



India-EFTA Desk

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India and the [European Free Trade Association \(EFTA\)](#) launched the **India-EFTA Desk** to strengthen economic ties and facilitate investments under the [Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement \(TEPA\)](#).

India-EFTA Desk

- **About:** It is a **dedicated investment facilitation mechanism** established by **Invest India** to serve as a **single-window platform** for businesses from the **EFTA** nations to **invest in India**.
- **Objectives:** The **India-EFTA Desk** aims to **facilitate realising the objective of TEPA** such as:
 - **USD 100 billion FDI** over **15 years**, generating **over 1 million direct jobs** in India.
 - Commitments related to [Intellectual Property Rights](#) in TEPA.
 - **Technology Collaboration** aligning with [Make in India](#) & [Atma Nirbhar Bharat](#).
- **India-EFTA TEPA** is a **comprehensive FTA** signed in **March 2024**.

European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

- EFTA is an intergovernmental organization of **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland**, established under the **Stockholm Convention (1960)**.
- **India is EFTA's 5th-largest trading partner** (after the **EU, US, UK, and China**).
- **Two-way trade: USD 24 billion (2023-24)**, up from **USD 18.65 billion (2022-23)**, with a trade gap favoring EFTA.
- **Key partners: Switzerland (largest)**, followed by **Norway**.

MAJOR TRADE AGREEMENTS OF INDIA

Free Trade Agreement (FTA) With Neighbouring Countries

- India-Sri Lanka FTA
- India-Nepal Treaty of Trade
- India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce, and Transit

A free trade agreement is a comprehensive deal between countries, offering preferential trade terms and tariff concessions, with a negative list excluding specific products and services.

Regional FTA's of India

- **India ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (11):** 10 ASEAN countries + India
- **South Asia Free Trade Agreement (7):** India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives
- **Global System of Trade Preferences** (41 countries + India)

India's CECAs and CEPAs

CECA/CEPA is broader than FTAs, addressing regulatory, trade, and economic aspects comprehensively, with CEPA having the widest scope including services, investment, etc while CECA mainly focuses on tariff and TQR rates negotiation.

- CEPA with **UAE, South Korea, Japan**
- CECA with **Singapore, Malaysia**

Others:

- India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
- India-Thailand Early Harvest Scheme (EHS)
- India-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA)

An EHS precedes an FTA/CECA/CEPA, where negotiating countries select products for tariff liberalisation, paving way for broader trade agreements and fostering confidence.

Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)

Partners in a PTA grant preferential access to specific products by lowering duties on agreed tariff lines, maintaining a positive list of products eligible for reduced or zero tariffs.

- **Asia Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA):** Bangladesh, China, India, S. Korea, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia
- **SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA):** Same as SAFTA
- **India-MERCOSUR PTA:** Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and India
- India's PTA with **Chile, Afghanistan**



Read More: [India-EFTA Trade Deal](#)

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