

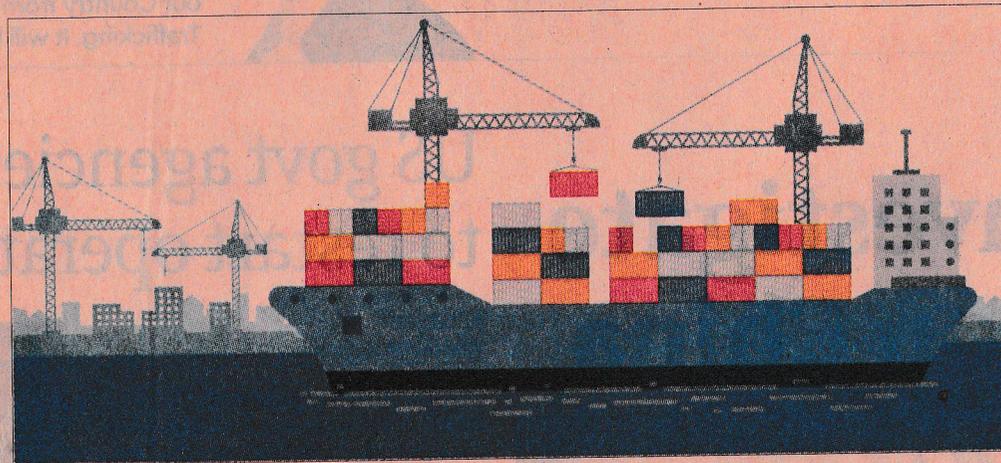
# Efforts on to double exports, says Prabhu

Commerce minister said new government policies would ensure doubling of exports, currently pegged at around \$321 billion

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**UNION COMMERCE AND** industry minister Suresh Prabhu on Sunday said new policies of the government will ensure the doubling of exports, currently pegged at around \$321 billion, in a few years. He was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new office and laboratory complex of the Export Inspection Agency at Margao in south Goa.

"It is our endeavour to increase



India's exports from the current \$321 billion to almost double in a few years. One of the principal potential areas for export is fisheries, especially at a time when for the first time, the country has come out with an agricultural pol-

icy," Prabhu said.

He said the policy focuses on five key elements, namely agriculture, horticulture, plantation, fisheries and meat. "All these are going to be exported. From the current \$30 billion, we want to

take it to \$100 billion. Fisheries can create several lakh jobs in the country," he added.

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"Vegetables, fruits, cashew, fish can be exported from Goa. For that, we have already created a marine export development agency," he said.

Prabhu, who is also the civil aviation minister, said the Mopa greenfield airport, expected to be operational by 2020, will help give the coastal state new opportunities. "We are planning to set up export hubs, so Goa will be benefit from new infrastructure," he said.