

4 July - 10 July 2026

Free Trade Agreements

India pushes to upgrade ASEAN FTA, advances talks on CECA with Australia
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said that it is working with its ASEAN partners to review and upgrade the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), while negotiations are also progressing on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with India.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-pushes-to-upgrade-asean-fta-advances-talks-on-ceca-with-australia/articleshow/132173087.cms

India, EU aim to complete FTA legal scrubbing in 15-20 days, says Piyush Goyal
India and the European Union are aiming to complete the legal scrubbing of their free trade agreement (FTA) within the next 15-20 days, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday, as both sides step up efforts to bring the pact into force by the first quarter of 2027.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-eu-aim-to-complete-fta-legal-scrubbing-in-15-20-days-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/132224978.cms

Do not see India-Peru FTA happening anytime soon, says Piyush Goyal
Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said negotiations for a proposed India-Peru free trade agreement (FTA) are unlikely to conclude anytime soon, citing concerns over market access in certain products. "There are certain concerns. There are many products where we cannot offer them market access. I do not see Peru FTA happening very soon," he told reporters here on the sidelines of the 17th Toy Biz International B2B Exhibition.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/do-not-see-india-peru-fta-happening-anytime-soon-says-piyush-goyal/articleshow/132176908.cms

India-New Zealand FTA to make 57% of NZ exports tariff-free from day 1, Kiwi PM says
New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Thursday said the recently signed free trade agreement with India would allow 57% of the country's exports to enter the Indian market tariff-free from the first day, as he highlighted the economic benefits of the pact ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-new-zealand-fta-to-make-57-of-nz-exports-tariff-free-from-day-1-kiwi-pm-says/articleshow/132281209.cms

Finance Ministry notifies rules for determination of origin of goods under India-UK trade pact
India's Finance Ministry has notified rules for determining the origin of goods under the India-UK CETA, effective July 15, 2026. This agreement grants duty-free access for 99% of Indian exports to the UK, boosting sectors like textiles and engineering. The rules ensure only genuine goods qualify for preferential tariffs, preventing misuse and strengthening the trade pact's integrity
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-trade-pact-new-rules-for-determining-goods-origin-effective-july-15-2026/articleshow/132183507.cms

India notifies process to claim UK FTA tariff benefits on vehicle imports
India has notified the procedure for importers to seek government approval to avail quota-based duty concessions on imports of passenger cars and goods vehicles under the free trade agreement with the UK, which will come into force on July 15. Under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), India will reduce import duties on automotive imports from about 110 per cent to 10 per cent, with quotas on both sides.
https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-notifies-process-to-claim-uk-fta-tariff-benefits-on-vehicle-imports-126071000252_1.html

Bilateral Trade

India, Australia unlock uranium trade, step up energy and supply chain cooperation
India and Australia on Thursday finalised the administrative arrangements required to enable the export of Australian uranium to India, while committing to deepen bilateral energy trade, strengthen resilient supply chains and accelerate work on a broader economic partnership as both countries sought to bolster economic security amid global geopolitical disruptions.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-australia-unlock-uranium-trade-step-up-energy-and-supply-chain-cooperation/articleshow/132277730.cms

India, Afghanistan discuss trade, agri & connectivity
Coinciding with the visit of Afghanistan's Agriculture Minister, India and Afghanistan on Thursday held a Joint Committee Meeting led by their foreign ministries to give fresh impetus to the bilateral development partnership. The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral ties, including cooperation in humanitarian assistance, development partnership, food security, healthcare, capacity building, education, sports, trade, visas and connectivity, an official said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-afghanistan-discuss-trade-agri-connectivity/articleshow/132296881.cms

India's auto parts exports to US remain strong despite tariff tensions
The United States continued to remain the single largest export market for auto parts makers in India in the financial year ended March 31, 2026 despite the heightened tension over tariffs between the two countries. The United States accounted for 26% of all auto components exported from India last fiscal, followed by Germany (9%) and Thailand (4%), respectively as per data available with Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-auto-parts-exports-to-us-remain-strong-despite-tariff-tensions/articleshow/132242676.cms

Indian envoy pitches greater pharma exports, Chinese investment to deepen ties
China opening its market to Indian products, especially pharmaceuticals, coupled with investments in New Delhi, will be "good for the larger country-to-country relationship", envoy Vikram Doraiswami said on Saturday. "Obviously, we would like to be able to export more to China. There is nothing unreasonable about suggesting that, particularly in areas where we believe we have a competitive advantage such as pharmaceuticals," the Indian ambassador said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-envoy-pitches-greater-pharma-exports-chinese-investment-to-deepen-ties/articleshow/132178756.cms

India tightens scrutiny of Chinese herbicide imports
India has tightened scrutiny of imports of glufosinate and its salts, a key herbicide from China, by placing them under provisional customs assessment while authorities investigate whether exporters are absorbing anti-dumping duties to dilute their impact. The Department of Revenue has directed customs authorities to provisionally assess imports of the herbicide pending the outcome of an anti-absorption review initiated by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-tightens-scrutiny-of-chinese-herbicide-imports/articleshow/132186712.cms

Indian transformer makers shrug off re-entry of China; Capacity ramp-up and strong demand offset competition

Indian transformer producers exude confidence in the face of new rules that allow Chinese competition. Their strong order books and ongoing capacity expansions illustrate their resilience. Many Chinese companies lack substantial manufacturing presence in India, making it harder to compete. Furthermore, government policies mandating significant domestic content in imported components ensure that local manufacturers maintain a competitive edge.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-transformer-makers-shrug-off-re-entry-of-china-capacity-ramp-up-and-strong-demand-offset-competition/articleshow/132271127.cms

India and Russia set $50 billion investment target by 2030

Amid growing momentum in their economic partnership, India and Russia are aiming to achieve $50 billion in mutual investments by 2030 through joint projects in advanced manufacturing, critical minerals, and green technology.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/delhi-and-moscow-set-50-billion-investment-target-by-2030/articleshow/132202656.cms

India-Israel investment pact comes into effect

A bilateral investment agreement between India and Israel came into force on Saturday, promising faster dispute resolution and stronger investor protection while preserving sovereign policy-making space. It's expected to boost investment flows between the two countries from the current level of less than $1 billion. Signed in September 2025, the agreement allows investors at least three years to exhaust domestic legal remedies for dispute settlement before initiating international arbitration.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-israel-investment-pact-comes-into-effect/articleshow/132186517.cms

India, France discuss ways to boost cooperation in critical minerals sector

India and France, as part of a key meeting, have discussed bolstering cooperation in the exploration and processing of critical minerals and rare earth elements to build resilient and sustainable supply chains. Benjamin Gallezot, France's Interministerial Delegate for Strategic Minerals and Metals Supplies, visited New Delhi on Monday-Tuesday with Olivier Frezot, Regional Director for Asia, Bureau of Geological and Mining Research (BRGM), the French Geological Survey, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-france-discuss-ways-to-boost-cooperation-in-critical-minerals-sector/article71196418.ece

Air-cooled condenser makers urge review of Chinese firms' entry into thermal power contracts

Leading manufacturers of air-cooled condenser (ACC) systems in India have approached the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and key ministries, seeking a review and withdrawal of an exemption that allows companies from countries sharing a land border with India, including China, to bid for government thermal power plant contracts, people aware of the matter said.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/air-cooled-condenser-makers-urge-review-of-chinese-firms-entry-into-thermal-power-contracts/articleshow/132245468.cms

EAM Jaishankar arrives in Oman as part of multi-nation tour, visit to focus on bilateral ties

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar arrived in Oman and was received by Sheikh Ahmed Al Maskari, Director General of the OmForeign Ministry. In a post on X, he said, "Glad to arrive in Oman today. Appreciate the warm reception by Sheikh Ahmed Al Maskari, Director General, Foreign Ministry of Oman."
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/eam-jaishankar-arrives-in-oman-as-part-of-multi-nation-tour-visit-to-focus-on-bilateral-ties/articleshow/132302066.cms

Sectoral Updates

India launches LoA regime for high-seas fishing, eyes seafood export growth

India's fisheries and aquaculture sector has emerged as one of the country's fastest-growing economic segments, with rising global confidence in the quality of Indian seafood opening up new export opportunities, Vice President C P Radhakrishnan said here on Thursday. Speaking at the national launch of the issuance of

Letters of Authorisation (LoA) for sustainable harnessing of fisheries in the high seas, the Vice President said the new initiative will boost India's maritime economy by allowing fishermen to sustainably tap the vast marine resources available in the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and beyond.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-launches-loa-regime-for-high-seas-fishing-eyes-seafood-export-growth-126070901027_1.html

India silver import curbs create shortages, push premiums to six-month high
India's restrictions on silver imports have created shortages in the world's biggest market for the precious metal, pushing premiums to their highest levels in six months despite weaker-than-usual demand. Lower imports by India, which meets more than 80% of its silver demand through overseas purchases, could weigh on global prices, while helping narrow the country's trade deficit and ease pressure on its rupee currency.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-silver-import-curbs-create-shortages-push-premiums-to-six-month-high/articleshow/132261302.cms

WTO

India raises questions at WTO over interim arrangement to implement e-commerce pact
India has raised questions in the WTO over an interim arrangement as a pathway for implementation of an agreement on e-commerce, which has been agreed upon by only 66 member countries of the World Trade Organization. According to a communication circulated by the WTO on Thursday at the request of India, on February 18 and December 16, 2025, the General Council (GC) was requested to adopt a decision to add the pact to Annex 4 of the WTO agreements, but there was no consensus on that.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-raises-questions-at-wto-over-interim-arrangement-to-implement-e-commerce-pact/articleshow/132289071.cms

Global Trade

American giants warn higher tariffs on India & others may backfire on US' manufacturing
Top companies, including American giants, have cautioned USTR that its move to impose additional tariffs of up to 12.5% on 60 countries, including India, will push up costs for consumers and businesses, with several of them seeking exemptions for specific products.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/american-giants-warn-higher-tariffs-on-india-others-may-backfire-on-us-manufacturing/articleshow/132253052.cms

Russia bans diesel exports after Ukrainian drone attacks hit refineries
Russia announced a short-term ban on diesel exports, causing global prices for the fuel to surge to multi-year highs, as a wave of Ukrainian drone attacks leads to domestic shortages. The decision could further squeeze global fuel markets, which are already under pressure due to the supply disruption caused by the Iran war. Last year, Russia accounted for about 11% of global supplies of diesel, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from analytics firm Vortexa Ltd. The ban will only be in place for about three weeks.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/russia-bans-diesel-exports-after-ukrainian-drone-attacks-hit-refineries-126070801463_1.html

Other Key Coverages

India defends itself against US forced labour charges; seeks resolution via trade talks as Trump tariffs loom
India has urged the United States to address concerns over proposed tariffs linked to forced labour through the ongoing bilateral trade agreement (BTA) negotiations rather than unilateral action, while questioning inconsistencies in Washington's tariff framework during a public hearing before the US Trade Representative (USTR).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-flags-inconsistencies-in-us-forced-labour-probe-seeks-resolution-via-trade-talks/articleshow/132277216.cms?from=mdr

India extends anti-dumping duty on US, Malaysia, South Africa butyl alcohol
India announced on Friday that it has extended anti-dumping duties on imports of normal butanol (N-Butyl Alcohol) from the US, Malaysia and South Africa for another five years, seeking to shield domestic manufacturers from unfairly priced overseas shipments. India announced on Friday that it has extended anti-dumping duties on imports of normal butanol (N-Butyl Alcohol) from the US, Malaysia and South Africa for another five years, seeking to shield domestic manufacturers from unfairly priced overseas shipments.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-extends-anti-dumping-duty-on-us-malaysia-south-africa-butyl-alcohol/articleshow/132169402.cms

India extends anti-dumping duty on seamless tubes, pipes till Jan 2027
India has extended the anti-dumping duty imposed on certain Chinese tubes and pipes till January 27, 2027 to guard domestic makers from cheap inbound shipments, according to a finance ministry notification. The duty on 'seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron, alloy or non-alloy steel' was first imposed on October 28, 2021 for five years.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-extends-anti-dumping-duty-on-seamless-tubes-pipes-till-jan-2027/articleshow/132306436.cms

Commerce ministry raises anti-dumping duty rejection issue at 'highest level'
The commerce ministry has taken up with the "highest level" the issue of a rising number of rejections by the Finance Ministry of recommendations made by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) for the imposition of anti-dumping duties, a senior government official said on Wednesday.
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/commerce-ministry-raises-anti-dumping-duty-rejection-issue-at-highest-level/articleshow/131630717.cms?from=mdr

India waives customs duty, IGST on imported animals under UK trade pact from July 15
India has notified an exemption from customs duty and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) on animals imported into the country for participation in shows, exhibitions, contests, competitions, demonstrations and certain public functions under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-waives-customs-duty-igst-on-imported-animals-under-uk-trade-pact-from-july-15/articleshow/132175406.cms

Govt's collateral-free export credit scheme finds limited takers
The government has seen limited interest among eligible beneficiaries in collateral-free export credit under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), with only 140 exporters registering for the scheme since its rollout in January, according to an official document reviewed by Business Standard. Under the scheme, micro and small enterprises can avail export credit of up to ₹10 crore with guarantee coverage of 85 per cent, while medium enterprises are eligible for the same loan amount with guarantee coverage of 65 per cent.
https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/limited-takers-for-govt-s-collateral-free-export-credit-scheme-under-epm-126070601313_1.html

Notifications by CBIC

Seeks to amend Notification No. 25/2002-Customs dated 01.03.2002 so as to merge S. Nos. 69 and 69A relating to specified capital goods for manufacture of Lithium Ion Cell.
https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010719/ENG/Notifications

Seeks to amend Notification No. 57/2017-Customs dated 30.06.2017 so as to provide BCD exemption on specified goods used in the manufacture of Inductor Coil Module for wireless charging of cellular mobile phones, subject to specified conditions.
https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010718/ENG/Notifications

Seeks to amend Notification No. 45/2025-Customs dated 24.10.2025 so as to provide BCD exemption on specified goods used in the manufacture of display assemblies falling under heading 8524 for automotive, medical or industrial applications, subject to specified conditions.
https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010717/ENG/Notifications

Seeks to amend notification No. 64/2021-Customs (ADD), dated the 28th October, 2021 to extend the levy of anti dumping duty on "Seamless Tubes, Pipes and Hollow Profiles of Iron, Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel" originating in or exported from China PR, up to and inclusive of 27th January, 2027
https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1010714/ENG/Notifications

To read our archive newsletters, click on https://www.ficci.in/sector/foreign-trade-and-trade-facilitation