

# Goyal's Oman visit to spur FTA discussions

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will travel to Muscat, starting Monday to give "further impetus" to the free trade agreement (FTA) talks between India and Oman.

"The talks on India-Oman CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement), which are at an advanced stage, may get further impetus during the visit. Both sides are negotiating commercially significant, equitable, ambitious, and mutually beneficial CEPA," the Commerce Department said on Sunday. An official statement said Goyal will be on a two-day visit to meet his counterpart Qais bin Mohammed bin Moosa al-Yousef and hold wide-ranging discussions on trade, investment, and the global economic situation. Goyal's visit comes against the backdrop of the proposed FTA between India and Oman hitting a deadlock. This is because the West Asian nation asked New Delhi to revise its market access offer on certain products, even though negotiations were completed in March last year. Revising India's offer would require restarting

inter-ministerial

consultations to firm up India's revised stance. One of the main areas of contention has been the pressure on New Delhi to provide market access for polyethylene and polypropylene.



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