

**Vice President calls upon exporters to explore newer markets
SEZs ideal platform for promoting 'Make in India' & 'Local for
Global': VP**

**Most of the 775 districts in the country have the potential to
become export hubs: VP**

**VP calls for special drive to employment and skills to youth for
realizing demographic dividend**

**VP praises Tamil Nadu's highly developed industrial the
manufacturing eco-system**

**Presents Export Excellence awards for SEZs and EOUs in
Chennai**

The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu today called upon exporters to explore newer markets to give a fillip to exports and maintain the economic momentum.

Presenting Export Excellence Awards for the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) units & Export Oriented Units in Chennai today, the Vice President congratulated all the award winners for their contribution in promoting exports and providing employment. He said the SEZs along with Export Oriented Units (EOUs) contribute about one-thirds of the country's exports

Terming SEZs as an ideal platform for promoting 'Make in India', 'Local goes Global' and 'Ease of Doing Business', he said the country's exports have grown manifold in recent years due to the hard work of the exporters.

Shri Naidu noted that there was a record achievement of 418 billion US dollars of merchandise exports in the just-concluded 2021-22 financial year. Besides, the services exports were about 250 billion US dollars. He said it was a remarkable achievement in spite of the pandemic.

Calling for continuing the same trend, the Vice President said the ambitious project of 'District Export Hub' announced by the Government of India in 2019 is expected to boost exports. Most of the 775 districts across the country are having the potential of becoming export hubs, he added.

Stating that the government was taking all steps to further increase exports through business and industry-friendly policies, ease of doing business and focusing on 'local for global', Shri Naidu noted that GI (Geographical Indication) products were being given a fillip in this endeavour.

Pointing out that India is a young nation, he stressed the need to fully realize the potential of the demographic dividend. Calling for a special drive to provide employment to youth and equip them with necessary skills, he said "unless this is done, our demographic advantage might turn into a major disadvantage".

Praising Tamil Nadu's highly developed industrial manufacturing ecosystem, Shri Naidu said the state has evolved into the largest hub for the production of automobiles and auto-components, textiles, leather products, light and heavy engineering, pumps and motors, electronic software, and hardware. The State continues to be a national leader in exports, he added.

Hon'ble Minister of State while congratulating all the Award winners recognised the extreme hard work, dedication and the consistency efforts of the Exporters which has brought them so far. It is an indication that we have bigger expectation towards contributing more for the growth of the economy and the prosperity of the nation as the exports contribute heavily to the growth of the economy to generate employment and bring the much needed foreign exchange to the country and progress of the nation. It is because of Export community's hard work, commitment and support India has scripted history achieving highest export \$ 469.65 Billion USD, over a growth of 34% compared to last year surpassing the target of \$ 400 Billion USD which a remarkable achievement. Hon'ble Minister of State also

mentioned that by the efforts taken for executing very important 2 Free Trade agreements, FTA agreement, India and UAE comprehensive Economic Agreement and India Australia Economic Trade agreement has given opportunity to integrate with Global Supply Chain. By the efforts taken by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in conclusion of Free Trade Agreements with UAE and Australia Hon'ble Minister of State urged the exporters to take advantage these two bilateral agreement.

A total of 129 of Awards for the year 2019-20 were distributed during the function. Top 32 Awards were conferred by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India and 97 Awards were conferred by Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry.

Under the following Sector Awards were issued for achieving (1) Highest Exports; (2) Highest Employment; (3) Highest Investment for the SEZ Units and EOUs.

1. IT/ITES
2. Electronics Hardware and Telecommunication
3. Engineering
4. Leather footwear sports goods, Textiles & Readymade Garments
5. Chemicals, Plastics, Rubber, Pharmaceuticals & Drugs
6. Food & Agro Products, Agricultural Products & Plantations
7. Miscellaneous

Tata Consultancy Services Limited, Dell International Services India Private Limited, ATC Tires Private Limited, Visteon Technical And Services Center, NCR Corporation India Private Limited, Intimate Fashions India Private Limited, Ford Motor Private Limited, Seikodenki India Pvt Ltd, Sundram Fasteners Limited, Solara Active Pharma Sciences, HCL Technologies Limited, ATC Tires Private Limited, Fairway Enterprises Company Limited, HTC Global Services (I) Private Limited received awards among the awardees for

achieving highest Exports, highest employment and Investment made during the year 2019-20.

Similarly, for the IT/ITES SEZ Developer and for Non-IT/ITES SEZ Developers awards were given for achieving (1) Highest Exports; (2) Highest Employment; (3) Highest Investment. Apart from the above awards, there were two more awards given as Special Achievement Awards under the category of (1) CSR Initiative; (2) Swach Bharath Initiative; and (3) Renewable Energy Initiative to the SEZ Developers and Units.

ELCOT SEZ, Sholinganallur, DLF Info City SEZ, SNP Infrastructure Private Limited SEZ, Flextronics Technologies India Private Limited SEZ, Cheyyar SEZ Developers Private Limited, Larsen & Toubro Limited SEZ, Zoho Corporation Private Limited SEZ were among the awardees.

Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India, Shri K. K. S. S. R. Ramachandran, Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. K. Shanmuga Sundaram, Development Commissioner, Madras Export Processing Zone SEZ, Shri Alex Paul Menon, Joint Development Commissioner, MEPZ SEZ and others were present on the occasion.

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