

Sr. No.	Update	Date	Key Highlights	Implications / Action Points
1.	<b>Mandatory EPR Registration for Importers of Plastic Raw Materials</b>	July 2, 2025	<p>The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) <i>vide</i> Instruction No. 21/2025 dated 02.07.2025, mandates that importers of plastic raw materials for commercial use must register on the designated 'Centralized Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging'.</p> <p>Customs field officers have been instructed to verify that importers of plastic raw materials have a valid EPR registration certificate. Proof of registration will be a prerequisite for the clearance of these goods.</p> <p>This requirement stems from an amendment to the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (PWM), dated 14.03.2024, which expanded the definition of 'importer' to include a person who imports <i>"plastic raw material including in the form of resin or pellets, or intermediate material to be used for manufacturing plastic packaging such as films or preforms"</i> for commercial purpose.</p>	<p>- This directive aims to ensure broader compliance with the government's EPR framework, making more entities in the plastic value chain accountable for managing plastic waste.</p> <p><b>ELP Comment:</b> Businesses importing plastic raw materials, which may have previously been outside the direct purview of the PWM Rules, must now undertake the EPR registration process to avoid customs disruptions during the clearance of goods.</p>
2.	<b>India and U.S. Finalize Limited Trade Deal to Tackle Reciprocal Tariffs</b>	July 8, 2025	<p>India and the United States are on the verge of finalizing a limited trade deal after weeks of challenging negotiations. A consensus has reportedly been reached on most elements, with only final approval from the White House pending.</p> <p>Both governments have extended the initial July 9 deadline to July 31, allowing additional time to resolve outstanding issues and complete formalities. India was not included in the July 8 U.S. tariff notifications that imposed 25–40% reciprocal tariffs on 14 other countries</p> <p><u>Key Developments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The trade deal is characterized as "limited," with coverage anticipated for select sectors where both parties have found common ground, while early reports suggest that sensitive areas, such as agriculture and dairy, remain protected by India.</li> <li>- An official announcement with specific details of the agreement is anticipated shortly.</li> </ul>	<p>- The deal, once formally announced, is expected to reduce near-term trade tension and bring clarity to bilateral market access, tariffs, and cross-border logistics.</p> <p>- Trade policy experts note that, under the current U.S. approach, partner countries primarily lower their tariffs, while the U.S. may only roll back "emergency" or recently imposed duties.</p> <p><b>ELP Comment:</b> US President Donald Trump has publicly stated that the US is "close" to a trade deal with India, underscoring the political importance of this agreement amid his broader "America First" trade policy. India's measured diplomatic engagement and strategic approach to negotiations have positioned it as a reliable partner, aiming for mutual benefit while avoiding retaliatory tariff escalation.</p>

For a more in-depth and nuanced perspective on any of the topics discussed in this edition, please don't hesitate to contact the authors of this update:

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