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INDUSTRY NEWS - GENERAL

Consumer Electronics

Haier set to cross a billion-revenue mark in 2024, aims Rs 11,500cr next year

Haier

Haier Appliances India is set to cross the milestone of having a billion-dollar revenue in 2024, helped by strong summers, festive season and ongoing trend of premiumisation, and expects Rs 11,500 crore revenue in 2025, its President NS Satish said on Thursday. Besides, the appliances and consumer electronics maker company, which has so far invested Rs 2,500 crore in India, has plans to set up a third manufacturing facility in the Southern part of the country and is in the process of finalising a location for that, he said. "2024 has been one of the best years we ever had, with a growth of 35 per cent. We will be a one billion company this year. Next year our target is Rs 11,500 crore," Satish told PTI. Satish is confident of closing 2024 with a revenue of Rs 8,900 crore. Haier Appliances India follows the January-December cycle as its financial year.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, December 26, 2024

Online electronics sale quickens through shift to quick commerce

Consumers moved thousands of crores worth of electronics shopping online this year, including for large appliances, a trend strengthened by the entry of quick commerce into the segment. Online channels accounted for 34% of the consumer electronics sales in the country this year, up from 32% in 2023, shows data from market researcher NielsenIQ. This 2-percentage point increase means sales of around ₹11,000 crore have shifted to ecommerce from offline retail, the researcher said. Online sales of all electronic products including smartphones, laptops, TVs, air-conditioners and refrigerators are estimated to be Rs 2 lakh crore in calendar 2024, it said. Indian consumers are increasingly buying large appliances such as washing machines and ACs online as they are now comfortable to forsake touch and feel, NielsenIQ said.

Source: By Writankar Mukherjee, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, December 23, 2024

Surfing on wave of premiumisation, appliances industry expects 15 pc growth in 2025

The appliances and consumer electronics industry expects 10-15 per cent growth in 2025 on the back of premiumisation trend, which is driven by rising incomes, changing preferences towards energy-efficient, and connected products with innovative features such as AI and increasing desire for global quality products. The year 2024 was transformative for the industry, in which it bounced back despite challenges such as rising raw material costs, price hikes, and supply chain disruptions, and displayed resilience by embracing technology and innovation. The industry, which contributes 0.6 per cent of the GDP, is witnessing a transformative shift towards premiumisation, increasing the average sale price (ASP), driven by rising income, and young demography with changing preferences. Besides, factors such as a growing economy, urbanisation, real estate growth, and increasing penetration into smaller markets like tier-III cities and further, will also help the industry grow.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/>, December 31, 2024

SPPL Targets 1 Mn TV Sales

Super Plastronics Pvt Ltd (SPPL), a TV and home appliances manufacturing company having licenses of several global brands for the Indian market, targets to cross the mark of one million units of TV sales in 2025, helped by capacity enhancement, expansion of portfolio and increasing presence in offline channels, said director and CEO Avneet Singh Marwah. The Noida-based company, which has a portfolio of global brands including, Thomson, Kodak, Blaupunkt, White-Westinghouse and White-Westinghouse (Trademark of Electrolux), plans to add licensing rights for two more global brands in the Indian market. Besides, it also plans to enter new categories like refrigerators and expand its play in appliances, including washing machines, coolers, and more. This year we are closing around 6,00,000 units of TVs, and next year's target is 1 million Marwah told media. The company, known for its affordable range of smart TVs in the Indian market, has a current revenue base of Rs700 crore.



Source: <https://www.bizzbuzz.news/>, December 31, 2024

General Electronics

Chip design subsidy may be doubled to Rs 30 crore

The ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) is working on a proposal to double the subsidy under the design-linked incentive (DLI) scheme, a key component of India's Rs 76,000-crore semiconductor incentive programme. Officials said that the proposal, which is under examination, plans to increase the startup subsidy from the current Rs 15 crore to Rs 30 crore as part of the upcoming semiconductor incentive scheme 2.0. MeitY is also considering a capex-linked subsidies to attract larger fabless companies interested in designing chips with intellectual property (IP) developed within the country. This new structure could be like the fiscal support provided for setting up fabrication units. The proposed enhancements follow a lacklustre response to the existing DLI scheme, which has benefited 14 startups out of approximately 60 applications.

Source: By Jatin Grover, <https://www.financialexpress.com/>, December 31, 2024

Boost to semiconductor manufacturing in Mysuru: Silectric Semiconductor to invest Rs. 3,425 crores at Kochanahalli

Chennai-based Silectric Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt Ltd, established by directors of Zoho, is set to invest Rs. 3,425.60 crore in Karnataka's first electronics manufacturing cluster at Kochanahalli near Nanjangud, Mysuru. This venture is projected to create 460 jobs and will be set up on a 40-acre site. The 64th State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC), chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, recently approved 10 proposals across various industrial sectors worth a total of Rs. 9,823 crores, which are expected to generate 5,605 jobs. During the meeting, Siddaramaiah announced that the first semiconductor project in the State would be established at the Kochanahalli Electronics Manufacturing Cluster. The Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has earmarked 234 acres at Kochanahalli, near Kadakola, for the electronics manufacturing cluster (EMC) and semiconductor units. The Government plans to introduce a new Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) policy to attract further investments.



Source: <https://starofmysore.com/>, December 31, 2024

India's Tech Leap: Rs 1 Lakh Cr Semiconductor Investments, AI Supercomputer in Top 75 Globally

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) spearheaded initiatives that secured Rs 1.29 lakh crore in semiconductor manufacturing investments while achieving a global milestone with the AIRAWAT supercomputing platform ranking 75th on the Top 500 Global Supercomputing List. These developments, alongside strides in AI governance, robotics, and digital literacy, position India as a global technology landscape leader. Under the ambitious Semicon India Programme, the central government approved four semiconductor manufacturing units with a combined investment of Rs 1,29,537 crore. Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) alone accounted for Rs 91,526 crore for its semiconductor fab facility in collaboration with Taiwan's PSMC, boasting a production capacity of 50,000 wafer starts per month. Additionally, TEPL committed Rs 27,120 crore for an OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility using indigenous packaging technology, with a daily production capacity of 48 million units.

Source: <https://apacnewsnetwork.com/>, December 28, 2024

Telecom

BSNL expands 4G services, aims for nationwide coverage by 2025



Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is accelerating its 4G rollout across India, with the installation of approximately 12,000 4G towers nationwide. As of December 2024, BSNL has launched 4G services in all four metro cities Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai and most state capitals. The company aims to make 4G services available in all circles by June 2025. In addition to the 4G expansion, BSNL is preparing to introduce 5G services in early 2025. The telecom giant is moving rapidly to strengthen its network, with a vision to provide high-

speed internet and enhanced connectivity across the country, further supporting the Digital India initiative. Customers can check the availability of BSNL's 4G service in their area by calling 1800-180-1500 from a BSNL mobile or landline, or 1800-345-1500 from other networks. Spam-Free Network: This feature filters spam messages and fraudulent calls, ensuring a secure network experience for users. BSNL fibre internet customers can also access high-speed internet at BSNL hotspots without additional charges.

Source: <https://www.cnbctv18.com/>, January 01, 2025

Trai new rule mandates telcos to issue recharge voucher for only voice, SMS

Telecom regulator Trai on Monday amended tariff rules to mandate mobile service providers to issue a separate plan for voice calls and SMS for customers not using data. The service provider shall offer at least one Special Tariff Voucher exclusively for Voice and SMS with validity period not exceeding three hundred and sixty-five days," the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) said in the Telecom Consumers Protection (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations, 2024.

During the consultation process, Trai came across various views, including several senior citizens, families having broadband at homes etc may not need recharge plans bundled with data for their mobile phones. In an explanatory note, Trai said that it is of the view that a separate STV for voice and SMS, in addition to existing data-only STV and bundled offers, shall be mandated.

Source: <https://www.zeebiz.com/>, December 30, 2024

DoT seeks clarity from Trai on encashing telcos' ½ BGs to recover spam penalties

The communications ministry has sought clarity from the telecom regulator on which licence clauses can be invoked to encash telcos' bank guarantees (BGs) to recover fines related to spam, or unsolicited communications. The communications ministry is seeking clarity from Trai on which licence clauses can be invoked to encash telcos' bank guarantees for recovering fines related to spam. The ministry's future action depends on Trai's response, highlighting a regulatory gap with no specific clause addressing unsolicited commercial communications. A few months ago, in an unprecedented move, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) urged the government to encash telecom operators BGs to recover penalties imposed for their failure to tackle spam effectively.

Source: By Kiran Rathee, <https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, December 31, 2024

Telcos investment recovery in limbo as tariff hike backfires, price war with satcom services likely in 2025

The country's private telecom operators face twin challenges on investment recovery in the New Year - customers leaving their network after tariff hikes and satellite players mainly Elon Musk's Starlink eyeing a chunk of their bread-and-butter data business. Private operators have invested around Rs 70,000 crore in telecom infrastructure and radio wave assets this year to expand the coverage of next generation 5G services which is one of the main highlights of 2024 for the sector. To recover investments and protect margins, private telcos resorted to tariff hikes in mid-year but that move backfired. Around 2 crore subscribers dropped their connections. Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea jointly lost 2.6 crore customers due to a 10-26 per cent price hike. Around 68 customers switched to state-run player BSNL which refrained from price hike. The loss-making PSU still offers generation-old 3G service and is on the path of rolling out 4G network across the country.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, December 28, 2024

EV's & Auto Electronics

JSW group in talks with Geely, BYD for electric car production plans



The JSW Group is in talks with several potential partners, including prominent Chinese companies such as Geely and BYD, with plans to launch electric cars and e-trucks under its own brand, according to a report by The Economic Times. The group, led by Sajjan Jindal, is seeking collaborations involving licencing agreements or technology transfers to create a fully integrated mobility company. JSW has expressed strong ambitions in the electric vehicle (EV) sector, engaging with established industry players in China. The final details of the partnerships, including the scope and areas of collaboration, are expected to be finalised in 2025, the report said citing sources. The conglomerate has selected two platforms each for electric cars and commercial vehicles to drive its EV initiative. This effort will be housed under a new division, JSW Green Mobility. While JSW Green Mobility will operate independently, it is expected to benefit from synergies with its existing joint venture, JSW MG Motor India.

Source: By Rimjhim Singh, <https://www.business-standard.com/>, December 30, 2024

Electric Vehicle Prices Drop by Great Margins, What Is Leading to Heavy Discounts?

Electric Vehicles costs are dropping with heavy discounts. The price drop is due to several contributing factors like surplus stock, reduced component expenses, and Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. A TOI report stated that these price fluctuations are happening for both two-wheelers and electric cars. Exchange incentives can go up to Rs 15,000, while trade discounts range from Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000. Car manufacturers are taking on most of these discounts, while dealerships are adding a lesser amount. Analysts link the discounts to remaining holiday season offers and surplus stock from an overproduction of EVs. Price drops can be seen on e-commerce platforms such as Flipkart where discounts on electric two-wheelers range from Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000. The Ather electric scooters are providing heavy discounts as well, with the Rizta model having discounts ranging from Rs 3,000 to Rs 6,700, and the 450 model from Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/>, December 31, 2024

Customer data from 800,000 electric cars and owners exposed online

Volkswagens automotive software company, Cariad, exposed data collected from around 800,000 electric cars. The info could be linked to drivers' names and reveal precise vehicle locations. Terabytes of Volkswagen customer details in Amazon cloud storage remained unprotected for months, allowing anyone with little technical knowledge to track diverse movement or gather personal information. The exposed databases include details for VW, Seat, Audi, and Skoda vehicles, with geo-location data for some of them being as precise as a few centimetres. Access to the car data was possible due to Cariads incorrect configuration in two IT applications, a company representative told Bleeping Computer. Cariad was informed on November 26 of the issue by the Chaos Computer Club (CCC), the largest organization of ethical hackers in Europe that for more than 30 years has promoted security, privacy, and free access to information.

Source: <https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/>, December 28, 2024

BII to make Rs 650cr in final tranche of investment on M&M's EV arm

Automaker Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd on Monday said British International Investment Plc will make a final tranche investment of Rs 650 crore, as against earlier planned investment of Rs 725 crore, in its electric vehicles arm. Earlier this year in May, the company had intimated that it and British International Investment Plc (BII) have mutually agreed to extend the timeframe for the final tranche of BII's planned investment of Rs 725 crore in Mahindra Electric Automobile Ltd (MEAL) and would jointly assess whether additional investment is required by December 31, 2024, M&M said in a regulatory filing. In this connection, M&M said the company and BII have jointly assessed the funding requirement for MEAL on the basis of which it has been "mutually agreed that the final tranche of BII Group's (i.e. BII and/or BII India EV LLP) investment would be Rs 650 crore to be completed by March 31, 2025, as against earlier planned investment of Rs 725 crore".

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, December 30, 2024

Defence & Solar

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Highlights India's Defence Exports Crossing Record Rs 21,000 Crore Over Decade During Mhow Visit

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said India's defence exports have crossed a record Rs 21,000 crore from Rs 2,000 crore a decade ago. The defence minister accompanied by Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, visited the training institutes of the Indian Army in Mhow on a two-day official visit. The visit included engagements at the Army War College (AWC), Infantry School, and the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE). Senior officers of the Indian Army were also present during the visit. On Monday, Singh visited Army War College, where he was received by Lieutenant General HS Sahi, Commandant, Army War College. The Commandant briefed Singh about the role and significance of the institution in shaping future military leaders. Addressing the officers of Mhow Garrison, Singh commended the relentless dedication of the Indian Army towards safeguarding the nation's borders.

Source: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/>, December 30, 2024

India commissions Russian-built warship amid enduring ties with Moscow

Eleven years after its keel was laid, India has taken receipt of a 3,900-ton guided missile frigate from Russia. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh called it a significant milestone in the longstanding friendship between India and Russia, with the two nations bound together by mutual trust and a special and strategic privileged partnership. The ceremony for this Project 1135.6-class warship, christened INS Tushil, took place in a wintry Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad earlier this month. The warship was originally destined to join the Russian Navy, but it was diverted to Delhi after India contracted for two frigates in October 2016. Sister ship INS Tamala is due for handover in the first quarter of 2025. India already has six frigates of this Talwar class in service three built in the Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three in Kaliningrad.

Source: By Gordon Aurthur, <https://www.defensenews.com/>, December 19, 2024

India declares 2025 as 'Year of Defence Reforms'

India has declared 2025 as the "Year of Reforms" in the defense sector, with an emphasis on major strides in military modernization. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted this initiative's significance in strengthening India's security and sovereignty in the face of 21st-century challenges. The reforms will focus on modernizing the armed forces and creating integrated theatre commands for greater jointness and integration of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The Defence Ministry also plans to develop necessary tactics, techniques, and procedures for future warfare. These will incorporate emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and machine learning. The reform agenda also includes promoting public-private partnerships and strategic partnerships between Indian industries and global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

Source: <https://www.newsbytesapp.com/>, January 01, 2025

Defence Ministry inks Rs 2,867 crore contracts to bolster submarine capabilities

The Ministry of Defence has inked two major contracts worth around Rs 2,867 crore to enhance the capabilities of the Navy's submarine fleet. These contracts, with the aim of bolstering the endurance and firepower of the submarines, were signed with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar in attendance on Monday in Delhi. The first contract, worth around Rs 1,990 crore, has been signed with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) for the construction of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Plug for the DRDO-AIP system. The AIP Plug will allow submarines to stay submerged for longer durations by generating power without the need for atmospheric oxygen. The second contract, valued at approximately Rs 877 crore, was signed with France's Naval Group for the integration of the Electronic Heavy Weight Torpedo (EHWT) onto the Kalvari-Class submarines of the Navy. The EHWT is a large-calibre, self-propelled underwater weapon designed for engaging surface ships and submarines.

Source: By Shivani Sharma, <https://www.indiatoday.in/>, December 30, 2025

MSME

Growth in MSME, emergence as defence manufacturing hub: Good tidings for Pune Inc in 2024

Last month, the Maratha Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) surveyed 108 companies in Pune. They included micro, small, medium and large companies in different sectors. As much as 81 per cent were confident, they would see a growth in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024. A sizable 37 per cent believed their growth would be more than 20 per cent. This shows that most of the year (CY 2024) has been good for 81 per cent of those surveyed. Most surveyed companies that projected more than 20 per cent growth were from the defence manufacturing and electronics manufacturing sectors. Over the past three years, defence manufacturing in Pune has grown exponentially. A directory of defence manufacturers compiled by MCCIA in CY 2024 showed more than twice the entries (About 650) compared to the one compiled three years ago.

Source: By Prashant Girbane, <https://indianexpress.com/>, December 30, 2024

MSME sector exports witnessing robust growth in recent years

Indias Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) exports have witnessed a remarkable rise, increasing from ₹3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to ₹12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25, underscoring their critical role in boosting Indias economy and strengthening global trade. The total number of exporting MSMEs in 2024-25 has also increased considerably from 52,849 in 2020-21 to 1,73,350 in 2024-25. MSMEs demonstrated an exemplary growth trajectory, contributing 45.73% to exports in 2023-24, which increased to 45.79% by May 2024, highlighting their growing impact on Indias trade performance. The MSME sector in India has consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, significantly contributing to the nation's GDP over the years.

Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/>, December 24, 2024

GJEPC Hosts Hybrid Workshop on Export Readiness and MSME Benefits

The logo for GJEPC India, featuring the text "GJEPC" in a bold, sans-serif font above "INDIA" in a smaller font, with a circular emblem to the right containing a stylized sun or gear design.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) conducted a hybrid workshop at its Zaveri Bazaar office on December 27, focusing on export readiness and membership benefits. The session also provided detailed information about advantages available under the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) scheme. Participants received comprehensive guidance on crucial export requirements, including Import Export Code (IEC), Customs Know Your Customer (KYC), and various essential registrations such as Authorized Dealer Bank, Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange Gateway (ICEGATE), and Udyam. The workshop featured detailed presentations covering industry-specific topics including Parichay cards, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, and multiple export channels through courier services and e-commerce platforms. The council also highlighted upcoming industry events such as the International Gem and Jewellery Show (IGJS) and India International Jewellery Show (IIJS).

Source: <https://knnindia.co.in/>, December 31, 2024

Plans underway for bigger role for TReDS, to enrol million MSMEs in 2 years

The country's Trade Receivables E-discounting System (TReDS) platforms are drawing up plans to on-board as many as a million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) over the next couple of years. The issue figured in recent discussions between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and firms in the TReDS space. Other matters which were taken up as part of the stock-taking were the status of inclusion of insurance companies as the fourth participant on TReDS (apart from MSME sellers, buyers and financiers), and its linkage with the Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN). TReDS are online platforms which enable suppliers to MSME to discount their invoices and receive payments ensuring the conversion of their receivables into funds in a short period. As of now, there are three TReDS platforms: Receivables Exchange of India, M1xchange, and Invoice Mart.

Source: By Raghu Mohan, <https://www.business-standard.com/>, December 27, 2024

Information Technology

Emerging tech to drive India's job market with 20% growth in 2025: Report

Indian IT ecosystem is poised for a promising growth trajectory in the coming years with emerging technologies expected to witness a 20 per cent increase in new jobs in 2025, Human Resources (HR) platform FirstMeridian Business Services said on Tuesday. Looking back at 2024, it said the Indian IT and tech ecosystem witnessed a 17 per cent surge in new employment opportunities, driven by rapid digital transformation and the concurrent rising demand for emerging tech niche job profiles. "After a muted H1, the sector regained momentum, as we gear up for 2025, these trends will continue, while also eyeing an average 20 per cent rise in profiles like application developers, software engineers, DevOps engineers, AI, ML, and Cyber Security," FirstMeridian Business Services CEO, IT Staffing, Sunil Nehra said. Moreover, Artificial Intelligence (AI), which was a major trend in 2024, is expected to further accelerate in 2025, Nehra added.

Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/>, December 31, 2024

Tech landscape: AI regulation, chip push to take centre stage

The tech policy landscape in 2025 is expected to focus on issues such as the implementation of the data protection law, the possible rollout of the draft of Digital India Act, AI regulation, semiconductor 2.0 incentive scheme and finalisation of the electronics components scheme. While no major overhauls are anticipated, these areas will shape ongoing discussions and set the groundwork for a long-term action plan for the government. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, passed in August 2023, remains a key focus for the ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY). Drafting rules to implement the Act is in its final stages, with consultations expected post-publication. The rules will clarify critical aspects such as consent management, particularly for minors, and exemptions for specific entities or use cases, said Dhruv Garg, partner at the Indian Governance and Policy Project (IGAP).

Source: By Jatin Grover, <https://www.financialexpress.com/>, December 27, 2024

POLICY MATTERS – DEC 2024

DGTR F. No. 6/22/2023-DGTR dated 23rd December 2024: Anti-Dumping Duty on Imports of “Soft Ferrite Cores” from China PR: Final Findings

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has concluded its anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of “Soft Ferrite Cores” originating in or exported from China PR. This investigation was initiated based on an application filed by M/S Cosmo Ferrites Limited, representing the domestic industry.

Key Highlights:

A. Scope of Investigation: The investigation covers **Manganese-Zinc-based Soft Ferrite Cores** in specific geometries and lengths:

- **EE/E/EF** (10 mm to 128 mm)
- **PQ/EQ** (20 mm to 71 mm)
- **ET** (24 mm to 35 mm)
- **Toroid** (3 mm to 202 mm)
- **UU/UI** (10 mm to 141 mm)
- **I Bars** (20 mm to 245 mm)
- **ER** (11 mm to 67 mm)

Exclusions: Nickel-Zinc-based cores, Magnesium-Zinc-based cores, and MnZn cores with mirror finish.

B. Anti-Dumping Duty Recommendations:

- To offset the dumping and injury, the Authority has recommended imposing an anti-dumping duty for five years.
- Duty rates vary based on the producer/exporter:
 - **Huzhou Haotong Electronic Technology Co., Ltd: 31%**
 - **Yibin Jinchuan Electronics Co., Ltd and Hengdian Group DMEGC Magnetics Co., Ltd: No duty imposed.**
 - **Other producers/exporters: 35%.**

C. Implementation Timeline: The duties are recommended for a period of five years, pending formal notification by the Central Government.

The Central Government will issue a formal notification to implement the duties.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official DGTR website regarding DGTR F. No. 6/22/2023-DGTR dated 23rd December 2024.

CBIC Circular No. 27/2024-Customs dated 23rd December 2024: Enabling Voluntary Payment Electronically on ICEGATE e-Payment Platform

The Ministry of Finance has announced the implementation of an electronic Voluntary/Self-Initiated Payment (SIP) facility on the ICEGATE platform, effective from December 23, 2024. This new feature aims to digitize and streamline the process of making voluntary payments for imports/exports that have already been cleared. The SIP system will replace the existing manual TR-6 payments and allow users to generate self-initiated challans and make payments without needing further approval from Customs officers.

Key Highlights:

- The SIP module is accessible post-login for ICEGATE registered users and is primarily for payments related to past import/export consignments.
- The system is not to be used for live consignment clearance or for payments that involve ICES/ECCS/SEZ online/ACES applications.
- Payment can be made via multiple channels, including internet banking, NEFT/RTGS, and payment aggregators.
- The new facility replaces the current Over the Counter (OTC) payment process using TR-6 challans, with a deadline for discontinuing manual payments set for December 31, 2024.

Important Considerations:

- Payments must be made carefully, selecting the correct purpose from the provided options.
- Officers will verify payments through ICEGATE's "Payment Status" Voluntary Payment" feature.
- A user manual for the SIP facility is available on the ICEGATE platform for guidance.

This circular seeks to enhance the efficiency of voluntary payments and encourage a paperless, digital approach in line with the government's digitization goals. It is crucial for stakeholders to familiarize themselves with the new payment system and discontinue manual TR-6 payments after the specified deadline.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding Circular No. 27/2024-Customs dated 23rd December 2024.

CBIC Notification No. 50/2024-Customs dated 30th December 2024: Further Amendments to Customs Notification No. 62/2022-Customs: Seeks to give effect to the fourth tranche of tariff concessions under India-Australia ECTA

The Government of India has issued Notification No. 50/2024-Customs, dated 30th December 2024, amending the existing Customs Notification No. 62/2022-Customs dated 26th December 2022. This amendment, made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 25 of the Customs Act, 1962, aims to make necessary adjustments in the public interest.

Key Amendment:

- Substitution of Table I:** The existing Table I in Notification No. 62/2022-Customs is substituted with a revised table detailing the revised Basic Customs Duty (BCD) rates for various goods.
- BCD Rates:** The revised table includes changes in the BCD rates for different tariff items. Notably, many items listed in Chapter 85 under the tariff item codes are now subject to a 0% BCD rate, while other goods under specific codes in Chapter 85 will now attract 1%, 2%, 3.2%, 4.3%, and 8.6% BCD rate.

The detailed list of tariff items and the corresponding BCD rates have been outlined in the revised Table I of the notification.

This amendment aims to streamline customs duties in line with current trade and economic requirements, continuing the government's efforts to promote ease of doing business and streamline the import-export process.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding Notification No. 50/2024-Customs dated 30th December 2024.

DGFT Trade Notice No. 24/2024-25 dated 20th December 2024: Launch Date for eCoO 2.0 System Rescheduled to 17th January 2025

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has issued a Trade Notice (No. 24/2024-25) on 20th December 2024, announcing the rescheduling of the launch for the enhanced Preferential Certificate of Origin (eCoO 2.0) system. Originally scheduled for 21st December 2024, the launch date has now been extended to **17th January 2025**.

Additionally, the notice highlights the mandatory electronic filing of Non-Preferential Certificates of Origin (CoO) on the eCoO 2.0 Platform, effective **1st January 2025**. Exporters and Non-Preferential CoO Issuing Agencies, as listed under Appendix-2E of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP), are advised to ensure compliance.

The announcement underscores the importance of these updates for the trade community and encourages all stakeholders to prepare accordingly.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding DGFT Trade Notice No. 24/2024-25 dated 20th December 2024.

BIS ref CMD III/16: IS 302 (Part 1) dated 16th December 2024: Implementation of Safety of Household, Commercial, and Similar Electrical Appliances Quality Control Order (QCO) 2024

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued guidelines for the implementation of the Safety of Household, Commercial, and Similar Electrical Appliances Quality Control Order (QCO) 2024, along with the revised IS 302 (Part 1): 2024/IEC 60335-1:2020 standard. This mandates BIS certification for electrical appliances with rated voltage up to 250V (single-phase) and 415V (three-phase) that fall under the scope of this QCO.

Key Points:

- **BIS Certification Requirement:** All relevant manufacturers must obtain BIS certification for appliances as per IS 302 (Part 1): 2008 or the newly revised IS 302 (Part 1): 2024/IEC 60335-1:2020.
- **Concurrent Running Period:** Both the old and revised standards will run concurrently until February 23, 2026. Manufacturers can apply for BIS certification under either standard during this period.
- **Guidelines for New Applicants:**
 - Applications can be submitted under either the old or revised standard.
 - For products with applicable IS 302 (Part 2) standards, certification will be based on compliance with IS 302 (Part 1) and the relevant Part 2 clauses.
 - If no relevant Part 2 standard exists, certification will be based on the revised IS 302 (Part 1) and IEC standards.
- **Existing Licensees:** Existing manufacturers holding voluntary BIS certifications under the old standard can opt to change their license to the new standard or apply for a separate license under the old standard. No additional testing will be required for existing products during the transition.

- **Implementation Timeline:** Manufacturers must transition to the revised IS 302 (Part 1): 2024/IEC 60335-1:2020 by the end of the concurrent running period. Compliance will be verified during the next BIS inspection visit.
- **Product Specific Guidelines:** Product manuals for both the old and revised standards are available on the BIS website. Manufacturers must follow these guidelines, unless specific manuals for particular appliances are issued by BIS.

For more details and to ensure compliance, members are encouraged to refer to the full guidelines and updates on the BIS website BIS ref CMD III/16: IS 302 (Part 1) dated 16th December 2024.

Upcoming QCOs in the Official Gazette: Overview of Product Orders and Implementation Dates

Below is an overview of the key Quality Control Orders (QCOs) and their implementation dates:

Sl. No.	Order Title	Date of Implementation (For General Enterprises)
1.	<i>Aluminium and Aluminium Alloy Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
2.	<i>Cookware, Utensils and Cans for Foods and Beverages (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
3.	<i>Electrical Appliances for Commercial Dispensing and Vending (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
4.	<i>Geotextiles (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
5.	<i>Indutech (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
6.	<i>Medical Textiles (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 January 2025
7.	<i>Ropes and Cordages (Quality Control) Order, 2024</i>	1 April 2025
8.	Multi-Layered Plastic Laminates for Packaging	1 April 2025
9.	Seamless Copper Tubes for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	1 April 2025
10.	Steel Tubes for Mechanical and General Engineering Purposes $\frac{1}{2}$ Specification	1 March 2025
11.	Welding Wires for Automatic Arc Welding of Unalloyed and Low Alloy Steel	1 January 2025
12.	Zinc and Zinc Alloy Coated Steel Sheet and Strip	1 April 2025

These QCOs are designed to ensure that the listed products meet the required quality standards, thereby enhancing safety and compliance within the industry.

Several of these orders have been issued to supersede previous versions. Manufacturers are advised to carefully examine the revised provisions and note the updated implementation dates to ensure full compliance.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official website regarding Upcoming QCOs in the Official Gazette.

INDIA - PCB INDUSTRY NEWS

India's electronics industry poised for transformation with new incentives for component makers

The country's electronics manufacturing sector is set to be strengthened through a major government initiative that will spur the components ecosystem. Experts maintain that India's next step would be to work on increasing the domestic value addition and develop the almost non-existent electronic component supply base.

Read more at:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/indias-power-surge/articleshow/116322851.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

THE WORLD NEWS

HKPCA Show 2024

- Venue: Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Centre (Bao'an)
- Date: 4-6 December (Wed-Fri)
- No of Exhibitor: 600+
- No of Booths: ~3600
- Area: 80,000 sqm (hall 5, 6, 7, 8)





CPCA 中国电子电路行业协会

CPCA Show 2025
24- 26 March 2025

<http://www.cpcashow.com/en/index.asp>

IPC APEX EXPO Future Dates

March 18-20, 2025 | Anaheim Convention Center

March 17 -19, 2026 | Anaheim Convention Center

April 6-8, 2027 | Anaheim Convention Center

April 4-6, 2028 | Anaheim Convention Center

International Events

	<p>International Electronics Circuit Exhibition 4-6 December 2024 Shenzhen World Exhibition & Convention Center (Bao'an), China https://www.hkpcashow.org/en/show/information</p>
	<p>IPC APEX EXPO 18th-20th March 2025 Anaheim Convention Center https://www.ipcapexexpo.org/</p>
	<p>CPCA Show 2025 24- 26 March 2025 http://www.cpcashow.com/en/index.asp</p>
	<p>JPCA SHOW 2025 4-6 June 2025 Tokyo Big Sight, East Exhibition Hall</p>
	<p>THPCA SHOW 2025 20-22 August 2025 BITEC EH 99-100, Bangkok Thailand</p>
	<p>KPCA SHOW 2025 3-5 September 2025 Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon, South Korea</p>

Domestic Events

	ELECTRONICS EXPO 12th -14th DEC 2024 CHENNAI https://shorturl.at/2VFcu
	EV Asia Expo 12th – 14th February 2025 Gujarat https://www.evasia.in/
	ET Expo and Automotive Electronics & Testing Show 13th- 15th February 2025 Pune https://et-automotive.com/
	14th Source India 18th-19th February 2025 Chennai https://event.sourceindia-electronics.com/
	16th ELECARAMA 2025 22nd- 26th February 2025 https://elecrama.com/
	Convergence Expo 19th- 21st 2025 March New Delhi https://www.convergenceindia.org/
	India Electronics Expo 2025 19th- 21st March 2025 Pragati Maidan Delhi https://www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com/

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INDIAN PRINTED CIRCUIT ASSOCIATION (IPCA)

#2711, 2nd Main, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra,
Bengaluru – 560 075, KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA

Tel: ☎ +91 80 2521 0109, 2521 0309

E-mail: ✉ ipca@ipcaindia.org; babu@ipcaindia.org

Website: www.ipcaindia.org