

# **ve**KLY NEWSWRAP

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# ECONOMY

## Moody's Projects 7.2% Growth for India in 2024

**Date: 16 November 2024**



Moody's Ratings highlights India's strong economic outlook, projecting a 7.2% GDP growth in 2024, supported by increased household consumption, robust investment, and solid manufacturing performance. The agency notes India's "sweet spot" of steady growth and moderating inflation, despite recent food price-driven inflation spikes. While sound economic fundamentals and government-led infrastructure investments boost optimism, potential geopolitical tensions and climate risks pose inflationary challenges. The Reserve Bank of India maintains cautious monetary policy amid these dynamics, with a neutral stance on interest rates.

**Source: NDTV**

# TRADE

## India's Merchandise Exports Soar 17% in October

**Date: 14 November 2024**

In October, India's merchandise exports surged by 17.3% year-on-year to \$39.2 billion, marking the fastest growth in 28 months, driven by Western inventory build-up ahead of Christmas. Imports reached a record \$66.34 billion, widening the trade deficit to \$27.1 billion from September's \$20.8 billion. Non-petroleum and non-gems exports rose by 27.7%, reflecting robust domestic manufacturing. Key export drivers included engineering goods, chemicals, and electronics, while petroleum exports fell 22.1% amid declining global oil prices.



**Source: Business Standard**

# PHARMACEUTICAL

## India to Halve Pharma Import Reliance with New Plants

**Date: 13 November 2024**



India plans to cut its import reliance on critical pharmaceutical ingredients, particularly from China, by 50% through two newly launched greenfield plants under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. These facilities will produce essential antibiotic components like Penicillin G, 6-APA, and Clavulanic Acid, which had not been domestically produced for over 20 years. The Lyfius Pharma plant in Andhra Pradesh and Kinvan Private Limited's facility in Himachal Pradesh mark a strategic push to strengthen local manufacturing and reduce vulnerability.

**Source: Business Standard**

# STEEL

## India's Finished Steel Imports Reach Seven-Year High in April-October

**Date: 13 November 2024**

India's finished steel imports soared to a seven-year high of 5.7 million metric tons between April and October, as per provisional government data. The country remained a net importer during 2023/24, with China being the primary exporter. Despite strong domestic steel demand fueled by infrastructure and automotive sectors, finished steel exports fell to a seven-year low of 2.8 million metric tons. Steel production rose, with finished steel at 82.7 million metric tons (up 4.4%) and crude steel at 84.9 million metric tons (up 3%).



**Source: Business Standard**

# AUTOMOTIVE

## India's Festive Auto Sales Rise 12% Amid Strong Rural Demand

**Date: 15 November 2024**



India's retail auto sales grew 12% during this year's festive season, reaching approximately 4.3 million units compared to 3.8 million last year, according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA). The growth was driven primarily by a 14% surge in two-wheeler sales due to robust rural demand, while car sales rose 7% aided by significant discounts. However, FADA noted that sales fell short of the 4.5 million target due to heavy rains in South India and a cyclone in Odisha.

**Source: The Economic Times**

# GREEN ENERGY

## NTPC-ONGC JV Leads \$650M Bid for Ayana Renewable

**Date: 15 November 2024**

A joint venture between NTPC Green Energy and ONGC Green Energy has made a \$650 million bid for Ayana Renewable Power, making it the highest bidder, according to sources. Ayana, supported by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), British International Investment Fund, and Green Growth Equity Fund, operates 1,600 megawatts of solar and wind power in India and is developing an additional 2,500 megawatts. The joint venture outbid JSW Energy for the acquisition.



**Source: Business Standard**

# News from International Publications

## Trump Gains Leverage with U.S. Economic Growth in Trade

**Date: 11 November 2024**



The U.S. economy has significantly expanded since the pandemic, bolstering its influence in global markets. This economic growth strengthens former President Donald Trump's leverage as he considers implementing tariffs, potentially amplifying their impact on other nations. The robust U.S. market now provides Trump with greater negotiating power in trade discussions, particularly with Europe and Asia, allowing him to push for favorable terms that could reshape international economic relationships in line with his policy objectives.

**Source: The Wall Street Journal**

## Reeves Champions Free Trade Amid Trump's Protectionist Threats

**Date: 11 November 2024**

In her Mansion House speech, UK Chancellor Rachel Reeves will advocate for the benefits of free and open trade, countering protectionist policies from U.S. president-elect Donald Trump. While outlining the UK's growth strategy based on stability, investment, and reform, Reeves will stress that free trade fosters global prosperity. She also pledged to challenge Trump's proposed tariffs, which threaten global trade, emphasizing the importance of continued economic cooperation between the U.S. and UK, while preparing for all possible outcomes.



**Source: Financial Times**

# News from International Publications

## COP29 Strikes Carbon Trading Deal Despite US Climate Concerns

**Date: 12 November 2024**



At COP29, countries agreed to launch multibillion-dollar carbon markets under UN rules, aimed at reducing emissions and supporting developing countries' climate adaptation. This breakthrough was seen as a positive development amid concerns over US climate policy under Donald Trump. While the deal was praised, some critics felt it bypassed proper scrutiny. US climate adviser John Podesta acknowledged that Trump's return could slow progress on climate change, potentially reversing key policies, though green energy subsidies are likely to continue.

**Source: Financial Times**

## Azerbaijan to Boost Oil Output Despite COP29 Climate Push

**Date: 12 November 2024**

Azerbaijan plans to increase oil and gas production, with 44% of its future output coming from new fossil fuel fields by 2050, despite hosting the COP29 summit advocating for climate action. Socar, Azerbaijan's state oil company, has ramped up production amid EU efforts to replace Russian gas. The country continues to secure international oil and gas deals, raising concerns over the conflict between hosting a climate summit and expanding fossil fuel output. Azerbaijan also aims to boost renewable energy exports.



**Source: Financial Times**

# News from International Publications

## US Urges EU to Delay Tariffs in Ongoing Steel Trade Dispute

**Date: 13 November 2024**



A trade dispute over steel has become an early challenge for the EU and the incoming Trump administration. A senior US official urged Brussels to reconsider plans to impose new tariffs on US imports in March. The conflict, which began with Trump's 2018 tariffs on steel and aluminum, had been temporarily resolved under Biden. However, both the EU and US are set to reinstate tariffs next year, with the EU's duties scheduled for March and the US's in 2025.

**Source: Financial Times**