

Wishing our members a very Happy and Prosperous Diwali!

11 October - 17 October

Trade Update

India's exports up 6.74% in September, trade deficit stood at $32.1 bn
India's exports grew by 6.74 per cent to $36.38 billion in September despite global headwinds. Imports jumped 16.6 per cent to $68.53 billion. The country's trade deficit stood at $32.1 billion during the month. Imports surged due to the increase in imports of gold, silver, fertiliser and electronics. In April-September this fiscal, exports increased by 3.02 per cent to $ 220.12 billion. Imports rose 4.53 per cent to $375.11 billion, the commerce ministry data showed.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-exports-up-at-6-74-in-september-trade-deficit-stood-at-32-1-bn-125101500744_1.html

Textiles, leather & kitchen items exports to US down
India's exports of labour-intensive goods such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, and marine products shrank in August, the month when Washington slapped tariffs on New Delhi. The country's outbound shipments to the United States of leather goods fell 11.9% on-year in August, while those of pearls, precious and semi-precious stones nosedived 54.2% and handmade carpets declined 13.85%, showed disaggregated data released by the commerce and industry ministry.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/textiles-leather-kitchen-items-exports-to-us-down/articleshow/124559343.cms

Free Trade Agreements

India expands FTA outreach; active trade talks underway with US, EU and Oman, says Piyush Goyal
India has intensified efforts to deepen its trade ties with major economies, with several free trade agreements (FTAs) already implemented and negotiations progressing with key partners, including the United States, the European Union, and Oman, reported PTI, citing commerce minister Piyush Goyal as saying, on Thursday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-expands-fta-outreach-active-trade-talks-underway-with-us-eu-and-oman-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/124602442.cms

India, Brazil look to broaden PTA, eye $20 bn bilateral trade by 2030
India and Brazil are looking to broaden the preferential trade agreement (PTA) and are eyeing a bilateral trade target of $20 billion by 2030, up from $12 billion in 2024. India and Brazil have a limited trade agreement, as a part of a part of the PTA with the Latin American bloc – Mercosur. In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Argentina and Brazil saw discussions over the expansion of the existing limited trade deal with Mercosur bloc – comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay as its members.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-brazil-to-expand-trade-pact-targets-20-billion-bilateral-trade-by-2030-125101601134_1.html

India, EU trade pact talks in last leg: Commerce Secy
The negotiations between India and the European Union on the proposed free trade agreement are progressing "very well" and have reached the last leg, a senior government official said on Wednesday. The two sides concluded their 14th round of negotiations in Brussels last week, but some Indian officials have stayed back to conclude talks on Rules of Origin (ROO), Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters here.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-trade-pact-talks-in-last-leg-commerce-secy/articleshow/124581089.cms

India-EFTA trade pact to boost USD 100 billion worth of investments, create 1 million jobs
India's trade landscape marked a historic milestone as the India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed on March 10, 2024, officially came into effect on October 1, 2025. According to a government release, this is India's first Free Trade Agreement with four developed European nations: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. It also promises to bring in USD 100 billion in investments and create one million direct jobs over the next fifteen years.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-efta-trade-pact-to-boost-usd-100-billion-worth-of-investments-create-1-million-jobs/articleshow/124474094.cms

India, US hopeful of concluding first tranche of Trade Agreement by fall deadline: Govt Sources
India and the United States are moving steadily towards the conclusion of the first tranche of their Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), with both sides expressing optimism about sealing the deal by the fall deadline, government sources told on Monday. India and the United States are moving steadily towards the conclusion of the first tranche of their Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), with both sides expressing optimism about sealing the deal by the fall deadline, government sources told on Monday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-us-hopeful-of-concluding-first-tranche-of-trade-agreement-by-fall-deadline-govt-sources/articleshow/124522300.cms

Norway promotes investments to India to meet free trade pact goals
Norway is promoting India as an investment destination for its private sector by engaging with states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal as the free trade pact between India and the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) bloc kicked off on October 1, Norwegian Ambassador to India May-Elin Stener has said. The country is also eager to ship its seafood to India, especially frozen salmon that gains immediate duty free entry, while expecting more imports of Indian coffee, textiles and fish-feed, Stener said in an interview with businessline.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/norway-promotes-investments-to-india-to-meet-free-trade-pact-goals/article70154436.ece

Bilateral Trade

India & Saudi Arabia explore investments in textile sector
India and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday discussed opportunities for investments in India’s apparel and textiles sector in line with the different schemes and initiatives of the government. A Saudi delegation led by the Vice Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources Khalil in Salamah met textiles secretary Neelam Shami Rao in New Delhi to advance bilateral cooperation in the textiles sector.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy-india-amp-saudi-arabia-explorenbspinvestments-in-textile-sector-4010855/

India to boost people-to-people ties with Mongolia, provide free e-visas
Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa on Tuesday held wide-ranging delegation-level talks in New Delhi, covering cooperation across sectors, including education, energy, defence, and security. Both sides exchanged memorandums of understanding (MoUs) for cooperation in humanitarian aid, restoration of heritage sites in Mongolia, cooperation in immigration, geology and mineral resources, and sharing of digital solutions.
https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/india-mongolia-pm-modi-e-visas-free-khurelsukh-ukhnaa-125101400759_1.html

Russia confident of continuing energy trade with India: DPM Novak
Russia is confident that its energy cooperation with India will "continue", Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said on Thursday, a day after US President Donald Trump claimed that New Delhi assured him to stop purchasing oil from Russia. "We continue to cooperate with our friendly partners. Our energy resource is in demand. It is economically viable and feasible," Novak, who looks after Russia's energy sector, was quoted as saying by the independent Interfax news agency.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/russia-confident-of-continuing-energy-trade-with-india-dpm-novak/articleshow/124605085.cms

Russia to boost banana import from India
Russia could import up to half million metric tonnes of bananas from India, the country's phytosanitary watchdog here said. Rosselkhoznadzor --- phytosanitary watchdog which gives the approval for import of agro-products from foreign countries --- on Wednesday issued a statement saying that India may increase its banana supplies to the Russian market.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/russia-to-boost-banana-import-from-india/articleshow/124586367.cms

Continuing to engage with China on supply of rare-earth elements: MEA
India on Thursday said it is in talks with China on the supply of rare earth elements, and is respectful of its international obligations on the various frameworks and arrangements regarding end-user certifications. Recently, China sought guarantees from India that the rare earth elements supplied by it will not be re-exported to the US, and will be used to meet only local needs. Beijing is seeking export control commitments similar to those under the Wassenaar Arrangement, which governs the export of dual-use technologies and goods among its member countries.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-china-rare-earths-supply-in-discussion-mea-confirms-125101601217_1.html

India seeks tariff solution in US trade talks: Commerce Secretary
India is looking for a "win-win solution" in its trade talks with the US that would also address the "tariff issue", with New Delhi keen to make additional energy purchases of $12-13 billion from Washington, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said Wednesday. India is open to expand oil purchases from the US, provided it comes at the "right price", he said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-seeks-tariff-solution-in-us-trade-talks-commerce-secretary/articleshow/124588371.cms

India willing to spend $15 billion on US oil amid trade talks
India has the capacity to purchase an additional $15 billion of oil from the US, a senior commerce ministry official said Wednesday, signaling New Delhi’s intent to speed up trade talks and get a deal. Data over the last few years shows that energy purchases from the US have gone up, India’s Trade Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters on Wednesday in New Delhi.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-willing-to-spend-15-billion-on-us-oil-amid-trade-talks/articleshow/124583126.cms

India, Canada trade ministers discuss ways to strengthen economic ties
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday held discussions with his Canadian counterpart Maninder Sidhu on ways to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday held discussions with his Canadian counterpart Maninder Sidhu on ways to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-canada-trade-ministers-discuss-ways-to-strengthen-economic-ties/articleshow/124482376.cms

Afghan FM invites India to invest in minerals, requests opening of Wagah border
Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi has invited India to invest in the country's minerals and requested New Delhi to help facilitate trade through the opening of the Wagah border, calling it the "fastest trade route" between the two countries. Adressing a press conference in New Delhi on Sunday, Muttaqi said, "I met the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar and talked about economy, trade, and other issues."

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/afghan-fm-invites-india-to-invest-in-minerals-requests-opening-of-wagah-border/articleshow/124502434.cms

Sectoral Updates

India aims to double agri exports, open new global markets for rice in five years: Minister Pralhad Joshi
Over the next five years, India aims to double its agricultural and agri-based exports and open new global markets for Indian rice, Pralhad Joshi, Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, said in a video message, "Over the next 5 years, we aim to reform and modernize the public distribution system, double Agri and Agri based exports and open new global markets for Indian rice," he noted.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-aims-to-double-agri-exports-open-new-global-markets-for-rice-in-five-years-minister-pralhad-joshi/articleshow/124568548.cms

Imports of roasted areca nuts below ₹351/kg restricted
India has prohibited the imports of roasted Areca nuts priced below ₹351 per kg, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification, adding that the ban is not applicable to imports by 100% export-oriented units (EOUs) in SEZs and imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme. "The import of roasted Areca nut, having CIF value less than ₹351 per kg, is prohibited," the DGFT said in a notification.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/imports-of-roasted-areca-nuts-below-351/kg-restricted/articleshow/124614634.cms

Exports of chilled, frozen meat linked to payment to MEDF in APEDA
Exports of chilled and frozen meat products will be allowed only after payment to the Meat Export Development Fund managed by the commerce ministry arm APEDA, according to a notification. The decision will come into effect from October 29, 2025. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) looks after issues related to the country's agri and allied product exports.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/exports-of-chilled-frozen-meat-linked-to-payment-to-medf-in-apeda/articleshow/124553995.cms

Diamond exports to US shrink by over 50%, record surge to UAE and UK, shows data
Exports of cut and polished diamonds (CPD) to the United States, a major market for the gemstone, fell by over more than half this year compared to the corresponding first half of the previous financial year (April-September 2024) while exports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Hong Kong and the United Kingdom surged, as per data released by the Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) on Tuesday.
https://indianexpress.com/article/india/diamond-exports-to-us-shrink-by-over-50-record-surge-to-uae-and-uk-shows-data-10307339/lite/

India's mobile phone exports rise 95 pc to $1.8 bn September
India's mobile phone exports crossed $1.8 billion in September which is considered a lean period for global sales due to production adjustments and season shipment cycles. Exports were up 95% on-year demonstrating the robust momentum in the ecosystem, according to India Cellular and Electronics Association that represents . For the April-September period, handset exports are estimated to have crossed $13.5 billion, as compared to $8.5 billion for the same period last year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-mobile-phone-exports-rise-95-pc-to-1-8-bn-september/articleshow/124554948.cms

Engineering goods exports grow 3% in September despite high US tariffs
Engineering goods exports maintained growth momentum in the month of September 2025, even as high US tariffs weighed on margins and competitiveness. As per the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the value of engineering goods shipments in September 2025 stood at US$10.11 billion as compared to US$9.82 billion in September 2024, thus registering a growth of nearly 3%. On a cumulative basis, engineering goods exports in the April-September period of the current financial year 2025-26 grew 5.35% year-on-year to US$59.36 billion as compared to US$56.34 billion in the corresponding period of the previous financial year.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/trade/exports/insights/engineering-goods-exports-grow-3-in-september-despite-high-us-tariffs/articleshow/124597826.cms

India revises up base import price of gold and vegetable oils
India has raised the base import prices of gold, silver and all vegetable oils, the government said late on Wednesday, to reflect rising global market prices. The government revises base import prices of edible oils, gold and silver every fortnight, and the prices are used to calculate the amount of tax an importer needs to pay. India is the world's biggest importer of edible oils and silver, and the second-biggest consumer of gold.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-revises-up-base-import-price-of-gold-and-vegetable-oils/articleshow/124594732.cms

India's vegetable oil imports surge 51% in September on higher crude palm oil shipments
India's vegetable oil imports jumped 51 per cent to 16.39 lakh tonnes in September from a year earlier, driven by a surge in crude palm oil shipments, while refined oil imports dropped to zero for the first time since 2021, an industry body said on Wednesday. Total vegetable oil imports, comprising both edible and non-edible oils, stood at 10.87 lakh tonnes in September 2023, the Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) said in a statement.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-vegetable-oil-imports-surge-51-in-september-on-higher-crude-palm-oil-shipments/articleshow/124576184.cms

Global Trade

India a close 2nd to China with ₹25,597 crore Russian oil buys
Indian refiners bought ₹2.5 billion (₹25,597 crore) worth of Russian crude in September, trailing China's ₹3.2 billion, according to Helsinki-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). India was also the second-largest buyer of Russian coal and refined fuels, with total fossil imports of ₹3.6 billion, behind China's ₹5.5 billion. Overall, China ranked first among Russian fossil fuel buyers, followed by India, Turkiye, the EU and South Korea.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-a-close-2nd-to-china-with25597-crore-russian-oil-buys/articleshow/124586743.cms

US threatens sanctions over global shipping carbon tax
The United States on Friday warned it may impose sanctions and other punitive measures on any country that votes in favour of a carbon tax on maritime transport, to be implemented through a United Nations agency. "We will fight hard to protect our economic interests by imposing costs on countries if they support" the Net Zero Framework, said a joint statement by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his counterparts at the departments of Energy and Transportation.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/us-threatens-sanctions-over-global-shipping-carbon-tax/articleshow/124511410.cms?from=mdr

US, China to roll out tit-for-tat port fees on shipping amid trade tensions
The United States and China on Tuesday will begin charging additional port fees on ocean shipping firms that move everything from holiday toys to crude oil, making the high seas a key front in the trade war between the world's two largest economies. China said it had started to collect the special charges on US-owned, operated, built, or flagged vessels but clarified that Chinese-built ships would be exempted from the levies.
https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/us-china-to-roll-out-tit-for-tat-port-fees-on-shipping-amid-trade-tensions-125101400168_1.html

Trump announces additional 100% tariff on China, plans export curbs on tech
US President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods and introduce export controls on all critical software from November 1, 2025, a move that could sharply escalate trade tensions with Beijing. The announcement, made in a lengthy Truth Social post, accused China of taking an “extraordinarily aggressive position on trade” and sending what Trump described as a “hostile letter to the world.” He claimed Beijing intended to impose “large-scale export controls on virtually every product they make, and some not even made by them,” calling it “a moral disgrace in international trade.”
https://www.business-standard.com/world-news/trump-to-impose-100-percent-tariff-on-chinese-goods-markets-tumble-125101100092_1.html

UK is taking targeted action against Indian, Chinese Firms over Russian oil trade, British finance minister says
British finance minister Rachel Reeves said on Wednesday the government was taking targeted action against companies in India and China that continued to facilitate the flow of Russian oil into global markets. Britain issued fresh sanctions earlier on Wednesday against Russia's so-called shadow fleet.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/uk-is-taking-targeted-action-against-indian-chinese-firms-over-russian-oil-trade-british-finance-minister-says/articleshow/124578383.cms

EU slashes steel import quota by 47% and doubles tariffs on Indian exports from 2026
Steel exports to the European Union, a market that accounted for 45 per cent of Indian exports in 2024, will come under enormous strain with the European Commission's proposal to slash tariff-free import quota by 47 per cent and to double the duty on out-of-quota imports by 50 per cent. The proposal will replace the steel safeguard measure that is set to expire by June 2026, potentially harming the prospects of countries such as India, which exported 3.71 million tonnes of steel to the EU in 2024, compared with its total exports of 8.24 million tonnes.
https://www.telegraphindia.com/business/eu-cuts-steel-import-quota-from-india-by-47-doubles-tariffs-amid-cbam-rollout-prnt/cid/2127484

WTO

China files complaint against India in WTO over EV, battery subsidies
China has filed a complaint against India in the World Trade Organization (WTO) over New Delhi's subsidies for electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries. It has alleged that the subsidies violate global trade norms, including the principle of national treatment and constitute import substitution subsidies, which are explicitly prohibited under the multi-lateral trade rules.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/china-files-complaint-against-india-in-wto-over-ev-battery-subsidies/articleshow/124587007.cms

India, Taiwan urge WTO to delay ICT duties ruling as talks continue
India and Taiwan on Tuesday requested the dispute settlement body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization to delay the adoption of a ruling against New Delhi's import duties on certain information and technology products till April 21, 2026, saying they are working on resolving the issue mutually. The WTO is set to take up the issue on October 24.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-taiwan-request-wto-to-defer-ict-import-duty-dispute-ruling-until-apr-2026/articleshow/124555097.cms

Other Key Coverages

India starts probe into increased imports of chemical from South Korea
India has initiated a probe to ascertain if a significant spurt in imports of a chemical, used in the plastic industry, from South Korea is impacting the domestic producers. India has initiated a probe to ascertain if a significant spurt in imports of a chemical, used in the plastic industry, from South Korea is impacting the domestic producers.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-starts-probe-into-increased-imports-of-chemical-from-south-korea/articleshow/124553724.cms

Indian govt creates funds to promote carabeef exports, may get ₹30 cr/year
The Commerce Ministry has created a commodity-specific fund for promoting buffalo meat (carabeef) exports from India. Exporters need to pay ₹250/tonne to the official agri export promotion body Apeda from October 29 at the time of applying online for the health certificate, which is mandatory before physical shipments are allowed by the Customs. This may help the government collect over ₹30 crore per year.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/indian-govt-creates-funds-to-promote-carabeef-exports-may-get-30-cryear/article70167605.ece

Indian textile exporters turn to Europe, offer discounts to offset US tariffs
Indian textile exporters are seeking new buyers in Europe and offering discounts to existing U.S. customers to cushion the blow from steep U.S. tariffs of as much as 50%, industry executives said. President Donald Trump

doubled tariffs in August on Indian imports, placing them among the highest for any trading partner, and affecting goods and produce ranging from garments and jewellery to shrimp.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-textile-exporters-turn-to-europe-offer-discounts-to-offset-us-tariffs/articleshow/124542578.cms

Electronics sector calls for PE tax parity with China and Vietnam
A group representing the electronics industry has requested the government to review permanent establishment (PE) rules to improve India's tax competitiveness in manufacturing so that the country can compete against China and Vietnam. Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has explained how China and Vietnam have structured PE rules — they determine when a foreign enterprise has a sufficient business presence to be subject to corporate tax in a country — in the past decade to ensure they are competitive against other countries.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/electronics-sector-pushes-for-parity-in-pe-tax-rules-with-china-vietnam-125101401324_1.html

New interest subvention scheme soon for MSME exporters
The government will soon unveil a revamped interest subvention scheme for exporters, under which it may extend a 3% interest subsidy to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), instead of all exporters, sources told FE. This will be a key element of the support package for exporters in the wake of hefty tariffs on most Indian goods imposed by the US, the largest export market for the country.
https://www.financialexpress.com/policy/economy/new-interest-subvention-scheme-soon-for-msme-exporters/4007998/

Finance ministry rules out Customs duty relief for magnet PLI scheme
No exemption from Customs duty or cess is required for importing machinery and equipment used in manufacturing rare-earth permanent magnets (REPM) under the proposed production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance has told the Ministry of Heavy Industries.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/finance-ministry-rules-out-duty-exemption-under-magnet-pli-scheme-125101401357_1.html

Notifications by CBIC

Fixation of Tariff Value of Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver- Reg.
https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010487/ENG/Notifications

Notifications by DGFT

Amendment in import policy and policy condition of Areca Nuts falling under ITC HS Code 08028090 and 20081991 of Chapter 20 of ITC HS 2022 Schedule I Import Policy
https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/8a401cd8-cd2e-4175-8296-5aaabb737c79/English%20Notification%2043_0001.pdf

Syncing of ITC (HS), 2022- Schedule-1 (Import Policy) with Finance Act 2025 (No. 07 of 2025) dated 29.03.2025 -reg.
https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/ab77c577-7eb3-4b0b-aeaf-fa8e47d9f451/English%20Notification%20No.%2044.pdf

Amendment in Export Policy of Meat and Meat products -regarding
https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/13d73760-1251-48fa-b8ed-dde45e07a875/Notification%20No%2042%20English%20Version.pdf

Amendment to Public Notice No. 42/2024-25 dated 21.01.2025 – reg.
https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/949819db-5648-4677-bb33-7820a1de9a75/Public%20Notice%20No.26%20English..pdf