

4th Meeting of Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) held

The Hon'ble Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Shri Suresh Prabhu, has chaired the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) in New Delhi.

Speaking at the meeting, **the Hon'ble Union Minister called upon States/ UTs to explore all possible ways of tapping into the global value and supply chain by promoting the export of services, organic agricultural produce, in corporate value addition to agricultural products and fully utilize all the schemes and programmes of the Government of India.** This will not only add to the GDP of the country but will also create greater employment.

The Hon'ble Union Minister said that all States/ UTs must formulate an export strategy which is state specific and product specific and improve logistics and infrastructure in their region.

He informed that the Government of India has formulated an Agricultural Export Policy for the first time with a focused plan to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022. This will integrate Indian farmers and India's high quality agricultural products with global value chains and also double India's share in world agriculture exports.

He further informed the Council that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the World Bank conducts an annual reform exercise for all States/ UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) to improve delivery of various Central Government regulatory functions and services in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. This exercise will now be undertaken at the district level in close collaboration with States/ UTs.

The Hon'ble Union Minister informed the Council regarding efforts being made by the Central Government in preparing a development plan for each and every district so that growth is led from the district upwards which will be a game changer in taking India's GDP to USD 5 trillion in 2025.

He urged the States/ UTs to make use of the 5000 crore allotted for 12 champion services sector which will lead to the creation of jobs in the services sector like Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT &ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services.

The Hon'ble Union Minister said that every State/ UTs of India has the potential for getting Geographical Indication tag for many products of that area. Also, States/UTs must use the benefits given by the Central Government for specific sectors like leather where Rs. 2600 crore was sanctioned by the Cabinet for the development of leather and footwear industry.

The Hon'ble Minister of State of Commerce & Industry, Shri C. R. Chaudhary, urged the States/UTs to take full advantage of the Trade Infrastructure for Exports Scheme (TIES) to improve export competitiveness. He also said that for North-Eastern States matching support of equal to or more will be provided by the Central Government under TIES.

Representatives of 10 states/ UTs attended the meeting and flagged various issues impeding exports from their regions like logistics for smooth transportation of goods and creation of warehouses/cold chain for perishable agriculture produce. Ministers/ officials from various States/ UTs also spoke about the schemes being implemented for facilitating exports, technology upgradation of existing manufacturing clusters and efforts to generate more employment.

The Council for Trade Development and Promotion provides a platform to the States/UTs to articulate their expectations and also focuses on the need for all States/UTs to create suitable infrastructure in their

regions which will help in developing competitiveness in their exports.

Background

CTDP was constituted in July 2015, to ensure a continuous dialogue with State Governments/UTs on measures for providing International Trade enabling environments. It also seeks to create a framework for making States/ UTs active partners in boosting India's export. The Hon'ble Union Commerce & Industry Minister is Chairperson of CTDP Ministers' in-charge of Trade and Commerce in State Governments/ UTs are its members.

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