

Festive surge in gold imports drives trade deficit to \$21.8 billion

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India's trade deficit surged 141% in October 2025 to \$21.8 billion due to surging imports, driven in large part by a festival-related jump in gold imports, and subdued merchandise exports, official data showed.

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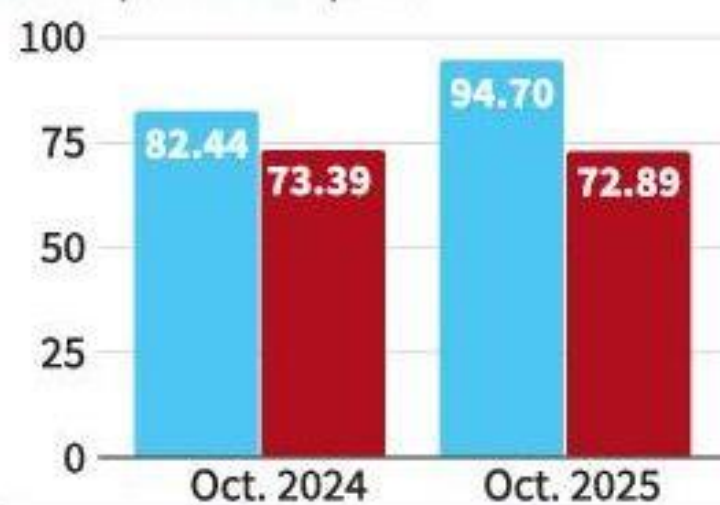
India's total imports jumped to \$94.7 billion in October this year, compared with \$82.4 billion in October 2024. As a result, the trade deficit grew to \$21.8 billion in October this year from \$9.05 billion last year.

"There are two things that have brought this increase in the trade deficit about," Commerce Secre-

Surge in deficit

The chart shows India's imports and exports during October 2024 and 2025 in \$ billion

■ Imports ■ Exports



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

tary Rajesh Agrawal said at a press briefing. "The first is gold and the other is silver. The increase in gold imports has been phenomenal in October despite very high global prices."

"In silver also, the growth has been phenomenal," he explained. "If you combine these two, these account for the additional trade deficit."

"An uninterrupted rise in gold prices ahead of the

festive season may have led to speculative demand which may not sustain going ahead, possibly leading to some cooling in the import numbers in the ensuing months," Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA said. "Nevertheless, the non-oil, non-gold imports rose by a substantial 12.4% year-on-year, led by fertilisers, machinery, electronic goods, non-ferrous metals, and silver."