

+ Exports to Australia grow 8%

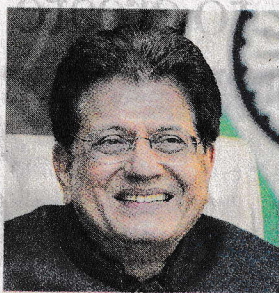
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Exports to Australia grew 8 per cent in FY25 (year-on-year) to \$8.58 billion, improving India's trade balance with strong gains across manufacturing, chemicals, textiles, plastics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products and gems & jewellery, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

Australia eliminated import tariffs on 98.3 per cent of tariff lines (accounting for 96.4 per cent of India's exports to Australia in value terms) on the first day of the implementation of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) in December 2022.

It will now eliminate duties on the remaining 1.7 per cent items, in sectors such as engineering goods, medical equipment, machinery and auto parts, from January 1 2026. "From 1 January 2026,



Commerce Minister
Piyush Goyal

100 per cent Australian tariff lines will be zero-duty for Indian exports, unlocking fresh opportunities for labour-intensive sectors," Goyal said.

IMPORT DUTIES

The import duties on the 1.7 per cent of items on which tariffs will be brought down to zero per cent mostly include metal products, such as iron, non-alloy steel, steel and aluminium (belonging to the engineering goods, machinery and automotive sectors). These tariffs were ini-

tially at 5 per cent, and have been reduced in five equal instalments since December 29, 2022.

RISING TREND

India's exports to Australia had declined in 2022-23 to \$6.95 billion in the first year of the EFTA implementation, but has subsequently been rising and touched \$8.58 billion in FY25. India's imports from Australia in FY25 was at \$15.52 billion.

"Over the past three years, the agreement has delivered sustained export growth, deeper market access, and stronger supply-chain resilience, benefiting Indian exporters, MSMEs, farmers, and workers alike," Goyal said. Agri-exports recorded broad-based growth, with sharp increases in fruits and vegetables, marine products, spices, and exceptional growth in coffee. Gems & Jewellery exports rose 16 per cent in April-November 2025, he pointed out.