

#India NITI

An Insight to latest policy updates in India



January - March 2023

FOREWARD

This newsletter on the policy changes made by various Central Government Ministries is a unique initiative to capture and provide an update to the readers on the rapidly changing Policy Environment in India.

This Newsletter could be of relevance to the Policy Analysts and Executives to understand the policy initiatives of the Union Government undertaken in Quarter ending March 2023.

We hope this newsletter provides a bird eye view on the recent policy updates of the Indian Government.

April 2023



About Authors

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Abhishek is the brain behind the Policy Initiatives at Finex. He has diverse experience working with Policy Makers and Businesses in relation to various policy initiatives. Abhishek has been instrumental for helping the clients obtaining various policy benefits and has been actively involved in public consultation by the governments around the globe.



Sneha Dalal - Policy Analyst

A public policy enthusiast, Sneha has completed Masters in Public Administration from Panjab University. She has a knack for the field of policy and research and also has an inclination towards policy consultancy. Her previous works includes conducting an extensive review of data and transform it into a rational assessment.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry



Foreign Trade Policy 2023

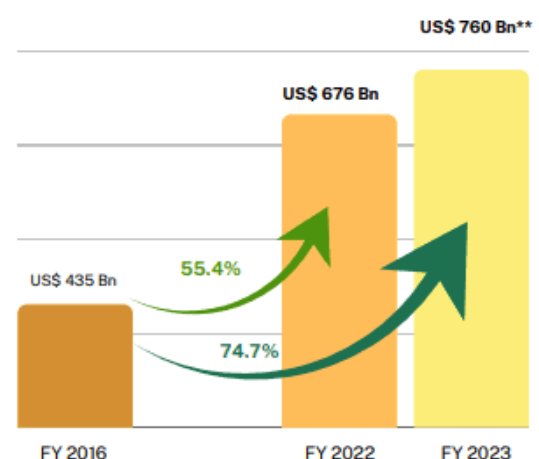
Foreign Trade Policy (2023) is a policy document which is based on continuity of time-tested schemes facilitating exports as well as a document which is nimble and responsive to the requirements of trade. It is based on principles of 'trust' and 'partnership' with exporters. The Key Approach to the policy is based on these 4 pillars:

- (i) Incentive to Remission
- (ii) Export promotion through collaboration - Exporters, States, Districts, Indian Missions
- (iii) Ease of doing business, reduction in transaction cost and e-initiatives and
- (iv) Emerging Areas - E-Commerce Developing Districts as Export Hubs and streamlining SCOMET policy.

The FTP 2023 aims at process re-engineering and automation to facilitate ease of doing business for exporters. It also focuses on emerging areas like dual use high end technology items under SCOMET, facilitating e-commerce export, collaborating with States and Districts for export promotion. The new FTP is introducing a one-time Amnesty Scheme for exporters to close the old pending authorizations and start afresh. The FTP 2023 encourages recognition of new towns through "Towns of Export Excellence Scheme" and exporters through "Status Holder Scheme". The FTP 2023 is facilitating exports by streamlining the popular Advance Authorization and EPCG schemes, and enabling merchanting trade from India.



India's Exports

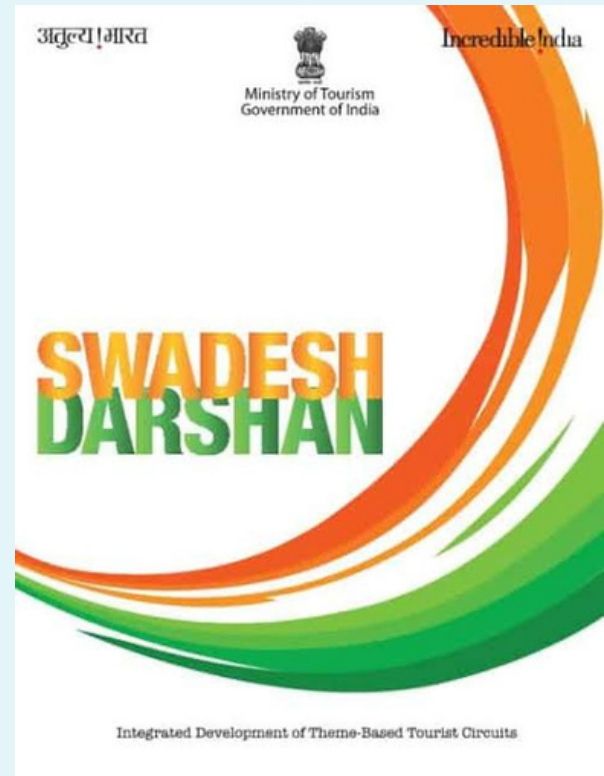


Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0 (Began from Jan 2023)

The Ministry of Tourism had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2015 and sanctioned 76 projects under the Scheme to date. The Ministry of Tourism identified the following areas for improvement:

- (i) Broad basing of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee
- (ii) State-level Institutional Structure for the Scheme
- (iii) Strategic selection of the destinations
- (iv) Detailed benchmarking and gap analysis of destination
- (v) Focus on both hard and soft Interventions
- (vi) Strengthening of Project Implementation and Monitoring
- (vii) Operations and maintenance on sustainable basis
- (viii) Promotion & marketing of the destinations and Impact Assessment

With the mantra of ‘vocal for local’, the revamped scheme namely Swadesh Darshan 2.0 seeks to attain “Aatmanirbhar Bharat” by realizing India’s full potential as a tourism destination. Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is not an incremental change but a generational shift to evolve Swadesh Darshan Scheme as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations covering tourism and allied infrastructure, tourism services, human capital development, destination management and promotion backed by policy and institutional reforms.



Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

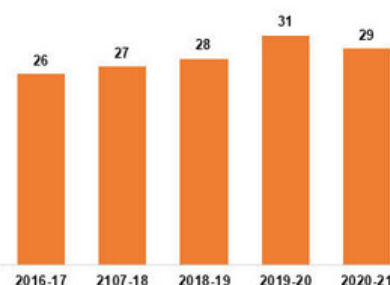
PETROCHEMICALS RESEARCH & INNOVATION COMMENDATION SCHEME

This Petrochemicals Research & Innovation Commendation Scheme will motivate the inventors to carry out innovative Research & Development in the areas of petrochemicals and allied industry, which in turn will improve performance / quality of the existing product. This Scheme will be on outstanding contribution in R&D leading to better energy consumption, better plastic waste management, increase in product life cycle, development of innovative new products, quality standards, recycling and other emerging areas.

The scheme is open to all Indian citizens/institutions/industries/ organisations/ Start-up registered in India or created by the Central/ State governments/ Union Territories.



India's basic major chemicals and petrochemicals production (million metric tonnes)



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION FRAMEWORK (FEB 2023-DRAFT)

The Sustainable Development Evaluation Framework (SDEF) has to be developed and communicated to the UNFCCC as per Article 6.4 requirements. Project activities and programme of activities would need to meet the following criteria:

- The Activity satisfies the basic requirement of additionality - reduces/removes GHG emissions
- The activity contributes to sustainable development of the country
- The activity contributes to the implementation of the host Party NDCs

The SDEF would have 3 components:

1. Do - No-Significant-Harm criteria in terms of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) – which will help evaluate negative impacts of a project on environmental (air, water, soil, biodiversity and waste disposal), social or governance issues and identifies remedial measures (if any)
2. Projects impact on priority developmental aspects (measurable impact on employment generation, skills upgradation, clean technology adoption and scale-up, mobilizing investments for priority developmental regions, etc.)
3. Positive impact on sustainable development – measurable contribution to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

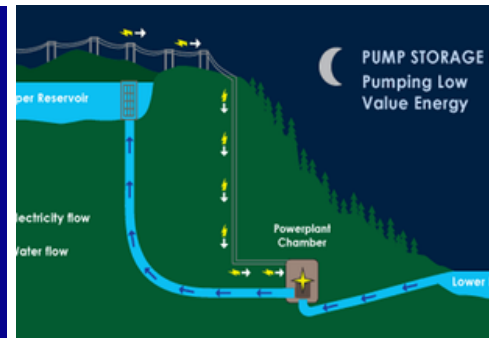
Ministry of Power



Pump Storage Projects

With its ability to store a large amount of energy, frequent starts/stops, and faster ramp-ups/ramp-downs, PSPs are ideally suited to address the dynamic supply and demand in the country. PSPs can also be used for peaking operation and improves the reliability of the power system. While battery storage solutions are still evolving and are required for short duration storage needs in grid management, PSPs are a natural enabler for integrating greater amounts of wind and solar power.

Keeping in view the immense utility of the PSPs in grid stabilization as well as meeting the peaking power demand, a need for formulating a separate guideline to promote PSPs was felt to set the direction of its development. Accordingly, this Ministry has come up with draft guidelines on PSPs, which seeks to promote the development of PSPs across the country with proactive support of the State Governments.



Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (Draft)



India's power ministry has released a draft carbon credit trading scheme and is seeking views from stakeholders by 14 April, as part of its process to establish a carbon credit market in the country. The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill was passed in December empowering the central government to establish carbon credit trading markets in India. The draft scheme proposes a structure for the Indian carbon credit market, for both voluntary trading and compliance, which will be administered by a governing board comprising of secretaries and joint secretaries of the environment, power, renewable energy, steel, coal and oil ministries.

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy



Bidding Trajectory for Renewable Energy Projects

	FY 2023-2024	
Quarter 1	April – June	At least 15GW of RE Capacity
Quarter 2	July – September	At least 15GW of RE Capacity
Quarter 3	October – December	At least 10GW of RE Capacity
Quarter 4	January – March	At least 10GW of RE Capacity



PM Gati-Shakti National Master Plan related to Renewable Energy



RE Projects of capacity 50 MW and more are to be mapped on the PM Gati-Shakti Portal. The projects taken up by the Renewable Energy Implementing agencies (REIA)(Tenders/EPC mode) would be mapped on national portal by Gati Shakti cell. The projects taken up by the States' schemes and tenders would be mapped by States on the respective States' portal with linkage to national portal.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

It is a comprehensive action plan for establishing a Green Hydrogen ecosystem and catalysing a systematic response to the opportunities and challenges of this sunrise sector of energy. The Mission strategy accordingly comprises interventions for:

- (i) demand creation by making Green Hydrogen produced in India competitive for exports and through domestic consumption.
- (ii) addressing supply side constraints through an incentive framework
- (iii) building an enabling ecosystem to support scaling and development.



Guidelines for enlistment under “Approved models and manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic modules (Requirements for compulsory registration)Order”



The Ministry has hereby modified and added some new provisions regarding the Application process, application fee for the brand owners, conditions subjected to inspection of applicant's manufacturing sites, Enlistment of co-branded models and validity of ALMM enlistment of cobranded owners.

Ministry of Steel

Ministry of Steel signs 57 MoUs' with 27 companies under PLI schemes for specialty Steel

Under the PLI scheme, the Government has approved Rs. 6322 crores to give a new impetus to the Steel sector. Shri Scindia said that the PLI scheme is expected to generate an investment of about Rs. 30,000 Crores and additional capacity creation of about 25 Million Tonnes of specialty steel in the next 5 years. This will also create great opportunities for direct and indirect job creation, besides contributing towards achieving the status of 3rd largest economy by the year 2030-31.

In the Budget 2023-24 the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman have announced Rs. 10 lakh crore Capital Expenditure Plan that becomes the source of great demand for our industry. India is set to become a power house of manufacturing which will increase the share of Steel in GDP from 2 to 5%.



Ministry of Earth Sciences

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for Puducherry and Lakshadweep (Launched on 13th Feb 2023)



Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is a policy tool that aims to support the sustainable development of marine areas and coastal regions. Under the India-Norway Marine Spatial Planning for two areas namely Pondicherry and Lakshadweep were taken up to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation. The work was implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), Norway along with the Department of Science and Technology of the UT of Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

Ministry of Minority Affairs



Hajj Policy (Feb 2023)

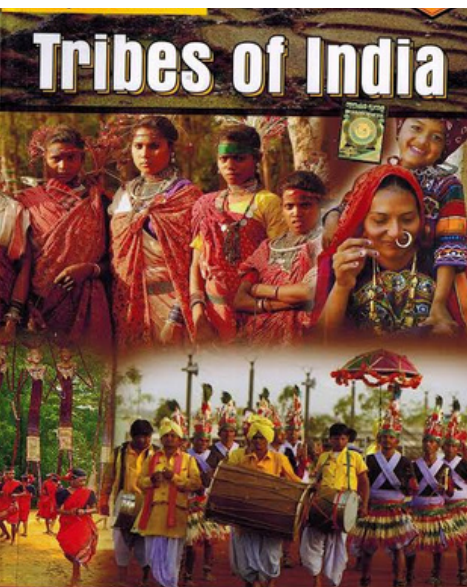
To ensure a smooth, safe and comfortable Hajj pilgrimage for Indian pilgrims, the Government of India makes extensive arrangements for the security, travel, stay and wellbeing of Indian Hajj pilgrims, both within India and in Saudi Arabia, in close coordination with various stakeholders. This year, the preparation for Hajj 2023 was initiated by Ministry well in advance, by convening various interactive sessions on Hajj management with the aforesaid stakeholders. It has been ensured that all required facilities including a fair online process for selection of pilgrims are available within the timeline. The detailed guidelines for Hajj 2023 for stakeholders have also been finalized and issued on 06.02.2023.

The application form for Hajj 2023 through Hajj Committee of India has been made free of cost, discretionary quota for VIPs/dignitaries has been abolished and special arrangements shall be made for lady pilgrims, infants, divyangjan and elderly.



Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Guidelines for implementing the scheme “Administrative costs to States/UTs for implementation of the schemes”



In the recent few years MoTA has taken several significant initiatives for digitization of schemes and processes and in some of the major portals States/UTs plays an important role as a stakeholder. In this regard, Multiple monitoring units under different schemes came up as a major challenge which further resulted in lack of integration.

To overcome this challenge and to provide comprehensive support to the States/UTs governments, it is therefore proposed to support one integrated monitoring unit for ST Welfare/Development program in States/UTs through combining the provisions for administrative expenses under individual schemes. The State Project monitoring Units are mandated to monitor Tribal welfare programs and implementation of various provisions of various acts in letter and spirit.

Ministry of Ports , Shipping and Waterways

Initiatives under Sagarmala programme to facilitate shifting of cargo from conventional land-based Transportation to coastal shipping mode

Under the Sagarmala Programme, 70 projects worth Rs.2856 crore have been sanctioned for the development of Coastal Berths, Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax Jetties/Passenger Jetties etc. Out of which 15 projects worth Rs. 849 crore have been completed. A discount of 40% is offered by major ports on vessel and cargo related charges to coastal cargo vessels. There is reduction of GST on bunker fuels used in Indian Flag Vessels from 18% to 5%.



‘Sagar Manthan’, the Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways(MoPSW)

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Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal virtually launched Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW ‘Sagar Manthan’ – Digital platform having all the integrated data related to the ministry and other subsidiaries. This dashboard will transform the workings of various departments by improving well-coordinated real time information.

Features of ‘SAGAR MANTHAN’dashboard :

1. Data visualization
2. Real-time monitoring
3. Improved communication
4. Data-driven decision making
5. Increased accountability



Green Tug Transition Programme(GTTP)

Aim of GTTP: To become a ‘Global Hub for Green Ship’ building by 2030 and reduce emissions as the country moves towards achieving sustainable development.

More on the development:

- The first National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) in Gurugram, Haryana was inaugurated.
- The programme will start with ‘Green Hybrid Tugs’, powered by Green Hybrid Propulsion systems.
- Eventually, non-fossil fuel solutions like Methanol, Ammonia, Hydrogen etc. would be adopted.
- At least half of all the tugs are to be converted into Green Tugs by 2030.
- It will help in achieving multiple objectives such as ‘make in India’, greater business opportunities to become carbon neutral by 2070 and a greener environment.
- It will also help in achieving the UN’s SDG 14 to sustainably manage and protect marine & coastal ecosystems from pollution, conservation & sustainable use of ocean based resources.

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