

# India UNWRAPPED WEEKLY



## NEWSFLASH

08<sup>th</sup> December- 14<sup>th</sup> December

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## INDIA TARGETS \$45 BILLION SPACE ECONOMY DRIVEN BY PRIVATE FIRMS



Over the next 8–10 years India wants to grow its space economy to \$40–45 billion which will be mostly with help from the private sector. This growth will come from space startups and private companies that make satellites, launch them, and use space-based data applications. The market is currently worth about \$8 billion. With ISRO's collaboration with private players, and increased government funding for research and innovation. Along with this India also plans to raise its share in the global space market to 8–10%, supported by policy reforms. This push aligns with the country's long-term ambitions of setting up a space station by 2035 and achieving a crewed Moon mission by 2040.

## CHINA'S TRADE SURPLUS CROSSES \$1 TRILLION ON STRONG NON-US EXPORTS

China's annual trade surplus surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time, driven by a strong rebound in exports in November and robust shipments to markets outside the U.S. as firms rerouted to avoid high tariffs. Exports to Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia rose sharply, while exports to the United States fell nearly 30% year-on-year. Imports grew modestly, underscoring continued weak domestic demand even as trade diversification boosted overall surplus figures.



## JAISHANKAR MEETS EU TRADE COMMISSIONER AS INDIA-EU FTA TALKS SET TO RESUME



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met European Trade and Economic Security Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič in New Delhi ahead of the resumption of India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The meeting signaled renewed momentum in the long-pending trade talks, with both sides aiming to strengthen economic ties and narrow differences on key trade issues as negotiating teams prepare for the next round of discussions.

## INDIAN AUTO DEALERS EXPECTED TO SEE STEADY DEMAND IN DECEMBER

Indian auto dealers expect steady vehicle demand in December, supported by year-end discounts, festive season spillover, wedding demand, and improved inventory levels. SUVs and premium vehicles are likely to continue outperforming, driven by changing consumer preferences and better availability, while entry-level cars may see slower growth due to price sensitivity and higher interest rates. Overall, dealers anticipate consistent sales momentum to close the year on a stable note.



## RENEWABLES MINISTRY MOOTS DUTY CORRECTION FOR INPUTS IN WIND POWER COMPONENT MANUFACTURING



The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has proposed a correction in customs duties on key inputs and raw materials used for manufacturing wind power components. Currently, higher duties on inputs compared to finished imports raise costs for domestic manufacturers. The proposed change aims to remove this inverted duty structure, lower production costs, boost competitiveness of Indian firms, encourage local manufacturing, and support India's clean energy and self-reliance goals in the wind power sector.

## MEXICO IMPOSES UP TO 50% TARIFF ON IMPORTS FROM INDIA AND CHINA

Mexico has imposed import tariffs of up to 50% on selected products from India and China as part of measures to protect its domestic manufacturing sector. The decision targets goods seen as being dumped at low prices, hurting local producers. The move is aimed at curbing unfair trade practices, reducing dependence on cheap imports, and strengthening domestic industry. However, it could impact Indian and Chinese exporters, raise costs for Mexican businesses, and add to ongoing global trade tensions.



## US FEDERAL RESERVE CUTS KEY RATE AGAIN, SIGNALS STEADIER ECONOMY NEXT YEAR



The US Federal Reserve has cut its key interest rate again, reflecting growing confidence that inflation is easing and economic risks are becoming more balanced. Policymakers indicated that monetary tightening has largely achieved its purpose and that future decisions will be more data-dependent. The Fed also signaled expectations of a steadier economic environment next year, with moderate growth, a resilient labour market, and inflation gradually moving closer to its target.

## RBI BUYS \$5.53 BILLION IN BONDS; 10-YEAR YIELD SLIPS TOWARDS 6.60%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) purchased government bonds worth \$5.53 billion through open market operations to improve liquidity in the banking system. The move increased demand for bonds, leading to a fall in yields, with the 10-year government bond yield easing towards 6.60%. Lower yields reflect expectations of ample liquidity, controlled inflation, and a supportive monetary stance. The bond buying also helps reduce borrowing costs for the government and supports overall financial market stability.



## UNION CABINET ALLOWS FOR EXPORTING COAL UP TO 50% OF RECEIVED ALLOCATION



The Union Cabinet has approved a policy allowing coal block allottees to export up to 50% of their annual coal production after meeting domestic requirements. The move aims to improve operational efficiency, optimise resource utilisation, and encourage private investment in coal mining. Export flexibility will help miners manage surplus production, improve cash flows, and make Indian coal more competitive globally. The decision is also aligned with broader reforms to modernise the coal sector while ensuring domestic demand and energy security remain a priority.

## 'INDIA IS IMPORTANT': THREE US LAWMAKERS TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO END TRUMP'S 50% TARIFFS

Three U.S. House members—Deborah Ross, Marc Veasey, and Raja Krishnamoorthi—have introduced a resolution seeking to end tariffs of up to 50% on certain Indian imports that were imposed under President Donald Trump's national emergency declaration. The lawmakers argue that the tariffs lack a strong legal basis, bypass Congress's constitutional authority over trade, and raise costs for American manufacturers, workers, and consumers by increasing input prices and supply-chain pressures.



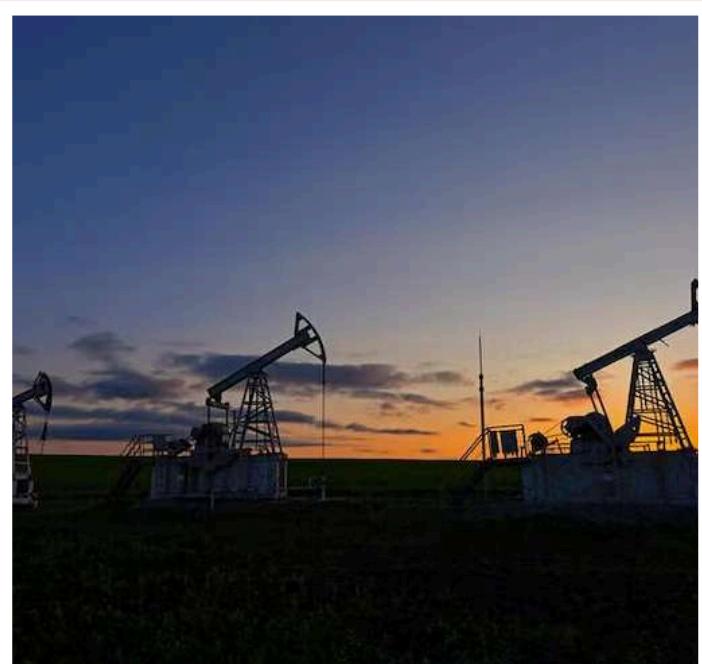
## SHANTI BILL: CABINET GIVES NOD TO PRIVATE PARTICIPATION IN NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR UNDER ATOMIC ENERGY BILL



The Indian Union Cabinet has approved the Atomic Energy Bill 2025, known as the SHANTI Bill, which for the first time allows private sector participation in the country's nuclear power sector. This major policy shift opens up areas like plant construction, mineral exploration and fuel fabrication that were previously restricted to government entities. The move is aimed at boosting investment and helping India achieve its target of 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. The bill will now be introduced in Parliament for further action.

## INDIA IMPORTS MORE RUSSIAN CRUDE, BUT MIX OF BUYERS SHIFTS

India's crude oil imports from Russia are set to rise to a six-month high in December, defying U.S. sanctions as overall volumes climb toward about 1.85 million barrels per day. The mix of buyers within India is shifting, with Nayara Energy significantly boosting imports at its Vadinar terminal while Reliance cuts back sharply to comply with sanctions. State-owned refiners are maintaining high Russian crude imports, suggesting the sanctions haven't materially reduced flows to India. Despite steady volumes, bigger discounts for buyers may be reducing Russia's oil revenue over time.





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