

Ministry of Commerce & Industry



Government approves RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) – an intervention under Export Promotion Mission to support exporters amid West Asia logistics disruptions

Flexible EPM framework enables timely response to extraordinary freight, insurance and war-risk escalation

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Recent developments, including heightened security concerns around the Strait of Hormuz, have led to vessel diversions, longer sailing routes, congestion at transshipment hubs and emergency conflict-linked surcharges. These developments have increased logistics costs and created operational uncertainty for export consignments moving to or through the region.

In view of the evolving geopolitical situation in West Asia and its impact on maritime logistics across the Gulf region, the Government has approved a time-bound and targeted intervention called RELIEF – Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM). The intervention is aimed at supporting Indian exporters affected by extraordinary freight escalation, heightened insurance premia and war-related export risks arising from disruptions in the Gulf and wider West Asia maritime corridor.

The approval of RELIEF reflects the Government's commitment to respond swiftly to external disruptions affecting India's trade flows.

As part of the coordinated whole-of-government response to the crisis situation, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on Supply Chain Resilience is operationalised on March 02, 2026 to monitor the situation and coordinate facilitation measures. The IMG commenced daily review meetings from March 03, 2026, bringing together multiple Ministries/Departments, financial institutions, logistics stakeholders and exporter associations. Based on IMG deliberations, several operational measures were implemented, including procedural relaxations for

stranded cargo movement, enhanced coordination at ports, waivers of storage and dwell time charges for affected cargo at the ports, advisories to promote transparency in shipping line pricing, and strengthened monitoring of insurance risk developments and inland logistics movement. These coordinated efforts helped ensure real-time assessment of ground-level challenges and supported the design of a targeted financial-risk mitigation intervention.

RELIEF has been structured to provide support across the export cycle by covering the shipments already left during the disruption period as well as prospective exports planned to the affected region.

Under the approved framework, ECGC Ltd. (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.), wholly owned by Government of India (Ministry of Commerce & Industry), has been designated as the nodal and implementing agency responsible for verification, claim processing, disbursement and monitoring. ECGC's established experience in providing export credit risk cover against commercial and political risks, including war-related contingencies, is expected to ensure credible and timely delivery of assistance.

The RELIEF intervention comprises the following 3 complementary components covering consignments destined to countries in the region such as United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and Yemen, meant either for delivery or for transshipment:

- First, exporters who have already obtained ECGC credit insurance cover for eligible consignments will benefit from upto 100% risk coverage, over and above the existing ECGC cover, during the eligible period (February 14, 2026 till March 15, 2026), thereby ensuring enhanced protection without additional financial burden.
- Second, exporters planning upcoming consignments, during the next three months (March 16, 2026 till June 15, 2026), will be encouraged to obtain ECGC cover with Government support for upto 95% risk coverage, over and above the existing ECGC cover, which will help sustain exporter confidence and facilitate continued shipment flows despite logistics uncertainties.
- Third, recognising that some MSME exporters may not have availed credit insurance (February 14, 2026 till March 15, 2026), but are facing extraordinary freight and insurance surcharge burdens, RELIEF includes a partial reimbursement (upto 50%) mechanism for eligible non-ECGC-insured MSME exporters. This support will be extended subject to prescribed conditions, documentary verification and notified ceilings (upto Rs. 50 lakhs per exporter), and is intended to provide timely relief against conflict-related logistics cost escalation.

Implementation of RELIEF under Export Promotion Mission will be undertaken with an approved financial outlay of Rs. 497 Crores under the Mission. ECGC will maintain a dashboard-based monitoring system to enable real-time tracking of claims and fund utilisation. The EPM Steering Committee will periodically review the operation of the intervention in light of evolving geopolitical conditions and may recommend calibrated modification, continuation or withdrawal as necessary.

Through RELIEF, the Government aims to mitigate the immediate impact of logistics disruptions, protect exporter confidence, prevent order cancellations and safeguard employment in export-linked sectors. The intervention also reinforces India's commitment to maintaining resilience and competitiveness in global trade during periods of uncertainty.

Key Highlights of RELIEF under EPM

- Government has approved RELIEF – Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation under the Export Promotion Mission.
- Intervention responds to logistics disruptions and cost escalation in the Gulf and West Asia maritime corridor.
- ECGC will act as nodal implementing agency for risk coverage and reimbursement mechanism.
- RELIEF covers both eligible past shipments and prospective exports, with a strong focus on MSME support.
- Intervention will be funded under EPM and reviewed periodically based on geopolitical developments.

Abhishek Dayal/ Garima Singh/ Ishita Biswas

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Government of India
Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Department of Commerce
Directorate General of Foreign Trade
Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi

Notification No. 65/2025-26

Dated: 19 March 2026

Subject: Time-limited Support for Exporters in view of Geopolitical Disruptions in the Gulf and West Asia Maritime Corridor – reg.

S.O. (E) – In exercise of powers conferred by Section 3 and section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, read with paragraphs 1.02 and 2.01 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, as amended from time to time, the Central Government hereby notifies a time limited **Support for Indian Exporters, Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF)**, under the Export Promotion Mission(EPM).

Details of the said intervention are submitted at **Annexure** enclosed.

Effect of the Notification: A time-limited **RELIEF intervention under the Export Promotion Mission**, to be implemented through the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), is operationalised to address elevated export risks arising from geopolitical disruptions in the Gulf and West Asia maritime corridor.



(Lav Agarwal)

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(Issued from F. No. 01/02/62/AM-26/EPM)

Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) under Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

1. The **Gulf and West Asia region constitutes a strategically significant trade corridor for India**. Recent geopolitical developments in West Asia, particularly the escalation of tensions involving Iran and the evolving security environment around the **Strait of Hormuz and the wider Gulf maritime corridor**, have led to disruptions in maritime logistics arrangements. Shipping lines and insurers have imposed a number of additional charges on cargo moving through the region, including **Additional War Risk Premiums (AWRP), War Risk Surcharges (WRS), Emergency Conflict Surcharges (ECS)** and other extraordinary freight levies.
2. These developments have resulted in a sudden escalation in outbound logistics costs for exporters, driven by vessel diversions, longer maritime routes, higher insurance premia, and congestion at regional transshipment hubs.
3. Given the strategic importance of the Gulf and West Asia region for India's merchandise exports, prolonged logistics disruptions and extraordinary freight surcharges, a calibrated, time-limited, targeted and exceptional intervention under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), called **RELIEF - Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation**, has been approved to support Indian exporters.
4. The approved intervention – RELIEF - shall consist of **three complementary components** aimed at addressing the principal stress points faced by the exporters, namely: -
 - (i) enhanced war/political risk support for eligible ECGC's already insured exporters;
 - (ii) time-limited support to encourage and facilitate ECGC coverage for eligible exporters for upcoming exports; and,
 - (iii) time-limited reimbursement support for extraordinary freight and insurance surcharge burden borne by eligible non-ECGC-insured MSME exporters in respect of customs-cleared cargo.
5. Given the experience of ECGC in handling export credit risks and claims administration, ECGC shall act as the nodal and implementing agency for the three interventions under RELIEF, including disbursement and verification, in accordance with Government-approved guidelines.



RELIEF Component-I: Export Credit Support for ECGC's already insured exporters

6. This component shall apply to exporters who have already obtained ECGC credit insurance cover and whose consignments are destined, either for delivery or for transshipment, to the specified countries in the affected Gulf and West Asia region and in respect of which onboard bill of lading as well as in case of air shipments where airway bill has been issued during the eligible period.

6.1. ECGC shall ensure that the premium amount for the already ECGC-covered exporters is not increased beyond the pre-disruption level for the eligible period.

6.2. The assistance under this component shall be:

- Applicable for shipments in respect of which onboard bill of lading or airway bill has been issued between **February 14, 2026 – March 15, 2026;**
- Provided for shipments - **Full Container Load (FCL), Less than Container Load (LCL) or Reefer containers (perishable cargo)** - destined for countries such as United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and Yemen for delivery or for transshipment.
- To cover losses arising due to **war-related risks and associated political risks in the affected countries;**
- To enable ECGC to provide enhanced cover of up to 100% of loss, subject to approved terms and verification.
- To reimburse ECGC for the amount that it shall pay to the exporters for such compensation in excess of the amount that is payable under their existing ECGC policy cover.

6.3. The assistance under this component shall not be applicable for back-to-town cargo cases. Such cases shall continue to be covered as per their existing ECGC policy cover. No reimbursement shall be made to ECGC for such cases under this component.

6.4. Government support under this Component-I is estimated at **₹56 crores**, for the limited intervention window under the RELIEF proposal, to enable ECGC to extend compensation up to 100% of loss, over and above the coverage ordinarily admissible under the relevant policy.

RELIEF Component-II: Encourage and facilitate ECGC coverage for Export Credit Support for upcoming exports in the region

7. This Component is meant to encourage exporters to opt for ECGC's credit insurance cover under standalone policies for coverage of their consignments, destined, either for delivery or for transshipment, to the specified countries in the affected Gulf and West Asia region. The back-to-town cargo cases will not be eligible under the component.

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7.1. ECGC shall ensure that the premium paid by the exporters shall not be increased beyond the pre-disruption level for the eligible period.

7.2. Assistance under this component shall be:

- Applicable for shipments in respect of which onboard bill of lading and airway bill is granted between **March 16, 2026 – June 15, 2026** excluding energy shipments to the region;
- Provided for shipments - **Full Container Load (FCL), Less than Container Load (LCL) or Reefer containers (perishable cargo)** - destined for countries such as United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and Yemen for delivery or for transshipment.
- To cover losses arising due to **war-related risks and associated political risks in the affected countries;**
- To enable ECGC to provide enhanced cover up to 95% of loss, subject to approved terms and verification.
- To reimburse ECGC for the amount that it shall pay to the exporters for such compensation in excess of the amount that is payable under the ECGC policy cover.

7.3. The assistance under this component shall not be applicable for back-to-town cargo cases. Such cases shall continue to be covered as per their existing ECGC policy cover. No reimbursement shall be made to ECGC for such cases under this component.

7.4. Government support under this Component-II is estimated at **₹159 crores**, for the limited intervention window under the RELIEF proposal, to enable ECGC to extend compensation up to 95% of loss, over and above the coverage ordinarily admissible under the relevant policy.

RELIEF Component-III: Reimbursement support for extraordinary freight and insurance surcharge borne by eligible non-ECGC-insured MSME exporters

8. Recognising that some **MSME exporters** may not have availed for coverage under ECGC's Credit Insurance Policy, this component shall partially offset losses due to extraordinary logistics costs arising from conflict-related surcharges imposed on Indian exports which are already sailing to the specified countries in the affected Gulf and West Asia regions, either for delivery or for transshipment, for which Onboard Bill of Lading has already been issued for movement to such affected regions.

8.1. Eligible expenditure shall be limited to additional freight or insurance costs borne by the exporter or reduction in realised export proceeds attributable to such extraordinary surcharges, on account of increased freight or insurance costs. This would include:

- War Risk Surcharge (WRS)/Emergency Conflict Surcharge (ECS) or similar levies;
- Additional War Risk Premium (AWRP);
- Additional conflict-related shipping charges linked to maritime route disruptions; and,

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- Additional insurance premiums applicable to cargo shipments.

8.2. Assistance under this component shall be:

- Applicable for shipments in respect of which Onboard Bill of Lading has been granted between **February 14, 2026 – March 15, 2026**;
- Restricted to **Micro, Small and Medium enterprises**, as defined under the MSME classification framework;
- Provided for shipments - **Full Container Load (FCL), Less than Container Load (LCL) or Reefer containers (perishable cargo)** - destined for countries such as United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran and Yemen for delivery or for transshipment.
- For **CIF contracts**, reimbursement of upto **50% of the additional freight and insurance burden actually borne by the exporter**, subject to production of prescribed documentary evidence, shall be provided;
- For **FOB contracts**, reimbursement of upto **50% of the reduction between the contracted FOB value and the realised export proceeds** shall be provided. **The same shall, however, be done** only where such reduction is demonstrably and solely attributable to extraordinary freight or insurance surcharge linked to the present disruption, as evidenced by such documents as may be prescribed, including contractual amendment, debit note, buyer communication, bank realisation record, or equivalent proof.
- The back-to-town cargo cases will not be eligible under the component.

8.3 The total assistance per IEC shall be subject to:

- the extent of actual loss incurred by the exporter in respect of the eligible invoice,
- submission of prescribed documents, and,
- an overall ceiling of **₹50 lakh per exporter** in respect of all eligible consignments under this component.

8.4. The estimated Government support requirement under this Component-III is **₹282 Crores** for the time-limited intervention window under the RELIEF proposal.

9. The total expenditure for the RELIEF intervention to an extent of **Rs.497 Crore** shall be met from the existing budgetary allocation under the Export Promotion Mission, and, shall be made on actuals subject to budget availability, verification, and such operational safeguards as may be prescribed.

10. The **EPM Steering Committee** may review the interventions under RELIEF proposal based on evolving geopolitical conditions and recommend modification, extension or withdrawal of the component as appropriate, including *inter se* transfer of funds among the components as well as prescription of negative list of goods for exclusion from any of the

components of the RELIEF intervention.

11. The claims shall be processed in order of receipt, subject to eligibility, verification, and availability of funds within the approved financial ceiling, and the total Government liability under this intervention shall not exceed the budgetary allocation approved under the Export Promotion Mission. ECGC shall maintain a real-time monitoring dashboard of claims processed and balance funds available under the intervention.

12. The intervention under Export Promotion Mission will support continuity of India's exports to Gulf and West Asia markets during the disruption period, reduce the financial burden of extraordinary freight and insurance costs on exporters, prevent export order cancellations and supply chain disruptions and protect employment and value chains in export sectors.

