



MEDEPC

Mobile and Electronics Devices
Export Promotion Council

NEWSLETTER

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council India will be held through video conferencing on the Friday, 27th September, 2024 at 1500 hrs to transact the following business:

1. Chairman's address
2. To receive, consider and adopt
 - a. Annual Report of the Working Committee for the year ended as on 31st March, 2024
 - b. The Audited Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended as on 31st March, 2024
 - c. Balance Sheet as on 31st March, 2024
3. To place on record the names of the Committee Members under Para 89 (a)
4. To appoint and fix the remuneration of the Auditors as required under Para 129

By order of Executive Committee

Place – New Delhi
Dated – 27.08.2024

US and India Partner on Clean Energy Components with Focus on Africa to Counter China

The United States and India have unveiled a strategic initiative to bolster collaboration on clean energy technologies and expand their manufacturing capacities for clean energy components. This partnership, which aims to address global climate goals while creating high-quality jobs, also focuses on enhancing cooperation in third countries, particularly in Africa, to counterbalance China's influence in the clean energy sector. The initiative was announced after a meeting between U.S. President Shri Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, underscoring their shared commitment to economic and climate cooperation.



Expanding Clean Energy Manufacturing Capacity

A significant element of this initiative is the plan to unlock \$1 billion in multilateral finance through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). This financing will help catalyze India's domestic clean energy supply chain, providing the foundation for the manufacture of crucial technologies such as solar, wind, battery storage, and high-efficiency air conditioner and ceiling fan components. The aim is to establish resilient supply chains, enabling both countries to meet growing demand for clean energy and reduce dependency on China.

The partnership will focus on key technology verticals, including:

- Solar wafers and next-generation solar cells,
- Wind turbine nacelle components,
- Power transmission line components (conductors, cabling, and transformers),
- Energy storage components (batteries and battery packs for electric vehicles),
- Zero-emission bus and truck components,
- High-efficiency air conditioners and ceiling fans.

This focus on building out clean energy supply chains is crucial for the global clean energy transition, positioning both the U.S. and India as leaders in this space.

Collaboration with African Partners

A central aspect of the initiative is expanding clean energy deployment to Africa. The U.S. and India will work together with African countries that have expressed political commitment to clean energy. These efforts will focus on solar energy and battery storage projects, helping African nations transition to cleaner energy sources while building trilateral relationships that benefit all involved.

The partnership plans to kickstart this collaboration with a package of pilot projects, including one specifically aimed at deploying clean energy solutions in Africa. In addition, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) will support the financing of clean energy components, working across sectors like solar, wind, batteries, and critical minerals. This initiative will pave the way for future investments in Africa, driving solar and EV infrastructure growth while building local partnerships.

Expanding Financing for Clean Technologies

The U.S.-India partnership also plans to mobilize additional financing for priority clean energy sectors. This would involve public-private partnerships and innovative financial tools designed to meet the rapidly growing demand for flexible climate finance solutions. One key fund is India's Green Transition Fund, which supports investments in renewable energy, storage, and e-mobility.

In addition to this, Eversource Capital's \$900 million fund—supported by the DFC—will invest in renewable energy, efficient cooling, and electric transportation technologies in India. These investments are intended to spur the domestic manufacturing of clean energy components and support India's transition to a greener economy.

Shared Policy and Industry Engagement

Both countries will collaborate with the private sector to scope and support eligible investment opportunities in the clean energy space. They will also consult on policies that ensure demand certainty for locally manufactured clean technologies. This will involve sharing insights on how to reduce uncertainties and ensure that sufficient input materials, technological expertise, and financing are in place for sustainable manufacturing growth.

The initiative emphasizes the importance of private sector engagement, with industry leaders being key partners in scaling up clean energy component production and deployment. It also aims to foster innovation and secure the supply of critical components necessary for the green energy transition.

MEDEPC Meeting with SBER Bank India on Expanding Trade with Russia

The Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC) recently held a meeting on 18th September, 2024 with representatives of SBER Bank India to explore opportunities for Indian exporters to expand their business with Russia.

During the discussions, it was decided to organize a webinar for MEDEPC members in October. The webinar will provide guidance on how to effectively engage in trade with Russia and address specific queries from members about the Russian market. Additionally, it was also proposed a delegation exchange between India and Russia, with plans for a visit to take place in November or January, aimed at facilitating business partnerships.

MEDEPC believes that this collaboration with SBER Bank India will open valuable trade opportunities for its members, helping them to tap into the Russian market. Further details regarding the upcoming webinar will be shared with members in due course.

India's Merchandise Exports Dip by 9.3% in August; Smartphone Exports Drive 7.9% Growth in Electronics

India's merchandise exports dropped by 9.3% in August 2024 to USD 34.71 billion, with petroleum exports plunging 37.56%. The trade deficit expanded to USD 30 billion, up from USD 23 billion in July. Imports rose 3.3%, reaching an all-time high of USD 64.36 billion, driven by a surge in gold imports.

Despite the overall decline, electronic goods exports grew by 7.9%, reaching USD 2.33 billion, largely due to the robust performance of smartphone exports, estimated at USD 1.055 billion.

Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Secretary emphasized that the trade deficit is manageable for a rapidly growing economy, as long as foreign exchange reserves remain healthy.

MEDEPC to Participate in Expand North Star UAE Show with 40 Companies

The Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC) is set to participate in the Expand North Star UAE Show, taking place from October 13 to 16, 2024, in Dubai.



MEDEPC will be leading a delegation of 40 participants, including top industry leaders, manufacturers, and exporters from India's mobile and electronics sector. With a diverse group of participants, the Council aims to represent the growing strength and capabilities of India's electronics industry, fostering new opportunities and collaborations.

The event offers a unique platform for Indian companies to showcase their innovations, expand their global footprint, and connect with potential buyers and partners in the UAE and beyond. Expand North Star is one of the leading technology shows in the region, drawing attention from major players in the global electronics and technology industries.

MEDEPC Representatives Attend Meeting on Export Performance Chaired by Commerce Minister

A meeting with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and industry associations was held under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce & Industry on 11th September 2024, at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The discussion focused on reviewing the export performance of various sectors.

Representing the Mobile and Electronic Devices Export Promotion Council (MEDEPC), Shri Pankaj Mohindroo, Hony Secretary, and Shri Virat Bhatia, Vice Chairman, participated in the meeting.



It was noted that the electronics sector has been performing well, with much of the growth driven by the rising export of smartphones from India. This reflects the country's strengthening position in global electronics markets.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review progress and exchange insights on export trends across different sectors.

Hon'ble CIM Attended ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Laos

On 21 September 2024, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, participated in the 12th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting (EAS EMM) in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Chaired by H.E. Malaithong Kommasith, the meeting included representatives from all 10 ASEAN countries and 8 EAS partners, discussing regional and global economic developments.



Shri Piyush Goyal reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening the East Asia Summit, highlighting India's projected growth rate of 7-7.2% for 2024-25. He also praised the recent conclusion of the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference, emphasizing the need for inclusive WTO reforms and inviting ASEAN nations to collaborate on global south issues.

In bilateral meetings, Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister discussed trade cooperation with Myanmar and Korea, and engaged with the Indian diaspora, acknowledging their contributions to India-Laos relations. He concluded his visit with a meeting with Lao PDR's Minister of Industry and Commerce, focusing on trade collaboration and the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).



CBDT Launches Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 Starting from 1st October

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has announced that the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme 2024 will come into effect on October 1, 2024. This initiative aims to reduce income tax litigation by allowing taxpayers to settle ongoing appeals, writs, and petitions pending before various appellate authorities, including the Supreme Court and high courts, as of July 22, 2024.

The notification, issued by the Ministry of Finance on September 19, 2024, states, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 88 of the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st day of October, 2024, as the date on which the Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024 shall come into force."

This scheme is expected to provide a significant opportunity for taxpayers to resolve disputes efficiently and minimize litigation.

DOT Announces Right of Way Rules Under Telecommunications Act, 2023

The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) has notified the Right of Way Rules under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, detailing the installation of telecommunication infrastructure, such as mobile towers, poles, common ducts, and small cells, on both public and private property. These rules, which supersede the Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 and the Indian Telegraph (Infrastructure Safety) Rules, 2022, will take effect on January 1, 2025.

The newly notified rules are established under Sections 11, 12, 15, 17, and 56 of the Telecom Act and incorporate three significant changes from the draft rules released for public consultation on July 11. Notably, the central and state governments are now empowered to direct authorized entities to temporarily establish telecom networks above ground "in public interest or in case of special public events," as specified in Rule 10. This provision is intended for temporary setups during breakdowns or special government needs.

Government Amends Rules for Cell Broadcasting Services for Disaster Alerts

The Central Government has issued a notification to amend the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Cell Broadcasting Services for Disaster Alerts) Rules, 2023 under the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933. These amendments, called the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Cell Broadcasting Service for Disaster Alerts) (Amendment) Rules, 2024, were published in the Official Gazette on 17th September 2024 and has come into effect immediately.

The amendments introduce mandatory requirements for smartphones and feature phones sold in India. Devices must support receiving cell broadcast messages in all Indian languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and feature an auto-readout function in Indian accents for messages received in Hindi, English, and other scheduled languages.

Additionally, alert sounds, vibrations, and light durations for broadcast messages are to be set for at least 30 seconds, with specific exceptions. The rules also require phone manufacturers, software developers, and importers to ensure compliance, with plans to expand coverage for all scheduled Indian languages over time.



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