



Given below are some key news updates from the past week pertaining to international trade and customs both from India and around the world.

### World Trade Organization (WTO)

- [The Chair of the negotiations on services domestic regulation under the General Agreement on Trade in Services \(GATS\) circulated a “far advanced” negotiating text on 18 December capturing the progress made in 2020 on domestic regulation disciplines.](#)
- [The coordinators of the joint initiatives on e-commerce, investment facilitation, services domestic regulation and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises \(MSMEs\) have stated that substantial progress has been achieved in their respective discussions and that they are on track to deliver concrete results or additional progress at the WTO’s 12th Ministerial Conference \(MC12\).](#)
- [WTO Members could not conclude negotiations on fisheries subsidies, but aim to build on the momentum achieved this year and forge an agreement on fisheries subsidies early in 2021.](#)
- [Indonesia notified the Dispute Settlement Body on 17 December of its decision to appeal the compliance panel report in the case brought by Brazil in \*Indonesia — Measures Concerning the Importation of Chicken Meat and Chicken Products \(DS484\)\*.](#)
- [Global merchandise trade volumes bounced back in the third quarter of 2020 from a deep second quarter slump brought on by the COVID-19 crisis according to statistics released by the WTO.](#)

### United States and Europe

- [U.S. Department of Commerce \(USDOC\) preliminarily determines that LNSK Greenhouse Agro Products LLP \(LNSK Greenhouse Agro\) is the successor in interest to Green House Agro Products \(Greenhouse Agro\) in the context of the antidumping duty order on certain frozen warmwater shrimp from India.](#)
- [United States Trade Representative \(USTR\) is to conduct its 2021 review to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property \(IP\) rights or deny fair and equitable market access to US persons who rely on IP protection.](#)
- [European Commission updated its export control rules regulation for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items, which have both military and civil applications.](#)
- [United Kingdom conducted third round of Free Trade Agreement negotiations with Australia.](#)
- [United Kingdom and Mexico sign trade deal.](#)

### India

- [Directorate General of Trade Remedies \(DGTR\) issued Final Findings in Mid-Term Review investigation concerning imports of Polytetrafluoroethylene \(PTFE\) originating in or exported from Russia.](#)
- [DGTR initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Caustic Soda originating in or exported from Japan, Iran, Qatar and Oman.](#)
- [Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs \(CBIC\) confirmed provisional Bilateral Safeguard measure on imports of Phthalic Anhydride originating in Korea RP and amended notification no. 152/2009 dated 31.12.2009 to modify the rate of customs duty on said imports, on recommendation of final findings of DGTR under the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(Bilateral Safeguard Measures\) Rules, 2017.](#)
- [CBIC amended notification No. 12/2018-Customs \(ADD\) dated 20 March, 2018 imposing anti-dumping duty on imports of Dimethylacetamide originated in or exported from China PR and Turkey, to exclude goods of certain specification from the product under consideration.](#)
- [Directorate General of Foreign Trade \(DGFT\) amended paragraph 2.60 of Handbook of Procedure, 2015-2020 and replaced it to update it with the latest Customs Notification governing imports under Tariff Rate Quota Scheme.](#)
- [Central Government announced National Security Directive on Telecommunication Sector, which will mandate service providers to purchase equipment from trusted sources.](#)

We trust you find this useful. In the meantime, should you require any information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us at [insights@elp-in.com](mailto:insights@elp-in.com)

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