October 28, 2026

DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

Foreign Trade Policy 2023: what it says and what changed in 2026

Foreign Trade Policy 2023 took effect on April 1, 2023 and has no end date. The Central Government notifies it under section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and amends it by notification. DGFT sets the procedures in the Handbook of Procedures and changes them by public notice.

FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2023 is the Central Government's policy for India's imports and exports of goods and services. Every import and export must follow it, along with the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the rules and orders made under it. DGFT, part of the Department of Commerce, runs the Policy.

KEY FACTS

POLICY

Foreign Trade Policy 2023

PROCEDURES

Handbook of Procedures 2023

LAW

Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992

UPDATED

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What is Foreign Trade Policy 2023?

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The Director General of Foreign Trade advises the Central Government on the Policy and is responsible for carrying it out (FT(D&R) Act, 1992, section 6(2), as amended in 2010). See our guide to DGFT and India's foreign trade rules.

The Handbook of Procedures 2023 sets the procedures for carrying out the Act and the Policy (FTP 1.03). DGFT notifies it, with its appendices and Aayat Niryat forms, by public notice. A specific rule in either text beats a general one (FTP 1.04).

DGFT publishes both chapter by chapter: Foreign Trade Policy 2023 and Handbook of Procedures 2023.

Does Foreign Trade Policy 2023 expire?

No. Foreign Trade Policy 2023 came into force on April 1, 2023 and continues "unless otherwise specified or amended" (FTP 1.01), so it isn't a five-year policy. The Central Government amends it by notification. It may first ask importers, exporters and experts for views, giving 30 days where it can (FTP 1.07(A)).

The Central Government may also amend it without asking. The Policy in force is the 2023 text with every amendment since.

What does each FTP 2023 chapter cover?

Foreign Trade Policy 2023 has 11 chapters. Chapter 1 sets the legal framework, Chapter 2 the general rules on imports and exports, and Chapter 11 the definitions. Chapter 4 holds the duty exemption and remission schemes, such as Advance Authorization, DFIA, RoDTEP and RoSCTL, and Chapter 5 holds EPCG. E-commerce is in Chapter 9.

FTP 2023, chapter by chapter

Chapter	Title	What it covers	Handbook chapter	Our guide
Chapter 1	Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation	Legal basis, amendments, transitional rules, trade facilitation	Chapter 1	DGFT
Chapter 2	General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports	Import and export rules, authorizations, payments, origin certificates	Chapter 2	Import policy; Export policy
Chapter 3	Developing Districts as Export Hubs	District export committees and action plans	Chapter 3, on DGFT's site	Districts, below
Chapter 4	Duty Exemption / Remission Schemes	Advance Authorization, DFIA, RoDTEP and RoSCTL	Chapter 4	Advance Authorization; RoDTEP
Chapter 5	Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme	Zero-duty capital goods against an export obligation	Chapter 5	EPCG scheme
Chapter 6	Export Oriented Units (EOUs), EHTPs, STPs and BTPs	Export Oriented Units, importing inputs and capital goods duty free	Chapter 6, on DGFT's site	No guide
Chapter 7	Deemed Exports	Supplies of Indian-made goods that don't leave India	Chapter 7	No guide
Chapter 8	Quality Complaints and Trade Disputes	Quality complaints, trade disputes, and suspending or canceling licences	Chapter 8, on DGFT's site	Penalties and appeals
Chapter 9	Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy	E-commerce and courier exports, and Exporters-on-Record	Chapter 9	E-commerce exports
Chapter 10	SCOMET	SCOMET export controls	Chapter 10, on DGFT's site	SCOMET licence
Chapter 11	Definitions	Defined terms, such as notification and public notice	Chapter 11, Miscellaneous Matters	How it changes, below

How is the Policy changed: notifications, public notices, trade notices and circulars?

The Central Government changes the Policy by notification, published in the Official Gazette (FTP 1.02 and 11.35). DGFT changes the Handbook, its appendices and forms by public notice, issued under paragraphs 1.03 and 2.04 of the Policy (11.42). The Policy defines notifications and public notices but not trade notices or policy circulars.

DGFT notification vs public notice, trade notice and policy circular

Instrument and issuer	What it changes	Defined in the Policy
Notification, by the Central Government (FTP 1.02)	The Policy, and an item's ITC (HS) policy, as Notification 02/2026-27 did for jewelry	Yes, para 11.35
Public notice, by DGFT (FTP 1.03 and 2.04)	The Handbook of Procedures, its appendices and Aayat Niryat forms	Yes, para 11.42
Trade notice, by DGFT	In practice, procedures and guidelines, such as Trade Notice 09/2026-27 on TRACE	No
Policy circular, by DGFT	In practice, procedures and clarifications, such as Policy Circular 08/2025-26 on IT hardware	No

See also DGFT questions, answered from the official texts.

What changed in Foreign Trade Policy in 2026?

In 2026, notifications rewrote parts of Foreign Trade Policy 2023. Courier exports lost their per-consignment value limit on April 1, and a July 13 notification banned imports of goods made with forced labor. E-commerce got an Exporter-on-Record framework on August 5. Since August 20, export proceeds outside Asian Clearing Union trade may come in any foreign currency or rupees.

See our DGFT tracker for DGFT's Gazette notices. Our DGFT insights explain many in plain words.

FTP amendments and related changes in 2026, oldest first

Document's date	Document	What changed	Our guide or insight
February 23 and March 23, 2026	Notifications 60 and 66/2025-26	RoDTEP rates and caps halved (chapters 1 to 24 spared by a corrigendum), then restored	RoDTEP scheme
March 27, 2026	Notification 67/2025-26	No ₹10,00,000 limit per courier export consignment from April 1 (FTP 9.05)	E-commerce exports
April 1, 2026	Notification 02/2026-27	Free jewelry lines under heading 7113 restricted, with no transitional protection	Jewelry restricted
April 6, 2026	Notification 04/2026-27	Wood pellets moved from prohibited, and wood briquettes from free, to restricted: both need an export authorization	Wood pellets
April 7, 2026	Notification 05/2026-27 and Public Notice 01/2026-27	Certificates of origin only from DGFT-authorized agencies, on the designated platform (FTP 2.62, HBP 2.90)	Certificates of origin
May 5, 2026	Public Notice 07/2026-27	Ad hoc norms ratified since April 1, 2015 valid to March 31, 2028 (HBP 4.12(vi))	Ad hoc norms
May 11, 2026	Public Notice 09/2026-27	Exporters may self-declare origin under the India-UK CETA (HBP 2.91(e))	UK self-declaration
May 13, 2026	Notification 16/2026-27	Sugar exports prohibited, with exceptions, until September 30, 2026 or further orders, whichever is earlier; back to restricted if not extended (para 6)	Export policy
May 16 and June 2, 2026	Notifications 17 and 19/2026-27	Silver bars restricted; listed silver items need a DGFT authorization even via nominated agencies	Silver imports
May 31, July 14 and October 16, 2026	Customs Notifications 20, 29 and 32/2026-Customs	Agreement rates began: Oman June 1, UK July 15, New Zealand October 20	Trade agreements
June 2, 2026	Notification 20/2026-27	SEZ imports for use in the zone exempt from QCOs (FTP 2.03A(iii))	SEZ imports
June 5 and September 22, 2026	RBI Notifications FEMA 23(R)/(8) and 23(R)/(1)/2026-RB	Nine months, not fifteen, to realize export proceeds; RBI's 2026 regulations apply it from October 1	Realization period
July 13, 2026	Notification 23/2026-27	Imports of goods made with forced labor prohibited (FTP 2.20B): at once in the English text, 30 days after publication in the Hindi	Forced labor ban
August 5, 2026	Notification 27/2026-27 and Public Notice 25/2026-27	Export-only e-commerce inventory through registered Exporters-on-Record (FTP 9.13 to 9.19)	Export-only inventory
August 18, 2026	Notification 29/2026-27	Clear float glass restricted below ₹34,000 per metric ton CIF, for one year	Float glass

August 20, 2026	Notification 30/2026-27	Outside Asian Clearing Union trade, contracts and proceeds in any foreign currency or rupees; rupee receipts count at par (FTP 2.52, 2.53)	Export currency
August 24, 2026	Notifications 34 and 35/2026-27	Wheat and wheat flour exports moved from prohibited to free	Wheat exports
September 15, 2026	Notification 36/2026-27	No RCMC for export consignments up to ₹3,00,000 FOB (FTP 2.57(c))	RCMC exemption
September 30, 2026	Notification 41/2026-27	RoDTEP continued to December 31, 2026 at the September 30 rates	RoDTEP extended
October 21, 2026	Public Notice 35/2026-27	Metallic scrap from six listed origins needs no inspection certificate through eleven sea ports, ICD clearance included (HBP 2.51)	Scrap ports

Where do DGFT's compiled chapters lag its notifications?

DGFT compiled most chapters of the Policy and the Handbook on July 30, 2026. Some still print text a notice has replaced, such as the March 31, 2026 end date for ad hoc norms and the eight ports for scrap. Where a compiled chapter and its amending notice differ, the notice has the current text, so cite it.

Compiled and current text, as read on October 28, 2026

Paragraph	The compiled chapter (July 30, 2026) says	The current text, or the conflict
FTP 2.52 and 2.53	Proceeds in freely convertible currency, or rupees through Vostro accounts	Outside Asian Clearing Union trade, proceeds in any foreign currency or rupees (Notification 30/2026-27, August 20, 2026)
FTP 2.57(c)	No RCMC up to ₹10,000 FOB	A new 2.57(c) sets ₹3,00,000 (Notification 36/2026-27, September 15, 2026); the two need reconciling
FTP 1.15	Certificates of origin on coo.dgft.gov.in	trade.gov.in or another platform DGFT designates (HBP 2.90(d), Public Notice 01/2026-27, April 7, 2026)
HBP 4.12(vi)	Norms ratified since April 1, 2015 under HBP 2015-2020 valid to March 31, 2026	Valid to March 31, 2028 (Public Notice 07/2026-27, May 5, 2026)
HBP 2.51(d)(v)(iv)	Eight ports for scrap without an inspection certificate	Eleven sea ports, ICD clearance included (Public Notice 35/2026-27, October 21, 2026)

HBP 2.88	"As of March, 2023; India has signed 13 FTAs"	Its list has 16, without the India-New Zealand FTA, whose rates apply from October 20, 2026 (Customs Notification 32/2026-Customs)
FTP 2.25 and HBP 2.62(a)	The Policy excludes "seeds" from the sample exemption	The Handbook says "vegetable seeds"; the two disagree

What protections does the Policy give traders?

Foreign Trade Policy 2023 protects exports from delay. No Central or State agency may hold up an export consignment; in doubt, it may take an undertaking and release it (FTP 1.08). Seizure of export stock needs prima facie evidence of serious irregularity, and should be lifted within 7 days unless that's proved (1.09).

When an item becomes restricted or prohibited, trade already done isn't affected. Goods under an earlier irrevocable letter of credit may still move, within its balance, if it's registered within 15 days (FTP 1.05(b)). See India's import policy for when a notification switches this off.

What are Districts as Export Hubs?

Districts as Export Hubs is Chapter 3 of the Policy. Each district has a District Export Promotion Committee, chaired by the Collector and co-chaired by a DGFT Regional Authority. It prepares and carries out the district's export action plan, which may put two or three products or services first (FTP 3.1 and 3.2).

How IndusDesk helps with Foreign Trade Policy changes

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Latest notices and insights

- DGFT inserts FTP Para 2.20B, prohibiting import of goods produced using forced labor (Notice, July 13, 2026)
- FTP prohibits imports of goods produced using forced labor (Insight, July 13, 2026)

Frequently asked questions

What is DGFT, and what law gives it its powers?

DGFT, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade, is part of India's Department of Commerce. Its powers come from the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992: under section 6(2), its Director General is responsible for carrying out the Policy.

How do I get an official reading of a Foreign Trade Policy provision?

Apply in form ANF-2F to the Policy Interpretation Committee at DGFT headquarters (HBP 2.95; FTP 2.58(b)). DGFT's decision on how the Policy and the Handbook are read is final and binding (FTP 2.58(a)). See the DGFT appeal guide.

Which languages can documents for DGFT be in?

English or Hindi. A document in a regional language may be translated into either, with the translation self-certified and filed with the original (HBP 2.03(b)).

Sources

- The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (August 7, 1992): sections 5 and 6(2)
- The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 (August 19, 2010): section 6 and section 12, new section 11(1)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 1: Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 1.00 to 1.05, 1.07(A), 1.08, 1.09 and 1.15
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 2: General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 2.01, 2.03A(iii), 2.04, 2.08, 2.20B, 2.25, 2.52, 2.53, 2.57, 2.58 and 2.62 (PDF, 873 KB)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 3: Developing Districts as Export Hubs (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 3.1 and 3.2

- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 4: Duty Exemption / Remission Schemes (compiled August 17, 2026): paras 4.01(c), 4.03, 4.26 and 4.54
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 5: Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme (compiled July 30, 2026): para 5.01
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 6: Export Oriented Units (EOUs), EHTPs, STPs and BTPs (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 6.00(a) and 6.01(d)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 7: Deemed Exports (compiled July 30, 2026): para 7.01
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 8: Quality Complaints and Trade Disputes (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 8.01 and 8.03
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 9: Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy (compiled August 6, 2026): paras 9.01, 9.05 and 9.13 to 9.19
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 10: SCOMET (compiled July 30, 2026): the chapter (PDF, 446 KB)
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023, Chapter 11: Definitions (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 11.35 and 11.42
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 1: Legal Framework and Trade Facilitation (compiled July 30, 2026): the chapter
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 2: General Provisions regarding Imports and Exports (compiled July 30, 2026): paras 2.03(b), 2.51(d)(v)(iv), 2.62(a), 2.88, 2.90(d), 2.91(e) and 2.95
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 4: Duty Exemption / Remission Schemes (compiled July 30, 2026): para 4.12(vi)
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 5: Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme (compiled July 30, 2026): the chapter
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 7: Deemed Exports (compiled July 30, 2026): the chapter
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 9: Promoting Cross Border Trade in Digital Economy (compiled August 6, 2026): the chapter
- Handbook of Procedures 2023, Chapter 11: Miscellaneous Matters (compiled April 3, 2023): the chapter title
- Policy Circular 08/2025-26: Import Management System for restricted IT hardware in 2026 (December 17, 2025): paras 1 and 2
- Notification 60/2025-26: RoDTEP rates and value caps halved (February 23, 2026): para 2 (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Corrigendum to Notification 60/2025-26 (February 24, 2026): para 1 (PDF, 540 KB)
- Notification 66/2025-26: Restoration of RoDTEP rates (March 23, 2026): paras 2 and 3 (PDF, 578 KB)

- Notification 67/2025-26: No value limit per consignment for courier exports (FTP 9.05) (March 27, 2026): revised para 9.05 and effect (PDF, 1003 KB)
- Notification 02/2026-27: Jewelry under heading 7113 restricted for import (April 1, 2026): paras 2 and 3, and effect (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 04/2026-27: Wood pellets and wood briquettes need an export authorization (April 6, 2026): effect (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 05/2026-27: Certificates of origin only from DGFT-authorized agencies (FTP 2.62) (April 7, 2026): amended para 2.62(a) (PDF, 766 KB)
- Public Notice 01/2026-27: Certificates of origin only on the designated platform (HBP 2.90) (April 7, 2026): amended HBP 2.90(d) (PDF, 675 KB)
- Public Notice 07/2026-27: Ad hoc norms valid up to March 31, 2028 (HBP 4.12(vi)) (May 5, 2026): amended HBP 4.12(vi) (PDF, 602 KB)
- Public Notice 09/2026-27: Self-declared origin under the India-UK CETA (HBP 2.88, 2.91) (May 11, 2026): amended HBP 2.91(e) (PDF, 559 KB)
- Notification 16/2026-27: Sugar exports prohibited until September 30, 2026 (May 13, 2026): effect (PDF, 698 KB)
- Notification 17/2026-27: Silver bars under 71069221 and 71069229 restricted (May 16, 2026): effect (PDF, 577 KB)
- Notification 19/2026-27: Silver imports through nominated agencies need an authorization (June 2, 2026): effect (PDF, 1.2 MB)
- Notification 20/2026-Customs (G.S.R. 423(E)): India-Oman CEPA tariff rates from June 1, 2026 (May 31, 2026): para 2 (PDF, 5.3 MB)
- Notification 29/2026-Customs (G.S.R. 628(E)): India-UK CETA tariff rates from July 15, 2026 (July 14, 2026): para 2 (PDF, 8.4 MB)
- Notification 32/2026-Customs: India-New Zealand FTA tariff rates from October 20, 2026 (October 16, 2026): para 2 (PDF, 2.1 MB)
- Notification 20/2026-27: QCOs and SEZ imports (FTP 2.03(A)(iii)) (June 2, 2026): revised para 2.03A(iii) (PDF, 561 KB)
- Notification FEMA 23(R)/(8)/2026-RB: Export realization period cut from fifteen to nine months (2015 regulations) (June 5, 2026): para 2 (PDF, 579 KB)
- Notification FEMA 23(R)/(1)/2026-RB: Export realization period of nine months in the 2026 regulations from October 1, 2026 (September 22, 2026): paras 1(2) and 2 (PDF, 562 KB)
- Trade Notice 09/2026-27: TRACE guidelines amended (July 1, 2026): revised para 2(b) (PDF, 564 KB)
- Notification 23/2026-27: Imports of goods made with forced labor prohibited (FTP 2.20B, 11.64) (July 13, 2026): new paras 2.20B and 11.64 (PDF, 702 KB)
- Notification 27/2026-27: Inventory-based cross-border e-commerce export framework (FTP 9.13 to 9.19) (August 5, 2026): new paras 9.13 to 9.19 (PDF, 738 KB)

- Public Notice 25/2026-27: Procedures for the inventory-based e-commerce export framework (HBP 9.03 to 9.07) (August 5, 2026): effect (PDF, 928 KB)
- Notification 29/2026-27: Minimum import price on clear float glass (August 18, 2026): effect (PDF, 631 KB)
- Notification 30/2026-27: Currency of export contracts and rupee realization (FTP 2.52, 2.53) (August 20, 2026): revised paras 2.52 and 2.53 (PDF, 602 KB)
- Notification 34/2026-27: Wheat flour exports free (August 24, 2026): effect (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 35/2026-27: Wheat exports free (August 24, 2026): effect (PDF, 1.1 MB)
- Notification 36/2026-27: No RCMC for export consignments up to ₹3,00,000 FOB (FTP 2.57(c)) (September 15, 2026): new para 2.57(c) and effect (PDF, 658 KB)
- Notification 41/2026-27: RoDTEP continued until December 31, 2026 (September 30, 2026): paras 1 and 2 (PDF, 632 KB)
- Public Notice 35/2026-27: Scrap from safe countries without PSIC through eleven ports (HBP 2.51) (October 21, 2026): amended HBP 2.51(d)(v)(iv) (PDF, 643 KB)

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