Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal urges Export Promotion Councils and Industry bodies to utilize FTAs to gain greater presence in world markets

Industry must now intensify its efforts to penetrate new markets, upgrade quality and become more competitive: Shri Goyal

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Union Commerce and Industry Minister Shri Piyush Goyal has urged exporters and industry bodies to take full advantage of the series of Free Trade Agreements signed with developed countries maximise job creation and boost exports of goods and services.

The minister met 35 Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and key Industry Associations representing India's major export sectors. Industry leaders and association office bearers appreciated the government's trade-promotion initiatives during their interaction with the minister.

Shri Goyal said the Modi government had signed Free Trade Agreements with developed countries to help India's farmers, workers, professionals, artisans and MSMEs take advantage of the global market with preferential access. With these trade agreements, India's traditional medicines and yoga will also get global opportunities, while the interest of India's agriculture and dairy sectors have been protected.

"Industry must now intensify its efforts to penetrate new markets, upgrade quality and become more competitive to take maximum advantage of trade agreements. India has made its mark in international trade since the ancient era. Our trade deals will accelerate our Viksit Bharat mission and carry forward Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'," Shri Goyal said at a meeting with EPCs and industry bodies.

Industry representatives conveyed their deep gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Commerce & Industry for the decisive leadership that enabled the successful conclusion of recent trade agreements with the United Kingdom, European Union and the United States of America.

Particular appreciation was expressed for the elimination of the additional 25 % tariff on Indian imports to the United States, as terminated through the United States Executive Order dated 6 February 2026, which is expected to restore competitive market access for Indian exports. Industry noted that the United States is among India's largest export destinations and that the tariff relief provides significant stability and renewed competitiveness to Indian exporters.

Associations representing sectors earlier impacted by the US tariff measures — including gems & jewellery, textiles and apparel, carpets, leather and footwear, marine products, handicrafts, engineering goods and chemicals — highlighted that the tariff rollback has restored business confidence and safeguarded employment in labour-intensive sectors. Key participating bodies included the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO); Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC); Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC); Council for Leather Exports (CLE); Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India); Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL); Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL); Manmade and Technical Textiles Export Promotion Council (MATEXIL); other major textile EPCs; Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC); Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH); agricultural and allied bodies including the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI); Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA); Shellac and Forest Products Export Promotion Council (SHEFEXCIL); Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC); India SME Forum; Sourcing Consultants Association (BAA); and apex industry chambers including the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), along with several other leading sectoral associations.

The Ministry also made presentations on the recently concluded trade engagement with the United States, outlining market access opportunities, compliance frameworks and export expansion pathways. Industry welcomed the clarity provided and reaffirmed its commitment to scale exports in priority sectors.

Discussions also highlighted the progress under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), the Government’s flagship framework to support exporters. Industry welcomed the Interventions already rolled out under the Mission, including enhanced access to trade financethrough Interest Subvention Support for export credit loans, Collateral Guarantee for Export Credit extended to MSMEs and targeted market access support. It was noted that additional measures relating to trade finance, export logistics, export compliances, branding and market diversification are being rolled out shortly, in a phased manner to further strengthen India’s export ecosystem.

The Minister reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to accelerate export growth, deepen global integration and leverage new trade agreements to position India as a trusted global supply partner.

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