopeck Seals Industries, Mumbai	Shri B.M. Patil M/s. Enopeck Seals Industries 301/A, 3rd Floor, Ramkrishna CHSL, Babhai Naka, Borivali (West), Mumbai – 400 092, Mobile :9833889128, Land Line-022-28981267, 28991659 Email Id : info@enopeck.com
10.	M/s. IDTech Solutions, Gurgaon (Haryana).	Shri Samarath Vig, M/s. IDTech Solutions, Plot No.610, Udyog Vihar Phase-V, Gurgaon, Mobile 9968048691, Land Line-0124-4255530 Email Id : samrath@idsolutionsindia.com
11	M/s Warner Industries, Mumbai	Shri Rajesh Kohli M/s Warner Industries, Kohli House, 6-D, Nesbit Road, Mazagaon, Mumbai 40001 Mobile +919820026864; Land line – 022-23732886 Email ID : rk@warnerseals.com
12	M/s Jainam Multi-product (India) Pvt. Ltd, Vapi (Gujarat)	Shri Naresh Sharma M/s Jainam Multi-product (India) Pvt. Ltd., 509, 5th Floor, Fortune Square-II, Daman Road, Landmark TBZ Jewellers, Chala, Vapi 396191; Land Line : 0260- 2970405; Mobile No : 09825249766; Email ID : sharma@klikseal.in
13	M/S AAA Products Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram (Haryana)	Shri Gopal Shakti Business Development Head, M/S AAA Products Pvt. Ltd., K, No. 12/3/1 & 4/1/1, V.P.O. Begampur Khatola, Behrampur Road, Gurgaon (Haryana) - 122001; Land Line : 011-41006204/49480000; Mobile : 9971304631; Email ID : sales@boltseal.com

The above details are shared only for information/ guidance purpose. As exporters have to purchase e-seals directly from the vendors, they are advised to take appropriate precautions with regards to the financial transactions or any other dealings with the Vendor.

We also understand from CBEC updates, that the process of verifying the documents of the Vendors is an ongoing process. As and when aspiring vendors complete the required documentation their names will be put up on CBEC website. We shall update you in due course.

Members are requested to take note of this update. Though the mandatory implementation of e-sealing for export containers is deferred till 1st March 2018, members may use this additional time and do the needful. For further details, please use below link to download the update from CBEC portal:

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2018/eSeals_vendor_details_05jan2018.pdf

Thanking You,

NOTICE 15

EPC/LIC/EU-GSP 10th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:-REX (EU-GSP) Transition Period to register under REX extended to 30.06.2018

Dear Members,

As you are aware, Registered Exporter System (REX) was introduced under EU GSP vide PN no 51 dated 30/12/2016. This was informed to you by the council vide its circular dated 02/01/2017.

O/o DGFT, New Delhi has now issued Public Notice No.51/2015- 2020 dated 09.01.2018 to extend the transition period for exporters to register under Registered Exporter System (REX) for availing benefits under EU Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from 31.12.2017 to 30.06.2018.

After 30.06.2018, benefits under EU-GSP scheme can only be availed by those exporters who are registered under REX system and can self-certify the Rules of Origin on a commercial document (instead of a Certificate of Origin issued by the authorized agencies).

Members are requested to take note of the same and do the needful accordingly. The above PN is available for download using below hyperlink-

PUBLIC NOTICE NO.	DATE	SUBJECT
51/2015-2020	09.01.2018	Certificate of Origin of Goods for European Union Generalised System of Preferences (EU-GSP) - Modification of the system as of 1st January, 2017.

Thanking you.

NOTICE 16

EPC/LIC/DGFT/ AA 15/01/2018

To,
ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBEJCT:- DGFT Amendments in ANFs 4A, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H & 4I of Handbook of Procedures 2015-20 , Regarding Non-issuance of EP copies of Shipping Bills by Customs Authorities.

Dear Members,

The O/o DGFT, New Delhi has issued Public Notice no. 52/2015-2020 dated 12/01/2018 regarding amendments in Ayat Niryat Forms (ANF) 4A, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H & 4I of Handbook of Procedures 2015-2020.

There amendments have been made in light of implementation of GST and non-issuance of EP copies of Shipping Bills by Customs Authorities.

As you are aware, as per guidelines for redemption/ EODC of Advance Authorisation, EP copy of shipping bill is needed by DGFT RA's due to which exporters where facing issues in redemption. The council had taken up this issue regularly with the DGFT HQ.

Now, as per the amendment in the AA Redemption Form (ANF- 4F -Guidelines), it has been mentioned that wherever printout of EP Copy of shipping bill is not provided to exporters by Customs Authorities in terms of Circular No-55/2016-Customs dated 23.11.2016, applicant will have option to submit Exporter Copy of shipping bill in original duly signed by the Customs authority concerned in lieu of EP copy of shipping bill.

Members availing the Advance Authorisation scheme are requested to take note and do the needful accordingly. The said Public Notice is available for download using below link-

PUBLIC NOTICE NO.	DATE	SUBJECT
52/2015-2020	12.01.2018	Amendments in ANFs 4A, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H & 41 of Handbook of Procedures 2015-20.

http://dgft.gov.in/Exim/2000/PN/PN17/PN%2052%20eng.pdf

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,

NOTICE 17

EPC/LIC/GST/E_WAY_BILL 17th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT:- GST, E-way bill common website launched

Dear Members,

This is in continuation of our circular dated 18/12/2017 informing you that Ministry of Finance has issued press release regarding roll-out of e-way Bill system on a trial basis latest by 16th January, 2018.

The nationwide e-way Bill system for inter-State movement of goods on compulsory basis will come into effect from 1st February, 2018. States may choose their own timings for implementation of e-way Bill for intra-State movement of goods on any date before 1st June, 2018

In this regard, E-way bill common website has been launched. We understand that the system has been rolled out on trial basis from 16th Jan 2018 onwards. For details, please visit the site using following link-

www.ewaybill.nic.in

http://164.100.80.180/ewbnat10/

Members are requested to take note of the same and inform their logistics providers accordingly. Issues, if any, may be brought to the notice of the council (deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in)

Thanking you,

NOTICE 18

EPC/LIC/GST_REFUND_STATUS 17th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBEJCT:- IGST Refund Status Check, IGST Validation Detail Enquiry is available at ICEGATE

Dear Members,

Lack of information about the status of IGST refunds on exports has been a serious concern for exporters. The council has also taken up this matter regularly with the CBEC/ GST authorities to provide an online utility to check the IGST refund status.

Now, we understand that there is following update on ICEGATE portal:

"ICEGATE has provisioned "IGST Validation Detail" Enquiry feature for users to view their IGST refund status for exports made. IGST Validation Detail Enquiry is available at ICEGATE under login for IEC Holder Role "

The IGST Validation detail inquiry is available only for IEC holders registered with ICEGATE (https://www.icegate.gov.in/index.html)

Members are requested to take note and check IGST refund status on their own or through CHAs, as the case may be. Issues, if any, may be brought to the notice of the council (deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in).

Thanking You,

NOTICE 19

EPC/LIC/GST_REFUND_GUIDE 19th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: - V. Imp GUIDE ON IGST REFUND MODULE IN ICES- STEP BY STEP PROCEDURE

Dear Members,

This is in continuation of recent advisories issued by government to guide exporters on IGST refunds, causes for delays and rectification. The council has been regularly informing you about the same for reference.

In this regard, the Directorate General of Systems (CBEC) has now issued a comprehensive guide on IGST refunds in ICES.

This guide covers step by step procedure of IGST refunds module common errors, EGM errors and their rectification. Since such issues are being faced by most of our members, it will be a big help in understanding the problems and their resolution.

Members are requested to kindly take note of the same. The original document is available for download

from JNCH website or may be downloaded using below link:

http://164.100.155.199/pdf/GST_REFUND.pdf

Persistent issues, if any, may be brought to the notice of the council (deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in & balani.lic@chemexcil.gov.in).

Thanking You,

Yours faithfully,

NOTICE 20

EPC/LIC/25th GST_Council 19th Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: - GST

- Recommendations made on GST Rate changes on services by the 25th GST Council Meeting pertaining to Exports/ Chemical sector
- Policy Changes recommended by the 25th GST Council Meeting
- Recommendations made on GST Rate changes on services by the 25th GST Council Meeting

Dear Members,

Kindly take note that the 25th Meeting of GST Council was held in New Delhi on 18/11/2018.

As per press notes released by CBEC/PIB, the recommendations pertaining to exports/ chemical sector are highlighted as follows:

a) Recommendations of Changes relating to GST rates on certain services pertaining to Exports/ Chemical sector

A. Exemptions / Changes in GST Rates / ITC Eligibility Criteria

To grant following exemptions:

I. To exempt service by way of transportation of goods from India to a place outside India by air;

II. To exempt service by way of transportation of goods from India to a place outside India by sea and provide that value of such service may be excluded from the value of exempted services for the purpose of reversal of ITC.

The above exemptions may be granted with a sunset clause upto 30th September, 2018.

To exempt IGST payable under section 5(1) of the IGST Act, 2017 on supply of services covered by item 5(c) of Schedule II of the CGST Act, 2017 to the extent of aggregate of the duties and taxes leviable under section 3(7) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 read with sections 5 & 7 of IGST Act, 2017 on part of consideration declared under section 14(1) of the Customs Act, 1962 towards royalty and license fee

includible in transaction value as specified under Rule 10 (c) of the Customs Valuation (Determination of Value of Imported Goods) Rules, 2007.

To reduce GST rate on transportation of petroleum crude and petroleum products (MS, HSD, ATF) from 18% to 5% without ITC and 12% with ITC.

To exempt dollar denominated services provided by financial intermediaries located in IFSC SEZ, which have been deemed to be outside India under the various regulations by RBI, IRDAI, SEBI or any financial regulatory authority, to a person outside India.

To reduce GST on Common Effluent Treatment Plants services of treatment of effluents, from 18% to 12%.

To reduce GST to 12% in respect of mining or exploration services of petroleum crude and natural gas and for drilling services in respect of the said goods.

To exempt government's share of profit petroleum from GST and to clarify that cost petroleum is not taxable per se.

2. Policy Changes recommended by the 25th GST Council Meeting

   The following Policy Changes have been recommended by the GST Council in its 25th meeting held today:

   a) The late fee payable by any registered person for failure to furnish FORM GSTR-1 (supply details), FORM GSTR-5 (Non-resident taxable person) or FORM GSTR-5A (OIDAR) is being reduced to fifty rupees per day and shall be twenty rupees per day for NIL filers. The late fee payable for failure to furnish FORM GSTR-6 (Input Service Distributor) shall be fifty rupees per day.

   b) Taxable persons who have obtained voluntary registration will now be permitted to apply for cancellation of registration even before the expiry of one year from the effective date of registration.

   c) For migrated taxpayers, the last date for filing FORM GST REG-29 for cancellation of registration is being extended by further three months till 31st March, 2018.

   d) The facility for generation, modification and cancellation of e-way bills is being provided on trial basis on the portal ewaybill.nic.in. Once fully operational, the e-way bill system will start functioning on the portal ewaybillgst.gov.in

   e) Certain modifications are being made to the e-way bill rules which are to be notified nationwide for inter-State movement with effect from 01.02.2018 and for intra-State movement with effect from a date to be announced separately by each State but not later than 01.06.2018.

3. Changes in GST/IGST Rate and Clarifications in Respect of GST Rate on Certain Goods

   The Council has recommended certain in GST/IGST rate and clarifications in respect of GST rate on Goods specified below as per discussions in the 25th GST Council Meeting held today.

The items pertaining to Chemical sector are being highlighted below:

REDUCTION FROM 18% TO 12%:

S. No.	Chapter/Heading/Sub-heading/Tariff item	Description
3.	2809	Fertilizer grade Phosphoric acid
4.	29 or 38	Bio-diesel
5	38	The following Bio-pesticides, -

S. No.	Name of the bio pesticide
1	Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis
2	Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki
3	Bacillus thuringiensis var. galleriae
4	Bacillus sphaericus
5	Trichoderma viride
6	Trichoderma harzianum
7	Pseudomonas fluoresens
8	Beauveriabassiana
9	NPV of Helicoverpaarmigera
10	NPV of Spodopteralitura
11	Neem based pesticides
12	Cymbopogan

ODIFICATION IN DEFINITION/ CLARIFICATION IN RESPECT OF CHANGES IN GST/IGST RATES ON GOODS:

S No	Chapter/ Heading/ Sub-heading/ Tariff item	The GST to apply only on the net quantity of Poly Butylene Feed Stock or Liquefied Petroleum	
	Description	Present GST Rate	Modification/clarification Recommended
	27	Poly Butylene Feed Stock & Liquefied Petroleum Gas	18%

Gases retained for the manufacture of Poly Iso Butylene or Propylene or di-butyl para cresol respectively, subject to specified conditions.

As per press releases, it is proposed to issue notification giving effect to the recommendations of the Council from 25th January, 2018.

Members are requested to kindly take note of the above recommendations of the 25th GST Council meeting which are pertaining to exports/ chemicals sector. As and when notifications are issued, we shall update you. The original press release's are available for download using below links.

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/press-release-25-council-meeting-3.pdf
http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/press-release-25-council-meeting-1.pdf
http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/gst/press-release-25-council-meeting-2.pdf

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully

NOTICE 21

EPC/LIC/JNCH/EP_SB 22/01/2018

To,
ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Subject:- JNCH(Nhava Sheva)- Discontinuation of Printing of EP copy of the Shipping Bill

Dear Members,

This has reference to our circular dated 15/01/2018 informing you that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued Public Notice no. 52/2015-2020 dated 12/01/2018 regarding amendments in Ayat Niryat Forms (ANF) 4A, 4E, 4F, 4G, 4H & 4I of Handbook of Procedures 2015-2020.

As per the amendment in the AA Redemption Form (ANF- 4F -Guidelines), it has been mentioned that wherever printout of EP Copy of shipping bill is not provided to exporters by Customs Authorities in terms of Circular No-55/2016-Customs dated 23.11.2016, applicant will have option to submit Exporter Copy of shipping bill in original duly signed by the Customs authority concerned in lieu of EP copy of shipping bill.

In this regard, O/o Commissioner Of Customs, NS-IV, Nhava Sheva has issued Public Notice No. 10/2018 dated 18/01/2018 wherein Trade/ Exporters are advised to avail benefit of aforesaid provisions/relaxations as notified earlier in DGFT PN i.e. the option to submit Exporter Copy of shipping bill in original duly signed by the Customs authority concerned in lieu of EP copy of shipping bill.

Since member-exporters were facing issues in redemption/ EODC of their Advance Authorisation/ DFIA, this relaxation will provide relief to the exporters.

Members are therefore requested to take note and do the needful accordingly. The JNCH (Nhava Sheva) Public notice is available for download using below link-

http://164.100.155.199/pdf/PN-2018/PN_010.pdf

Thanking You,

NOTICE 22

EPC/LIC/DBK_2018 23rd Jan 2018

To,
ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: - AIR DBK Amendments in the All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback 2017-18

Dear Members,

This is in continuation of our circular dated 25/09/2017 informing you about All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback 2017-18 w.e.f. 01/10/2017 and other changes in Duty Drawback.

Subsequently, representations where sent by the Trade/ Industry to the Drawback Department for increase in DBK rate. Further, consultations were also held with the esteemed Duty Drawback Committee in Ahmedabad on 31/10/2017 during which CHEMEXCIL also submitted its suggestions.

Now, Ministry Of Finance (Department Of Revenue) has issued Notification No. 8/ 2018 - CUSTOMS (N.T.) 22nd January, 2018 regarding amendments in the earlier notification No. 89/2017-Cus(NT) dated 21.09.2017 relating to AIRs of Duty Drawback.

As far as items from chemical sector are concerned, following amendments are effected:

iii) in Chapter - 29,-

(a) against tariff item 290701,-

(i) for the entry in column (4), the entry "1.5%" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the entry in column (5), the entry "4.7" shall be substituted;

(b) against tariff item 291201,-

(i) for the entry in column (4), the entry "1.5%" shall be substituted;

(ii) for the entry in column (5), the entry "11.3" shall be substituted;

The above amendments shall come into force on the 25th day of January, 2018.

Members are requested to take note of the amendments. The above-said notification is available for download using below link-

http://www.cbec.gov.in/resources//htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2018/cs-nt2018/csnt8-2018.pdf

We also look forward to your feed-back on ed@chemexcil.gov.in and Deepak.gupta@chemexcil.gov.in

Thanking You,


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