



All India Stainless Steel Industries Association

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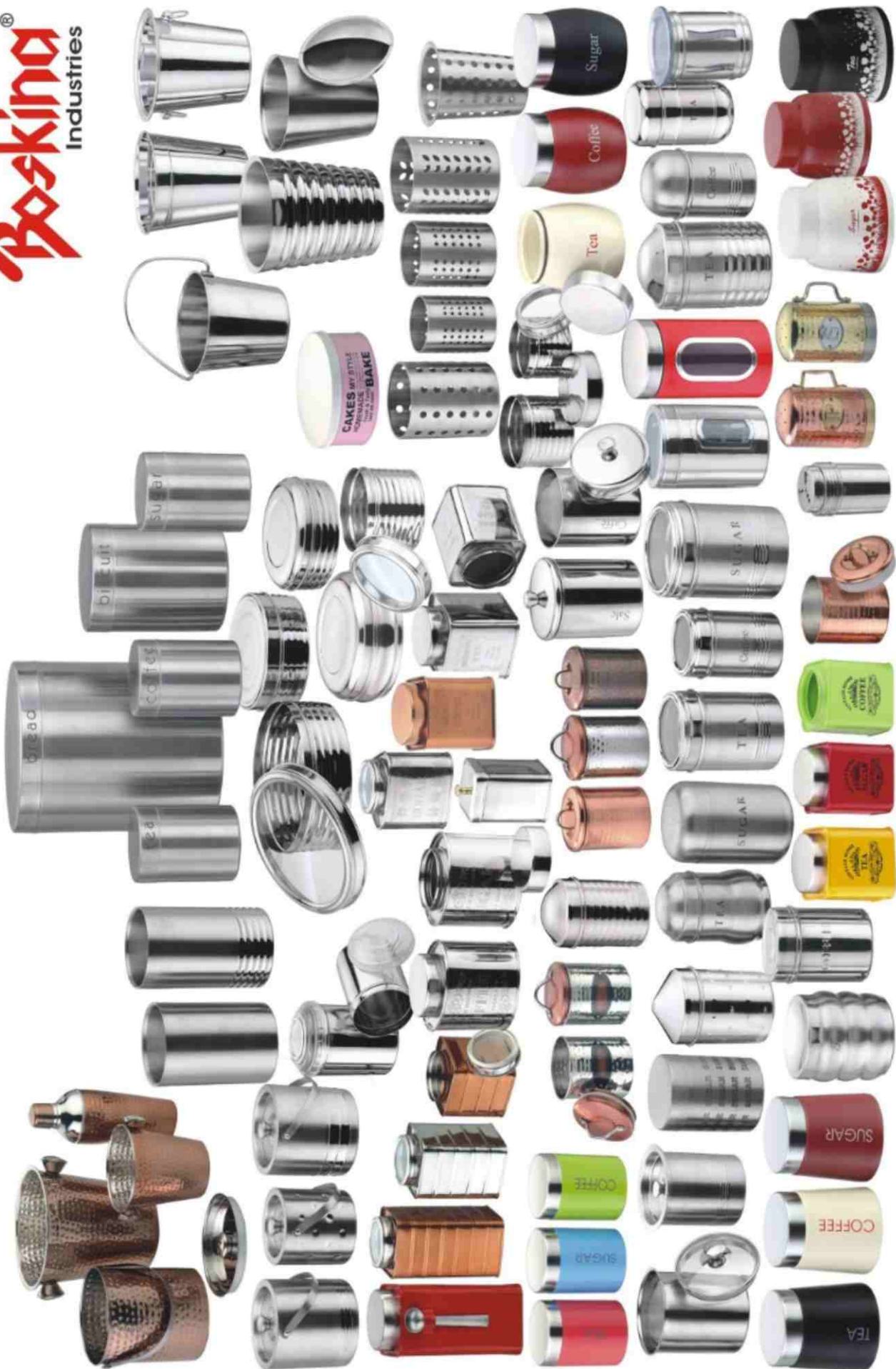


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Ministry of Steel

Exemptions in respect of clarificatory O.M. of Ministry of Steel regarding Quality Control Order on Steel Products

Posted On: 11 JUL 2025 5:18PM by PIB Delhi

The O.M. of the Ministry of Steel dated 13th June 2025 has been issued to clarify that the intermediate material for manufacturing of final products under BIS Standards, steel products will also have to follow BIS Standards prescribed for such intermediate products. No new Quality Control Orders have been issued.

Subsequently, representations from stakeholders were received seeking clarity about scope, implementation and compliance of the said order as well as for exemptions in certain cases. In light of this, a stakeholder consultation meeting with user industries and producers was convened on 07.07.2025 under the chairmanship of Honourable Minister of Steel, wherein following major observations were made:

- The clarificatory O.M. was in principle supported by the stakeholders,

- However, it was requested that for the consignments already dispatched, relaxation may be given

It is to be noted that vide press brief dated 02.07.2025, it has already been communicated that Integrated Steel Plants (ISPs), which make intermediate products and finished products themselves and the BIS licence has been issued to them taking into account the whole process, will not need to have different licences for all stages as the BIS certification process takes care of the whole manufacturing chain.

In view of the above, an official order dated 11.07.2025 has been issued as per which the following exemptions have been granted in respect of clarificatory O.M. dated 13.06.2025:

- The mandatory adherence requirement of input steel for imports of steel products with **Bill of lading having shipped on board date on or before 15.07.2025** shall be exempted.
- The mandatory adherence requirement of input steel for the final products supplied by **Integrated Steel Plants (ISPs)** shall be exempted after verification of such licences by BIS. In the meantime, such ISPs can send a communication to Ministry of Steel on email tech-steel[at]nic[dot]in , with the declaration that they are Integrated Steel Plant along with the list of operative BIS licences and relevant documents. Any misdeclaration may lead to debarment in SIMS. Ministry of Steel will make appropriate provisions in the SIMS portal for such ISPs.

TPJ

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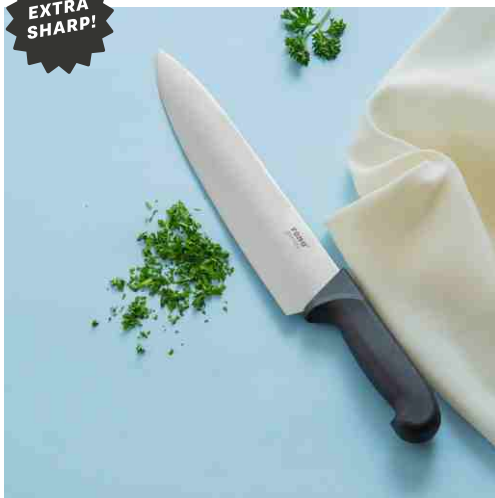
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Stainless Steel Utensil Makers Seek Relief As BIS Norms Threaten To Disrupt Industry

India's stainless steel utensil manufacturers have raised urgent concerns over the impending implementation of a Quality Control Order that mandates BIS certification, warning of widespread disruption, job losses, and halted production if relief is not provided. In a letter to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, the All India Stainless Steel Industries Association called for an immediate extension of QCO deadlines for micro and small units, citing non-availability of BIS-certified raw materials, unresolved technical queries, and long wait times for BIS licensing. "Thousands of manufacturers are in a state of confusion and disarray. Enforcing the QCO without preparedness will collapse supply chains," the letter said.

The QCO, notified in August 2023 and amended since, is already applicable to medium and large units. It is scheduled to cover small enterprises from July and micro units from October 2025. However, AISSIA said the ecosystem is simply not ready. "Only about 150 suppliers have obtained BIS licences, of the existing 8,000-10,000 total suppliers, making compliance impossible for downstream manufacturers," Sailesh Shah, President at the AISSIA, told NDTV Profit.

Source : NDTV Profit

India's stainless steel demand to grow 7-8% annually over 2-3 years: ISSDA

The demand for stainless steel in the country is expected to grow in the range of 7-8 per cent Y-O-Y over the next three years, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) said on Wednesday.

The overall consumption of stainless steel reached 4.8 million tonnes in FY25, registering a Year-On-Year (Y-O-Y) growth of about 8 per cent, ISSDA President Rajamani Krishnamurti said at the

Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2025 (GSSE 2025).

Around 10,000 industry leaders, policy makers and experts from India and abroad, as well as government representatives, are attending the event.

"India is likely to retain the highest GDP growth among economies of the world. The stainless steel demand is expected to grow by 7-8 per cent in the next 2-3 years," Krishnamurti told participants at the three-day conference.

The per capita steel consumption in India stands at around 3.4 kg as against the world average of over 6 kg, he added.

Low consumption as against the world average provides a great opportunity to the domestic industry as the government's focus remains on infrastructure development in the country, ISSDA President said.

"The areas where opportunities are at the upcoming railways, tunnel projects, ports, airports, roads, highways, and other similar projects. You can target these opportunities," Krishnamurti said to the stakeholders.

The government has significantly boosted its capex. The capex to GDP ratio surged to 3.3 per cent for FY24.

He said the construction market in India is expected to reach \$1.42 trillion by 2027, expanding at a CAGR of 17.26 per cent up to 2027. Green hydrogen is also a new area where stainless steel will find application, he added.

Speaking further on India's position, he said the country is the second largest consumer of stainless steel in the world, and its melt production is the third largest in the world after China and Indonesia.

On the properties of stainless steel, he said, it is safe for infrastructure projects because of its strength, zero maintenance and life cycle cost, and it is recyclable.

Source : <https://www.business-standard.com/>

Steel Import Norms May Hit MSMEs, Warns GTRI.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has

raised alarm over a recent directive from the Ministry of Steel, cautioning that the abrupt policy shift could severely impact micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that depend on imported semi-finished steel.

The order, issued on 13 June, mandates that raw materials and intermediate inputs used in steel manufacturing must also comply with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications. The directive, effective for all consignments with a bill of lading dated 16 June or later, significantly broadens the scope of India's Quality Control Orders (QCOs), extending compliance obligations to input materials such as billets, slabs, and hot-rolled coils.

This sudden expansion has caused widespread concern in the MSME sector, where companies fear operational disruptions and financial strain due to the lack of preparation time and new traceability requirements.

GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava criticised the policy's sudden implementation, pointing out that many MSMEs have already paid for shipments that could now be non-compliant under the revised rules. "This abrupt change could disrupt supply chains and impose heavy compliance costs on MSMEs reliant on imported semi-finished steel," GTRI stated.

The updated framework now requires that input materials used in foreign steel plants producing BIS-certified steel must themselves meet Indian standards—a condition that GTRI estimates could take six to nine months to meet. The lack of stakeholder consultation and the mere three-day notice before enforcement have drawn particular criticism.

The traceability clause poses a significant challenge for MSMEs, many of which lack long-term contracts or the market influence needed to ensure upstream suppliers obtain BIS certification.

Industry stakeholders are urging the government to introduce a phased rollout or grace period, allowing smaller firms sufficient time to adjust to the new regulatory requirements.

While the Ministry of Steel frames the directive as part of its broader quality control and import substitution strategy, GTRI has warned that the

lack of transitional safeguards could result in large-scale disruptions, especially in labour-intensive segments of the steel-consuming MSME sector.

Source : <https://www.constructionworld.in/>

Indian suppliers to get non-discriminatory treatment in UK procurement mkts under FTA

Indian suppliers will receive non-discriminatory treatment in the UK procurement markets under the free trade agreement signed between the two countries on Thursday, a commerce ministry official said.

The official also said that India has preserved its policy space to provide preference to MSMEs under the Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises Order.

The government procurement (GP) chapter of the India-UK CETA (comprehensive economic and trade agreement) marks India's first successful negotiations of a comprehensive chapter with significant market access commitments.

The chapter provides a legal guarantee for Indian suppliers to be treated on par with UK suppliers regarding social value considerations within procurement processes, ensuring a level playing field for Indian businesses to compete fairly.

The official also said that India's market access commitments are limited to the Central Government Ministries/Departments, including their attached subordinate entities.

Additionally, central public sector units in competition with private entities are also outside the scope of India's market access commitments made to the UK.

It specifically excludes sub-central (state/local government) level procuring entities.

"Indian suppliers will have guaranteed access to the UK procurements being conducted at the central level of government and some at the utilities level," the ministry official said.

In 2022, these opportunities were worth about

GBP 90 billion (or USD 120 billion) and included major central government entities procuring IT services, construction services, financial and insurance services.

Indian suppliers will be able to participate in procurements by major government departments such as the Cabinet Office, Department for Business and Trade, National Highways, NHS Foundation Trusts (Department of Health and Social Care), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Department for Education, among others.

Source : <https://money.rediff.com/>

Will India's move to green steel be quick enough to escape impending carbon taxes?

A new EY report warns of supply-demand gaps for green steel in India, as current emissions more than double that of the European Union's benchmark for CO₂ emissions in steel production

India's current emissions while producing steel stand at 2.5 tons of CO₂ per ton, more than two times the European Union's benchmark of 1.28 tons of CO₂ per ton. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), therefore, could significantly impact Indian steel exporters, according to an EY study, including facing related taxes or duties of ₹19,277 crore by 2030.

The latest report by the EY Parthenon, India's demand for green steel (i.e., steel produced with lower pollution and emissions) is set to hit 179 million tons by FY 2050. The report also warned that traditional BF-BOF steel prices were projected to increase by 81 per cent by 2050 due to escalating carbon taxes.

The emission intensity benchmark of green steel is below 0.5 tons CO₂ per ton of crude steel. However, the carbon taxes are expected to flip the demand in favour of the sustainable option, with EY Parthenon estimating green steel demand to rise significantly to 4.49 million tons by FY 2030.

"The construction sector is expected to lead adoption with 2.52 million tons, followed by infrastructure at 1.5 million tons and automobiles

at 0.48 million tons. By FY 2040, total demand is projected to nearly triple to 73.44 million tons," they said.

Currently, the country's steel consumption is at 136 million metric tons. Out of this, the construction and infrastructure sectors collectively account for 78 per cent of finished steel demand.

"This figure is expected to rise to 390 million tons by FY 2050, driven by rapid urbanisation and infrastructure development," according to EY Parthenon.

In line with this, the report also suggested the following for the industry.

- Transition to low-emission technologies to reduce emission intensity from 2.5 to 1.21 tons of CO₂ per ton by 2030
- Scale up green steel production using hydrogen-based DRI and other innovative routes.
- Invest in R&D to reduce green steel production costs by 30% by 2040

For end-use sectors, the transition could begin with green steel procurement 10 years ahead of net-zero targets. The report also hinted that they are incurring minor production cost increases (estimated at 3.7-5.2 per cent) in the short term for long-term sustainability benefits. Another way to ensure it would be to collaborate with suppliers to ensure a steady supply of green steel.

However, without urgent scaling of green steel infrastructure and investments, the EY report warned of significant supply-demand gaps for green steel in India.

Source : <https://www.theweek.in/>

After magnets, China halts speciality fertiliser shipments to India

China has suspended the export of speciality fertilisers to India over the past two months, The Economic Times reported today, citing senior executives from major importing firms. These

fertilisers, crucial for enhancing yields of high-value crops such as fruits and vegetables, continue to be shipped to other countries.

Inspections withheld despite no official ban

Shipments bound for India are being withheld through procedural delays. Chinese authorities have reportedly ceased inspections of consignments meant for Indian buyers, effectively stalling exports without announcing an official ban, The Economic Times reported, citing sources.

Normally, India imports between 150,000 and 160,000 tonnes of speciality fertilisers during the June–December period. India relies on China for approximately 80 per cent of its speciality fertiliser requirements. Rajib Chakraborty, President of the Soluble Fertilizer Industry Association (SFIA), stated that China had been restricting suppliers of speciality fertilisers to India for the past four to five years, but this time, the restrictions amounted to a complete halt.

China's recent actions are not confined to fertilisers. Since April, it has also restricted exports of rare earth materials, impacting global supply chains for critical industries such as automotive and electronics. Manufacturers in the United States, Europe, and India are now experiencing shortages of essential components like industrial magnets.

Domestic growth stifled by regulation despite rising demand

India's micronutrient fertiliser market is projected to exceed \$1 billion by 2029, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.2 per cent, according to the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI). Despite this growing demand, domestic manufacturers face major hurdles under the Fertiliser Control Order (FCO).

Industry groups blame policy for import dependence

Industry groups argue that existing policies favour Chinese imports and hinder Indian manufacturers. The Chamber for Agri Input Protection (CAIP),

based in Ahmedabad, added that no other sector, including pharmaceuticals, is subject to such stringent oversight. Startups and local firms are required to obtain multiple licences and maintain offices and warehouses in each state where products are sold. In contrast, foreign suppliers enjoy comparatively light regulatory obligations, needing only to meet basic import norms to distribute nationwide, industry bodies said.

India's fertiliser imports still heavily reliant on China

Government data show that India imported 7 million tonnes of urea in 2023–24, worth \$2.6 billion. Of this, 1.86 million tonnes—valued at \$730 million—originated from China. Additionally, India imported 10.65 million tonnes of phosphate and potash (P&K) fertilisers, with 2.2 million tonnes supplied by China.

Source : <https://www.business-standard.com/>

CBIC Mandates Compliance with Indian Standards for Steel Imports under QCO from June 16, 2025

The CBIC vide Instruction No. 16/2025-Customs dated June 18, 2025, mandates adherence to Indian Standards for steel and steel product imports under the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024. Effective for Bill of Lading dated June 16, 2025, mandatory SIMS registration and compliance with 151 specified standards are required.

Reference is invited to the Order dated 13.06.2025 issued by the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Steel vide F.no. S-20011/15/2024-TECH on the above subject (copy attached).

Vide the above order dated 13.06.2025, it has been stated that presently 151 Indian Standards, covering steel and steel products of chapter 72 and 73 of ITC(HS) codes, are incorporated in the Steel and Steel Products (Quality Control) Order, 2024 (QCO) notified vide S.O 3716(E) dated 29.08.2024. In connection to compliance with QCO, adherence of Indian Standard of respective

input material, which are also part of the QCO, shall be ensured. In respect of steel and steel products defined under aforesaid Indian Standards, respective Indian Standard(s) of input material is mapped (copy attached). This will be effective for the imports having Bill of Lading dated on or after 16th June 2025.

It is requested that necessary action may be taken to sensitize officers under your jurisdiction regarding the said matter.

Source : <https://a2ztaxcorp.net/>

India Wants A US Trade Deal, But Not At Any Cost

As the United States steps up efforts to secure a trade agreement with India ahead of its self-imposed August 1 deadline, New Delhi is proceeding with caution, determined not to compromise national interests despite growing pressure.

Experts have warned that India must resist any unbalanced or excessive demands from Washington, especially in light of complications surrounding America's recent trade deals with other nations.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal over the weekend confirmed that discussions with both the U.S. and Oman have progressed significantly. A high-level American delegation is expected next month to continue negotiations.

"India's approach is guided by prudence and principle," said Ajay Srivastava of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). "While a deal with the U.S.—India's largest trading partner—would carry major economic and strategic weight, it's critical that New Delhi does not yield to one-sided terms."

Learning From Others

India's measured stance stems in part from the fallout of recent U.S. trade arrangements. The U.S.-Japan agreement, for instance, has drawn criticism for its ambiguity and perceived imbalance. American officials claimed Japan had

pledged \$550 billion in investments, with 90% of returns flowing to U.S. taxpayers. However, Tokyo later clarified there was no binding agreement, and profit-sharing would be proportional to financial contributions—a clear disconnect in expectations.

Similarly, trade agreements with Indonesia and Vietnam, announced unilaterally by President Donald Trump, remain under negotiation or lack full ratification. In Vietnam's case, uncertainty over high tariff impositions threatens to reduce exports to the U.S. by up to 33%, according to Bloomberg, with potential losses of \$37 billion in revenue across key sectors such as electronics, garments, and machinery.

No Concessions Under Pressure

Despite the Trump administration's August 1 cut-off for new deals before tariffs escalate, India has notably not been issued a tariff warning, unlike several other nations.

According to GTRI, a potential U.S.-India deal could mirror the template used with Japan, the EU, and others—introducing 10% to 20% tariffs on Indian exports in exchange for Indian tariff reductions, investment commitments, and greater regulatory access for American firms.

However, experts are urging India to scrutinize each clause, especially provisions related to market access for U.S. agricultural and tech products, and investment protections that could challenge India's policy autonomy.

U.S.–EU Template

The most recent U.S.–EU trade pact finalized in Scotland on July 27 serves as a cautionary example. While it avoided an outright trade war, it came at the cost of sweeping concessions from Brussels.

The U.S. agreed to reduce a proposed 30% blanket tariff to 15% on most EU goods, while retaining high duties on steel and aluminium. In return, the EU committed to eliminating tariffs on many American exports and pledged massive investments and purchases—including \$750 billion in U.S. energy and \$600 billion in infrastructure.

Critics in Europe have questioned whether the deal undermines EU industries, especially given the deep cuts in regulatory protections and standards for U.S. products.

“The risk for India is entering into a similarly imbalanced framework that demands disproportionate sacrifices in return for uncertain benefits,” warned a Delhi-based trade analyst.

While both India and the U.S. see value in deepening economic ties, the current environment calls for restraint and strategic clarity. A deal remains possible, but Indian negotiators are expected to maintain a firm stance in safeguarding long-term interests.

“The next few weeks will be critical,” said Srivastava. “India must secure a deal that is equitable, enforceable, and respectful of its economic realities.”

Source: <https://stratnewsglobal.com/>

Why do small businesses usually think they do not need any coaching?

Small businesses often hesitate to seek coaching for a variety of reasons, many of which stem from common misconceptions and practical barriers. Here's a breakdown of why they might think they don't need it:

1. Misconceptions about Coaching:

- **"It's only for failing businesses."** Many small business owners believe coaching is a last resort for companies in trouble. They don't see it as a tool for growth, optimization, or staying competitive when things are already going well. In reality, coaching can help strong businesses become even stronger.
- **"It's too expensive."** Cost is a significant concern for small businesses with limited budgets. They perceive coaching as a luxury rather than an investment with a potential return. While there is a cost, effective coaching can lead to increased revenue, efficiency, and profitability that far outweigh the initial outlay.

- **"I can figure things out myself / I already know what I'm doing."** Entrepreneurs are often highly self-reliant and feel they have the expertise to run their business. They might have a "do-it-yourself" mentality and be resistant to external advice, believing it implies a lack of competence.
- **"A coach will just tell me what to do / take over my business."** Small business owners value their autonomy. They might fear a coach will impose solutions or try to run their business for them, rather than empowering them to find their own solutions. A good coach, however, guides and facilitates, rather than dictating.
- **"It's just motivational fluff / like therapy."** Some may view coaching as merely cheerleading or focusing on personal issues rather than tangible business strategies. They might not understand the structured approach a coach takes to identify challenges, set goals, and implement action plans.
- **"My business is unique; a coach won't understand it."** They might believe their specific industry or business model is too niche for a general business coach to understand, or that an external perspective won't be relevant.

2. Practical Barriers:

- **Lack of time:** Small business owners are notoriously busy, often wearing many hats. They struggle to find the time for regular coaching sessions, viewing it as another demand on their already packed schedule.
- **Cash flow constraints:** Even if they see the value, tight cash flow can make it difficult to justify the expense of a coach, especially when there are immediate operational costs to cover.
- **Difficulty in finding the right coach:** The coaching industry can seem unregulated, and finding a qualified coach with relevant experience who is a good fit can be daunting. There's a fear of investing in a coach who doesn't deliver results.
- **Lack of understanding of the benefits:** They might not fully grasp the specific ways coaching can help them, such as improving decision-making, time management,

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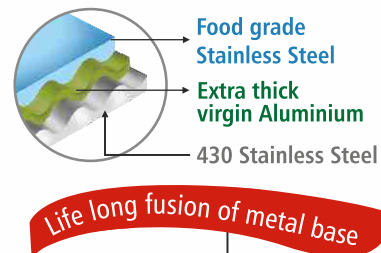
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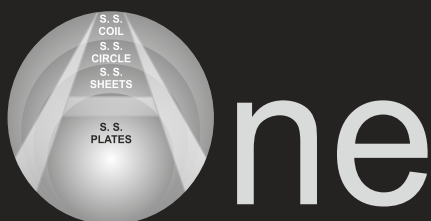
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About All India Stainless Steel Industries Association (AISSIA)

- **AISSIA Legacy:** Established in 1956, AISSIA has been a prominent representative of the steel and allied industries in India for decades.
- **Recognizing Excellence:** AISSIA encourages business growth by recognizing outstanding performances in exports and domestic markets with prestigious awards.
- **Honoring Industry Veterans:** Every year, the Udyog Ratna Award is conferred upon industry stalwarts for their remarkable contributions.
- **Diverse Membership:** The association comprises a wide range of members, including manufacturers, exporters, importers, traders, and retailers, spanning across India.
- **Knowledge Initiatives:** AISSIA organizes Gyannotsav sessions that feature seminars, industry visits, and training programs to enhance industry knowledge and skills.
- **Fostering Camaraderie:** An annual cricket tournament is held to strengthen bonds and promote camaraderie among members.
- **Recognition by Authorities:** AISSIA is registered with various government and semi-government organizations, underscoring its credibility and significance.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** AISSIA actively contributes to society through charity work, supporting earthquake and flood victims, and honoring military personnel for their service.
- **Future Vision:** Aiming to become the nodal association for stainless steel trade bodies across India, fostering collaboration and unified growth within the industry.

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accountability, leadership skills, or strategic planning.

- **Short-term focus:** Many small businesses are focused on immediate survival and short-term gains, making it hard to see the long-term benefits of investing in coaching for sustainable growth.
- **Resistance to change:** Even when problems are apparent, people can be resistant to changing established habits or ways of doing things, which coaching often requires.

In essence, while small business owners are passionate and dedicated, a combination of ingrained beliefs, financial pressures, and time constraints often prevents them from recognizing and investing in the valuable support a business coach can provide.

Source : AI

Hydrogen: The steel industry's next big step toward decarbonization

As one of the most carbon-intensive industries in the world, the iron and steel sector sits at the centre of the global decarbonisation agenda. Responsible for an estimated 7–9% of global greenhouse gas emissions, the sector must urgently reimagine its production methods to align with net-zero targets and the 1.5°C global warming cap set under the Paris Agreement.

Despite progress in adopting cleaner technologies, such as Electric Arc Furnaces (EAFs), which now account for 43% of planned new steelmaking capacity, up from 33% in 2022, conventional steelmaking methods continue to dominate. The blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) route still accounts for 72% of global steel production, emitting an average of 2.3 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of steel produced. In comparison, EAFs powered by recycled scrap emit only 0.7 tonnes, while direct reduced iron (DRI)-EAF combinations release approximately 1.4 tonnes.

Given that global steel demand is projected to grow by 32% by 2050, largely driven by infrastructure expansion and industrial

development, the need to decouple steel production from carbon emissions is both urgent and complex. Here is where hydrogen, particularly green hydrogen, emerges as a powerful catalyst for change.

Why Hydrogen Matters

Hydrogen-based steelmaking, especially through the DRI-EAF (Direct Reduced Iron in an Electric Arc Furnace) route, offers a viable and scalable pathway to decarbonisation. Instead of using carbon-based reductants such as coke to extract iron from ore, hydrogen can serve as a clean reductant, producing water vapour instead of CO₂ as a byproduct.

When the hydrogen itself is generated through electrolysis powered by renewable energy, it becomes “green hydrogen”, an emission-free fuel source capable of transforming the steelmaking value chain.

Recognising its transformative potential, global institutions like the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the World Economic Forum have positioned hydrogen-based steel production as a central pillar of industrial decarbonization.

According to IEA estimates, hydrogen could enable 21% of the required emissions reductions in the steel sector by 2050. To meet this target, hydrogen would need to supply up to 29% of the sector's energy demand, requiring a staggering 48 million tonnes of clean hydrogen annually, a dramatic increase from today's near-zero levels. Infrastructure Will Be Key

Despite the promise, widespread adoption of hydrogen in steelmaking hinges not just on production costs and renewable electricity availability, but also on infrastructure readiness.

India's existing 33,000 km natural gas pipeline grid offers only a temporary workaround, as current networks are typically capped at 3% hydrogen blending by volume due to material limitations. The high diffusivity of hydrogen and its potential to cause metal embrittlement in pipelines means that true-scale transmission will require purpose-built infrastructure. This includes the use of specialised materials, coatings, and testing protocols to ensure safety and performance at scale.

Acknowledging this, companies in the pipeline

and materials sector have begun developing next-generation steel solutions tailored for hydrogen transmission. Some of these innovations have already achieved certification from global testing authorities such as RINA Consulting – Centro Sviluppo Materiali S.p.A., marking a step forward in readiness for the hydrogen economy.

India's Decarbonisation Challenge and Opportunity

As the world's second-largest steel producer, India plays a pivotal role in global steel decarbonisation efforts. The country's steel sector contributes around 12% of its total CO₂ emissions, underscoring the scale of its climate challenge. Moreover, with domestic steel production expected to double over the next decade, decarbonising this growth is critical to India's national climate goals and future global competitiveness.

India's decarbonisation roadmap places green hydrogen at its core. The hydrogen-based DRI-EAF method, when integrated with renewable energy, can reduce direct process emissions by up to 90%. While this shift won't occur overnight, India is actively laying the groundwork through pilot facilities, incremental retrofits, and policy-backed incentives aimed at mainstreaming hydrogen use in steel production.

By 2030, hydrogen adoption is expected to drive a 30% reduction in emissions intensity versus 2023 levels, potentially cutting up to 50 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. Although hydrogen will not yet dominate the steelmaking process by this time, its impact when combined with electrification, energy efficiency improvements, and increased recycling will significantly lower the sector's carbon curve.

The Road Ahead

The promise of hydrogen in steelmaking is no longer hypothetical. From pilot projects in Europe to emerging initiatives in India, a global movement is underway to build a cleaner, more sustainable future for steel. But this transition requires more than technological breakthroughs, it demands collaboration across the public and private sectors, accelerated investment in green hydrogen infrastructure, and a clear policy

roadmap that enables innovation without compromising competitiveness.

Hydrogen may not be the silver bullet for every steelmaking challenge, but it represents a game-changing opportunity, one that could redefine the environmental footprint of an industry critical to modern civilisation. As green hydrogen gains momentum, the supporting infrastructure, including hydrogen-ready pipelines and certified steel solutions, will play a defining role in determining how fast, and how far, the industry can go.

For India and the world, investing in hydrogen now is not just about decarbonising steel, it's about forging a low-carbon future that is as strong and resilient as the metal itself.

India overtakes China in smartphone exports to the U.S. as manufacturing jumps 240%, report shows

India has overtaken China to become the top exporter of smartphones to the U.S., according to research firm Canalys, reflecting the shift in manufacturing supply chain away from Beijing amid tariff-fueled uncertainty.

Smartphones assembled in India accounted for 44% of U.S. imports of those devices in the second quarter, a significant increase from just 13% in the same period last year. Total volume of smartphones made in India soared 240% from a year earlier, Canalys said.

In contrast, the share of Chinese smartphone exports to the U.S. shrank to 25% in the quarter ended June, from 61% a year earlier, Canalys data released Monday showed. Vietnam's share of smartphone exports to the U.S. was also higher than that of China at 30%.

The surge in shipments from India was primarily driven by Apple's accelerated shift toward the country at a time of heightened trade uncertainty between the U.S. and China, said Sanyam Chaurasia, principal analyst at Canalys. This is the first time India exported more smartphones to the U.S. than China.

Apple has reportedly been speeding up its plans to make most of its iPhones sold in the U.S. at factories in India this year, with the aim of manufacturing around a quarter of all iPhones in the country in the next few years.

Trump has threatened Apple with additional tariffs

and urged the company's CEO Tim Cook to make iPhones domestically, a move experts have said would be nearly impossible as it would push iPhone prices higher.

While many of Apple's core products, including iPhones and Mac laptops, have received exemptions from Trump's "reciprocal tariffs," officials have warned that it could be a temporary reprieve.

Its global peers, Samsung Electronic and Motorola, have also been striving to move assembly for U.S.-bound smartphones to India, though their shift has been significantly slower and is limited in scale compared with Apple, according to Canalsys.

Last-mile assembly

Many global manufacturers have been increasingly shifting their final assembly to India, allocating more capacity in the South-Asian nation to serve the U.S. market, said Renaud Anjoran, executive vice president of Agilian Technology, an electronics manufacturer in China.

The Guangdong-based company is now renovating a facility in India with plans to move part of its production to the country. "The plan for India is moving ahead as fast as we can," Anjoran said. The company expects to begin trial production runs soon before ramping up to full-scale manufacturing.

That said, yield rates - an indicator of manufacturing efficiency - are lower when manufacturing in India and Vietnam, compared with China, Anjoran said, citing quality-related incidents linked to inexperienced workers as well as logistics delays.

Source : <https://www.cnbc.com/>

Trump tariffs: India's \$10-billion textile, apparel exports staring at margin hit as competition hardens

India's textile and apparel industry will have to take a hit to margins to beat competition from rivals such as China, Bangladesh and Vietnam after US President Donald Trump slapped a

higher-than-expected 25 percent tariff on Indian goods and an unspecified Russia penalty, stakeholders said on July 31.

India's 25 percent tariff is lower than China's 30 percent and Bangladesh's 35 percent, but these countries can resort to deep price cuts, making it tougher for New Delhi to scale its exports to the US, the stakeholders said.

At 20 percent, Vietnam has an edge over India and the other two countries.

The US is India's largest textile and apparel export market. In FY24, the US imported textiles worth \$10.05 billion from India, accounting for 28 percent of its exports.

Apparel makes up the largest share of the export pie, followed by home textiles and made-ups such as bed linen, carpets, towels, table mats, aprons, napkins, curtains and upholstery.

Slowdown in apparel exports imminent

The US accounted for 33 percent of India's garment exports in 2024. It imports apparel worth \$80 billion and China accounts for 21 percent of these, followed by Vietnam (19 percent), Bangladesh (9 percent), India (6 percent) and Sri Lanka (3 percent).

Sudhir Sekhri, Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC), told Moneycontrol that apparel or ready-made garment exports to the US alone stood at \$5.1 billion in FY25.

"Apparel exports are expected to slow down till the announcement of an interim bilateral trade agreement, hopefully in October-December 2025. The tariff of 25 percent on India is certainly higher than what we expected, but we should not be overly worried as well," he said.

The penalty is "a grey area" which could put India at a disadvantage. "We hope the government of India will negotiate this penalty within a few days," he said.

India ranks fourth among the US's ready-made garment importers, and cotton t-shirts (9.71 percent) are its biggest import in the category. Women's or girls' cotton dresses are next (6.52 percent), followed by baby cotton garments (5.46 percent), data provided by APEC shows.

China is the top exporter, with a market share of

21.9 percent in FY24, down from 27.4 percent in FY20. China, Vietnam and Bangladesh together accounted for 49 percent of American apparel imports in FY24.

Orderbook values to erode by 10-20 percent

Vikas Singh Chauhan, Director, Home Textile Exporters Welfare Association (HEWA), said an estimated \$200–600 million worth of orders are likely to be hit “by this sudden announcement” of a 25 percent tariff.

“The new tariffs are expected to reduce exporters’ order book values by 10-20 percent and erode profit margins by approximately 10 percent,” Chauhan said. The tariff advantage between India and China has now narrowed significantly. The short-term advantage that India enjoyed has effectively disappeared, he said. The development would pose significant challenges in the coming days, as Christmas season dispatches are also in the queue, Chauhan said.

HEWA has urged suppliers to diversify to markets such as the UK, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, other Gulf countries and the African nations with which India has trade agreements.

Source : <https://www.moneycontrol.com/>

Explained: Why India shouldn't lose sleep over Trump's 25% tariffs

When Donald Trump announced a sweeping 25% tariff order targeting Indian exports, effective August 1, it had all the hallmarks of a trade provocation. Yet in Delhi's ministries and Mumbai's market floors, the response was restrained.

The consensus across policy circles is clear: Trump's move is less about trade policy and more about leverage. A pressure tactic.

Far from threatening retaliation, India is opting for dialogue. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told Parliament that the government would “safeguard the interests of our farmers, workers, and small entrepreneurs”.

The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed that the broader US–India partnership “has weathered transitions and challenges” and should not be derailed by short-term frictions.

25% TARIFF TO HAVE LIMITED IMPACT

Strategic affairs expert Brahma Chellaney has been one of the few voices raising alarm over what he calls the “lopsided” nature of the trade expectations coming from Washington.

He pointed out that even under a new trade accord, the United States would retain relatively high tariffs on Indian goods—comparable to what it maintains on Vietnam and the Philippines, around 19–20%. In return, India would be expected to impose zero tariffs on most US imports, a clearly uneven arrangement.

The 25% tariff order, while headline-grabbing, is unlikely to trigger major macroeconomic tremors. According to estimates by ICRA, Nomura, and ANZ, the GDP impact is expected to be modest, around 0.2 to 0.4 percentage points. India exports roughly \$87 billion worth of goods to the US annually—just 2 to 3% of its total GDP.

Sectors likely to take a near-term hit include traditional export mainstays: textiles, gems and jewellery, auto components, and seafood. But core sectors like pharmaceuticals, IT services, and high-end engineering remain relatively insulated.

IS INDIA A 'DEAD ECONOMY'? ASK AMERICAN CONSUMERS

Still, the frustration behind the tariff move isn't rooted in deficit calculations alone. Trump has publicly derided India's economy as a “dead economy,” but data tells another story, especially when it comes to what American consumers depend on.

India's top four exports to the US - pharmaceuticals, textiles, electricals and electronics, and jewellery - form a critical part of American supply chains. India ranks among the top five import destinations for the US in pharma, textiles, and jewellery. In electronics, India is one of the fastest-growing exporters to the US.

“The total volume of ‘Made-in-India’ smartphones grew 240% year-on-year and now accounts for 44% of smartphones imported into

the US, up from only 13% of smartphone shipments in Q2 2024,” according to Canalys data cited in this India Today DIU report. In the last quarter, India emerged as the dominant player in mobile handset shipments to the US.

Higher tariffs on key import destinations such as India could push up domestic prices for American consumers, especially in sectors where substitution is neither immediate nor cost-effective.

WHAT'S HOLDING UP THE INDIA – US TRADE DEAL?

The underlying tensions go beyond tariffs. Chellaney warns that the United States is not just demanding better market access but is pushing India to rewrite domestic policy in ways that could have long-term consequences.

He noted that India would be expected to open its agricultural and dairy markets, even though industrial-scale American imports could shatter India's family farms and undermine its food security.

The United States also expects India to ramp up purchases of American energy products by tens of billions of dollars annually. And despite already being a growing buyer of US arms, India would be nudged to increase its defence imports further.

These expectations haven't been officially acknowledged by Indian negotiators. But several of these themes have surfaced in earlier trade talks between the two countries, and officials say regulatory changes are already being quietly evaluated, including customs streamlining and possible tariff rationalisation on select capital goods.

WHY INDIA MUST STAND ITS GROUND

Exporters, meanwhile, are not standing still. Many are pivoting toward the EU, ASEAN, and Middle East markets, especially in sectors like engineering goods and climate-aligned manufacturing. The recently signed India-UK free trade agreement is expected to generate over Rs 500 billion annually and contribute 0.06% to India's GDP in the long term, signalling new avenues for growth.

“A 25% US tariff may put some pressure on

India's export-driven sectors like engineering goods, textiles, and jewellery. This move underscores the growing trend of protectionism and may compel India to diversify export markets, push for FTA negotiations, and accelerate domestic value addition to maintain global competitiveness,” said Ajay Garg, CEO, SMC Global Securities.

“While Trump's trade policies unsettle global supply chains, India's resilience and economic agility are emerging as key differentiators. Notably, regional competitors like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are still facing steeper tariffs, weakening their edge,” Garg added. “Amid global uncertainty, India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, poised to lead the next phase of emerging market growth.”

Still, the deeper concern lies not in tariffs themselves, but in what they represent. Chellaney argues that this isn't merely about trade, it's about shaping the architecture of India's future economic dependencies. “Conceding quietly,” he says, “can become a pattern.”

Opposition parties have accused the government of being too passive in the face of what they see as a coercive gambit. But export bodies and trade associations have largely backed New Delhi's calm approach. They have urged exporters to renegotiate contracts directly with US buyers, share cost burdens, and reinforce India's reputation as a reliable trade partner.

Officials insist that India's sovereignty on food security, defence procurement, and digital trade remains non-negotiable, regardless of tariff threats.

TRUMP'S TARIFF PLAYBOOK

It may be noted that the 25% tariff order isn't about economics; it's Trump playing the same old game. Trump's tariff playbook thrives on calibrated disruption: loud threats, sudden reversals, and pressure designed to unsettle rather than resolve. Sometimes he calls India a close ally. The next moment, it's a “dead economy.” The inconsistency is the message.

For now, India is not retaliating, but there's little reason to lose sleep over what may well be another of Trump's arm-twisting theatrics.

Source : <https://www.indiatoday.in/>

Importance of AI for small business

For Indian small businesses, learning AI tools is essential for survival and growth in a competitive market. AI isn't just for big corporations; it's now accessible and affordable for even the smallest enterprises. By adopting these tools, businesses can overcome common challenges like limited budgets and a shortage of skilled staff.

Here's how AI can help Indian small businesses:

- **Saves Time and Money:** AI automates tedious, everyday tasks. For instance, it can handle customer inquiries with a chatbot, create social media posts, and manage your schedule. This allows you to focus on strategic work like building your business and serving customers.
- **Improves Customer Service:** AI chatbots and virtual assistants can provide instant support to customers 24/7. In a country with a diverse customer base, this ensures that everyone gets quick responses to their questions about products, store hours, or returns, which boosts customer satisfaction and trust.
- **Smarter Marketing:** AI can analyze data to help you understand your customers better. A

small apparel shop, for example, can use AI to figure out which styles are popular in a particular city or during a festival season. This helps them create targeted ads and marketing campaigns that are more effective with a limited budget.

- **Better Decision-Making:** AI can process large amounts of data to give you valuable insights. It can predict what products will be in demand, helping a business manage inventory more efficiently and reduce waste. It can also flag unusual transactions, improving security.

Popular AI Tools and Their Applications:

- **ChatGPT:** An AI chatbot that can help with content creation, writing emails, brainstorming ideas for marketing, and even summarizing long documents.
- **Canva:** This design tool uses AI to help you create professional-looking images and graphics for social media and advertisements, even if you have no design experience.
- **Grammarly:** An AI writing assistant that checks for grammar, spelling, and style errors, ensuring your communications are clear and professional.

Source: AI

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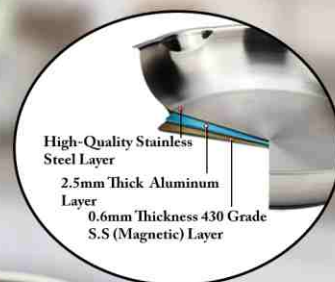
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Name of person nominated to represent in the Association : _____

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Seconded By : _____

(The Proposer and the Seconder should be members of the Association)

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(Designation : _____)

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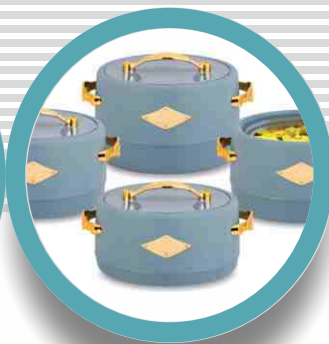
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