ECONOMIC LAWS PRACTICE
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS

TRADE NEWSLETTER: JULY 2026

CONTENTS

I. TRADE REMEDIAL INVESTIGATIONS UPDATES

A. TRADE REMEDIAL ACTIONS BY INDIA

During July 2026, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (**DGTR**) initiated one anti-dumping investigation. Further details are provided below:

PRODUCT	SUBJECT COUNTRIES IN THE INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION	DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION
Semi-Finished Ophthalmic Lenses	China PR	Anti-dumping	Remand Proceeding Initiation	July 14 2026

B. TRADE REMEDIAL ACTIONS AGAINST INDIA

During July 2026, trade remedy actions concerning Indian exports were observed in the United States of America (**USA/US**) while no major developments were noted in trade remedial investigations involving India in other jurisdictions, such as the United Kingdom (**UK**) and the European Union (**EU**). Further details of the individual cases are provided below:

PRODUCT	COUNTRY	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION	TYPE OF NOTIFICATION[1]	DATE OF THE NOTIFICATION[2]
Utility Scale Wind Towers	USA	Antidumping duty, Review	Institution	July 02, 2026
Utility Scale Wind Towers	USA	Countervailing duty, Review	Institution	July 02, 2026
Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet	USA	Countervailing duty, Review	Final Results	July 06, 2026
Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet	USA	Antidumping duty, Review	Final Results	July 06, 2026

[1] The information is based on notifications published in the Federal Register during July 2026. Any institutions or determinations issued by the US Department of Commerce or the US International Trade Commission that were not published in the Federal Register during this period are not reflected.

[2] The date of notification is based on the date of publication in US Federal Register.

Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	July 08, 2026
Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
Organic Soybean Meal	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
Silicomanganese	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
Organic Soybean Meal	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative Review	Initiation	July 09, 2026
Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	July 13, 2026
Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative Review	Preliminary Results	July 13, 2026
Carbon and Alloy Steel Threaded Rod	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Preliminary Results	July 13, 2026
Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet	USA	Countervailing duty, Administrative Review	Preliminary Results	July 14, 2026

Certain Lined Paper Products	USA	Antidumping duty, Administrative Review	Final Results	July 17, 2026
Welded Stainless Steel Line and Pressure Pipe	USA	Antidumping duty	Institution	July 20, 2026
Welded Stainless Steel Line and Pressure Pipe	USA	Countervailing duty	Institution	July 20, 2026
Certain Preserved Mushrooms	USA	Antidumping duty, Review	Order	July 31, 2026
Large Diameter Graphite Electrodes	USA	Countervailing Duty	Preliminary Determination	July 30, 2026

II. REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRADE IN INDIA

A. MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MoF)

During July 2026, the MoF issued key notifications effecting the imposition, continuation, provisional assessment of anti-dumping on various products. A summary of the update is set out below:

PRODUCT	HSN	CHANGE IN DUTY	DATE
Untreated Fumed Silica	28112200	Continuation of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR till and inclusive of 10th February 2027	July 31, 2026
Low Ash Metallurgical Coke	27040010, 27040020, 27040030 and 27040090	Imposition of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from Australia, China PR, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan and Russia	July 27, 2026
Aceto Acetyl Derivatives of Aromatic or Hetrocyclic Compounds" also known as "Arylides"	29242920 and 29242990	Continuation of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR till and inclusive of 13th January 2027	July 10, 2026
Seamless Tubes, Pipes and Hollow Profiles of Iron, Alloy or Non-Alloy Steel	7304	Continuation of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from China PR, up to and inclusive of 27th January, 2027	July 06, 2026
'Normal Butanol' or 'N-Butyl Alcohol'	29051300	Continuation of anti-dumping duty on goods originating in or exported from Malaysia, South Africa and United States of America	July 03, 2026
Glufosinate and it salt	38089193, 38089199, 38089391, 38089399, 38089912, 38089991 and 38089999	Provisional assessment of goods originating in or exported from China PR pursuant to initiation of anti-absorption investigation	July 03, 2026
Insoluble Sulphur	38123930, 28020010, and 38249900	Provisional assessment of goods originating in or exported from China PR pursuant to initiation of anti-absorption investigation	July 03, 2026

B. DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE (DGFT)

Key trade policy changes issued by the DGFT in July 2026 are summarized below:

Notifications

Notification 23/2026-27 dated July 13, 2026 – Inserts paragraphs 2.20B and 11.64 into the Foreign Trade Policy ("FTP") 2023, establishing a framework to prohibit imports produced wholly or partly through forced labour and defining "forced labour" consistently with the International Labour Organization ("ILO") Forced Labour Convention, 1930, with effect from 30 days after publication in the Official Gazette. For further details, please refer to our update [here].

Notification 24/2026-27 dated July 22, 2026 – Amends the Indian Trade Classification (Harmonised System) ("ITC (HS)") 2022, Schedule I (Import Policy), to align with the changes introduced by the Finance Act, 2026, with immediate effect.

Notification 25/2026-27 dated July 24, 2026 – Restricts, for six months, imports of suspension-grade polyvinyl chloride resin ("S-PVC") under ITC (HS) Code 39041020 where the Cost, Insurance and Freight ("CIF") value is at or below USD 0.766 per kilogram, subject to specified exemptions for 100% Export Oriented Units ("EOUs"), Special Economic Zone ("SEZ") units and imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme that are not sold in the Domestic Tariff Area ("DTA").

Notification 26/2026-27 dated July 27, 2026 – Amends ITC (HS) 2022, Schedule II (Export Policy), to align it with the changes introduced by the Finance Act, 2026, with immediate effect.

Public Notices

Public Notice 18/2026-27 dated July 15, 2026 – Automatically extends, until September 30, 2026, the validity of Tariff Rate Quota ("TRQ") authorisations for imports of gold under Customs Tariff Heading ("CTH") 7108 issued during FY 2025-26 under the India–United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ("India–UAE CEPA"), without requiring a separate application, fee, amendment or endorsement.

Public Notice 19/2026-27 dated July 9, 2026 – Notifies the procedure for allocation of TRQs under the India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ("India–UK CETA"). For further details, please refer to our update [here]

Public Notice 20/2026-27 dated July 13, 2026 – Notifies the procedure for allocation of TRQs under the India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement ("India–Oman CEPA").

Public Notice 21/2026-27 dated July 13, 2026 – Inserts paragraph 2.50A into the Handbook of Procedures ("HBP") 2023, prescribing the procedure for determining whether imported goods have been produced wholly or partly through forced labour.

Public Notice 22/2026-27 dated July 20, 2026 – Invites fresh applications, from July 21 to August 4, 2026, for allocation of TRQs for Calendar Year ("CY") 2026 under the India–UK CETA.

Trade Notices

Trade Notice 08/2026-27 dated July 1, 2026 – Amends the Market Access Support ("MAS") guidelines under the Export Promotion Mission ("EPM")–Niryat Disha by reducing the recommended minimum delegation size for buyer-seller meets to 25 participants and requiring the refund of event-related advance grants within 15 days of cancellation or withdrawal, failing which simple interest at 10% per annum will apply.

Trade Notice 09/2026-27 dated July 1, 2026 – Amends the Trade Regulations, Accreditation and Compliance Enablement ("TRACE") guidelines under EPM–Niryat Disha, including by introducing differentiated financial assistance for micro and small enterprises and medium enterprises, providing for two-stage reimbursement linked to certification and exports, and expanding the list of eligible testing, inspection and certification activities.

Trade Notice 10/2026-27 dated July 1, 2026 – Initiates a review and possible reallocation of export quotas previously allocated for wheat flour and related products, requiring authorisation holders to report utilisation, additional requirements or proposed surrender of quantities by July 10, 2026.

Trade Notice 11/2026-27 dated July 13, 2026 – Provides for electronic filing and issuance of preferential electronic Certificates of Origin ("eCoOs") for exports under the India–UK CETA through the Trade Connect ePlatform, on either a self-declaration or authorised-agency issuance basis, with effect from July 15, 2026. For further details, please refer to our update [here]

Trade Notice 12/2026-27 dated July 14, 2026 – Implements the Global Outreach for Branding, Labelling and Export Packaging intervention under EPM–Niryat Disha prospectively with immediate effect, while inviting stakeholder comments on the guidelines within 30 days.

Trade Notice 13/2026-27 dated July 14, 2026 – Clarifies the operational requirements for interest-subvention support on pre- and post-shipment export credit under EPM–Niryat Protsahan, including the treatment of historical claims, timelines for generating Unique Identification Numbers ("UINs"), separate UINs for each credit facility and mapping of claims to the relevant financial year.

Trade Notice 14/2026-27 dated July 20, 2026 – Invites stakeholder comments on a proposed amendment to FTP 2023 introducing a de minimis exemption from the requirement to obtain a Registration-cum-Membership Certificate ("RCMC") for eligible export consignments having a Free on Board ("FOB") value not exceeding INR 10,000.

III. GLOBAL TRADE REGULATORY DEVELOPMENTS

A. EU

- **New EU steel tariff-rate quota regime enters into force**

Regulation (EU) 2026/1384 applies from 1 July 2026 and replaces the EU's expiring steel safeguards with a new tariff-rate quota regime for the steel products and CN codes listed in Annex I.

The Regulation establishes annual duty-free quotas totalling 18,345,922 tonnes, divided into quarterly periods running within each 1 July–30 June quota year.

Covered steel imported after the relevant quota is exhausted attracts an additional 50% ad valorem duty, while any applicable anti-dumping or countervailing duty continues to apply from the first tonne imported.

- **EU launches consultations on the EU steel regime's product scop**

On 30 July 2026, the European Commission announced the first targeted product-scope review under Article 12(1) of Regulation (EU) 2026/1384.

The consultation, which will run from 28 July to 28 September 2026, seek evidence on whether specified additional steel product categories should be brought within the regime.

Products being considered for inclusion in the regime include tubes, pipes and hollow profiles, of cast iron; non-alloy and other alloy wire; stainless wire; and non-alloy and other alloy forged bars.

The Commission is required to complete its first assessment of the Regulation's product scope by 31 December 2026.

B. USA

- **US notifies Section 301 tariffs on specified Brazilian goods**

On 15 July 2026, USTR announced final Section 301 action imposing an additional 25% duty on specified products of Brazil.

The action followed an investigation covering Brazilian measures relating to digital trade, electronic payments, preferential tariffs, anti-corruption enforcement, intellectual property, ethanol market access and illegal deforestation.

The additional duty applies to covered goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, from 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time on 22 July 2026.

The Commission is required to complete its first assessment of the Regulation's product scope by 31 December 2026.

- **US notifies Section 301 action on 60 countries concerning forced-labour import prohibitions**

On 23 July 2026, USTR announced final Section 301 action concerning 60 economies that it found had failed to adopt or effectively enforce adequate prohibitions on imports produced using forced labour.

The action provides for additional tariffs whose applicable rate and product coverage vary by economy and by the treatment specified in the operative notice.

USTR stated that the rates include 10% for economies satisfying specified criteria and, for certain products of the EU, Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Switzerland, rates of 10% or 12.5% net of the applicable MFN rate.

The Commission is required to complete its first assessment of the Regulation's product scope by 31 December 2026.

C. UK

- **UK–Switzerland enhanced FTA negotiations concluded**

On 13 July 2026, the United Kingdom and Switzerland concluded negotiations on an enhanced free trade agreement intended to replace and expand their existing continuity agreement.

While the final text has not been released yet, the negotiated agreement preserves tariff-free access across approximately 99% of existing goods trade and adds commitments covering services, financial services, telecommunications, procurement, intellectual property and sustainable development.

The UK Government estimates that the agreement could increase UK services exports to Switzerland by £5.2 billion annually in the long term, but this is a projected economic benefit rather than an immediate or guaranteed trade increase.

Notably, the agreement also includes commitments for providing regulatory data protection used for approval of pharmaceutical products. Such commitments are reported to go beyond the UK's previous commitments in FTAs and international minimum standards.

IV. TECHNICAL REGULATIONS & STANDARDS

A. EXTENSION OF SELF-CERTIFICATION FACILITATION FOR HIGH-CAPACITY SPV INVERTERS

On July 03, 2026, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy extended the implementation timeline under the Solar Systems, Devices and Components Goods Order, 2025 for solar photovoltaic ("SPV") inverters having capacity above 200 kW.

Manufacturers of SPV inverters covered under items 4 and 5 may continue to rely on self-certification until December 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. This is subject to possession of valid IEC certificates corresponding to the prescribed Indian Standards and test reports from accredited test laboratories.

B. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF N-BUTYL ACRYLATE QCO

On July 09, 2026, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers issued the n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Amendment Order, 2026.

The amendment extends the temporary suspension of the n-Butyl Acrylate (Quality Control) Order, 2021, until July 31, 2026, in view of global exigencies and supply chain disruption affecting the availability of n-Butyl Acrylate.

C. EXTENSION OF COMPULSORY REGISTRATION TIMELINE FOR TELEVISION SETS

On July 26, 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology extended the implementation timeline for Television Sets included at Serial No. 64 of the Electronics and Information Technology Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2021.

The date for compliance with IS 18112:2022 has been extended from July 26, 2026, to January 26, 2027.

V. DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA'S REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS (RTAS)

During the month of July 2026, India was involved in various trade negotiations. The following developments highlight the progress and outcomes of these engagements:

India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ("CETA")

- On July 15, 2026, the India-UK CETA came into force. The FTA was signed on July 24, 2025, following fourteen rounds of negotiations.
- The CETA provides duty-free access for 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering nearly the entire trade basket according to the Indian government. For the UK government, the CETA removes or reduces tariffs on 90% of tariff lines, covering 92% of India's imports from the UK after staging (up to 10 years).
- By providing zero-duty access on approximately 99% of Indian exports to the UK, the agreement improves the competitiveness of sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery, alongside fast-growing sectors like engineering goods, auto components, organic chemicals, and pharmaceutical products.
- The FTA also contains extensive commitments on services, which are expected to provide greater market excess and regulatory certainty to IT and IT-enabled services, financial services, professional services, healthcare, education, engineering, telecommunications and consultancy services. Both parties have also signed an Agreement on Social Security, also known as Double Contribution Convention (**DSS**), which entered into force on July 15, 2026. The DCC aims to provide a five-year exemption to temporary Indian workers in the UK and their employers from having to contribute to UK's social security schemes.
- UK's automobile sector will see greater market access for the Completely Built Units (**CBUs**) of vehicles through tariff rate quotas (**TRQs**) given by India. To operationalise these TRQ commitments, the DGFT has issued Public Notice No. 19/2026-27 dated July 09, 2026, amending Paragraph 2.92 and Appendix-2A of the Handbook of Procedures, 2023 (TRQ under FTA/CECA) to incorporate the framework governing TRQs under the India-UK CETA. Most notably, passenger and goods vehicles will benefit from reduced tariffs under a tariff-rate quota mechanism. However, it is important to note that small vehicles (ICE vehicles with engine size less than 1500cc and EVs below £40,000 CIF) have been safeguarded by being excluded from the quotas. India's automobile sector also receives market access to the UK through a TRQ. This TRQ is only for zero emissions (*i.e.*, Electric, Hybrid, and Hydrogen-powered) passenger vehicles.
- The FTA also lowers import duties on premium alcoholic beverages. Duties on selected imports of alcohols and spirits from the UK, currently taxed at 150%, will be cut down to 110% immediately and reduce to 75% by the 10th year of the CETA. These concessions are made based on the Minimum Import Price of the item.

India-Israel Free Trade Agreement ("FTA")

- India and Israel concluded the second round of negotiations for the proposed FTA from July 20, 2026, to July 23, 2026.
- The technical experts from both sides held sessions covering trade in goods, trade in services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, intellectual property rights, customs procedures and trade facilitation, economic cooperation, and other chapters under the proposed FTA.

- Both sides reiterated their commitment to working towards the early conclusion the FTA.

India-Maldives FTA

- India and Maldives concluded the first round of negotiations for the proposed FTA from June 29, 2026, to July 7, 2026.
- The negotiating teams from both sides engaged in text-based discussions across eight technical sessions covering eight policy areas.
- India is the second-largest trading partner of the Maldives. Bilateral trade between the two countries stood at USD 771.76 million in 2025-26, compared to USD 679.70 million in 2024–25, registering a growth of 13.54 per cent.

ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement ("AITIGA")

- On July 7, 2026, India hosted the 13th AITIGA Joint Committee.
- The Joint Committee provided guidance to Sub-Committees in their respective areas of work and urged them to expedite the finalisation of the outstanding chapters under the AITIGA Review.
- These include the Sub-Committee on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (SC-CPTF), the Sub-Committee on National Treatment and Market Access (SC-NTMA), and the Sub-Committee on Rules of Origin (SC-ROO).

VI. WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO) & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

A. INDIA'S TRADE POLICY REVIEW

India's eighth WTO Trade Policy Review was conducted on 21 and 23 July 2026 under the chairmanship of Ambassador H.E. Ms Nella Pepe Tavita-Levy, Permanent Representative of Samoa. The review was based on the WTO Secretariat Report (WT/TPR/S/488) and India's Government Report and attracted significant participation from Members, underscoring the importance attached to India's trade and economic policies. India received more than 1,090 written questions from 44 Members, responded to over 700 questions before the meeting, and 68 delegations intervened during the two-day review. The Chair observed that the exercise was conducted in a spirit of transparency, cooperation and constructive engagement.

Growing Economic Importance of India. A recurring theme throughout the discussions was Members' recognition of India's growing role in the global economy. Several Members highlighted the expansion of bilateral trade with India since the previous review and acknowledged the country's increasing importance as a major source of global demand. India's expanding network of regional trade agreements, preferential market access initiatives for least-developed countries, and development cooperation programmes were widely welcomed. Members also expressed support for India's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, noting that India's policy choices now have increasing implications for global production networks, agricultural markets, services trade and the functioning of the multilateral trading system.

WTO Reform and Multilateral Engagement. Members devoted considerable attention to India's role in the WTO and its approach to WTO reform. Delegations welcomed India's deposit of its instrument of acceptance of the WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies and looked forward to India's continued engagement in fisheries negotiations. At the same time, a number of Members encouraged India to reconsider its position on WTO plurilateral initiatives, including the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, the e-commerce initiative, the MSME Joint Statement Initiative, the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD), and the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA). The review revealed continued interest among Members in India's views on the future architecture of the multilateral trading system.

Transparency and Predictability: Members' Principal Concern. The Chair noted that transparency and predictability emerged as the most frequently raised concerns during the review. Members repeatedly referred to abrupt tariff changes, export restrictions, import licensing requirements, lengthy approval procedures and broader regulatory uncertainty. Delegations encouraged India to strengthen stakeholder consultations, provide greater advance notice of trade-related measures and improve compliance with WTO notification obligations. Across many sectors, Members stressed that predictable and transparent trade policies are critical for businesses, investors and trading partners.

Standards, Quality Control Orders and Regulatory Requirements. Another major focus of the review was India's expanding standards and technical-regulations framework, particularly the increasing use of Quality Control Orders (QCOs). While Members broadly recognised India's efforts to improve product quality, standards infrastructure and consumer protection, they sought clarification regarding consultation processes, implementation timelines, factory inspections, conformity assessment requirements and alignment with international standards. Several Members also raised concerns regarding delays in certification procedures and called for wider recognition of foreign testing laboratories and conformity assessment bodies.

Agriculture and SPS Measures. Agriculture generated extensive discussion and remained a priority area of interest for Members. Delegations raised questions concerning India's minimum support prices, input subsidies, public stockholding programmes, tariff and tariff-rate quota administration, import licensing measures and export restrictions affecting products such as wheat, rice, sugar and onions. Members sought further information regarding the transparency, predictability and WTO consistency of these policies and expressed concerns regarding their possible effects on international markets. Significant attention was also devoted to sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including pesticide residue limits, food safety standards, risk assessment methodologies and recognition of equivalence.

Digital Economy and Digital Public Infrastructure. Members widely welcomed India's progress in developing digital public infrastructure and digital trade ecosystems. Particular interest was shown in Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India Stack, the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), BharatNet and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Delegations highlighted the contribution of these initiatives to financial inclusion, e-commerce, public procurement, digital payments and trade facilitation. Questions focused on interoperability, governance arrangements and the extent to which these platforms support participation by MSMEs and integration into regional and global value chains.

Digital Regulation, Data Governance and Artificial Intelligence. The review also featured significant engagement on India's evolving digital regulatory framework. Members sought clarification on implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, treatment of cross-border data flows, data localisation requirements and broader digital trade policies. India's principles-based and innovation-oriented approach to artificial intelligence was generally welcomed, although Members requested additional information on AI governance frameworks, regulatory principles, intellectual property treatment and innovation policies. Many stressed the importance of preserving open, predictable and innovation-friendly digital environments.

Investment Climate, Customs and Trade Facilitation. Members welcomed India's efforts to liberalise foreign direct investment and modernise customs procedures. Positive references were made to the National Single Window System, customs digitalisation efforts, risk-based inspections, authorised economic operator programmes and broader trade facilitation reforms. However, Members also requested greater clarity regarding investment screening procedures, restrictions affecting investors from neighbouring countries, customs valuation practices and import licensing systems. Further improvements in compliance costs and administrative efficiency were encouraged.

Intellectual Property and Innovation. The review highlighted growing interest in India's intellectual property framework. Members welcomed improvements in patent filing and examination procedures, increased digitalisation, specialised intellectual property benches and stronger enforcement mechanisms. Questions centred on patent examination procedures, copyright protection, trade secrets, border enforcement, AI-related intellectual property issues and the implementation of recent legislative reforms such as the Jan Vishwas Act. Members also sought information regarding patent pendency, commercialisation outcomes and the effectiveness of IP enforcement.

Entrepreneurship, MSMEs and Inclusive Growth. Members also welcomed India's efforts to promote entrepreneurship, innovation, skills development and inclusive growth. Several delegations requested information on programmes supporting women entrepreneurs, MSMEs and start-ups and encouraged India to share policy experiences and best practices more broadly through WTO discussions.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the Chair observed that the review reflected both India's growing significance in the global trading system and the increasing interest of WTO Members in India's policy direction. Members broadly recognised India's strong economic growth, digital transformation, trade facilitation efforts, investment reforms and expanding international engagement. At the same time, they repeatedly emphasised the importance of greater transparency, predictability, stakeholder consultation and timely WTO notifications. Overall, the review highlighted India's emergence as a major economic actor whose domestic policy choices increasingly have broader implications for global trade, investment, development and multilateral cooperation.

B. WTO DISPUTES

WTO panel report issued in Türkiye – EVs (China) (DS629)

China challenged Türkiye's additional duties on imports of electric vehicles (EVs), hybrid vehicles and certain other vehicles, as well as Türkiye's Import Permit Licensing Scheme (IPLS) applicable to EVs and externally rechargeable hybrid vehicles (ERHVs). China alleged violations of Articles I, II, III, X and XI of the GATT 1994 and Article 2.1 of the TRIMs Agreement. Türkiye defended the measures at issue on the basis that they formed part of its strategy to develop a domestic EV industry, support the expansion of charging infrastructure, reduce transport-sector emissions, and ensure adequate consumer protection and after-sales services for imported vehicles.

The Panel largely rejected Türkiye's invocation of the Article XX exceptions of the GATT 1994. Under Article XX(b), it found that Türkiye had failed to substantiate the alleged causal link between the additional duties on EVs and hybrid vehicles, domestic EV manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and eventual CO_2 reductions, and that its claims regarding import dependence and supply-chain risks were speculative and unsupported. Under Article XX(g), the Panel found no sufficiently close and genuine relationship between the additional duties and the conservation of natural resources, and rejected Türkiye's argument that EVs and hybrids were outside its tariff commitments because they were not commercially significant when the commitments were negotiated. With respect to the IPLS requirements, the Panel found that requirements concerning service stations, technician certification, call centres, authorised representatives and batteries imposed additional costs and obligations exclusively on imported vehicles. Finally, under Article XX(d), Türkiye failed to demonstrate that these discriminatory requirements were necessary to secure compliance with its consumer protection and vehicle approval laws.

The Panel found that Türkiye's additional duties on EVs were inconsistent with Articles II:1(a) and II:1(b) of the GATT 1994, as they provided less favourable treatment than Türkiye's Schedule and exceeded its bound tariff commitments. For ICE vehicles, China failed to establish a prima facie case of inconsistency, while only certain categories of hybrid vehicles were found to breach Articles II:1(a) and II:1(b). Türkiye's Article XX(b) and XX(g) defences were rejected for failure to establish the requisite health risk or a sufficient relationship between the duties and conservation of natural resources. Although the exemption of Türkiye's RTA partners from the additional duties breached Article I:1 (MFN), the Panel found the breach justified under Article XXIV, except in respect of Venezuela. Separately, the IPLS was found inconsistent with Article III:4, as its after-sales service requirements and permit mechanism imposed less favourable treatment on imported EVs and externally rechargeable hybrid vehicles from non-RTA countries; Türkiye's Article XX(d) defence was rejected.

WTO panel report issued in EU – AD on Fatty Acid (Indonesia) (DS622

Indonesia challenged the EU's definitive anti-dumping measures on imports of fatty acid from Indonesia, the underlying investigation and related measures, as well as the EU's decision to terminate the parallel countervailing duty investigation. Indonesia also challenged an alleged unwritten methodology used by the European Commission to construct normal value for certain product control numbers, including the use of different methodologies where domestic sales were made in insufficient quantities.

The Panel largely rejected Indonesia's claims. It found that the EU was entitled to continue the anti-dumping investigation after the withdrawal of the original application, as Article 5.6 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement applies only to the initiation of an investigation. The Panel also upheld the EU's treatment of profits and SG&A expenses based on low-volume domestic sales and found that Indonesia had not established the existence of the alleged unwritten measure.

However, the Panel found that an error in converting the currency of certain transactions breached Articles 2.4.1 and 9.3 of the Anti-Dumping Agreement and, consequently, GATT Article VI:2. The Panel found no inconsistency in the EU's injury determination or its administration of the relevant provisions under GATT Article X:3(a).

Brazil requested consultation with United States regarding additional duties

On July 27, 2026, Brazil requested for WTO dispute consultations with the United States regarding additional duties on products originating in Brazil as a result of two investigations by the United States under Section 301 of the US Trade Act of 1974. The request was circulated to WTO members on July 30, 2026.

Brazil contends the US measures - which consist of an additional ad valorem duty of 25 per cent on all products originating in Brazil (subject to certain exemptions) as a result of a Section 301 investigation and an additional ad valorem duty of 12.5 per cent on products of Brazil (subject to certain exemptions) as a result of another Section 301 investigation focused on allegations related to forced labour - are inconsistent with various provisions of the GATT 1994 and the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

Russia requested for establishment of a dispute panel on EU carbon border adjustment and emissions trading scheme

On July 24, 2026, Russia submitted its first request for the establishment of a dispute panel to determine whether the European Union's CBAM and alleged export subsidy under the EU scheme for trading greenhouse gas emission allowances are consistent with the EU's WTO commitments. Russia stated that as the European Union declined its request for consultations, it will proceed with the next steps in the dispute settlement process.

The EU objected to Russia's request for a panel and clarified that it declined the request for consultations in light of "Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine," which it considers to be a violation of international law.

United States notifies safeguard investigation on lamb meat

On July 17, 2026, the United States notified the WTO'S Committee on Safeguards that it had initiated a safeguard investigation on imported lamb meat on July 13, 2026.

South Africa notifies safeguard investigation on certain cold-rolled products of iron and steel

On July 14, 2026, South Africa notified the WTO'S Committee on Safeguards that it had initiated a safeguard investigation on certain cold-rolled products of iron and steel imported into the Southern African Customs Union on July 10, 2026.

C. WTO COMMITTEE

General Council

On 14-15 July 2026, the General Council reviewed post-MC14 developments, advanced discussions on WTO reform and ongoing negotiations, and adopted a number of decisions in favour of developing and least-developed country (LDC) Members

Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) Reporting in her capacity as Chair of the TNC, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala underscored that progress on WTO reform and progress in negotiations should be pursued simultaneously, emphasizing that institutional reform and substantive outcomes are mutually reinforcing.

Fisheries Subsidies. On fisheries subsidies, Members reviewed progress in post-MC14 negotiations. The Director-General welcomed the recent acceptances of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by the Kyrgyz Republic, Niger and Thailand, bringing the total number of acceptances to 122 Members, and noted the submission of 34 new subsidy notifications under the Agreement.

Agriculture. On agriculture, Members resumed negotiations following the first meeting of farm negotiators since MC14. While there was broad agreement on the importance of agriculture to the WTO agenda, differences remained regarding the most effective approach to advancing negotiations.

Special and Differential Treatment. On special and differential treatment (S&DT), the G-90 group indicated that it would continue work on outstanding Agreement-specific proposals, with discussions expected to resume after the summer break.

Trade in Services. With respect to services, Members expressed interest in undertaking an assessment of trade in services as envisaged under the GATS mandate, although further consultations will be required to agree on the scope and structure of such an exercise.

General Council Decisions

The General Council agreed that further discussions on proposals concerning the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, including provisions relating to special and differential treatment, would continue in the TRIPS Council.

Members also welcomed the launch of the third phase of the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for LDCs, while confirming that its implementation would not entail additional costs for the WTO regular budget.

In addition, the General Council approved United States waiver requests permitting duty-free treatment for eligible products under the amended African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the amended Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until 31 December 2026.

Follow-up to MC14 Outcomes

General Council Chair Ambassador Clare Kelly reported limited progress in consultations on the E-Commerce Work Programme and the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions, noting that Members' positions had largely remained unchanged since the May General Council meeting. Nevertheless, several Members emphasized the importance of continued multilateral engagement on digital trade issues.

Similarly, consultations on the moratorium on TRIPS non-violation and situation complaints did not produce significant movement, with several delegations continuing to link the matter to discussions on the e-commerce moratorium.

The Chair welcomed the flexibility shown by Members in reaching agreement on certain LDC-specific proposals and encouraged further engagement to address the remaining outstanding issues.

On preparations for MC15, Ambassador Kelly reported continued consultations regarding Saudi Arabia's offer to host the Ministerial Conference. While many Members supported the proposal, consensus has not yet been achieved.

The Chair also noted continuing discussions on the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement, with participating Members seeking its incorporation into the WTO legal framework.

WTO Reform

Ambassador Kelly reported that WTO reform remains a central priority following MC14. To facilitate discussions, she appointed five facilitators and launched a new phase of reform work covering the principal areas identified by Ministers at MC14. The Chair indicated that discussions would proceed under a revised calendar designed to ensure broad and inclusive participation.

On dispute settlement reform, Members took note of ongoing consultations being conducted by the Chair of the Dispute Settlement Body, Ambassador Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil.

Agreement on Electronic Commerce

India and Pakistan raised concerns regarding interim institutional arrangements for the Agreement on Electronic Commerce (ECA), including the role of the Director-General as depositary of instruments of acceptance, the provision of Secretariat support, and the establishment of a committee to oversee the Agreement.

In response, the Director-General stated that the arrangements are consistent with WTO practice and international law, noted that Secretariat support remains limited and transparent, and emphasized that broader institutional and governance questions remain for Members to resolve.

The next regular meeting of the General Council is tentatively scheduled for 5-6 October 2026.

Committee of Agriculture

On 9 July, 2026**,** Members resumed agricultural negotiations following MC14 and exchanged views on how to advance discussions after ministers were unable to reach an outcome on agriculture at the Ministerial Conference.

Members reaffirmed that agriculture remains central to the WTO negotiating agenda and emphasized the importance of the Committee as the principal forum for agricultural negotiations. While some Members supported linking agriculture discussions with broader WTO reform efforts, others cautioned against duplicating work.

Chair Ambassador Ali Sarfraz Hussain (Pakistan) reported on informal consultations held after MC14 and encouraged Members to rebuild trust, show flexibility and build on existing proposals rather than start afresh.

India re-submitted its MC14 agriculture proposal, calling for renewed focus on three longstanding priorities: public stockholding for food security purposes, the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries and cotton. Several developing country Members supported this approach, highlighting the importance of food security and rural livelihoods.

Other Members favoured a broader and more balanced approach, arguing that progress would require parallel negotiations across all outstanding agriculture issues rather than prioritizing selected areas.

Key Outstanding Issues. Members continued to hold divergent views on major negotiating areas, including domestic support, market access and export restrictions on food. Several delegations called for reflection on the reasons behind the longstanding lack of progress in the negotiations.

Way Forward. Many Members supported greater use of technical discussions, thematic sessions and evidence-based exchanges to help rebuild momentum. Some also proposed that the WTO Secretariat provide presentations on the history of agricultural negotiations and recent developments in global agricultural markets to support future work.

Next Steps. The Chair indicated that he would reflect on Members' suggestions over the summer break and invited the Secretariat to prepare a presentation on the history of negotiations relating to domestic support.

Council for Trade- related Intellectual Property Rights

On 22-23 July 2026, Members reviewed IP notifications, discussed pandemic preparedness, technology transfer, biodiversity-related issues, and cooperation among intellectual property offices.

Members reviewed notifications under Article 63.2 of the TRIPS Agreement, with Samoa responding to questions on its IP legislation; Vanuatu will be the next Member reviewed.

Members noted that no notifications have been submitted under paragraph 5 of the MC12 TRIPS Decision on COVID-19 vaccines.

On pandemic preparedness, some Members called for a more predictable framework based on lessons from COVID-19, while others emphasized the role of strong IP protection in supporting innovation and access to health technologies.

Members continued discussions on the TRIPS-CBD relationship, traditional knowledge, and Article 27.3(b), with differing views on the implications of the 2024 WIPO Treaty on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge (GR/TK Treaty).

Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia and India briefed Members on a side event on genetic resources and traditional knowledge held on 21 July 2026.

Members reviewed implementation of Article 66.2 on technology transfer to LDCs and stressed the importance of aligning support with LDC priorities and ensuring measurable outcomes.

The Secretariat updated Members on TRIPS-related technical assistance activities and the outcomes of the 2026 Workshop on Article 66.2; Members agreed to submit information on technical cooperation activities by 23 September 2026.

More than 20 Members shared experiences on IP office cooperation, highlighting its role in improving efficiency and service delivery while noting challenges related to resources, legal frameworks and digital infrastructure.

Members also discussed Colombia's proposal on alternative innovation reward mechanisms, with views differing on the need for further work in this area.

Members did not reach agreement on any of the 14 pending observer status requests from international intergovernmental organizations.

The next regular meeting of the Council for TRIPS is scheduled for 12-13 November 2026.

Negotiating Group on Rules (Fisheries Subsidies)

On 8 July 2026 Chair Ambassador Leslie Ramsammy (Guyana) updated Members on post-MC14 fisheries subsidies negotiations and outlined plans for further engagement aimed at advancing discussions ahead of MC15.

Post-MC14 Discussions. The Chair reported active participation in three information and thematic sessions held since MC14. These sessions examined the history of fisheries subsidies negotiations, recent data on global fisheries and fisheries subsidies, and the relationship between the draft additional fisheries subsidies disciplines and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Members continued work pursuant to the MC14 Ministerial Decision, which mandates further negotiations on additional fisheries subsidies disciplines to strengthen ocean sustainability and complement the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies adopted at MC12.

To support this process, the Chair announced plans to organize three "Fish Weeks" before the end of 2026. These meetings will provide a forum for Members to assess progress made since MC12, exchange views and identify areas that could serve as a basis for advancing negotiations.

Next Steps. The first Fish Week is scheduled for 21-25 September 2026, during which Members will be invited to identify elements of progress achieved since MC12 that could inform the next phase of negotiations. The Chair emphasized that the current phase is intended to build common understanding and explore possible pathways forward rather than to take negotiating decisions.

Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR)

On 7 July 2026, participating WTO Members reviewed outcomes from MC14 and discussed policy responses to energy market disruptions arising from the conflict in the Middle East, with a focus on crisis-support measures and longer-term energy transition objectives.

MC14 Outcomes. New Zealand, as coordinator of the initiative, highlighted progress achieved under the three pillars of the FFSR work programme: enhancing transparency, crisis-support measures, and addressing harmful fossil fuel subsidies. Members noted the MC14 Joint Ministerial Statement reaffirming the commitment of co-sponsors to the rationalization, phase-out or elimination of harmful fossil fuel subsidies and setting out principles for ensuring that crisis-related support measures remain transparent, targeted and temporary.

The coordinator also presented a progress report on the initiative's work during 2024-25, including development of a draft compilation of fossil fuel subsidy types and their potential environmental and trade impacts.

Energy Crisis Response Measures. Members examined government responses to energy price volatility following the conflict in the Middle East and discussed lessons for future policymaking.

Chile presented its response to the 2026 fuel price shock, highlighting the use of targeted and temporary support measures alongside adjustments to its fuel price stabilization mechanism to balance consumer protection with fiscal sustainability.

The OECD presented analysis showing that many countries relied on broad-based measures, such as fuel tax reductions and price caps, during the energy crisis, while noting that these measures are increasingly being phased out as energy prices normalize.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that governments have adopted a mix of price-support measures, energy-conservation initiatives and structural reforms aimed at strengthening long-term energy resilience and security.

Members' Discussions. Members expressed interest in monitoring the phase-out of emergency support measures and emphasized the importance of ensuring that short-term interventions remain consistent with long-term decarbonization objectives. Several Members highlighted efforts to redirect support towards renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean energy investment.

Capacity-Building Activities. Members also took note of an FFSR learning workshop held prior to the meeting, aimed at improving understanding of fossil fuel subsidy reform. Participants expressed support for further training sessions and thematic discussions in future meetings.

Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP)

On 6 July 2026, the co-sponsors of the Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP) discussed a workplan for 2026-27 aimed at delivering practical, member-driven outcomes in the lead-up to MC15.

Following consultations conducted after MC14, DPP coordinators reported broad interest in issues including plastics trade transparency, single-use plastics, trade-related plastics measures, access to sustainable goods and technologies, substitutes and alternatives to plastics, and development-related concerns. Members also emphasized the need to prioritize discussions to ensure a manageable workload and concrete outcomes.

Co-sponsors broadly supported the proposed 2026-27 workplan, which retains existing workstreams while focusing on areas where discussions are sufficiently advanced to generate practical results. The workplan seeks to balance substantive progress with streamlined participation requirements.

Looking ahead, the October 2026 technical meeting will focus on upstream and circular economy solutions, waste management, clean-up initiatives, single-use plastics and trade-related plastics measures. The November 2026 meeting will include a dedicated workshop on plastic substitutes and alternatives, as well as discussions on customs classification and statistical approaches to improve transparency in plastics trade flows.

Development considerations, including technical assistance, capacity-building, access to technology and the needs of developing countries, least-developed countries and small island developing states, will be integrated throughout the programme of work.

Co-sponsors welcomed the proposed roadmap and reaffirmed the DPP's role as a platform for technical cooperation, experience-sharing and trade-related solutions to address global plastics pollution ahead of MC15.

Trade and Development

During Development Week (6-9 July 2026**)**, WTO Members discussed opportunities for least-developed countries (LDCs) in services trade, partnerships for trade capacity-building, progress under the Work Programme on Small Economies, and new proposals aimed at supporting economic growth and industrialization.

LDC Services Trade. At the Sub-Committee on LDCs, Members examined the role of domestic reforms in enhancing services trade opportunities for LDCs. Discussions highlighted the need to strengthen skills, productive capacity and digital infrastructure to improve participation in digitally delivered services trade.

Members received updates on the Trade in Services for Development (TS4D) initiative, including recent tools and capacity-building activities aimed at improving services trade competitiveness. Experience-sharing sessions highlighted the importance of regulatory reforms, services-sector competitiveness, climate finance services, and greater support for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Members also emphasized the need for better services data, expanded Aid-for-Trade support for services sectors, and effective implementation of the LDC Services Waiver to improve market access opportunities for LDC service suppliers.

Trade for Development Partnerships. At the Aid-for-Trade session, Members reviewed partnerships supporting trade and development objectives. Examples included initiatives to improve trade facilitation, strengthen supply chains and expand export opportunities for developing countries and LDCs.

Members also reviewed progress under the WTO Fish Fund, which has committed support to more than 40 developing economies to assist implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies. Discussions further highlighted the role of infrastructure, digitalization, transport connectivity and energy transition investments in promoting economic growth.

Members noted that, while developing economies have increased their share of global merchandise and services trade over the past two decades, LDCs continue to account for only around 1 per cent of global trade, underscoring the need for continued support and investment.

Trade and Development Discussions. The Committee on Trade and Development considered new proposals submitted by Japan on trade as a driver of economic growth and by China, Comoros and Benin on the role of trade and investment in industrialization. Members agreed that future discussions would build on national experiences and existing WTO work programmes.

Members also reviewed reports on special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions and WTO technical assistance activities, while noting the continued resilience of WTO capacity-building programmes.

Small Economies. The Dedicated Session on Small Economies resumed work following MC14, focusing on challenges faced by small economies, including trade logistics, traceability and digital trade. Members also continued discussions under the Work Programme on Small Economies.

Regional Trade Agreements. Members received updates on WTO Secretariat factual presentations relating to notified regional trade agreements and preferential trade arrangements, which support transparency and member review processes.

The next Development Week is expected to take place from 26-30 October 2026.

Fisheries Funding Mechanism (WTO Fish Fund)

On 2-3 July 2026, the WTO Fish Fund Steering Committee, Members approved a second round of funding to support implementation of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, expanding assistance to additional developing and least-developed country (LDC) Members.

New Funding Approvals. The Steering Committee approved grants totalling nearly USD 2.2 million for 17 developing and LDC Members under the Fund's second Call for Proposals. The projects will support implementation of the Agreement through needs assessments, improved reporting procedures, enhanced data collection and strengthened regulatory frameworks.

With these approvals, more than 40 WTO Members are now benefiting from Fish Fund support.

Implementation Progress. Members reviewed progress under the first Call for Proposals, under which 26 grants worth nearly USD 2.9 million were approved. Most of these projects are already under implementation.

The Steering Committee also endorsed recommendations aimed at ensuring that assistance remains targeted, effective and aligned with the obligations and needs arising from the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies.

Institutional Support. Members recognized the contributions of the Fund's partner organizations, namely the FAO, IFAD, World Bank Group and WTO, particularly their role in assessing project proposals and supporting implementation activities.

Committee Co-Chairs Peru and Australia noted that the Fund is moving from its establishment phase towards full-scale implementation and highlighted its contribution to supporting Members' implementation efforts and promoting the sustainability of global marine fisheries.

The Steering Committee agreed to launch a third Call for Proposals in the first quarter of 2027. It further noted that to date, contributions and commitments from 18 WTO Members to the Fish Fund total approximately USD 20 million.

Working Party on the Accession of Bhutan

Institutional Support. Members recognized the contributions of the Fund's partner organizations, namely the FAO, IFAD, World Bank Group and WTO, particularly their role in assessing project proposals and supporting implementation activities.

At the 5th meeting of the Working Party on the Accession of Bhutan on 9 July 2026, WTO Members welcomed Bhutan's return to accession negotiations after an 18-year hiatus and reaffirmed support for advancing its WTO membership process.

Bhutan's Return to the Accession Process. Bhutan reiterated its strong commitment to WTO accession, emphasizing that the country has significantly strengthened its economy, institutions and regulatory framework since the last Working Party meeting in 2008. Bhutan highlighted economic growth, infrastructure development and poverty reduction, while noting challenges arising from its small market size, geography, narrow economic base and climate vulnerability.

Review of Accession Progress. Members reviewed Bhutan's trade regime and legislative developments, including reforms relating to SPS measures, TBT, import licensing, services, investment and intellectual property rights. Bhutan submitted updated accession documents, including revised market access offers and a Legislative Action Plan covering 174 pieces of legislation.

Market Access Negotiations. Bhutan reported ongoing engagement with interested WTO Members on bilateral market access negotiations. Members welcomed the renewed momentum in the accession process and encouraged continued legislative reforms and regular updates.

Next Steps. The Working Party agreed to continue technical work through additional questions and replies, revisions to the draft Working Party Report, and intensified bilateral negotiations. The date of the next meeting will be determined following further consultations

VII. EXPORT CONTROLS IN INDIA

During July 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs imposed sanctions on the following individuals and entities, implementing certain United Nation (UN) Security Council regulations under the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1947 (43 of 1947):

DATE OF SANCTION	UN REGULATION	INDIVIDUALS/ENTITIES SANCTIONED	TYPE OF SANCTION	REASON FOR SANCTION
May 11, 2026	Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism (Implementation of Security Council Resolutions) Order, 2007	Sami Jasim Muhammad Jaata Al-Jaburi	Substitution / update of existing individual and entity entries; omission / delisting of an entity entry; and implementation of UNSC resolution sanctions	The notification updates India's implementation of the United Nations Security Council counter-terrorism sanctions regime concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, the Taliban and associated persons and entities. The affected entries concern individuals involved in terrorist operations, recruitment, financing, revenue generation, military activities, suicide operations and logistical support, as well as a money-service provider used to transfer funds to Taliban commanders and finance fighters and operations in Afghanistan.
		Abd El Hamid Salim Ibrahim Brukan Al-Khatouni		
		Hamidah Nabagala		
		Mohammad Hassan Akhund		
		Abdul Kabir Mohammad Jan		
		Abdul Latif Mansur		
		Fazl Mohammad Mazloom		
		Abdul Ghani Baradar Abdul Ahmad Turk		
		Amir Khan Motaqi		
		Abdul Salam Hanafi Ali Mardan Qul		
		Abdul Baqi Basir Awal Shah		
		Din Mohammad Hanif		
		Hamdullah Nomani		
		Nooruddin Turabi Muhammad Qasim		

		Mohammad Essa Akhund		
		Najibullah Haqqani Hidayatullah		
		Abdul-Haq Wassiq		
		Khairullah Khairkhwah		
		Noor Mohammad Saqib		
		Hamidullah Akhund Sher Mohammad		
		Azizirahman Abdul Ahad		
		Sirajuddin Jallaloudine Haqqani		
		Gul Agha Ishakzai		
		Khalil Ahmed Haqqani		
		Ahmad Zia Agha		
		Abdul Rauf Zakir		
		Haji Khairullah Haji Sattar Money Exchange		

VIII. NATIONAL SECURITY, SANCTIONS & EXPORT CONTROLS AROUND THE GLOBE

A. USA

- On July 1, 2026, OFAC sanctioned two individuals and four entities pursuant to Executive Order 14059 and Executive Order 13224, as amended, for supporting a Brazil based criminal network that used cryptocurrency and corporate structures to launder illicit drug proceeds. OFAC also sanctioned an Ecuador based criminal organisation pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended, and updated an existing counterterrorism designation to include associated digital currency addresses.

- On July 7, 2026, OFAC revoked Iran related General License X and issued General License X1 under Executive Orders 13846, 13876, 13902, and 13949. General License X1 authorises, through July 17, 2026, transactions ordinarily incident and necessary to wind down activities previously authorised for Iranian origin crude oil, petroleum products, and petrochemical products. It does not authorise new purchases or loading from July 7, 2026, and requires payments to blocked persons to be made into blocked, interest-bearing accounts in the United States.

- On July 8, 2026, OFAC issued Russia related General License 13R under Executive Order 14024, authorising specified administrative transactions necessary for the day-to-day operations of U.S. persons and their owned or controlled entities in Russia through October 9, 2026. General License 13R replaces General License 13Q.

- On July 10, 2026, OFAC issued Democratic Republic of the Congo related General License 2 under 31 CFR part 547, authorising specified agricultural and medical transactions involving the Democratic Republic of the Congo or Rwanda, including exports of agricultural commodities, medicines and medical devices, disease treatment, clinical trials, medical research, and the operation of medical facilities.

- On July 10, 2026, OFAC added multiple individuals and entities to the SDN List pursuant to Executive Orders 13902, 13876, and 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886. The designations target a financial network benefiting Iranian regime elites and exchange houses that moved foreign currency for sanctioned Iranian banks through overseas front companies, with several listings subject to secondary sanctions risk.

- On July 10, 2026, OFAC issued Iran General License Y under Executive Order 13876 and the Global Terrorism Sanctions Regulations, authorising transactions ordinarily incident and necessary to wind down dealings involving Smart Global Limited, or any entity in which it owns a direct or indirect interest of 50 percent or more, through August 9, 2026. Any payment to a blocked person must be made into a blocked account, and the licence does not authorise dealings with other blocked persons.

- On July 13, 2026, OFAC sanctioned two individuals and one entity pursuant to Executive Order 13694, as amended, for providing virtual private network, encryption, and obfuscation services that supported ransomware attacks against U.S. businesses and critical infrastructure. The action was coordinated with the United Kingdom and also identified associated digital currency addresses.

- On July 13, 2026, OFAC added ten Cuban entities to the SDN List pursuant to Executive Order 14404 and issued Cuba related FAQ 1262. The designations target state owned entities generating revenue through Cuba’s energy, tourism, maritime, financial services, and foreign trade sectors, together with government linked paramilitary and surveillance organisations involved in repression.

- On July 14, 2026, OFAC sanctioned more than 50 individuals, entities, and vessels under Executive Order 13902 for their involvement in an Iranian shipping and sanctions evasion network engaged in oil exports, containerised shipping, and commodities trade. The designations include **Indian nationals Jijin George and Gautam Vishavdeep** for facilitating vessel operations and Iranian oil shipments, respectively, and Mumbai-based **Sea Lead Shipping Agency India Private Limited** for being owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, its sanctioned Singapore-based parent company. The action also covers **We Freight Shipping LLC**, which operates through associated offices in Mumbai and Ahmedabad, and multiple vessels identified as blocked property.

- On July 15, 2026, OFAC sanctioned seven individuals and entities pursuant to Executive Order 13382 for supporting an international weapons procurement network operating on behalf of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The designations target aviation and transport companies, procurement agents, financial intermediaries, and travel coordinators operating across Iran, Italy, Nigeria, and Russia, with all listings identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.

- On July 15, 2026, OFAC updated the SDN List entries of two Mexico-based criminal organisations to reflect their designation pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886, in addition to their existing designations under Executive Order 14059.

- On July 17, 2026, following the expiry of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13936, OFAC removed from the SDN List persons whose property had been blocked solely under that authority. Persons who remain sanctioned under the Hong Kong Autonomy Act of 2020 were transferred to the Non SDN Menu Based Sanctions List, while their property blocked before July 14, 2026, remains blocked. OFAC confirmed that the Hong Kong Autonomy Act and the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 remain in effect and announced that corresponding regulations, FAQs, and guidance will be updated.

- On July 17, 2026, following the expiration of the national emergency declared under Executive Order 13936, OFAC removed from the SDN List persons whose property had been blocked solely under that Executive Order. Persons who remain sanctioned under the Hong Kong Autonomy Act of 2020 were moved to the Non-SDN Menu-Based Sanctions List and continue to be subject to blocking and transaction prohibitions, except for the importation of goods, while property blocked before July 14, 2026, remains blocked. The Hong Kong Autonomy Act of 2020 and the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 remain in force, and OFAC announced corresponding amendments to its regulations, FAQs, and guidance.

- On July 23, 2026, OFAC sanctioned multiple individuals and entities pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886, for facilitating financial and commercial networks supporting Hamas and the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood. The designations include financial facilitators, trading companies, and charitable organisations operating across Türkiye, Gaza, Indonesia, and the United Kingdom, with the listings subject to secondary sanctions risk.

- On July 23, 2026, OFAC sanctioned multiple individuals and entities pursuant to Executive Orders 14059 and 13224, as amended, in its largest action to date targeting a Mexico-based cartel. The designations cover cartel members and associated businesses operating across agriculture, energy, logistics, construction, retail, security, and other sectors, with the listings subject to secondary sanctions risk.

- On July 23, 2026, the U.S. Department of State sanctioned nine entities and two individuals pursuant to Executive Order 14404, targeting sources of revenue and financial support for the Cuban government. The designations cover entities operating in Cuba's energy and financial services sectors, arrangements intended to evade sanctions through corporate restructuring and third-party intermediaries, and persons and entities involved in administering Cuba's overseas medical missions. The action includes a Cuban energy company identified as importing gas, liquefied gas, and lubricants sourced from India and Mexico.

- On July 24, 2026, OFAC issued Russia-related General License 131H under Executive Order 14024, authorising through August 22, 2026, transactions ordinarily incident and necessary to negotiate and enter into contingent contracts for the sale, disposition, or transfer of Lukoil International GmbH and entities in which it owns a 50 percent or more interest. The licence also authorises transactions necessary to maintain or wind down their operations and permits their blocked accounts to be used for such activities. Performance of any sale contract requires separate OFAC authorisation, and transfers of funds to persons or accounts located in Russia remain prohibited. General License 131H replaces General License 131G.

- On July 27, 2026, OFAC removed 84 individuals and entities from the SDN List and updated the identifying information for 22 existing entries as part of its sanction's modernisation initiative. The removals include deceased individuals, defunct entities, older sanctions target no longer considered U.S. national security or foreign policy priorities, and entries lacking sufficient information for effective compliance screening. OFAC also resolved 18 sets of duplicate entries by removing duplicative listings and updating the relevant identifiers.

- On July 29, 2026, OFAC added ten entities and eight vessels to the SDN List pursuant to Executive Order 13902. The designations target two Iranian firms involved in an IRGC-backed scheme requiring commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz to purchase maritime insurance, including through digital-asset payments, as well as eight shipping companies and their vessels that transported Iranian crude oil and petroleum products, primarily to China and the United Arab Emirates. The two Iranian firms are identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.

- On July 30, 2026, OFAC added one individual and five entities to the SDN List pursuant to Executive Order 13224, as amended by Executive Order 13886, targeting international travel, logistics, air cargo, and technology networks supporting Mahan Air and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The designations include Skiez Travels and Logistics Private Limited, an India-incorporated company with addresses in Srinagar and New Delhi, for its links to Mahan Air. All listings are identified as subject to secondary sanctions risk.

B. UK

- On July 6, 2026, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (**FCDO**) added seven individuals and two entities to the UK Sanctions List under the Chemical Weapons (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The designations target Russian research institutions and associated officials involved in, supporting, or promoting prohibited activities related to chemical weapons. The entities are subject to asset freezes and director disqualification sanctions, while the individuals are additionally subject to travel bans.

- On July 7, 2026, the UK FCDO updated the UK Sanctions List under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 by correcting the entries of one cryptocurrency exchange and one individual, who remain subject to the applicable sanctions. The UK FCDO also revoked the designation of one oil tanker, removing the vessel from UK shipping sanctions.

- On July 9, 2026, HMRC published a technical note on UK trade-sanctions enforcement during the 2025 to 2026 financial year. The note records 58 seizures of sanctioned goods, one compound settlement of approximately GBP 1.16 million for a breach of the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, 18 warning letters following voluntary disclosures, and three positive charging decisions across two cases awaiting trial. HMRC also received 44 enforcement referrals from OTSI and announced plans to seek new powers in 2026 to 2027 to publish details of companies entering into compound settlements for strategic export-control and sanctions offences.

- On July 10, 2026, the UK FCDO varied the identifying information for Hamidah Nabagala under the Isil (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida (United Nations Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Hamidah Nabagala remains subject to an asset freeze, arms embargo, and travel ban for acting as an intermediary in financing channels for ISIL in Central Africa.

- On July 13, 2026, the UK FCDO added ten individuals to the UK Sanctions List under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 for their roles in media and communications activities supporting or promoting actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, or independence. The individuals are associated with a Russia-based media organisation and are subject to asset freezes, travel bans, trust services sanctions, director disqualification sanctions, and internet services sanctions.

- On July 14, 2026, the UK FCDO amended the statement of reasons for the existing designation of Christodoulos Georgiou Vassiliades under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. He remains subject to an asset freeze, travel ban, trust services sanctions, and director disqualification sanctions.

- On July 16, 2026, the UK FCDO added four individuals and seven entities to the UK Sanctions List under the Sudan (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. The designations target financial and logistics networks supplying funds, resources, and weapons to the Rapid Support Forces, as well as mining companies and procurement networks generating revenue from conflict gold or supplying military goods to the Sudanese Armed Forces. The individuals are subject to asset freezes, travel bans, and director disqualification sanctions, while the entities are subject to asset freezes and director disqualification sanctions.

- On July 17, 2026, the UK FCDO added six individuals and two entities to the UK Sanctions List under the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, implementing UN designations against armed groups and their leaders for activities undermining peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- On July 23, 2026, the UK FCDO amended the statements of reasons for two existing designations and corrected the identifying information for another individual under the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. All three individuals remain subject to the applicable sanctions.

- On July 24, 2026, the UK FCDO added one oil tanker to the UK Sanctions List under the Libya (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020, implementing a UN designation imposed for attempting to illicitly export petroleum from Libya. The vessel is subject to shipping sanctions, including restrictions on access to UK ports, registration, detention, entry, and movement.

- On July 31, 2026, the UK FCDO amended five existing entries on the UK Sanctions List under the Afghanistan sanctions regime. The designated persons remain subject to the applicable sanctions.

C. EU

- On July 3, 2026, the Council of the EU added six Russian individuals to the sanctions list under the EU framework targeting the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. The designations target military scientists and researchers involved in the development of epibatidine as a chemical weapon, which the Council stated was highly likely to have caused Alexei Navalny’s death. The individuals are subject to asset freezes, prohibitions on making funds or economic resources available, and EU travel bans.

- On July 9, 2026, the European Commission and the High Representative proposed a new EU sanctions regime targeting migrant smuggling, human trafficking, illicit drugs and firearms trafficking, money laundering, and other serious forms of organised crime originating outside the EU. The proposed regime would allow asset freezes, prohibitions on making funds or economic resources available, and EU travel bans against persons and entities involved in, directing, or supporting such activities. The proposal requires unanimous adoption by EU Member States in the Council.

- On July 13, 2026, the Council of the European Union strengthened its restrictive measures concerning Sudan by prohibiting the purchase, import, or transfer of Sudanese-origin gold and the sale, supply, transfer, or export of mercury and cyanide to Sudan. The prohibitions also cover related technical assistance, brokering, financing, and financial assistance, with limited exceptions for humanitarian purposes, public-health emergencies, and disaster response.

- On 23 July 2026, the Council of the European Union adopted its 21st package of restrictive measures against Russia in response to its war of aggression against Ukraine. The package introduces harsh economic sanctions targeting the sectors with the greatest impact on Russia's economy and its ability to sustain its war, including energy, financial services and crypto, while also adopting the largest batch of individual listings of the last four years, totalling 218 listings (48 individuals and 170 entities). The package further strengthens measures against Russia's shadow fleet, expands restrictions on financial institutions and crypto-asset service providers facilitating sanctions circumvention, and reinforces anti-circumvention measures targeting actors supporting Russia's military-industrial complex.

- The 21st package directly affects four Indian entities. Zepto Microwave and Chip Devices Assembly LLP and Falcon Toolings were added to Annex IV of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 with effect from July 24, 2026, subjecting EU-related dealings involving these entities to enhanced restrictions on dual-use and certain other controlled goods and technologies, including related technical assistance, brokering, financing, and financial assistance. Separately, Sberbank India and India VTB were added to Part A of Annex XLV and are subject to transaction bans with effect from August 13, 2026, subject to applicable exceptions and derogations.

- On July 24, 2026, the Council of the European Union amended the sanctions list under Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 by removing three individuals and updating the statement of reasons for one listed entity.

- On July 24, 2026, the Council of the European Union extended until July 27, 2027 the restrictive measures concerning Iran's military support to Russia and armed groups and entities in the Middle East and the Red Sea region, and actions undermining freedom of navigation in the Middle East. The Council also removed four individuals from the sanctions list.

- On July 30, 2026, the Council of the European Union added one individual and one entity to the sanctions list under Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 for supporting the Government of Iran, with the entity also listed for supporting Iran's proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities. The Council also introduced derogations under Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 and Regulation (EU) 2023/1529 allowing Member State authorities to authorise specified goods, technology, and related assistance for medical, pharmaceutical, humanitarian, or diplomatic purposes in Iran, subject to applicable export-control and non-proliferation requirements.

ELP COMMENT:

- *The sanctions developments in July 2026 indicates a shift towards strengthening the implementation and effectiveness of existing sanctions regimes through a combination of targeted designations, licensing measures, and enhanced anti-circumvention controls. The EU's 21st sanctions package, together with multiple U.S. actions involving Indian entities and financial networks, signals an increasing focus on disrupting sanctions-evasion infrastructure while expanding compliance expectations for businesses engaged in international trade.*

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

KEY CONTACTS:

Sanjay Notani, Partner – *SanjayNotani@elp-in.com*

Parthsarathi Jha, Partner - *ParthJha@elp-in.com*

Ambarish Sathianathan, Partner *–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

/ELPIndia

insights@elp-in.com

/company/economic-laws-practice

/elplaw.in

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