

INDIA-UAE FTA**1,000-plus items to get duty relief**

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INDIA HAS ZEROED in on more than 1,000 products across sectors, including textiles & garments, gem & jewellery, leather, spices, engineering goods, chemicals and poultry, where it wants duty concessions from the UAE under a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), sources told *FE*.

New Delhi and Abu Dhabi held the third round of FTA negotiations from December 6 to 10. They have hammered out broad contours of the deal and are giving final touches to it, said an official source. It would be the first FTA to be signed by India in over a decade.

While the UAE, India's third-largest export destination, currently slaps a 5% duty on textiles & garments and jewellery, certain steel products are taxed at 10%. These three segments alone made up for 34% of India's \$16.7 billion exports to the UAE last fiscal and 43% in the pre-pandemic year of FY20.

The UAE has also prohibited poultry imports from India on concerns of bird flu. Seeking the lifting of the ban, New Delhi has highlighted that

OPENING THE FLOODGATES

■ India has identified over **1,000** products for duty concession

■ Products include **textiles & garments, gem & jewellery, leather, spices, engineering goods, chemicals, poultry and dairy**



UAE wants duty relief in a long list of products, including food items



Both sides held talks from Dec 6 to 10, now giving final touches to the deal



PM may announce the FTA in his next visit to UAE, expected in Jan



it has been strictly adopting the safety norms stipulated by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

For its part, Abu Dhabi, too, has drawn up a long list of products, including in food items such as dates and confectionary, where it's pressing for duty concession.

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