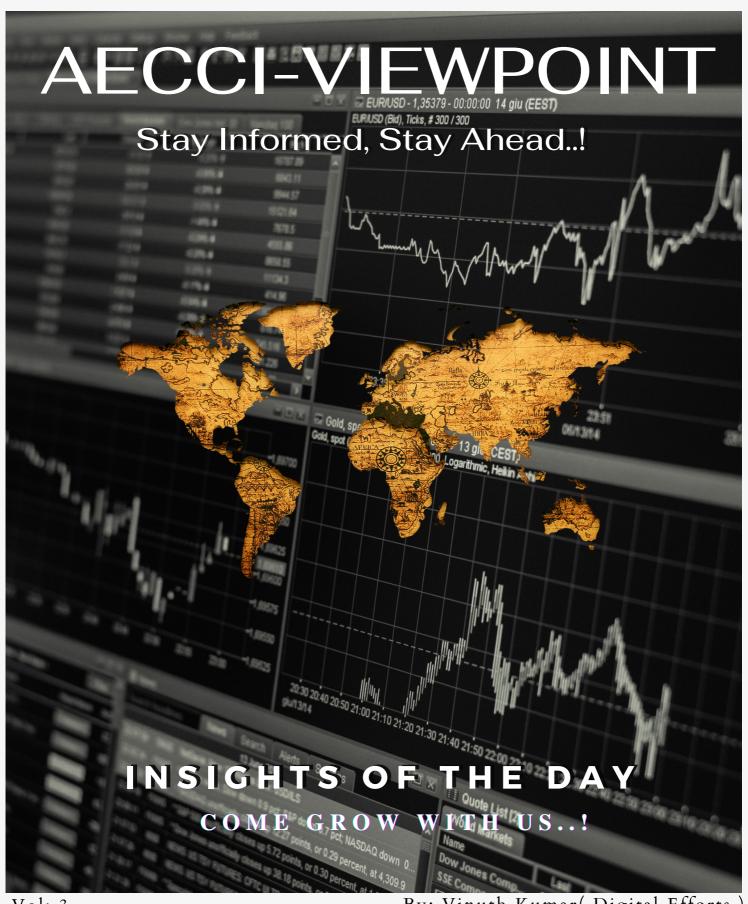


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Asian Exporters' Chamber 0f Commerce and Industry

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INDIA'S LAND PORTS LEAD THE WAY IN TRANSFORMING THE BORDER TRADE ECOSYSTEM

India has 109 border check posts with its immediate neighbours that form an integral part of its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies. Of these check posts, 11 are upgraded from a Land Customs Station (LCS) to an Integrated Check Post (ICP), housing customs, immigration authorities, border security forces, quarantine and recently sanctioned land port health units, together as single-window facilitation facility, for smooth crossborder movement of passengers and goods. Development of logistics infrastructure complemented with enabling policy and regulatory ecosystem holds significant potential towards making MSMEs more competitive. Although trade between the BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) countries grew sixfold between 2005 and 2019 (pre-COVID), the unexploited potential remains massive, estimated by the World Bank at 93 per cent for Bangladesh, nine per cent for Bhutan, 50 per cent for India and 76 per cent for Nepal. Within the BBIN countries. Petrapole-Benapole (along the India-Bangladesh border), Jaigaon-Phuentsholing (along the India-Bhutan border) and



Raxaul-Birgunj (along the India-Nepal border) are the busiest trading points and as a result, also the focus of government efforts towards improving logistics and infrastructure. This is reflected in the fast-tracked development of ICPs at different land border crossings, led by the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), a statutory body working under the Ministry of Home Affairs. ICP development is driven, on the one hand, by India's National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) commitment to bring down the import clearance time to within 48 hours and export clearance time to within 24 hours at land borders, and on the other hand, by India's popular policies of Neighbourhood First and Act East. To provide more context, India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under the Ministry of Finance, conducts annual time release studies at 15 ports in India, which includes two land ports

Source: Financial Express











INDIA APPROVES WHEAT, BROKEN RICE EXPORTS **REQUESTS FROM 4 COUNTRIES**



India has decided to approve wheat and broken rice exports to few selected countries following their requests to allow the shipments of the grains, the government said in two separate notifications issued late on Tuesday.

The South Asian country banned exports of wheat and broken rice in 2022 to lower local prices. But following requests, India would allow broken rice exports to

Indonesia, Senegal and Gambia in 2023/24 financial year started on April 1. New Delhi also approved request from Nepal and allowed wheat exports in the current financial

vear.

Indian exporters, which were exporting grains to these countries, need to bid for the allocated quota of wheat and broken rice, the government said in notifications. Indonesia has signed an agreement with the Indian government to potentially import 1 million tonnes of rice if the El Nino weather pattern hits domestic supply, media quoted the trade minister as saying on Friday.

India has decided to approve wheat and broken rice exports to few

selected countries following their requests to allow the shipments of the grains, the government said in two separate notifications issued late on Tuesday. The South Asian country banned exports of wheat and broken rice in 2022 to lower local prices. But following requests, India would allow broken rice exports to Indonesia, Senegal and Gambia in 2023/24 financial year started on April 1. New Delhi also approved request from Nepal and allowed wheat exports in the current financial year. Indian exporters, which were exporting grains to these countries, need to bid for the allocated quota of wheat and broken rice, the government said in notifications. Indonesia has signed an agreement with the Indian government to potentially import 1 million tonnes of rice if the El Nino weather pattern hits domestic supply, media quoted the trade minister as saying on Friday. (Reporting by Rajendra Jadhav; Editing by Aurora Ellis) Disclaimer: This report is auto generated from the Reuters news service. The Print holds no responsibility for its content.

Source: The Print













HEADLINES



- >> Bilateral consultation is the first step to resolving a dispute. If both sides are not able to resolve the matter through consultation, either of them can approach the establishment of a dispute settlement panel.
- Indonesia has signed an agreement with the Indian government to potentially import 1 million tonnes of rice if the El Nino weather pattern hits domestic supply, media quoted the trade minister as saying on Friday.



- the US imposed 25 per cent and 10 per cent import duties on certain steel and aluminium products, respectively, on the grounds of national security. In retaliation to the imposition of duties by the US, India increased customs duty on a number of American products such as almonds, walnut, iron and steel items.
- > India has 109 border check posts with its immediate neighbours that form an integral part of its 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies. Of these check posts, 11 are upgraded from a Land Customs Station (LCS) to an Integrated Check Post (ICP), housing customs.

INDIA, US IN TALKS TO RESOLVE CERTAIN TRADE DISPUTES OUT OF WTO MECHANISM

India and the US are discussing ways to resolve six trade disputes bilaterally, without going through the mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), an official source said on Tuesday. These discussions assume significance as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a three-day visit to the US from June 21-24 at the invitation of US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

The source, who is aware of the discussions, said that there are six trade disputes for which talks are going on and positive outcomes are expected. As per the WTO norms, both countries can resolve the issues amicably and on mutually agreed terms and later inform the Geneva-based multilateral organisation about the same. The trade disputes between the two countries include the US complaint against certain export-subsidy measures by India. In 2019, A WTO dispute panel had ruled that India's export measures are inconsistent with global trade norms.



Another dispute is related to the imposition of customs duties on certain steel and aluminium products by America. In 2018, India approached the Geneva-based WTO against these duties.

In 2018, the US imposed 25 per cent and 10 per cent import duties on certain steel and aluminium products, respectively, on the grounds of national security. In retaliation to the imposition of duties by the US, India increased customs duty on a number of American products such as almonds, walnut, iron and steel items. According to trade experts, the prime minister's visit would give a major boost to the trade and economic ties between the two countries.

The US is the largest trading partner of India. In 2022-23, the bilateral goods trade increased to USD 128.8 billion as against USD 119.5 billion in 2021-22. According to WTO rules, a member country can file a case in the Geneva-based multilateral body if they feel that a particular trade measure is against the norms of WTO. Bilateral consultation is the first step to resolving a dispute. If both sides are not able to resolve the matter through consultation, either of them can approach the establishment of a dispute settlement panel. The panel's ruling or report can be challenged at WTO's appellate body. Interestingly, the appellate body is not functioning because of differences among member countries to appoint its members. Several disputes are already pending with this body. The US has been blocking the appointment of the members.

Source: Hindustan times













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