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EU–India Trade Deal Reshapes Chemical Market Access and Tariff Economics

The EU–India trade agreement significantly reduces or eliminates tariffs across industrial goods, including chemicals, while expanding quotas and easing market access rules. For chemical distributors, this structurally improves the competitiveness of Indian-origin specialty, basic, and fine chemicals in Europe and strengthens India’s role as a strategic alternative sourcing hub amid global supply diversification.

Source: Reuters

European Chemical Plant Closures Accelerate at Unprecedented Pace

A Cefic report shows chemical plant closures in Europe have surged six-fold since 2022, removing 37 million tonnes of capacity amid high energy costs and weak demand. For distributors, this structurally tightens regional supply and reinforces the importance of diversified sourcing from Asia, including India.

Source: Cefic

Azelis Broadens EMEA Specialty Portfolio with SI Group

Azelis expanded its EMEA distribution agreement with SI Group, reinforcing its focus on performance additives and specialty chemicals. The deal underlines intensifying competition among distributors to secure differentiated, formulation-critical portfolios.

Source: Azelis

Viridis Halts Biobased Ethyl Acetate Project Amid Market Pressures

Viridis suspended its biobased ethyl acetate project due to cost and market challenges, highlighting the economic hurdles facing green chemistry scale-up. For distributors, this underscores the need to balance sustainability ambitions with commercial viability when developing bio-based portfolios.

Source: CEN.ACS

CMA CGM Scales Back Suez Sailings Amid Ongoing Geopolitical Risks

CMA CGM reduced Suez Canal exposure due to continued regional instability, reinforcing Red Sea disruptions as a medium-term logistics risk. Chemical distributors should expect continued route diversification, higher freight premiums, and longer lead times for APAC-to-EU trade.

Source: Reuters

Supply Chain Leaders Bet on AI as Disruptions Accelerate

A Supply Chain Brain survey shows executives increasingly investing in AI-driven forecasting, procurement, and risk management tools. Chemical distributors adopting AI can gain competitive advantage through improved demand sensing, inventory optimisation, and supplier risk visibility.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

US and India Release Interim Trade Framework Reducing Tariffs on Industrial Goods

The United States and India unveiled an interim trade framework that sets a **reciprocal tariff level of ~18 %** for Indian exports to the U.S., sharply down from previous punitive rates that had reached around 50 %.

Source: Reuters



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