

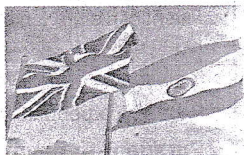
FTA to benefit Indian electronics exporters with zero-duty access to the UK market

Our Bureau
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The India-UK free trade agreement (FTA) will benefit electronics exporters from India not only in terms of zero-duty access to the UK market but also through recognition of Indian conformity assessment bodies, officials said. This will help Indian industry overcome regulatory hurdles and cut costs.

"One of the long-standing challenges for electronics exporters is conformity with destination market standards. The FTA includes provisions for recognition of Indian conformity assessment bodies, allowing products tested in India to be accepted in the UK. This cuts costs, avoids duplicate testing and improves time to market," the official said.

The FTA eliminates or re-



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duces import duties on a wide range of Indian electronics exports including smartphones, telecom equipment, printed circuit boards, electric machinery and components.

"This enhances price competitiveness, enabling Indian

exporters to capture greater market share in the UK, which is a high-tech, brand-sensitive and value-conscious market," the official said.

TARIFF ELIMINATION

While India, too, has agreed to phase out import duties on a number of electronic items, it has strategically protected high-volume domestic segments such as smartphones, smartwatches and telecom gear by excluding them from tariff elimination.

"Key intermediate inputs like semiconductors and batteries have been liberalised to support India's manufacturing ambitions. The phased elimination on audio products and printed circuit board provides Indian industry a calibrated window to scale up and become competitive," the official said.

The FTA also provides

procurement and investment opportunities to both sides.

"Indian firms can now bid for UK government procurement contracts in sectors such as smart infrastructure, digital health, telecom networks and public IT systems. Simultaneously, the FTA encourages UK investment in India's electronics manufacturing and telecom infrastructure, particularly under India's production-linked incentive schemes and Digital India mission," the official pointed out.

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"This is particularly valuable for India's large base of telecom and IT services providers, especially those supporting 5G, IoT and broadband infrastructure," the official said.