

BHARAT NEWS BY FII

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



A Memorable Experience "The Voice of Industry, Towards Nation Building"



79th Independence Day Celebrations – August 15, 2025



Visit of Prime Minister of Fiji to India
(August 24-26, 2025)



MOU signed between FII and Trinity
International on 13 August 2025



FII hosted special meeting on 24th August 2025
at Constitutional Club of India New Delhi



Indian Dream Global Action

BHARAT NEWS BY FII (AUGUST 2025)

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Padma Bhushan
L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan
L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj

OUR INSPIRATIONS



From the Desk of

Dr. Deepak Jain

President, Federation of Indian Industry



India is rapidly positioning itself at the forefront of fiscal reform. The sweeping GST 2.0 overhaul announced in early September 2025 is not merely a policy tweak—it is a defining moment in building a fairer, simpler, and more consumption-led tax framework. By collapsing the existing four-tier GST structure into just two principal slabs—5% and 18%—and introducing a 40% demerit rate for luxury and ‘sin’ goods, the government has delivered a bold, clarity-driven reform. What distinguishes this transformation is its timing—set to take effect from September 22, 2025, just in time for Diwali and the festive consumption surge and huge opportunity for MSMEs. This is a historic opportunity. With strategic investment in digital compliance infrastructure, timely fiscal oversight, and pragmatic dialogue with states, India can navigate short-term revenue headwinds and unlock a virtuous cycle of demand, production, and job creation. For policymakers, the path is clear: deepen digital facilitation to help MSMEs manage compliance, ensure equitable transition for states through compensation or transitional support, and continuously monitor and fine-tune the tax base. GST 2.0 is not merely a technical reform—it is India’s moment to harness fiscal clarity as a driver of inclusive economic revival. FII has always advocated towards easing of tax burden for MSMEs and the consumers. The future of indirect taxation must be simpler, fairer, and oriented toward growth—and with these reforms, India is not just aligning with that future—it has the potential to define it.



FEDERATION OF
INDIAN INDUSTRY

LET'S JOIN HANDS.

**YOU FOCUS
ON YOUR
CORE BUSINESS.**

FII CSR PROJECTS :

- PUBLIC HEALTH
- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
- ROAD SAFETY
- SPORTS
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT

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BE YOUR
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MISSION JALDHARA



मिशन जलधारा - बुझाओ धरती की प्यास

What is Mission Jaldhara?

Mission Jaldhara is a joint society initiative - to revive groundwater table level.

We call it a "Mission"

- Because it is our fight against the drastically falling groundwater levels.
- Because our entire focus is to revive the groundwater table and the overall water ecosystem which is necessary for a healthy life.
- Because we are determined to provide safe and healthy drinkable water to every household in India.

With this vision in mind, we are pleased to introduce "Mission Jaldhara" with you.

Why Mission Jaldhara?

According to reports, the over exploited areas were concentrated in Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Haryana. To quantify the facts, there has been an 82% decline in the ground watertable in Distt. Gurugram between 2018 - 2020 and it has further declined by over 50 percent in 2022.

The groundwater table in these parts of the country is rapidly going into the dark zone. This level is dangerously low and requires immediate action.

How do we plan to achieve a sustainable water ecosystem?

Our dream is big. Our vision is to make India a drought free, hydro - ecologically balanced and environmentally sustainable Nation.

And we have just begun...

Our campaign is starting in Gurugram and will spread across states in India.

What do you get?

- Safer and cleaner water for generations to come!
- Mission Jaldhara shall also award the Title of "Gurugram ka Arjun" in various categories to the stakeholders who make the maximum visible and most impactful contribution to the revival of ground water levels.

What do we need from you?

We want you to join the movement.



Become a Donor

Your donation will help us keep going. It will boost the ground work that we do - maintaining rainwater harvesting wells - which directly seeps into the groundwater table.



Register as a Motivator

Sign up with us and motivate corporates/ teams to join the movement. Corporates can adopt wells under their company's CSR initiatives and we would maintain the wells on their behalf.



Register as a Volunteer

Register on the website and help create more awareness. Tell your friends and family about this movement and spread the word.

Why are we looking for your contribution?



Simply because, Mission Jaldhara was and will always be a joint community project. Our vision is to have as many people join the movement. Clean and safe water is a basic right for everyone and thus, it is important to create awareness about it. We dream this dream for every Indian citizen and hence, we need you.

Track your donation



As a Donor, Motivator or a Volunteer, you will be enrolled for our monthly free newsletter subscription. You will be able to keep a track of the progress being made on ground. The location of every well shall be provided through Google maps and will be easily accessed by donors and interested parties. We believe in complete transparency and utter commitment towards our work.



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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!



Our panel of experts have designed the following plan of action for achieving this dream:

- Revival of dry & dysfunctional rainwater harvesting wells across District Gurugram.** Different stakeholders constructed these wells in the pre-covid era to jumpstart rainwater harvesting initiative. The project however was put on halt due to corona crisis due to which most of the wells became dysfunctional. With our intervention, these wells shall be revived to their optimum functional levels, and will be maintained by our team of contractors.
- Revival of rural water ecosystem bodies in and around District Gurugram.** The falling groundwater level affects the agricultural economy and day-to-day life of people residing in these villages.
- Judicious use of water resources.** This is possible through mass awareness of the current situation arising through India and how every individual can contribute through lifestyle changes.

Why is it close to us ?

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children."

We want to leave a clean, sustainable environment for our future generations. The world is moving towards cleaner, greener fuels. There is marked awareness about leaving smaller carbon footprint. And all of this becomes possible, when there is clean and safe water for one and all. Unless we take action today, we are headed towards a colossal crisis. And our next generations may have to pay the price for it.

It is time for us to join hands and come together to revive Jaldhara. Remember, the time is now! "Jai hai to Jeevan hai"







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About Us

Federation of Indian Industry (FII) is a professional industry Association. Its objective is to nurture further and give impetus to India's Economic, Business and Industrial outreach.

We have FII Chapters in 42 Nations of the world and 22 Indian states with 5000 members mainly industrialists, Professionals, Key-Opinion Leaders, Philanthropists.

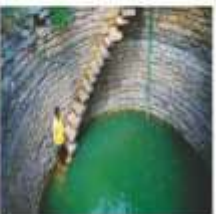
We are helping towards the making of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and working towards creating business opportunities and bolstering India's industrial and business outreach globally.

FII CSR Initiatives:

- Rural Healthcare Dispensary Establishment during Corona Crisis
- Free Eye Surgeries for 300+ People in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Women in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Youth in Rural Area (Computer Training Centre)
- Free COVID Vaccination camps (35000+ vaccinations)

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!







DR. DRAVYA JAIN

Every Thursday

18:00 PM (IST)

Talk with an Expert show

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

Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
7th August, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

f LIVE You Tube www.fii.org.in/media-2

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

"The Supreme Court's Ruling : Property Ownership vs. Registration"

Hosts Speaker

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Dr Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

CA Yatinder Khemka
Chairperson -
Banking & Finance Committee -FII

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

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
14th August, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

f LIVE You Tube www.fii.org.in/media-2

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Can ESG and Carbon Accounting Drive Business Success?

Hosts Speaker

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Dr Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. Rimika Kapoor
Joint Director -
ESG Committee - FII

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

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
21st August, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

f LIVE You Tube www.fii.org.in/media-2

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Can ESG and Carbon Accounting Drive Business Success?

Hosts Speaker

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Dr Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Dr. Rimika Kapoor
Joint Director -
ESG Committee - FII

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

FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
28th August, 2025
You are invited to connect Live On

f LIVE You Tube www.fii.org.in/media-2

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Countdown to FII NET ZERO Power Summit 2025 - A Primer on ESG

Hosts Speaker

Mr Sanjiv Arora
Chairperson
Media & IT Committee, FII

Dr Dravya Jain
Advisor, FII

Mr Hitender Mehta
Managing Partner -
Centrum Legal

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Pharma Industry Hit Hard as Licensing Authority Post Remains Vacant in Dharamshala

UMESH PRASHAR, BADDI

The pharmaceutical industry in Himachal Pradesh is facing a major regulatory bottleneck due to the vacant post of Licensing Authority at Dharamshala, which has remained unfilled for over a month. The situation has left manufacturers, retailers, and wholesalers from key pharma hubs such as Una, Sansarpur Terrace, and Dharamshala in a state of crisis.

Following the transfer of Shri Nishant Sareen, Assistant Drugs Controller, from Dharamshala to Shimla, no successor has been appointed, effectively stalling all operations that require regulatory oversight, including the issuance of Certificates of Pharmaceutical Product (COPP) and product approvals. This administrative vacuum has resulted in severe delays and disruptions in production. Pharmaceutical manufacturers are unable to obtain essential licenses and approvals, putting ongoing operations on hold. The delay is not only causing financial and operational losses for the manufacturers but is also adversely affecting the state's economy through loss



of revenue and reduced industrial output.

Industry insiders express deep frustration over the lack of timely action from the Himachal Pradesh Health Department, criticizing the apparent indifference to the ongoing crisis. The pharma sector is a significant contributor to employment and economic growth in the region. It's extremely disappointing that such a critical position is left vacant for so long without any interim solution," said one local manufacturer.

In light of the ongoing disruption, stakeholders are now demanding urgent administrative intervention.

Chiranjeev Thakur,

President of the Federation of Indian Industries (FII), has proposed a temporary solution to mitigate delays in regulatory processes. He recommends that the powers to issue regulatory approvals be temporarily delegated to the State Drugs Controller or another designated Licensing



Authority within the state. This move, he argues, would ensure continuity in operations and help avoid further disruption in the industry's supply chain and compliance obligations. They argue that this is not merely an internal staffing issue but a growing threat to business continuity, exports, employment, and public health. The lack of prompt approvals also affects international trade commitments and undermines the credibility of pharmaceutical units in Himachal Pradesh—one of India's leading drug manufacturing states. With the pharmaceutical sector being a cornerstone of Himachal Pradesh's industrial economy, urgent corrective action is essential to restore normalcy and safeguard thousands of livelihoods connected to this vital industry.

वन नेशन वन इलेक्शन देश की जरूरत: दीपक जैन

अमरावती न्यूज

बदौदी। वन नेशन वन इलेक्शन देश के विकास के लिए समय की जरूरत है। यह बात के दिल्ली के डा भीमराव अम्बेडकर



इंटरनेशनल सेंटर में फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज के राष्ट्रीय महानिदेशक दीपक जैन व प्रदेशाध्यक्ष हिमाचल एफआईआई चिरंजीव सिंह ठाकुर ने कही। एक राष्ट्र एक चुनाव के तहत दिल्ली में उद्यमी एवं व्यापारी सम्मेलन संगठन ने यह कार्यक्रम आयोजन किया था। इसमें देश के कृषि मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान व केंद्रीय मंत्री पीयूष गोयल मुख्य वक्ता के तौर पर उपस्थित रहे। मंच संचालन हरियाणा के नेता ओपी धनखड़ ने किया। फेडरेशन आफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज के राष्ट्रीय महानिदेशक दीपक जैन ने कहा कि बार बार चुनावों से देश की आर्थिक व सामाजिक विकास पर गलत असर

पड़ता है और सरकारों का खर्चा भी बहुत होता है। अगर पूरे देश में एक साथ चुनाव हो तो यह पैसा देश के विकास पर लग सकता है। चिरंजीव ठाकुर ने कहा कि हिमाचल भी केंद्र की इस मुहिम का समर्थन करता है। लघु उद्योग संघ के प्रदेशाध्यक्ष अशोक कुमार राणा व चेयरमैन राजीव कंसल ने भी अवसर पर अपने विचार रखे और देश भर उद्यमी एवं व्यापार संगठन द्वारा चलाई जा रही मुहिम का स्वागत किया और इस समर्थन किया। अशोक राणा ने कहा कि एक देश एक चुनाव से जो पैसा बचेगा वो औद्योगिक विकास पर लगना चाहिए जिससे ज्यादा से ज्यादा रोजगार के साधन सृजित हो।

Start-up aids Telangana farmers earn carbon credits from paddy

KV Kurmanath
Hyderabad

Paddy, which is not considered an environmentally friendly crop due to high methane emissions and for guzzling of lakhs of litres of water, has earned carbon credits for farmers in Telangana. Sow&Reap Agro, a climate-technology start-up, has developed methodologies to cut water consumption significantly in paddy cultivation, helping in reducing methane emissions.

Besides helping with an additional income of ₹2,500 a hectare, the new method has aided about 8,000 farmers (who joined the programme initially), in increasing yields as it helped the plants develop stronger



roots. "We have roped in 35,000 farmers in nine districts of Telangana, covering about one lakh acres. We have become the first company in the country to be granted carbon credits by the Gold Standard for paddy cultivation. We have secured 37,405 carbon credits for the project 'VARRI', the sustainable paddy cultivation programme using the Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) method, in collaboration with Kosher Climate," Suraj

Teja, Founder and CEO, Sow&Reap, said.

METHANE EMISSION

Each hectare of paddy generates 12 tonnes of methane per year over two cropping cycles. This high emission rate is primarily due to continuous water flooding from seed sowing to harvest.

The new method helped farmers reduce water consumption by 60 per cent and reduce methane emissions by 6-7 tonnes a hectare in a year.

The start-up is planning to expand the programme to paddy-growing areas of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and remaining parts of Telangana. "We are aiming to generate over 1 million carbon credits within the next two years," Suraj said.



India Proposed Trade Expansion with Africa: Cars and Dairy for Gold and Agri Goods

On August 29, 2025, at the CII India-Africa Business Conclave, Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal outlined a strategic trade proposal aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. He stated that India could export motor cars and dairy products to African nations, while in return importing gold, diamonds, petroleum products, pulses, lentils, and other agricultural goods from them. This proposal marked a concrete step toward tapping the vast trade potential between India and Africa, reflecting the government's focus on fostering mutually beneficial economic partnerships.



Andhra Pradesh SIPB Approved 30 Investment Projects Worth ₹53,922 Crore

At its 10th meeting, the Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) approved 30 projects with a combined investment of ₹53,922 crore and the potential to create 83,437 jobs. Key approvals included HFCL with an investment of ₹1,197 crore, Apollo Tyres at ₹1,100 crore, the Dhirubhai Ambani Green Tech Park at ₹1,843 crore, and Serentika Renewables of India at ₹2,000 crore.



Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai Discussed Investment Potential with JETRO in Tokyo

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai met senior representatives of JETRO (Japan External Trade Organisation) in Tokyo and discussed investment and industrial opportunities. During the meeting with Nakajo Kazuya, Ando Yuji, and Hara Harunobu of JETRO, the CM highlighted Chhattisgarh's immense potential in sectors such as IT, textiles, aerospace, automobiles, electronics, and clean energy. Sai is on a 10-day tour of Japan and South Korea to attract investment.



Reliance AGM 2025: Mukesh Ambani's Key Announcements on AI Push in India

Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced a series of group-wide artificial intelligence (AI) initiatives, highlighting the technology's vast potential across industries. At the company's annual general meeting, he unveiled the formation of Reliance Intelligence, a wholly owned company aimed at building large-scale AI infrastructure in India and providing AI for everyone, everywhere.



In Japan, PM Modi Showcased India's Political & Economic Stability Amid Tariff Tussle with US

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that India is the fastest-growing major economy, with political and economic stability and transparent policies making it an attractive investment destination, particularly in green energy, manufacturing, and technology. His remarks at a business forum in Tokyo came amid concerns over the potential adverse impact of Washington's 50% tariffs on India. Modi emphasized that Japan's technology and India's talent together could drive the technology revolution of this century and significantly contribute to Asia's stability, growth, and prosperity.



India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal Addressed US Tariff Impact on Economy and Exports

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government is committed to ensuring that industry does not face difficulties arising from certain unilateral actions, in his first public comment after the US imposed a full 50% tariff on India. Speaking at an event in the national capital, he emphasized ongoing efforts to diversify exports and boost domestic demand.



United Kingdom and Uttar Pradesh Signed Chevening Scholarship Agreement for Students

The United Kingdom and Uttar Pradesh signed an agreement to send five students every year on fully funded Chevening scholarships to the UK.

The announcement was made in Lucknow during British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron's meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Chevening is the UK Government's international scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office along with partner organisations. Applicants must hold an undergraduate degree, apply to three eligible master's courses in the UK, and secure an unconditional offer from at least one. The scholarship covers tuition, living expenses, travel, and other costs for the selected students.



IHCL Signed Pact with Madison for 10 New Hotels in South India

The Indian Hotels Company announced it had signed an agreement with Madison, the hospitality platform of Terminus Group and JV Ventures, for ten new hotels to be operated under the Ginger

brand across the southern states of India. Madison will invest approximately ₹500 crore in the construction of these hotels, which will feature over 1,000 keys within the next three years.



India FTA Boosted Business Confidence in Volatile World, UK Parliament Told

The India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Keir Starmer on July 24, will reduce trade tariffs from 15% to 3% and boost

business confidence in an increasingly volatile world, the British Parliament was informed. UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds tabled a statement in the House of Commons to update MPs on the pre-ratification process before the trade deal comes into effect.



Dubai's RDI Grants Initiative: Empowering Deep Tech Research with Global Impact

Dubai backed founders and researchers with grants and provided a real-world testbed to scale deep tech innovations. Traditionally known as a hub for tourism, real estate, and

transshipment, the city is now positioning itself to become what Pranav Sharma, Senior Executive Officer at Agna Capital, described as "the centre of the future-tech driven global economy."



Fintech Startup Kiwi Secured \$24 Million from Vertex Ventures and Existing Investors

Fintech startup Kiwi raised \$24 million in a Series B funding round led by Vertex Ventures Southeast Asia and India, with participation from existing investors Nexus Venture

Partners, Omidyar Network, and Stellaris Venture Partners. The funds will be used to develop credit lines on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), expand its existing RuPay credit card services, and enhance product offerings to tap into India's growing demand for digital credit.



Indian Brands Rode Swadeshi Wave Amid Tariff Tensions

The swadeshi call, once a slogan of India's independence movement, was revived — this time not by political leaders but by brands. Triggered by US tariffs and amplified on social media, companies

used the language of self-reliance to promote their products. From Amul's cheeky "Swadeshi Swad" and "Made in India... iski tariff karo" campaigns to Dabur's "Made in India for Indians," domestic brands appealed to consumers' sense of patriotism, The Times of India reported.

POLITICAL NEWS



'Buy Only Made in India Goods': PM Modi Batted for Swadeshi in Ahmedabad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked the spirit of self-reliance, urging citizens and businesses to support Indian-

made goods. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating multiple development projects in Ahmedabad, he said, "All of us should follow the mantra of buying only 'Made in India' goods." He added that businessmen should display boards outside their establishments stating they sell only 'swadeshi' (Indian goods). Modi also criticized the Congress party, alleging that its rule made the nation dependent on other countries to facilitate "import scams."



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta Flagged Off Tiranga Cyclothon Ahead of Independence Day

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta flagged off the Tiranga Cyclothon for girls from

Vidhan Sabha to Rajghat along with Delhi Minister Ashish Sood ahead of Independence Day. She said, "The sky and the wind are echoing with the chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' as this tiranga yatra is being taken out."



Healthcare, Education Now Commercialised, Says RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat expressed concern over the commercialisation of

healthcare and education institutions in the country. Speaking after inaugurating the Cancer Care Centre at Madhav Srishti Arogya Kendra in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, he said that both sectors, once considered acts of service, have now become unaffordable and inaccessible for the common man.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



India Committed to Improving Ties with China: PM Modi to Xi Jinping

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said New Delhi was committed to improving ties with China during a key

meeting with President Xi Jinping, as both leaders discussed the need to expand trade and investment ties against the backdrop of US tariffs. Modi visited China for the first time in seven years to attend a two-day meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, joined by Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders from Central, South, and Southeast Asia, as well as the Middle East, in a show of Global South solidarity.



US to Proceed with Probe of Solar Imports from India, Laos, and Indonesia

The US International Trade Commission voted to proceed with an investigation into whether solar panels from

India, Laos, and Indonesia are stifling domestic manufacturing, a key procedural step that could lead to tariffs on those imports. The unanimous decision by the three-member panel marked a win for domestic solar manufacturers, who allege that Chinese companies operating in these countries receive unfair government subsidies and sell their products below production costs in the US.



India, China Cooperation Crucial for Global Economic Stability: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the global

economic order, emphasizing that New Delhi is ready to advance bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective based on mutual respect, mutual interest, and mutual sensitivity.

BANKING AND FINANCE



Indian Bank Sanctioned ₹1,400 Cr Loans to MSME Units at Outreach Camp

State-owned Indian Bank sanctioned loans worth ₹1,400 crore to small businesses at a retail outreach camp in the country's financial capital. Sanction letters were issued to 200 MSME and retail customers during the recently held camp. The bank also announced plans to open 100 new branches by 2027, requiring an investment of ₹70-100 crore.



Shivalik Small Finance Bank Raised ₹100 Cr from Investors Led by SMBC Asia Rising Fund-Japan

Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) raised ₹100 crore in equity capital from a group of investors led by SMBC Asia Rising Fund-Japan, the corporate venture capital arm of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). Existing investors, including Accel, Quona Capital, Lightspeed, and Sorin Investments, also participated in the funding round. The bank stated that this fresh infusion of capital marks a significant milestone in its journey to build a truly digital-first bank focused on India's underserved MSME and retail segments.



CMS Infosystems Bets on AI, Targets 10% Revenue Share by FY27

India's largest ATM and cash management company, CMS Infosystems, is betting on artificial intelligence and aims for the segment to contribute 10% of overall revenues by FY27. The company reported revenue of ₹627 crore in the June quarter.

INDUSTRY



Semicon 2025: PM Modi Received First Made-in-India Vikram 32-Bit Processor

Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw presented Prime Minister Narendra Modi with India's first fully indigenous Vikram 32-bit processor during the Semicon 2025 event in New Delhi. The chip is qualified for use in harsh environmental conditions, with two other plants expected to release their chips within the next 2-3 months. Speaking at the event, Vaishnaw urged companies to invest in India's semiconductor ecosystem, highlighting the country's stable policies, vibrant startup ecosystem, strong demand, and growing talent pool.



Indian Tea Industry Concerned Over Higher US Tariff, Exports Likely to be Hit

The Indian tea industry expressed concern over the higher tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump, stating that the tariff hike is likely to impact tea exports to the country. Leading industry body Indian Tea Association (ITA) noted that the US is a significant market for Indian tea. In 2024, the US imported 17 million kilograms of tea from India, while shipments to America stood at 6.26 million kilograms till May this year, according to ITA.



Bidding for Battery Storage PLI in Final Stages, Says Pralhad Joshi

The government is in the final stages of preparing the framework for the next phase of energy sector reforms, including amendments to nuclear energy laws to boost private participation and the selection of bidders for the Advanced Chemistry Cell - Production Linked Incentive (ACC-PLI) scheme, Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said.

AGRICULTURE

Govt Policy Must Reward Sustainability for India's Small Farmers : Syngenta



Government policies must incentivise sustainable farming to support India's smallholder farmers, who face increasing

climate challenges such as erratic monsoons, droughts, and floods, said Syngenta Group Chief Sustainability Officer Petra Laux. Smallholder farmers make up 80% of the agricultural sector. Laux highlighted that while agriculture contributes 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, it receives only 5% of climate transition funding and subsidies, stressing the need to reward climate-smart practices to drive meaningful change.

Shivraj Chouhan to Transfer ₹3,200 Cr Crop Insurance to 3 Million Farmers



Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will digitally transfer ₹3,200 crore in crop

insurance claims under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to 3 million farmer beneficiaries. The transfer will take place during an event in Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, attended by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Union Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Choudhary, and State Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena.

Uttar Pradesh Faces Fertiliser Supply Shortage Amid Rising Demand



Despite having 1.5 million tonnes of fertiliser stock for the current kharif season, Uttar Pradesh is facing supply

shortages in 11 out of 18 administrative divisions. The total inventory includes 918,000 tonnes of urea and 558,000 tonnes of phosphatic nutrients like DAP and NPK. Divisions such as Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Aligarh, Agra, Varanasi, and Bareilly have the highest availability, while others continue to struggle with shortfalls.

START-UP



Captain Fresh Files for \$400 Million IPO with Sebi

B2B seafood startup Captain Fresh has confidentially filed for an IPO with Sebi, aiming to raise \$350–400 million. Backed by Tiger Global, the company

plans to scale its tech-driven supply chain platform in the \$450 billion global seafood market. The offering will include \$200 million in new shares, potentially valuing Captain Fresh at over \$1 billion, according to sources.



Ather Energy Resolves Rare Earth Magnet Supply Issue, Unveils New Scooter Platform

Ather Energy CEO Tarun Mehta announced that the issue of restricted rare earth magnets supply has been resolved for

now. Speaking at the Ather Community Day in Bengaluru, Mehta emphasized the need for the auto industry to shift from heavy rare earths to light rare earths, which are crucial for electronics and Evs. He also unveiled EL, a new e-scooter platform designed to cater to multiple segments. Ather currently holds a 17% share of India's electric two-wheeler market.



TransBnk Raised \$25 Million to Expand Banking Infrastructure Platform

TransBnk raised \$25 million in Series B funding led by Bessemer Venture Partners, with participation from Arkam

Ventures, Fundamentum Partnership, and existing investors 8i Ventures, Accion Venture Labs, and GMO Venture Partners. The funds will be used to drive geographical expansion and strengthen technology and product teams. CEO and Co-founder Vaibhav Tambe stated that the company is expanding across BFSI, mid-corporate, and SME segments, with increasing traction in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



House Committee Urged Alignment of Skill Development Programmes with Local Needs

A parliamentary standing committee emphasized that skill development programmes must be aligned with local and regional needs to enhance employment opportunities and build relevant capabilities. In its latest report, the committee urged the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to ensure the early completion and publication of skill gap reports. It highlighted that aligning programmes with local demand will help address skill gaps, improve individual competencies, and facilitate adaptation to changing job markets, ultimately boosting employability.



CUSAT and CSL Sign MoU to Establish Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Shipbuilding Technology

Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) signed an MoU to establish a Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Shipbuilding Technology, officials said. CSL will contribute ₹3.53 crore for the centre's establishment on the university campus.



India and Philippines Space Industries Partner for Joint Research and Co-Development

Space industry associations of India and the Philippines have joined forces to enhance cooperation in electronics, space, and satellite communication technologies, as private players expand in both countries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



IN-SPACE Transfers Five ISRO Technologies to Indian Firms to Boost Indigenisation

IN-SPACE facilitated the transfer of five ISRO-developed technologies to Indian companies to promote self-reliance and reduce imports in sectors such as biomedical, solar, and automotive industries. The agreements were signed between IN-SPACE, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and the recipient firms. The transferred technologies include a ceramic multi-chip module for RT-PCR kits, a silicone adhesive for solar panel bonding, film adhesives, a DC-DC converter, and an anodization process for 3D-printed parts.



IIT Madras Develops Low-Cost Chip-Based Device for Rapid Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras developed an affordable microfluidic device capable of rapidly determining whether bacteria are resistant or susceptible to antibiotics.



Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Returns to India After Historic ISS Mission

Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla returned to India in the early hours after his historic visit to the International Space Station (ISS). Shukla, who had been in the US training for the Axiom-4 mission to the ISS over the past year, was welcomed at the airport by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, and ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY



Odisha Ranks 5th in Green Mobility in India, Aims to Expand E-Bus Fleet Beyond 1,000

The Odisha government stated that the state ranks fifth in the country in green mobility and has set an ambitious target to expand its electric bus fleet to over 1,000 in the coming years. According to official data, 14,329 e-buses are currently operational across India, with Delhi having the highest number at 3,564, followed by Maharashtra (3,296), Karnataka (2,236), and Uttar Pradesh (850).



Auto and Component Exports Slump on Weak Global Demand, Says ICRA

India's automobile and auto component sectors were among the worst hit by weak export demand, as geopolitical tensions and steep US tariffs affected overseas sales, according to rating agency ICRA. The agency noted that while rural demand provided some cushion, the sector's operating profit margins came under pressure in Q1FY26 due to lower realisations and higher input costs.



PM Modi Unveils Suzuki e-Vitara, Stresses Swadeshi and Reforms Drive

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that while investment may come from anywhere in the world, production in India makes it ultimately swadeshi. Speaking at Maruti Suzuki's Hansalpur plant in Ahmedabad, where he flagged off the company's first global strategic battery electric vehicle (BEV) — the e-Vitara, Modi highlighted self-reliance, manufacturing strength, and reforms aimed at positioning India as a hub for emerging industries.

CSR



Global GDP Has Potential to Reach \$500 Trn in 25-30 Years: Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries (RIL) Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani

said that the global gross domestic product (GDP), currently at \$110 trillion, has the potential to reach \$500 trillion in the next 25-30 years. Addressing shareholders during the 48th annual general meeting (AGM), Ambani stated that this growth presents a significant opportunity to eradicate global poverty.



Trump Trade Tariffs: MCA Planning to Ease Compliance Burden for MSMEs

As part of a broader strategy to protect domestic industry from US tariffs, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) is planning to ease compliance requirements for medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSMEs), according to official sources. "We are looking at it very seriously and taking inputs from the MSME Ministry as well," a government source said.



Mizoram Receives One of Lowest Shares of CSR Funds in India: CM Lalduhoma

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma said that the state receives one of the lowest shares of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from companies in India. He attributed the limited inflow of funds to the small number of registered CSR implementing agencies in the state.

DEFENCE NEWS



India Successfully Test-Fires ICBM Agni 5 Missile from Odisha's Chandipur

India successfully test-fired the Agni 5 intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of reaching up to 5,000 km, demonstrating its strategic military capabilities. The Defence Ministry stated that the test from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur validated all operational and technical parameters. The Agni-5 missile can cover almost the entire Asian continent, including northern China, as well as parts of Europe.



JM Financial downgrades defence, industrials; turns bullish on consumption

Analysts at JM Financial rejigged their portfolio by downgrading infrastructure and defence pack to 'underweight', citing a potential reduction in capital expenditure given the fiscal constraints. They, however, turned positive on the consumption theme.



India to host two key defence engagements with US this month to expedite procurements

India will host two key defence engagements with the US this month to discuss accelerating military hardware purchases. The meetings come despite the current low in bilateral ties since the unprecSindoor levy of 50% tariffs by the Trump administration and Pakistan-US military bonhomie.

ENERGY AND POWER



PFC and JBIC Sign ₹3,500 Cr Loan Pact to Fund Clean Energy Projects in India

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) signed a loan agreement worth 60 billion Japanese Yen (around ₹3,500 crore) to finance clean energy projects in India. The deal strengthens economic ties between India and Japan and marks a significant step in advancing sustainable development, PFC stated.



India Eyes 126 Million PNG Connections, 18,000 CNG Stations by 2034

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) intensified efforts to guide states on initiatives and policies aimed at achieving the national target of 126.3 million PNG connections and 18,336 CNG stations by 2034, the downstream petroleum regulator said.



NTPC Becomes First PSU to Adopt Global Standard for Power Supply Continuity

NTPC Limited, India's largest power producer, became the first public sector company in the country's power industry to implement a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) aligned with ISO 22301:2019, the international standard for business continuity management systems (BCMS). In an official release, NTPC stated that the plan will strengthen its ability to maintain uninterrupted power generation and supply during unforeseen events. "This strategic initiative enhances NTPC's capability to ensure uninterrupted power generation and supply under all circumstances," the company said.

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



Government to Greenlight Incentives to Drive Green Steel Output

The government is preparing a national mission to incentivise the production of sustainable steel in India as part of its efforts to decarbonise the sector, officials said. The scheme under the mission is expected to be around ₹5,000 crore to support both primary and secondary steel producers, a senior government official stated.



Global Players Eye India's Tech Gaps as Strategic Opportunity to Support Chip Manufacturing Ambitions

Gaps in India's developing semiconductor ecosystem are attracting attention from global players in allied sectors, who view them as a strategic opportunity to contribute to the country's ambition of becoming a preferred hub for chip manufacturing.



India and UAE Discuss Pharma Trade and Local Currency Settlement System

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) initiated discussions on expanding pharmaceutical trade and introducing a local currency settlement system to reduce dependence on the U.S. dollar. The initiative aims to deepen bilateral economic ties, lower transaction costs, and enhance resilience in cross-border trade. Support measures are likely to include a mix of concessional loans, risk guarantees, and other financial instruments. The talks underscore both countries' ambition to strengthen strategic partnerships under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) framework.

INVEST INDIA



Gross FDI Remains Robust During May-June; Net FDI Moderates

Gross foreign direct investment (FDI) into India remained strong during the May-June period, though net FDI moderated due to higher outward FDI, according to the RBI's monthly bulletin. Net FDI fell 52% year-on-year to \$1 billion in June, compared with \$2.2 billion during the same period last year. Gross investments stood at \$9.2 billion in June, up from \$7 billion in May.



India in Talks to Construct 1 Million Houses Worth \$500 Billion in Australia: Piyush Goyal

Union Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India is in advanced negotiations to develop 1 million homes in Australia and has approached the UAE for financing the project. The Commerce and Industry Minister described the initiative as a \$500 billion opportunity.



UP Government Approves Policy to Boost Manufacturing of Key Electronics Components

The Uttar Pradesh government approved an electronics component manufacturing policy with an investment target of Rs 5,000 crore to promote the production of 11 key components, including displays and camera modules. Aligned with the Centre's Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), the policy will come into effect from April 1, 2025, for a period of six years, according to an official statement.

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



Shri Kishan Dan Dewal Appointed as the Next Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic

Shri Kishan Dan Dewal (IFS: 2003), currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic. He is expected to assume the assignment shortly.



Shri Bandaru Wilsonbabu Appointed as the Next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan

Shri Bandaru Wilsonbabu (IFS: 2004), currently serving as Ambassador of India to Madagascar, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan. He is expected to assume the assignment shortly.



Shri Abhishek Shukla Appointed as the Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia

Shri Abhishek Shukla (IFS: 2006), currently serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of India in Beijing, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia. He is expected to assume the assignment shortly.

MEA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore Calls on the President

A ministerial delegation from Singapore, led by H.E. Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, met the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The delegation was in Delhi for the third meeting of the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR).



7th Round of India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control

The 7th round of the India-Australia Dialogue on Disarmament, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control was held in New Delhi. Both sides discussed developments in nuclear, chemical, and biological disarmament and non-proliferation, outer space security, conventional weapons, including the use of AI in the military domain, and multilateral export control regimes.



Visit of Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri to Nepal

Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri visited Nepal from 17-18 August 2025 at the invitation of Nepal's Foreign Secretary, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai. India and Nepal share strong and friendly ties, with significant progress in recent years across diverse areas of cooperation. Under its Neighborhood First policy, India attaches high priority to its relations with Nepal. The visit continued the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries and provided an opportunity to further advance bilateral ties.

MoU signed between FII and Trinity International on 13th August 2025



Federation of Indian Industry (FII) signed an MoU with Trinity International on 13 August 2025 to foster mutual collaboration and growth opportunities. The agreement was formalized in the presence of Mr. Sukhdev Singh, CEO of Trinity International, along with Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII.



**Meeting with Dr. Deepak Jain, President FII,
and Israel Team**



Dr. Vishika Yadav Jain, member, FII Skill development committee met Col. Gaurav Chaudhary Director NCVET in Delhi.

Sh. Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, CSR Committee-FII Felicitated at TWU



Sh. Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, FII CSR committee, honoured in Tata Workers' Union on 26th August, 2025. In presence of National INTUC President, Mr. Sanjeeva Reddy & Mr. T V Narendran, Global CEO & MD Tata.

FII Thailand Chapter Attended the Indian Independence Day 2025 - Celebration at the Indian Embassy, Bangkok



Shri Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman-Thailand Chapter- FII, attended the flag-hoisting ceremony on the auspicious occasion of India's 79th Independence Day at the Indian Embassy in Bangkok on August 15, 2025. The occasion was graced by His Excellency Shri Nagesh Singh Ji, Ambassador of India to Thailand; Ms. Jagpreet Kaur Ji, Second Secretary (Economic & Commercial) and (Press, Information & Culture); along with other senior officials.

FII hosted special meeting on 24th August 2025 at Constitutional Club of India New Delhi



We were honored by the presence of our President, Dr. Deepak Jain, who shared insights on his remarkable 10-year journey with FII. His leadership and foresight continue to inspire us as we work towards a stronger and more sustainable

The meeting was further enriched by the participation of esteemed members and state leadership from across the country. During the session, Dr. Deepak Jain announced new state leadership roles: Sh. Shubhendu Paul as President of West Bengal Chapter, Sh. Rajesh Rai as President of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai Unit, Sh. Vikram Lal Chand Jain as President of Ahmedabad Unit, Sh. T. Satyanarayana as President of Telangana Chapter, and Sh. Binu Alex as President of Kerala Chapter. All newly appointed leaders were duly honored.

A warm welcome and insightful closing remarks were delivered by Sh. Uditendu Verma, General Secretary,

FII. The highlight of the meeting was the official poster release of the highly anticipated Net Zero Power Summit 2025. Scheduled for 10th September in New Delhi, the summit will bring together global experts, policymakers, and industry leaders to drive discussions and action on India's sustainable energy future.

Among those present were Sh. Rajesh Rai, Sh. S.N. Sharma, Dr. Mukul Jain, Sh. Manoj Kumar, Sh. Ramdas Goel, Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Sh. Rajeev Sharma, and Sh. Mukesh Sakhuja, Delhi State Coordinator.



A Memorable Experience “The Voice of Industry, Towards Nation Building.”



On 23rd August, a grand conference on the theme “One Nation, One Election” was organized at Ambedkar Bhavan, New Delhi. The historic event witnessed the presence of over 1000 representatives, along with active participation from delegates representing 15 state chapters of FII across India.

The programme was graced by the esteemed presence of Hon’ble Ministers – Shri Piyush Goyal Ji, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji, Shri Om Prakash Dhankhar Ji, and Shri Sunil Bansal Ji – together with Dr. Deepak Jain, President of FII, and other senior dignitaries. They provided valuable guidance on important national and economic issues, underlining that frequent elections have an impact on industrial productivity and can influence the pace of the nation’s development.

Delegates from FII chapters across Haryana, Jammu, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, and Karnataka participated with great enthusiasm, making the conference truly inspiring.

79th Independence Day Celebrations – August 15, 2025





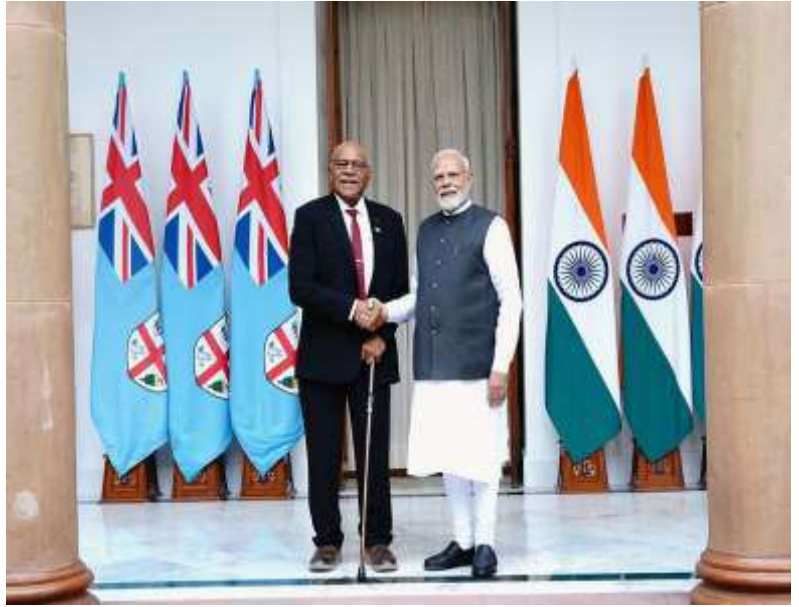
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the 79th Independence Day celebrations from the historic Red Fort in New Delhi on August 15, 2025. He hoisted the Tricolour, received a 21-gun salute, and delivered his 12th consecutive Independence Day address, marking a milestone in the nation's history.

This year's celebrations carried the theme "Naya Bharat", reflecting the vision of a developed and vibrant India by 2047 under the Viksit Bharat mission. PM Modi delivered his longest address from the Red Fort, lasting 103 minutes, highlighting India's progress in technology, space, economy, defense, and social reforms.

The event was marked with grandeur as the armed forces presented a Guard of Honour and helicopters showered petals over the venue. Special recognition was given to Operation Sindoor, symbolizing India's defense strength and resilience. PM Modi continued his tradition of wearing a distinctive turban, this year donning a saffron turban with a tricolour stole, symbolizing courage and unity. Celebrations resonated nationwide, with people proudly displaying the national flag and participating in patriotic events.

Google also marked the occasion with a special Independence Day Doodle, celebrating India's achievements in cricket, chess, cinema, and space. The 79th Independence Day not only honored the nation's freedom struggle but also reinforced the resolve to build a strong, prosperous, and modern India — a true "Naya Bharat."

Visit of Prime Minister of Fiji to India (August 24-26, 2025)



Visit of Prime Minister of Fiji to India (August 24–26, 2025)



H.E. Mr. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, paid his first official visit to India from 24–26 August 2025, accompanied by his spouse, Ms. Sulueti Rabuka, and a delegation including the Minister of Health and Medical Services, Mr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, and senior officials.

During his stay in New Delhi, Prime Minister Rabuka held talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 25 August, following which Prime Minister Modi hosted a lunch in his honour. He also called on Hon'ble Rashtrapati, who had visited Fiji in August 2024.

Prime Minister Rabuka further delivered a lecture on 'Ocean of Peace' at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi.

The visit reaffirmed the longstanding ties between India and Fiji and highlighted the shared commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation across sectors while deepening people-to-people ties.

Visit of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to Russia (August 19-21, 2025)



External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 19–21 August 2025.

During the visit, the External Affairs Minister held talks with the Foreign Minister of Russia, H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, covering the entire gamut of bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual interest. He also called on senior Russian leadership and engaged with the Indian community in Moscow.

The visit underscored the special and privileged strategic partnership between India and Russia and reflected the commitment of both sides to further deepen cooperation in diverse areas.

State Visit of the President of the Republic of the Philippines to India (August 04-08, 2025)



State Visit of the President of the Republic of the Philippines to India (August 04-08, 2025)



H.E. Mr. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines, paid a State Visit to India from 04–08 August 2025 at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He was accompanied by First Lady Madame Louise Araneta Marcos, Cabinet Ministers, senior officials, dignitaries, and business representatives. The delegation also visited Bengaluru before returning to the Philippines.

This was President Marcos's first visit to India since assuming office. During the visit, he held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 05 August, met Hon'ble Rashtrapati Smt. Droupadi Murmu was called on by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

The visit coincided with the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, established in November 1949. The partnership has since expanded across trade and investment, defence and security, maritime cooperation, agriculture, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, digital technologies, and regional cooperation through ASEAN.

The visit reaffirmed the Philippines as an integral pillar of India's Act East Policy, Vision MAHASAGAR, and Indo-Pacific vision, while setting the course for future bilateral cooperation and strengthening regional and international engagement.

GST OVERHAUL FOR BHARAT: A NEEDONOMICS PATH FOR NEEDO- HAPPINESS



Prof. M. M. Goel

Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

A Tax Path of Justice, Simplicity, and Inclusivity

Indian economy has been undergoing significant transformations over the last decade. One of the most noteworthy reforms was the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2017, which replaced a labyrinth of indirect taxes such as VAT, excise duty, and service tax. 1 July is celebrated as GST Day. It promised a uniform tax regime, greater transparency, and ease of doing business. Yet, as experience has shown, the system has not been without challenges. From the perspective of Needonomics School of Thought (NST), GST reforms remain not just desirable but essential for promoting fairness, simplicity, and the welfare of all stakeholders including middle class.

The current push for GST overhaul in 2025–26 is particularly significant. It seeks to streamline tax rates, reduce complexities, and enhance economic growth. As per recent economic analysis, a well-executed GST reform could add up to 0.6 percentage points to India's GDP growth in 2025–26, offsetting external shocks such as the lingering effects of tariff wars, including the so-called Tariff Terrorism of Trump (TTT) that once disrupted global trade dynamics. This anticipated boost, however, is not just a matter of statistics—it has deeper implications for needo-consumption, especially for India's vast middle class.

GST and the Needonomics Mandate

The Needonomics School of Thought (NST) emphasizes aligning economic systems with needs, stressing fairness in distribution and efficiency in production. Under NST lens, GST should be evaluated not simply as a tool for revenue collection but as an instrument of need-based taxation that

ensures essentials are affordable while luxury consumption bears a fair share of the tax burden.

Eight years ago, GST was heralded as the "one nation, one tax" regime. In principle, it was supposed to be simple, predictable, and equitable. However, in practice, GST has evolved into a multi-rate structure—5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%—with numerous exemptions and special cases. While intended to balance revenue needs and social priorities, this complexity has undermined the original promise of simplicity and fairness.

From the perspective of NST, such multiplicity often leads to confusion, disputes, and, more importantly, misalignment with social needs. For example, classifying soap at 18% tax across the board effectively treats it as a luxury item, even though manual laborers and the working class require it daily. This creates regressive taxation, where essentials become costlier for those least able to bear the burden.

Flaws in the Current GST Structure

- **Arbitrary classification of essentials vs. luxuries**

The heart of the problem lies in defining what constitutes a necessity and what constitutes a luxury. Items like cement and new tyres attract a 28% GST rate, placing them in the category of 'luxuries.' But are they? Cement is the backbone of housing, and tyres are essential for transportation. Such classifications, driven more by fiscal compulsions than by social logic, contradict the principles of Needonomics.

- **Revenue Maximization vs. Welfare Maximization**

Current GST practices lean heavily on the principle of maximizing revenue, reflecting the old metaphor of "squeezing the goose without killing it." While the government has been careful not to overburden the economy, the pursuit of revenues often comes at the cost of consumer welfare. Needonomics reminds us that taxation should be about keeping the goose not just alive, but also happy—ensuring citizens' needs are met without undue strain.

- **Impact on Middle-Class Consumption**

The poor, who consume a limited basket of essentials, are relatively less affected by GST complexities. The real impact

falls on the middle class, which consumes a wider array of goods and services. This is where needo-consumption—consumption guided by needs—becomes central. The middle class is squeezed between rising aspirations and limited disposable income, making GST reform all the more urgent.

Case for Overhaul: NST's Prescription

The current overhaul proposes the elimination of the 12% and 28% GST slabs, consolidating most goods and services into just two categories—5% for essentials and 18% for luxuries. From the viewpoint of NST, this is both logical and necessary.

Scrapping 12% and 28% slabs Removing the 12% rate eliminates confusion between essentials and semi-luxuries, while scrapping the 28% rate removes the excessive burden on goods that, in practice, are often not true luxuries.

Two-tier structure : 5% and 18% 5% for essentials ensures affordability of daily-use items like soap, detergents, basic healthcare products, and food items. 18% for luxuries ensures higher taxation for goods and services consumed primarily by those with greater ability to pay, striking a balance between fairness and revenue needs.

Encouraging compliance through simplicity

Simplicity is not just about ease for consumers but also for producers, traders, and tax administrators. A two-rate GST will reduce litigation, classification disputes, and compliance costs. This aligns with NST's emphasis on reducing friction in economic life.

Economic and Social Benefits of GST Reforms

1. Boosting GDP Growth

By reducing distortions and making essentials affordable, GST reforms will enhance consumption demand, particularly among the middle class. Increased consumption translates into higher production, investment, and employment, contributing directly to GDP growth.

2. Promoting Social Equity

A rationalized GST structure promotes fairness by ensuring that taxation falls more heavily on luxuries rather than essentials. This aligns with the NST mandate that taxation should support equity and inclusivity.

3. Strengthening the Middle Class

The middle class forms the backbone of India's consumption-driven economy. Making their basket of consumption more

affordable through lower GST on essentials will free up disposable income, creating a virtuous cycle of spending and growth.

4. Enhancing Trust in Governance

Frequent complaints about arbitrary GST rates have eroded trust. A transparent, simplified system will restore confidence among citizens, traders, and industries, reinforcing the spirit of cooperative federalism that underpins GST.

Needonomics and the Future of Taxation

The GST overhaul must be seen as more than a technical adjustment—it is an opportunity to realign taxation with the philosophy of Needonomics. Instead of chasing ever-higher revenues, taxation must aim to balance needs and resources, keeping the welfare of citizens at the core. NST envisions a tax system that: Distinguishes essentials from luxuries on the basis of social and economic realities.

Encourages responsible consumption (needo-consumption) rather than wasteful spending.

Ensures affordability of essentials for every household, particularly the working class. Promotes economic happiness by reducing the daily burdens of ordinary citizens.

Conclusion

The GST reforms of 2025–26 are not merely a fiscal adjustment but a step toward fulfilling the mandate of Needonomics School of Thought. By scrapping the 12% and 28% slabs and consolidating most goods and services into 5% and 18%, the reforms will promote fairness, simplicity, and inclusivity. They will strengthen the middle class, enhance compliance, and contribute to GDP growth.

In the words of Needonomics, taxation is not just about revenue—it is about responsibility. A happy goose lays more golden eggs. To keep the Indian economy vibrant and humane, GST reforms must place needs above wants, fairness above arbitrariness, and welfare above mere revenue maximization. Only then can Bharat move decisively toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, where economic growth is balanced with social justice and human dignity.

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

FROM BOOM TO BLOW : THE IMPACT OF U.S. TARIFFS ON INDIAN EXPORTS



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On **August 27, 2025**, President Trump doubled U.S. tariffs on Indian exports from 25% to **50%**. This move was in direct response to India's continued importation and resale of Russian oil, which the U.S. claims undercuts sanctions imposed on Moscow. The hike affected a broad range of labour-intensive sectors, including textiles, gems & jewellery, furniture, seafood, leather goods, and more.

Economic Fallout: Exports, Employment, and Earnings

- **Scale of impact:** Indian exports to the U.S. totaled approximately **\$87 billion** in 2024. Analysts estimate up to **\$37 billion**—around **40–50%** of these exports—are now under threat.
- **Sectoral turmoil:** Industries like **seafood (especially shrimp)**, **textiles**, **gems & jewelry**, and **leather processing** have seen immediate disruptions. Shrimp exports from Odisha, which previously earned ₹4,700 crore in FY 2024–25 (about one-third going to the U.S.), have slumped, putting **1.6 million jobs** at risk across the value chain. Garment accessory makers and workers in garment factories describe the situation as a "nightmare," with mass layoffs already underway.
- **Competitiveness hit:** Exporters report Indian goods are becoming uncompetitive compared to peers in China, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Southeast Asia. Barclays warns that **70% of India's exports to the U.S. are under serious threat**—impacting around \$55 billion and equating to 13% of India's total merchandise exports.

- **Employment consequences:** Layoffs are expected across value chains—from factory workers in Tirupur, Delhi, and Surat to small-scale shrimp peelers—threatening millions of livelihoods.



Strategic and Macroeconomic Impacts

- **Geopolitical alignment:** The tariff action stems from geopolitical posturing rather than purely economic motives—aimed at penalizing India for Russian oil imports. India has criticized the move as “unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable” and is determined to preserve its strategic autonomy.
- **Energy gains neutralized:** India had saved an estimated **\$17 billion** by importing discounted Russian oil since 2022—savings now offset by expected export losses estimated at **\$37 billion** in the current fiscal year.
- **Economic cost:** Analysts estimate that if these tariffs persist for a year, they could dent India's GDP by **60–80 basis points** and shave off up to **0.5% of U.S. GDP**, with ripple effects like higher inflation.

- **Diplomatic strain:** The tariffs mark the worst erosion in U.S.–India relations in decades, risking strategic cooperation across defense, tech transfers, and the Indo-Pacific framework.

India's Response : Strategies and Resilience

- **Government measures:** India's Commerce Ministry is drafting a **multi-tiered strategy**—spanning short-term relief to support for exporters, medium-term market diversification, and long-term improvements in product quality and competitiveness.
- **Incentives and reform:** Additional government actions include GST cuts, favorable loans for exporters, and reforms aimed at cushioning the blow.



- **Diversification push:** India is pivoting toward markets in **Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia**, and the **EU** to reduce reliance on the U.S.
- **Avoiding retaliation:** Experts caution that tit-for-tat tariffs would harm India more—especially given the U.S. market's importance for IT services. India is instead pursuing diplomatic solutions and strengthening trade ties where possible.



A Crucial Turning Point

- President Trump's 50% tariffs represent a seismic disruption to India's export ecosystem—triggering immediate economic pain and risking long-term strategic fallout. Yet, this adversity may also spur transformation: accelerating India's diversification of markets, strengthening domestic resilience, and reshaping its global trade posture.

India's navigational challenge is formidable—balancing domestic economic welfare with strategic autonomy—while safeguarding a long-term relationship with a major global power. The measures adopted in the coming months will determine whether this is a temporary setback or a catalyst for economic self-reinvention.

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

THE FUTURE OF INDIAN IT ENTREPRENEURS IN ESTONIA GOVERNMENT SUPPORT, AND INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS



**Dr. Manju Dagar
(Manu Chaudhary)**

Member,
International Affairs Committee-FII

In today's digital age, Estonia has emerged as a global model for technological innovation, e-governance, and a digitally-driven economy. For a country like India, rich in technological talent, Estonia presents an attractive opportunity—especially for startups and digital businesses operating in the IT sector.

Estonia's e-Residency program, strong digital infrastructure, and government incentive policies offer thousands of Indian IT entrepreneurs a platform to expand their businesses globally—without physical borders.

1. The Future of Indian IT Entrepreneurs in Estonia

1. Rapidly Growing Digital Market

Estonia is the first country in Europe to be officially recognized as a "Digital Society." Almost all government and commercial services in the country are available online. This provides Indian IT entrepreneurs with numerous opportunities in fields such as:

- Software development
- Cloud services
- Fintech
- Cybersecurity
- E-governance

2. Direct Access to the EU Market

By registering a company in Estonia, Indian entrepreneurs can offer their products and services across the entire European Union (EU)—while operating from India. This opens access to a large and developed consumer base.

3. Transparent and Entrepreneur-Friendly Tax System

In Estonia, corporate tax is not applied until profits are distributed. This policy is especially beneficial for startups and growth-phase businesses, allowing capital to be reinvested in the company instead of being taxed early.

4. Collaboration Opportunities in Emerging Technologies

The Estonian government actively supports experimentation and advancement in areas like:

- * Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- * Blockchain * Greentech *Cybersecurity

Indian tech companies have strong opportunities to collaborate with Estonian startups and government-backed institutions in these cutting-edge sectors.

2. How the Estonian Government Supports Indian Entrepreneurs

1. E-Residency Program

This innovative program allows foreign citizens to obtain a digital identity and operate a business in Estonia without being physically present.

Indian entrepreneurs benefit from:

- Digital ID card
- Online company registration
- Access to European banking services
- Full access to Estonia's e-governance portals
- To date, over 4,000 Indian citizens have taken advantage of this program.

2. Startup Visa Program

Indian entrepreneurs wishing to reside and operate their business in Estonia can apply for the Startup Visa. If the startup idea is innovative and viable, the government offers:

- A visa and residence permit
- The possibility to bring family members
- A pathway to long-term settlement

3. Government Networking and Investment Platforms

Platforms such as:

- Startup Estonia
- Invest Estonia
- e-Residency Marketplace

connect Indian startups with investors, mentors, and strategic collaborators, offering strong local support for business expansion.



4. Participation in the Tech Ecosystem

The capital city Tallinn has become a rising tech hub in Europe. Indian companies are encouraged to participate in:

- Hackathons
- Incubation programs
- International tech expos and events
- This facilitates deep integration into Estonia's innovation-driven ecosystem.

3. How Much Do Indian Entrepreneurs Need to Invest to Start a Business in Estonia?

- Initial Costs and Investment Details
- Type of Expense Estimated Amount (in ₹)
- Company Registration Fee ₹24,000 – ₹27,000

e-Residency Card Fee ₹8,000 – ₹10,000
Share Capital (for OÜ company) ₹2,25,000 (optional at the initial stage)
Virtual Office / Legal Address ₹5,000 – ₹15,000 per year
Accounting and Other Services ₹3,000 – ₹10,000 per month

Total initial investment (excluding share capital): ₹50,000 to ₹1.5 lakhs
Share capital can also be deposited later, especially if a local bank account is not yet opened.
Indian entrepreneurs adopting a lean startup model can establish a company in Estonia at minimal cost.

Additional Details (as also repeated in support section):

e-Residency Program
Indian entrepreneurs can open an Estonian company without visiting Estonia.
Digital identification, electronic signatures, tax filing, and banking can all be done online.
More than 4,000 Indian citizens have already become e-residents of Estonia.

Startup Visa and Residency Opportunities
The Estonian government provides visa and residency options to innovation-based startups founded by Indians.

Approval is based on the validation of the Startup idea.
Once approved, entrepreneurs can also bring their families and live in Estonia.
Invest Estonia and Startup Estonia
These government bodies assist international entrepreneurs by:

Offering legal support
Providing connections to investors
Helping them build networks and scale businesses globally
Tax Benefits
There is zero corporate tax in Estonia until profits are distributed. This is especially beneficial for startups and growing companies, allowing reinvestment without early tax liabilities.

How Does the Estonian Government Support Indian Entrepreneurs?

e-Residency Program
Indian entrepreneurs can open and manage a company in Estonia without visiting the country.
Digital identification, e-signature, tax filing, and banking are all possible entirely online.
More than 4,000 Indian citizens have already become e-residents.
Startup Visa and Residency Opportunities
The Estonian government offers visas and residency to innovation-based startups founded by Indian entrepreneurs.

The business idea must first be validated by the authorities.
Once approved, the entrepreneur can move to Estonia and even bring their entire family.
Invest Estonia and Startup Estonia
These government agencies help foreign entrepreneurs by:

Providing legal assistance
Connecting them with investors

Integrating them into local business networks
Through these agencies, Indian companies can receive support in:

Funding
Export guidance
Scaling operations internationally
•
Tax Benefits
Estonia offers zero corporate tax as long as profits are not distributed.
This policy is highly beneficial for startups and growth-phase companies, allowing them to reinvest their earnings without paying immediate tax.

3. How Much Investment Is Required for Indian Entrepreneurs to Start a Company in Estonia?

Initial Investment Requirements
To establish a Private Limited Company (OÜ – osäühing):
Share capital: Minimum of €2,500 (approximately ₹2.25 lakhs)

However, this amount is not mandatory to deposit immediately.
Many e-residents choose to deposit it later, especially while setting up a local bank account.
Company registration fee: Around €265 – €300 (approximately ₹24,000 – ₹27,000)

e-Residency card fee:
€100–120 (approximately ₹8,000 – ₹10,000) depending on the pickup/delivery center.
Other Expenses
Accounting services: ₹3,000 – ₹10,000 per month (varies by agency)
Virtual office / legal address: ₹5,000 – ₹15,000 annually
Total Initial Investment (excluding share capital deposit):
Between ₹50,000 and ₹1.5 lakhs

The share capital deposit is optional at the beginning and can be made later, especially before the company becomes fully operational.
With a lean Startup model, Indian entrepreneurs can set up and run a business in Estonia at low cost.

Conclusion

Estonia offers Indian IT entrepreneurs a future-focused, digital-first, and collaborative business environment. The e-Residency program, simple business setup process, and access to the EU market provide Indian startups with a golden opportunity to expand globally at minimal cost. If you are an Indian tech entrepreneur looking to start an international business with low investment, Estonia could be the ideal launchpad for your global venture.

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FROM THE DEADLOCK TO BREAKTHROUGH : RETHINKING THE ENERGY TRILEMMA



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The 21st century has crystallized around a fundamental challenge that defines not just energy policy, but the very trajectory of global economic development, competitiveness, and national security. This is the energy trilemma, the complex interplay between achieving net zero emissions, maintaining affordable energy access, and ensuring energy security. This trilemma has emerged as the central organizing principle around which nations must navigate their energy futures [1-2].

The scale of this challenge is unprecedented. Global energy demand is projected to grow between 11 to 18% by 2050. Despite this backdrop of surging demand, nations worldwide are legally bound to achieve near-zero emissions. The European Union has committed to ending its dependency on Russian energy by 2027 while maintaining stable supplies. India aims to produce 5 million metric tons of green hydrogen annually by 2030, and countries globally have pledged to limit temperature rises to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels under the Paris Agreement [1][3-5]. This convergence of rising energy demand and decarbonization imperatives present a challenge to science for bringing innovative measure without sacrificing economic growth or societal well-being.

The Three Pillars of the Trilemma

Net Zero Imperative

The urgency of climate action has intensified in last couple of years. The year 2024 marked the first calendar year with global mean temperatures exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations reaching their highest point in 800,000 years [3][6].

These figures are alarming to the world and transformed net zero from an aspirational goal into a business imperative. Over 7,000 companies worldwide have now set science-based emissions reduction targets through the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), however, the concern of "net zero greenwashing" looms large, as



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companies and nations struggle to translate commitments into genuine technological transformation rather than accounting exercises [7].

Affordability Challenge

Energy affordability directly impacts inflation, industrial competitiveness, and household resilience. While renewable energy has achieved cost parity over fossil fuels in many markets, the transition involves substantial upfront investments in grid modernization, storage infrastructure, and system flexibility. These costs create a complex policy challenge: ensuring the energy transition proceeds without imposing unsustainable economic burdens on consumers or undermining industrial competitiveness [1].

The affordability dimension extends beyond simple price comparisons. Transparent, flexible, and dynamic pricing frameworks are essential for attracting investment, increasing efficiency, and driving innovation.



Security Imperatives

The impact of geopolitical turbulence on energy security came into picture in recent events. Europe's dependency on Russian energy (which accounted for 45% of EU gas imports in 2021) exposed critical vulnerabilities that required rapid reconfiguration of supply chains and infrastructure. The continent has since reduced Russian gas imports from 150.2 billion cubic meters to 51.7 billion cubic meters under REPowerEU plan [5][8].

Another risk in the area of security imperative is the supply of critical minerals. The concentration of critical mineral supplies such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel (essential for battery production) in geographically limited regions created potential chokepoints. Beyond geopolitical risks, the digitization of energy systems presented cybersecurity risks that require sophisticated new forms of protection and resilience [9].

Innovation as the Bridge

The resolution of the energy trilemma lies in deploying breakthrough innovations that can satisfy all three dimensions (net zero, security and affordability) simultaneously. Several technological pathways offer particular promise for transcending traditional trade-offs.

Green Hydrogen and Ammonia represent critical solutions for industrial decarbonization. The global green ammonia market is projected to reach \$701 million by 2024, with growth rates exceeding 72% through 2032. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission is another such ambitious project targeting 5 million metric tons of annual production by 2030 with investments exceeding ₹8 lakh crore [4][10].

Similarly, AI-Powered Smart Grids offer transformative potential for system optimization. Artificial intelligence enables real-time demand prediction, predictive maintenance, and automated grid management that can reduce costs while improving reliability. Google's DeepMind demonstrated this potential by reducing cooling costs in data centres by 40% through AI-driven optimization [11].

Next generation battery technologies are another prominent area of innovation. Solid-state batteries promise 30-40% weight reduction compared to lithium-ion alternatives, with production costs projected to drop to less than €150 per kilowatt-hour by 2030. These advances could revolutionize not only electric vehicle adoption but also grid-scale energy storage, addressing the intermittency challenges that have long constrained renewable energy deployment [9].

Another line of innovation goes towards carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies are evolving beyond simple sequestration toward productive carbon utilization. The CO₂ utilization market could reach 430-840 million tons annually by 2040, transforming captured carbon into construction aggregates, fuels, and industrial feedstocks [12]. Fusion Energy, though in its nascent stage, emerging as a potential solution to energy trilemma with recent breakthroughs in fusion technology and a surge in private sector investments [13].

Shift towards alternate energy sources

India's approach to the energy trilemma present an example of how developing nations can leverage their

scale and growth trajectory to drive global innovation. The National Green Hydrogen Mission, with its target of 5 million metric tons of annual production by 2030, represents one of the world's most ambitious green hydrogen programs. The mission's ₹19,744 crore investment is expected to leverage over ₹8 lakh crore in private capital and create 600,000 jobs [4].

Companies like Microsoft, Shell, and Reliance Industries are pioneering the integration of AI and green energy systems. Microsoft's partnership with ESB on green hydrogen fuel cells for data centres represents the first such deployment in Europe, supplying 250kW of clean energy with only water as a byproduct [14].

The path forward

The energy trilemma should not be viewed as an intractable deadlock, but rather as a catalyst for the most significant technological and economic transformation since the industrial revolution. The convergence of climate urgency, geopolitical disruption, and technological breakthrough creates unprecedented opportunities for nations, businesses, and innovators who can think beyond incremental improvements toward systemic change.

The trilemma's resolution requires moving beyond the false choice between energy security, environmental protection, and economic development. Instead, it demands the recognition that in a world of accelerating climate impacts and geopolitical instability, these objectives are not competing priorities but mutually reinforcing imperatives. The future belongs to those who understand that innovation is not merely an option for addressing the energy trilemma, it is the only viable path forward.

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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIAN REFRACTORY INDUSTRY



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Founder, Maalyaarth Foundation

The Indian refractory industry has the potential to thrive under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, which promotes self-reliance. However, there are both roadblocks and avenues for growth to consider.

A Flourishing Future

India's economic aspirations, including a \$7 trillion economy by 2030 and significantly increased crude steel production, will significantly drive the demand for refractories. These heat-resistant materials are essential for various industries, including steel, cement, and power generation. This increased demand presents a lucrative opportunity for domestic manufacturers.

Self-Reliance: The Path Forward

The Indian government's "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India) initiative recognizes the strategic importance of a robust refractories industry. Reduced reliance on imports and a focus on domestic production will not only bolster national security but also create jobs and contribute to overall economic growth.



Challenges

- High import dependence: India lacks sufficient domestic reserves of high-grade refractory raw materials. This reliance on imports makes the industry vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain disruptions.
-

- Technological limitations: Research and development (R&D) efforts need to be strengthened to develop new, high-performance refractories that can compete with international players.
- **Skilled Workforce:** The industry requires a skilled workforce to operate and maintain sophisticated refractory manufacturing equipment. Investing in training programs and attracting talent is crucial.

Opportunities

- **Growing domestic demand:** The steel, iron, cement, and other allied industries in India are expected to see significant growth. This translates to a rise in domestic demand for refractories.
- **Focus on import substitution:** The government's push for self-sufficiency creates an opportunity for domestic manufacturers to increase production and capture a larger market share.
- **Innovation and diversification:** Developing new refractory materials and applications along with a focus on value-added products can propel the industry forward.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat as a Catalyst:

- The Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative can play a key role in overcoming these challenges:
- **Promoting R&D:** Government support for research can help develop indigenous technologies for raw material exploration, beneficiation, and advanced refractory production.
- **Encouraging domestic sourcing:** Policymakers can incentivize exploration and development of domestic raw material sources to reduce import dependence.
- **Skilling the workforce :** Developing a skilled workforce in areas like refractory engineering and design is crucial for long-term success.

By addressing these challenges and capitalizing on the opportunities presented by Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Indian refractory industry can achieve self-reliance and become a global leader.

A Roadmap for Aatmanirbhar Bharat

The Indian steel industry is a significant contributor to the nation's economic growth. As a cornerstone industry, steel production relies heavily on high-performance refractories. The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative presents a

timely opportunity to strengthen India's refractories sector, making it self-reliant and globally competitive. Here's a roadmap outlining key focus areas:



• **Raw Material Security:**

Exploration and Processing: India possesses abundant reserves of raw materials like bauxite, kyanite, magnesite, and silica. Atmanirbhar Bharat calls for increased investment in exploration and efficient processing of these domestic resources. This reduces dependence on imports and ensures consistent raw material supply.

- **Beneficiation and Value Addition:** Upgrading domestic raw materials through beneficiation techniques like washing, grinding, and sizing will enhance their quality and reduce dependence on high-grade imported materials.

• **Research & Development:**

Indigenous Innovation: Encouraging research into developing indigenous refractory materials tailored to specific Indian needs is crucial. This includes materials suited to high-temperature applications, corrosion resistance, and energy efficiency.

- **Collaboration between Academia and Industry:** Fostering collaboration between research institutions like IITs and private industries can accelerate innovation and commercialization of new refractory technologies.

Manufacturing Advancement:

- **Modernization and Automation:** Upgrading existing manufacturing facilities with modern equipment and automation will improve production efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance product quality.
- **Focus on Niche Products:** Indian manufacturers should focus on high-performance, niche refractories catering to specific industries like aerospace, glass, and cement. This reduces reliance on imports and expands the market reach.

Skilling and Workforce Development:

- **Specialized Training Programs:** Developing specialized training programs for refractory production personnel will ensure a skilled workforce equipped to handle advanced materials and processes.
- **Industry Academia Partnerships:** Collaboration between technical institutes and refractory industries can create industry-specific training programs, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

Sustainability:

- **ZRecycling and Reuse:** Developing efficient methods for recycling and reusing used refractories can minimize waste generation and reduce reliance on virgin raw materials.
- **Environmentally Friendly Processes:** Researching and adopting eco-friendly refractory production processes will minimize environmental impact and promote sustainable practices.

Policy and Regulatory Support:

- **Government Incentives:** The government can provide fiscal and tax incentives for R&D activities, modernization of manufacturing facilities, and adoption of green technologies in refractory production.
- **Focus on Exports:** Promoting exports of high-quality, value-added refractories through trade missions and participation in international exhibitions can establish India as a global leader in the refractories sector.

Conclusion

- By implementing this roadmap, India can achieve self-sufficiency in the refractories sector. A collaborative effort between industry, academia, and the government is essential to achieve the vision of a self-reliant and globally competitive Atmanirbhar Bharat in refractories. This will not only strengthen the domestic steel industry but also position India as a major player in the global refractories market.

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

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



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

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



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

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



"FII is working towards building stronger ties between India and Nepal"

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

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



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

Mr. Om Prakash Dhankar, Former Agriculture Minister, Haryana



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



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

Mr. Atul Kulkarni, Management Consultant, India



62 COUNTRIES

22 INDIAN STATES

5000 MEMBERS

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA

US
Canada
Brazil
Mexico

AUSTRALIA OCEANIA

Fiji
Australia
New Zealand

MIDDLE EAST

Kuwait
Israel
UAE

EUROPE AND UK

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

Bulgaria
Albania
Greece
Romania
Serbia
North Macedonia
Poland
Ireland
Scotland

REST OF ASIA

Japan
China
South Korea
Taiwan
Vietnam
Thailand
Malaysia
Singapore

AFRICA

South Africa
Nigeria
Cameroon
Benin Republic
Ghana
Zambia
Madagascar
Tanzania
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France	Mr. Vivek Tayal	President, France Chapter
France	Mr. Pankaj Dhawan	Vice president, France Chapter
France	Mr. Paul Sanjeev Kumar	Vice president, France Chapter
France	Mr. Nagapraveen Jayaprakash	Advisor, France Chapter
France	De. Adarsh Gupta	Jr. Secretary, FII-France Chapter
France	Mr. Rajeev Kumar	Advisor to Board, FII-France Chapter
France	Mr. Ramesh Bhavsar	Treasure, France Chapter
Norway	Mr. Abhilash D. Pandya	President, Norway Chapter
Norway	Mr. Atul	General Secretary, Norway Chapter
Norway	Mr. Ravi Shroff	Vice president, Norway Chapter
Norway	Mr. Manoj Thakur	Secretary, Norway Chapter
Norway	Mr. Navneet Kumar	Treasure, Norway Chapter
Russia	Mr. Sammy (Manoj) Kotwani	President, Russia Chapter
Ukraine	Mr. Sammy (Manoj) Kotwani	Country Co-ordinatory
Georgia		
Azerbaijan		
Kazakhstan		
Kyrgyzstan		
Uzbekistan		
Turkmenistan		
Armenia		
Belarus		
Moldova		
Bulgaria	Mr. M. Neeraj Kumar	President, Bulgaria Chapter
Albania	Mr. M. Neeraj Kumar	Country Co-ordinatory
Greece		
Romania		
Serbia		
North Macedonia		
Poland		
Ireland	Prof Dr. Dilip Mahapatra	President, Ireland Chapter
Scotland		

MIDDLE EAST		
Kuwait		
Israel	Mr. Alisa Eshet Moses	Country Co- Ordinator, Israel Chapter
Dubai	Mr. Harikishan Rankawat	President, Dubai Chapter
Dubai	Mr. Rajesh Sancheti	Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter
Dubai	Mr. Ravindra Aggarwal	Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter
Dubai	Mr. Himanshu Jain	Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter
Dubai	Ms. Richa Gupta	Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter
Dubai	Mr. Amit Keshri	Executive Committee Member, Dubai Chapter
AFRICA		
Nigeria	Mr. Kiran M Gosavi	President, Nigeria, Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Parimal Vipani	Vice President, Nigeria Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Sudhir Rathore	Vice President, Nigeria Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Sudhir Jain	Advisor, Nigeria
Nigeria	Mr. Sanjeev Tondon	Advisor, Nigeria
Nigeria	Mr. Kirti Sudhanshu	Advisor, Nigeria
Nigeria	Mr. Shishir Verma	General Secretary, Nigeria
Nigeria	Mr. Sanjay Jha	Treasure, Nigeria Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Anirudh Singh	Jt. Treasure, Nigeria Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Jai Prakash Pandey	Jt. Seceretary, Nigeria Chapter
Nigeria	Mr. Nitin Nagine	Director
Nigeria	Mr. YY Singh	Director
Nigeria	Mr. Rajneesh Srivastava	Director
Cameroon	Mr. Vijay V Gurav	Country Convenor- Cameroon
Benin Republic	Mr. Sujoy Ghosh	Vice President & Convenor - Benin
Benin Republic	Mr. Dheerendra Chauhan	Jt. Convenor- Benin Republic
Ghana	Mr. Prabat Mehta- Ghana	Jt. Convenor-Ghana
Ghana	Mr. Sanjay Verma	Convenor-Ghana
Zambia	Mr. Nishant Bhatnagar	Convenor-Zambia
Madgaskar	Mr. Vikas Arya	Convenor- Madgaskar & Jt Convenor- Ghana
Tanzania	Mr. Kirhore Shapriya	Co- ordinator, Tanzania
Uganda		
INDIAN SUBCONTINENT		
Bhutan	Mr. Jakson Dukpa	Country Co- ordinator, Bhutan
Nepal	Mr. Ved Prakash Sharma	FII Country Co- Ordinator, Nepal
Pakistan	Dr. Ramesh Kumar Shardha	Country Co- ordinator, Pakistan
Srilanka	Mr. S. Niranjana	Country Co- ordinator, Srilanka
Bangladesh	Mr. Swapan Chaudhary	Convenor- Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Mr. Ajit Kumar	Country Co- ordinator, Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Mr. Pankaj Kumar	GS- Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Md. Tofayel Ahmed Almas	JS- Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Mr. Ezaz Ahmed	Bangladesh
Bangladesh	Mr. Salim Faisal Bhuiyan	Bangladesh
Bangladesh	MD Rafezur Rahmana	Bangladesh
Bharat	Mr. Hitender Mehta	Chairman, International Affairs Committee
ASIA PACIFIC		
Japan	Mr. Makoto Saito	Chairman, FII Chapter Japan
Thailand	Mr. Rajendra Khimesra	Chairman, Thailand
Thailand	Mr. D.K. Bakshi	
South Korea	AMB. Ms. Zena Chung	
Vietnam	Mr. Phan Huu Thang, Invest Global	
Vietnam	Mr. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Invest Global	
Vietnam	Ms. Naguyen Thi Lan Huong, Vice President, DAA	
Singapore	Mr. S. Niranjana	Country Co- ordinator, Singapore
AUSTRALIA OCEANIA		
Australia	Ms. Deepa Gupta	Co- ordinator, Australia
New- Zealand	Mr. Giri Gupta	Country Co- ordinator, New- Zealand

	Name	Designaton	State
	Dr. Deepak Jain	President -FII	Haryana
North Zone			
Haryana Chapter	Mr. Vinod K Bapna	President, Haryana Chapter	Haryana
	Mr. Raman Saluja	Vice President, Haryana Chapter	Haryana
	Mr. Mohit Gupta	Treasurer, Haryana Chapter	Haryana
	Yamunanagar Unit		
	Mr. Sudhir Chandra	Patron, Yamuanagar Unit	Yamuanagar Unit
	Mr. Ashu Gupta	President, Yamuanagar Unit	Yamuanagar Unit
	Mr. Madhav Chandra	General Secretary, Yamuanagar Unit	Yamuanagar Unit
	Panchkula Unit		
	Mr. Sushant Gupta	Convenor-FII Panchkula Unit	Panchkula Unit
	Faridabad Unit		
	Mr. Daman Chopra	President, Faridabad Unit	Faridabad Unit
Jammu, Kashmir & Laddakh	Mr. Dinesh Gupta	Co-ordinator, Jammu Chapter	Jammu
	Mr. Tashi Khachu	Co-ordinator, Ladakh Chapter	Laddakh
Himachal Pradesh Chapter	Mr. Chiranjeev Singh Thakur	President, Himachal Chapter	Himachal
	Mr. Yograj Chhoker	Vice President, Himachal Chapter	Himachal
	Mr. Ranesh Rana	Organising Secretary- Himachal Chapter	Himachal
Delhi UT Chapter	Mr. Mukesh Sakhuja	Co-coordinator, Delhi State	Delhi
Uttar Pradesh Chapter	Mr. Heera Singh	Chairman, Noida & Greater Noida	UP
	Mr. Ramdas Goyel	National Executive Member	UP
	Mr. Anand Mani Tripathi	Co-ordinator, West UP	UP
	Dr. Rajesh Kumar Garg	Co-ordinator, Kanpur UP & Avadh UP	UP
West Zone			
Rajasthan Chapter	Ms. Neeta Boochra	Co-ordinator, Rajasthan State	Rajasthan
Gujarat Chapter	Mr. Shivam Bansal	Co-ordinator, Gujarat State	Gujarat
	Mr. Mihir Shikari	Bureau Chief	Gujarat
	Ahmedabad Unit		
	Mr. Vikram Lalchand Jain	President, Ahemdabad Unit	Gujarat
Madhya Pradesh Chapter	Mr. Sanjay Sethi	Co-ordinator, Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh
Maharashtra Chapter	Mr. Amitabh Nigam	Patron, Vidarbha Chapter	Vidarbha
	Mr. Siddharth Khosla	President, Nagpur Chapter	MH
	Navi Mumbai unit		
	Mr. Rajesh Rai	President, Mumbai & Navi Mumbai- Unit	MH
South Zone			
Tamil Nadu Chapter	Mr. Suresh Anand	Co-ordinator, Tamilnadu Chapter	Tamilnadu
Kerala Chapter	Mr. Binu Alex	President, Kerala Chapter	Kerala
Karnataka Chapter	Mr. Rajesh Kumar B.	Co-ordinator, Bangalore Unit	Karnataka
Telangana	Mr. T Satyanarayana	President, Telangana	Telangana
Telangana	Mr. K Sudarshan Naidu	National Executive Member	Telangana
East Zone			
Bihar Chapter	Mr. Gautam Jha	Chairman, Startup, Committee- Bihar	Bihar
Jharkhand Chapter	Mr. Saurabh Singh	Co-ordinator, Jharkhand	Jharkhand
West Bengal	Mr. Shubhendu Paul	President of West Bengal	West Bengal
	Mr. Dipanker Sarkar	Co-ordinator, West Bengal	West Bengal
	Mr. Rupendra Singh	Co-ordinator, West Bengal	West Bengal

FII – DOMESTIC NETWORK CHARTER

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

Govt. Policies

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

Networking

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

Events & Other Deliverables

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

Professional Help from FII

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

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

FII-INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CHARTER

- Promoting an environment of strong business relationships of India with growing Economies
 - Assisting Indian businesses to expand in 42 Nations where FII has its Country Chapters
 - Help from FII Investment Desk, which ensures safety and security of investment in foreign land
 - Our strengthened relations with International Consulates helps easing of setting up business internationally
 - We support our members in case of any dispute arises in overseas projects and the implementation.
 - Support from Experts in documentation and various approvals for overseas expansion
 - Support for international exhibitions, stalls in all continents
 - Networking opportunities for overseas B2B, B2G
-
- Take advantage of FII Partnerships with International Associations
 - Opportunity to participate in International Business Delegations
 - Assistance to Overseas Business for setting up operations in India
-
- Strengthening Indian Diaspora, Businesses and Professionals
 - Promoting brotherhood and Business Networking among Indian Diaspora
 - Creating Awareness for Indian Diaspora to Business Opportunities in India
 - International Conferences on side-lines of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to facilitate networking across eminent businesspersons
 - Celebration of Indian & International Holidays in synergy to recognize and promote International Brotherhood

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Shibu Soren, Former Jharkhand Chief Minister, Passed Away at 81

Rajya Sabha MP and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) President Shibu Soren passed away at the age of 81. He had been suffering from a kidney ailment and had suffered a stroke six weeks earlier. He had remained on life support for the past month at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over his demise, describing Soren as a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication, particularly towards empowering tribal communities, the poor, and the marginalized. The Prime Minister conveyed his condolences to Soren's family and admirers and spoke to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Jharkhand declared a three-day state mourning from August 3 to 5. All government offices remained closed on August 4 and 5. The ongoing Monsoon Session of the Jharkhand Assembly was adjourned sine die following his death.



Shibu Soren
(1944-2025)

Nagaland Governor La Ganesan Passes Away at 80 in Chennai



La Ganesan Passes
(1945-2025)

Nagaland Governor and former MP and Tamil Nadu BJP State President La Ganesan passed away on 15 August 2025 at a private hospital in Chennai. Ganesan had been admitted since August 8 after reportedly sustaining a head injury at his T Nagar residence. He was rushed to the hospital in an unconscious state and later underwent surgery. His mortal remains were placed at his T Nagar residence for leaders and the public to pay their last respects. Born on February 16, 1945, in Thanjavur, Ganesan was drawn early in life to the ideologies of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), with his father and brothers also associated with the organization.

Former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik Passes Away at 79

Former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Satya Pal Malik, passes away at the age of 79. Malik, who played a significant role in the political developments of Jammu & Kashmir during his tenure, also served as the Governor of Bihar, Goa, and Meghalaya. Known for his outspoken views and long public life, he leaves behind a legacy of service in both politics and administration.



Satya Pal Malik
(1946-2025)

DAYS TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST 2025

Friendship Day : Sunday, August 3

Raksha Bandhan : Saturday, August 9

Independence Day : Friday, August 15

Krishna Janmashtami: Saturday, August 16

Dahi Handi: Saturday, August 16

Hartalika Teej: Tuesday, August 26

Ganesh Chaturthi: Wednesday, August 27

Onam: Begins Tuesday, August 26,

Radha Ashtami: Sunday, August 31

1 August

 Switzerland

Foundation of Confederation

6 August

 Jamaica

Independence Day

7 August

 Cote d'Ivoire

Independence Day

15 August

 India

Independence Day

15 August

 Republic of Korea

Liberation Day

17 August

 Gabon

Independence Day

17 August

 Indonesia

Independence Day

19 August

 Afghanistan

Independence Day

20 August

 Hungary

Saint Stephen's Day

24 August

 Ukraine

Independence Day

25 August

 Uruguay

Independence Day

31 August

 Kyrgyzstan

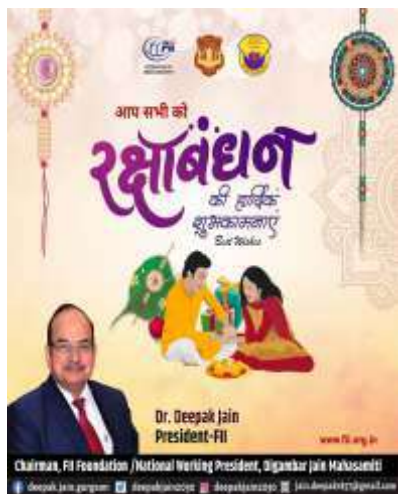
Independence Day

31 August

 Malaysia

Independence Day / Malaysia Day

GREETINGS IN AUGUST 2025



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A large, three-dimensional, golden number '10' is positioned at the top center of the page. The number is highly reflective, with bright highlights and shadows that give it a metallic, 3D appearance. It is set against a plain white background.

2015-2025

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62 COUNTRIES

22 INDIAN STATES

23 Sectoral Committees

INSPIRED BY



Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

CHIEF GUEST



Shri Shripad Yesso Naik
Hon'ble Minister of State for Power

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RESILIENCE
360°

10TH SEPT. 2025

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President
Federation of Indian Industry

CMA Sanjay Gupta, Co-Chairperson
Mr. Hitender Mehta
Mr. Daman Chopra
Dr. Rimika Kapoor, Jt. Director, ESG Committee FII

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

CA Atul Gupta
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