GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 682
ANSWERED ON 24/07/2026

GROWTH IN BILATERAL TRADE VOLUMES UNDER FTAs

682. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steady growth in bilateral trade volumes following the operationalisation of recent Free Trade Agreements (FTAs);
(b) whether comprehensive industry outreach programs have successfully educated domestic exporters on optimally utilizing the preferential tariff structures;
(c) the progress in implementing digital Certificates of Origin (CoO) to expedite customs clearances at partner country ports;
(d) the proactive measures taken to strictly monitor and enforce Rules of Origin to prevent the dumping of third-country goods; and
(e) the steps taken to negotiate mutually beneficial terms for the services sector in ongoing international trade negotiations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) The operationalisation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) has strengthened India's trade engagement with key partner countries by providing unprecedented market access, reducing trade barriers, enhancing supply chain linkages and creating new opportunities for Indian exporters. A list of India’s recently operationalised FTAs is placed at Annexure. These FTAs have provided enhanced access to overseas markets and created new opportunities for Indian exporters across sectors.

Despite persistent global challenges, including geopolitical tensions and supply chain disruptions, India's exports increased from US$ 776.4 billion in FY 2022-23 to US$ 863.1 billion in FY 2025-26. Merchandise exports to major FTA partner countries and trade blocs have been substantial at US$ 179.1 billion in FY 2025-26, accounting for 40.5% of India's total merchandise exports. Merchandise export to recent FTA partner also indicated significant export growth. For example, exports to the UAE increased from US$ 16.7 billion in FY 2021-22 (prior to CEPA implementation) to US$ 37.4 billion in FY 2025-26, while exports to Australia rose from US$ 4.0 billion in FY 2021-22 to US$ 7.3 billion in FY 2025-26 following the implementation of ECTA. Similarly, exports to EFTA countries increased from US$ 1.64 billion in FY 2019-20 to US$ 1.76 billion in FY 2025-26.

(b) Government conducts regular outreach programmes on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including Indian Missions abroad, Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), Industry/ Industry Associations, Commodity Boards, DGFT field offices and concerned Ministries/Departments. These programmes are aimed at creating awareness and disseminating information on the opportunities and benefits available under India's FTAs. Further, the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) has been launched in 2025 to strengthen India's export competitiveness with a total outlay of ₹25,060 crore for the period FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31. The EPM shall operate through two integrated sub-schemes:

- NIRYAT PROTHSAHAN, focused on improving access to trade finance through instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees for export credit, credit guarantee for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support; and
- NIRYAT DISHA, focused on other trade enablers such as export quality and compliance support, international branding and packaging, market access initiatives, export logistics & warehousing, and trade intelligence.

(c) and (d) India issues the Certificates of Origin (CoO) for FTAs on a digital platform. The Rules of Origin under India's FTAs are robust and ensures substantial processing or manufacture in the FTA partner. The Rules of Origin chapter also incorporates verification mechanisms to prevent import of third-party goods and facilitate the effective implementation and enforcement of these rules in the FTA. In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the FTAs.

(e) Government is pursuing negotiations for FTAs to secure comprehensive market access and national treatment in services to allow Indian service providers to provide services on no less favourable terms through cross-border digital services mode, commercial presence and temporary mobility. India's recent FTAs have incorporated disciplines on domestic regulation to ensure that authorisation processes are time-bound, predictable, objective, impartial, and transparent. This ensures that Indian service suppliers do not face challenges in partner countries due to opaque, unpredictable or poorly published regulatory procedures. Through FTAs, India has been able to obtain structured, expedited routes that will facilitate temporary mobility of skilled Indian professionals to operate in foreign markets. Further, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) aim to ensure that partner nations accept each other's certifications, and professionals do not have to go through duplicative local testing, additional training, or lengthy re-certification processes before they can practice.

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Annexure referred to in reply to Part (a) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 682 for answer on 24.07.2026

India's recently operationalised Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Agreement	Date of Signing of the Agreement	Date of Implementation of the Agreement
1	India - Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)	22nd February, 2021	01st April, 2021
2	India-UAE CEPA	18th February, 2022	01st May 2022
3	India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)	02nd April, 2022	29th December 2022
4	India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)	10th March 2024	01st October 2025
5	India - UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)	24th July 2025	15th July 2026
6	India – Oman CEPA	18th December 2025	01st June 2026

Note: India – New Zealand FTA has been signed on 27th April, 2026 and presently under ratification process. India-European Union FTA negotiations concluded on January 27th, 2026. Also, India and the United States of America have announced on 7th February 2026 that the USA and India have reached a framework for an Interim Agreement for reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. Negotiations are ongoing