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Commerce Ministry begins review of Foreign Trade Policy

The Commerce Ministry has started review of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) to carry out mid-course corrections in the export schemes, if required.

As part of the review, it would hold stakeholders' consultations to understand the issues faced by exporters.

"Sectors which feel they want something amended, deleted, tweaked or brought in, will have to engage with the Ministry. We certainly want lot more discussions," sources said.

The Ministry is also looking at the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

"Right now, we have two schemes -- Advance Authorisation and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) where we allow duty free imports, right from the beginning. In GST regime, everybody have to pay the duty first and then seek reimbursement. So, once that gets decided by the GST council, then we can modify our schemes," the sources added.

In April 2015, the Government unveiled its first five-year FTP aiming to nearly

double exports of goods and services to \$900 billion by 2020.

In the FTP (2015-20), the Government replaced multiple schemes with Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS).

Since December 2014, exports fell for 18 months in a row till May 2016, due to weak global demand. Shipments witnessed growth only in June this year, thereafter again it entered the negative zone in July and August.

Recovering from a two-month decline, exports went up by 4.62 per cent to \$22.9 billion in September.

To cut the transaction cost for exporters, the Ministry is also talking to railways and shipping to find ways to reduce the high freight cost.

On India's concept note about trade facilitation agreement in services in WTO, sources said the text is being scrutinised by the legal department.

Further, talking about the issue of overcapacity of steel in China and its impact on India, Ministry sources said that everybody is facing the heat of both overcapacity and subsidised exports of steel from China.



‘Flipkart’s sales 80% higher than Amazon’s

Flipkart CEO Binny Bansal said the company’s sales (or gross merchandize value of items sold on the platform) during the festive season was 70-80% higher than that of Amazon’s and that it accomplished this at a third of the costs borne by the latter.

Flipkart



He attributed it to the company’s focus on the right customer, local knowledge, and local innovation. “The wide lead established by Flipkart proves that a home grown Indian company can successfully fend off a 22-year global behemoth pouring in money to buy market share,” he said.

Bansal said that his figures are based on data from brands and vendors selling on the competing platforms, from logistics companies, information from marketing consultancy RedSeer, and online traffic data.

Asked for its reaction to Bansal’s estimates, Amazon sent the following statement: “We do not comment on speculation or rumours nor comment on any sales or revenue numbers. As a customer-focused company, we do not comment on competition, nor believe

anyone externally can offer a credible comment on Amazon’s internal sales numbers or any other data not in public domain.”

It has been reported previously that Flipkart beat Amazon in sales this season, but the extent of the difference between the two has been unclear.

(Source: The Times of India)

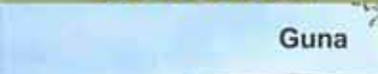
Govt. mulls easing sectoral norms to attract more FDI

The government is weighing easing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules further in areas, including retail trading, to make it even easier for foreign companies to invest in India, a senior government official said on 28 October 2016.

FDI in legal and some financial services, and information and broadcasting are also being looked into for further relaxation, the official confirmed. The government is also seriously considering allowing the FDI in non-litigious areas of law — especially transactional legal services and international arbitration.

In retail, however, the relaxation in FDI could be more in the form of procedural changes initially rather than any drastic step on further liberalisation. Some retailers have sought a review





Guna



Hyderabad



Punjab



Gujarat

Patna



Jodhpur



Kolkata



Rohtak



Chennai



Chhindwara



Fursatganj



Noida

of the maximum retail price labels on products.

Although the government has said 100% FDI will be permitted in trading — including through e-commerce — of food products produced or manufactured in India, critics have pointed out that no supermarket can attract massive footfall and be profitable with just food items on its shelves. The food processing ministry wants certain other items should also be allowed to be sold with food items to make it more attractive for investors.

Recently, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) Secretary Mr. Ramesh Abhishek had said the government is looking into certain “sticking issues” relating to the FDI.

The Narendra Modi government has already announced two big rounds of relaxations in the FDI regime, first in November 2015 and then in June this year, easing rules in over a dozen sectors ranging from real estate, pharmaceuticals, food marketing, aviation, defence to e-commerce and banking.

Earlier this month, US trade representative (USTR) Michael Froman said India needs to further open sectors like retail and financial services to improve the overall business environment.

He also cautioned India against becoming complacent about the recent positive trend in investment. Inflows of FDI (in equity) into India rose 29% in 2015-16 from a year before to \$40 billion.

(Source: The Financial Express)

Shoe story

Footwear is part and parcel of the dressing up process and quite often the tiring process of going through loads of displays only to end up in disappointment kills all the excitement.



Keeping this in mind, Oceedee, an online 3D studio, provides an awe-inspiring yet easy and fun design experience with infinite possibilities.

The designs are handmade within four weeks, with your dream shoes translated into reality and delivered right at your doorstep. So when it's this time of year, shoes play a major role both indoors and outdoors and to that end Neha Kumthekar, managing director and co-founder, says, “Our festive collection is designed keeping in mind a selection for everyone. With a mix of glitter, bright colours and interesting styles, the shoes are perfect for you



to pair with any of your outfits. While Emma gives you a traditional



edge with a gold floral pattern, Angela, with its interesting mix of maroon and gold, is good to pair with an Indo-Western outfit. The shiny bright Meg can brighten up any of your outfits, while Ellen, with its subtle nude and gold, makes you look elegant.

She adds, "This season, strappy sandals (like Meg), pointed pumps (Geena), and smoking slippers (Mary) are the hot picks."

The shoes are priced at Rs. 2,999 onwards and available at www.oceedee.com

(Source: The Sunday Statesman)

Compiled by: Resource Centre (RCIP), Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI) (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

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