



## SIMPLIFYING BUSINESS ECOSYSTEM IN INDIA

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## Message from Team EoDB

Dear Readers,

India has a rich history of industrial growth and innovation. The nation's industrial sector, once centred around textiles and agriculture, has rapidly evolved into a diverse ecosystem that includes advanced sectors such as information technology, pharmaceuticals, and automotive, among others. This dynamic shift reflects India's growing prominence on the global stage and its increased competitiveness in the world economy. In an increasingly interconnected and globalized world, a nation's competitiveness is paramount to attracting businesses, investments, and talent, and India is making all the right strides towards bolstering its industrial competitiveness. [Morgan Stanley predicts a significant shift in the global order](#) as India emerges as the world's third-largest economy, surpassing Japan and Germany by 2027.

In this edition of the EoDB newsletter, we bring to you a glimpse of events and activities that showcase the country's rise in the global order. The International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) - [Bharat Mandapam](#) - part of the 123-acre ITPO complex was inaugurated on July 26, 2023. This complex will be among the top 10 exhibition and convention complexes in the world, rivalling Hannover Exhibition Centre in Germany and National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai. IECC is India's largest MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) destination.

One District One Product (ODOP) programme, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched its first collaboration with the [Government of Gujarat in New Delhi](#) to promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the State. ODOP has partnered with the Government of Gujarat to implement product tagging and story cards, enhancing the promotion and recognition of Gujarat's unique products.

The Union Government has addressed a long-standing concern raised by the hospitality industry by issuing a directive that permits the [playing of Bollywood music at wedding ceremonies and related festivities without facing copyright infringement action](#). The decision comes as a relief to event planners, hotels, and individuals organizing celebrations, who were often entangled in unnecessary legal disputes and financial burdens due to demands for license fees by copyright firms.

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Thank you,  
Team EoDB

# India - a giant in world history: French President

## Prime Minister visits Paris



Hon. PM Narendra Modi warmly received by French President Emmanuel Macron and his wife Brigitte Marie-Claude Macron for a private dinner at the Élysée Palace. Photo: PMO Twitter



Hon. PM Modi and President Macron saw the Bastille Day military parade at the Champs-Élysées in Paris. On this special occasion, a tri-service Indian armed forces contingent participated in the parade. Photo: PMO/Twitter

Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited France from July 13 to 14, 2023. He was the guest of honour at the Bastille Day celebrations by French President Emmanuel Macron. He was welcomed by French PM Elisabeth Borne.

This year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India-France Strategic Partnership. In January '98, then Hon. PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Jacques Chirac elevated the relationship to a Strategic Partnership – one of the first for India with any country. Hon. PM Modi and President Macron took stock of the transformation and expansion of the relationship, over the past 25 years, and highlighted its evolution into a partnership of regional responsibilities and global importance. India and France have a special responsibility in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the Indo-Pacific region, PM Modi said.

In the joint statement, both leaders affirmed that the political and diplomatic engagements between the two countries, are closest and most trusted. “Our defence and security partnership is strong and extends from seabed to space. Our economic ties reinforce our prosperity and sovereignty and advance resilient supply chains,” they said. The leaders agreed that promoting clean and low carbon energy, conserving biodiversity, protecting the ocean and combating pollution is a key pillar of cooperation and that digital, innovation and startup partnership is a new area of growth that builds on the deep convergence and strong complementarities between the two countries.

They hailed the new era in Indo-French relationship and look ahead to the next 25 years of this journey together to 2047 and beyond, with a bolder vision and higher ambitions, when India will celebrate the centenary of its Independence and half a century of this strategic partnership. In order to set out their shared vision for this next phase of the India-France Strategic Partnership, both leaders adopted the “[Horizon 2047 Roadmap](#) on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Indo-French Strategic Partnership: towards a century of French-Indian relations,” along with several other [outcomes](#) covering a wide range of areas, such as India setting up a technical office of the DRDO at its Embassy in Paris and industrial cooperation for motorization of heavy-lift helicopters under the Indian Multi Role Helicopter [IMRH] programme with Safran Helicopter Engine, France, among others.

Hon. PM Modi joined French President Emmanuel Macron for the Bastille Day parade as the Guest of Honour with an Indian tri-services marching contingent wowing crowds during the French National Day celebrations. French President, welcoming India as the Guest of Honour at the French annual celebrations, hailed the country as “a giant in world history, with a decisive role to play in the future, a strategic partner, a friend”. After receiving the Legion of Honour, France’s highest civilian and military honour, on July 13<sup>th</sup>, Hon. PM Modi on July 14<sup>th</sup> thanked President Emmanuel Macron and France’s first lady Brigitte Macron for hosting him at the Elysee Palace.

During the visit, Hon. PM Modi announced that India and France have agreed to use Unified Payments Interface (UPI), opening a huge new market for Indian innovation. Addressing the Indian community at the La Seine Musicale, a performing arts centre on an island in River Seine, Modi said very soon Indian tourists will be able to make rupee payments using UPI from atop the Eiffel Tower. “In France, an agreement has been made for the use of India's UPI... It will be started from the Eiffel Tower, and now Indian tourists would be able to make payments in rupees, through UPI, from the Eiffel Tower,” the Prime Minister said.



Hon. PM Modi conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour by President Emmanuel Macron. Photo: PMO/Twitter

Pochampally Ikat fabric, a GI-tagged product, presented to Ms. Brigitte Macron, First Lady of France, during Hon'ble PM's visit to France, is admired for its intricate designs & unique weaving technique. Photo: ODOP/Twitter



## ‘UAE visit defined by transformative outcomes’

Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed-bin-Zayed-Al-Nahyan to further deepen the multifaceted bilateral ties. The Prime Minister was accorded a ceremonial welcome in Abu Dhabi at the Qasr-Al-Watan - the presidential palace - where he was greeted by the UAE President with a warm embrace. India and the UAE agreed to start trade settlement in their currencies and link the Indian Unified Payments Interface with the Gulf country’s Instant Payment Platform as PM Modi held comprehensive talks with UAE President.

In his remarks after meeting the UAE President, PM Modi said India-UAE trade witnessed a 20% increase since the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement in 2022. He said the agreement signed for trade settlement in the currencies of the two countries shows the strong economic cooperation and mutual trust between the two nations. The leaders expressed satisfaction that UAE-India relations have witnessed tremendous progress on all fronts. India-UAE trade rose to USD 85 billion in 2022, making the UAE India’s



Hon. PM Narendra Modi meets UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed-bin-Zayed-Al-Nahyan at the iconic Qasr-Al-Watan Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Photo: Twitter/@MEAIndia

third-largest trading partner for the year 2022-23 and India's second-largest export destination. India is the UAE's second largest trading partner. PM Modi said he hopes that bilateral trade between the two countries goes past the \$100 billion-mark soon, as it currently stands at \$85 billion.

### **India, UAE ask developed nations to fulfil USD 100 billion climate finance commitment**

PM Narendra Modi and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan said there was an urgent need for developed countries to fulfil the USD 100 billion delivery plan to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. In a joint statement on climate change issued after talks between the two leaders, India and the UAE highlighted the importance of the global stocktake of collective action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and its successful conclusion at COP28 scheduled to be held in Dubai later this year. PM Modi congratulated the UAE for being selected as the host country of COP28 in '23 and extended his support to its incoming presidency of the climate conference.

## **Commerce Minister visits UK to advance India-UK FTA**

The eleventh round of trade negotiations between India and the UK concluded in London, with Hon. Piyush Goyal, Union Commerce and Industry Minister, meeting his UK counterpart, Ms. Kemi Badenoch, Business and Trade Secretary, on July 10 and 11, 2023.

“Discussed how both sides can add further momentum to the India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations for a mutually beneficial deal,” Hon. CIM said on Twitter. This round of talks between the two sides concluded on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Ms Badenoch described the potential agreement as “a deal to benefit businesses across both nations and strengthen our deep and historic ties.”



Hon. Piyush Goyal, Union Commerce & Industry Minister with Ms. Kemi Badenoch, Business and Trade Secretary, in London. Photo: Twitter/PiyushGoyal

Both sides had come to the table with “an ambitious set of asks”, a spokesperson in Ms Badenoch’s department said. “We are clear that we will only sign when we have a deal that is fair, balanced, and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the economy,” they added.

Prior to the meeting, UK Trade Minister Nigel Huddleston said half the chapters under discussion had been concluded. Among the sticking points are India’s request for a greater ease of movement of skilled professionals from India to the UK to deliver specialized services. The UK is interested in greater access to the Indian market for services for its firms and also has asks around that — such as in the areas of investment protection and cross-border data flows. Tariffs on automobiles and alcohol are also part of the negotiations.

Hon. CIM was also held talks with members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) — i.e., Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. India and EFTA to agree a deal — the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA). The EFTA side was led by the Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Helene Budliger Artieda. The two sides have “significantly intensified” their engagement on TEPA over the past few months, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement. Both sides, as per the Ministry, agreed to expedite the conclusion of the TEPA.

## Revamped ITPO complex inaugurated



Hon. PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) named as 'Bharat Mandapam,' at the redeveloped Pragati Maidan complex in Delhi. The revamped complex is India's largest MICE destination and boasts state-of-the-art facilities including a convention centre, exhibition halls, and amphitheatres. Photo: ANI



Hon. Union Ministers Piyush Goyal, Nirmala Sitharaman, Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sh. Som Parkash, Hon'ble MoS for Commerce & Industry, and other dignitaries attend the *puja* at the new ITPO complex prior to the inauguration of the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex, in New Delhi. Photo: ANI

The International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) - *Bharat Mandapam* - part of the 123-acre India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) complex was inaugurated by Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 26, 2023. The inaugural ceremony was attended by around 3,000 guests including Cabinet ministers, captains of industry, film personalities and others.

It will be among the top 10 exhibition and convention complexes in the world, rivalling Hannover Exhibition Centre in Germany and National Exhibition and Convention Centre in Shanghai. IECC is India's largest MICE destination.

The central hall of the IECC will host the leaders of G20 nations as India is set to host the G20 summit in Delhi. The summit will be attended by heads of states of 20 nations including the US, the UK and China among others.

Different walls and facades of the convention centre depict several elements of India's traditional art and culture including 'Surya Shakti', highlighting India's efforts in harnessing solar energy, according to a government statement. Various paintings and tribal art forms from different regions of the country adorn the convention centre, the government officials stated. The pathway leading up to the convention hall has seven horses lined up near the ceiling. The IECC's three levels have 24 meeting rooms — ten meeting rooms can accommodate 50 people, six can accommodate 100 people, and four can accommodate 200 people. VIP lounges are also a part of these rooms.

## DPIIT and Gujarat Govt. jointly launch ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan



Ms. Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, and Ms. Arti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner & Secretary (Economic Affairs), Govt. of Gujarat, inaugurated the #ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan in New Delhi. This collaboration aims to drive consumers towards emporia, boosting sales and increasing the visibility of Gujarat's products. Photo: Twitter/ODOP\_India

One District One Product (ODOP) programme, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched its first collaboration with the Government of Gujarat in New Delhi to promote the indigenous crafts and artisans of the State. Ms. Manmeet Nanda, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, and Ms. Arti Kanwar, Resident Commissioner and Secretary (Economic Affairs) Finance Department, Government of Gujarat jointly inaugurated the ODOP Wall at Garvi Gujarat Bhawan on July 20, 2023.

Gujarat, with its 33 districts, exemplifies the vast geographic coverage and potential for diverse products across the state. ODOP-Gujarat features a rich collection of 68 unique products, ranging from traditional crafts like Gamthi Block print and Mata-ni-Pachedi to agricultural goods such as groundnuts and cumin. In a significant collaboration, ODOP has partnered with the Government of Gujarat to implement product tagging and story cards, enhancing the promotion and recognition of Gujarat's unique products. This collaboration aims to drive consumers towards emporia, boosting sales and increasing the visibility of Gujarat's products at the national level. Garvi Gujarat Bhawan has integrated ODOP products into its interiors to better showcase Gujarat handicrafts. ODOP interventions in Gujarat have been, specifically focused on certain products to enhance their market presence. For example, Government e-Marketplace (GeM) onboarding drives have been conducted for Sujani Handloom, Jamnagari Bandhini, and Patan Patola. Additionally, support from the National Institute of Design workshop has been provided for Agate Stone in Khambat district and Sujani from Bharuch district.

## Commerce Ministry delegation briefs Nepal Govt. on benefits of infrastructure planning using PM Gati Shakti

Ms. Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, led a delegation to Nepal on July 21, 2023, to brief the Govt. of Nepal on the benefits of infrastructure planning using PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity. The visit flows from the high-level discussions held during the Nepal Prime Minister's visit to



Ms. Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary, DPIIT, led a delegation to Nepal to brief the Govt. of Nepal on the benefits of infrastructure planning using #PMGatiShakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity. Photo: Twitter/IndiaInNepal

India in June. The delegation called on Mr. Prakash Jwala, Minister of Physical Infrastructure & Transport (MoPIT), and Mr. NP Saud, Foreign Minister. Various meetings were held with Advisor to National Security Council, Chief Secretary as well as other senior officials in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Nepal, MoPIT and National Planning Commission. The two sides will follow-up to take forward cooperation in this area.

## GI Fair showcases finest products at India Expo Mart



The second edition of the Geographical Indication (GI) Fair in Greater Noida proved to be a captivating experience and a shopper's delight, drawing hundreds of visitors. It showcased an array of GI products and featured artists & producers from all corners of India. Photo: PTI

India's 440 GI-tagged products (Geographical Indication) were exhibited at the second edition of the GI Fair India in Greater Noida. GI tag is given to products having distinct qualities and tradition linked to their place of origin. The fair also featured Blue Pottery, Sanganeri hand block printing and Bikaneri bhujia of Rajasthan; Gulabi Meenakari, Banaras brocade and Lucknow Chikan craft from Uttar Pradesh to tezpat, aipan art and Munsyari razma from Uttarakhand, Kangra tea, Chamba Rumal and Kullu Shawls from Himachal Pradesh to Allepy green cardamom, Vedic era mirror and navara rice from Kerala among others.

“India boasts of many such rarities of which 440+ are registered GI Tagged products and GI Fair India, brings together the largest congregation of products and authorized producers from this list,” said Rakesh Kumar, chairman IEMIL. Around 400 exhibitors participated in the fair from July 20-24, 2023. The exhibitors at the fair shared backgrounds and stories about their products, crafts and hand skills. India GI Fair aims to connect these invaluable native products, aptly called Legal Local, to connoisseurs and clientele in India as well as the global market, according to the council. The fair also included theme areas highlighting GI clusters & hubs, Live demonstration of GI products, Knowledge seminar on Introduction to Export Business, and Unlocking Packaging Convenience for Export Target Markets.

## 6<sup>th</sup> GST Day celebrated with vision GST@6 सरलीकृत कर, समग्र विकास

The country commemorated Sixth Goods and Services Tax (GST) Day on July 1 to honour the successful implementation of the GST regime. It was celebrated with the vision *GST@6 सरलीकृत कर, समग्र विकास* with Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon. Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, presiding over as the Chief Guest and Sh. Pankaj Chaudhary, Hon. Union Minister of State for Finance, as the Guest of Honour. Senior officials from Ministry of Finance, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) & Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and other government departments were present. Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while addressing the function, said, “GST is the embroidery that stitches the diversity



CBIC honoured 50,000 taxpayers and officers who contributed to the GST success story. Photo: PTI

of Indian markets into the fabric of economic progress.” GST, a comprehensive indirect tax, revolutionised India’s taxation system by replacing multiple complex levies imposed by both the central and state governments. With its destination-based approach, GST simplified the tax structure, ensuring transparency and efficiency.

## **Govt allows playing Bollywood music during weddings, parties | No copyright infringement, confirms DPIIT**

In a significant move, the Union Government has addressed a long-standing concern raised by the hospitality industry by issuing a directive that permits the playing of Bollywood music at wedding ceremonies and related festivities without facing copyright infringement action. The decision comes as a relief to event planners, hotels, and individuals organizing celebrations, who were often entangled in unnecessary legal disputes and financial burdens due to demands for license fees by copyright firms.

The Copyright Act of 1957 already stipulated that playing copyrighted music at such functions was legally permissible. However, copyright societies continued to demand royalties for the songs, leading to conflicts and complexities for those involved. Acting on numerous complaints from the public and stakeholders, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) clarified the matter through a public notice on July 24.

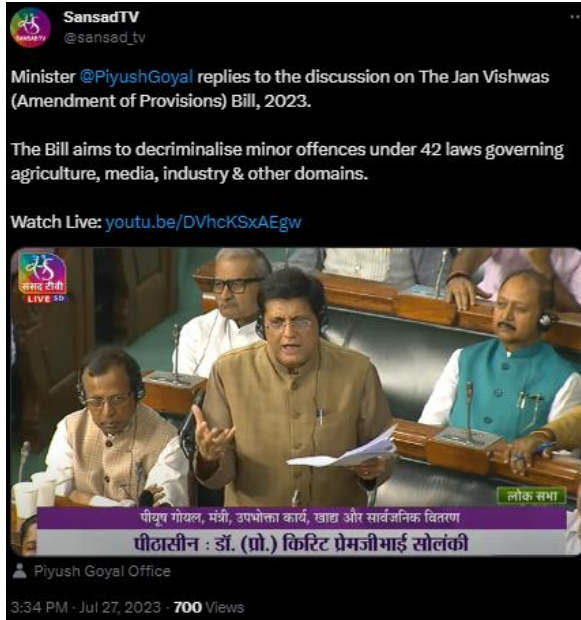
According to section 52 (1) (za) of the Copyright Act, playing a literary, dramatic, or musical work or communicating it to the public during a genuine religious or official ceremony by the central/state government or any local authority does not infringe copyright. This includes marriage processions and social festivities associated with weddings, which are regarded as religious ceremonies under this clause. In light of this provision, DPIIT explicitly directed copyright societies to refrain from taking actions that contravene section 52 (1) (za) to avoid legal consequences. The general public was also cautioned against complying with unwarranted demands from individuals, organizations, or copyright societies that violate this section.

## **Centre extends validity of industrial licenses issued under IDR Act to 15 years**

The Centre on July 24 announced a major step towards greater ease of doing business by addressing the industry’s demand on increasing the initial validity period of industrial licenses. In a press note issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the government announced that all industrial licenses to be issued under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act will now be valid for 15 years, as against three years.

“In supersession of all earlier Press Notes, the period of validity of industrial license is being extended from three years to fifteen years for all kind of licenses henceforth to be granted under IDR Act in line with the validity of licenses being issued for defence items as a measure for ease of doing business,” the DPIIT said. The ministry concerned can grant extension of three years. As per the guidelines, this is applicable for extension of validity of the license in cases where the existing license holder has not commenced production of the items within 15 years of issue of license. “Any industrial license, wherein commercial production has not started even within the extended period (15+3 i.e. a maximum period of 18 years from the date of issue of license), shall be treated as automatically lapsed,” the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade said in the note.

# Media Buzz



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