

BOTH COUNTRIES EXPLORING ALTERNATIVES TO IMPORTS FROM CHINA

Korean Cos Keen on Organic Cotton, Handicraft from India

IN FOCUS Indian companies have shown interest in Korean toys and cosmetics

Kirtika.Suneja @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: South Korean companies are looking to buy organic cotton, leather goods and handicrafts from India...

Jeonbuk Business Centre, a business-to-business trade promotion agency launched early this year to promote India-Korea trade...

"Korea was buying organic fabric from China, but now it is looking at India. Handicrafts and leather are the other categories of goods..."

On the other hand, Indian companies are making inquiries regarding cosmetics, interior items and toys from Korea...



2020 from South Korea while exports were \$4.84 billion. Mineral fuels, cereals, iron and steel were the major export items...

hot rolled iron products, petroleum refined products, base lubricating oils, mechanical appliances, electrical machinery, and iron and steel products.

The two countries have a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which is in the process of being reviewed as part of which India plans to seek concessions for the export of rice, grapes, pomegranates and eggplant to Seoul.

"Food, cosmetics and photo-nics are the other areas of interest of Indian companies..."

On the impact of the virus outbreak on bilateral trade, he said a few sectors like education, food, automobiles and telecom were among the least impacted...

Rly Freight Corridors to become Medium of Self-Reliant India: PM

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Freight corridors being built by the Indian Railways will become a medium of self-reliant India, and will benefit industries, businesses, farmers and consumers alike...

The PM inaugurated the New Bhaupur- New Khurja section and the Operation Control Centre of Eastern dedicated freight corridor through video conference.

He said the Government is working on every aspect of modern connectivity for the last six years, and the inauguration of the 351 km-long section on the eastern DFC is a big step in this direction.

Modi said the freight corridor will boost Eastern India which is left behind industrially. He said about 60 percent of the corridor falls in Uttar Pradesh and it would attract a lot of industries towards the state.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India is building the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight corridors (DFCs), which are expected to significantly improve efficiency in freight moved by the National transporter...



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the New Khurja-New Bhaupur section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor via video conferencing Tuesday

PM hit out at previous governments for delaying the DFCs. The project was given permission in 2006 but it was only on paper as the then government lacked the seriousness and urgency with which it had to take it up with the states, he said.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the Railways has almost reached 95-96 per cent of previous year's freight loading, Railway minister Piyush Goyal said.

The section will benefit the garment manufacturer of Ludhiana and Varanasi, kinnow farmer of Ferozpur, locks manufacturer of Aligarh, marble supplier of Rajasthan, leather manufacturer of Kanpur and Agra, carpet seller of Bhadohi, car

manufacturer of Faridabad, Basmata rice farmers of North India, who want to send their products to rest of the country or export outside the country, the railway ministry said in a statement. The state-of-the-art Operation Control Centre (OCC) setup by Alstom, which will be the 'nerve-center' of the entire Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, was also officially inaugurated.

Soon, Airbag Mandatory for Shotgun Seat too

New Delhi: The transport ministry has proposed to make airbags mandatory on the front passenger seat of a car. The proposed rule, which

comes as a significant boost to safety, are to be implemented for new car models manufactured from April 1, 2021. For existing vehicles, they are to

be implemented from June 1. "Vehicles manufactured on and after 01st Day of April 2021, in the case of new models, and 01st day of June 2021,

in the case of existing models, shall be fitted with airbag for the person occupying the front seat, other than the driver," according to a notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

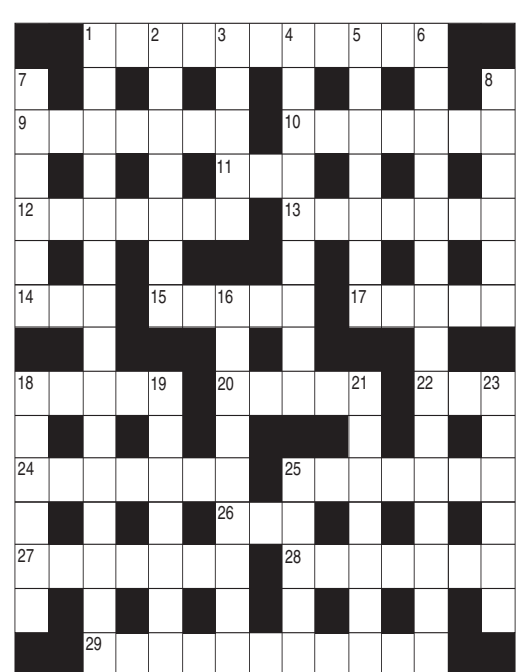
The requirement for such an airbag shall be as per AIS 145 under Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, the ministry said. While airbags for drivers have been mandatory rule implemented since July 2019, the govern-

ment was still deliberating the feature for the co-passenger. Dual airbags are a common feature in high-end cars, but most carmakers in India charge extra for providing an extra airbag in low-budget vehicles.

Prices of lower end models are expected to increase by Rs 3,000-Rs 4,000 once the newers have been mandatory rule implemented. —Our Bureau

Crossword

7917



- DOWN 1 Minor Latin icons ordered to impress troubled queen (15) 2 Crafty prince given fine position at Twickenham (3,4) 3 Lake swallowed river eventually (5) 4 Perhaps four old fellows prepare to fight (6,3) 5 1 and 9 divided by 150 - which is lower? (7) 6 £1000 hidden in awfully large ditch for member of family (5-10) 7 Power cable goes up around back of Mac and drawer (6) 8 Hairpin then nasty turn at end of race? That's wrong (6) 16 Tries to stop genuine dummy run (9) 18 Feverish activity without it creating hole (6) 19 Six clean up Middle Eastern city (3,4) 21 Assorted editors celebrated in legends (7) 23 Small digger beginning to till lower compound (6) 25 Scaremonger to some extent upset Zurich financier (5)

- ACROSS 1 Completely confess to embracing western at its wrong (2,4,5) 9 Code PC entry in his report order (7) 10 Grubby pawnshop article (7) 11 Some fritter away many years (3) 12 Legendary cross with gold in middle mostly (7) 13 Writer's included in list for party (7) 14 Even bits of fleece offer protection (3) 15 Wells partner's fine old ship (5) 17 Spooky English lake (5) 18 Heel in upper layer of earth (5)

- 20 Hotel provided one's sound systems (2-3) 22 Clear goal (3) 24 Everything in bible in retrospect is standard (7) 25 Cigar-chomping brother's cough or hiccup (7) 26 I avoided country and fled (3) 27 They rob this, tying up first woman (7) 28 Soldiers providing rucksack for opening (7) 29 It's wise even to pay attention to clothing bill (5-6)

- SOLUTION TO No. 7916: ACROSS: 6 Registered post. 9 Gamete. 10 D marche. 11 Charisma. 13 Tendon. 15 Arnica. 17 Myopic. 19 Pig. 20 Porky pie. 22 Aggravate. 24 Parade. 26 Hypersensitive. DOWN: 1 Breath-takingly. 2 Ogre. 3 Asses. 4 Geometry. 5 Spar. 7 Endear. 8 Schoolchildren. 12 Rinse. 14 Nippy. 16 Condense. 18 Spoleen. 21 Repair. 23 Reel. 25 Rail.

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Cold Wave Grips North, West India

New Delhi: Severe cold wave conditions returned to north India, including Delhi-NCR, while Mumbai experienced the coldest morning of the winter season so far.

servatories — Colaba in the city and Santacruz, a suburb, recorded minimum temperatures of 17°C and 15°C respectively, 3 degrees below their normal values.

habaleshwar (14.9°), popular weekend getaway spots close to the island city saw similar temperatures as well. For north India, the severe cold wave will abate only by January 2, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. —Shashwat Mohanty

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