

1st- 31st January 2025

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BHARAT NEWS BY FII

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



National Startup Day 2025 : FII & BioNEST Seminar on Challenges of Technology Startups and MSMEs



India displays its powers at Republic day parade. President of Indonesia is Chief Guest.



State Visit of President of the Republic of Singapore to India (January 14-18, 2025)



State visit of President of Indonesia to India (January 25-26, 2025)



Maha Kumbh 2025



Indian Dream Global Action



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BHARAT NEWS BY FII (JAN - 2025)

INDEX

| Page No. | Title | Page No. | Title |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Cover Page | 23 | Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, visits ship-breaking yard at Alang, Bhavnagar |
| 2 | Index | 24-25 | Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII visits Gujarat towns |
| 3 | Our Inspirations / Editorial | 26 | State Visit of President of the Republic of Singapore to India (January 14-18, 2025) |
| 4 | “Talk with an Expert” show | 27 | Trump sworn in as President of USA. S. Jaishankar EAM represents India at the swearing-in ceremony. |
| 5,6 | Business Opportunities | 28 | State visit of President of Indonesia to India (January 25-26, 2025) |
| 7 | News Highlights - Political and International | 29,30 | India displays its powers at Republic day parade. President of Indonesia is Chief Guest. |
| 8 | News Highlights - Banking & Finance and Industry | 31 | Beating Retreat ceremony, 2025 |
| 9 | News Highlights - Agriculture and Start-up | 32,33 | Glimpse of World Economic Forum Davos (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025 |
| 10 | News Highlights - Skill Development and Science & Technology | 34,35 | Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India |
| 11 | News Highlights - Auto Technology and CSR | 36,37 | Maha Kumbh 2025 |
| 12 | News Highlights - Defence and Energy & Power | 38,39 | 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2025 (January 8-10, 2025) |
| 13 | Initiatives by Govt. and Invest India | 40,42 | Pakistan: A Failed State- by Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII |
| 14 | MEA and Diplomatic Postings | 43,44 | An Open Letter to US President Donald Trump by M. M. Goel |
| 15 | FII Activities - FII Expands Global Presence in Bulgaria and Balkan countries. | 45,46 | Celebrating National Tourism Day by Ms. Deepthi B |
| 16 | FII Activities- FII now reaches Russia & CIS Countries. | 47,48 | Foreign Trade Policy and its Benefits to Exporters by CA Mr. Rohit Garg |
| 17 | FII Activities- National Startup Day 2025: FII and BioNEST Seminar on Challenges of Technology Startups and MSMEs | 49,50 | FII Leadership |
| 18 | FII Activities- Sh. Parveen Tayal Appointed President of FII Hisar District Unit | 51 | FII Patrons |
| 19 | FII Bulgaria chapter welcomes Ambassador H.E. Sh. Arun Kumar Sahu | 52 | FII International Presence |
| 20 | Lean Awareness Program: Empowering MSMEs with Lean Manufacturing Practices | 53,54 | FII International Team |
| 21,22 | FII Activities- Thailand Chapter | 55 | FII Indian States Team |
| 23 | Sh. Mihir Shikari, Gujarat Bureau Chief FII, meets Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, during his recent visit to Gujarat. | 56 | FII- Domestic Network Charter |
| | | 57 | FII- International Network Charter |
| | | 58 | FII Partners |
| | | 59 | National Festivals & Annual Days |
| | | 60 | M/s Bioheaven 360 Genotec Pvt. Ltd. (Ad) |



Padma Bhushan
L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan
L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj

OUR INSPIRATIONS



From the Desk of



Dr. Deepak Jain

Director-General, Federation of Indian Industry

The Union budget 2025-26 was presented in the parliament. By income tax reductions, infrastructure expansion, incentives for startups and MSMEs, and support for the manufacturing sector the budget creates a remarkable balance between economic growth, tax relief, and fiscal discipline. Importantly reforms in taxation, power sector, urban development, financial sector and regulatory framework have been impacted. Inclusive growth and aspirations of rising middle class have been taken care to achieve the dream of Viksit Bharat with Sabka Vikas dream.



MR. SANJEEV ARORA

DR. DRAVYA JAIN

Every Thursday

18:00 PM (IST)

Talk with an Expert show

FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
2nd January, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On


Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Bio-Technology's Role in Shaping a Sustainable Future

Moderator: 
Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker: 
Dr Shailendra Vyas
Chairperson - Startup Committee &
Skill Development Committee, FII

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Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Empower Your Mindset : The Keys to Confidence and Resilience

Moderator: 
Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker: 
Ms Sangeeta Kabra
International Lifestyle Coach,
Writer & Founder At Perfect'U'

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
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Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Empower Your Mindset : The Keys to Confidence and Resilience

Moderator: 
Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker: 
Ms Sangeeta Kabra
International Lifestyle Coach,
Writer & Founder At Perfect'U'

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Program Conceptualization

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EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
23rd January, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On


Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Why Bhagavad Gita is considered as a Guide to Life, Purpose, and Leadership?

Moderator: 
Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee - FII

Guest Speaker: 
Mr Rakesh Sharma
Business Coach, Sales Trainer
and Motivational Speaker

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
30th January, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On


Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Can Innovation Be the Game-Changer for MSMEs ?

Moderator: 
Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Guest Speaker: 
Ms. Ritu Jain
FII Member &
Business Consultant

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Odisha, Singapore sign MoU to establish FinTech hub in Bhubaneswar

The Government of Odisha's Electronics and IT Department and Singapore's Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) signed an

MoU to establish a Global Competency Centre in Bhubaneswar to foster FinTech collaboration, with a focus on developing an inclusive and sustainable InsureTech and related areas. The MoU was signed during the official visit of Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to Odisha on Friday, according to a press release by GFTN.



Himanta Biswa Sarma engages with over 160 Japanese business leaders for Advantage Assam 2.0

On the first day of his second leg of global outreach initiative in Japan for Advantage Assam 2.0

Investment and Infrastructure Summit, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met over 160 Japanese business leaders in Tokyo.



Govt amends FTP to make stakeholder consultation mandatory for inclusive decision-making process

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has made amendments to the Foreign Trade Policy to make consultations with

stakeholders for their views on draft policies mandatory, an official statement said on Friday. The changes also provide the mechanism to inform reasons for not accepting views, suggestions, comments or feedback concerning the formulation or amendment of the Foreign Trade Policy, the commerce ministry said.



Safran India eyes 70% revenue boost from Gaganyaan space flight, other space, defence deals

Safran India is forecasting a 70% revenue growth in 2025, driven by its active participation in the

Gaganyaan space mission and various defense projects. The company's plans to expand manufacturing operations in India align with the "Make in India" initiative, positioning it as a key player in the aerospace and defense sectors.



The expansion of manufacturing facilities by Safran India aligns with the "Make in India" initiative, fostering opportunities for strategic partnerships and investments. This move is set to bolster local production capabilities, enhance supply chains, and attract both domestic and international collaborators in the aerospace and defense sectors.



Singapore sees opportunities in India's growing economy, says minister

India is growing and Singapore sees many opportunities to expand bilateral cooperation with South Asia's fastest

growing economy, senior minister Lee Hsien Loong has said. "India is growing, and on the move," Lee, who served as prime minister for 20 years, told the Indian business community on 11 JAN.



Global majors to power Tamil Nadu's Rs 42K crore green hydrogen hub

Four global majors — Malaysian government-owned oil and gas giant Petronas-backed Amplus Ganges Solar, Singapore's state-run energy firm

Sembcorp Industries' Green Infra Renewable Energy, Gurugram-based Acme Green Hydrogen and Chemicals, and ReNew Energy's subsidiary ReNew E-Fuels — are set to propel India's green hydrogen ambitions in South India.



PLI scheme expansion for handicrafts, leather to create more job: Deloitte

The government in its coming Budget must extend fiscal benefits under the PLI (production linked incentive) scheme to sectors such as handicrafts

and leather that can create more jobs, Deloitte said on 26 Jan. It also suggested that the existing PLI schemes must continue in sectors that have seen success, such as electronics, auto and semiconductors.



India puts up big show at Davos, returns with ₹20 lakh crore investment commitments

As the five-day World Economic Forum Annual Meeting ended on Friday, Indian leaders said they could see trust for India in the eyes of all global leaders and that was reflected in investment commitments totalling over ₹20 lakh crore with Maharashtra grabbing the biggest pie of almost 80%.



Haryana CM promises 200K govt jobs over next 5 years for state's youth

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Sain said on Friday that the state government would provide government jobs to 2 lakh youth over five

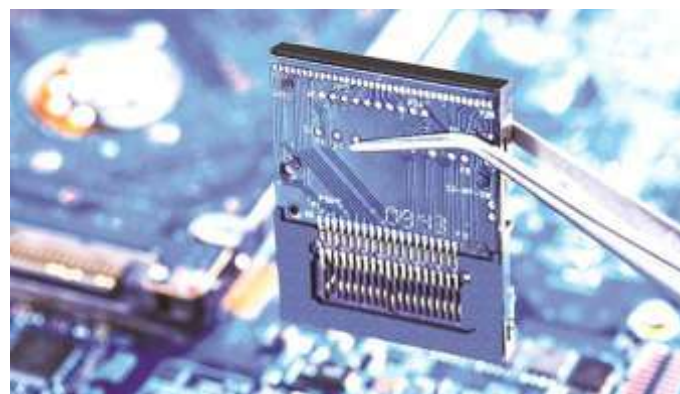
years. Saini also said that during the past ten years, the BJP government in Haryana has provided government jobs to 1.71 youth on merit.



Signed 61 MoUs entailing investment of Rs 15.7 trn at Davos: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday said 61 MoUs have been signed during his visit to the World Economic Forum in

Davos entailing investment of Rs 15.70 lakh crore and having the potential to provide 16 lakh jobs in the state.



L&T Semiconductor plans \$10 bn investment in silicon fabrication plant

L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSCT), a fully owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro, has put together a plan to invest over \$10 billion in a silicon fabrication (fab) plant after it gains clear visibility by 2026-27 of hitting at least a \$1 billion per annum revenue run rate by selling its own designed and patented chips and semiconductor products (manufactured by third parties) in both the Indian and global markets.

POLITICAL NEWS



Farm-to-Consumer Model for Farmers Announced

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said the government is working on a

model to allow farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers, reducing middlemen's role.



Housing for All Achieves Milestone in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday said that as part of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's vision for housing for all, four crore poor people have been provided permanent houses in the country so far. Referring to an old survey in Madhya Pradesh, he said that permanent houses are to be provided to 16 lakh beneficiaries and the state has got 8.5 lakh new houses as of now.



India Poised to Become World's Third-Largest Economy

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said that by 2027, India will

be the world's third-largest economy, ahead of Japan and Germany. Addressing the annual meeting of Tamil magazine 'Thuglak' here, Goyal said, "What did Mr Modi do in ten years? He took India from the 11th largest GDP to the fifth-largest GDP.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Saudi Arabia Plans \$600 Billion US Investment

Saudi Arabia's crown prince said Thursday the kingdom wants to invest USD 600 billion in the United States over the next

four years, comments that came after President Donald Trump mused about returning to the kingdom as his first foreign trip.



\$1.5 Billion Initiative to Protect the Amazon

A carbon markets investor backed by Swiss-trading house Mercuria said on Wednesday it had joined with two non-profits to

raise an initial \$1.5 billion to help protect the Amazon, by working with Brazilian states, farmers and local communities. The 'Race to Belem', a nod to the Brazilian city hosting the next round of global climate talks in November, aims to sell credits tied to preserving the world's biggest rainforest.



India-UK Collaboration in Healthcare Innovation

India and the UK have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of healthcare and life sciences as strategic partners with

strong links in the area, with a specific aim of strengthening collaboration in the health technology and innovation sectors.

BANKING AND FINANCE



Bank Deposits Grow Steadily by 10.83%

The pace of bank deposit mobilisation showed steady improvement as they grew by 10.83 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to Rs 221.50 trillion in the fortnight ending January 10, 2025. In the previous fortnight, the deposits of scheduled commercial banks grew by 9.8 per cent Y-o-Y, according to the Reserve Bank of India's data.



SBI Launches 'Har Ghar Lakhpati' Scheme

State Bank of India (SBI) – the country's largest lender – has unveiled two new schemes to boost deposit mobilisation at a time when most banks are facing challenges in raising resources. The first is 'Har Ghar Lakhpati,' a pre-calculated recurring deposit (RD) scheme designed to help customers accumulate Rs 1,00,000 or multiples thereof and develop a savings habit.



Focus on Rural Business Correspondents

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has called a meeting of the monitoring committee on the functioning of business correspondents (BCs) on January 21.

Among the key discussion points, sources said, are the payment of fixed commissions to BCs in rural centres by banks and the waiver of penalties.

INDUSTRY



Asian Healthcare Market to Hit \$5 Trillion by 2030
The Asian healthcare market is on track to hit \$5 trillion by 2030, driving 40 percent of global sector growth, according to BCG.

The BCG's report titled "The unmissable Asia healthcare opportunity" stated that this expansion would be fuelled by rapid demographic shifts, investment influxes, and groundbreaking technology applications



AGR Relief Package for Non-Telecom Companies

The Indian government is in the process of finalising a relief package exceeding Rs 82,000 crore for non-telecom companies grappling with adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues, according to a recent report by The Economic Times. This retrospective relief, expected to be part of the broader telecom bailout package, could be announced as early as the Union Budget.



India's Machine Tool Industry Set for \$3.8 Billion Revenue

Karnataka's Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil on Thursday said that the Indian machine tool industry is projected to generate revenue of \$3.8 billion by 2030, driven largely by the dominance of the metal-cutting segment.

AGRICULTURE



Survey on Edible Oil Consumption Launched

The Union agriculture ministry has launched its first-ever survey to assess edible oil consumption patterns in India, aiming to

effectively implement the new Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), a senior government official said.



India Eyes ₹20,000 Crore in Organic Exports

India has the potential to increase exports of organic products up to Rs 20,000 crore in the next three years, Commerce and

Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

He said this while releasing the eighth edition of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) with new regulations aimed at enhancing clarity and transparency in organic product standards as well as aligning with global standards.



Hybrid Crop Technology for Agricultural Growth

Hybrid crop technology can play a crucial role to address the unique challenges faced by the

agricultural sector, particularly in supporting small-holding farmers who comprise 88 per cent of the agricultural workforce, helping India become a developed nation by 2047, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra said on Wednesday.

START-UP



Indian Startups Attract ₹13 Trillion Funding

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday assured "excellent" support to startups and said domestic

investors are now also recognising capabilities and the value proposition of investing in these enterprises. As per estimates, he said Indian startups have attracted about Rs 13 trillion funding in the last nine years, that is about \$150 billion.



DPIIT Partners with Startup Policy Forum

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

has entered into a partnership with the Startup Policy Forum (SPF), a premier industry organisation representing India's leading new-age companies. This strategic collaboration aims to establish India as a global hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.



Empowering Rural India Through Infrastructure Development

Emphasising that his vision was to ensure an empowered rural India,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Saturday said that strengthening infrastructure, ensuring basic amenities and providing job and business opportunities to youth in villages through various schemes was a priority of his government.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Rajasthan Promotes Employment and Skill Development

Highlighting the initiatives taken by his government for youth welfare, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma

on Sunday said Rajasthan government is committed to empowering youth through employment and skill development.



Infosys Drives Skill Census Program

The leading software company, Infosys, has come forward to take up the ambitious skill census program to take forward in

a more beneficial way to improve the employment opportunities in the state by providing necessary technical assistance, a statement said.



India's Semiconductor Mission Boosts Skilling

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) is focussing on facilitating training

activities including skill development as India's semiconductor sector takes off with multiple multinationals on board. There is a lot of work we are doing on the skilling part under the India Semiconductor Mission itself. We are working with many institutions - Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), and private colleges," S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY told ET.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



IIT Guwahati Hosts Tech Meet to Aid Rural Communities

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati hosted the PanIIT World of Technology (PIWOT)

Meet 2025, an event showcasing innovative solutions addressing real-world challenges, with a special emphasis on uplifting rural communities. This gathering, a satellite event of the recently concluded Global PanIIT Conference 2025 in Mumbai, highlighted IIT Guwahati's leadership in advancing technological excellence and fostering entrepreneurship.



India to Establish Space Station by 2035

An Indian Space station would be established by 2035 and the successful docking of satellites through SpaDex is a major

breakthrough in that direction, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Earth Science Jitender Singh said here on Friday.



AI to Reinforce Democratic Ideals in India

India has a unique opportunity to demonstrate how technology can reinforce democratic

ideals, Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh said here on Sunday, making a strong pitch for the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in the functioning of legislative bodies.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY



Blue Energy Motors to Invest ₹3,500 Crore in EV Plant

LNG-powered truck maker Blue Energy Motors on Wednesday said it plans to invest Rs 3,500-crore

for setting up an electric trucks production plant in Maharashtra to fuel the state's green energy transition.



Suzuki to Debut Small Electric Cars in India

Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation plans to enter the electric small car segment in future after gathering experience from

its first EV, SUV e VITARA which will make its global debut in India which will be the company's production hub, its Representative Director and President Toshihiro Suzuki said on Thursday.



EV Launches to Outpace Petrol and Diesel in 2025

Electric vehicle (EV) launches in India in 2025 are set to surpass petrol and diesel cars. Out of 28

vehicle launches planned for the year, 18 are electric, according to a report by The Economic Times.

This marks a significant jump from the 4-5 EV models introduced annually in the past two years, and exceeds the total of 11 and 15 new vehicles (both EV and internal combustion engine) launched in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

CSR



Companies Spend ₹5000 Crore on Maha Kumbh Mela CSR

Companies are estimated to spend Rs 5,000 crore on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and

branding at the 45-day-long Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, according to a senior Uttar Pradesh government official. The Maha Kumbh is expected to welcome more than 400 million pilgrims and offers "an expansive platform to companies for branding and promotional activities," said the official.



Coal India Enhances Education in Mining Regions

The Ministry of Coal's Secretary Vikram Dev Dutt virtually inaugurated digital classrooms in

government schools of Jharkhand under the 'Digi Vidya' initiative, a CSR project by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries. The initiative aims to enhance education for students in mining regions across eight states, aligning with the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.'



Insurance for 10 Million Farmers by 2030 Bayer Foundation and the Pula Foundation today announced at World Economic Forum that

they are planning to provide insurance coverage for 10 million smallholder farmers by 2030.

DEFENCE NEWS



India-Indonesia Boost Defence Ties

India and Indonesia on Saturday decided to work jointly in defence manufacturing and supply chains, diversify two-way trade basket and boost

maritime security ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the Southeast Asian nation as an "important partner" of New Delhi in the Indo-Pacific.



Aero India 2025 to Showcase Military Innovation

India's biennial aerospace exhibition Aero India will be held at Yelahanka on the outskirts of Bengaluru from February 10-14 and it

will showcase the country as an emerging hub for manufacturing of military aircraft, helicopters, equipment and new-age avionics. The event will include both air displays and static exhibitions of a large array of military platforms from the aerospace sector, the defence ministry said on Monday.



India-US Defence Partnership Reaches New Heights

The India - US comprehensive global strategic partnership has scaled new heights, including in areas of

technology and defence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday after US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met him. Sullivan is on a visit to India two weeks ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th President of the US.

ENERGY AND POWER



Adani Group Invests ₹65,000 Crore in Chhattisgarh

The Adani Group will invest Rs 65,000 crore in energy and cement projects in Chhattisgarh, the conglomerate said

Sunday. Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani met Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday and announced an investment of Rs 60,000 crore to expand the group's power plants in Raipur, Korba and Raigarh in the state.



India Adds Record 30 GW Renewable Capacity

India logged a record high renewable energy capacity addition of about 30 GW in 2024, more than 113 per cent higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023,

according to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy data. This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious plan to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity in the country by 2030.



Geothermal Energy Development in Uttarakhand

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of Uttarakhand and the Icelandic company Varkis

Consulting Engineers at Secretariat in the virtual presence of Chief Minister, Pushkar Singh Dhami and Icelandic Ambassador, Dr Benedict Hoskulsson regarding exploration and development of geothermal energy in Uttarakhand, said a statement from CM office on Friday.

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



6.5 Million Property Cards Distributed Under SVAMITVA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 6.5 million property cards under the Centre's SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme to property owners in over 50,000 villages on January 18, the government said on Thursday.



Investor Summit to Propel Madhya Pradesh Development
Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday expressed confidence that the efforts

of the "double engine government" to take the state on the path of prosperity and development will gain further momentum in 2025. The chief minister affirmed the "double engine government" is committed to make Uttar Pradesh the country's leading state.



Madhya Pradesh to Host 'Invest Madhya Pradesh' Summit in February

With an aim to usher new era of development in Madhya Pradesh and generate more employment opportunities, the state government is organising an investor summit next month.

INVEST INDIA



Chhattisgarh Secures ₹6,000 Crore Investments
In a significant push for foreign direct investment (FDI) and industrial growth, Chhattisgarh has garnered investment proposals worth ₹6,000

crore during the second leg of its Investor Connect Meet held in Mumbai. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai engaged with US Consul General Mike Hankey and Russian Consul General Ivan Y. Fetisov to explore opportunities in sectors such as health, education, IT, and tourism.



India-China Dialogue Resumes After Four Years
India's national security advisor met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi for the first time since 2019 last month. This get-together was previously an

annual affair; but it had not been held since Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed on the border in the summer of 2020. Its resumption is another indication that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping seem to have agreed, when they spoke on the sidelines of a BRICS summit in Russia in October, to dial things down a notch.



DGFT Moves Online to Promote Investments

Officials of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade would be shifted to 'Invest India', which will set up trade and investment desks in each state of the country, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said here on Friday.

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



New Indian Ambassadors

Appointed: Seasoned diplomat Jitender Pal Singh was on Friday appointed as India's new ambassador to Israel, a posting seen as important in view of the current situation in the

Middle-east. Singh, a 2002-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomat, is presently serving as the joint secretary in the crucial Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran (PAI) division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



Namrata S Kumar, a 1997-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Latvia. Currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Slovenia, she is set to

assume her new role in Latvia soon. In an official statement, the Ministry of External Affairs announced the appointment.



The Government of India has announced the appointment of Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas as the Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman. A seasoned diplomat of 1993 batch of the Indian Foreign

Service, Srinivas is currently serving as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs.

MEA



India-Japan Bilateral Cooperation Reviewed

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held a bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Japan H.E. Takeshi Iwaya on 19 January 2025 in

Washington D.C.. This was their second meeting, after the one on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Italy on 26 November 2024. The Ministers utilized the meeting to take stock of salient issues in bilateral cooperation, including in the political, security, economic, technological, and people-to-people domains.



India-Malaysia Security Dialogue Held in New Delhi

The first India- Malaysia Security Dialogue was co-chaired by Shri. Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser to the Prime

Minister of India and Raja Dato Nushirwan Bin Zainal Abidin, Director General of the National Security Council of Malaysia on 07 January 2025 in New Delhi, India.



Maldives-India Ties Strengthened :

H. E. Dr. Abdulla Khaleel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives was on an Official visit to India from 02-04 January 2025. The visit follows the recent

State Visit of the President of the Republic of Maldives, H. E. Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, to India in October 2024.

FII Expands Global Presence in Bulgaria and Balkan countries.



Sh. Neeraj M. Kumar was appointed by Dr. Deepak Jain, DG- FII, as the FII Country Coordinator for Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Romania, Serbia, and North Macedonia. With 30+ years of business experience and a base in Bulgaria, he will play a key role in strengthening trade ties between India and these nations.

With this appointment, FII's global footprint expanded to 62 countries across all seven continents, further advancing our mission of international trade collaboration.

FII now reaches Russia & CIS Countries.



Sh. Manoj Kotwani (Sammy Kotwani) was appointed by Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, as the FII Country Coordinator for the Russian Federation and CIS countries. With over 30 years of business experience and a permanent base in Russia, he also serves as President of the Indian Business Alliance, bringing valuable expertise to the role.

His leadership is expected to further enhance trade and economic cooperation between India and the region, strengthening FII's global network.

National Startup Day 2025 : FII & BioNEST Seminar on Challenges of Technology Startups and MSMEs



Federation of Indian Industry (FII) and BioNEST-UDSC Incubator conducted a seminar on Challenges of Technology Startups and MSMEs on National Startup Day, 16th January 2025, with a special focus on Biotechnology, organized at the University of Delhi South Campus.

The seminar was attended by startup entrepreneurs, venture capital companies, the FII team, and BioNEST officials. From the FII side, Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, Sh. Hitender Mehta, Sh. Uditendu Verma, Dr. Shailendra Vyas, and Sh. Sanjeev Arora shared their insights and presented their views to the audience. The session was highly inspiring, with the speakers providing valuable insights into the startup ecosystem, particularly in the context of technology, biotechnology, and MSMEs.

Sh. Parveen Tayal Appointed President of FII Hisar District Unit



Sh. Parveen Tayal was appointed as the President of FII Hisar District Unit by Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII. Here's a glimpse of the warm welcome extended to Dr. Deepak Jain, Director General of FII, during his recent visit to Hisar by Sh. Parveen Tayal and his team.



Mr. M. Neeraj Kumar Welcomes Newly Appointed Ambassador H.E. Shri Arun Kumar Sahu

20th January 2025 Mr. M. Neeraj Kumar called on a courtesy visit to the Embassy of India to welcome the newly appointed Ambassador of India H.E. Shri Arun Kumar Sahu.

The visit will provide an opportunity to further strengthen the multifaceted ties between India and Bulgaria.

Lean Awareness Program : Empowering MSMEs with Lean Manufacturing Practices



The Lean Awareness Program, organized by MSME-DFO Karnal in association with FII on 24th January 2025, focused on the importance of lean manufacturing for industrial growth. The event featured speeches from key industry leaders, including Dr. Deepak Jain, DG - FII, who emphasized the role of lean practices in fostering progress. Mr. Siddharth Pal, Deputy Director of NPC, provided insights on the Lean Manufacturing Scheme for MSMEs. Additional speakers included Sh. Puran Mal Yadav, Sh. Vinay Gupta, Sh. Mukesh Verma, and Sh. Shripal Sharma. The program concluded with a summary by Mr. Uditendu Verma, inspiring participants to implement lean practices.

Republic Day Flag Unfurling Ceremony



His Excellency Sh. Nagesh Singh, Indian Ambassador unfurled the Indian Flag and delivered the address of the President of India at the Indian Embassy on January 26, 2025. Mr. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman-FII Thailand Chapter attended.



Honorable Ms. Paulomi Tripathi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indian Embassy



Mr. Rajendra Khimesra,
Chairman-FII Thailand



Honourable Ms. Jagpreet Kaur, Head of
Economic & Commerce, Indian Embassy



Honourable Mr. Bhaskar Kalra,
Attache (Commerce), Indian Embassy

FII Thailand Chapter attended a grand gala reception at Hotel Shangri-La on January 27, 2025, to celebrate the 76th Republic Day Celebrations.



Chief Guest H.E. Mr. Sorawong Thienthong, Minister of Tourism & Sports

From left: Dr. Chinnawat Sakultangphaisal, President of The Old England Students Association under Royal Patronage; H.E. Mr. Sorawong Thienthong, Minister of Tourism & Sports; H.E. Mr. Nagesh Singh, Indian Ambassador; and Mr. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman, FII-Thailand Chapter.

Mr. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman- Thailand Chapter, FII congratulated H.E. Shri Nagesh Singh and other embassy officials on behalf of FII.

From left: Mrs. Paul, Group Capt. Brijesh Paul, Defence Advisor; Mrs. Paulomi Tripathi, Deputy Chief of Mission, Mrs. Pragina Singh, HE Mr. Nagesh Singh, Indian Ambassador, Mrs. Petcharat Eksangkul, Vice Chairman, The Federation of Thai Industries; Mrs. Pushpa Khimesra; Mr. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman-Thailand Chapter, FII; Mr. Narin Sayanwisuttikam, Vice Chairman, Chemical Industries Club



Mr. Kriengkrai Thiennukul, Chairman of The Federation of Thai Industries

Sh. Mihir Shikari, Gujarat Bureau Chief FII, meets Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, during his recent visit to Gujarat.



Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII, visits ship-breaking yard at Alang, Bhavnagar



Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII visits ship breaking yard at Alang Bhavnagar. Dr. Jain had the pleasure of visiting ship breaking yard at Bhavnagar/ Alang. This yard is being operated by FII member at Alang. Sh. Mukesh Jain operates this yard and breaks heavy duty vessels of 25000 tons and above at this yard. It was interesting to know the ecosystem of ship breaking industry and India has pioneered in this field.

Our Best wishes for the future of this industry.

Dwarka Temple, Bet Dwarka temple and Rukmini Devi Temple at Dwarka Ji.



Sasan Gir National Park.





Somnath temple



State Visit of President of the Republic of Singapore to India (January 14-18, 2025)



H.E. Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore was on a State Visit to India from 14-18 January 2025. President Tharman was accompanied by his spouse, Mrs. Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam. The delegation included Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of National Development Ms. Sim Ann, Members of Parliament of Singapore and officials. This is President Tharman's first State Visit to India.

President Tharman was welcomed by Hon'ble President Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan and was accorded a Ceremonial Guard of Honour. President Tharman paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat.

The State Visit of President Tharman marks the commencement of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore which have evolved into a robust and multi-faceted partnership.

Singapore is a key pillar of India's 'Act East' Policy and our vision of the Indo-Pacific. This visit follows an eventful year in India-Singapore bilateral relations, the hallmark of which was Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore in September 2024, which also witnessed elevation of India-Singapore ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Trump sworn in as President of USA. S. Jaishankar EAM represents India at the swearing-in ceremony.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar represented Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his Special Envoy at Donald Trump's inauguration as the 47th President of the United States in Washington, D.C. Sources reveal that Jaishankar carried a personal letter from PM Modi addressed to President Trump.

The inauguration concluded with Trump and Vance participating in the signing ceremony—a tradition where the new President, along with congressional members and aides, signs official documents, such as nominations or executive orders, in the President's Room near the Senate Chamber. This tradition, initiated by former President Ronald Reagan in 1981, is one of the first official acts of the new US President.

State visit of President of Indonesia to India (January 25-26, 2025)



At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, President of the Republic of Indonesia H.E Prabowo Subianto paid State Visit to India during 25-26 January 2025. President Prabowo was also the Chief Guest for India's 76th Republic Day celebrations.

This was President Prabowo's first visit to India in his capacity as President, after assuming office in October 2024. India and Indonesia share warm and friendly ties spanning over millennia. As a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, Indonesia is an important pillar in India's Act East Policy and our vision of the Indo-Pacific.

PM and the President of Indonesia, Mr. Prabowo Subianto witnessed the Exchange of MoUs between India and Indonesia at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi.

India displays its powers at Republic day parade. President of Indonesia is Chief Guest.



President Smt Droupadi Murmu lead the Nation in celebrating the 76th Republic Day from Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26, 2025. With special focus on 75 years of enactment of the Constitution and Jan Bhagidari, the celebrations this year was a unique blend of India's rich cultural diversity, unity, equality, development and military prowess. President of the Republic of Indonesia Mr Prabowo Subianto was the Chief Guest.

Around 10,000 Special Guests have been invited to witness the parade, in line with the Government's objective to increase 'Jan Bhagidari' in events of national importance. These Special Guests from different walks of life are the architects of 'Swarnim Bharat'. They include best performers in various fields and those who have made best use of the schemes of the Government.

India displays its powers at Republic day parade. President of Indonesia is Chief Guest.





The Beating Retreat ceremony, held annually on January 29th at Vijay Chowk in New Delhi, marks the formal conclusion of India's Republic Day celebrations. In 2025, the ceremony took place on January 29th, featuring captivating performances by the bands of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces. The event was graced by President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, among other dignitaries.



The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025, held in Davos from January 20 to 24 under the theme “Collaboration for the Intelligent Age,” brought together nearly 3,000 leaders from over 130 countries. Key discussions revolved around geopolitical challenges, economic policies, climate change, and the role of technology, particularly artificial intelligence. Prominent sessions addressed global issues such as cybersecurity, the economic impact of climate change, and the need for sustainable growth. The event also featured innovative ideas on lean infrastructure investments and the integration of ethical AI practices to shape a sustainable and intelligent future.

India made a significant impact at Davos 2025, with a delegation of over 100 CEOs and political leaders actively engaging in global dialogues. A highlight was the session "India's Economic Blueprint," focusing on the nation's rapid growth fueled by innovation in technology and manufacturing. The Indian delegation emphasized sustainable development and its role as a voice for the Global South, while showcasing its advancements in renewable energy and AI. India secured substantial investment commitments, further enhancing its influence on the global stage and reinforcing its commitment to global economic collaboration.

Glimpses of World Economic Forum Davos (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025





Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, the largest mobility expo in India, on 17th January, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Expo was held from 17-22 January, 2025 across three separate venues : Bharat Mandapam & Yashobhoomi in New Delhi and India Expo Center & Mart, Greater Noida. Expo hosted over 9 concurrent shows, 20+ conferences and pavilions. In addition, the Expo also featured states sessions to showcase policies and initiatives in the mobility sector to enable collaboration between industry and regional levels.

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 aims to unite the entire mobility value chain under one umbrella. This year's expo had a special emphasis on the global significance with participation from across the globe as exhibitors and visitors. It was an industry-led and government-supported initiative and is being coordinated by Engineering Export Promotion Council of India with the joint support of various industry bodies and partner organizations.



Maha Kumbh 2025



The 2025 Prayag Kumbh Mela, also referred to as the 2025 Maha Kumbh, is the ongoing of the Maha Kumbh Mela. It is scheduled to take place from 13 January to 26 February 2025, at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India. This event marks the completion of a 12-Kumbh Mela cycle and is officially termed a Maha Kumbh Mela, spanning 45 days.

Since the Kumbh Mela has been organized for ages and its commencement date is unknown, calculating the exact 144-year cycle is not certain. However, as per astrological calculations, the 2025 Mahakumbh Mela is unique in itself since its constellation alignment is witnessed once every 144 years. Thus, the most auspicious of all the Maha Kumbh in the past 144 years is in 2025.

The Kumbh Melas are a significant Hindu pilgrimage observed in cycles of three, six, 12, and 144 years, held in rotation among four sites: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. The site of each Kumbh Mela is decided by the astrological alignment of Jupiter (Guru), Sun (Surya), and Moon (Chandra).

Maha Kumbh 2025





The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Welcoming all the delegates and diaspora from various parts of the world, Shri Modi expressed confidence that the inauguration song would be played in the various Indian diaspora events, across the globe, in future. He lauded the Grammy award winning artiste Ricky Kej and his team for the wonderful rendition which captured the emotions and feelings of the Indian diaspora.

Thanking the Chief Guest, H.E. Christine Carla Kangeloo, President of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago for the warm and affectionate words in her video message, the Prime Minister remarked that she was also talking about India's progress and her words left an impact on all of them present at the event. Noting that now was the time for vibrant festivals and gatherings in India, Shri Modi said that in a few days, the Maha Kumbh would commence in Prayagraj and the festival of Makar Sankranti, Lohri, Pongal and Maag Bihu were also coming up. He added that there was a joyful atmosphere everywhere. Recalling that it was on this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhiji returned to India after a long stay abroad, Shri Modi remarked that the presence of the diaspora in India at such a wonderful time added to the festive spirit. Remarking that this edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was special for another reason, he said, the event was held after a few days of the birth centenary of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose vision was instrumental to PBD. "Pravasi Bharatiya Divas has become an institution to strengthen the bond between India and its diaspora", he further added. Shri Modi highlighted that together we celebrate India, Indianness, our culture and progress along with connecting to our roots.

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention 2025 (January 8-10, 2025)



PAKISTAN: A FAILED STATE



Dr. Deepak Jain
Director- General, FII

Pakistan, a nation born out of religious ideology in 1947, was expected to thrive as a prosperous state. However, over the past seven decades, it has struggled with political instability, economic crises, and social turmoil. Despite having abundant natural and human resources, Pakistan finds itself on the brink of collapse. The fundamental reason? A flawed national vision that prioritized hostility towards India over economic and social development.

A State Obsessed with India

Since its inception, Pakistan has invested heavily in military expansion, waging wars, and supporting terrorism rather than focusing on nation-building. The defense budget has consistently been one of the highest expenditures, standing at 3.83% of GDP in 2021, while health spending was a mere 0.45% of GDP. The result? A nation with a formidable army but a starving population.

Pakistan's favorite pastime remains India-bashing. Every political discourse, media narrative, and diplomatic move revolves around anti-India rhetoric. Instead of fostering trade and cooperation with its much larger and economically powerful neighbor, Pakistan chose the path of hostility, leading to economic isolation.

A Nation Without Achievements

Unlike other countries that gained independence around the same time, Pakistan has little to show in critical sectors like:

- **Education:** Pakistan's literacy rate stands at 62%, with female literacy at a dismal 46.47%. In contrast, India's literacy rate is over 77%.
- **Healthcare:** The country has only 1,201 hospitals, serving a population of over 240 million. Healthcare infrastructure is crumbling, with people unable to afford basic medical treatment.
- **Science & Technology:** While India has sent missions to the Moon and Mars, Pakistan has no significant achievements in aerospace, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, or space exploration.
- **Economic Development:** With skyrocketing inflation at 36.4% and food inflation at 48.1%, Pakistan's middle class is shrinking, and millions are falling into poverty.

A Religious State Bound to Fail

History has shown that states formed on the basis of religious ideology rather than governance and development fail to sustain themselves. Pakistan's obsession with Islamic identity led to discrimination against minorities and sectarian violence. The Hindu population, which was 14.58% in 1947, has shrunk to just 2.14% today. The rise of madrassas, from 189 in 1947 to over 40,000 by 2008, has radicalized youth instead of equipping them with modern education.

Similar religiously motivated states have suffered the same fate:

- **Afghanistan:** Once part of India, Afghanistan was separated in 1893 with the Durand Line Agreement. Under Taliban rule, it remains one of the most impoverished and unstable nations, with a GDP per capita of just \$368 and over 28 million people in need of humanitarian aid (2023).

- **Bangladesh:** Separated from India in 1947 as East Pakistan and later independent in 1971, Bangladesh has faced military coups, authoritarian rule, and rising extremism. The Hindu population has declined from over 20% in 1947 to less than 8% today. Political repression is rampant, with the 2024 election widely criticized for rigging and suppression of opposition. Despite economic progress, corruption and Islamist radicalization continue to threaten stability.



Pakistan has been under military rule for 33 out of its 75 years. Even during civilian rule, the military and intelligence agencies exert disproportionate control. No prime minister has ever completed a full five-year term. Corruption, political assassinations, and military coups have eroded any semblance of democracy.

While India progressed by strengthening democratic institutions, Pakistan remained trapped in a cycle of political instability. Over 800,000 Pakistanis migrated abroad in 2022 alone, seeking better economic opportunities.



An Economic Collapse in the Making

Pakistan's external debt has skyrocketed to over \$130 billion. The country is at high risk of default, with \$77.5 billion in debt repayments due between 2023 and 2026. The rupee has lost 30% of its value, and foreign reserves are at historic lows.

The mismanagement of resources is evident:

- The government cannot afford to buy wheat, leading to people fighting for flour on the streets.
- Electricity shortages persist despite an installed capacity of 41,557 MW.
- Pakistan's economic ranking has declined, with the country heavily reliant on IMF bailouts.



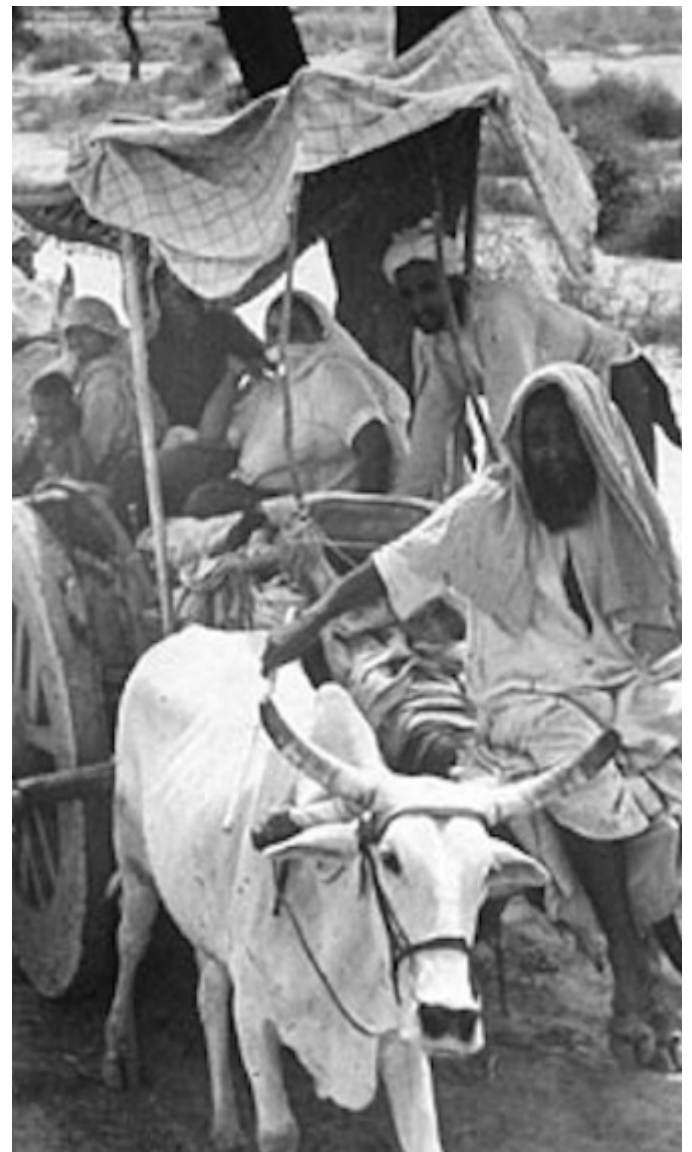
The failure of Pakistan raises an uncomfortable but necessary question: Was the partition of India a mistake? Would the people of Pakistan have been better off as part of a united, secular, and economically strong India?

Pakistan's existence has been defined by internal strife, economic collapse, and military dominance. It stands at a crossroads—either continue down the same path of extremism and self-destruction or attempt a course correction. But does Pakistan even have the will or the capacity to change?

Meanwhile, the subcontinent remains divided into

three "so-called" nations—Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan—each struggling with instability, extremism, and failed governance. As India moves ahead, should it watch them crumble from a distance, or is there a deeper lesson in their failure?

Perhaps the more haunting question is for these nations themselves—after 77 years of misrule and missed opportunities, was the partition truly worth it?



The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.

AN OPEN LETTER TO US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP



Prof. M.M. Goel

Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated
from Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra

An Open Letter to US President Donald Trump: Champion Needonomics to Lead the World Toward a Sustainable Future

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on assuming the office of the President of the United States of America. Your leadership comes at a critical juncture in history, where the world faces unprecedented challenges—economic inequality, environmental crises, and social unrest. As you embark on this transformative journey, I urge you to consider Needonomics as an integrated umbrella (360-degree) approach, encompassing needo-consumption, needo-production, needo-distribution, and needo-trade. This comprehensive framework provides strategies and a roadmap to ensure the holistic well-being—physical, mental, spiritual, and economic—of individuals, nations, and the global community, effectively addressing these profound challenges.

Needonomics School of Thought offers a sustainable path forward for both the USA and the global economy. This approach is rooted in ancient Indian wisdom and modern economic pragmatism, designed to replace the unsustainable “Greedonomics” that dominates today's global economic systems.

Understanding Needonomics: A Shift from Greed to Need

At the heart of Needonomics lies a simple yet profound principle: focus on fulfilling genuine human needs instead of chasing endless desires. Inspired by the Bhagavad Gita (verse 9:22), Needonomics advocates for an economy that prioritizes sustainable living, social equity, and environmental harmony over short-term profit maximization.

In contrast to Greedonomics—the economics of excess and unsustainable consumption—Needonomics emphasizes responsible and need-based decision-making. It urges governments, businesses, and individuals to reorient their priorities toward meeting essential needs, fostering a more equitable and sustainable world.

Rationale for Needonomics in USA

Your leadership offers a unique opportunity to reshape the economic landscape of the United States, a nation often seen as the economic powerhouse of the world. However, the challenges of the current economic model are evident: widening inequality, environmental degradation, and the fragility of a consumption-driven economy. Needonomics provides a comprehensive framework to address these issues:

1. Economic Resilience:

The current economic model in the USA prioritizes growth and consumption, often at the expense of long-term stability. This paradigm has not only widened economic disparities but also left the economy vulnerable to shocks such as financial crises and pandemics. By adopting Needonomics, the USA can transition to a model that emphasizes sustainable development, resilience, and stability. Policies that prioritize essential needs over excessive desires can help create a robust economy that serves all citizens equitably.

2. Social Equity:

Economic inequality remains a pressing issue in the United States. Millions of Americans lack access to basic necessities such as healthcare, education, and affordable housing. Needonomics addresses this by advocating for policies that ensure the fulfilment of essential needs for all, fostering a society where opportunities are not limited by socioeconomic status. By focusing on equity, the USA can reduce social unrest and build stronger, more cohesive communities.

3. Environmental Sustainability:

The relentless pursuit of growth under the current economic model has taken a toll on the environment, contributing to climate change, deforestation, and

resource depletion. Needonomics emphasizes ecological harmony, urging governments and businesses to adopt sustainable practices. By aligning human activity with environmental preservation, the USA can lead the global effort to combat climate change and protect natural resources for future generations.

Strategic Steps for Implementing Needonomics in USA

To embrace Needonomics, the United States must undertake a strategic reorientation of its policies and priorities. The following steps can serve as a roadmap for this transformative journey:

1. Policy Reorientation:

The federal government must shift its focus from wealth accumulation to meeting the basic needs of its citizens. This can be achieved through measures such as progressive taxation, increased investment in public goods, and prioritizing infrastructure that directly improves the quality of life. Policies should be designed to ensure that resources are allocated effectively and equitably, addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality.

2. Education and Awareness:

Raising public awareness about the principles of Needonomics is crucial for its successful implementation. Integrating the concepts of need-based living, sustainability, and equity into school curricula, university programs, and media platforms can help shape a generation that values responsible consumption and sustainable practices. Public campaigns highlighting the benefits of Needonomics can further foster widespread acceptance of this approach.

3. Promoting Sustainable Practices:

Encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices is essential for aligning economic activity with environmental goals. Incentivizing green technologies, supporting local enterprises, and implementing regulations that promote environmental conservation can drive this change. Individuals, too, can be encouraged to make sustainable lifestyle choices through community initiatives and educational programs.

4. Community Engagement:

Policies must be developed with the active participation of communities to ensure they address the real needs of the people. Participatory governance models can provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and contribute to decision-making processes. Community-led

initiatives, supported by government resources, can serve as effective tools for implementing Needonomics at the grassroots level.

5. Global Leadership:

By adopting Needonomics, the United States can position itself as a global leader in promoting sustainable development and social equity. Collaborating with international organizations and other nations to share best practices and support need-based economic models can amplify the impact of this approach worldwide.

Moral and Pragmatic Imperative

Needonomics is not just an economic model; it is a moral imperative for our times. It aligns with ethical principles that emphasize compassion, responsibility, and respect for all forms of life. At the same time, it offers pragmatic solutions to the pressing challenges of inequality, environmental degradation, and economic instability.

For the United States, adopting Needonomics represents an opportunity to redefine its role in the global economy. By leading the transition to a needs-based model, the USA can set an example for other nations, demonstrating that economic success need not come at the expense of social and environmental well-being.

Conclusion: A Call to Action

President Trump, the challenges facing the USA and the world demand bold and visionary leadership. The principles of Needonomics offer a pathway to a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future. By prioritizing genuine needs over excessive desires, the USA can build an economy that serves all its citizens while preserving the planet for future generations.

I urge you to consider incorporating Needonomics into your administration's strategy. This approach not only addresses the root causes of the economic and social issues we face but also presents an opportunity to redefine the American Dream—one that is inclusive, sustainable, and grounded in the principles of justice and compassion.

As the propounder of the Needonomics School of Thought, I stand ready to provide further insights and collaborate on this transformative journey. Together, we can create a world where prosperity is measured not by the accumulation of wealth but by the fulfilment of human needs and the well-being of our planet.

**The opinion expressed by the
author/ writer do not imply endorsement
by FII.**

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TOURISM DAY BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SECTOR



Ms. Deepthi. B.
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Wargal, Telangana

National Tourism Day, celebrated annually on January 25th, provides an opportunity to reflect on the profound impact of tourism on our society and economy. Beyond its aesthetic and recreational value, tourism can be a potent driver of inclusive growth, empowering local communities and fostering sustainable development.

Inclusive Growth: A Cornerstone of Sustainable Tourism

Inclusive growth in tourism signifies a model where the benefits of tourism are equitably distributed across all segments of society, leaving no one behind. This entails:

Empowering Local Communities:

- **Skill Development:** Investing in local communities through skill development programs in hospitality, guiding, and crafts can create employment opportunities for marginalized groups, such as women, youth, and people with disabilities.
- **Community-Based Tourism:** Encouraging community-based tourism initiatives, where locals actively participate in decision-making

and benefit sharing, ensures that the economic gains from tourism are reinvested back into the community.

Environmental Sustainability:

- **Eco-tourism :** Promoting eco-tourism practices, such as responsible waste management, conservation efforts, and minimizing environmental impact, ensures the long-term sustainability of tourism destinations.
- **Supporting Local Products :** Encouraging the use of locally sourced products and services in tourism businesses promotes local economies and reduces the carbon footprint associated with transportation and logistics.

Social and Cultural Preservation:

- **Respecting Local Cultures :** Fostering respect for local cultures and traditions by showcasing authentic experiences and involving local communities in cultural performances and festivals.
- **Accessibility for All :** Ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities through infrastructure development and inclusive tourism policies.

Challenges and Opportunities

While the potential for inclusive growth through tourism is immense, several challenges need to be addressed:

- **Seasonality :** The tourism industry often experiences seasonal fluctuations, leading to income instability for local communities. Diversifying tourism products and promoting

off-season travel can mitigate this challenge.

- **Leakage of Economic Benefits :** A significant portion of tourism revenue often leaks out of local economies due to the dominance of large international hotel chains and tour operators. Prioritizing local businesses and promoting community-led tourism can help retain more economic benefits within the local community.
- **Environmental Impact :** Uncontrolled tourism growth can have detrimental effects on the environment, including pollution, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. Sustainable tourism practices and responsible tourism planning are crucial to minimize environmental damage.

Opportunities for Inclusive Growth

- **Digital Technologies:** Leveraging digital technologies, such as online platforms and social media, to promote local businesses, connect tourists with local communities, and enhance the visibility of off-the-beaten-path destinations.
- **Public-Private Partnerships :** Fostering strong public-private partnerships between government agencies, tourism businesses, and local communities to ensure collaborative planning and implementation of inclusive tourism policies.
- **Skill Development and Training :** Investing in skill development programs for local communities to enhance their employability in the tourism sector and improve the quality of tourism services.

Conclusion

Tourism has the potential to be a powerful engine of inclusive growth, provided it is developed and

managed responsibly. By prioritizing the needs of local communities, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering equitable distribution of benefits, we can ensure that tourism contributes to a more just and equitable society. As we celebrate National Tourism Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to harnessing the transformative power of tourism for the benefit of all.



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FOREIGN TRADE POLICY & ITS BENEFITS TO EXPORTERS



CA. Rohit Garg
FII Member

What is the Foreign Trade Policy?

A foreign trade policy is a set of rules and regulations established by a government to govern international trade. It outlines the framework for how a country conducts business with other nations, including the import and export of goods and services. These policies can significantly impact a country's economic growth, employment, and overall development.

Export benefits in foreign trade policy?

Export benefits within a foreign trade policy are incentives and advantages offered by governments to encourage businesses to export their goods and services to other countries. These benefits aim to boost a nation's economy by increasing exports, creating jobs, and fostering economic growth.

Types of Export Benefits:

Tax Incentives:

- **Duty Drawback:** Refund of import duties paid on inputs used in the production of exported goods.
- **Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs):** Tax exemptions and other benefits for businesses operating in designated export zones.
- **Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credits:** Incentives for companies investing in R&D for export-oriented products.

Financial Assistance:

- **Export Credit Guarantees:** Insurance coverage for exporters against risks such as non-payment by foreign buyers.
- **Export Development Funds:** Financial support for market research, trade fairs, and other export promotion activities.
- **Preferential Lending Rates:** Lower interest rates on loans for exporters.

Trade Facilitation:

- **Simplified Customs Procedures:** Streamlined customs clearance processes to reduce delays and costs for exporters.

- **Export Promotion Councils:** Government agencies that provide support and guidance to exporters.
- **Market Access Initiatives:** Government efforts to negotiate market access for domestic exporters in foreign countries.

Other Benefits:

- **Branding and Marketing Support:** Assistance with developing export brands and marketing strategies.
- **Intellectual Property Rights Protection:** Protection of intellectual property rights to encourage innovation and investment in export-oriented products.
- **Skill Development Programs:** Training programs to enhance the skills of workers in export-oriented industries.

Benefits of Export Benefits for Businesses:

- **Increased Revenue:** Access to new markets and increased sales.
- **Improved Competitiveness:** Lower costs and enhanced product quality due to government support.
- **Reduced Risks:** Mitigation of risks associated with international trade through financial assistance and insurance.
- **Access to Resources:** Access to government resources, expertise, and networks for export promotion.

Benefits of Export Benefits for the Economy :

- **Economic Growth:** Increased exports contribute to GDP growth and job creation.
- **Foreign Exchange Earnings:** Increased foreign exchange
- **Technological Advancement:** Encourages innovation and adoption of new technologies in export-oriented industries.
- **Improved Standard of Living:** Higher incomes and employment opportunities lead to improved living standards.

Export benefits are an essential component of foreign trade policies, playing a crucial role in promoting exports and driving economic development. By providing a range of incentives and support mechanisms, governments can help businesses overcome the challenges of international trade and expand their reach into global markets.

Export benefit schemes as per Foreign Trade Policy

India offers a range of export benefit schemes to encourage businesses to export their products and services. These schemes are designed to boost exports, create jobs, and contribute to economic

growth. Here are some of the key export benefit schemes as per the current Foreign Trade Policy:

1. Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS):

- Provides duty drawback benefits to exporters of specified goods.
- Benefits are calculated as a percentage of the FOB value of exports.

2. Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS):

- Offers rewards to exporters of notified services.
- Benefits are calculated as a percentage of the net foreign exchange earnings.

3. Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme:

- Allows duty-free import of capital goods for production of export-oriented products.
- Exporters must fulfil export obligations within a specified period.

4. Advance Authorization Scheme (AAS):

Permits duty-free import of raw materials, components, consumables, fuel, packaging material, and capital goods required for export production.

5. Duty Drawback Scheme:

Allows exporters to claim a refund of duties and taxes paid on imported inputs used in the manufacture of export products.

6. Interest Equalization Scheme (IES):

- Provides interest subsidy to exporters on pre-shipment and post-shipment rupee export credit.

7. Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme:

- Provides financial assistance to exporters for market research, participation in trade fairs, and other export promotion activities.

8. Scheme for Promotion of Utilization of Domestically Manufactured Capital Goods (PM-MITRA):

- Encourages the use of domestically manufactured capital goods in export production.
- Offers various incentives and benefits to exporters using domestic capital goods.

9. Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP):

- Replaced the MEIS scheme.
- Provides a refund of duties and taxes paid on inputs and services used in the production of exported goods.

10. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes:

- Offered in various sectors to boost domestic manufacturing and exports.

- Provides financial incentives to manufacturers based on their production and export performance.

Star Export house as per Foreign Trade Policy:

A Star Export House is a prestigious recognition granted to exporters who have consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in international trade. This status is conferred by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under India's Foreign Trade Policy.

Benefits of Star Export House Status:

- **Faster Customs Clearance:** Enjoy expedited customs clearance processes, reducing delays and costs.
- **Reduced Documentation:** Benefit from simplified documentation procedures and fewer customs inspections.
- **Priority Treatment:** Receive priority treatment from customs authorities, including dedicated help desks and faster response times.
- **Deferred Payments:** May be allowed to defer customs duty payments, improving cash flow.
- **Self-Certification:** Can self-certify the origin of goods for preferential market access under various trade agreements.
- **Export Promotion:** Can export freely exportable items at no cost for export promotion purposes, subject to certain limits.
- **Access to Government Schemes:** Eligible for various government schemes and financial assistance to support export activities.

Eligibility Criteria for STAR EXPORT HOUSE :

The eligibility criteria for Star Export House status are based on the exporter's export performance over the past few years. The specific criteria may vary, but generally, exporters need to meet certain export turnover thresholds.

How to Obtain Star Export House Status:

To apply for Star Export House status, exporters need to submit an application to the DGFT along with the required documentation, including:

- Import-Export Code (IEC)
- Detailed export performance data
- Financial statements
- Other relevant documents as specified by the DGFT

The DGFT will assess the application and, if approved, grant the Star Export House status.

By obtaining Star Export House status, exporters can significantly enhance their export capabilities, reduce costs, and improve their overall competitiveness in the global market.

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.

| | |
|---|--|
| Director General - FII | Dr. Deepak Jain |
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| Free Trade Zones Committee | Sh. Hitender Mehta, Chairperson |
| Agriculture Committee | Sh. Vijay Sardana, Chairperson |
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| Corporate Insolvency & Restructuring Committee | Sh. Sanjay Gupta, Chairperson |
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| Skill Development Committee | Dr. Shailendra Vyas, Chairperson |
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| FII Advisor | Dr. Dravya Jain, FII-Advisor |





“FII, under the leadership of Sh. Deepak Jain has done a commendable job in connecting India and UK together through new business opportunities.”

Baroness S. Verma, Member, House of Lords, UK



“FII is working in synergy with the changing defence front and revival of water resources.”

Maj. General G.D. Bakshi, War Veteran, India



“I have great faith in the Federation of Indian Industry to keep working towards bringing the two Nations – India and New Zealand together.”

Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Ex-MP, New Zealand



“FII is working towards building stronger ties between India and Nepal”

Ms. Sujata Koirala, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal



“FII stands to see and protect the interests of MSME industry. It is making efforts to engage leaders to support growth of Indian Industry.”

Ch. Birender Singh, Former Union Minister for Steel, Government of India



“Indian Industry is entering new dynamics in terms of innovation, technology, upgradation and FII is actively doing great work to protect these interests and build an international platform for Indian businesses.”

Mr. Om Prakash Dhankar, Former Agriculture Minister, Haryana



“Mr. Deepak Jain is a visionary working relentlessly towards strengthening the MSME Industry on ground level.”

Mr. Rambilas Sharma, Former Education Minister, Government of Haryana



“FII embodies the vision of Mr. Deepak Jain of making India self reliant through knowledge based reforms in the Indian Industry.”

Mr. Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant, India



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

FII INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY



62 COUNTRIES

22 INDIAN STATES

5000 MEMBERS

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

- US
- Canada
- Brazil
- Mexico

AUSTRALIA OCEANIA

- Fiji
- Australia
- New Zealand

MIDDLE EAST

- Kuwait
- Israel
- UAE

EUROPE AND UK

- UK
- Sweden
- Germany
- France
- Norway
- Netherlands
- Russia
- Georgia
- Azerbaijan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan
- Armenia
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Moldova

AFRICA

- South Africa
- Nigeria
- Cameroon
- Benin Republic
- Ghana
- Zambia
- Madagascar
- Tanzania
- Kenya
- Chad
- Mauritius
- Uganda

REST OF ASIA

- Japan
- China
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Malaysia
- Singapore

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

- Bhutan
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Bangladesh
- Bharat

| | | |
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| USA | Mr. Babu Raman K | Joint Secretary, FII- USA Chapter |
| USA | Mr. Sunil Hali | Advisor, FII- USA Chapter |
| USA | Ms. Nupur Jain | Treasure, FII-USA Chapter |
| USA | Ms. Ramya Ranganathan | Executive Member, FII-USA Chapter |
| USA | Mr. Mark Bordoloi | Executive Member, FII-USA Chapter |
| USA | Mr. Akshay Jain | Executive Member, FII-USA Chapter |
| USA | Mr. Radhika Siva | Executive Member, FII-USA Chapter |
| USA | Ms. Hina Trivedi | Member, FII- USA Chapter |
| USA | Mr. Ranjan Gangahar | Advisor, FII- USA Chapter |
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| Canada | Mr. Sanjay Srivastava | |
| Brazil | | |

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| Germany | Mr. Kiran Kishore G | Vice president, Germany Chapter |
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| Germany | Mr. Ranjan Jinka Ramakrishna | Executive Member |
| Germany | Dr. Srinath Rengarajan | Executive Member |
| Germany | Dr. Shivam Gupta | Executive Member |
| Germany | Mr. Anirudh Mohan | Executive Member |
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| France | Mr. Pankaj Dhawan | Vice president, France Chapter |
| France | Mr. Paul Sanjeev Kumar | Vice president, France Chapter |
| France | Mr. Nagapraveen Jayaprakash | Advisor, France Chapter |
| France | De. Adarsh Gupta | Jr. Secretary, FII-France Chapter |
| France | Mr. Rajeev Kumar | Advisor to Board, FII-France Chapter |
| France | Mr. Ramesh Bhavsar | Treasure, France Chapter |
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| Norway | Mr. Atul | General Secretary, Norway Chapter |
| Norway | Mr. Ravi Shroff | Vice president, Norway Chapter |
| Norway | Mr. Manoj Thakur | Secretary, Norway Chapter |
| Norway | Mr. Navneet Kumar | Treasure, Norway Chapter |
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| Ukraine | Mr. Sammy (Manoj) Kotwani | Country Co-ordinatory |
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| Azerbaijan | | |
| Kazakhstan | | |
| Kyrgyzstan | | |
| Uzbekistan | | |
| Turkmenistan | | |
| Armenia | | |
| Belarus | | |
| Moldova | | |
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| Albania | Mr. M. Neeraj Kumar | Country Co-ordinatory |
| Greece | | |
| Romania | | |
| Serbia | | |
| North Macedonia | | |
| Poland | | |
| Ireland | | |
| Scotland | | |

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| Dubai | Mr. Ravindra Aggarwal | Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter |
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| Dubai | Ms. Richa Gupta | Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter |
| Dubai | Mr. Amit Keshri | Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter |
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| Nigeria | Mr. Sudhir Rathore | Vice President, Nigeria Chapter |
| Nigeria | Mr. Sudhir Jain | Advisor, Nigeria |
| Nigeria | Mr. Sanjeev Tondon | Advisor, Nigeria |
| Nigeria | Mr. Kirti Sudhanshu | Advisor, Nigeria |
| Nigeria | Mr. Shishir Verma | General Secretary, Nigeria |
| Nigeria | Mr. Sanjay Jha | Treasure, Nigeria Chapter |
| Nigeria | Mr. Anirudh Singh | Jt. Treasure, Nigeria Chapter |
| Nigeria | Mr. Jai Prakash Pandey | Jt. Seceretary, Nigeria Chapter |
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| Nigeria | Mr. YY Singh | Director |
| Nigeria | Mr. Rajneesh Srivastava | Director |
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| Benin Republic | Mr. Dheerendra Chauhan | Jt. Convenor- Benin Republic |
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| Uganda | | |
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| Pakistan | Dr. Ramesh Kumar Shardha | Country Co- ordinator, Pakistan |
| Srilanka | Mr. S. Niranjana | Country Co- ordinator, Srilanka |
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| Bangladesh | Mr. Pankaj Kumar | GS- Bangladesh |
| Bangladesh | Md. Tofayel Ahmed Almas | JS- Bangladesh |
| Bangladesh | Mr. Ezaz Ahmed | Bangladesh |
| Bangladesh | Mr. Salim Faisal Bhuiyan | Bangladesh |
| Bangladesh | MD Rafezur Rahmana | Bangladesh |
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| Vietnam | Mr. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Invest Global | |
| Vietnam | Ms. Naguyen Thi Lan Huong, Vice President, DAA | |
| Singapore | Mr. S. Niranjana | Country Co- ordinator, Singapore |
| AUSTRALIA OCEANIA | | |
| Australia | Ms. Deepa Gupta | Co- ordinator, Australia |
| New- Zealand | Mr. Giri Gupta | Country Co- ordinator, New- Zealand |

| | Name | Designation | State |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|
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| | Mr. Raman Saluja | Vice President, Haryana Chapter | Haryana |
| | Mr. Mohit Gupta | Treasurer, Haryana Chapter | Haryana |
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| | Mr. Sudhir Chandra | Patron, Yamunanagar Unit | Yamunanagar Unit |
| | Mr. Ashu Gupta | President, Yamunanagar Unit | Yamunanagar Unit |
| | Mr. Madhav Chandra | General Secretary, Yamunanagar Unit | Yamunanagar Unit |
| | Panchkula Unit | | |
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| | Mr. Mihir Shikari | Bureau Chief | Gujarat |
| | Mr. Vikram Lalchand Jain | Chief Coordinator of FII | Gujarat |
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| | | | |
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| | | | |
| West Bengal | Mr. Dipanker Sarkar | Co-ordinator, West Bengal | West Bengal |
| | Mr. Rupendra Singh | Co-ordinator, West Bengal | West Bengal |

FII – DOMESTIC NETWORK CHARTER

As a member of FII, you become empowered as you gain access to a world of opportunities.

Govt. Policies

1. Opportunity to contribute to Govt. policy initiatives
2. Opportunity to contribute to pre – budget planning
3. Be up to date about govt. schemes to gain maximum advantage for business interests

Networking

1. Networking opportunities with Indian Sectoral Experts across different verticals
2. Networking with Global Leaders, counterparts in all continents
3. Opportunity to connect with 5000 industry members all over India
4. Platform to meet global business and political leaders
5. Opportunity to participate in seminars, conferences and B2B meetings

Events & Other Deliverables

1. WhatsApp Group Inclusion facilitating networking with business contacts in FII Chapters
2. Complimentary subscription to monthly Newsletter (audience in 150 countries) highlighting business opportunities in India and abroad
3. Opportunity to establish visibility of your business via ads in FII Newsletter
4. Support regarding Finance, upgradations, investment opportunities, healthcare, sports etc
5. Weekly Awareness programme “Talk with an Expert” inviting experts/departmental heads to discuss policies, new laws, startups, MSMEs, Legal, Financial Issues, Corporates etc
6. General body meeting with all FII members
7. Participation in development activities like webinars, symposiums, workshops, seminars, buyer seller activities and other activities related to industry.

Professional Help from FII

1. Dedicated Committees for
 - MSME
 - Defence
 - Water Resources
 - Goods & Service Tax
 - CSR
 - International Affairs & Free Trade Zones
 - Human Resource Development
 - Agriculture
 - Banking & Finance
 - Corporate Insolvency & Restructuring
 - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Fintech
 - Goods & Services Tax (GST)
 - Health
 - Media & IT
 - Startup & Skill Development
 - Social Communication & Outreach
 - Road Safety & Traffic Awareness
 - Entrepreneurial Skill Development
 - Women Empowerment
 - Support Children with Special Needs
 - Sports & Recreation
2. Credit Counselling, Advice on GST & Taxes, Advice on loans, Recovery of Delayed/ Stuck Payments, Advice on Subsidies & Grants
3. We provide help in revival of sick units with experts on every domain
4. Support for business development through participation in Exhibitions within/outside India and plan for visit to International Trade Fairs
5. Empower Indian Businesses in their global outreach for business expansion
6. Opportunity to take part in FII Overseas Business Delegations



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

FII-INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CHARTER

- Promoting an environment of strong business relationships of India with growing Economies
- Assisting Indian businesses to expand in 42 Nations where FII has its Country Chapters
- Help from FII Investment Desk, which ensures safety and security of investment in foreign land
- Our strengthened relations with International Consulates helps easing of setting up business internationally
- We support our members in case of any dispute arises in overseas projects and the implementation.
- Support from Experts in documentation and various approvals for overseas expansion
- Support for international exhibitions, stalls in all continents
- Networking opportunities for overseas B2B, B2G

- Take advantage of FII Partnerships with International Associations
- Opportunity to participate in International Business Delegations
- Assistance to Overseas Business for setting up operations in India

- Strengthening Indian Diaspora, Businesses and Professionals
- Promoting brotherhood and Business Networking among Indian Diaspora
- Creating Awareness for Indian Diaspora to Business Opportunities in India
- International Conferences on side-lines of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to facilitate networking across eminent businesspersons
- Celebration of Indian & International Holidays in synergy to recognize and promote International Brotherhood

FII PARTNERS



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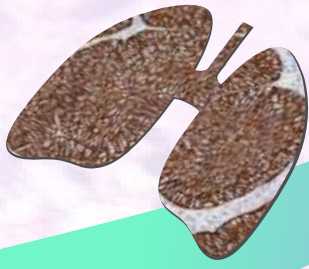
DAYS TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY 2025

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------|
| 1 January |  Cuba | Revolution Day |
| 26 January |  Australia | Australia Day |
| 26 January |  India | Republic Day |

| Festival Name | Date | Day | Holiday Category |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Guru <u>Gobind</u> Singh Jayanti | January 6, 2025 | Monday | Gazetted Holiday |
| <u>Lohri</u> | January 13, 2025 | Monday | State Holiday (Punjab) |
| Makar Sankranti | January 14, 2025 | Tuesday | Gazetted Holiday (various states) |
| Pongal | January 14-17, 2025 | Tuesday-Fri | Gazetted Holiday (Tamil Nadu) |
| <u>Bhogali</u> Bihu | January 15, 2025 | Wednesday | State Holiday (Assam) |
| <u>Kenduli</u> Mela | January 14, 2025 | Tuesday | Local Festival (West Bengal) |
| International Kite Festival | January 14, 2025 | Tuesday | Local Festival (Gujarat) |
| Bikaner Camel Festival | January 11-12, 2025 | Saturday-Sun | Local Festival (Rajasthan) |
| <u>Modhera</u> Dance Festival | January 18-19, 2025 | Friday-Sat | Local Festival (Gujarat) |
| Republic Day | January 26, 2025 | Sunday | National Holiday |

GREETINGS IN JANUARY 2024

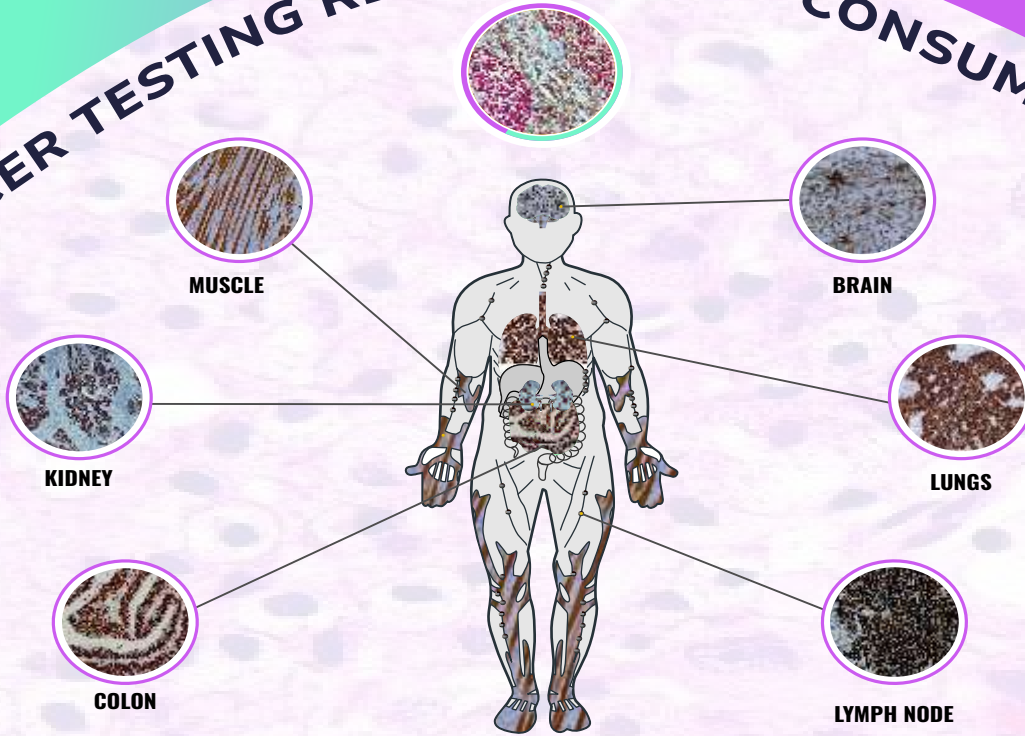




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