

RIY/E&C/201/3/2023
Embassy of India
Riyadh

Monthly Commercial Report : July 2023

Overview

Saudi Arabia's real gross domestic product (GDP) jumped by 1.1 percent year-on-year (YoY) in the second quarter of 2023 according to the latest data issued by the General Authority for Statistics.

The economic growth was driven by **increase in non-oil activities by 5.5 percent** and **government services activities by 2.7 percent** in the first quarter of 2023, YoY. Meanwhile **oil activities decreased by 4.2 percent** on an annual basis.

The seasonally adjusted real **GDP decreased by 0.1 percent** in the second quarter of 2023, compared to the first quarter of 2023. This effect was due to the **decrease in oil activities by 1.4%**. **Non-oil activities increased by 1.8%** and **government services activities grew by 0.6%** on a quarterly basis.

Saudi Arabia's top 5 Trading Partners in May, 2023 (latest data)

Export to World (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)			Import from World (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)		
Country	Volume (in million USD)	% share	Country	Volume (in million USD)	% share
China	4513.6	17.4	China	4185.9	23.1
India	2436.9	9.4	USA	1514.4	8.3
Japan	2152.7	8.3	UAE	976.1	5.4
South Korea	2007.2	7.7	India	940.41	5.2
UAE	1500.8	5.7	Germany	833.71	4.6

Saudi Arabia's commercial engagements

Saudia Cargo expands European services through agreement with Jan de Rijk Co (Reported by Saudi Gazette on July 25, 2023) : Saudia Cargo, a leading provider of air cargo services, has signed a strategic agreement with Jan de Rijk Co., a prominent European transportation and logistics company, to enhance its services and expand its reach in Europe. The signing ceremony took place on the 19th of July, 2023, at Saudia Cargo's headquarters in Jeddah, solidifying the collaboration between the two industry leaders. Under this agreement, Saudia Cargo will leverage Jan de Rijk's extensive trucking network, which comprises a fleet of specialist vehicles, to bolster its operations and strengthen its presence in Europe. Jan de Rijk Co., founded in 1971, is a top provider of European transportation, distribution services, and supply chain management solutions. The company's expertise and in-depth knowledge of key industries make it an ideal partner for furthering Saudia Cargo's ambitious expansion plans.

LCGPA Signs Agreement to Localize Industry of N95 Masks (SPA – 30 July, 2023)

The Local Content and Government Procurement Authority (LCGPA), in partnership with the National Unified Procurement Company (NUPCO), Enaya Company, and beneficiary government agencies, has signed an agreement to localize the industry and transfer knowledge about the high-efficiency N95 masks.

LCGPA CEO Abdulrahman Al-Samari said that the agreement was reached with the aim of enhancing health security and securing supply chains, and will contribute to the GDP by SAR24 million within five years. Furthermore, it will contribute significantly to creating new jobs in the local market and enable factories to expand and increase their production capacities. Al-Samari added that the agreement is part of LCGPA efforts to increase local production, in the private sector, encourage local factories to export, and import new technologies to Saudi Arabia.

PIF Announces Establishment of Saudi Tourism Investment Company “Asfar” (SPA -27 July, 2023)

The Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced today the establishment of the Saudi Tourism Investment Company (Asfar) to support the growth of the country's tourism sector. The company will invest in new tourism projects and develop attractive destinations with hospitality, tourist attractions, retail, and food and beverage offerings in cities across Saudi Arabia, in addition to investing in the local tourism value chain.

Asfar will enable the private sector through co-investment opportunities and by creating an attractive environment for local suppliers, contractors, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop tourism projects and destinations, thereby creating a competitive environment that will enhance the variety and quality of the hospitality and tourism offering.

Electromin to launch KSA's first EV ultra-fast DC charging network across the Kingdom (Reported by Saudi Gazette on July 10, 2023) : In a further boost to promote e-mobility in the Kingdom, Electromin, a smart-mobility solutions provider under Petromin Corporation, has announced the rollout of additional DC chargers to be installed across key locations in the country, establishing charging corridors connecting major cities. These DC chargers will be added to Electromin's existing network of +100 AC chargers across the Kingdom, installed in 2022. Electromin's customer-centric mobile application backs up the charging network and is currently free to charge for the public.

Saudi – India

G20 Energy Ministers Ministerial Meeting : Saudi Arabia, led by its Energy Minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, participated in the 14th Joint Ministerial Meeting of G20 Energy Ministers on clean energy which took place under India's Presidency of the G20 in Goa on 22 July. During the event, the energy minister chaired a clean hydrogen round table along with Indian Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh.

Saudi – Oman

PIF and Oman Investment Authority Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Expand Investment in the Sultanate of Oman (SPA July 27, 2023) : The Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Oman Investment Authority (OIA). The MoU is intended to expand cooperation and investment between the two entities, enabling new and promising investments in the Sultanate of Oman's (Oman) rapidly growing economy. The MoU provides benefits and incentives for PIF and its portfolio companies, which intend to unlock investment opportunities in Oman. The MoU also represents a significant milestone in PIF's and OIA's strategic partnership as it aims to expand PIF's portfolio in Oman, building on the recent establishment of the Saudi Omani Investment Company (SOIC), a PIF-wholly owned company, which intends to invest up to USD 5 billion in promising sectors in Oman.

Saudi –Japan

Saudi EXIM Bank and Japan's Mizuho Bank Sign MoU (SPA July 25, 2023)

The Saudi Export-Import Bank (Saudi EXIM Bank) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Japan's Mizuho Bank. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Saudi EXIM Bank, Eng. Saad bin Abdulaziz Al-Khalb, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Mizuho Bank, Seiji Imai, attended the signing of the MoU. The MoU seeks to promote cooperation and participation between businesses in both countries in order to expand trade opportunities and job prospects, including Saudi exports of goods and services. Additionally, it facilitates the exchange of expertise and information on export credit policies and procedures as well as their ideas on how to carry out initiatives to develop new products. The MoU was signed during the Saudi-Japanese roundtable, which was held in Jeddah to enhance trade and investment ties and explore joint prospects between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Japan.

Saudi –Bahrain

SFD Signs Development Grant Agreement for King Abdullah Medical City in Bahrain (SPA July 25, 2023)

The CEO of the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), Sultan Al-Marshad, signed today a development grant agreement provided by the SFD to fund a project for supplying medical devices for the academic hospital at King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City in Bahrain at a value of SAR 173.7 million, in collaboration with the Arabian Gulf University, represented by the acting President of the University Dr. Abdurrahman bin Youssef Ismail. The Saudi Deputy Ambassador to Bahrain, Saleh bin Falah Al-Otaibi attended the signing ceremony.

The project is part of the grant provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the directives of the Saudi leadership, to fund the construction of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Medical City at the Arabian Gulf University in Bahrain at a value of SAR one billion.

Saudi –Turkey

1. Saudi Arabia, Turkiye Sign Executive Defense Cooperation Plan, Acquisition Contracts between Defence Ministry and Turkish Baykar (SPA July 18, 2023)

The Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, and President of the Republic of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has signed an executive plan for defence cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of National Defense, as well as two acquisition contracts with Turkish defence firm "Baykar."

The executive plan aims to promote collaboration between the defence ministries of both countries in various areas, such as defence capabilities, industries, research and development, production, and the exchange of experiences. It also emphasizes bilateral cooperation in joint projects to transfer and localize technologies, support defence industries, and foster collaboration in research and development.

2. Saudi-Turkish Business Forum Kicks off in Istanbul with Signing of 16 Cooperation Agreements between the Two Countries (SPA July 12, 2023)

The Saudi-Turkish Business Forum commenced on July 12, 2023 in Istanbul, with the presence of the Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs, and Housing, Majid bin Abdullah Al-Hogail, and the Turkish Minister of Trade, Omer Bolat. The forum's objective is to explore investment prospects between Saudi Arabia and Turkiye and strengthen bilateral partnerships in urban development, construction, contracting, smart cities, and urban development. This collaboration between the Federation of Saudi Chambers of Commerce and the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkiye (DEIK) aims to foster cooperation and exchange successful experiences in the municipal and housing sectors. On the forum's sidelines, the Saudi Minister witnessed the signing of 16 cooperation agreements worth over SAR 2.3 billion between the Saudi side and Turkish companies operating in various investment sectors, including real estate development, construction, and engineering consulting.

Saudi-China

Digital Economy, Space and Innovation Delegation Discusses Joint Projects with Chinese Companies (SPA 5 July, 2023)

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Eng. Abdullah bin Amer Al-Swaha conducted today in Beijing two separate meetings. The first meeting was with the Chairman of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council (SASAC) of China, Zhang Yuzhuo, while the second meeting was with the CEO of Meituan, Wang Xing. During the meeting with Zhang Yuzhuo, Al-Swaha discussed investment opportunities and the potential for joint ventures between the Kingdom and SASAC. They also explored the possibility of attracting regional headquarters of leading technology companies. In the meeting with Meituan CEO, the focus was on e-commerce opportunities and potential joint investments in high technology and self-driving vehicles. They also discussed the potential expansion of Meituan's businesses in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region through the Kingdom. These meetings are part of the Saudi delegation's visit to the People's Republic of China, with a specific emphasis on the digital economy, space, and innovation.

A. Trade in goods

a) Total trade in goods during (latest data available)

	Export (US\$ million)	Import (US\$ million)	Status (P) Provisional/ (F) Final
Country's trade with India (May 2023)	US\$ 2436.96 Saudi export to India	US\$ 940.4 Saudi import from India	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)
Country's trade with India (May 2023)	US\$ 1035.88 India's export to KSA	US\$ 2508.69 India's import from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in)
Country's trade with India	US\$ 1970.14 India's export Apr, 23-May, 23	US\$ 5844.06 India's import till May, 2023 from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in & niryat.gov.in)
Saudi Arabia's total global trade	US\$ 25903.1 (May 2023) (Exports of KSA)	US\$ 18046 (May 2023) (Imports of KSA)	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)

b) Preferential trade in goods

S. No.	Preferential / Free Trade Agreement with India	Preferential Exports to India (US\$ million)	Preferential Exports to World (US\$ million)
	Discussion on India- GCC (including Saudi Arabia) [India-Gulf GCC)Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiation talks started with the signing of a framework agreement on economic cooperation between the two parties on 25th August 2004. In this agreement, it was provided that both the parties shall consider ways and means for extending and liberalizing the trade	Nil	Nil

<p>relations and also initiating discussions on the feasibility of FTA between them. The two rounds of negotiations held at Riyadh on 22nd March 2007 and September 2008 brought about a comprehensive outlook.</p> <p>In the meeting between CIM and GCC Secretary General on 10 November 2021, the matter was taken up and NVs was exchanged regarding formation of a JWG to start negotiation in January 2022.</p> <p>The Saudi Side has subsequently shared the draft terms of reference for negotiation of FTA on Dec 27, 2021.</p> <p>Both sides committed to the early launch of GCC FTA negotiations during the visits of EAM & CIM to Riyadh in September, 2022.</p> <p>During the visit of GCC, Secretary General on November 24, 2022 to India, an announcement was made of intent to resume talks on India-GCC FTA.</p> <p>During Secretary (CPV & OIA)'s visit to Riyadh for first India-GCC SOM on 20 March,2023, both sides agreed to continue the negotiations.</p> <p>The matter was taken up by HCIM during his meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister on 22 June, 2023.</p> <p>GCC has now appointed its new Chief Negotiator for the FTA discussions.</p>	
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(Source: based on Certificate of Origin issued by reporting country)

c) India's exports to Saudi Arabia across 31 commodities in FY 2023-24 [Apr-June]
(Source : *niryat.gov.in*)

Commodity View	Yearly Target (\$Mn)	Achieved (\$Mn)	% Achieved	% Share of Total Export	Target Rate (p.m)	Shortfall (\$Mn)	Required Run Rate(p.m)*
Engineering Goods	3545.17	988.19	28%	36.11%	295	-102	284
Petroleum Products	2186.28	492.6	23%	18.00%	182	54	188

Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	1624.59	313.07	19%	11.44%	135	93	146
Rice	1248.81	280.74	22%	10.26%	104	31	108
Electronic Goods	504.15	102.21	20%	3.73%	42	24	45
Others	731.91	83.17	11%	3.04%	61	100	72
Ready-made garments of all textiles	418.84	82.51	20%	3.01%	35	22	37
Meat, Dairy And Poultry Products	274.39	65.57	24%	2.40%	23	3	23
Plastic And Linoleum	243.72	53.25	22%	1.95%	20	8	21
Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	174.71	36.87	21%	1.35%	15	7	15
Gems And Jewellery	82.87	34.31	41%	1.25%	7	-14	5
Mica, Coal And Other Ores, Minerals Including Process	141.61	33.86	24%	1.24%	12	2	12
Fruits And Vegetables	163.33	30.08	18%	1.10%	14	11	15
Ceramic Products And Glassware	152.45	22.33	15%	0.82%	13	16	14
Spices	104.74	20.71	20%	0.76%	9	5	9
Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./ Madeups Etc.	81.63	19.42	24%	0.71%	7	1	7
Cereal Preparations And Miscellaneous Processed Item	59.55	13.89	23%	0.51%	5	1	5

Cotton Yarn/Fabs./ Madeups, Handloom Products Etc.	61.47	12.93	21%	0.47%	5	2	5
Cashew	32.78	8.88	27%	0.32%	3	-1	3
Oil Seeds	12.68	8.6	68%	0.31%	1	-5	0
Leather And Leather Manufactur es	29.31	6.43	22%	0.23%	2	1	3
Handicrafts Excl. Hand Made Carpet	23.7	5.27	22%	0.19%	2	1	2
Coffee	28.85	5.05	18%	0.18%	2	2	3
Tea	28.36	4.69	17%	0.17%	2	2	3
Tobacco	11.07	4.3	39%	0.16%	1	-2	1
Marine Products	60.15	3.27	5%	0.12%	5	12	6
Other Cereals	12.38	1.62	13%	0.06%	1	1	1
Jute Mfg. Including Floor Covering	6.19	1.59	26%	0.06%	1	0	1
Carpet	7.73	1.31	17%	0.05%	1	1	1
Oil Meals	12.19	0.08	1%	0.00%	1	3	1
Iron Ore	0	0	0%	0.00%	0	0	0
Total	12065.61	2736.8	23%	100%	1006	279	1036

c.1. The top 3 most Lagging Commodities are:- (Percentages show by how much they are trailing)

- (i) Iron Ore (25.00%)
- (ii) Oil Meals (24.34%)
- (iii) Marine Products (19.56%)

c.2. The top 3 most Leading Commodities are:- (Percentages show by how much they are ahead)

- (i) Oil Seeds (42.80%)
- (ii) Gems and Jewelry (16.40%)

(iii) Tobacco (13.84%)

c.3. The top 3 Commodities based on 'Monthly Deviation' are - (Current month growth, Average growth)

(i) Oil Meals (300.0%, 63.3%)

(ii) Oil Seeds (120.5%, 121.1%)

(iii) Tea(56.9%, 57.1%)

d) Potential products of imports from India (latest data available on dgft.gov.in)

S. No.	Commodity (2 digit HS Code)	Rationale (Max.200 words)
1.	Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils And Products Of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes. (HS Code: 27)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 244.13 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 4.80 Million)
2.	Cereals (HS Code: 10)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 107.17 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 102.98 Million)
3.	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof. (HS Code: 87)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 87.64 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 61.27 Million)
4.	Organic Chemicals (HS Code: 29)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 86.64 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 66.91 Million)
5.	Copper And Articles Thereof. (HS Code: 74)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 72.05 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 4.39 Million)
6.	Gems and Jewelry (HS Code: 71)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during May 2023 is US\$ 20.63 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 5.30 Million)
7.	Textiles (HS Code:- 58 to 63)	Value of Saudi import of the items from India during May 2023 is US\$ 31.55 Million showing increase as compared to May 2022 (US\$ 30.63 Million)

1. Market Access Alerts:

(a) Alerts on customs tariff changes

Notification No. and date : The General Authority of Saudi Customs announcement dated 27 May 2020.

Description : Saudi Arabia changed the customs tariff rates on products imported based on a Royal Decree

	Original customs tariff	Present customs tariff
Meat (incl. Poultry)	7-5%	0-20%
Aquatic Products (only some)	6-12%	0-5%
Dairy products	10-15%	0%
Fruits and Vegetables	5-12%	0-5%
Other foodstuffs (Inc. sugar)	6-15%	5-12%
Mineral products	15%	5%
Chemical products	5.5-6.5%	5%
Plastic products	12%	5%
Rubber Products	6.5-8%	5-12%
Leather Products	15%	5-15%
Textiles	15%	5 %
Clothes, footwear & accessories	15%	5%
Paper products	5-10%	5-15%
Base metals (Inc. steel, iron, aluminum, zinc)	5-12%	5-15%
Building materials	15-12%	5-10%
Ceramic	10-15%	5-12%

The aforementioned present customs tariffs is in effect since December 12, 2020. Detailed information on Saudi customs tariff etc. is available at: www.customs.gov.sa

(b) Alerts on non-tariff measures (SPS/TBT/import and export procedures/restrictions/prohibitions, Licensing/ STEs etc.)

(b.1) **Notification No.& Date :** G/SPS/N/SAU/338 dated 01/02/2018

Measure : Suspension on imports of cultured fish originating from India.

Description : Kingdom of Saudi Arabia vide SPS notification G/SPS/N/SAU/338 dated 01/02/2018 has issued temporary suspension on import of cultured fish originating from India. The reason for the temporary suspension was unclear health situation of the cultured fish originating from India based on SFDA report.

To deliberate upon the constraints in Indian exports of Pharma, Marine, Food & Agri products and on the Saudi regulatory frame work, the Mission officials had meeting with SFDA on June 23, 2022 at their headquarters.

The matter was taken up by CIM, during his bilateral meeting with his Saudi counterpart, on the sidelines of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September, 2022.

Update : The matter was taken up by the Ambassador during his meeting with CEO, SFDA on April 12, 2023 and the Commercial division is following up on the discussions therein.

(b.2) **Notification No.& Date :** SFDA resolution No. 20576 dated 14 March, 2023

Measure : Temporary ban on the import of Shrimps from India.

Description : As per the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health, Article No. (8) and (9) of the constitution of the Health of Aquatic Animals, the SFDA issued a resolution No. (20576) dated 14th March 2023, imposing a temporary ban on the import of shrimp from India, until the Indian side provides the assurance that the White Spot Syndrome Virus will not be transmitted to the fisheries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Mission is in coordination with SFDA & MPEDA for early removal of the ban.

Update : The matter was taken up the Ambassador during his meeting with CEO, SFDA on April 12, 2023 and the Commercial division is following up on the discussions therein.

(b.3) **Measure :** Barrier in importing pharmaceutical products

Description : Indian drugmakers have been attempting to penetrate the Saudi drug market, with such moves encouraged by local authorities on account of the potential savings from using cheaper generic medicines produced by Indian companies. However, the drug registration system still acts as a significant barrier to entry for most

Indian firms, as it requires drugs to have been previously marketed in two 'developed' markets before it can get approval in Saudi Arabia, which virtually allows only the largest Indian players to operate in the country. The pricing mechanism of the drugs, which is linked to the price of the drug in the country of origin, is also not in the interest of the exporters. The Mission officials have been coordinating with SFDA on regular basis regarding this matter.

Latest Updates :

- The matter was taken up by HCIM, during his bilateral meeting with his Saudi counterpart, on the sidelines of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September, 2022.
- The matter was taken up the Ambassador during his meeting with CEO, SFDA on April 12, 2023 and wherein SFDA shared that the pricing regulation has been removed and suggested to hold VC with Indian Pharma exporters and Pharmexcil to clarify registration procedure and removal of pricing regulation. The Mission has requested Pharmexcil to convey convenient dates for which their response is awaited.
- During the VC between Commerce Ministers on June 22, 2023, both side also agreed to sign an MoU for Fast-track registration of Indian Pharma Exporters in Saudi Arabia.
- The draft MoU has been shared by the Mission with SFDA. The issue was also discussed under the aegis of 4th SOM of the Economic and Investment committee of SPC on July 12, 2023. Ambassador took up this issue with Acting Governor of GAFT in Saudi Ministry of Commerce on August 13, 2023. Commercial Section is sending regular reminders to SFDA in this regard.
- SFDA had a virtual call with its Indian counterpart on August 23, 2023 in this regard.
- Saudi side response is awaited.
- ⑩ SFDA has informed the Mission that pricing issue has already been removed. A meeting has been suggested between Pharmexcil and SFDA
- ⑩ MoU on fast tracking the drug registration also under consideration.

(c) Alerts on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures

(c.1) **Notification No.& Date :** No-001-42-199644 dated 19/05/2021

Standard/ technical regulation/conformity assessment procedure : Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) had conveyed its decision to make Certificate of Conformity compliance mandatory for all fresh vegetables, fruits, agricultural crops and spices exported from India to Saudi Arabia w.e.f. 15/06/2021.

Description : Indian exporters have been facing issues due to high cost of CoC issuance and limited number of companies authorized for it. APEDA has informed that there are only 4 entities authorized by SFDA for CoC issuance i.e.

- (a) TUV Austria
- (b) Intertek International
- (c) TUV Rheinland
- (d) Cotecna Saudi Limited

In this reference, the Mission officials had a meeting with SFDA on June 23, 2022 at their headquarters to discuss the issues relating to CoC. SFDA informed that they are open to including government/ private organizations for issuing CoC. Have proposed that Indian companies should apply with them for becoming CoC issuing entities. They agreed to take up the pending CoC application from Basmati Export Development Foundation. SFDA also informed that the MoC between APEDA and SFDA would facilitate in resolving the CoC issue, as after signing of the MoC, CoC issuance entities will be appointed on recommendation of APEDA. SFDA agreed and informed that they are contemplating on reducing the frequency of CoC requirement for individual exporters, which will reduce the cost incurred by them. The MoC has been finalized.

The matter was taken up by CIM, during his bilateral meeting with his Saudi counterpart, on the sidelines of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September, 2022.

Update : The matter was taken up the Ambassador during his meeting with CEO, SFDA on April 12, 2023 and the Commercial division is following up on the discussions therein.

(d) Alerts on trade defense measures taken by respective country: (Safeguards including special safeguard, anti-dumping, CVD or anti-subsidy)

(d.1) **Notification no. date or other references** : GCC Notice of initiation published on 5.11.2018 in the Official Gazette of GCC

Type (initiation, final, prov., sunset, consultations, new shipper review) : The duties have been imposed for a period of 5 years from June 6, 2020.

Details of products/ sectors affected : Ceramic tiles

Description : Anti-dumping duties have been applied against import of ceramic tiles originating from India, China and Spain.

The Indian companies had given their responses to the final provisional report in Oct 2019. A 6-member delegation led by ADG, DGTR, Ministry of Commerce visited GCC Secretariat on 26 Nov, 2019 and conveyed India's concerns to the GCC Anti-Dumping team.

GCC authorities imposed definitive anti-dumping duty against imports of ceramic and porcelain tiles from India for a period of 5 years from June 6, 2020. Concerns of India on the same were raised with GCC and Saudi authorities, including during CIM's bilateral virtual meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister in June 2020 and April 2021, and through written letters. Mission is pursuing the matter.

The matter was taken up by CIM, during his bilateral meeting with his Saudi counterpart, on the sidelines of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in September, 2022. The matter was also taken up by DG, DGTR with Governor, GAFT during his visit to Riyadh on 24 November, 2022. The matter was also taken up by Secretary (CPV & OIA) during visit to Riyadh for first India-GCC SOM on 20 March, 2023. The matter was taken up by HCIM during his meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister on 22 June, 2023.

(d.2) **Notification no. date or other references** : GCC Notice of Initiation published on 05/04/2021 and shared with the Mission through an NV

Type (initiation, final, prov., sunset, consultations, new shipper review) : Public hearing on anti-dumping investigation by TSAIP, GCC Secretariat on import of engine batteries from India to the Gulf countries.

Details of products/ sectors affected : Battery products

Description : This Mission had received a NV from the GCC Secretariat informing that the Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti-Injurious Practices in International Trade in the GCC secretariat had received a complaint from industry for manufacturing batteries claiming that battery products of engine with piston 32-225 Amp exported from India to the GCC have damaged the local market. The NV was forwarded to DGTR on 08.04.2021 for the necessary steps.

Recently, this Mission has received an email from the Office Manager of Director General, GCC-TSAIP, informing that GCC-TSAIP had already concluded its investigation on imports of electrical accumulators, used for starting piston engines. They have also shared that all interested parties will be notified with a copy of the official gazette when the final decision is approved by the Ministerial Committee. The information has been shared with DGTR along with final report of the investigation.

The Ministerial Committee formed by the Ministers of Industry in the GCC Council has adopted the recommendations of the Permanent Committee to Combat Harmful Practices in international Trade for the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to impose final anti-dumping duties on export engine batteries with a capacity of 32 to 225 amps originating from Turkey and India. However, there is no anti-dumping duty imposed on export from Spain.

The matter was taken up by Secretary (CPV & OIA) during visit to Riyadh for first India-GCC SOM on 20 March, 2023.

- e. Alerts on services, regulatory regime, qualification requirement, licensing procedures, visa regime, barriers etc.

S. No.	Notification No. & Date or other references	Service sectors affected	Modes	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.					

2. Feedback

- a. Feedback from major Indian industries/other commercial concerns and Indian trade visitors to that country: **NIL**

S. No.	Name of	Activity sector	Trade barrier	General Feedback
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	business house		issues if any (incl. HS codes)	(Max. 200 words)
1.				

b. Feedback on major trade activities **including logistic events** (trade fairs/BSM including Indian participation):

S. No.	Activity (trade fair, BSM etc.)	Date and venue	Number of participants from India	Name(s) of large/ key participants from India	Feedback received (Max.200 words)	Source of funding (MAI, TA/TC)

c. Feedback from local commercial visitors to trade fairs in India, including under BSM:- **NIL**

S. No	Activity (trade fair)	Date and venue	Number of participants from the relevant country	List of large/ key participants from the relevant country	Number of Business Visas issued	Feedback received (Max.200 words)
1.						

3. Trade and Investment:

a. Significant trends in trade and investment (Sources: DGFT)

S. No.	Category	Details of significant trends (Max.200 words)	Analysis (Max. 200 words)
1.	Trade in Goods	India Saudi bilateral Trade FY 2022-23	India's export in FY 2022-23 was marked at US\$ 10.67 bn with a growth of 22% when compared to FY 2021-22 exports which were marked at US\$ 8.64 bn and 0.4% higher than the set target of 10.22 bn under Target 400 initiative.
2.	Trade in Services	N.A	N.A.

3.	Investment	<p>Indian FDI in Saudi Arabia is US\$ 2 billion up to October 2021.</p> <p>Saudi FDI in India: US\$ 3.14 billion (March 2022)</p> <p>Now, Saudi Arabia ranks 18th position in India.</p> <p>Total Saudi Investments in India : US\$ 7.74 billion</p>	<p>During the high-level visit of HRH Crown Prince to India in February 2019, he declared that the Kingdom is looking to invest US \$100 billion in India in the coming years in diversified sectors.</p> <p>PIF has also invested approximately US\$1.3 billion for an equity stake of 2.04% in Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (“RRVL”). They have invested approximately US\$1.5 billion in Jio Platform; this will be translated into a 2.32% equity stake in Jio on a fully diluted basis.</p> <p>Apart from FDI, PIF has shown interest in Indirect Foreign Investment by partnering with Soft bank’s Vision Fund I (PIF’s share is 45 % in Vision Fund I). PIF has indirectly invested (approximately USD 4.6 billion) through Soft bank’s Vision Fund I in India, in the last five years in Indian companies such as Lenskart, Flipkart, OYO, delhivery, FirstCry, Grofers, Ola, Paytm, Unacademy, Policy Bazaar etc.</p>
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b. Opportunities for investments/ assets on offer/major company divestment:

S. No.	Sector Name (List attached)	Particulars of the asset /company	Contact details
1.			

Saudi Arabia is in the phase of fast economic and social transitional reforms/development under the ambitious ‘Saudi Vision 2030’ initiative.

Saudi Arabia’s upcoming/ongoing projects:

1. New Murabba project

- (i) Saudi Crown Prince announced on 16 February, 2023.
- (ii) Proposed to be built in Riyadh with the concept of sustainability to enhance quality of life.

- (iii) The project is scheduled to be over an area of 19 square kilometers, to accommodate residential units, hotel rooms, retail space, office space, leisure assets, and space dedicated to community facilities.
- (iv) The project is due to be completed in 2030.

2. NEOM

- (a) NEOM is a city being built in Tabuk Province in northwestern Saudi Arabia.
- (b) Planning and construction will be initiated with \$500 billion from the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia and international investors.
- (c) The first phase of the project is scheduled for completion by 2025.
- (d) NEOM city will have following four major regions:
 - (i) **Sindalah** : Red sea's first luxury island destination, it is expected to launch in early 2024 and will be the first physical project in NEOM that opens for tourism and leisure.
 - (ii) **The LINE** : The Line is a linear smart city under construction in Saudi Arabia in NEOM, Tabuk Province, which is designed to have no cars, streets or carbon emissions. The 170-kilometre-long (110 mi) city is part of Saudi Vision 2030 project.
 - (iii) **Trojena** : The first major outdoor skiing destination in the Arabian Peninsula. It will be located about 50 kilometres (31 mi) from the Gulf of Aqaba coast, in the Sarwat Mountains, with elevations ranging from 1,500–2,600 metres (4,900–8,500 ft). Although it is in the desert, the site's climate is considerably cooler than the rest of Neom's territory.
 - (iv) **Oxagon** : Oxagon is a floating industrial complex shaped like an octagon. It is located around 25 kilometres (16 mi) north of the town of Duba, and covers roughly 200–250 square kilometres (77–97 sq mi) of land, of which approximately 40 square kilometres (15 sq mi) forms the city. The project will focus on modern manufacturing, industrial research, and development centered on expanding the Duba port.

3. Red Sea tourism project

- (i) The project will focus on the development of resorts spread across 28,000 sq kms, including more than 90 natural islands, located between the cities of Umluj and Al Wajho, on the western coast of Saudi Arabia.
- (ii) Red Sea Tourism is currently in Phase 1.
- (iii) The project is set to be fully completed by 2030.

4. Al Qiddiya projects

- (i) It's an entertainment city located southwest of Riyadh; this major new development will include theme parks, resorts, hotels and residential units on about 100 miles of sandy coastline on the Red Sea.
- (ii) At a total size of 334 square km. Work has been under way on the \$8 billion dollar project since January 2019, with the first phase slotted to open in 2023.

5. Amala tourism project

- (i) The project involves the construction of a luxury tourism destination of 3,800 kms of nature reserves in Saudi Arabia's northwestern coast.
- (ii) The initial funding for the project will be provided by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund. The project is currently in Phase 1. The project is expected to be completed in 2028.

6. The Knowledge Economic City

- (i) The location of the KEC project, which has an area of about (6.8) million square meters, is unique in its direct connection with the five most important roads in Medina, which have a width of 80-100 m.
- (ii) It is planned to start the first phase of the internal public transport network starting from Prince Mohammed bin Abdulaziz International Airport to facilitate transportation to the main location through the Al-Haramain High-Speed Railway and the KEC by 2023.

7. Ad Diriyah

- (i) Ad Diriyah is located on the outskirts of Riyadh, and is set to become a major tourist destination.
- (ii) The \$17bn development will encompass several luxury resorts, including major international hotel brands, as well as dining and entertainment options.

8. Jeddah District Revival plan

- (i) Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has launched an ambitious 15-year project in bid to breathe new life into the historic part of Jeddah city.
- (ii) The project aims to create an integrated environment in Historic Jeddah that has multiple natural components, including 5 km of developed waterfronts, green spaces and open gardens covering 15 per cent of the total area of the al-Balad area and within the project area of 2.5 square km.

c. Information on tender Notices for projects and procurement of interest to Indian project exporters/ suppliers (USD15 million & above): **Saudi Arabia provides information on public tenders floated in the country on Etimad website (<https://monafasat.etimad.sa>).**

S. No.	Tender/ procurement notice No and date	Sector	Value of tender/ procurement
Note : For Indian companies to participate in tenders they need to register their company and have a local presence in Saudi Arabia.			

d. Trade Queries for Imports/ Exports (if not uploaded on the Indian trade portal)

S. No.	Enquiry originator	Product with HS	Nature (Import/	Value (US\$ millio	Action Taken (Max.200 words)
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		Codes	Export)	n)	
1.	Indian Companies	—	Export	—	The Embassy of India, Riyadh has received 230 trade queries from India during July 2023. All the queries have been replied. The queries were mainly on agro food products, textile products, Jute bag, plastic products, ceramics, Iron and Steel products, charcoal, peanut butter, CPVC, UPVC AN SWR Pipes and fittings, pumps cosmetics, building materials, herbs, spices, concrete testing, cement testing, apparels, tobacco etc.
2.	Saudi Companies	----	Import	----	The Embassy of India, Riyadh has received 02 trade queries from India during August 2023 regarding Textiles

4. Important India related statements of commercial significance by political leaders, think tanks, chambers, associations etc. / Significant stories/features on India related trade, investment, services and logistic sector, published in foreign journals/dailies, etc.:
(Max. 500 words)

1. *Arab News* -Saudi entrepreneurs to scale up India collaborations after G20 meetings. (July 16, 2023)
2. *Arab News* -India, Arab League eye more cooperation in green energy, tech. (July 12, 2023)

5. Details of trade research, information dissemination of the commercial wing and events conducted by this Mission:

S. No	Activity Name	Remarks
1	Ambassador's meeting with Deputy Minister for International Partnerships on July 9, 2023	Ambassador met with Deputy Minister for International Partnerships, Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia, H.E Mr. Mohammed Al Hassnah. They discussed bilateral investments between India and Saudi Arabia and other issues of mutual interests.

2	Indo-Saudi Partnership Summit		The Mission arranged meetings with FICCI and sent 48 Saudi companies to India for taking part in the summit.
3	Meeting with Future Minerals representative	Forum	SS (Com) met with Aldo Pennini, Director of Strategy Programme and Content, Future Minerals Forum and discussed issues of mutual interest.

6. Details of activities conducted out of Trade promotion budget:

Name	BE for current financial year	RE for current financial year	Amount utilized	Details of Activity (Max.200 words)
Embassy of India, Riyadh	Rs.15,00,000		Rs.3,99,619.42	MEED Subscription, Printing of Standees, Translation of GCC ADD document, Hiring of Business Hall

7. Complaints from foreign buyer/supplier on quality and trade dispute: NIL

Name of Foreign buyer/supplier	Address & contact details of foreign buyer/supplier	Name & address of Indian exporter/importer	Brief description of complaint	The authority to whom the matter was referred and the date on which the matter was referred.

8. Complaints of Indian exporter/importer: NIL

Name of Indian exporter/importer	Name & address of foreign buyer/supplier	Brief description of complaint	The authority to whom the matter was referred and the date on which the matter was referred.	Any outcome
