

Targeting duty-free access for ODOP items in FTAs: Goyal

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Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal (*pictured*) on Monday said India is looking at getting duty-free access for different products identified under the government's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative to promote exports of gold jewellery, toys, handicraft, and handloom items, among others.

"We are doing free-trade agreements (FTAs) where we are looking at duty-free access for all these products, so that we can create international acceptance for these products," the minister said at the launch of ODOP gift catalogue and storefront on the public procurement portal government e-marketplace.

Currently, India is negotiating trade agreements with the United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union.

The ODOP initiative was launched with the aim to con-

vert each district of the country into an export hub.

This shall be done by identifying products with export potential in a district, addressing bottlenecks for exporting these products, supporting local exporters and manufacturers to scale up manufacturing, and finding potential buyers outside India.

The minister also called for the integration of the ODOP initiative with the Open Network for Digital Commerce

(ONDC). "The ONDC would help further expand the frontiers of ODOP by bringing buyers and sellers together on a democratic platform," he said.

Goyal asked ministries, departments and other government bodies to consider ODOP products, exclusively for gifting, both within and outside India. The G20 summit, which is set to take place in India soon, is a great opportunity to showcase ODOP products, he said.

