Export Promotion Council
for EOUs & SEZs

23rd ANNUAL REPORT & AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2025–26

SEZEPC

(erstwhile EPCES)

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs

Set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

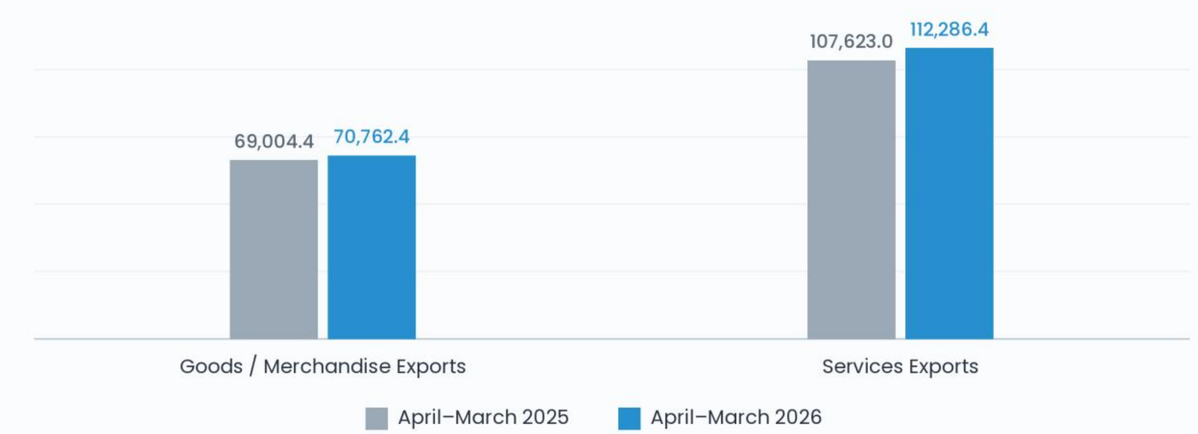
www.epces.in

Merchandise & Services Exports from SEZs

(in Mn USD)

Description	Mar-25	Mar-26	Growth (%)	F.Y. 2024-25	F.Y. 2025-26	Growth (%)
Goods / Merchandise Exports	6,549.1	8,412.7	28%	69,004.4	70,762.4	3%
Services Exports	10,615.8	10,591.2	0%	1,07,623.0	1,12,286.4	4%
Grand Total	**17,164.9**	**19,003.8**	**11%**	**1,76,627.4**	**1,83,048.8**	**4%**

Merchandise & Services Exports from SEZs during April–March 2026 (in Mn USD)



Zone-Wise Merchandise Exports

(in Mn USD)

Rank	Zone	Mar-25	Mar-26	Growth (%)	F.Y. 2024-25	F.Y. 2025-26	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Kandla SEZ	3,325.1	5,789.8	74%	35,219.1	41,486.0	18%	59%
2	Visakhapatnam SEZ	1,098.9	674.9	-39%	13,356.9	7,472.0	-44%	10%
3	SEEPZ Mumbai	554.9	565.4	2%	5,559.2	6,186.5	11%	9%
4	Falta SEZ	464.4	574.8	24%	4,552.2	6,042.2	33%	8%
5	MEPZ SEZ	335.0	358.2	7%	3,850.3	3,442.2	-11%	5%
6	Noida SEZ	460.2	298.2	-35%	3,616.9	3,387.5	-6%	5%
7	Cochin SEZ	310.7	151.4	-51%	2,849.8	2,745.9	-4%	4%
	Grand Total	**6,549.1**	**8,412.7**	**28%**	**69,004.4**	**70,762.4**	**3%**	**100%**

Source: SEZEPC Annual Trade Bulletin, March 2026 · Data source: NSDL

CENTRAL GOVERNING COUNCIL

SEZEPC (erstwhile EPCES) · Term 2025–27

Zone	Category	Member
Cochin SEZ	EOU	Shri Noby P S, Director, Kerafibertex International Private Limited
	SEZ Unit	Shri Mohammed Rasal, Managing Director, Forefront Solutions and Consultancies (P) Ltd
	SEZ Unit	Shri Vinod Kumar R, Director, Western India Cashew Co. Pvt. Ltd.
	SEZ Developer	Shri Remeshan Paleri, Chairman and Managing Director, ULCCS IT Infrastructure (P) Ltd.
	Regional Chairman	Shri K. K. Pillai, Nikasu Frozen Foods (P) Limited
Falta SEZ	—	Vacant
Kandla SEZ	SEZ Unit	Shri Tushar Ruparelia, Partner, Trend Setters KFTZ
	SEZ Unit	Smt. Hirva Punit Mamtora, Managing Director and CEO, India Exim Finserve IFSC Pvt. Ltd
MEPZ SEZ, Chennai	EOU	Shri Anand, Director, SEA Hydrosystems India Pvt. Ltd
	SEZ Unit	Shri Dhinesh Kumar Varadharajan, Managing Director, Manav Packaging Pvt. Ltd.
	SEZ Unit	Shri Vijay Raj B, Partner, JB Enterprises
	SEZ Developer	**Shri Sunil Rallan, Vice Chairman, SEZEPC, and Managing Director, J. Matadee Free Trade Zone Pvt. Ltd**.
	Regional Chairman	Shri Sivashanmugam Kumaresan, Co-founder, Rishaba Industries LLP
Noida SEZ	EOU	Shri Bhuvnesh Seth, Managing Director, Replika Press Pvt. Ltd
	SEZ Unit	Shri Vilas Gupta, Managing Director, Taurus Englobe Limited
	SEZ Unit	Shri Sanand Mohan Purohit, AGM Accounts, Kusum Healthcare Pvt. Ltd
	SEZ Developer	Shri Navin Kedia, Director, DLF Assets Ltd
	Regional Chairman	Shri Sunil Puri, Director, Yasen Lighting Private Limited
SEEPZ SEZ	SEZ Unit	Shri Vijay Gujarathi, Director and Chief Operations Officer, EOS Power India Pvt. Ltd.
	SEZ Developer	Shri P. C. Nambiar, Director, SEZ Biotech Services Pvt. Ltd
Visakhapatnam SEZ	SEZ Unit	Shri Milind Mungikar, Director, Zen Linen International Pvt. Ltd.
	SEZ Developer	**Shri Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, SEZEPC**, and Director, Phoenix Infocity Pvt. Ltd.
	Regional Chairman	Shri Avinash Chukkapalli, Director, Phoenix Tech Zone Pvt. Ltd

Chairman: Shri Srikanth Badiga. Vice Chairman: Shri Sunil Rallan. Source: Central Governing Council, SEZEPC

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONERS

Offices of the Development Commissioners of the Special Economic Zones

Cochin Special Economic Zone *Development Commissioner*	**Smt. P. Hemlatha** Kakkanad, Cochin 682 030 Tel: 0484-2558676 | Fax: 0484-2413074 | Mob: 09418463015 E-mail: dc@csez.gov.in, mail@csez.gov.in
Falta Special Economic Zone *Development Commissioner*	**Shri Deen Bandhu Singh, CSS** 2nd MSO Building, 4th Floor, Nizam Palace, Kolkata 700 020 Tel: 033-22813117 | Fax: 033-22877923 E-mail: devcomm.fsez@nic.in
Kandla Special Economic Zone *Zonal Development Commissioner*	**Shri Dnyaneshwar Patil, IAS** Gandhidham (Kutch), Gujarat 370 230 Tel: +91 2836 252475 E-mail: zonaldckandla@gmail.com, dc.kasez-gj@gov.in
MEPZ Special Economic Zone *Development Commissioner*	**Shri Alex Paul Menon, IAS** Tambaram, Chennai Tel: 044-22628220 | Fax: 044-22628218 | Mob: 07338886632 E-mail: dc@mepz.gov.in
Noida Special Economic Zone *Development Commissioner*	**Shri Gopal Meena , IAS** Noida-Dadri Road, Noida Phase II, Noida (UP) 201 305 Tel: 0120-2567270-74, 3021444-46 | Fax: 0120-2562314, 2567276 | Mob: 9711320820 E-mail: dc@nsez.gov.in
SEEPZ Special Economic Zone *Development Commissioner*	**Shri Dnyaneshwar Patil, IAS** Service Centre Building, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400 096 Tel: 022-28290856 / 143 | Mob: 9425171409 E-mail: dcseepz-mah@nic.in
Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone *Zonal Development Commissioner*	**Shri M. Srinivas, IRSME** Administrative Building, VSEZ, Duvvada, Visakhapatnam 530 049 Tel: +91-891-2708255, 2768388 | Fax: +91-891-2587352 E-mail: devcomm.vsez@gov.in

Source: Development Commissioners' Offices, SEZEPC

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Alok Chaturvedi
Director General

SEZEPC

It gives me immense pleasure in presenting Annual Report of the Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (SEZEPC) for the year 2025-26 having details of activities undertaken during the year, audit report and the audited accounts, as approved by the Central Governing Council.

The year has been full of challenges following a surge in tariffs by the US and constant US trade policy uncertainty. As if this was not enough, West Asia crisis started on 28 February 2026. It has created major ripple effects, disrupting global supply chains, triggering energy price volatility, and directly impacting India's trade dynamics. Strait of Hormuz is still not operational. Energy markets have experienced sharp fluctuations in Brent crude and LNG prices due to transit bottlenecks and supply-chain tightness, feeding into elevated global inflation.

During 2025-26, Indian merchandise exports grew marginally by 0.9% to US$ 441.78 bn, while services exports are expected to grow by 7.9% to US$ 418.31 bn, thus overall exports increasing by 4.2% to US$ 860.09 bn. SEZ merchandise exports increased by 2.6% to US$ 70.76 bn, while SEZ services exports grew by 4.3% to 112.28 bn, thus overall SEZ exports increased by 3.6% to 183.04 bn. With the Government's approval of the new Articles of Association, elections for the Central Governing Council (CGC), Regional Governing Councils (RGCs), Vice Chairperson, and Regional Vice Chairpersons were held during July–August 2025. Let us welcome Shri Sunil Rallan, CMD, J Matadee Free Trade Zone Pvt Ltd. as the new Vice Chairperson of the Council. Let us also welcome the newly elected members of the Central and Regional Governing Councils and the Regional Vice Chairpersons.

During the year, your council has been able to get the problem of sudden deactivation of account of a number of SEZs and EOUs on Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) resolved expeditiously through constant follow-up with Commerce and Steel Ministries. On constant follow-up by the Council, the Government finally restored the RoDTEP scheme for SEZs and EOUs with effect from 1.6.2025. Council also organised a stakeholder consultation in Chennai under the chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, the new Commerce Secretary on 20.11.2025 with enthusiastic participation from the SEZs and EOUs member units. Government announced a one-time measure for SEZ to DTA supplies on concessional duty. The concessional duties were notified on 31.3.2026, effective 1.4.2026 for a one-year period. It is a beginning but SEZ Industry is not very enthused by it as there is a very limited benefit. SEZEPC has taken it up with Ministry. Government approved the long-awaited Export Promotion Mission Covering Market Access Support and Interest Subvention Support.

Commerce Department set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee on 26.2.2026 for formulating SEZ 2.0 policy which is likely to give its report in 6 months. Meanwhile, SEZEPC organised stakeholder consultation for Inter-Ministerial Committee for formulating SEZ 2.0 policy on 30.6.2026.

I am sure the members and readers will enjoy reading about the activities of the Council during 2025-26 in this Annual Report.

With best wishes,

(Alok Chaturvedi)
Director General
Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs — SEZEPC

SEZEPC

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–26

List of Activities Conducted During the Financial Year 2025–26

Reporting period: 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

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ACTIVITIES

1. SEZ to DTA on Concessional Duty

Hon’ble Finance Minister Announced a One-Time Concessional-Duty Window for SEZ-to-DTA Sales (February 1, 2026)

In the Union Budget presented on **February 1, 2026**, the Hon’ble Finance Minister announced a special one-time measure to allow eligible manufacturing units in Special Economic Zones to sell goods into the Domestic Tariff Area at concessional rates of duty. The measure was announced to address concerns about the utilisation of manufacturing capacity in SEZs arising from global trade disruptions.

The Council had pursued that An SEZ unit is treated as being outside the customs territory of India, and goods cleared from an SEZ into the DTA attract customs duty at the full applicable rate on the finished product. The Council had submitted that a unit should instead be required to pay only the duty foregone on the imported inputs used in the goods sold into the DTA. This is the practice followed in the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand. Member units had reported that, in the absence of such a facility, their Indian SEZ factories could not serve the Indian market, and that their groups were meeting Indian demand from plants in Vietnam, Sri Lanka and other countries under free trade agreements.

The proposal had been placed before the Government on several occasions during the year. It formed part of the presentation on SEZ reforms made by the Joint Secretary (SEZ) at the review meeting taken by the Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister on June 30, 2025. It was raised again at the Minister’s meeting on global trade dynamics on September 3, 2025, and at the export review of October 29, 2025, where the Council supported the request with unit-level data from Nike footwear at Cheyyar SEZ, Brandix India Apparel SEZ and the Serum Institute SEZ. It was discussed at length at the stakeholder consultation chaired by the Commerce Secretary at Chennai on November 20, 2025. As recorded in the the Council statement of pending issues dated January 15, 2026, the matter was then under discussion between the Department of Commerce and the Department of Revenue, which had raised concerns about the possible effect on DTA units. The Council treated the Budget announcement as the first formal opening on this question. The operative duty rates, eligibility conditions and quantitative limits were notified by the Department of Revenue on March 31, 2026 and took effect from April 1, 2026. They are set out in the following item.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

*

Department of Revenue Notified the One-Year SEZ-to-DTA Concessional-Duty Measure (March 31, 2026)

The **Department of Revenue** issued **Notification No. 11/2026-Customs** on March 31, 2026, prescribing concessional customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess for goods manufactured in eligible **SEZ** units and removed to the **DTA** from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

The facility applied to manufacturing units that had commenced production on or before March 31, 2026, and excluded FTWZ units. Goods required at least **20%** value addition. In a financial year, aggregate **DTA** sales under the exemption could not exceed **30%** of the highest annual FOB value of manufactured-goods exports achieved by the unit in any of the three immediately preceding financial years.

Covered sectors included mineral products; chemicals; plastics and rubber; hides, skins, leather and fur articles; wood, cork and paper; textiles; footwear and headgear; stone, ceramic and glass; base metals; machinery and electrical equipment; vehicles, aircraft and other transport equipment; optical, medical and scientific instruments; arms and ammunition; and miscellaneous manufactured articles. Exclusions included agriculture, marine and processed foods, tobacco, marble and granite, gems and jewellery, vehicles, toys and petroleum. CBIC issued FAQs, Advisory No. 17/2026 dated April 1, 2026, and Circular No. 18/2026 dated April 1, 2026, for implementation.

The assessment covered SEZ-to-DTA supplies made in FY 2023–24 under the top 200 HSN codes, which accounted for **94%** of all DTA sales and **93%** of DTA sales by manufacturing units. Figures for FY 2024–25 and FY 2025–26 were not used because ICEGATE had only been partly implemented for SEZs. Of the 1,042 manufacturing units, 678 had made DTA sales worth **US$8,837.8 million** under those codes. The Council concluded that **96%** of that value, and **62%** of those units, would receive no concession at all or only a one-percentage-point concession, which would not cover the additional compliance cost. The estimated duty benefit to units in the higher slabs was about **US$17 million, or ₹158 crore**.

The distribution of the concession across those supplies was as follows.

Concession available on the DTA sale	DTA sales (US$ million)	Share of value	Units	Share of units
Nil	5,498.7	62%	205	30%

Concession available on the DTA sale	DTA sales (US$ million)	Share of value	Units	Share of units
1 percentage point only	3,035.0	34%	218	32%
Sub-total – nil or 1 percentage point	**8,533.7**	**96%**	**423**	**62%**
Above 1 percentage point (balance)	304.1	4%	255	38%
Total	**8,837.8**	**100%**	**678**	**100%**

Table 1: the Council assessment of the concessional-duty measure, based on SEZ-to-DTA supplies in FY 2023–24 under the top 200 HSN codes. Those codes accounted for 94% of all DTA sales and 93% of DTA sales by manufacturing units. The balance row is derived from the totals reported by the Council.

The Council Requested the Government to disclose the duty-foregone and equalization-duty calculations used for each HSN rate. It noted that the United States, United Kingdom, China, Indonesia and Thailand applied duty-foregone models without equalisation duty. It requested materially higher concessions, especially for goods competing with imports from China and **FTA** partners; **FTA**-equivalent duty for such goods; duty-reversal treatment for textiles, leather and footwear; duty-reversal access for defence, space, research and development and high-technology supplies to PSUs and Government agencies; amendment of Rule 43 to permit subcontracting for **DTA** defence, space and high-technology customers without export linkage; and INR payment for services supplied to **DTA** units and Government agencies.

SEZEPC raises concerns regarding limited usage by exporters

The measure allows eligible SEZ manufacturing units to clear goods to the DTA at concessional duty rates, subject to a limit of 30 per cent of the highest annual Free-on-Board export value achieved in any of the three immediately preceding financial years. Export benefits such as duty drawback on inputs are not permitted for such clearances to prevent double benefits.

The notification prescribes key eligibility conditions, including a minimum 20 per cent value addition within the SEZ, calculated using a defined formula based on assessable value and input costs. The concessional framework covers a broad range of sectors including mineral products; chemical products; plastics and rubber; hides and skins, leather products and articles of fur skins; wood, cork and paper; textiles and textile articles; footwear and headgear; stone, ceramic and glass; base metals and articles thereof; machinery and electrical equipment; vehicles, aircraft and transport equipment; optical, medical and scientific instruments; arms and ammunition; and miscellaneous manufactured articles. However, sectors such as agriculture (including marine and processed food products, tobacco, etc.), marble and granite, gems and jewellery, vehicles, toys and petroleum are excluded.

For availing concessional duty benefits, SEZ units are required to furnish a Development Commissioner's certificate confirming compliance with conditions, along with a declaration to pay full duty in case of non-fulfilment. The units will also be subject to audit under SEZ Rules, 2006. The notification is effective from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

The above has been implemented vide Notification No. 11/2026-Customs dated March 31, 2026 issued under Section 25(1) of the Customs Act, 1962. The notification grants conditional customs duty concessions on goods manufactured in SEZs and cleared to the DTA, including reduced duty rates and, in certain cases, partial exemption from Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess. It applies to units that commenced production on or before March 31, 2025 and meet specified conditions, while excluding Free Trade Warehousing Zone units and goods imported into SEZs and cleared to DTA without adequate manufacturing.

As per Section 30 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, clearance of goods from SEZs to the DTA is treated as imports into India and attracts applicable customs duties, which had affected the competitiveness of SEZ manufacturers. The present measure addresses this concern while ensuring a level-playing field for units operating in the DTA.

The SEZEPC raised the concerns of the SEZ units regarding the limited usage of the benefits in view of low benefits and heavy compliance burden and the fact that the measure is limited for one year only. Based on the analysis, 96.5% of total DTA sale by manufacturing units and 62% of manufacturing units making DTA sale under top 200 HSN codes will not be really benefitted from the current initiative. Even benefit to manufacturing units for concessional slab of more than 1% will be just 17 MN USD (Rs 158 cr). The council brought the following points for the consideration of the Government:

(i) The basis of fixation of concessional custom duties in respect of different HSN codes may kindly be made known for understanding of the Government. The calculation of duty foregone and equalisation duty, if applied, for arriving at the concessional duty in different HSN code may kindly be known to the Industry.

(ii) No equalisation duty is applied in respect of supplies to DTA by SEZs in US, UK, China, Indonesia, Thailand, etc. having significant DTA markets. SEZ units have to just pay duty forgone (duty paid on inputs consumed in the finished good being sold into DTA)

(iii) This marginal concession (1% or zero concession to maximum units and higher concession to a very few units) will not serve any meaningful purpose for the utilisation of the capacity of the SEZ units.

(iv) SEZ units are engaged in high quality export market / higher end segment of the domestic market. Their competition is not the goods manufactured by DTA manufacturers but the imports made by the traders from FTA countries (ASEAN) or low priced high-quality Chinese goods. Therefore, higher concession should be provided in respect of those HSN goods which are being imported (from FTA countries / China) to compete and substitute these imports. The Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs had, vide its emails dated 16.2.2026 and 8.3.2026 had
suggested that

> (a) All imports from China or imports from different countries under different Trade Agreements at concessional duties should be allowed to be supplied from SEZ to DTA at concessional duties as per FTA (zero duty or concessional duty). In this regard, the proposal as per the email sent earlier on 16.2.2026 may kindly be considered.
>
> (b) All goods from SEZ to DTA in labour-intensive sectors—Textiles and Leather, Footwear—should be allowed on reversal of duties on imported inputs.
>
> (c) All goods in the defence, space, R&D, and high-tech sectors may be allowed to be sold to DTA units including PSUs/Government Agencies (Defence, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) , upon reversal of duties on imported inputs.
>
> (d) SEZ units should be allowed to undertake subcontracting work for DTA units including PSUs/Government Agencies (Defence, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) in the defence, space,

R&D, and high-tech sectors without any linkage to export by amending SEZ Rule 43 as submitted vide the Council email dated

(e) Payment for supply of services to DTA units, particularly to PSUs/Government Agencies (Defence, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) in the defence, space, R&D, and high-tech sectors should be allowed in INR.

SEZEPC also requested for clarification on the export benefit and other issues vide its email dated 24.4.2026 Which are as follows.

SEZ to DTA clearances under Notification No.11/2026- Customs dated 31.03.2026 -reg

Director General SEZEPC *<dg@sezepc.in>Sat, 11 Apr, 2026 at 4:37 pm*

To: Sh Gaurav Pundir Dir(SEZ) <gaurav.pundir@gov.in>, Vimal ANAND JS(SEZ) <vimal.anand@nic.in>
Cc: Sh Ajay Bhadoo AS(SEZ) <astpd-doc@nic.in>, Sh Prateek BAJPAI, US(SEZ) <prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in>, ddg ddg <ddg@epces.in>, csoffice@nic.in

Dear Sir

Please refer to the Notification No. 1 1 /2026–Customs dated 31 .03.2026 regarding sales from SEZ to DTA at a concessional rate.

We have received representations from the member SEZ units regarding the inadequate concession provided vide the above notification to have any meaningful impact. Copies of two such representations are attached. The Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs has made an analysis of the concessional rates and the number of units that benefited from the said notification. As per the data for SEZ to DTA supplies available for 2023-24 (2024-25 and 2025-26 SEZ to DTA is not accurately available because of partial implementation of ICEGATE for SEZ), the following points may kindly be considered:

As of now, of total 6,395 SEZ units, there are 1 ,888 manufacturing units, 4,040 Services units (1 ,1 03 Financial Services, 2,937 IT/ITES services) and 467 Trading and Warehousing units.

An analysis of units which are supplying to DTA for the FY 2023-24 was made based on data made available by NSDL/SEZ Online. During 2023-24, a total of 2,352 units (1 ,042 manufacturing, 1 ,1 83 services, 1 27 trading and warehousing) made DTA sales worth 32,568 Mn USD

(Manufacturing 9,570.9 Mn USD, Services 4,1 60 Mn USD, Trading and warehousing 1 8,837.2 Mn USD) in 5440 HSN codes. Trading and Warehousing units are not eligible for any concessional duty. Further, Services units also will not be eligible for concessional duty as they are basically supplying laptop/scrap/components to DTA and will not comply with value addition criteria even though their HSN codes have been notified under the HSN code given concessional duty for SEZ to DTA supply. Therefore, focus of analysis has been the manufacturing units under these top 200 HSN codes. During 2023-24, a total of 1 ,042 manufacturing units made DTA supplies worth 9,570.9 Mn USD under different HSN codes. Top 200 HSN codes accounted for total 30,300.3 Mn USD covering 94% of total DTA sales. They also accounted for 8,837.8 MN USD DTA sale by Manufacturing units, covering 93% of total DTA sale by manufacturing units. Therefore, we analyzed the units falling under these top 200 HSN codes. (Summary of analysis attached)

Under this top 200 HSN code category, 678 manufacturing units made DTA sale worth 8,837.8 Mn USD. Of this, there is no concession in respect of DTA sale of 5,498.7 Mn USD (62%). Further, DTA sales worth 3,035 Mn USD (34%) was made by manufacturing units in the concessional slab of 1 %. Units with only a 1 % concession may not be interested in availing this marginal concession because the additional compliance cost will outweigh the benefit. Thus, DTA sale worth 8,533.7 Mn USD (5498.7+3035) (96 %) by manufacturing units under top 200 HSN code will not be benefitted. In terms of number of SEZ manufacturing units, it is to be noted that of 678 manufacturing units ,aking DTA sale in top 200 HSN codes, there is no concession in respect of DTA sale by 205 (30%) manufacturing units, and only 1 % concession in respect of 21 8 (though total 351 , as some will have concession in more than one slab) (32%) manufacturing units. Therefore, a total of 423 (205+21 8) (62%) manufacturing units making DTA sale in top 200 HSN codes will not be benefits. Thus, 96.5% of total DTA sale by manufacturing units and 62% of manufacturing units making DTA sale under top 200 HSN codes will not be really benefitted from the current initiative. Even benefit to manufacturing units for concessional slab of more than 1 % will be just 1 7 MN USD (Rs 1 58 cr). This is in respect of top 200 HSN codes covering 93% of total DTA sale of manufacturing units during FY 2023-24.

In view of the above, the following is requested for Government's consideration:

The basis of fixation of concessional custom duties in respect of different HSN codes may kindly be made known for understanding of the Government. The calculation of duty foregone and equalisation duty, if applied, for arriving at the concessional duty in different HSN code may kindly be known to the Industry.

No equalisation duty is applied in respect of supplies to DTA by SEZs in US, UK, China, Indonesia, Thailand, etc. haing significant DTA markets. SEZ units have to just pay duty forgone (duty paid on inputs consumed in the finished good being sold into DTA)

This marginal concession (1 % or zero concession to maximum units and higher concession to a very few units) will not serve any meaningful purpose for the utilisation of the capacity of the SEZ units.

SEZ units are engaged in high quality export market / higher end segment of the domestic market. Their competition is not the goods manufactured by DTA manufacturers but the imports made by the traders from FTA countries (ASEAN) or low priced high quality Chinese goods. Therefore, higher concession should be provided in respect of those HSN goods which are being imported (from FTA countries / China) to compete and subtitute these imports. The Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs had, vide its emails dated 1 6.2.2026 and 8.3.2026 (copies attached) had suggested that

All imports from China or imports from different countries under different Trade Agreements at concessional duties should be allowed to be supplied from SEZ to DTA at concessional duties as per FTA (zero duty or concessional duty). In this regard, the proposal as per the email sent earlier on 1 6.2.2026 may kindly be considered.

All goods from SEZ to DTA in labor-intensive sectors—Textiles and Leather, Footwear—should be allowed on reversal of duties on imported inputs.

All goods in the defense, space, R&D, and high-tech sectors may be allowed to be sold to DTA units including PSUs/Government Agencies (Defense, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) , upon reversal of duties on imported inputs.

SEZ units should be allowed to undertake subcontracting work for DTA units including PSUs/Government Agencies (Defence, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) in the defense, space, R&D, and high-tech sectors without any linkage to export by amending SEZ Rule 43 as submited vide the Council email dated

Payment for supply of services to DTA units, particularly to PSUs/Government Agencies (Defense, HAL, ISRO, BEML, DRDO, etc) in the defense, space, R&D, and high-tech sectors should be allowed in INR.

The Council will be happy to provide any further information, if required.

Regards

DG SEZEPC

Request for Joint CBIC-DoC Doubt clearing webinar regarding implementation of notification No 11_2026 -Custom dated 31.3.2026 for SEZ to DTA supply on concessional duty

Director General SEZEPC *<dg@sezepc.in>* *24 April 2026 at 16:33 To: "Sh Ajay Bhadoo AS(SEZ)" <astpd-doc@nic.in>, "Vimal ANAND JS(SEZ)" <vimal.anand@nic.in>, js-dor@gov.in, REVAS-MOF@gov.in, "Sh Gaurav Pundir Dir(SEZ)" <gaurav.pundir@gov.in>*
Cc: csoffice@nic.in, Revenue Secretary <RSECY@nic.in>, membercus.cbic@gov.in, DGEP New Email ID <dgep-sez@gov.in>, DG Export Promotion <dgep-dor@gov.in>

Dear Sir

Please refer to Notification No. 11/2026 dated 31.3.2026 by CBIC for DTA supplies on concessional duty. A key problem in the implementation is ensuring condition number 4 of the Annexure which states the following:

> *"No benefit of duty drawback or any other export benefit as admissible under the Foreign Trade Policy has been availed in respect of any of the inputs used in the manufacture of such goods, either by the Unit in the SEZ or by the supplier of the inputs, as the case may be."*

DTA suppliers to SEZ units receive duty drawback benefits when supplying goods to those units. SEZ units use these goods for both exports and DTA supplies. There should be a mechanism for SEZ units to refund benefits taken, based on the proportionality of exports versus DTA supplies. The problem is that SEZ units mostly export goods manufactured using DTA-procured materials, making it very difficult to separate the DTA goods used in exports from the DTA supplies.
This needs urgent clarification.

The meaning of any other export benefit as admissible under the FTP also needs clarification. It is requested that a clarification on these points may kindly be issued urgently.

Regards

DG SEZEPC

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2. Committee on SEZ Reforms (February 26, 2026)

The **Department of Commerce** constituted a committee through its Office Memorandum dated February 26, 2026, to study harmonisation of **SEZs**, **EOUs**, MOOWR, Advance Authorisation,,and EPCEG and recommend a roadmap for comprehensive **SEZ** 2.0 reforms. Additional Secretary (**SEZ**) chaired the Committee. Members included Joint Secretary (**SEZ**); the Development Commissioners of SEEPZ and MEPZ; the Deputy Commissioners of Customs for MEPZ and KASEZ; Director General, **SEZEPC**; representatives of the Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs, NITI Aayog, DGFT, DPIIT, the Tariff Research Unit, Customs Policy Wing, GST Policy Wing, DGEP; and Director (**SEZ**) as Member Secretary. The Committee could co-opt additional members.

Its Terms of Reference required it to:

1. Review the **SEZ** Act, 2005, and harmonisation with **EOU**, MOOWR, Advance Authorisation and EPCG frameworks to identify policy discontinuities.
2. Assess recent and proposed reforms concerning **DTA** sales, fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, compliance and operational flexibility and their effects on exports, investment, employment and ease of doing business.
3. Evaluate alignment with India’s export objectives, WTO disciplines and evolving global value chains.
4. Assess **SEZ** performance in attracting domestic and foreign investment, manufacturing and services, technology upgrading, value addition and **MSME** employment.
5. Identify customs, taxation, approval, compliance, infrastructure and inter-agency bottlenecks.
6. Review revenue effects, duty and tax foregone and the cost-benefit balance in exports, investment and economic activity.
7. Examine the role of **SEZs** in Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, industrial corridors, logistics networks and sunrise sectors including semiconductors, electronics components, green hydrogen and manufacturing services.
8. Study international best practices and comparable **SEZ**/free-trade-zone models for Indian adaptation.
9. Consult Central and State Governments, **SEZ** authorities, developers, units, industry associations, exporters and other stakeholders.
10. Recommend short-, medium- and long-term policy, legal and procedural reforms, including possible amendments to the **SEZ** Act and Rules, with a timed implementation roadmap.

The Committee was required to report within six months. Its first meeting was held on March 11, 2026. **The Council** welcomed the initiative but noted that the Baba Kalyani Committee Report, 2018; the **EPCES**–World Free Zones Organization India **SEZ** Plus Model Report, December 2021; and the DESH Bill, 2022, had already provided substantial reform material, and industry expected expeditious decisions.

K-43013(11)/1/2022-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
SEZ Division

Vanijya Bhavan New Delhi
Dated 24 February, 2026

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Constitution of committee for larger reforms in SEZ policy - reg.

The undersigned is directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority regarding constitution of a Committee for undertaking a background study focussed on harmonisation of various prevalent export promotion schemes including SEZs, EoUs, MOOWR, Advance Authorization, EPCG, DFIA and submit a concept paper recommending roadmap for broad-based and comprehensive reforms to formulate a SEZ 2.0 policy. The composition of the Committee is as follows:

i.	Additional Secretary (SEZ), Department of Commerce	Chairperson
ii.	Joint Secretary (SEZ), Department of Commerce	Member
iii.	Development Commissioner, SEEPZ	Member
iv.	Development Commissioner, MEPZ	Member
v.	DC (Customs), MEPZ	Member
vi.	DC (Customs), KASEZ	Member
vii.	DG, EPCES	Member
viii.	Representative from Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs	Member
ix.	Representative from NITI Aayog	Member
x.	Representative from DGFT	Member
xi.	Representative from Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade	Member
xii.	Representative from TRU, CBIC, DoR	Member
xiii.	Representative from Customs Policy Wing, CBIC, DoR	Member
xiv.	Representative from GST Policy Wing, CBIC, DoR	Member
xv.	Representative from DGEP, DoR	Member
xvi.	Representative from International Customs Division, CBIC, DoR	Member
xvii	Director (SEZ), Department of Commerce	Member Secretary

Committee may co-opt additional members as per the need.

2. Committee shall undertake a comprehensive examination as per Terms of Reference (TOR) given below. The Committee may conduct its deliberations in hybrid mode as well. The TOR of the said Committee shall be:

a. **Review of Existing Framework:**
Examine the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act, 2005 with a view to assessing their effectiveness in the current global trade, investment environment and macro-economic landscape and harmonisation with other export promotion schemes like EoUs, MOOWR, AA and EPCG so that policy distortion, if any, may be addressed.

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b. **Assessment of Recent Reforms:**
Evaluate the impact of recent and proposed reforms in SEZ policy, including measures relating to Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) sales, fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, compliance requirements, and operational flexibilities, on exports, investment, employment and ease of doing business.

c. **Export Competitiveness and Global Aligament:**
Analyse the alignment of the SEZ policy with India's export competitiveness objectives, international trade commitments (including WTO disciplines), and evolving global value chains.

d. **Investment and Employment Outcomes:**
Assess the effectiveness of SEZs in attracting domestic and foreign investment, promoting manufacturing and services, technology up-gradation, value addition, and employment generation, including for MSMEs.

e. **Operational and Procedural Bottlenecks:**
Identify operational, procedural, and regulatory challenges faced by SEZ developers and units, including issues relating to customs, taxation, approvals, compliance burden, infrastructure, and coordination among stakeholders.

f. **Fiscal Implications:**
Review the fiscal impact of SEZs and related reforms on revenue, including foregone duties and taxes, and assess the cost-benefit outcomes in terms of exports, investment and economic activity.

g. **Role of SEZs in Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India:**
Evaluate the role of SEZs in advancing national initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India, and sector-specific strategies, including integration with industrial corridors and logistics networks and catering to the sunrise manufacturing sectors like semiconductor, electronics components, green hydrogen, manufacturing services in a comprehensive manner.

h. **International Best Practices:**
Study international best practices and comparable SEZ/free trade zone models and assess their relevance and adaptability to the Indian context.

i. **Stakeholder Consultation:**
Engage with key stakeholders, including Central and State Governments, SEZ authorities, developers, units, industry associations, exporters, and other relevant entities, to obtain inputs and suggestions.

j. **Recommendations and Roadmap:**
Recommend short-term, medium-term and long-term policy, legal and procedural reforms, including possible amendments to the SEZ Act/Rules, and suggest an implementation roadmap with clear timelines.

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k. **Any Other Matter:**
Examine any other issue relevant to strengthening the SEZ framework and ensuring its continued relevance as an engine of exports, investment and employment.

The Committee may constitute sub-groups, and call for records and data from concerned Ministries/Departments as considered necessary for effective discharge of its mandate.

3. The Committee shall submit concept paper/roadmap/suggestions/amendments within six months or a term as extended, along with its recommendations.

4. This issue with the approval of the competent authority.

(Prateek Bajpai)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
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Email: prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in

Stakeholder Consultations by Committee on SEZ Reforms 2.0

The government has set up an inter-ministerial committee in February 2026 to focus on larger SEZ Reforms and the harmonisation of Export Promotion Schemes, chaired by **Shri Ajay Bhadoo**, **Additional Secretary** from the Department of Commerce. **On June 30, 2026**, the committee held a major stakeholder consultation at Vanijya Bhawan.

Organized by the Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (SEZEPC), the event began with a welcome address and opening discussion led by Shri Badiga Srikanth, Chairman of SEZEPC and Group Director of Phoenix Group. Shri Alok Chaturvedi, Director General of SEZEPC, presented the various issues raised by stakeholders and moderated the sessions, which were also joined by Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agarwal.

The consultation drew more than 100 participants representing diverse sectors such as SEZ developers, SEZ units, EOUs, MOOWR units, domestic tariff area (DTA) units, IT/ITES units, think tanks, and advisory firms. Major industry associations actively engaged in the talks, including NASSCOM, FIEO, FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, and PHDCII. Prominent corporate and institutional representatives attended from organizations like Phoenix Group (Hyderabad), Serum Institute (Pune, Maharashtra), Micron Semiconductor Tech (Sanad, Gujarat), CG Semi (Semiconductor) (Gujarat), Brandix Apparel India SEZ (Andhra Pradesh), Salcomp India (Tamil Nadu), Cheyyar SEZ (Fengtay Group/Lotus Footwear, Tamil Nadu), DP World & Vedanta Ltd, Mahansaria Tyres (Gujarat), L&T MBDA Missile Systems SEZ, Suzlon Energy (SE Forge) & ZF Wind Power, Gujarat Credo Alumina Chemicals Ltd., NASSCOM, TCS, DLF, and the K Raheja group.

The key issues discussed included allowing SEZ to DTA supplies on a duty foregone basis following global practices and on the current EOU and MOOWR pattern, as well as allowing payment in INR for services supplied by SEZ to DTA units. The attendees also deliberated on allowing reverse jobwork by SEZ units for DTA without any link to exports, merging the EOU and MOOWR schemes, and offering zero-duty supply in DTA for products currently imported into the country from China or FTA countries to support import substitution. Stakeholders also raised the issue of easing compliance burden for services units in SEZs and improving the overall Ease of Doing Business in SEZ operations. In his closing remarks, the Committee Chairman and Additional Secretary, Shri Ajay Bhadoo, assured everyone that the committee would take advantage of previous studies and will

Draft Minutes of the third meeting of the inter-departmental committee for SEZ reforms and harmonisation of various export promotion schemes held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 30.06.2026 at 11 AM - Stakeholder Consultation

A stakeholder consultation meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 30.6.2026 regarding SEZ reforms and harmonisation of various export promotion scheme.

2. The list of participants may be seen at Annexure.

3. Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Commerce Secretary kindly consented to address the stakeholders and shared his broad perspective about harmonisation of export promotion schemed and SEZ reforms. He stated that the harmonization exercise should be balanced, rational, and supported by clear policy logic. He explained that existing export schemes are intended to neutralize taxes and simplify compliance. He emphasized the need to identify the rationale for each scheme, apply global benchmarking or India-specific justification where necessary, use technology to improve transparency and trust, preserve the core purpose of SEZs as export-led ecosystems, treat services separately from goods, and continue work toward a balanced draft law and package of reforms.

4. Shri Gaurav Pundir, Director (SEZ) and Member-Secretary welcomed all the participants and gave a brief background about the committee and the expectation of the Committee from the stakeholders.

5. Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary and Chairman of the Committee, in his opening remarks, suggested that the Committee would like to hear views of stakeholders about harmonisation of various export promotion schemes and suggestions about the larger reforms in SEZ policy along with justification. He suggested that harmonisation does not mean merging all schemes into one as they may cater to different category of exporters and serving different purposes. However, we may suggest merging schemes if they are broadly similar and serving the same category of exporters. We may also suggest adopting the accepted principles of one scheme into another scheme. He requested Shri Alok Chaturvedi, Director General, Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (SEZEPC) to moderate the interaction with the stakeholders.

6. DG SEZEPC made a brief presentation for information of stakeholders so that they may not spend time for which representations have already been made before the Committee. A brief background, characteristic features and the current usage of different export promotion schemes (Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation, Export Promotion Capital Goods, EOU, MOOWR, SEZ) was presented. DG SEZEPC also presented key demands of the industry which included SEZ to DTA on duty foregone basis, INR payment for supply of services from SEZ to DTA, reverse job-work by SEZ units for DTA without any export linkage, need for zero duty/preferential duty for SEZ to DTA supply of those goods which are at present being imported from FTA countries/other countries, reforms in Free Trade warehousing Zones and other EoDB measures. DG suggested that the stakeholders should specifically inform about the goods being manufactured by them and any impact on domestic manufacturers, if any, if SEZ to DTA on duty foregone basis is allowed. Thereafter, DG invited comments and suggestions from the stakeholders.

7. Dr Ajay Sahai, DG, FIEO explained the two broad approaches of duty neutralisation on exports – upfront exemption/suspension or remission. Advance License, EOU,SEZ, MOOWR are duty suspension schemes whereas duty drawback RoTEP/RoSCTL are duty remission schemes. He stated that these schemes are catering to the requirement of different categories of exporters - micro exporters, small-exporter, medium-exporter, ultra-large-exporters in different sectors such as carpet, handicraft, pharma, automobile, petroleum, engineering, etc. He opined that no single scheme should be thrust on the trade. SEZ, though it's a suspension scheme, it has come because we wanted to have an island of excellence, where we want to provide the world-class infrastructure, attract the global FDI in the export sector, bring the best of technology. Therefore, SEZ scheme should continue as such and should be improved by adopting international best practices. MOOWR should also be continued as it improves manufacturing competitiveness. EOU scheme can be considered to be converted into either locational SEZs or merged into MOOWR provided RoDTEP /RoSCTL benefits available to EOUs are extended to MOOWR scheme too. DFIA scheme can be phased out as it has lost its utility. EPCG meant for duty free import of capital goods for promoting exports needs to be continued for DTA exporters till import duties on capital goods are reduced. RoDTEP and RoSCTL can be merged into one scheme. As regards SEZ to DTA on duty foregone basis or reverse job work without any linkage to exports, some cap may be introduced as the export orientation of SEZs should be maintained. We may also permit SEZ units to supply those goods to DTA on zero duty which are being imported under FTA or otherwise to a large extent say 75% or more of total imports of that product. He also opined that there is no justification for payment in foreign currency for supply of services to DTA.

8. Shri Hitendra Mehta from ASSOCHAM stated that SEZ reform should be undertaken urgently and in a progressive manner. He grouped the issues into amendments to the SEZ Act, matters to be addressed through rules, and compliance-related issues. He stressed that SEZs should be integrated with the domestic economy through duty-forgone sales to DTA, as such sales is revenue-neutral and would help utilize vacant capacity and developed land. He further suggested amendments to Section 30 and the definition of services, use of Rule 47 for subcontracting, and greater policy flexibility within the existing SEZ Act. He also proposed distinguishing between manufacturing and service SEZs, harmonizing SEZ policy with industrial corridor and PLI schemes, and preserving the broader objective of making India a preferred investment destination. He pointed out that DTA units can import goods duty-free under FTAs, and therefore SEZ units should also be allowed a level playing field for domestic sales of such goods. He said that only limited tweaking within the existing Act is required, rather than creating a completely new framework.

9. Shri Rajiv Dimri from FICCI welcomed the approach adopted in the discussion and made two key suggestions. First, he stated that the legal framework should remain flexible and capable of adapting to the impact of upcoming free trade agreements, rather than being rigidly fixed on current assumptions. Second, he emphasized that compliance burden should be reduced, noting that excessive documentation can deter investors from choosing India. He added that government IT systems are now sufficiently advanced to support a more natural, technology-driven compliance process, and should be leveraged to ease the burden on entrepreneurs.

10. Shri Sabyasachi Ray, ED, GJEPC SEZ units in the jewellery sector are export-oriented, rely mainly on imported inputs, and should be given greater operational flexibility without disturbing DTA units. He supported duty-forgone access, INR-based payments, more flexible raw material sourcing, permission for lower carate jewellery exports, allowance for advance payment of gold, and clearly defined job work provisions. He added that SEZ jewellery manufacturing serves a distinct export niche and would complement, rather than compete with, DTA manufacturing.

11. Shri PC Nambiar, Serum Institute stated that SEZ is a time-tested and highly beneficial scheme, particularly for vaccine manufacturing, and argued that duty-forgone access is essential to keep production affordable and support national immunization efforts. He said SEZ units are export-oriented but also have limited DTA sales, which should be treated on a similar footing as export-committed DTA units, and suggested replacing the multiplicity of export incentive schemes with a simpler duty-entitlement mechanism linked to export earnings or committed exports. He further observed that SEZ units no longer receive income tax benefits, use duty-free capital goods and inputs only for export production, and may appropriately recover the corresponding duty in DTA sales.

12. Shri Srikanth Badiga, Phoenix presented the developer's perspective on SEZ reforms and stated that SEZ developers have created infrastructure far beyond minimum compliance, particularly in the services segment, but their role is still not adequately recognized as infrastructure. He urged that the non-processing area be treated more liberally, that IT SEZs be viewed in the context of real estate and infrastructure, and that vacant SEZ land be considered for wider industrial park development. He said that he is on the Board of Director of the World Free Zones Organisation and he had recently participated in their international conference. India is being watched by global investors for SEZ related reforms for more domestic integration. He also requested that developer-specific issues be included in ease-of-doing-business reforms, advocated greater liberalization, and raised concern that MOOWR may create policy overlap and competition with registered units.

13. Shri C Saravanan, COO, Brandix Apparel India SEZ stated that apparel and textile SEZs should be permitted duty-forgone access to the domestic market, as international brands increasingly require both export and domestic market supply from a single ecosystem. He explained that restricting such access would not benefit domestic manufacturers, but would instead divert business to neighbouring countries and cause loss of employment in India. He therefore emphasized that domestic market access is essential for making SEZs viable and employment-generating in the apparel and textile sector.

14. Shri Murali Sivaperumal (Director), ZF Wind Power informed that they make gearbox for wind-turbines. The fear that access to domestic market on duty foregone basis will harm DTA manufacturers is without any basis. More than 50% of wind turbine products are imported into India. It is not that we are competing against DTA; on the contrary, we are competing against China. Furthermore, in the industry like ours, it is important to have energy security and resilience as recently China stopped export of carbon planks used in the wind turbine blades. Earlier there was a unit in India which closed down because of dumping by China and once it closed, China suddenly stopped exports. Therefore, SEZ to DTA supplies should not only be allowed on duty forgone basis, but it should be duty free if the goods are being imported from China or FTA countries. This will help in import substitution too.

15. Shri C R Subramanium, Director/GM Salcomp India stated that they have three SEZ and three MOOWR units. He stated that MOOWR offers flexibility to serve export market as well as domestic market. While no duty is to be paid on inputs in case of exports, duty on inputs only is to be paid while serving DTA market. This is all the more important for the electronics component industry. Similar benefit of flexibility should be given to SEZ units rather than making SEZ units pay full customs duty on finished goods in case of serving domestic market.

16. Shri Sunil Taneja, Cheyyar SEZ stated that they have a SEZ units in Tamil Nadu which exports sports footwear. They have 30,000 people working in their campus. He welcomed, in principle, the current measure announced by the Government to permit SEZ units to supply to DTA on concessional customs duty. But the measure is half-baked as the duty concession is very low. Their unit compete with the low duty imports from countries such as Vietnam and Indonesia. He suggested that SEZ to DTA sale should be allowed on duty foregone basis as is available in case of MOOWR and EOU schemes.

17. Ms. Pauravi Shah from Mahansaria Tyres SEZ stated that they manufacture off-highway tyres (OHT) in SEZ in Panoli, Gujarat with a phased capacity expansion from 40,000 MT to 100,000 MT. These tyres are special niche category tyres for industrial, agriculture, mining use. Exports have grown by 3.4 times in the last five years to Rs 1160 cr with NFE of Rs 390 cr. India imports approximately Rs 1000 cr of these tyres annually. There is a need for allowing SEZ to DTA on duty foregone basis for import substitution and better capacity utilisation which will also help in achieving economy of scale in meeting export demand in a competitive manner. She also requested that import restrictions should not be allowed in case of supply of goods manufactured in SEZ as this manufacturing and value addition has been done in India only. This will also help in import substitution. She also supported that SEZ unit should also be allowed to do sub-contracting for DTA units without any linkage to exports.

18. Shri Manish K Madhukar from Micron Semiconductor Tech SEZ stated that Micron is engaged in semiconductor back-end manufacturing operations in India. Considering the specialized nature of semiconductor manufacturing, high capital investment, import-dependence, long project execution cycle, and global supply chain integration, certain clarifications and procedural relaxations are required to ensure smooth implementation of the MOOWR and SEZ framework. He requested that movement of goods between MOOWR units and SEZ units for further manufacturing, reverse job work, repair, processing, testing, or completion of manufacturing operations should be permitted without payment of customs duty. Customs duty, if any, should arise only at the point of clearance into the Domestic Tariff Area, and not at the stage of inter-scheme movement. Further, SEZ units operating under a toll manufacturing / consignment manufacturing model, NFE should be calculated based on actual imports made on payment basis and actual foreign exchange received against service invoices. Free-of-cost import of customer-owned / parent-owned materials should not be treated as foreign exchange outflow of the SEZ unit. Free-of-cost export of finished goods owned by the overseas parent / customer should not be treated as export realization of the SEZ unit. He also stated that Micron operates under a toll manufacturing model. Under this model, wafers and dies are received from the overseas parent entity on a consignment / free-of-cost basis. Ownership of the wafers, dies, work-in-process, and finished goods remains with the overseas parent entity. Micron India does not purchase or sell such goods. Instead, Micron India provides manufacturing services and receives foreign remittance against service invoices raised on a cost-plus basis. Therefore, the second proviso to Section 13(3)(a) of the IGST Act, 2017 should be amended so that the place of supply of toll manufacturing services rendered to a foreign principal continues to remain outside India, irrespective of whether the finished goods are physically exported or delivered domestically. He also requested that SEZ developers may be permitted to import or domestically procure any goods, materials, equipment, tools, consumables, spares, construction materials, and project-related items required for authorized operations, without the need for item-wise prior approval of each material. Approval may instead be granted based on broad categories aligned with authorized operations, such

as construction materials, project materials, plant and machinery, electrical systems, HVAC, cleanroom materials, utilities, safety systems, security systems, IT infrastructure, consumables, and maintenance materials. This will support faster project execution, ease of doing business, and timely development of capital-intensive SEZ infrastructure.

19. Shri Niraj Jain, CG Semi Private Limited SEZ informed the committee that the company has two units, namely a pilot line under the MOOWR scheme and a main plant under SEZ. He stated that under MOOWR, depreciation benefits should be given, zero-rating of domestic procurement should be allowed, clarity should be given regarding import of indirect materials, consumables and chemicals and endorsement /mentioning of inputs and consumables in export shipping bills. Similarly, in the SEZs, toll manufacturing/job work should be allowed for domestic customer under SEZ Rule 18(6), time-period of achieving positive NFE for Semi-conductor industry should be extended from 5 years to 10 years, NFE for domestic sales from SEZ should be relaxed and SEZ to DTA sale should be on duty foregone basis. He also requested that toll manufacturing/contract manufacturing services provided by an Indian OSAT unit to a foreign principal, where goods are supplied on FOC basis and ownership remains with the foreign entity, should be treated as export of services, irrespective of whether the processed goods are ultimately sold within India or outside India.

20. Shri Yamanappa Patrut from L&T MBDA Missile Systems, a JV between L&T and MBDA, operating in SEZ Coimbatore, informed that the unit has already manufactured and exported missile rear sections and air-to-air launchers for the Rafale aircraft. He stated that the Indian Air Force has requested the company to undertake MRO activities, but the prevailing SEZ conditions make such domestic service rendering difficult as foreign exchange realization is required. He emphasized the strategic importance of using Indian capability for such MRO work, noting that foreign OEMs take more than a year whereas the Indian unit can complete the work in a little over eight days, and requested permission to undertake these services from SEZ and payment in INR should be allowed in the interest of national security and operational readiness.

21. Shri Nishith Kumar from Suzlon Energy (SE Forge SEZ Unit) stated that as customs duty is charged on the total value in case of supplies of components from SEZ to DTA, the cost of setting the wind power unit increases which in turn raises the effective per-unit electricity cost. He requested that the committee consider allowing for SEZ-to-DTA supply on duty forgone basis. He further referred to the recently announced concessional duty framework and mentioned that the rate for the goods manufactured at their SEZ unit has been rationalized from 7.5% to 6.5% and availing this 1% benefit is not economically viable due to the high cost involved. He therefore requested that further rationalization be considered as per actuals.

22. Shri Anil Malhotra, TUF Metallurgical Pvt. Ltd informed the committee that their Vizag SEZ unit manufactures ferroalloys and that the export-duty matter (no export duty on DTA to SEZ supplies), though decided in their favour by the court, still requires a corresponding policy amendment. He stated that Indian SEZ units should be given more flexibility, similar to free zones such as Jebel Ali and Sohar, where multiple activities are permitted under a common framework. He further highlighted difficulties in converting adjoining land from SEZ to DTA, which is affecting expansion plans, and also expressed concern that FTAs, particularly with Oman, may create an uneven duty environment for domestic manufacturers, since the same product sold from Indian SEZ in DTA attracts 5% duty while competing imports may enter duty-free.

23. Shri Amogh Patankar from K Raheja Group requested that DTA sale of services be permitted in Indian rupees, stating that the earlier concern regarding revenue loss (CVD component as there is no customs duty on services) has been addressed after the introduction of GST/IGST and that such sales would not adversely impact DTA service providers. He further requested that small vacant pockets in older SEZs be permitted to be used as non-processing areas for industrial units such as domestic data centres without requiring denotification, noting that denotification is a slow and cumbersome process involving multiple authorities. He also sought flexibility in SEZ land-use norms to allow a small hotel within the SEZ to support visiting professionals, and stated that the first two proposals would require amendments to the SEZ Act, while the hotel-related proposal would require changes in the SEZ Rules.

24. Shri Swapnil Yadav from NASSCOM thanked the committee for taking a distinct approach to the services sector and stated that most of the issues raised by the industry had already been covered. He specifically supported the proposal relating to INR payment for supply of services from SEZ to DTA and for job work for DTA without any linkage to export and expressed strong support for the reform measures under discussion. He also informed the committee that some ease-of-doing-business issues remain unresolved and stated that a detailed note had already been submitted to the Ministry of Commerce in August last year, which would be shared again with the committee.

25. Shri Naman Patel, Gujarat Credo Alumina Chemicals Ltd. informed the committee that the unit manufactures inorganic chemicals, primarily aluminium hydroxide and synthetic zeolites, the latter being manufactured by only one company in India. He submitted that unit is significantly under-utilized because it cannot sell freely in the DTA and that permitting duty-forgone DTA sales would not harm domestic producers since there is no local competition. He noted that the unit competes globally, particularly against suppliers from South Korea, Thailand, and China, and that it is commercially inequitable for Indian customers to buy from foreign FTA suppliers while being unable to source from the SEZ unit. He further stated that it is a paradox that they are unable to supply to the Indian operations or entities of the same group companies who are their customers abroad. He further emphasized that export-led manufacturing requires access to both domestic and export markets in order to build quality, scale, and long-term competitiveness.

26. Shri Paresh Rathod, Kalika International & SURSEZ Association informed the committee that, unlike DTA exporters, SEZ units are required to bear the salary cost of customs staff even though customs clearance is a government function. He questioned the rationale for placing this burden on private SEZ units and stated that such disparity adversely affects their international competitiveness.

27. Shri Ganesh Sanganeria, VP, ITC Ltd. from ASSOCHAM stated that SEZ policy presently lacks a clear negative list and requested clarity on products discouraged by the government or covered under international commitments such as FCTC. He submitted that SEZ relaxations should not be extended to products prohibited in India or otherwise not intended for concessional benefits, particularly in cases involving high tax arbitrage. Citing liquor and tobacco as examples, he cautioned that permitting such activities in SEZs or FTAs may be used to circumvent policy and aggravate the existing illicit-market problem in India.

28. Representative from FICCI stated that the duty forgone requirement for SEZ remains relevant in the present environment. He requested harmonization of the two schemes and submitted that MOOWR players should be extended comparable benefits. He highlighted that depreciation benefit is available under SEZ for clearing capital goods but not under MOOWR, and further requested that the duty forgone benefit under

MOOWR, presently restricted to owned capital assets, be extended to leased capital assets also, similar to the SEZ framework.

29. Shri Rahul Kalburgi from Aequs SEZ stated that the SEZ scheme has significantly benefited the aerospace manufacturing cluster. He requested a relook at certain legacy SEZ provisions, particularly restrictions on DTA job work, stating that these restrictions are preventing the unit from servicing defence and other customers in India and are resulting in work being shifted abroad and re-imported. He further highlighted an anomaly in DTA sale duty treatment, citing the toys sector as an example where SEZ units face full customs duty while EOUs pay only duty foregone, and requested a level playing field. He also suggested policy changes to permit conversion of EOUs into SEZs, ease procurement from small suppliers, and align the SEZ job-work return timeline with the EOU timeline.

30. Shri Manohar from Meghmani Industries Limited highlighted difficulties in exiting SEZ and requested that debonding be permitted by allowing capital goods to be removed at depreciated value. He stated that this is particularly necessary as the unit's products face anti-dumping duty issues from China and the existing one-time debonding framework imposes duty on movement of capital goods. He further submitted that the unit is unable to fully utilize its capacity because DTA sales on duty-forgo ne terms are not permitted. He also requested better digital data integration and monthly reporting through a common utility, permission for return of SEZ-supplied goods in case of quality issues, and removal of the duty anomaly in FTA-linked trade, where import-based units can procure backward-integrated products duty-free while SEZ units must supply the same product at 7.5% duty.

31. Shri Manjur Ahmad from Aco Perfumes & Cosmetics LLP, Surat Special Economic Zone, informed the committee that the unit is facing difficulty in claiming IGST refunds, whereas refund claims were easier under the earlier service tax regime. He stated that although there are judgments of the Madras and Gujarat High Courts, clear operational guidelines are still required for claiming refund on DTA services used in SEZ units. He further highlighted system glitches in the customs department and requested seamless electronic integration among customs port systems, the gateway system, ICEGATE, and shipping line systems.

32. DG SEZEPC noted that due to shortage of time, some participants did not get time to present their views. He requested that they may send their views and suggestions through email at dg@sezepc.in or gaurav.pundir@gov.in so that the same may be considered by the Committee. He also advised participants who have spoken may also submit in writing for better clarity.

33. Shri Ajay Bhadoo, AS(SEZ) and chairman of the committee requested the Committee members to give their comments /suggestions, if any.

34. Shri Ranjan Khanna, Additional Pr DGEP observed that the meeting represented an important first step in a structured dialogue on the harmonization of SEZ schemes and related processes. He noted that while harmonization is necessary, it should not imply the indiscriminate merging of all schemes, since different sectors operate with distinct production systems, supply chains, and compliance needs. He emphasized that any reform must be guided by global best practices, sector-specific consultation, and robust data-based reasoning, and that the committee should prioritize practical and achievable measures in a balanced manner. He further highlighted that trust and technology will be central to the success of any liberalized framework, and referred to the need for greater use of digital systems to improve transparency and confidence. He

identified section 2(z) and section 30 of the SEZ Act as the two major issues requiring careful examination. He also stated that any proposal should be assessed on the basis of competitive neutrality, complementarity with the DTA, revenue neutrality, and avoidance of regulatory arbitrage.

35. Ms. Shilpa, from Niti Aayog stated that the stakeholder discussion was useful as it brought out both the positive and negative aspects of the existing framework. She observed that harmonization involves a delicate balancing exercise, since what benefits one set of sectors may raise concerns for another. She emphasized the need to build an efficient system that enables industry to strengthen capacities and reduces underutilization of resources. She further noted that while sale to DTA on a duty-forgone basis is an important issue, SEZ performance should be assessed through a broader and alternative framework, including parameters such as NFE. She also highlighted the need for a clear, well-defined and seamless exit policy, with proper demarcation for transition from one mechanism to another.

36. Shri Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary stated that the harmonization exercise is being pursued to address long-standing reform issues and to reduce scheme shopping between SEZ, EOU, and other schemes, noting that EOU already provides access to the DTA market on a duty-forgone basis. He explained that the government is considering concerns raised by DTA stakeholders and other ministries regarding the perceived advantages of SEZ units, including income tax, state-level, GST, capital goods duty, land, and financing benefits. He further stated that these concerns led to the March 31 notification providing concessional duty instead of pure duty forgone, in order to preserve a level playing field between SEZ and DTA units. He requested written submissions from industry bodies such as CII, FICCI, and ASSOCHAM so that the DTA perspective can be incorporated in the report.

37. Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary and Chairman of the Committee thanked the participants for their active participation and informed that any participant who had not yet submitted their views or had not got an opportunity to speak may send a detailed representation for consolidation and onward submission to the committee. He assured the participants that the Committee will examine in detail the observations made by the participants as well as the written representations and submit its report shortly.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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3. Open House by the Commerce Secretary in Chennai (November 20, 2025)

Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal with the SEZEPC leadership and participants at the Stakeholder Consultation for EOUs and SEZs, ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, November 20, 2025

The Council organised a stakeholder consultation at ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, on November 20, 2025, enabling more than 150 units to engage directly with Commerce Secretary **Shri Rajesh Agrawal**. Senior **Department of Commerce** officials included **Shri Ajay Bhadoo**, Additional Secretary (**SEZ**); **Shri Vimal Anand**, Joint Secretary; **Shri Alex Paul Menon**, Development Commissioner, MEPZ; and **Shri Gourav Pundir**, Director (**SEZ**). Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga**, Vice Chairman **Shri Sunil Rallan** and all CGC members participated. Director General **Shri Alok Chaturvedi** moderated the consultation.

SEZ-to-**DTA** supplies on a duty-foregone basis formed the principal discussion. **Shri Sunil Rallan** coordinated responses from participants including Mr. Arul Prabhu, Managing Director, Salcomp; representatives of L&T; Mr. Deepak Prabhakar Rao Pohekar of the ZF Group; and others. Participants stated that foreign parent companies could not understand why Indian **SEZ** factories had to serve India from Vietnam or Sri Lanka under **FTAs** instead of using Indian capacity. They argued that separate **DTA** factories would leave both **SEZ** and **DTA** capacity underutilised, that premium **SEZ** products did not threaten domestic **MSMEs**, and that comparable access existed in the United States, United Kingdom, China and Indonesia. Mr. Arul Prabhu also sought reverse job work so Salcomp's **SEZ** laboratory could test chargers manufactured on its **DTA** assembly line.

CGC Member **Shri Navin Kedia**, Chief Financial Officer, DLF Cybercity Developers, presented IT/ITES issues. The AMRL **SEZ** Unit Holders Association reported that the AMRL–TIDCO joint-venture developer had not developed or maintained the **SEZ** and had entered NCLT proceedings, requiring Government appointment of an administrator under the **SEZ** framework.

The formal issue register covered twenty-two items:

1. **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sales on a duty-foregone basis, INR payment for **SEZ** services supplied to **DTA** and reverse job work.
2. A general order exempting **SEZ** and **EOU** imports from import-policy restrictions except for prohibited goods under **SEZ** Rule 27(1) and FTP paragraph 6.01(d)(i).
3. Removal of export duty on **DTA**-to-**SEZ** supplies in light of High Court and Supreme Court decisions.
4. Appointment of an administrator and resolution of infrastructure and maintenance failures at AMRL **SEZ**, Nanguneri.
5. Exemption of imports into **SEZs** and FTWZs from **ICEGATE** Risk Management System or routine examination under Section 53(1) and Rules 27(10) and 28(5); participants reported examination of approximately **90%** of goods after **ICEGATE** rollout.
6.
7. FTWZ issues, including **RoDTEP** for exports routed through FTWZs, recognition of FTWZs as ports for new-car imports, the ERP/SAP requirement, the prohibition on FTWZ-to-FTWZ transfer, one-year CCTV storage and incorporation of Instruction No. 60 dated July 6, 2010, into the **SEZ** Rules.

8. Clarification that contract manufacturing under the second proviso to Section 13(3)(a) of the IGST Act constituted export of services and was zero-rated under Sections 2(6) and 16(1)(a).
9. Recognition of supplies from **SEZs** to MOOWR and bonded warehouses as positive NFE under Rule 53A(j).
10. Online, risk-based or sample-based endorsement under **SEZ** Rule 30(4), limited where possible to **DTA**-supplier refund cases.
11. Withdrawal or rationalisation of import monitoring systems and QCOs, including removal of **SIMS** and PIMS from **SEZ**-to-**DTA** transactions.
12. Basic Customs Duty relief for Cy-Tb Skin Test, CTH 3006 3000, supplied by Serum Institute of India to Central and State Governments, Government agencies and UNICEF-linked Indian supplies paid in foreign currency.
13. Rule 11B clarification on tenant status and operational continuity during conversion from **SEZ** to **DTA** status while NPA demarcation remained pending.
14. A time-bound exit and Letter-of-Approval cancellation framework for inactive, non-responsive or non-compliant units so developers could reuse vacant premises.

15. A unified portal integrating **SEZ** Online with GSTN, e-invoicing, **ICEGATE** and **RBI** systems.
16. A Green **SEZ** Policy covering rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, safety ratings, net-zero discharge and other accreditations.
17. Consolidation of **SOFTEX**, DSPF, MPR, QPR, SERF and **APR** reporting; the submission noted that TCS operated 62 **SEZ** units and repeatedly filed overlapping data.
18. Rationalisation of export and import reporting across **SEZ**/STPI systems, GST, IDPMS and EDPMS.
19. Higher monthly invoice limits of 10,000 per Letter of Permission for **SOFTEX** and 25,000 per Letter of Permission for SERF.
20. Permission for employees to work across multiple **SEZ** locations and projects, with simplified gate-pass registration.
21. Faster hazardous-scrap removal, extended removal hours, transaction-value clearance, and treatment of expired UPS batteries as absolute waste or scrap.
22. Delegation of Standard Input Output Norm approval for **EOUs** from DGFT New Delhi to Development Commissioners.

23. **RBI** guidance to authorised dealer banks permitting advance remittance for direct duty-free gold imports by **SEZ** exporters after the closure of MMTC.

The Commerce Secretary thanked **the Council** for the detailed engagement and requested structured, data-driven support for reforms. He acknowledged shifting global value chains and the need for a more flexible **SEZ** policy. He assured participants that the Ministry would examine every issue, including BSNL connectivity and import monitoring systems, with the objective of creating a dynamic, efficient and globally aligned framework.

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

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4. Elections — New Central Governing Council and New Vice Chairperson (July 11–September 5, 2025)

Following Government approval of **SEZEPC**'s revised Articles of Association, based on the model Articles and Bye-laws circulated by the **Ministry of Commerce**, **the Council** conducted elections under the **the Council** Election Rules, 2025, for the Central Governing Council (CGC), Regional Governing Councils (RGCs), Vice Chairperson and Regional Vice Chairpersons. Development Commissioners acted as Returning Officers for their respective zones and regions. The Director General or Deputy Director General acted as Returning Officer for the **the Council** Vice Chairperson election.

The published programme began with issue of the notification and transmission of the draft electorate to Returning Officers on July 11, 2025. The source listed July 15 with the description "i.e. Development Commissioners." The draft electorate was displayed and objections were invited on July 21; objections closed on July 23 and were scrutinised on July 25; the final electorate was displayed on July 28; nomination forms were issued on August 4; nominations closed on August 6 and were scrutinised on August 8; and accepted nominations and withdrawal information were displayed on August 11. Where there was no contest, Returning Officers declared results on August 12. For contested Vice Chairperson and Regional Vice Chairperson positions, DG **SEZEPC** notified NSDL on August 27, electronic voting began on August 29, voting closed on September 4, and counting and declaration took place on September 5.

The announced CGC structure contained 27 vacancies: seven in the **EOU** category, 14 in the **SEZ**-unit category and six in the developer category. Each of Cochin, Falta, Kandla, MEPZ, Noida and SEEPZ had four CGC vacancies; Visakhapatnam had three. The RGC schedule listed 27 seats for Cochin, MEPZ, Noida and Visakhapatnam and 28 seats for Falta, Kandla and SEEPZ, distributed across **EOU**, **SEZ**-unit and developer categories.

The Council recorded the following CGC and regional leadership:

Zone	CGC Members	Regional Chairman
Cochin SEZ	Shri Noby P.S.; Shri Mohammed Rasal; Shri Vinod Kumar R.; Shri Remeshan Paleri	Shri K.K. Pillai
Falta SEZ	Positions shown as vacant in the published CGC table	—
Kandla SEZ	Shri Tushar Ruparelia; Smt. Hirva Punit Mamtora	—
MEPZ SEZ	Shri Anand; Shri Dhinesh Kumar Varadharajan; Shri Vijay Raj B.; Shri Sunil Rallan (Vice Chairman, SEZEPC)	Shri Sivashanmugam Kumaresan
Noida SEZ	Shri Bhuvnesh Seth; Shri Vilas Gupta; Shri Sanand Mohan Purhoit; Shri Navin Kedia	Shri Sunil Puri
SEEPZ SEZ	Shri Vijay Gujarathi; Shri P.C. Nambiar	—
Visakhapatnam SEZ	Shri Milind Mungikar; Shri Srikanth Badiga (Chairman, SEZEPC)	

Falta positions were shown as vacant in the published CGC table. The Council welcomed Shri Sunil Rallan, Chairman and Managing Director of J. Matadee Free Trade Zone Pvt. Ltd., as Vice Chairperson and welcomed the elected CGC, RGC and regional office-bearers.

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5. Ease of Doing Business Review by the Additional Secretary (SEZ) (April 7, 2026)

At the request of the **Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs (SEZEPC)**, **Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary (SEZ), Department of Commerce**, chaired a meeting at **Room No. 29, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi**, at 11:00 a.m. on April 7, 2026, to review outstanding ease-of-doing-business issues affecting SEZs and EOUs. **Shri Vimal Anand, Joint Secretary, SEZ Division**, and **Shri Gaurav Anand, Director, SEZ Division**, represented the Department of Commerce.

SEZEPC participation included Shri Alok Chaturvedi, Director General; Shri Srikanth Badiga, Group Director, Phoenix Group, and Chairman; Shri Sunil Rallan, CMD, J. Matadee Free Trade Zone, and Vice Chairman; Shri Vilas Gupta, Managing Director, Taurus Englobe Limited, and Member, Governing Council; Shri Sunil Puri, Director, Yasen Lighting Private Limited, and Regional Chairman, NSEZ; Shri Anil Malhotra, Managing Director, TUF Metallurgical Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. E. Shankar, Director, OnnSynex Ventures Pvt. Ltd.; Shri Ramesh R., Director, and Ms. Rita Verma, Manager, Flextronics Technologies (India) Ltd.; and Shri Prakash Singh Thakur, General Manager, GIFT SEZ.

The official minutes recorded the following eleven issues, deliberations and action points. The complete six-page minutes were reproduced immediately after the meeting photograph.

1. **SEZ-to-DTA concessional duty and drawback.** Stakeholders raised concerns about the newly announced concessional-duty framework, particularly the non-availability of drawback on DTA inputs used in the goods. SEZEPC was requested to compile a consolidated industry list. The Department of Commerce was to examine the matter with CBIC, issue necessary clarification and, after clarification, arrange doubt-clearing sessions at Development Commissioner level.

2. **Endorsement of DTA invoices under SEZ Rule 30(4) and CGST Rule 89(1)(a) and (b).** SEZEPC sought restriction of physical endorsement to refund cases, or alternatively self-certification, automated online processing or RMS-based sample verification. NSDL reported that its SOP and API integration were at an

advanced stage and expected to go live by mid-June. The Chair supported a two-step transition to a fully automated, self-certified and risk-audited process. Development Commissioners were to eliminate legacy pendency, and the Department of Commerce was to amend the SEZ Rules so endorsement applied only where the DTA supplier sought a refund.

3. **Simplification of monthly services reporting.** SEZEPC identified overlapping SOFTEX, DSPF, MPR, QPR, SERF and APR returns, citing the burden on TCS across 62 SEZ units. The Department noted that transactions between SEZ units, and between DTA units and SEZ units for export of services, did not require EDF or SOFTEX declaration. The Chair directed NSDL to integrate the reporting data into a unified module. NSDL expected integration by October 2026, after which the same data would be shared with the Department; DSPF required separate consideration because of its distinct format.

4. **TDS demands on SEZ-authority rental payments.** SEZEPC reported that SEZ authorities had not yet obtained income-tax exemption under Section 10(46)/46A, exposing SEZ units to avoidable TDS demand notices on rent. The Chair directed all Zonal Development Commissioners to obtain the exemption on priority.

5. **Export duty on DTA-to-SEZ supplies.** SEZEPC submitted that export duty on supplies from DTA to SEZ was not contemplated by the SEZ Act and could not be imposed through the Rules. It cited disadvantages involving steel and the 30% duty on chrome ore or concentrate. The Chair stated that revenue implications placed the final decision with the Department of Revenue and confirmed that the Department of Commerce was actively pursuing the issue.

6. **AMRL SEZ, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.** SEZEPC reported that the joint-venture developer AMRL-TIDCO had neither developed nor maintained the SEZ and was under NCLT proceedings. The Development Commissioner, MEPZ, reported legal complexities. The Chair directed expedited examination, appropriate remedial steps and regular meetings with affected units until the concerns were resolved.

7. **Job work for DTA units without export linkage.** SEZEPC sought permission under Rule 43 for SEZ units to serve DTA customers in aerospace, defence, space and other high-technology sectors, including HAL, BEML, ISRO, DRDO, Ordnance Factories and BrahMos, without linkage to export. The Chair stated that the issue formed part of broader SEZ reforms and directed the SEZ Division to take it up with CBIC while examining an amendment to Rule 43 or a new rule.

8. **RoDTEP for exports through Indian FTWZs.** SEZEPC noted that benefits were available when exports were routed through overseas warehouses or free zones but not through Indian FTWZs. It sought extension of RoDTEP and amendment of FTP paragraph 4.55(ix). The Department reported that DGFT had already been approached and directed that the matter be pursued with DGFT.

9. **Vacant non-processing areas in IT/ITES SEZs.** SEZEPC proposed that vacant NPAs be permitted to de-notify or undertake non-SEZ commercial development within permissible limits. SEZEPC was requested to submit a detailed proposal or representation for further examination.

10. **Rooftop solar power for common areas.** SEZEPC sought permission for SEZ developers to install rooftop solar plants as infrastructure or authorised operations for common-area electricity. The Department stated that the matter remained under active examination in consultation with DGEP.

11. **Supplies to MOOWR or bonded warehouses as positive NFE.** SEZEPC explained that components supplied to MOOWR units in India were excluded from NFE even where the finished products were exported and earned foreign exchange. The Chair recorded the concern for consideration within broader SEZ reforms.

Meeting photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

Minutes of the Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo on 7th April 2026, Room No. 29, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the pending EoDB issues

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce on 07th April, 2026 at 11:00 A.M. at Room No. 29, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi to discuss the pending EoDB issues. The list of participants may be seen at Annexure.

2. The chairman welcomed all the participants. Thereafter, DG, EPCES has presented following EoDB issues. Pointwise deliberation on the issues is as under: -

S.No	Issues	Discussion/ Action Point, if any
1.	SEZ to DTA on Concessional Duty & unavailability of drawback for DTA inputs used in the goods	**Industry stakeholders** raised various concerns and queries regarding supplies from SEZ to DTA under the recently announced concessional duty, particularly with respect to the non-availability of drawback on DTA inputs used in such goods. In this regard, EPCES was requested to compile and submit a consolidated list of queries/issues from the industry. **Action Point:** Department of Commerce **(DoC)** will examine the matter and take it up with CBIC for necessary clarification. Based on the clarifications received, doubt-clearing sessions may subsequently be organized at the level of Zonal Development Commissioners (DCs).
2.	Streamlining endorsement of DTA invoices by SEZ SO/AO under SEZ Rule 30(4) / CGST Rule 89(1)(a) and (b)	DG, EPCES stated that, as per SEZ Rule 30(4) and CGST Rule 89(1)(a) and (b), physical endorsement of every invoice for DTA to SEZ supplies is required to avail GST benefits, which was not the case in the pre-GST regime. Concerns regarding significant pendency and manual procedure were highlighted. It was also noted that most DTA units avail ITC instead of claiming GST refunds. DG, EPCES suggested rationalizing the requirement by limiting endorsement to refund cases, or allowing self-certification, automated online processing, or RMS-based sample verification, all subject to audit. **NSDL** informed that a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed and API-based integration is at an advanced stage. The

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		system is expected to go live by mid-June, after which the requirement for physical endorsement will be done away with. The **Chair** emphasized the need to transition from an online system to a fully automated online system through a two-step, gradual process. It was observed that the primary constraint relates to authorization by the Authorised Officer (AO), which may be addressed through self-certification coupled with risk-based audit, as was the practice in the erstwhile service tax regime (Form A2). **Action Point:** On the issue of pending/legacy cases and concerns of rent-seeking, **DoC** will write to Development Commissioners (DCs) to bring pendency to zero on priority and to address such concerns, if any, in their respective zones. DoC will also introduce amendments in SEZ Rules in consultation with DoR and other stakeholders so that endorsement is limited only to cases where refund is due to the DTA supplier.
3.	Simplification of compliance monthly reporting (Services)	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that the current reporting requirements for SEZ service units are overly complex and duplicative. Units must submit multiple returns—including Softex, DSPF, MPR, QPR, SERF, and APR—with the same export and import data often reported separately to SEZ authorities, GST authorities, and banking channels (IDPMS/EDPMS). Citing TCS, which manages 62 SEZ units across India, DG, EPCES highlighted the administrative burden and suggested rationalizing reporting into a single consolidated submission to serve all SEZ compliance and export monitoring needs. **DoC remarks** SOFTEX forms are mandated by RBI for software exports exceeding USD 25,000 in value. However, as per DoC's letter dated 07.10.2025, transactions between SEZ units, as well as transactions between DTA units and SEZ units for export of services, are not

		governed by FEMA regulations. Accordingly, such transactions do not require declaration through EDF or SOFTEX. This clarification may be disseminated to all concerned stakeholders. The Service Exports Reporting Form (SERF) serves as a mechanism for reporting export of services by units operating in SEZs and STPIs. Since SOFTEX forms prescribed by RBI do not cover the entire range of services, and given the associated timelines may delay data compilation, SERF remains an essential reporting tool. It was further noted that the Monthly Performance Report (MPR) and Annual Performance Report (APR) provide aggregated performance data relating to goods and services, and are required to be submitted on a monthly and annual basis, respectively. The **Chair** observed redundancy in the existing reporting framework, particularly with respect to SOFTEX, and directed NSDL to work towards integration of all data sets into a unified module for streamlined report generation. **NSDL** informed that integration of all data sets is under progress and is expected to be completed by October 2026, after which the same will be shared with DoC. NSDL also highlighted that the DSPF follows a distinct format, which may require separate consideration during integration.
4.	TDS demand notices to SEZ units on rental payments	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that SEZ authorities have not yet obtained tax exemption under Section 10(46)/46A of the Income Tax Act for their income. As a result, SEZ units are receiving unnecessary TDS demand notices from IT authorities on rental payments. DG, EPCES suggested that SEZ authorities should secure the exemption promptly to ensure that SEZ units are not subjected to TDS on such payments. **Action Point:** The Chair directed all Zonal Development Commissioners to ensure that

		necessary steps are taken for obtaining the exemption under Section 10(46)/46Aon priority.
5.	Export Duty should not be levied on DTA to SEZ Supplies	**EPCES** submitted that levy of export duty on supplies from DTA to SEZ is not justified, as it is not envisaged under the SEZ Act and cannot be imposed through Rules. It was highlighted that the duty creates a disadvantage for SEZ units vis-à-vis DTA units in procuring inputs for export production. Instances such as high export duty on steel and 30% duty on chrome ore/concentrate were cited, adversely impacting SEZ units, including cases where operations may become unviable. **The Chair** clarified that supplies are not being adversely affected in the interim. However, as the matter has revenue implications, the final decision rests with the Department of Revenue (DoR). The Department of Commerce (DoC) is actively pursuing the issue with DoR.
6.	Problems being faced by AMRL, SEZ, Nanguneri, Tirunelveli district, Tamil Nadu.	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that AMRL SEZ, Nanguneri, Tamil Nadu, has not been developed or maintained by its JV developer (AMRL–TIDCO), which is under NCLT proceedings. As per the SEZ Act, the Government should appoint an administrator to protect units. The Commerce Ministry is examining the matter with the Development Commissioner, MEPZ, considering the IBC, 2016, SEZ Act, 2005, and SEZ Rules, 2006. **DC, MEPZ** informed that the issue involves legal complexities and is currently under examination by the office of the Development Commissioner. **Action Point: The Chair** advised DC, MEPZ to expedite examination of the matter and take appropriate steps to address the concerns of the units. The Chair also directed that regular meetings be held with the affected units to ensure continuous engagement and resolution of issues.
7.	Permitting SEZ units to do jobwork for DTAs without any linkage to exports	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that, under SEZ Rule 43, SEZ units are allowed to subcontract for DTA units only if the finished

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		goods are directly exported, which excludes work for DTA customers such as aerospace, defense, and space establishments. This restriction is unnecessary and unjustified. DG, EPCES suggested allowing SEZ units to undertake job-work or subcontracting for DTA units/customers, including HAL, BEML, ISRO, DRDO, Ordnance Factories, and BrahMos, which would also support import substitution. It was deliberated that permitting SEZ units to undertake job work for Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units without linkage to exports would require an amendment to the SEZ Rules, 2006. Currently, Rule 43 of the SEZ Rules, 2006 provides for sub-contracting by SEZ units for DTA units only in respect of exports. **The Chair** informed that the issue is being examined as part of broader SEZ reforms. In the interim, it was advised that the matter may be pursued through amendment of Rule 43 of the SEZ Rules, 2006 or introduction of a new Rule. **Action Point:** SEZ Division was directed to take up the issue with CBIC for consideration.
8.	RoDTEP benefits should also be available to exports through FTWZ	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that RoDTEP benefits are admissible when exports are routed through Dubai or Singapore warehouses/free zones, but not when routed through Free Trade and Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) in India. This policy discourages exports via Indian FTWZs, which are themselves SEZs. DG, EPCES suggested that RoDTEP benefits should be extended to exports through Indian FTWZs and that FTP para 4.55(ix) be amended accordingly. JS(VA) on behalf of **DoC** has informed DGFT has already been requested for this ask of the industry. In the recent meeting of SIG group, JS (Drawback) confirmed that DGFT has allowed RoDTEP benefits on exports from DTA units through FTWZs. **Action Point: The Chair** directed DoC to take up the matter with DGFT.

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9.	Vacant NPA IN IT/ITES SEZs to be allowed to be de-notified	**DG, EPCES** highlighted that many IT/ITES SEZs have vacant Non-Processing Areas (NPA). It was suggested that such vacant NPAs should be allowed to be de-notified or that developers be permitted to undertake non-SEZ commercial development within the permissible NPA limits as per Instruction No. 30. DG, EPCES emphasized the need to review and possibly revise the Rules and Instructions related to the development and utilization of NPAs. **Action Point:** In this regard, EPCES was requested to submit a detailed proposal/representation on the issue for further examination and consideration.
10.	Permitting SEZ developers for installation of RoofTop Solar Power plants as part of infrastructure/authorised operations for providing electricity in common areas.	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that, as per Instruction No. 116 dated 21.6.2024, Development Commissioners (DCs) have been requested to consider allowing rooftop solar power plants with fiscal benefits under Para 1(i) of the power guidelines dated 16.2.2016, which classifies rooftop areas as Non-Processing Area (NPA). DG, EPCES have also been requested to resolve the issue. EPCES was informed that this matter is under active consideration in consultation with DGEP.
11.	Including MOOWR units also in SEZ Rule 53 A:(j) for Net Foreign Exchange Earnings	**DG, EPCES** informed the Chair that supplies from SEZ units to MOOWR or Bonded Warehouses are not counted as NFE+ under Rule 53A(j), unlike supplies to other SEZ units or EOUs. This affects cases like Apple, where components supplied to MOOWR units in India are excluded from NFE+, despite the final products being exported and earning foreign exchange, causing SEZ units to lose the benefit. The Chair noted the concern and stated that the issue would be addressed as part of broader SEZ reforms to improve ease of doing business.

Official Minutes of the Meeting — page 6 of 6 (source attachment).

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6. Regular Interactions with the Export Promotion Councils by the Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister

(a) Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister Reviewed SEZ Reforms, ICEGATE and FTA Utilisation (June 30, 2025)

The Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister chairing the export review at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, October 29, 2025

Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** chaired a review meeting with Export Promotion Councils and industry associations at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on June 30, 2025. Representatives of the **Department of Commerce**, **Department of Revenue**, Export Promotion Councils and industry associations participated.

Interactive session of the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister with Export Promotion Councils and Industry Associations, September 3, 2025

Joint Secretary (**SEZ**) **Shri Vimal Anand** presented **SEZ** performance, reforms already undertaken and proposed amendments to the **SEZ** Act. The proposed reform package covered **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sales on a duty-foregone basis, reverse job work, receipt in Indian rupees for services supplied by an **SEZ** unit to the **DTA**, and enabling services such as maintenance, repair and overhaul and space-related activities. Ease-of-doing-business proposals included pre-cleared zones for plug-and-play operations, trust-based self-declaration, and a negative list in place of a specific list of authorised activities. The stated objective had been to simplify procedures, create economies of scale, use idle **SEZ** capacity and support the goal of a **US$5** trillion economy by 2027. also reviewed the June 3 semiconductor and electronics reforms: the 10-hectare land threshold, relaxation for mortgaged or Government-leased land, recognition of free-of-cost goods in NFE calculations, **DTA** clearance on payment of customs duty, and greater sourcing flexibility. He reported that these measures had enabled the BoA approvals granted on June 6, 2025, to Micron and Aequs.

A session on **ICEGATE issues and** implementation was held with **Department of Commerce** and **Department of Revenue** officials and **the Council** members under the leadership of CGC Member **Shri Vilas Gupta** and NSEZ Regional Chairman **Shri Sunil Puri**. **ICEGATE** had been introduced for **SEZs** from July 1, 2024, but repeated extensions had followed persistent operational disruption. Filing of EXIM documents through **ICEGATE** had become mandatory only from February 17, 2025. Courier and hand-carriage transactions; FTWZ transactions; **DTA** supplies, including B2C e-commerce and exclusions relating to FTWZ and Chapter 71 goods; temporary removals for job work, exhibitions and testing; **DTA** procurements; **SEZ** movements to or from warehouses, MOOWR units and **EOUs**; merchant exports under **SEZ** Rule 46(11); and zone-to-zone transfers had continued through **SEZ** Online. Participants also reported more than 78,000 pending shipping-bill claims involving approximately **₹190 crore** in **RoDTEP** benefits.

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025

The meeting additionally examined **FTAs** already concluded, utilisation challenges, opportunities created by recently concluded agreements, and industry expectations from proposed and ongoing negotiations.

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(b) Hon’ble Commerce and Industry Minister Reviewed Global Tariff Pressures and Exporters Support (September 3, 2025)

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Shri Piyush Goyal** chaired a meeting with Export Promotion Councils and industry associations on September 3, 2025, to examine rising global tariffs and formulate responses. **Shri Rajesh Agrawal**, then Commerce Secretary-designate and Special Secretary; **Shri Ajay Bhadoo**, Director General of Foreign Trade; other senior Ministry officials; and representatives of EPCs and industry associations participated.

Textiles, apparel, engineering, gems and jewellery, leather, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and services representatives reported the need for steel at export-parity prices; protection against the European Union’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism; early finalisation of the Export Mission; restoration of the Interest Equalisation Scheme; responses to discounts exceeding **30%** demanded by United States buyers; extended export-obligation periods for Advance Authorisation holders; and a six-month focus-market mechanism offering a **10%** incentive for United States exports. Handicraft representatives stated that Indian products had become 25–**30%** more expensive than products from Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia, placing the livelihoods of seven lakh artisans at risk. Other proposals requested the Government to absorb one-third of the tariff increase and to extend the 90-day export obligation applicable to imported gold.

The Council requested for **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sales on a duty-foregone basis, unrestricted reverse job work and immediate support for exporters to the United States. M/s Golden Peacock requested a direct benefit equal to **10%** of FOB export value until November. M/s Karna Apparel reported that high tariffs could force closure and requested a **10%** incentive for five to six months. Participants stressed that buyers lost during the disruption would be difficult to recover.

The Minister urged exporters to improve quality, align with global standards, diversify supply chains and enter alternative markets. He stated that the long-term policy objective had remained stronger domestic manufacturing and exports, and he assured stakeholders of continued ease-of-doing-business reforms, targeted trade support and timely intervention.

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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(c) Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister Reviewed Export Performance and Reform Priorities (October 29, 2025)

Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Shri Piyush Goyal** chaired an export-review meeting at Vanijya Bhawan on October 29, 2025. Commerce Secretary **Shri Rajesh Agrawal**, DGFT **Shri Ajay Bhadoo**, senior officials of the Departments of Commerce and Revenue and DPIIT, Export Promotion Councils, FIEO, industry and trade associations participated. Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga** and Deputy Director General **Shri Tanu Agrawal** represented **the Council**.

DGFT presented reforms implemented during the first half of FY 2025–26, forthcoming export-facilitation initiatives and export performance. The Commerce Secretary acknowledged industry's work in producing growth despite expected headwinds and urged market innovation and diversification to offset weaker United States demand.

SEZEPC Chairman Shri Badiga and DDG Shri Tanu Aggarwal during the meeting

Shri Badiga reported continuing discussions with the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's Office on **SEZ**-to-**DTA** supplies on a duty-foregone basis. **The Council** had provided data from Nike footwear manufacturing in Cheyyar **SEZ**, Brandix India Apparel **SEZ** and vaccine manufacturer Serum Research Institute **SEZ**. He sought INR payment for **SEZ** services supplied to the **DTA** and cited the L&T–MBDA missile-systems joint venture, whose **SEZ** capacity could not provide MRO services to the Indian Air Force without foreign-exchange payment. He requested that Government bodies at least be permitted to pay in INR.

He also sought removal of export duty on **DTA**-to-**SEZ** raw-material supplies, recognition of landowners participating in Joint Development Agreements as developers or **SEZ** entities for zero-rated GST treatment, and inclusion of existing **SEZs** in the proposed 100-industrial-parks initiative. He noted that **SEZs** already offered plug-and-play infrastructure and contained vacant land that could support brownfield as well as greenfield industrial development.

The Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment to ease of doing business, market access and a facilitative trade ecosystem.

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

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(d) Commerce and Industry Minister Urged Exporters to Use New FTAs (February 11–13, 2026)

Meeting of the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister with Export Promotion Councils and industry bodies on FTA utilisation, Vanijya Bhawan, February 11, 2026

Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** met Export Promotion Councils and industry associations at Vanijya Bhawan on February 11, 2026, and urged them to use India's **FTAs** with developed countries to create employment and expand exports of goods and services. He stated that preferential access created opportunities for farmers, workers, professionals, artisans and **MSMEs**, including traditional medicine and yoga, while protecting agriculture and dairy.

Industry representatives thanked the Prime Minister and the Minister for trade agreements with the United Kingdom, European Union and United States. They welcomed termination of the additional **25%** United States tariff through the United States Executive Order dated February 6, 2026. Gems and jewellery, textiles and apparel, carpets, leather and footwear, marine products, handicrafts, engineering and chemicals representatives stated that the rollback restored confidence and protected labour-intensive employment.

The Ministry presented United States market-access opportunities, compliance frameworks and expansion pathways. Participants also reviewed operational EPM interventions, including interest subvention, **MSME** collateral guarantees and market access. Further measures on finance, logistics, compliance, branding and market diversification were to be rolled out in phases.

On February 13, **the Council** thanked **Hon'ble Commerce** and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** and **Hon'ble Minister** of State for Commerce and Industry **Shri Jitin Prasada** for **FTAs** that had improved competitive access for Indian exporters.

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7. Launch of the Export Promotion Mission and Its Components

Government Approved the ₹25,060 Crore Export Promotion Mission (November 12, 2025)

Launch of the Export Promotion Mission by the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister, November 12, 2025

The Government approved the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) on November 12, 2025, with an outlay of **₹25,060 crore** for six years, from FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31. The institutional framework included the **Department of Commerce**, Ministry of **MSME**, Ministry of Finance, Export Promotion Councils, commodity boards, financial institutions, industry associations and State Governments. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade became the implementing agency and was to operate an end-to-end digital platform integrated with trade and customs systems.

The Mission combined two sub-schemes. Niryat Protsahan addressed financial access through interest subvention on pre- and post-shipment credit, export factoring and deep-tier financing, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, collateral support and credit enhancement for new or high-risk markets. Niryat Disha addressed non-financial barriers through testing, certification and audit support; international branding and packaging; trade fairs and buyer-seller meets; export warehousing and logistics; inland-transport reimbursement for remote districts; trade intelligence; cluster capacity-building; association support; and district facilitation.

EPM consolidated the former Interest Equalisation Scheme and Market Access Initiative. It prioritised **MSMEs**, first-time exporters, interior and low-export-intensity regions, labour-intensive value chains and sectors affected by global tariff escalation, including textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and marine products.

By the January–March newsletter, ten of the Mission's eleven interventions had been reported as operational: Market Access Support under Niryat Disha; Interest Subvention for Pre- and Post-Shipment Export Credit; Collateral Support for Export Credit; Support for Alternative Trade Instruments through export factoring; Credit Assistance for E-Commerce Exporters; Support for Emerging Export Opportunities; Trade Regulations, Accreditation and Compliance Enablement (TRACE); Facilitating Logistics, Overseas Warehousing and Fulfilment (FLOW); Logistics Interventions for Freight and Transport (LIFT); and Integrated Support for Trade Intelligence and Facilitation (INSIGHT).

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

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Government Launched Market Access Support under Niryat Disha (December 31, 2025)

The Government launched the Market Access Support (MAS) intervention under the Export Promotion Mission on December 31, 2025. The intervention carried an outlay of **₹4,531 crore** for 2025–31 and replaced the former Market Access Initiative. DGFT Trade Notice No. 19/2025–26 circulated draft guidelines for incorporation into the Foreign Trade Policy and Handbook of Procedures.

MAS supported buyer-seller meets, international trade fairs and exhibitions, mega reverse buyer-seller meets in India and delegations to priority and emerging markets. A rolling three-to-five-year calendar was to be approved in advance. Supported events required at least **35% MSME** participation, and delegations generally required at least 50 participants, subject to market conditions and strategic relevance. Priority sectors, new geographies and smaller markets received preferential treatment.

Small exporters with preceding-year turnover up to **₹75 lakh** became eligible for partial airfare assistance. Event listing, proposals, approvals, participant onboarding, fund release and monitoring were to operate through trade.gov.in.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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Government Launched Interest Subvention for MSME Export Credit (January 2, 2026)

The Government launched Interest Subvention for Pre- and Post-Shipment Export Credit under Niryat Protsahan on January 2, 2026. The intervention replaced the Interest Equalisation Scheme, whose **3%** support had not been extended beyond December 31, 2024. DGFT Trade Notice No. 20/2025–26 contained implementation guidelines for incorporation into the Foreign Trade Policy and Handbook of Procedures. The **Reserve Bank of India** operationalised the intervention on a pilot basis.

Eligible micro, small and medium enterprises received subvention at **2.75%** per annum on pre-shipment and post-shipment rupee export credit. Rates were subject to half-yearly review in March and September against domestic and global benchmarks. Each **MSME** exporter could receive a maximum benefit of **₹50 lakh** per financial year. Support applied to export credit extended under **RBI** Master Directions and to manufacturer and merchant exporters covered by a notified positive list of six-digit HSN tariff lines.

The positive list prioritised labour-intensive and capital-intensive sectors, **MSME** concentration and value addition. It excluded restricted and prohibited goods, waste and scrap and products already covered by overlapping incentives. Defence and SCOMET products were included. Annexure III prescribed online filing of exporter intent through the DGFT portal.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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Government Launched Collateral Support for MSME Export Credit (January 2, 2026)

Through DGFT Trade Notice No. 21/2025–26 dated January 2, 2026, the Government launched the second Niryat Protsahan intervention: collateral support for export credit. The intervention carried a six-year outlay of **₹2,114 crore** for FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31 and operated with the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

Guarantee coverage reached **85%** for micro and small exporters and **65%** for medium exporters, subject to maximum outstanding guaranteed exposure of **₹10 crore** per exporter in a financial year. Coverage was limited to export-linked working-capital credit for **MSME** merchandise exporters under the notified positive list of six-digit HSN tariff lines. The measure complemented existing guarantee programmes and sought to increase bank lending to export-oriented **MSMEs**.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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Government Approved the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (November 12, 2025)

The Government approved the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters (CGSE) on November 12, 2025, to provide **100%** credit-guarantee coverage through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited to Member Lending Institutions. The scheme supported additional credit facilities of up to **₹20,000 crore** for eligible exporters, including **MSMEs**.

The Department of Financial Services implemented the scheme through NCGTC, and a management committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, supervised implementation. The guarantee enabled collateral-free additional working capital of up to **20%** of sanctioned export working-capital limits. The scheme remained valid through March 31, 2026, and was intended to improve liquidity, help exporters enter new markets and strengthen global competitiveness.

Source visual: Export Promotion Mission and credit-support announcement, EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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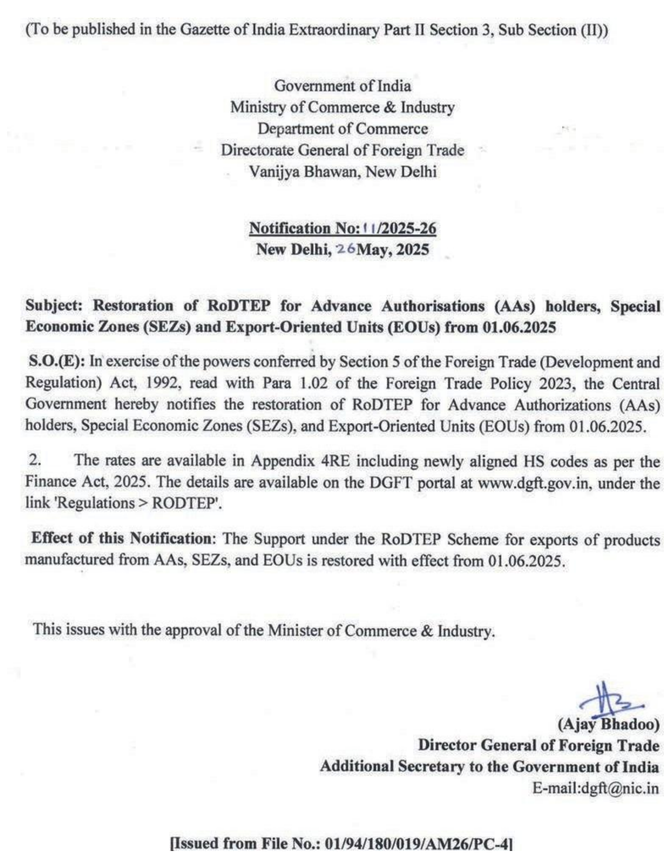
8. Restoration of RoDTEP for SEZs and EOUs

Government Restored RoDTEP Benefits for SEZs, EOUs and Advance Authorisation Holders (May 26, 2025)



(To be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 3, Sub Section (II))

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

Notification No: 11/2025-26
New Delhi, 26 May, 2025

Subject: Restoration of RoDTEP for Advance Authorisations (AAs) holders, Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) from 01.06.2025

S.O.(E): In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, read with Para 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, the Central Government hereby notifies the restoration of RoDTEP for Advance Authorizations (AAs) holders, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) from 01.06.2025.

2. The rates are available in Appendix 4RE including newly aligned HS codes as per the Finance Act, 2025. The details are available on the DGFT portal at www.dgft.gov.in, under the link 'Regulations > RODTEP'.

Effect of this Notification: The Support under the RoDTEP Scheme for exports of products manufactured from AAs, SEZs, and EOUs is restored with effect from 01.06.2025.

This issues with the approval of the Minister of Commerce & Industry.

(Ajay Bhadoo)
Director General of Foreign Trade
Additional Secretary to the Government of India
E-mail:dgft@nic.in

[Issued from File No.: 01/94/180/019/AM26/PC-4]

The **Department of Commerce** issued **Notification No. 11/2025–26** on May 26, 2025, restoring benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (**RoDTEP**) Scheme for products manufactured by Special Economic Zone (**SEZ**) units, Export Oriented Units (**EOUs**), and Advance Authorisation (AA) holders with effect from June 1, 2025.

The **RoDTEP** Scheme had originally commenced on January 1, 2021, to reimburse embedded duties, taxes and levies that were not refunded through another mechanism. It had operated through an end-to-end digital platform and had been designed to comply with World Trade Organization norms. **SEZs** and **EOUs** had initially remained outside its coverage. **The Council** had submitted a detailed memorandum to the **Ministry of Commerce** and the **RoDTEP** Committee, argued that exclusion placed **SEZ** and **EOU** exporters at a disadvantage, and repeatedly followed up with the Government.

Notification No. 70/2023 dated March 8, 2024, had extended the scheme to **SEZs**, **EOUs** and AA holders after the Ministry considered the **RoDTEP** Committee's recommendations. Coverage for **EOUs** and AA holders had operated from March 11, 2024, to September 30, 2024. Coverage for **SEZs** had depended on integration with the Customs Automated System through **ICEGATE**, which had begun on July 1, 2024, instead of the proposed April 1, 2024. **Notification No. 32/2024–25** dated September 30, 2024, had extended the scheme for **SEZs**, **EOUs** and AA holders to December 31, 2024, while **DTA** exporters had remained covered to September 30, 2025. After continued follow-up and requests for additional funding, coverage had continued beyond December 31, 2024, but budget constraints had led the Ministry to discontinue benefits for **SEZs**, **EOUs** and AA holders after February 5, 2025, through **Notification No. 66/2024–25** dated March 20, 2025.

The Council had continued to seek parity with **DTA** exporters. The restored coverage was intended to strengthen export competitiveness and provide a level playing field. By March 31, 2025, **RoDTEP** disbursements had exceeded **₹57,976.78 crore**. Based on FY 2023–24 exports, annual benefits for **SEZs**

and **EOUs** had been estimated at **₹2,282 crore**, comprising **₹1,482 crore** for **SEZs** and **₹800 crore** for **EOUs**.

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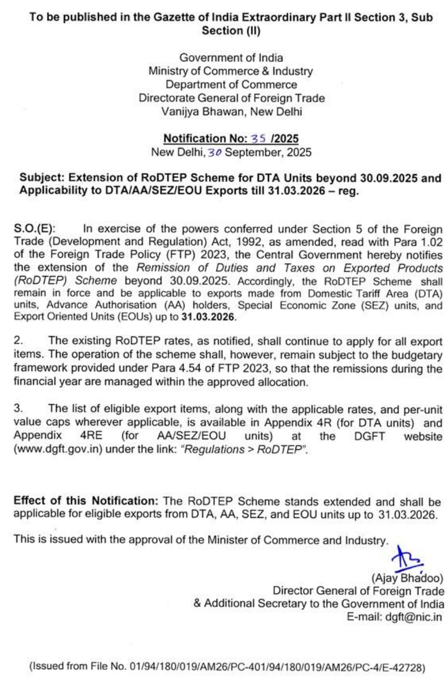
Government Extended RoDTEP Coverage Through March 31, 2026 (September 30, 2025)

Through **Notification No. 35/2025** dated September 30, 2025, the Government extended the **RoDTEP** Scheme for eligible exports from **DTA** units, Advance Authorisation holders, **SEZ** units and **EOUs** through March 31, 2026. Benefits had otherwise been scheduled to expire on September 30, 2025. **The Council** and other Export Promotion Councils had sought the extension to align the scheme with the financial year. The notification made continued operation subject to the budgetary framework and the notified rates in Appendix 4RE for AA, **SEZ** and **EOU** exports.



To be published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 3, Sub Section (II)

Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

Notification No: 35 /2025
New Delhi, 30 September, 2025

Subject: Extension of RoDTEP Scheme for DTA Units beyond 30.09.2025 and Applicability to DTA/AA/SEZ/EOU Exports till 31.03.2026 – reg.

S.O.(E): In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, as amended, read with Para 1.02 of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023, the Central Government hereby notifies the extension of the *Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme* beyond 30.09.2025. Accordingly, the RoDTEP Scheme shall remain in force and be applicable to exports made from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) units, Advance Authorisation (AA) holders, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, and Export Oriented Units (EOUs) up to **31.03.2026**.

2. The existing RoDTEP rates, as notified, shall continue to apply for all export items. The operation of the scheme shall, however, remain subject to the budgetary framework provided under Para 4.54 of FTP 2023, so that the remissions during the financial year are managed within the approved allocation.

3. The list of eligible export items, along with the applicable rates, and per-unit value caps wherever applicable, is available in Appendix 4R (for DTA units) and Appendix 4RE (for AA/SEZ/EOU units) at the DGFT website (www.dgft.gov.in) under the link: *"Regulations > RoDTEP"*.

Effect of this Notification: The RoDTEP Scheme stands extended and shall be applicable for eligible exports from DTA, AA, SEZ, and EOU units up to 31.03.2026.

This is issued with the approval of the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

(Ajay Bhadoo)
Director General of Foreign Trade
& Additional Secretary to the Government of India
E-mail: dgft@nic.in

(Issued from File No. 01/94/180/019/AM26/PC-401/94/180/019/AM26/PC-4/E-42728)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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9. Resolution of Export Problems Relating to SIMS Reactivation (June 4–20, 2025)

The Ministry of Steel had deactivated accounts connected with 169 **SEZs** and **EOUs** after identifying 899 Steel Import Monitoring System registrations made through the **SEZ/EOU** route. Its letter dated June 4, 2025, had stated that importers had uploaded blank, irrelevant or insufficient documents, and that some declarations appeared arbitrary and unsupported. The Ministry had suspected misuse of the Quality Control Order exemption granted through DGFT **Notification No. 71/2024** dated April 21, 2024.

The deactivation disrupted export manufacturing, held up imported steel consignments at ports and exposed affected units to demurrage. **The Council** immediately represented the matter to the Ministries of Commerce and Steel. It explained that units had not been given a prescribed document format or supporting-document protocol for claiming the QCO exemption. **The Council** then helped the **Department of Commerce** collect corrected undertakings and supporting documents from the affected units. The Department forwarded the material to the Ministry of Steel through its communication dated June 20, 2025, after which the accounts were reactivated.

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in>

Difficulties in imports due to sudden deactivation of EOUs/SEZ Units in the SIMS Registration portal of M/o Steel resulting in inability to undertake imports to meet their export commitments and their import consignments getting stuck at ports resulting in huge demurrage charges

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in> 11 June 2025 at 17:45

Dear Sir(s)

This is regarding huge difficulties being faced by EOUs/SEZs units due to sudden deactivation of the accounts of many EOUs/SEZ units in SIMS portal resulting in inability to undertake imports to meet their export commitments and their import consignments getting stuck at ports resulting in huge demurrage charges.

2. In this regard, please refer to the M/o Steel OM No S-21022/7/2025-Trade-Tax (E-21019) dated 4.6.2025 regarding potential misuse by importers on generation of SIMS number (Copy attached). It has been stated that in 899 cases of SIMS registration through the SEZ/EOU route, it has been found that importers have uploaded blank or irrelevant documents, or provided files that do not substantiate their SEZ/EOU status. In some instances , declarations appear arbitrary and are not backed by valid proof possibly to avail the benefit of exemption from QCO granted by DGFT Notification No 71/2024 dated 21.02.2024. (Copy attached).

3. In this regard , the following points may kindly be appreciated :

(i) EOUs and SEZ units are reputed manufacturers and exporters of different products. They have been undertaking manufacturing over a long period and are exporting to reputed clients abroad.
(ii) Before sudden deactivation of their accounts in the SIMS portal and thereby completely stoppage of their imports resulting in sudden disruption in their business and associated costs in terms of demurrage charges for their stuck imports consignments and inability to meet their export commitments, importers concerned should have been given notice and their version should have been taken.
(iii) Ideally taking a drastic step of deactivation of their accounts in the SIMs portal should have been avoided. If some irregularities have been noticed , they should be duly investigated and if it is found that the importer has indeed indulged in serious irregularity, they may be penalised. For minor procedural issues, their future business activities should not be disrupted.
(iv) It should be noted that if proper undertaking has not been given or documents are lacking, SIMS registration should not have been permitted in the beginning itself. However, if now it has been detected, these irregularities should be corrected by asking the units and if they are not able to comply, then only, they should be debarred from registration and thereby from undertaking imports.
(v) No format and procedure has been prescribed by the Government (DGFT/M/oSteel) for the undertaking and documents to be submitted under the DGFT Notification No 71/2024 dated 21.02.2024 or guidelines issued by the SIMS division in the M/o Steel. This has resulted in confusion among EOUs and SEZ units as to what document in which format is to be uploaded. Even DC offices are not clear as to the format in which undertaking is to be given.
(vi) In some cases , EOUs/SEZ units have simply submitted their bill of lading informing the items being imported as their imports are not covered under the list of HSN codes in the QCOs.
(vii) In some cases, even though they are EOUs and SEZ units having valid LOP/LOA issued by DC offices, they have not uploaded the same as perhaps there is no clear instructions to upload the same.

4. It appears that the problem has been more due to lack of clarity in case of EOUs/SEZ units regarding format of undertakings/ documents to be submitted and not intentional.

5. In view of the above, it is requested that this sudden deactivation of the accounts of EOUs/SEZ units in SIMS portal should be reconsidered and their accounts be activated urgently so that they are able to import and meet export commitments and their manufacturing activity is not completely disrupted. If M/o Steel thinks that some procedural irregularities have been detected, the same may certainly be examined and checked if the documents and undertakings can be obtained from SEZ/EOUs and only in serious cases where there was intention to defraud the Government, their accounts should be deactivated and necessary penal action under the relevant legal provisions may be taken.

6. It is also requested a list of accounts which have been deactivated /where infirmities in documentation has been noticed, may kindly be shared so that EPCES can coordinate with its members and necessary documents be provided to the Ministry of Steel.

With regards,

(Alok Chaturvedi)

Alok V Chaturvedi, IAS(Retd)
Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs,

The intervention built on **the Council**'s earlier advocacy with the Departments of Commerce, Steel, Textiles, Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and Chemicals and Petrochemicals. That advocacy had contributed to **Notification No. 71/2024**, which exempted **SEZs** and **EOUs** from mandatory QCO compliance for imports used to manufacture export goods, provided neither the imported inputs nor the resulting goods entered the domestic market. The exemption had been intended to prevent export delays because QCOs primarily regulated products entering the domestic market.

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10. SEZ Rules Amended for Semiconductor and Electronics Component Manufacturing — New SEZs Approved

SEZ Rules Were Amended to Promote Semiconductor and Electronics Component Manufacturing (June 3–6, 2025)

The **Department of Commerce** issued **G.S.R. Notification** 364(E) on June 3, 2025, amending the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, to address the capital intensity, import dependence and long gestation periods associated with semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing.

Manufacturing floor of the Aequs Group, which received approval for the electronics components SEZ at Dharwad

The amendment to Rule 5 reduced the minimum contiguous land requirement for an **SEZ** dedicated exclusively to semiconductors or electronic components from 50 hectares to 10 hectares. The amendment to Rule 7 empowered the Board of Approval (BoA) to relax the requirement that **SEZ** land be free from encumbrances when the land had been mortgaged or leased to the Central Government, a State Government or their authorised agencies. The amended Rule 53 permitted the value of goods received and supplied on a free-of-cost basis to be included in Net Foreign Exchange calculations and valued under applicable customs valuation rules. Amendments to Rule 18 permitted semiconductor and electronics component manufacturing units to source inputs from entities other than an overseas principal and to supply finished products to the Domestic Tariff Area on payment of applicable customs duty.

Bird's-eye view of the Micron SEZ "Pioneer" under construction at Sanand, Gujarat

At its meeting on June 6, 2025, the BoA approved proposals from Micron Semiconductor Technology India Pvt. Ltd. and Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster Private Limited of the Aequs Group. The source reported Micron's proposed "Pioneer" **SEZ** at Sanand, Gujarat, over 37.64 hectares. It was designed for memory and storage assembly and testing, including DRAM, NAND, solid-state drives and memory modules for data centres, artificial intelligence, 5G, automotive and embedded applications. One newsletter summary estimated investment at **₹13,000 crore**; the detailed project profile recorded a total commitment of **₹22,323 crore**, including **30%** equity from Micron, **50%** fiscal support from the Government of India and **20%** support from the Government of Gujarat. The project was expected to create more than 5,000 direct and 15,000 indirect jobs. The land had been leased from the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation for 99 years, and the project had been supported by the India Semiconductor Mission, the Department of Science and Technology, Gujarat, the Government of Gujarat, GIDC, the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, the Office of the Development Commissioner, KASEZ, the **Department of Revenue** and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The Aequs proposal covered an electronics components and consumer durables **SEZ** at Itigatti Village, NH-4, Dharwad District, Karnataka. The proposed **SEZ** occupied 11.549 hectares from 101.545 hectares—250 acres and 37 guntas—allotted by the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board. Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster Private Limited had been incorporated on November 23, 2020, under the Companies Act, 2013, with its registered office at #55, Aequs Towers, Mahadevapura, Whitefield, Bengaluru. The detailed profile recorded total investment of **₹96.24 crore**, comprising **₹28.87 crore** in equity and **₹67.37 crore** in term debt; foreign direct investment of **US$3.396 million** from Aequs Infrastructure II Pvt. Ltd., Mauritius; projected five-year exports of **₹1,257 crore**; and 4,360 projected jobs, including 3,380 direct and 980 indirect positions. The source also rounded the proposed investment to **₹100 crore** in its general summary.

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Opening of Micron's Semiconductor Assembly and Test Facility at Sanand (January–March 2026)

Dignitaries at the opening of Micron's semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand, Gujarat

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

During January–March 2026, , Micron opened India's first commercial semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand, Gujarat. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw attended. The **US$2.75 billion** project began DRAM and NAND processing, delivered made-in-India memory modules to Dell and targeted tens of millions of chips during 2026 production.

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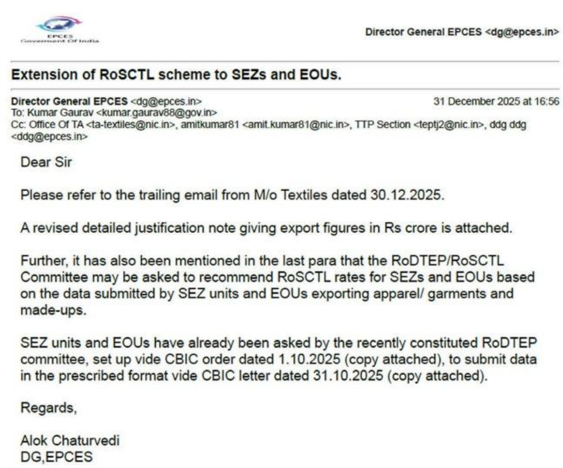
11. SEZEPC Sought Extension of RoSCTL to Apparel and Made-Up Exports from SEZs and EOUs (October–December 2025)

The Council reiterated its request to the Ministry of Textiles to extend the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies Scheme to **SEZ** and **EOU** exports of apparel, garments and made-ups under HS Chapters 61, 62 and 63. The scheme, introduced through **Notification No. 14/26/2016-IT** (Vol. II) dated March 7, 2019, reimbursed embedded State and Central levies such as VAT or excise on transport and power fuel, electricity duty, mandi tax, stamp duty and embedded GST or Compensation Cess on inputs. Its existing scope had covered **DTA** exporters but excluded **SEZs** and **EOUs** bearing the same costs.


EPCES Government Of India

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in>

Extension of RoSCTL scheme to SEZs and EOUs.

Director General EPCES <dg@epces.in> 31 December 2025 at 16:56
To: Kumar Gaurav <kumar.gaurav88@gov.in>
Cc: Office Of TA <ta-textiles@nic.in>, amitkumar81 <amit.kumar81@nic.in>, TTP Section <teptj2@nic.in>, ddg ddg <ddg@epces.in>

Dear Sir

Please refer to the trailing email from M/o Textiles dated 30.12.2025.

A revised detailed justification note giving export figures in Rs crore is attached.

Further, it has also been mentioned in the last para that the RoDTEP/RoSCTL Committee may be asked to recommend RoSCTL rates for SEZs and EOUs based on the data submitted by SEZ units and EOUs exporting apparel/ garments and made-ups.

SEZ units and EOUs have already been asked by the recently constituted RoDTEP committee, set up vide CBIC order dated 1.10.2025 (copy attached), to submit data in the prescribed format vide CBIC letter dated 31.10.2025 (copy attached).

Regards,

Alok Chaturvedi
DG,EPCES

The Council cited the precedent of **RoDTEP**, notified through **Notification No. 19** dated August 17, 2021, and later extended to **SEZs** and **EOUs** through **Notification No. 70/2023** dated March 8, 2024, after **the Council** representations and rate analysis by the **RoDTEP** Committee.

Approximately 290 **SEZ** and **EOU** units had exported apparel, garments and made-ups. In FY 2024–25, India exported **US$22.1 billion** under Chapters 61, 62 and 63; **SEZs** and **EOUs** contributed **US$766 million**, or **3.5%**. **SEZ** units exported approximately **US$514 million** under 194 eight-digit HS codes, with the leading 19 codes accounting for more than **85%**. **EOUs** exported approximately **US$252 million** under 104 codes, with the leading ten accounting for more than **78%**.

The Government had allocated an estimated **₹9,246 crore** to **RoSCTL** for FY 2024–25. **The Council** estimated the annual cost of extending it to **SEZs** and **EOUs** at approximately **₹221 crore**, with ±**2%** variation: **₹146 crore** for **SEZs** and **₹75 crore** for **EOUs**. This represented about **2.4%** of the allocation. **The Council** argued that exclusion conflicted with zero-rating of exports, harmed textile exporters already affected by United States tariffs and weakened competition against Bangladesh and Vietnam.

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

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12. SEZEPC Presented SEZ and EOU Issues to the New Commerce Secretary (October 7, 2025)

Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga**, Vice Chairman **Shri Sunil Rallan**, CGC Members **Shri Vilas Gupta** and **Shri Sunil Puri**, and Director General **Shri Alok Chaturvedi** called on Commerce Secretary **Shri Rajesh Agrawal** at Vanijya Bhawan on October 7, 2025. Joint Secretary (**SEZ**) **Shri Vimal Anand** also participated.

The Commerce Secretary discussed the proposal for **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sales on a duty-foregone basis and the **Department of Revenue**'s concerns regarding effects on **DTA** industry. **Shri Sunil Rallan** described potential investments by Nike-authorised manufacturers Lotus Footwear Enterprises and East Wind Footwear Company, subsidiaries of Taiwan-based Feng Tay Enterprises, in Cheyyar **SEZ** and SIPCOT Industrial Park, Tamil Nadu. He explained that Nike and Adidas footwear for India had been imported from Vietnam and that footwear and apparel manufacturers in Indian **SEZs** had been unable to supply India from their domestic facilities. He argued that duty-foregone access could unlock Indian expansion, investment and employment.

The Council handed over the following priority issues: a general order protecting **SEZ** and **EOU** imports of all non-prohibited goods under **SEZ** Rule 27(1) and FTP paragraph 6.01(d); removal or rationalisation of Steel and other Import Monitoring Systems and separation of QCO compliance from **SIMS**; removal of export duty on **DTA**-to-**SEZ** supplies; recognition of landholders under Joint Development Agreements as developers or **SEZ** entities; automatic, online endorsement of **DTA** invoices under Rule 30(4) through GSTN linkage; inclusion of FTWZs among ports permitted to import new cars; clarification that contract manufacturing services fell under the second proviso to Section 13(3)(a) of the IGST Act, 2017; guidelines for time-bound cancellation of Letters of Approval of non-operational and non-compliant units; inclusion of MOOWR supplies in Rule 53A(j) for positive NFE; instructions to authorised dealer banks for advance remittance by **SEZ** units importing gold directly for export; resolution of Instruction No. 117 difficulties under the new FTWZ operational framework; stabilisation of **ICEGATE**; resolution of **IGCR** automation and bond re-credit problems; permission for IT/ITES developers to install rooftop solar plants for common areas; alignment of **EOU** export-obligation provisions in FTP paragraph 6.06(c)(ii) and (iii) with DGFT Public Notice No. 19 dated August 29, 2024; and issuance of eBRCs for exports made by FTWZ units on behalf of foreign clients.

The Commerce Secretary assured **the Council** that the issues would be addressed systematically and reviewed regularly, including at BoA meetings. He also proposed BoA meetings outside Delhi, open-house sessions and field visits. Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga** thanked him and presented a memento.

* * *

13. SEZEPC Signed an MoU with Newland Global Group to Promote India–Australia Trade (June 12, 2025)

The Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Newland Global Group (NGG) on June 12, 2025, to strengthen trade by **the Council** members with Australia. NGG had been preparing the second edition of its India–Australia Business Case Studies Compendium to improve business literacy between the two countries and generate tangible commercial outcomes. The compendium was to feature Indian companies exporting to Australia, provide those companies greater visibility in the Australian market, and encourage other enterprises to enter that market.

Under the MoU, **the Council** became the institutional partner for the compendium and agreed to promote bilateral success stories. The partnership provided for industry engagement and roadshows intended to expand commercial opportunities. Priority areas included market access, skills exchange and sectoral promotion in textiles, pharmaceuticals, information technology, engineering and other industries represented by **the Council**. Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga** stated that the collaboration was expected to open new avenues for Indian **EOUs** and **SEZs** in Australia, support exports and innovation, and deepen economic engagement under the India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement framework.

Source photograph: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

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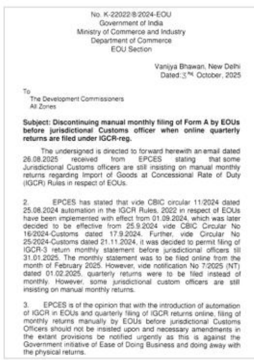
14. IGCR Bond Auto-Credit Was Expanded and SEZEPC Conducted an EOU Support Webinar (June 27–July 4, 2025)

The Council continued to represent **EOU** difficulties arising from automation of the Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty framework through **ICEGATE** from September 25, 2024. Auto-credit of bonds based on **IGCR**-3A filing had become effective in March 2025. Auto-credit based on the quarterly **IGCR-**3 return became effective on June 27, 2025. Units reported successful electronic filing and bond re-credit, while remaining technical problems were referred to the **ICEGATE** team through the dedicated "**EOUs** on-boarding **IGCR**" WhatsApp group.

Director General, **SEZEPC**, conducted a webinar on July 4, 2025, to support **EOU** implementation and address filing and re-credit difficulties. The interventions later contributed to discontinuation of the duplicative manual monthly Form A return where quarterly **IGCR-**3 returns had been filed online.



No. K-22022/8/2024-EOU
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce
EOU Section

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 3rd October, 2025

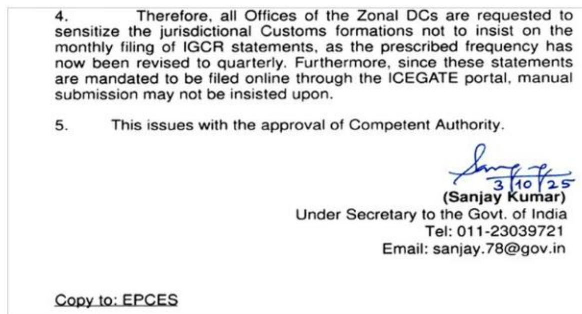
To
The Development Commissioners
All Zones

Subject: Discontinuing manual monthly filing of Form A by EOUs before jurisdictional Customs officer when online quarterly returns are filed under IGCR-reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith an email dated 26.08.2025 received from EPCES stating that some Jurisdictional Customs officers are still insisting on manual monthly returns regarding Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty (IGCR) Rules in respect of EOUs.

2. EPCES has stated that vide CBIC circular 11/2024 dated 25.08.2024 automation in the IGCR Rules, 2022 in respect of EOUs have been implemented with effect from 01.09.2024, which was later decided to be effective from 25.9.2024 vide CBIC Circular No 16/2024-Customs dated 17.9.2024. Further, vide Circular No 25/2024-Customs dated 21.11.2024, it was decided to permit filing of IGCR-3 return monthly statement before jurisdictional officers till 31.01.2025. The monthly statement was to be filed online from the month of February 2025. However, vide notification No 7/2025 (NT) dated 01.02.2025, quarterly returns were to be filed instead of monthly. However, some jurisdictional custom officers are still insisting on manual monthly returns.

3. EPCES is of the opinion that with the introduction of automation of IGCR in EOUs and quarterly filing of IGCR returns online, filing of monthly returns manually by EOUs before jurisdictional Customs Officers should not be insisted upon and necessary amendments in the extant provisions be notified urgently as this is against the Government initiative of Ease of Doing Business and doing away with the physical returns.



4. Therefore, all Offices of the Zonal DCs are requested to sensitize the jurisdictional Customs formations not to insist on the monthly filing of IGCR statements, as the prescribed frequency has now been revised to quarterly. Furthermore, since these statements are mandated to be filed online through the ICEGATE portal, manual submission may not be insisted upon.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

3/10/25
(Sanjay Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23039721
Email: sanjay.78@gov.in

Copy to: EPCES

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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15. Department of Commerce Extended the APR Filing Deadline for SEZ Units (September 29, 2025)

The **Department of Commerce** issued Letter No. K-43022/83/2025-**SEZ** on September 29, 2025, extending the deadline for **SEZ** units to file Annual Performance Reports for FY 2024–25 from September 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025. The Tamil Nadu Association for **SEZ** Infrastructure Developers had proposed the change, and **the Council** had supported and recommended it.

The extension aligned **APR** filing with the deadlines for audited reports and returns under income-tax and GST law. It allowed **SEZ** units to complete statutory audits and submit finalised information instead of relying on provisional financial data that could produce errors or delayed compliance.

No. K-43022/83/2025-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Department of Commerce
(SEZ Section)
****

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi-110001
Dated: 29th September, 2025

To
All Development Commissioner,
Special Economic Zones,

Subject: - Extension of the due date for filing of the Annual Performance Report (APR) for the Financial Year 2024–25 from 30th September, 2025 to 31st December, 2025 in respect of SEZ Units - reg.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the representations received from SEZ Units and other stakeholders regarding the alignment of the due date for filing of the Annual Performance Report (APR), mandated under Rule 54 of the SEZ Rules, 2006, with the due date for filing of GST audit returns, which is presently 31st December.

2. In this regard, it is stated that the APR is submitted before the Development Commissioner, SEZs, and serves primarily as a monitoring mechanism without any customs-related implications. Accordingly, with a view to promote ease of doing business, facilitating regulatory compliance, and enabling submission of APRs based on finalised returns (as against provisional figures presently being submitted), the Competent Authority has approved the extension of the due date for filing of the APR for the Financial Year 2024–25 from 30th September, 2025 to 31st December, 2025, in alignment with the timelines prescribed for filing of other audited reports/returns under the Income Tax and GST laws.

3. This issues with the approval of competent authority.

Yours faithfully,
Bajpai 29/9/25
(Prateek Bajpai)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 011-23039939
Email: prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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Other Activities

16. India and the United States Announced a Framework for an Interim Trade Agreement (February 7, 2026)

India and the United States announced a framework for an Interim Agreement on reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade on February 7, 2026. The framework advanced the broader Bilateral Trade Agreement launched by **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** and the President of the United States on February 13, 2025.

India agreed to eliminate or reduce tariffs on all United States industrial goods and a range of food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains, red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits.

The United States proposed an **18%** reciprocal tariff under Executive Order 14257 dated April 2, 2025, as amended, for originating Indian products including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, plastics and rubber, organic chemicals, home décor, artisanal goods and certain machinery. Subject to conclusion of the Interim Agreement, it proposed removing reciprocal tariffs on products listed for aligned partners under Executive Order 14346 dated September 5, 2025, as amended, including generic pharmaceuticals, gems and diamonds and aircraft parts.

The United States also proposed removing national-security tariffs on selected Indian aircraft and aircraft parts imposed under Proclamations 9704 and 9705 dated March 8, 2018, and Proclamation 10962 dated July 30, 2025. India was to receive a preferential tariff-rate quota for automotive parts covered by Proclamation 9888 dated May 17, 2019. Outcomes for generic pharmaceuticals and ingredients remained contingent on the United States Section 232 investigation.

The parties agreed to address non-tariff barriers. India agreed to address barriers affecting United States medical devices, remove restrictive licensing or quantitative constraints on ICT goods, and assess within six months of entry into force whether United States or international standards and testing could be accepted in identified sectors. India also agreed to address longstanding concerns regarding United States food and agricultural products.

India indicated intended purchases of **US$500 billion** in United States energy, aircraft and parts, precious metals, technology products and coking coal over five years. The countries planned greater trade in graphics processing units and other data-centre products and expanded technology cooperation.

On February 20, 2026, the United States Supreme Court struck down reciprocal tariffs. The United States Administration then imposed a flat **10%** tariff on certain products from all countries under Section 122 of the Trade Act, effective February 24. On March 11, United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer initiated a Section 301(b) investigation covering structural excess capacity and manufacturing production in economies including India. On March 12, USTR initiated another investigation covering 60 economies, including India, regarding failure to prohibit and enforce bans on goods made with forced labour. India rejected the claims and favoured bilateral negotiation over unilateral action.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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17. India and the European Union Concluded Their Free Trade Agreement (January 27, 2026)

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and European Commission President H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen jointly announced conclusion of the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement on January 27, 2026.

The Agreement reduced tariffs of up to **10%** to zero on entry into force for almost **US$33 billion** in Indian exports. Beneficiary labour-intensive sectors included textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods and automobiles. A calibrated quota-based automobile package gave European manufacturers access in higher price bands and created reciprocal opportunities for India-made vehicles.

Tea, coffee, spices, fresh fruit and vegetables and processed foods received improved access. India protected sensitive products including dairy, cereals, poultry, soymeal and selected fruit and vegetables. The **FTA** strengthened regulatory cooperation, transparency, customs procedures, Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and Technical Barriers to Trade disciplines.

For the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, India secured a forward-looking most-favoured-nation assurance for flexibilities granted to third countries, cooperation on recognition of carbon prices and verifiers, financial assistance and targeted support for greenhouse-gas reduction and compliance.

The services chapter expanded access in IT and IT-enabled services, professional services, education, financial services, tourism, construction and other business services. India received predictable access to 144 EU subsectors; India offered the EU access to 102 subsectors. Mobility provisions covered intracorporate transferees and business visitors, entry and working rights for their dependants and family members, EU commitments in 37 sectors or subsectors for Contractual Service Suppliers and 17 for Independent Professionals, including professional services, computer services, research and development and education.

India also obtained a five-year framework for engagement on Social Security Agreements, student mobility and post-study work opportunities. Practitioners of Indian traditional medicine received access to work under their home title in EU Member States where such practices were unregulated. Financial-services provisions promoted secure cross-border electronic payments, innovation and expanded market access. The source expected the **FTA** to enter into force by early 2027.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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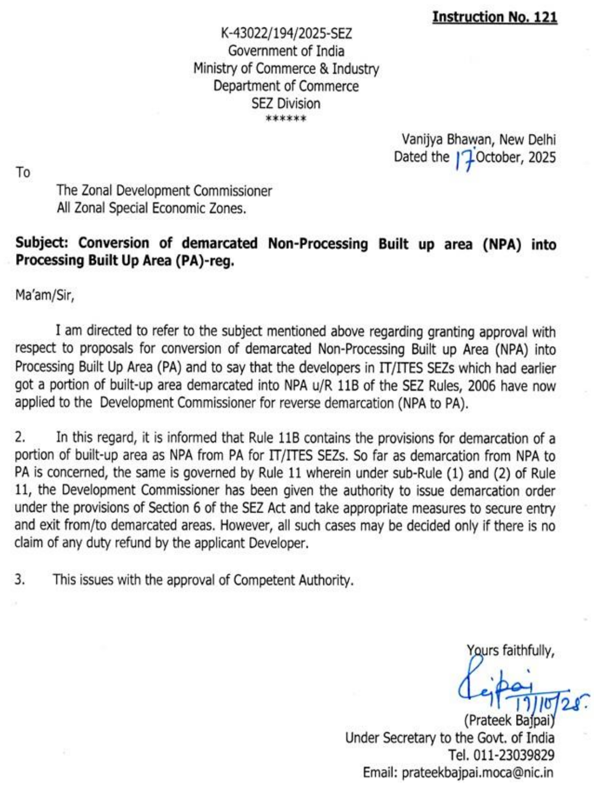
18. Department of Commerce Clarified Conversion of IT/ITES Non-Processing Areas Back to Processing Areas (October 17, 2025)

The **Department of Commerce** issued Instruction No. 121, File No. K-43022/194/2025-**SEZ**, on October 17, 2025, clarifying the authority for conversion of demarcated Non-Processing Built-up Areas in IT/ITES **SEZs** back into Processing Built-up Areas. **The Council** had pursued the clarification after M/s Accenture Solutions Private Limited, operating under developer M/s Gigaplex Estate Private Limited, reported delays caused by uncertainty over the approving authority.

The Instruction stated that Rule 11B governed demarcation from Processing Area to Non-Processing Area, while reverse demarcation from NPA to PA fell under Rule 11. Rule 11(1) and Rule 11(2), read with Section 6 of the **SEZ** Act, empowered the Development Commissioner to issue the demarcation order and secure entry to and exit from the demarcated area. A case could be approved only where the applicant developer did not claim a duty refund.



Instruction No. 121

K-43022/194/2025-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
SEZ Division
******

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 17 October, 2025

To

The Zonal Development Commissioner
All Zonal Special Economic Zones.

Subject: Conversion of demarcated Non-Processing Built up area (NPA) into Processing Built Up Area (PA)-reg.

Ma'am/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above regarding granting approval with respect to proposals for conversion of demarcated Non-Processing Built up Area (NPA) into Processing Built Up Area (PA) and to say that the developers in IT/ITES SEZs which had earlier got a portion of built-up area demarcated into NPA u/R 11B of the SEZ Rules, 2006 have now applied to the Development Commissioner for reverse demarcation (NPA to PA).

2. In this regard, it is informed that Rule 11B contains the provisions for demarcation of a portion of built-up area as NPA from PA for IT/ITES SEZs. So far as demarcation from NPA to PA is concerned, the same is governed by Rule 11 wherein under sub-Rule (1) and (2) of Rule 11, the Development Commissioner has been given the authority to issue demarcation order under the provisions of Section 6 of the SEZ Act and take appropriate measures to secure entry and exit from/to demarcated areas. However, all such cases may be decided only if there is no claim of any duty refund by the applicant Developer.

3. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,
17/10/25.
(Prateek Bajpai)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 011-23039829
Email: prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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19. Commerce and Shipping Secretaries Addressed West Asia Packaging and Logistics Disruption (April 10, 2026)

Two high-level meetings were held on April 10, 2026: one under the Commerce Secretary on packaging materials and another co-chaired by the Secretaries of Commerce and Ports, Shipping and Waterways on logistics. Officials, port authorities, shipping agencies, Export Promotion Councils and industry representatives assessed polymer, resin, LNG, helium and petrochemical availability; input-price pressure on **MSMEs**; early GST refunds; weekly monitoring of trade and sector stress; documentation, back-to-town and transit cargo, shipping-line benefits, air freight, rail concessions and bunker fuel; vessel and transhipment capacity; hazardous cargo destuffing; and Customs clearance. Ports and terminal operators were directed to publish concessions and waivers, review bunker-fuel availability and expedite stranded-container evacuation.

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

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20. Government Constituted the RoDTEP Committee, 2025 (October 1, 2025)

The Drawback Division of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs issued Order F.No. CBIC-140602/5/2025 on October 1, 2025, constituting the **RoDTEP** Committee, 2025. **Shri Neeraj Kumar Gupta**, retired Secretary to the Government of India, became Chairman; Shri S.R. Baruah, retired Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, and **Shri Vivek Ranjan**, retired Member, CBIC, became Members. Joint Secretary (Drawback) served as Secretary, and the Drawback Division serviced the Committee.

The Committee's terms required it to consult administrative ministries, Export Promotion Councils, commodity boards, trade bodies and other stakeholders on **RoDTEP** and **RoSCTL** rates for **DTA**, **EOU**, **SEZ** and Advance Authorisation exports. It was to establish a methodology for calculating unrebated Central, State and local duties, taxes and levies, including prior-stage cumulative indirect taxes on production inputs and distribution. It was to recommend ceiling rates, review the existing rates and caps, and examine items whose descriptions or Customs Tariff headings had changed from May 1, 2025. It could conduct field visits, study production processes and submit supporting worksheets. It was also authorised to provide supplementary recommendations after revised rates were notified.

The main report was due by March 31, 2026. A supplementary report, if necessary, was due within six weeks after notification of revised **RoDTEP** or **RoSCTL** rates. Members were entitled to Group A-equivalent travel and daily allowance, admissible local conveyance for Delhi meetings and a sitting fee of **₹5,000** per member per sitting day. Expenditure was to be met from **Department of Revenue** Grant No. 35.

At its meeting on October 9, 2025, the Committee adopted a draft trade-data format and invited comments by October 24 at rodtep.dbk@gov.in. It considered audited data for April 1, 2022–March 31, 2025, and scheduled an EPC stakeholder consultation at Vanijya Bhawan for October 30, 2025.

[Insert Picture/PDF: **the Council**-news-July-sept25(1).docx — CBIC Order F.No. CBIC-140602/5/2025 dated October 1, 2025, and Annexure B]

Instruction No. 120

K-43022/92/2025-SEZ
Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
SEZ Division
******

Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 7th October, 2025

To

The Zonal Development Commissioner
All Zonal Special Economic Zones.

Subject: Clarification regarding requirement of filing SOFTEX forms with respect to invoices raised by one Special Economic Zone ('SEZ') unit to other SEZ unit and a unit located in Domestic Tariff Area ('DTA unit')-reg.

Ma'am/Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to say that the industry has been demanding clarification on the requirement of filing SOFTEX forms for export of services either by one Special Economic Zone ('SEZ') unit to other SEZ unit or by a unit located in Domestic Tariff Area ('DTA unit') to a unit in SEZ.

2. In this regard, this is to inform that transaction(s) between SEZ Units and the transaction(s) between DTA Unit(s) to SEZ Unit(s) for export of services are not subject to FEMA regulations, and consequently, no declaration is required in EDF or SOFTEX. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

3. This issues in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,

Bajpai 7/10/25

(Prateek Bajpai)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel. 011-23039829
Email: prateekbajpai.moca@nic.in

* * *

21. Department of Commerce Clarified That Certain SEZ Service Transactions Did Not Require SOFTEX (October 7, 2025)

Through Instruction No. 120 dated October 7, 2025, the **Department of Commerce** clarified the requirement for **SOFTEX** forms in transactions where one **SEZ** unit supplied services to another **SEZ** unit or a **DTA** unit supplied export services to an **SEZ** unit. The clarification followed a representation submitted by M/s Ernst & Young and pursued by the Director General, **SEZEPC**.

The Department stated that transactions between **SEZ** units and transactions between **DTA** units and **SEZ** units for export of services were not subject to the Foreign Exchange Management Act framework. Consequently, they did not require declarations through the Export Declaration Form or **SOFTEX**.

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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22. SEZEPC Sought Removal of Export Duty on DTA-to-SEZ Supplies Following the Supreme Court Order (October 9, 2025)

The Council renewed its representation on October 9, 2025, that export duty should not have been levied on supplies from the Domestic Tariff Area to an **SEZ**. It argued that the **SEZ** Act did not provide for such a levy and that a Rule could not create it. The Gujarat High Court had rejected the levy on merits in Essar Steel Ltd. v. Union of India through its order dated November 4, 2009. The Supreme Court had subsequently dismissed the Government's appeal in Union of India v. M/s Adani Power Ltd., Civil Appeal No. 4489/2023, on August 28, 2025.

The Council explained that **SEZ** units procured raw materials for consumption and manufacture of export goods and should not have faced a disadvantage compared with **DTA** manufacturers. M/s TUF Metallurgical Pvt. Ltd. had sought duty-free procurement of chrome concentrate or chrome ore from the **DTA** because the **30%** export duty had contributed to shutdown of its Visakhapatnam **SEZ** plant since November 2024, creating financial loss and employment risk. The source reported that the **Department of Revenue** had been considering an appeal or review of the Supreme Court order.

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23. SEZEPC Bids Farewell to the Outgoing Commerce Secretary and Welcomes the new Commerce Secretary (October 6, 2025)

The Council organised a function at the Taj Mahal Hotel on October 6, 2025, to bid farewell to outgoing Commerce Secretary **Shri Sunil Barthwal** and welcome new Commerce Secretary **Shri Rajesh Agrawal**. The gathering included **Shri Santosh Sarangi**, former DGFT and Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; Shri K. Skandan, IAS (Retired); **Shri Shashank Priya**, Member, CBIC; **Shri Ajay Bhadoo**, DGFT; **Shri Ranjan Khanna** and **Shri Abhay Singh**, Principal ADGEP; **Shri Anupam Prakash**, Joint Secretary (Customs); and other senior officers from the Departments of Commerce and Revenue.

The Council was represented by Chairman **Shri Srikanth Badiga**, Vice Chairman **Shri Sunil Rallan**, CGC Member **Shri Vilas Gupta**, NSEZ Regional Chairman **Shri Sunil Puri**, Council members and industry representatives. Director General **Shri Alok Chaturvedi** recalled **Shri Barthwal's** initiatives, including extension of **RoDTEP** to **SEZs** and **EOUs**, QCO exemptions and holding a BoA meeting outside Delhi. He welcomed **Shri Agrawal** and acknowledged his role as lead negotiator in India–United States Bilateral Trade Agreement discussions.

Shri Agrawal assured the Council that he would continue the initiatives and follow up pending issues. **Shri Barthwal** reviewed developments during his tenure, thanked **the Council** for contributing to policy formulation and conveyed his best wishes. **The Council** presented mementoes and plants, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman concluded the programme with a vote of thanks.

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

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ACTIVITIES FROM THE ZONES

Blood Donation Camps

24. "Raktdaan–Desh ke Naam" Blood Donation Camp, SEEPZ SEZ (April–June 2025)


Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

During April–June 2025, on a date not stated, SEEPZ **SEZ**, the Lions Club and unit holders organised the "Raktdaan–Desh ke Naam" blood donation camp. Development Commissioner **Shri Dnyaneshwar Patil**, IAS, and his team supported the awareness rally and mobilisation. Large numbers of employees donated blood and assisted organisers, advancing voluntary donation, community service and lifesaving health awareness across the Zone.

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25. World Blood Donor Day Camp, Visakhapatnam SEZ (June 16, 2025)


Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

VSEZ and Life Share Blood Bank held a World Blood Donor Day camp on June 16, 2025. Development Commissioner Srinivas Muppaala inaugurated the programme, administered the donor pledge and personally donated blood, motivating officers, staff, unit heads and **the Council** representatives. The initiative promoted voluntary, safe donation, recognised donors' service and collected 40 units of blood for regional community medical needs.

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Medical and Health Camps

26. Awareness Session on Menstrual Hygiene and Nutrition, SEEPZ SEZ (July–September 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

During July–September 2025, on a date not stated, the Development Commissioner’s office, SEEPZ, organised menstrual hygiene and nutrition awareness under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan in convergence with Poshan Maah. Women employees from SEEPZ units responded in large numbers. The Development Commissioner welcomed dignitaries and participants and praised workforce engagement, promoting informed health practices, nutrition awareness and women’s wellbeing.

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27. Third Annual Medical Camp for MEPZ Employees, MEPZ SEZ (November 3–December 3, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

MEPZ, MEPZMA, Dr. Rela Institute and Dr. Agarwal’s Eye Hospital ran the third annual health camp from November 3 to December 3, 2025; the source reported closure on December 2. More than 10,000 employees received general, cardiac, respiratory, vascular, retinal, glaucoma and women’s screenings.

Development Commissioner Alex Paul Menon also outlined plans for an accessible on-campus hospital and pharmacy overall.

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International Yoga Day

28. International Yoga Day Celebration, Cochin SEZ (June 21, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

SEZEPC CSEZ Kerala and the Development Commissioner's office celebrated International Yoga Day at CSEZ on June 21, 2025, with more than 200 officials, security personnel and staff. Development Commissioner **Smt. Hemalatha** inaugurated the programme; Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai and DDCs addressed participants. Trainer Binoy John demonstrated asanas, conducted a student quiz and explained yoga's physical, mental and stress-management benefits daily.

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29. International Yoga Day Celebration at NSEZ, Noida SEZ (June 21, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

The Development Commissioner's office organised International Yoga Day at NSEZ, Noida, on June 21, 2025. **The Council** NSEZ staff joined zonal officers and employees in yoga activities held within the Zone. The programme promoted physical fitness, mental balance, stress reduction and regular wellness practice among the administrative and export community, while supporting the Government's wider observance of International Yoga Day nationwide.

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30. Eleventh International Yoga Day Celebration, Visakhapatnam SEZ (June 21, 2025)

VSEZ celebrated the eleventh International Yoga Day on June 21, 2025, across its premises and associated **SEZs** in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Development Commissioner Srinivas Muppaala explained the “Yoga for One Earth, One Health” theme and benefits for stress, pain, sleep and concentration. Yoga guru Prabhakar Murthy demonstrated practice and received felicitation, while units, officers and staff participated actively regularly.

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World Environment Day

31. World Environment Day Plantation Programme, Visakhapatnam SEZ (June 5, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

VSEZ celebrated World Environment Day on June 5, 2025, with unit heads, representatives, senior officers and staff. Joint Development Commissioner **Smt. Roshni Aparanji Korati** led fruit-sapling plantation and urged units to plant and maintain trees. Addressing “Beat Plastic Pollution,” she stressed responsibility, dry, wet, hazardous and non-hazardous waste segregation, proper disposal and the Development Commissioner’s Green and Clean Zone objective.

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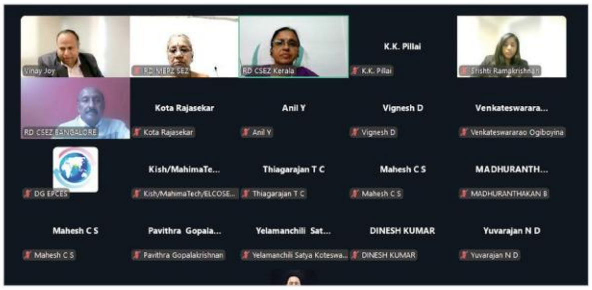
Labour Codes

32. Joint Webinar on India's New Labour Codes, Cochin SEZ (October 18, 2025)



Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

SEZEPC MEPZ and Cochin regions, with Khaitan & Co., held a joint webinar on October 18, 2025, for over 100 members preparing for four Labour Codes effective November 21. Speakers Kota Rajasekhar, Sunil Rallan and K.K. Pillai framed compliance priorities; Vinay Joy and Srishti Ramakrishnan explained wages, classification, gratuity, hours, leave, social security and gig-worker coverage through practical implementation guidance.

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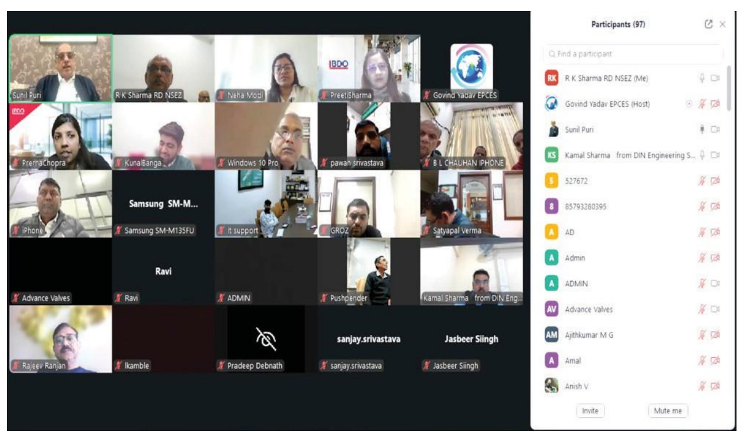
33. Webinar on the New Labour Codes, 2025, Noida SEZ (December 10, 2025)

SEZEPC Noida and BDO India Services organised a webinar on the New Labour Codes on December 10, 2025, for 100 participants. Regional Chairman Sunil Puri welcomed members, and BDO Partner Preeti Sharma explained the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Social Security Code and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. A question-and-answer session addressed specific practical member compliance concerns.



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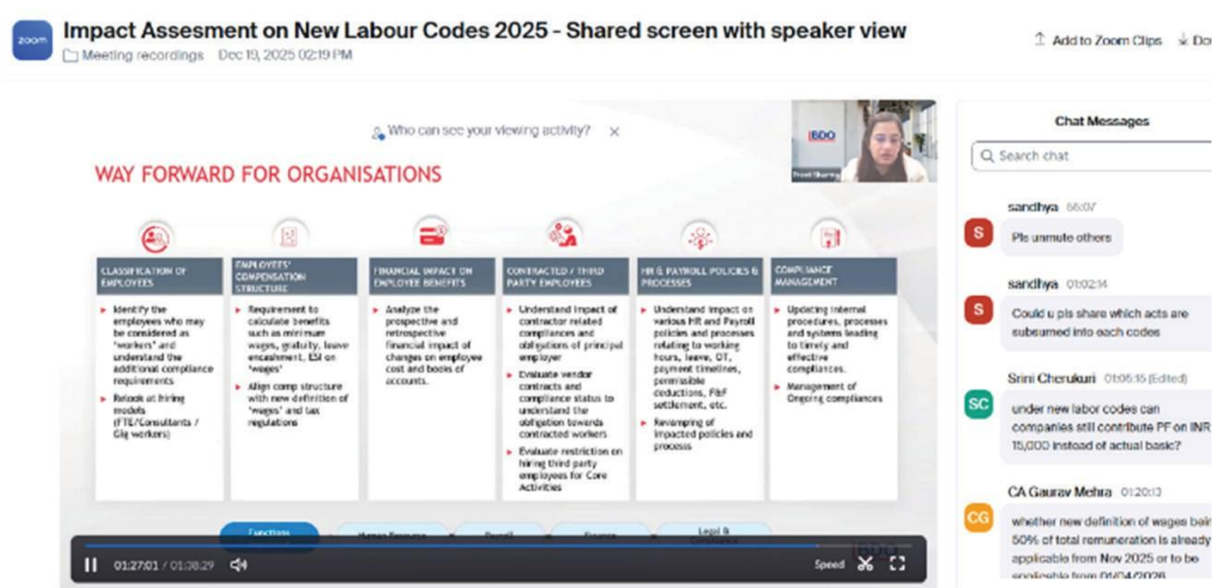
34. Webinar on the New Labour Codes, 2025, Visakhapatnam SEZ (December 19, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.



SEZEPC VSEZ and BDO India hosted a Labour Codes webinar on December 19, 2025, for 45 member exporters. Regional Vice Chairman B.S.S.V. Narayana opened proceedings; BDO Partners Preeti Sharma and Kunal Banga explained wage definitions, the **50%** exclusion cap, 300-worker thresholds, social-security expansion and occupational-safety obligations. Participants used the practical question-and-answer session to clarify compliance under the consolidated framework successfully.

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International Women's Day

35. International Women's Day Celebration at HLL, Cochin SEZ (March 8, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

HLL celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2026, with more than 30 women employees. Branch Manager Sumol Saraswathi introduced the "Give to Gain" theme and encouraged mutual support within families and workplaces. **The Council**'s Regional Director stressed education and financial independence as foundations of empowerment. Participants shared personal experiences, reinforcing solidarity, confidence and women's long-term contribution to families and society.

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36. First Regional Governing Council Meeting for the 2025–27 Term, Cochin SEZ (September 15, 2025)

The Development Commissioner's office convened CSEZ's first post-election Regional Governing Council meeting on September 15, 2025. Development Commissioner **Smt. Hemalatha** chaired, **the Council** introduced elected members and election officer Sunilkumar reported the process. With no competing nomination, **Smt. Hemalatha** declared Safeshield India Rubber Products Managing Director Anikumar P.C. Regional Vice Chairman for 2025–27, strengthening representative administrative cooperation between units and administrators.

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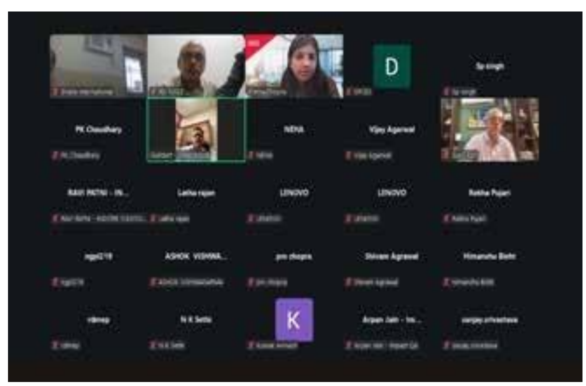
37. Webinar on GST Reforms 2.0, Noida SEZ (September 23, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.



SEZEPC Noida and BDO India conducted a GST Reforms 2.0 webinar on September 23, 2025, for representatives of 52 **SEZ** and **EOU** units. Regional Chairman Sunil Puri welcomed participants, and Partner Prerna Chopra explained **DTA** sourcing, **SEZ**-to-**DTA** supplies, pharma and medical-device rate reductions, simplified registration and GSTAT. **EOU** members raised **DTA**-procurement reclaim questions, and the presentation was shared widely afterwards.

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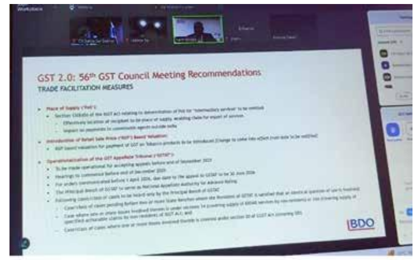
38. Webinar on GST Reforms 2.0, Visakhapatnam SEZ (September 24, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

SEZEPC VSEZ and BDO India conducted a GST Reforms 2.0 webinar on September 24, 2025, for around 30 participants, mainly **EOUs**. Regional Chairman Avinash Chukkapalli welcomed Partner Karthik Mani, who explained reform implications. Pharmaceutical members examined the GST reduction from **12%** to **5%**, working-capital improvement and SME competitiveness, while other participants received clarifications and follow-up through **the Council**'s query channel afterwards.



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39. Webinar on GST 2.0 and Customs Compliance, Cochin SEZ (September 25, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

The Council organised a GST 2.0 and Customs compliance webinar on September 25, 2025, with Khaitan & Co. for more than 80 registrants. Deputy Development Commissioner N.S. Dev and Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai addressed participants. Brijesh Kothary explained rate rationalisation, refunds, appeals and annual returns; Chitrartha Gupta covered provisional assessment, Advance Authorisation obligations, **SEZs**, **EOUs**, relevant case studies, strategy and planning.

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40. India–United Kingdom CETA Outreach Programme, Visakhapatnam SEZ (September 30, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

VSEZ and **the Council** held India–UK **CETA** outreach at Hotel Novotel, Visakhapatnam, on September 30, 2025. Joint Development Commissioner Roshni Korati, Development Commissioner Srinivas Muppaala, Principal Customs Commissioner N. Sridhar, Deputy Mayor Aarien Uday Areti, Chairman Srikanth Badiga and industry speakers explained duty-free access, origin, procurement, services, mobility, quality standards and sector opportunities, helping exporters prepare for United Kingdom markets effectively.

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41. Expanding Horizons: India's Edge in Service Exports, MEPZ SEZ (October 4, 2025)

MEPZ, EPC, SEPC and the TN Chamber convened "Expanding Horizons" in Chennai on October 4, 2025. Dr. Abhay Sinha explained India–UK **FTA** services access and twelve Champion Service Sectors. Regional Director Kalyani Srinivasan presented **SEZ**, **EOU** and **the Council** support. Shashini Wijesinghe outlined Sri Lankan company formation, while Export Launchpad 2.0 showcased structured training for prospective exporters entering overseas markets successfully.

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42. Jan Sunwai Meeting on Zonal Infrastructure and Licensing, Cochin SEZ (October 7, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

On October 7, 2025, the Development Commissioner's office restarted Jan Sunwai through a physical meeting in CSEZ's conference hall. Deputy Development Commissioner **Smt. Sreevidya** chaired, Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai presided and Regional Director Supriya concluded proceedings. More than 60 units raised parking, diesel-generator, licensing and infrastructure concerns, which officials agreed to review quickly through continued direct engagement with affected members.

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43. Awareness Programme on PM-VBRY, Noida SEZ (October 16, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

EPFO New Delhi and **SEZEPC** Noida held a hybrid **PM-VBRY** awareness programme at the NSEZ Development Commissioner's office on October 16, 2025. Nodal Officer Dr. Yoginder Yadav explained the approximately **₹1 lakh** crore employment budget. Customs Deputy Commissioner Ravikesh Tripathi and Deputy Development Commissioner Kiran Mohan attended. Eighteen exporters participated physically and fifteen units joined online to understand employment incentives.

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44. Interaction with Trade Adviser and Textile Exporters, Noida SEZ (October 24, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

Trade Adviser and Development Commissioner, NSEZ, **Shri Bipin Menon** met 21 apparel and textile exporters at the NSEZ office on October 24, 2025, in a session organised by **SEZEPC** Noida. Participants included Noida Apparel Export Cluster President Lalit Thukral. They discussed United States tariffs, **RoSCTL** exclusion and **FTAs** with Norway and the European Union; **Shri Menon** promised formal ministerial follow-up.

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45. PMVBRY Awareness Session at CFC, SEEPZ, SEEPZ SEZ (October 29, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

SEEPZ held a Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana session at its Common Facility Centre on October 29, 2025. Ministry of Labour and Employment Joint Secretary Ashutosh Pednekar addressed more than 300 participants and urged employers and eligible workers to use the scheme. The gathering increased awareness of employment incentives and encouraged units to participate in the Government's workforce-expansion programme.

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46. Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run 6.0, Cochin SEZ (October 30, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

CSEZ organised Fit India Swachhata Freedom Run 6.0 on October 30, 2025, under the “Swachh Bharat, Swasth Bharat” theme. More than 50 participants from the Development Commissioner’s office, **the Council**, CISF and member units completed a three-kilometre run inside the Zone. The activity promoted fitness, cleanliness, collective participation and shared workplace wellbeing among administrators, security personnel and the regional export community.

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47. Outreach on Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, MEPZ SEZ (November 4, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment held **PM-VBRY** outreach at EPFO’s Chennai Zonal Office on November 4, 2025, chaired by Director Richa Sharma. Officials explained the **₹99,446 crore** social-security scheme, automated enrolment and first-time worker coverage from August 2025 to July 2027. Participants proposed industrial-hub camps, success stories and help desks to reassure **MSMEs** and simplify participation without penalty fears.

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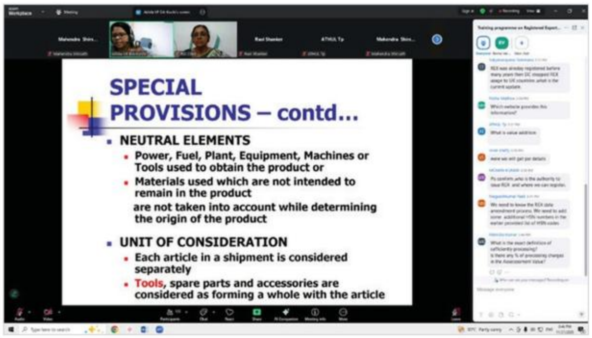
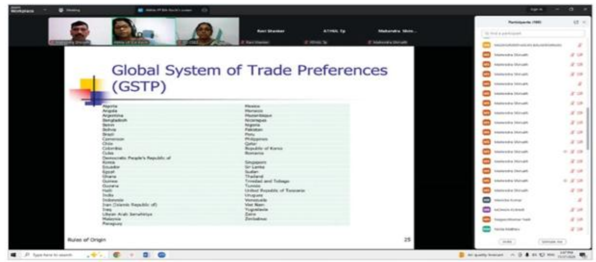
48. Webinar on Certificates of Origin and the Registered Exporter System, Cochin SEZ (November 27, 2025)





Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

The Council and Export Inspection Agency Kochi held a webinar on Certificates of Origin and the Registered Exporter System on November 27, 2025, for more than 100 participants. Joint Director Ravi Shanker introduced EIC functions; Deputy Director Mahendra Shirsath and Assistant Director Akhila V.P. explained **FTA**-based origin applications. Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai presided, and officials answered exporter questions during discussion period.

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49. Awareness Programme on PMVBRY and Employees' Enrolment Campaign, Cochin SEZ (December 5, 2025)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-News-oct-dec25(1).docx — **PMVBRY** programme at CSEZ Multipurpose Hall with EPFO officials and unit representatives]

The Development Commissioner's office and EPFO Kochi and Lakshadweep organised a **PMVBRY** and Employees' Enrolment Campaign programme at CSEZ, Kakkanad, on December 5, 2025. Deputy Development Commissioner Sreevidya P.I. presided; Regional PF Commissioner Reena Menon introduced benefits; Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai addressed employers; and Enforcement Officer Sajan explained incentives, the amnesty opportunity and corrective compliance procedures before answering unit queries.

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50. Project Pride Transgender Employment Initiative, MEPZ SEZ (October 30–December 10, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

MEPZ advanced transgender employment through Project Pride between October 30 and December 10, 2025. The Development Commissioner chaired a hiring briefing with Women Welfare Joint Director M. Nadhita. **The Council** then supported an exclusive job fair where more than 30 candidates met over ten recruiting units, over ten received offers, and MEPZ appointed one transgender man to its administration office directly.

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51. SEZEPC Participation in the 19th Customs Consultative Group Meeting, Bangalore SEZ (July 2–3, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

The Council joined the 19th Customs Consultative Group meeting at Bengaluru's Customs Air Cargo Complex on July 2–3, 2025. Chaired by CBIC Member **Shri Surjit Bhujabal**, the forum examined incomplete **ICEGATE** modules and **EOU IGCR** bond-credit problems. DG Systems reported module stabilisation, quarterly-return auto-credit and a forthcoming Excel utility permitting bulk uploads of up to 20,000 entries for easier exporter compliance.

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52. CII Partnership Summit 2025, Visakhapatnam SEZ (November 14–15, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

The CII Partnership Summit convened in Visakhapatnam on November 14–15, 2025, to examine trade, technology and sustainability. Commerce and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** promoted lower trade barriers, technology co-development and governance. He discussed food security and dispute settlement with WTO leadership and explored gems, diamonds, renewable energy, agriculture, digital infrastructure, essential commodities, critical minerals and pharmaceuticals with partner countries.

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53. National Seminar for Export Promotion in MSMEs, SEEPZ SEZ (January 8, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

A National Seminar for Export Promotion in **MSMEs** convened at Mumbai's **MSME** Campus on January 8, 2026, with DGFT, Maharashtra's Directorate of Industries, SEEPZ and Export Promotion Councils. Government, India Post, ECGC, IIP and digital-platform representatives explained schemes and

services. SEEPZ's Assistant Director presented **EOU** and **SEZ** frameworks and **the Council** support, helping **MSMEs** identify institutional handholding for future export growth.

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54. Second VSEZ Regional Governing Council Meeting, Visakhapatnam SEZ (January 9, 2026)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-news-Jan-march26(1).docx — virtual second VSEZ Regional Governing Council meeting]

VSEZ held its second Regional Governing Council meeting virtually on January 9, 2026. Regional Chairman Avinash Chukkapalli welcomed members, while **the Council** Chairman Srikanth Badiga described Council expertise and issue-resolution channels. Members were encouraged to contact the RGC, regional office, Head Office, email or WhatsApp. The Council co-opted members into vacant positions, completed its regional composition and concluded after leadership interaction.

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55. Outreach Programme on the SEZ India Mobile App, Noida SEZ (January 14, 2026)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-news-Jan-march26(1).docx — hybrid outreach demonstration of the **SEZ** India Mobile App at NSEZ]

The Development Commissioner's office, NSEZ, held hybrid outreach on the new **SEZ** India mobile application on January 14, 2026, to promote ease of doing business. **The Council** facilitated physical attendance by 16 units and online participation. Officials demonstrated tracking of approvals, Customs status and policies through the Android application, while members requested development of an equivalent iOS version for wider access.

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56. Workshop on the India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, Cochin SEZ (January 21, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

The Development Commissioner's office held an India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement workshop at CSEZ's Multipurpose Hall on January 21, 2026. Deputy Development

Commissioner Sreevidya, IAS, presided, and Trade Track faculty N.N. Menon explained the Agreement's provisions, advantages and Oman's role in India's Gulf strategy. Unit representatives, Customs and zonal officials participated, while Regional Director Supriya delivered the vote of thanks.

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57. India–Oman CEPA Outreach Programme, MEPZ SEZ (January 21, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

MEPZ **SEZ** held India–Oman **CEPA** outreach on January 21, 2026, for about 60 in-person and 35 online participants. Joint Development Commissioner Arthur Worchuiyo welcomed exporters; Deputy Development Commissioner Jennifer Difiva explained objectives and regional benefits; and Deputy Development Commissioner Prabukumar K detailed sectoral gains. The interactive programme helped goods, services and investment stakeholders understand opportunities, mobility and regulatory cooperation fully.

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58. Webinar on Real-Time Logistics Solutions, Cochin SEZ (January 28, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

SEZEPC CSEZ and Freight Mango conducted a logistics webinar on January 28, 2026, for 44 unit representatives. Technology Head Pradeep Sharma and Sales Manager Anuroop Bhargava demonstrated real-time tracking of containers, bills of lading, bills of entry and vessel schedules to improve EXIM operations. Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai presided, and regional directors Supriya and Poovaiah coordinated discussion and participant feedback.

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59. Webinar on Endless Freight Solutions, Noida SEZ (January 28, 2026)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-news-Jan-march26(1).docx — Freight Mango virtual logistics presentation coordinated by **SEZEPC** Noida]

The Council organised a virtual “Endless Freight Solutions” webinar with Freight Mango on January 28, 2026. The NSEZ Regional Director coordinated member attendance and participated throughout. Forty-four exporters joined through Zoom to examine freight-management tools and logistics visibility. The programme aimed to help **SEZ** and **EOU** units improve shipment planning, monitor cargo movements and use technology to address international freight challenges.

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60. IGNITE Maharashtra Online Programme for Tier-3 Cities, SEEPZ SEZ (February 2, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

The Directorate of Industries, Maharashtra, conducted an online IGNITE Maharashtra programme for Tier-3 cities on February 2, 2026, under Development and Export Commissioner Deependra Singh Kushwaha. Speakers from **MSME**, MIDC, India Post, ECGC, SIDBI, insurers and Export Promotion Councils explained export support. SEEPZ’s Assistant Director presented **the Council** services, recent policy reforms and **EOU** and **SEZ** benefits to prospective regional exporters.

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61. IGNITE Maharashtra Programme for Mumbai City and Suburbs, SEEPZ SEZ (February 3, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

The Directorate of Industries conducted IGNITE Maharashtra for Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban districts on February 3, 2026. Institutional experts briefed **MSME** and other exporters on finance, infrastructure, insurance, postal logistics and promotion support. The SEEPZ Assistant Director explained **EOU** and **SEZ** procedures, **the Council** advocacy and member services, enabling businesses to connect policy reforms with practical routes into international markets.

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62. MEPZ Leadership Summit 2.0, MEPZ SEZ (February 4, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

MEPZ Leadership Summit 2.0 convened government, industry and trade institutions in Chennai on February 4, 2026, to position the Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Puducherry region for investment and resilient supply chains. Development Commissioner Alex Paul Menon highlighted geopolitical shifts. Participants examined logistics, project execution, facilitation, advanced manufacturing, data centres, GCCs, renewable energy, textiles, leather and emerging Tier-2 and Tier-3 locations.

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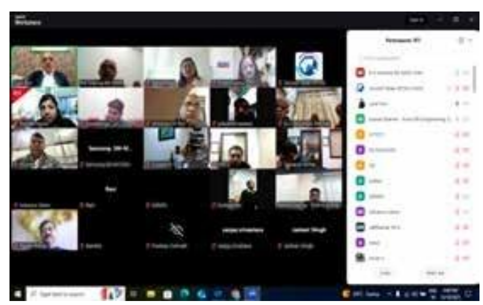
63. Webinar on Decoding Union Budget 2026, Noida SEZ (February 4, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.



SEZEPC Noida and BDO India hosted a Union Budget webinar on February 4, 2026, for 36 participants. Experts analysed direct and indirect taxes and the announced one-time duty concession for **SEZ**-to-**DTA** manufacturing sales. Members used the interactive session to ask about service supplies to **DTA** and implementation details. Positive feedback reflected the need for timely, zone-specific interpretation of Budget proposals.

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64. Post-Budget 2026 Webinar, Visakhapatnam SEZ (February 4, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

The Council and BDO India held a Post-Budget 2026 webinar on February 4 for more than 30 VSEZ and **EOU** units. Regional Vice Chairman B.S.S.V. Narayana welcomed participants. BDO Partners Rajitha Boorugu and Vijay Gilda analysed GST, Customs and Income Tax. Members questioned the one-time **SEZ**-to-**DTA** duty concession; speakers clarified that implications depended on the forthcoming Government notification and detailed rates.

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65. SEZEPC SEEPZ Post-Budget Session, SEEPZ SEZ (February 5, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

SEZEPC SEEPZ and BDO India Services held a post-Budget session on February 5, 2026. Regional Vice Chairman S. Mukherjee highlighted major Budget themes, and the Assistant Director moderated. Karthik Iyer analysed direct and indirect taxes, Customs legislation and procedures, with special attention to forthcoming **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sale clarifications. The programme equipped regional exporters to assess compliance changes and operational implications promptly.

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66. Post-Budget Direct and Indirect Tax Webinar, MEPZ SEZ (February 6, 2026)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-news-Jan-march26(1).docx — **SEZEPC** MEPZ and BDO India post-Budget webinar]

SEZEPC MEPZ and BDO India held a post-Budget webinar on February 6, 2026, for 73 participants. Regional Vice Chairman Kota Rajasekar welcomed speakers. Associate Partner Deepthi Mary Alexander analysed Customs legislation, procedures and **SEZ**-to-**DTA** sales, while Partner Lalit Attal explained Income Tax, transfer pricing and Minimum Alternate Tax proposals. The session equipped exporters to interpret direct and indirect tax implications.

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67. Union Budget 2026 Unpacked Session, Cochin SEZ (February 10, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

The Council and Khaitan & Co. convened “Union Budget 2026 Unpacked” at RECCAA Club, Kakkanad, on February 10, 2026. Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai, Deputy Development Commissioner N.S. Dev and Deputy Commissioner of Customs P.G. Laloo discussed youth, **MSMEs**, **FTAs**, process reform, advance rulings, warehouse movements, fisheries and **SEZ** taxation. Participants examined duty-foregone **DTA** sales and reverse job work expectations closely together.

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68. India–United Kingdom CETA Session in Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam SEZ (February 10, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

VSEZ organised India–UK **CETA** outreach at Hotel Le Meridien, Hyderabad, on February 10, 2026. Development Commissioner Muppaala Srinivas, **the Council** Chairman Srikanth Badiga, Deputy Mayor Aarien Uday Areti, economist Aamir Ullah Khan, British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen, Deputy Development Commissioner N. Bhavani Sri and Customs Deputy Commissioner Vinay Mallipudi explained agreement provisions, trade dynamics and sector opportunities for exporters.

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69. Leadership Roundtable on ESG, CBAM and Export Competitiveness, MEPZ SEZ (February 12, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

MEPZ and Dhirubhai Ambani University School of Law hosted an **ESG** and global-trade roundtable in Chennai on February 12, 2026. Development Commissioner Alex Paul Menon examined **CBAM**, CSDDD, deforestation rules, carbon pricing and Tamil Nadu’s sustainability ranking. Professor R. Gopichandran discussed ecosystem services, biodiversity accountability and citizen science, helping exporters connect sustainability disclosure with market access, capital, risk and competitiveness.

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70. Seminar on SEZ Policy Developments and India’s FTAs at Surat SEZ, Kandla SEZ (February 24, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

SEZEPC and the Development Commissioner, Surat **SEZ**, organised a policy and **FTA** seminar on February 24, 2026, with BDO India. Deputy Director General Tanu Aggarwal presented Council advocacy and the India–EU **FTA**; BDO partners Gyanendra Tripathi and Maulik Manakiwala covered Budget changes, **SEZ** rules and the India–US framework. Development Commissioner Abhimaniu Sharma discussed Oman **CEPA** and Export Promotion Mission opportunities.

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71. IGNITE Maharashtra Export Conclave in Pune, SEEPZ SEZ (February 27, 2026)

Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

Maharashtra’s Directorate of Industries and District Industries Office organised an export-promotion conclave in Pune on February 27, 2026. **MSME** and non-**MSME** exporters attended. **The Council**’s Assistant Director explained **EOU** and **SEZ** regulation, Council facilitation and available member services, while established units shared perspectives. The IGNITE platform broadened outreach beyond metropolitan centres and connected prospective exporters with Government and institutional support networks.

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72. Meeting on Contemporary Export Challenges, Noida SEZ (March 2, 2026)

[Insert Picture: Generate a publication-grade photograph showing a hybrid DGFT-led export review, with officials on a conference screen, NSEZ exporters seated around a formal boardroom table, logistics charts visible, and **the Council** representatives presenting operational concerns]

The **Department of Commerce** held a hybrid meeting led by DGFT on March 2, 2026, to review export developments. Discussion focused on logistics disruption and operational constraints affecting exporters. **SEZEPC** Noida coordinated participation by several NSEZ member units, enabling them to present evidence. The engagement ensured regional concerns entered the review and supported consideration of responses during unstable trading conditions.

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73. Representation on Port Congestion, Detention and Demurrage, Noida SEZ (March 6, 2026)

[Insert Picture: Generate a publication-grade documentary image of an **the Council** regional chairman submitting a formal representation to the Shipping Secretary, with congested containers and delayed Middle East shipping routes displayed on a large background map]

On March 6, 2026, **SEZEPC** Noida's Regional Chairman submitted a representation to the Shipping Secretary after Middle East tensions delayed shipments and congested gateway ports and transit routes. The letter requested coordination with port authorities and shipping lines to waive detention and demurrage. The intervention sought immediate cost relief for exporters facing disruptions beyond their control and constrained container movement.

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74. Virtual Meeting on Middle East Trade Disruptions, Noida SEZ (March 9, 2026)

[Insert Picture: Generate a publication-grade virtual-meeting scene showing the Director General of Shipping, FIEO, **SEZEPC** Noida and exporters discussing a digital map of disrupted Middle East sea routes, stranded containers and alternative logistics options]

FIEO convened a virtual meeting with the Director General of Shipping on March 9, 2026, after Middle East tensions disrupted trade and logistics. **SEZEPC** Noida participated and facilitated attendance by member units. Exporters discussed shipping delays, route uncertainty and operational hurdles, enabling direct engagement with the maritime regulator and helping affected businesses understand emerging responses and possible logistics support measures.

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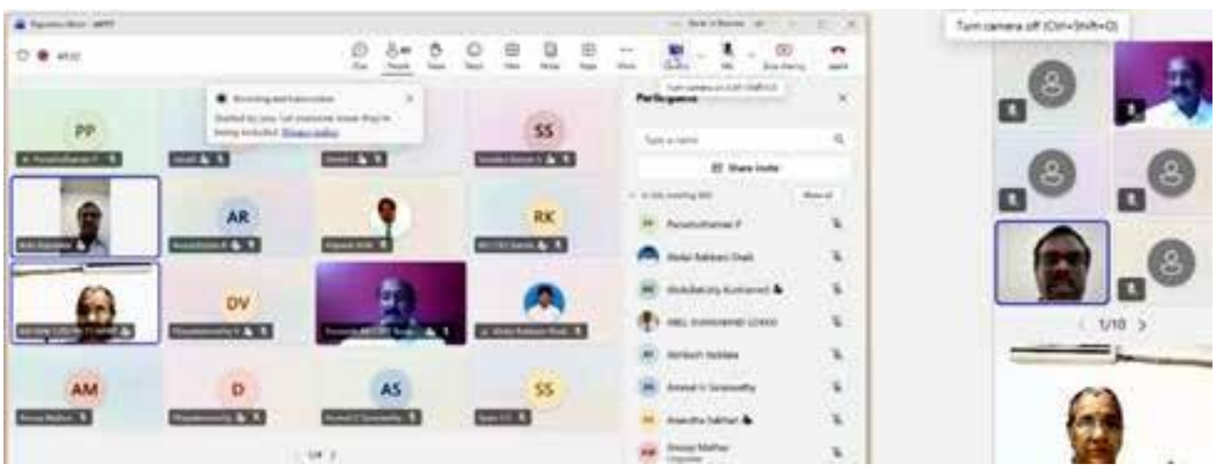
75. Webinar on Export Finance and Relief Measures, MEPZ SEZ (March 10, 2026)



Source photograph: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

SEZEPC MEPZ and Bank of Baroda organised an export-finance webinar on March 10, 2026. Regional Vice Chairman Kota Rajasekar opened proceedings, and Bank officials explained pre- and post-shipment finance, interest subvention, collateral-free credit, ECGC support, **MSME** and leather-footwear schemes, the Insta Smart Trade portal and FxOne. Exporters used the question-and-answer session to resolve documentation, risk-coverage, forex and digital-banking queries effectively.

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76. Session on Free Trade Agreements, Cochin SEZ (March 18, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

SEZEPC CSEZ, DGFT's Cochin Regional Authority and BDO India held an **FTA** session on March 18, 2026. Chief Guest Hassan Usaid, ITS, described agreements as growth engines for exports and raw-material sourcing. BDO experts Karthik Mani and Deepthi Mary Alexander explained recently concluded **FTAs** and compliance formalities. Participants used the concluding question-and-answer session to clarify market-access and procedural issues collectively.

* * *

77. Webinar on Annual RoDTEP Return Filing, MEPZ SEZ (March 19, 2026)

SEZEPC MEPZ held an Annual **RoDTEP** Return webinar on March 19, 2026, for more than 100 members. Chartered Accountant Ishan Tulsian explained FY 2023–24 and FY 2024–25 filing, eligibility, **ICEGATE** reconciliation, shipping-bill declarations, scrolls, transferable scripts, recordkeeping and error handling. The session emphasised the March 31 deadline for exporters whose **RoDTEP** claims exceeded **₹1 crore** and provided a filing walkthrough.

* * *

Visits of Ministers, Ministers of State and Senior Officials

Brandix SEZ and Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone Site Visits, Visakhapatnam SEZ (November 15, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

On November 15, 2025, **Hon'ble Minister Shri Piyush Goyal** visited Brandix **SEZ** with Development Commissioner M. Srinivas and Brandix India Partner P.C. Doraswamy, then inaugurated six indigenous manufacturing and testing units at AMTZ. The source named IITPL, 3I Medical, Transasia Diagnostics, Molbio Diagnostics and Electra, covering cathlabs, MRI, diagnostic kits, RT-PCR and testing, and reinforced Make in India medical-device capability.

*

Commerce Secretary's Interactive Review at SEEPZ, SEEPZ SEZ (December 26, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

Commerce Secretary **Shri Rajesh Agrawal** and Joint Secretary **Shri Vimal Anand** joined an interactive SEEPZ session on December 26, 2025. Gems and jewellery exporters sought duty-free return of unused lab-grown diamonds, sub-eight-carat studded-jewellery exports, easier gold remittances, receivables netting, PIMS relief and simpler **RoDTEP** reporting. **Shri Agrawal** praised EoDB work and promised coordination with DGFT, **RBI** and GJEPC on reforms.

* * *

78. Visit of Hon'ble Minister of State Shri Jitin Prasada to Moradabad SEZ, Noida SEZ (June 25, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

The Development Commissioner, NSEZ, organised **Hon'ble Minister** of State for Commerce and Industry **Shri Jitin Prasada's** visit to Moradabad **SEZ** on June 25, 2025. Joint Development Commissioner Surender Malik, **the Council** CGC Member Vilas Gupta and NSEZ Regional Chairman Sunil Puri joined the delegation. The visit enabled observation of the Zone and engagement between ministerial leadership, administrators and regional industry representatives.

* * *

79. NITI Aayog Delegation Visit to NSEZ, Noida SEZ (July 10, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

NITI Aayog officials Mohit Gupta and Nishtha Jain visited NSEZ on July 10, 2025, through coordination by **SEZEPC** Noida. Six companies and Regional Chairman Sunil Puri discussed Interest Subvention, **RoSCTL**, **RoDTEP**, **ICEGATE** delays, working-capital finance, MAI bottlenecks and testing of Chinese fabrics. The delegation gathered evidence for a policy report and assured exporters that their operational challenges would receive review.

* * *

80. Inauguration of Gate No. 1 at the Development Commissioner's Office, Noida SEZ (July 30, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

Joint Secretary, **Department of Commerce**, **Shri Vimal Anand** inaugurated Gate No. 1 at the Development Commissioner's office, Noida, on July 30, 2025. **SEZEPC** Noida coordinated participation and joined ceremony. CGC Member **Shri Vilas Gupta** welcomed the Joint Secretary with flowers, while Regional Chairman **Shri Sunil Puri** and Regional Governing Council members attended, reinforcing cooperation between Council leadership and zonal administration.

* * *

81. SEZEPC Welcomed the New Deputy Development Commissioner, Cochin SEZ (September 22, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai, Regional Vice Chairman Anikumar P.C. and the Regional Director met new Deputy Development Commissioner **Smt. Sreevidya**, IAS, on September 22, 2025. They introduced **the Council**, presented unit concerns and discussed restarting weekly Jan Sunwai meetings. **Smt. Sreevidya** promised priority review with her team and requested industry cooperation, establishing an early channel for resolving zonal operational issues together.

* * *

82. Inauguration of the MEPZ–C-DAC IT Skill Development Centre, MEPZ SEZ (October 17, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

Secretary, MeitY, Thiru S. Krishnan inaugurated the MEPZ–C-DAC IT Skill Development Centre and Centre of Excellence in Chennai on October 17, 2025. Development Commissioner Alex Paul Menon and C-DAC Executive Director S.D. Sudarsan supported training in artificial intelligence, machine learning and cybersecurity. A subsequent MEPZ–NASSCOM interface examined United States tariffs, IT/ITES, electronics, workforce skills and supply-chain diversification for resilience nationally.

* * *

83. Kerala Connect 2025 with Indian Economic Service Officers, Cochin SEZ (October 31, 2025)

On October 31, 2025, a 30-member Indian Economic Service delegation visited Cochin under Kerala Connect 2025 to study exporter challenges and opportunities in coir, spices and marine products. **The Council** joined with a ten-member delegation led by Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai. Representatives presented sector concerns, while **the Council** submitted a consolidated **SEZ** and **EOU** representation to inform policy understanding and Government responses.

* * *

84. Engagement with International Students at World Trade Centre Bangalore, Bangalore SEZ (November 6, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

On November 6, 2025, Regional Director Shri C.U. Poovaiah joined 34 HSE University, Moscow, graduate students, National School of Business faculty and Brigade Tech Gardens representatives at World Trade Centre Bangalore. Mr. Vivek George presented the **SEZ** campus infrastructure, while **Shri Poovaiah** explained exporter incentives, trade challenges and **the Council** support available through its national and regional offices for international commerce.

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85. Inauguration of NEST–02 at SEEPZ, SEEPZ SEZ (December 11, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | October–December 2025.

Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister **Shri Piyush Goyal** inaugurated NEST–02 at SEEPZ, Mumbai, on December 11, 2025. He urged transparent auction-based allotment, review of unused space, skilling including opportunities for specially-abled youth, ethical administration and modern infrastructure. The Minister linked Jan Vishwas reforms, Swadeshi and Atmanirbhar Bharat with his expectation that SEEPZ should become a world-class production and export zone.

* * *

86. British Deputy High Commissioner's Visit to VSEZ, Visakhapatnam SEZ (March 17, 2026)

Source photographs: EPCES News | January–March 2026.

British Deputy High Commissioner Gareth Wynn Owen visited VSEZ on March 17, 2026, with officials and experts to strengthen United Kingdom–India trade. Development Commissioner Srinivas Muppaala presented zonal operations. The delegation outlined United Kingdom investment incentives and answered exporters' questions. Regional Vice Chairman B.S.S.V. Narayana requested guidance for Indian entrepreneurs, and the delegation promised a brochure before planting a sapling.

* * *

Seminars, Webinars and Other Programmes

87. Knowledge Session on Export Strategy, Documentation and Credit Guarantee, Visakhapatnam SEZ (April 3, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

The Council, the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and FTCCI organised an export knowledge session at Federation House, Hyderabad, on April 3, 2025, for over 50 participants. ECGC's Amlendu Bipul Mishra explained credit insurance; N. Mallikarjun presented strategy, documentation, **SEZ**, **EOU**, MOOWR, AEO and compliance requirements. **DTA** enterprises used the interactive discussion to understand export procedures, benefit schemes and risk protection together.

* * *

88. Webinar on the Impact of United States Tariffs on India, Bangalore SEZ (April 17, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

On April 17, 2025, **the Council** and World Trade Centre Bengaluru, with Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, organised a briefing for 270 **the Council** members, **SEZ** units, developers and **EOUs**. Speakers L. Badri Narayan, Devinder Bagua and Disha Jain examined Section 232 and 301 duties, reciprocal tariffs, exemptions, origin rules, circumvention risks and opportunities for India arising from China's tariff burden in trade.

* * *

89. Webinar on the India–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement, Bangalore SEZ (May 21, 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

On May 21, 2025, **SEZEPC** Bengaluru, World Trade Centre Bengaluru and BDO India briefed 226 participants on the India–UK **FTA**, finalised on May 6. Experts explained tariff removal, professional mobility, digital trade, intellectual property, procurement, SME support and sectoral effects, including automotive and spirits, while discussing origin criteria, domestic-industry concerns and the target of **US$120 billion** bilateral trade by 2030.

* * *

90. Session on ICEGATE Filing and IMEXIO Updates, Cochin SEZ (June 25, 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | April–June 2025.

On June 25, 2025, **the Council** held an IMEXIO and **ICEGATE** filing session at its Cochin office for 40 unit representatives. Regional Chairperson K.K. Pillai presided, Deputy Commissioner of Customs Laloo P.G. guided members, and Subair M. demonstrated software features and error handling. Jayanarayanan and Subair answered queries so Kerala units could complete migration, resolve documentation errors and secure departmental support.

* * *

91. Cochin Customs Meeting on EOU Issues, Cochin SEZ (August 2025)

Source photograph: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

During August 2025, Cochin Custom House convened **EOU** representatives at Willingdon Island to resolve **IGCR** return, bond-maintenance and re-credit problems. Assistant Commissioner Roy K. Mani chaired the meeting, while Superintendent Harish answered unit queries. Customs officers agreed to escalate technical matters to DG Systems and requested **the Council** to request a question-and-answer session, helping **EOUs** obtain practical guidance during automation transition.

* * *

92. SEZEPC Member Visits at KINFRA Industrial Park, Nellad, Cochin SEZ (July–September 2025)

Source photographs: EPCES News | July–September 2025.

During July–September 2025, on a date not stated, **the Council** visited Crust N Crumb and Bos Natural Flavours at KINFRA Park, Nellad, Ernakulam. Directors discussed **IGCR** returns, bond re-credit and transition support, thanked **the Council** for DG Systems training, and requested filing programmes. The team toured production and testing facilities and distributed **SEZ** Rules and Council publications to strengthen member compliance awareness.

* * *

93. Webinar on GST Reforms 2.0, SEEPZ SEZ (July–September 2025)

[Insert Picture: **the Council**-news-July-sept25(1).docx — SEEPZ GST Reforms 2.0 webinar with BDO India]

During July–September 2025, on a date not stated, **SEZEPC** SEEPZ and BDO India held a GST Reforms 2.0 webinar for **EOU**, **SEZ** and developer representatives. Partner Kartik Solanki explained rate rationalisation, goods and services changes and trade facilitation. CGC Member Vijay Gujarathi welcomed participants; RGC Member Rohit Bajaj thanked speakers; and Regional Director SEEPZ coordinated follow-up questions from attendees afterwards.

* * *

COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

Keeping members informed is one of the Council's most important activities. Policy in this sector moves quickly — notifications, circulars, instructions and trade developments arrive through the year, and a unit that learns of a change late can lose money or compliance standing. The Council therefore maintains a full set of publications, each with its own rhythm and purpose, so that every member receives the right information at the right time.

SEZEPC Weekly News — Circulated conveniently through digital channels like WhatsApp and emails,. it serves as an essential information and update briefing for exporters community, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units, and Export Oriented Units (EOUs). Its primary goal is to keep members informed about rapidly changing trade policies, logistical challenges, international market trends, and available government support. Every issue, together with the Council's circulars and member advisories, is preserved in the SEZEPC Members' Mail Archive, where the full run of past issues can be read at any time.

Monthly Trade Bulletin — Zone-wise and sector-wise export data for SEZs and EOUs, month by month — the working numbers behind the sector's performance.

Annual Trade Bulletin — The consolidated trade record of the year: exports, imports and performance across the zones, compiled once the annual figures are settled.

Quarterly Newsletter — SEZEPC News — The Council's journal of record, published every quarter with the activities, policy developments and zonal programmes of the period. The entries in this Annual Report are drawn from its four issues of 2025–26.

Circulars and Member Advisories — Issued whenever the Government notifies a change that affects members — reproduced in full, with the Council's note on what it means and what a unit needs to do.

All publications of the Council are available on the https://www.epces.in/epces-publications.php

of the Council's website, and members who wish to receive the weekly service may write to the Council secretariat. Members are encouraged to visit the archive — the care taken in how each issue is put together is best seen there.

Membership Statement as on 31st March 2026

Category	CSEZ (Bangalore)	CSEZ	FSEZ	KSEZ	MEPZ-SEZ	NSEZ	SEEPZ	VSEZ	Total
EOUs	55	192	16	98	246	104	165	125	1,001
SEZs	576	438	85	1,333	734	783	665	498	5,112
DEVs	36	52	7	46	73	46	50	78	388
Total	**667**	**682**	**108**	**1477**	**1053**	**933**	**880**	**701**	**6,501**

AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2025–26

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs — SEZEPC

(erstwhile EPCES)

Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

R. K. SINGH & CO.
Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS
EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUS & SEZ
NEW DELHI

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZ ("the Council"), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2026, the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended, and a summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid Financial Statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes to accounts give the information so required by the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in the manner so required and give a true and fair view subject to the financial effects of the matters on the income, expenditure, assets and liabilities of the Council for the financial year 2025-26 and as at March 31, 2026 (amount not fully ascertained by the management) as described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion Paragraph, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Societies Registration Act, 1860, in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

a) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the council as at March 31, 2026 and
b) In the case of the Statement of the Income and Expenditure, of the Surplus for the year ended March, 31, 2026;

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We conducted our audit of the Financial Statements in accordance with the Standards on Auditing ("SA"s). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India ("ICAI") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the Financial Statements and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ICAI's Code of Ethics. ***In view of the <u>various matters from Serial No. 1 to 5 as described in "Annexure – 1" attached</u> to this report, we believe that the audit evidences obtained by us are sufficient***

R. K. SINGH & CO. Chartered Accountants 19324N

2nd Floor, 3LSC, DDA Market Opposite Anandlok Society Gate No. 1, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091 (INDIA)
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and appropriate to provide a basis for our Qualified Opinion on the Financial Statements.

Management's Responsibility and those charged with governance of the Financial Statements

The Management is responsible for the preparation of these Financial Statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance in accordance with the Accounting Standards, to the extent applicable, issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and other accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records for safeguarding the assets of the entity and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities, selection and application of appropriate accounting policies, making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the Financial Statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the Financial Statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are also responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Financial Statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

• Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the Standalone Financial Statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

• Obtain an understanding of internal financial control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on whether the Council has adequate internal financial controls system in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls.

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.

• Conclude on the appropriateness of Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the Financial Statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

i) We have sought and obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.

ii) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Council so far as it appears from our examination of those books.

iii) The Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure dealt with by this Report are in agreement with the relevant books of account.

iv) In our opinion, Balance Sheet and the Statement of Income and Expenditure comply with the Accounting Standards, to the extent applicable, issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

v) (a) The Management has represented, that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, no funds (which are material either individually and in aggregate) have been advanced or loaned or invested (either from borrowed funds or any other sources or kind of funds) by the Council, to or in any other person or entity, including any foreign entity ("Intermediaries"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Intermediary shall, directly or indirectly lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Council ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries.

(b) The management has represented, that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, no funds (Which are material either individually or in aggregate) have been received by the Council, from any person or entity, including foreign entities ("Funding Parties"), with the understanding, whether recorded in writing or otherwise, that the Council, shall, directly or indirectly, lend or invest in other persons or entities identified in any manner whatsoever by or on behalf of the Funding Party ("Ultimate Beneficiaries") or provide any guarantee, security or the like on behalf of the Ultimate Beneficiaries.

(c) Based on the audit procedures performed that have been considered reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances, nothing has come to our notice that has caused us to believe that the representations under sub-clause (i) and (ii) of Rule 11(e), as provided under (a) and (b) above, contain any material misstatement.

For, R. K. Singh & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No: 019924N

CA Rakesh Kumar Singh
Partner
M No: 501755
UDIN: 26501755TJD8DP9352

Place: New Delhi
Date: 27.08.2026

2nd Floor, 3LSC, DDA Market Opposite Anandlok Society Gate No. 1, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091 (INDIA)

Annexure-1 Forming Part of the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ended March 31, 2026

<table>
<tr><th>Sr. Nos.</th><th>Significant Observations</th><th>Management Responses</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>

<u>Bank Balances</u>

Details (bank confirmations, bank statements) of the following bank accounts maintained by the EPCES the details are as under: -.

<table>
<tr><th>Offices</th><th>Bank Balance as on 31.03.2026 (Rs.)</th><th>Balance Confirmation</th><th>Bank Statement</th><th>Interest Certificate</th></tr>
<tr><td>Kandla, Gujarat</td><td>18,848.46</td><td>Pending</td><td>Pending</td><td>Pending</td></tr>
<tr><td>CSEZ, Bangalore</td><td>4,377.12</td><td>Pending</td><td>Pending</td><td>Pending</td></tr>
</table>

There is no movement in the two imprest accounts of Regional Offices.

</td><td>Kandla & Bangalore Bank account are dormant and will be provided.</td></tr>
<tr><td>2.</td><td>

Status of Pending Legal Case

During the Financial Year 2021-22, both terminated employees namely, Mr. Anand Giri, Deputy Director General (DDG) and Ms. Anjali Malik, Deputy Director (DD) have filed writ petitions vide WP No. 14446/2021 & WP 8832/2021 respectively before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi for the stay in the above said matter and for their employment termination. We are informed that the matter is pending adjudication. Impact, if any, arising out of the case is presently not ascertainable.

</td><td>These events have taken place 2018-19 and the action has already been taken against the employees and accounts with the government have been settled in year 2022-21. In reference of above action, the Employees have writ petitions in the year 2021-22. No stay has been granted till date.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3.</td><td>

<u>Income Tax Related Issues</u>

The council has the following pending assessment cases pertaining to Income Tax matters:

- A.Y. 2016-17–Demand of Rs. 32,93,627 was raised by the Income Tax Department u/s 143 (3) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide order dated 30.12.2018, consequent to the denial of exemption u/s 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as well as the disallowance of prior period expenses and benefit of accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Council had filed an appeal with CIT(A) against the said order. The last date of hearing was attended on February 03, 2021. The matter is pending for adjudication with the concerned authorities.

A.Y. 2017-18- The Council received an Income Tax order u/s 143(3) for the A.Y. 2017-18 vide order dated 29th December, 2019 wherein an addition of Rs. 1,25,74,270 was made by the department resulting into an income tax demand of Rs. 51,35,860. An Appeal was filed against the said order and date of first appeal hearing was fixed for 12.02.2021 wherein the Council sought adjournment. Thereafter the next date of hearing has not been fixed. The management of the

</td><td>These are old case and appeals have been filled.</td></tr>
</table>

Council is of the view that the said demand is devoid of any justification or merit and the Council is confident of getting favourable decision. The matter is pending for adjudication with the concerned authorities.

This represents a contingent liability of Rs 62,76,423/-. The actual liability, if any, is yet to be determined, as the matter is currently under appeal before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) [CIT(A)] for Assessment Years 2016–17 and 2017–18.

4. **Accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**

The council made accumulation of Rs 5,85,86,285/- u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in the F.Y. 2025-26. The said amount needs to utilized in the next 5 years.

Year wise detail of the accumulation as on 31st March 2026 is as follows:

S. No.	Financial Year	Amount (in Rs.)	To be Utilized till
1	2021-22	1,19,45,538	31.03.2027
2	2022-23	2,48,16,685	31.03.2028
3	2023-24	3,76,63,588	31.03.2029
4	2024-25	5,84,44,072	31.03.2030
5	2025-26	5,84,06,302	31.03.2031
Total		19,12,76,185	

No action required.

5. **Reconciliation of GST Turnover**

As per rule and regulation of GST there is a requirement of payment of GST on advance received from customer, in line with the provisions of GST council is paying GST on advance fees from members but as per method of accounting adopted by the council the advance receipt of membership fees for future years to be taken as liability and adjusted in the year in which it becomes due, therefor there is some differences my arise in GST Turnover. The reconciliation of the GST Turnover as per GST return and Books of Accounts are as below:

Membership Fees for the Year 2025 – 2026	9,19,00,000
One Time admission fees	6,24,000
Rental Receipt from property held under trust and Others	41,19,536
Advertisement on books of notification/EPCES News Magazine	1,00,000
Total	9,67,34,700
Less:-Advance Membership Subscription 2025 – 2026	6,23,59,500
	3,31,75,200
Add: Advance Membership Subscription 2026 - 27, 2027 - 28 & 2028 - 29 kept separately	3,21,97,000
Add: Membership Subscription 2025-2026 adjusted in Book of accounts due to GSTIN Error.	2,53,500
Turn Over as per GST	6,68,25,700

Noted.

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs
Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

Particulars	Note	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
OWNERS' FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Owners' Funds			
Capital Reserve	1	650,000	650,000
Reserves and surplus	2	178,624,450	165,153,463
Accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961	3	191,276,185	132,869,883
Non - Current liabilities			
Deposits	4	150,000	150,000
Current liabilities			
Payables	5	1,475,826	2,458,574
Other current liabilities		283,473	10,508,540
Provisions		11,841,782	9,774,898
Subscription Recevied in Advance from Members	6	82,079,182	93,769,349
Total		**466,380,898**	**415,334,706**
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	7	56,064,965	58,832,120
Investments	8	1,663,367	1,700,726
Security Deposits		540,610	540,610
Staff Loans and Advances		1,859,321	1,223,080
Current assets			
Current investments	9	382,244,098	305,210,499
Cash and bank balances	10	12,871,814	37,898,147
Sundry Debitors		2,262,748	1,859,264
Other current assets	11	8,873,975	8,070,260
Total		**466,380,898**	**415,334,706**

Significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements and the schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements. 16

R. K. Singh & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN : 019924N

R. K. Singh & Co. Chartered Accountants DELHI FRN-019924N

CA Rakesh kumar Singh
Partner
M. No. 501755

For and on behalf of the Council

Alok Chaturvedi
Director General

Srikanth Badiga
Chairman

UDIN: 26501755TJIQDP9352
Place : New Delhi

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

Particulars	Note	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
Subscription from Members		92,524,000	90,774,500
Other Income	12	29,641,577	22,498,649
Total		122,165,577	113,273,149
Expenses:			
Staff Cost & Benefits	13	23,031,828	18,733,231
Regional Office Expenses	14	9,017,986	8,537,011
Administrative Expenses	15	6,438,702	5,510,540
Events & Programmes Expenses		5,309,408	5,230,401
Depreciation for the Year	7	6,530,151	6,937,143
Total		50,328,074	44,948,326
Surplus for the year before appropriations		71,837,503	68,324,823
Less:- Amount set apart for specified purposes u/s 11(2) of Income Tax Act, 1961		58,406,302	58,444,072
Balance transferred to Reserve and Surplus account in Balance Sheet		13,431,201	9,880,751
Significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements and the schedules referred to above form an integral part of the financial statements.	16		

R. K. Singh & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN : 019924N

R.K. Singh
CA Rakesh Kumar Singh
Partner
M. No. 501755

UDIN: 26501755TJIQDP9352
Place : New Delhi
Date 27.08 2026

For and on behalf of the Council

Alok Chaturvedi
Director General

Srikanth Badiga
Chairman

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs
Schedules forming part of the financial statements as at 31st March 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
Note 1		
Capital Reserve		
Seed money from founder members	650,000	650,000
Total	**650,000**	**650,000**
Note 2		
Reserves and Surplus		
Balance as per last year	16,51,53,463	15,53,79,620
Add: Surplus transferred from income and expenditure account	1,34,31,201	9,880,751
Less: Surplus transferred from income and expenditure account (related to F.Y. 2023 - 2024)	-39,786	106,908
Total	**178,624,450**	**165,153,463**
Note 3		
Accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961		
Balance as per last year	132,869,883	74,425,811
Add: Amount transferred from Income & Expenditure Account for accumulation specified purposes u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.	58,406,302	58,444,072
	191,276,185	132,869,883
Note 4		
Deposits from		
Security Refundable on Rent (NSEZ)	150,000	150,000
	150,000	**150,000**
Note 5		
Payables		
Expenses Payables	461,021	366,911
Provident Fund	216,458	146,080
Duties & Taxes	798,347	1,945,583
Total	**1,475,826**	**2,458,574**
Current Liabilities		
Other Advances/Payables	283,473	10,508,540
Provisions		
Provisions for Gratiuty	2,528,379	1,361,751
Provisions for Leave encashment	3,036,980	2,136,724
Provisions for Income Tax		
-FY 2016-17	2,605,229	2,605,229
-FY 2017-18	2,167,739	2,167,739
-FY 2018-19	1,503,455	1,503,455
Total	**11,841,782**	**9,774,898**
Note 6		
Subscription Recevied in Advance from Members		
Balance as per last account	93,769,349	83,604,802
Add: Received during the year	32,197,000	65,850,500
Unidentified Receipts	18,472,333	5,154,349
Total	144,438,682	154,609,651
Less: Income from the Year	62,359,500	60,840,302
Total	**82,079,182**	**93,769,349**

R. K. SINGH & CO.

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs
Schedules forming part of the financial statements as at 31st March 2026

Fixed Assets

Particulars	Rate	Gross Block					Depreciation				Net Block	
		Cost as on 01.04.2025	Additions during the year (>180 days)	Additions during the year (>180 days)	Deductions during the year	Total as on 31.03.2026	Up to 01.04.2025	Adustment during the Year	Depreciation during the Year	Total as on 31.03.2026	WDV as on 31.03.2025	WDV as on 31.03.2026
Office premises	10%	11,01,60,638	-	-	-	11,01,60,638	5,77,13,673	-	52,44,697	6,29,58,370	5,24,46,965	4,72,02,269
Office vehicle	15%	33,87,631	-	34,72,163	-	68,59,794	20,77,701	-	4,56,902	25,34,603	13,09,930	43,25,191
Furniture and fixtures	10%	50,28,216	-	-	-	50,28,216	20,25,491	-	3,00,273	23,25,764	30,02,725	27,02,453
Office equipments	15%	36,32,902	39,789	47,096	-	37,19,787	21,80,454	-	2,27,368	24,07,822	14,52,448	13,11,965
Computers and software	40%	46,82,108	1,45,948	58,000	-	48,86,056	41,75,973	-	2,72,433	44,48,406	5,06,135	4,37,650
Intangible Asset	25%	8,53,519	-	-	-	8,53,519	7,39,602	-	28,479	7,68,081	1,13,917	85,438
Total		**12,77,45,014**	**1,85,737**	**35,77,259**	-	**13,15,08,010**	**6,89,12,894**	-	**65,30,151**	**7,54,43,045**	**5,88,32,120**	**5,60,64,965**
Previous Year		**12,72,08,270**	**2,98,540**	**2,38,204**	-	**12,77,45,014**	**6,19,75,751**	-	**69,37,143**	**6,89,12,894**	**6,52,32,519**	**5,88,32,120**

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs
Schedules forming part of the financial statements as at 31st March 2026

	As at 31st March 2026	(Amount in Rs.) As at 31st March 2025
Note 8		
Investments With		
State Bank of India, CSEZ	10,35,594	11,13,144
ICICI Bank, CSEZ	2,18,391	2,00,000
ICICI Bank, VSEZ	3,50,000	3,50,000
Add: Interest Accured	59,382	37,582
Total	**16,63,367**	**17,00,726**
Note 9		
Investments With		
PNB Housing Development Finance Corporation	34,25,00,000	28,75,00,000
ICICI Bank Ltd	-	-
Add: Interest Accured	3,97,44,098	1,77,10,499
Total	**38,22,44,098**	**30,52,10,499**
Note 10		
Cash and bank balances		
Head Office - Saving Account		
ICICI Bank	1,24,12,894	3,18,93,932
Union Bank of India	36,870	35,916
Head Office - Current Account		
Union Bank of India	71,857	33,21,916
Cash in Hand	41,301	29,203
Sub Total	**1,25,62,922**	**3,52,80,966**
Regional Office - Saving Account	1,59,406	24,94,621
Regional Office - Current Account	1,25,124	1,07,633
Cash in Hand	24,361	14,927
Sub Total	**3,08,891**	**26,17,180**
Total	**1,28,71,814**	**3,78,98,147**
Note No. 11		
Other Current Assets		
Prepaid Expenses	9,20,470	5,35,856
Imprest US Dollars in Hand	63,045	55,492
GST Input Tax Credit Receivable	22,607	9,424
TDS Receivable(Traces)	1,34,672	1,34,772
TDS Recoverable	77,33,181	73,34,716
F.Y 2014-15 : 4,63,370		
F.Y 2016-17 : 6,45,226		
F.Y 2017-18 : 8,31,109		
F.Y 2018-19 : 3,02,404		
F.Y 2020-21 : 5,44,939		
F.Y 2021-22 : 6,95,278		
F.Y 2022-23 : 9,94,230		
F.Y 2025-26 : 32,56,624		
Total	**88,73,975**	**80,70,260**

R. K. SINGH & CO. DELHI FRN 019924N Chartered Accountants

Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs

Schedules forming part of the financial statements as at 31st March 2026

(Amount in Rs.)

Note 12

Other Income

	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
Interest on deposits, investments and saving bank accounts	2,52,62,656	1,88,53,788
Interest on Income Tax Refund	1,59,385	1,73,675
Advertisetment on books of notiification/EPCES News Magazine	1,00,000	5,25,000
Others Income	12,08,836	2,86,400
Rent	29,10,700	26,59,786
Total	**2,96,41,577**	**2,24,98,649**

Note 13

Staff Cost & Benefits

	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
Gross Basic	1,22,35,080	1,00,20,774
Arrears	4,50,000	1,63,347
House Rent Allowance	16,52,802	13,29,350
Transporation Allowance	12,08,364	9,78,594
Special Allowances	15,78,000	12,38,000
Retirement Benefit - Gratuity	11,66,628	2,41,880
Encashement of Earned Leaves	9,55,518	4,66,319
Employer's Contribution to Provident Fund	10,07,218	8,32,264
EDLI Charges	52,770	44,589
Leveries	67,420	26,000
Ex Gratia Payment	3,50,403	3,65,103
Medical reimbursements/Insurance	14,68,337	11,61,450
Incentive to Staff (HO&RO)	30,000	12,08,000
Contract Staff	6,03,289	4,37,460
Staff Welfare Expenses	2,05,999	2,20,102
Total	**2,30,31,828**	**1,87,33,231**

R. K. SINGH & CO
Chartered Accountants

Note 14

Regional Office Expenses

Travelling and local expenses	2,72,955	2,72,528
Honarium to Professional expenses	83,99,412	78,78,923
Printing stationery	16,999	16,675
Telephone and postage expenses	99,390	98,415
Staff welfare/hospitality	36,208	36,770
Newspapers and periodicals	12,175	12,155
Rent	45,102	35,833
Office expenses	1,14,783	92,856
Repair & Maintenance Expenses	20,866	92,856
Bank Charges	96	-
	-	
Total	**90,17,986**	**85,37,011**

Note 15

Administrative Expenses

Office Expenses	9,40,013	7,45,680
Festival Expenses	14,27,368	9,55,312
Telelphone Expenses	90,861	63,650
Travelling and local expenses	4,55,739	3,15,150
Email Expenses	2,13,252	1,65,651
Newspaper and periodicals	19,690	31,210
Insurance of EPCES Vehicale	35,164	65,018
Electricity & Water Charges	2,95,733	3,39,724
Tally Expenses	11,632	21,647
EPCES Website Charges	1,65,400	79,400
Municipal Property Tax	2,91,444	2,40,764
Interest on TDS	825	320
Interest on GST	3,510	223
Provision for Income Tax	-	1,080
Office Repair & Maint.	1,11,688	65,513
Maintance Computer	88,403	61,600
Maintenance of Vehicle	2,52,460	2,35,496
Postage Expenses	77,243	1,82,776
Printing & Stationary Expenses	51,004	1,36,408
Bank Charges	1,523	230
Data Digitization	3,800	1,12,723
Legal Professional Charges	13,05,040	16,90,964
Audit Fees	1,88,500	-
Election Expenses	4,08,410	
Total	**64,38,702**	**56,10,540**

R. K. SINGH & CO
DELHI
FRN 19924N
Chartered Accountants

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUs AND SEZ UNITS
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Schedule 16

Significant accounting policies and notes to the financial statements

(A) BACKGROUND

1. The Council is registered Society, registered under The Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the Registrar of Societies, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, on 16th January, 2003.

2. As per the amended provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, the Council has obtained Order for Registration u/s 12A (1) sub clause (i) (ac) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, on 24.09.2021 for the period of 5 years effective from AY 2021-22 to AY 2026-27 having Unique Registration Number. AAATE1565CE20212 dated 24.09.2021.

(B) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention on accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in India (Indian GAAP) and applicable accounting standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

2. Revenue Recognition

a) The revenue from membership subscription is recognized, when no significant uncertainty exists regarding its receipt.

b) Membership subscriptions and admission fees are accounted on accrual basis except where ultimate collection is considered uncertain. Subscription received in advance is carried forward and adjusted in the year to which it relates.

Interest Income is recognized on a time proportion basis taking in to account the outstanding amount and applicable rate.

c) Every year, at the request of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, New Delhi EPCES submits its annual proposals (for participation in trade fairs/ exhibitions abroad) to Ministry of commerce and Industry under Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. These proposals are considered at the meeting of empowered committee chaired by the Commerce Secretary. After the approval of the said empowered committee and sanction of amount of grant, EPCES along with Indian exporting companies participate only in those trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, which are approved by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. In this regard, the grant received is utilized for participation in trade fairs/exhibitions

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Chartered Accountants
FRN 019924N

abroad. However, in case EPCES is not able to participate in the trade fairs/ exhibitions abroad, the unutilized grant is returned to Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The organization of the society has decided to accounts for the Grand under MAI scheme is on approval & ultimate certainty of its realization from the Ministry of Commerce.

3. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in India requires EPCES to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosures of contingent liabilities at the date of financial statements and the reported amount of revenues and expenses during the year reported. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Any revisions to accounting estimates are recognized prospectively in current and future accounting periods.

4. Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Cost of acquisition/construction includes freight, duties, taxes and other incidental expenses incurred until installation/commissioning of the asset concerned.
Fixed assets are depreciated on the written down value method at the rates specified under the Income Tax Rules, 1962. Rates of depreciation are:

Office Vehicles	15%
Furniture & Fixtures	10%
Office Equipments (including mobile Phones)	15%
Computer & Software	40%
Office Premises	10%
Intangible Asset	25%

Capital work in progress includes cost of property, plant and equipment under installation/ development/ construction as at the balance sheet date. At the point when an asset is operating at management's intended use, the cost of construction transferred to the appropriate category of property, plant and equipment and depreciation commences.

When parts of an item of tangible assets have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of property, plant and equipment.
For the purposes of computing depreciation as well as gain or loss on disposal of assets, the assessee adopts the concept of Block of Assets as per the provisions of Income tax Act, 1961. The rates of depreciation specified under the Income tax regulations are considered for computing depreciation. Depreciation on property, plant and equipment used for less than 180 days in the year of purchase is calculated at 50% of the above rates.

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DELHI
Chartered Accountants

5. Impairment of Assets

The Council on an annual basis makes an assessment of any indicator that may lead to impairment of assets. If any such indication exists, the council estimates the recoverable amount of the assets. If such recoverable amount is less than carrying amount, then carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. The reduction is treated as an impairment loss and is charged to the statement of income and expenditure. If at the balance sheet date there is an indication that a previously assessed impairment loss no longer exists, the recoverable amount is reassessed and the asset is reflected at the recoverable amount subject to a maximum of depreciated historical cost.

6. Investments

Investments that are readily realizable and intended to be held for not more than a year are classified as current investments. All other investments are classified as long-term investments.

Current investments are carried at lower of cost and net realizable value determined on an individual investment basis. Long term investments are carried at cost. However, provision for diminution in value is made to recognize a decline, other than temporary, if any, in the value of the investments. However, the council having only those investments as required U/s 11(5) of Income Tax Act 1961 and having only fixed deposit with Banks and NBFC's.

7. Retirement Benefits

Liability on account of gratuity payable has been provided in accordance with the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and liability for leave encashment for unavailed leaves is provided on the basis of encashable leaves as on 31st December, 2025 as per leave rules of the council.

8. Taxes on Income

EPCES prepares the computation of taxable income and application of income under the Income Tax Act, 1961 as per Statement of Income and Expenditure (on accrual basis). Since there is no business activity carried out by EPCES and all expenses incurred are towards achieving the objects of the council which are exempted under Section 11 and 12 of Income Tax Act, 1961.

9. Foreign Exchange Transactions

The transactions in foreign exchange entered into by the council are accounted at the exchange rate prevalent on the date of the transaction. Foreign currency monetary items (other than derivative contracts) outstanding as at Balance Sheet date are restated at year end exchange rate. Non-monetary items are carried at historical cost and the exchange gains or losses are recognized in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Exchange differences arising on a monetary item that, in substance, form part of an enterprise's net investments in a non-integral foreign operation are accumulated in a foreign currency translation reserve.

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FRN-019924N
Chartered Accountants

10. Provisions and Contingencies

The Council makes a provision when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event where the outflow of economic resources is probable and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

A disclosure is made for a contingent liability when there is a:

a) Possible obligation, the existence of which will be confirmed by the occurrence/non-occurrence of one or more uncertain events, not fully within the control of the Council; or
b) Present obligation, where it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations; or
c) Present obligation, where a reliable estimate cannot be made.

Where there is a present obligation in respect of which the likelihood of outflow of resources is remote, no provision or disclosure is made.

(C) NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

1. Salaries, wages and allowances include perquisites such as ex-gratia, staff welfare, reimbursement, provision for leave encashment & gratuity, contribution for provident fund, etc.

2. Accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

a) During the year, the council has accumulated Rs. 5,84,06,302/-/- u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, which needs to be utilized in the next 5 years i.e., by 31.03.2031.

3. Income Tax/ Assessment Matters

a. The Council had received a Demand of Rs. 32,93,627 for A.Y. 2016-17 which was raised by the Income Tax Department u/s 143 (3) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide order dated 30.12.2018, consequent to the denial of exemption u/s 11 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as well as the disallowance of prior period expenses and benefit of accumulation u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Council had filed an appeal with CIT(A) against the said order. The last date of hearing was attended on February 03, 2021. The matter is pending adjudication as on date.

R.K. SINGH & CO. FRN-017924N Chartered Accountants

a. The Council received an Income Tax order u/s 143(3) for the A.Y. 2017-18 vide order dated 29th December, 2019 wherein an addition of Rs. 1,25,74,270 was made by the department resulting into an income tax demand of Rs. 51,35,860. An Appeal was filed against the said order and date of first appeal hearing was fixed for 12.02.2021 wherein the Council sought adjournment. Thereafter the next date of hearing has not been fixed. The management of the Council is of the view that the said demand is devoid of any justification or merit and the Council is confident of getting favourable decision. The matter is pending for adjudication with the concerned authorities. The council appeals haven been filled.

2. The council has applied for MAI grant during the FY 2025-26.

3. In the opinion of the Council Members, current assets, loans and advances have a value on realization in the ordinary course of business at least equal to the amount at which they are stated in the balance sheet and provisions for all known liabilities have been made, except to the extent specified separately.

4. The Council had tax demand appearing on the Traces Website amounting to Rs. 2,364 for the financial years 2019-20 & 22 - 23 which has not been settled/ rectified.

5. **Payable to MSME**

   Currently, the Council has no pending dues payable to any Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises under The MSMED Act, 2006.

6. Previous year figures have been regrouped or reclassified wherever considered necessary, to make them comparable with the current year figures.

For, R. K. Singh & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 019924N

R. K. Singh & Co. Chartered Accountants Delhi FRN-019924N

CA Rakesh Kumar Singh
Partner
M. No. 501755
UDIN: 26501755TJI8DP9352

Place: New Delhi
Date: 27-08-2026

For and on the behalf of Council

(Alok Chaturvedi)
Director General

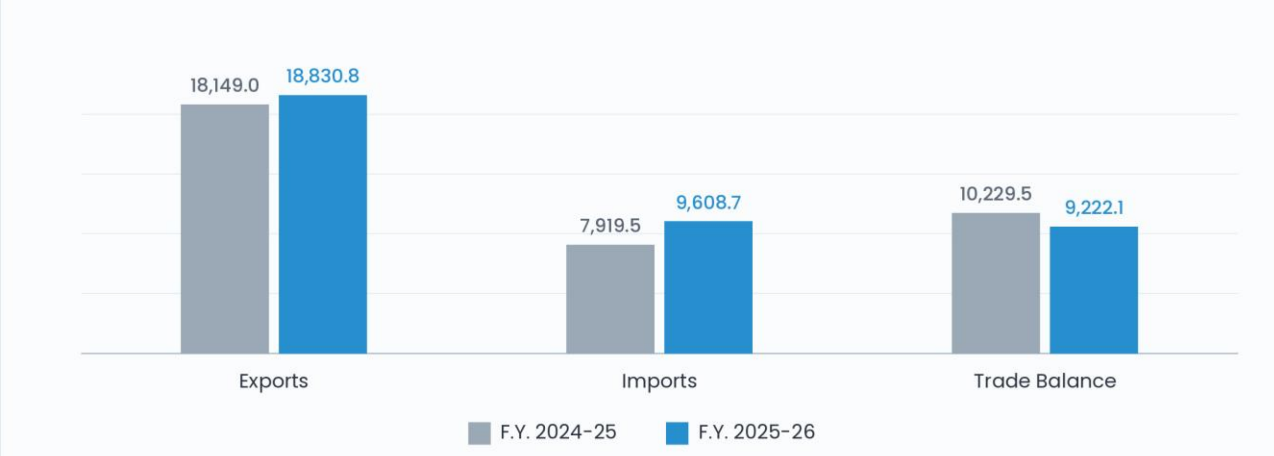
(Srikanth Badiga)
Chairman

Merchandise Trade from EOUs

(in Mn USD)

Description	Mar-25	Mar-26	Growth (%)	F.Y. 2024-25	F.Y. 2025-26	Growth (%)
Exports	1,814.2	1,830.1	1%	18,149.0	18,830.8	4%
Imports	716.6	838.3	17%	7,919.5	9,608.7	21%
Trade Balance	1,097.6	991.7	-10%	10,229.5	9,222.1	-10%

Merchandise Trade from EOUs during April–March 2026 (in Mn USD)



Sector-wise Merchandise Exports

(in Mn USD)

Rank	Sector / Product Group	Mar-25	Mar-26	Growth (%)	F.Y. 2024-25	F.Y. 2025-26	Growth (%)	Share (%)
1	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	436.1	425.0	-3%	4,215.5	4,726.5	12%	25.1%
2	Engineering Goods	438.5	408.1	-7%	4,431.5	4,588.9	4%	24.4%
3	Electronic Goods	202.8	290.5	43%	2,222.8	2,774.1	25%	14.7%
4	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	324.5	340.3	5%	2,924.2	2,664.6	-9%	14.2%
5	Others	104.7	109.8	5%	1,183.3	1,187.5	0%	6.3%
6	Plastic and Linoleum	60.2	49.8	-17%	742.8	590.1	-21%	3.1%
7	Coffee	49.0	38.3	-22%	355.5	402.8	13%	2.1%
8	Mica, Coal and Other Ores, Minerals Including Process	43.1	37.4	-13%	385.6	391.4	2%	2.1%
9	Spices	43.3	39.1	-10%	389.7	389.8	0%	2.1%
10	Man-Made Yarn / Fabs. / Madeups etc.	25.4	22.7	-11%	276.4	261.6	-5%	1.4%

Source: SEZEPC Annual Trade Bulletin, March 2026 · Data source: DGCI&S

Export Promotion Council
for EOUs & SEZs

SEZEPC

(erstwhile EPCES)

Export Promotion Council for EOUs and SEZs

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