

# Trump Tariffs: The West's Failed Russia Strategy

**How Western sanctions backfired and why India refuses to pay the price for their miscalculations**



# The West's Strategic Miscalculation

The US and EU imposed draconian sanctions on Russia after its military intervention in Ukraine, expecting economic collapse. Instead, Russia adapted while the West struggles with unintended consequences.

Trump has announced a 25% tariff on India with additional penalties for dealing with Russia. The objective was to deprive Russia of oil revenue, but sanctions have failed to achieve their strategic goals.

**1 Nord Stream Pipeline Destroyed**  
2022 pipeline explosion broke  
Russia-Europe energy link

**2 Price Cap Imposed**  
\$60 per barrel limit on Russian  
crude oil since December 2022

**3 Shadow Fleet Emerges**  
Russia created 400-1,400 tanker  
fleet to circumvent sanctions



# Western Double Standards Exposed

**Europe continues importing Russian oil and gas while demanding other nations stop. This hypocrisy undermines their moral authority and reveals the impracticality of their sanctions regime.**

## Europe's Contradiction

**EU progressively reduced Russian energy purchases but refined products continue flowing to Europe. Turkey, a NATO member, remains a major buyer.**

## Shipping Restrictions

**90% of shipping insurers are Western, giving them leverage over global oil trade. No legal basis exists for these restrictions.**

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# India's Strategic Energy Investments

**\$16B**

**Total Investment**

**India's investments in Russia as of  
October 2023**

**\$12.9B**

**Rosneft Deal**

**Russian acquisition of Essar Oil in 2017**

**40%**

**Supply Share**

**Russia now India's biggest oil supplier**

**India's biggest hydrocarbon investment abroad has been in Russia. Rosneft declared India a "strategic partner" in 2024, cooperating in production, refining, and trading. As the world's third-largest oil consumer, India seized the opportunity for discounted Russian oil.**

# India's Legal and Economic Position

**India's stance remains clear and firm: as a nation hugely dependent on imported energy, it will buy from the cheapest available source in accordance with national interest.**

## **Legal Compliance**

**India recognizes only UN-approved sanctions. Russian oil purchases violate no lawful sanctions and stay below Western price caps.**

## **Economic Benefits**

**Saved over \$25 billion in FY24 alone through discounted Russian oil.  
Total Russia trade: \$65.69 billion.**

## **Market Reality**

**Russian oil share grew from 2% pre-2022 to 40% today. Primary responsibility is toward Indian people.**

# Congressional Arrogance and Threats

**Senators Lindsey Graham and Max Blumenthal propose 500% tariffs on countries buying Russian oil, specifically targeting India, China, and Brazil. This reflects remarkable political shortsightedness.**

**"Even conceiving of such a move reflects the arrogance of power and a sense of impunity that marks the thinking of some elements in America's political class."**

**The timing confounds common sense: Trump negotiates with China while threatening 500% tariffs. India-US trade talks aim for \$500 billion by 2030, yet peripheral oil trade issues threaten the broader relationship.**





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# NATO Overreach and EU Sanctions

**NATO Secretary General Rutte warned India about secondary sanctions, despite having no jurisdiction. The EU imposed sanctions on Indian refinery Nayara, majority-owned by Russian entities.**

## Unprecedented Overreach

**NATO's remit doesn't cover India, yet Rutte's remarks suggest otherwise. Trump gave Putin 50 days for peace talks or face 100% "secondary tariffs" on oil-buying countries.**

**EU's 18th sanctions round targets Indian refineries processing Russian oil, including asset freezes and shipping service limits.**

## India's Response

**Rejected NATO interference, emphasizing energy security as overriding priority. Slammed EU sanctions as unilateral measures India doesn't recognize.**

# The Path Forward: Strategic Navigation

**The West's mismanagement of the Ukraine conflict continues causing global disruptions. India must navigate carefully as Trump threatens to wreck India-US relations while Europe falls into disarray.**



**India's challenge: maintaining crucial relationships with all parties while an out-of-control Trump disrupts global stability. The West's failed Russia strategy shouldn't become India's burden.**

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