

ADHYATAN



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Key Highlights

Indian Updates

Various Quality Control Orders rescinded or deferred

In November 2025, India withdrew various Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for a range of chemicals, electrical equipment, iron and steel products, polymers and fibres, including terephthalic acid, ethylene glycol, various polyester yarns, and plastics. For more information, please refer to the Section concerning Non-Tariff Measures.

The Trade Intelligence and Analytics (TIA) Portal launched by the Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry (18 Nov)

On 18th November 2025, the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the Trade Intelligence and Analytics (TIA) Portal. The open-source portal provides over 270 visualizations across 28 dashboards, offering accessible and scalable trade data. Speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister stated that the platform will enhance transparency and help importers, exporters, startups, and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) make informed decisions. He also mentioned that it will open opportunities in the global service sector, improve the use of Free Trade Agreements, and support trade diversification into new products and opportunities.

From the WTO

Uzbekistan makes headway in concluding WTO accession negotiations (06 Nov)

At the WTO Working Party meeting held on 5th and 6th November 2025, the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan reaffirmed the goal of the country to complete accession by the 14th Ministerial Conference (MC 14) of the WTO in March 2026. The Minister highlighted that Uzbekistan has advanced towards aligning its trade regime with the WTO framework, especially concerning Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. The WTO members welcomed these reforms and noted improvements in areas such as privatization, competition policy, and trade-related regulations.

WTO Dispute Settlement Body adopts compliance panel report in Colombia - Frozen Fries (DS 591) (24 Nov)

The WTO Dispute Settlement Body has adopted the compliance panel report with respect to the Colombia - Anti-Dumping Duties on Frozen Fries from Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands. On 15th November 2019, the European Union (EU) initiated a dispute against anti-dumping duty imposed by Colombia on imports of Potatoes, prepared or preserved or frozen (frozen fries), from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany. The European Union claimed that the measure was in violation of numerous provisions of the Anti-Dumping Agreement, Article 10 of the Customs Valuation Agreement, and Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). While the parties had initially sought establishment of a Panel, they resorted to arbitration through the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement. Following the award by the arbitration panel, Colombia was required to bring its measures in line with the Anti-Dumping Agreement. Not satisfied with the implementation of the award by Colombia, the European Union challenged the same before the WTO. In the compliance panel report, it was recommended that Colombia bring its measures in conformity with its obligations under the Anti-Dumping Agreement.

WTO concludes the Trade Policy Review for Tunisia (25 and 27 Nov)

The WTO Secretariat issued its report following the Trade Policy Review for Tunisia. It was noted that the country continues to face deep-rooted structural challenges, including low investment, high youth unemployment, regional disparities, and a large informal sector, which were aggravated by the effects of COVID-19. Although the GDP of the country contracted sharply in 2020 and has since recovered only modestly, its trade openness has remained resilient, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. While the economy of Tunisia has diversified, export patterns are gradually shifting toward more specialized sectors such as textiles, machinery, food products, and chemicals.

Since the last Trade Policy Review, Tunisia has undertaken major institutional and policy reforms, by adopting a new constitution and launching Vision 2035. Trade policy has shifted toward export promotion and competitiveness enhancement. The country has also strengthened its participation in the WTO, ratified new agreements, and expanded regional trade ties. However, it was noted that the MFN duty rates were very high and in case of some tariff lines, the duties

exceeded bound levels. Reforms in customs, investment, and the business climate are underway but remain uneven.

Measures by and against USA

USA and China conclude the Kuala Lumpur Joint Arrangement (04 Nov)

On 30th October 2025, the United States of America announced that it had reached an agreement with China regarding the current structure of tariffs between the two countries. As per the agreement, China will postpone and effectively eliminate current and proposed global export controls on rare earth elements and other critical minerals. Further, China has agreed to remedy the retaliation against US semiconductor manufacturers and other major manufacturers in the global supply chain. Lastly, China has agreed to suspend tariffs on American agricultural products until 31st December 2026. In return, the USA has committed to continue the suspension of reciprocal tariffs on Chinese imports for one whole year, that is, till 10th November 2026.

USA reduces additional ad valorem duties on imports of synthetic opioid from China (04 Nov)

On 4th November 2025, the United States of America issued an Executive Order amending the additional ad valorem duties imposed on imports of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, from China. On 1st February 2025, the USA imposed a 10% additional ad valorem duty on synthetic opioids from Canada, China, and Mexico, citing a threat to national security. This duty was increased to 20% vide an Order dated 3rd March 2025. However, pursuant to the recently concluded trade talks between the two countries, China has committed to take measures to end the flow of fentanyl to the USA. In light of such commitment, the USA committed to reduce the additional ad valorem rate of duty to 10%, effective from 10th November 2025.

USA agrees to a framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade with certain Latin and South American countries (13 Nov)

The USA has agreed to a framework for an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment with Argentina, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Guatemala. A brief summary of the negotiations and framework for the agreements is as below –

Argentina

Under the agreement, Argentina has agreed to provide preferential market access for American exports, including certain medicines, chemicals, machinery, medical devices, motor vehicles, and a wide range of agricultural products. It will also simplify registration and other procedures for American beef, pork, and dairy products. In turn, the USA will remove the reciprocal tariffs on imports of certain unavailable natural resources and non-patented articles for use in pharmaceutical applications from Argentina. The stabilization of global soyabean trade and addressing industrial subsidies is also being considered as part of the framework.

Ecuador

Ecuador has committed to reduce tariffs on American imports in sectors such as machinery, health products, chemicals, motor vehicles, and certain agricultural products. Further, it has agreed to reform its import licensing and registration systems for food and agricultural products, end pre-shipment inspection mandates, establish contingency plans for its Single Window system, and expand its Authorized Economic Operator program, to strengthen trade facilitation measures. Considering these commitments, the USA will remove reciprocal tariffs on certain qualifying imports from Ecuador.

El Salvador

USA and El Salvador have agreed to further strengthen the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). As part of the agreement, El Salvador has agreed to ease non-tariff barriers, streamline regulatory requirements and accept American standards and certificates, particularly with respect to medical devices, vehicles, and agricultural exports. El Salvador has also committed to address industrial subsidies or distortionary actions of state-owned enterprises which can potentially impact their trading relationship. The USA has committed to remove reciprocal tariffs on certain imports from El Salvador and has to take the agreement into consideration when taking trade action under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

Guatemala

Similar to El Salvador, the USA and Guatemala have agreed to strengthen the CAFTA-DR. Guatemala has committed to reduce non-tariff barriers and streamline regulatory requirements and approvals for imports of American pharmaceutical products, medical devices, motor vehicles, and agricultural

products. Further, Guatemala has committed to protect internationally recognized labour rights, address potential distortionary actions of state-owned enterprises, industrial subsidies, and non-market policies of other countries. The commitment and support by Guatemala for numerous multilateral moratoriums and agreements at the WTO, including the permanent multilateral moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions, and the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies is also part of the deal. In light of the commitments, the USA will remove reciprocal tariffs on certain imports from Guatemala, and tariffs on products such as textiles and apparel products under the CAFTA-DR.

USA agrees to reduce reciprocal tariffs on imports from Switzerland and Liechtenstein (14 Nov)

The USA has agreed to work on a framework agreement with Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Swiss and Liechtenstein companies are set to invest at least \$200 billion in key American sectors such as pharmaceuticals, machinery, medical devices, aerospace, construction, advanced manufacturing, gold manufacturing, and energy infrastructure. The two countries have also agreed to remove tariffs imposed on American imports across agricultural and industrial sectors. Switzerland will also establish tariff rate quotas for American poultry, beef, and bison. In turn, Switzerland and Liechtenstein will be required to pay a cumulative reciprocal tariff rate of upto 15%, which is the same as the European Union.

Reciprocal Tariffs on certain Agricultural Products modified (14 Nov)

The USA has issued an executive order to exempt certain agricultural products from the purview of reciprocal tariffs. Effective from 13th November 2025, certain agricultural products, which include coffee, tea, tropical fruits, fruit juices, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes, beef, and fertilizers will not be subject to reciprocal tariffs. The substantial progress in reciprocal trade negotiations, and the domestic American capacity to produce such products have been taken into consideration while making this decision.

Other Global Updates

United States Department of Commerce tolls deadlines for all investigations (14 Nov and 24 Nov)

On 14th November 2025, the USDOC announced that all deadlines would be uniformly tolled by a period of 47 days, reflecting the shutdown period,

preparation time, and transition to full operations, in response to the federal government shutdown from 1st October 2025 to 13th November 2025. Deadlines for administrative review requests were also duly adjusted. The deadline for requests for reviews due in October was extended to 17th November 2025, and the deadline for reviews due in November was extended to 31st December 2025. However, as operations resumed, the USDOC faced a large backlog, including 8,535 filings received during the shutdown. As a result, on 24th November 2025, a second memo was issued, through which all deadlines in anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations were tolled for another 21 days.

Canada introduced new policies to strengthen its Steel and Lumber Industries (26 Nov)

The Canadian government has introduced various measures to reduce reliance on USA and build a more resilient, self-sufficient economy amid global trade disruptions. The new measures include limiting foreign steel imports by tightening tariff-rate quotas, imposing a global 25% tariff on selected steel-derivative products, and strengthening border enforcement against dumping. Temporary tariff remissions on imported steel will cease in early 2026, which would encourage greater use of Canadian steel. Further, to make Canadian materials more affordable, freight rates for transporting steel and lumber will be cut by half in 2026, and federal housing projects will prioritise Canadian wood. The ‘Buy Canadian Policy’ will require major federal contracts to use domestic materials. The government will also invest over \$100 million to support workers in steel and lumber industries through expanded Work-Sharing arrangements, provide \$1 billion in financing and credit for lumber companies, simplify access to federal programs, and launch a task force to guide long-term forestry sector transformation.

Redefining Blue Economy through Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone Rules, 2025

- *The Indian Government has not ratified the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, advocating a polluter pays principle. Further, the Indian Government has emphasized that countries with a history of high fisheries subsidies and large-scale industrial distant-water fishing should bear a greater obligation to reduce subsidies and help restore global fish stocks.*
- *However, as a step towards promoting sustainable fisheries, the Government of India has notified the Rules for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).*
- *In addition to promoting sustainable fishing practices, the Rules are intended to curb harmful fishing practices, and encourage fishing cooperative societies. Further, the Rules are also a step towards increased digitalization, as a means of controlling access to the Indian EEZ.*
- *Finally, the Rules also serve as a regulatory mechanism by mandating Fish Catch and Health Certificates, which serve as evidence of origin of the fish, and certify that the fish is safe for human consumption and meets the standards of public safety respectively.*

On 4th November 2025, the Government of India notified the Rules for Sustainable Harnessing of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)” (‘Rules’) under the Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976. These Rules are aimed at ensuring sustainable fisheries within the Indian EEZ and the High Seas, with special attention to the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. This is in line with the commitment undertaken by the Government of India in the Budget of 2025-26, wherein it was announced that there is a need to uplift the marine sector in India. The Rules restrict harmful fishing practices, encourage fishing cooperative societies and promote sustainable fishing practices.

Indian Rules vis-à-vis WTO Framework

On the global front, the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies ('Agreement') entered into force on 15th September 2025 and has since been ratified by 116 members of the WTO. India, however, has not yet ratified the Agreement. As a developing nation, India has consistently advocated for the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and the principle of polluter pays. Further, India has also emphasised that countries with a history of high fisheries subsidies and large-scale industrial distant-water fishing should bear a greater obligation to reduce subsidies and help restore global fish stocks.

Over the years, India has stressed on the need for respecting the sovereign rights of member states to manage fisheries sustainably within their own EEZs, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. While India has continued to engage in negotiations at the WTO and other international forums, its focus remains on its domestic goal of supporting and developing its own small-scale fishers and equipping them with digital standards.

In view of this goal, the Government of India has enacted the EEZ Fisheries Rules. These Rules are aligned with international standards and India's global commitments under the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1995, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Salient features

The Rules seek to regulate fishing in the EEZ and promote sustainable, scientific, and regulated utilisation of fisheries resources beyond territorial. This agenda is sought to be achieved by emphasizing value addition, robust traceability systems, and internationally recognized certification. The key reforms introduced under the Rules are summarised as below –

a. Greater role to cooperative societies

Under the rules, preference is given to Fishermen Cooperative Societies and Fish Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) for undertaking deep-sea fishing operations and managing technologically advanced vessels.

b. Mandatory Fish Catch and Health Certificates

The Rules mandate Fish Catch and Health Certificates as a fundamental requirement for accessing international markets. The Catch certificate is issued by the Marine Products Export Development Authority, and it authenticates the origin of the fish in order to prevent illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. The Health Certificate is issued by the Export Inspection Council and ensures that the fish is safe for human consumption and meets the standards of public safety. mandatory issuance of these certificates would elevate the quality of Indian seafood exports.

c. Promotion of sustainable fishing practices

Harmful fishing practices and destructive methods like LED light fishing, pair trawling, and bull trawling have been prohibited. Simultaneously, eco-friendly mariculture practices such as sea-cage farming and seaweed cultivation are encouraged to ensure the sector's sustainable viability. Further, the Rules also require the Government to undertake Fisheries Management Plans in consultation with all stakeholders to restore the declining fish stocks.

d. Securing the supply chain

In an attempt to further streamline the supply chain, the Rules allow for efficient mid-sea transshipment under an effective RBI-monitored mechanism by introducing the concept of 'Mother and Child vessel'. Under this system, the fish can be transferred mid-sea, from a child vessel to mother vessel, which would reduce the need for small vessels to frequently return to port for refuelling and replenishing supplies. The Rules also require mandatory operation of transponders to ensure safer navigation.

e. Enhanced digitalization

To increase transparency and to ensure smooth operations, the Rules emphasize the need for increased digitalization by way of Access Passes. All mechanized and large-sized motorized vessels are mandatorily required to get an Access Pass, which can be obtained through the online ReALCRaft (Registration and Licensing of Fishing Craft) portal. The identification of the fishermen and fishing vessels applying for the pass would be verified through mandatory use of QR coded Aadhaar Cards and Fishers ID Card. Further, small-scale fishermen are not required to obtain the pass, in order to enable their overall development. To

further safeguard the interest of the Indian marine sector, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to get the access pass to operate in India's EEZ.

f. Securing economic rights over Indian fisheries

In order to retain ownership over fishing activities undertaken in the Indian EEZ, the Rules require that fish originating in the Indian EEZ, beyond the contiguous zone, will be recognized as Indian origin under revenue and customs norms. At present, non-Indian vessels continue to fish in Indian seas and sell the same in the Indian market as imports. By treating such fish as that of Indian origin, they would not be treated as 'imports' while landing at Indian ports and no import duties would be payable on the same.

These measures focus on efficiency, security, access, raising income, and exporting high-value species to global markets. While modernizing these systems empower India's marine fisheries governance, the Rules also encourage cooperative societies and communities, transparency and inclusivity, in order to curb the lawlessness of the high seas.

- Ayushi Gupta, Associate

Foreign Trade Policy

Clarification on Redemption of Advance Authorisations (11 Nov)

Certain exporters had been facing difficulties in the redemption of Advance Authorisations affected by the erstwhile provisions of the CGST Rules. The Rules earlier restricted the refund of IGST paid on exports in cases where the exporter had availed specified duty exemptions. In October 2017, the Directorate had extended exemption from payment of all duties, including IGST and Compensation Cess, for physical exports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme, subject to the pre-import condition. Subsequently, the pre-import condition was also withdrawn.

The Supreme Court directed that the affected parties be permitted to claim refund or input credit. In continuation of the same, the Directorate has clarified that Export Obligation Discharge Certificate under the scheme will not be withheld, provided all other requirements are duly fulfilled, in the following cases:

- a) **Payment of IGST in Cash:** Where IGST has been paid in cash at the time of clearance of import consignments under the Scheme during the period 13th October 2017 to 9th January 2019.
- b) **Non-Availing of Duty Exemptions:** Where the applicant has not availed exemption from IGST, Compensation Cess, or other levies (except Basic Customs Duty).
- c) **Compliance with Pre-Import Condition:** Where the applicant has complied with the prescribed pre-import and other requirements under the Scheme.

Amendment in the Handbook of Procedures with regards to the application form for Importer/Exporter profile (ANF-1A) (20 Nov)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified that the application form for Importer/Exporter profile, that is the ANF-1A form will be merged with the ANF-2A. Earlier, under ANF-1A, an applicant was required to submit an online application with all the relevant documents. However, the Directorate has now integrated the system to enable electronic verification of details submitted in the IE application, post verification of online ECs, and to update the corresponding document submission requirements.

Trade Agreements

Indian Updates

India and USA move closer to finalizing the first leg of the trade agreement and addressing reciprocal tariffs

India has announced a development in the ongoing negotiations for finalization of the first phase of its trade agreement with the United States of America. The first tranche is expected by the end of 2025. Both sides have held extensive negotiations virtually to address key issues including market access and tariff concerns. The trade agreement aims to attract investments and enhance cooperation in critical sectors such as technology and energy. India has consistently committed to undertake trade negotiations focused on balanced benefits for both the economies. The USA has also expressed confidence in concluding the negotiations soon. These negotiations are supplemented with another set of negotiations aimed at addressing the possible revocation of the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the USA on India.

India and Bahrain agree to accelerate trade talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

India and Bahrain have agreed to accelerate negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) following the High Joint Commission meeting. Both parties have also initiated talks on a Bilateral Investment Treaty and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement to enhance investor confidence. The CEPA aims to support Indian companies in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, tourism, and healthcare.

India and European Union conclude the trade negotiations for the India-EU Free Trade Agreement

India and the European Union held trade agreement negotiations in November, marking significant progress toward a comprehensive trade agreement. Both sides have agreed to conclude the agreement this year by addressing concerns over the European Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and proposed steel regulations. For India, the agreement aims to enhance greater market access for key sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and IT services, and increased investments in renewable energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure. For the

European Union, the agreement provides access to Indian fast-growing consumer markets in high-potential sectors like automotive and chemicals, while creating opportunities in services and digital trade.

India and Israel set to initiate negotiations for a trade agreement

On 20th November 2025, India and Israel signed the Terms of Reference, officially initiating negotiations for a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. Officials from both the sides have emphasized that the agreement will enhance bilateral investment flows and cooperation in technology and innovation. The Terms outline areas of cooperation such as tariff reduction, reduction in non-tariff barriers, investment facilitation, and promoting trade in services. The agreement is also expected to boost new opportunities in agritech, cybersecurity, defense, and high-tech sectors.

India and the Eurasian Economic Union expected to launch trade negotiations for the Free Trade Agreement

On 26th November 2025, India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) launched negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement following the signing of Terms of Reference in August this year. The EAEU comprises of Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. The trade talks are expected to aim at expansion of market access for Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs, farmers, and fishermen.

India and New Zealand conclude the fourth round of trade negotiations

India and New Zealand successfully concluded the fourth round of Free Trade Agreement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to an early agreement aimed at boosting trade and investment. The negotiations focused on goods, market access, services, and rules of origin. India has maintained its commitment to protect sensitive sectors like dairy and MSMEs, while New Zealand has sought deeper tariff cuts for its agricultural products.

Global Updates

The UAE – Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) comes into force

The UAE-Australia CEPA has entered in force with effect from 1st October 2025. The CEPA aims to periodically phase out tariffs on over 99% of Australian

exports by value, including exports of frozen red meat, wine, and canola seeds. Other sectors which aim to benefit from the Agreement include automotive, pharmaceuticals, and investment services. The Agreement will eliminate tariffs on exports of furniture, copper wire, glass containers, and plastic from UAE.

The UAE – Malaysia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement officially enters into force

The CEPA between UAE and Malaysia has come into effect on 1st October 2025. The CEPA will eliminate tariffs on over 90% of goods, streamline customs procedures, and enhance market access across key sectors including energy, food production, and logistics. For the UAE, it will strengthen its position as a gateway to the Middle East and Africa, while Malaysia gains improved access to Gulf markets and investment opportunities.

ASEAN and China sign the revised China–ASEAN free trade agreement (CAFTA 3.0)

On 28th October 2025, the ASEAN countries and China signed the expanded ASEAN and China endorsed CAFTA 3.0, during the 28th ASEAN–China Summit. CAFTA 3.0 is an upgrade to the 2002 free trade agreement. The new agreement includes nine additional chapters covering digital economy, green economy, and supply chain connectivity. The Agreement has been introduced amid rising global protectionism and aims to put China at a position of ‘defender’ of free trade. CAFTA 3.0 is expected to further integrate the east Asian economies.

USA announces trade agreement with Malaysia and Cambodia and framework agreement with Vietnam and Thailand

Under the terms of the forthcoming trade agreement, Cambodia has committed to fully eliminate tariffs on US goods upon the implementation of the agreement. Malaysia has agreed to eliminate or reduce tariffs on selected US products, with specific reductions applied according to predetermined percentages. In exchange, the United States has committed to cap its tariff rate at no more than 19% on imports from both Malaysia and Cambodia, rather than implementing reciprocal tariff eliminations. Notably, the exports of rare earth materials from Malaysia have not been limited.

The USA along with Vietnam and Thailand, have also separately announced frameworks for reciprocal trade agreements. Under the said frameworks, the USA has capped the tariffs for Vietnam at 19% and for Thailand at 20%. On the other

hand, Thailand has agreed to eliminate tariff barriers on nearly 99% of goods, including US industrial, and food and agricultural products. Thailand has committed to accept and fully implement the World Trade Organization Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Non-Tariff Measures

Indian Updates

Quality Control Orders for fourteen Chemicals and Polymers withdrawn (12 Nov)

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, through multiple orders dated 12th November 2025, has rescinded 14 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) issued earlier under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016. These rescinded QCOs relate to various chemical and polymer products including the following:

- Terephthalic Acid
- Ethylene Glycol
- 100 Per cent Polyester Spun, Grey and White Yarn
- Polyester Industrial yarns (IDY)
- Polyester Staple Fibres (PSF)
- Polyester Continuous Filament Fully Drawn Yarn
- Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn
- Polyethylene materials for Moulding and Extrusion
- Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)
- Polypropylene (PP) Materials for Moulding and Extrusion
- Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Homopolymers
- Ethylene Vinyl Acetate (EVA) copolymers
- Polyurethane
- Polycarbonate

The withdrawal of these Orders has been carried out in public interest and comes into effect immediately, while preserving actions already taken under previous notifications.

Quality Control Orders for 7 metals and alloys withdrawn (13 Nov)

The Ministry of Mines has withdrawn Quality Control Orders on the following seven metals and alloys, after consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards.

- Aluminium & Aluminium Alloys (QCO 2023)
- Nickel (QCO 2023)
- Copper (QCO 2023)

- Primary Lead (QCO 2025)
- Refined Zinc (QCO 2025)
- Refined Nickel (QCO 2025)
- Tin Ingot (QCO 2025)

These withdrawals were made in public interest and take immediate effect, without affecting any actions already taken earlier.

Quality Control Order for Viscose Staple Fibres withdrawn (18 Nov)

The Ministry of Textiles has withdrawn the Viscose Staple Fibres (Quality Control) Order, 2022, with immediate effect. The earlier Notification (S.O. 6143(E) dated 29th December 2022) is now rescinded, except for actions already taken under it. This withdrawal has been issued in public interest after consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Quality Control Order for six Chemicals withdrawn (20 Nov)

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has rescinded the following six Quality Control Orders with immediate effect. These Orders, originally issued in 2020 and 2024, are no longer in force.

- Pyridine (QCO 2020)
- Beta Picoline (QCO 2020)
- Sodium Tripolyphosphate (QCO 2020)
- H Acid (QCO 2024)
- K Acid (QCO 2024)
- Vinyl Sulphone (QCO 2024)

Quality Control Order for Steel and Steel Products amended (20 Nov)

The Ministry of Steel has notified the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025. As per the amendment, in the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024:

- In Schedule 1, enforcement of IS Number and IS Title at Serial Numbers 24, 37, 48, 55, 68, 69, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 81, 82, 83, 87, 88, 90, 95, 96, 97, and the entries relating thereto shall not be operative for a period of 3 years from date of publication in the Gazette.
- In Schedule 1, enforcement of IS Number and IS Title at Serial Numbers 49, 50, 60, 64, 86, 92, 93, 94, 102, 128, 132, 135 and 137, and the entries relating

thereto shall not be operative for a period of 1 year from the date of publication in the Gazette.

Global Updates

China

Draft Regulation on Safety Technical Specification for Electric Bicycle Charging Piles in China (11 Nov)

The State Administration for Market Regulation (Standardisation Administration of China) has issued a draft national standard titled “*Safety Technical Specification for Electric Bicycle Charging Pile*”. This Regulation defines terminology, basic safety requirements, safety protection functions, and testing methods for electric bicycle charging piles. It also specifies special requirements for DC charging piles. The initiative aims to prevent deceptive practices, protect consumers, and safeguard human health and safety. The proposed date of entry into force is 12 months after approval. Stakeholders may submit comments within 60 days from the notification, that is, by 10th January 2026.

Draft Regulation on Restriction of Hazardous Substances Exception List (2025 Edition) (26 Nov)

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China has issued a draft document titled “*Exception List for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances of the Standard Achieving Management Catalogue (2025 Edition)*”. The catalogue covers 33 categories of products, including household appliances, consumer electronics, IT equipment, medical devices, and other electrical/electronic goods. It defines the scope, product descriptions, and applicable exceptions where compliance with hazardous substance restrictions is technically or economically unfeasible. Stakeholders may submit comments within 60 days from the notification, that is, by 25th January 2026.

Total Number of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) notified by WTO: **683**

The number of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBTs) notified by WTO: **487**

For a full list of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) along with the reporting country, please refer the [link](#) herein.

Bureau of Indian Standards

Establishment of Standards for 2,4-Di-Tertiary Butyl Phenol (03 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the establishment of **IS 19377: 2025** 2,4-Di-Tertiary Butyl Phenol — Specification, with effect from 30th October 2025.

Amendment of Standard for Anhydrous Ethanol and Gasoline (06 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the amendment of **IS 17021: 2018** E 20 Fuel — Admixture of Anhydrous Ethanol and Gasoline — As Fuel for Spark Ignited Engine Powered Vehicles — Specification with effect from 15th October 2025. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 14th April 2026.

Substitution of Standards for some chemicals and metals (10 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the substitution of certain standards, including the following, with effect from 15th October 2025. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 15th April 2026. For a full list of products, please refer to the attached [link](#).

- **IS 1213: 2025** Tar and Bituminous Materials — Distillation Test — Methods of Test (Third Revision)
- **IS 3562: 2025** p-Nitrotoluene, Technical — Specification (Second Revision)
- **IS 8111: 2025** N, N-Dimethylaniline — Specification (Second Revision)
- **IS 19370: 2025** 2,6-Di-Tertiary Butyl Phenol — Specification

Substitution of Standard for certain Textiles (13 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the substitution of **IS 19414: 2025** Textiles — Helideck Landing Net Made from Sisal or Manila Ropes — Specification, with effect from 3rd November 2025. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 3rd May 2026. For a full list of products, please refer to the attached [link](#).

Amendment of Standards for certain Textiles (13 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the amendment of the following Standards, with effect from 3rd October 2025. However, the previous unamended Standards will remain in force concurrently till 2nd May 2026.

- **IS 752: 2023** Textiles — Handloom Cotton Muslin, Bleached — Specification (Second Revision)
- **IS 8039: 2023** Textiles — Handloom Cotton Mix Saris — Specification (Second Revision).

Substitution of Standards for Phosphorous Oxychloride (17 Nov)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified the substitution of **IS 11657: 2025** Phosphorus Oxychloride, Technical — Specification, with effect from 15th October 2025. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 15th April 2026.



Trade Remedial Actions

Indian Updates

Chapter 27 - Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes

Preliminary Findings in anti-dumping investigation into imports of Low Ash Metallurgical Coke from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia. (14 Nov)

The DGTR issued preliminary findings recommending imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty into imports of Low Ash Metallurgical Coke from Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, and Russia. The investigation was initiated pursuant to an application filed by the Indian Metallurgical Coke Manufacturers Association. The Authority preliminarily determined that the volume of subject imports has increased, accounting for the majority of imports into India. The Authority noted that the subject imports were priced below the selling price and cost of sales of the domestic industry. As a result, the domestic industry was forced to sell at prices below its cost of sales and accordingly, it incurred losses and cash losses, and recorded a negative return on capital employed. A number of producers faced shutdowns due to dumping of the product under consideration in India. The domestic industry has, therefore, suffered material injury due to dumping of subject goods from the subject countries. Accordingly, the Authority recommended imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of the subject goods from the subject countries.

Chapter 29 – Organic chemicals

Final Findings in sunset review of anti-dumping duty into imports of Toluene Di-Isocyanate (TDI) from the European Union and Saudi Arabia. (12 Nov)

The DGTR issued final findings in sunset review of anti-dumping duty into imports of Toluene Di-Isocyanate (TDI) from the European Union and Saudi Arabia. The application for initiation of the sunset review was filed by Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited. The existing duties on imports of TDI from the subject countries were set to lapse on 27th April 2026. The Authority found that after an initial decline in the volume the dumped imports

have increased in the period of investigation. Additionally, the subject imports are undercutting and suppressing the prices of the domestic industry due to which it has suffered losses. Further, the Authority found that there is likelihood of continuation of dumping and injury in case of cessation of anti-dumping duty in force. The producers in subject countries hold significant idle capacities exceeding their own domestic demand. Further, the prices of participating exporters to third countries when compared to India are higher, thus, the exporters are selectively exporting the goods to India at lower prices. Therefore, the Authority recommended continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of subject goods from the subject countries.

Chapter 39 – Plastics and articles thereof

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Liquid Epoxy Resins from China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Thailand. (17 Nov)

The Central Government, on 17th November 2025, has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of Liquid Epoxy Resins from China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Thailand. The imposition of the anti-dumping duty was recommended by DGTR vide Final Findings notification F. No. 06/24/2024-DGTR, dated 18th August 2025. The anti-dumping duty imposed is in the range of USD 37 – 483 per MT.

Chapter 40- Rubber and articles thereof

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Halo-Isobutene-Isoprene Rubber from China, Singapore and the United States of America. (31 Oct)

The DGTR initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Halo-Isobutene-Isoprene Rubber originating in or exported from China, Singapore, and the United States of America pursuant to an application filed by Reliance Sibur Elastomers Private Limited. The Authority noted that there was prima facie evidence of material injury to the domestic industry due to dumping in India. The imports from subject countries have increased significantly in both absolute terms and relative to domestic production and consumption. The decline in prices of subject imports has depressed the prices of the domestic industry. Consequently, the domestic industry has operated with underutilized capacities, incurred substantial losses and cash losses, and earned negligible returns on capital

employed. Owing to these factors, the Authority has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of subject goods from the subject countries.

Chapter 53 – Other vegetable textile fibres; paper yarn and woven fabrics of paper yarn

Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Flax or Linen fabric having flax content of more than 50% from China and Hong Kong. (07 Nov)

The Central Government has continued the imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Flax or Linen fabric having flax content of more than 50% from China and Hong Kong. The continuation of anti-dumping duty was recommended by DGTR vide Final Findings notification F. No. 7/05/2025-DGTR, dated 8th August 2025. The anti-dumping duty imposed is in the range of USD 1.14 – 2.36 per meter.

Chapter 54 – Man-made filaments; strip and the like of manmade textile materials

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Polyester Textured Yarn (PTY) from China. (20 Nov)

The DGTR initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Polyester Textured Yarn from China pursuant to an application filed by Reliance Industries Limited and Wellknown Polyester Limited. The Authority noted that there was prima facie evidence of injury caused to the domestic industry due to dumping of the subject imports into India. The imports from the subject country have increased in absolute and relative terms. The subject imports were undercutting and suppressed the prices of the domestic industry. The domestic industry has incurred financial losses, cash losses, and recorded a negative return on capital employed. Thus, the Authority has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of subject goods from the subject country.

Chapter 70 - Glass and glassware

Final Findings in sunset review of anti-dumping duty into imports of Clear Float Glass from Malaysia. (06 Nov)

The DGTR issued final findings in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty into imports of Clear Float Glass from Malaysia. The investigation was initiated on

request of Asahi India Glass Limited, Gold Plus Glass Industry Limited, Gold Plus Float Glass Private Limited, and Saint-Gobain India Private Limited. The DGTR concluded that despite the existence of anti-dumping duties, Malaysia accounted for a significant percentage of imports of the subject goods into India. The domestic industry was unable to operate at optimum level of capacity and the market share of imports from Malaysia doubled during the period of investigation. There is likelihood of continuation of dumping and injury in case of cessation of anti-dumping duty in force. Therefore, the Authority has recommended continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of subject goods from the subject country.

Chapter 72 – Iron and steel

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Hot Rolled Flat Products of Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel from Vietnam. (12 Nov)

The Central Government, on 12th November 2025, imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of Hot Rolled Flat Products of Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel from Vietnam. The imposition was recommended by DGTR vide Final Findings notification F. No. 06/15/2024-DGTR, dated 13th August 2025. The anti-dumping duty imposed is in the range of USD 0-121.55 per MT.

Global Updates

Chapter 4 – Dairy produce birds' eggs, natural honey, edible products of animal origin, not elsewhere specified

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Preliminary determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Raw Honey from India. (18 Nov)

The USDOC has preliminarily determined that Indian producers have not dumped the subject goods during the period of review, that is 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024. Duties ranging between 5.52% to 6.24% were originally imposed on 6th October 2022. A zero-dumping margin has now been determined for all companies in this review.

Chapter 15 – Animal, vegetable or microbial fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes

United Kingdom

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Biodiesel from China. (24 Nov)
- Termination of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil from the United States of America. (28 Nov)

Chapter 28 – Inorganic chemicals

Brazil

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Purified Phosphoric Acid from China, Morocco, and Mexico. (19 Nov.)

European Union

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Phosphorous Acid from China. (18 Nov)

United States of America

- Revocation of administrative review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Barium Carbonate from China. (17 Nov)
- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duty on imports of Calcium Hypochlorite from China. (18 Nov)

Chapter 29 – Organic chemicals

Trade remedial actions against India

United States of America

Preliminary determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Glycine from India. (18 Nov)

The USDOC has preliminarily determined that certain producers have dumped the subject goods during the period of review, that is 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024. The USDOC rescinded the administrative review with respect to 22 companies, who timely withdrew their application. A zero-dumping margin was determined

for Paras Intermediates Private Limited and dumping margin of 39.12% was determined for Kumar Industries.

Other trade remedial actions

Brazil

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Butyl Acrylate from China. (28 Nov.)

China

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of n-Propanol from USA. (17 Nov)

European Union

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Adipic Acid from China. (13 Nov)

United States of America

- Continuation of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Chlorinated Isocyanurates from China. (26 Nov)

Chapter 39 – Plastics and articles thereof

Trade remedial actions against India

Türkiye

Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Polystyrene Products from China, India, Russia, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. (12 Nov)

The Ministry of Commerce has determined that the exporters from India and other countries were dumping the subject goods in the Turkish market during the period of investigation. A dumping margin of 12.96% was determined for Supreme Petrochem and 20.34% for all other Indian exporters. Further, dumping margin of 7.37% was determined for China, 7.56%-25.51% for Taiwan, 3.50%-11.22% for South Korea, 20% for Russia, and 16.98% for Thailand.

Other trade remedial actions

China

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty in imports of Polyphenylene Sulfide from Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and the United States of America.

Chapter 40 – Rubber and articles thereof

Eurasian Economic Union

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Truck Tires from China. (14 Nov)
- Initiation of anti-dumping duty investigation into imports of Truck Tires from Thailand and Vietnam. (14 Nov)

European Union

- Initiation of anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Passenger Car and Light Lorry Tyres from China. (06 Nov)

Chapter 44 – Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal

European Union

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Soft Plywood from Brazil. (04 Nov)
- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Hardwood Plywood from China. (20 Nov)

Chapter 48 – Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard

Australia

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Steel Reinforcing Bar from South Korea and Spain. (10 Nov)

European Union

- Initiation of anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Lightweight Thermal Paper from China. (07 Nov)

United States of America

- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Lightweight Thermal Paper from China. (18 Nov)

Chapter 52 – Cotton

Türkiye

- Affirmative determination issued in the sunset review of safeguard duty on imports of Nylon Yarns or Yarns of other polyamides. (21 Nov)

Chapter 69 – Ceramic products

United Kingdom

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of certain Ceramic Tableware and Kitchenware products from China. (25 Nov)

Chapter 70 – Glass and Glassware

South Africa

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-circumvention investigation concerning anti-dumping duty on imports of Vehicle Windscreens from China, when imported from Malaysia. (05 Nov)

Chapter 72 – Iron and steel

European Union

- Final affirmative determination issued in the safeguard investigation into imports of certain Ferro-Alloying Elements. (25 Nov)

Thailand

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Hot-rolled H-beam Structural Steel from China. (11 Nov)

Vietnam

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of H-Beams from China. (21 Nov)

Chapter 73 – Articles of iron and steel

Trade remedial actions against India

Brazil

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Seamless Carbon Steel Pipelines (line pipe) from India, Malaysia, and Thailand. (13 Nov)

The DECOM has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into of Seamless Carbon Steel Pipes for conduction (line pipe), used for oil or gas pipelines, with an external diameter not exceeding five nominal inches (5” or 141.3 mm). The petition was filed by Vallourec Soluções Tubulares do Brasil S.A. The applicant has claimed a prima facie dumping margin of 23.2% for Malaysia and between 37% to 66.5% for India and Thailand.

Other trade remedial actions

Eurasian Economic Union

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Welded Pipes made of corrosion-resistant steel from China. (13 Nov)
- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Leaf Springs from China. (18 Nov)

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued by USITC in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam. (28 Nov)

Chapter 76 – Aluminum and Articles Thereof

Argentina

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty into imports of Aluminium Tubes from China. (07 Nov)

Thailand

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Aluminium Extrusions from China. (25 Nov)

Chapter 83 – Miscellaneous articles of base metal

United States of America

- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of certain Collated Steel Staples from China. (18 Nov)

Chapter 84 – Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances

Argentina

- Revocation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Boilers from Italy. (20 Nov)

European Union

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Robot Lawn Mowers from China. (11 Nov)

United States of America

- Final affirmative determination issued by the USITC in the anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations into imports of Slag Pots from China. (26 Nov)

Chapter 85 – Electrical machinery and equipment; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers

European Union

- Final affirmative determination issued in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Ironing Boards from China. (27 Nov)

Eurasian Economic Union

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Graphite Electrode from China. (17 Nov)

About Us

TPM was founded in 1999 at a time when the practice of trade remedies in India was in its infancy and there were only a handful of firms practicing in the field. TPM was the first firm to deal exclusively in the domain of trade remedies. Today, we have completed our journey of 26 years. TPM began its journey with a staff of merely 2 professionals. Today, it has a team of more than 65 professionals including Cost Accountants, Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, Lawyers, Engineers and MBAs.

In its first two decades, TPM was primarily focused on assisting domestic producers suffering due to cheap and unfair imports into India and in other countries to avail the necessary protection under the umbrella of the WTO Agreements. TPM also represents exporters and importers facing trade remedial investigations in India or other countries. TPM has assisted exporters facing investigations in a number of jurisdictions such as Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, the European Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan, Türkiye and the United States of America.

In the last few years, TPM's reputation has grown in other fields of non-tariff barriers, policy advocacy matters, foreign trade policy, business consulting and litigation. Its vast experience with industry leaders in various sectors puts it in a unique position to effectively and efficiently handle matters relating to policy advocacy before various government forums. This has enabled the TPM team to help industry find innovative solutions to complex problems.

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