

ADHYATAN

TPM Newsletter

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Key Highlights

Indian Updates

India's agricultural policies raise concerns at the WTO (11 Sep)

Several WTO members have questioned Indian agricultural policies in respect of export restrictions on rice and wheat as well as electricity and income subsidies offered to farmers. The export restrictions were initially implemented in light of domestic food security concerns. Members including the US, Australia and Japan have sought India's plan for easing of export restrictions on wheat and rice and replacing the same with export duties. India has also been asked to provide the eligibility criteria for grant of income support to farmers under national-level and state-level schemes. Additionally, Japan has raised concerns regarding the electricity subsidies given to farmers in India, which have allegedly increased disproportionately to the prices.

India suspends concessions and other obligations in response to EU's decision to continue safeguard measures on imports of Steel products (18 Sep)

On 18th September 2024, India notified the WTO Council for Trade in Goods of its decision to suspend concessions and obligations under GATT 1994 and Article 8.2 of the Agreement on Safeguards. The decision was in retaliation to the EU's notification proposing continuation of safeguard measures on imports of 26 categories of Indian steel products, till June 2026. The measures were originally imposed on 18th July 2018 and were first extended till June 2024. India's withdrawal of concessions shall be effected by increasing tariffs on imports of selected European origin products. India has informed that it expects duty collection, pursuant to suspension of concessions, equivalent to USD 1.103 billion, which is equal to the loss incurred by India during the years 2018 to 2023, as a result of EU's safeguard measures.

Global Updates

China initiates dispute settlement process against Canada regarding surtax measures on certain products, including Electric Vehicles and Steel and Aluminium products (11 Sep)

On 11th September 2024, China notified the Disputes Settlement Body of its request for consultation, under the Dispute Settlement Undertaking, with Canada. The request was made in respect of surtax measures by Canada on certain Chinese imports, including that of Electric Vehicles and Steel and Aluminium products. Pursuant to implementation of additional measures, Canada has imposed a 100% surtax on Chinese Electric Vehicles and a 25% surtax on imports Steel and Aluminium products from China. According to China, these measures violate Canada's obligations under GATT 1994 with respect to the most favoured nation treatment.

Dispute Panel established to review whether certain tax credits under US Inflation Reduction Act are in consonance with WTO Rules (23 Sep)

China submitted a second request for establishing a panel for the purpose of determining whether certain tax credits granted under the United States Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are in adherence to WTO Rules. China stated that the US IRA's subsidies favoured goods originating in the US over imports from other countries and hence, were violative of WTO Rules. The US stated that IRA was a step towards protection against climate change and to secure sustainable supply chains for global clean energy. The Dispute Settlement Body agreed to establish the panel.

EU initiates dispute settlement process against Chinese anti-subsidy investigation into imports certain Dairy Products (25 Sep)

The EU requested consultations with China with respect to initiation of anti-subsidy investigation into imports of certain Dairy Products from the EU. The EU claimed that the initiation of investigation was inconsistent with Articles 11.2, 11.3 and 11.9, read with Article 1.1(b), of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, as the application requesting the initiation did not include sufficient evidence on the existence of a countervailable subsidy, injury or a causal link between the subsidized imports and the alleged injury.

Belt and Road Initiative – Economic Expansion or Vulnerability?

- *China launched the Belt and Road Initiative in 2013, with the stated intended objective of economic integration for developed and developing countries.*
- *The Initiative has helped partner countries with increased employment, development of mega projects, and increased investment in manufacturing capabilities. However, a major concern remains that the expenditure has been financed by China and Chinese backed banking and financing institutions.*
- *In situations of default on debts, the geopolitical implications could be significant, such as China assuming control over key ports and infrastructure of foreign nations.*
- *The Belt and Road Initiative has also witnessed an increase in Chinese investment-backed entities setting up manufacturing plants in special economic zones developed in partner countries, with a view to avoid actions against Chinese exports.*
- *Entities setting up in the special economic zone enjoy lower cost of production due to support from the Chinese Government. This allows them a competitive advantage in their export markets, over domestic manufacturing in such markets.*
- *The WTO Agreements provide limited leeway to governments of importing countries to take stringent steps to counter such unfair and uncompetitive imports.*

In 2013, China launched the Belt and Road Initiative (“BRI”), in an attempt to revive the Silk Route. The BRI is often called the New Silk Road. The purpose of the project is to link South-East Asia, Central Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe via land and sea routes and increase influence of China in such regions, by dominating trade and by becoming a global lender.

The BRI could potentially accelerate the rate of economic integration for both developing and developed countries. However, total debt financing by China

with respect to this project has raised several concerns. A number of BRI partner countries have taken loans from China for standalone projects, some of whom may not have considered the larger picture. While standalone projects are important, a standalone project does not lead to generation of revenue without adequate accompanying infrastructure. Further, infrastructure projects take a long time to reach break-even point and generate revenue. Due to this, a number of countries may be unable to pay back their debt leading to debt-restructuring deals with China.

Debt Vulnerabilities

The total expenditure, as of recently, for BRI has already surpassed USD 1 trillion and has majorly been financed by China or Chinese backed banking and financial institute. A number of projects developed under the BRI are collaborations between the Chinese entities and the entities based in the partner countries. However, major financing activities are undertaken by the Chinese entities.

One of the examples of such projects is the Hambantota Port developed in South-East Sri Lanka. The construction was undertaken by a joint venture between China Harbor Engineering Company (CHEC) and the Sino Hydro Corporation. Out of the total expenditure of USD 1.5 billion, the project was financed by Chinese loans of about USD 1.3 billion. However, the project turned out to be commercially unviable. Due to this, Sri Lanka was forced to lease the port to a Chinese government linked entity for a period of 99 years, in order to generate revenue out of it and maintain its foreign reserves. Even after leasing the port, and having concluded multiple talks regarding the debt restructuring and way forward, Sri Lanka still owes a huge amount to China as debt repayment.

Similarly, China owns nearly 72% of Kenya's external debt. Over the next two years, Kenya is expected to pay USD 60 billion to China Exim Bank, risking the loss of control over the Mombasa port in case of defaulting on repayment of loans¹. Therefore, the default on the debts can have serious consequences, in terms of global geopolitical factors.

¹ <https://cnbc.com/2019/01/18/countries-are-reducing-belt-and-road-investments-over-financing-fears.html>

Actual beneficiary of BRI Projects

BRI has been proposed and marketed to a number of nations as integrated development programs for China as well as the partner countries. While partner countries have indeed witnessed benefits such as increased investment in manufacturing, increase in employment, rapid development of mega projects, etc., the major beneficiary of the BRI remains China. The projects are being financed largely by Chinese state-owned and public banks and financial institutes. Since the infrastructure projects have a long incubation period, the profit generation from these projects takes longer and many nations have failed to pay their debts to Chinese institutions during the incubation period. This has led them to enter debt-restructuring deals with the Government of China. The Government of China has provided relief loans to a number of nations which have used this fund to pay back the banks and financial institutions in China. Hence, the financial aid provided by China has been eventually received back by the Chinese entities.

Impact on international trade

Further, China along with the partner nations have developed special economic zones in the partner nations. Some examples of such zones are Business International Investment Park in Bahrain and SETC-Zone in Egypt. A number of Chinese entities have been encouraged to set up their plants in such zones. This allows the Government of China to increase the global access to Chinese manufactured products, as well as reduce the burden on the producers in China, which already have excess capacities and face trade remedial measures in multiple countries.

This also has implications in terms of international trade. While the exports from China have been subjected to several tariff, non-tariff and trade remedial measures in several jurisdictions; the exports from the countries along such routes may not be subjected to the same measures. In fact, there have been instances wherein plants have been set up in the economic zones set up as a part of BRI, in order to avoid imposition of anti-dumping duty in other countries. For instance, European Union imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of glass fibre from China. Subsequent to the imposition of such duty, one of the Chinese producers set up a plant in the SETC-Zone in Egypt. The bond prospectus issued by the said Chinese producer clearly acknowledged that the imposition of

anti-dumping duty had resulted in increase in prices of glass fiber, and that setting up the entity in Egypt would reduce the impact of the anti-dumping duty levied on Chinese exports.

Another important issue that arises is that the entities being set up in such economic zones enjoy a host of benefits conferred directly and indirectly by the Government of China, as part of the BRI. This allows them a lower cost, compared to their counterparts in other countries, allowing them to in turn also export at lower prices. This results in an unfair pricing advantage, to the detriment of the conditions of competition in the importing country. However, it is debatable whether the WTO Agreements allow sufficient teeth to governments of the importing countries to take strict action to address such situations. While certain investigating authorities, such as the European Commission, have already found means within the WTO Agreements to tackle imports from such Chinese investment-based entities located in third countries; the number of measures imposed on exports from such entities are limited. Therefore, the BRI also throws up a challenge to governments of importing countries to come up with innovative techniques to deal with the threat posed by the exports from this region to their domestic market.

- Salil Arora, Senior Associate
Annika Ganjoo, Associate

Foreign Trade Policy

Amendment to the Interest Equalisation Scheme (17 Sep)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has amended the Interest Equalisation Scheme with the following changes with immediate effect:

- a. The annual net subvention amount is capped at Rs. 10 crore per IEC for a given financial year. A cap of Rs. 5 crore per IEC for MSME Manufacturers has been imposed till 30th September 2024, for the financial year starting from 1st April 2024.
- b. For manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters, a cap of Rs. 2.5 crore has been imposed 30th June 2024.

Amendment to the Handbook of Procedures with regard to the EPCG Scheme (20 Sep)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has amended the Handbook of Procedures with regard to the EPCG Scheme. Any authorisation holder will be required to submit a report on fulfilment of export obligation through online mode after expiry of first block period of four years and continuously till the expiry of the valid export obligation period, to the Regional Authority concerned. The report should contain a statement with details of the shipping bill / invoice number / bill of export / FIRC number, duly certified by the Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant / Company Secretary for evidencing fulfilment of specific as well as average export obligation.

Amendment to the Import Policy for Raw Pet Coke and Calcined Pet Coke (04 Sep)

The Import Policy of Raw Pet Coke and Calcined Pet Coke has been amended to permit import to cater to the entire domestic needs of aluminium industry and other industries for processes, as permitted under the relevant regulations. Earlier, the import was permitted for the domestic needs of aluminium industry only.

Amendment to Appendix 3 (SCOMET items) to Schedule - 2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2018

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has notified the Annual SCOMET Update and accordingly amended the Appendix 3 (SCOMET Items) to Schedule-2 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items, 2018.

Extension of Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) for Pre and Post shipment Rupee Export Credit (30 Sep)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has further extended the Interest Equalisation Scheme for Pre and Post Shipment Rupee Export Credit Scheme till 31st December 2024. However, the MSME manufacturer-exporters, who have already availed equalisation benefit of Rs. 50 Lakhs or more in 2024-25 till 30th September 2024, will not be eligible for any further benefit in the extended period.

Extension of RoDTEP scheme for exports made from DTA units and AA / EOU / SEZ units (30 Sep)

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the RoDTEP scheme for exports made from DTA Units till 30th September 2025 and from AA / EOU / SEZ units till 31st December 2024. The revised rates as in Appendix 4R and Appendix 4RE will also be notified for implementation with effect from 10th October 2024.

Trade Agreements

Indian Updates

India and the UAE to review the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India and the UAE have agreed to review the India – UAE CEPA, which came into effect in May 2022. The review is pursuant to the concerns raised by India regarding surge in imports of precious metals from the UAE. India has also sought an examination of the Rules of Origin under the CEPA.

India and EU hold ninth round of negotiations for free trade agreement

The ninth round of trade negotiations between EU and India resumed in September, where the two sides focused on concerns over sustainability measures imposed by EU, which is detrimental for the Indian MSME sector. The two sides reportedly discussed the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) following India's concerns over of non-tariff barriers and other regulations.

India and the United Kingdom expected to resume trade negotiations over their free trade agreement

The United Kingdom and India are expected to resume trade negotiations for the free trade agreement, which were previously paused on account of general elections in both countries. India is seeking greater market access in the IT and Healthcare sector in the UK. Meanwhile, the UK is focused on reduction of import duties on exports of Scotch Whiskey, Electric Vehicles, Lamb Meat and Chocolates, and Telecommunications, Legal and Financial services.

Switzerland has submitted the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement to the Parliament for ratification

The Swiss Government has presented the agreement between India and the EFTA States, to the Parliament for approval and consequent ratification. The Agreement will now be open for public consultation for all stakeholders in Switzerland. After the ratification, 94.7 percent of Swiss exports shall enjoy tariff reductions.

Global Updates

Maldives and Türkiye finalise the Maldives-Turkey Free Trade Agreement.

The Maldives-Türkiye Free Trade Agreement has been finalized and is expected to take effect from January 2025. The Agreement aims to provide tariff elimination on imports of 214 tariff items from Maldives.

Digital Trade Agreement between the United Kingdom and Ukraine comes into effect

The United Kingdom and Ukraine have entered into a Digital Trade Agreement with an aim to enable partnership in cybersecurity, enhance Ukraine's participation in global supply chains, help small and medium-sized businesses and provide access for Ukrainian IT resources to the UK digital market. The Agreement has come into effect 2nd September 2024.

Singapore and the EU conclude negotiations on Digital Trade Agreement

Singapore and the EU have finalised the EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement (EUSDTA). The Agreement establishes Rules for digital trade and facilitate collaborations between the digital economies of the two sides. Pursuant to the Agreement, both parties have agreed to not impose Customs duties on electronic transmissions and implement e-invoicing strategies for effective digital trade.

Australia and the UAE finalise Free Trade Agreement

Australia and the UAE have finalised a trade agreement, which is expected to open the UAE market to Australian goods by eliminating tariff on 99% of tariff lines. Australia will also offer tariff reductions on UAE exports of furniture, copper wire, glass containers and plastic.

The United Arab Emirates and New Zealand sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

The United Arab Emirates and New Zealand have signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to advance bilateral trade and improve market access. The CEPA is expected to remove tariffs on 98.5% of New Zealand products exported to the UAE with immediate effect. The UAE has committed to grant better market access to New Zealand's private sector and agriculture and food sector.

Non-Tariff Measures

Amendment to Quality Control Orders for various Woven Sacks (13 Sep)¹

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has amended the following Quality Control Orders concerning textile woven sacks. Pursuant to the amendment, the orders shall now come into force on 6th December 2024.

- Textiles – High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) / Polypropylene (PP) Woven Sacks for Packaging 50 kg Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2023
- Textiles – Polypropylene (PP) Woven, Laminated, Block Bottom Valve Sacks for Packaging of 50 kg Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2023
- Textiles – Polypropylene (PP)/High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Laminated Woven Sacks for Mail Sorting, Storage, Transport and Distribution (Quality Control) Order, 2023

Amendment to Quality Control Orders for Ethylene Dichloride and Vinyl Chloride Monomer (13 Sep)²

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has amended the Ethylene Dichloride (Quality Control) Order, 2021 and Vinyl Chloride Monomer (Quality Control) Order, 2021, to provide that the orders shall now come into force on 12th March 2025.

Draft Quality Control Order for certain metal products (12 and 16 Sep)

India has notified the WTO of its draft Quality Control Orders concerning Primary Lead, Refined Zinc, Refined Nickel and Tin Ingot. The draft orders have been issued by the Ministry of Mines for seeking comments from WTO members within 60 days, from the date of publication of the notification, which is 11th and 15th November 2024. The effective date of implementation of the order is 180 days from the date of publication. The objective of this measure is prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection.

Amendment to Quality Control Order for Polycarbonate Amendment (17 Sep)³

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has amended the Polycarbonate (Quality Control) Order, 2021, to provide that the order shall now come into force on 12th March 2025.

Amendment to Quality Control Order for Styrene-Butadiene Rubber Latex (18 Sep)⁴

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has amended the Styrene-Butadiene Rubber Latex (Quality Control) Order 2021. The amendment specifically adds an exemption for carboxylate SBR Latex grade for manufacture of Automotive Lithium-Ion batteries.

Quality Control Order issued for Hand Tools (24 Sept)⁵

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued Hand Tools (Quality Control) Order, 2024. The order shall come into force 6 months after the date on which it is notified in the official gazette. However, for small enterprises as defined under the MSME Act, 2006, it shall come into force 9 months from publication in the official gazette, while for micro enterprises, it shall come into force 12 months from such publication.

Amendment to Quality Control Orders for Polyurethanes and p-Xylene (25 Sep)⁶

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizer has amended the Polyurethanes (Quality Control) Order, 2021 and p-Xylene (Quality Control) Order, 2021, to provide that the orders shall now come into force on 19th March 2025.

Draft Quality Control Order for Viscose Rayon Cut Staple Spun Yarn (26 Sep)

India has notified the WTO of its draft Quality Control Order concerning Viscose Rayon Cut Staple Yarn falling under IS 3566:2023. The draft order has been issued by the Ministry of Textiles for seeking comments from WTO members within 60 days, from the date of publication of the notification which is 25th November 2024. The objective of this measure is prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection.

Bureau of Indian Standards

Substitution of Standards (06 Sept)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified substitution of certain Standards, including the following, with effect from 21st August 2024. However, the previous unamended Standards will remain in force concurrently till 21st February 2025. For a full list of products, please refer to the attached [link](#).

Standard established	Standard withdrawn
IS 2508 : 2024 Polyethylene Films and Sheets — Specification (Fourth Revision)	IS 2508 : 2016 Polyethylene Films and Sheets — Specification (Third Revision)
IS 4117 : 2024 Alcohol Denaturants — Specification (Third Revision)	IS 4117 : 2008 Alcohol Denaturants — Specification (Second Revision)
IS 14611 : 2024 Multilayered Cross Laminated Sheets / Tarpaulins / Covers / Agricultural Films — Specification (Second Revision)	IS 14611: 2016 Multilayered Cross Laminated Sheets / Tarpaulins / Covers / Agricultural Films — Specification (First Revision)
IS 15125 : 2024 ISO 10715 : 2022 Natural Gas — Gas Sampling (First Revision)	IS 15125 : 2002 ISO 10715 : 1997 Natural Gas — Sampling Guidelines

Amendment of Standards (09 Sept)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified amendment of the following Standards with effect from 31st August 2024. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 28th February 2025.

- **IS 398 (Part 6) : 2021** Aluminum Conductors for Overhead Transmission Purposes Part 6 High Conductivity Aluminum Alloy Stranded Conductors — Specification
- **IS 11340: 2020** Ratchet Lever Hoist — Specification (First Revision)

Substitution of Standards (10 Sept)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified substitution of certain Standards, including the following, with effect from 03rd September 2024. However, the previous unamended Standards will remain in force concurrently till 03rd March 2025. For a full list of products, please refer to the attached [link](#)

Standard established	Standard withdrawn
IS 4173 : 2024 4-Methylaminophenol Sulphate — Specification (Second Revision)	IS 4173: 1975 Specification for 4-Methyl aminophenol Sulphate (First Revision)
IS 13381 : 2024 Potassium Carbonate, Anhydrous and Sesquihydrate, Photographic Grade — Specification (First Revision)	IS 13381 : 1992 Potassium Carbonate, Anhydrous and Sesquihydrate, Photographic Grade — Specification

Substitution of Standards (10 Sept)

The Bureau of Indian Standards has notified amendment of certain Standards, including the following, with effect from 03rd September 2024. However, the previous unamended Standard will remain in force concurrently till 03rd March 2025. For a full list of products, please refer to the attached [link](#).

Standard established	Standard withdrawn
IS 70 : 2024 Cuprous Oxide for Paints — Specification (Second Revision)	IS 70 - 1980 Specification for Cuprous Oxide for Paints (First Revision)
IS 15489 : 2024 Paint, Plastic Emulsion — Specification (Second Revision)	IS 15489 : 2013 Paint, Plastic Emulsion — Specification (First Revision)
S 16984 : 2024 Coated Folding Box Board for General Consumer Product Packaging — Specification (First Revision)	IS 16984 : 2018 Folding Box Board for General Consumer Product Packaging — Specification

Trade Remedial Actions

Indian Updates

Chapter 29 – Organic Chemicals

Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Aniline from China. (24 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated a sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Aniline from China, pursuant to an application filed by Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited. The original duties were levied on imports of the product from the subject country on 29th July 2020. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evidence regarding likelihood of recurrence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry, as the producers in the subject country have expanded capacities and have been exporting to third countries at dumped and injurious prices.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Antioxidants from China and Singapore. (26 Sep)⁷

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Antioxidants from China and Singapore, pursuant to an application filed by Vinati Organics Limited. The DGTR has noted that there is sufficient prima facie evidence that the domestic industry has suffered material injury as the dumped imports have taken away the market share of the domestic industry, were priced below the cost of production of the domestic industry and the domestic industry has suffered financial losses. The applicant has also stated, that if it is not considered as an established industry, it may be considered that dumped imports have materially retarded the establishment of industry.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane or R-134a from China. (27 Sep)⁸

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane or R-134a from China, pursuant to an application filed by SRF Limited. SRF Limited is the sole producer of the subject goods in India. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evidence regarding material injury to the domestic industry due to increase in volume of the subject imports, which are undercutting the prices of the domestic industry.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Mono Ethylene Glycol from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Singapore. (27 Sep)

The DGTR initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Mono Ethylene Glycol from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Singapore, pursuant to an application filed by the Chemicals and Petrochemicals Association on behalf of Reliance Industries Limited. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evidence of dumping and injury as well as threat of further material injury to the domestic industry.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Resorcinol from China and Japan. (30 Sep)²

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Resorcinol from China and Japan, pursuant to an application filed by Atul Limited. Atul Limited is the sole producer of the subject goods in India. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evidence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry. The subject imports are priced below the selling price of the domestic industry and have suppressed and depressed the prices of the domestic industry. This has negatively impacted the profitability of the domestic industry.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Para Nitrotoluene (PNT) from EU. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Para Nitrotoluene (PNT) from EU, pursuant to an application filed by Deepak Nitrite Limited. There are two producers of subject goods in India, which includes the applicant and Aarti Industries Limited. The investigation has been initiated based on prima facie evidence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry. The landed price of the imports is below the cost of sales of the domestic industry, due to which the domestic industry has been forced to sell at losses.

Chapter 38 – Miscellaneous Chemical Products

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch from Vietnam. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Calcium Carbonate Filler Masterbatch from Vietnam, pursuant to an application filed by

Compounds and Masterbatch Manufacturers Association of India and Masterbatch Manufacturers Association, representing producers accounting for 90% of Indian production. The producers of the subject goods belong to the MSME unorganized sector. The DGTR found prima facie evidence of dumping of the subject goods from the subject country, which has caused material injury to the domestic industry in the form of price undercutting, and price suppression and depression. The performance of the domestic industry has been adversely impacted in terms of production, sales, capacity utilisation, market share, profits, cash profits, and return on capital employed

*Continuation of anti-subsidy duty imposed on imports of Atrazine Technical from China. (11 Sep)*¹⁰

The Central Government on 11th September 2024 continued the anti-subsidy duty in force on imports of Atrazine Technical from China. The continuation of the anti-subsidy duty was recommended by the DGTR, vide Final Findings No. 7/26/2023-DGTR dated 14th June 2024. The original duties on imports of the subject goods from the subject country were levied on 17th September 2019. The anti-subsidy duty is in the range of 9 – 12% of CIF value.

Chapter 39 – Miscellaneous Chemical Products

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Polytetrafluoroethylene from China and Russia. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Polytetrafluoroethylene from China and Russia, pursuant to an application filed by Gujarat Fluorochemicals Limited. The product under consideration is primarily used in electronic, mechanical and chemical industries. The DGTR has noted that there is sufficient prima facie evidence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry as both volume and profitability parameters of the domestic industry have declined.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Copolymer Polyol of Hydroxyl Value ≥ 23.5 from China. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Copolymer Polyol Hydroxyl Value ≥ 23.5 from China, pursuant to an application filed by Expanded Polymer Systems Private Limited. The product is used for manufacturing flexible foam which is used in mattresses. There is

prima facie evidence of material injury to the domestic industry due to the dumped imports. The volume of the subject imports has increased significantly at prices undercutting the prices of the domestic industry. Due to this the domestic industry has suffered financial losses in the period of investigation.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Siloxane Polyoxyalkylene Copolymers from China. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Siloxane Polyoxyalkylene Copolymers having viscosity of upto 2500 cst from China, pursuant to an application filed by Momentive Performance Material (India) Private Limited. The product is used for slab, molded and rigid foam applications and has end use in bedding and furniture, insulation material, automotive and specialty foams. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evident of dumping and injury to the domestic industry as the landed price of subject imports have prevented the domestic industry to increase its selling price in line with change in its cost of sales. Due to this, the profitability parameters of the domestic industry have been adversely impacted.

Chapter 40 – Rubber and Articles thereof

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) from China, EU, South Korea and Russia. (26 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR) from China, EU, South Korea and Russia, pursuant to an application filed by the sole producer in India, Apcotex Industries Limited. The scope of product under consideration excludes Carboxylated, Hydrogenated and Oil-extended NBR bales. The applicant in the country has not claimed volume injury due to dumping of subject imports into India. However, the profitability parameters of the domestic industry have declined significantly, due to strain on prices as a result of imports.

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Isobutylene-Isoprene Rubber from China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and USA. (27 Sep)¹¹

The Central Government on 27th September 2024 imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of Isobutylene-Isoprene Rubber from China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and USA. The imposition was recommended by the DGTR vide the Final Findings Notification No. 06/05/2023-DGTR dated 29th June 2024. The

anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of subject goods from the subject country is in the range of 325 – 1152 USD per MT.

Chapter 72 – Base Metals and Articles of Base Metal

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel from China. (27 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel from China, pursuant to an application filed by POSCO Maharashtra Steel Private Limited and CSCI Steel Corporation India Private Limited. The investigation has been initiated based on prima facie evidence that the domestic industry has suffered material injury and is faced with threat of material injury due to dumped imports.

Chapter 73 – Articles of Iron and Steel

Continuation of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Welded Stainless-Steel Pipes and Tubes from China and Vietnam. (10 Sep)¹²

The Central Government on 10th September 2024 continued the anti-subsidy duty imposed on imports of Welded Stainless-Steel Pipes and Tubes from China and Vietnam. The imposition was recommended by the DGTR, vide the Final Findings Notification No. 7/23/2023-DGTR dated 15th June 2024. The original anti-subsidy duty was imposed by the Central Government on 17th September 2019. The anti-subsidy duty on imports of the subject goods from the subject countries ranges between 0-30% of the CIF value.

Chapter 76 – Aluminium and articles thereof

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Anodized Aluminium Frames for Solar Panels / Modules from China. (27 Sep)

The Central Government on 27th September 2024 imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of Anodized Aluminium Frames for Solar Panels / Modules from China. The imposition was recommended by the DGTR vide the Final Findings Notification No. 6/7/2023-DGTR dated 29th June 2024. The anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of subject goods from the subject country is in the range of 403 – 577 USD per MT.

Chapter 84 – Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances, and parts thereof

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Black Toner Powder Cartridge from China. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Black Toner Powder Cartridge from China, pursuant to an application filed by Indrayani Sales Private Limited. The scope of product under consideration excludes colour laser toner cartridge, MICR toner cartridge, inkjet liquid toner cartridge and black toner cartridge imported for use in OEMs of printing equipment. The DGTR has noted that there is sufficient prima facie evidence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry.

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Cranes from China. (30 Sep)

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Cranes from China, pursuant to an application filed by Action Construction Equipment Limited. The product under consideration includes crawler cranes and truck cranes. The applicant is the sole producer of the subject goods in India. The domestic industry has suffered material injury due to increase in dumped imports of product under consideration. The domestic industry is suffering due to low-capacity utilization and decline in sales. The id has incurred losses in the period of investigation.

Chapter 85 - Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels from China. (30 Sep)¹³

The DGTR has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports of Solar Cells whether or not assembled in Modules or made up into Panels from China, pursuant to an application filed by FS India Solar Ventures Private Limited, Jupiter International Limited, RenewSys India Private Limited, Tata Power Solar Systems Limited and TP Solar Limited. The DGTR has noted that there is prima facie evidence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry. The imports are undercutting the prices of the domestic industry and

are priced below the cost of sales of the domestic industry. The domestic industry is faced with underutilized capacities and accumulated inventories, even though the demand in India has increased. The domestic industry has incurred losses, cash losses and almost no return on capital employed. The imports have also retarded the establishment of FS India Solar Ventures Private Limited in the country as it has not been able to achieve its projected performance.

Global Updates

Chapter 15 – Animal or vegetable fats and oil and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes

China

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Rapeseed from Canada. (09 Sep)

Chapter 17 – Sugars and sugar confectionery

Vietnam

- Initiation of anti-circumvention investigation concerning anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Cane Sugar from Thailand when exported from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and Myanmar. (11 Sep)

Chapter 28 – Inorganic chemicals

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Preliminary determination issued by the USDOC in the mid-term review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Barium Chloride from India and anti-dumping duty on imports from China. (18 Sep)

The USDOC has preliminarily determined that anti-subsidy duty on imports from India and anti-dumping duty on imports from China should be revoked, since the sole producer in USA was ceasing operations. The application requesting the review was filed by Honeywell International Inc. The Indian producers are currently subject to anti-subsidy duty of 23.57%.

Chapter 29 – Organic Chemicals

Trade remedial actions against India

EU

Affirmative determination issued in the expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Oxalic Acid from China and India. (06 Sep)

The European Commission has determined that revocation of duty on imports from India is likely to result in continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury. The application requesting initiation of review was filed by Oxaquim SA on 30th March 2023. The Commission determined a dumping margin of 22.8% for Punjab Chemicals and Crop Protection Limited, 31.5% for Star Oxochem Private Limited and 43.6% for all other Indian producers.

USA

Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Glycine from India, Japan and Thailand, and anti-subsidy duty on imports from China and India. (12 and 13 Sep)

The USDOC determined that the revocation of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports from India, among other countries would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of dumping and subsidization. The USDOC determined that dumping to the extent of 13.61% and subsidization to the extent of 10.36% is likely to prevail with respect to exports from India.

Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid from India and China. (13 Sep)

The USDOC preliminarily determined that the Indian producers received countervailable subsidies. The USDOC determined subsidy rates in the range of 3.28% to 5.29% for the Indian producers. For the Chinese producers, a subsidy rate in the range of 3.10% to 27.68% was determined.

Other trade remedial actions

China

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Phenol from the EU, Japan, South Korea and Thailand. (05 Sep)

EU

- Final affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Alkyl Phosphate Esters from China. (01 Sep)

Chapter 32 – Tanning or dyeing extracts; dyes, pigments, paints

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Preliminary negative determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Carbazole Violet Pigment 23 from India. (13 Sep)

The USDOC preliminarily determined that the Indian producers were not dumping the goods in USA during the period of review, that is 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023. For Meghmani Pigments / Meghmani LLP, Gharda Chemicals Limited and Navpad Pigments Private Limited, the USDOC has determined a dumping margin of 0%.

Chapter 37 – Photographic or cinematographic goods

USA

- Final affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Aluminium Lithographic Printing Plates from China and Japan, and anti-subsidy investigation into imports from China. (27 Sep)

Chapter 39 – Plastics and articles thereof

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Final affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-subsidy duty on imports of Granular Polytetrafluoroethylene Resin from India. (09 Sep)

The USDOC preliminarily determined that the mandatory responding exporter from India received countervailable subsidies during the period of review, that is 6th July 2021 to 31st December 2022. A subsidy rate of 4.89% was determined for 2021 and a rate of 4.70% was determined for 2022.

Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of certain Epoxy Resins from China, India and Taiwan, and preliminary negative determination issued with respect to imports from South Korea. (13 Sep)

The USDOC preliminarily determined that the Indian producers received countervailable subsidies. The USDOC determined a subsidy rate of 1.55% for Atul Limited and other Indian producers, while a rate of 113.83% was determined for Champion Advanced Materials. Further, the USDOC also determined that while producers from China and Taiwan also received countervailable subsidies, the Korean producers did not receive such subsidies.

Other trade remedial actions

Indonesia

- Initiation of safeguard investigation into imports of Low Linear Density Polyethylene in other than liquid/paste form. (11 Sep)
- Initiation of safeguard investigation into imports of Tarpaulins. (23 Sep)

USA

- Affirmative determination issued by the USITC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Plastic Decorative Ribbons from China. (06 Sep)

Chapter 40 – Rubber and articles thereof

Trade remedial actions against India

China

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Halogenated Butyl Rubber from Canada, Japan and India. (14 Sep)

The Ministry of Commerce has initiated an anti-dumping investigation into imports from India, among other countries. The petition requesting initiation of anti-dumping investigation was filed by Zhejiang Xinhui New Materials Co., Ltd. on behalf of China's domestic industry, on 17th July. The period of investigation has been determined as January-December 2023.

Other trade remedial actions

South Africa

- Initiation of anti-circumvention investigation concerning anti-dumping duty into imports of New Pneumatic Tyres from China when exported from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam. (20 Sep)

Chapter 44 – Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal

Vietnam

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Wooden Fibreboard Products from China and Thailand. (25 Sep)

Chapter 48 – Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard

USA

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-dumping investigation on imports of certain Paper Plates from China, Thailand and Vietnam. (05 Sep)

Chapter 54 – Man-made filaments, strip and the like of man-made textile materials

Indonesia

- Termination of safeguard investigation into imports of Artificial Filament Yarn. (02 Sep)

Chapter 55 – Man-made staple fibres

Türkiye

- Continuation of safeguard measures on imports of Polyester Staple Fibers. (24 Sep)

Chapter 63 – Other made up textile articles; sets; worn clothing and worn textile articles; rags

USA

- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Laminated Woven Sacks from Vietnam. (11 Sep)

Chapter 69 – Ceramic products

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Ceramic Tiles from India. (27 Sep)

The USDOC preliminarily determined that the Indian producers received countervailable subsidies during the period of investigation, that is 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The USDOC determined an anti-subsidy rate of 3.15% for Antiqua Minerals, 3.05% on Win-Tel Ceramics Private Limited and 3.08% for all other Indian producers.

Chapter 70 – Glass and glassware

Australia

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Clear Laminate Glass from China and Thailand. (16 Sep)

Columbia

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Float Glass or Colourless Glass in Sheets or Plates from China. (06 Sep)
- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Unframed Mirrors from China. (16 Sep)

Chapter 72 – Iron and Steel

Trade remedial actions against India

Brazil

Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Pre-Painted Steel from China and India. (19 Sep)

The DECOM has initiated an investigation into the allegations of dumping of subject goods from India. The application requesting for initiation of the investigation was filed by National Steel Company. All interested parties are requested to participate and file responses by 28th October 2024.

USA

Final determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Stainless-Steel Bars from India. (10 Sep)

The USDOC determined that Indian producers were dumping the subject goods in USA during the period of review, that is 1st February 2022 to 31st January 2023. A dumping margin of 0.40% was determined for Aamor Inox Limited, while a dumping margin of 0.70% was determined for others.

Other trade remedial actions

Australia

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of certain Hot-rolled Deformed Steel Reinforcing Bar in Lengths from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Türkiye and Vietnam. (24 Sep)

Brazil

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Carbon Steel Sheets from China. (20 Sep)

Canada

- Preliminary affirmative determination by the CBSA in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Concrete Reinforcing Bars from Bulgaria, Thailand and the UAE. (13 Sep)

Eurasian Economic Union

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Galvanized Rolled Products from China and Ukraine. (02 Sep)

South Africa

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Flat-Rolled Products of Iron, Non-Alloy or Other Steel from China, Japan and Taiwan. (20 Sep)
- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of U-Sections, I-Sections and H-Sections of Iron and Steel from China and Thailand. (20 Sep)

South Korea

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Stainless-Steel Plates from China. (06 Sep)

Thailand

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Flat Cold-Rolled Stainless Steel from Vietnam. (26 Sep)

UK

- Initiation of anti-dumping investigation into imports of Tin Mill Products from China. (25 Sep)

USA

- Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-subsidy investigation into imports of Ferrosilicon from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Russia, and anti-dumping duty on imports from Russia. (10 and 18 Sep)

Chapter 73 – Articles of iron or steel

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Preliminary affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the administrative review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Finished Carbon Steel Flanges from India. (13 Sep)

The USDOC determined that the Indian producers were dumping the subject goods in USA during the period of review, that is 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023, and that the producers received countervailable subsidies during the

period, that is 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. Dumping margin in the range of 1.14% to 4% was determined for Indian producers, while subsidy margin in the range of 2.28% to 2.58%.

Other trade remedial actions

Canada

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Hollow Structural Sections from South Korea and Türkiye. (10 Sep)

Eurasian Economic Union

- Initiation of expiry review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Hot Deformed Seamless Pipes of Corrosion-resistant Steel from China. (25 Sep)

USA

- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Circular Welded Carbon Quality Steel Line Pipes from China. (03 Sep)
- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Welded Large Diameter Line Pipes from Japan. (03 Sep)
- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Diffusion-Annealed, Nickel-Plated Flat-Rolled Steel Products from Japan. (03 Sep)
- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Refillable Stainless-Steel Kegs from China and Mexico, and anti-subsidy duty on imports from China. (03 Sep)
- Initiation of sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Uncovered Innerspring Units from China, South Africa, and Vietnam. (03 Sep)
- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Circular Welded Carbon Quality Steel Pipes from China. (09 Sep)
- Final affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the anti-circumvention investigation concerning anti-dumping duty on imports of Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strands from Mexico by imports of certain High Carbon Steel Wires. (27 Sep)

Chapter 74 – Copper and articles thereof

USA

- Imposition of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Brass Rods from Israel. (27 Sep)

Chapter 76 – Aluminium and articles thereof

Canada

- Final affirmative determination issued by the CBSA in the anti-dumping investigation into imports of Wire Rods from China, Egypt and Vietnam. (04 Sep)

USA

- Continuation of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Common Alloy Aluminium Sheets from China. (06 Sep)

Vietnam

- Final determination issued in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports certain Aluminium Products from China. (23 Sep)

Chapter 85 – Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders

Türkiye

- Extension of anti-dumping duty on imports of Photovoltaic Cells combined into a Module or arranged in Panels (Solar Panels) from China when exported Croatia, Jordan, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. (27 Sep)

USA

- Continuation of anti-dumping duty on imports of Large Power Transformers from South Korea. (05 Sep)
- Affirmative determination issued by the USITC in the sunset review of anti-dumping and anti-subsidy duties on imports of Crystalline Silicon Photovoltaic Cells and Modules from China. (26 Sep)
- Affirmative determination issued by the USDOC in the sunset review of anti-dumping duty on imports of Raw Flexible Magnets from China and Taiwan. (27 Sep)

Chapter 94 - Furniture; bedding, mattresses, mattress supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings; lamps and lighting fittings, not elsewhere specified or included; illuminated sign illuminated nameplates and the like; prefabricated buildings

Trade remedial actions against India

USA

Imposition of anti-dumping duty on imports of Mattresses from India, Kosovo, Mexico and Spain. (10 Sep)

The USDOC has issued duty orders, imposing anti-dumping duty on imports from India, among other countries. Anti-dumping duty in the range of 13.35% to 42.76% was imposed on Indian exports. Duties imposed on exports from other countries include 344.70% from Kosovo, 61.97% from Mexico and 280.28% from Spain.

About Us

TPM was founded in 1999 at a time when the practice of trade remedies in India was in its infancy and there were only a handful of firms in the field. TPM was the first firm to deal exclusively in the domain of trade remedies. Today, we have completed a journey of 25 years.

TPM began its journey with a staff of merely 2 professionals. Today, it has a team of more than 50 professionals including Cost Accountants, Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries, Lawyers, Engineers and MBAs.

In its first two decades, TPM was primarily focused assisting domestic producers suffering due to cheap and unfair imports into India and in other countries to avail the necessary protection under the umbrella of the WTO Agreements. TPM also represents exporters and importers facing trade remedial investigations in India or other countries. TPM has assisted Indian exporters facing investigations in a number of jurisdictions such as China, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, European Union, GCC, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and USA.

In the last few years, TPM's reputation has grown in other fields of non-tariff barriers, policy advocacy matters, foreign trade policy, business consulting and litigation. Its vast experience with industry leaders in various sectors puts it in a unique position to effectively and efficiently handle matters relating to policy advocacy before various government forums as well as business consulting. This has brought new avenues of growth for the TPM team and has helped industry find innovative solutions to complex problems.

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