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India-UK FTA: MPEDA calls on seafood industry to seize opportunities

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

THE Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has called on India's seafood industry to seize the new opportunities opened up by the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), particularly in value addition, skill development, and sustainable production.

Speaking at stakeholder awareness meetings in Chennai and Visakhapatnam last week, MPEDA Chairman DV Swamy, said the recently signed CETA marks "a significant milestone" for India's marine exports, with 99% of tariff lines now enjoying zero-duty access in the UK. This, he said, would "enhance the competitiveness of Indian seafood in one of its most lucrative markets".

Under the pact, key export products such as Vannamei shrimp, black tiger shrimp, squid, pomfret, and lobster will benefit from duty-free entry. India exported marine products worth \$7.45 billion in 2024-25,

with shipments to the UK totalling 16,082 tonnes valued at \$104.43 million. Shrimp accounted for 77% of these exports, followed by frozen fish and squid.

The Chennai meeting saw participation from senior officials including Devasenapathy, Secretary, Coastal Aquaculture Authority; Praveen Kumar, Director, Department of Commerce; Alex Paul Menon, Development Commissioner, MPEZ-SEZ; Sunanda Tewari, Head of Trade & Investment Law, CTIL; and representatives from the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) and the Export Inspection Agency. A similar session was held in Vizag with participation from exporters across Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Officials said the agreement could potentially double India's seafood exports to the UK in the coming years, as the industry shifts toward higher value-added processing and greater compliance with sustainability standards, a release stated.