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## **GOA EXPLORES THE CONCEPT OF EACH DISTRICT BEING AN EXPORT HUB**

Exports from Goa have progressively expanded over the years; however, the COVID 19 pandemic slowed things down considerably. It is thus imperative that corrective measures are taken and bold initiatives introduced to get Exports from Goa back on track. In this backdrop, World Trade Center Goa was invited to participate in a unique Virtual Conference with the objective of understanding the current set up, identify bottlenecks prevailing in Panaji, North Goa and also identify the potential products that can be exported. Mr. Ramesh Holeyachi, Joint DGFT, in his address mentioned that this project was the initiative of DGFT in response to Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of making each district an export hub. Mr. Holeyachi also mentioned that Goa has many Industrial Estates and the industries that are located in these estates have the capacity to substantially contribute to exports from Goa. Ms. Manisha Jha, Assistant Director, FIEO, in her presentation, highlighted the export potential of Goa. She pointed out that in relation to exports, Goa stood at the 18th position among all the states in India. Ms. Jha also mentioned that Pharmaceuticals, Cashew, Marine Products along with IT and Tourism are some of the key areas of attention that Goa needs to focus on. Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director - Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, in his speech informed the delegates that WTC Goa is a member of World Trade Centers Association, which has a network of 319 WTCs in over 92 countries, thus connecting over a million businesses. This network according to Mr. Desouza would help the members of WTC Goa find ready overseas buyers world over. Mr. Mangurish Salelkar, President, Goa Technology Association, highlighted the lack of good internet connectivity in Goa and said that co working spaces for 10-15 people can be created so that good network connectivity can be made available to them. Speaking on behalf of the pharmaceutical sector, Mr. Praveen Khuller, President, Goa Pharma Manufacturers' Association emphasized that there is an urgent need to enhance logistics efficiency from Goa. He also suggested the need for introducing Subsidies and Tax Benefits that would attract more Pharmaceutical Manufacturers to Goa. Mr. Satyajit Bhattacharjee, Founder cum Secretary, Goa Air Cargo Association, in his address updated on the progress of the Multi Modal Logistics Park that is being set up at Balli in South Goa. He spoke on the Pharma Village concept that is under consideration be set up at the upcoming Mopa Airport in North Goa. Mr. Bhattacharjee also called for more feedback as this would help them make best use of the facilities which are presently available at Dabolim Airport Goa.

The Webinar was held on February 25, 2021.