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Export Promotion Council

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SRTEPC CHAIRMAN'S MEETING WITH THE HON'BLE UNION MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING



Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal in a meeting through video conferencing with Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC and representatives of FIEO and EPCs

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry held interactions with various Export Promotion Councils of the country thrice on 27th & 31st March 2020 and 8th April 2020, through Video conferencing (VC). The Meetings were held to assess the ground situation and problems being faced by them in the wake of Covid-19 and subsequent lockdown. During the Meetings the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Commerce Secretary Dr Anup Wadhawan, DGFT and other officers of the Department of Commerce were present.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry informed that issues related to Customs clearance, Documentation, Logistics, Courier services, Banking, Payments, EPCG, ECGC, and Extension of Letters of Credit etc. have already been taken up with different ministries at Secretary level. He urged

the Exporters to install the Aarogya setu app on their mobiles and popularize among others also, as this will help us in fight against the Covid, by applying technology, artificial intelligence, and identifying the hotspots. The Minister also called upon them to contribute whole-heartedly towards the PM CARES fund.

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman SRTEPC, participated in the video conferencing along with representatives of FIEO and other EPCs.

Welcoming the initiative of the Video conferencing by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry Shri Ronak Rughani, congratulated and thanked the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and the Government of India on behalf of the Manmade fibre textile fraternity for taking swift and front-footed actions to fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC informed that the MMF textiles segment has already been going through Inverted Duty Structure due to which huge amount of ITC has been accumulated which are neither refunded nor utilisable. Therefore, Shri Rughani categorically mentioned that a separate package for MMF textiles segment is needed.

Shri Ronak further requested the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry to immediately intervene and address the following issues.

1. Special Export incentive of 3% on fibre & yarn, 4% on fabric, 5% on made-ups for at least 6 months or till the impact of coronavirus subsidies and global markets stabilise.
2. Include entire MMF textile value chain viz., fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups, etc. under RoSCTL and MEIS benefits. These entire MMF textile value chain is needed to be covered under the RoDTEP Scheme also.



3. Extend one-year moratorium with immediate effect till March 31, 2021 for repayment of principal and interest amounts to the banks and NBFCs.
4. Allow the textile industry to resume functioning of the units at least with 50% of the essential working staff.
5. Ministry of Finance should help and intervene through RBI in hedging the export payment for a period of at least 180 days. The period of export payment realization should be increased from 270 days to 365 days without any penal interest.
6. Stuffing of containers at CFS after customs clearance is a big issue and requested CIM to direct the concerned to attend immediately as there is every possibility that the orders may get cancelled if delayed further.
7. Extend ECGC support to address the cancelled and deferred orders.
8. Release all pending dues under Drawback, MEIS, GST, ROSL, RoSCTL, TUFs on an urgent basis or extend soft loan equivalent to Government dues pending in the books of individual textile units that could be adjusted soon as the Government clears the dues.
9. RBI to relax NPA norms for 6 months, so that no default will be eligible for being termed as an NPA account.
10. Enhance working capital limit and advances for exports on a case to case basis without any collateral.
11. Provide 30% additional working capital at 7.25% interest for both exports and domestic production without any collateral and margin money to meet the working capital needs, pay salaries and wages to the employees and meet the standing charges.
12. Enhance Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) benefit for exports of entire MMF textile value chain viz., fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups, etc. to 5% and extend 3% interest subvention for working capital.
13. Suggested for extension of the existing Foreign Trade Policy for one more year i.e. upto March 2021.
14. Extend support to the industry for payment of salaries and wages to the workers during the lock-down period similar to that of the supports provided by the Government of Bangladesh to its textile units. Bangladesh Government is transferring 3 months salaries directly to the employees/workers through their commercial banks and the said amount is to be repaid @ 2% interest in 18 installments within a period of 2 years by the employers to the commercial banks.
15. Since China has resumed manufacturing activities after weeks of factory shutdowns and logistical restrictions and it is also understood that China has started selling their products at very low prices than that of the pre COVID-19 prices which will badly impact our exporters competitiveness in international markets, Government should immediately announce a Stimulus package to save MMF textile segment as this segment is one of the worst hit in this epidemic.

The Commerce Secretary, Dr Anup Wadhawan clarified that the issues related to FTP extension, restoration of MEIS, Interest Subvention Scheme, SEIS, Sunset clause and various relaxations sought by EPCs will be looked into. Banking issues, extension of financial year and payment of salaries etc. will be taken up with Finance Ministry. Issues related to Logistics and relaxation of timelines will be taken up with the concerned authorities.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri directed the officers of the Commerce Ministry to prepare action points and redress the issues related to the commerce ministry and take up other issues with concerned departments/Ministries.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry urged the exporters to think big, and be ready to harness the opportunity in the post-Covid era. He further said that if we improve our quality, build capacity, bring in economies of scale, improve price competitiveness, then we can grow and harness the potential in post-Covid world. He also said that even in these challenging times, we have to keep our priority to keep exports open, so that we don't lose our export market permanently. He assured that efforts will be made to ensure that urgent and important export orders, stuck for any reason, fructify at the earliest. The Ministry is working it aggressively so as to get the exports revitalized, looking for export opportunities to expand.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry further stated that many geographies are becoming matter of concern. He mentioned that there cannot be a better time for export and manufacturing business to bring about change in their thinking and urged the exporters to focus on areas of core competency. The Hon'ble Minister said that in this After-Covid world, India can shine, being a vibrant and transparent democracy, and working with rule of law, along with a humanitarian approach. The Minister stressed that we need to bring the economy back on track, without compromising on the health of the people as the ultimate decision will depend on the health. Citing the example of IT industry, he called upon the exporters not to take the support of the Government crutches. He said the Winners have the killer instinct that will not let them settle for the second best.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Members,

It is a matter of concern as the world goes through one of its worst phase in the current times. The entire humankind has been challenged with one of the worst pandemic that has gripped the globe. The outbreak of COVID-19 arrived in India only in mid-March and we were well prepared for what we had in store as we had seen developed nations like Italy, Spain, US, UK crumble under the throes of the pandemic. The timely lockdown by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji to a certain extent helped us contain the spread of the virus, although it has taken its toll on our economy but as the Hon'ble Prime Minister says Jaan Hai to Jahan Hai. Friends, just when things were looking bright for exports with the data showing that overall exports for the first time in seven months increased by 2.9% in February 2020 this calamity struck us and we are once again staggering. With the lockdown extended and we are yet not sure when this period would end the economy has taken the brunt of it. However, we have to keep our spirits up and be positive and hope that things would improve soon.

Impact of COVID-19 has been adverse on our exports. As per DGCI&S Provisional data month-on-month the exports of MMF textiles have dropped by 24.82% during March'20 vis-à-vis March'19 . The estimated exports of Indian MMF textiles for the entire FY 2019-20 in value terms amounted to US \$5.98 billion showing a negative growth of 2.57% over the same period last year. Barring fabrics which showed a growth of 10.86% all the other products in the MMF category viz. fibre, yarn and made-ups were in the red.

The Government on its part is equally anxious about the impact on the economy and export scenario. The Ministries of Commerce & Industry and Textiles have had a series of interactions with the EPCs by holding Meetings through video conferencing. The Meetings helped the export industry especially the textile export industry to put forth its concerns to the Ministries. I had the opportunity to be a part of these video conference meetings with the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyalji, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, DGFT and other senior officials. During the Meetings, I represented the concerns of the MMF textile industry and pointed out that the MMF textile industry has already been reeling under the Inverted Duty Structure which has resulted in huge amount of accumulation of ITC which can neither be refunded nor utilized, I therefore requested for separate stimulus package for the MMF textile sector. Some of the issues which I urged the Hon'ble Union Minister to address into especially under the current scenario were Special Export incentive for the MMF textile products, inclusion of MMF textiles for RoSCTL and MEIS benefits, Extend one-year moratorium with immediate effect till March 31, 2021 for repayment of principal and interest amounts to the banks and NBFCs, Extend ECGC support to address the cancelled and deferred orders, extension of the existing Foreign Trade Policy for one more year i.e. upto March 2021, etc. Subsequently the Ministry has already announced the extension of the Foreign Trade Policy up to March 2021.

I also had video conference Meetings with the Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Secretary Textiles, Shri Ravi Kapoor, Special Secretary (Textiles) Shri P. K. Kataria and other officers of the Ministry of Textiles. During the discussions I addressed the following issues raising funds to be used in the Textile Industry with an initial corpus of Rs. 1000 Cr, the route of External Commercial Borrowing



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

(ECB) to be explored to tap funds from abroad; requested the Hon'ble Minister to write official communication to all the Indian Missions / Embassies seeking support to exporters and be with them as many consignments that have already reached to the destinations on which the buyers may try to re-negotiate and RBI to issue directives to the Banks for accepting shortfall in the export realisation as compared to the amount mentioned in LCs, Invoices, etc. and cooperates with the exporters since the importers are negotiating for discounts and there would be a shortage in the value realization against each shipping bill in view of appreciation of dollar value. The Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles assured all support to the textile industry during these difficult times.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who have come forward and as a gesture of collective solidarity contributed whole heartedly to the PM Cares Fund and the Chief Ministers Fund of various states besides providing hospital facilities, food, PPE, etc. I would specially like to thank M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. and M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd. who have been benevolent and donated magnanimously to the PM Cares Fund. The contribution by all of them is really commendable and will go a long way in building up our nation especially when we are going through this difficult crisis. I am glad to inform that with your co-operation and support the members of the MMF fraternity could contribute an amount of around Rs.1016 crores towards this noble cause .

Yours sincerely,

RONAK RUGHANI
CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN



Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC meeting with Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani and Secretary (Textiles) through video conferencing on the "Post COVID economic recovery and business continuity plan"

The Ministry of Textiles held interactions through Video conferencing (VC) on 7th & 9th April 2020 with various Textile Export Promotion Councils to discuss on the "Post COVID economic recovery and business continuity plan". The Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani, Secretary(Textiles) Shri Ravi Capoor, Special Secretary (Textiles), Shri P. K. Kataria and other officers of the Ministry of Textiles were present at the meetings.

Shri Ravi Capoor, Secretary informed that issues forwarded by various EPCs related to Customs, Export Documentation, Banking, Payments, EPCG, ECGC, and Finance, strategies for normalizing production cycle, Logistical issues for production activities across the country, health protocol for workers, issues local administration etc. have already been taken up with different ministries/departments.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles Smt Smriti Irani expressed concern about MSME exports and particularly Handloom sector and Handicrafts and therefore directed the ministry to raise funds from various sources to support textile industry in post Covid scenario across the segments of textile value chain.

Accordingly the Ministry has constituted two Committees viz. 'Committee on Finance' and 'Committee on Production & Logistics' to examine the issues related to respective areas and suggest measures to tide over the economic scenario due to outbreak of COVID-19.

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman SRTEPC, participated in the Video conferencing along with the representatives of other textile EPCs.

While welcoming the initiative of interactions through video conferencing, the SRTEPC Chairman Shri Ronak Rughani said that the Manmade fibre textile fraternity congratulates and thanks the Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles and Government of India for taking swift and front-footed actions to fight against the COVID-19 epidemic.

He further said that the Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana announced by the Ministry of Finance will be of substantial help for the poor to fight the battle against COVID-19. He stated that in this nation-wide fighting, we all feel accountable and as a gesture of our collective solidarity, the Manmade fibre textile fraternity and its groups contributed around Rs.1016 crores towards the PM CARES Fund and the Chief Ministers of various states besides providing hospital facilities, food, PPE, etc.

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC informed that the MMF textiles segment has already been going through Inverted Duty Structure due to which huge amount of ITC has been accumulated which are neither refunded nor utilisable. Therefore, Shri Rughani categorically mentioned that a separate package for MMF textiles segment is needed.

The following major points were discussed by Shri Ronak during the interactions.

1. For raising funds to be used in the Textile Industry with an initial corpus of Rs. 1000 Cr, the route of External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) to be explored to tap funds from abroad. Accordingly, the Union Minister of Textiles directed to include Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC and Shri Ravikant Kapoor, Chairman, Wooltexpro as members in the Finance Committee set up by MOT.
2. The Indian Missions across countries to provide handholding support to exporters and liaison with foreign buyers in order to retain the existing orders and also to establish contact/ negotiate with overseas buyers/importers/agents for enhancement of exports from India. Shri Ronak Rughani requested the Hon'ble Minister to write to the Indian Embassies for the same. An official communication to be sent to all the Indian Missions / Embassies to provide support to exporters and be with them as many consignments that have already reached to the destinations on which the buyers may try to re-negotiate. Involvement or support from the Indian Missions /Embassies must be there not to let any buyer take undue advantage of the situation.
3. RBI to issue directives to the Banks for accepting shortfall in the export realisation as compared to the amount mentioned in LCs, Invoices, etc. and cooperates with the exporters since the importers are negotiating for discounts and there would be a shortage in the value realization against each shipping bill in view of appreciation of dollar value.



Shri Ronak Rughani further mentioned that the situation will soon become normal and industry activities will be resumed. Following are some of the other urgent measures the Council would like the Government to take up for recovery of the MMF textiles segment during the lock down :

1. Special Export incentive of 3% on fibre & yarn, 4% on fabric, 5% on made-ups for at least 6 months or till the impact of coronavirus subsides and global markets stabilise.
2. Include entire MMF textile value chain viz., fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups, etc under RoSCTL and MEIS benefits. These entire MMF textile value chain is needed to be covered under the RoDTEP Scheme also.
3. Extend one-year moratorium with immediate effect till March 31, 2021 for repayment of principal and interest amounts to the banks and NBFCs.
4. Allow the textile industry to resume functioning of the units at least with 50% of the essential working staff.
5. Compensate the full expenses incurred by the exporters due to cancellation and deferred export orders.
6. Extend support to the industry for payment of salaries and wages to the workers during the lock-down period similar to that of the supports provided by the Government of Bangladesh to its textile units. Bangladesh Government is transferring 3 months salaries directly to the employees/ workers through their commercial banks and the said amount is to be repaid @ 2% interest in 18 installments within a period of 2 years by the employers to the commercial banks.
7. Extension of due date of LCs by Rollover or Providing Fund Based Credit for March & April 2020.
8. In view of this extreme uncertain and unstable payment situation, it is requested that the Ministry of Finance should help and intervene through RBI in hedging the export payment for a period of at least 180 days.
9. The period of export payment realization should be increased from 270 days to 365 days and in case of delay in payments beyond the due date, no penal rate of interests should be charged.
10. Extend ECGC support to address the cancelled and deferred orders.
11. Release all pending dues under Drawback, MEIS, GST, ROSL, RoSCTL, TUFs on an urgent basis or extend soft loan equivalent to Government dues pending in the books of individual textile units that could be adjusted soon as the Government clears the dues.
12. RBI to relax NPA norms for 6 months, so that no default will be eligible for being termed as an NPA account.

The Council also requested for the following measures to be considered post the lock down:

13. Enhance working capital limit and advances for exports on a case to case basis without any collateral.
14. Provide 30% additional working capital at 7.25% interest for both exports and domestic production without any collateral and margin money to meet the working capital needs, pay salaries and wages to the employees and meet the standing charges.
15. Enhance Interest Equalization Scheme (IES) benefit for exports of entire MMF textile value chain viz., fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups, etc. to 5% and extend 3% interest subvention for working capital.

Smt. Smriti Irani, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles urged the Exporters to install the 'Aarogya setu' app on their mobiles and popularize among others also, as this will help us in fight against the Covid-19. The Minister also called upon them to contribute whole-heartedly towards the PM CARES fund.

Pakistan

Textile exports up 4.24% during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year

The textile exports from the country increased by 4.24 percent during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year as against the corresponding period of last year.

The textile exports from the country during July-March (2019-20) were recorded at US\$10,412.939 million against the exports of US\$9,989.457 million in July-March (2018-19), showing growth of 4.24 percent.

The textile commodities that contributed in positive growth in trade included knitwear, the exports of which increased from US\$2,154.562 million last year to US\$2,229.869 million during the current fiscal year, showing growth of 6.74 percent.

Likewise, the exports of readymade garments increased by 11 percent by going up from US\$1,955.778 million to US \$2,170.517 million while the exports of bed wear increased 2.45 percent, from US\$1,719.376 million to US \$1,761.552 million.

The exports of art, silk and synthetic textile increased by 18.47 percent by growing from US\$220.459 million last year to US\$261.172 million.

The textile goods witnessed negative growth in trade included cotton yarn, the exports of which declined by 1.90 percent by falling from US\$835.719 million last year to US\$819.808 million during the current year.

Likewise, the exports of yarn (other than cotton yarn) decreased by 7.11 percent, by falling from US \$22.559 million to \$20.956 million

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the textile exports during the month of March 2020 decreased by 4.46 percent when compared to the corresponding month of last year. The textile exports in March 2020 were recorded at US\$1,039.705 million against the exports of US\$1,088.192 million.

Source : <https://nation.com.pk/>

Indonesia

Government to boost the textile and garment industry

Indonesia's textile and garment industry enjoyed positive growth throughout 2019 with exports valued at US\$13.8 billion, an increase from US\$10 billion in 2018 and making the country one of the largest textile producers in the world.

Despite this upward trajectory, the industry has been severely impacted by the US-China trade war and now the COVID-19 outbreak; Vietnam, although also affected by the trade war, still recorded some US\$35 billion in textile exports in 2019.

Currently, 30 percent of Indonesia's total production is to meet domestic demand with the remainder for exports to mainly the US (36 percent), Middle East (23 percent), EU (13 percent), and China (5 percent). These are dominated by large manufacturers producing for global apparel brands. Before the onset of the virus, the Indonesian Textile Association (API) stated that the country's textile and garment industry is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5 percent.

The government, through its Industry 4.0 Masterplan, aims to propel the country into the top five largest textile producers in the world by 2030. This presents unique opportunities for foreign investors to enter and assist in this revitalization program, in particular, supply expertise on sophisticated production techniques.

Internal constraints still plague Indonesia's textile industry and have hindered its export potential. Electricity and gas prices are high compared to other textile producing countries, which has reduced Indonesia's competitiveness in the international market.

Labor costs have also increased annually; the minimum wage in Indonesia has been increased by 8.5 percent for 2020. The country's minimum wage is also fixed based on the sector. 'Leading sectors or industries' in a province, like textiles and garment manufacturing, can determine their own minimum wage rate, also known as UMSP. The UMSP must be higher than the provincial minimum wage (usually by 5 percent and above).

Another issue has been ageing machinery, which results in overall lower productivity and efficiency for the country. This undermines one of the sector's key strengths – the presence of both an

upstream and downstream industry – although only the largest players can afford to invest in new plants and machinery to complement these operations.

Furthermore, increasing regional integration has resulted in an influx of cheaper textile products into Indonesia (legal and illegally), especially from China, which has placed pressure on smaller domestic manufacturers. For many smaller, local companies, turning to the production of 'Batik' has been a way to distinguish

Batik is a centuries-old technique of using wax and dye to decorate cloth and garments developed in Indonesia. The artform has been designated as an Indonesian cultural contribution to the world by UNESCO, with many manufacturers still utilizing hand-drawn designs. An increasing number of manufacturers are moving away from the manual technique and using modern machinery to produce printed Batik.

External constraints include the depreciating Rupiah, which has increased production costs. This is because raw materials, such as cotton, are bought with US dollars from the US, Brazil, and Australia – amounting between US\$300 to US\$600 million per year – and impacting the profitability of companies that cater to the domestic market. Larger companies with the capacity to export their products are benefiting from the stronger dollar as it increases their revenues.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the overhaul of this lucrative industry requires local companies to access much-needed funding.

Foreign investors with the expertise to facilitate more value-added production techniques are in high demand. Further, as international competition becomes fiercer, textile companies that lack the capital to compete could be takeover targets through partnerships, joint ventures, and private equity investment.

The Indonesian government is looking to enhance its support for the textile industry. The current administration has improved the country's logistics by building new highways and ports. It is also curbing the import of illegal textiles and tightening import rules for textiles and textile products.

More vocational institutions catering to the sector are being developed in cooperation with local companies, aiming to produce skilled human capital who can use the latest technology in production, such as 3D printing.

Industry players must also diversify their export market – considering that its biggest market, the US, could impose tariffs on a variety of Indonesian products, including textiles at any time. New potential international markets could include Australia – both countries ratified the IA-CEPA trade agreement in February 2020 – as well as New Zealand, South Korea, and Japan.

Additionally, Indonesia's Muslim fashionwear is finding an increasing market in the Middle East and North Africa as the region now represents more than half of the country's overseas missions and trade negotiations.

Source : <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/>

Vietnam

Clothing exports down by 9.07% in the first quarter of 2020

Vietnam's garment exports fell by 9.07 per cent year on year (YoY) in the first quarter (Q1) of this year and imports by 16.59 per cent. US and European buyers have suspended or cancelled orders since mid-March, according to the Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (Vinatex), whose first quarter revenue dropped by 7 per cent year on year.

Retail outlets in the United States and Europe are unlikely to reopen until early May at best, causing extended delays to existing orders while few new orders have been placed,

Most orders put on hold are for spring and summer clothing lines, while the pandemic is expected to be brought under control by Autumn at the earliest, making it highly likely these lines will be cancelled anyway, he added.

The Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS) has forecast that the country's textile and garment exports may shrink by 15 per cent to \$33 billion this year. Globally, orders are predicted to fall 29 per cent over the course of the year.

Source : Fibre2fashion

Exports fall 34.57% in March 2020

India's exports plunged by a record 34.57 per cent in March due to a steep decline in shipments of leather, gems and jewellery and petroleum products, dragging the total exports in 2019-20 down to US\$314.31 billion,

Merchandise exports in March stood at US\$21.41 billion, down by 34.57 per cent compared to US\$32.72 billion in the same month last year.

This is expected to be the steepest fall in monthly exports since 2008-09, when shipments dipped by 33.3 per cent in March 2009.

Imports too contracted by 28.72 per cent to US\$31.16 billion. This is the steepest decline since November 2015, when imports declined by 30.26 per cent.

Dip in exports and imports narrowed the trade deficit -- the .. difference between imports and exports -- in March to US\$9.76 billion, the lowest in the last 13 months. It was \$9.6 billion in February last year.

For the full fiscal (2019-20), imports declined by 9.12 per cent to US\$467.19 billion, narrowing the trade deficit to US\$152.88 billion as against US\$184 billion in 2018-19.

The decline in exports has been attributed mainly to the ongoing global slowdown, which got aggravated due to the current Covid-19 crisis. The latter resulted in large scale disruptions in supply chains and demand resulting in cancellation of orders,".

Since 2011-12, India's exports have been hovering at around US\$ 300 billion. During 2017-18, the overseas shipments grew by about 10 per cent to \$303 billion .

The dip in numbers are in sync with the projections of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which has stated that world trade is expected to fall between 13 per cent and 32 per cent in 2020 as the COVID 19 pandemic disrupts normal economic activity and life around the world.

Source : The Economic Times

Exporters request for incentives to boost exports

Exporters have requested for interest-free working capital term loan and allotment of ₹30,000 crore to exporting companies to ease working capital liquidity issues. The loan amount should cover six months' gross salary and wages, rent and electricity charges and should not involve additional collateral or paperwork.

For labour-intensive units under immense pressure to pay wages in the absence of production, it has been proposed for a three-month waiver on EPF and ESIC payment.

It is further proposed that on the lines of China, which has already provided 3 per cent additional export tax rebate on exports in March, all exporters should be given additional 2 per cent under the Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS). Labour-intensive sectors should be provided additional 4 per cent MEIS on exports up to March 31, 2021.

India's exports in the April-February 2019-20 period was 1.5 per cent lower to \$292.91 billion, although in February this year, it was marginally higher than the same month last year.

Source : The Business Line

Government extends existing Foreign Trade Policy till 31st March 2021

The Centre has extended the existing foreign trade policy (FTP) by a year to March 31, 2021, to ensure continuity of existing schemes for exporters and importers as they struggle to cope with business disruption due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Various other changes are also made — extending the date of exemption by one year and extending validity of DFIA and EPCG authorisations for import purposes.

All existing incentive schemes, including the popular Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme, will get an extension of one year and not lapse.

It is learnt that initially, the government was looking at a six-month extension of the FTP. But after due discussions, it was decided that since the Covid-19 situation was still unfolding and it would also take time for the economy to be back in shape once the crisis is over, the extension should be for one year.

Exporters had been demanding for the extension of the FTP as they argued that they had no appetite for new schemes and policies with their production halted, consignments stuck at ports and payments delayed.

In a video conference held by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to get inputs on the current situation, export organisations also made a case for extension of all applicable deadlines and validities.

One big relief for exporters is the continuation of MEIS, which earns them cashable scrips against exports of identified items, and the EPCG scheme, under which capital goods for production of export goods can be imported duty-free.

Although the World Trade Organization has ruled that both the schemes should be replaced as such sops are against multilateral rules, the Centre is now likely to take all the required time in doing so. MEIS will be gradually phased out and replaced with the new Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, as per a Cabinet discussion, but rates will be fixed after due consultations with stakeholders.

India's goods exports declined 1.5 per cent to US\$ 292.91 billion in April-February 2020 compared with year. Exports increased marginally in February 2020, but are expected to dip sharply this month because of the breakdown in production, supply and payments.

Source : The Business Line

Deadline to import and exports goods without furnishing bonds to Customs extended by CBIC

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has extended the deadline to import and export goods without furnishing bonds to the Customs authorities by a fortnight till May 15 to facilitate trade during the Covid-19 lockdown. This decision was taken in the background of the recent announcement by the government extending the lockdown till May 3 and taking into consideration that it might take some time after the end of the lockdown for the situation to normalise.

Importers and exporters who would be allowed this facility include government/public sector undertakings, manufacturer importer, Authorised Economic Operators and all importers availing Customs warehouse facility. The circular from CBIC said that businesses will, however, have to furnish a proper bond to the Customs authorities by May 30 for import and exports done through undertaking till May 15.

Source : <http://www.eximin.net/>

Exports of textiles and clothing fall

Textile and clothing exports have dropped 6% during the 2019-2020 financial year, with a major fall in March.

According to data available, textile and clothing exports in 2018-2019 were worth US\$35.9 billion and from April 2019 to March 2020 it was worth US\$ 33.8 billion.

In March 2020, exports fell 32.2% compared with the same period last year. Apparel exports, which were about US\$16.1 billion in 2018-19, fell almost 4% to US\$15.4 billion, with the March exports alone dropping almost 35% compared with the same month last year.

The fall in exports is due to the impact of COVID-19. In April, it is expected to be worse.

Source : The Hindu

Automated and paperless process taken to facilitate Customs clearance process

In order to mitigate the unprecedented situation due to the Covid-19 pandemic, CBIC has taken a number of measures to facilitate and expedite the Customs clearance process, making it more and more contact-less i.e. automated and online as well as paperless. These measures include the facility to clear goods on the basis of an undertaking (not bond), acceptance of electronic Country of Origin certificate, etc. These steps complement the earlier reforms unrolled as a part of Turant Customs such as online query module, eSanchit, web-based goods registration, electronic processing of DGFT-issued licenses, machine release of imported goods based on Customs Compliance Verification, and electronic transmission of PDF-based first copy of Bill of Entry (BoE) to Customs brokers and registered importers, highlighted a Department of Revenue/CBIC communiqué.

The aforementioned reforms combine to expedite Customs clearances and reduce the transaction cost. At the same time, the specific measures that reduce interface between the Customs authorities and importers/exporters/Customs brokers are especially relevant in these challenging times, to tackle the scourge of Covid-19 pandemic. In this direction, the Board has now decided to enable electronic communication of PDF-based final eOoC (electronic Out of Charge) copy of BoE and eGatepass to the importers/Customs brokers. This electronic communication would reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/Customs brokers and also do away with the requirement of taking bulky printouts from the Service Centre or maintenance of voluminous physical dockets in the Customs Houses. The Final eOoC copy of BoE and eGatepass copy will be emailed to the concerned Customs broker and/or importer, if registered, once the Out of Charge is granted. The eGatepass copy will be used by the Gate Officer or the Custodian to allow physical exit of the imported goods from the Customs area.

Source : <http://www.eximin.net/>



SRTEPC Chairman in an exclusive video conferencing with the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Mining and Marathi Language, Maharashtra, Shri Subhash Desai

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC attended an exclusive video conference Meeting with Shri Subhash Desai, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Mining and Marathi Language, Government of Maharashtra organized by the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) on 27th April 2020 at 12 noon. The objective of the Meeting was to assess the current situation in Maharashtra, address the difficulties of trade to the Hon'ble Minister and find possible solution to revive trade in the state.

Appreciating the efforts of the industry, The Hon'ble Minister said that this initiative of having a video conferencing was very helpful in sharing their views and concerns of the industry and the Government would co-operate with them. He welcomed these sessions and said that although few sessions may be resolved immediately; there were some sessions the Government would like to help but due to some restrictions a firm answer cannot be sought right now but he said that the issues will be taken up with the High Powered Committee and try to resolve them.

The SRTEPC Chairman put forth points of opening of office by giving special permission to at least 2-3 personnel of the accounts department to go to the office for one or two days and process the payroll for the staff, surrender of Bills, etc.

Some other issues discussed during the video conferencing were as follows :

- the Government of Maharashtra has been proactively able to curb the outbreak of COVID-19 in the state but how much time will it take to fully recover from the economic impact of the pandemic.
- the mechanism of working of MSMEs to resume with minimum staff once the lockdown is lifted.
- Request for assistance of State Government for paying wages to its employers as the Government has requested for employers to be paid wages during the lockdown but since there is no trade activity it is becoming uneconomical for industry to provide this facility.
- Consideration for a stimulus package by the State Government for the export industry as it hard hit by the current situation.
- Bailout package for migrant workers of Maharashtra.
- Vision and roadmap on recovery from the current crisis.

He thanked each and every member who participated in this Meeting and FIEO. He assured to continue this dialogue at a fixed time in a few days as he felt that the Government would be able to address issues better by then and also decide on the lockdown.



Thank You

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC along with the Vice Chairman, Shri Dhiraaj Shah express gratitude to all the members of the MMF textile fraternity for coming forward and donating generously to the P.M Cares Fund.

A special thanks to M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd., M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd. and M/s. RSWM Ltd. for their magnanimous contribution to this noble cause. The country is passing through difficult times and your support and offering would go a long way in helping others. God bless all of you and hope that things settle down soon.

Amendments in Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20

As you are aware, in view of the unprecedented current situation arising out of the pandemic Novel COVID-19, the Government of India decided to continue relief under various export promotion schemes by granting extension of the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 by another one year i.e. up to 31st March, 2021.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has issued various notifications, public notices and trade notices regarding extension of the validity of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 and Hand Book of Procedures 2015-20 for one Year (i.e upto 31st March, 2021)

Salient points of the changes made in the FTP are as follows:

- 1) The FTP 2015- 20, and HandBook of Procedures 2015-20 have been extended till 31.03.2021 to provide continuity in the policy regime.
- 2) Benefit under all the Export Promotion Schemes (except SEIS) and other schemes, shall be available for another 12 months. Decision on continuation of SEIS will be taken and notified subsequently.
- 3) Extension of the validity period of the Status Holder Certificates up to 31.03.2021 to enable the Status Holders to continue to avail the specified facilities/benefits.
- 4) Exemption from payment of IGST and Compensation Cess on the imports made under Advance/EPCG Authorisations and by EOUs etc. has been extended up to 31.03.2021.
- 5) Scheme for providing “Transport Marketing Assistance on the specified Agricultural Products” is further extended up to 31.03.2021.
- 6) If validity period for making imports under various duty free import authorizations (AA/DFIA/EPCG) expires between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020, then there is automatic extension for another 6 months from the date of expiry, without requirement of obtaining such endorsement on these authorizations.
- 7) If the period to make export is expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020 under various authorizations, automatic extension in the export obligation period is allowed for another 6 months from the date of expiry, without payment of any composition fee.
- 8) The due dates for applying for various duty credit Scrips (MEIS/SEIS/ROSCTL) and other Authorisations have been extended.
- 9) Time lines for imposing late cuts, on the applications which are filed after the prescribed dates, have been relaxed.
- 10) Validity period of Letter of Permission/ Letter of Intent as granted to EOUs, units in STPs/EHTPs/BTPs is further extended up to 31st December, 2020.
- 11) Last date of filing applications for refund of TED/Drawback, Transport and Marketing Assistance has been extended.
- 12) Extension in time has been allowed for filing various Reports>Returns etc. under various provisions of the FTP.

The Chapter-Wise Highlights are given here-below for your ready reference:

Chapter 1

- 1) **FTP Para 1.01** – The Validity of the FTP will be in force upto 31st March 2021 unless otherwise specified.
- 2) **HBP Para 1.01** – The Validity of the Procedures under the Handbook of Procedures will now be in force upto 31st March, 2021.

Chapter 2

- 3) **HBP Para 2.54 (d) (v) (ii)** – Related to import of un-shredded Metallic Waste and Scrap – Dates have been modified from 31st March, 2020 to 30th September 2020 and 1st April, 2020 to 1st October 2020.
- 4) **HBP Para 2.55 (d)** – Recognition as Pre-shipment Inspection Agency (PSIA) and issuance of Pre-shipment Certificate (PSIC) – The Public Notice extends the validity upto 31st March, 2020 or 29th June, 2020 to be deemed valid upto 30th June, 2020.



Chapter 3

- 5) **HBP Para 3.15 (a) (i)** – MEIS Last Date of Filing – For Shipping Bills where LEO date falls during the period 01.02.2019 to 31.05.2019 the application will be allowed to be filed in a period of 15 Months instead of 12 Months.
- 6) **HBP Para 3.15 (b)** – SIES Last Date of Filing – The last date for filing of SEIS Applications for FY 18-19 shall be 31.12.2020
- 7) **FTP Para 3.08 (a)** – Eligibility of SEIS – it has been added "However, the service categories eligible under the scheme and the rates of reward on such services as rendered w.e.f 1st April, 2019 to 31st March, 2020 shall be notified separately in Appendix 3X. For Services rendered w.e.f 1st April, 2020, decision on continuation of the scheme will be taken subsequently and notified accordingly."
- 8) **HBP Para 3.20(a)** – Validity of Status Holder Certificate – the words “..... or 31.03.2021, whichever is later” are added in the end of the para, making the certificate valid until 31st March, 2021 atleast.

Chapter 4

- 9) **FTP Para 4.14** – Advance Authorization – Details of Duties Exempted. – The IGST and Compensation Cess Exemption are extended upto 31.03.2021. This is as per GST Council Decision, incorporated in FTP as well. The Customs has also issued the corresponding notification.
- 10) **HBP Para 4.12(vi)** – Norms ratified by any Norms Committee (NC) – The Validity of the Ad-hoc Norms which was upto 31.03.2020 or a period of 3 Years, The date 31.03.2020 is substituted with 31.03.2021.
- 11) **HBP Para 4.41** – Validity period for import and Revalidation of Authorisation – A sub para (e) has been added after 4.41 (d) which automatically extends the validity for Import for all Authorizations expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020 by 6 months from the date of expiry. No separate amendment/endorsement is required by the authorization. Also, the option to avail further validity extension under this para would remain available as per the eligibility.
- 12) **HBP Para 4.42** – Export Obligation (EO) Period and its Extension – A Sub Para (h) has been added after 4.42 (g) – which automatically extends the Export Obligation period of all the Authorisation expiring between 01.02.2020 and 31.07.2020 by 6 months from the date of expiry. No separate Application with composition Fee, amendment or endorsement is required. Also, the option to avail further validity extension under this para would remain available as per the eligibility.
- 13) **HBP Para 4.85 A** – Addition of Para after 4.85 - Exports against Advance Authorisation– the para provides the extension for 6 Months for Export/Import/replenishment/drawal of precious metal as calculated under sub para 4.82, 4.83, 4.84 and 4.85. However, the relaxation in the period for repatriation /forex realization would be equal to the period as allowed plus six months, or as per RBI guidelines whichever is less.
- 14) **FTP Para 4.29 (viii)** – Validity of DFIA - Where validity of Import expiring between 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020 the same is extended automatically for 6 months.
- 15) **HBP Para 4.95 (k) (a)** – Last date for filing of Online Claims of Rebate of State and Central Levies and Taxes (RoSCTL) – For shipping bills with LEO date from 07.03.2019 to 31.12.2019 which was 31.06.2020 will now be 31.12.2020.

Chapter 5

- 16) **FTP Para 5.01 (a)** – EPCG Scheme – The Exemption of IGST and Compensation Cess is extended upto 31.03.2021. This is as per GST Council Decision, incorporated in FTP as well. The Customs has also issued the corresponding notification.
- 17) **FTP Para 5.01 (c)** – EPCG – Import Validity – Where validity of Import expiring between 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020 the same is extended automatically for 6 Months.
- 18) **HBP Para 5.04 (a)** – Certificate of Installation of Capital Goods – where the six months period expires during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020, the period for submission of Installation Certificate is extended by further 6 Months from the Original Due Date.
- 19) **HBP Para 5.14** – Block-wise Fulfillment of EO – There is addition after 5.14 (d) as sub para 5.14 (e) which automatically extends Block-wise EO Period by 6 months for period expiring during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020 under Para 5.14 (a),(b),(c).



20) **HBP Para 5.17** – Extension in Export Obligation Period– There is addition after 5.17 (d) as sub para 5.17 (e) which automatically extends Export Obligation Period by 6 months for period expiring during 01.02.2020 to 31.07.2020 under Para 5.17 (a),(b),(c).

Chapter 6

21) **Para 6.01 d (ii)** – Supply to EOU by DTA – Exemption of IGST & Compensation Cess is extended upto 31.03.2021. This is as per GST Council Decision, incorporated in FTP as well. The Customs has also issued the corresponding notification

Chapter 7

22) **HBP Para 7.05 (a)** – Frequency of application and time period for claiming TED / Drawback – In case the where the date falls on or after 1st March, 2020, the date of filing of applications may be deemed to be extended upto 30.09.2020

23) **HBP Para 7A.01 (d)** – Last date for Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products – The Last date for refund of Claims for quarter ending 31st March,2019 and 30th June, 2019 will be 30th September 2020.

Chapter 9

24) **HBP Para 9.02** – The Public Notice amends the para that for the purpose of Late Cut, the Last Date of Submission will be taken as per the extended period in the said Public Notice 67/2015-20 Dt. 31.03.2020

General Provisions:

- a) Apart from the above, the Public Notice has added and modified the dates in various Appendices and ANF corresponding to the overall change of extension of deadlines.
- b) The DGFT has instructed all Regional Authorities (RAs) not to insist for Valid RCMC (if the same is expired on or before 31.03.2020) from applicants till 30.09.2020. They have also Instructed EPCs to collect applicable fees for the year 2020-21 on restoration of normalcy. (Please refer Trade Notice No. 60/2019-20 Dt. 31.03.2020)

Source:

Press Release dated 31st March, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Commerce and industry

DGFT's Trade Notice No. 60/2019-20 Dt. 31.03.2020 and No. 3/2020-21 dated 15.4.2020

DGFT's Notification No.57/2015-20 dated 31.03.2020

DGFT;s Public Notice No.67/2015-20 dated 31.03.2020 and No. 1/2015-20 dated 7.4.2020



SRTEPC, Chairman, one of the panelists at the webinar hosted by Indian Textile Journal

The Indian Textile Journal hosted a one-hour webinar on “Reweaving the success story of the textile industry amid COVID-19 pandemic” on 28th April 2020. Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC was one of the panelists at the webinar. The other speakers were Shri Navdeep Sodhi, Partner, Gherzi Consulting Engineers Pvt Ltd, Shri Ashok Juneja, President, The Textile Association of India, Shri Kapil Pathare, Director, VIP Clothing Ltd and Shri G V Aras, Director, Textile Engineering Group, A.T.E. Enterprises Pvt Ltd.

Talking about the Indian manmade fibre textiles industry Shri Ronak Rughani said that the challenges being faced by the Indian MMF textile segments are taxation on MMF textiles are historically high and there is no Fibre Neutrality, prevalence of Inverted Duty Structure under GST in the MMF textiles segment, accumulation of huge ITC that is neither utilised nor refunded because of Inverted Duty Structure prevailing in MMF textiles segment, non refund of GST/IGST on Capital goods, most of the imports of the world in the MMF segment is in knits, nonwovens and technical textiles. He stated that the challenge will be to ramp up R and D and Strengthen the knitting segment, processing and R and D for technical textiles, higher interest rate hindering investment in MMF textile segment being highly capital investment as well as exports, lack of Schemes for production and development of Manmade fibre (MMF) raw-materials, Manmade fibre and Filament segment in line with Cotton, Jute, Silk, etc. non-availability of TUFS benefits for Manmade fibres and Filament yarns, etc.

Regarding the major hurdles being faced by exporters of manmade fibre textiles Shri Rughani informed that prevalence of Inverted Duty Structure under GST in the MMF textiles segment resulted in accumulation of huge ITC that is neither utilised nor refunded due to which substantial amount of working capital has been blocked in MMF textiles segment, Growing Fierce competition globally and very thin profit margin for Indian MMF textiles due to lack of government policy support vis-à-vis increasing policy support provided by competing countries like China, Turkey, etc. continuation of ADD by major MMF textile importing countries viz., Turkey, Peru, USA, EU, Vietnam, Mexico, etc. textile Job works not considered as Manufacturing in the GST regime which earlier was, textile Merchant Exporters not considered as Manufacturer exporter and deprived them from the Government Schemes, lack of Branding in the Indian textiles industry including the MMF textiles segment, poor Perception on Indian Textile Industry that needs to be changed, non-inclusion of entire MMF textiles value chain in Government Schemes viz., MEIS, RoSL/RoSCTL, Interest Equalisation, etc., rationalisation of GST on MMF textiles segment and Refunds IGST/ITC/TUFS) to the exporters/ business need to be immediate. Refund of IGST/GST/TUFS on import/procurement of capital goods for encouraging new investments are some of the hurdles being faced by the exporters.

Shri Rughani further added that COVID-19 has compounded troubles of the exporters in the MMF textiles segment who were already grappling with its survival. He informed that with the COVID-19 outbreak and its global spread, exports have been awfully impacted as there are no fresh orders and orders which were finalised before coronavirus outbreak are being cancelled and deferred. The industry was already prepared for the Spring and Summer seasons orders, undergoing last stage of production and many of them was about to ship.

Some of the export orders have been cancelled by importers which were already en route to destinations/at ports that exporters had to bring back to their warehouses. There have been huge losses incurred and shortage of funds due to the cancellation and deferred orders and that put the industry under ventilators. Additional financial burden is being imposed by the Banks by charging penalty/ difference amount on the Forward Contracts which could not be unutilised by the exporters due to cancellation of orders.

On the Government schemes (MEIS, RoSL/RoSCTL, etc) helping exporters Shri Rughani informed that Govt. Schemes have been helpful for the exporters. However, the entire MMF textile value chain viz. fibre, yarn, and fabrics are not covered under the RoSL/RoSCTL. Even most of the items of MMF value chain such as fibre, yarn and some of the items of fabrics are not covered under MEIS. Since the MMF textile segment is fragmented and decentralised, all the manufacturing activities such as fibre, yarn, weaving, processing, dyeing, finishing, and other value addition are done in different units / entities.

He also said that if the Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme covers the entire MMF value chain by rebating the taxes/ levies paid at every stage then the exports of MMF textiles will grow.

Shri Rughani also mentioned that the USA has been threatening to be out of WTO. Therefore, the existence of the WTO is a concern. We need to think beyond the existence of the WTO in future and make our strategies accordingly.

Impact of COVID – 19 pandemic on textile industry : Recovery strategy amid and post-COVID-19

Impact of COVID - 19 on the textile industry

Outbreak of COVID -19 pandemic and its fast global spread has brought catastrophe to the entire world economy and textiles segment is also not an exception. Across countries there has been fall in consumer confidence, a sharp drop in domestic and external demand, reduction in trade, disruption in production, tightening of financial conditions, etc. Shops have been closed, importers, brands and retailers have an oversupply situation as sales have drastically dropped. With fear of not being able to sell their supplies the importers and buyers are cancelling the orders, delaying the shipments which were about to move from Indian ports and they are also not clearing the containers already landed at the port of destination. Outbreak of COVID -19 pandemic has created a unfathomed supply chain disruptions globally including in India.

Nationwide lockdown and social distancing have brought down production activities in the entire textile value chain into a standstill as textile products have been considered as “Nonessential commodities”. It has also crippled the logistics including paralysing the shipping lines.

Cancelled export orders coupled with stopped factory activities have increased financial burden and adversely impacted economic positions of the manufacturers & exporters. It has also left employment of the workers at stake resulting to loss of millions of jobs in the textile industry.

The Manmade fibre sector which has already been under Inverted Duty Structure in the GST regime, further impacted after outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Manmade Fibre Textiles exports from India during FY 2019-20

As far as exports are concerned, impact of COVID-19 has been severe. Month-on-month exports of textile and clothing have dropped by 32.25% during March'20 vis-à-vis March'19 and the exports of MMF textiles have dropped by 24.82% during the month. Exports of Indian MMF textiles for the entire FY 2019-20* in value terms are estimated to be US\$ 5980.87 mn, showing a negative growth of (-) 2.57 % over the same period last year.

Segment	Unit	In Quantity (thousand)		% change in 2019-20	In Value (US\$ mn.)		% change in 2019-20
		2018-19	2019-20		2018-19	2019-20	
Fibre	kg.	370172.58	384346.86	3.83	570.80	533.33	-6.56
Yarn	kg.	982715.07	972659.30	-1.02	2035.89	1786.49	-12.25
Fabrics	kg.	86462.02	110351.77	27.63	1959.10	2171.95	10.86
	sqm.	1825800.71	2036977.76	11.57			
Made-ups	kg.	358099.8	435623.54	21.65	1572.78	1489.09	-5.32
	No.	94921.3	82290.92	-13.31			
	sqm.	311.4	176.59	-43.29			
Total					6138.57	5980.87	-2.57

SOURCE: DGCI&S data compiled by SRTEPC

* Exports include Re-exports which will be revised based on the Final data released by DGCI&S.

Export of MMF Fabrics shows a positive growth of (+) 10.86% during April-March 2019-20 as compared to the same period of the previous year. Exports of Manmade Staple Fibre, MMF Yarn, and MMF Made-ups show a negative growth of (-) 6.56%, 12.25%, and 5.32% respectively. Share of the value-added segments like Fabrics and Made-ups has increased by 3.66 per cent during April-March 2019-20 over the same period last year.

Probable solutions before the industry to reduce the impact

IMF warns about global economy setting for its sharpest reversal since Great Depression. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, WHO says "This is an unprecedented crisis, which demands an unprecedented response."

In this regard, the SRTEPC has been in continuous discussion with the Government and other bodies keeping them updated about the challenges being faced by the manufacturers and exporters in the MMF textiles segment. It is requested to the Government to announce a Special Corona-Relief package for the textile industry including entire value chain of the MMF textile segment to tide over the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Some of the main components that the Government may include in the above-mentioned Package are as follows:

- (i) Special Export incentive of 3% on fibre & yarn, 4% on fabric, 5% on made-ups for at least 6 months or till the impact of coronavirus subsides and global markets stabilise.
- (ii) A separate package for MMF textiles segment as this segment has been reeling under Inverted Duty Structure under GST.
- (iii) Extend one-year moratorium with immediate effect till March 31, 2021 for repayment of principal and interest amounts to the banks and NBFCs.
- (iv) Extend support to the industry for payment of salaries and wages to the workers during the lock-down period.
- (v) Compensate the full expenses incurred by the exporters due to cancellation and deferred export orders.
- (vi) Extend benefits of the RoSCTL and MEIS to the entire MMF textile value chain viz., fibres, yarns, fabrics, made-ups, etc.
- (vii) Give 5% IES benefits to entire MMF textile value chain.
- (viii) Release all pending dues under Drawback, MEIS, GST, ROSL, RoSCTL, TUFs on an urgent basis or extend soft loan equivalent to Government dues pending in the books of individual textile units that could be adjusted soon as the Government clears the dues.
- (ix) Waive off the interest charges for a period of six months on all loans.
- (x) Give interest-free loan to cover forward contract losses.
- (xi) Automatic enhancement of working capital limit and advances for exports by 25% without further condition/collaterals.
- (xii) Amnesty for the default under Advance/EPCG authorization/EOU etc.
- (xiii) RBI to relax NPA norms for 6 months, so that no default will be eligible for being termed as an NPA account.
- (xiv) Reduce the freight charges and ensure availability of containers for export shipments.
- (xv) Defer payment of ESI contributions to tide over the crisis, since government is prepared to pay 3 months PF contributions.
- (xvi) Extension of due date of LCs by Rollover or Providing Fund Based Credit for March & April 2020.
- (xvii) In views of this extreme uncertain and unstable payment situation, it is requested that the Ministry of Finance should help and intervene through RBI in hedging the export payment for a period of at least 180 days.

The other immediate measures that need to be taken for reducing COVID-19 impact on the textile industry are:

- (i) Allow the textile industry to resume functioning of the units at least with 50% of the essential working staff by letting the owners compulsorily to follow the COVID-19 guidelines.
- (ii) Include Trade documentation/ paper work, Certificate of Origin, Testing Reports, etc. also in the “Essential Services” category and issue e-passes to the employees, CHA, officials of EPCs, Testing Agencies/organisations, etc. who are associated with paper-work and documentation such as Testing reports, Certificate of Origin, etc. that are essential for export shipments.
- (iii) Special arrangements to be made for couriering necessary export documents like BL, LC, Agreements, etc.
- (iv) Ports and Customs like CBIC/JNPT/Mundra customs should authorise shipping lines to allow loading of export containers basis verification of LEO against specific shipping bill in the ICEGATE after CHA gives in writing through e-mail, confirming the shipping bill number, date and LEO status without insisting on shipping bill print with LEO.
- (v) In Nhava Sheva port, Customs may also allow container RFID seal verification directly at each terminal gate and allow customs LEO at each terminal gate itself.
- (vi) Extension of pre and post-shipment credit tenure.
- (vii) Extension of export payment realization period from 270 days to 365 days and in case of delay in payments beyond the due date, no penal rate of interests should be charged by the banks.
- (viii) Remove the list of Risky exporters.
- (ix) Textile industry being a continuous process and predominantly export oriented industry, advise the State Governments to permit the units run with prescribed pre-conditions. And,
- (x) Allow options to all companies to restructure loans for one year without any additional charges by Banks for provisioning etc.

The textile industry is about to collapse unless Government supports with revival package as soon as possible.

How to take advantage of government relief measures

The textile industry in India is highly fragmented and more than 60% of the manufacturing units are MSMEs. The gravity of impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is such acute that the entire textile value chain needs to be supported by the relief measures.

However, it is important that the details of any relief scheme announced by the Government, need to be communicated on time and in a clear manner to help the end beneficiaries understand and comply to. It should be ensured that the said scheme/measures need to be easy for compliance by the beneficiary companies. Further, the system related intricacies of the scheme need to be user friendly and efficient.



Post COVID - 19 recovery strategy

As it is understood from Report that states of Asia is witnessing early indications of containment and the resumption of economic activity. India has already begun working on continuity plans and ways to kickstart the economy. The Ministry of Textiles has roped in the IITs to address both immediate and medium-term action plans for the industry in the post-COVID-19 situation for the textiles industry. Ministry of Textiles has constituted five Technological Task Forces led by various IITs for the entire textiles value chain.

Some of the urgent Post COVID-19 strategies are the following:

(I) Need to strengthen the “Make in India” initiative.

The COVID-19 pandemic has paralysed the manufacturing segments which were totally dependent on imported raw materials, parts, etc. and has casted serious ramifications on financial positions of the units, employment situation, etc. Therefore, it is the need of the hour that the Government under the “Make in India” initiative needs to focus on domestically producing the products in entire value chain of each segment through Public Private Partnership/ collaborative approach. This initiative will help in more employment generation and reduce our over dependence on foreign supply.

(II) Restructuring the entire supply chains

The COVID-19 crisis has shown that our dependence on any single supply chain is a weak link. Therefore, there is a need to restructuring of our supply chains. Companies may accelerate their supply-chain transition from China to other parts of Asia.

(III) Focusing on futuristic technologies

Outbreak of COVID-19 has made us feel that there is an urgent need to increase the adoption of new technologies across all aspects of life, from e-commerce to remote working and learning tools to dispatch information, connect physically distanced teams, give instructions, coordinate, etc. Use of social networking modes has increased rapidly. Many brands have increased their online promotions to capture demand.

This kind of new technologies for remote working are likely to be the new normal, hence both the public and private players need to focus one such futuristic technologies.

(IV) Speedy policy Implementation

Government should provide policy-supports to rescue the Indian textile industry that provides the highest employment in the manufacturing segments. Timely announcement and its implementation are very important for any policy initiative to get its desired result. Otherwise, the other competing countries will be in a better position to take advantage and sabotage of competitiveness.

(V) Devise Creative and innovative thinking to boost exports

Textile companies will have to think innovative ways to increase their exports. Digital marketing in place of physical visits to markets to negotiate business is likely be the sustainable way. So, companies will have to scale up and strengthen their digital capabilities. Some other ways they can increase exports is by personalization, customer experience, evaluating companies Annual Reports, etc.

(VI) Focus on Sustainability issues

In concurrence with COVID-19 outbreak, sustainability issues will become the new way to value businesses because by now the consumers are seemed to be serious on their clothing and hence retreat from over-consumption and irresponsible business practices. Accordingly, companies will have to introduce new tools and strategies across the value chain to future-proof their business models. They will have to harness innovations in order to make radical and enduring changes to their organisations.

(VII) Rethink Branding

The COVID-19 situation seemed to have changed consumer behaviours and the concept of fashion to a purpose-driven and sustainable action clothing. To meet these expectations, fashion players likely to have adapted their recovery position based on impact severity and reinvent their value chain. Except a purpose-driven and sustainable action clothing, spending on conventional apparel is likely to go down in days to come.

Conclusion

At this time of COVID-19 pandemic crisis, it is urgent that the Government extends helping hands by ways of favourable policy initiatives and rescue the textile industry including the MMF textile segment from further damage. Focus should also be given on R & D and innovations. Special Schemes need to be implemented to encourage investment in weaving, processing, technical textiles, that have substantial growth potential in the near future.



SHRI RONAK RUGHANI, CHAIRMAN, SRTEPC PARTICIPATES IN THE PANEL DISCUSSION BY POLICY TIMES



The SRTEPC Chairman, Shri Ronak Rughani was part of the panel discussion organized by Policy Times on the topic Corona & Future of India's Foreign Trade with EPCs held on 27th April 2020

The discussion dealt on three main issues which are currently affecting trade and industry especially exports due to the outbreak of COVID-19. These are :

- Safety and protection of health workers
- Future of India's foreign trade (exports & imports)
- Stimulus package to revitalize exports.

Shri Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC said that health workers are risking their lives and therefore we need to ensure all safety measures for them. He said that adequate provision for PPE should be made.

On the future of India's foreign trade, Shri Rughani pointed out the Indian textile industry is not import dependent but ours is a net textile exporting country next to China and most of the goods in the textile value chain are domestically produced. He said that the global outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted the entire world supply chain and exports have definitely suffered a huge setback as export orders have been cancelled or deferred. Shri Rughani said that the generally the last quarter of the fiscal year is the best as exports rise substantially during the period but this year the picture is far from it and there is likely to be decline of 8-10%.

In light of the current situation, the SRTEPC Chairman requested for following measures in the stimulus package to revive exports :

- Interventions in hedging of payments
- Compensate the expenses incurred due to cancellation & deferred orders
- Extension of one year moratorium
- Increase in the period of payment realization from 270 days to 365 days and in case of delay in payments beyond the due date, no penal rate of interest be charged.
- Extend soft loans against export benefits receivables
- The entire MMF textile value chain be covered under ROSCTL, MEIS and Interest Equilisation Scheme.
- ECGC support to address cancelled and deferred orders
- Support in payment of salaries during lockdown period
- Relax NPA norms for six months
- Defer payments of ESI contribution for at least 3 months.



MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

DGFT

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	Notification No.57/2015-2020	31/3/2020	Extension of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 till 31/3/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of FTP2015-20 upto 31/3/2021 • Date of exemptions by one year • Validity of DFIA and EPCG Authorizations for import purposes. 	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Notification%2057%20eng%20signed%20and%20scanned%201.pdf
2.	Notification No. 52/2015-20	19/3/2020	Amendment in Export Policy of Masks, Ventilators and textile raw material for masks and coveralls	Export of Surgical/Disposable (2/3Ply) Masks only and Textile raw material for masks and coveralls falling under ITCHS Codes specified against each has been prohibited, with immediate effect.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2052_0.pdf
3.	Notification No.48/2015-20	25/2/2020	Amendment in Export Policy of Personal Protection Equipments/ Masks	Notif. No.47 dtd 8/2/2020 is amended. Items under Sr.No.1-10 are allowed freely for export. Export of all other Personal Protection Equipment including N-95 masks remains Prohibited.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2048%20PPE_0.pdf
4.	Public Notice No.01/2015-20	7/4/2020	One time condonation under the EPCG Scheme-Extension till 31/3/2021	Time period to receive requests in RAs for block-wise extension; extension in Export Obligation Period and submission of installation certificate is extended up to 31/3/2021.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/PN%20No.1%20signed%20English%20scanned%20copy%20no.1.pdf
5.	Public Notice No.67/2015-2020	31/3/2020	Extension of Hand Book of Procedures 2015-2020 till 31/3/2021	Validity of HBP 2015-20 extended upto 31/3/2021. Various amendments made - providing extension in export Obligation period in case of Advance and EPCG Authorisations, validity period of status certificates, dates of filing various applications and returns etc.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/PN%2067%20%28english%29%20signed%20and%20scanned-1.pdf
6.	Trade Notice No. 03/2020-21	15/4/2020	Manner of Continuation of Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) for shipments on or after 1/4/2020 and Introduction of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme	(a) Benefits under MEIS for any item currently listed in Appx 3B, Table 2 of MEIS will be available only up to 31/12/2020; (b) Prior to 31/12/2020, as and when an item is notified to be covered under RoDTEP Scheme, it would at the same time be removed from MEIS; (c) Detailed operational framework for RoDTEP will be notified separately.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%2003%2015%20April%202020.pdf
7.	Trade Notice No. 01/2020-2021	7/4/2020	Electronic filling and Issuance of Preferential Certificate of Origin for India's Exports under AIFTA, IJCEPA, SAPTA, SAFTA, APTA, ISLFTA wef 7/4/2020	A platform has been designed as a single-point access for all FTAs/PTAs, for all designated Certificate of Origin (CoO) issuing agencies and for all export products, and is accessible at the URL: https://coo.dgft.gov.in	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%201%20eCoO%20go-live%207Apr2020.pdf
8.	Trade Notice No.62/2019-2020	6/4/2020	Retrospective Issuance of Certificates of Origin under India's Trade Agreements	All such applications would be processed by the authorised agencies of India and the digitally signed copies transmitted to the applicants.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20No.62.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
9.	Trade Notice No. 61/2019-2	02/4/2020	Acceptance of scanned copies of pre-registration application and other documents by Local Users for REG under the European Union's Generalised System of Preferences (EUGSP)	It is instructed that until the offices of the Local Users for REG open after normalcy returns, they would accept scanned copies of the Pre-registration application and other relevant documents submitting by the applicant exporters for processing their applications.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20No.61.pdf
10.	Trade Notice No.60/2019-2020	31/3/2020	Extension of validity of Registration cum Membership Certificate (RCMC) beyond 31/3/2020	The Regional Authorities (RAs) of DGFT will not insist on valid RCMC (where the same has expired on or before 31/3/2020) from the applicants for any incentive/authorizations till 30 September.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%20No.60.pdf
11.	Trade Notice No.59/2019-2020	28/3/2020	Retrospective Issuance of Certificates of Origin under India's of trading Agreements	In view of these exceptional circumstances, the certificates would be issued retrospectively by the concerned Indian agencies after they open their offices.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Trade%20Notice%2059.pdf
12.	Policy Circular No.33/2015-20	20/3/2020	Clarification on Notification No. 50/2015-20 dated 3/3/2020	All other items under the ITC (HS) codes in the notification other than the ones falling under the item description specified against each code in the Notification are allowed for exports.	https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/PC%2033_0.pdf

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CBIC - CUSTOMS

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	Notification No. 20/2020-Cus	9/4/2020	To exempt customs duty on ventilators, personal protection equipments, covid-19 testing kits and inputs for these goods.	Government grants exemption from Basic Custom duty & Health Cess on import of Ventilators, PPE, COVID Test Kits & Face & Surgical Masks	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs20-2020.pdf
2.	Notification No. 19/2020-Cus	9/4/2020	To amend notification No. 8/2020-Cus dt 2/2/2020 to make changes consequential to enactment of Finance Act, 2020.	Makes amendments in Notification No. 8/2020-Cus, dated 2/2/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs19-2020.pdf
3.	Notification No. 18/2020-Cus	30/3/2020	To extend the exemption from Integrated Tax and Compensation Cess upto 31/3/2021 on goods imported against AA/EPCG authorizations	CBIC extends the exemption from Integrated Tax and Compensation Cess upto 31.03.2021 on goods imported against AA/EPCG authorizations vide Notif.No. 18/2020-Cus dtd 30/3/2020.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs18-2020.pdf
4.	Notification No. 17/2020-Cus	25/3/2020	To further amend notification No. 69/2011-Customs to deepen the tariff concessions under the India-Japan CEPA.	CBIC further amends notification No. 69/2011-Customs to deepen the tariff concessions under the India-Japan CEPA vide Notification No. 17/2020-Customs dtd 25/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs17-2020.pdf
5.	Notification No. 16/2020-Cus	24/3/2020	Amendment to Notification No. 52/2003-Cus dtd 31/3/2003 for extending exemption from IGST and compensation cess to EOUs on imports till 31/3/2021	CBIC amends Notification No.52/2003-Customs dated 31/3/2003 for extending exemption from IGST and compensation cess to EOUs on imports till 31/3/2021.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs16-2020.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
6.	Notification No. 39/2020-Cus (NT)	16/4/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 17/4/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt39-2020.pdf
7.	Notification No. 37/2020-Cus (NT)	1/4/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 2/4/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt37-2020.pdf
8.	Notification No. 35/2020-Cus(NT)	30/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 31/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt35-2020.pdf
9.	Notification No. 34/2020-Cus (NT)	27/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 28/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt34-2020.pdf
10.	Notification No. 32/2020-Cus (NT)	26/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 27/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt32-2020.pdf
11.	Notification No. 30/2020-Cus (NT)	24/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 25/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt30-2020.pdf
12.	Notification No. 28/2020-Cus (NT)	20/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 21/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt28-2020.pdf
13.	Notification No. 27/2020-Cus (NT)	19/3/2020	Exchange Rates Notification	Notifies Rate of Exchange of Foreign Currencies w.e.f. 20/3/2020	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-nt2020/csnt27-2020.pdf
14.	Circular No. 22/2020	21/4/2020	IGST refunds on exports-extension in SB005 alternate mechanism- reg	As Exporters are facing hard-ships due to the SB005 errors, it has now been decided to extend the facility of SB005 error correction in the Customs EDI system for Shipping Bills with date upto 31/12/2019.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-22-2020.pdf
15.	Circular No. 21/2020	21/4/2020	Review of Circular No. 17/2020 dated 3/4/2020 namely, 'Measures to facilitate trade during the lockdown period-section 143 AA of the Customs Act, 1962' - reg	CBIC extends the facility of accepting undertaking in lieu of bond required during customs clearance for the period till 15/5/2020. Consequently, the date for submission of proper bond in lieu of which the undertaking is being temporarily accepted is extended till 30/5/2020.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-21-2020.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
16.	Circular No. 20/2020	21/4/2020	Electronic Sealing-Deposit in and removal of goods from Customs Bonded Warehouses	CBIC has decided to defer the implementation of Electronic Sealing-Deposit in and removal of goods from Customs Bonded Warehousing to 1/7/2020.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-20-2020-updated.pdf
17.	Circular No. 19/2020	13/4/2020	Paperless Customs - Electronic Communication of PDF based Gatepass and OOC Copy of Bill of Entry to Custom Brokers/Importers	The electronic communication of the Final eOoC copy of BoE and eGatepass copy is expected to bring immense benefits in terms of time and cost of compliance and reduction in interface for the trade, while providing enhanced security features for verification of authenticity and validity of the electronic documents.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-19-2020.pdf
18.	Circular No. 18/2020	11/4/2020	Clearance of goods under India's Trade Agreements without original Certificate of Origin.	CBIC has requested Customs field formations to maintain a record of all cases of relaxation allowed by them and will ensure that such provisional assessments are finalized at the earliest and in accordance with the prescribed regulations.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-18-2020.pdf
19.	Circular No. 17/2020	3/4/2020	Measure to facilitate trade during the lockdown period-section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962.	Importers/Exporters availing this facility shall ensure that the undertaking furnished in lieu of bond is duly replaced with a proper bond before the stipulated period i.e. 7/5/2020.	http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-circulars/cs-circulars-2020/Circular-No-17-2020.pdf
20.	Instructions No.03	9/4/2020	Refund Instructions	CBIC instructs to expedite pending refund & drawback claims	http://cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-instructions/cs-instructions-2020/cs-ins-03-2020.pdf

MUMBAI CUSTOMS

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	Public Notice No. 26/2020	17/4/2020	Paperless Customs - Electronic Communication of PDF based Gate pass & OOC Copy of BE to Custom Brokers/Importer	In order to reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/exporters/Customs Brokers. Board as decided to enable electronic communication of PDF. The final eOoC (Electronic out of charge) copy of BoE and e-gate pass.	http://www.mumbaicutomszone1.gov.in/writereaddata/images/publicnotice/PN-26-2020.pdf
2.	Public Notice No. 25/2020	8/4/2020	Temporary provision for filing IGM/EGM without submission of hard copy	Mumbai Customs has decided that the Shipping Lines may file IGM/EGM temporarily only through online mode.	http://www.mumbaicutomszone1.gov.in/writereaddata/images/publicnotice/PN-25-2020.pdf
3.	Public Notice No. 24/2020	8/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measures- Procedure for assessment in cases of non submission of Original Country of Origin Certificates	To facilitate Trade while safeguarding the interest of Revenue in this unprecedented situation, Mumbai Customs has issued procedures which is given in this Public Notice.	http://www.mumbaicutomszone1.gov.in/writereaddata/images/publicnotice/PN-24-2020.pdf
4.	Public Notice No. 22/2020	5/4/2020	Speedy Clearance of consignments/cargo pending for clearance at Mumbai Port and ICD Mulund during the outbreak of COVID-19	To avoid congestion at Mumbai Sea Port and ICD Mulund and to ensure that the domestic supply chains for goods remain active, trade is advised to take recourse to the procedure specified.	http://www.mumbaicutomszone1.gov.in/writereaddata/images/publicnotice/PN-22-2020.pdf



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CUSTOMS HOUSE

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	Public Notice No.56/2020	20/4/2020	Facilitation measures to maintain social distancing - Procedure for giving Out of Charge (OOC) at RMS Facilitation Centre	To further reduce the need for physical visits to RMS-FC and to facilitate trade, procedure/ guidelines have been issued by Customs.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN_56_2020.pdf
2.	Public Notice No.55/2020	14/4/2020	P N - 5 3 / 2 0 2 0 d a t e d 13.04.2020 - Manner of submission of documents for cancellation of Bond/BG	Para 3 of Public Notice No. 53/2020 dated 13/4/2020 is amended by Customs	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN_55_2020.pdf
3.	Public Notice No.54/2020	14/4/2020	Paperless Customs-Electronic Communication of PDF based Gate pass and OOC Copy of BE to Custom Brokers/Importers	In order to reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/exporters/Customs Brokers, Board as decided to enable electronic communication of PDF. The final eOoC (Electronic out of charge) copy of BoE and e-gate pass to the importers/custom brokers	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2054_2020.pdf
4.	Public Notice No.52/2020	10/4/2020	Clarification to Public Notice No. 48/2020	A facilitation by way of extended window for direct delivery to importer recognizing that there is a changeover period.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-52-2020.pdf
5.	Public Notice No.51/2020	9/4/2020	Amendment to Public Notice No. 48/2020 and procedure in respect of en bloc Rail movement of Import containers from Port Terminals / Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) to ICD, Tarapur (Vaishno Container Terminal), Mahagaon, Boisar and clearance thereof	ICD, Tarapur (Vaishno Container Terminal), Mahagaon, Boisar, Maharashtra is also declared as an "Extended Port Gate" of JNPT in respect of clearances of DPD-DPD containers.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-51-2020.pdf
6.	Public Notice No.50/2020	9/4/2020	Customs clearance on the basis of self-certified copies of PTA/FTA certificates in case of DPD/AEO Clients - Facilitation provided to AEO /DPD importers due to COVID-19	The requirement of submission of original PTA/FTA certificate within 15 days of clearance of goods as per Public Notice No. 31/2017 has been temporarily relaxed and the original certificate may be submitted within 15 days after the end of lock down period as declared by the Government.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%20No50%20of%202020.pdf
7.	Public Notice No.49/2020	9/4/2020	COVID-19 facilitation measure- Approval of additional place under Section 8 (a) of Customs Act, 1962 for unloading/loading of import and export goods	JNCH, Nhava-Sheva has approved the place as per DRG No IS/JNPT-PARKING PLAZA/201507001 as place for unloading/loading of imported goods.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2049_2020.pdf
8.	Public Notice No. 48/2020	9/4/2020	Procedure in respect of en bloc Rail movement of Import containers from Port Terminals / Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Container Corporation of India, Inland Container Depot (ICD), Mulund and clearance thereof	ICD, Tarapur (Vaishno Container Terminal), Mahagaon, Boisar, Maharashtra is also declared as an "Extended Port Gate" of JNPT in respect of clearances of DPD-DPD containers.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-48-2020.pdf
9.	Public Notice No.47/2020	9/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measures- Online submission of documents for taking approval order for movement of containers from port to SEZ/FTWZ	To reduce physical human contact and movement in the COVID-19 situation, procedures (given in the Public Notice) are being temporarily put in place till further orders.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-47-2020.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
10.	Public Notice No.46/2020	7/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measures- Procedure for assessment in cases of non submission of Original Country of Origin Certificates	To facilitate Trade while safeguarding the interest of Revenue in this unprecedented situation, Customs has issued procedures which may be adopted.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-46-2020.pdf
11.	Public Notice No.45/2020	7/4/2020	Relaxation in the procedure for IN-Bonding of Cargo filed under Warehouse Bills of Entry	On account of lockdown, physical submission of documents and undertaking is not possible.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-45-2020.pdf
12.	Public Notice No.44/2020	8/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measure: Temporary provision of grant of online permission for container movement on the basis of documents submitted online	Customs has decided to temporarily defer the submission of hard copy of documents. The hard copy of the documents will be submitted by the concerned shipping line within 5 days of removal of lockdown.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-44-2020.pdf
13.	Public Notice No.43/2020	7/4/2020	COVID-19 facilitation measure- Temporary provision for filing IGM/EGM without submission of hard copy	Considering the necessity of reduced physical interaction between persons in the current circumstances, it has been decided that Shipping Lines may file IGM/EGM temporarily only through online mode.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2043-2020.pdf
14.	Public Notice No.41/2020	3/4/2020	Measure to facilitate trade during the lockdown period - section 143 AA of the Customs Act, 1962	Considering it difficult to comply with the requirement of furnishing bond for some more time till the situation normalizes, the said relaxation will be available up to 30/4/2020.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/Public%20Notice%20on%20Section%20143AA.pdf
15.	Public Notice No.40/2020	2/4/2020	Scanning of containers selected for scanning - facilitation provided to	AEO-T1 importers due to COVID-19 pandemic AEO-T1 importers availing DPD-DPD mode of delivery can evacuate their containers selected for scanning at Drive Through Scanner (DTS) by submitting a scanned copy of bond on their letterhead duly signed and send it by e-mail	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2040-2020.pdf
16.	Public Notice No.39/2020	1/4/2020	Appointment of Nodal Officer in Chief Commissioner's Office for facilitating Customs clearance at the Zonal level amidst the Covid-19 crisis	To assist in early addressing concerns of the trade, Shri DipinSingla, Joint Commissioner of Customs has been appointed.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2039-2020.pdf
17.	Public Notice No.38/2020	30/3/2020	Commuting within the port areas including CFSS	To resolve issues related to commuting within the port areas, JNCH has appointed Shri T. R. Dash, Asstt. Commissioner of Customs as Nodal Officer.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/Public%20Notice%20No38_2020.pdf
18.	Public Notice No.37/2020	27/3/2020	Print out of Final Bill of Entry- A Facilitation Measure during breakout of COVID-19-reg.	A request, either by email (ediservicecentre@gmail.com), or by sms/whatsapp to the staff of CMC Service Centre at JNCH by specifying the BE no. and BE date after the grant of OOC, for print out of the final BE	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-37-2020.pdf
19.	Public Notice No.36/2020	27/3/2020	Request For Regularization of Prior & Advance Bills of Entry through E- Mail Procedure - Facilitation Measure During outbreak of COVID	JNCH has decided that the request for amendments and waiver of late fee in a bill of entry can be made by sending email to specified official email IDs as given in the Public Notice.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-36-2020.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
20.	Public Notice No.35/2020	27/3/2020	Request for Amendments and Waiver of Late Fee Charges in the Bills of Entry through e-mail procedure as facilitation during outbreak of COVID	JNCH has decided that the request for amendments and waiver of late fee in a bill of entry can be made by sending email to specified official email IDs as given in the Public Notice.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-35-2020.pdf
21.	Public Notice No.33/2020	24/3/2020	Facilitation of Clearance of Import Cargo Due To Delay Arising Due to Outbreak of Corona Virus	JNCH has decided that those bills of entry which pertain to Import general Manifest (IGMs) filed on or after 20/3/2020, if filed late for clearance of import consignments, will not attract any late fee charges for the time being & till further orders.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-33-2020.pdf
22.	Public Notice No.32/2020	23/3/2020	Separate option to waive Late Filing Charges-reg.	A separate option has been provided in the ACL menu of ICES for "Waiver of Late filing Charges" to de-link it with assessment.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN-32-2020.pdf
23.	Public Notice No.31/2020	16/3/2020	Implementation of UCC data for the Disposal Process of the Longstanding Containers.	Customs has directed all the CFS's to mandatorily fill the Checklist as per Checklist I attached in the Public Notice.	http://www.jawaharcustoms.gov.in/pdf/PN-2020/PN%2031-2020.pdf

SAHAR AIR CARGO CUSTOMS

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	Public Notice No.65/2020	17/4/2020	Further Amendment of Public Notice No.54/2020 dated 27.03.2020	Keeping in view the further extension of lockdown till 3/5/2020, Para 3 of Public Notice No. 54/2020.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/New%20Doc%2004-17-2020%2018.21.10.pdf
2.	Public Notice No.64/2020	14/4/2020	Paperless Customs - Electronic Communication of PDF based Gatepass and OOC Copy of Bill of Entry to Custom Brokers/Importers	To reduce interface between the Customs authorities and the importers/exporters/Customs Brokers Board as decided to enable electronic communication of PDF. The final eOoC (Electronic out of charge) copy of BoE and e-gate pass to the importers/custom brokers	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PUBLIC%20NOTICE%20%2064.2020F.pdf
3.	Public Notice No.62/2020	11/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measures-procedure-Relaxation in procedure for in- Bonding of cargo imported under Ware House Bill of Entry	Procedures for in-bonding of the goods imported under Warehouse Bill of Entry have been prescribed in the Public Notice.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PN62final.pdf
4.	Public Notice No.61/2020	9/4/2020	COVID-19 Facilitation measures-procedure for assessment in cases of non submission of Original Country of Origin Certificates	Customs has issued procedures for assessment in cases of non-submission of Original Country of Origin Certificates.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/CamScanner%2004-10-2020%2019.26.50.pdf
5.	Public Notice No.60/2020	7/4/2020	Request for Amendments and/or Waiver of Late Fee Charges in the Bills of Entry through email procedure as facilitation during outbreak of COVID	To reduce the physical human interface, request for amendments and/or waiver of late fee charges in Bills of Entry can be sent to proaccsahar@gmail.com.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/P%20No.%2060%202020.pdf
6.	Public Notice No.59/2020	7/4/2020	Measures to facilitate trade during the lockdown period - Section 143AA of the Customs Act, 1962	Relaxation from submitting a bond may be considered on a case to case basis for any other importer & exporter who requests for the same, with additional safeguards listed in this Public Notice	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/New%20Doc%2004-07-2020%2017.52.41.pdf



S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
7.	Public Notice No. 58/2020	4/4/2020	Issue of Essential service duty pass to Various Members of Trade coming to Air Cargo Complex, Sahar during breakout of COVID	Trade may send their request to proaccsahar@gmail.com with the details of Member, so that "Essential Service Duty Pass" can be issued in the format prescribed in the Public Notice.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PN58.pdf
8.	Public Notice No.57/2020	4/4/2020	Print out of Finale Bill of Entry & Uploading of Documents in E-sanchit-A Facilitation Measures During breakout of COVID	The details of the contact persons of XEAM, who shall be performing task of Printing of Bills of Entry and uploading of Document in E-Sanchit are given in the Public Notice.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PN57.pdf
9.	Public Notice No.56/2020	4/4/2020	Measures of facilitate trade during the lockdown period - section 143AA of the Customs act, 1962	It has been decided to relax the requirement to submit bonds prescribed under various provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 for a temporary period in terms of Section 143AA with a view to expedite Customs clearance of goods.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PN56.pdf
10.	Public Notice No.55/2020	31/3/2020	Separate option to waive Late Filling Charges	A separate option has been provided in the ACL menu of ICES for "Waiver of Late filing Charges" to de-link it with assessment.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/newfile01042020.pdf
11.	Public Notice No.54/2020	27/3/2020	Facilitation measures of Clearance of Import Cargo due to delay arising in Outbreak of COVID-19	Air Cargo Complex has decided that those BEs which pertain to Import General Manifest (IGMs) filed on or after 20.3.2020, if filed late for clearance of import consignments, will not attract any late fee charges for the time being	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/PN%2054_2020.pdf
12.	Public Notice No.52/2020	5/3/2020	Implementation of automated clearance on All-India basis'	Important features of the clearance are given in the Public Notice.	http://accmumbai.gov.in/aircargo/miscellaneous/public_notices/2020/new%20doc%202020-03-19%2015.00.18.pdf

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF TRADE REMEDIES

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	F.No.6/41/2019-DGTR	21/4/2020	Further extension time for filing questionnaire response in anti dumping investigation concerning imports of "Viscose Spun Yarn" originating in or exported from China PR, Indonesia and Vietnam	It has been further decided to grant further extension of time up to 10th May, 2020.	http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Extension%20Viscose%20Spun.pdf
2.	F.No.79/2020-DGTR	15/4/2020	Initiation of Sunset Review Investigation concerning imports of all Fully Drawn or Fully Oriented Yarn/Spin Draw Yarn Flat Yarn of Polyester FDY from China PR, Thailand	The Indian domestic companies have requested for sunset review and continuation of the antidumping duty imposed on the imports of subject goods, originating in or exported from the subject countries.	http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/SSR%20FDY%20ENGLISH.pdf
3.	F.No. 6/11/2019-DGTR	4/3/2020	Anti-dumping investigation on the import of Nylon Multi Filament Yarn	DGTR imposes Anti-dumping duty on the import of Nylon Multi Filament Yarn	http://www.dgtr.gov.in/sites/default/files/FF%20NFY%20NCV.pdf



OFFICE OF THE TEXTILE COMMISSIONER

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	F.No. 12(1)/ATUFS/Policy/2019/TUFS/ Del. of Fin. Press	17/4/2020	Easing out implementation of the decision of IMSC under ATUFS for physical verification of machinery procured under previous of TUFs during post lockdown period of COVID-19 outbreak	The subsidy amount released would be subject to submission of BG for equal amount by the units valid for 6 months, extendable further, if necessary on FIFO basis as per the date of inspection by JIT.	http://txcindia.gov.in/html/bg_prev_tufs.pdf
2.	Circular No 12(1)/ATUFS/Policy/2019/TUFS/Del. of Fin Prs/	15/4/2020	Option to record the willingness to avail ATUFS subsidy before scrutiny in iTUFS p	The option is applicable to all claims under ATUFS which have been recommended by JIT but the report is waiting scrutiny by Competent Authority as per delegation of powers.	http://storage.unitedwebnetwork.com/files/63/378407cbec416a55db516c0ad6d61ff7.pdf
3.	F.No. 12(1)/ATUFS/Policy/2019/TUFS/ Del. of Fin. Press	15/4/2020	Easing out the norms under ATUFS during post lockdown period of COVID-19 outbreak	Based on the response from units, total amount of subsidy and overall budget availability under the scheme, a view would be taken on quantum (full or partial) of JIT recommended subsidy to be released to the units.	http://txcindia.gov.in/html/bg_option.pdf
4.	F.No. 16021//5/2019-TUFS	13/4/2020	Procedure for easing out the norms under ATUFS during post lockdown period of COVID- 19 outbreak	Necessary orders towards modifying the provisions in the guidelines of ATUFS and protocol issued for release of subsidy under previous versions of TUFs / ATUFS have been issued.	http://txcindia.gov.in/html/Revised%20Order%20w.r.t%20Easing%20of%20Norms.pdf

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

S.No.	Heading No.	Date	Subject	Description	Download the Link
1.	RBI/2019-20/206	1/4/2020	Export of Goods and Services- Realisation and Repatriation of Export Proceeds-Relaxation	RBI has increased the present period of realization and repatriation to India of the amount representing the full export value of goods or software or services exported, from 9 months to 15 months from the date of export, for the exports made up to or on 31/7/2020.	https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11855&Mode=0
2.	RBI/2019-20/202	31/3/2020	Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Amendment) Regulations, 2020	RBI has made amendments in the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods & Services) Regulations, 2015.	https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11856&Mode=0
3.	RBI/2019-20/186	27/3/2020	COVID-19 - Regulatory Package	Regulatory measures have been announced by RBI to mitigate the burden of debt servicing brought about by disruptions on account of COVID-19 pandemic.	https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11835&Mode=0

GST RELATED NOTIFICATIONS

CENTRAL TAX NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/central-tax-notfns-2017>)

Notification No./ Date	Subject
36/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-3B for supply made in the month of May, 2020.
35/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To extend due date of compliance which falls during the period from "20/3/2020 to 29/6/2020 " till 30/6/2020 and to extend validity of e-way bills.



Notification No./ Date	Subject
34/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To extend due date of furnishing FORM GST CMP-08 for the quarter ending March, 2020 till 7/7/2020 and filing FORM GSTR-4 for FY 2020-21 till 15/7/2020.
33/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To provide relief by conditional waiver of late fee for delay in furnishing outward statement in FORM GSTR-1 for tax periods of Feb 2020 to Apr 2020.
32/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To provide relief by conditional waiver of late fee for delay in furnishing returns in FORM GSTR-3B for tax periods of Feb 2020 to Apr 2020.
31/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To provide relief by conditional lowering of interest rate for tax periods of Feb 2020 to Apr 2020.
30/2020-Central Tax,dt. 3/4/2020	To amend CGST Rules (Fourth Amendment) in order to allow opting Composition Scheme for FY 2020-21 till 30/6/2020 and to allow cumulative application of condition in rule 36(4).
29/2020-Central Tax,dt.23/3/2020	To prescribe return in FORM GSTR-3B of CGST Rules, 2017 along with due dates of furnishing the said form for Apr 2020 to Sept 2020
28/2020-Central Tax,dt. 23/3/2020	To prescribe the due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 by such class of registered persons having aggregate turnover of more than 1.5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year or the current financial year, for each of the months from Apr2020 to Sept 2020.
27/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To prescribe the due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 for the quarters Apr2020 to June 2020 and Jul2020 to Sept 2020 for registered persons having aggregate turnover of up to 1.5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year or the current financial year.
26/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-3B of the said rules for the months of July 2019 to Sept 2019 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, shall be furnished electronically through the common portal, on or before the 24/3/2020
25/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-3B for the months of Oct 2019 , Nov 2019 to Feb 2020 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir on or before the 24/3/2020.
24/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, for the quarter July-Sept 2019 till 24/3/2020.
23/2020-Central Tax ,dt.23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, by such class of registered persons having aggregate turnover of more than 1.5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year or current financial year, for each of the months from July 2019 to Sept 2019 till 24/3/2020.
22/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, and having aggregate turnover of more than 1.5 crore rupees in the preceding financial year or current financial year, for the month of Oct 2019 and Nov 2019 to February till 24/3/2020.
21/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORMGSTR-1 for registered persons whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir or the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir or the Union territory of Ladakh for the quarter Oct-Dec, 2019 till 24/3/2020
20/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend due date for furnishing FORM GSTR-7 for those taxpayers whose principal place of business is in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir for July 2019 to Oct2019 and Nov 2019 to Feb 2020 .
19/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To specify class of persons, other than individuals who shall undergo authentication, of Aadhaar number in order to be eligible for registration.
18/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To notify the date from which an individual shall undergo authentication, of Aadhaar number in order to be eligible for registration.
17/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To specify the class of persons who shall be exempted from aadhar authentication.
16/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To make third amendment (2020) to CGST Rules.
15/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 23/3/2020	To extend the time limit for furnishing of the annual return specified under section 44 of CGST Act, 2017 for the financial year 2018-2019 till 30/6/2020.
14/2020-Central Tax ,dt.21/3/2020	To exempt certain class of registered persons capturing dynamic QR code and the date for implementation of QR Code to be extended to 1/10/2020

Notification No./ Date	Subject
13/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 21/3/2020	To exempt certain class of registered persons from issuing e-invoices and the date for implementation of e-invoicing extended to 1/10/2020
12/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 21/3/2020	To waive off the requirement for furnishing FORM GSTR-1 for 2019-20 for taxpayers who could not opt for availing the option of special composition scheme under notification No. 2/2019-Central Tax (Rate)
10/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 21/3/2020	To provide special procedure for taxpayers in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu consequent to merger of the two UTs
09/2020-Central Tax ,dt. 16/3/2020	To exempt foreign airlines from furnishing reconciliation Statement in FORM GSTR-9C

INTEGRATED TAX NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/integrated-tax-notfns-2017>)

Notification No./ Date	Subject
03/2020-Integrated Tax, dt. 8/4/2020	To provide relief by conditional lowering of interest rate for tax periods of Feb 2020 to Apr 2020.

UNION TERRITORY TAX NOTIFICATIONS

(<http://cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/union-territory-tax-notfns-2017>)

Notification No./ Date	Subject
1/2020-Union Territory Tax, dt. 8/4/2020	To provide relief by conditional lowering of interest rate for tax periods of Feb 2020 to Apr 2020.

CIRCULARS/ ORDERS

(<http://www.cbic.gov.in/htdocs-cbec/gst/cgst-circ-idx-2017>)

Circular/ Order No.	Date	Subject
137/07/2020	13/4/2020	Circular clarifying issues in respect of challenges faced by registered persons in implementation of provisions of GST issued - Reg
136/06/2020	3/4/2020	Clarification in respect of various measures announced by the Government for providing relief to the taxpayers in view of spread of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19)
135/05/2020	31/3/2020	Circular on clarification on refund related issues
133/03/2020	23/3/2020	To clarify issues in respect of apportionment of input tax credit (ITC) in cases of business reorganization under section 18 (3) of CGST Act read with rule 41(1) of CGST Rules

PRESS RELEASES

Name of Ministry	Date	Subject
Ministry of Finance	21.4.2020	E-mails for facilitating faster refund cannot be misconstrued as harassment: CBDT
	19.4.2020	CBDT revising return forms to enable taxpayers avail benefits of timeline extension due to Covid-19
		More than Rs 36,659 crore transferred by using Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in the Bank accounts of 16.01 crore beneficiaries during COVID 2019 lockdown
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		Government launches online data pool of critical human resource for combating and containing Covid-19
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	18.4.2020	Government amends the extant FDI policy for curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic
Ministry of Finance	17.4.2020	Committed to help GST taxpayers in COVID-19 situations: CBIC
		As a relief to MSMEs, I-T refunds worth Rs 5,204 Crore issued in last 10 days: CBDT
		RBI announces second set of measures to preserve financial stability and help put money in the hands of the needy and disadvantaged
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		Shri Gadkari Calls Upon Industry to Work Upon Import Substitution and Adopting Innovative Technology to Remain Competitive

Name of Ministry	Date	Subject
Ministry of Finance	16.4.2020	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the Plenary Meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) of the IMF through video-conference
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	15.4.2020	INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: March2020
Ministry of Finance		Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attends the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting
		Over 10.2 lakh Refunds worth Rs 4,250 crore issued in a week by CBDT to help taxpayers in COVID-19 pandemic situation
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	14.4.2020	Gadkari assures industry representatives of full government support for restarting enterprises after COVID-19 lockdown
Ministry of Finance	12.4.2020	Robust Digital Payment Infrastructure Enables Prompt Transfer of Cash Per Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package.
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	11.4.2020	Department of Commerce has Provided a number of Relaxations / Extensions of various Compliance Deadlines etc. to address Corona Pandemic Related Hardships of Exporters
Ministry of Home Affairs	10.4.2020	MHA directs all States/UTs to ensure strict compliance of lockdown measures to fight COVID—19 and not allow any social/religious gathering/procession
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	9.4.2020	Commerce and Industry Minister meets the Industry and traders Association; Assures them that the Ministry is working to solve their problems
Ministry of Finance		Government Grants exemption from Basic Custom duty & Health Cess on import of Ventilators , PPE , COVID Test Kits & Face & Surgical Masks
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		MSMEs Engaged In Production of Medical Items Related to COVID-19 Should be Facilitated on Priority- Shri NitinGadkari
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	8.4.2020	Shri Piyush Goyal calls upon the Exporters to think big and be ready for harnessing the potential in the post-Covid era; Says that we are globally responsible citizens;
Ministry of Finance		IT Department to release all pending income tax refunds up to Rs 5 lakhs immediately ; Around 14 lakh taxpayers to benefit
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA writes to States to ensure availability of Essential Goods, by invoking provisions of the Essential Commodities (EC) Act 1955, under Lockdown to fight COVID-19
Ministry of Shipping	7.4.2020	Ministry of Shipping plays a pro-active role towards ensuring smooth shipping operations in COVID-19 situation and lockdown in the country
Ministry of Textiles		Textiles Ministry extends limit for HDPE/PP bags from 1.80 lakh bales to 2.62 lakh to tide over crisis of packaging of foodgrains due to closure of jute mills during lock down
Ministry of Shipping	6.4.2020	Employees of Ports and PSUs of Ministry of Shipping contribute over Rs 7 crore towards PM CARES Fund
		Ports and PSUs of Ministry of Shipping contribute Rs. 52 Crore as CSR Fund to PM-CARES
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA writes to States to give special attention on keeping the supply of Medical Oxygen smooth and hassle-free across the country
Ministry of Finance	5.4.2020	Officers & staff of Ministry of Finance , Financial Institutions and Public Sector Banks/ Enterprises Contributes Rs 430 crore towards PM CARES Fund to combat COVID-19 outbreak
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		MSME Technology Centres Contributing in A Big Way in Fight Against COVID19
Ministry of Finance	4.4.2020	CBDT issues orders u/s 119 of IT Act,1961 to mitigate hardships to taxpayers arising out of compliance of TDS/TCS provisions
Ministry of Home Affairs	3.4.2020	MHA clarifies on ground level issues being faced by States in ensuring smooth flow of supply chain of Essential Items during National Lockdown to fight COVID-19
		MHA writes to States to ensure Smooth Harvesting and Sowing Operations, while maintaining Social Distancing, during 21-day Lockdown to fight COVID-19
Ministry of Shipping		Shri Mansukh Mandaviya holds video conference with the stakeholders of Ports to deal with COVID-19 situation

Name of Ministry	Date	Subject
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	2.4.2020	Shri Piyush Goyal holds video conference with stakeholders of Start-up ecosystem
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA writes to States to widely publicize the Penal Provisions regarding Violations of Lockdown Measures to fight COVID-19
		MHA writes to States/UTs to take measures to fight Fake News in order to prevent Panic among People and spread of COVID-19 in India
Ministry of Finance	1.4.2020	GST Revenue Collection for March, 2020
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA requests States/UTs to implement Lockdown Measures in Letter and Spirit to fight COVID-19
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	31.3.2020	Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 extended for one year;
		More than 280 units in SEZs, manufacturing essential items like pharmaceuticals and hospital devices, are operational
Ministry of Finance		Ministry of Shipping issues direction to all Major Ports not to levy any penalties/charges/fees on any Port user for any delay caused due to COVID-19
Ministry of Shipping		Ministry of Shipping issues direction to all Major Ports not to levy any penalties/charges/fees on any Port user for any delay caused due to COVID
Ministry of Finance	30.3.2020	No Extension of the Financial Year
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	29.3.2020	Over 1.75 Lakh people visit Business Immunity Platform website in a week;
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA issues an Addendum to the Guidelines regarding Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID
Ministry of Shipping		Shipping Lines advised not to impose container detention charges on import and export shipments at Ports
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	28.3.2020	Don't let your workers go away, Shri Piyush Goyal tells the industry and trade associations;
		GeM takes a number of initiatives for procurement of goods and services by Government departments in the fight against COVID-19 Pandemic
Ministry of Home Affairs		Shri Amit Shah chairs the 3rd Review Meeting since March 25 on preparations to fight the COVID-19 epidemic
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	27.3.2020	Shri Piyush Goyal holds video conference with Export Promotion Councils representatives;
		Shri Piyush Goyal holds video conference with stakeholders from e-Commerce and Logistics industry;
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA issues an Addendum to the Guidelines regarding Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID-19
		MHA issues advisory to all States/UTs to make adequate arrangements for migrant workers, students etc from outside the States to facilitate Social Distancing for COVID
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	26.3.2020	Helpdesk operationalized by DGFT for COVID-19 related Export or Import issue
		DPIIT sets up a Control Room to monitor the status of transportation and delivery of goods, manufacturing, and delivery of essential commodities
Ministry of Finance		Finance Minister announces Rs 1.70 Lakh Crore relief package under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana for the poor to help them fight the battle against Corona Virus
		MHA issues SOPs for Maintaining Supply of Essential Goods during 21-day Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID-19
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA issues SOPs for Maintaining Supply of Essential Goods during 21-day Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID-19

Name of Ministry	Date	Subject
Cabinet	25.3.2020	Cabinet approves extension of Rebate in Taxes on Export of Garments and Made-ups
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA to States: Unhindered Movement of Essential Goods & Services to be ensured during Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID—19
Ministry of Textiles		MHA issues an Addendum to the Guidelines regarding Nationwide Lockdown to fight COVID-19
		Textiles Ministry Sets up Emergency Control Room to Monitor Production and Supply of Medical Textiles
Cabinet Secretariat	24.3.2020	Cabinet approves extension of Rebate in Taxes on Export of Garments & Made-ups
Ministry of Commerce & Industry		States Briefed on Lockdown Measures and Guidelines including exemptions to contain the COVID-19 Epidemic in the country
		Export prohibited of all ventilators, including any artificial respiratory apparatus or oxygen therapy apparatus or any other breathing appliance/device; No Export of Sanitizers also
Ministry of Finance		Invest India Business Immunity Platform launched to helping businesses withstand COVID-19
Ministry of Home Affairs		Finance Minister announces several relief measures relating to Statutory and Regulatory compliance matters across Sectors in view of COVID-19 outbreak
Ministry of Shipping		Government of India issues Orders prescribing lockdown for containment of COVID-19 Epidemic in the country
		Shri Mansukh Mandaviya reviews preparedness and activities of all Major Ports to deal with COVID-19 outbreak
Ministry of Finance	23.3.2020	Firm busted for claiming bogus Input Tax Credit of around Rs 281 Crores
Ministry of Home Affairs		MHA writes to States/UTs to prevent harassment of people from North East by linking them to COVID-19 outbreak in India
Ministry of Shipping		Impact of Coronavirus on Indian Ports
Ministry of Textiles		Supply of Body Coveralls, N-95 Masks, and 2-ply/3-ply Surgical Masks for healthcare professionals to combat COVID-19 cases
Ministry of Commerce & Industry	20.3.2020	Export of Masks, Ventilators and textile raw material for masks and coveralls prohibited
		Special Economic Zones in the Country
		7.1% CAGR recorded in trade with India's FTA and PTA partner countries
Ministry of Finance	19.3.2020	Firm busted for fraud of Input Tax Credit of around Rs 24 crores, 2 sent to judicial custody
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises		Export of MSME Products
		Setting up of MSMEs
		Committee on MSME Sector
Ministry of Shipping		Infrastructure at Ports
Ministry of Textiles		Setting Up of National Technical Textile Mission
Ministry of Commerce & Industry		18.3.2020
	WTO Ruling against India	
	FDI for Make in India	
Ministry of Finance	17.3.2020	More than Rs 20,000 crores of loans sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme since inception

GLIMPSES OF COUNCIL'S EXPORT PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMMES IN 2019-20



H.E. Shri. Sanjiv Ranjan, Ambassador of India to Colombia and Shri. Ronak Rughani, Chairman of SRTEPC jointly inaugurating the 'India Pavilion' at COLOMBIATEX 2020



H. E. Mr. Sandeep Chakravorty, Consul General of India, inaugurating the 'India Pavilion' at Texworld USA. Also seen in picture Mr. Ronak Rughani, Chairman, SRTEPC and Mr. S. Balaraju, Executive Director, SRTEPC



H.E. Satbir Singh, Ambassador, Ambassade de l'Inde, Algeria along with Shri Dinesh Modi of M/s. Banbury Exports and leader of the Delegation inauguration 'India Pavilion' at Textstyle Expo, Algiers, Algeria



H.E. Mr. Manpreet Vohra, Ambassador of India in Mexico ; Mr. Jaime Barba De Loza, President, IM INTERMODA ; Mr. Ernesto Sanchez Proal, Economic Development Secretary, JALISCO ; and Mr. Miguel Angel Landeros Volquarts, President, Mexican Business Council, Mr. Ronak Rughani, Chairman of the Council jointly inaugurating the 'India Pavilion' at the IM Intermoda, Guadalajara, Mexico



H.E. Shri Amit Kumar Mishra, Consul General of India in Sao Paulo, Shri Subhash Goyal, COA Member, SRTEPC and Shri Digvijay Nath, Consul (Commerce) & HOC is also seen during the inauguration.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Inauguration of 'India Pavilion' seen from r to l Shri Agarwal of Prafful Exports, Mr. Bulent Unal, Chairman of Tuyap Fairs & Exhibitions, H.E. Shri. Purnojyoti Mukherjee, Commercial Representative & HOC, Consulate of India, Istanbul & his wife; and Shri Mahipal Singh Yadav, Second Secretary Embassy Of India, Ankara.



Mrs. Nguyen Thi Van Nga, Director General of Ministry of Industry & Trade's Agency for Southern Affairs & Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, Consul General of the Indian Consulate inaugurating the 'India Pavilion' at VITA TEX.



H. E. Mr. Rahul Kulshreshth, Ambassador of India to Egypt (second from left) along with from l to r Shri Nihar Ranjan Dash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles ; Mr. M. Mohamed Abd El Salam, President, ECAHT; Dr. Vinod Bahade, First Secretary, Embassy of India, Egypt and Mr. Sherif, prominent buyer in Egypt jointly inaugurating the 'India Pavilion' at 65th Cairo Fashion & Tex.

SRTEPC'S Services to Indian Exporters



- Introduces Exporters to appropriate Overseas Buyers
- Provides up-to-date information and identifies potential markets for them
- Organises Export Promotion Programmes like Trade Fairs/Exhibitions, Buyer-Seller Meets in various overseas markets.
- Organising Reverse Buyer Seller Meets every year by which the overseas buyers are brought to India to discuss business with members
- Provides Grant for Market Access Initiative subsidy towards airfare for participation in promotional programmes like Exhibition/Fairs abroad (Member of the Council for the last year one year is a must)
- Conducts Workshops, Seminars to keep exporters abreast of latest development in policy/procedural matters, international trends, marketing strategies, government schemes, etc.
- Assist the exporters on Import-Export Policy and Procedures
- Resolve their problems about shipping and transport
- Maintain liaison with the Government authorities to convey the requirements of the industry and trade and help to bring about appropriate policy changes.
- Facilitates free display of samples at Council's Trade Centre in Mumbai and Surat frequented by overseas buyers and Trade Delegations
- Resolves problems of members connected with DGFT, Customs/Central Excise, GST, ROSL, Duty Drawback, Banking, ECGC, etc.
- Provides information on the trends for product development and adaptation to suit the overseas market requirements
- Issues export turnover certificates and certificate of origin.
- Visa facilitation to visit specified markets to discuss business with their target customers.
- Publication of Newsletter and regular circulars/letters to keep them aware of the activities of the Council and trade information.
- Collection and dissemination of Industry / Trade statistics to help members make their export strategy for export.
- Dissemination of information on foreign markets/emerging trends and trade enquiries
- Make them aware about different Anti Dumping duties as applicable in respective markets. From time to time also inform them about Sunset Reviews and give them timely information on questionnaire to be filled in, etc.
- Forex updates on WhatsApp.

If Undelivered, return to:
The Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council
Resham Bhavan, 78, Veer Nariman Road, Mumbai - 400 020.