

BHARAT NEWS BY FII

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



Celebrating 10 Years of FII: Insightful Meet & Greet with IAS Sonal Goel



Lord Mahavir's 2550th Nirvanotsav and 2624th Janma Kalyanak celebrated at Delhi Assembly on April 6, 2025.



Dr. Deepak Jain, President FII, and Team Hold Inspiring Meeting with Lord Swraj Paul



Visit of Vice President of the United States of America to India (April 21-24, 2025)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred Mauritius' Highest Civilian Honour During National Day Celebrations



Indian Dream Global Action

BHARAT NEWS BY FII (APRIL – MAY 2025)

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OUR INSPIRATIONS



Padma Bhushan
L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan
L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj



From the Desk of

Dr. Deepak Jain

President, Federation of Indian Industry



India's journey toward defence self-reliance marks one of the most consequential strategic shifts in its modern history. Once heavily dependent on foreign suppliers for military equipment, India has steadily pivoted toward indigenization, driven by necessity, vision, and geopolitics. Today, this path of "Aatmanirbharta" (self-reliance) in defence has not only fortified India's military capabilities but also reshaped its global strategic posture. FII applauds Indian valour and the defence capabilities developed over a period of last decade that was demonstrated in "Operation Sindoor" recently. India launched a bold initiative to bolster domestic defence manufacturing, backed by policy reforms, budget allocations, and public-private partnerships. Today, the Indian defence ecosystem is witnessing a renaissance. From advanced artillery systems like the Dhanush and ATAGS to the Tejas light combat aircraft and the DRDO's missile programs, India is not only building for itself but also emerging as a net defence exporter. Self-reliance has empowered India to chart an independent foreign policy amid a fracturing global order. As the world becomes increasingly bipolar—with growing tensions between the West and China-Russia axis—India's ability to maintain strategic autonomy hinges on its self-sufficiency in critical defence sectors. India's defence self-reliance also boosts its role as a regional security provider. India's drive toward defence self-reliance is more than an economic or industrial objective—it is a strategic imperative. By insulating its security architecture from foreign volatility, enhancing deterrence, and asserting its global role, India is laying the groundwork for long-term strategic resilience. The pursuit of self-reliance, though complex, is not optional. It is the cornerstone of India's vision to secure its borders, assert its sovereignty, and lead as a responsible global power in the 21st century.



Every Thursday

18:00 PM (IST)

Talk with an Expert show

MR. SANJEEV ARORA

DR. DRAVYA JAIN

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
3rd April, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

From Stress to Success: The Role of Happiness in the Workplace

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vikas Arora
Member - FII
Happiness Coach

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
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TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
10th April, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

Transforming Industry with Smart Manufacturing Solutions

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

Guest Speaker: Mr. Uditendra Verma
Chairperson - FII
Social Outreach Committee - FII

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
17th April, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

"Young Minds, Big Impact : The Rise of Indian Industrial Leaders"

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Vikram Bansal
Faculty - JNU, New Delhi
& Member, FII

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
24th April, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

Can Innovation Be the Game-Changer for MSMEs?

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

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

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
01st May, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

Sankalp to Success : The Indian Way of Cultivating Mindset (Part - 1)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Speaker: Dr. Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. P S Rathore
Motivational Speaker,
Member - FII

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
08th May, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, DG-FII

Sankalp to Success : The Indian Way of Cultivating Mindset (Part - 1)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Speaker: Dr. Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. P S Rathore
Motivational Speaker,
Member - FII

For any Enquiry Connect: +91-9599935527 www.fii.org.in

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
15th May, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

Sankalp to Success : The Indian Way of Cultivating Mindset (Part - 2)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Speaker: Dr. Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. P S Rathore
Motivational Speaker,
Member - FII

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
22nd May 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

Sankalp to Success : The Indian Way of Cultivating Mindset (Part - 2)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Speaker: Dr. Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. P S Rathore
Motivational Speaker,
Member - FII

For any Enquiry Connect: +91-9599935527 www.fii.org.in

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

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
29th May, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

Program Conceptualization
Dr. Deepak Jain, President - FII

BUILDING A STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL FOUNDATION (Re-Telecast)

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

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

For any Enquiry Connect: +91-9599935527 www.fii.org.in

NEWSPPOINT

Increase in electricity monthly charges may reduce investment and force MSMEs to shut down: Vinod Bapna

Journalist Jatin
Gurugram: There is deep resentment in the industrial sector of the state regarding the 76% increase in monthly fixed charges imposed on industries by the Haryana Discom. The Federation of Indian Industry (FII) has termed this decision anti-industry and has demanded that the government immediately roll it back. Vinod Banna, State President of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), stated that the decision to increase the monthly fixed charges on industries imposes an additional financial burden, especially at a time when the state's industries are already grappling with inflation, global market competition, and rising energy costs. He added that this increase will raise production costs, impact industrial competitiveness.



Haryana, and if the government does not revoke this decision soon, it could lead to a decline in investment and the closure of several MSME (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) units. Therefore, this hike should be rolled back immediately. Vinod Bapna mentioned that after the 76% increase in monthly fixed charges for industries, the rate has been raised from ₹165 per kVA to ₹2290 per kVA per month — a straight increase of ₹125 per kVA monthly. He said that due to this hike, small enterprises

With an approved load of 100 KVA are facing an increase of up to ₹15,500 per month, while medium-sized firms are seeing a rise of over ₹40,000 in the monthly energy bills. As a result, this hike will put an additional annual burden of over ₹2,100 crore on the industries in the state.

He urged the government to review the hike in monthly fixed charges imposed on industries and to take future steps keeping in mind the potential damages caused by this increase. Vinod Bapna also mentioned that the Fil, along with representatives of various industrial units, will submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, the Industries Minister, the Power Minister, and the Union Minister of Power, demanding the withdrawal of this hike.

One attachment

हरियाणा डिस्कॉम द्वारा मासिक निर्धारित शुल्क में वृद्धि को एफआईआई ने बताया उद्योग विरोधी कदम

भारत साखी/जतिन/राजा
गुरुग्राम। हरियाणा डिस्क्रिप्शन
रा उद्योगों पर लगाए गए मासिक
धारित शुल्क में की गई 76 प्रतिशत
की वृद्धि को लेकर राज्य के उद्योग
एकल में गहरी नाराजगी देखी जा रही
। फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री
एफआईआई) ने इस फैसले को
विरोधी विधेयों करार देते हुए सरकार
तत्काल प्रभाव से इस फैसले को
रद्द करने की मांग की है।

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री (एफआईआई) के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष विनोद बज्जना ने कहा कि उद्योगों पर मासिक निर्धारित शुल्क ने वृद्धि के निर्माण उद्योगों पर अतिरिक्त आर्थिक बोझ डालते हैं, खासकर उस समय जब राज्य के उद्योग पहले से ही महंगाई, वैशेषिक बाजार में प्रतिस्पर्धा और ऊर्जा लागत जैसी चुनौतियों से जूझ रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि मासिक निर्धारित शुल्क ने वृद्धि से उत्पन्न

बिजली मासिक शुल्क में वृद्धि से आ सकती है निवेश घटने व एमएसएमई इकाईयां बंद होने की नौबत : विनोद वापना।



लागत में इजाजत होगा, जिससे हरियाणा में औद्योगिक प्रतिस्पर्धा प्रभावित होगी तथा जन्तु ही सरकार ने अपने इस निर्णय को वापिस नहीं लिया तो प्रदेश में निवेश घटने और कई एमएफएमई (सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम) इकाइयों को बंद करने तक की नीकत भी आ सकती है। ऐसे में इस वृद्धि को तत्काल वापस लिया जाए।

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री (एफआईआई) के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष विनोद बापना ने कहा कि उद्योगों के

मध्यम आकार की फर्मा को अपने ऊर्जा बिलों में 40 हजार रुपये मासिक से अधिक की वृद्धि सेलानी पड़ेगी। उन्होंने कहा कि इस वृद्धि के बाद अब ज़रूरी के उद्योग पर 2100 करोड़ रुपये वार्षिक से अधिक का अतिरिक्त बोझ पड़ेगा। उन्होंने सरकार से मांग करते हुए कहा कि उद्योगों पर लागू गए मासिक निर्धारित शुल्क में कोई वृद्धि की समीक्षा करें तथा इस वृद्धि से होने वाले नुकसानों को ध्यान में रखकर इस फैसले पर अपने आगामी कदम बढाए।

इसके साथ ही विनोद बापना ने कहा कि इस बुद्धि को वापिस लेने की मांग को लेकर एफआईएई विभिन्न औद्योगिक एकाईयों के प्रतिनिधियों को साथ लेकर मुख्यमंत्री नाथ सिंह सेनी, उद्योग मंत्री, बिजली मंत्री व केंद्रीय ऊर्जा मंत्री को प्रांगण भी खींचेगी।

उद्यमियों के लिए तैयार किए बेयर हाउस में बिक रहा गेहूँ

La nuova casa di Bressana Bottarone, in provincia di Perugia, è stata inaugurata il 15 settembre. L'edificio, progettato dall'architetto romano Franco Albini, è stato realizzato dalla ditta Bressana Bottarone, che ha anche costruito la casa di Bressana Bottarone, in provincia di Perugia, e la casa di Bressana Bottarone, in provincia di Perugia.



Small Pharma Firms Have a Big Problem of Substandard Drugs

About 60 samples failed to meet quality standards in April, says drug regulatory authority

[illegible]

Greesh Babu, New Delhi

With the timeline for submission of application for extension of Schedule M implementation for small and medium pharma units comes to an end, a section of the industry has said that only less than five hundred units might have submitted the application.

The notification issued by the Ministry on February 11 allowed a window of three months from the date of the notification for the units to apply for extension of timeline till the end of December, 2025.

The industry has faced various hurdles in submission of the application, including to comply with the conditions in the notification that they should submit the details of section-wise gap analysis and plans and strategies (for compliance with the revised GMP based on the gap analysis), within these three months.

The micro and small industry, which is struggling to survive, may have to invest not only on manufacturing facilities and documentation, but also need to find manpower eligible to complete the procedures in time.

Besides, some of the industry members allege that for meagerly registering with the online system for the application requires the units to agree with the terms, conditions and privacy policy which is against the prevailing system of drug licensing. They allege that while as per the regulations, the onus of issuing manufacturing and sales licenses for majority of the products lies with the state licensing authority and agreeing with the terms and conditions would result in centralisation of licensing powers.

It may be noted that the industry has already raised concerns that the condition mandating that the units should apply to the central drug regulator for extension of timeline for Schedule M implementation, while the powers to grant, suspend and dismiss licenses lies with the State authority.

They have also raised objections against the gap analysis as a condition to obtain extension, stating that there is no provision in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for a gap analysis. Once the gap analysis and plans to overcome the gaps are submitted, the units need to implement the plan and comply with the revised stan-

dards, which is on par with the international standards, within the end of 2025.

With uncertainty over the prospects of successful implementation, many units have abstained from submitting the application itself, they added. Many of these industries have been requesting the Ministry to provide three to five years for the micro, small and medium industry to comply with the standards.

These units are still looking up at the ministry for an extension of the timeline to a larger period, along with financial support to achieve the standards.

The Ministry has issued the final notification on February 11, extending the deadline for implementation of the revised Schedule M manufacturing standards to one more year for the micro, small and medium (MSME) units with turnover below Rs.250 crore, which apply for extension within three months from the date of its publication.

It has also provided Form A, the application for seeking extension of compliance with revised Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), under Schedule M of the Drugs Rules, 1945.



The Circle FC signs MoU with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to support local startups

The Circle: Founders Club (The Circle FC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Start-in UP, an initiative by

the Government of Uttar Pradesh led by Ravi Ranjan, IAS, Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Electronics Corporation Limited (UPECL).

The Circle FC is a cross-border business accelerator to help startups scale globally through focused mentoring, business services, funding support, corporate connects, and community building. It has a global footprint, having supported 100+ startups across 12+ countries.



'India's global clout growing because of internal strength': PK Mishra

The world economy is facing a raft of complex challenges, including disruptions in supply-chains, protectionist policies, heightened

geopolitical tensions and changing global trade patterns, PK Mishra, principal secretary to the prime minister, said on Saturday. He was speaking on 'Opportunities and Challenges in the Current Geopolitical and Economic Context' at the Indian Institute of Management in Sambalpur, Odisha.



Our partnership has limitless potential: PM Modi ahead of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia

Ahead of his two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the strength and "limitless potential" of the relationship between India and

Saudi Arabia, describing their bond as a "pillar of stability in a world full of uncertainties." PM Modi will depart for Saudi Arabia today at the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.



Poonawalla Fincorp enters consumer durables loans market to accelerate growth and expand retail reach

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (PFL), the Cyrus Poonawalla Group-backed non-banking financial company (NBFC),

on Tuesday launched a new Consumer Durables Loans business aimed at tapping into the rapidly growing retail lending segment, the company said in an exchange filing. It also introduced a digital EMI card, offering pre-approved limits to make consumer durable purchases easier and more convenient for customers. This strategic entry into the high-velocity consumer durables market marks a significant step for PFL as it seeks to scale its retail business and enhance profitability. The new offering leverages digital onboarding and point-of-sale loans, allowing for fast and efficient customer acquisition.



Indian toy exporters see golden opportunity as US hikes tariff on China

India's toy exporters are aiming to utilise a "golden opportunity" emerging out of the steep tariffs imposed by the US on Chinese imports, and growing

enquiries from American buyers eyeing alternative markets to reduce their reliance on Chinese goods.



CCI approves Kandhari Beverages proposal to acquire Coca-Cola's bottling arm for Rs 2,000 crore

Fair trade regulator CCI on Tuesday approved Kandhari Global Beverages' proposal to acquire beverage major

Coca-Cola's bottling plant for Rs 2,000 crore. Kandhari Global Beverages is an authorised bottler of the Coca-Cola Company (TCCC) and Schweppes Holdings, and is engaged in the business of supplying and distributing non-alcoholic beverage (NAB) products in Rajasthan.



German chemical company to invest \$1.5 billion in India, says Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said a German company from the chemical sector has decided to invest USD 1.5 billion in India, and a state has identified land for the project. Though the minister did not disclose the name of the company or the state, he said that the company's head is expected to meet the state's chief minister on Sunday.



Moon Beverages mulls IPO, invests over Rs 4,000 cr to expand production capacity

Moon Beverages, one of the leading bottlers of Coca-Cola in India and part of MMG Group, is considering an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to accelerate growth and expansion in the country's fast-growing soft drinks market, said a top company official. MMG Group expects Moon Beverages, a key franchise partner of Coca-Cola, to double its revenue in the next three to four years, helped by growth coming from new plants, expansion of capacity and acquisition of new markets, said its Vice Chairman Anant Agarwal



India April business growth hits 8-month high as export orders surge, PMI shows

India's private sector growth rose to an eight-month high in April fueled by robust demand, particularly a surge in foreign orders for manufactured goods, according to a survey, but business confidence showed some signs of softening.



Guwahati Tea Auction centre sets new record, sells ₹3,850 crore tea in FY25

The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) has set a new record, selling tea worth Rs 3850 crore in the financial year 2024-25.

Dinesh Bihani, Secretary of Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers Association, on Tuesday told ANI that, in the FY 2024-25, the Guwahati Tea



India's solar makers see opportunities, risks in trade turmoil

The escalating global trade war stoked by US tariffs may open up new business opportunities for India's solar industry, according to local manufacturers.

Steep barriers on Chinese goods and the latest round of duties targeting solar exports from four South East Asian nations hosting Chinese factories are set to squeeze China's dominant companies out of the US solar market.



IIM student earning Rs 3.5 lakh per month during internship. As netizens debate, a CA says 'IITs, IIMs are tougher than Harvard to crack'

A recent post by Sakshi Jain, a personal branding expert, on social media has sparked a lively discussion

online about the relevance and value of degrees, particularly those from India's top-tier institutes. Jain shared her perspective after meeting a friend currently pursuing an MBA at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta. The friend had landed a summer internship in Mumbai with a staggering stipend of Rs 3.5 lakh per month, totaling Rs 7 lakh over two months.

POLITICAL NEWS



Vance's visit boosts US-India talks amid trade pact negotiations: Scindia

US Vice President J D Vance's visit to India takes dialogue between the two countries a step further, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Tuesday as New Delhi looks to stitch an early deal with Washington that spares it from President Donald Trump's additional tariff hikes.



Andhra Pradesh CM approves ₹30 crore honoraria for 8,427 pastors

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has approved Rs 30

crore in honoraria for 8,427 pastors for seven months, the government said on Thursday. The honoraria, amounting to Rs 35,000 for each pastor, cover the months from May to November 2024, according to an official release. "CM Chandrababu Naidu has given the green signal to release Rs 5,000 per month to 8,427 pastors," the statement said.



Rajasthan data centre policy to attract Rs 20k cr investment in 5 years: CM

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Saturday said that Rajasthan

Data Centre Policy 2025 will bring an investment of about Rs 20,000 crore to the state in the next five years. He said that the policy aims to encourage the establishment of data centres in the private sector in Rajasthan. This policy was announced in the state budget 2024-25, he added.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



PM Modi calls Saudi ties 'limitless', bats for trade and strategic growth

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called the relationship between India

and Saudi Arabia a "limitless partnership" during his visit to Jeddah. This is his third trip to the Kingdom since 2016. In an interview with Arab News, Modi said Saudi Arabia is "a trusted friend and strategic ally". He said the two countries have grown much closer since the formation of the Strategic Partnership Council in 2019.



Donald Trump raised record \$239 million for his second inauguration

Hyundai Motor America, Nvidia Corp. and Target Corp. made seven-figure

donations to fund President Donald Trump's record-breaking haul for his second inauguration, according to filings with the Federal Election Commission.

Trump netted a record \$239 million for the inaugural committee, easily topping the \$107 million he raised eight years before.



UK reduces import tariffs on everyday essentials in a bid to boost growth

The United Kingdom (UK) on Sunday revealed a

reduction in import tariffs aimed at lowering the prices of various foreign products, including daily essentials like pasta, fruit juices, and spices, as part of efforts to stimulate economic growth.

BANKING AND FINANCE



Indian companies raise over \$50 billion via foreign loans in FY25 till February
Fundraising from foreign sources in the form of external commercial

borrowings by Indian companies topped \$50 billion in FY2025 (till February). Data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Tuesday showed that ECB registrations by companies, including non-banking finance companies, stood at \$2.63 billion in Feb 2025 compared to \$2.22 billion in the same month a year ago.



Finance ministry asks banks to work on deposit mobilisation strategies

The Union finance ministry has asked public sector banks (PSBs) to work on strategies

to improve deposit mobilisation and submit these soon, according to sources. "The finance ministry has raised that mobilising bank deposits is the issue for the sector. Hence only proper strategy will solve the issue," said a senior government official who was part of the meeting.



Evren raises \$100 mn from ALTÉRRRA to build 11 GW clean energy pipeline

UAE-based ALTÉRRRA has committed \$100 million to Indian renewable energy developer,

Evren. The investment being made via the ALTÉRRRA Acceleration Fund is the world's largest private climate investment vehicle's first direct foray into the Global South. The capital will support the development and construction of up to 11 GW of wind, solar, and battery storage projects in India, primarily across Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

INDUSTRY



UP govt signs MoUs to boost solar push, targets 500 GW green energy by 2030

The Uttar Pradesh government is advancing

policy-driven efforts to accelerate the green revolution in the state and has signed initial agreements with the Smart Energy Council of Australia and the Hinduja Group. The government has set an ambitious target to generate 500 gigawatts of solar energy by 2030, an official statement said.



Govt hopes to add another 15K GPUs in second round of IndiaAI mission

Graphics processing units (GPUs) in the country are expected to increase by

15,000 through procurement and supply in the second round of bidding, according to official sources. The deadline for the second round is April 30. With the addition of the 15,000 GPUs, the number of such high-end computing processors will go up to 33,000.



Indian toy exporters see golden opportunity as US hikes tariff on China

India's toy exporters are aiming to utilise a "golden opportunity" emerging out of

the steep tariffs imposed by the US on Chinese imports, and growing enquiries from American buyers eyeing alternative markets to reduce their reliance on Chinese goods. The market, currently valued at \$60 billion, has slowed to a 10–12 percent growth rate in 2024 down from over 20 percent in previous years—due to stress in

START-UP



Ecom means biz with AI: Technology repurposed to serve Indian customers

Srikant Sree Ram, director of Amazon Fresh India, stood in a farm in Mahabaleshwar, a hill town in Maharashtra's Satara district, watching as freshly picked white strawberries made their way to a collection centre nearby. A farmer told visitors that the strawberries are supplied exclusively to Amazon Fresh customers in Pune and Mumbai.



Panasonic expands startup partnerships to adopt new tech in its products

Panasonic Life Solutions India (PLSIND), a leading diversified technology company, is doubling down on its commitment to innovation by actively partnering with startups to integrate cutting-edge technologies into its product line-up. The company, which runs a programme named 'Ignition', is tapping into the transformative potential of emerging startups, selecting those with disruptive ideas that align with market needs and evolving consumer behaviours.



Shift focus from grocery delivery to high-tech sectors: Goyal to startups

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked the Indian startup community to shift their focus from grocery delivery and ice cream making to the high tech sector like semiconductor, machine learning, robotics, and artificial intelligence. He also said there is a need for more Indian investors into the startup ecosystem.

AGRICULTURE



Centre procures 340K tonnes of tur so far under price support scheme

The government has procured 3,40,000 tonnes of tur (pigeon pea) so far this year under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), according to agriculture ministry data. Tur procurement is being undertaken at a minimum support price (MSP) under the scheme. The ministry has sanctioned 13.22 lakh tonnes of tur procurement from nine states. The government aims to maintain a buffer stock of 10 lakh tonnes of tur to release in the open market to check prices.



Incentives needed for farmers to adopt non-chemical fertilisers: Agri secy

There is a need for structuring a comprehensive and fool-proof set of incentives for farmers to voluntarily adopt non-chemical fertiliser-based farming practices, agriculture secretary Devesh Chaturvedi has said. Addressing an event organised by policy research institute Pahl India Foundation (PIF), Chaturvedi, secretary in the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, also suggested that natural farming



GreenGrahi raises ₹32 cr in a seed funding round led by Avaana Capital

Agri-biotech startup GreenGrahi has raised ₹32 crore (\$3.73 million) in a seed funding round led by Avaana Capital, an early-stage climate and sustainability-focused venture capital fund. The round also witnessed participation from Huddle Ventures, Campus Fund, Blume Founders Fund, and angel investors, including Nexus Ventures' Nitin Sharma, Samara Capital's Anchit Gupta, Equilibrium Capital's David Chen, and Northpoint Capital's Sameer Brij Verma.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Govt approves policy to make Maharashtra shipbuilding hub, create 40,000 jobs by 2030

The Maharashtra government on Tuesday approved a policy to transform the state into a major hub for building ships, undertaking their repair, recycling, and create a supportive ecosystem to develop skilled manpower for the key sector.



PMKVY 4.0: Parl panel asks skill ministry to make placement figures public

The parliamentary standing committee on labour, textiles, and skill development has asked the skill ministry to make “concerted efforts with stakeholders” to ensure uploading of placement details of certified candidates under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 on the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) portal, as placement figures are the “real barometer” for measuring the success of the scheme.



Chhattisgarh govt signs new agreement to boost its textile hub ambitions

Chhattisgarh has signed an agreement with a group representing clothing manufacturers to set up a facilitation centre, marking a “milestone” as the state works to become a textile hub. The agreement with the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) is expected to boost the state's economy and create jobs.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



IIT-Kharagpur study reveals alarming impact of ozone pollution on major Indian food crops

Ozone pollution, a lesser-known but potent threat, could drastically reduce agricultural yields in the country, according to a new study by IIT-Kharagpur. Severe risks of surface ozone pollution on India's major food crops have also been underscored in the research by Prof Jayanarayanan Kuttippurath and his team at the Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL), IIT-Kharagpur.



ISRO successfully conducts short duration hot test of semicryogenic engine

A short duration hot test of the semicryogenic engine was successfully conducted at the test facility in ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, the space agency said on Saturday. This ignition test conducted on April 24 is the second milestone after the successful first hot test on March 28, 2025, that was a major breakthrough in the testing of the Semicryogenic engine test programme, it said.



India's top science adviser pitches for strategic autonomy in quantum tech, flags gaps

India's top science adviser Monday flagged concerns over the virtual absence of the country's companies in the field of quantum stacks and quantum security, and asserted that too much import dependence could lead to disruptions in the fledgling domestic ecosystem of the fast emerging sector. In a statement here, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government Professor Ajay Sood said quantum technology is an area where no country wants to be left behind as it is crucial for strategic autonomy.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY



Centre plans to procure 14,028 electric buses in multiple tranches

The Centre is planning to procure the 14,028 electric buses (e-buses) it had promised to buy for states to electrify public transport in multiple tranches instead of doing it at one go because some states are yet to send in requirements, according to a senior government official.



MG Windsor becomes fastest-selling EV in India with 20K units in 6 months

JSW MG Motor India has announced that its electric vehicle (EV) MG Windsor has become the fastest-selling EV model in the country, achieving 20,000 unit sales within just six months of launch. At the end of March 2025, JSW MG Motor enjoyed a 31 per cent retail market share in the EV segment, trailing only Tata Motors, which held a 38 per cent share.



Gujarat committed to becoming EV manufacturing hub, says CM Patel

Gujarat is committed to electric mobility and becoming a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles and ancillary equipment, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said on 5 April 2025. The state has seen registration of over 2.64 lakh electric vehicles, while 800 e-buses are operating, he added. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the EV manufacturing plant of Matter Energy at Changodar near here, Patel said green growth and EVs are the ways to reduce carbon footprint and face the challenge posed by climate change.

CSR



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta announces CSR-funded development projects in Kalkaji

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday announced a series of development initiatives, including the creation of two parks and the installation of three water ATM plants for slum residents, in Kalkaji.



Assam CM Himanta Sarma inaugurates North East India's first ever onco-robotic surgery facility at State Cancer Institute in GMCH premises

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated North East India's first onco-robotic surgery facility at the State Cancer Institute in Guwahati. Procured under a central government scheme at a cost of Rs. 14.99 crore, the 'Make in India' robotic system promises enhanced precision and better outcomes in cancer care.



India's infra titan Larsen & Toubro (L&T) aims to promote green goals

Given rising climate concerns and a surge in green capital, can large engineering companies shift course and embrace sustainable growth? Larsen & Toubro (L&T), one of India's most influential infrastructure and engineering players, appears to be making a serious case that they can — and must. In FY24, over 50 per cent of L&T's revenue came from what it classifies as green businesses: Clean energy projects, water and wastewater solutions, mass transit systems, green buildings and sustainable infrastructure.

DEFENCE NEWS



Ashok Leyland's defence unit bags orders worth Rs 700 cr from Indian Army

Commercial vehicles manufacturer Ashok Leyland said on Friday its defence

business has won orders worth more than Rs 700 crore from the Indian Army, "reinforcing the company's leadership" in the sector.



Defence exports hit record Rs 23,622 cr in FY25, but pace of growth slows

India's defence exports rose to a record Rs 23,622 crore (approximately \$2.76 billion) in the financial year

(FY) 2024-25, registering a growth of 12.04 per cent over FY 2023-24's Rs 21,083 crore, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a release on Tuesday. However, despite the new high, the pace of growth slowed compared to the 32.4 per cent surge recorded in 2023-24 over the previous year's Rs 15,920 crore in military equipment exports.



India, UK discuss deeper military ties, advancing defence capability

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ENERGY AND POWER



Energy storage sector to attract Rs 4.79 trn investment by 2032: IES

India's energy storage sector is likely to attract Rs 4.79 lakh crore investment by 2032, industry body India

Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) said on Sunday.

At the 5th Edition of International Conference on Stationary Energy Storage India (SESI) 2025 concluded last week at Gandhinagar, in Gujarat, industry body IESA projected that India's energy storage sector is poised to expand five-fold between 2026 and 2032, a statement said.



NTPC to add 30 Gw coal-based thermal capacity by 2032 to meet demand

State-owned NTPC, the country's largest power generator, has jacked up its capacity addition target by

financial year 2032 (FY32) to 30 gigawatt (Gw) from the earlier 26Gw to meet the rising power demand in the country. All the additional capacity will come as brownfield or expansion of NTPC's current thermal power units across the country.



India lead in new coal proposals in 2024, says Global Energy Monitor

India accounted for one-third of new global coal proposals in 2024, with 38.4 GW capacity — the highest since

2015 — according to the latest report by the Global Energy Monitor (GEM) released on Thursday. The 10th edition of the Boom and Bust Coal report said 10 countries are now responsible for 96 per cent of coal power capacity development, with China and India representing 87 percent of it.

INVEST INDIA



Invest Kerala Summit: Works on projects worth Rs 4,410 cr to begin in May

Kerala Industries Minister P Rajeev on Saturday said works on 13 projects with a

total investment of Rs 4,410 crore through the Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS 2025) will commence in May. On 25 April, the President pays homage to His Holiness Pope Francis by laying a wreath at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City.



Jupiter International secures Rs 500 cr investment

Solar solutions provider Jupiter International Ltd on Monday said it has secured an investment of Rs 500 crore

from ValueQuest SCALE Fund and its affiliates to accelerate solar manufacturing expansion. The company operates at a 1 GW facility in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh, and plans to increase the total capacity to 5.6 GW solar cells and 2.4 GW solar modules, the company said in a statement.



Vedanta's Rs 50,000 cr investment in Assam: CM Himanta holds talks to prepare detailed plan

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday held discussions

with private sector energy major Vedanta Group to prepare a detailed plan for the announced investment of Rs 50,000 crore in the state. In February, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal had announced that the firm would pump in Rs 50,000 crore in Assam and Tripura's oil and gas sector over the next 3-4 years.

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



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DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



Shri Amararam Gujar appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi

Shri Amararam Gujar (IFS: 2008), presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Rome, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.



Rajeev Kumar Named High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea

Senior diplomat Rajeev Kumar (IFS: 2001) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea. He is currently serving as Deputy Director General (DDG) at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). In an official statement, the MEA said, “Shri Rajeev Kumar (IFS: 2001), presently DDG, ICCR, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.” He is expected to take up his new assignment shortly.



Shri Suneet Mehta concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to Tuvalu

He is expected to take up the assignment shortly, a Ministry of External Affairs release said. Mehta is an Indian Foreign Service officer of the 2007 batch. Bilateral relations between India and Tuvalu have grown steadily since the reopening of the High Commission of India, Suva, in 1999. The Forum for India-Pacific Island Countries was inaugurated in November 2014 at Suva. PM Narendra Modi also hosted the First Summit of the Forum in Suva during his historic visit to Fiji.

MEA



Visit of President of India to Vatican City to attend the State Funeral of HH Pope Francis

President Smt Droupadi Murmu is visiting Vatican City on 25–26 April 2025 to attend the State Funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the Government and people of India. On 25 April, the President pays homage to His Holiness Pope Francis by laying a wreath at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City.



Signing of Headquarters Agreement between India and International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) (April 17, 2025)

The Government of the Republic of India and the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) signed the Headquarters Agreement today (April 17, 2025) in New Delhi. The Agreement was signed by Shri P Kumaran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, and Dr S.P. Yadav, Director General, IBCA.



Visit of H.E. Mr. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (April 11-12, 2025)

H.E. Mr. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy is visiting India from 11-12 April, 2025. He is accompanied by the Minister of University and Research, H.E. Ms. Anna Maria Bernini, and a large delegation of businesses, leading universities and research institutions.

Advancing Global Resilience: FII Announces Organizing Committee for the Resilience 360 International Conference



On April 5, 2025, under the leadership of Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII, the Organizing Committee for the International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Management – Resilience 360 – was formally constituted. Scheduled for June 26–27, 2025, in New Delhi.*Meet now postponed to July 2025. The meeting included the unveiling of the official event poster and focused deliberations on execution strategy, measurable impact, and global collaboration. The conference aims to serve as a key platform for building consensus and driving action on pressing climate challenges.

The Organizing Committee is led by Maj. Gen. G.D. Bakshi, SM, VSM (Retd.) as Chairperson and CMA Sanjay Gupta as Co-Chairperson. Supporting members include Hitender Mehta, CA Atul Gupta, Dr. Shailendra Vyas, CA Vinod Kr. Bapna, Dr. JP Singh, Aditya Rao, Shashi Bansal, Mukesh Sakhuja, Daman Chopra, and Sudhir Chandra. From the FII leadership, the team includes Sanjay Singh (Executive Director), Dr. Rimika Kapoor (Joint Director, ESG Committee), Ujjwal Jain (Executive), and Mrunali Thakkar (Executive).

Lord Mahavir's 2550th Nirvanotsav and 2624th Janma Kalyanak celebrated at Delhi Assembly on April 6, 2025.



On April 6, 2025, the Delhi Legislative Assembly hosted a special program titled "Bhagwan Mahavir Gatha" to mark the 2550th Nirvanotsav and the 2624th Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav of Lord Mahavir. This significant celebration served as a moment of deep spiritual reflection and collective pride for the Jain community and beyond.

The occasion was graced by the revered presence of Rashttrasant Paramparacharya Shri 108 Pragya Sagar Ji Muniraj, who was conferred the status of "State Guest" by the Delhi Government. This announcement was made by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly, Mr. Vijender Gupta, and formally approved by the Chief Minister of Delhi, Mrs. Rekha Gupta. This acknowledgment stood as a symbol of respect for Jain philosophy and values, and marked a proud milestone for the community.

As the Chief Guest, Mrs. Rekha Gupta offered her heartfelt respects to Munishri and reiterated her intent to govern in alignment with the principles of Lord Mahavir, anchored in non-violence, truth, and compassion.

The dignified ceremony saw the presence of several eminent figures, including Hon'ble Speaker Mr. Vijender Gupta, Deputy Speaker Mr. Mohan Singh Bisht, members of the Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvan Mahotsav Committee, devout followers, and representatives of the Jain community of Delhi.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII, attended the event as General Secretary of the organizing committee and had the honor of addressing the audience. He expressed his deep sense of gratitude and pride in being part of such a spiritually enriching and historic occasion, one that reflects the timeless relevance of Lord Mahavir's teachings in today's world.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President-FII at Kwibuka 31: Honoring the 1994 Genocide in victing of Rwanda



Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII, had the honour of being invited to Kwibuka 31—the 31st Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda—held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

He extended heartfelt thanks to his dear friend, H.E. Jacqueline Mukangira, High Commissioner of Rwanda to India, for the gracious invitation. Sincere appreciation was also conveyed to the Rwanda High Commission team for their warm hospitality and for organizing such a solemn and meaningful event.

It was a pleasure for FII to reconnect with H.E. Prof. Joyce Kakuramatsi Kikafunda, High Commissioner of Uganda to India, and to meet H.E. Mustapha Jawara, High Commissioner of The Gambia to India; Sh. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations); and Mr. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in India.

Kwibuka 31 served as a powerful reminder of the tragic loss of 1994 and stood as a testament to the Rwandan spirit of “Remember – Unite – Renew.” Dr. Jain expressed his deep honour in standing in solidarity with the people of Rwanda, reaffirming a shared commitment to peace and humanity.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President FII, and Team Hold Inspiring Meeting with Lord Swraj Paul



Dr. Deepak Jain, President of FII, had the absolute honour of meeting and interacting with Lord Swraj Paul—renowned industrialist, philanthropist, and Member of the UK House of Lords—at an exclusive Meet & Greet held at the Caparo Maruti Ltd. office in Gurugram.

Lord Paul's presence and insightful reflections on global business and industry evolution made the afternoon truly enriching. Engaging with a visionary who has built enterprises across continents and continues to inspire through humility, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to progress was a rare privilege. A special moment was Dr. Jain receiving a signed copy of "Building My World", Lord Paul's memoir that captures the spirit of resilience, leadership, and legacy.

Heartfelt thanks to Mr. Vinod K. Bapna, Executive Director & CEO of Caparo Maruti Ltd. and President of FII—Haryana Chapter, for graciously hosting this meaningful session and enabling such a valuable exchange. His continued support to FII is deeply appreciated.

FII looks forward to nurturing more such impactful collaborations that unite industry, innovation, and purpose.

Celebrating Lord Mahavir's 2550th Nirvanotsav and 2624th Janma Kalyanak at BJP Delhi State Office



On April 8, 2025, the "Tirthankar Mahavir Gatha" program was held at the BJP Delhi State Office, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi, to mark the 2550th Nirvanotsav and the 2624th Janma Kalyanak year of Lord Mahavir Swami.

The event was deeply spiritual and uplifting, enriched by the presence of the revered Rashtrasant Paramparacharya Shri 108 Pragya Sagar Ji Muniraj. His enlightening discourses offered profound insights into the life, teachings, and renunciatory path of Lord Mahavir, inspiring all in attendance.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII and General Secretary of the Bhagwan Mahavir Nirvan Mahotsav Committee, had the privilege of addressing the gathering and sharing his reflections on the timeless relevance of Lord Mahavir's message. Heartfelt gratitude to Shri Virender Sachdeva Ji, President of BJP Delhi, and his team for organizing this meaningful and spiritually significant celebration.

World Navkar Mantra Day : A Global Chant for Peace and Unity



On April 9, 2025, the world came together in a powerful display of spiritual unity to celebrate World Navkar Mantra Day and the 2624th Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav of Lord Mahavir Swami. The event, titled "One World, One Chant – Together for Peace," was a unique spiritual movement that united people across 108 countries in the collective chanting of the Navkar Mantra, symbolizing global peace, harmony, and inner awakening.

Coordinated by JITO (Jain International Trade Organisation), the event took place in cities, temples, and Jain institutions across India and abroad. The sacred resonance of the mantra, the vibrant display of Jain flags, and the participation of millions transformed the day into a deeply moving spiritual celebration.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi also joined the event, chanting the Navkar Mantra and reaffirming the timeless principles of Lord Mahavir—Ahimsa (Non-violence), Satya (Truth), Kshama (Forgiveness), Aparigraha (Non-possessiveness), and Samyam (Self-discipline)—as guiding lights for the nation and the world.

This was not merely a ritual, but a global movement of consciousness. It demonstrated India's profound capacity to unite the world through spirituality and shared cultural values. A single chant, one intention, and a unified voice for peace and self-realization made this occasion truly historic.

The event was also celebrated in Gurugram, where Dr. Deepak Jain, President-FII, had the honor of participating and receiving blessings from the saints. The energy of the collective chanting served as a reminder that the Navkar Mantra is not just sound—it is a force that connects hearts and lights the way toward a more compassionate world.

FII team at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Indore



Gratitude to Jaipuria Institute of Management, Indore for the warm invitation to speak at the Conclave on “Making Indian SMEs Future Ready: Preparing for Challenges of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation.”

It was a privilege to share the stage with distinguished leaders including Dr. Deepak Jain, President – FII, Dr. Ashok Badjatiya, Chairman – Malwa Chamber of Commerce & Industries, and Mr. Hitender Mehta, Chairman – International Affairs & Free Trade Zones Committee, FII, who also unveiled the 10th edition of his book “Limited Liability Partnerships – Law and Practice.”

Engaging with the bright, inquisitive students of Jaipuria was truly energizing. The future of Indian SMEs depends on embracing technology, fostering digital agility, and driving innovation, principles being actively nurtured by institutions like Jaipuria.

Special thanks to Dr. Dipankar Chakraborty, Prof. Gaurav Mathur, and the entire faculty and organizing team for curating such a seamless and impactful event.

Looking forward to more such meaningful collaborations on the path to a future-ready India.



The Federation of Indian Industry (FII) extends sincere gratitude to Jaipuria Institute of Management, Indore for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to our distinguished speakers at the Conclave on “Making Indian SMEs Future Ready: Preparing for Challenges of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation.”

We deeply appreciate the institute for hosting:

Dr. Deepak Jain, President, FII

Dr. Ashok Badjatiya, Chairman – Malwa Chamber of Commerce & Industries

Mr. Hitender Mehta, Chairman – International Affairs & Free Trade Zones Committee, FII

The thoughtful arrangements, enthusiastic student engagement, and insightful conversations made the event truly impactful. Such academia-industry collaborations are vital in shaping a digitally resilient and future-ready SME landscape.

Strengthening Collaboration for Women Empowerment- FII meets Ms. Vanathi Srinivasan, MLA Coimbatore South



Dr. Deepak Jain, President – Federation of Indian Industry (FII), had the pleasure of meeting Smt. Vanathi Srinivasan, National President – BJP Mahila Morcha and Hon’ble MLA from Coimbatore South.

The meeting focused on avenues of collaboration to advance women empowerment across the country and explored the role FII can play in supporting this important cause. It was a meaningful and productive exchange of ideas aimed at driving impactful change.





Gurugram, Haryana – The Federation of Indian Industry (FII) had the privilege of hosting a Meet & Greet session with IAS Sonal Goel, Secretary to the Government of Tripura, as part of FII’s 10th anniversary celebrations.

Sh. Hitender Mehta, Chairperson – International Affairs Committee, extended a warm welcome to the Hon’ble Chief Guest. CA Atul Gupta, Chairperson – GST Committee, FII, shared key insights and discussed potential pathways for collaboration with the state of Tripura.

Sh. Vinod K. Bapna, President – FII Haryana Chapter, spoke about regional initiatives and extended his felicitations.

IAS Sonal Goel lauded FII’s decade-long journey in national service and commended its motto, “Creating Opportunities... and Building Nation.” She shared her inspiring career journey, highlighting initiatives like Smart Cities with Smart Citizens, challenges of AI affecting human critical thinking, the revolutionary role of CA/CS professionals in tax systems, youth empowerment, and optimal use of CSR funds. Her impactful discussion on her NGO work and ‘Nidar Beti’ initiatives sparked engaging and meaningful dialogue.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President – FII, addressed the gathering, reflecting on FII’s achievements over the past decade. A special moment of the event was the unveiling of FII’s 10th anniversary poster.

We were also honored to welcome Sh. Sanjeev Saini, Senior RSS Office Bearer, whose presence added further significance to the event.

The evening brought together a dynamic gathering of FII leaders and committee members, including:

Dr. Deepak Jain, Sh. Hitender Mehta, CA Atul Kumar Gupta, Sh. Vinod K. Bapna, Sh. Sanjeev Arora, Sh. Uditendu Verma, Ms. Neena Wagh, Ms. Ritu Jain, Dr. Anjali Jain, Ms. Arunima Sharma, Dr. Rachna Madaan, CA Anmol Gupta, ER S.N. Sharma, and Ms. Ramita Jain. A special thanks to Sh. Atul Gupta for being a gracious host.

We sincerely thank IAS Sonal Goel for sharing her time, insights, and vision with the FII community.

State visit of President of Chile to India (April 1 - 5, 2025)



At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, President of the Republic of Chile H.E. Mr. Gabriel Boric Font is paying a State Visit to India from 1-5 April 2025. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior officials, business associations, media, and prominent Chileans involved in the India-Chile cultural connect.

This is President Boric's first visit to India in his capacity as President. He visited Agra, Mumbai, and Bengaluru before returning to Chile on 5 April 2025. During the visit, President Boric held talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 1 April 2025, covering the entire gamut of India-Chile relations. The Prime Minister hosts a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. During his visit, President Boric also held discussions with Hon'ble Rashtrapati Smt. Droupadi Murmu, who hosts a banquet in his honour.

India's relations with Chile are traditionally warm and friendly. Chile is an important partner for India in the Latin American region. Chile is the only country in the LAC region to send a Special Envoy to India's Independence Day celebrations in 1947. The two countries share common views on several international issues including UNSC reforms, climate change, renewable energy, and terrorism. Chile is also an important trading partner for India in the LAC region.

State visit of President of Chile to India (April 1 - 5, 2025)



Thailand



Sri Lanka





At the invitation of the PM Modi of Thailand, H.E. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Bangkok, Thailand from 3–4 April 2025 to participate in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, which was held on 4 April 2025 and hosted by Thailand, the then BIMSTEC Chair. He also undertook an official visit. This marked Prime Minister Modi's third visit to Thailand.

This was the first physical meeting of BIMSTEC Leaders since the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2018. The 5th BIMSTEC Summit took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka in March 2022 in a virtual format. The theme of the 6th Summit was "BIMSTEC – Prosperous, Resilient and Open." The Leaders deliberated on ways and means to infuse greater momentum into BIMSTEC cooperation during the Summit.

The Leaders also discussed various institutional and capacity-building measures to augment collaboration within the BIMSTEC framework. India took a number of initiatives in BIMSTEC to strengthen regional cooperation and partnership, including in enhancing security; facilitating trade and investment; establishing physical, maritime and digital connectivity; collaborating in food, energy, climate and human security; promoting capacity building and skill development; and enhancing people-to-people ties.

On the bilateral front, the Prime Minister holds a meeting with the Prime Minister of Thailand on 3 April 2025. During the meeting, the two Prime Ministers review bilateral cooperation and chart the path for future partnership between India and Thailand were maritime neighbours with shared civilizational bonds, underpinned by cultural, linguistic, and religious ties. From Thailand, the Prime Minister travelled to Sri Lanka on a State Visit from 4–6 April 2025, at the invitation of the President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake.

During the visit, the Prime Minister held discussions with the President of Sri Lanka to review progress on areas of cooperation agreed upon in the Joint Vision for "Fostering Partnerships for a Shared Future," which was adopted during the Sri Lankan President's State Visit to India. The Prime Minister also met senior dignitaries and political leaders. As part of the visit, he travelled to Anuradhapura to inaugurate development projects implemented with Indian financial assistance.

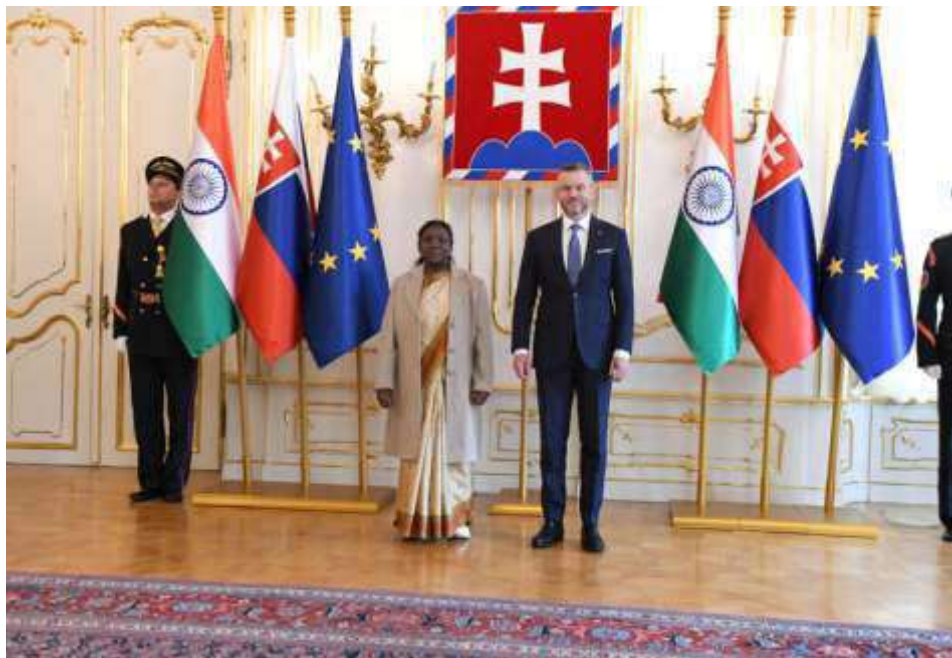
The Prime Minister had last visited Sri Lanka in 2019. Earlier, the President of Sri Lanka had paid a State Visit to India as his first visit abroad after assuming office. India and Sri Lanka shared civilizational bonds with strong cultural and historical links. This visit formed part of regular high-level engagements between the countries and lent further momentum to deepening the multi-faceted partnership between India and Sri Lanka.

The Prime Minister's visit to Thailand and Sri Lanka, and his participation in the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, reaffirmed India's commitment to its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, 'Act East' policy, 'MAHASAGAR' (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision, and vision of the Indo-Pacific.

Slovakia



Portugal



Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, embarked on State Visits to Portugal and Slovakia from April 7–10, 2025. President Murmu visited Portugal from 7–8 April 2025 at the invitation of the President of Portugal, H.E. Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. The visit took place after a gap of 27 years and coincided with the celebration of 50 years of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Portugal. The last State Visit had taken place in 1998, when President K. R. Narayanan visited Portugal.

The Hon'ble President met and held delegation-level talks with her counterpart, H.E. President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. She also met the Prime Minister of Portugal, H.E. Mr. Luis Montenegro, and the President of the National Assembly (Parliament), H.E. Mr. Jose Pedro Aguiar-Branco.

India and Portugal shared historic and friendly bilateral ties which evolved over the years into a modern, multifaceted, and dynamic partnership, characterised by robust growth and expansion across several areas of cooperation. The visit provided further impetus and renewed momentum to India's growing relations with Portugal.

At the invitation of the President of Slovakia, H.E. Mr. Peter Pellegrini, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, also visited the Slovak Republic from 9–10 April 2025. This marked the first visit by the President of India to Slovakia in 29 years.

President Murmu held bilateral meetings with H.E. President Peter Pellegrini and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Robert Fico. She also met the Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, H.E. Mr. Richard Rasi.

The State Visit by the President reflected the importance India attached to its bilateral relations with Slovakia. It provided an opportunity to further strengthen and broaden bilateral ties.

At both places, President Murmu interacted with members of the Indian community.

Visit of the President of India to Vatican City (April 25–26, 2025)



President Smt. Droupadi Murmu visited Vatican City on 25–26 April 2025 to attend the State Funeral of His Holiness Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the Government and people of India.

On 25 April, the President paid homage to His Holiness Pope Francis by laying a wreath at the Basilica of Saint Peter in Vatican City. On 26 April, the President attended the funeral Mass of His Holiness Pope Francis at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City, which was attended by dignitaries from around the world.

Pope Francis passed away on 21 April 2025. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi expressed condolences at the demise of Pope Francis and noted that his affection for the people of India would always be cherished.

Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh visited the Apostolic Nunciature (Embassy of the Holy See) in New Delhi on 22 April 2025 to sign the condolence book. India declared three days of State Mourning on the passing of Pope Francis.

His Holiness Pope Francis was remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility, and spiritual courage by millions across the world.

Visit of Indian Prime Minister to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (April 22-23, 2025)



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi embarked on a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from April 22–23, 2025, at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This was the third visit of the Prime Minister to the Kingdom after his previous visits in 2016 and 2019. The visit followed the State Visit of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman to New Delhi in September 2023 to attend the G20 Summit and co-chair the first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council.

India and Saudi Arabia shared close and friendly ties with a long history of socio-cultural and trade contacts. As strategic partners, the two countries maintained strong bilateral relations across various areas, including political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, health, education, culture, and people-to-people ties. India's relations with the Kingdom continued to evolve into a stronger and enduring partnership, expanding into many strategic domains, with growing investment commitments, broadening of defence cooperation, and intensive high-level exchanges across sectors.

The visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister reflected the importance India attached to its bilateral relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It provided an opportunity to further deepen and strengthen the multi-faceted partnership, as well as to exchange views on various regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Visit of Vice President of the United States of America to India (April 21–24, 2025)



Visit of Vice President of the United States of America to India (April 21–24, 2025)



The Vice President of the United States of America, H.E. Mr. J.D. Vance, paid an Official Visit to India from 21 to 24 April 2025. He was accompanied by Second Lady Mrs. Usha Vance, their children, and senior members of the U.S. Administration.

This was Vice President Vance's first visit to India. During the visit, he met with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21 April 2025. The Vice President and his delegation had other engagements in Delhi and were also scheduled to visit Jaipur and Agra before departing for Washington, D.C., on 24 April 2025.

The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to review the progress in bilateral relations and the implementation of the outcomes of the India-U.S. Joint Statement issued on 13 February 2025 during the visit of the Prime Minister to the U.S. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest.

OPERATION SINDOOR

A Testament to India's Bravery, Ethics, and Strategic Diplomacy



Dr. Anjali Jain, PhD
Member- CSR Committee-FII

In the annals of Indian military history, Operation Sindoor stands out not only for its precision and success but also for its embodiment of India's highest civilizational values—bravery, ethical conduct, intelligence, and diplomacy. The operation, launched under the most complex geopolitical circumstances, reflects a strategic convergence of national defense, humanitarian concern, and statecraft rooted in a deeply Indian ethos.

Strategic Context and National Imperatives

On 22 April, Pakistan based terrorist group “The Resistance Front” (TRF) perpetrated a devastating attack in Pahalgam, India. In this attack 26 innocent tourists were killed in cold blood after segregating them based on their religion. TRF is an offshoot of the well known Pakistan backed terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba. India's sovereignty and the safety of border communities were at stake. While the international community remained cautiously observant, India faced a choice: respond with aggression or lead with intelligence and resolve. The government, in coordination with its military leadership and intelligence apparatus, chose the latter—setting in motion Operation Sindoor.



Named symbolically after the sacred red vermilion that signifies protection, honor, and marital fidelity in

Indian culture, Operation Sindoor was conceived not as an act of revenge, but of responsibility—to protect lives, restore dignity, and reaffirm India's sovereign stand.

Planning: Precision, Secrecy, and Sovereign Resolve

The National Security Council, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Chief of Defence Staff, initiated covert planning through a cross-functional war room integrating military intelligence, RAW, NTRO, and diplomatic advisors. The strategy revolved around “Swift Containment, Sustainable Deterrence, and Strategic Signaling.” Intelligence played a defining role—pinpointing rogue elements, tracing their communication patterns, and creating a dynamic battlefield map in real-time using AI-integrated systems and satellite reconnaissance.

Critical to the operation was the adherence to the Geneva Conventions. Every soldier was briefed not just on mission goals, but also on the ethical constraints. Targets were selected with surgical precision to avoid civilian casualties and infrastructure damage. Psychological operations and communication warfare complemented boots-on-ground actions to paralyze adversarial coordination.

Execution: Valor with Virtue



The operation commenced at dawn with air surveillance drones deploying from forward airbases. Special Forces units from the Para SF and MARCOS

were airlifted deep into contested zones under total communication blackout. Using terrain-adaptive robotics and infrared reconnaissance, they neutralized high-value targets and secured key infiltration corridors. The Indian Army's Northern Command, known for its high-altitude warfare capabilities, demonstrated unmatched coordination in the Himalayan terrain.

Ethical Leadership in War

Unlike many historical military campaigns where victory overshadowed virtue, Operation Sindoor was lauded for its adherence to dharma—the principle of righteous action.

Not a single violation of international humanitarian law was recorded. Medical corps were embedded within strike units. Prisoners were treated with dignity.

The Army's social media and public relations divisions carefully managed the narrative, steering clear of jingoism and triumphalism. Instead, they highlighted stories of compassion—of soldiers saving enemy civilians, of commanders choosing dialogue over destruction. This ethics-forward communication strategy not only shaped public sentiment at home but drew international admiration.

Diplomatic Synchronization

Operation Sindoor's brilliance lay in its quiet diplomacy. India's Ministry of External Affairs had already begun intense backchannel diplomacy weeks before the operation. High-level dialogues with UN representatives, regional powers, and multilateral institutions helped preempt misinterpretation of India's intent.

India informed key nations through diplomatic note verbales immediately before the operation began—underscoring its preventive nature, legal basis, and humanitarian guardrails. In simultaneous action, Indian envoys across capitals briefed media and think



tanks, laying out the moral and geopolitical rationale.

By the time world headlines caught on, India had already established an unassailable moral high ground. Countries like France, Japan, and UAE issued statements supporting India's "measured and necessary" action, while others acknowledged the absence of disproportionate force or intent to escalate.



Intelligence Superiority and Indigenous Tech Integration

Operation Sindoor marked a turning point in indigenous military intelligence capabilities. For the first time, India deployed a complete AI-integrated battlefield visualization tool connecting command centers to field units, drones, and satellites in real time. Additionally, India's own quantum-secure communication networks ensured zero data breaches. This prevented hostile disinformation campaigns, while India's own cyber task force launched counter-narratives to suppress propaganda and boost citizen morale.

Legacy: A New Template for Global Conflict Resolution

Operation Sindoor has been studied globally for its hybrid model of defense, diplomacy, and dharmic ethics. It showcased a powerful new doctrine: strength with civility. It also underscored the need for nations to build not just arsenals, but narratives rooted in civilizational strength and human values.

In a world teetering between chaos and control, Operation Sindoor remains a model of how modern

states can assert power without losing their soul. It's a reminder that bravery is not just about the courage to act, but the character to act rightly. As India marches forward in its role as a global leader, Operation Sindoor will be remembered not merely as a military success, but as a moment when India's moral compass pointed true north.



RED TAPE TO RED CARPET: GITA-INSPIRED NEEDONOMICS FOR VIKSIT BHARAT



Prof. M.M. Goel

Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated
from Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra

*“Transforming Governance
from Rule-Bound to Need-Based for a
Just, Self-Reliant India”*

According to the World Bank Report 2020, India achieved a significant milestone by improving its ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index to 63rd position, up from 142nd in 2014, among 189 economies worldwide. While this upward trajectory is commendable, it still falls short of the aspirations of Viksit Bharat @2047 as introspected by the eNM Research Lab, Global Centre for Needonomics, Kurukshetra. This jump is a step forward, but not high enough to ensure inclusive, sustainable, and need-based economic development.

The Needonomics School of Thought, which advocates the economics of needs over greed, critically observes the high costs embedded in the 'Make in India' initiative. These costs, often exacerbated by inefficiencies and duplications across the three-tier federal structure, place an undue burden on entrepreneurs. For example, the cost of establishing a small factory in Maharashtra exceeds \$971,000, while

the same setup in Thailand requires only \$777,000—a stark indicator of the cost disadvantage that Indian industry faces.

Such disparities cannot be ignored in a country aspiring for Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance). One of the most pressing issues is the bureaucratic red tape, which acts like invisible handcuffs on honest entrepreneurship. In many cases, bureaucrats are seen earning the right to say “yes” only after layers of delay, documentation, and discretion, which is neither desirable nor developmental. On the flip side, politicians in power must learn to say “no” to economically unjustifiable demands from voters. This delicate balance, as envisioned in the canons of public expenditure by Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, requires faithfulness, wisdom, and economy in execution.



It must be noted with urgency that 1,536 laws in India directly or indirectly affect doing business. These laws translate into a staggering 69,233 compliances at the local, state, and central levels. Among them, a concerning 26,134 clauses prescribe imprisonment, stifling entrepreneurial confidence and hindering job creation. Reforming these compliances is not just about cutting red tape—it is about releasing the productive energy of Bharat's youth. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 has helped in rationalizing criminal provisions and ensuring that citizens, businesses and the government departments operate without fear of imprisonment for minor, technical or

procedural defaults. The Act has paved the way for rationalizing laws, eliminating barriers and bolstering growth of businesses, as stated by the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Shri Som Parkash in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on 07 February 2024.

Implications of Gita-Inspired Needonomics for Viksit Bharat @2047

The Needonomics framework, deeply inspired by Verse 9.22 of the Bhagavad Gita—"Ananyashchintayanto mam ye janah paryupasate..."—calls for aligning our economic actions with needs rather than wants, and ethics rather than expedience. This spiritual-economic model fosters:

Need-Based Entrepreneurship: Encouraging businesses that serve genuine societal needs rather than profit-maximizing ventures driven by consumerism.

Responsible Governance : Making public expenditure a sacred trust executed with faithfulness (shraddha), wisdom (viveka), and economy (samriddhi).

Simplification of Laws: Reducing the compliance burden to foster a culture of trust and transparency rather than fear and punishment.

People-Centric Policy Making: Prioritizing local industries, self-employment, and environmentally sustainable practices in line with Swadeshi values.

Balanced Public Expectations : Educating citizens to understand that the government's role is not to fulfill all desires, but to enable what is necessary, efficient, and just.

The mandate of Needonomics challenges both the state and society to rethink what true development means—less about climbing international indices and more about improving the quality of life at the grassroots.

Conclusion : The Shift from Business-Friendly to Life-Friendly India

As India marches towards the centenary of its independence in 2047, the time has come to redefine development. We must move beyond the rhetoric of ease of doing business to ensuring ease of living—where entrepreneurs are free from unnecessary constraints, citizens are aware of their responsibilities, and governance is grounded in spiritual rationality.

Needonomics offers a Swadeshi alternative—one that integrates economic pragmatism with ethical clarity. It is not about rejecting globalization, but about internalizing sustainability, simplicity, and self-reliance as our core principles.

Let Viksit Bharat @2047 not be an abstract vision but a Needo-centric reality—where the economy serves the people, not the other way around. Let the spirit of the Gita guide us in balancing material progress with



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IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON DEVELOPING ECONOMIES



Ms. Deepthi. B.

FII Member

Lecturer, Department of commerce,
MJPTBCWR Degree College,
Wargal, Telangana

Immigration has long been a vital component of global economic integration, shaping labor markets, remittances, and cultural exchange. For developing economies, changes in immigration policies—particularly those enacted by developed nations—have far-reaching consequences. These impacts are both direct and indirect, often influencing employment trends, household incomes, and even long-term development strategies.

The Role of Migration in Developing Economies

Migration, especially labor migration, is a significant economic driver for many developing countries. Millions of workers from South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia migrate to high-income countries in search of better employment opportunities. In return, they send back remittances—financial transfers to their families—that serve as a critical source of income for their home economies.

Remittances help reduce poverty, improve education and health outcomes, and support local businesses. In some countries like Nepal, Haiti, and the Philippines, remittances make up more than 10% of the GDP. Therefore, any restrictive immigration policy abroad can directly affect the livelihood of families and macroeconomic stability in their countries of origin.

Effects of Restrictive Immigration Policies

When developed countries tighten their immigration rules, the effects ripple across developing economies:

1. Decline in Remittances

Stricter visa requirements, caps on work permits, or deportations reduce the number of migrant workers, leading to a drop in remittance flows. This directly impacts household consumption, investment in education and healthcare, and local demand in home countries.

2. Unemployment and Underemployment

Blocked migration channels mean that more people remain in their home countries without adequate employment opportunities. This increases pressure on already fragile job markets and can lead to higher unemployment or informal employment.

3. Brain Drain vs. Brain Waste

Skilled workers from developing countries often seek opportunities abroad. If immigration becomes harder, they may either get stuck in underemployment locally (brain waste) or try riskier, illegal routes to migrate. On the flip side, open policies can lead to brain drain, where home countries lose their most talented individuals. Either scenario has complex implications for national development.

Benefits of Liberal Immigration Policies

Conversely, when immigration policies are more inclusive, they can benefit developing economies through:

- **Increased remittance flows**
- **Skills development** and knowledge transfer from return migrants
- **Diaspora investment** in businesses and infrastructure
- **Cultural exchange and global integration**, strengthening diplomatic ties

Policy Responses from Developing Countries

Strategic Responses from Developing Countries

To buffer against the impact of increasingly restrictive or unpredictable immigration policies in developed nations, many developing economies are proactively adopting a range of strategic responses. These efforts aim to protect their citizens abroad, reduce overdependence on specific migration corridors, and strengthen their own labor markets and economic resilience.

1. Diversifying Migrant Destinations

- Traditionally, labor migrants from developing nations have targeted Western countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and members of the European Union. However, changing immigration policies and geopolitical tensions have prompted governments to explore alternative destinations. These include emerging economies in East Asia, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, and regions within Africa and Latin America that are opening up to foreign labor.

- By expanding migration pathways, countries reduce their vulnerability to policy shifts in any one region. For example, the Philippines has formal labor deployment agreements not only with the U.S. and Canada but also with countries like Saudi Arabia, Japan, and Qatar.

2. Enhancing Domestic Job Creation and Skills Development

- Another key approach is investing in local employment opportunities to reduce the "push factors" driving migration. This includes promoting entrepreneurship, supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and creating public-private partnerships to boost industrial and service sectors.

- Simultaneously, governments are strengthening vocational training and upskilling programs to align with both domestic and international labor market needs. By building a more skilled workforce, these countries increase their global competitiveness and improve the employability of their citizens—whether they choose to stay or work abroad.

3. Attracting and Retaining Skilled Returnees

- Recognizing the value of diaspora knowledge and experience, many developing countries are implementing policies to encourage skilled migrants to return home. These may include financial incentives, streamlined re-integration programs, tax benefits, and opportunities to contribute to public policy or academia.
- Countries like India and China have set up special programs such as India's "VAJRA" (Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty) and China's "Thousand Talents Plan" to engage their expatriate scientists, entrepreneurs, and professionals in nation-building activities.

4. Forging Bilateral and Multilateral Agreements

- To safeguard the rights and welfare of migrant workers, developing countries are increasingly engaging in bilateral labor agreements and multilateral dialogues. These agreements aim to ensure fair wages, proper working conditions, social security benefits, and legal protections for migrants abroad.

- Additionally, such diplomatic efforts help establish grievance redressal mechanisms and facilitate smoother migration and re-integration processes. For example, Bangladesh and Malaysia have signed agreements to regularize labor migration, while Mexico and the United States continue negotiations over guest worker programs.

Immigration policies in the developed world have significant, multidimensional impacts on developing economies. As global migration patterns continue to evolve, it is essential for policymakers in both origin and destination countries to collaborate and create frameworks that ensure fair, humane, and mutually beneficial migration systems. Recognizing the interconnectedness of labor markets and development goals can lead to more stable, equitable growth on a global scale.

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EMERGENCE OF AI ERA: IMPACT ON MSMEs IN EMERGING MARKETS



Dr. Anjali Jain, PhD
Member- CSR Committee-FII

In the rapidly evolving digital economy, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) marks the beginning of a seismic shift in how businesses operate, innovate, and grow. While much of the global discourse has focused on how large corporations are leveraging AI to optimize operations and unlock new revenue streams, the true story of transformation is unfolding in the less glamorous but far more dynamic segment of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) particularly in emerging markets.

MSMEs constitute over 90% of businesses globally and contribute significantly to employment and GDP, especially in developing nations. In countries like India, Brazil, Nigeria, and Indonesia, MSMEs are the lifeline of local economies - from rural artisans and small manufacturers to service providers and neighborhood retailers.

These businesses, which form the backbone of developing economies, are now standing at the threshold of an era where AI is no longer a luxury reserved for tech giants, but a necessity and a powerful equalizer for survival, competitiveness, and scale. The emergence of the AI era is not just a technological shift; it is a socio-economic revolution with the potential to democratize innovation, unlock inclusive growth, and reshape entrepreneurship in emerging markets.

From Automation to Augmentation- the Promise of AI

Historically, MSME enterprises have faced systemic challenges: limited access to capital, poor digital infrastructure, lack of skilled labor, low productivity, and minimal exposure to innovation. The AI era offers a powerful remedy by reducing complexity, increasing efficiency, and enabling smarter decision-making. AI can level the playing field for MSMEs and integrate them into the formal, high-value digital economy.

AI is redefining how MSMEs engage with customers, manage

operations, and innovate products. Unlike the traditional industrial revolutions that required massive capital investment, AI tools are becoming more accessible, modular, and scalable thereby allowing even the smallest business to harness the power of intelligent systems.

Intelligent Customer Engagement: Chatbots, virtual assistants, and AI-powered CRM tools are enabling MSMEs to offer 24/7 customer support, personalize user experiences, and capture consumer insights without large customer service teams.

Operational Efficiency and Smart Inventory: AI algorithms help small manufacturers and traders in forecast demand, manage stock levels, and automate supply chains. This reduces wastage, optimizes cash flow, and improves responsiveness to market fluctuations which is critical for survival in highly competitive and volatile environments.

Financial Access and Risk Management: One of the biggest barriers for MSMEs is access to finance. Fintech platforms powered by AI are revolutionizing credit scoring by using alternative data such as mobile usage, transaction history, utility payments to assess creditworthiness. This opens the door to loans for millions of businesses previously excluded from formal finance.

Product Innovation and Market Expansion: AI tools like generative design, image recognition, and local language NLP are allowing MSMEs to innovate faster and cater to niche markets.

MSMEs in the AI Era: Sectoral Impact and Regional Insights

The impact of AI on MSMEs varies by sector and geography, depending on digital maturity, infrastructure, and ecosystem support. However, some clear patterns are emerging across key sectors:

1. Agriculture and Agri-Tech

In rural economies, AI is transforming smallholder farming through precision agriculture, crop advisory platforms, and market linkage tools. Startups like DeHaat in India or Twiga Foods in Kenya are connecting farmers directly to buyers, optimizing yields, and reducing waste using AI-based

analytics.

2. Manufacturing and Industry 4.0

Small-scale manufacturers in emerging markets are using AI-enabled CNC machines, predictive maintenance tools, and digital twins to improve uptime, reduce costs, and enhance quality. This brings MSMEs closer to global supply chains and raises their export potential.

3. Retail and E-Commerce

Digital marketplaces powered by AI such as ONDC in India or MercadoLibre in Latin America are enabling small sellers to access national and international customers. AI tools optimize listings, manage pricing, and recommend products, allowing MSMEs to scale efficiently.

4. Services and Gig Economy

AI enables micro-entrepreneurs in services (from beauty parlors to auto repair) to digitize bookings, manage customer feedback, and optimize schedules. Platforms like Meesho, Grab, and Gojek are creating AI-powered micro-franchises that uplift local service providers.

Barriers to Adoption

Despite the immense potential, MSMEs in emerging markets face several roadblocks in adopting AI. Digital literacy, cost, infrastructure required to integrate AI in business, cybersecurity, and access of talent pool (skill gaps in both using and understanding AI) are some of the barriers to adaptation of AI in MSME sector. These challenges underline the need for ecosystem-level interventions to ensure AI adoption is inclusive and sustainable.

The Role of Ecosystems: Policy, Platforms, and Partnerships

The success of AI integration in MSMEs hinges on the strength of the surrounding ecosystem. Governments, corporates, tech startups, and development institutions must collaborate to build a robust AI enablement framework.

Emerging markets need scalable and interoperable digital systems (like India's Aadhaar and UPI) that reduce onboarding friction, enhance trust, and enable data-driven innovation for MSMEs. Skilling programs must focus on digital literacy, basic AI fluency, and sector-specific applications. Tech companies should design AI solutions that are affordable, localized, and easy to use. This will help in bridging the accessibility gap. Innovative financing models

including revenue-based financing and digital loans must be encouraged. Regulatory sandboxes should look for possibilities to allow AI startups to test solutions for MSMEs in real market conditions. Further, governments should establish AI ethics frameworks, while companies must adopt principles of fairness, accountability, and explainability.

Reimagining the Future of MSMEs with AI

The emergence of AI marks a defining moment in the evolution of MSMEs in emerging markets. Far from being sidelined by the fourth industrial revolution, MSMEs have the potential to be its torchbearers - agile, resilient, and deeply attuned to the needs of their communities. AI is not just about automation or efficiency. For MSMEs, it is about the possibility to dream bigger, operate smarter, and serve better. It is about turning constraints into creativity, and fragmentation into formalization. As policymakers, business leaders, and technologists, we must ensure that the AI era is not a story of exclusion, but of expansive inclusion. By placing MSMEs at the heart of the AI revolution, we can unlock a new economic renaissance that is equitable, sustainable, and truly global.

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THE HUMANS BEHIND APRONS



Dr. Aditi Bajpai, MBBS

Mental Health Counsellor
State Convenor, Madhyapradesh,
Maalyaarth Foundation

To envisage a calamity of such catastrophic proportions in 2019, would have been impossible. To prepare the medical mechanism and infrastructure for the same, then, would have been similarly unimaginable. No one had an inkling that come 2020, the very fabric of human morality, survival instinct and social propriety would be stretched thin to its very limit. The pandemonium of the pandemic panned across communities, cultures and countries. In the midst of the very struggle, the human spirit was at its most challenged. Manifesting itself equally as the selfless doctors and medical staff that held the front line of defenses, as the law enforcement soldiers holding the spread back in a more literal sense and also, as a vulnerable and perhaps fatally infected patient, cut off from the world and holding on to mere hope that one day he/she would be able to see the world outside the containment quarters. As numbers and statistics of new patients, deaths and recovery found an eager audience, it became ironic to attribute the entire struggle to a mere set of facts and figures. Beyond pie charts, bar graphs and news reports, lay stories of heart wrenching sadness, gravity defying courage and the infinite resolve of the human will. Two such stories come to memory. In the month of June, we received confirmation of the Coronavirus in a married couple. Saddened but professionally competent, we prepared the family for the devastating news only to later find that their 15 year old son was

also found to be Corona-positive. Even the toughest of professional training can cause the heart to skip a beat and ponder upon the blow struck on the family. It is often said of doctors that they should always remain professional and shield themselves from the weakness of emotional attachment. Yet, the inherent humanity within them always keeps fighting a constant battle to survive. Every death signed off, every patient autopsied chips away the emotions one at a time. It is with significant internal struggle then, that the tab handling the couple had to witness the death of the innocent child only recently admitted under their care. To look into the eyes of the parents, themselves stricken by deathly grief and deliver the message of their child's death is an act of daunting courage and heart breaking sadness. To be able to be strong

and professionally competent and make sure the parents get the best medical treatment to survive, was the litmus test of medical responsibility. The parents' teary eyed wish to see their son for the last time was as painful as it was an exercise in balancing professional ethics and human morality. With all due precautions and significant arrangements, their wish was granted and overseen strictly by a team of medical professionals. The relatives of the child were promptly

informed and due process was further followed. All in a doctor's day of work. Another such incident happened to a father-son duo battling against COVID-19. After several days of providing the best possible medical care, the father couldn't survive. To receive the news of one's own father passing away while desperately fighting for survival is a determiner of one's steely resolve. The last request by the son was to bid adieu to the figure that taught him to walk, to cycle





and shared a lifetime with. A series of isolated tunnels were prepared for the sighting as the patient was wheeled in on a stretcher. From a safe distance, the son was able to pay his last respects as a team of medical professionals overlooked the process. One more battle finished, the war remaining still. After a long and tiring day, when any hospital staff member comes home, he/she takes some time to remove the apron and put on the personality of a regular human being. A mother, a father, a son or a brother. People outside the medicine world can seldom relate to the stress and strain of the profession not on the doctor, but the human within. Only fellow fighters are able to stand shoulder to shoulder and understand the camaraderie and unity that helps the fraternity to survive. From being guided by voice messages on Whatsapp on how to take care of patients by a senior, to remaining in quarantine for long hours alone, every shade of the profession is a journey unto the very foundation of what makes the practice truly second to none. When the darkness is over and the world has reared its head

above the clouds of despair, it would be the efforts of all the dedicated and selfless souls that would prove to be the raindrop of kindness that dispersed the sunshine of humanity into the rainbow of joy.



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

LIVING WITH AUTISM: A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE; HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE



Ms. Neena Wagh
Chairperson,
Support Children with
Special Needs-FII

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. The global rise in autism rates has significantly impacted families, particularly in developing countries like India. The lack of awareness, inadequate government support, and limited resources for diagnosis, education, and skilling leave individuals with autism dependent on their families for their entire lives.

This burden often falls disproportionately on mothers, who become primary caregivers. Often the working or professionally aspiring women have to opt out from pursuing their professional careers due to societal expectations which undermines their financial autonomy. This also leads to extra financial burden on to the sole bread earner of the family. To address this issue, as well as to create a better overall environment, a multi-pronged approach is necessary:

Awareness: a nationwide awareness campaigns to educate the public about autism, its symptoms, and the importance of early intervention is extremely necessary.

Alternative Schools: The existing educational institutions are over populated and ill equipped hence specialized schools that can cater to the unique needs of autistic individuals, providing them with tailored education and support are needed in every state.

Skilling Centers: Create vocational training centers under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, enabling autistic individuals to acquire skills and become employable.
Workplace Support: Encourage companies to provide reasonable accommodations and support for both autistic employees and as well as mothers of autistic children(so that they are not forced to leave their jobs), promoting inclusivity and diversity.

Workplaces can adopt several good practices to support employees with autism and create a more inclusive environment.
Job Accommodations:

- 1. Flexible work arrangements:** Offer flexible schedules, remote work options, or adjusted break times to help employees with autism manage their workload and sensory needs.
- 2. Clear communication:** Provide clear, concise instructions and expectations to help employees with autism understand their roles and responsibilities.

3. Sensory-friendly workspace: Create a quiet, distraction-free workspace or provide noise-cancelling headphones to help employees with autism focus.

Support and Resources

- 1. Autism-friendly hiring process:** Adapt the hiring process to accommodate candidates with autism, such as providing clear instructions or offering alternative interview formats.
- 2. Mentorship programs:** Pair employees with autism with mentors who can provide guidance, support, and feedback.
- 3. Training and education:** Offer training and education for employees on autism, its effects, and how to support colleagues with autism.

Inclusive Culture

- 1. Inclusive language:** Use inclusive language and avoid making assumptions about employees' abilities or needs.
- 2. Social support:** Encourage social interactions and provide opportunities for employees with autism to connect with colleagues.
- 3. Feedback mechanisms:** Establish feedback mechanisms to ensure employees with autism can provide input and suggestions on how to improve the work environment.

Examples of Companies which have adopted inclusive policies

- 1. SAP:** SAP has implemented an autism hiring program, providing training and support for employees with autism.
- 2. Microsoft:** Microsoft offers autism hiring initiatives, including a dedicated website and resources for candidates with autism.
- 3. Autism-friendly workplaces:** Some companies, like DXC Technology, have created autism-friendly workplaces with sensory-friendly environments and supportive policies. By adopting these good practices, workplaces can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for employees with autism, enabling them to thrive and contribute to the organization's success. However there is a vast majority of autistic population who may never be able to work in an open work environment due to their sensory or lack of communication needs and may be better fitted for a sheltered work environment. There are many NGOs which are providing such shelter workshops and FII can adopt them and provide work to them or help them by buying products made by them as that would go a long way in helping these NGOs not only to sustain themselves but also get great support in training, skilling and even manage to pay a decent remuneration to these persons with autism.

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author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.**

**Team FII visited ALAP (Assisted Living for Autistic Persons).
Dr. Deepak Jain met with Ms. Neena Wagh, Founder Trustee of ALAP**



Know More visit us : www.alap.net.in

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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"

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"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



Pope Francis Dies at 88



Pope Francis
(1936-2025)

In a solemn moment for the Roman Catholic Church and the global community, Pope Francis, the first Latin American and Jesuit pope in history, passed away at the age of 88, the Vatican announced. His death follows a prolonged illness, with reports indicating he had recently battled a serious case of double pneumonia. Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy that was marked by reform, compassion, controversy, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.

Early Life and Historic Election as Pope

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was the son of Italian immigrants. Known for his humble lifestyle and deep empathy for the poor, Bergoglio's ascension to the papacy on March 13, 2013, was a historic moment. At the age of 76, he was elected following the unprecedented resignation of Pope Benedict XVI—a decision that surprised the world and set a modern precedent.

Veteran Actor Manoj Kumar Passes Away at 87



Manoj Kumar
(1937-2025)

Legendary Bollywood actor Manoj Kumar, known for his iconic patriotic films, passed away at the age of 87. He breathed his last at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital after suffering from heart-related complications and decompensated liver cirrhosis.

The Life and Career of Manoj Kumar

Early Life and Journey into Cinema

Manoj Kumar, originally named Harikrishan Giri Goswami, was born in present-day Pakistan. After the Partition of India, his family migrated to Delhi, where he completed his education and developed a keen interest in cinema.

Padma Shri Awardee Daripalli Ramaiah (“Vanajeevi”) Dies at 87 in Telangana



Daripalli Ramaiah
(1937-2025)

Daripalli Ramaiah, a prominent environmentalist known as “Vanajeevi” or “Chettu Ramaiah,” passed away at the age of 87 in Khammam district, Telangana. He died of a heart attack at his home in Reddipalli village. Ramaiah was widely recognized for planting over one crore saplings across the district over several decades, earning him national acclaim as a green crusader. He was honored with the Padma Shri Award in 2017 for his contribution to environmental conservation.

Known as “Vanajeevi” (meaning “Forest Life”) or “Chettu Ramaiah” (meaning “Tree Ramaiah”), he was dedicated to afforestation and environmental protection.

Over his lifetime, Ramaiah successfully planted more than one crore saplings in Khammam district, significantly enhancing local ecosystems and combating deforestation.

DAYS TO REMEMBER IN APRIL-MAY 2025

16 April
17 April
27 April
27 April
3 May
9 May
17 May
25 May
25 May
26 May
28 May

Denmark
Syria
South Africa
Netherlands
Poland
European Union
Norway
Argentina
Jordan
Georgia
Ethiopia

Birthdays of H.M. Queen Margrethe II
Independence Day
Freedom Day
Koningsdag / King's Day
Constitution Day
Europe Day
Constitution Day
Revolution Day
Independence Day
Independence Day
Derg Downfall Day

April 6, 2025 Sunday	Rama Navami	May 1, 2025	International Labour Day
April 10, 2025 Thursday	Mahavir Swami Jayanti	May 4, 2025	World Laughter Day
April 12, 2025 Saturday	Hanuman Jayanti	May 6, 2025	Thrissur Pooram Rabindra Jayanti
April 14, 2025 Monday	Baisakhi	May 8, 2025	Buddha Purnima/Vesak
April 29, 2025 Tuesday	Parashuram Jayanti	May 12, 2025	World No Tobacco Day

GREETINGS IN APRIL-MAY 2025



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MEET & GREET PROGRAM



Dr. Deepak Jain
President - FII



Ms. Sonal Goel IAS
Secretary- Govt of Tripura

Date - 14th May 2025
Day - Friday
Time - 4 pm

Entry by invitation only

Venue
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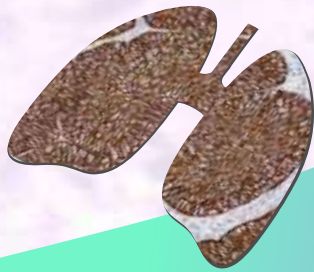
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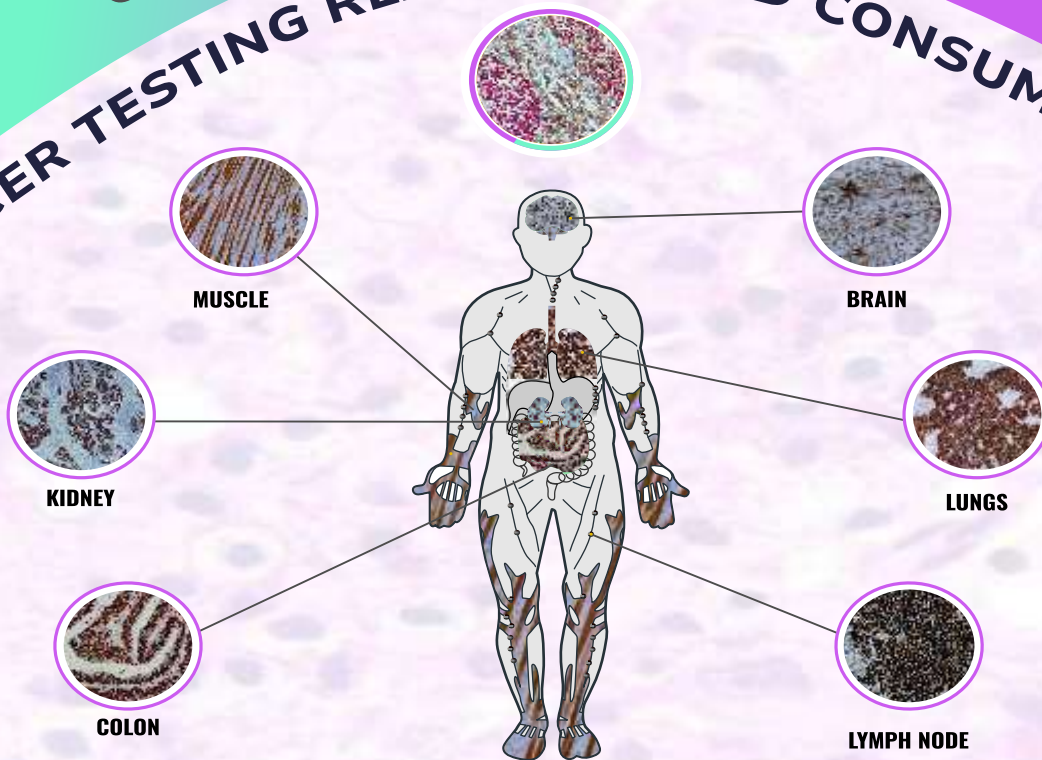


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