

# NEWSLETTER

## August 2025



India's Parliament has passed the Bills of Lading Bill 2025, replacing the colonial-era 1856 law to modernize shipping practices. The bill enables digital trade documentation, boosts transparency, and supports port modernization under the Sagarmala Programme. It aligns India with global maritime standards and backs the nation's vision to become a top shipbuilding hub by 2047.



India's 13th FTA with the UK eliminates tariffs on 99% of goods over time, benefiting key sectors like textiles, gems, leather, and processed food. It simplifies trade through faster customs and reduced paperwork, empowering over 63 million MSMEs. The deal also eases professional movement in IT and services, marking a strategic step toward India's \$5 trillion economy goal by 2047.



Former U.S. President Donald Trump's 2025 economic agenda proposes sweeping new tariffs—including a blanket 10% duty on all imports and tariffs as high as 60% on Chinese goods. If implemented, these measures could reconfigure global trade flows, intensify U.S.–China tensions, and impact export-driven economies worldwide. For India, the developments may present both risks—particularly for sectors reliant on the U.S. market—and opportunities, as global manufacturers seek alternatives to China. As the world watches closely, trade partners are reassessing supply chains, market access strategies, and bilateral agreements in response to this potential shift in U.S. trade policy.



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Disclaimer

# Trump's 2025 Tariff List: A New Chapter in Global Trade?

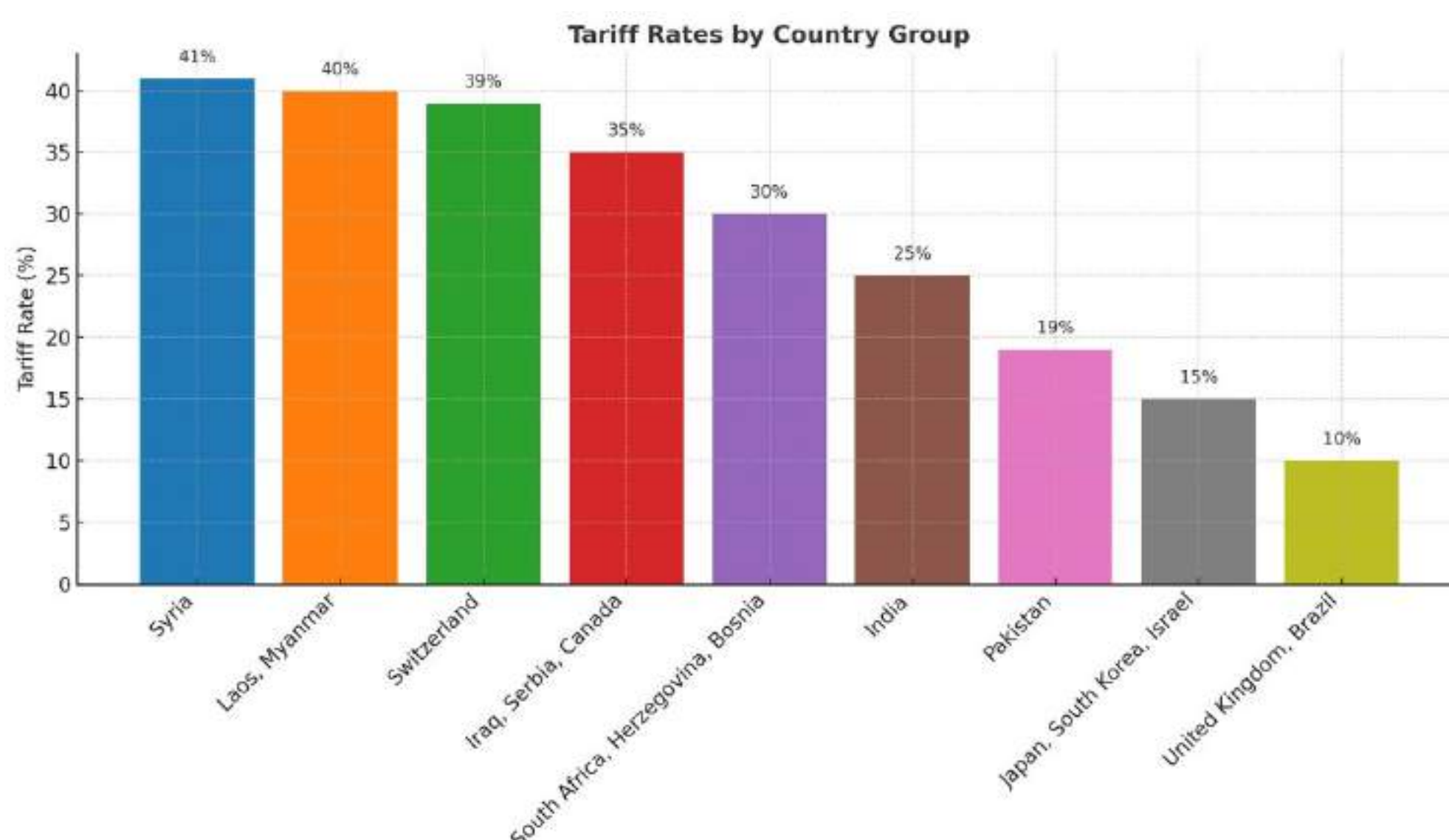
US President Donald Trump on Thursday signed a sweeping executive order imposing higher tariffs on several nations and the 27-member European Union, significantly escalating his administration's global trade offensive. The order, titled "Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff Rates", is set to take effect from 7th August, 2025 seven days after its issuance, with rates going up to 41%.



## Who's on the list - and What's at stake

Trump's proposed tariffs vary by country, with some facing import duties as high as 41%. Here's how the breakdown looks:

Country Group	Tariff Rate
Syria	41%
Laos, Myanmar	40%
Switzerland	39%
Iraq, Serbia, Canada	35%
South Africa, Herzegovina, Bosnia	30%
India	25%
Pakistan	19%
Japan, South Korea, Israel	15%
United Kingdom, Brazil	10%



These nations supply a wide array of goods to the U.S.—from semiconductors and automobiles to garments and natural resources. Sectors ranging from technology and retail to agriculture could see price hikes or supply disruptions.

Trump didn't stop at tariff rates. He issued a stark warning: Any retaliation by affected countries will be met with matching and increased tariffs by the U.S. This stance signals a potentially escalatory trade environment reminiscent of the 2018-2019 trade war.



## Global implications & Industry Impact

Experts believe these tariffs may:

- Strain diplomatic ties between the U.S. and its Asian and African partners.
- Trigger inflationary pressure in U.S. markets due to increased costs for imported goods.
- Prompt supply chain shifts as companies look for alternative sourcing options.
- Influence currency exchange rates and manufacturing trends



## What Comes Next?

While some hail the move as protection for American industry, others fear trade instability and global economic slowdown. Countries targeted are likely to lobby for exemptions or recalibrate trade policies.

India has managed to sidestep the immediate brunt of Trump's 2025 tariff wave—for now.

India was not included in the initial list of 14 countries receiving tariff letters from the U.S.. A previously announced 27% reciprocal tariff on Indian goods was suspended until August 1, giving negotiators more time to finalize a trade deal.





## Trump hits 25% Tariff on India

Donald Trump announced a 25% tariff plus a penalty on India effective August 1, citing India's continued oil and arms imports from Russia and "high trade barriers".

### India's Stand :

The Indian government stated it's evaluating the move and will take all necessary steps to protect national interest, with emphasis on safeguarding MSMEs, farmers, and entrepreneurs.



## Why is the US imposing these tariffs?

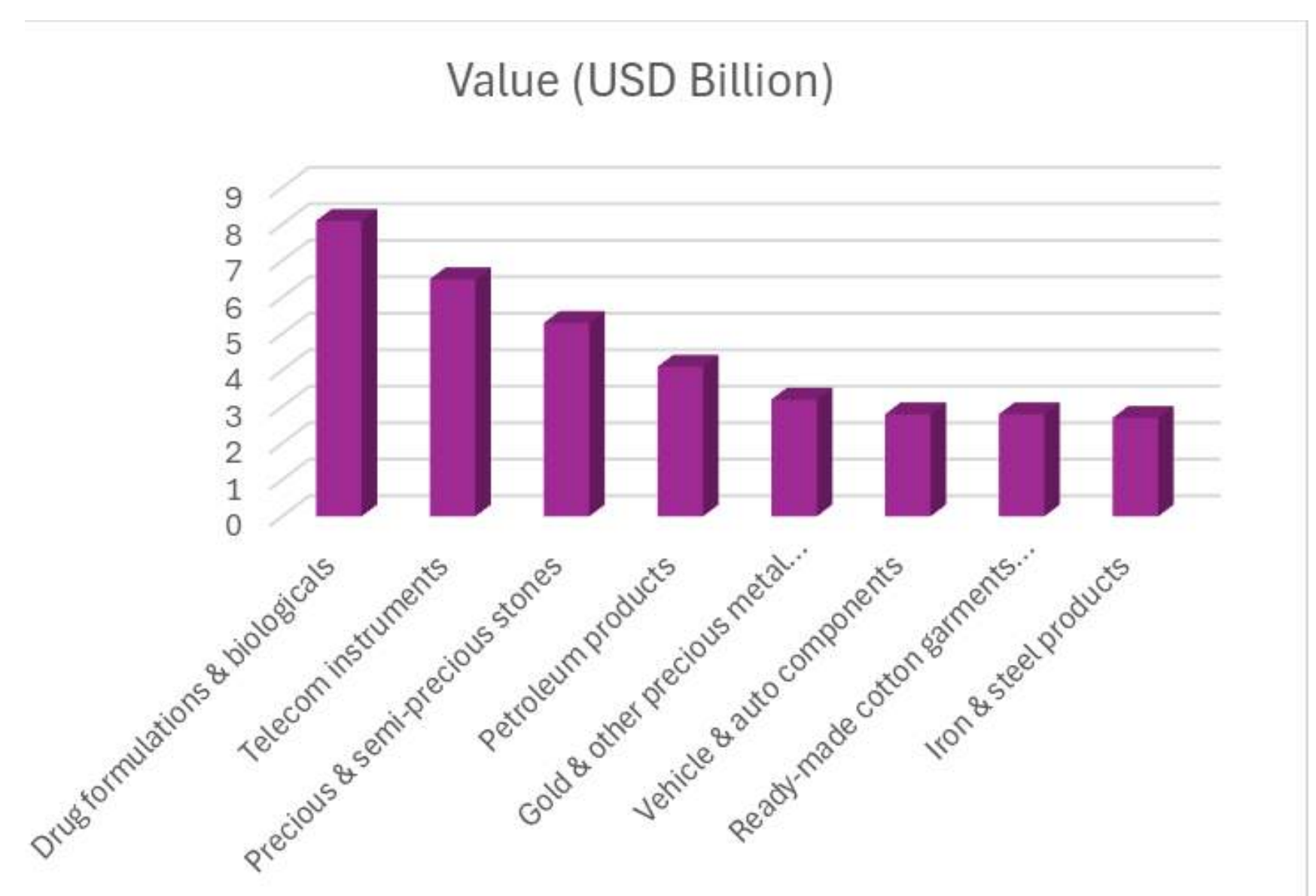
The US has alleged that it faces a significant trade deficit with India, blaming New Delhi for imposing high tariffs on American goods, which it says restricts US exports to the Indian market.



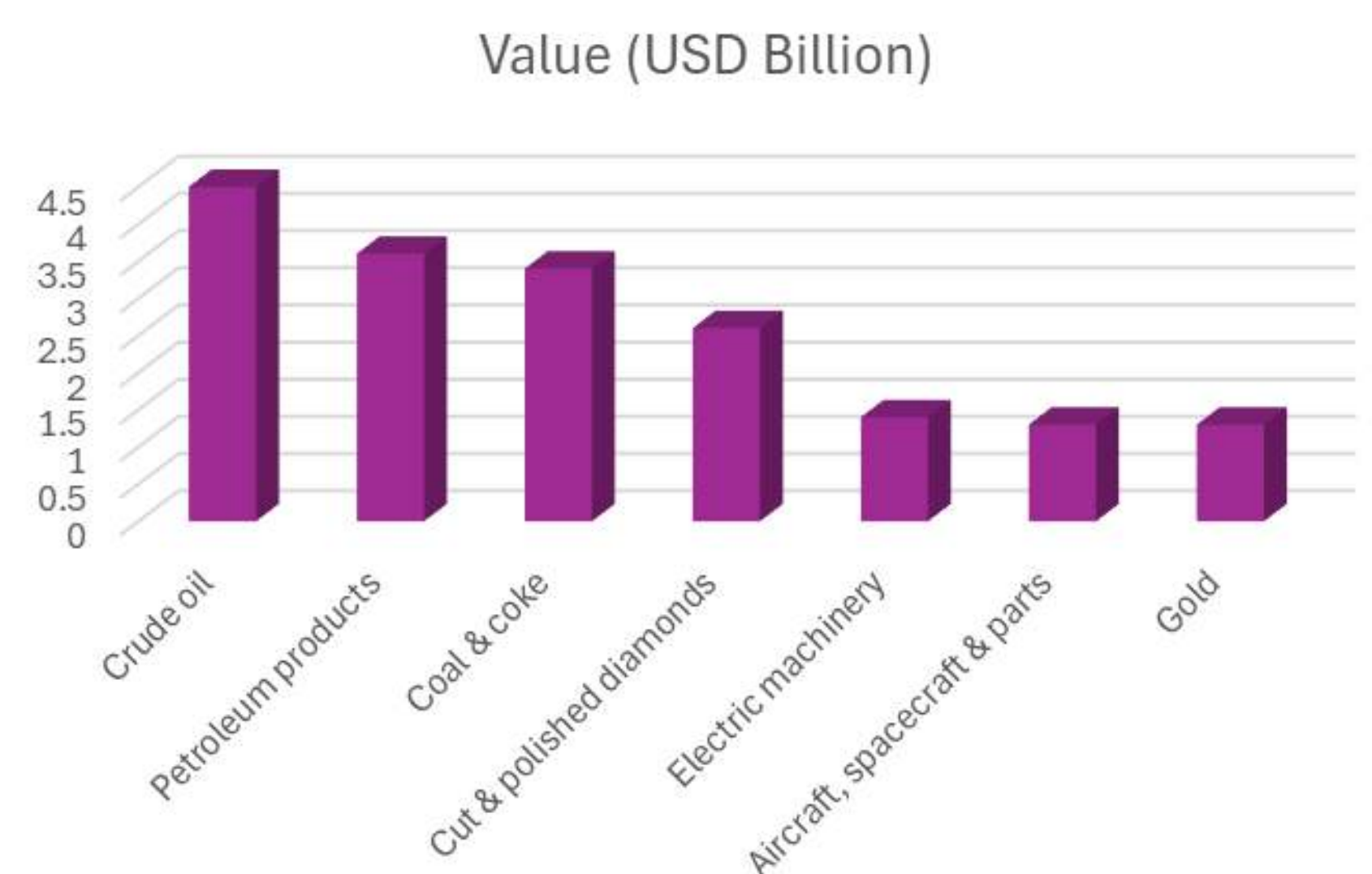
## What is bilateral trade between India and the US?

Aspect	Details
US status	India's largest goods trading partner
US share in India's trade	18% of exports 6.22% of imports 10.73% of total trade
Total bilateral trade (2024-25)	\$186 billion
India's exports to US	\$86.5 billion
India's imports from US	\$45.3 billion
Goods trade surplus (India)	\$41 billion (2024-25) \$35.32 billion (2023-24) \$27.7 billion (2022-23)
Services trade (2024-25)	Exports: \$28.7 billion Imports: \$25.5 billion Surplus: \$3.2 billion
Total trade surplus (India)	\$44.4 billion (goods + services)
GTRI estimate (US perspective)	US runs a \$35-40 billion overall surplus when education, digital services, finance, royalties, and arms are included

## India's Exports to the US (2024)



## India's Imports from the US (2024)



## ? What will be the impact of the tariffs on this trade?

Import duty makes goods expensive in the importing country. Besides, a few other factors also play a role in this. For example, duty on India's competitor nations such as Bangladesh (35 per cent), Vietnam (20 per cent) and Thailand (36 per cent); and quality and standards of items.

According to exporters, Indian labour-intensive goods such as garments, leather and non-leather footwear, gems and jewellery, carpets and handicrafts may get impacted due to this duty.



# ICAI's AASB Expert Panel for Audit Season 2025 is Now Operational

The Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has reconstituted its Expert Panel for the fourth consecutive year. This initiative is designed to support members by providing timely responses to technical auditing queries during the busy audit season.

## Objective of the Expert Panel

- To provide technical assistance on complex auditing matters.
- To help members ensure audit quality and compliance with Standards on Auditing (SAs).
- To promote consistency in audit practices across the profession.

## Operational Timeline

- Commencement Date: 11th July 2025
- Closing Date: 30th September 2025

## Mode of Communication

- Queries to be sent via email at: [auditfaq@icai.in](mailto:auditfaq@icai.in)

## Guidelines for Query Submission

Members are advised to follow these guidelines to ensure effective handling of queries:

- Submit queries that are clear, concise, and factually accurate.

- Do not disclose client names or other identifying information.
- Avoid duplicate queries and refrain from submitting rejoinders.
- The panel's responses are for guidance only; members must apply their own professional judgment.

## Disclaimer & Advisory

- The responses provided are personal opinions of panel experts and do not represent official ICAI views.
- Responses are not to be used in legal, regulatory, or quasi-legal proceedings.
- ICAI reserves the right to reject any query without assigning a reason.

## Benefits to Members

- Access to expert insight on real-time audit issues.
- Technical clarity on matters involving interpretation of auditing standards.
- Improved audit documentation quality and regulatory preparedness.
- Enhanced professional confidence during peak filing and audit deadlines.

This initiative reinforces ICAI's commitment to strengthening audit quality in India. Members are encouraged to utilize this expert support panel to navigate challenges, clarify technical doubts, and maintain high standards of professional practice.



# Parliament Passes Bills of Lading Bill 2025: A Step Toward Modernizing India's Shipping Laws

On July 21, 2025, In a significant legislative move, the Parliament of India has passed the Bills of Lading Bill 2025, aiming to overhaul and modernize the legal framework governing shipping documents. With the Rajya Sabha's approval, the bill is now officially set to replace the outdated Indian Bills of Lading Act of 1856, a colonial-era statute.

## What is a Bill of Lading?

A bill of lading is a critical document in maritime trade, issued by a carrier to a shipper. It serves as:

A receipt of goods shipped,

A document of title, and

A contract of carriage.

It includes essential details like the type, quantity, condition, and destination of the goods being transported.

## Key Highlights of the Bill

**Legal Modernization:** Replaces a 169-year-old law with provisions that align with current international practices.

**Digitalization Ready:** Lays the foundation for electronic bills of lading, facilitating smoother and faster trade.

**Enhances Transparency:** Introduces clearer, updated definitions and legal responsibilities for all parties in the shipping process.

**Supports Economic Growth:** Aligns with the government's broader initiatives under the Sagarmala Programme to improve port connectivity and efficiency.

## Advantages of the Bills of Lading Bill 2025:

- **Simplified Legal Framework** – Removes outdated clauses, easing compliance for shipping and logistics.
- **Digital Transformation** – Enables paperless trade and efficient documentation.
- **Improved Trade Efficiency** – Reduces cargo clearance delays and streamlines customs.
- **Global Competitiveness** – Brings India in line with international maritime law.
- **Port Modernization** – Supports ongoing infrastructure upgrades under Sagarmala.
- **Shipbuilding Vision 2047** – Aids India's goal of becoming a top 5 shipbuilding nation.

The Bills of Lading Bill, 2025 is a pivotal reform for India's shipping sector—boosting transparency, legal clarity, and global trade readiness while supporting India's long-term economic and infrastructure goals.





# India–UK Free Trade Agreement: A Strategic Lead Toward Global Trade Leadership

India's recently concluded 13th Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United Kingdom marks a significant step in India's evolving global trade narrative. More than just tariff cuts, the deal opens wide avenues for trade facilitation, job growth, and service sector mobility—aligning directly with India's broader ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy and a developed nation by 2047.

## ◆ Key Highlights: What Makes This FTA Special?

### 1. Broad Coverage:

Encompasses nearly 99% tariff elimination over time on goods traded between India and the UK.

### 2. Export Boost:

Sectors such as textiles, gems & jewellery, processed food, leather, and farm products gain immediate access to a duty-free UK market.

### 3. Simplified Trade Processes:

- Reduced documentation
- Faster customs clearance (within 48 hours)
- Transparent regulatory procedures benefits MSMEs the most.

### 4. Job Creation via MSMEs:

Labor-intensive industries stand to expand rapidly. India's 63 million MSMEs, contributing ~49% to exports, will see improved cost-efficiency and competitiveness.

### 5. Services & Skilled Mobility:

Key wins for India's IT, finance, education, and creative sectors. Provisions to ease visa rules and enable temporary professional movement to the UK.

### 6. India's Growing Trade Network:

India now has:

- 3 FTAs
- 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs)
- Ongoing negotiations with EU, EFTA, Canada, and others.

### 7. Supporting Infrastructure:

Govt initiatives such as Gati Shakti, ULIP, and Sagarmala aim to enhance logistics, making export execution smoother and cost-efficient.

### 8. Policy Shift:

This FTA marks a transition from protectionism to proactive global integration, embedding:

- Environmental and labour safeguards
- Innovation and investment-focused clauses
- Mutual service-sector recognition



The India–UK FTA isn't just a document—it's a declaration that India is ready to lead. With trade channels widening, tariffs falling, and policy clarity rising, it's time for Indian businesses to export with confidence and compete globally.

August, 2025

COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

TDS/TCS	
7	Payment for July 2025
14	Issue of TDS Certificates for tax deducted u/s 194-IA, 194-IB, 194M in Jun 2025
14	Issue of TDS Certificate for Non salary TDS returns.
31	Deposit of TDS u/s 194-IA on payment made for purchase of property in July 2025 in Form 26QB
31	Deposit of TDS u/s 194M for July on payments made to resident contractors or professionals greater than 50 lacs pa by individual/HUF not subject to tax audit in Form 26QD

FEMA	
7	ECB-2 Return – By Borrowers of ECB through AD Bank for July 2025



August, 2025

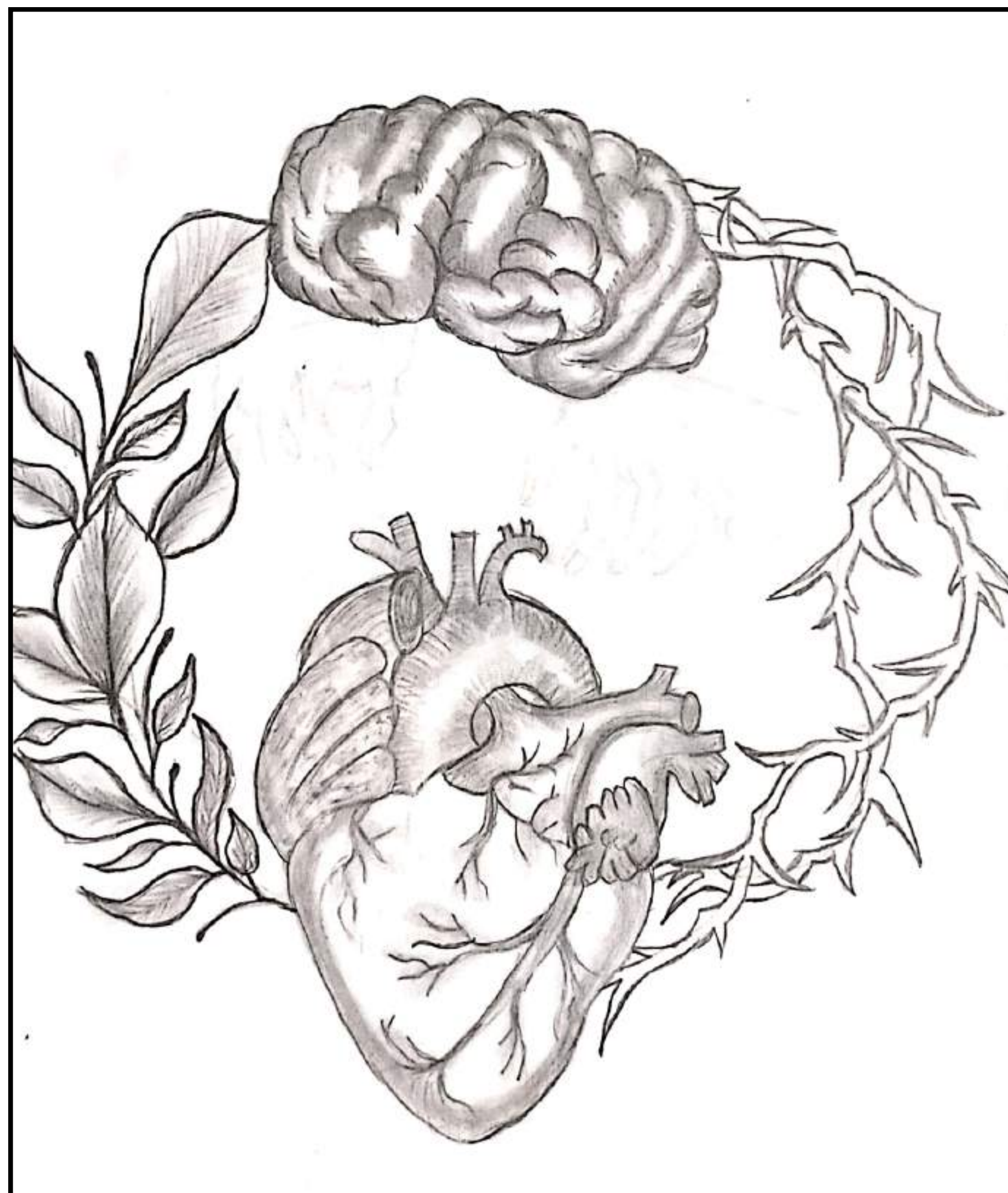
COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

GST, INDIRECT TAXES & CORPORATE AND ALLIED LAWS

10	Return for authorities deducting tax at source – GSTR 7 for July 2025
10	Details of supplies effected through e-commerce operator and the amount of tax collected - GSTR 8 for July 2025
11	Details of outward supplies of taxable goods and/or services effected – GSTR 1 for July 2025
13	Invoice Furnishing Facility (IFF) for July 2025 in Lieu of GSTR1 for QRMP Filers
13	Return for non-resident foreign taxable person – GSTR 5 for July 2025
13	Return for Input Service Distributor – GSTR 6 for July 2025
20	GSTR 3B for July 2025 if aggregate turnover above Rs. 5 crores
20	Return for OIDAR Service Provider – GSTR 5A for July 2025
22	GSTR 3B for month/quarterly ended July 2025 if aggregate turnover below Rs. 5Cr
25	Monthly Payment for July 2025 Through Challan PMT 06 for QRMP Filers
31	Professional Tax - Monthly Return Tax Liability of Rs.1,00,000/- & Above for July 2025
15	P.F & ESIC- Payment for July 2025



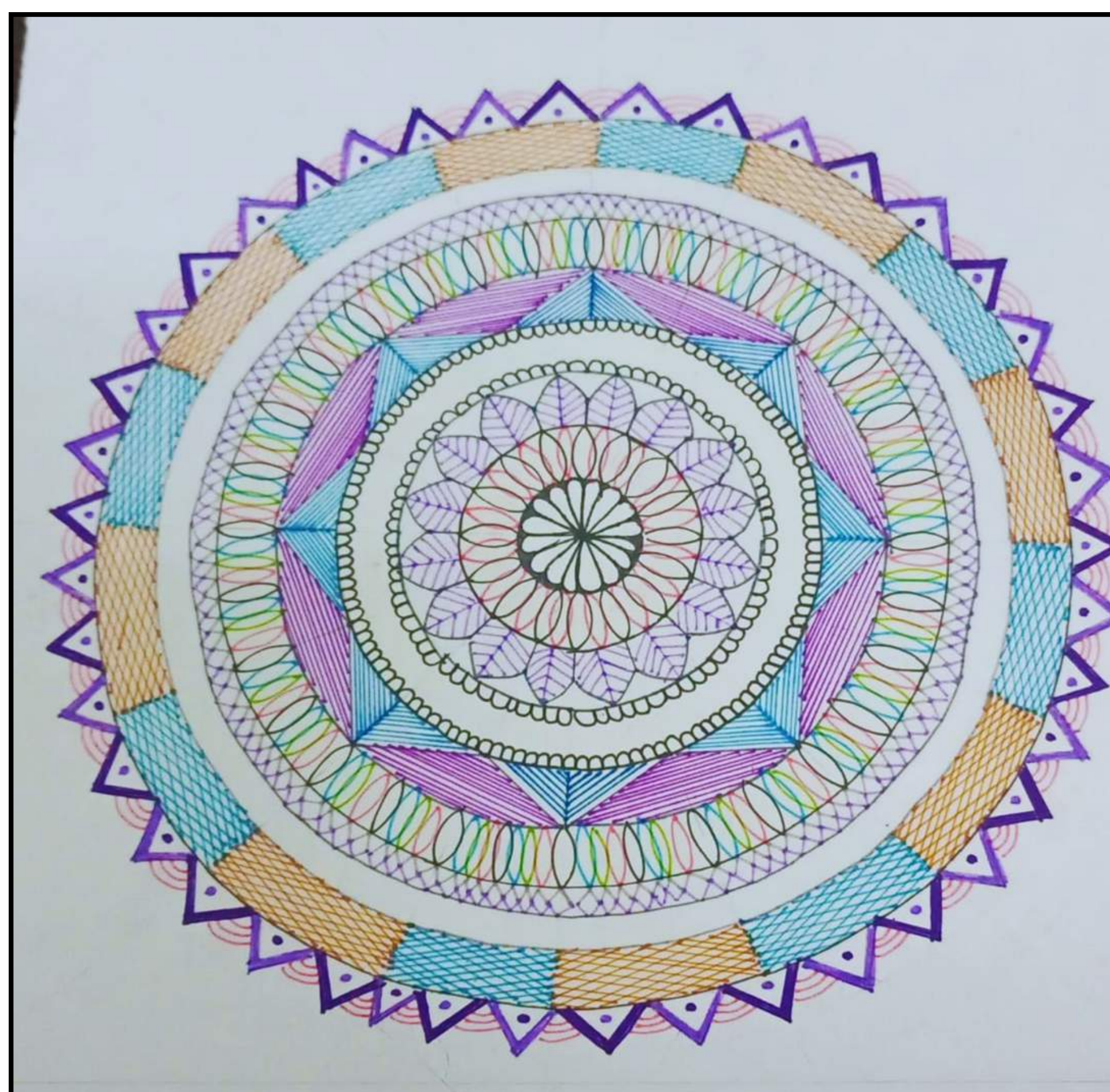
# CREATIVE CORNER



-Aishwarya Joshi



-Samruddhi Toshniwal



-Bhargi Bhavsar



# CREATIVE CORNER

## "Work and Joy"

Life is tough, the road is steep,  
Success is sown in nights with sleep.  
Hard work builds the dreams we chase,  
Through every challenge that we face.

But joy arrives with every friend,  
The office crew on whom we depend.  
Laughter, chats, and goals we share,  
Turn stress to strength and work to care.

With struggle and smiles side by side,  
We grow, we thrive, we turn the tide.  
Together we rise, day by day—  
Hard work and joy lead the way

-Sahil Khan

## “जीवन का सफर”

कितनी जल्दी बड़े हो गए ना हम,  
साइकिल से लेकर स्कूटी तक  
किताबों से लेकर लैपटॉप तक,  
ज़िद से बढ़कर ज़िम्मेदारियों तक।

लड़ाई से गुज़रे, फिर समझौते तक,  
ख्वाबों से निकल कर हकीकत तक,  
और मुस्कान के पीछे छुपी थकान तक।

कभी खेल में डूबा रहता था कल,  
आज काम के बोझ में खो गया वो पल।  
फुर्सत थी पहले, वक़्त का हिसाब न था,  
अब वक़्त है कम, और सपनों का जवाब न था।

बहुत था शौक जल्दी बड़े होने का,  
आज जाना — बचपन ही था बेहतरीन।  
ना कमाने का डर था, ना ज़माने का,  
क्या करूँ अब, बीत गया वो दौर हसीन।

~ Reena Sharma



# NEWSLETTER CREDIT



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