

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2575
ANSWERED ON 16/12/2025

FOREIGN TRADE AGREEMENTS AND RUPEE TRADE

2575. SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI:
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:
DR. HEMANG JOSHI:
DR. K SUDHAKAR:
SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status and timeline for concluding FTAs with the UK and EU and the manner these agreements will enhance India's services exports;
- (b) the manner the Government is promoting and tracking the Rupee trade settlement mechanism with the RBI and the steps being taken to encourage more partner countries to open SRVAs;
- (c) the strategies being used to grow services exports in sectors like FinTech, Geospatial services, and AVGC and the targets for 2026; and
- (d) the progress made in using the Trade Connect e-Platform to provide exporters with real-time data on tariff concessions and Rules of Origin under various FTAs?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) India and United Kingdom (UK) have signed the Comprehensive Trade and Economic Agreement (CETA) on 24th July, 2025. After entry into force, the India-UK CETA will provide predictable, open and favourable market access across wide range of services sectors such as IT/ITES, business services, professional services, education, and healthcare. It also creates a structured framework for the temporary movement of service providers. Business visitors, contractual service suppliers, and independent professionals will be able to access the UK under clear and predictable temporary entry and stay rules. The Double Contribution Convention which will enter into force along with the FTA will provide a mechanism to avoid double payment of social security contributions. Additionally, up to 1,800 Indian chefs, yoga instructors, and classical musicians will be able to work in the UK every year under these provisions. After formal relaunch of India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations in June 2022, fourteen rounds of negotiations have been concluded by October 2025. In the meetings held at various levels from 3-9 December 2025, both sides took note of the steady progress achieved across various negotiating tracks, including Services and agreed to sustain the momentum.

(b) To promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in Indian Rupees (INR), an additional arrangement for invoicing, payment, and settlement of exports / imports in INR was put in place vide Authorised Persons (Directions / Dealer Information/ Reporting) Series (A.P. (DIR Series)) Circular No. 10 dated July 11, 2022, on International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees. Additionally, in terms Reserve Bank of India's A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 08 dated August 05, 2025, Authorized Dealer banks are now allowed to open Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) of overseas correspondent banks without referring to the Reserve Bank for approval. Further, in terms of A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 14 dated October 03, 2025, on International Trade Settlement in Indian Rupees (INR), SRVA balances can now also be invested in non-convertible debentures/bonds and commercial papers issued by an Indian company.

(c) Services exports including financial services is a key component in bilateral engagements and FTAs. The National Geospatial Policy (NGP), 2022 envisages the growth of Geospatial services, including their contribution to India's overall digital services exports. The Policy aims to build a globally competitive Geospatial ecosystem through an enabling framework for innovation, improved data availability, private-sector participation, and capacity development. As per the NGP 2022, there are milestones laid out up to 2025 and 2030 for establishing the foundational infrastructure, data frameworks, and institutional mechanisms required for expanding Geospatial services and their export potential. Further, government is taking several steps for growth in Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) Services exports. The AVGC Promotion Task Force was set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in April 2022 after the Union Budget announcement. It brought together industry and government to outline how India could scale skills, jobs and investment in animation, VFX, gaming and comics; and position the country as a global hub. The Task Force submitted its report in December 2022, recommending a National AVGC Mission, Centres of Excellence, stronger infrastructure and dedicated support for Indian Intellectual Property and exports. Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) Mumbai has been established and is being developed as a specialized Centre of Excellence to strengthen high-end training and research. With a focus on expanding high-quality production capacity, developing talent and improving access to international markets, World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 was held in May 2025 as a global platform for the entire Media & Entertainment sector.

(d) Tariff Explorer service on Trade Connect ePlatform provides information on tariff concessions available to eligible Indian exports under various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs). It also provides details on Rules of Origin to be complied with, in order to access the said tariff concessions. The information is available on a searchable basis with exporters having option of searching by the Harmonised System (HS) code assigned to the product by the destination country or by product description. The exporters may select the nearest matches to their products based on the search and understand the tariff and rules of origin information. Updates to the repository are undertaken as and when new information is received from authorised sources.
