India

A Monthly Newsletter by

SEPC

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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India **Serves**

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CA. SUNIL H. TALATI

ts indeed a great pleasure to present the October issue of India Serves which covers a wide range of activities and initiatives undertaken by SEPC in September 2022.

Since last one year there has been a very conscious effort to create awareness about SEPC as an organisation which meant more than just a gateway for availing SEIS. To this effect SEPC organised the following interactions focussing on services offered by SEPC, to get strategic inputs, understand sector specific capacity and competence building needs, explore global market access opportunities and address issues and concerns:

- Conclave on Construction & Design Engineering Consultancy, Architecture and Engineering Services
- Tourism and Hospitality Conclave
- Education and Skilling on the occasion of AGM
- Interaction with Exporters at Ahmedabad

In order to encourage companies to associate with SEPC, two significant steps have been taken:

- Waiving off one time registration fee to get new membership which was appreciated and unanimously approved in AGM
- Waiving off accumulated renewal fee in case of lapsed renewal for earlier years.

At the same time, SEPC has signed an MoU with Ministry of MSME wherein there will be a waiver of membership fee for the first-time exporter. We will be soon circulating the details as necessary documentations are being prepared for services sector for due approval in the Ministry.

One of the major highlight of 12th AGM held on September 29, 2022 has been the august presence of Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal. Appreciating the export growth of services sector against all odds he made a fervent appeal that services sector must come forward with suggestions to develop export competencies, support needed for making FTA effective, ways to explore and get access to markets (new, emerging and non-traditional) and not to look for scrip-based incentives. He made it clear that Ministry of Commerce and Industry will be providing all the necessary support to make every sector export competitive. SEPC will be organising interactions with services sector to get the inputs on these lines.

SEPC is also moving ahead with the necessary alignment of its Article of Association in line with the Model Code and directions in line with the rationalisation and reform efforts being undertaken by Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The maximum tenure of a CGC members will be 6 years. After six years completion, the CGC member will have to undergo a cooling off period of two years. The election schedule of vacancies created will be announced very shortly. The reforms were unanimously approved in the AGM.

Please follow us on social media and keep visiting our portal for the latest updates besides our circulars. We are uploading videos of every interaction we are organising. We also request you to spread the message among your network about SEPC and its role in their export endeavour.



With best regards Destienne

C.A. Sunil H. Talati

Chairman

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES OFFERED BY SEPC



Services
Export Promotion
Council set up in
2006 by Ministry
of Commerce
& Industry,
Government of
India is an apex
trade body to
promote exports
of services
from India.

Key role in Foreign Trade Policy, Export Strategy formulation by Department of Commerce and related Govt Departments.

Interface between Services Sector and Government

Provides inputs on Trade Negotiations

Represents Services Sector in various Joint Trade Committees, Joint Business Councils and Joint Working Groups of Government of India to facilitate export.

Creates Business opportunities in global market place for services exporters

Providing commercially useful information and assistance to members in increasing exports.

Organising visits of delegation of its members abroad to explore overseas market opportunities.

Organising participation of Services exporters in specialised International Trade Fairs.

Dissemination of government notification, orders, information on trade and other relevant information to members.

Facilitates execution of Government Schemes like SEIS.



In order to enhance the competitiveness of services exports and enable services industry to generate employment, the Union Cabinet chaired by Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018 identified 12 Champion Services Sector.

The following table provides the mapping of identified Champion Services vis-a vis the services covered under SEPC and BPM6 classification. Sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) is developed by IMF in collaboration with compilers and other interested parties worldwide and used by most of the countries to record and report services trade data.

S.N.	Services covered under SEPC	Champion Services	BPM6 Classification
1	Accounting/Auditing and Bookkeeping Services	Accounting and Finance Services	Other business services
2	Consultancy Services	-	
3	Legal Services	Legal services	
4	Architectural Services and related services	Construction and related Engineering services	
5	Environmental services	Environmental services	
6	Marketing Research and Public Opinion Polling Services/ Management services	-	
7	Advertising Services	-	
8	Printing and Publishing services	-	
9	Other services (IT & ITES, Communication Services)	IT & ITES, Communication services	Telecommunications, computer, and information services
10	Hotel and Tourism Related Services	Tourism and Hospitality Services	Travel
11	Education Services	Education services	
12	Healthcare services including services by nurses, physiotherapist and paramedical personnel	Medical Value Travel Services	
13	Maritime Transport Services	Transport and Logistics	Transport
14	Distribution Services	services	
	Other services (Financial Services)	Financial Services	Financial services
15			Insurance and pension services
16	Entertainment services including Audio-visual services	Audio-visual services	Personal, cultural, and recreational services
	Other Services	-	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.
		-	Government goods and services n.i.e.
17		-	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others
		-	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.
		Construction and related Engineering services	Construction
			Services not allocated





Travel& Tourism,
Construction,
Design Engineering Consultancy,
Engineering,
Architecture and Environmental
Services
and Education
and Skilling

India's services sector remains one of the fastest growing sectors of the Indian economy. It performed remarkably well in 2021-22 to reach the figure of \$254.4 billion and expected to touch nearly \$350 billion in 2022-23. The sector was also the largest recipient of FDI inflows worth \$94.19 billion April 2000-March 2022. The services category ranked 1st in FDI inflow as per the data released by the Department for promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). A few of the services which have been performing well in recent times and can be considered to be high potential services sectors include travel and tourism, construction, design engineering consultancy, engineering, architecture and environmental services and education and skilling.

Tourism is one of the world's most important economic sectors, it employs one in every ten people on Earth and provides livelihoods to hundreds of millions more as per WTO. Tourism is also one of the sectors hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic, however with the development and distribution & administration of vaccines in India & world over, a significant recovery is on the anvil.

Similarly, India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world, behind only China and the United States, and emphasis on higher education in India has grown significantly in the past two decades. India is known as a low-cost and high standard education destination. The total number of foreign students enrolled in higher education in 2020 was 49,348 and there is huge potential to enhance this number.

On the same lines, the demand for engineering, construction and architectural services is on the rise due to increasing population and urbanisation and the potential of the sector to grow and contribute to India's GDP is immense. In lieu of the fact that these high potential services sectors need policy attention and reforms from both the Government and the Industry level, SEPC organised conclaves on the tourism and engineering sector and an interactive session on education and skilling in tandem with its 12th AGM on 29th September 2022.

SEPC

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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SERVICES SECTOR
REMAINS ONE OF THE
FASTEST GROWING
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ONE-DAY CONCLAVE ON EXPLORING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD FOR CONSTRUCTION; DESIGN ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY, ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES.

SEPTEMBER 02, 2022, HOTEL LE MERIDIAN, NEW DELHI.

A one-day conclave on Exploring Business Opportunities for Construction; Design Engineering Consultancy, Engineering, Architecture & Environmental Services was jointly organized by SEPC (Services Export Promotion Council of India), CEAI (Consulting Engineers Association of India) & CA (Council of Architecture) on 2nd Sept, 2022 at Le-Meridian New Delhi. Deliberations were focused on the challenges, opportunities and way forward for boosting the cross-border trade of the engineering services (Construction & Design Engineering Consultancy, Engineering, Architecture & Environmental Services).

The event was attended by 125 participants comprising of Industry experts & leaders of respective fields. The guest of honour, Shri. Senthil Nathan S, Director EP(Services), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, gave a special address building on the previous brainstorming session held at Vanijya Bhawan dated 31st Aug, 2022 & reassured the participants that the Govt is committed to its goal of boosting the exports from the said segment of the service industry & receptive to all constructive insights which shall come out of the deliberations.

Some of the highlights of the conclave include the life time achievement awards to the stalwarts of the engineering profession by CEAI. The awards for best project delivery based on investment criterion were also distributed by CEAI.

Suggestions and recommendations of all sessions were compiled and presented in concluding session by Mr. Amit Sharma (Managing Director, Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd. & CGC Member and Design & Engineering Consulting Services Sector Head, SEPC) highlighting the key points emerging out of brain storming sessions. A few of the suggestions included iincreasing the competitiveness of the industry, enhancing the skill set of the professionals, capacity building of the training & educational institutions, overcoming procedural hurdles causing inadvertent delays along with movement of professionals & mutual recognition of credentials professional as well as academic, remained central to the discussions.

There was also a demand of a legislative reform to bring about an Engineers Bill to regulate the profession. On the strategy front a strong opinion in favor of encouraging the JV's for bidding in international contracts was expressed by the industry. All participants expressed a consensus on the community engagement by the Indian firms on foreign land to build rapport to garner acceptance & respect from among the local communities. The stakeholders also advocated chalking out a plan for receiving project visas on a short notice through bilateral agreements and keeping it in consideration while negotiating FTA's.

The issues raised by different groups were noted by Government officials for further policy initiatives. The conclave ended with vote of thanks to all stakeholders.













ONE DAY HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM CONCLAVE 2022

SEPTEMBER 09, 2022; VENUE: TAJ PALACE, NEW DELHI

Services and Export Promotion Council organized a Hospitality and Tourism Conclave on 9th September 2022 at Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg in New Delhi. The event was graced by Chief Guest Hon'ble Shri Arvind Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. In the present scenario, the services industry is being recognized for the mettle it brings to the Indian economy. One of the largest key sectors assigned to SEPC, Travel and Tourism, is responsible for millions of jobs and a major portion of forex. It is projected that by 2029, the tourism sector will account for about 53 million jobs. International tourists' arrival is expected to reach 30.5 billion by 2028.

SEPC under the Ministry of Commerce is working around the clock to propound innovative ideas to augment inbound tourism and accelerate engagement with the travel and tourism trade industry. The Hospitality and Tourism Conclave was an effort in this similar vein. The core objective of the event was to organize deliberations amongst shareholders and energize the businesses in all

aspects of travel, tourism and hospitality. Arvind Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India said, "Travel and Tourism is one of the leading sectors of the country. The tourism policy has been drafted in consultation with the center, state ministries, stake-holders etc to draft a proposition that will help in strengthening tourism and the development of sub-sectors as well.

Sunil H Talati, Chairman, SEPC shared, "The conclave was the coming together of various ex-perts and stakeholders from the industry to add gravitas to the proposed events like ATITHI and strengthen the Travel and Tourism sector in India. It touched upon points for the growth prospects and challenges and the need for a framework to put India on the Global Travel Map."

The conclave was an opportunity to bring together stakeholders and representatives for delibera-tions in the context of energizing the business in all aspects of travel, tourism and hospitality and chalk out an action plan as









The conclave also witnessed the virtual participation of Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Indian missions to Spain, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, Columbia, Brazil, Mauritius & Singapore. Who shared their valuable insights on various ways of tapping into inbound tourism toIndia from their respective regions. Their views are summed up as following.

H.E. SHRI DINESH PATNAIK, AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN

There is dearth of direct flights from certain high potential countries for example from Spain despite being a high potential country. We need to focus on ease of travel in terms of not only landing in India but for tourists to navigate between various cities, destinations, to hotels and further excursions, shopping etc. There is also a huge gap in the supply of standard hotel rooms in the peak period.

The Spanish Ambassador opined that India should look into creating an ecosystem where the domestic tourists can travel between destinations with ease and convenience which will ultimately work its way towards fostering ease of travel for the international tourists as well by making remote destinations more accessible safe and tourist friendly.

There is no regular brand recall & perception bombarding through social media platforms for targeting international tourists. Frequent recalls of tourist attractions aid ingraining of tourist destinations in the minds of prospective visitors and give them a welcome feeling.

Language marketing is another important issue as most of our campaigns are in English or technically converted to the vernacular language which is not at all appealing. The lack of availability of disaggregated data on tourism also hinders the ability to statistically reach out to the target audiences for promotion.

There is a huge upsurge in demand for wellness travel, yoga, meditation & Ayurvedic treatments and to capitalise on this opportunity we need to make these places accessible.

Persuading film producers from abroad to shoot in India can also strongly promote our destinations which is evident from the impact of some Indian movies shot in Switzerland and vice versa.

H.E. MRS. NANDINI SINGLA, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA, TO MAURITIUS

The Ambassador of India to Mauritius highlighted that India & Mauritius share a special relationship built on the foundation of people-to-people ties. These historical & cultural linkages & ties of blood & kinship have helped sustain a steady flow of people between India & Mauritius. Every year close to thirty thousand Mauritians travel to India for religious pilgrimages and consumption of healthcare & education services business and meeting friends & family as well as shopping.

The ambassador offered a six-pronged approach to capitalise on the existing relations between India & Mauritius.

- a. We need to improve direct flight connectivity between the two nations as there are only 5 direct flights from Mauritius to Mumbai in a week. Moreover, the connecting flights also have different regulations pertaining to baggage limits. It is highly required to harmonise the baggage limits for domestic flights to promote ease of travel across India. It is also advisable to the airline operators to have code sharing arrangements to promote movement of people among the two countries.
- Indian Diaspora in Mauritius & else were aspires to go for religious tours in India such as "Char Dham Yatra" and Varanasi, these markets are largely unregulated and operated by multiple small players, we can capitalize on it

- by offering attractive packages with govt facilitation & some sort of assurance of safety & convenience. It can be a profitable commercial enterprise for the concerned States if taken seriously.
- Mauritius offers Visa on arrival to Indian tourists allowing Visa on arrival shall encourage more people to choose India as travel destination.
- d. Attention should be on attracting more tourists in the lean season. Mauritians are fond of Indian traditional clothing. Taking Dubai as an example where the Dubai Shopping Festival has completely turned around the situation in the lean months, India must also come up with such events in the warmer months of April to September.
- e. Most Mauritians restrict their travel to the big Indian cities only totally ignoring the offbeat destinations, that's where the domestic ease of travel has an important role to play. India needs to run specialized promotional campaigns to promote such destinations & niche tourist segments such as adventure, wildlife & eco-tourism.
- f. There is no India Tourism office in Mauritius, establishing a tourism office can play a key role in capturing the market which shall also un-dertake promotional activities. It will definitely go a long way in attracting inbound tourism from Mauritius.

INDIA SERVES

H.E. MR. P. KUMARAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA, TO SINGAPORE

The ambassador started off with congratulating SEPC for holding the conclave at such a crucial time when the sector is recovering & opening up around the globe after being badly hit by the pandemic and further added that India is one of the world's greatest reservoirs of culture, history, philosophy, religion, natural beauty & bio-diversity, home to 40 UNESCO heritage sites, 80 national parks & 441 sanctuaries.

India's ability to harness its tourism potential fully depends on addressing some basic needs such as security, cleanliness hygiene, hospitality & connectivity at key destinations as well as developing tourist helplines in as many languages as possible, introducing e ticketing at various monuments and improving the skills of the workforce to present a cadre of well-polished tourist friendly professionals to cater to the world.

We also need to adapt to the new emerging trends such as "Bleasure" tourism which serves the twin objectives of business & leisure. With a coastline extending almost 7000 Kms we do

have great possibilities of cruise tourism. The ambassador also highlighted the importance of promoting immersive experiences such as cultural, religious & music festivals.

It is imperative to leverage digitization in show-casing India as a top destination as most of the promotional activities and websites run by the Government & private players are on 2D whereas the world is transitioning to virtual reality & meta verse experience in the promotion of tourist des-tinations. There is also a need for continuously streamlining visa processes with the changing geo-political situations as well as instituting tour-ism desks at Indian missions abroad.

is important that we remain cost competitive compared as to other destinations in the region. There are great opportunities wait-ing in developing attractive models on PPP investment mode consultation with potential in-vestors in line with international best practices.

H.E. MR. SURESH REDDY, AMBASSADOR TO BRAZIL

The Ambassador of India to Brazil said that, India has introduced a large number of Brazilians to Yoga & Ayurveda therefore, there exists an affinity for India in Brazil especially for Yoga as there are a large number of practitioners in Brazil who have got their certifications from India creating a connect in the field of Yoga between India and Brazil. There are large groups of teachers and students frequently visiting India from Brazil for Yoga and Ayurveda however they are interested in understanding India better but we are not able to provide them a wholesome experience.

Just before the pandemic some 10.5 million Brazilians travelled across the globe spending some 11 billion USD, India just got 40k travellers, this huge market is waiting to be tapped to, it's an

upper mid income country, poised to grow to 15 million in anoth-er 3-4 years riding on strong post covid recovery. The Ambassador added that, Brazilian Embassy is a partner in promoting India, encour-age tourism facilitate a better understanding & awareness of India. However, we need to reach out to Brazilian people in their language that is Portuguese, for that purpose Indian Embassy in Brazil even agreed to share the targeted & deliberated marketing materials in vernacular lan-guages for promotion on their social media han-dles and websites. Ambassador also went ahead in expressing an agreement on sharing the data of Tour operators in Brazil whose operations are focussed on the Indian market.

H.E. MR. SANJIV RANJAN, AMBASSADOR TO COLUMBIA

The ambassador started with exerting importance of the vast geography and natural endowments, cultural diversity and rich historic heritages that India has. He said India is one of the most re-markable tourist destinations of the world. Before pandemic some 4000 to 5000 tourists frequented India annually.

There is a rising interest among Columbians in Indian culture Spirituality, Yoga, Ayurveda & al-ternative therapies. Some of the potential areas that need to be actively explored & develop are

eco tourism, culture tourism, education spiritual & sports tourism with sizable revenue interest when looking to tap into Columbian market and prove its competitiveness among top tourist destinations.

The Indian Embassy is also undertaking promo-tional events to promote India in collaboration with the Indian Tourism office along with regular outreach to Columbian tour operators, participat-ing in Flagship Columbian fairs as well as organiz-ing roadshows and social media campaigns.

H.E. MR. G. BALASUBRAMANIAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA, TO NIGERIA

The Ambassador expressed delight on SEPC's efforts to revive the tourism sector. He remarked that India is already a favourite destination for Nigerians. Brand India is a household name in Nigeria for medical services, tourism and education.

Indian players need to recognise the potential of Africa in general & the Nigerian market in terms of business that they can bring in by forging suitable partnerships with tour operators, identifying prospective customers and their preferences & working out apt packages for them.

H.E. MR. MANISH PRABHAT, AMBASSADOR TO UZBEKISTAN

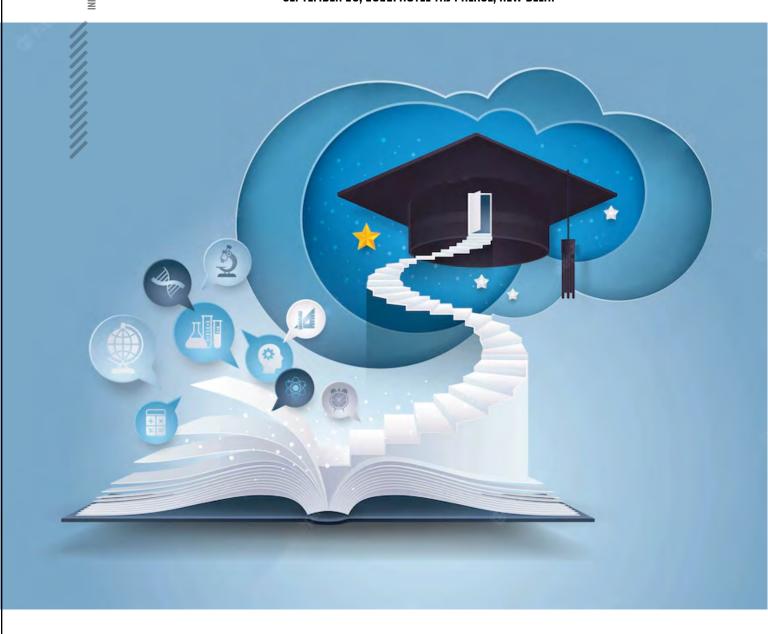
The ambassador spoke on the historical people to people relations and current political relations between the two countries. Between India & Uzbekistan there were 15 flights from Tashkent to 3 Indian cities Delhi, Mumbai & Amritsar respectively

run by Uzbek Airlines and now they have reduced to only 5 after the pandemic. There is a need to increase the number of seats and flights between India & Uzbekistan and urged Indian carriers to start catering to this lucrative market.



INTERACTIVE SESSION ON STRATEGY FOR INDIA @2047: FOCUS ON SKILLING AND INTERNATIONALISATION OF EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022: HOTEL TAJ PALACE, NEW DELHI



One of the fast-growing sectors in services is Education services. Some of the factors that have played the biggest role in growth of India's education sector are huge demand due to large population, government's focus on education, participation of private players, growth of IT sector, shift towards services-based business activities, FDI inflows/investments in the sector, disruptive innovations, and online education, etc.

In the above backdrop, SEPC's AGM was held on 29th Sep 2022 at Taj Hotel New Delhi. Just before the meeting another stakeholders meet on Internationalization of Educational services & to discuss on 'Transforming Workforce Skill for Services Exports was organised to reiterate the growing importance of education services from India. The event was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Industry & Commerce Shree Piyush Goyal & Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar. The interactive session focussed on deliberations and discussions to create a roadmap to achieve the projected target of \$1 trillion services exports by 2030, primarily focused on capacity building & enhancing competitiveness with focus on export of education services from the country.



The interactive session had three sessions in total. The inaugural session was titled "India@2047-Services Export Strategy where in apart from SEPC's Chairman Mr. CA Sunil Talati and DG Dr. Abhay Sinha several experts spoke on the importance of education along with representatives of E&Y . Ms. Avantika Tomar, Partner, EY Parthenon spoke about how India has taken tremendous strides in the last decade in the area of higher education. She went on to emphasise how skilling, employability and internationalisation of education by 2047 would lead to a just and equitable society and would be the single most important aspect going forward. In continuation, Mr. Harish Porwal, Partner-business consulting, E &Y LLP emphasised on soft skills, digital skills and focused approach to multi-pronged skilling and knowledge economy as important aspects of education. Following them, Dr. Subhash Sarkar, Honourable Minister of State Ministry of Education, Government of India delivered the special address. Dr Subhas Sarkar shared, "I am glad to be here at this landmark event by SEPC. I congratulate SEPC for organising this session on India@2047 strategy specifically about skilling and internationalisation of higher education. The National Education Policy 2020 envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India into an equitable society, providing high-quality education to all. This aims to position India as a global knowledge superpower. For the same, our collective aim should be dynamic skilling and higher education. We strive to make India a global destination for quality education at affordable costs."



SEPC has been playing a proactive role in the education sector. It has been the leading industry association, that has been advocating reforms in higher education sector, carrying out research, surveys and studies. The education committee has been in discussion with Government's growth agenda for the sector. SEPC made an effort to ensure that there was significant presence from the industry, academia, thought leaders, Think Tanks, NGO's and consultants to deliberate upon strategies and share best practices that helps in developing an advanced education system. This task has been made easier by the announcement of the New Education Policy (NEP) by the Government in 2020.

The interactive session on Education brought together the private sector, civil society and govern-

SEPC SINUAL ENERAL EETING SCTOR EXPLISATION OF THE PROPERTY OF

ment leaders to define a vision for positive future and discuss how their sectors can take action to reach it. The conversations took off amid added urgency of heightened global recession with the reinstation of SEIS scheme weighing in heavily on the stakeholder's mind. However, the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Mr. Piyush Goyal who was the Chief Guest said that from Covid to other successive crises have created unprecedented challenges for the global businesses & amid a sharp global recession the Indian services sector has made a phenomenal growth at the same time underling the fact that the scheme (SEIS) had been inactive during the growth period & called upon all sectors to relinquish the crutches of incentives and be self-reliant, building upon the idea that government assistance drives dependency and impedes competitiveness.



The Commerce and Industry Minister Shri. Piyush Goyal also said that there is strong need for the export promotion councils to shed the traditional outlook of asking for incentives to boost exports and the need rather is to embrace contemporary and practical outlook of growing on your own with the government playing the role of an enabler. The focus must shift to strengthening ourselves to competing with the best in the world, meanwhile the governments act as a non-intrusive facilitator. The resilience & momentum built as such shall enable services exports to rise on their own competitive strength going forward and that, the government can strategize on schemes focused on the poor and the needy, which is all the more important than utilizing those subsidies towards unnaturally inflating exports, only being maintained by the state and government intervention, in the same way a disabled person is propped up by crutches. The whole situation is unsustainable in the long run.



The reaction of the industry members present was entirely predictable for these very sound reasons put forth by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce Shri Piyush Goyal, there was a wide consensus endorsing the commerce minister that providing safety nets for the needy is more important than doling out some 2-5% in benefits to the business. It might be good in the short run however in the

long run government continued assistance drives dependency. Even Mr. Sunil H. Talati encouraged the industry to not consider the subsidies & benefits as the springboard of exports business growth & development & reassured the minister that SEPC is focused on supporting members on the road to meeting the exports target & the industry is willing to cast aside the prevailing beliefs.





Shri Sunil H Talati, Chairman SEPC shared in his welcome address "It is essential for the services sector to come together and chart out a strategy that not only focuses on the now but also on the future. We need to focus on skill development in the next generation as well so that the sector strengthens at every rung. The services sector currently contributes 55% of the total exports. By 2023 we aim to reach 75% and internalization of education and skill development is key to witnessing such unprecedented growth. We need to work towards garnering a force that is not just highly educated but also highly employable. Besides this, internalization of education from a trade perspective is essential to increase the influx of overseas students and forex to reach the target of 350 billion export by March 2023."



Dr. Abhay Sinha, Director General SEPC shared, "SEPC is not just concentrating on the numbers but on value addition towards the services exports sector. All 16 sectors under SEPC from education and consulting engineering services to travel and marketing are crucial for us. There is one common thread that runs through all the sectors, and this is Skilling. Skilling is integral for any industry to grow and garner credibility in the global market. This interactive session to map out a plan for India@2047 talked about starting early and concentrating on the internationalization of education especially to increase the influx of overseas students. The aim is to bring India back to its position as Vishwa guru and help the economy as well through the export services of education."

Session 2 of the interactive session was titled "Transforming Workforce Skills for Services Exports" comprising of a panel discussion of industry experts and the highlight of the session was the address by the Chief Guest Shri Piyush Goyal, Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textiles and consumer affairs and food and public distribution, government of India.

The final session of the interactive session focussed on "Reimagining Higher Education in India @ 2047". In this session the panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Avantika Tomar from EY and several distinguished experts including Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar (Pro Chancellor at Symbiosis International (deemed) university) and Chairperson- Education Services at SEPC, Dr. Sushma Yadav Member UGC, Prof. Rajesh Khanna, President NIIT University, Dr. (Smt.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities participated in the panel discussions. Ms. Avantika Tomar, E&Y Parthenon summed up the discussions. She said that the session focussed on the benefits of internationalisation of education which include increased contribution to GDP, improvement in the quality of teaching and learning, better student experience, maintaining diversity of student profile, better research and collaboration amongst faculty, researchers and students and also the fact that it will have a ripple effect on branding India's global education.

In his Vote of Thanks, Shri Karan Rathore, Vice Chairman SEPC said, "This is a momentous occasion for SEPC as this interactive session on skill development and internationalization of education, especially for the younger generation is important to bridge the gap between industry and academia, especially in the context of India at the global stage. SEPC has acted as a catalyst to help the services sector grow and contribute immensely to the Indian economy. Today's session takes us one step forward towards making to make India the global education destination for education.





Monthly Services Exports from India in the FY 2021-22

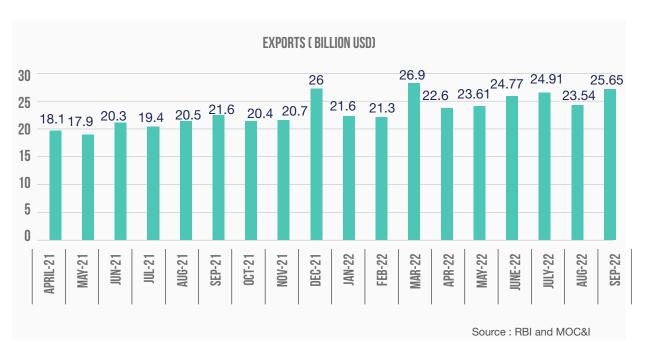


Fig: Services Trade in August 2022

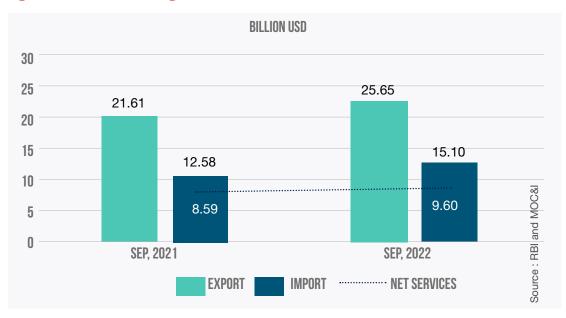
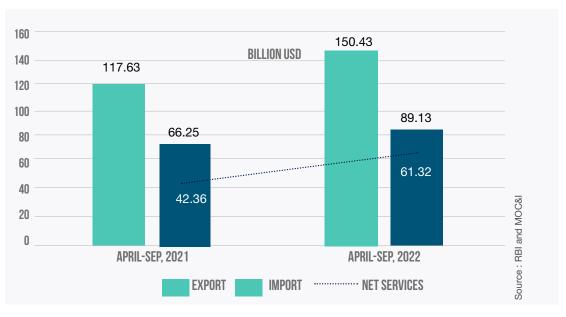


Fig: Services Trade during April - SEP 2022



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SEPC

SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

12th Annual General Meeting



In the 12th AGM of SEPC held on 29th September 2022, along with approving the minutes of the 11th AGM and annual expenditure and revenues of the Council, SEPC's Chairman CA Sunil H Talati welcomed all the members and detailed the activities of SEPC for 2021-22 and also laid out the vision for 2023. Members interacted with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Mr. Karan Rathore and DG SEPC Dr. Abhay Sinha. Majority of the Central Governing Committee of SEPC were also present and a few matters related to the election of the CGC members and others was discussed during the AGM.

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IN EWS

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INDUSTRY CALLS FOR DISTRICT-LEVEL Strategy for Hospitality and Tourism Sector

The Confederation of Hospitality Technology and Tourism Industry' (CHATT) also says that online platforms have played a crucial role in giving wide recognition to budget hotels, homestays and BNB (Bed and breakfast) in the travel, tourism and hospitality sector.

ONLINE GAMING: TALKS BEGIN FOR CENTRAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The government is exploring the need for a central regulatory framework for the online gaming industry to bring about uniformity in the way it is regulated in the country.

Policymakers have begun preliminary discussions on creating such a framework that could entail setting up a separate regulatory body and require compulsory registration of online gaming companies. The regulator would have the powers to block unregistered platforms and the operators must do user verification through the know-your-customer procedure to protect minor players from exploitation, as per the early discussions.

Officials' privy to the delibera-

tions on the matter said a report by the inter-ministerial panel on online gaming had made a fresh push for a centralised framework, as it is increasingly felt that state-level regulations may not be enough to deal with the issues posed by online gaming and divergence in regulations across states would further complicate the situation.

While betting and gambling are covered under the state list, there is no mention of 'online gaming' in any lists as these were formulated pre-Internet. Meghalaya, Sikkim and Nagaland have implemented a licensing mechanism for online gaming and gambling, while some states such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha have prohibited both on-

line gaming and online gambling. Tamil Nadu has brought an ordinance to ban online gaming in the state.

It is felt that it may be difficult to block apps or websites at the state level, rendering their bans ineffective, the official said, adding that the issue can be dealt with more effectively only when complemented with a central framework. States cannot also block access to offshore foreign gambling websites, the official added. The Centre has powers to bring in such a framework. Under Article 249 of the Constitution, Parliament can assume legislative authority over a subject on the State List if it has become a subject of 'national interest'. (ET times, 10th October)

SERVICES SECTOR GROWTH LOSES PACE, HITS 6-MONTH LOW IN SEPTEMBER

India's services sector growth slowed to a six-month low in September, but remained in expansionary mode, a private survey showed Thursday.

The S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index dropped to 54.3 from August's robust 57.2 level. A reading above 50 on the index indicates expansion in activity.

The upturn was reportedly restricted by price pressures, an increasingly competitive environment and unfavourable public policies," S&P Global said. September marked the 14th straight month of growth in services sector activity. While there was "some loss of growth momentum" in September, the declining rupee and higher inflation pose threats in the coning months. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised interest rates by 190 basis points since May to stem inflation and offset some of the effects of aggressive U.S. Federal Reserve hikes that have weakened many currencies, including the rupee.

Foreign reserves in India have declined by nearly \$100 billion to \$545 billion after the RBI tried to shore up the rupee. They were expected to fall to \$523 billion by year-end, a Reuters poll found. Hiring in the sector continued for the fourth month but fewer jobs were created compared to August. The silver lining was the future activity sub-index, which measures optimism, that rose to its highest in almost eight years, giving hopes of brighter growth. The overall S&P Global India Composite PMI Output Index slowed to 55.1 from 58.2 in August as both manufacturing and services sectors cooled on falling demand.

WANT EASIER VISAS FOR PROFESSIONALS, Business Persons under UK FTA: Government

The government is only seeking an easier visa regime for businessmen and professionals through the free trade agreement with the United Kingdom, officials said in response to the UK's Home Secretary Suella Braverman's comments of Indians overstaying their visas. Talks between India and the UK hit a snag over easier access to thousands of skilled workers delaying the deal beyond the October deadline.

Indian officials said that the British government should share data on the number of Indian business visitors who have overstayed in the UK.

India is unlikely to offer major duty concessions without getting visa benefits. Officials suggested that a part of the delay is also due to the challenges being faced by the Liz Truss government.

They argued that it was skilled workers who made use of business visas and several professionals, such as those in the healthcare or the technology spheres went to the UK and other countries, which had a shortage of skilled personnel and needed qualified people. They pointed to the competition from companies operating in India to retain talent, given that their businesses were expanding both within the country as well as overseas.

15 STATES AMONG ACHIEVERS IN LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE INDEX 2022: DPIIT REPORT

The 15 states and UTs ranked in the aspirers category include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Mizoram. The report ranks the states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations, according to the fourth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022 report unveiled by the Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

The index aims at enhancing the focus on improving logistics performance across states which is essential for improving the country's trade and reducing transaction cost. The first logistics report was released in 2018. No ranking was released last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gujarat was at the first position in both 2018 and 2019 ranking lists.





SERVICES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

Setup by Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India

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