

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 MARCH 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.

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

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	4

		accessories of such articles	
10.	79	Zinc and articles thereof	2

* Source: Exchange Office, Morocco

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

Financial year (Apr 2022- Jan 2023)

<https://tradedstat.commerce.gov.in/meidb/cntcom.asp?ie=e>

Name of goods -HSN Code	Export from India Apr- Jan 2022 USD Million	Export from India Apr - Jan 2023 USD Million	% change
Vehicles other than tramway; railways rolling stock and parts and accessories thereof; mechanical Chapter 87	86.76	145.42	67.61
Mineral Fuel/Petroleum Chapter 27	2.56	106.61	4,059.65
Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, parts thereof chapter 84	35.77	58.51	63.58
Man Made filaments Chapter 54	50.79	50.73	-0.12
Electrical Machinery and Equipment and parts thereof; Chapters 85	95.44	42.40	-55.58
Plastic and articles thereof Chapter 39	42.90	41.71	-2.79
Pharmaceutical Products Chapter 30	46.70	39.28	-15.89
Cotton Chapter 52	38.77	37.21	-4.02
Man Made staple fibers. Chapter 55	36.56	31.00	-15.21
Coffee, tea, spices Chapter 9	34.98	26.39	-24.55

Source: DGFT.

On a consolidated basis, heavy engineering goods, textile including cotton, automotive, defence, pharma, electronics, spices, rice, organic and inorganic chemicals are key items of export from India to Morocco,

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

Financial year (Apr 2022- Mar 2023)

	Commodity View	Total Exports Apr'22- Mar 23 (\$M)
1.	Engineering Goods	342.89
2.	Petroleum Products	195.71
3.	Man-Made Yarn/Fabs./Madeups Etc.	101.13
4.	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	61.21
5.	Cotton Yarn/Fabs./Madeups, Handloom Products Etc	57.27
6.	Plastic And Linoleum	57.11
7.	Organic and Inorganic Chemicals	41.29
8.	Spices	38.35
9.	Mica, Coal and other Ores, Minerals	37.57
10.	Electronic Goods	33.69

Source: Niryat, Government of India

In the current financial year, while demand for engineering goods, petroleum and agri commodities remained strong, there has been some demand slow down in chemicals, pharma and electronic goods. Indian exports have diversified from the traditional exports like textiles, cotton and spices and new commodities /goods are being exported to Morocco, signifying the broadening base of the Indian exports in the Moroccan market.

(ii) Qualitative Feedback

Market Access Alerts:

Mission has come across of a fraudulent activity faced by an Indian company regarding export shipment of marble from India. The importer released the documents fraudulently. Mission has taken suitable steps in this regard including liaison with importer and informing the local MoFA requesting that the necessary action against these importers may kindly be taken including resolution of the complaints of the Indian exporters and payment of their dues.

(a) Alerts on customs tariff changes:

S. No	Notification no./ date	Measure	HS Codes	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.	Circular No. 6442/232 March 24 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of certain tires for QUAD and BUGGY.	40.11.10	From March 24, 2023	- The concerned tires are classified, by application of GIR 1 and 6, under subheading 40.11.10 of the Harmonized System, heading 4011.10.90.00 of the import tariff.
2.	Circular No. 6436/232 March 8 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of the products named "Sodium sulfate anhydrous sodium sulfate, Na ₂ SO ₄ " and "Benzenesulfonic acid, 4-C10-13 sec alkyl derivs".	2833.11.00.00/3402.31.00.00		- The product named "99% anhydrous sodium sulfate, Na ₂ SO ₄ ", is a disodium sulfate, classified under tariff item 2833.11.00.00; and - The product named "Benzenesulfonic acid, 4-C10-13 sec alkyl derivs", is a surfactant of the family of alkyl benzene sulfonic acids, classified under tariff item 3402.31.00.00,
3.	Circular No. 6435/232 March 8 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of import of a bicycle with electric assistance "VAE with the mark "GUAVA	8711.60		- The bicycle is a cycle equipped with an electric motor and a rechargeable battery whose technical specifications are conform to those of a motor, therefore, it is is classified under subheading 8711.60 of the Harmonized System, heading 8711.60.00.00, by application of GIR 1 and 6. Needless to say that if the above-mentioned components of the bicycle are imported separately, they follow their own regime,
4.	Circular No. 6432/232 March 8 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of an article called "Cardboard sheet". cardboard".	4808.10	From March 8 th , 2023.	- The article is classified, by application of GIR 1 and 6, under subheading 4808.10 of the Harmonized System, heading 4808.10.28.00 of the import tariff. the tariff schedule. 4808.10 of the Harmonized System, heading 4808.10.28.00 of the import tariff.
5.	Circular No. 6430/232 March 07 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of the vehicle named "HK300 CS 2WD".	8704.31	From March 7 th , 2023.	-The vehicle named "HK300 CS 2WD" is a motor vehicle designed primarily for the transport of goods, classified under GIR 1 and 6 in subheading 8704.31 of the Harmonized System, heading 8704.31.80.56 of the import tariff.
6.	Circular No. 6427/232 /232 March 6 th , 2023	Classification in the import duty tariff of a preparation called "Black Mass types: BM4, BM5 and BM6.	3824.99	March 6 th , 2023	- By its composition, use and mode of presentation, the preparation known as "Black Mass" is classified under subheading 3824.99 of the Harmonized System, heading 3824.99.00.99 of the import tariff, by application of GIR 1 and 6.

(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):

Mission received a great response for the first ever India Morocco Business Conference held in Casablanca on March 1, 2023 in association with Casablanca Chamber of Commerce, Services and Industry. More than 150 businessmen attended the event.

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

(d) Number of Business Visas issued in March: 50

50 Business Visas issued for the Month of March 2023 showing a very good number of business exchanges between the both countries as compared to same period last year where only 20 business visas were issued in Mar 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	Pharma Live Expo 2023	01-03 March in Mumbai				
2	Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (JUTEXPO 2023)	02-03 March in Kolkata				
3	SOURCEX India (RBSM) 2023	9-11 March in New Delhi				
4	India Textiles Sourcing Fair	14-16 March in New Delhi				

	(RBSM) 2023					
5	55 th edition of IHGF Delhi Fair (Spring) 2023	15-19 March at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR.				
6	Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference	18 th March at IARI Campus Pusa New Delhi				
7	Third Edition of International SME Convention (ISC)	19-21 March 2023, at EROS Hotel, New Delhi, India.				
8	Rajasthan International Expo	20-22 March in Jodhpur				
9	India Fashion Tex” an International Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM)	20-22 March at The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi, India				
10	Reverse Buyers Sellers Meet (IND-TEXPO 2023)	22-23 March in N. Delhi				
11	14th India International Silk Fair	22-24 March in Gurugram				
12	India Electronics Expo.	27-29 March in New Delhi				

B. Trade and Investment:

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

Trade Scoreboard – Kingdom of Morocco

Trade in goods

Year	Jan-Feb 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Feb 2022 Billion USD	% terms
Imports CIF	11.4	10.2	+11.6
Exports FOB	6.9	6.4	+7.9
Balance of Trade	-4.5	-3.8	

Trade in services

Year	Jan-Feb 2023	Jan-Feb 2022	% terms
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	Billion USD	Billion USD	
Imports CIF	1.7	1.3	+31.4
Exports FOB	3.8	1.9	+88.3
Balance	+2	+0.7	-

Imports of goods by main products

Products	Jan-Feb 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Feb 2022 Billion USD	% increase/ decrease
Energy products (Coals; cokes and similar solid fuels, Gas oils and fuel oils, Petroleum gas and other hydrocarbons)	2	1.6	+29.6
Equipment (Parts of airplanes and other aerial vehicles, Seagoing vessels and other floating devices, Automatic information processing machines.)	2.6	2.2	+16.7
Finished consumer products (Passenger cars, plastics and articles thereof, Seats, furniture, mattresses)	2.3	2	+11.9
Foodstuffs (Wheat, Barley, Milk, dairy products other than butter/cheese)	1.5	1.3	+15.3
Raw products (Crude and unrefined sulfurs, Crude or refined soybean oil)	0.58	0.6	-4.7
Semi-finished products (Ammonia, Chemicals, Plastics)	2.35	2.43	-3.2

Exports of goods by main sectors

Products	Jan-Feb 2023 Billion USD	Jan-Feb 2022 Billion USD	% increase/decrease
Automobile (Construction Wiring, Interior vehicles and seats)	2.2	1.5	+40.5
Electronics and Electricity	0.4	0.3	+36.4

(Electronic components, wire, cables)			
Textile and Leather (garments, footwear, hosiery articles)	0.7	0.6	+15.1
Agriculture and Agri-food	1.6	1.6	+1.3
Aeronautics	0.328	0.326	+0.5
Other mining extractions	0.08	0.07	+20.2
Phosphates and derivatives	1.09	1.47	-25.3
Other industries (Metallurgy and Metalworking, Plastic and rubber industry, pharmaceutical industry)	0.45	0.44	+4.1

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 in Morocco: www.marchespublics.gov.ma
 - Open tender for works :
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=691455&orgAcronyme=o8p>
 - Open tender for stationery:
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=695374&orgAcronyme=q1s>
 - Open tender for Works ONEEBE:
 - <https://www.marchespublics.gov.ma/index.php?page=entreprise.EntrepriseDetailsConsultation&refConsultation=698914&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: 03/2023 Upgrading works on national road n°6 between Dar Essaka and Aidi Allal Bahraoui interchange. - construction of interchange at the intersection of the nr6 with the rp 4039 (Sidi Chafi) and improvement in 2*3 lane of the nr 6 on 1.1 km-Prefecture of Sale- Deadline: 27/04/2023 10:00	Works / levelling work / Roads	55 895 318,40 Dhs equivalent to \$ 5.6 M
2.	Ref: 009/2023/ANCFCC/DOSI Acquisition of computer equipment National Agency for Land Conservation, Cadastre and Cartography Deadline : 26/04/2023 10:00	Stationery	41 233 200,00 Dhs equivalent to \$ 4.1 M
3.	Ref: 07/2023/DR4 Liquid sanitation in the center of Mograne. Lot 3: Wastewater treatment plant, Kenitra ONEEBE - National Office for Electricity and Drinking Water - Water Branch Deadline : 02/05/2023 09:00	Works / Sanitation, drinking water and miscellaneous network works / Purification and treatment works	7 270 658,00 DH equivalent to \$ 0.7 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	Classion Exim	12	Tea herbs spices and herbal oil	Export	Information Supplied
2	Luster Cosmetics	33	Cosmetics and medicines	Export	-do-
3	Snevicorp	20	Jam fruit preserves	Export	-do-
4	Snevicorp	09	Spices	Export	-do-
5	Fit tree International LLP	10	Rice peanuts and sesame seeds spices	Export	-do-
6	Rex International	74	Melting scraps	Export	-do-
7	Nilcore Bath LLP	69	Sanitary wares	Export	-do-
8	SDB Electricals Pvt Ltd	84	Fans	Export	-do-

9	Fluorite International	69	Vitrified tiles	Export	-do-
10	Imperial Agri Export	09	Cumin seed hickpea groundnut coriander seed sesame seed fenugreek seed red chilli fresh vegetable termaric	Export	-do-
11	Bindal Exports Ltd	59	Textiles and garments	Export	-do-
12	Access Power Link	85	Batteries	Export	-do-
13	Chakraborty Overseas.	10	Millets	Export	-do-
14	Textile Aadhar	71	Jari thread yarn	Export	-do-
15	Arex Exporter Company	08	Fresh fruit and vegetables	Export	-do-
16	The Majestic Company	39	Flower products office and school supplies steel products	Export	-do-
17	Jbs International	04	Natural honey	Export	-do-
18	Recon Oil Industries Pvt Ltd	84	Toasted sesame oil machine plant	Import	-do-
19	Ajay Export world	39	Bamboo toothbrushes and bamboos products	Export	-do-
20	Zhoosh Exim LLP	33	Incense sticks	Export	-do-
21	Prisloren Global Care Pvt. Ltd	33	Herbal product	Export	-do-
22	Aems Exports	42	Leathers base products textiles and apparels rice commodities hair oils construction materials	Export	-do-
23	Satcap India	63	Blanket bedsheets towels cushion covers	Export	-do-
24	Indian Masala company	09	Red chilli turmeric finger cumin seeds coriander seeds garam masala nutmeg	Export	-do-
25	Prime Enterprise	85	Domestic mixer grinder and spares parts of the domestic mixer grinder	Export	-do-
26	Vardhaman International	48	Toilet & tissue paper	Export	-do-
27	Amity Global Exim	17	Cane jaggery natural honey spices tomato ketchup & other tomato sauces basmati rice millet fruits	Export	-do-
28	Smith	71	Imitation jewellery	Export	-do-
29	Essence Buildware Pvt. Ltd.	69	Tiles	Export	-do-
30	Gagan Textiles Pvt Ltd.	52	Woven fabrics	Export	-do-

31	Chakraborty Overseas	48	Toilet paper roll labels and stickers	Export	-do-
32	Arex Exporter	61	T-shirt of cotton, t-shirt of syn fabrics, T-shirt of other fabrics	Export	-do-
33	Sagi	61	Ladies wear men wears & kid wears	Export	-do-
34	Global Trade House	10	Pearl millet	Export	-do-
35	Jyoti CNC Automation Ltd.	84	CNC machines	Export	-do-
36	Dononman International	96	Sanitary pads	Export	-do-
37	Sukalp Pla Fab Granuale	39	Plastic tarpaulin	Export	-do-
38	Allies Overseas	95	Construction material	Export	-do-
39	Fahima Global Exports	09	Spices	Export	-do-
40	Am Home Care	38	Mosquito repellent and home care product	Export	-do-
41	Ganga Food	07	dried onion	Export	-do-
42	Goldiva Technology Pvt Ltd	87	Auto mobile spare aero space medical instrument	Export	-do-
43	Hm Web House Private Limited Web	48	Newspaper printers book printers and publishers	Export	-do-
44	Fit Tree International LLP	12	Rice oil seed peanuts and sesame seeds spices	Export	-do-
45	Pavaneesh Exports Pvt Ltd	52	Raw cotton bales	Export	-do-
46	Jitendra gupta	04	Natural honey	Export	-do-
47	Rk Global Exporter	07	Vegetables like onions and potatoes	Export	-do-
48	Global Victus	95	Sports wear sports equipment's & sports footwear	Export	-do-
49	Fogla Corp	33	Home and personal care products	Export	-do-
50	Jp Groups	68	Black galaxy granite and steel grey ruby red	Export	-do-
51	Global 3	15	Fruits fresh vegetables edible oil flour women garments fabrics	Export	-do-
52	Streamflowexims	85	Electric wire	Export	-do-
53	Mansa Exports	27	Grease lubricants and oil related product	Export	-do-
54	Sp Export	07	Egg onion tomato and potatoes rice stone kota	Export	-do-
55	Packing Solutions	48	Corrugated boxes	Export	-do-
56	ITC Limited	09	Spices	Export	-do-

57	Agrito Export Pvt. Ltd.	07	Agro products like seeds & nuts whole spices ground spices dry fruits pulses & grains and herbs	Export	-do-
58	Nico Flex Pvt. Ltd.	39	PP / HDPE woven bags / sacks	Export	-do-
59	Ease Expo	48	Cartoon boxes cases bags packing containers of paper board cellulose wadding box files letter trays and other similar items of paper or paper board of a kind used in office shops	Export	-do-
60	Viyank International	61	Apparel & garments having different varieties like Shirts t-shirts denim track pants	Export	-do-
61	Jay Chemical Industries Private Limited	32	Dyes & dyes	Export	-do-
62	NVM Exim Private Limited	17	Jaggery powder	Export	-do-
63	Santo Group	09	Spices and nuts	Export	-do-
64	Somnath Cable Limited	85	Electrical wire and cable	Export	-do-
65	A.K. Chudgar	52	Raw cotton bales	Export	-do-
66	Vallabh Pumps Pvt. Ltd.	84	Fabricated sheet metal submersible pumps motors & winding wires	Export	-do-
67	Tradewise Indian Exporter Private Limited	90	Surgical products	Export	-do-
68	Power Transmi-tech Engineers	17	Sugar	Export	-do-
69	Allies Overseas	10	Rice	Export	-do-
70	Pandya Rexports	68	Granite & marble slabs	Export	-do-
71	Zenwell Healthcare	09	Spices	Export	-do-
72	IMAEC Medntek	90	Medical devices hospital supplies and hygiene products	Export	-do-
73	Somany Group	69	Ceramic tiles & bathware	Export	-do-
74	Aspira Global Impex	65	Bike helmets ceiling fans / pedestrian fans / switches	Export	-do-
75	HMT International Limited	84	Machine tools and industrial machinery printing machinery spares	Export	-do-
76	Sunshine international	83	Door and architectural hardware	Export	-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)

Pl see para 10 below

C. Tourism

(a) Tourist Visa issued in March 2023

S.No.	No. of tourist visa issued during the month Mar 2023	No. of tourist visa issued during the same month last year Mar 2022	No. of tourist visa issued cumulatively during the year Jan- March 2023	No. of tourist visa issued cumulatively during the last year Jan-Dec 2022
1.	29	32	140	628

(b) Indian Tourism Promotion Events held / organized:

During the recently held India Morocco Business Conference, Indian tourism was promoted by way of showcasing India as a great tourism destination as well as portraying Indian company M/s Oberoi Hotels Marrakesh.

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

Activity	Print	Electronic	Twitter	Facebook	Instagram	Youtube	Any other
No. of posts			11	6	0		
No. of impressions			13	0	0		
No. of likes			44	158	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: India Morocco Business Conference organized in Casablanca on March 1, 2023.

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

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Fertilizers took place on March 10, 2023 during which Indian side and OCP discussed ways and means to further elaborate bilateral cooperation in the fertilizer sector.

Mission is in constant touch with the Foreign Office and following up with Indian counterparts on a number of issues discussed in last Joint Commission Meeting as well as follow up on joint committee/joint working groups on a number of area including health, agriculture, water resources, mines & minerals among others. Mission is also pursuing for holding the first Joint Working Group meeting on tariff and non tariff barriers etc.

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
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1	<p>Palvi Industries Limited</p> <p>Manoj Pillai General Manager-Exports</p> <p>+919825032403</p> <p>Tel.no. Direct:+91-265-2796404</p> <p>manoj@palvichemical.com</p> <p>www.palvichemical.com</p>	<p>Top Negoce</p> <p>David Azogui General Manager</p> <p>+212 661174862</p> <p>direction@topnegoce.com</p> <p>www.topnegoce.com</p>	<p>The Moroccan company discussed an order of 7 fcls with Palvi on March 2020 under DP at sight terms without sales contract. The Indian company shipped the consignment without sending original documents to the bank. The cargo reached Casablanca Port on May 2020, while original documents arrived to the Moroccan bank 23 days later. This resulted into high detention charges and demurrage at the port. The both companies didn't agree about the payment of these charges. Top Negoce has been placed in CGCC's adverse list of. Th Moroccan company was requesting to be removed from this list.</p>	<p>The Mission sent an email to the Indian company requesting explanations about the case.</p>	<p>The Indian company replied that they have faced difficulties at the time of lock down and couldn't find any amicable solution with the Moroccan company. Subsequently, they contacted ECGC for the claim.</p>
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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
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1	<p>JP Group's Indian Natural Stones Manufacturing & Export</p> <p>Mr. Shaik Khadar Jaheer Managing Director</p> <p><u>+91 7013227335</u></p> <p><u>ipstonegroups@gmail.com</u></p>	<p>Stragemac</p> <p>Mr. Oizani</p> <p>61, Av Lalla Yacout, El Maani, 2^{ème} étage Casablanca</p> <p><u>+212 771-590866</u> <u>+212 645-514540</u></p> <p>ouazzanigranite@gmail.com</p>	<p>The Indian company, M/s. JP Group's had supplied 3 containers of black galaxy granite worth US\$ 34857 to M/s. Stragemac on 31/01/2023.</p> <p>The payment terms were 100% CAD via bank. The importer took the papers from the bank (Al Barid Bank which is not an international bank) and released the cargo without making the payment.</p> <p>Also, the Indian exporter informed us that he tried to reach the importer by phone however there has been no response.</p>	<p>The Embassy contacted through phone the Moroccan importer however there was no response.</p> <p>As the importer didn't have importer's email ID, the Mission has made attempts to get it. It appeared that Stragemac and Oizani Granite have the same owner. Many Emails have been sent to the owner requesting to make the payment at the earliest.</p>	<p>The importer is not responding neither to our calls nor replying to our emails. Matter has been referred to MoFA for looking into the matter.</p>
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J. Any other issue of importance (Max. 500 words)

Bilateral

(I) First meeting of the JWG on Fertilizer :

The first meeting of the Joint Working Group between India and OCP was held virtually on March 10, 2023. The Indian side was led by Ms Neerja Adhidham, Additional Secretary while Moroccan side was led by Mr Soufyane ElKassi head of SBU and CEO of Nutricorp Ltd(a subsidiary of OCP). Both sides discussed on a range of issues, including strategic reserves, preferential pricing, R&D cooperation and customised fertilizer and also discussed investment from both sides to strengthen relations between two countries in the field of fertilizers.

(II) India Morocco Business Conference

Embassy of India in association with Casablanca-Settat Chamber of Commerce, Industry & services organized India-Morocco Business Conference on March 1, 2023 in Hotel Marriott Casablanca. The event was addressed by Ambassador Rajesh Vaishnaw and President of Chamber Mr. Hassan Berkani. There were interesting presentations by business leaders from both countries which further provided an opportunity to strengthen India Morocco trade relations in different sectors (pharmaceutical industry, Information Technologies, Tourism, etc.). The conference was well attended by prominent companies and businesses from Morocco and India as well as many Moroccan officials from different Moroccan administrations (customs etc.), federations and associations,

(III) Bilateral Cooperation in Digital Payment:

Official from National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) met officials from Bank Al-Magrib in the month of March 2023 and discussed proposal for developing a real-time payment system in Morocco and sharing India's experience of achieving financial inclusion through UPI platform. Moroccan side is keen to have a digital payment solutions and is in constant touch with NPCIL to have a country specific payment solution gateway like UPI and RuPay.

Macro economic indicators

(I) Agriculture: EU's Wheat Exports to Morocco Hit Record High

The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's quarterly report showed that Morocco recorded the largest decrease in cereal production in North Africa in 2022. Morocco's output was estimated at nearly 3.3 million tonnes, a sharp 60% decrease from the average of 8.5 million tonne in 2021, due to the drought that the country experienced in 2022.

In the 2022/2023 agriculture season, Morocco has become the biggest importer of wheat from the European Union amid declining supplies from eastern Europe and the 2022 drought. According to data Morocco is set to import 1.5 million tonnes of soft wheat between March and May 2023.

(II) Tourism Revenues to Reach Record \$10 Billion in 2023

The Minister of Tourism, Handicrafts, and Social Economy, Fatim-Zahra Ammor, has said that new roadmap of tourism 2023-2026 has put tourism at the heart of national priorities and aims to double the number of arrivals to 26 million tourists by 2030. The country's tourism revenues expected to cross the MAD 100 billion (\$10 Billion) threshold in 2023. The Minister has informed that the government was working on nine major projects to meet the rising demand from tourists. Apart from this, it was also informed that the Government has decided to allocate funding of MAD 6 Billion (\$578,3 million) in next few years. The roadmap aims to attract 17.5 million tourists, generate MAD 120 Billion (\$11,5 billion) in receipts and create 200,000 new jobs by 2026. It may be noted that Moroccan economy depends a lot on tourism sector and tourist arrivals have just reached to pre-covid level in year 2023.

(III) Morocco Requests \$5 Billion Credit Line from IMF

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced this month that its executive board has received from Morocco a \$5 billion credit line request. It is worthy to note that Morocco, after removal from the FATF Grey List, has made serious efforts to secure loans and credits from the international agencies to bridge its trade deficit which is attributed to high energy prices and food import bill.

Apart from that World Bank has also agreed to provide support of USD 250 million to education reforms in the country. The amount is aimed at capacity building at pre school and other areas related to elementary education in the country.

(IV) Consumer Prices in Morocco Continued to Rise in February

Morocco's Consumer Price Index (CPI) —the indicator used to measure national inflation — rose in February 2023, reflecting growing consumer goods prices. Morocco's High Commission for Planning stated that in February, the CPI rose by 1.7% compared to the month before, and by 10.1% year-on-year.

However, the Central Bank of Morocco in its report has indicated that the inflation may moderate in 2023 after reaching record levels in 2022 at 6.6%,. The Central Bank expects average inflation in 2023 at 5.5 %. Following their first quarterly meeting in 2023, BAM announced raising interest rates

for the third time within less than two years, a first since 2006. BAM issued a statement explaining that the board “decided to raise the policy rate by 50 basis points to 3% in order to prevent the onset of self-sustaining inflationary spirals and to avoid the risk of a fall in the price of food.”

(V) Morocco Launches Construction Work of First Lab for Legal Cannabis Industry

Bio Cannat, the first Moroccan cooperative authorized to market and export cannabis and its products for industrial and medical use, launched the construction work for its first laboratory. It may be noted that the Morocco, after a lot of discussion has permitted use of cannabis in various therapeutic purposes.

Morocco- External

i. British Government Studies Viability of Morocco-UK Xlinks Power Project

The UK government issued a policy paper announcing that it was considering the viability of the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project and studying how it could contribute to the country’s energy security. Xlinks power project is aimed at connected power grid connectivity between UK and Morocco through undersea power cable.

ii. Morocco importing diesel from Russia

Morocco’s government acknowledged there has been a noted increase in Russian gas exports to Morocco. The country, amid the EU sanction, has been increasing importing the diesel and petroleum in order to meet the domestic demand. There has been some controversy as well regarding the pricing on which imports are being made by the companies and the price on which it being sold to public, making super normal profits.

iii. Morocco, Cambodia to Expand Cooperation, Sign Air Connectivity Agreement

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Mr. Nasser Bourita, and the Secretary of State for Civil Aviation of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr. Mao Havanall, on March 27, 2023 in Rabat, signed an agreement on the promotion of the aviation system between the two countries.

iv. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands in Morocco to Promote Digital Financial Inclusion

Queen Maxima of the Netherlands was on a working visit to Morocco to promote fintech, the development of digital payment systems and inclusive green finance, among other key financial inclusion issues. Throughout her working visit, she examined how Morocco’s fintech sector could progress, including support for technology that could help address risks, costs, and geographic barriers to financial services in Morocco.

OCP, Fertilizer and Phosphate news

i. Morocco’s OCP Records \$11 Billion Turnover in 2022 and to Pay \$750 Million Dividends to Government

Morocco’s state-owned phosphate giant OCP Group recorded an annual turnover of more than MAD 114.57 billion (\$11 billion) in 2022, marking a 36% year-on-year increase. Despite of the low output volume, the company has clocked record turnover due to very high prices of phosphate and fertilizer.

OCP Group has also announced that it will pay \$750 million in dividends to the Moroccan government.

Companies

i. Dacia to Manufacture its First Hybrid Car in Morocco

The car manufacturer Renault Group unveiled its first hybrid model “Dacia Jogger” and announced plans to launch production at its Tangier plant in northern Morocco in the second quarter of 2024. The new line of production is expected to produce up to 120,000 vehicles and marks a precedent for Morocco in the manufacturing of hybrid cars. Converging reports indicate that the production is set to use thirty robots for assembly operations.

ii. Automotive Supplier Aptiv Inaugurates New Plant in Morocco's Oujda

American-Irish automotive supplier Aptiv inaugurated a new production plant in Oujda. With the new opening, the company now has seven factories in Morocco. Located in the Oujda's industrial zone, the plant will specialize in the assembly of electrical harnesses and is set to generate 3,000 direct jobs, according to converging news reports.

iii. Elcora Begins Manganese Mining Operations in Morocco

Canada-based mining company Elcora announced the commencing of Manganese extraction operations in a 16-square-kilometer concession in northern Morocco. In a statement, Elcora mentioned that the already extracted Manganese piles onsite contain about 5,500 metric tonnes of Manganese ore. “This allows Elcora to sort, process and sell manganese ore as of today in order to meet customers' expectations,” the company stated.

iv. Morocco Receives First Heavy Electric Truck in Africa

Swedish car manufacturer Volvo delivered its first heavy electric truck to Morocco. The vehicle marks the first heavy battery-electric truck from a global manufacturer to be in commercial operation in Africa. The electric truck will be used for collecting waste and will replace the existing Volvo FE diesel truck. The new vehicle will save approximately 30 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year, according to a statement from Volvo.

v. Energy Company TAQA to Invest \$1.6 Billion Into Morocco's Green Future

Subsidiary of Abu Dhabi National Energy Company TAQA has announced that it will invest \$1.6 billion in the country's green energy projects by 2030, as per the media reports. One of the projects includes creating a seawater desalination facility to help resolve water supply issues.