Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launches the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) in New Delhi

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News

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the National Strategic Trade Command Centre (NSTCC) at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, on 15 Oct 2026. Developed by the Department of Commerce, it uses integrated data analytics to give a single view of India's trade performance, export promotion schemes, regulatory approvals and application pendency. Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Lav Agarwal were present. Reviewing the SCOMET dashboard, the Minister asked the Inter-Ministerial Committee to meet regularly – weekly if needed – to clear pending applications.

Key facts

Launch	15 Oct 2026 – Piyush Goyal, Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi
Developed by	Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Dashboards	IEC, Advance Authorisation, EPCG, Certificate of Origin, SCOMET, restricted imports/exports
Analytics	Product- and market-wise; FTA utilisation; benchmarking DGFT regional authorities
Built on	DGFT systems and the Trade Connect ePlatform; automated alerts later

Access	Phased access for ministries, State governments, Export Promotion Councils

Background

- DGFT: an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; formerly the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, renamed DGFT in 1991. It implements the Foreign Trade Policy under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, and issues the 10-digit Importer Exporter Code (IEC).
- Foreign Trade Policy 2023: in force from 1 Apr 2023; an open-ended policy with no end date. EPCG lets exporters import capital goods duty-free, with an export obligation of 6 times the duty saved within 6 years.
- SCOMET – Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies: India's national export control list for dual-use (civil–military) items; their export needs a licence.
- World Trade Organization (WTO): 1 Jan 1995 (Marrakesh Agreement, 1994); replaced GATT; HQ Geneva (Switzerland); India is a founding member. The Commerce Ministry has two departments – Commerce, and Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Tamil Nadu link: in 2024–25 Tamil Nadu topped India's electronics exports for the third year running – $14.65 billion (41.23% of the national total). Tiruppur is India's 'knitwear capital' and a major hub of cotton knitwear exports. DGFT has a zonal office in Chennai.

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