

RIY/E&C/201/3/2023

Embassy of India

Riyadh

Monthly Commercial Report : April 2023

Overview

Saudi Arabia's real gross domestic product (GDP) jumped by 3.9 percent year-on-year (YoY) in the first quarter of 2023 according to the latest data issued by the General Authority for Statistics.

The economic growth was driven by increase in oil activities by 1.3 percent, non-oil activities by 5.8 percent and government services activities by 4.9 percent in the first quarter of 2023, YoY.

The seasonally adjusted real GDP decreased by 1.3 percent in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. The downturn in headline GDP was driven entirely by the oil sector, which contracted by 4.8 % q-o-q as Saudi Arabia implemented OPEC-mandated production cuts to shore up prices. In contrast, a non-oil GDP – the key driver of domestic demand and dominant source of employment continued to expand strongly, rising by 1.5% q-o-q slightly above the pace recorded in fourth quarter of 2022. The performance lifts non-oil GDP 11% above its pre COVID-19 levels. Furthermore, government services activities increased by 1.1% q-o-q.

Saudi Arabia's top 5 Trading Partners in February, 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	4712.94	17.43	China	3542.75	23.42
Japan	2721.55	10.06	USA	1351.60	8.93
India	2635.75	9.75	UAE	1019.57	6.74
South Korea	2198.37	8.13	India	890.45	5.88
USA	1359.95	5.03	Germany	689.01	4.55

Saudi Arabia's commercial engagements

Crown Prince launches 4 new Special Economic Zones in Saudi Arabia : On April 13, 2023, Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman, who is also chairman of the

Council of Economic and Development Affairs, launched four new Special Economic Zones in Saudi Arabia. The announcement about the new economic zones, which are located in **Riyadh, Jazan, Ras al-Khair and King Abdullah Economic City, north of Jeddah**, is in line with the Crown Prince's commitment to strengthening Saudi Arabia's prime position as a global investment destination. **Saudi Arabia offers major concessions to investors in newly launched SEZs.** The incentives offered to companies operating in the four newly launched Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Saudi Arabia cover both fiscal and non-fiscal concessions, including competitive corporate tax rates, duty-free imports of machinery and raw materials, 100% foreign ownership, seamless set-up procedures, and flexibility in employing foreign labor. The new zones, strategically situated across the Kingdom, are 'King Abdullah Economic City (KAEC), Jazan, Ras Al Khair and Cloud Computing SEZ located in King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST). The SEZs reinforce further Saudi Arabia's position as a global business hub and will play a major role in achieving Saudi Arabia's economic development goals under the Crown Prince's Vision 2030 strategy.

PIF manages assets worth over SR2 trillion (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 29, 2023) : Yasir Al-Rumayyan, governor of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), said that the total volume of the PIF's assets under management amounted to more than SR2 trillion. "The PIF has been instrumental in creating more than 500,000 direct and indirect jobs, and it intends to create 1.8 million direct and indirect jobs," he said in remarks on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the launch of the Saudi Vision 2030. Al-Rumayyan said that the Saudi sovereign wealth fund has established a total of 71 companies since 2019 in many strategic and vital sectors.

Saudi – Kyrgyzstan

Saudi Arabia funds two projects in transportation, housing sectors in Kyrgyzstan (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 24, 2023) : The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) signed two agreements to fund two projects in transportation, housing sectors through soft development loans worth \$130 million in Kyrgyzstan. SFD CEO Sultan Al-Marshad and Kyrgyzstan's Minister of Finance Almaz Baketaev signed these two agreements on **April 24**, in Bishkek. The signing ceremony was attended by Deputy Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic Saad Al-Dhawayan and several officials from both sides. The first agreement involves financing the construction of 3,000 housing units covering an area of about 255,000 square meters through a soft development loan of \$100 million. The project aims to enhance the livelihoods of low-income families in Kyrgyzstan. The second agreement contributes to the financing of the Taraz-Talas Road Project (Phase 4), which aims to reconstruct 93 km of road to improve road safety, reduce traffic accidents, and enhance the quality of the road. This \$30 million project is jointly financed by several Arab Coordination Group funds.

Saudi –Japan

Saudi Arabia sends first accredited low-carbon ammonia shipment to Japan (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 20, 2023) : A first shipment of independently-certified low-carbon

ammonia has arrived in Japan for use as fuel in power generation. It represents another milestone in the development of this lower-carbon energy solution. The shipment is the result of a successful multiparty collaboration across the low-carbon ammonia value chain. The ammonia was produced by SABIC Agri-Nutrients (SABIC AN) with feedstock from Aramco, and sold by Aramco Trading Company to the Fuji Oil Company (FOC). Mitsui O.S.K. Lines (MOL) was tasked with shipping the liquid to Japan, then the low-carbon ammonia was transported to the Sodegaura Refinery for use in co-fired power generation, with technical support provided by Japan Oil Engineering Co (JOE). The ammonia is categorized as low-carbon because CO₂ from the associated manufacturing process was captured and utilized in downstream applications.

Saudi – Netherlands

Saudi Energy Minister, Dutch FM discuss exporting clean hydrogen to Europe (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 15, 2023) : Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman has discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Netherlands Wopke Hoekstra the export of clean hydrogen to Europe. The discussion took place while Prince Abdulaziz held a meeting in Jeddah with Hoekstra, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the cooperation relations in various energy fields, especially in the renewable energy field and clean hydrogen, as Saudi Arabia aspires to become a major source in this field. Prince Abdulaziz and Hoekstra also discussed the possibility of making Rotterdam Port in the Netherlands a gate for exporting the clean hydrogen from Saudi Arabia to Europe.

Saudi – Iraq

Saudi, Iraqi officials discuss linking of power grids (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 12, 2023) : Saudi and Iraqi officials discussed the progress of the project for linking power grids between the two countries. Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman met in Riyadh on **April 11, 2023**, with Iraqi Minister of Electricity Eng. Ziyad Ali Fadel. The Saudi-Iraqi interconnection project will support the reliability of the electrical networks in the two countries, enhancing savings, ensuring optimal energy exchange for electricity production, and attracting optimal investments in electricity generation projects in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The meeting also discussed opportunities for cooperation between the two countries in the field of renewable energy, benefiting from the capabilities and expertise of ACWA Power in this vital field, and its contributions to the development of future projects in Iraq.

Saudi – Oman

Saudi Arabia and Oman establish liquid fertilizers factory (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 10, 2023) : Saudi Arabia and Oman have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a liquid fertilizers factory in the Kingdom to increase agricultural production. Establishing the liquid fertilizers factory came to contribute in increasing the agriculture production to SR165,000, which also comes within the targets of Saudi Arabia's

Vision 2030 date. The MoU was signed between Saudi Arabia's Investment Ministry and the Al-Aflaj international company, a private sector entity in Oman. The factory aims to produce liquid fertilizers that provide soluble crop nutrients. The ministry said investments in the organic fertilizers project will contribute to accelerating agricultural production, and also meet the growing local and regional demand in a number of partner countries, such as Oman, GCC and African countries, in light of the abundance of arable land in the Kingdom.

Saudi – Pakistan

Saudi Arabia to finance Mohmand hydroelectric project in Pakistan (Reported by Saudi Gazette on April 07, 2023) : Saudi Arabia will give a soft development loan worth more than \$240 million to finance a hydropower project in Pakistan. The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), represented by its CEO Sultan Al-Marshad, on **April 7, 2023**, signed the development agreement to fund the Mohmand Hydropower Dam Project. The project aims to enhance the supply of energy and water for agricultural use and domestic consumption, as well as protection from flood risks. At the signing ceremony, the Pakistani side was represented by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Kazim Niaz. Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki and several officials from both sides were present. By financing this project, the SFD seeks to enhance Pakistan's ability to produce clean and renewable energy, by increasing the production capacity to 800 megawatts of electricity, in addition to storing about 1.6 million cubic meters of water to provide sustainable water sources for agriculture and human consumption.

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 (February 2023)	US\$ 2635.75 Saudi export to India	US\$ 890.45 Saudi import from India	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)
Country's trade with India (February 2023)	US\$ 838.41 India's export to KSA	US\$ 3432.62 India's import from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in)
Country's trade with India (During FY 22-23)	US\$ 10674.36 India's export in FY 22-23 to KSA	US\$ 38624.59 India's import till February, 2023 from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in & niryat.gov.in)

Saudi Arabia's total global trade	US\$ 27034.22 (February 2023) (Exports of KSA)	US\$ 15129.28 (February 2023) (Imports of KSA)	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)
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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)
	<p>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 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,</p>	Nil	Nil

an announcement was made of intent to resume talks on India-GCC FTA. During Secretary (CPV & OIA)'s visit to Riyadh for first India-GCC SOM on 20 March,2023, both sides agreed to continue the negotiations.		
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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 2022-23 (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	2290.00	3082.76	135%	28.88%	191	-793	0
Petroleum Products	3128.61	1901.11	61%	17.81%	261	1228	0
Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	1306.00	1412.69	108%	13.23%	109	-107	0
Rice	664.13	1157.4	174%	10.84%	55	-493	0
Others	633.53	636.44	100%	5.96%	53	-3	0
Electronic Goods	129.21	438.39	339%	4.11%	11	-309	0
Ready-made garments of all textiles	573.60	412.09	72%	3.86%	48	162	0
Meat, Dairy And Poultry Products	212.14	238.6	112%	2.24%	18	-26	0
Plastic And Linoleum	163.39	211.93	130%	1.99%	14	-49	0
Ceramic Products And Glassware	200.00	152.45	76%	1.43%	17	48	0
Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	94.46	151.92	161%	1.42%	8	-57	0
Fruits And Vegetables	102.87	154.12	150%	1.44%	9	-51	0
Mica, Coal And Other Ores, Minerals Including Process	147.75	137.66	93%	1.29%	12	10	0
Spices	85.00	91.08	107%	0.85%	7	-6	0
Gems And Jewellery	79.11	72.06	91%	0.68%	7	7	0
Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./Madeups Etc.	87.53	74.14	85%	0.69%	7	13	0
Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Madeups, Handloom Products Etc.	61.90	53.83	87%	0.50%	5	8	0
Cereal Preparations And Miscellaneous	44.04	54.62	124%	0.51%	4	-11	0

Processed Item								
Marine Products	38.41	52.3	136%	0.49%	3	-14	0	
Cashew	50.00	32.78	66%	0.31%	4	17	0	
Leather And Leather Manufactures	15.24	25.49	167%	0.24%	1	-10	0	
Tea	22.66	25.27	112%	0.24%	2	-3	0	
Coffee	18.63	25.09	135%	0.24%	2	-6	0	
Handicrafts Excl. Hand Made Carpet	20.00	22.93	115%	0.21%	2	-3	0	
Tobacco	12.50	11.07	89%	0.10%	1	1	0	
Other Cereals	7.09	11.01	155%	0.10%	1	-4	0	
Oil Seeds	10.78	11.03	102%	0.10%	1	0	0	
Oil Meals	0.08	10.6	12956%	0.10%	0	-11	0	
Carpet	10.00	7.31	73%	0.07%	1	3	0	
Jute Mfg. Including Floor Covering	11.33	6.19	55%	0.06%	1	5	0	
Iron Ore	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00%	0	0	0	
Total	10219.99	10674.36	104%	100%	855.00	-454	0	

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

- (i) Iron Ore(100%)
- (ii) Jute Mfg. Including Floor Covering(43.7%)
- (iii) Petroleum Products (39.23%)

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

- (i) Oil Meals(12855.56%)
- (ii) Electronic Goods(239.27%)
- (iii) Rice(74.27%)

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

- (i) Coffee (20.3%, 20.9%)
- (ii) Cashew(17.6%, 21.4%)
- (iii) Carpets (16%, 22.7%)

c.4. Out of 31 commodities 0 are lagging currently for more than 5 months.

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.	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof. (HS Code: 84)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during February 2023 is US\$ 42.28 Million showing increase as compared to February 2022 (US\$ 28.91 Million).
2.	Oil seeds and olea. fruits; misc.	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during

	grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder. (HS Code: 12)	February 2023 is US\$ 2.30 Million showing increase as compared to February 2022 (US\$ 2.12 Million).
3.	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted. (HS Code: 62)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during February 2023 is US\$ 25.36 Million showing increase as compared to February 2022 (US\$ 19.52 Million).
4.	Pharmaceutical products (HS Code: 30)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during February 2023 is US\$ 7.54 Million showing increase as compared to February 2022 (US\$ 5.38 Million).
5.	Inorganic Chemicals; Organic Or Inorganic Compounds Of Precious Metals, Of Rare-Earth Metals, Or Radi. Elem. Or of Isotopes. (HS Code: 28)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during February 2023 is US\$ 9.37 Million showing decrease as compared to February 2022 (US\$ 14.37 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 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 drug makers 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 raised this issue with SFDA during a meeting on June 23, 2022. The meeting report was shared with MoC and Pharma organizations to take necessary action.

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 Secretary (CPV & OIA) & Ambassador during their meetings with SCISP officials.

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.

(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, APEDA's approval would be enough for export clearance, which will remove the CoC requirement. 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 is currently pending with the Indian side.

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.

(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.

(d.3) **Notification no. date or other references** : GCC Notice of Initiation published on 12/08/2021 and shared with the Mission through an NV.

Type (initiation, final, prov., sunset, consultations, new shipper review) : Commencement of Anti-dumping investigation

Details of products/ sectors affected : Cardboard products

Description : The Mission received a Notice Volume No.33 dated 12.08.2021 from the Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade, GCC Secretariat, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on the commencement of Anti-dumping investigation on Import of cardboard products to the GCC countries from India.

The Mission has shared DGTR's Submissions against the preliminary report issued by GCC-TSAIP with GCC on April 19, 2022. The GCC- TSAIP has issued the Disclosure Statement in the investigation on the Container Board paper exported from India. The statement issued has been forwarded to DGTR on November 2, 2022.

GCC Secretariat had shared the Final Investigation report on March 7, 2023 conveying that their committee has approved the imposition of Anti-dumping duties on import of cardboard products from India and that they are awaiting Ministerial approval. The Mission has shared the translated report with DGTR, MoCI & Gulf Division.

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 business house	Activity sector	Trade barrier issues if any (incl. HS codes)	General Feedback (Max. 200 words)
1.				

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

S.	Activity	Date and	Number of	Name(s) of	Feedback	Source of funding
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No.	(trade fair, BSM etc.)	venue	participants from India	large/ key participants from India	received (Max.200 words)	(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 123.5% when compared to FY 2021-22 exports which were marked at US\$ 8.64 bn and 04% higher than the set target of 10.22 bn under Target 400 initiative.
2.	Trade in Services	N.A	N.A.
3.	Investment	Indian FDI in Saudi Arabia is US\$ 2 billion up to October 2021. Saudi FDI in India: US\$ 3.13 billion (March 2021) Now, Saudi Arabia ranks 18 ^h position in India.	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. 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

		Total Saudi Investments in India : US\$ 8.19 billion	Platform; this will be translated into a 2.32% equity stake in Jio on a fully diluted basis. 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). Soft bank's Vision Fund I has invested approx \$11.25 billion (PIF's share : approx \$5.06 billion) in India, in the last five years in Indian companies such as Lenskart, Flipkart, OYO, delhivery, FirstCry, Grofers, Ola, Paytm, Unacademy, Policy Bazaar etc.
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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

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

S. No.	Enquiry originator	Product with HS Codes	Nature (Import/ Export)	Value (US\$ million)	Action Taken (Max.200 words)
1.	Indian Companies	—	Export	—	The Embassy of India, Riyadh has received 174 trade queries and CGI Jeddah has received 34 trade queries from India during April 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 etc.

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)

<p><i>Arab News</i> - India planning 'power grid with Saudi Arabia, UAE' (25 April, 2023)</p> <p><i>Arab News</i> - Indian firm JV Ventures to spend \$1bn to acquire school assets across Middle East and Asia (24 April, 2023)</p> <p><i>Arab News</i> - Russian oil slashes the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries's share of Indian market to 22-year low (24 April, 2023)</p> <p><i>Arab News</i> - Apple marks major expansion in India with first flagship store (18 April, 2023)</p> <p><i>Saudi Gazette</i> - WHO issues alert over another India-made cough syrup (26 April, 2023)</p>

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 CEO, SFDA, April 12, 2023	Ambassador met with CEO of the Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) Dr. Hisham Aljadhey. They had comprehensive discussion on addressing all pending issues & paving the way to further promote Indian food & pharmaceutical exports to Saudi Arabia.
2	Ambassador's meeting with Executive Director & CIO, NIIF, April 12, 2023	Ambassador received Mr. Padmanabh Sinha, Executive Director & CIO, National Investment & Infrastructure Fund (NIIF). The discussions focused on investment opportunities offered by NIIF and other areas of mutual interests.
3	Ambassador's meeting with Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services, April 09, 2023	Ambassador met with Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services H.E. Saleh Al-Jasser. They discussed various issues of mutual interests.
4	Ambassador's meeting with Saudi Minister of Health, April 03, 2023	Ambassador met with Minister of Health H.E. Fahad bin Abdurrahman Al-Jalajel. They explored bilateral cooperation in health & pharmaceutical sectors and discussed G20 health track priorities and other issues of mutual interests.
5	Activities/Meetings by CGI Jeddah	Commercial Section arranged a meeting and connected M/s Shrayan Al Jazeera Est. Jeddah and M/s Vegrow, India in connection with the export of fresh fruits and vegetable from India.

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/-		NIL	

CGI, Jeddah	Rs. 10,00,000/-		NIL	
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7. Complaints from foreign buyer/supplier on quality and trade dispute:

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
M/s FOODEX AGRO INDIA WARD NO. 3, ANMOL COLONY, NILOKHERI, KARNAL, HARYANA, INDIA 132117 +91 9821201890 TUSHAR ARORA +919821201890, SHASHI KUMAR +918816830006	M/s NAMA AL RIYADH EST. Al-Riyadh Saudi Arabia Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Phone: +966 500251177Email: namariyadh@gmail.co m	Complaint from an Indian exporter of rice " M/s FOODEX AGRO INDIA" informing that Saudi buyer "NAMA AL RIYADH EST, AL-RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA " has not cleared the payments towards the rice imported from India.	The matter has been referred to the Federation of Saudi Chambers vide email dated 10.04.2023	Response from Federation is awaited.
M/s Meghmani LLP 11th Level, JMC House, Ahmedabad-30006	M/s Al-Sama Printing Links and Sundries	Complaint from an Indian	The matter has been	Response from

<p>India Deputy General Manager (Finance) Email:- cm.champawat@meghmanigroup.com Phone:- 00919099980220</p>	<p>Manufacturing Company Second Industrial City, Street 184, P.O.Box 5164 Riyadh, Saudi Arabia</p>	<p>company "M/s Meghmani LLP" informing that Saudi buyer "Al-Sama Printing Links and Sundries Manufacturin g Company, Riyadh, SAUDI ARABIA " has not cleared the payments towards the imported product from India.</p>	<p>referred to the Federation of Saudi Chambers vide email dated 18.04.2023</p>	<p>Federatio n is awaited.</p>
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