

INDIA FOCUS



We must reduce our dependency on particular geographies for energy storage solutions

PIYUSH GOYAL,
Minister of Commerce and Industry

BRICS is a vital platform for advancing inclusive multilateralism

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN,
Minister of Finance



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India saw changes across sectors, focus was on good governance: PM

Home Minister Amit Shah calls 11 years of Modi government as 'golden era' of governance



As the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government completed 11 years in office, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the period as a transformative era of inclusive development, good governance, and people-centric reforms. The milestone also marked the completion of one year of PM Modi's third term, underlining continuity in leadership and vision.

In a statement released on the occasion, PM Modi emphasised that the government's unwavering focus has been on improving the lives of the poor

and fostering all-round development. He highlighted major welfare schemes such as the Ujjwala Yojana, PM Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Aushadhi, and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, which he said have given "new wings to the hopes" of millions of Indians. These initiatives, he noted, reflect a strong commitment to ease of living and social welfare.

The PM credited India's rapid progress across various sectors to a governance model rooted in the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas (Together with all,



Govt at a Glance

810 mn people getting free food-grains under PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojan

150 mn+ households with tap water connections

40 mn houses completed under PMAY

120 mn toilets built under Swachh Bharat

6.8 mn street vendors got loans through PM SVANidhi

525 mn to small entrepreneurs under MUDRA Yojana

Rs 147 bn+ loans to SC and ST under Stand-Up India

112 aspirational districts have surpassed their respective state average on development parameters

development for all, trust of all, and efforts of all". He said this guiding philosophy has helped the NDA government deliver "pathbreaking changes with speed, scale and sensitivity."

PM Modi also underlined India's rising stature on the global stage. He said India is now the fastest-growing major economy and has emerged as a key voice on crucial global challenges such as climate action and digital transformation. "We are proud of our collective success but at the same time, we look ahead with hope, confidence and a renewed resolve to build a Viksit Bharat (developed India)," he stated.

The PM noted that the transformation witnessed over the last 11 years has been possible due to the collective participation and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. He said the government's efforts have prioritised economic growth, infrastructure development, digital connectivity, healthcare, and inclusive social upliftment.

To further engage citizens in this journey of transformation, PM Modi invited them to explore the achievements of the NDA government through the NaMo App. The app features interactive content, including videos, infographics, quizzes, surveys, and articles that present the government's work in an accessible and engaging manner.

On social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the Prime Minister posted, "A clear focus on good governance and transformation! Powered by the blessings and collective participation of 140 crore (1.4 billion) Indians, India has witnessed rapid transformations across diverse sectors. From economic growth to social upliftment, the focus has been on people-centric, inclusive and all-round progress."

"The last 11 years have marked significant changes in our defence sector, with a clear focus

on both modernisation and becoming self-reliant when it comes to defence production. It is gladdening to see how the people of India have come together with the resolve of making India stronger," said Prime Minister.

It may be noted, India's defence exports have risen to Rs 236 billion in 2024-25 from Rs 19.40 billion in 2014-15.

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal highlighted the achievements in the power sector. He said power deficit was 0.1% as of April 2025. This marks a "monumental improvement" from the 4.2% shortage experienced in 2013-14, ensuring greater power availability for all, he added.

The Centre also released a comprehensive e-book summarising the achievements of the past 11 years across various sectors, including economy, infrastructure, social welfare, agriculture, education, and foreign policy. The publication aims to provide an in-depth look at the policies and outcomes that have shaped India's development trajectory during the NDA tenure.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah echoed the Prime Minister's sentiments, calling the 11-year period under PM Modi a "golden era" of governance. In a post on X, he said, "The Modi government has proved that when leadership is clear, the resolve is firm, and the intent is driven by public service, new records of service, security and governance are created." Shah praised the NDA's approach to administration, noting that it combined dedication, determination, and national interest to drive long-lasting changes.

As the government reflects on over a decade of rule, the BJP and its leadership project a forward-looking agenda centered around a developed, self-reliant India that actively shapes global discourse while ensuring inclusive growth at home. ■

India is experiencing strong GDP growth, says report

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INDIA FOCUS

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While the world grapples with geopolitical challenges, sluggish growth, high inflation, and elevated interest rates, India's macroeconomic indicators present a contrasting narrative, says a report.

The country is experiencing strong GDP growth, a stable currency, and moderating inflation and interest rates, alongside robust corporate earnings, says the report by Motilal Oswal.

For the first time in many years, corporate earnings are tracking GDP growth, resulting in the corporate profit-to-GDP ratio remaining flat YoY at a 17-year high of 4.7% in FY25. This stable ratio was primarily driven by a healthy 10.5% YoY profit growth in FY25.

This stable ratio was primarily driven by a healthy 10.5% YoY profit growth in FY25, building on a strong earnings base of 30% YoY in FY24, which was broadly aligned with the year's revenue growth. This performance was bolstered by a robust GDP growth of 9.8% YoY in FY25, following a high base of 12% YoY growth in FY24, says the report.

The research firm analysed corporate earnings as a percentage of GDP in greater detail, using the Nifty 500 as a proxy for corporate earnings, as this index represents ~90% of India's market capitalisation.

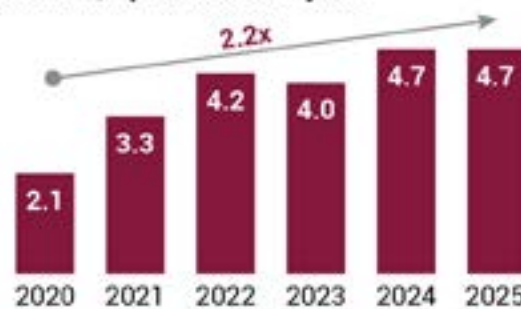
In 2025, the corporate profit-to-GDP ratio for the Nifty 500 universe remained at 4.7%, marking a 17-year high. Notably, for listed India Inc, the ratio stood at 5.1%, at a 14-year high. The sustained profit-to-GDP ratio for the Nifty 500 was positively influenced by sectors such as telecom (which shifted from being a negative contributor for the past seven years to a positive contributor in FY25), PSU banks (with a 0.07% increase in the ratio), healthcare (a 0.04% rise), consumer (a 0.04% increase), metals (a 0.03% rise) and infrastructure (a 0.2% increase).

The top-5 sectors contributed 71% to the afore-said ratio, with BFSI (1.84% of the GDP), oil & gas (0.51%), technology (0.40%), metals (0.34%), and automobiles (0.32%) being the key contributors. In contrast, e-commerce was the only sector that contributed adversely to the corporate profit-to-GDP ratio.

The corporate profits for the Nifty 500 universe experienced double-digit growth, rising 10.5% YoY in FY25. This growth was notable given the



Corporate profit-to-GDP ratio remains flat YoY, up 2.2x in five years



Profits have grown at a faster pace in the last five years (Nifty 500 PAT Rs bn)



GDP has recorded a double-digit growth in the past five years (GDP Rs bn)



Source: Motilal Oswal Financial Services

high base of +30.5% in FY24 and clocking a 30.3% CAGR over the past five years. This achievement occurred in a challenging year characterised by weak consumption, a slowdown in government spending during 1HFY25 amid elections, and volatile exports resulting from heightened global uncertainties. ■

MACRO WATCH

India elected to UN's Economic and Social Council for 2026-28

Written using agency reports

India has been elected to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations for the period 2026-28.

The council is at the heart of the UN's mechanism to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

"India was elected to the Economic and Social Council for the term 2026-28 @UN today. Thank member states for their overwhelming support and reposing their trust in us. Appreciate the efforts of @IndiaUNNewYork," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on X. "India remains committed to championing development issues and keep working to strengthen the ECOSOC," he said.

The ECOSOC is considered a key organ that plays an important role in recommending policies related to economic and social issues. ■

India's real GDP growth for FY26 will exceed 6.5%: ICRA

Written using agency reports

Ratings agency ICRA has projected that India's real GDP growth for 2025-26 will exceed 6.5%. The agency also said the country's real gross value added (GVA) growth will surpass 6.3% in the period, a PTI report quoted ICRA.

While GDP determines the total value of goods and services produced within the country, GVA is the total value of goods and services produced minus the cost of intermediate goods and services.



According to ICRA, rural demand is likely to remain upbeat, aided by rabi cash flows and above-normal reservoir levels. It also said that the combination of the sizeable income tax relief in the budget for 2025-26, rate cuts leading to lower EMIs and moderation in food inflation is expected to boost household disposable incomes.

The report also said the tepidness in India's merchandise exports is expected to continue in the near term.

Services exports are likely to outpace merchandise export growth, according to the ICRA outlook.

The Centre's capital expenditure is budgeted to rise by 10.1% in 2025-26, which will boost investment activity, the report added. ■

INFRA BOOSTER

India has committed \$20 bn for multimodal logistics: Minister

Written using agency reports

India has committed \$20 billion for infrastructure development focused on enhancing multimodal logistics, port connectivity, and trade facilitation.

"India is working to become a credible and competitive alternative. Through policy incentives, ease of doing business, and infrastructure enhancement, we are laying the foundation for India to emerge as one of the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047," said Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal while delivering the keynote address at the India Country Session, India@Nor-Shipping, in Oslo.

He emphasised India's maritime sector as pivotal to achieving Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat, driving growth, resilience, and global connectivity. India's ongoing reforms – enhancing port infrastructure, integrating logistics, and improving ease of doing business – have already led to higher port efficiency and investor confidence.

Highlighting international connectivity, the minister spoke of strategic corridors such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC), and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). He noted that India has committed \$20 billion toward enhancing multimodal logistics and port connectivity.

On sustainability, Sonowal announced three upcoming green hydrogen hub ports at Kandla, Tuticorin, and Paradip, positioning India at the forefront of green fuel adoption. As a leader in the IMO's Green Voyage 2050 initiative, India is also supporting developing nations in their energy transitions.

At the session, "India: The Resurgent Shipbuilding Destination," India's evolving



“India is working to become a credible and competitive alternative. Through policy incentives, ease of doing business, and infrastructure enhancement, we are laying the foundation for India to emerge as one of the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047”

SARBANANDA SONOWAL

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways

shipbuilding ecosystem was presented, backed by policy incentives, global collaborations, and a vision to be among the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047.

The Minister also spotlighted India’s advanced maritime digital transformation through initiatives like ONOP, the National Logistics Portal (Marine), and MAITRI.

India showcased its HKC-compliant ship recycling industry, contributing to the circular economy, and detailed its port-led decarbonisation strategy.

India, the world’s second-largest provider of seafarers to Norwegian vessels, called for deeper maritime manpower collaboration. On investments, innovative financing tools like the Maritime Development Fund aim to catalyse private investment through blended finance and risk-sharing mechanisms. ■

CARGO ROUTE

India to operationalise 76 waterways by 2027

Written using agency reports

India is set to operationalise 76 national waterways by 2027, with cargo volumes expected to reach 156 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) by FY 2026, said Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal during a consultative committee meeting in Mumbai. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) presented updates on major projects and future targets, with Members of Parliament backing enhanced budgetary support.

The inland waterways network will expand from 11 states in FY 2024 to 23 states and 4 Union Territories by FY 2027. Projects worth Rs 14 billion have been initiated, supported by ongoing surveys across 10,000 km each month to improve navigability. A Rs 50 billion road map for the Northeast includes terminal upgrades and ship repair facilities on key waterways such as NW-2 (Brahmaputra) and NW-16 (Barak).

The Regional Waterways Grid will establish a 4,067 km economic corridor linking Varanasi to Dibrugarh via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route. NW-1 (Ganga) is being upgraded to handle 2,000 DWT vessels, with cargo terminals at Varanasi, Haldia, Sahibganj, and Kalughat.

Inland waterways will also play a key role in green transport with electric and hydrogen-powered vessels being introduced under Harit Nauka Guidelines. River cruise tourism is growing rapidly, with 15 operational circuits across 13 NWs. By 2027, 51 new cruise circuits and world-class terminals at Kolkata, Varanasi, and Guwahati are planned. ■



India’s largest auto Gati Shakti terminal inaugurated

Written using agency reports

The Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has inaugurated the country’s largest automobile Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Manesar, Haryana.

The terminal is a key infrastructure development that significantly enhances the logistics efficiency of automobile transportation.

The Manesar facility is connected to Patli railway station through a 10 km dedicated rail link, which forms part of the 121.7 km Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor being developed by the Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC). The construction of this 10 km link involved an investment of Rs 8 billion, with HRIDC contributing Rs 6.8 billion and the remaining amount funded by Maruti Suzuki. The loading capacity of this Gati Shakti Cargo

terminal is 4,500,000 automobiles per annum.

Addressing the gathering, the minister highlighted the significant transformation Indian Railways has undergone over the past decade. He added that a major decision was taken recently to upgrade passenger train services. Over 100 MEMU trains will now be augmented — increasing their composition from 8 to 12 coaches to 16 to 20 coaches — greatly benefiting short-distance commuters. A new factory has been set up at Kazipet, Andhra Pradesh, for the manufacturing of over 100 MEMU trains.

Vaishnav said, “In the financial year 2023–24, Indian Railways transported approximately 7.2 billion passengers and 1,617 million tonnes of freight. This performance helped Indian Railways achieve the second-highest freight volume globally, marking 2023–24 as a historic year.” ■



POWER PUSH

India to spend Rs 900 bn for undersea power lines to Middle East

Written using agency reports

India will spend around Rs 900 billion to set up undersea power transmission line for transfer of electricity to Saudi Arabia and UAE, Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said.

“We have already signed joint venture agreements with Saudi Arabia and UAE for these proj-

ects. The power transmission link with Saudi Arabia will be set up at a cost of Rs 470 billion while the UAE project will involve spending Rs 430 billion.” The two transmission projects, part of the government’s focus on boosting electricity exports, will have capacity of carrying 2 Gigawatt electricity each. While the Saudi Arabia project will have a subsea cable length of 1,400 km, the project to export power to UAE will have a subsea cable length of 1,600 km. ■

Centre clears Rs 54 bn for 30 GWh battery storage projects

Written using agency reports

The Indian government has announced a new viability gap funding (VGF) scheme worth Rs 54 billion to support the development of 30 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of battery energy storage systems (BESS). Reports suggest that this is aimed at improving storage capacity to handle the growing share of renewable energy in the power grid.

This scheme aims to attract Rs 330 billion in investment, meeting the country’s BESS requirement by 2028.

The funding will come from the Power System Development Fund. Out of the total capacity, 25 GWh will be distributed among 15 states, while 5 GWh has been allocated to NTPC Ltd. The government plans to float the first round of tenders for the scheme within the next 3 months.

This is in addition to an earlier Rs 37 billion VGF scheme, under which 13.2 GWh of BESS projects are already underway. Combined, these initiatives are to help India reach 43.2 GWh of battery storage capacity by 2027–28.

Alongside the VGF announcement, the government has approved a 100% waiver on Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for BESS projects that are co-located with renewable energy plants and commissioned by June 30, 2028. A similar waiver has also been approved for pumped hydro storage projects.

To address delays in power transmission infrastructure, the Centre has proposed a Rs 530 billion investment for Ultra High Voltage Alternating Current (UHVAC) systems. This includes the development of nine 1100 kV transmission lines and 10 substations by 2034.

In March 2025, the government revised compensation norms to address right-of-way issues in transmission projects. Compensation for tower areas has been raised from 85% to 200% of land value, and corridor compensation from 15% to 30%.

The Central Electricity Authority estimates that India will need 236 GWh of BESS capacity by 2031–32. Peak power demand has already touched 241 GW this year and is projected to hit 270 GW during the summer, as per the reports. ■



MAKE IN INDIA

India aims to become \$4 bn MRO hub by 2030, says PM

Written using agency reports

India is aiming to become a global hub for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services worth \$4 billion by 2030, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told delegates at the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) 81st annual general meeting in New Delhi.

The growth plan, he said, will be supported by an expansion in the number of MRO facilities, from 96 in 2014 to 154 now, 100% foreign direct investment (FDI), reduced goods and services tax (GST), and regulatory reforms.

Most MRO services for Indian carriers are currently carried out overseas due to the limited number of domestic facilities equipped to service nacelles, engines, auxiliary power units (APUs), and landing gear, according to aviation industry sources.

Welcoming global aviation leaders as the IATA event returned to India after four decades, Modi highlighted the sector's double-digit growth in the country. "In India, 240 million passengers travel domestically and internationally per year. This number is expected to increase to 500 million passengers per year by 2030," he said.

The Prime Minister pointed to India's expanding infrastructure and said: "Until 2014, there were 74 operational airports. Now, this number has increased to 162... This is just the beginning. India's aviation sector has to grow long and wide. These are not just statistics. They are a sign of the potential of India's future."

He praised the regional connectivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), calling it "a golden chapter in Indian civil aviation history". The plan, launched in 2016 to promote air travel in smaller towns, has helped "over 15 million passengers benefit from affordable air travel," the Prime Minister noted.

UDAN benefits passengers by offering lower airfares on regional routes. Furthermore, airlines receive financial support through viability gap funding and concessions like reduced airport charges and tax breaks.

Highlighting the emergence of the MRO industry as a sunrise sector, he said India is accelerating its efforts to become a global hub for aircraft maintenance. In 2014, there were 96 MRO facilities in the country; that number has now risen to 154, the Prime Minister said, adding, "100% FDI under the automatic route, GST reduction, and tax rationalisation measures have given fresh momentum to India's MRO sector." ■

LOCAL PRIORITY

Indian firms shifting focus to domestic market because of trade wars: Survey

Written using agency reports

The ongoing tariff wars seem to have triggered a rethink among Indian businesses, and a growing number of entities are shifting focus to prioritise domestic markets, according to a survey of 250 entities released recently.

"Indian firms are rethinking their trade strategies to adapt to evolving market dynamics, with 87% of firms pivoting their focus toward domestic clients, prioritising local customer needs to ensure stability," said a survey of entities having turnover of \$50 million-\$2 billion.

Over three-fourths of the respondents said that they are reassessing their long-term business strategies in response to changes in trade policies, said the survey conducted by foreign lender HSBC. Four-fifths of the respondents said they are exercising greater caution in expansion and investment decisions due to trade-related uncertainties.

US President Donald Trump has taken a slew of measures on the trade policies front to protect domestic interests, which are different from preferences from administrations in the past.

Indian firms are recalibrating their focus toward domestic markets and actively exploring new regions to mitigate risks and seize emerging opportunities, HSBC India's head of global trade solutions Runa Bakshi said.

The survey said 91% of Indian firms are focusing on entering new markets, particularly in regions less affected by trade disruptions, while 82% are choosing to exit high-risk markets impacted by trade uncertainty, and 87% are exploring mergers and acquisitions to bolster their market position or strengthen supply chains through strategic partnerships.

It said 83% of Indian firms as against 73% average in the global survey anticipate a substantial rise in cost in the next six months due to trade



uncertainties, and over half of these firms are concerned by the escalating expenses driven by tariffs and other trade-related factors. ■

DEFENCE TECH

DRDO transfers nine defence system technologies to 10 industry partners

Written using agency reports

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has transferred the technologies of nine defence systems to 10 industry partners as part of efforts to strengthen the defence industrial ecosystem through public and private sector participation.

The transfer took place on June 7, 2025, at the Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE), a DRDO laboratory located in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra.

The licensing agreements were handed over in the presence of Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman, DRDO, Samir V Kamat.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the transferred technologies include the CBRN Recce Vehicle (Tracked) Mk-II to Bharat Electronics Limited; the Mounted Gun System to Bharat Forge Limited; and the Anti-Terrorist Vehicle – Tracked Version to Metaltech Motor Bodies Private Limited. The technology for the full trailer of the 70 tonne tank transporter for the Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Mk-1A has been transferred to four partners: BEML Limited, Tata International Vehicle Applications, SDR Auto Private Limited, and John Galt.

Expandable Mobile Shelter technology has been transferred to Bharat Electronics Limited, while the Vajra Riot Control Vehicle has gone to Tata Advanced Systems Limited. The Unit Maintenance Vehicle for MBT Arjun has been licensed to BEML Limited, while the Unit Repair Vehicle for the same platform has also been transferred, though the recipient was not specified. The Multi-Purpose Decontamination System

technology has been transferred to Dass Hitachi Limited and Goma Engineering Private Limited.

VRDE also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with COEP Technological University, Pune, to collaborate on emerging technologies and other advanced areas. ■

DRDO opens cutting-edge quantum research centre in Delhi

Written using agency reports

In a significant stride toward strengthening India's strategic and defence capabilities, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) inaugurated its new Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) on May 27, 2025, at Metcalfe House, Delhi.

The state-of-the-art facility was unveiled by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and Chairman of DRDO. Conceived to advance indigenous research in quantum science, the centre marks a milestone in India's efforts to build self-reliant and future-ready defence technologies.

Designed as a hub for cutting-edge experimentation, QTRC is equipped with sophisticated platforms for research in critical quantum areas.

As a key partner in the National Quantum Mission, DRDO reaffirmed its commitment to leading India's quantum journey across sensing, communication, and post-quantum cryptography — laying the groundwork for a secure and technologically sovereign future. ■

MARITIME TIES

India to build first polar research vessel with Norway

Written using agency reports

India is set to build its first polar research vessel (PRV) after a landmark MoU was signed between Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata, and Norway's Kongsberg during Union Minister Sarbajit Sonowal's visit to Norway. The PRV will be indigenously constructed at GRSE's shipyard, incorporating Norwegian design expertise and fulfilling the needs of the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).

Minister Sonowal called the MoU a symbol of India's growing scientific ambition and global collaboration under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He emphasised that the vessel, equipped with advanced scientific tools, will enable deep-sea exploration and polar research — boosting the Make in India mission and showcasing the country's high-end ship-building capabilities.

Sonowal also reaffirmed India's MAHASAGAR





vision — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Region — at the ‘Role of Shipping in Shaping the Future’ ministerial meeting, alongside leaders from Brazil, Japan, the UN, and Norway. He highlighted the Sagarmala 2.0 programme and India’s goal of becoming a global maritime leader through infrastructure, green shipping, and strategic cooperation.

During a roundtable with the Norwegian Shipowners’ Association (NSA), Sonowal invited investment in India’s shipbuilding and green shipping initiatives. He noted India’s shipyards already account for 11% of NSA’s order book and urged further collaboration in ship recycling, seafarer recruitment, and joint ventures under India’s Maritime Development Fund. ■

MINERAL PRODUCTION

Mineral and non-ferrous metal output grows in early 2025-26

Written using agency reports

India’s mineral and non-ferrous metal sectors continue to show strong performance in 2025-26, maintaining the momentum from record production in the previous fiscal. The Index of Mineral Production for the mining and quarrying sector stood at 156.8 in March 2025, marking a 0.4% rise over March 2024.

Key minerals witnessed robust growth during the month. Iron ore production increased by 5.7% to 25.9 million metric tonnes (MMT), manganese ore rose 9.7% to 0.39 MMT, and zinc concentrate grew by 5.5% to 0.19 MMT. Iron ore remains dominant, contributing nearly 70% of the total value under MCDR mineral production, with 289 MMT output in 2024-25.

Provisional data for April 2025 — the first month of 2025-26 — also indicates continued expansion across key minerals. Bauxite production climbed 13.9% to 2.13 MMT, limestone grew 1.2% to 40.5 MMT, lead and zinc ore production rose 2.4% to 1.27 MMT, and zinc concentrate advanced 7.7% to 0.14 MMT compared with April 2024.

India remains the world’s second-largest aluminium producer and ranks among the top 10

in refined copper. The sector’s growth reflects sustained demand from user industries such as infrastructure, energy, construction, automotive, and capital goods — highlighting the broader strength of the economy. ■

ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

India has strong share in smartphone assembly, says S&P Global

Written using agency reports

India ranks second for both Samsung and Apple in smartphone assembly share, said S&P Global Ratings in a report. The report added that Vietnam and India are the key markets to watch out for, besides China, in Asia’s tech-manufacturing sector.

“Smartphone production is labour-intensive, favouring production in countries with low labour costs such as India and Vietnam. Tariffs on these countries pose further risk for the issuers with significant US smartphone exposure such as Apple and Samsung and their suppliers,” said the report.

Although Samsung accounted for nearly 55% of assembly share in Vietnam, compared with about 25% share in India, the latter still accounted for a higher percentage of smartphone shipments in 2024. The two countries currently account for the bulk of Samsung’s production base.

Similarly, China and India dominate in terms of iPhone’s final assembly share. In India, the company’s assembly share is about 15%, much lower than China’s current 84%. However, the report also noted that Apple is shifting the production supply chain of iPhones to India, which will likely cover most of Apple smartphones shipped to the US by 2026. This is expected to impact the assembly share percentages. ■

Electronics sector projected to reach \$282 bn by 2030, says PwC

Written using agency reports

India’s electronics manufacturing sector is on track for substantial growth, with PwC conservatively estimating its size to reach \$282 billion by 2030. This projection, while more conservative than the Indian government’s ambitious \$500 billion target, still represents a significant leap for the industry.

According to PwC, the mobiles and wearables segment will be a primary catalyst for this expansion, alone accounting for an estimated \$160 billion of the total value.

PwC characterises India as “a melting point of a lot of investments” due to its horizontal approach that benefits numerous industries. The firm’s

report indicates that the sector's growth could range between \$282 billion and \$418 billion, contingent on whether central and state governments successfully deliver on critical infrastructure and other projected developments.

Sujay Shetty, Executive Director-ESDM and Semiconductors, PwC India, said: "Even if it's not \$500 billion, 2.8 times of growth in six years is also quite something."

He noted a "tremendous amount of interest" from infrastructure developers, data centres, and electronics component manufacturers, signalling robust investment activity. Shetty also cautioned in a presentation that potential sluggish capital expenditure increases in other sectors could temper overall growth.

This outlook from PwC underscores the strong potential within India's electronics manufacturing landscape, driven by key segments and sustained investment interest. ■

EXPORT STRENGTH

India has set Rs 3 trn defence export target by 2029: Sanjay Seth

Written using agency reports

The Indian government has set a target of Rs 3 trillion in defence exports by 2029, said Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth. Addressing media persons, he claimed that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Indian military has become self-reliant.

"India that was once seen globally as a defence importer, has now emerged as a major exporter, supplying defence equipment to at least 92 countries. Last year alone India exported defence equipment worth Rs 235 billion," he claimed.

Seth emphasised that the Modi government's 11-year tenure has been a golden period, and the country is confident of achieving the goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 under PM Modi's vision. ■

India will certainly cross \$825 bn exports in FY26: Commerce minister

Written using agency reports

The world trade is facing severe geopolitical challenges, but India has consistently emerged as a winner in such times, and the country's exports of goods and services will certainly cross \$825 billion in 2025-26, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

Despite global economic uncertainties due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Israel-Hamas war and the Red Sea crisis, the country's exports touched an all-time high of \$825 billion against \$778 billion in 2023-24.



"The world is going through severe geopolitical challenges... So these are challenging times, but India has always emerged a winner in challenging times and we did a record \$825 billion exports in 2024-25. This year, we hope to do much better"

PIYUSH GOYAL

Minister of Commerce and Industry

According to estimates of certain multilateral bodies, there would be a contraction in global trade, Goyal said. "The world is going through severe geopolitical challenges... So these are challenging times, but India has always emerged (as) a winner in challenging times and we did a record \$825 billion exports in 2024-25. This year, we hope to do much better," he told PTI.

In 2025-26, merchandise exports are expected to grow 12% to \$525-535 billion from \$437 billion in 2024-25, while services exports are likely to rise by about 20% year-on-year to \$465-475 billion from \$387 billion in the last fiscal, according to FIEO.

The major sectors that are expected to show a significant jump in the shipments this fiscal include electronics, engineering, chemicals, textile and clothing, pharma and even the agriculture sector.

Free trade agreements with countries such as the UAE, Australia and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) will also help boost exports in the coming months. ■

MARITIME MUSCLE

Navy inducts anti-submarine craft INS Arnala

Written using agency reports

The INS Arnala, an indigenously built anti-submarine warfare shallow-water craft (ASWSWC), was commissioned into the Indian Navy at a ceremony in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



The first of 16 such warships, it is expected to boost the Navy's combat capabilities. It would also strengthen coastal defence and the country's position as a self-reliant maritime power in the Indian Ocean.

Named after a coastal fort in Maharashtra, the Arnala, which was inducted into the Eastern Naval Command, is 77 metres long and has a gross tonnage of more than 1,490 tonnes. It will be the largest Indian Naval warship to be propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet combination.

Other than warfighting — to detect, track and engage enemy submarines, particularly in coastal and shallow waters — the ASWSWC ship is designed for search and rescue.

It has advanced underwater sensors and acoustic communications, and a weapons' suite that includes lightweight torpedoes, rockets, anti-torpedo decoys and mine-laying capability.

The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, who presided over the ceremony, underscored the transition from a 'buyer's Navy' to a 'builder's Navy', according to an Indian Navy media statement.

Indigenous warships increasingly feature cutting-edge home-grown systems, ranging from stealth technology to electronic warfare suites and sensors, it said. It added that these significantly enhance combat preparedness, progressively realising the vision of self-reliance.

Constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (in Kolkata) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (in Kochi) — with more than 80% indigenous components — this and the remaining 15 ASWSWC ships would replace the ageing Abhay-class corvettes. ■

BIG ROLE OF SMALL PLAYERS

MSME sector contributes 29% to GDP and employs over 60% of the workforce

Written using agency reports

NITI Aayog has released a pivotal report, Designing a Policy for Medium Enterprises, spotlighting the untapped potential of medium enterprises as growth engines in India's journey toward Viksit Bharat @2047.

Launched by Vice Chairman Suman Bery, the report underscores the MSME sector's critical role — contributing 29% to GDP, 40% to exports, and employing over 60% of the workforce.

Despite this, medium enterprises make up only 0.3% of registered MSMEs, compared with 97% micro and 2.7% small enterprises. Yet, this small segment contributes nearly 40% of MSME exports, highlighting their potential for scale, innovation, and competitiveness.

The report identifies key challenges faced by medium enterprises: Limited access to customised financial products, slow tech adoption, weak R&D support, inadequate testing infrastructure, and skill mismatches. ■

GROWTH ON DIGITAL INFRA

India's AI market to triple to \$17 bn by 2027: Report

Written using agency reports

The Indian AI market is expected to grow to over \$17 billion by 2027, more than tripling its current size, driven by increased investments in enterprise technology, a flourishing digital ecosystem, and a strong pool of skilled professionals, according to BCG.

The nation makes up 16% of the world's AI talent, placing it behind only the US, reflecting both its demographic advantage and strong STEM education system.

Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said India has a thriving AI ecosystem with over 600,000 AI professionals, 700 million internet users, and a surge of AI startups with over 2000 launched in the past three years. "India's domestic AI market is projected to more than triple to \$17 billion by 2027, making it one of the fastest-growing AI economies globally. This momentum is fuelled by rising enter-prise tech investments, a thriving digital ecosystem, and a robust talent base," the report said.



Beyond talent, India's public digital infrastructure, such as Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), provide a robust and scalable base for AI integration across various industries.

With a large base of internet users and extensive smartphone adoption, India generates massive volumes of data, which is the fuel for training AI models. This scale, BCG said, combined with open architecture, is enabling the development of population-scale AI solutions across sectors. India is set to add 45 new data centres in 2025, bringing an extra 1,015 MW of capacity to its network of 152 centres.

"AI is no longer an option but a business necessity. Indian companies are using it to leapfrog traditional growth curves and compete confidently on the global stage. While the hurdle rate for successful deployment is high, the rewards are even higher, and the results speak for themselves. What separates the leaders is not just the tech, but how they manage change, build talent, and embed AI into the fabric of their organisation," said Mandeep Kohli, Managing Director and Partner, BCG India. ■

India emerges as global fintech hotspot

Written using agency reports

India is one of the most promising fintech markets globally, according to the Global Fintech 2025 report by QED Investors and Boston Consulting Group (BCG). The report noted that fintechs are focussing on profitability by banking on AI-driven innovation and rapid expansion in high-growth markets such as India.

Fintech revenues surged 21% globally in 2024, far outpacing the 6% growth seen in traditional financial services. Notably, 69% of listed fintechs publicly are now profitable, with EBITDA margins improving from 12% in 2023 to 16% in

2024. India stands out in this landscape due to its robust digital public infrastructure — UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework — paired with a mobile-first consumer base and regulatory clarity.

"India's fintech growth story is powered by structural digital rails and a rising middle class," the report notes. Currently, 31% of Indians fall into the affluent middle-class category, a figure projected to reach 40% (around 600 million people) by 2031. This demographic shift is fuelling unprecedented demand for credit across consumption, retail and SME sectors.

Despite this growth, India remains underpenetrated in secured lending. Only 36% of the country's nominal GDP in 2024 comprised outstanding retail debt, with just 23% of that being secured. This compares starkly with countries such as the US and UK, where secured debt forms the bulk of retail credit.

Fintech-led digital lending is growing at a 35% CAGR, with players such as Paytm, LendingKart, and OneCard enabling access to credit for previously underserved segments. These firms are leveraging AI and alternative data to underwrite borrowers with limited credit histories, while maintaining prudence in risk management.

With investor appetite rising and credit demand accelerating, India's fintech ecosystem is poised for its next chapter of scaled innovation. ■

India's finance future is 'phygital', driven by UPI, says FM

Written using agency reports

Emphasising the convergence of physical and digital financial experiences, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India's financial future will be "phygital" — a blend of physical and digital services.

"It is important to leverage the reach of technology as well as maintain physical presence to serve customers better and build trust over time," Sitharaman said at the Digital Payments Awards 2025, held in New Delhi.

"Our fintech revolution is not just Made in India, but also Made for the World. We're exporting solutions, not just software," she said, referencing UPI-based payments now accepted in seven countries, including France, the UAE, and Singapore. "It is heartening to note that international merchant payments through UPI are now accepted at select merchant outlets in Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Nepal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE."

Sitharaman stated that India's fintech model has earned admiration worldwide, with many advanced economies seeking collaboration. "What we have achieved in six years would have taken 50 years under normal circumstances," she said. ■



Mango Mosaic: A Taste of Indian Summers

The Indian High Commission in Singapore organised a mango promotional event called “Mango Mosaic: A Taste of Indian Summers” on June 26 at Shangri La Hotel Singapore. The event was a platform to introduce and showcase premium varieties of Indian mangoes, such as Dussheri, Langra, Chausa and Badami, to the Singaporean retail and business community. The exquisite flavours of the king of fruits was savoured by all in attendance. These fruits are classified under the One District, One Product category.



International Day of Yoga held in Singapore

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21 at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore. Hundreds gathered under the iconic Supertrees to embrace the power of breath, movement and stillness — a reminder that wellness begins from within. Mr. Dinesh Vasu Dash, Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth and the Ministry of Manpower, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. With this year's theme — Yoga for One Earth, One Health — we were reminded of the deep connection between personal well-being and the health of our planet.



Forthcoming Events In India

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I. The 7th edition of Bharat Footwear and Leather Expo (BFLEX) (formerly known as the Delhi International Leather Expo)

Date & Venue: November 12-14, 2025;
Yashobhoomi, New Delhi
Organiser: The Council for Leather
Exports (CLE)
Contact: ad-imdfairs@cleindia.com

Details: The 7th Bharat Footwear and Leather Expo (BFLEX), a key event for the

global leather and footwear industry, is scheduled to be held from November 12-14, 2025, at the state-of-the-art India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC) in Dwarka, New Delhi, also known as Yashobhoomi. The expo has been rebranded from DILEX to BFLEX, signifying India's amplified focus on establishing a stronger global footprint in the sector.

Website: <https://www.bharatfootwearleatherexpo.com/>

II. Bharat International Rice Conference 2025 (BIRC 2025)

Date & Venue: October 30-31, 2025;
Bharat Mandapam,
Pragati Maidan,
New Delhi, India
Organiser: The Indian Rice Exporters'
Federation (IREF) and APEDA
Contact: info@iref.net

Details: The Bharat International Rice Conference 2025 (BIRC 2025), a major international event, will be organised by the Indian Rice Exporters' Federation (IREF) and APEDA (Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India).

Website: www.birc.in

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