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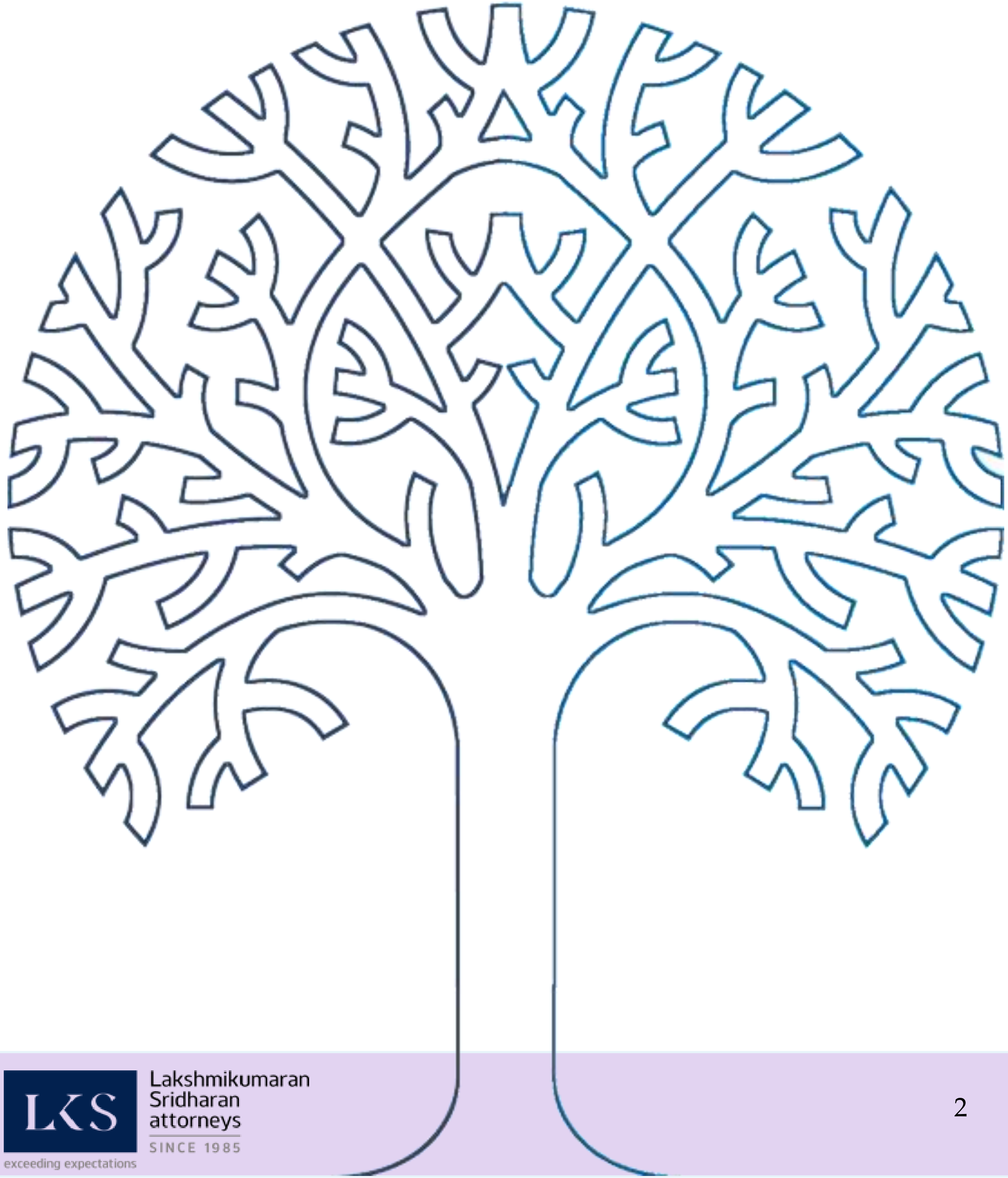

Article

India-UK FTA: Unlocking opportunities for bilateral trade in goods

By **Ankur Sharma and Divyashree Suri**

The India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is a comprehensive agreement, with commitments from both countries on trade in goods and services, investment, government procurement, and regulatory transparency and facilitation. This issue of International Trade Amicus covers the first article in the new article series intended to uncover the various aspects of the FTA, the tangible opportunities available to Indian and UK exporters, and the potential challenges with compliance. Elaborately analysing the commitments on trade in goods, the authors note that both the countries have committed to comprehensive origin declaration and certification processes, which may introduce stricter obligations for businesses. Observing that it is hence important to understand sector-specific origin rules, deadlines, and certification options that can create competitive advantage, the authors believe that success will favour those who prioritize origin diligence, enabling smoother market access, operational efficiency, and sustained growth in the expanding bilateral trade corridor.

India-UK FTA: Unlocking opportunities for bilateral trade in goods

By Ankur Sharma and Divyashree Suri

Introduction

The signing of the India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ('**UK-India FTA**' or '**FTA**') marks a transformative chapter for both economies. It is a comprehensive agreement, with commitments from both countries on trade in goods and services, investment, government procurement, and regulatory transparency and facilitation. Through this article series, we intend to uncover the various aspects of the FTA, the tangible opportunities available to Indian and UK exporters, and the potential challenges with compliance.

Commitments on trade in goods

The India-UK FTA gives structure to a bilateral trade corridor for goods which is already worth over USD 23 billion in 2024-2025.[1] India's exports of goods to the UK surged to USD 14.55 billion (up by 12.59% year-on-year)[2], while India's imports of goods reached USD 8.58 billion (up by 2.01% year-on-year).[3] Both countries have committed to policy instruments and actions with a view to boost bilateral trade in goods in the India-UK FTA. Major commitments include:

1) Tariff liberalization

Both India and the UK have committed to comprehensive tariff liberalization, aimed at significantly enhancing bilateral trade in goods between the countries. Details of the commitments made by both countries are provided below:

Market Access in the UK. The UK has promised significant market opening to Indian goods with immediate zero-duty access on nearly 99% of Indian tariff lines. Importantly, Indian exports of motor vehicles receive instant duty-free treatment for conventional petrol and diesel passenger cars. However, hybrids, plug-in hybrids, and electric vehicles are subject to Tariff Rate Quotas ('**TRQs**'), which allow reduced

[1] Tradestat, Ministry of Commerce.

[2] Tradestat, Ministry of Commerce.

[3] Tradestat, Ministry of Commerce.

tariffs only up to set annual volumes. These are discussed in further detail later in this article.

Notably, negligible exports to the UK have been made by India under tariff lines under which the UK has made no commitments for tariff liberalization. These tariff lines include goods such as certain swine, poultry, egg products, rice, processed meat, and sugar items.

Market Access in India. India has committed to liberalizing trade in goods with the UK in various forms. Notably, Sensitive sectors such as certain dairy products, cereals, pulses, and gold have been excluded.

Liberalization Mode		Description	Examples
Elimination (to NIL)	Immediate	For almost 8000 tariff lines, India has committed to eliminate tariffs immediately after the FTA comes into effect. The existing import duties[4] on these products range from 0-77%.[5]	Pharmaceutical products (including finished medicines, bulk drugs, vaccines, and APIs) Certain automotive parts Textiles and apparel Iron and steel goods Electrical and electronic equipment (semiconductors, consumer electronics).
	Phased	For almost 2600 tariff lines, India has committed to eliminate tariffs within 5, 7, or 10 years of the	Certain aluminium products Certain iron and steel products Certain copper products

4 BCD+AIDC+Health Cess+SWS

5 For certain products, including some textile products, an alternate base rate is also prescribed as a fixed duty.

Liberalization Mode		Description	Examples
		FTA coming into force. The existing import duties[6] on these products range from 0-110%.[7]	
Reduction	Immediate	For almost 68 tariff lines, India has committed to reduce the import duties to either 2.5% or 5% immediately after the FTA comes into effect. For certain tariff lines, it has committed to reduce the import duty by half. The existing import duties[8] on these products range from 5.5-55%.	Cut or otherwise worked, but not mounted or set, precious and semi-precious stones: Includes diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, beryl varieties, garnet, lapis-lazuli, tourmaline, and tanzanite. Ingots, billets, wire rods, bars, and profiles of aluminium and aluminium alloys Table, kitchen or household articles Other plain/perforated/cut-to-shape/printed/coated aluminium products
	Phased	For almost 9800 tariff lines, India has committed to reducing the import duties over the course of 5 or 10 years of the FTA coming into force. The duties reduce by 75%, 50% or 40%. For certain tariff lines, the duties are eventually reduced to	Refined sugar and sugar cubes Beer made from malt, non-alcoholic beer, synthetic essences Motorcycles, mopeds, scooters Chewing gum

[6] BCD+AIDC+Health Cess+SWS
[7] For certain rubber products, an alternate base rate is also prescribed as a fixed duty.
[8] BCD+AIDC+Health Cess+SWS

Liberalization Mode	Description	Examples
	5% or 70%. The existing import duties[9] on these products range from 0-110%.	Medicinal oils, essential oils and perfumery compounds Syringes, MRI apparatus, anaesthesia and breathing equipment, pacemakers, X-ray machines Certain aluminium products Fasteners Rare earths, synthetic chemicals, and chemical intermediates
Alcoholic Beverages	For certain alcoholic beverages, India has committed to reduce the import duties to 75% (from 150%) with immediate effect. These duties will further reduce to 40% within 10 years.	Scotch and blended whiskies Gin
	For certain alcoholic beverages, the import duty is immediately reduced from 150% to 110%, with a phased reduction to 75% over the course of 10 years. After 10 years, a minimum import price has also been introduced for these beverages.	- Rum - Tequila - Brandy

[9] BCD+AIDC+Health Cess+SWS

2) Tariff Rate Quotas

TRQs form a crucial part of the FTA. TRQs allow both countries to calibrate tariff reductions by limiting duty-free imports to agreed volumes, with imports above quotas subject to prevailing tariffs.

Product[10]	**Current Import Duty**[11]	**Years**[12]	**Quotas**[13]	**In-Quota Tariffs**[14]	**Out-of-Quota Tariffs**[15]
India's Commitments					
Internal Combustion Engines – Passenger Vehicles[16]	66-110%	15	The total quota for various ICE passenger vehicles is 20,000 units in Year 1, which is gradually increased to	The in-Quota Tariff is 50% in Year 1, which is gradually reduced	The Out-of-Quota Tariff is 60-95% in Year 1, which is gradually reduced to 45-50% by Year 10.

[10] This contains the relevant product on whose imports a TRQ has been committed.
[11] This contains the non-preferential import duty as applicable on the Product when the text of the FTA was finalized. Notably, for India, this is only limited to the Basic Customs Duty (and not the additional cesses)
[12] No. of years in which the liberalization has been committed to.
[13] The quantity of imports of Product which are subject to a lower rate of duty (In-Quota-Tariffs)
[14] The duty applicable as long as the Product are imported within the Quota.
[15] The duty applicable as long Products are imported outside the Quota.
[16] Contains segregation on the basis of engine

Product[10]	**Current Import Duty**[11]	**Years**[12]	**Quotas**[13]	**In-Quota Tariffs**[14]	**Out-of-Quota Tariffs**[15]
			37,000 units by Year 5. By Year 15, the total quota is gradually reduced to 15,000 units.	to 10% by Year 15.	
Electric/ Hybrid/ Hydrogen Passenger Cars[17]	110%	10 (starting from Year 6 of the FTA)	The total quota for various EV passenger vehicles is 4,400 units in Year 6 of the FTA, which is gradually increased to 22,000 units by	The In-Quota Tariff is 40-50% in Year 6 of the FTA, which is gradually reduced to 10%	No preferential Out-of-Quota Tariff is granted by India for this category. The import duty will be the same as is applicable to all other imports (currently, 110%).

[17] No quota is imposed on imports of EVs below GBP 40,000 CIF. The quotas are segregated on the basis of EVs between GBP 40,000 CIF and GBP 80,000 CIF, and EVs of more than GBP 80,000 CIF.

Product[10]	Current Import Duty[11]	Years[12]	Quotas[13]	In-Quota Tariffs[14]	Out-of-Quota Tariffs[15]
			Year 15 of the FTA.	by Year 15.	
Trucks	44%	10	The total quota for various trucks is 2,500 units in Year 1 of the FTA, which is gradually increased to 3,500 units by Year 10 of the FTA.	The In-Quota Tariff is 37% in Year 1 of the FTA, which is gradually reduced to 8.8% by Year 10.	The Out-of-Quota Tariff is 41.8% in Year 1 of the FTA, which is gradually reduced to 22% by Year 10.
UK's Commitments					
Electric/Hybrid/Hydrogen Passenger Cars[18]	10%	10 (starting from Year 6 of the FTA)	The total quota for various EV passenger	The In-Quota Tariff is	No preferential Out-of-Quota Tariff is granted by the UK. for this category. The import duty

[18] No quota is imposed on imports of EVs above GBP 80,000 CIF. The quotas are segregated on the basis of EVs below GBP 20,000 CIF, EVs between GBP 20,000 CIF and GBP 40,000 CIF, and between GBP 40,000 CIF and GBP 80,000 CIF.

Product[10]	Current Import Duty[11]	Years[12]	Quotas[13]	In-Quota Tariffs[14]	Out-of-Quota Tariffs[15]
			vehicles is 17,600 units in Year 6 of the FTA, which is gradually increased to 88,000 units by Year 15 of the FTA.	NIL from Year 6 of the FTA.	will be the same as is applicable to all other imports.

Conclusion

The India-UK FTA represents opportunities for both countries to expand bilateral trade in goods. However, as has been the case in previous free trade agreements signed by India, the success of the India-UK FTA hinges critically on robust and transparent rules of origin. Strict origin verification is essential to ensure that only goods genuinely produced or substantially transformed in either India or the UK benefit from preferential tariff treatment. Both countries have committed to comprehensive origin declaration and certification processes. This system safeguards against trade circumvention and misuse of the agreement, maintaining fair competition and legal integrity.

However, these measures may introduce stricter obligations for businesses. For companies, adapting their supply chain management to meet these requirements is key to capitalizing on duty savings under the FTA. It is important to understand sector-specific origin rules, deadlines, and certification options that can create competitive advantage. As the India-UK FTA unfolds, success will favour those who prioritize origin diligence, enabling smoother market access, operational efficiency, and sustained growth in the expanding bilateral trade corridor.

[The authors are Partner and Principal Associate, respectively, in International Trade and WTO practice at Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, New Delhi]

Trade Remedy News

- 1,1,1,2- Tetrafluoroethene or R-134 from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- 2- Ethyl Hexanol from European Union, Indonesia, Korea RP, Malaysia, Taiwan and USA – India initiates second sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- 4-Aminodiphenylamine (4-ADPA) from China PR and European Union – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber ('NBR') from China PR, European Union, Korea RP and Russia – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Aluminium Foil 80 micron and below from China PR, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand – India initiates sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- Aluminium Foil 80 Microns and below from China PR – India initiates countervailing duty investigation
- Antioxidants from China PR and Singapore – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Belting Fabric made of 80% or more of polyester or nylon from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- BIS (2,2,6,6-Tetramethyl-4-Peridyl) Sebacate (UV 770) from European Union and China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Black Toner Powder Cartridge from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Borosilicate Table and Kitchen Glassware from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch from Vietnam – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Carbon and alloy steel wire from India – Canada issues preliminary determination of dumping
- Cast iron articles from India – European Commission does not impose provisional anti-dumping duty
- Clear Float Glass from Malaysia and Indonesia – India initiates countervailing duty investigation
- Cold rolled flat products of Stainless Steel 300 and 400 series from China PR, Indonesia and Vietnam – India initiates anti-dumping investigation

Trade Remedy News

- Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Cold-rolled flat steel products from India – European Commission initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Copolymer Polyol of hydroxyl value >= 23 from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Copper Data Cables from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Cranes from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, whether or not assembled into modules, from India – USA's ITC issues reasonable indication of material injury by sale at less than fair value and subsidization
- Crystalline Silicone Photovoltaic Cells, whether or not assembled into modules, from India – USA's DOC postpones preliminary determinations in countervailing duty investigations
- Diisononyl Phthalate from Malaysia – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Ethambutol Hydrochloride from China PR and Thailand – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Freight Rail Couplers and parts from India – USA's DOC postpones preliminary determination in the countervailing duty investigation
- Freight Rail Couplers and parts from India – USA's ITC issues reasonable indication of material injury by sale at less than fair value and subsidization
- Glass Fibre from Bahrain, China and Thailand – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Granular Polytetrafluoroethylene Resin from India – USA's DOC determines that countervailable subsidies were provided to Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited from 1 January 2023 till 31 December 2023
- Hexamethylenetetramine from India – USA's DOC determines that countervailable subsidies were provided to producers and exporters

Trade Remedy News

- Hexamethylenetetramine from India – USA's DOC issues final affirmative determination of sales at less than fair value
- Hot Rolled Steel Products from India – USA's ITC issues affirmative determinations in five-year (sunset) reviews of anti-dumping and countervailing duties
- Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends from China PR – India initiates sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) R-125 from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Hydrofluorocarbon HFC R-32 from China PR – India initiates sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- Jute products from Nepal and Bangladesh – India initiates countervailing duty investigation
- Medical Examination Rubber Gloves from Malaysia and Thailand – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Melamine from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Mobile Covers from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Mono Ethylene Glycol from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Singapore – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Non-Phthalate Plasticizers in the form of Dioctyl Terephthalate (DOTP) and Diethylhexyl Cyclohexane (DEHCH) from Korea RP – India initiates bilateral safeguard duty investigation
- Normal Butanol or N-Butyl Alcohol from Malaysia, South Africa and USA – India initiates second sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- Normal Butanol or N-Butyl Alcohol from Taiwan and Saudi Arabia – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Nylon 6 in any form, with relative viscosity of RV- 3.0 to 3.6 from China PR, Russia, Taiwan and Thailand – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Organophosphonates - Phosphonic Acids viz., (I) HEDP Acid and (II) ATMP Acid from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation

Trade Remedy News

- Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Resin from China PR – India initiates sunset review of anti-dumping duty
- Polyethylene Terephthalate Film (PET Films) from Bangladesh, China PR, Thailand and USA – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) from China PR and Russia – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Printed Circuit Board Tools from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Quartz Surface Products from India – USA's ITC issues notice of the scheduling of expedited five-year reviews of anti-dumping and countervailing duties
- Resorcinol from China PR and Japan – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Silicomanganese from India – USA's DOC issues preliminary determination of no sale at prices below normal value during 1 May 2023 till 30 April 2024
- Siloxane Polyoxyalkylene Copolymers from China PR – India terminates anti-dumping investigation
- Soda Ash from Turkey, Russia, USA and Iran – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels from China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Solar Encapsulants excluding EVA Encapsulants from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Solar Encapsulants from South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Sublimation Paper from China PR and Korea RP – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Virgin Multi-Layer Paperboards from Chile and China PR – India's DGTR recommends imposition of anti-dumping duty
- Wallpapers from China PR – India initiates anti-dumping investigation
- Welded Stainless Pressure Pipe from India – USA's DOC determines that Suncity Metals and Tubes Private Limited made sales at less than normal value

Trade Remedy actions by India

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
1,1,1,2- Tetrafluoroethene or R-134	China PR	F. No. 6/30/2024-DGTR	26 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
2- Ethyl Hexanol	European Union, Indonesia, Korea RP, Malaysia, Taiwan and USA	F. No. 7/14/2025 - DGTR	9th September 2025	Second Sunset Review of anti-dumping duty initiated
4-Aminodiphenylamine (4-ADPA)	China PR and European Union	F. No. 6/30/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber ('NBR')	China PR, European Union, Korea RP and Russia	F. No. 06/29/2024-DGTR	25 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Aluminium Foil 80 micron and below	China PR, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand	F. No. 7/19/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Sunset Review of anti-dumping duty initiated
Aluminium Foil 80 Microns and below	China PR	F. No.6/54/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Countervailing Duty investigation initiated
Antioxidants	China PR and Singapore	F. No. 6/23/2024	23 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Belting Fabric made of 80% or more of polyester or nylon	China PR	F. No. 6/49/2025-DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
BIS (2,2,6,6-Tetramethyl-4-Peridyl) Sebacate (UV 770)	European Union and China PR	F. No. 6/32/3025-DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Black Toner Powder Cartridge	China PR	F. No. 6/41/2024-DGTR	26 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Borosilicate Table and Kitchen Glassware	China PR	F. No. 6/31/2025-DGTR	30 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch	Vietnam	F. No. 6/38/2024 -DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Clear Float Glass	Malaysia and Indonesia	F. No. 6/36/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Countervailing Duty investigation initiated
Cold rolled flat products of Stainless Steel 300 and 400 series	China PR, Indonesia and Vietnam	F. No. 6/28/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel	China PR	F. No. 6/32/2024 -DGTR	19 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Copolymer Polyol of hydroxyl value >= 23	China PR	F. No. 6/40/2024-DGTR	26 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Copper Data Cables	China PR	F. No. 6/44/2025-DGTR	18 September 2025	Anti-dumping Investigation initiated
Cranes	China PR	F. No. 6/24/2024-DGTR	19 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Diisononyl Phthalate	Malaysia	F. No. 6/08/2025-DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Ethambutol Hydrochloride	China PR and Thailand	F.No. 6/25/2025-DGTR	23 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Glass Fibre	Bahrain, China and Thailand	F. No. 6/17/2024-DGTR	8 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Blends	China PR	F. No. 7/17/2025 -DGTR	24 September 2025	Sunset review of anti-dumping duty initiated
Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) R-125	China PR	F. No. 6/34/2025-DGTR	24 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Hydrofluorocarbon HFC R-32	China PR	F. No. 7/18/2025 -DGTR	24 September 2025	Sunset review of anti-dumping duty initiated
Jute Products	Bangladesh and Nepal	F. No.6/35/2025-DGTR	29th September 2025	Countervailing Duty investigation initiated
Medical Examination Rubber Gloves	Malaysia and Thailand	F. No. 6/43/2025-DGTR	30 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Melamine	China PR	F. No. 6/40/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Mobile Covers	China PR	F. No. 6/13/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Mono Ethylene Glycol	Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Singapore	F. No. 6/34/2024-DGTR	23 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Non-Phthalate Plasticizers in the form of Dioctyl Terephthalate (DOTP) and Diethylhexyl Cyclohexane (DEHCH)	Korea RP	F. No. 22/01/2025-DGTR	30 September 2025	Bilateral Safeguard investigation initiated

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Normal Butanol or N-Butyl Alcohol	Taiwan and Saudi Arabia	F. No. 6/33/2025-DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Normal Butanol or N-Butyl Alcohol	Malaysia, South Africa and USA	F. No. 7/16/2025 - DGTR	27 September 2025	Second sunset review of anti-dumping duty initiated
Nylon 6 in any form, with relative viscosity of RV- 3.0 to 3.6	China PR, Russia, Taiwan and Thailand	F. No. 6/37/2025-DGTR	30 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Organophosphonates - Phosphonic Acids viz., (I) HEDP Acid and (II) ATMP Acid	China PR	F. No. 6/52/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Resin	China PR	F. No. 07/15/2025-DGTR	23 September 2025	Sunset review of anti-dumping duty initiated
Polyethylene Terephthalate Film (PET Films)	Bangladesh, China PR, Thailand and USA	F. No. 6/55/2025 - DGTR	30 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)	China PR and Russia	F. No. 6/21/2024-DGTR	19 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Printed Circuit Board Tools	China PR	F. No.06/46/2025-DGTR	26 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Resorcinol	China PR and Japan	F. No. 6/27/2024 - DGTR	24 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Siloxane Polyoxyalkylene Copolymers	China PR	F. No. 6/13/2024-DGTR	26 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation terminated

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Soda Ash	Turkey, Russia, USA and Iran	F. No. 6/31/2024-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels	China PR	F. No. 6/26/2024-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Solar Encapsulants	South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam	F. No. 6/38/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Solar Encapsulants excluding EVA Encapsulants	China PR	F. No. 6/39/2025-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Sublimation Paper	China PR and Korea RP	F. No. 6/41/2025 -DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Virgin Multi-Layer Paperboards	Chile and China PR	F. No. 6/28/2024-DGTR	29 September 2025	Anti-dumping duty recommended
Wallpapers	China PR	F. No. 6/45/2024-DGTR	27 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated

Trade remedy measures against India

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Carbon and alloy steel wire	Canada	SW 2025 IN	19 September 2025	Preliminary determination of dumping
Cast iron articles	European Commission	AD727	26 September 2025	Provisional anti-dumping duty not imposed
Cold-rolled flat steel products	European Commission	C/2025/5025	18 September 2025	Anti-dumping investigation initiated
Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells, whether or not assembled into modules	US ITC	FR Doc. 2025–16986	5 September 2025	Reasonable indication of material injury by sale at less than fair value and subsidization
Crystalline Silicone Photovoltaic Cells, whether or not assembled into modules	US DOC	FR Doc No: 2025-18399	23 September 2025	Preliminary Determinations in Countervailing duty investigations postponed
Freight Rail Couplers and Parts	US ITC	FR Doc. 2025–17569	11 September 2025	Reasonable indication of material injury by sale at less than fair value and subsidization
Freight Rail Couplers and Parts	US DOC	FR Doc. 2025–19028	30 September 2025	Preliminary determination in the countervailing duty investigation postponed
Granular Polytetrafluoroethylene Resin	US DOC	FR Doc. 2025–18133	19 September 2025	Determination that countervailable subsidies were provided to Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited from 1 January 2023 till 31 December 2023

Product	Country	Document No.	Date	Remarks
Hexamethylenetetramine	US DOC	FR Doc. 2025–18442	23 September 2025	Determination that countervailable subsidies provided to producers and exporters
Hexamethylenetetramine	US DOC	FR Doc No: 2025-18441	23 September 2025	Final affirmative determination of sales at less than fair value
Hot Rolled Steel Products	US ITC	FR Doc. 2025–18428	23 September 2025	ADD and CVD – Affirmative determinations in five-year (sunset) reviews
Quartz Surface Products	US ITC	FR Doc. 2025–18106	19 September 2025	ADD and CVD – Notice of the scheduling of expedited five-year reviews
Silicomanganese	US DOC	FR Doc. 2025–17527	11 September 2025	ADD Administrative Review. Preliminarily determination of no sale at prices below normal value during 1 May 2023 till 30 April 2024.
Welded Stainless Pressure Pipe	US DOC	FR Doc. 2025–17464	11 September 2025	Determination that Suncity Metals and Tubes Private Limited made sales at less than normal value

WTO News

- EU appeals dispute panel report regarding duties on imports of biodiesel from Indonesia
- WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies enters into force
- Cold rolled coil, galvanized steel and pre-painted steel – Egypt launches safeguard investigation
- Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (billets) – Egypt launches safeguard investigation
- Polypropylene – Thailand launches safeguard investigation

EU appeals dispute panel report regarding duties on imports of biodiesel from Indonesia

The European Union notified its decision to appeal the panel report in the case brought by Indonesia in '*European Union — Countervailing Duties on Imports of Biodiesel from Indonesia*' (DS618). WTO members were informed of the appeal at the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) meeting on 26 September. The panel report was circulated to WTO members on 22 August 2025 wherein the DSB had stated that the European Commission acted inconsistently with various provisions of the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.

Indonesia expressed regret that the EU decided to appeal the panel's findings before a non-functioning Appellate Body. The EU recalled that it had invited Indonesia to join the multi-party interim appeal arrangement (MPIA) so that both parties can preserve their rights to a binding resolution of trade disputes despite the blockage of appointments to the Appellate Body. The MPIA is a contingent measure to safeguard the right to appeal in the absence of a functioning Appellate Body.

WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies enters into force

At a General Council meeting on 15 September, WTO members celebrated the entry into force of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Hailing the Agreement as a 'landmark for global trade governance', Director-General thanked WTO members for their commitment to protecting the livelihoods of fishing communities around the world. The Agreement is the WTO's first multilateral agreement with environmental sustainability at its core. It prohibits government support to illegal fishing activities and overexploitation of stocks, contributing to the protection of marine life.

Cold rolled coil, galvanized steel and pre-painted steel – Egypt launches safeguard investigation

On 10 September 2025, Egypt notified the WTO's Committee on Safeguards that it has initiated on 10 September 2025 a safeguard investigation on cold rolled coil, galvanized steel and pre-painted steel and that it has imposed a provisional measure. The product concerned is classified under HS code 720915, 720916, 720917, 720918, 720925, 720926, 720927, 720928, 720990, 721123, 721129, 721190, 722692, 721041, 721049, 721230, 721250, 722592, 722699, 721070, 721090, 721240, 721260, 722599, of the Harmonized Customs Tariff.

Semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (billets) – Egypt launches safeguard investigation

On 10 September 2025, Egypt notified the WTO's Committee on Safeguards that it has initiated on 10 September 2025 a safeguard investigation on semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (billets) and that it has imposed a provisional measure. The product concerned is semi-finished products of iron or non-alloy steel (billets), classified under HS code 7207 of the Harmonized Customs Tariff.

Polypropylene – Thailand launches safeguard investigation

On 8 September 2025, Thailand notified the WTO's Committee on Safeguards that it has initiated on 3 September 2025 an investigation on import of polypropylene. The product subject to this investigation is polypropylene, a plastic with many uses, including plastics or medical or laboratory use, food containers, and plastic molding. It is presently classifiable under the Thai Customs Tariff Code at subheadings: 3902.10.30.001 3902.10.30.090 3902.10.40.001 3902.10.40.090 3902.10.90.001 3902.10.90.090 3902.30.30.001 3902.30.30.090 3902.30.90.001 3902.30.90.090 and 3902.90.90.000.

India Customs & Trade Policy Update

- RoDTEP scheme extended till 31 March 2026
- Rice exports – Non-basmati rice export contracts to be registered with APEDA
- Silver jewellery imports restricted till 31 March 2026
- ATS-8 imports having CIF value less than USD 111/kg restricted till 30 September 2026
- 2G Ethanol exports – Additional export policy conditions notified
- Animal/pet food export – New policy condition regarding sourcing of animal by-products introduced
- Spices import not permissible under Duty Free Import Authorisation

RoDTEP scheme extended till 31 March 2026

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products ('**RoDTEP**') Scheme beyond 30 September 2025 till 31 March 2026, *vide* Notification No. 35/2025 dated 30 September 2025. The extended benefits will cover eligible exports from domestic tariff area units, Advance Authorisation (AA) holders, Export Oriented Units (EOUs), and Special Economic Zone (SEZ) entities. The rates under the scheme range from 0.3% to 3.9% and the same will remain in force for all qualifying export products.

Launched in January 2021, under the RoDTEP scheme exporters receive reimbursement for various embedded duties, taxes, and charges incurred during manufacturing and distribution that are not otherwise refunded by central, state, or local mechanisms. The scheme has been viewed as a tool to enhance competitiveness by neutralising the impact of non-creditable levies.

Rice exports – Non-basmati rice export contracts to be registered with APEDA

The Export Policy of Non-Basmati Rice has been amended *vide* Notification No. 33 /2025-26 dated 24 September 2025 by incorporating an additional policy condition. Accordingly, export of non-basmati rice covered under the relevant ITC (HS) codes of Chapter 10, Schedule II (Export Policy) of ITC (HS), 2022 shall be permitted only upon registration of contracts with the APEDA.

Silver jewellery imports restricted till 31 March 2026

The DGFT has issued Notification No. 34/2025-26 dated 24 September 2025, imposing restrictions on the import of plain silver jewellery falling under ITC(HS) Codes 7113 11 41 and 7113 11 49. The restriction will be applicable till 31 March 2026. As per *Business Line* news report, available **here**, the move aims to curb misuse of FTAs and address large-scale imports of silver in the guise of finished jewellery. The restrictions have been introduced in the wake of a steep rise in imports of plain silver jewellery availing preferential duty exemptions between April–June 2024-25 and April–June 2025-26.

ATS-8 imports having CIF value less than USD 111/kg restricted till 30 September 2026

The DGFT has issued a Notification No. 30/2025-26 dated 18th September 2025, amending the Import Policy condition of ATS-8 covered under Chapter 29 of ITC HS, 2022, Schedule – I (Import Policy). The import of ATS-8 having a CIF (Cost, Insurance and Freight) value of less than USD 111 per kg is now restricted till 30 September 2026. However, imports by Advance Authorization holders, Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and SEZ units are exempted from the above-mentioned Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition if the imported inputs are not sold in the DTA.

2G Ethanol exports – Additional export policy conditions notified

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) *vide* Notification No. 32 /2025-26 dated 24 September 2025 has updated India's Export Policy for export of Second Generation (2G) ethanol. 2G ethanol is made from non-food materials like bagasse, wood waste, agricultural residues, grasses, algae, and other renewable resources. It is considered eco-friendly as it produces low CO2 emissions and does not compete with food crops for land. Export will be allowed only if companies have a valid Export Authorisation and feedstock certificate from the relevant authority. The policy applies to ethanol under ITC(HS) Code 22072000, which covers ethyl alcohol and other denatured spirits of any strength.

In furtherance of the above-mentioned notice, a Trade Notice No 12/2025-26 dated 24 September 2025 has also been issued to facilitate the understanding of the existing requirements.

Animal/pet food export – New policy condition regarding sourcing of animal by-products introduced

The DGFT has issued Notification No. 29/2025-26 dated 8th September 2025, amending the export policy of specific animal by-products under Chapter 23 of ITC(HS) 2022. A new Policy Condition has been introduced, mandating that raw materials such as meat, offal, bones, hides, and other organs used for pet food (not for human consumption) exports must be sourced from APEDA-registered abattoirs/slaughterhouses with certification by designated veterinary authorities. The amendment applies to ITC(HS) Codes 2309 10 00, 2309 90 10, and 2309 90 20, aligning India's export policy with EU regulations.

Spices import not permissible under Duty Free Import Authorisation

The DGFT has clarified that since all spices fall under Appendix 4J of the Handbook of Procedures and are subject to pre-import conditions, their import under DFIA is not permissible under any circumstances, irrespective of the intended end use. Policy Circular No. 5/2025, dated 22 September 2025 has been issued for the purpose.

India FTA Update

- India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement come into effect from 1 October 2025
- Third round of India-New Zealand FTA negotiations conclude
- India, EU reaffirm commitment to early conclusion of FTA talks
- Taiwan pushes for rapid Free Trade Pact with India
- First round of negotiations for FTA with EAEU, including Russia, likely in early November
- India, Qatar likely to finalise terms of reference for FTA in early October

India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement come into effect from 1 October 2025

The Ministry of Finance has issued notifications to bring into effect the first tranche of tariff concessions for imports from Switzerland, Iceland and Norway under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement signed between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The notifications provide for reduced BCD, AIDC and Health Cess on goods falling under more than 10,000 tariff lines and imported from Switzerland, Iceland and Norway. Additionally, it may be noted that certain specified wine from Switzerland have been granted the benefit of nil BCD and reduced AIDC. The notifications are effective from 1 October 2025.

It may be noted that the benefit will be available only if the importer proves to the satisfaction of the Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Customs that the goods are of the origin of these three countries, in terms of the Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 and the Customs Tariff (Determination of Origin of Goods under the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement between India and the EFTA States) Rules, 2025. Notifications Nos. 41 to 43/2025-Cus. and 59/2025-Cus. (N.T.) have been issued for the purpose.

Third round of India-New Zealand FTA negotiations conclude

The third round of negotiations for the India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) concluded successfully on 19 September 2025, in Queenstown, New Zealand. The discussions reaffirmed the shared commitment of both nations to strengthen economic ties and work towards the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement. The FTA was formally launched on 16 March 2025, during the meeting between Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Mr. Todd McClay.

As per news report by *PIB*, as available **here**, the third round, held from 15 to 19 September 2025, witnessed constructive discussions across all areas of the agreement. Several chapters were concluded, and significant progress was achieved in other key domains. The next round of in-person negotiations is scheduled to be held in New Delhi on 13–14 October 2025.

India, EU reaffirm commitment to early conclusion of FTA talks

India and the European Union (EU) have reiterated their commitment to the early conclusion of negotiations for a long-pending Free Trade Agreement, aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment. European Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and Commissioner for Agriculture and Food

Christophe Hansen were on a two-day visit to India to review progress and accelerate discussions. The EU Embassy in India noted that the visit is intended to 'take stock and power up India-EU business ties' and engage with key stakeholders.

As per *DD India* news report available **here**, India has consistently stressed that meaningful progress requires addressing non-tariff barriers (NTBs) alongside tariff reductions and ensuring that regulatory frameworks remain inclusive and trade-friendly.

Taiwan pushes for rapid Free Trade Pact with India

Taiwanese companies are urging India to fast track the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to strengthen bilateral economic ties and foster deeper collaboration in critical sectors like semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, and machine tools. As per news report by *Bisinfotech*, available **here**, Taiwanese firms are particularly focused on expanding into India's fast-growing semiconductor ecosystem, amid global supply chain realignments and the Indian government's push for self-reliance in electronics.

First round of negotiations for FTA with EAEU, including Russia, likely in early November

The Embassy of Russia in India has stated that the Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission Andrey Slepnev has met Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on 15 September. As per news report by *The Hindu*, as available **here**, the Embassy has in a statement conveyed that the Ministers have agreed on an approach under which the first round of negotiations is set to take place in early November this year in India and will focus on discussing the core aspects of the future deal. The Indian government, however, has not confirmed the date of the first round of negotiations.

India, Qatar likely to finalise terms of reference for FTA in early October

The possibility of a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) with Doha was first announced this February during the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani's visit to India. The two sides sought to double their bilateral trade by 2030.

According to a news report by *The Hindu*, as available **here**, Doha accounts for 1.22% of India's total trade. In FY 2024-25, India exported goods worth about $1.68 billion whilst it imports totalled $12.47 billion. Qatar's key exports to India include liquified natural gas (LNG), liquified petroleum gas (LPG), chemicals and petrochemicals and aluminium articles, among other things.

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