

EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL FOR EOUs & SEZs

EPC/SEZ/AM18/F-4
29th April 2026

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE 1st MEETING FOR THE YEAR (2026 – 2027) OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF EPCES (2025-2027) HELD AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY, 28th APRIL 2026.

Following were present in the CGC meeting: -

1. Shri Srikanth Badiga, Chairman, Director, Phoenix Infocity SEZ (Conference Room)
2. Shri. P. C. Nambiar, Director SEZ, Biotech Services Pvt. Ltd (Through VC)
3. Shri Vilas Gupta, Managing Director, Taurus Englobe Private Limited, NSEZ (Through VC)
4. Shri Sunil Rallan, CMD, J Matadee Free Trade Zone Pvt Ltd. ((Through VC)
5. Shri Milind Mungikar, Director, Zen Linen International Pvt Ltd (Through VC)
6. Shri Sunil Puri, Regional Chairman, NSEZ and Director, Yasen Lighting Pvt. Ltd, NSEZ (Through VC)
7. Shri K K Pillai, Chairman & Managing Director, Nikasu Frozen Products (P) Ltd.
8. Shri Avinash Chukkapalli. Regional Chairman, VSEZ and Director, Phoenix Tech Zone Pvt Ltd (Through VC)
9. Shri Sanand Mohan Purhoit, AGM Accounts, Kusum Healthcare Pvt. Ltd (Through VC)
10. Shri Mohammed Rasal, MD, Forefront Solutions and Consultancies (P) Ltd (Through VC)

EPCES Secretariat

1. Shri Alok Chaturvedi – Director General
2. Shri Naveen Saxena, Assistant Director, EPCES
3. Shri Govind Yadav Executive Assistant to DG

It was informed that the required quorum was complete and the meeting was called to order.

In his opening remarks, Chairman welcomed the CGC members. He stated that Government has announced SEZ to DTA on concessional duties although on a temporary basis for one year. There has been some disappointment. But this has given hope to us that this can be done without an amendment in SEZ Act. Govt has set up a committee for larger SEZ reforms and our DG is member of the Committee. The Committee is likely to give its report in 6 months. DG will also discuss the CGC members.

He also informed that Government has also launched Integrated Export Promotion Mission with 10 components under Niryat Disha and Niryat Protsahan streams. Interest Equalisation and RoDTEP Schemes have been restored.

He also informed the members his participation in the formal India New Zealand FTA signing ceremony and business meet and later CIM's interaction with EPCs.

Thereafter, with the permission of Chair, agenda-wise discussion was taken up.

Agenda No. 1 Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of Central Governing Council of EPCES held on 20.11.2025 at Chennai.

CGC confirmed the minutes of the CGC meeting held on 20.11.2025 at Chennai placed as Annexure I of the agenda note.

Agenda No. 2 SEZ to DTA on concessional duty as one-time measure

CGC noted the developments regarding implementation of the D/o Revenue notification No 11/2026-Customs dated 31.3.2026 notifying the concessional customs duties and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) when the goods manufactured by SEZ units are removed to DTA.

Members suggested that the Government should adopt the best practice of having DTA supplies on duty foregone basis rather than fixing product wise concessional duties. The customs duties to be paid on DTA supplies will be assessed by the local custom officers based on the duty benefits taken on inputs consumed in such products

CGC also appreciated the representation made by the Council to the Government regarding the (i) no concession to most of the products, (ii) low concession in duty to most of the products notified for concessional duty (iii) need to aim for import substitution for products being imported under various FTAs by having zero/very low level of concessional duty on supply of those goods manufactured by SEZ units (iv) adopt the global best practice of SEZ to DTA on duty foregone rate which is more or less equal to the duty drawback rates notified by the D/o Revenue only (v) INR payment for DTA supplies of services (vi) reverse job work by SEZ units for DTA without any linkage to exports.

Agenda No. 3 Formulation of SEZ 2.0 Policy

CGC noted the constitution of the Committee under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SEZ) for undertaking a background study focused on harmonisation of various prevalent export promotion schemes including SEZ, EOU, MOOWR, Advance Authorisation, EPCG, DFIA and submitting a concept paper recommending roadmap for broad-based and comprehensive reforms to formulate a SEZ 2.0 policy. CGC was informed that the Committee will be having consultations with Industry as well.

Agenda No. 4 Status of the outstanding issues taken up with Government.

CGC noted with appreciation the presentation made in the meeting taken by Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Additional Secretary, SEZ division, Department of Commerce on 7th April 2026 in Vanijya Bhawan to review the outstanding issues related to improving Ease of Doing Business in respect of SEZs and EOUs. CGC also noted the decision taken in the minutes.

DG informed that it has been decided to have these review meetings at regular intervals coinciding with the meeting of the Board of Approval.

Agenda No. 5 Mitigating the Impact of Middle East Geopolitical Disturbances: Port SOPs and Exporter Relief

CGC noted the initiatives taken by the Government for mitigating the adverse impact of the Middle east Geopolitical Crisis.

Agenda No. 6 Launch of the Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

CGC noted the launch of the Export Promotion Mission and issue of guidelines under various components. CGC also noted the complementary steps taken by the RBI. Members asked if SEZ and EOU units are eligible for the reimbursement of the cost of regulatory compliance costs. DG clarified in affirmative and stated that the same is now available under the EPM component - Trade Regulations, Accreditation & Compliance Enablement (TRACE). The guidelines of the same have been issued in February 2026 and can be seen at <https://www.dgft.gov.in/CP/?opt=Trade-Regulations-Accreditation-and-Compliance-Enablement> and

[https://content.trade.gov.in/EPM-Scheme-Guidelines/Guidelines%20for%20Trade%20Regulations,%20Accreditation%20and%20Compliance%20Enablement%20\(TRACE\)%20under%20Export%20Promotion%20Mission%20\(EPM\).pdf](https://content.trade.gov.in/EPM-Scheme-Guidelines/Guidelines%20for%20Trade%20Regulations,%20Accreditation%20and%20Compliance%20Enablement%20(TRACE)%20under%20Export%20Promotion%20Mission%20(EPM).pdf)

Agenda No. 7 India EU FTA concluded

CGC noted the developments regarding conclusion of India EU FTA and the fact that the FTA is expected to enter into force by early 2027.

Agenda No. 8 India US FTA Framework for an Interim Agreement

CGC noted the developments regarding signing of an Interim Agreement by India and US. CGC also noted with concern that USTR has initiated investigation under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act, 1974 against India and other countries regarding practices relating to structural excess capacity and production in manufacturing sectors and forced labour practices threatening higher US tariff on imports from India.

Agenda No. 9 Other Developments/Activities

CGC appreciated the series of Seminar/Webinars conducted by EPCES HQ and EPCES regional offices on SEZ to DTA on concessional duties, Taking benefits by exporters under FTAs, Budget Announcements, etc.

Agenda No. 10 Status of membership renewal

CGC appreciated the efforts by EPCES team in increasing the membership of the Council from 3,029 in 2019-20 to 6,541 in 2025-26. CGC also noted the increase in membership from financial services units in GIFT City SEZ.

Shri Sunil Puri suggested to have an analysis of new manufacturing units as well as exit of manufacturing units in SEZs. DG assured that the same will be done immediately. During 2025-26, the status of new members and debonding of existing members is as follows:

ZONE	New Members enrolled (2025-26) (till 14.04.2026)				ZONE	Debonded (2025-26) (till 02.04.2026)			
	EOU	SEZ	Dev/Co-Dev	Total		EOU	SEZ	Dev/Co-Dev	Total
	M	N	O	P (M+N+O)					
Kandla SEZ	5	352	8	365	Kandla SEZ	2	77	1	80
MEPZ-SEZ	6	49	5	60	MEPZ-SEZ	22	56	1	79
Noida SEZ	7	54	1	62	Noida SEZ	8	58	2	68
SEEPZ-SEZ	4	34	5	43	SEEPZ-SEZ	8	49	2	59
CSEZ Karnataka	6	5	3	14	CSEZ Karnataka	12	38	3	53
VSEZ	18	35	2	55	VSEZ	5	51	5	61
CSEZ Kerala	3	71	4	78	CSEZ Kerala	3	17	1	21
Falita SEZ	1	2	0	3	Falita SEZ	0	8	0	8
Total	50	602	28	680	Total	60	354	15	429

Agenda No. 12 Any other item with the approval of the Chairman.

The following issues were raised:

- (i) Shri Rassal M suggested that we should have an outreach business collaborative ecosystem in several countries in the IT, telecom, electronics, and semiconductor space. DG informed that he will take follow up action on the suggestion given by Shri Rassal.
- (ii) Shri Pillai, RC, CSEZ raised the issue of permanent LOA, longer term lease of land, frequent raise in lease rents and difficulties in raising loan from financial Institutions because of short-term lease in CSEZ. Shri Vilas Gupta, CGC member and Shri Sunil Puri, RC, NSEZ stated that this is a long pending problem in NSEZ too. DG noted that this matter is related to Central Government SEZs only as it was informed that there is a 99 year lease in Moradabad SEZ. He assured to take these issues with the D/o Commerce on priority.
- (iii) Shri Sunil Rallan, Vice Chairman urged the CGC members for better participation in the CGC meetings. He requested all the members to keep in mind that as CGC members they represent a body of units and not just their own firm. They are expected to be in regular touch and be aware of the problems being faced by their respective categories – EOU, SEZ units, SEZ Developer, Region, etc. and the same should be brought up to the notice of EPCES secretariat so that the same can be discussed in the CGC meetings and can be taken up with the Government.

Chairman thanked all the participants.

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