

Minutes of Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS)

A stakeholder meeting was convened under the chairpersonship of Ms. Urmila, Economic Adviser (DPIIT) on 09.01.2026 at 4 p.m. in Room No. 47, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi through hybrid mode to deliberate on relevance of the Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS) particularly in the context of trade data availability on the DGCI&S portal and the Department of Commerce website.

2. The list of the participants who attended the meeting physically and virtually is at **Annexure-I**.

3. At the outset, Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary (DPIIT) welcomed all participants and outlined the agenda of the meeting. Stakeholders were thereafter invited to deliberate on *whether PIMS continues to serve a distinct and proportionate policy purpose in the present context*.

4. Export Promotion Council for EOU and SEZs (EPCES) pointed out the lack of clarity regarding the applicability of PIMS in cases involving trade between Special Economic Zones (SEZs) / Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Domestic Tariff Areas (DTAs). It was also mentioned that PIMS registration by SEZ/EOUs on supply from DTA is not logical. EPCES further suggested that PIMS be revoked given the following observation of the High Level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms (HLC-NFRR) chaired by Sh. Rajiv Gauba, Member (NITI Aayog):

"Monitoring import and export data at the tariff-line level falls under the purview of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Ministries can seek information from DGFT whenever required. Imposing an additional monitoring system that demands prior registration and data submission duplicates DGFT's functions and risks turning the mechanism into an import-licensing tool rather than a monitoring exercise."

5. Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) submitted that the requirement of advance registration under PIMS constituted a compliance burden for importers. It was stated that importers were already subject to stringent Customs penalties and adjudication in the event of any violation, irrespective of the value of the import. It was suggested that registration under PIMS to be made compulsory prior to out of charge and clearance by customs instead of present requirement of prior to import. In view of above, FFFAI suggested that more accurate and real-time captured import data could instead be obtained through the Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE). It was also highlighted that while Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) and Non-Ferrous Metal Import Monitoring System provide exemption exemptions for goods imported via air cargo, the same is not the case with PIMS. Furthermore, FFFAI requested DPIIT to take appropriate actions on the earlier raised concerns of FFFAI in regard to PIMS at the earliest.

6. The associations related to domestic manufacturers such as Indian Paper

Manufacturers Association (IPMA), Indian Newsprint Newsprint Manufacturers Association (INMA) and Indian Agro Recycled Paper Mills Association (IARPMA) stated that PIMS captures granular import data relating to paper and paperboard products. They requested DPIIT to consider periodic publication of non-confidential PIMS data which, according to them, could be used to assess import trends and support appropriate policy measures for the domestic paper industry.

7. The Department of Commerce supported the concerns raised by EPCES and requested DGFT and DPIIT to consider the said recommendations.

8. Sh. Sagar Kadu, Director (Logistics, DPIIT) informed that the issues relating to PIMS would be taken up in the forthcoming Services Improvement Group (SIG) meeting scheduled for 14.01.2026, under the chairmanship of SIIT, with a view to addressing logistics-related bottlenecks. He further stated that appropriate action could be taken to resolve issues impacting trade facilitation.

9. Director, CPPRI apprised that on issues related to EPCES, written submissions had been provided by CPPRI.

10. Considering no consensus was arrived, the Chair asked all the participants to submit their written submissions regarding PIMS by 12.01.2026 so that a considered view on the relevance of PIMS could be taken.

11. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

Annexure-I

Participants present in the meeting physically:

1. Ms. Urmila, Economic Adviser, DPIIT (in-Chair)
2. Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary, DPIIT
3. Mr. Rajesh Rawat, Under Secretary, DPIIT
4. Mr. Prashant Kumar, Section Officer, DPIIT
5. Mr. Kunal Sharma, Junior Consultant, DPIIT
6. Mr. Tanu Aggarwal, Dy. DG, EPCES
7. Mr. Rohit Pandit, Secretary General, IPMA
8. Ms. Surabhi Pande, Assistant Director, IPMA
9. Mr. Ramakrishna, FFFAI
10. Mr. Kuldeep Thakur, FFFAI
11. Mr. Vaneet Agarwal, FFFAI

Participants present through VC:

1. Mr. (Dr.) Ashish Kumar, Director, CPPRI
2. Mr. Sagar Kadu Director, Logistics, DPIIT

3. Mr. Satya *Raja* Sekhar G, DDG, DGFT
4. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, US (SEZ), DoC
5. Mr. Bipin Thapliyal, Secretary General, IARPMA
6. Mr. Jude Alexander, Thermal Paper Association
7. Mr. Amit Kamat, FFFAI
8. Mr. Dhinesh Varadharajan, Manav Packaging
9. Mr. Dushyant Mulani, FFFAI
10. Mr. Jayaprakash T, IARPMA
11. Mr. Nirav Thakker, FFFAI
12. Mr. Shankar Shinde, FFFAI
13. Mr. Vinod Sharma, FFFAI