



ECONOMIC  
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TRADE NEWSLETTER:  
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## I. TRADE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION UPDATES

November 2025 saw several notable actions by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (**DGTR**), including revisions to duty rates, fresh initiations, and multiple notifications across ongoing trade remedy matters. Key updates are set out below.

### A. INITIATION OF ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING IMPORTS OF HALO-ISOBUTENE-ISOPRENE RUBBER (HIIR)

The DGTR has, on October 31, 2025, initiated an anti-dumping investigation on imports of HIIR from China PR, Singapore and the USA.

This initiation comes after the Ministry of Finance (**MoF**) in March 2025, decided not to impose an anti-dumping duty on HIIR despite DGTR recommending it through its final findings dated December 28, 2024.

#### ELP COMMENT:

The previous investigation covered a significantly wider set of subject countries, including Japan, the USA, the UK, Singapore, and Russia.

In contrast, the latest initiation is limited to China, the USA, and Singapore. Notably, the new investigation has been initiated within approximately eight months of the conclusion of the earlier recommendations.

### B. DGTR ISSUED A CORRIGENDUM TO REVISE DUTY RATES FOR SOME INTERESTED PARTIES

*DGTR revises rates for interested parties after issuance of Final Findings*

- In the anti-dumping investigation on PVC Suspension Resins, the rates for one of the Japanese exporters were revised from \$87 to \$64 per MT.
- In the anti-dumping investigation on Soda Ash, the rate for one of the Turkish exporters was revised from \$69 to \$37 per MT.

#### ELP COMMENT:

While relatively uncommon, this is not the first instance where the DGTR has issued a corrigendum to alter the duty rate or revise the scope of coverage (including HSN codes). For instance, in the anti-dumping investigation concerning Industrial Laser Machines, the duty rates recommended in the Final Findings dated September 27, 2023, were later revised upward through a corrigendum issued on December 6, 2023, in contrast to the present cases where the revisions resulted in reduced duty rates.



## C. LIST OF NOTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY DGTR DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2025

PRODUCT	SUBJECT COUNTRIES IN THE INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION	DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION <sup>1</sup>
<b>PVC Suspension Resins</b>	China PR, Indonesia, Japan, Korea RP, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States of America	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Corrigendum notification issued to the final findings dated August 14, 2025</a>	October 29, 2025
<b>Halo- Isobutene-Isoprene Rubber</b>	China PR, Singapore and the United States of America	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Initiation notification</a>	October 31, 2025
<b>Soda Ash</b>	Turkey, Russia, USA and Iran	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Corrigendum notification issued to the final findings dated September 29, 2025</a>	November 4, 2025
<b>Clear Float Glass</b>	Malaysia	Sunset review of the imposed anti-dumping duties	<a href="#">Final findings</a>	November 6, 2025
<b>Toluene Di-Isocyanate</b>	European Union and Saudi Arabia	Sunset review of the imposed anti-dumping duties	<a href="#">Final findings</a>	November 12, 2025
<b>Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels</b>	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Corrigendum notification issued to the final findings dated September 29, 2025</a>	November 13, 2025
<b>Low Ash Metallurgical Coke</b>	Australia, China, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Preliminary findings</a>	November 14, 2025
<b>Polyester Textured Yarn</b>	China PR	Anti-dumping, original investigation	<a href="#">Initiation notification</a>	November 20, 2025

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the date stated on a notification may differ from its publication date, as certain notifications are published after their issuance. Accordingly, some notifications dated October 2025 have also been included in this newsletter, as they were published in November 2025.

## II. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INDIA

### A. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

During November 2025, the MoF issued several key notifications effecting changes to customs duties and the imposition of new anti-dumping duties across a range of products. A summary of the updates is set out below:

DATE	PRODUCT	HSN	CHANGE IN DUTY
Nov 14, 2025	<b>Crude Olive Pomace Oil</b>	1510 10 00	Basic custom duty - 45% → 15%
Nov 14, 2025	<b>Cane Molasses</b>	703 10 00	Removed basic custom duty (previously applicable)
Nov 07, 2025	<b>Flax or Linen Fabric (&gt;50% flax content)</b>	5309	Fixed anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China and Hong Kong
Nov 12, 2025	<b>Hot Rolled Flat Products of Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel</b>	7208, 7211, 7225, 7226	Fixed anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from Vietnam (New)
Nov 17, 2025	<b>Liquid Epoxy Resins</b>	3907 30 10, 3907 30 90	Fixed anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR, Korea RP, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and Thailand (New)

Additionally, although the DGTR had recommended anti-dumping duties on certain products in August 2025, the statutory window for the MoF to implement them lapsed in November 2025 without issuance of a notification. A summary is provided in the table below.

PRODUCT	SUBJECT COUNTRIES OF THE INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	DATE OF FINAL FINDINGS
<b>Untreated Fumed Silica</b>	China PR	Review	August 11, 2025
<b>Polyvinyl Chloride Suspension Resins</b>	China PR, Indonesia, Japan, Korea RP, Taiwan, Thailand and United States of America	Original	August 14, 2025

Acrylic Fibre	China PR, Peru and Thailand	Original	August 18, 2025
T-Shaped Elevator/Lift Guide Rails and Counterweight Guide Rails	China PR	Original	August 27, 2025

#### Non-tariff notifications

- On November 4, 2025, the MoF notified Transshipment of Cargo to Nepal under Electronic Cargo Tracking System (Amendment) Regulations, 2025.
- Effective from November 29, 2025, the MoF has fixed tariff values for Edible Oils, Brass Scrap, Areca Nut, Gold and Silver, by amending the Notification No. 36/2001-Customs (N.T.), Ministry of Finance, dated August 3, 2001.

## B. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE (DGFT)

Key trade policy updates issued by the DGFT in November 2025 are summarized below:

Effective from **November 4, 2025**, DGFT amended the export policy for Red Sanders (*Pterocarpus Santalinus*), restricting its export to only artificially propagated material from private land under Restricted Export Authorisation. The amendment introduces stringent conditions such as certification of legal origin, stock verification, and adherence to CITES-based quotas. Wild specimens have been assigned zero export quota. For 2025–27, export quotas have been set at 10 MTs for Karnataka and 100 MTs for Gujarat.

On **November 11, 2025**, DGFT issued a clarification addressing difficulties faced by exporters in redeeming Advance Authorisations impacted by the erstwhile Rule 96(10) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Rules, 2017 for imports made between October 13, 2017, and January 9, 2019. The circular confirms that Export Obligation Discharge Certificates (**EODC**) should not be withheld in cases where IGST was paid in cash, no IGST or related duty exemptions were availed (other than Basic Customs Duty), or the pre-import condition was duly complied with. This clarification aligns with the Supreme Court's 2023 judgment permitting eligible parties to claim refunds or ITC.

Effective from **November 17, 2025**, the import policy for 'Articles of jewellery and parts thereof, of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metals of Platinum,' classified under HS Code 7113 19 21, has been revised from "Free" to "Restricted." This change will remain in force until June 30, 2026.

On **November 20, 2025**, Para 2.08, covering Application for Import Export Code, of the Handbook of Procedures, 2023, was amended whereby the details previously required to be furnished in ANF-1A have now been incorporated into ANF-2A. Consequently, ANF-1A has been deleted, and ANF-2A has been revised with immediate effect.

### III. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

#### A. WITHDRAWAL OF VARIOUS QUALITY CONTROL ORDERS (QCOS)

The Government has recently withdrawn several QCOS, reflecting a significant policy recalibration following concerns regarding the impact of mandatory certification requirements on industry operations. A High-Level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms, supported by analysis from NITI Aayog, observed in a report that imposing compulsory standards at the intermediate stage, rather than on finished products, has led to supply-chain disruptions, heightened compliance costs for MSMEs and downstream sectors, and deviations from global regulatory practice, where oversight is typically exercised through voluntary standards and end-product testing. The report recommended withdrawal of various QCOS across sectors.

In view of these recommendations, the Government has commenced rescinding QCOS that are viewed as imposing disproportionate operational burdens without corresponding safety or quality gains. The following QCOS have accordingly been withdrawn:

<b>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>	Terephthalic Acid
	Ethylene Glycol
	Textiles- 100 Percent Polyester Spun Grey and White Yarns
	Polyester Industrial Yarns
	Polyester staples fibres
	Polyester continuous filament fully drawn yarns
	Polyester Partially Oriented Yarn
	Polyethylene Material for Moulding and Extrusion
	Acrylonitrile - Butadiene Styrene
	Polypropylene (PP) Materials for Moulding and Extrusion
	Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Homopolymers
	Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Copolymers
	Plastics-Thermoplastic Polyurethanes for Moulding and Extrusion
	Polycarbonate Moulding and Extrusion Materials
	Pyridine
	Beta Picoline
	Sodium Tripolyphosphate, Anhydrous
	H Acid
	2-Naphthylamine-3:6:8- Trisulphonic
	Vinyl sulphone

**Ministry of Mines**

Cast aluminium and its alloys - Ingots and castings for general engineering purposes
High purity primary aluminium ingot for remelting for special applications
Aluminium alloy ingots for remelting for general engineering purpose
Primary aluminium ingots for remelting for general engineering purpose
Aluminium ingots billets and wire bars
Copper
Nickel Powder
Tin Ingot
Refined Nickel
Refined Zinc
Primary Lead

**Ministry of Textiles**

Viscose Staple Fibres
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**ELP COMMENT:**

The withdrawal of the QCOs has come as a significant relief for large parts of the industry, particularly MSMEs and downstream manufacturers who faced substantial compliance costs and supply-chain constraints under the mandatory certification regime. However, the manner of withdrawal has also introduced practical uncertainties for both existing licence holders and pending applicants.

**For current licence holders**

- Uncertainty persists on whether to continue or surrender licences to avoid ongoing marking and renewal costs.
- There is a risk that, if QCOs are reinstated, surrendered licences may require full re-application and fresh audits.

**For pending and future applications**

- Applicants remain unsure whether to proceed or withdraw applications currently under review.
- For foreign manufacturers, restarting the eight-to-nine-month certification cycle may result in substantial delays and operational disruption.

**Next steps**

- These uncertainties may affect ease of doing business. Timely guidance from the Government is needed to provide predictability and reduce avoidable disruption.



In addition to the above QCOs withdrawals, Ministry of Steel (**MoS**) on November 20, 2025, has issued the following orders pertaining to the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024 (**Steel QCO**):

***Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2025***

- The MoS has deferred the Steel QCO for 42 products for a period of three years and for 13 products for a period of one year.

***Exemption of input adherence of stainless-Steel flat products***

- The MoS has extended the exemption period for stainless steel flat products covered under IS 6911, IS 5522, and IS 15977, from the mandatory input compliance requirements prescribed under Order No. S-20011/15/2024-TECH dated June 13, 2025. The validity of this exemption has been extended from the earlier deadline of December 31, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

***Exemption of the mandatory adherence requirement of QCO***

- The MoS has extended the exemption period for the HS codes listed under Annexure I of the order, from mandatory compliance with the Steel QCO, until March 31, 2026. This exemption was previously valid until October 31, 2025.

***Process for grant of Quality Control Order exemption for import of steel to India from non-licensed manufacturer***

- The MoS has reinstated the previously existing mechanism for granting exemptions under the Steel QCO. As per the current order, where imports are from a non-licensed manufacturer, the procedure that was earlier followed for such exemption applications, examined by the committee constituted under Order No. 1(9)/2019-TD dated May 14, 2020, shall apply

***Revocation of requirement of clarification/No Objection Certificate from Ministry of Steel for import of grades of steel not covered by Quality Control Order of Ministry of Steel.***

- The MoS has revoked the No Objection Certificate (**NOC**) or clarification process. Previously, importers were required to obtain an NOC or provide clarification for steel grades not covered under the Steel QCO. However, effective from November 20, 2025, this process has been discontinued. Instead, grades of steel not covered under the Steel QCO have now been mapped on the Steel Import Monitoring System (**SIMS**), and importers can directly generate a SIMS number for such grades through the SIMS portal.

Uncertainties pertaining to the above orders:

#### **NOC APPLICATIONS**

- Although the NOC application process has been discontinued, uncertainty remains regarding applications that were already pending before the MoS and under examination.

#### **EXEMPTION MECHANISM**

- While the earlier exemption mechanism has been reinstated, there is continued uncertainty regarding the exact procedure to be followed, as Office Order No. 1(9)/2019-TD dated May 14, 2020, referred to in the exemption order, is not available in the public domain.

#### **SIMS PORTAL MAPPING**

- As of date, exemption applications can only be filed for grades mapped on the SIMS portal.
- Importers dealing with grades not mapped on the portal are unable to apply or obtain a SIMS number as required under the exemption order.

#### **ACTION FOR EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS**

- In view of these procedural uncertainties, exporters and importers of steel and steel products should actively engage with the MoS to seek clarity and raise any operational concerns.

## IV. DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA'S FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS (FTAs)

During the month of November 2025, several important trade negotiations took place involving India and its global partners. These discussions covered bilateral and multilateral agreements, explored opportunities for expanding trade across key sectors, and focused on strengthening investment linkages, regulatory cooperation, and supply-chain resilience. The following developments highlight the progress and outcomes of these engagements:

### India–EU FTA

- On November 5–6, 2025, Commerce Secretary Shri Rajesh Agrawal met Ms. Sabine Weyand, Director-General for Trade of the European Commission, in New Delhi to review progress on the India–EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations.
- Both sides assessed key outstanding issues and agreed to expedite efforts toward a balanced agreement.
- The Indian side reiterated its commitment to a fair and mutually beneficial outcome while stressing the importance of clarity and predictability in implementing emerging EU regulatory measures, including the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the proposed new steel regulation.

### India–Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment

- On November 13, 2025, Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and Canadian Minister Maninder Sidhu co-chaired the 7th India–Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and Investment in New Delhi.
- Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral economic ties and advancing sectoral collaboration in priority domains, including nutritional security, supply chain resilience, health sector cooperation, and investment facilitation.
- The Ministers also reviewed recent trade policy developments covering trade in goods and services and exchanged views to enhance market access, promote regulatory alignment, and support long-term economic resilience.

### India–New Zealand FTA

- On November 17, 2025, Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal met New Zealand's Minister for Trade, Todd McClay, in Mumbai to advance discussions on the proposed India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.
- Bilateral merchandise trade between India and New Zealand reached USD 1.3 billion in FY 2024–25, registering strong growth of nearly 49 percent.
- The Ministers emphasized that a comprehensive and well-balanced FTA would accelerate trade flows, deepen investment linkages, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and provide a transparent, stable, and predictable framework for businesses in both countries.

#### **India–Russia Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation**

- On November 13, 2025, the working group noted the potential for cooperation to expand trade across engineering goods, chemicals and plastics, electronics, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, leather, and textiles.
- Indian product strengths were mapped in engineering goods, smartphones, motor vehicles, gems and jewellery, organic chemicals, textiles, and leather, which can support Russia's trade de-risking and diversification efforts.

#### **India–Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement**

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal visited Melbourne, Australia, on November 8, 2025 to hold bilateral discussions with Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia Senator Don Farrell and Minister for Skills and Training Andrew Giles.
- In FY 2024–25, bilateral merchandise trade between India and Australia stood at USD 24.1 billion, with India's exports registering a growth of 14 percent in 2023–24 and a further 8 percent in 2024–25.
- Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work constructively toward the early conclusion of a balanced and mutually beneficial Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, building on the India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, which entered into force in December 2022.

#### **India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ("CEPA")**

- On November 27, 2025, India and the UAE successfully convened the third meeting of the Joint Committee under the India–UAE CEPA in New Delhi.
- The two sides conducted a comprehensive review of progress under CEPA and held detailed discussions on market access issues, data sharing, allocation of Gold TRQ, anti-dumping matters, services, Rules of Origin, and BIS licensing.
- India briefed the UAE on its recent decision to allocate Gold TRQ through a transparent competitive bidding process.

## V. WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

### A. WTO DISPUTES

At its November 2025 meeting, the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (**DSB**) reviewed ongoing disputes, compliance developments, and systemic concerns arising from the continued Appellate Body impasse:

#### WTO members adopt panel report in frozen fries case

- On November 24, 2025, WTO members adopted a compliance panel report in the EU's dispute against Colombia on anti-dumping duties on frozen fries from Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands.
- The panel confirmed that Colombia did not fully comply with the earlier panel ruling and the arbitrators' award under the MPIA.
- The EU welcomed the findings and urged Colombia to align with its WTO obligations. Colombia disagreed with the conclusions but confirmed that it would comply and work with the EU to resolve the dispute

#### Appellate Body appointments remain blocked

- Colombia, on behalf of 130 WTO members, again proposed initiating the selection process to appoint new Appellate Body members, marking the 92nd attempt.
- The United States maintained its opposition, citing the need for dispute settlement reforms before appointments can proceed.
- Several members reiterated their support for restoring the Appellate Body and stressed that reform discussions should not delay the mandatory appointment process.

#### Adoption of panel ruling in EU–Indonesia steel dispute deferred following EU appeal

- Indonesia raised concerns over the EU's appeal of the panel ruling in DS616 (EU – Stainless Steel Products), noting that appeals in the absence of a functioning Appellate Body leave disputes unresolved.
- Indonesia expressed readiness to pursue ad hoc arbitration under Article 25 of the DSU to ensure enforceability of the ruling.
- The EU responded that it exercised its legal right to appeal and expressed willingness to engage in an appeal arbitration arrangement.

#### ELP COMMENT:

- In the absence of a functioning Appellate Body, members can continue to indefinitely block implementation by appealing panel reports, as highlighted by Colombia and Indonesia.
- As a result, WTO members are increasingly exploring interim solutions such as the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement and bilateral mechanisms.
- These alternative mechanisms may increasingly influence and shape the future architecture of the WTO dispute settlement system if the current impasse continues.



## B. COMMITTEE WORKS

### Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- The Transparency Working Group presented a proposed two-year work plan based on member consultations, focusing on enhancing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS") notifications, tracking feedback, and improving tools such as the ePing SPS&TBT Platform, with further inputs to be incorporated by early December.
- The SPS Committee discussed the pilot phase of a new mentoring system aimed at supporting developing and least-developed countries on transparency and SPS engagement, with five mentor-mentee partnerships established and potential expansion after June 2026.
- The Committee also held thematic sessions in November on science-based SPS import controls and, earlier in September, on special and differential treatment, facilitating knowledge sharing, regulatory improvements, and better understanding among members.

### Committee on Trade and Environment

- China proposed enhancing cooperation and information sharing on carbon standards, focusing on systematic review, alignment across WTO bodies, and support for developing members. Japan's revised non-binding proposal on carbon emission measurement gained wider support, emphasizing transparency and regulatory coherence.
- Members highlighted the need to avoid duplication with existing WTO/TBT work, maintain transparency, and consider development challenges. The interactive session format was appreciated, with future discussions to focus on transparency and development aspects.
- Members also discussed sustainable agriculture, trade's role in supporting resilience and innovation, and received updates on COP30 preparations, plastics pollution initiatives, and environmental measures. The next meeting is scheduled for February 2026.

### Committee on Rules of Origin

- The LDC Group presented updated expectations on preferential rules of origin, highlighting best practices and challenges, including high logistical costs, limited awareness, and institutional weaknesses. They also proposed text for MC14 to reaffirm past commitments and intensify work on trade-facilitating practices.
- Members, including the UK, Australia, Japan, China, and others, shared updates on LDC preference programmes, including new regional cumulation groups and liberalized apparel rules. Several members also submitted updated notifications to enhance transparency on rules of origin.
- An information session on non-preferential rules of origin underscored the need for greater transparency amid tariff uncertainties, with China proposing measures to strengthen predictability for businesses, and members emphasizing continued engagement with the private sector.

### Committee on Customs Valuation

- At the November meeting, the Committee on Customs Valuation reviewed 63 notifications from 37 members, including first submissions from Guyana and Indonesia. The Committee adopted a draft report to the Council on Trade in Goods to improve notification quality and timeliness, highlighting the importance of experience sharing and outreach.
- The World Customs Organization updated members on a new explanatory note on "price actually paid or payable" and shared progress on draft Guidelines on E-Commerce Fulfilment, aimed at helping members address challenges arising from the rise in low-value online consignments.
- The Committee agreed to hold information sessions to better understand preshipment inspection practices and discuss the PSI Independent Entity, with the next formal meeting scheduled for May 8, 2026.

### Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

- WTO members held thematic sessions on international standards for critical and emerging technologies, metrology's role in trade facilitation, and good regulatory practices, emphasizing the need for regulatory coherence, accurate measurement systems, and early-stage regulatory impact assessments to minimize trade barriers and support innovation.
- Members highlighted growing regulatory challenges in areas such as cybersecurity, ICT products, and emerging technologies, with 12 new trade concerns raised. The United States and United Kingdom reported resolution of concerns regarding India and Malaysia's food-related regulations, underscoring the value of dialogue for easing trade frictions.
- Transparency and technical assistance were central themes, with adoption of new guidance to improve notification processes, Cabo Verde's first TBT notification, new ePing tools for monitoring regulations, and updates on South-South cooperation and technical training activities.

### Fish Fund Steering Committee

- The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, adopted at MC12 in 2022, entered into force on September 15, 2025, activating the Fish Fund's grant and disbursement mandate to support developing and least-developed members in implementing the Agreement. Deputy Director-General Jennifer Nordquist emphasized the Fund's importance for sustaining marine resources.
- The Fish Fund, established under Article 7 of the Agreement, supports eligible developing and LDC members through cooperation with FAO, IFAD, and the World Bank. It currently holds over USD 18 million in deposits, commitments, and pledges from 19 donor members including the EU, Canada, Japan, Australia, and the UAE.
- The Steering Committee comprises 16 members representing both donors and beneficiaries, and a total of 116 WTO members have formally accepted the Agreement, marking strong global support for sustainable fisheries management.

### Committee on Trade and Development

- Members discussed proposals from Japan and China focusing on better integrating developing and least developed countries into global trade, including through carbon standards, zero-tariff initiatives under the China-Africa partnership, and enhanced participation in value chains.
- The Committee reviewed several Secretariat reports showing rising export shares of developing economies, but persistent challenges in diversification and LDC participation, with LDCs' global export share still around 1% despite growth and ongoing support through technical assistance, Aid for Trade programs, and notifications on preferential schemes such as Japan's GSP extension.
- International institutions like the World Bank, AfDB, EBRD, ITC and TradeMark Africa highlighted major aid and capacity-building efforts, emphasizing trade facilitation, infrastructure, monitoring and evaluation, and the importance of political will, partnerships, and targeted support for recently acceded LDCs such as Comoros and Timor-Leste.

### Information Technology Agreement Committee

- The ITA thematic session, co-organized with the UK, highlighted LDC experiences in joining the ITA, private sector insights on its role in promoting digital transformation, and future plans to explore the ITA's relevance to AI, e-commerce, and the digital divide up to 2026.
- Members emphasized that expanding ITA participation supports technological development, foreign investment, job creation and digital connectivity, with the Chair noting that economic competitiveness will depend on the pace of technological adaptation.
- At the Committee meeting, participants advanced discussions on NTMs, welcomed Indonesia's removal of tariffs on mobile phones, raised concerns over Egypt's duties, pursued synergies with the TBT Committee, and agreed on a roadmap to address product classification divergence, with the next meeting set for April 2026.

### Committee on Agriculture

- Members raised 115 questions on notifications and implementation under the Agreement on Agriculture, including 18 new queries, mostly by India, covering climate resilience, agricultural support schemes, safeguards, disaster relief, export statistics, and tariff revenue-based aid, while recurring issues included pulses, public stockholding, domestic support and export measures.
- The Committee reviewed follow-up on ministerial decisions, including concluding the second triennial review of the Bali TRQ Decision with transparency-focused conclusions, discussions on food security under the Marrakesh Decision, monitoring recommendations from the MC12 work programme, and implementation of the General Services Decision and technology transfer initiatives.
- International organizations (IGC, FAO, WFP, OECD) reported mixed but fragile global food security conditions, highlighting stable grain supplies but growing acute hunger, structural vulnerabilities in NFIDCs, and funding challenges, with the next Committee meeting scheduled for May 27-28, 2026.

## VI. EXPORT CONTROL IN INDIA

As noted above, the DGFT has issued the following notifications, which are explained in detail below:

- Inputs on Draft Amended Aayat Niryat Forms (**ANF**) (One Format for all kinds of Applications) for grant of SCOMET Authorisation for Export of SCOMET Items, Trade Notice No. 17/2025-26.
  - On October 31, 2025, DGFT issued a Trade Notice inviting views and feedback from exporters, industry stakeholders, Export Promotion Councils, and subject-matter experts on proposed amendments to the ANF relating to the SCOMET export authorisation application format by November 30, 2025.
  - In accordance with Para 10.04(a) of the Handbook of Procedures (**HBP**) 2023 and the stakeholder consultation mandate under Para 1.07A of the Foreign Trade Policy (**FTP**) 2023, the DGFT has prepared draft amendments to streamline and consolidate the ANF into a single format for all types of SCOMET authorisation applications administered by the DGFT.
  - The DGFT has encouraged stakeholders to provide constructive inputs to enhance clarity, improve procedural efficiency, and ensure better alignment with policy provisions.
- Amendment to Para 2.08 of the HBP, Public Notice 32/2025-26.
  - DGFT has amended Para 2.08 of the HBP, with immediate effect, under the powers granted by the FTP.
  - The information previously required to be submitted through ANF-1A i.e., Profile of Exporter and Importer has now been incorporated into ANF-2A. As a result, ANF-1A has been deleted, and the revised ANF-2A has been issued and attached as Annexure-I.
  - The amendments to Para 2.08 also facilitate electronic validation and post-verification of the IEC application details using integrated online records, while updating document submission requirements and maintaining the existing provisions under Para 2.08(c)(i) and 2.08(c)(ii). This is relevant for applicants preparing SCOMET applications in ANF 10A as the format requires enclosing ANF 1A.

### ELP COMMENT:

- Draft Amended ANF represents a positive step toward harmonising India's SCOMET export authorisation procedures under the DGFT. The introduction of a unified ANF format demonstrates DGFT's intent to establish a more structured, transparent, and efficient application process.
- However, exporters should note that despite the unified format, the underlying approval mechanisms, including inter-departmental scrutiny involving DGFT, and relevant line ministries, will continue to depend on inter alia item category, and end-use.
- Separately, the simplification of the IEC application process is a welcome development, making the system more efficient, user-friendly, and aligned with digital verification mechanisms, which will benefit applicants.

## VII. NATIONAL SECURITY, SANCTIONS & EXPORT CONTROLS AROUND THE GLOBE

The following key developments took place during the month of November pertaining to national security, sanctions and export controls:

### US

- On **November 1, 2025**, the US issued a fact sheet suspending for one year (starting on November 10, 2025), the implementation of the interim final rule titled *Expansion of End-User Controls to Cover Affiliates of Certain Listed Entities*. This was pursuant to the US-China trade talks.
- On **November 4, 2025**, the U.S. Treasury Department eased some sanctions on Belarus, lifting measures against the national airline and allowing transactions related to President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko's presidential aircraft.
- On **November 12, 2025**, the United States sanctioned 32 entities and individuals based in Iran, China, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, **India**, and other jurisdictions that operate multiple procurement networks supporting Iran's ballistic missile and unmanned aerial vehicle production, including on behalf of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- On **November 20, 2025**, the US sanctioned entities, individuals and vessels including from **India** for importing Iranian origin petroleum products. These were issued pursuant to Section 3 (a)(ii) of EO 13846 for knowingly engaging in a significant transaction for purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, or marketing of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran,
- On **November 16, 2025**, the US President backs a U.S. bill proposing secondary sanctions on countries importing oil and gas from Russia.
- The US has intensified its False Claims Act enforcement efforts targeting transshipment-related tariff evasion and has introduced an AI-driven tool to enhance detection across US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operations.
- In **October and November, 2025**, the US announced trade deals with countries including Malaysia and Cambodia. These agreements include clauses requiring countries to develop export controls, align with US export controls, cooperate on a case-to-case basis and restrict transactions with listed entities.
- The US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil came into effect on **November 21, 2025**, ending the deadline for companies to wind down dealings with Rosneft and Lukoil.

### EU

- European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and Europol join forces to strengthen the fight against growing threat of sanctions circumvention linked to Russia and Belarus. On **November 17-18, 2025**, both organizations held a meeting marking a significant step toward examining new trends and strengthening coordinated action.
- On **November 20, 2025**, the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Noel Barrot proposed the creation of EU sanctions regime to tackle cross-border organised drug crime that he said was sweeping across the bloc.

### China

- On **November 7, 2025**, China announced one-year suspension of expanded rare earth export controls. This was pursuant to the US-China trade talks.

### UK

- The UK Office of Trade Sanctions Implementation published new guidance to assist the freight and shipping sector with countering Russian sanctions evasion



**ELP COMMENT:**

- Recent weeks have seen notable developments globally, including the relaxation or suspension of certain export control measures in key jurisdictions. At the same time, sanctions activity remains heightened. The U.S. has continued to designate entities and individuals across multiple countries, including India, underscoring that India remains within the scope of U.S. sanctions enforcement priorities.
- For companies with a multinational footprint, these trends reinforce the importance of maintaining a robust and well-structured Internal Compliance Programme to effectively identify, manage and mitigate sanctions and export control risks.

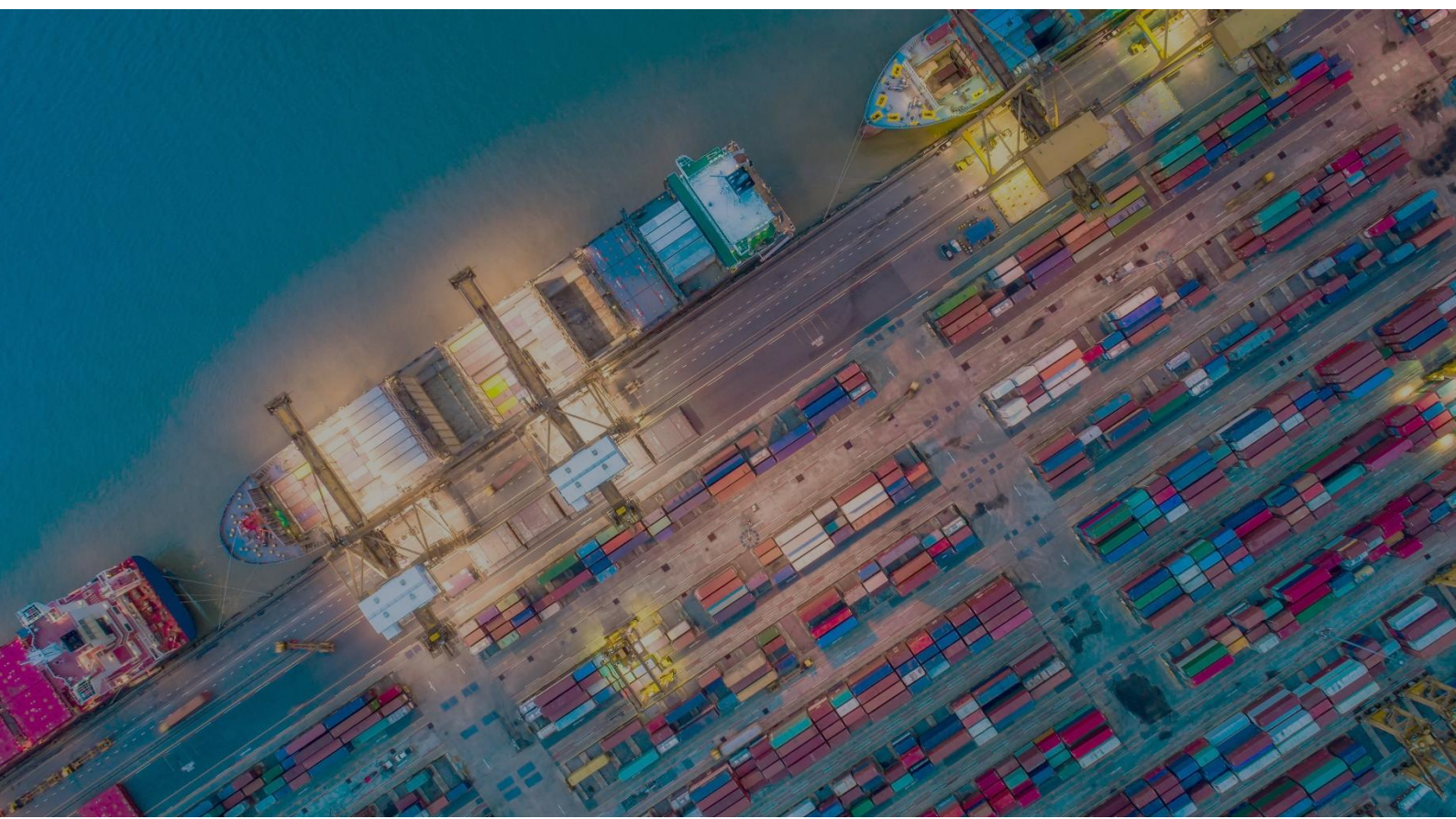
We hope you have found this information useful. For any queries/clarifications please write to us at [insights@elp-in.com](mailto:insights@elp-in.com)

**KEY CONTACTS:**

**Sanjay Notani, Partner** – [SanjayNotani@elp-in.com](mailto:SanjayNotani@elp-in.com)

**Parthsarathi Jha, Partner** - [ParthJha@elp-in.com](mailto:ParthJha@elp-in.com)

**Ambarish Sathianathan, Partner** – [AmbarishSathianathan@elp-in.com](mailto:AmbarishSathianathan@elp-in.com)





**ECONOMIC  
LAWS  
PRACTICE**  
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS



### **MUMBAI**

9th Floor, Mafatlal Centre  
Vidhan Bhavan Marg  
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021  
T: +91 22 6636 7000



### **PUNE**

1307, Nandan Probiz, 1501, Sai Chowk Road  
Laxman Nagar, Off Balewadi High Street,  
Balewadi, Pune - 411045  
T: +91 20 4912 7400



### **DELHI NCR**

#### **NEW DELHI**

Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 16th Floor,  
28, Barakhamba Road,  
New Delhi – 110 001.  
T: +91 11 41528400

#### **NOIDA**

9th Floor, Berger Tower, Sector 16 B,  
Noida, Uttar Pradesh - 201301.  
T: +91 120 6984 300



### **BENGALURU**

6th Floor, Rockline Centre  
54, Richmond Road  
Bengaluru 560 025  
T: +91 80 4168 5530/1



### **CHENNAI**

No 18, BBC Homes, Flat-7 Block A  
South Boag Road  
Chennai 600 017  
T: +91 44 4210 4863



### **AHMEDABAD**

C-507/508, 5th Floor, Titanium Square  
Thaltej Cross Roads, SG Highway,  
Ahmedabad - 380054  
T: +91 79460 04854



### **GIFT CITY**

GIFT CITY Unit No. 605,  
Signature, 6th Floor Block 13B,  
Zone – I GIFT SEZ, Gandhinagar 382355



[elplaw.in](http://elplaw.in)



[insights@elp-in.com](mailto:insights@elp-in.com)



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