Business Line. Dt: 25/11/25

# India's imports of Russian oil unlikely to be 'near zero' despite US sanctions

**STEADY FLOW.** Crude sourcing from Moscow may dip in December and January, but not stop completely

Amiti Sen
New Delhi

India's imports of Russian oil are unlikely to reach "near zero" despite the US sanctions against Russian oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil kicking in last week, sources said.

Companies are expected to continue to source from non-sanctioned entities, although in smaller quantities, as the government does not intend to stop companies from doing so.

"Indian refiners are free to purchase from any source. There is no government restriction on Russian purchases as long as sanctions are not been breached. So, Russian oil imports will decline but not be anywhere near zero as transactions with non-sanctioned entities will continue," the source said

**TOP SUPPLIER.** In November, Russia continued to be India's top crude supplier, with the country importing an average of 1.7 million bpd this year

### TRUMP TARIFFS

US President Donald Trump, who imposed 50 per cent additional tariffs on India goods (which included 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs and a 25 per cent penalty for purchase of Russian oil), has been repeatedly saying that India was on its way to bring down its Russian oil imports to "near-zero".

India is negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US, the first tranche of which is focussed on bringing down US additional tariffs on Indian goods. As India's competing countries, such as Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia, are being charged additional tariffs of 19-20 per cent by the US, India wants its levies to be lowered to gain a competitive edge.

The US, on the other hand, wants India to open up its markets further for American goods, including some sensitive agricultural produce, which is a challenge for the country.

"As the US President said recently that a deal with India would happen soon and tariffs on India would go down at some point of time, both Indian exporters and the importers in the US are hopeful that things would be better soon. However, there is lack of clarity over whether Trump wants to wait till India stops buying Russian oil," a Chennai-based exporter said. In November, Russia continued to be India's top crude supplier, with the country importing an average of 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude this year. With refiners front-loading their purchases ahead of the sanctions implementation date of November 21, the month is expected to expected to close at 1.8-1.9 million bpd, per industry estimates.

However, both the government and analysts are anticipating a dip in imports of crude from Russia in December and January as costs would go up because of the sanctions on the oil firms (which supplied about two-thirds of Russian crude imported by India), their subsidiaries and shipping lines.

Business Standard. Dt: 25/11/25

# India's marine exports rise 16% as new markets offset US dip

## Shrimp-heavy shipments to China, Vietnam, and Europe help country log $4.87 bn in Apr-Oct period

### Booming business

**Shrimp and prawn exports to key mkts ($ mn)**

| | Apr-Oct 2024 | Apr-Oct 2025 | Y-o-Y chg (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| USA | 1,150.33 | 1,064.86 | -7.43 |
| China | 456.34 | 568.32 | 24.54 |
| Vietnam | 117.01 | 261.67 | 123.63 |
| Belgium | 107.44 | 208.63 | 94.18 |
| Japan | 184.4 | 204.38 | 10.84 |
| Russia | 74.92 | 111.63 | 49.0 |
| Canada | 81.9 | 92.99 | 13.54 |
| UK | 49.58 | 63.86 | 28.81 |
| UAE | 73.76 | 61.12 | -17.14 |
| Netherland | 46.86 | 52.85 | 12.79 |
| Total | 2,638.57 | 3,098.59 | 17.43 |

**SHREYA NANDI**
New Delhi, 24 September

India's marine product exports rose 16.2 per cent to $4.87 billion in the first seven months of the financial year (April–October), buoyed up by firm global demand and a rebound across key Asian and European markets. Shrimps and prawns have a share of over 63 per cent in the marine sector.

The US — traditionally India's largest shrimp market — saw a 7.43 per cent drop to $1.06 billion in this period. That slide was more than offset by strong growth in shipments to China, Vietnam, Belgium, Japan, Russia, Canada and the UK, a senior government official said. Among marine products, shrimp and prawn held steady with strong demand, reinforcing India's flagship position in the segment.

Overall merchandise exports posted modest growth of 0.63 per cent at $254 billion in April–October. But several major sectors — including gems and jewellery, plastic, cotton yarn, man-made yarn, carpet, and handicraft — shrank amid global volatility and the steep double-digit tariffs the US imposed on a range of Indian products from August. October was particularly harsh, with exports sliding 11.8 per cent to $34.38 billion.

The gains in marine products reflect both a widening spread of export destinations and a shift in global sourcing, with Asian and European buyers leaning more on Indian suppliers for what they see as "consistent quality at competitive pricing", the official said.

He added that the jump in non-US demand also signals broader acceptance of Indian shrimp varieties such as Vannamei, which are gaining ground in Asian processing hubs and European retail chains. Exporters expect that continued momentum outside the US, along with a likely recovery in US orders, will help sustain growth in the sector.

 Business Standard. Dt:- 25/4/25

# Exports and domestic demand to drive steady growth for pharma SMEs in FY26

Export demand from regulated and semi-regulated markets is expected to support revenue growth of India's pharmaceutical sector this financial year (FY26). New product launches and drug shortages in the US and European markets are expected to provide further support.

Domestic demand is likely to remain stable, with existing products seeing only modest price growth. However, new product launches will contribute to revenue growth.

This trend is favourable for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which account for approximately one-third of the industry's revenue. Typically, these SMEs manufacture formulations that involve less complex molecules. They benefit from their presence across the value chain and their role as contract manufacturers for larger pharmaceutical companies.

The SME segment is estimated to have grown 7-9 per cent in the financial year 2024. The export boost helped the Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Baddi SME clusters achieve healthy growth, while stable domestic demand supported the Indore and Chennai clusters.

The entities are estimated to have maintained the growth trajectory in the financial year 2025, at 7 per cent, with exports of formulations and bulk drugs constituting around 46 per cent. Key chronic therapeutic areas, such as cardiac and neuro, dermatology and gastrointestinal treatments in the acute therapy category, drove growth.

The momentum has persisted into FY26, driven by price increases and new product launches.

A key event that calls for immediate and close monitoring, however, is the requirement to comply with the revised Schedule M by December 2025, which could create financial headwinds for SME players, potentially leading to business closures and formulation shortages, despite their stable financials.

CRISIL RATINGS

Business Line Dt: 26/11/25

# Himadri Speciality not impacted by US export tariffs: CMD

**Mithun Dasgupta**
Kolkata

Himadri Speciality Chemical, India's largest speciality carbon black maker, said it has not seen any impact from the US tariffs on its exports to that country as it has been able to retain its customer base there.

"We have not yet got any impact of the US tariff on our exports. Due to the tariffs, the prices of our products in the US market have increased. But the existing customers continue to purchase from us as these are very high-quality products. We have been able to retain our customer base. We have been supplying the products to the US for the last five years," Himadri Speciality Chemical CMD and CEO Anurag Choudhary told *businessline*.

## OVERSEAS MARKETS

"In the US market, volume is not increasing currently, but in other overseas markets volume is rising," Choudhary said.

The US, Europe and West Asia have been the three large markets for the Kolkata-headquartered company.

"We saw very good pick-up in the speciality segment in the overseas markets during the first half of this financial year (H1FY26). In particular, exports to Europe and the Middle East have increased," he said.

"Our existing markets are doing very well. Outlook for the second half (H2) is stronger than that of H1," Choudhary said.

In speciality chemicals, around 33 per cent of the turnover is currently from exports.

The company expects exports to contribute over 50 per cent of its turnover in the next three years. It is currently supplying products to 54 countries.

## CHEMICAL SEGMENT

With newly commissioned terminals at the New Mangalore Port, the company is expanding its liquid-pitch exports.

In speciality carbon black, Himadri plans to double its capacity to 1,30,000 MT per annum, through brownfield expansion, by the end of the third quarter this fiscal.

Its upcoming facility for producing anthraquinone and carbazole, in the new speciality chemical segment, is expected to be commissioned by the second quarter of the next financial year.

"Anthraquinone and carbazole are highly technical speciality products. It will be the first plant in India. And we are setting up the largest capacity in the world at this plant in West Bengal's Hooghly," he said.

"We are investing around ₹120 crore for this facility," Choudhary added.

"Anthraquinone and carbazole will be used as import substitutes in the domestic market. We will also export the products. These products have important applications in various industries," he added.

Business Line. Dt: 26/11/25

# Greaves Cotton targets more export revenue, 20% CAGR through FY30

**Aishwarya Kumar**
Bengaluru

Greaves Cotton is ramping up its global business, targeting 15 per cent of revenue from exports by FY30, led by its new partnership with France's Ligier and rising demand from West Asia and Africa. Exports contribute 10 per cent of revenue currently.

Managing Director and Group CEO Parag Satpute said the company is also evaluating multiple acquisitions across the energy solutions, mobility solutions and industrial segments as part of its 2030 strategy.

Additionally, strong growth in its genset business and the under-utilised capacity at its Sambhaji Nagar plants will support the next phase of expansion, he added.

Parag Satpute, MD and Group CEO, Greaves Cotton

**Its core business is expected to grow at around** 7–8%, while new products and geographies will contribute an additional 8–10%

Greaves plans to grow rapidly, aiming for a 16–20 per cent CAGR in its top line through FY30. Satpute said the company is transforming from a product manufacturer to an integrated OEM and solutions provider.

### INORGANIC GROWTH

The company currently supplies engines to three-wheeler OEMs and components to leading players such as Tata Motors, Volvo Eicher, Ashok Leyland and JCB. Its core business is expected to grow at 7–8 per cent, while new products and geographies will contribute an additional 8–10 per cent to the targeted 20 per cent CAGR.

Satpute added that Greaves is "very open" to inorganic expansion, building on its acquisition of Excel ControlLinkage.

With a healthy balance sheet, the company is preparing for select acquisitions that can unlock synergies and accelerate growth across its priority segments.

Business Line Dt: 26/4/25

# Despite US woes, H1 marine exports up 16%

V Sajeev Kumar
Kochi

Driven by strong global demand and a sharp rebound in key Asian and European markets, India's marine product exports have registered a robust 16.18 per cent growth in the April-October 2025 period.

Exports rose from $4.20 billion in April-October 2024 to $4.87 billion in April-October 2025, marking one of the strongest mid-year performances in recent years.

Exports expanded by over 20 per cent in May and September, followed by steady double-digit gains in April (17.82 per cent), June (13.33 per cent), July (14.08 per cent) and October (11.08 per cent).

The surge in marine products exports is primarily attributed to the stellar performance of shrimp and prawn, which recorded a 17.43 per cent rise in April-October 2025, increasing from $2.64 billion to $3.1 billion.

**TESTING NEW WATERS.** A rise in shipments to China, Vietnam, Belgium, Japan, Russia, Canada and the UK made up for a 7.4 per cent drop in exports to the US

### SHIFT IN SOURCING

The United States, traditionally India's largest shrimp market, registered a 7.43 per cent decline, with exports falling by $85.47 million.

However, this shortfall was more than compensated by a spectacular rise in shipments to China, Vietnam, Belgium, Japan, Russia, Canada and the UK. These gains reflect both diversification in export destinations and a structural shift in global sourcing trends, as buyers in Asia and Europe increasingly turn toward Indian suppliers for consistent quality and competitive pricing.

KN Raghavan, Secretary General of the Seafood Exporters Association of India, told *businessline* that the strategy of diversifying from a single product and market to multiple products, markets and species has gained strong momentum. The imposition of high import tariffs by the US has prompted Indian exporters to explore alternative markets.

The increase in exports to the EU by close to 40 per cent has been one important factor behind the increase in exports from this sector.

The ongoing efforts to engage more closely with Russia and the approval of 20 plus units for exports will provide a boost.

Business Line. Dt:- 26/11/25

# India close to finalising $450 m BrahMos missile export deals

**STRONG INTEREST.** More export orders may materialise as several countries have expressed intent to buy

**Dalip Singh**
New Delhi

India is nearing the conclusion of defence export contracts worth about $450 million for the supply of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to at least two countries, consolidating the Centre's efforts to expand defence exports.

According to defence sources, negotiations with multiple friendly foreign nations are in the final stages, with the countries showing strong interest in acquiring the combat-proven missile system jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and Russia.

"These deals worth around $450 million are expected to be signed in the near future," the sources said, adding that more export orders are likely as several nations have expressed interest following recent demonstrations of the missile's performance.

**EXPORT CONTRACTS**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently announced that BrahMos Aerospace had already signed export contracts worth approximately ₹4,000 crore ($455 million) with two foreign countries. He, however, did not name the countries.

The statement came during the recent dispatch of the first batch of BrahMos missiles from the company's new production facility in Lucknow. Singh said the export orders reflected growing global confidence in India's defence manufacturing capabilities.


**DEALS ON THE CARDS.** Negotiations with multiple friendly foreign nations are in the final stages

India recorded its first major BrahMos export in 2022, when the Philippines signed a $375 million agreement for coastal defence batteries. More recently, the missile was showcased at the Dubai Air Show, attracting significant attention from potential buyers.

The ongoing export momentum comes alongside India's own largescale procurement of BrahMos systems. Following their operational use during Operation Sindoor, the Defence Ministry cleared substantial orders for the Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force and ground-based units.

The Navy plans to arm its Veer-class warships with the missile, while the Air Force continues to integrate the weapon onto its Su-30MKI fleet.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier commended the performance of indigenous weapon systems during the conflict, stating that BrahMos and other systems had demonstrated the strength of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

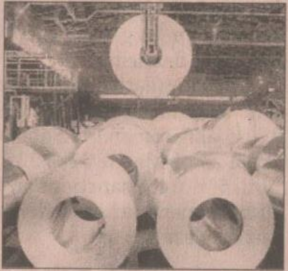
FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt: 26/11/25

# Centre considering import tariff on some steel goods

**THE GOVERNMENT IS** considering extending an import tariff, locally known as a safeguard duty, on some steel products to counter cheaper imports primarily from China, according to a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

India, the world's second-biggest crude steel producer, had in August recommended a three-year import tariff of 11%-12% on some steel products as part of the final findings of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies that falls under the ministry of commerce and inudstry.

"It (tariff) is under consideration," the source told *Reuters*, declining to be identified due to the sensitive nature of the matter. The ministry of finance did not immediately respond to a Reuters email seeking comments.



The Centre had in April imposed a 12% temporary tariff for 200 days that lapsed earlier this month.

The nation's finished steel imports during the first seven months of the financial year were down 34.1% year-on-year. South Korea was the biggest exporter of finished steel to India during the period, shipping in 1.4 million metric tons of finished steel, followed by China, Japan and Russia. Chinese steel exports made India "vulnerable", the source said, primarily due to cheaper prices. China's steel output will slip below 1 billion tons this year for the first time in six years. **-REUTERS**

FINANCIAL EXPRESS. Dt:- 26/11/25

# Exports back in growth zone, Nov shipments up, says Goyal

MUKESH JAGOTA
New Delhi, November 25

AFTER FALLING 11.8% in October, India's merchandise exports have returned to the growth zone in the first three weeks of November, reflecting lower-than-expected hit from the hefty US tariffs and explorers' ability to promptly diversify destinations.

"In the month of November there is significant growth (in exports). Growth is visible in many sectors including seafood," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday. "Services of course are showing significant growth and collectively India's exports continue to be on the upward trajectory," he added.

"All our key exports (segments) are positive," Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said.

The country's goods exports stood at $34.38 billion in October, the first full month after 50% additional US tariffs on most Indian goods came into force. The trade deficit in the month widened to a record high of $ 41.68 billion, mainly due to a jump in gold and fertiliser imports

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased marginally by 0.63% to $254.25 billion and imports rose 6.37% to $451.08 billion.

Goyal said the discussion on the FTA with Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) will commence from Wednesday. The economic bloc also includes Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

He said there is "a lot of enthusiasm" over the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that India and Canada have agreed to negotiate on Sunday. "We will probably follow it up with the initial engagement with Canada very soon and kickstart the process."

"Canada negotiations will be based on the circumstances in Canada, areas of their interest, areas of our interest, sensible items on both sides which have to be kept out."

On the trade agreement with Israel for which the Terms of Reference (toR) were finalised last week, the minister said negotiations would commence soon for an early harvest of the first tranche of the deal. "We have tremendous interest in their innovation, in their agritech, fintech and other deep tech areas of work. Where we are interested in mobility and services in a big way," he added.

## Norms for exporters scheme soon

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said the recently approved ₹25,060 crore Export Promotion Mission (EPM) would include targeted schemes to help land-locked states enhance their competitiveness in the export sector. The minister said the government would come with the guidelines of the interest subsidy scheme for exporters soon. "We want to finish (issuing guidelines) by January 15. Interest Equalisation Scheme and Market Access Initiative will be the first ones (for which the guidelines would be issued next week," he said.

— FE BUREAU

Business Line. Dt:- 27/11/25

# Crude oil imports from Russia in November hit a monthly record

**REFINERS RUSH IN.** Shipments surge to 1.9 mb/d as buyers front-load purchases ahead of US sanctions

**Rishi Ranjan Kala**
New Delhi

India's crude oil imports from Russia during November have averaged at roughly 1.9 million barrels per day (mb/d) — a record high for the month — as refiners topped up on supplies before the US sanctions came into effect.

As per global real time data and analytics provider Kpler, Russia's largest seaborne crude oil buyer's cargoes averaged at 1.886 mb/d so far this month.

Crude oil imports during November 2025 are higher by 17 per cent month-on-month (m-o-m) and almost 6 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y). Compared to the same month in 2023, the barrels rose by 12 per cent, Kpler data show.

India's import of Russian grade in November is expected to be at a 5-month high, driven by increased buying before November 21, the date by which the US sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil come into effect.

While India's oil imports from Russia are likely to decrease after November 21, the decline is most likely to be temporary, allowing supply chains to reorganise, Kpler anticipates.

**SHRINKING BARRELS**

Sumit Ritolia, Kpler's Lead Research Analyst for Refining & Modeling, told *businessline,* "November imports have so far averaged 1.9 mb/d, but post-21 November drops will likely normalise the average closer to 1.8 mb/d."

Urals' discounts to Oman/Dubai on a DES India basis have increased sustaining Indian demand for Russian oil in the near-term. Actual discount might vary and depending on each importer's contract, he explained.

"The widening Urals–Brent discount reflects a combination of sanctions pressure, weaker demand and operational strain. Recent US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil have complicated transactions, shipping and insurance, raising risk premiums and forcing Russia to offer deeper discounts to keep barrels moving," he pointed out.

For now, key buyers such as India, China and Turkey have scaled back purchases amid heightened compliance concerns. The G7 price cap and associated restrictions also limit Russia's pricing flexibility, adding another layer of discounting pressure.

Compounding these market factors is the fact that repeated Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian downstream infrastructure have disrupted refinery operations and product output, increasing crude availability domestically and amplifying the pressure to clear barrels on the export market at lower prices.

"Ultimately, it's a classic supply-demand see-saw and the price is simply reflecting that balance," he added.

After November 21, flows are likely to decline "noticeably" in the near term, because of the uncertainty and perceived risk related to sourcing barrels from Rosneft and Lukoil, Ritolia pointed out.

**CARGOES AT RISK**

Around 8,00,000 b/d of Russian crude oil supplies are at risk in the short-term. A noticeable drop in Russian crude flows to India in the near term is likely, particularly through December 2025 and January 2026, Kpler said. Loadings have already slowed since October 21, though it is still early for definitive conclusions given Russia's agility in deploying intermediaries, shadow fleets, and work-around financing, Ritolia emphasised.

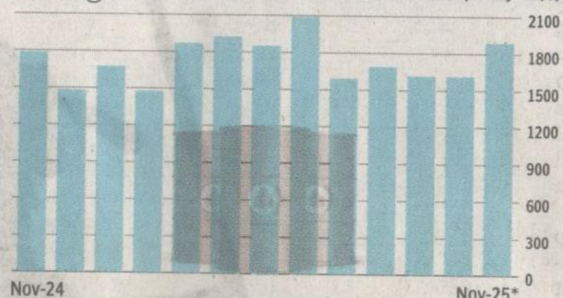
"Indian refiners are pivoting to non-designated Russian entities, opaque trading channels, and alternative suppliers across the Middle East, West Africa, and the Americas," he added.

Complex logistics, ship-to-ship transfers near Mumbai, and mid-voyage diversions underscore Russia's adaptive response.

"Unless more expansive secondary sanctions are introduced, India will continue to buy from a non-sanctioned supplier of Russian oil," Ritolia said.

The reasons are multiple, he explained adding, that both the geopolitical and economic dimensions are essential. "Political leaders will not want to be seen as bending down to US sanctions. At the same time, Russian barrels remain highly cost-competitive, and workarounds to maintain flows are likely to emerge," he added.

Rising inflows



*Average arrivals till November 25 Source: Kpler

Business Line · Dt: 27/4/25

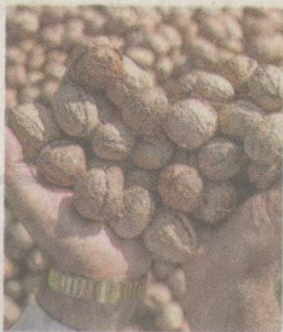
# Rising consumption of walnuts, pistachio to drive tree nuts imports

**Vishwanath Kulkarni**
Bengaluru

Imports of tree nuts, such as almonds, walnuts and pistachio, will likely increase by 7 per cent for the 2025-26 marketing year, starting September, on growing domestic consumption.

Factors such as a growing population, coupled with increasing disposable incomes and rising health awareness and nutritional benefits, are fuelling the demand for tree nuts, such as walnuts, almonds and pistachios, among others.

Per the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) latest global market analysis of tree nuts, India's imports of almonds (shelled basis) is seen higher at 1.8 lakh tonnes (lt) for 2025-26 over the previous year's 1.78 lt. Consumption of almonds in India is seen flat at at 1.84 lt for the year.



**US LEADS OUTPUT**

Global production of almonds is seen rising by about 9 per cent to 17.77 lt over 16.30 lt a year ago.

The output increase is led by the US, the largest producer, whose production is seen rising by a tenth to 13.60 lt (12.38 lt). India's imports of walnuts (shelled basis) are set to rise by close to 20 per cent to 75,000 tonnes over 62,600 tonnes a year ago on rising consumption and a dip in domestic production.

India's walnut output is projected a tad lower at 33,500 tonnes (34,000 tonnes), while consumption is seen rising 3.5 per cent to 1.03 lt, the USDA said.

Consumption of pistachios is projected to rise by over 12 per cent, per the USDA, to 50,500 tonnes from last year's 45,000 tonnes. India imports almost all of its pistachio requirement from countries such as the US and Iran.

Global production of pistachio is seen rising to 12.03 lt (11.78 lt). Also, global consumption is seen rising to over 11.18 lt (10.65 lt).

Business Line. Dt: 01/12/25

# Putin's visit to focus on opportunities for Indian exports, defence, energy ties

**MAJOR CONCERN.** India's long-time grievance of widening trade deficit is set to be addressed

**Amiti Sen**
New Delhi

Bridging India's widening trade deficit is set to top the discussion agenda during Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to the country, with a strong focus on new export opportunities for Indian businesses even as Moscow hopes to secure its defence and energy partnership amid US tariffs, said sources.

"During the visit, Putin's high-power delegation of senior Ministers and a large business contingent representing multiple sectors will discuss new opportunities for Indian businesses to sell to Russia in a roadshow and hold dedicated sessions on cooperation in areas such as pharmaceuticals, healthcare and food supplies," a source tracking the matter told *businessline*.

Opportunities will also be outlined at the Russia-India Forum in sectors, such as IT and digital services, agriculture and processed food, human resources and education, by Russian Ministers covering key sectors such as economic development, industry and trade, agriculture, health and digital development and communication, the source added.

"There will also be structured business-to-business meetings for targeted business alliances," said the source.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERS.** The Russian President is keen to continue supplying oil to India and also discuss the sale of additional units of the S-400 air defence missile system

### SUMMIT TALKS

Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will hold talks during the visit, are expected to give a push to the negotiations for the proposed India-EAEU free trade agreement that comprises Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, said the source.

**New Delhi has been insisting that addressing** the deficit should be given priority

With US tariffs of 50 per cent, which include 25 per cent penalty for purchase of Russian oil, making it difficult for Indian exporters to send shipments to the country, Russia and other members of the EAEU bloc, including Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, are promising options for market diversification.

In FY25, India's imports from Russia totalled $63.84 billion, while exports were at $4.88 billion, widening the trade deficit to about $59 billion.

New Delhi has been insisting that addressing the deficit should be given priority.

Putin's visit to India on December 4-5 after four years is significant, with US President Donald Trump's recent imposition of sanctions on two of the country's largest oil companies and levy of penalty on India for purchasing oil from Moscow.

The Russian President is keen to continue supplying oil to India, and also discuss the sale of additional units of the S-400 air defence missile system. He is also expected to discuss more avenues for trading in local currency to avoid the West's sanctions.

### OIL PURCHASE

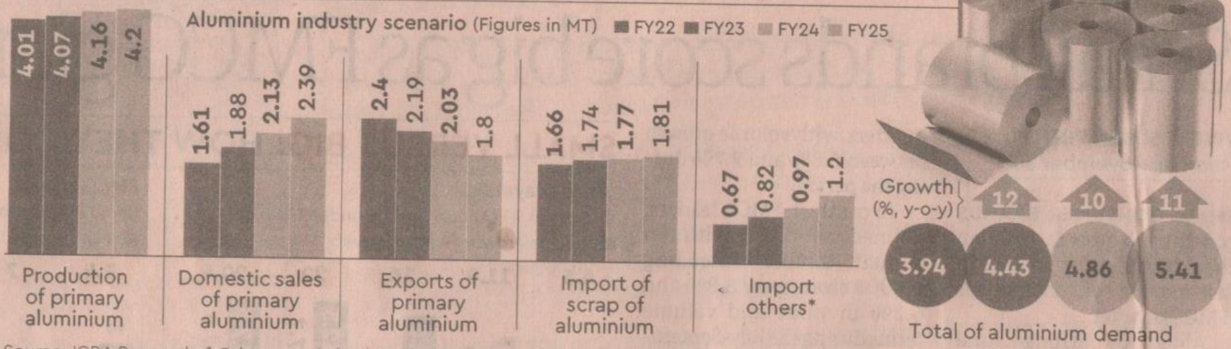
"As India has continued its oil purchases from Russia despite US pressure, it is only fair that Moscow, too, makes an attempt to increase imports from India, which remains abysmally low. The Russian President's visit with top Ministers and businesses is geared towards increasing sourcing from India," said an industry official.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS Dt: 01/12/25

# Aluminium units hit by rising imports, weak exports

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, November 30

## IN A TIGHT SPOT




Source: ICRA Research; * Others- a mix basket of primary (unwrought) aluminium, aluminium plates, foil, structures and other articles

**STRUGGLING WITH DECLINING** exports and rising imports, the domestic aluminium manufacturing industry may put its proposed ₹2 lakh crore capacity expansion plan on the back burner, several industry executives said. From shipments of 2.4 million tonnes (MT) of primary aluminium in FY22, India's exports of these goods declined to 1.8 MT in FY25 due to tariff and non-tariff barriers erected by the US and Europe, among others.

Imports, on the other hand, are on the rise, particularly of scrap and other products such as aluminium plates, foil and structures.

Aluminium scrap imports increased from 1.66 MT in FY22 to 1.81 MT in FY25, while imports of other aluminium products doubled from 0.67 MT in FY22 to 1.2 MT in FY25.

"India must respond, not with blanket protectionism, but with smart regulation. A quality firewall is essential to prevent substandard scrap from undermining domestic capabilities and sustainability goals," an official said.

Sumit Jhunjhunwala, vice president, ICRA said, "While India is a net exporter of primary aluminium, imports predominantly comprise aluminium scrap.

The strengthening of the domestic scrap ecosystem would be a prerequisite to reduce the import dependence over the medium term."

The ongoing and planned investments in domestic aluminium capacity are expected to take India's primary aluminium production capacity to 7.2 MTPA by FY30 and around nine MTPA by FY33 from around 4.2 MTPA now, as per Aluminium Vision Document, released by the Ministry of Mines, earlier this year. Industry players want the government to introduce strict quality standards for aluminium scrap, in line with global peers such as the EU, Malaysia, and China, to prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for waste. While this will also develop the domestic scrap market and promote the circular economy, increasing the basic customs duty on all aluminium products to a flat 15% from 7.5% now will rein in the imports.

The Aluminium Association of India wants a threefold increase in the import duty on scrap to 7.5%, saying, "This will prevent India from becoming a dumping ground for unchecked or poor quality scrap and promote domestic scrap collection in line with the government's circular economy goals. India currently doesn't have appropriate BIS standards on scrap." India is now the world's largest importer of aluminium scrap.

Federation of Indian Mining Industries (FIMI) said increasing the basic customs duty on primary aluminium and downstream products to 15%, to counter the sharp rise in aluminium imports.

"India's aluminium manufacturing base is currently under threat by a surge in imports from aluminium surplus nations driven by global tariff and non-tariff protectionist measures on aluminium," FIMI said.