

Indo-China Tobacco Export Deal

Paving way for the revival of Indian tobacco exports to the neighbouring China, India and China signed the protocol for export of Indian tobacco leaves to China on January 21, 2019. The protocol was signed during the two-day visit of the Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, to Beijing from 21st to 22nd January 2019.

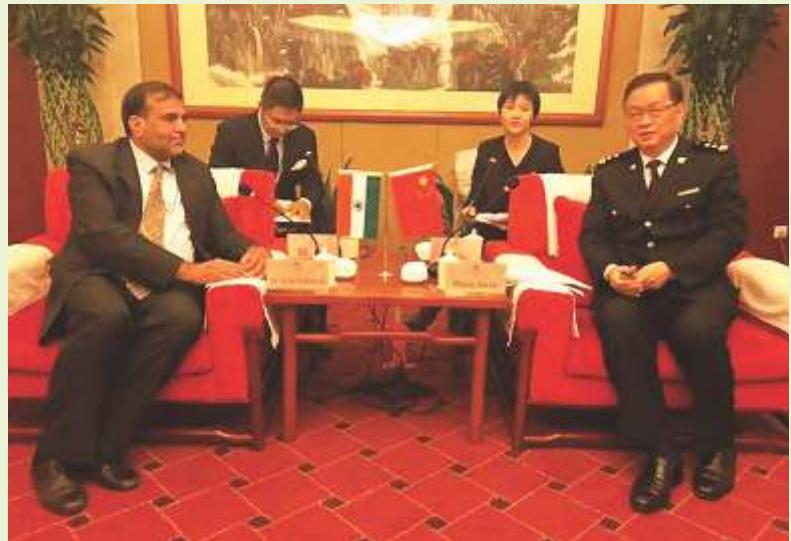
The protocol was signed by the Indian Commerce Secretary and Zhang Jiwen, Vice Minister of General Administration of China Customs (GACC) which is responsible for examining market access and quarantine issues for India's agriculture and allied products.

During the visit, Dr. Wadhawan also held a bilateral meeting with Mr. Wang Shouwen, Vice Minister of China's Ministry of Commerce, to discuss efforts to strengthen bilateral trade.

According to a statement issued by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, quality tobacco on par with international standards is available in India at competitive prices and there is good potential for export of Indian tobacco to China. "The revival of the phytosanitary protocol with China will pave the way for revival of Indian tobacco exports to China and prove economically beneficial to Indian farmers," said the Ministry.

According to another statement of the Commerce Ministry, India's exports to China have grown after several years. "India is poised to achieve its highest ever exports to China this fiscal. Between April-December 2018, exports were USD 12.7 billion which is closer to last year's exports of USD 13.33 billion," the Ministry statement read.

Notably, India is the world's second largest tobacco producer and a leading exporter of leaf tobacco and tobacco products having earned foreign exchange worth Rs. 5,540 crores in 2017-18.



India's Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan discussing trade issues with the Chinese Vice Minister, Mr. Wang Shouwen in Beijing

Source: Press Information Bureau, Govt. of India

