

RIY/E&C/201/3/2023

Embassy of India

Riyadh

Monthly Commercial Report : June 2023

Overview

Saudi Arabia's real gross domestic product (GDP) jumped by 3.8 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 1.4 percent, non-oil activities by 5.4 percent and government services activities by 4.9 percent in the first quarter of 2023, YoY.

The seasonally adjusted real GDP decreased by 1.4 percent in the first quarter of 2023, compared to the fourth quarter of 2022. Most economic activities recorded positive growth rates on an annual basis in Q1/2023. Community, social & personal services activities grew at the highest pace (12.9% y-o-y; 2.6% q-o-q), followed by Transport, storage and communication activities (9.3% y-o-y; 1.1% q-o-q). Wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels activities grew by 7.5% (1.4% q-o-q).

Saudi Arabia's top 5 Trading Partners in April, 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	4810.2	17.5	China	3011.8	19.5
Japan	2990.6	10.8	USA	1331.5	8.6
South Korea	2633.1	9.5	India	903.2	5.8
India	2523.1	9.1	UAE	890.7	5.7
USA	1330.37	4.8	Germany	851.3	5.5

Saudi Arabia's commercial engagements

Saudi Aramco partners with local beekeepers to promote honey production (Reported by Arab News on June 26, 2023) : In an effort to make Saudi Arabia self-reliant on agricultural products, Saudi Arabian Oil Co. has signed a deal to support 600 beekeepers to upgrade their harvesting skills as the Kingdom aims to boost its honey production. The oil company has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Beekeepers Cooperative Association in Rijal Almaa province to provide honey farmers, particularly those with limited income, with comprehensive training and essential resources to improve their production capabilities.

Aramco and TotalEnergies award contracts for \$11bn Amiral project (Reported by Arab News on June 24, 2023) : Aramco and TotalEnergies have awarded engineering, procurement and construction contracts for the \$11 billion Amiral complex, a future world-scale petrochemicals facility expansion at the Kingdom's SATORP refinery.

Saudi EXIM Bank and NBB join hands to boost exports (Reported by Arab News on June 26, 2023) : Bilateral trade between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain entered into an agreement to offer competitive financing to firms involved in the import and export of goods. According to a memorandum of understanding signed between the National Bank of Bahrain and the Saudi Export-Import Bank, also known as Saudi EXIM Bank, NBB will offer competitive financing rates to Bahraini companies importing goods from Saudi Arabia.

Immensa develops \$15m 3D printing center in Saudi Arabia (Reported by Arab News on June 26, 2023) : Businesses in Saudi Arabia can now benefit from increased 3D printing capacity in the Kingdom. Additive manufacturing company Immensa setting up a \$15 million factory in Dammam as part of its regional expansion plans. According to the company statement, the facility — which spans 1,500 sq. meters — will create high-value parts on demand for the petrochemicals, energy, and oil and gas industries.

Saudi Arabia attracts \$61.8m investments in the food industry (Reported by Arab News on June 23, 2023) : Chocolate, yogurt and fish production in Saudi Arabia will increase after investment deals worth SR232 million (\$61.8 million) were signed by the Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones. The organization, also known as MODON, has

awarded seven contracts covering 99,400 sq. meters which will primarily benefit the Kingdom's food and beverage sector.

Saudi – China

Arab-China Conference (Reported by Saudi Press Company on June 24, 2023) : The 10th edition of the Arab-China Business Conference was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 11-12 June, 2023. The first day of the conference featured the signing of US\$10 billion worth of investment agreements, spanning more than 30 deals across an array of sectors. Amongst the most notable agreements signed was a \$5.6 billion agreement between the Kingdom's Ministry of Investment and Human Horizons, a Chinese developer of autonomous driving technology and electric car manufacturer, under the brand HiPhi, to establish a joint venture for automotive research manufacturing and distribution. Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Industry, SABATCO and Hong Kong-based Android developer Hibobi Technology Ltd. were among the other organizations who signed agreements during the conference.

ACWA Power secures \$100m credit facility from Chinese bank to scale up operations (Reported by Arab News on June 25, 2023) : Saudi energy firm ACWA Power secured \$100 million in a revolving credit facility from China Construction Bank. Engaged in collaboration with the Chinese bank since 2016, ACWA Power signed the three-year revolver agreement to scale up its power generation and water desalination portfolio in the Middle East, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Saudi –Estonia

Saudi Arabia and Estonia form business council to bolster economic ties (Reported by Arab News on June 22, 2023) : Deals covering trade, technology and entrepreneurship were signed during a three-day visit by Saudi Arabia's investment minister to Estonia aimed at bolstering strategic partnerships and explore mutually beneficial investment opportunities.

As part of efforts to foster the development and diversification of economic ties between the two countries, the Kingdom's Ministry of Investment also established a business council between the Federation of Saudi Chambers and the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

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 (April 2023)	US\$ 2523.1 Saudi export to India	US\$ 903.2 Saudi import from India	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)
Country's trade with India (April 2023)	US\$ 934.26 India's export to KSA	US\$ 3335.81 India's import from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in)
Country's trade with India	US\$ 1964.7 India's export Apr, 23-May, 23	US\$ 50157.05 India's import till April, 2023 from KSA	Final (Source: www.dgft.gov.in & niryat.gov.in)
Saudi Arabia's total global trade	US\$ 27473.96 (April 2023) (Exports of KSA)	US\$ 15439 (April 2023) (Imports of KSA)	Final (Source: www.stats.gov.sa)

b) Preferential trade in goods

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

<p>on 22nd March 2007 and September 2008 brought about a comprehensive outlook. 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. The Saudi Side has subsequently shared the draft terms of reference for negotiation of FTA on Dec 27, 2021. Both sides committed to the early launch of GCC FTA negotiations during the visits of EAM & CIM to Riyadh in September, 2022. During the visit of GCC, Secretary General on November 24, 2022 to India, an announcement was made of intent to resume talks on India-GCC FTA. During Secretary (CPV & OIA)'s visit to Riyadh for first India-GCC SOM on 20 March, 2023, both sides agreed to continue the negotiations. The matter was taken up by HCIM during his meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister on 22 June, 2023.</p>	
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(Source: based on Certificate of Origin issued by reporting country)

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

Commodity View	Yearly Target (\$Mn)	Achieved (\$Mn)	% Achieved	% Share of Total Export	Target Rate (p.m)	Shortfall (\$Mn)	Required Run Rate(p.m)*
Engineering Goods	3545.17	617.09	17%	31.41%	295	-26	293
Petroleum Products	2186.28	475.87	22%	24.22%	182	-111	171
Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	1624.59	213.64	13%	10.87%	135	57	141
Rice	1248.81	196.23	16%	9.99%	104	12	105
Electronic Goods	504.15	83.62	17%	4.26%	42	0	42
Others	731.91	58.29	8%	2.97%	61	64	67

Ready-made garments of all textiles	418.84	49.44	12%	2.52%	35	20	37
Meat, Dairy And Poultry Products	274.39	43.55	16%	2.22%	23	2	23
Plastic And Linoleum	243.72	38.01	16%	1.93%	20	3	21
Gems And Jewellery	82.87	26.61	32%	1.35%	7	-13	6
Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	174.71	23.11	13%	1.18%	15	6	15
Mica, Coal And Other Ores, Minerals Including Process	141.62	22.91	16%	1.17%	12	1	12
Fruits And Vegetables	163.34	21.62	13%	1.10%	14	6	14
Ceramic Products And Glassware	152.45	17.18	11%	0.87%	13	8	14
Spices	104.74	14.82	14%	0.75%	9	3	9
Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./Madeups Etc.	81.63	12.76	16%	0.65%	7	1	7
Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Madeups, Handloom Products Etc.	61.47	9.12	15%	0.46%	5	1	5
Cereal Preparations And Miscellaneous Processed Item	59.55	8.63	14%	0.44%	5	1	5
Cashew	32.78	7.02	21%	0.36%	3	-2	3
Leather And Leather Manufactures	29.31	4.23	14%	0.22%	2	1	3
Oil Seeds	12.68	3.9	31%	0.20%	1	-2	1

Handicrafts							
Excl. Hand	23.7	3.38	14%	0.17%	2	1	2
Made Carpet							
Coffee	28.85	3.29	11%	0.17%	2	2	3
Tea	28.36	2.99	11%	0.15%	2	2	3
Tobacco	11.07	2.34	21%	0.12%	1	0	1
Marine							
Products	60.15	2.11	4%	0.11%	5	8	6
Other							
Cereals	12.38	1.11	9%	0.06%	1	1	1
Jute Mfg.							
Including							
Floor	6.19	1.06	17%	0.05%	1	0	1
Covering							
Carpet	7.73	0.75	10%	0.04%	1	1	1
Oil Meals	12.19	0.02	0%	0.00%	1	2	1
Iron Ore	0	0	0%	0.00%	0	0	0
Total	12065.63	1964.7	16%	100%	1006	49	1013

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

- (i) Iron Ore (16.67%)
- (ii) Oil Meals (16.50%)
- (iii) Marine Products (13.16%)

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

- (i) Gems and Jewelry (15.44%)
- (ii) Oil Seeds (14.08%)
- (iii) Petroleum Products (5.10%)

c.3. 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.	Mineral Fuels, Mineral Oils And Products Of Their Distillation; Bituminous Substances; Mineral Waxes. (HS Code: 27)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 238.06 Million showing increase as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 180.77 Million)
2.	Cereals (HS Code: 10)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 90.17 Million showing increase as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 76.67 Million)
3.	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 87.39 Million showing increase as

	and accessories thereof. (HS Code: 87)	compared to April 2022 (US\$ 57.64 Million)
4.	Organic Chemicals (HS Code: 29)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 76.50 Million showing increase as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 77.23 Million)
5.	Copper And Articles Thereof. (HS Code: 74)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 74.85 Million showing increase as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 6.49 Million)
6.	Gems and <i>Jewelry</i> (HS Code: 71)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 6.90 Million showing decrease as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 9.53 Million)
7.	Textiles (HS Code:- 42, 52, 63)	Value of Saudi import of the item from India during April 2023 is US\$ 2.12 Million showing increase as compared to April 2022 (US\$ 2.66 Million)

1. Market Access Alerts:

(a) Alerts on customs tariff changes

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

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

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

Base metals (Inc. steel, iron, aluminum, zinc)	5-12%	5-15%
Building materials	15-12%	5-10%
Ceramic	10-15%	5-12%

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Description : As per the recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health, Article No. (8) and (9) of the constitution of the Health of Aquatic Animals, the

SFDA issued a resolution No. (20576) dated 14th March 2023, imposing a temporary ban on the import of shrimp from India, until the Indian side provides the assurance that the White Spot Syndrome Virus will not be transmitted to the fisheries in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Mission is in coordination with SFDA & MPEDA for early removal of the ban.

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

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

Description : Indian 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 by 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, CoC issuance entities will be appointed on recommendation of APEDA. SFDA agreed and informed that they are contemplating on reducing the frequency of CoC requirement for individual exporters, which will reduce the cost incurred by them. The MoC 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. The matter was taken up by HCIM during his meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister on 22 June, 2023.

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

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

Details of products/ sectors affected : Battery products

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

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

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

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

(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. The report state that there is no imposition on container board papers from India.

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

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

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

3. Trade and Investment:

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

S. No.	Category	Details of significant trends (Max.200 words)	Analysis (Max. 200 words)
1.	Trade in Goods	India Saudi bilateral Trade FY 2022-23	India's export in FY 2022-23 was marked at US\$ 10.67 bn with a growth of 22% when compared to FY 2021-22 exports which were marked at US\$ 8.64 bn and 0.4% higher than the set target of 10.22 bn under Target 400 initiative.
2.	Trade in Services	N.A	N.A.
3.	Investment	Indian FDI in Saudi Arabia is US\$ 2 billion up to October 2021. Saudi FDI in India: US\$ 3.14 billion (March 2022) 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 140 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)

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

S. No	Activity Name	Remarks
1	Inauguration of L&T's Wall Pressure Vessel Facility in Jubail, June 22, 2023	Second Secretary, Commerce, attended the inauguration of L&T's Heavy Wall Pressure Vessel Facility in Jubail. The event had attendance of senior representatives of ARAMCO

		and Royal Commission of Jubail and Yanbu.
2	HCIM held VC with Saudi Commerce Minister, June 22, 2023	HCIM held VC with Saudi Commerce Minister and discussed avenues for enhancing bilateral trade & investment ties to further strengthen the India-Saudi economic partnership
3	Ambassador participated in the inauguration of Lulu Mart at the Diplomatic Quarter, June 22, 2023	Ambassador joined H.E. Waleed El Khereji, Vice Minister and other Ambassadors for inauguration of Lulu Mart at the Diplomatic Quarter. It is a welcome initiative which make more Indian products available for the Diplomatic community in Riyadh.
4	Second Secretary, Commerce met with Business Development Analyst, Ministry of Investment, June 21, 2023	Second Secretary, Commerce met Mr. Mohammed A. Al Ajaji Business Development Analyst, Ministry of Investment and discussed potential investment collaborations and other issues of mutual interest.
5	Visit to Saudi Food Show 2023, June 20, 2023	Ambassador accompanied by Second Secretary, Commerce and inaugurated the Indian corner and also visited the stalls of Indian companies participating in Saudi Food Show 2023
6	Ambassador met Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture, June 20, 2023	Ambassador Dr Suhel Khan met with Dr. M J Khan Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture. They discussed India-Saudi trade & cooperation opportunities in Food & Agri sectors.
7	Ambassador met with the representatives of Allana Group, June, 19, 2023.	Ambassador Dr Suhel Khan met with Mr Irfan Allana of renowned Allana Group. The Group is active in Saudi Arabia in Food and other sectors and also forms an important trade linkage between India and Saudi Arabia.
8	Ambassador met with Advisor to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Special Representative of the State for Middle & Far East, June 18, 2023.	Amb. Dr Suhel Khan met with Shri Zulfi Ravdjee, Advisor to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh & Special Representative of the State for Middle & Far East. Shri Ravdjee expressed a keen desire of the State to intensify business & investment engagements between the State and Saudi Arabia.
9	Ambassador interacted with Indian businessman & former chancellor Mr. Zafar Sarehwala June 17, 2023	Ambassador met with Indian businessman & former chancellor Mr. Zafar Sarehwala and discussed emerging opportunities for Indian businesses in Saudi Arabia.

10	Ambassador interacted with Kashmir's Industrialists and Business Community in India, June 2 , 2023.	Ambassador interacted with Kashmir's Industrialists and Business Community and discussed on significant milestone in promotion of trade, exports
11	JK Lt Governor met with Ambassador, June 2 , 2023.	JK Lt Governor met Ambassador at Raj Bhawan. Then duo discussed unlocking the export potential of J&K, further strengthening trade ties, exploring new opportunities and greater investment in the Union Territory.
12	Ambassador met with NASSCOM	The Ambassador met with the Startup IT Companies, CEOs of unicorns and NASSCOM representatives in Bangalore and discussed on initiatives in increasing IT export/services to KSA
13	AMBASSADOR met with SABIC representatives in India , May 30, 2023	Ambassador visited SABIC Technology Center and discussed on the leadership and overview of SABIC. The Ambassador also toured the facility with SABIC representatives

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/-	12,11,753.54	1,74,408.46	MEED Subscription
CGI, Jeddah	Rs. 10,00,000/-		NIL	NIL

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.
Hasan Al-Madkhali	Hisham Ali Hassan Madkhali Trading	VJS Pharmaceuticals Private Limited 3382, D.B.	The Saudi company made a payment of \$79,560 to the account of VJS Global	The company has been directed to register their dispute/complaint on

	Est.Fahd District, Najran, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Gupta Road, Ground Floor, Ashoka International Hotel, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, Postal Code: 110005, India Phone number: +91- 9871377778,	Network Pvt. Ltd. on April 10, 2022, for the purchase of perfumes, Henna products, and Shampoo. It was agreed that the goods would be shipped within three months. However, the Indian company has not delivered the shipment yet to the Saudi company.	DGFT Portal vide email dated 11 June, 2023.
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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
