

IPCA e-Newsletter



Vol. 7

MAR 2025

INDUSTRY NEWS – GENERAL

India's First SiC Semiconductor Facility to Come Up in Odisha by 2025



RIR Power Electronics is set to establish India's first silicon carbide (SiC) semiconductor production facility in Odisha. The company plans to begin the first phase of production by December 2025, focusing on Epitaxy Wafer manufacturing. The facility, backed by an investment of Rs 618 crore, aims to manufacture high-power SiC devices, including MOSFETs and diodes ranging from 3.3kV to 20kV. RIR Power Electronics has stated that while the initial phase will focus on wafer production, subsequent phases will involve packaging and full-fledged SiC fabrication. According to Harshad Mehta, Founder and Promoter of RIR Power Electronics, the company is working closely with the Odisha government to advance semiconductor manufacturing. The production of SiC semiconductors is crucial for industries such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, industrial automation, and power electronics. SiC technology is known for its high efficiency and durability, which can improve energy management across multiple sectors.

Source: <https://apacnewsnetwork.com/>, March 29, 2025

Automakers brace for a rough road ahead in FY26

Automakers are bracing for a likely challenging start to the new fiscal year, when price hikes they are compelled to make due to higher input cost could further dampen demand that is already weak and increase inventory that is high at dealerships. Auto dealers said it has been some time before they faced a string of challenges like this time. Strict emission and safety regulations, increased raw material prices and supply chain disruptions are putting cost pressure on automakers, forcing them to announce price hikes for several fast-moving models. While the price increases are mostly effective April, and companies are offering generous discounts on both fossil fuel-run and battery-powered vehicles ahead of the end of this fiscal year, consumers are largely refraining from making purchases, said dealers. Prices are expected to increase 3-4%, or ₹20,000 to ₹1 lakh, within the budget and mid-tier segments. The average retail price of new vehicles (mass-market and luxury) has surged from ₹8 lakh in 2018 to ₹14 lakh in 2024, according to estimates by consultancy firm Jato Dynamics.

Source: By Lijee Philip, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, March 29, 2025

From Samsung to BYD: Foreign companies and their tax tussles with India

Foreign companies have often struggled in India due to high tax demands related levies payable on big M&A transactions or government accusations of duty evasion on imports, at times leading to prolonged litigation. Volkswagen faces a record \$1.4 billion tax notice for importing parts for 14 models, including some Audis, in separate shipments to avoid the higher tax on completely knocked down (CKD) units. The German automaker sued Indian authorities in a Mumbai court saying the "impossibly enormous" tax demand will hit its investment in the country, and foreign investor sentiment. India's government told the court that agreeing to Volkswagen's demand to quash the tax bill would have "catastrophic consequences" and encourage companies to withhold information and delay inquiries, court documents showed.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, March 26, 2025

India's semiconductor demand to cross \$100 billion by 2030: S Krishnan

Currently valued at \$45-50 billion, India's semiconductor demand is expected to reach \$100-110 billion by 2030, S Krishnan, Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said. He was speaking at the first 'Nano Electronics Roadshow' held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Thursday, where he underscored the critical role of MeitY's Nano Centres in fostering innovation and talent development, stating that the government is building a semiconductor-ready workforce of 85,000 professionals. Krishnan highlighted that currently, nearly 70-75% of investments in major semiconductor facilities come from taxpayer money, making every Indian a stakeholder in this mission. With 20% of the global semiconductor design workforce based in India, Krishnan said the success of the India Semiconductor Mission is a shared responsibility of the government, industry, and academia.



Source: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/>, March 28, 2025

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Foldable Smartphone Market to See its First Decline in 2025 Before Robust Comeback in 2026

This year is expected to be even tougher, with Counterpoint forecasting single-digit negative growth for the market in 2025. "I don't see many positives this year and we are actually expecting negative growth for the segment, which will be a first," observed Senior Analyst Jene Park. But it is not a sign of the market peaking; rather it is a sign of regrouping before 2026, which is expected to be exciting and rejuvenating for the segment with the entry of Apple and a slew of clamshells." Counterpoint Research's latest Foldable and Rollable Display Shipment and Technology Report supports this growth view for 2026 with the forecast of a mid-double-digit YoY growth in panel procurement. "The supply chain is telling us foldable order books are filling up further out. Now, this doesn't look like a market that is plateauing – it looks like a market that is about to transform. And that requires a lot of planning, hence the slight pullback this year.

Source: <https://www.counterpointresearch.com/>, March 28, 2025

Shipments of 'Made in India' Smartphones Grew 6% YoY in 2024 Amid Record Exports

Made in India' smartphone shipments grew 6% YoY in 2024 driven by increasing exports from Apple and Samsung, according to Counterpoint's 'Make in India' Service. Apple and Samsung alone accounted for around 94% of India's smartphone exports. Both the brands have significantly expanded their manufacturing in India to align with the country's objective of reducing reliance on imports and strengthening its presence in the global supply chains. The Indian government's PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) scheme has encouraged global manufacturers to set up or expand their production facilities in the country. All this has resulted in increasing local manufacturing. Major global smartphone manufacturers are increasingly diversifying production to ensure a more resilient supply chain and minimize the risks associated with over-reliance on a single country. India presents itself as a great manufacturing destination due to a huge local market, affordable labour costs and favourable schemes from the government focused on increasing local manufacturing. Smartphone manufacturing in India is expected to grow in double digits in 2025, along with increasing local value addition.

Source: <https://www.counterpointresearch.com/>, March 20, 2025

Oppo, OnePlus, Vivo and other Chinese companies up for local parts in electronics play

As smartphone and consumer electronics makers look to reduce dependency on Chinese imports for components, taking the lead in building a local supply chain ecosystem are Chinese companies. Brands like Haier, Hisense, Oppo, OnePlus and Vivo are all working to significantly increase local value addition in their products, driven by persistent regulatory pressure and a growing Indian supplier base. The Chinese refrigerator and television maker has reached out to local component manufacturers to set up plants near its production units, and one such facility - producing wire baskets for deep freezers - has already come up near its Pune plant, he said. Next in line is refrigerator door glass manufacturing by local companies. Haier is investing ₹300 crore for manufacturing of components like injection moulding and printed circuit boards in India. TV and appliance maker Hisense, which has recently started local production in India through contract manufacturers, is also exploring such a route, a senior company official said.

Source: By Writankar Mukherjee, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, March 22, 2025

India slaps Samsung with tax demand of \$601 million for telecom imports

India has ordered Samsung and its executives in the country to pay \$601 million in back taxes and penalties for dodging tariffs on import of key telecoms equipment, a government order showed, for one of the biggest such demands in recent years. The demand represents a substantial chunk of last year's net profit of \$955

million for Samsung in India, where it is one of the largest players in the consumer electronics and smartphones market. It can be challenged in a tax tribunal or the courts. The company, which also imports telecoms equipment through its network division, received a warning in 2023 for misclassifying imports to evade tariffs of 10% or 20% on a critical transmission component used in mobile towers. Samsung pushed India's tax authority to drop the scrutiny, saying the component did not attract tariffs and officials had known its classification practice for years.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, March 22, 2025



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Make in India's Leap in Electronics Manufacturing & Exports

Not long ago, India relied heavily on imports, with most electronics being imported. However, things are changing fast. With the Make in India initiative, the country is now building its own electronics industry, attracting big investments and boosting local production. As a result, India's electronics exports are growing rapidly, even surpassing some traditional sectors like textiles. With strong government support and expanding factories, India is well on its way to becoming a global hub for electronics manufacturing. Launched in 2014, the Make in India initiative has been a pivotal step in India's nation-building efforts. The initiative was conceived during a period when India's economic growth had sharply declined, and the country faced critical challenges in sustaining its development trajectory. Against this backdrop, "Make in India" was designed to transform India into a global hub for design and manufacturing. Its core objectives were to facilitate investment, encourage innovation, and develop world-class infrastructure. As one of the pioneering 'Vocal for Local' initiatives, it sought not only to boost India's manufacturing capabilities but also to showcase its industrial potential on a global stage.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/>, March 26, 2025

First made-in-India microcontroller coming in 6 months

India's first indigenously designed commercial microcontroller is likely to be launched in the next six-to-seven months by Chennai-based Mindgrove Technologies, its co-founder and chief executive Shashwath T R told FE. The company has begun production of its Secure IoT chip. The Secure IoT chip has applications across wearables (smartwatches and headphones), connected home devices (smart locks, speakers, and smart fans), smart city devices (electricity, water and gas meters), access control devices (biometrics), and devices such as thermal printers and point-of-sale (POS) machines, in addition to EV battery management. The quantum of production will be decided over the next few weeks as the firm finalises contracts with companies requiring the microcontroller, Shashwath said. As it prepares for commercial production of the first chip, the design startup is also in the process of finalising the design of its second chip — the Vision SoC chip. Aimed at high-performance edge computing and video processing applications, Vision SoC (System-on-Chip) will be suited for applications and devices whose functions involve identifying and processing video information.

Source: By Urvu Malvania, <https://www.financialexpress.com/>, March 30, 2025

Elon Musk's Grok AI is now on Telegram

Just a few days after Elon Musk's Grok AI broke the internet with its savage comments, xAI is ready to take on another social media platform. Recently, it has been announced that Grok AI is now integrating into Telegram. Previously, users could only interact with the chatbot on either X (formerly known as Twitter) or the Grok app. But now Telegram users will also be able to chat with it. This step could be a strategy to increase the Grok AI's reach and give Telegram another chance to fight the AI world. For context, Telegram has been facing legal issues since August 2024. Since the last arrest of CEO Pavel Durov, the messaging app has been accused of being an easy platform for criminal activities and more. Moreover, with no AI features, users were slowly losing interest, especially when its competition, WhatsApp, was actively introducing MetaAI features. And now with Grok AI, Telegram has climbed up the ladder and is speculated to be in the headlines for some time.



Source: By Unnati Gusain, <https://www.indiatoday.in/>, March 27, 2025

EV's & Auto Electronics

Govt weighs EV charging expansion across key infra with ₹2,000 crore fund

The Union government is planning to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across major sectors such as ports, roads, railways, and airports, while incorporating battery swapping facilities, a senior official said. The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) is in discussions with the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and various state governments to identify potential locations for installing EV charging stations. As part of the ₹10,900-crore PM E-Drive scheme, the government has allocated ₹2,000 crore for the installation of EV charging stations and battery swapping facilities across the country. The initiative aims to improve charging connectivity for India's growing EV market and reduce reliance on internal combustion engine vehicles. India aims to increase the number of public EV charging stations to 72,300 by FY26, up from the current 32,500.

Source: By Puja Das, <https://www.business-standard.com/>, March 31, 2025

BYD's bold India strategy: Outsmarting Tesla in the EV race

Electric vehicle maker, BYD (Build Your Dreams) announced plans to set up its manufacturing plant in Telangana. With Chinese EV makers facing additional import tariffs in Europe and the U.S., BYD is focused on other markets with potential EV demand growth. The company is set to invest Rs 85,000 crore (\$10 billion) in its state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in India. Does this mean BYD has an advantage over Tesla's much-awaited debut in the Indian market? By setting up a manufacturing plant, the Chinese EV can localize its production. BYD has decided to take the plunge and has revealed how serious it is for the Indian market as it will set up its first manufacturing plant here. With the Indian Government's new lower tariff rates on EVs, this gives companies like BYD a much-needed shot in the arm. According to a report by Times of India, Telangana government officials confirmed that the state government has identified 200 acres of land for BYD.



Build Your Dreams

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/>, March 31, 2025

Maharashtra's Tax Reduction on Electric Vehicles Aims to Enhance Affordability & Sales

In a bid to lead the charge towards sustainable transportation, Maharashtra has taken a bold step by slashing taxes on electric vehicles (EVs), aiming to make them a more attractive option for consumers. By eliminating the additional 6% tax that was previously levied on EVs, the state government has paved the way for a significant price reduction in electric vehicles. This policy adjustment is anticipated to spur sales of electric vehicles, contributing to a cleaner environment and promoting eco-friendly transportation solutions. This tax reduction strategy by Maharashtra is seen as a pivotal move to encourage the uptake of luxury electric vehicles, which often come with a hefty price tag due to various taxes imposed by both central and state governments. These taxes are a major revenue source but also make luxury vehicles less accessible to the average buyer. By making high-end electric cars more affordable, Maharashtra is not only fostering a shift towards greener vehicles but also aligning with the national agenda to escalate electric vehicle adoption across India.

Source: <https://www.drivespark.com/>, March 29, 2025

Centre aims green logistics at ports, eyes setting up EV charging infra

The union heavy industries ministry has consulted the ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways to determine locations across ports for installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, according to two officials aware of the development. These EV charging stations will be installed on ports as a part of the ongoing ₹10,900-crore PM E-drive scheme, the officials said. Email queries to the ministry of heavy industries and the ministry of ports, shipping, and waterways were unanswered till press time. The government has allocated a massive corpus of ₹2,000 crore towards installation of EV charging stations across the country to ensure charging connectivity for India's rapidly growing electric vehicle market. Two kinds of vehicles are likely to need EV charging stations on ports as electrification of mobility takes its course in the country—ground operations in ports, and cargo and commercial vehicles such as trucks.

Source: By Manas Pimpalkhare, Rituraj Baruah, <https://www.livemint.com/>, March 30, 2025

Defence & Solar

Waaree Energies launches India's largest solar cell facility in Gujarat



Clean energy player Waaree Energies Ltd on Saturday announced the launch of its solar cell facility having a capacity of 5.4 gigawatt (GW) at Chikhli in Gujarat. Union New and Renewable Energy Minister Prahlad Joshi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel attended the inauguration event along other senior government officials, Waaree Energies said in a statement. "Bharat's largest solar cell manufacturing Gigafactory inaugurated by Waaree Energies in Chikhli, Gujarat," the company said. The facility is spread across 150 acres, with a built-up area of 101 acres. Speaking on the occasion, Joshi said the launch of one of largest solar cell facility embodies the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat and stands as a tribute to India's growing prowess in the global renewable energy landscape.

Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/>, March 29, 2025

TOPCon solar cell based on aluminum contacts achieves slightly lower efficiency than silver-based counterpart

A group of researchers led by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia has developed a tunnel oxide passivated contact (TOPCon) solar based on aluminium (Al) contacts placed on the rear side. The proposed cell configuration is aimed at replacing expensive silver (Ag) pastes used for cell contacts with low-cost aluminium, which can be seamlessly integrated into the existing industrial screen-printing infrastructure and is already well-established in solar cell manufacturing," the research project's lead, Ning Song, told pv magazine, noting that Al pastes cost approximately \$3–7/kg, which is more than 100 times cheaper than silver (Ag) pastes and significantly cheaper than emerging copper (Cu) pastes. The contacts were then screen-printed with a conventional Al paste provided by Japanese specialist Toyo Aluminium K.K. In the paper "Integration of aluminium contacts in TOPCon solar cells: A pathway to reduce silver usage," published in Solar Energy Materials and Solar Cells, the scientists explained that they used Al contacts prepared with a laser contact opening (LCO) tool.

Source: By Emiliano Bellini, <https://www.pv-magazine.com/>, March 28, 2025

India's Solar PV Manufacturing Capacity to Reach 125 GW by 2030

India's solar PV module manufacturing capacity will increase to 125 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 from the current 80 GW, and its installed solar cell manufacturing capacity will soon touch 40 GW from 25 GW at present, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Prahlad Joshi said in Gujarat's Navsari district on Saturday. In 2014, solar PV module manufacturing was nearly absent in the country, he said after inaugurating a state-of-the-art 5.4 GW solar cell manufacturing facility of Waaree Energies Limited at Degam here. Today, companies like Waaree are producing 80 GW solar PV modules. By 2030, our total solar PV manufacturing capacity will be 125 GW. Similarly, solar cell manufacturing was nil in 2014. But today we are manufacturing 25 GW, and very soon we will reach a target of 40 GW. We are moving ahead with the thinking of integrated solar, right from polysilicon to module, to be manufactured in India. India has emerged as the world's third largest producer of renewable energy and will achieve the target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 from 220 GW currently, the union minister added.

Source: <https://money.rediff.com/>, March 29, 2025

MSME

Govt Mandates Companies to Report MSME Payment Delays Over 45 Days

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) issued Notification No. S.O. 1376(E) dated March 25, 2025, directing all companies that procure goods or services from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to report any payment delays exceeding 45 days from the date of acceptance or deemed acceptance of supplies. In exercise of powers conferred by section 9 of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 (27 of 2006) and read with section 15 of the said Act, the Central Government hereby directs that all companies who get supplies of goods or services from micro and small enterprises and whose payments to micro and small enterprise suppliers exceed forty five days from the date of acceptance or the date of deemed acceptance of the goods or services as per the provisions of the said Act, shall submit a half yearly return to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Source: <https://www.taxscan.in/>, March 28, 2025

Vi partners with WB's export body to boost MSME digital transformation

Telecom major Vodafone Idea (Vi) on Tuesday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the West Bengal State Export Promotion Society (WBSEPS) to accelerate digital transformation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. The move comes as the West Bengal government aims to strengthen its MSME ecosystem, which employs over 10 million people. The collaboration will leverage the digital assessment and advisory initiative of the telecom company, and it has already evaluated over 1.9 lakh MSMEs nationwide since its launch in 2022, the statement said. Under the partnership, the telecom major will provide localised digital tools and training modules in Bengali, and host webinars to enhance tech adoption among West Bengal's MSMEs.

Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/>, March 25, 2025

New financial year set to bring key tax, pension, and MSME reforms

A host of financial and regulatory changes set to take effect from April 1, marking the start of the 2025-26 financial year, are expected to boost consumption, strengthen social security and expand business opportunities for small enterprises. These include revised income tax slabs, a unified pension scheme (UPS) for central government employees, and enhanced turnover ceilings for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The new tax regime will see the basic exemption limit raised from ₹3 lakh to ₹4 lakh, while the tax rebate under Section 87A has been enhanced to reduce the burden on middle-income taxpayers. Under these revisions, individuals earning a taxable income of ₹12 lakh from April 1, 2025, onwards will save ₹83,200 (including cess) in taxes. Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda, said the impact of the tax cut would become evident once consumer spending picks up.

Source: By Harsh Kumar, Monika Yadav, <https://www.business-standard.com/>, March 31, 2025

MSMEs estimated at 7.3 Crores as of 2023-24, Wide Variation in State Sectoral Distribution

Over the past five decades, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has grown into a vital and dynamic force in India's economy. Beyond driving economic growth, it plays a crucial role in social development by nurturing entrepreneurship and creating vast employment opportunities with relatively low investment, second only to agriculture in job generation. According to the 73rd round of the National Sample Survey (2015-16), India had approximately 633.88 lakh unincorporated, non-agricultural MSMEs engaged in various sectors, including manufacturing (196.65 lakh), trade (230.35 lakh), and other services (206.85 lakh). The micro-enterprise segment dominates this landscape, making up over 99% of all MSMEs, followed by small and medium enterprises, which account for just 0.52% and 0.01%, respectively. Interestingly, MSMEs are nearly evenly distributed between rural (51.25%) and urban (48.75%) areas, underscoring their widespread impact across the country.

Source: <https://factly.in/>, March 31, 2025

Cabinet's Approval of the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme

Cabinet greenlights Rs 23,000 crore e-parts production scheme

The Cabinet has approved a Rs 23,000-crore programme to strengthen the electronics manufacturing supply chain. India is looking to grab a bigger share of the market as companies opt for 'China Plus One,' as well as create jobs. The much-anticipated electronics component manufacturing (ECM) scheme is a move to increase domestic value addition and integrate with global value chains. It will be spread over six years and is expected to generate investment worth Rs 60,000 crore. The ECM scheme is expected to result in Rs 4.57 lakh crore of production and generate 91,600 direct jobs, apart from indirect employment opportunities. It provides differentiated incentives tailored to overcome specific disabilities for various categories of components and sub-assemblies so they can acquire technological capabilities and achieve economies of scale. It has a one-year gestation period, and the incentives are split across three different sets of criteria. For some companies, the target will be related to jobs and for others, it will be linked to turnover. It will be linked to capital expenditure incurred for those that require heavy investment.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/>, March 29, 2025

Key Highlights of the Scheme:

- ◇ **Investment & Production Growth**
 - Expected investment of **₹59,350 crore**
 - Projected production output of **₹4,56,500 crore**
- ◇ **Employment Generation**
 - Additional **91,600 direct jobs** to be created
 - Significant indirect employment opportunities across the value chain
- ◇ **Targeted Incentives for Key Segments**
 - **Sub-assemblies & Bare Components:** Turnover-linked incentives for display modules, camera modules, PCBs, Li-ion cells, and enclosures for IT hardware.
 - **Advanced Technologies:** Hybrid incentives for high-density interconnect (HDI), flexible PCBs, and SMD passive components.
 - **Supply Chain & Capital Equipment:** Capex incentives to support the manufacturing ecosystem, including key components and capital goods.
 - **Employment-Linked Benefits:** A portion of the incentive payout is tied to achieving employment milestones.
- ◇ **Scheme Duration:** The scheme spans **six years**, including a **one-year gestation period**.

Parliamentary Committee Recommends FAME-III Expansion

The Standing Committee on Industry of the Parliament has recommended that electric vehicles (EVs) be included in the upcoming FAME-III scheme to help expand their market share. According to a report by the Financial Express, this is seen as a significant step to support the Electric Mobility Mission and diversify the range of vehicles covered under the scheme. The committee also proposed extending the current FAME-II scheme for at least three years to make it more inclusive and effective. This extension should be carried out in consultation with industry stakeholders. The government is expected to review the committee's recommendations and engage in further discussions to refine the policy framework for electric mobility. The call for expansion comes as passenger electric vehicles currently hold only 2% of the market share. The automotive industry has argued that including passenger EVs in the PM E-Drive scheme would help boost adoption. Overall, the market share for EVs in India surpassed 7% in 2024.

Source: Shubha Mitra, <https://www.electronicsonline.biz/>, March 28, 2025

POLICY MATTERS – MAR 2025

CBIC Circular no: 08/2025- Customs dated 24th March 2025: Clarification on the scope of the Camera Module of Cellular Mobile Phones.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has issued Circular No. 08/2025-Customs on March 24, 2025, clarifying the scope of camera modules for mobile cellular phones under Notification No. 57/2017-Customs.

Key takeaways:

- a) **Definition of Camera Module:**
 - a. A camera module consists of **lens, sensors, FPCB assembly, bracket/holder, connectors, and mechanical parts.**

- b. The “**essential character**” of a camera module is determined by its **primary function as a camera**, irrespective of design changes due to technological advancements.
- b) **Classification & Eligibility for Concessional Duty:**
- a. **Complete camera modules** (including single or multiple cameras) meant for **mobile phone manufacturing** will qualify for **10% Basic Customs Duty (BCD)** under **S. No. 5A of Notification No. 57/2017-Customs**.
- b. **Individual components** of a camera module (imported separately) **will not** qualify for this concessional rate and will attract **applicable duty rates**.
- c) **Clarification on Structural Elements:**
- a. Parts such as metal chassis, plastic covers, or holders **only providing strength or protection** without additional functionality will still be considered part of the **camera module assembly**.
- d) **Duty Implications:**
- a. If a camera module is **imported as a fully integrated assembly**, it will continue to get the **concessional duty**.
- b. If components of a camera module are **imported separately**, they will be taxed at **standard BCD rates**.

Impact on the Mobile Phone Industry:

- Provides **clarity for importers** on duty benefits for camera modules.
- Ensures **uniformity in classification** across customs office.
- Prevents **misclassification of imports** where structural components were previously considered **non-camera parts** and taxed separately.

This clarification is expected to **streamline imports** and **prevent disputes** related to the classification of camera modules under customs laws.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding CBIC Circular no: 08/2025- Customs dated 8th March 2025.

CBIC Notification No. 21/2025-Customs dated 28th march 2025: Government Issues Amendment to notification no. 22/2022-Customs to notify the fourth tranche of tariff concessions under India-UAE CEPA.

The Government of India has issued Notification No. 21/2025-Customs, which comes into effect on April 1, 2025. This latest amendment, announced by the Ministry of Finance’s Department of Revenue, revises the customs duty rates by replacing Table I of the previous notification (No. 22/2022-Customs, dated April 30, 2022).

The new table provides an updated schedule of duty rates for a wide range of goods, including various electrical and telecommunications equipment—with rates set at percentages such as 0%, 1.5%, 2%, 2.5%, 3%, 6%, and 12%. This update follows the earlier amendment made on February 1, 2025, and is aimed at aligning customs regulations with current trade needs and public interest.

The new tariff structure will be relevant for manufacturers, importers, and exporters of electrical machinery, electronic goods, and related components, and it reflects the government's efforts to fine-tune import duties to ensure a balanced approach to both industry interests and public policy.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding CBIC Notification No. 21/2025-Customs dated 28th March 2025 and refer to the specific HS codes and corresponding duty rates as listed Table I.

CBIC Notification No. 22/2025-Customs dated 28th March 2025: Government Issues Amendment to notification no. 25/2021-Customs to notify the fifth tranche of tariff concessions under India-Mauritius CECPA.

The Government of India has issued Notification No. 22/2025-Customs amending the previous customs notification (No. 25/2021-Customs, dated 31st March 2021). The amendments, notified under the Customs Act, 1962, come into effect on 1st April 2025.

Key Changes:

a. Table 1 Amendments:

The tariff schedule for several goods under specific HS codes has been updated. Notably:

- a. HS Code 85340000: Duty maintained at 0%.
- b. HS Codes 85365010, 85365020, 85365090, 85369010, 85369020, 85369030, and 85369090: Duty set at 5%.

b. Table 2 Amendments:

A new table details tariff concessions on certain food products under HS codes for vegetable preparations: a 50% concession on the applied rate of duty has been granted.

these revisions aim to adjust duty rates in line with current trade and economic policies, impacting importers and exporters across the affected sectors.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding CBIC Notification No. 22/2025-Customs dated 28th March 2025 and refer to the specific HS codes and corresponding duty rates as listed Table 1 and Table 2.

CBIC Notification No. 11/2025–Central Tax (GST Amendment Rules, 2025) dated 27th March 2025: Amendments to CGST Rules on Refunds and Appeals

The **CBIC** has amended the **CGST Rules, 2017** through **Notification No. 11/2025-Central Tax (March 27, 2025)** to clarify **refund eligibility** and **appeal withdrawal procedures** under **Section 128A**.

Key Changes:

- a) Refund Restriction (Rule 164(4))
 - a. No refund for tax, interest, or penalty already discharged if the demand covers both the period under Section 128A and any other period.
- b) Appeal Withdrawal (Rule 164(7))
 - a. Taxpayers can withdraw only part of the appeal related to Section 128A, without affecting the appeal for other periods.
- c) Automatic Appeal Withdrawal (Explanation in Rule 164(7))
 - a. Appeals will be deemed withdrawn for the period July 1, 2017 – March 31, 2020, where applicable under Section 128A (3).

These changes streamline refunds and appeals, reducing litigation and compliance burden for taxpayers.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official CBIC website regarding CBIC Notification No. 11/2025–Central Tax (GST Amendment Rules, 2025) dated 27th March 2025.

DGFT Public Notice No. 51/2024-25, dated 19th March 2025: Extension of Last Date for Filing Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) for FY 2023-24

The Government has extended the **last date for filing the Annual RoDTEP Return (ARR) for FY 2023-24** from **March 31, 2025, to June 30, 2025**. The grace period has also been extended from **June 30, 2025, to September 30, 2025**.

This extension is notified through **Public Notice No. 51/2024-25, dated March 19, 2025**, under the Foreign Trade Policy, 2023.

Effect of the Public Notice: Exporters availing **RoDTEP** for **FY 2023-24** now have an additional **three months** to file their ARR.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official DGFT website regarding DGFT Public Notice No. 51/2024-25, dated 19th March 2025.

DGFT Notification No. 66/2024-25, dated March 20, 2025: Extension of RoDTEP Scheme for AAs, SEZs, and EOUs Until February 5, 2025

The Government has extended the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) Scheme** for exporters operating under **Advance Authorizations (AAs), Special Economic Zones (SEZs), and Export-Oriented Units (EOUs)** until **February 5, 2025**. This extension is notified through **DGFT Trade Notice No. 66/2024-25, dated March 20, 2025**.

For more details, members are advised to refer to the official DGFT website regarding DGFT Notification No. 66/2024-25, dated March 20, 2025.

INDIA - PCB INDUSTRY NEWS

AN EXPO FOR THE GROWTH OF INDIAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY



21 | 22 | 23 August 2025

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AN EXPO FOR THE GROWTH OF
**INDIAN PCB
INDUSTRY**



17th EDITION

IPCA

**Electronics
Expo India 2025**

PCB & PCBA SHOW

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AUGUST 2025

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THE WORLD NEWS

IPC APEX EXPO Future Dates

March 17 -19, 2026 | Anaheim Convention Center

April 6-8, 2027 | Anaheim Convention Center

April 4-6, 2028 | Anaheim Convention Center

CPCA 中国电子电路行业协会

CPCA Show 2025

24- 26 March 2025



CPCA SHOW 2025 OPENING CEREMONY





SPECIAL INVITEE GIVEN TO ALL WECC MEMBERS ASKING TO VISIT IPCA EXPO 2025 DURING WECC LUNCH

Domestic Events



All About Electronics Expo
April 2025
Delhi
<https://www.allaboutelectronicsindia.com/>



Consumer Electronics
24th to 26th July 2025
Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
<https://cewexpo.com/>



IPCA Electronics Expo India 2025
21st -23rd August 2025
Pragati Maidan New Delhi
<https://www.acem7.com> | www.ipcapcb.org

International Events



JPCA SHOW 2025
4-6 June 2025
Tokyo Big Sight, East Exhibition Hall



THPCA SHOW 2025
20-22 August 2025
BITEC EH 99-100, Bangkok Thailand



KPCA SHOW 2025
3-5 September 2025
Songdo Convensia Convention Center, Incheon, South Korea



October 22 (Wed.) - October 24 (Fri.), 2025
TaiNEX, TAIPEI No.1, Jingmao 2nd Rd., Nangang District, Taipei City 11568, Taiwan

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