

REPORTING PROFORMA FOR COMMERCIAL WINGS

(Data Source: National Trade Statistics of the reporting country)

<https://www.oc.gov.ma/>

The report has 3 parts:

- 1) Monthly- Trade in Goods and Qualitative;
- 2) Quarterly- Services, Investment and Logistics; and
- 3) Annually- Trade in Goods and Services overall

Name of the Mission (Country): MOROCCO

MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2023

A. Trade in goods

(a) Total trade in goods

	Export (US\$ million)	Import (US\$ million)
Country's trade with India (Jan-Dec 2022)	2 728	1 395
Country's total global trade (Jan-Dec 2022)	42 861	73 744

Source: Exchange Office, Morocco

During the calendar year 2022, both exports and imports from/to India have registered a healthy growth via-a-vis the corresponding period last year 2021. Figures show a new record of exports in the current calendar year 2022 from USD 1080 million in CY 2021 to USD 1395 million in CY 2022, registering a growth of 29.16%. In the same period the imports to India rose from USD 1825 million USD in CY 2021 to USD 2728 million USD, registering a growth of 49.5%. India imports a large number of phosphates, fertilizers and derivatives, whose prices have increased significantly in year 2022.

As per DGFT trade data, during the FY 2022-2023 exports from India to Morocco reached USD1047.15 against USD 962.28 in 21-22, registering a growth of 8.82%. As regard imports from Morocco, total value for the period 2022- 2023 stood at USD 2,549.44 as compared to USD 2,244.19 in 2021- 2022 registering a growth of 13.60% on y to y basis, due mainly to the increase in prices of fertilizers and their derivatives.

(b)

S.No.	Preferential / Free Trade Agreement with India	Preferential Imports from India (US\$ million)	Preferential Imports from World (US\$ million)
1	N.A.		
2	NA		

c) Top 10 items of import from India during (Jan-Dec 2022) HS Code Basis

	HS tariff chapter	Commodity	Value (US\$ million)
1.	27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	296
2.	87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof	140
3.	84	Machinery, mechanical appliances, nuclear reactors, boilers; parts thereof	89
4.	54	Man-made filaments; strip and the like of man-made textile materials	80
5.	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers; television image and sound recorders and reproducers, parts and accessories of such articles	75
6.	39	Plastics and articles thereof	67
7.	30	Pharmaceutical products	66
8.	55	Man-made staple fibers	62
9.	52	Cotton	61
10.	9	Coffee, tea, mate and spices	52

* Source: Exchange Office, Morocco

(d) Top 10 items of export to India during (Jan-Dec 2022)

	HS tariff chapter	Commodity (HS tariff line)	Value (US\$ million)
1.	31	Fertilizers	1741
2.	28	Inorganic chemicals; organic and inorganic compounds of precious metals; Phosphoric Acid of rare earth metals, of radio-active elements and of isotopes	618
3.	25	Salt; sulphur; earths, stone; plastering materials, lime and cement	312
4.	76	Aluminum and articles thereof	20
5.	72	Iron and steel	9

6.	74	Copper and articles thereof	6
7.	47	Pulp of wood or other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard	6
8.	12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit, industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder	5
9.	85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles	4
10.	79	Zinc and articles thereof	2

* Source: Exchange Office, Morocco

(e) Top 10 Potential products of imports from India.

Financial year (Apr 2022- Mar 2023)

	Name of goods -HSN Code	Export from India Apr 21 - Mar 2022 USD Million	Export from India Apr 22- Mar 2023 USD Million	% change
1	Mineral Fuel/Petroleum Chapter 27	118.79	195.71	64.75
2	Vehicles other than tramway; railways rolling stock and parts and accessories thereof; mechanical Chapter 87	103.90	195.10	87.78
3	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, parts thereof Chapter 84	45.43	70.00	54.09
4	Man Made filaments Chapter 54	58.43	58.92	0.84
5	Cotton Chapter 52	48.72	50.82	4.31
6	Plastic and articles thereof Chapter 39	55.74	49.47	-11.24
7	Electrical Machinery and Equipment and parts thereof; Chapters 85	45.43	47.42	-57.50
8	Pharmaceutical Products Chapter 30	56.57	46.06	-18.58
10	Coffee, tea, spices Chapter 9	47.43	40.10	-15.45

10	Man Made staple fibers. Chapter 55	47.70	36.70	-23.07
----	---------------------------------------	-------	-------	--------

Source: DGFT.

On a consolidated basis, heavy engineering goods cotton, automotive, defense, rice, organic and inorganic chemicals are key items of export from India to Morocco. There has been some demand slow down in electronic goods, pharmaceuticals and coffee, tea, spices and man made staple fibers. Due to inflation and high freight tariff, the export got impacted. Despite the headwinds, the gross merchandise export from India has touched all time high. It is expected that this trend is likely to continue in the calendar year 2023 as well.

(e) Top 10 Potential products of imports from India – Consolidated basis sector wise

Financial year (Apr 2023)

	Commodity View	Total Exports Apr'23 (\$M)
1.	Engineering Goods	20.76
2.	Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./Madeups Etc.	7.60
3.	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	7.15
4.	Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Madeups, Handloom Products Etc	7.13
5.	Plastic And Linoleum	6.01
6.	Spices	5.08
7.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	3.73
8.	Rice	2.99
9.	Others	2.90
10.	Ceramic Products And Glassware	2.00

Source: Niryat, Government of India

At the beginning of the current financial year, the demand for engineering goods, man-made yarn, drugs and pharmaceuticals commodities remained strong. However there has been some demand slow down in spices, organic and inorganic chemicals, rice, ceramic products and glassware.

(ii) **Qualitative Feedback**

Market Access Alerts:

There has been no specific issues related to market access alert except Mission has come across some issues related to custom duties. The change is the duty structure by local authorities in 2023 promulgated in Finance Law 2023, impacted generally some Indian companies exporting to Morocco and specifically operating in pharmaceutical filed.

(a) Alerts on customs tariff changes:

S. No	Notification no./ date	Measure	HS Codes	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.	Circular No. 6460/232 May 22 nd , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of a vehicle equipped with "Minetruck MT2200"	8704.10.49.00	From May 22 nd , 2023	- The vehicle specially designed for transporting ores in the underground galleries, remains classified under the heading 8704.10.49.00 of the import duty and this, by application of RGI 1 and 6.
2.	Circular No. 6459/232 May 16 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of the product called "Multi functional toilet cover seat"	3203.00	From May 16 th , 2023	- The product named "RASPBERRY RED P-WS 503262" is a vegetable origin dye classified, by application of GIRs 1 and 6, under subheading 3203.00 of the Harmonized System, item 3203.00.90.10 of the import duty tariff.
3.	Circular No. 6454 /211 May 4 ^h , 2023	- Tariff studies. - Imposition of a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of galvanized wires from Turkey.	Joint decision of the Minister of Economy and Finance and the Minister of Industry and Trade Commerce no. 853-23 of March 21 st , 2023 (BO no. 7192 of May 4, 2023).	From May 5 th , 2023	- The service is informed that the joint ministerial decision, provides for the application, in addition to the rights and taxes in force, of a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of zinc-coated galvanized wires with a diameter greater than 0.85 mm, originating in Turkey, under tariff heading No: 7217.20.10.00 and 721 7.20.99.00 for a period of 5 years.

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

- Alerts on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures: **NIL**
- Alerts on trade defense measures taken by respective country: *(Safeguards including special safeguard, anti-dumping, CVD or anti- subsidy):* **NIL**

(iii) Other Feedback

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

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

A large delegation of Indian start-ups and companies in the filed of digital transition and technological innovations participated to the first edition of Gitex Africa held between May 31st and June 2nd 2023 in Marrakesh.

Also, a number of Indian leading companies operating in agriculture field specially in organic farming sector participated to the 15th edition of the International Agricultural Exhibition in Morocco (SIAM) which took place from 2nd to 7th of May 2023 in Meknes.

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

(d) Number of Business Visas issued in May: 87

87 Business Visas issued for the Month of May 2023 showing a very good number of business exchanges between the both countries as compared to same period last year where only 26 business visas were issued in May 22, which indicates that there is renewed interest from Moroccan side. Also there is significant increase in normal tourist visas, indicating that there is ample interest from Moroccan side to visit India for tourism and business purposes.

(e) Participation from Morocco was encouraged in these expos/fairs.

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	National Conference on Millet Farming Strengthening the Millets Value Chain	12th-13th May 2023 at Gokulam Park Hotel, Kochi Kerala				
2	National Conference on Millet Farming - Harnessing & Strengthen Value Chain of Millets	26th-27th May 2023 in the State of Tamil Nadu				

3	International Multi Sector Virtual Expo	17th-20th May 2023				
---	---	--------------------	--	--	--	--

B. Trade and Investment:

(a) Significant trends in trade and investment (Sources: Exchange Office)

Trade Scoreboard – Kingdom of Morocco

Trade in goods

Year	Jan-Apr 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Apr 2022 Billion USD	% terms
Imports CIF	23.7	22.9	+3.2
Exports FOB	14.6	14.0	+3.6
Balance of Trade	-9.1	-8.9	-

Trade in services

Year	Jan-Apr 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Apr 2022 Billion USD	% terms
Imports CIF	3.6	3.2	+10.9
Exports FOB	7.7	5.3	+44.0
Balance	+4.2	+2.1	-

Imports of goods by main products

Products	Jan-Apr 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Apr 2022 Billion USD	% increase/ decrease
Equipment (Parts of airplanes and other aerial vehicles, Seagoing vessels and other floating devices, Automatic information processing machines.)	5.0	4.2	+19.0
Finished consumer products (Passenger cars, plastics and articles thereof, Seats, furniture, mattresses)	5.0	4.5	+10.7
Foodstuffs (Wheat, Barley, Milk, dairy products other than butter/cheese)	3.1	2.9	7.3
Energy products (Coals; cokes)	4.3	4.3	-1.7

and similar solid fuels, Gas oils and fuel oils, Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbons)			
Raw products (Crude and unrefined sulfurs, Crude or refined soybean oil)	1.22	1.36	-10.0
Semi-finished products (Ammonia, Chemicals, Plastics)	4.9	5.5	-5.7

Exports of goods by main sectors

Products	Jan-Apr 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Apr 2022 Billion USD	% increase/decrease
Automobile (Construction Wiring, Interior vehicles and seats)	4.4	3.1	+40.4
Electronics and Electricity (Electronic components, wire, cables)	0.7	0.5	+34.0
Textile and Leather (garments, footwear, hosiery articles)	1.6	1.4	+11.6
Other mining extractions	0.183	0.18	+1.6
Agriculture and Agri-food	3.36	3.43	+1.8
Aeronautics	0.66	0.73	-8.5
Phosphates and derivatives	2.5	3.6	-30.5
Other industries (Metallurgy and Metalworking, Plastic and rubber industry, pharmaceutical industry)	1.0	0.9	+6.1

Source “ Exchange Office Kingdom of Morocco

(b) Opportunities for investments/ assets on offer/major company divestment:

AMDIE, the government authority to promote Morocco Now is emphasizing a lot to attract investment in Morocco and several Indian businesses have shown interest in various segments including plastics, poly-films packaging, automotive ancillaries and so on. Tangier Med and freezone are seen as a preferred destination in Morocco due to its locational advantage and availability of land and resources.

There are ample scope of investment in Morocco in the field of renewable energy, automobiles and OEMs, chemicals, textiles and so on

(c) Information on tender Notices for projects and procurement of interest to Indian project exporters/ suppliers (USD 15 million & above)

- Open tender for works :
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=708647&orgAcronyme=q9t>
- Open tender for Supply:
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=708742&orgAcronyme=h5j>
- Open tender for Works ONEEBE:
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=712928&orgAcronyme=d4q>

- Indian Trade Portal: <https://www.indiantradeportal.in/20tt15/index.jsp>

S.No.	Tender/ procurement notice No and date	Sector	Value of tender / procurement
1.	Ref: 02/2023/MSPS Supply of health transport service by air for the ministry of health and social protection as part of its emergency medical assistance service activities. Tanger-assilah Deadline: 04/07/2023 10:00	Services	30 000 000.00 Dhs equivalent to \$ 3 M
2.	Ref: 74/2023 The purchase of battledress sets and combat shirts for DGAPR personnel, Deliverable to the Arjat 1 General Store in a single batch. General Delegation For Penitentiary Administration And Reintegration Deadline : 27/06/2023 10:30	Supplies / Clothing Effects and Accessories / Military, Paramilitary and Other Similar Corps Uniforms	43 920 000.00 Dhs equivalent to \$ 4.3 M
3.	Ref: 19/DAM/S/2023 Supply of chlorine by import Tanger-Assilah, Rabat, El Jadida ONEEBE - National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water - Water Branch Deadline: 27/06/2023 10:00	Supplies / Chemicals, cleaning products, insecticides / Hygiene and disinfection products	18 207 600.00 DH equivalent to \$ 1.8 M

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

S.No	Enquiry Originator	Hs Code	Product	Nature (Import/Export)	Action Taken
1	Meet Dhaduk	69	Ceramic Based Sanitaryware Products Like Toilet,Washbasin	Export	Information Supplied
2	Sameera Essential Oils And Fragrances	33	Essential, Spice, Carrier, Herbal, Ayurvedic Oils And Fragrances	Export	-do-
3	Black Rock Kitchenware Llp	76	Non Stick Cookware And Kitchenware Products	Export	-do-
4	P2p Exports	84	Food And Agriculture Products	Export	-do-
5	Kishan Exim	52	Raw Cotton Bales	Export	-do-
6	Pbp Exim	09	Agriculture And Spices Product	Export	-do-
7	Sai Global	09	Turmeric Fingures,Powder, Fresh Fruits Like Pomegranate, Grapes	Export	-do-
8	Sander Export Pvt. Ltd.	17	Jaggery Powder	Export	-do-
9	3shul Exports And Imports Private Limited	53	Coir Pith(Coco Peat) Products Like Coir Pith Blocks, Compost Coir Pith Powder, Raw Coir Pith Powder	Export	-do-
10	Atelier	12	Peanuts And Its Products	Export	-do-
11	Earthbucks Import Export	09	Indian Spices All Indian Pulses Corn Basmati And Non Basmati Rice Soyabean Meal	Export	-do-
12	Shree Khodiyar Metal	84	Weighing Scales/Machines	Export	-do-
13	Kk International	07	Sesame Seeds	Export	-do-
14	Vishnu Sales Corporation	39	Kitchenware & Hardware Products	Export	-do-
15	Masala Raaj Company (Firm R R Foods)	09	Cumin Seeds Cumin Powder Turmeric Fingers Turmeric Powder	Export	-do-
16	Rachna Sundriyal	95	Kids Toys	Export	-do-
17	Harsha Leather Goods Pvt Ltd.	42	Leather Goods	Export	-do-
18	Viyank International	30	Pharmaceuticals	Export	-do-

19	Saptasagar Overseas	48	Cartons, Boxes, And Cases, Of Corrugated Paper Or Paperboard	Export	-do-
20	Fultariya Beverages	22	Water & Beverages	Export	-do-
21	Rachna Sundriyal	17	Sugar And Related Products	Export	-do-
22	Diamond Broking Firm	08	Bananas	Export	-do-
23	Yaa Traders	62	Readymade Garments	Export	-do-
24	Sattvik Ceramic	69	Porcelain Tiles Ceramic Tiles Sanitary Wares And Bath Fittings	Export	-do-
25	Pluss Advanced Technologies Ltd.	94	Cold Chain Solutions	Export	-do-
26	Polybond India	90	Medical Disposables	Export	-do-
27	Encon International	03	Cooling Towers And Energy Saving E-Glass Epoxy Frp Fans	Export	-do-
28	The India Exim	09	Spices Fruits Vegetable Textile Products Garments	Export	-do-
29	Sona World Pvt Ltd	10	Rice, Bicycles & Bicycles Parts	Export	-do-
30	M-Core Industries	90	Optical Fibre Cables	Export	-do-
31	Urja Exports	28	Chemicals.	Export	-do-
32	Rjj Overseas	55	Recycled Polyester staple Fiber	Export	-do-
33	Unicare Technologies Private Ltd	69	Waste Water Treatment Technologies	Export	-do-
34	Indxport	40	Pharmaceuticals Consumables And Surgical Disposables	Export	-do-
35	Kellen Healthcare	30	Ayurvedic Medicines And Herbal And Organic Products	Export	-do-
36	M/S Re Healthcare	90	Medical Instruments And Surgical Equipment	Export	-do-
37	Shubham Foods	07	Dehydrated Onion And Dehydrated Garlic	Export	-do-
38	Gutenberg Wesentlich Private Limited	17	Refined White Sugar	Export	-do-
39	Supreme Unicorn Llp	48	Adhesive Paper	Export	-do-
40	Shiv Kumar Batra	10	Rice Spices Tea & Pulses	Export	-do-
41	Vertel Digital	85	Wireless-Radio Communication Equipment	Export	-do-

42	Keshav Overseas	73	Stainless Steel	Export	-do-
43	Aditya Agro Products	09	Dehydrated Onion, Garlic, Ginger, And Spices Products	Export	-do-
44	Dweep Overseas	10	Basmati Rice	Export	-do-
45	Creart Solutions Pvt Ltd	33	Cosmetic	Export	-do-
46	Saathi International	09	Foodstuff Spices Curry Powder	Export	-do-
47	Aems Exporters	61	Shirts And Pants Leather Base Products Leather Wallet And Purses Textile & Apparels Herbal Oils Essential Oil Ayurvedic Oil Rice Basmati Non-Basmati Rice Spirulina Powder Castor Oil Psyllium Husk Organic Chemical Inorganic Chemical Agro Chemical	Export	-do-
48	Sakshi Chem Sciences Pvt Ltd	95	Building Construction Chemicals	Export	-do-
49	Dc Exports	10	Green Millets	Export	-do-
50	Yogeshwar Enterprise	64	Ladies And Girls Footwear	Export	-do-
51	Randolph Alves	30	Pharmaceuticals Medical Devices & Healthcare Projects	Export	-do-
52	M/S Aceinox Industries Pvt Ltd	73	Stainless Steel Precision Tubes And Stainless Steel Capillary Tubes	Export	-do-
53	Techno World Corporation	69	Fire Bricks	Export	-do-
54	Lahi Global	12	Groundnuts, Kernels Cumin Seeds Coriander Seeds Maize Seeds Mustard Seeds Ground Nut oil Other Spieces Melted Butter	Export	-do-
55	Genesis Gobal Impex	09	Turmeric	Export	-do-
56	M/S Sai Arpit Enterprises	09	Turmeric Fingers	Export	-do-
57	Shraddha Saburi International Import And Export Llp	09	Turmeric Powder	Export	-do-
58	Kmc Enterprise	62	Ladies Garments	Export	-do-
59	Captain Kitchen Sink	73	All Types Of Kitchen Sinks	Export	-do-

60	Apex Import And Export	25	Rock Phosphate	Export	-do-
61	Cosmeinnova Speciality Ingredients India	33	Cold Pressed Oil Cold Pressed Soaps Personal Care Products	Export	-do-
62	Natural Shine Stone	68	Granite Basalt Sand Stone Lime Stone Slate Stone Flexible Stone Veneer	Export	-do-
63	Che Global Exim Pvt Ltd	12	Agricultural Commodities	Export	-do-
64	Harbourex Trading Company	19	Fmcg-Packed Food Products	Export	-do-
65	Waqas Handloom	94	Textile Items Scarf Stole Dupattas	Export	-do-
66	Organic Gyaan	10	Millet	Export	-do-
67	Oceanheart Exports	15	Engineering, Electronics, Agricultural Equipments, Heavy Machineries & All Types Of Spare Parts	Export	-do-
68	Nirvana Global Export House Llp	08	Cashew	Export	-do-
69	Madhuban Multimetals Pvt Ltd.	87	Auto Parts	Export	-do-
70	Vishnu Rice Mill	10	Rice	Export	-do-
71	Yogiraj Spices	10	Spices	Export	-do-
72	Advisory Ltd	99	Technology Solutions	Import	-do-

There is significant increase in trade queries from India, which means that there is renewed interest in export from India to Morocco.

(e) 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)

PI see para 10 below

C. Tourism

(a) Tourist Visa issued in May 2023

S.No.	No. of tourist visa issued during the month May 2023	No. of tourist visa issued during the same month last year May 2022	No. of tourist visa issued cumulatively during the year Jan-May 2023	No. of tourist visa issued cumulatively during the last year Jan-Dec 2022
1.	52	37	223	628

(b) Indian Tourism Promotion Events held / organized: **NIL**

(c) Use of Social Media/Print Media/Electronic Media for promoting Tourism:

Activity	Print	Electronic	Twitter	Facebook	Instagram	Youtube	Any other
No. of posts			10	5	0		
No. of impressions			13	0	0		
No. of likes			49	89	0		

(d) Any advisory issued by the country for traveling to India:

Morocco issues E-visas for nationals from India, Guatemala, Azerbaijan and Jordan, started from January 10, 2023. Following this, there has been great increase of tourist inflow from India to Morocco in the last couple of months

(e) Interactions held with Tour Operators for promoting tourism in India: On March 1, 2023, Mission interacted with the tour operators during India Morocco Business Conference in Casablanca.

(f) Any other information: NIL

D. Transfer of Technology to India

(a) New Technology identified/covered in Press: NIL

(b) Any interest received from Foreign companies for technology transfer: NIL

(c) Any query received from Indian company seeking technological solutions: NIL

(d) Any science/technology exhibition held: NIL

(e) Any press coverage on new patents/designs/IPR filed/granted: NIL

(f) Any other information: NIL

E. Details of trade research, information dissemination activity of the commercial wing: NIL

F. Details of activities conducted out of Trade promotion budget: NIL

G. Action taken on the previous JWGs, Joint Commissions, Sub-Commissions etc.: NIL

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

S. No	Name of Indian exporter/impo	Address &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
1	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

I. Complaints of Indian exporter / Moroccan importer:

S. No	Name of Indian exporter/impo	Address &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
--------------	-------------------------------------	---	---------------------------------------	---	--------------------

1	<p>M/s. Sagar Mettallics Pvt Ltd</p> <p>Mr. Mayank Patel Surat, Gujarat, India</p> <p>+919824182299 info@sagarmetallics.com www.sagarmetallics.com</p>	<p>M/s. Zhor Fil</p> <p>Mr. Abdellah Jamai</p> <p>5 Appt 14 Etage 5, Residence Hanae Rue Med Abdou, 30000 Fes, Morocco</p> <p>+212661363369</p> <p>zhorfil@gmail.com zhorfil10@gmail.com</p>	<p>The Indian company informed us that the Moroccan company did not collect documents from bank after the container reached port. The owner of Zhor Fil promised that he will release the documents within 10 days but he did not. After that, when port charges increased, demurrage went very high, he refused to accept the documents. After 2 months, the owner of Sagar Mettallics agreed to give him documents with payment terms :Documents against the bank's acceptance.</p>	<p>The Mission sent an email to the owner of Zohar Fil requesting to make the payment to the Indian company and contacted the Moroccan company over phone.</p>	<p>Mr Jmai informed us that there was a delay in the shipment. So he asked for more time to clear the containers. One month later, he asked to return documents for changing payment terms. After receiving the document, Mr. Patel returned documents to Moroccan bank two months later. This delay made lose the Moroccan company \$120000 due to port charges.</p>
2	<p>M/s. Inquire Health</p> <p>Mr. Atul Chhabra Director</p> <p>+91 88790 99279</p> <p>atul@inquirehealth.com</p>	<p>Customs Duty</p>	<p>M/s. Inquire health, through M/s. Pharmis, an authorized pharmaceutical company in morocco had won tender in 2022 for supply of arvs (of hetero labs) and anti-tb products (dong-a). They are facing an urgent issue as there has been change in custom nomenclature for products, resulting in increase of custom duty from 2.5% (2022 and before) to 40% (from 2023 onwards). This sudden increase in custom duty makes the supply completely nonviable. Hence they have requested Ministry of Health, Morocco for the resolution of the same</p>	<p>The Mission contacted Mr. Chhabra through email explaining that the issue being faced in the custom duties is a policy matter of the local government and that this issue will be raised with the concerned Ministry appropriately.</p>	<p>The owner of the company replied that he is visiting Morocco trying to close this issue with some losses while securing their long term business interests in Morocco. Apparently he cleared the consignment with receiving assurance from the Moroccan side that they will do the needful to review the errors on customs duties on life saving drugs.</p>

3	M/s. Gurukripa Paraboiling Mr.Umang Poddar <u>+91-93200-14800</u> poddarumang@gmail.com;		A shipment of rice exported to Morocco faced some quality issues and the Moroccan importer asked for a discount on the custom duty (68% approx) they have paid for that particular container. The Indian company was looking to understand the duty structure and the total amount paid by the importer to clear the cargo on cash against document payment terms with the aim of determining the appropriate discount to offer.	Embassy requested to share more information on the consignment and also the quality issues flagged by the local lab authorised by ONSSA. As regards the duty, Mission also notified that the importer who is supposed to pay the custom duty of the invoice value including freight.	The reply is yet awaited.
---	---	--	--	--	---------------------------

J. Any other issue of importance (Max. 500 words)

Bilateral

(I). Ambassador H. E Rajesh Vaishnav attended the 15th edition of the International Agricultural Exhibition in Morocco (SIAM) held from 2nd to 7th of May 2023 in Meknes under the theme “Generation green: for a sustainable food sovereignty”. Also, the Mission assisted some leading Indian companies operating in agriculture field specially in organic farming sector participating to 15th edition of SIAM 2023. Those Indian companies are producing eco-friendly products and services to the farming and agro industry sector, basically made from coconut like coco peat, husk ships, coir pots etc. The Mission sent invitations to concerned official bodies including business /trade associates and federations, chambers of commerce as well as Moroccan companies inviting them to visit their stalls.

(II). Ambassador H. E Rajesh Vaishnav spoke and interacted with participants at the prestigious Tech& Start-up event Gitex Africa hosted by Morocco which took place from May 31 to 2 June 2023 in Marrakesh. Indian companies and start-ups participated in big numbers in the exhibition.

Internal

Macro economic indicators

(I). Morocco Unveils First Moroccan Car Brand, Hydrogen Vehicle Prototype

Neo Motors CEO Nassim Belkhayat and NamX President Faouzi Annajah presented a model of the first Moroccan car brand and a hydrogen-powered vehicle prototype to King Mohammed VI during a ceremony at the Royal Palace in Rabat. The projects, developed by Moroccan entrepreneurs, are a significant milestone for the country and will strengthen the “Made In Morocco” label and establish the country as a competitive hub for automotive production. Neo Motors is currently in the process of opening an industrial complex in Ain Aouda, located in the Rabat-Sale-Kenitra Region. The plant is dedicated to manufacturing vehicles for both the local market and for export. The plant is projected to have an annual production capacity of 27,000 units. It was constructed under a budget of MAD 156 million (\$15 million) and is expected to create 580 jobs.

(II). Morocco's King Mohammed VI Chairs Ministerial Meeting, Approves Decrees on Military, International Conventions

King Mohammed VI chaired a Council of Ministers meeting at the Royal Palace in Rabat. The meeting was devoted to approve several draft decrees related to the military and a number of international conventions. The decrees include the launching of the Royal Inter-Army School of Administration, which aims to provide training in administration and finance for officers who have graduated from training establishments of the Royal Armed Forces, as well as personnel from the National Defense Administration and military officers from brotherly and foreign countries.

(III). King Mohammed VI Instructs Government to Invest \$14.3 Billion Additional Budget to Address Water Crisis

The Moroccan government will accelerate the transition to non-conventional water sources, such as desalinated seawater, as part of the National Drinking Water Supply and Irrigation Programme. King Mohammed VI has instructed the government to invest an additional \$14.3 million to address the water crisis. The King has given the approval to increase the budget of the National Programme for Irrigation and Drinking Water Supply 2020-2027 to \$14.33 billion.

(IV). UN Appoints Moroccan Ambassador Hilale Co-Chair of New Coalition for Africa

Morocco's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Omar Hilale, has been appointed co-chair of the new Science, Technology, and Innovation Coalition for Africa (STI). Launched in New York by South Africa as part of Africa Day held on the sidelines of the United Nations ECOSOC's Science and Technology Forum, the Coalition is also headed by the Ambassadors of Ethiopia and Ghana, with the support of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It intends to create a pathway for African states to develop, deploy and expand the use of STI in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Agenda 2030 and the African Union Agenda 2063.

(V). Morocco's Unemployment Rate Rises to 12.9% in First Quarter of 2023

Morocco's unemployment rate rose slightly to 12.9% in the first three months of 2023 from 12.1% in the same period last year as the farming sector continues to shed jobs amid the worst drought in decades, Morocco's statistics agency HCP reported. The unemployment rate was higher among young people at 35.3%. Among graduates it stood at 19.8% and among women 18.1%, HCP said in a quarterly report.

(VI). SIAM: Moroccan, International Companies Showcase Innovative Agriculture Solutions

The 15th edition of the International Agricultural Exhibition in Morocco (SIAM) held under the theme “Generation green: for a sustainable food sovereignty”, has beaten all records, the commissioner of the exhibition, Jaouad Chami. According to his statement, a record of over 923,000 visitors at this edition, noting that the 15th SIAM was deployed on an area of 18 hectares, including 11 ha covered, an increase of 2% compared to 2019. This edition, brought together 70 countries, against 60 in 2019, and which exhibited on a pavilion of over 16,000 square meters, which reflects the importance of the stands set up and the quality of foreign delegations who visited the exhibition.

(VII). Morocco's Trade Deficit Continues to Ease in 2023

After reaching record-high levels in 2022, Morocco's trade deficit is showing signs of recovering, increasing at a slower rate of 13% in the first three months of 2023. According to data from Morocco's foreign trade regulatory authority, Office d'Echange, the country's trade deficit stood at MAD 72.6 billion (\$7.2 billion) at the end of March 2023, compared to MAD 64 billion (\$6.4 billion) a year earlier.

(VIII). Morocco's Automotive Sector Exports Up 44% Exceeding Expectations in 2023

Morocco's automotive sector has outshined other sectors and for the first time car manufacturing overtakes phosphate as the largest exporting sector, data from Office d'Echange (OE) indicates. Over the first three months, exports from Morocco's automotive industry reached (MAD 33.9 billion), marking an impressive 44% year-on-year increase. Meanwhile, Morocco's phosphate exports dipped by 25% in the first three months of 2023, OE data indicates. At the end of the first three months of 2023, phosphate exports totaled MAD 18.3 billion (\$1.8 billion), down from MAD 24.5 billion (\$2.4 billion) a year ago, the OE report shows. The drop in phosphate exports is due to plunging fertilizers prices on the international market.

(IX). Morocco Top African Investor in France

Morocco currently ranks as the top African investor in France, as the European country continues to be the most attractive country in Europe for foreign direct investment, according to a report published by E&Y on May 11. In 2022, France received a total of 60 investments from Africa, mainly from North Africa. The EY report shows that Moroccan investments created 682 jobs, and were behind 12 ventures in France at the end of 2022. Despite the recent hiccup in Morocco-France relations, jobs created by Moroccan investors in France rose by 60% compared to the previous year.

(XII). EBRD Report: Morocco's GDP to Reach Pre-Pandemic Levels with 3.2% Growth in 2024

Morocco's economy is set to experience a rebound, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projected to grow by 3.1% in 2023, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) reported in its latest Regional Economic Prospects forecast. The recovery can be attributed to the revival of the agriculture sector and a moderation in inflation, as well as Morocco's removal from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Grey List which provides a boost to investor confidence, the report noted. In its report, the EBRD predicts that Morocco will continue its growth trajectory in 2024, reaching pre-pandemic levels with a projected growth rate of 3.2%.

Morocco- External

(I). UK, Morocco Sign MoU to Boost Agricultural Cooperation

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the sector of agriculture and rural development was signed, between Morocco and the United Kingdom at the end of the Forum on Morocco-UK cooperation, held on the sidelines of the opening of the 15th edition of the International Agricultural Exhibition in Morocco (SIAM). This MoU declares the common will to cooperate on scientific research, resilience to climate change, capacity building and agricultural innovation.

(II). 14th Portugal-Morocco High Level Meeting to Boost Strategic Partnership

Morocco and Portugal signed, on May 12, 2023 in Lisbon, 12 agreements in a number of strategic fields with the aim of strengthening bilateral cooperation. These agreements are in the areas of economic, energy, cultural, higher education, crafts, social solidarity and justice fields. Morocco and the Portuguese group specializing in textiles,

(III). Russia Heading Towards Exempting Arab Countries from Visa Requirement

In a sign of continuing rapprochement between Russia and Arab countries, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister and the Russian president's special envoy for the Middle East and Africa, announced during the 14th Russia-Islamic World International Economic Forum in Kazan, Russia, that Russia is considering exempting citizens from Arab states from visa requirements.

(IV). Morocco, Belgium's Wallonia Region Forge Strategic Partnership Across Five Key Areas

During the 8th session of the Permanent Joint Commission, which took place in Rabat, Morocco and Belgium's Wallonia Region have decided to collaborate in five key fields to strengthen bilateral relations and establish a strong strategic partnership. It focused mainly on areas of partnership for the period of 2023-2027, namely education, scientific research, culture, the water-energy nexus, and entrepreneurship.

(V). Morocco-Israel Trade Reaches \$13.8 Million in January 2023

Trade between Morocco and Israel saw an increase of 626.32% in January 2023 compared to the same period last year. New data from the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics shared by the Abraham Accords Peace Institute shows that trade between the two countries reached \$13.8 million in January 2023.

(VI). Morocco, Saudi Arabia Consider Launching Joint Fund to Boost Cooperation

The Moroccan-Saudi Business Council is reportedly considering the establishment of a joint fund to support medium and small-sized companies for export and investment in both countries. The aim behind creating such a fund would be to increase intra-trade between the two countries.

OCP, Fertilizer and Phosphate news

(I). Morocco's OCP Finalizes Acquisition of 50% Stake in GlobalFeed

Morocco's OCP Group, a world-leading fertilizer producer, has announced that it has finalized the acquisition of a 50% stake in GlobalFeed from Spanish fertilizer producer Fertinagro Biotech. The Moroccan company issued a press release on the finalization of the acquisition, noting that GlobalFeed operates in the production and distribution of phosphate products dedicated to animal nutrition. Through this transaction, the fertilizer group aims to strengthen the positioning of the OCP Group in the sector of

products dedicated to animal nutrition, to expand their geographical presence and to increase GlobalFeed's production capacity to reach 400,000 tonnes by 2027.

(II). Morocco's OCP, Ghanaian Government Complete Initial Studies for \$1.3 Billion Fertilizer Plant

Morocco's phosphate giant, OCP Group, and Ghana's government have completed the initial studies, known as front end engineering design (FEED), relating to the construction of a \$1.3 billion fertilizer complex in Takoradi in the Western Region of Ghana.

(III). OCP Africa Levels Up Efforts to Support 180,000 Smallholder Farmers in Rwanda

As part of its long-standing efforts to support smallholder farms on the African continent, OCP Africa signed in Kigali a new Memorandum of Understanding with Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA) and Rwanda Fertilizer Company (RFC). The agreement aims to promote the agro-input use and increase market access for over 180,000 smallholder farmers in the agricultural value chain. The agreement also covers the launch of the OCP School Lab, a body that seeks to allow 30,000 farmers to be trained on agricultural practices over a period of one year.

Companies

(I). Morocco, GOTION High-Tech Team Up to Build Africa's 1st Electric Car Battery Gigafactory

The Moroccan government and Chinese-European electric mobility company GOTION High-Tech signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a gigafactory dedicated to producing electric car batteries and energy storage systems, the first of its kind in Africa. The project, estimated to cost MAD 65 billion dirhams (\$6.4 billion), aims to strengthen Morocco's position as a leader in the automotive industry in Africa.