

Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

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Economy, Industry and Policy

Viksit Bharat 2047-Driving economic transformation for a sustainable and inclusive future: The India Industrial Development Report 2024-25, published by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), underscores the importance of manufacturing in strengthening India's economic resilience. It warns against excessive dependence on imported manufactured goods, which can undermine strategic autonomy. *[The Economic Times]*

Govt presses on policy to shield local industries amid Trump tariffs threat: India's tariff policy aims to regulate trade, protect local industries, and generate revenue via taxes on imported and exported goods, Union minister Jitin Prasada told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. *[Business Standard]*

The tide could turn for the economy: As the market wallows in pessimism over slowing GDP growth and Trump tariffs, incoming good news seems to be flying under the radar. The Indian economy could however be on the mend, with favourable policy interventions and a few improving macro indicators in recent months. *[Business Line]*

Jobs, capex likely top goals, in new manufacturing policy: The Indian government is developing a new manufacturing policy to boost domestic production and increase its global share, acknowledging that existing schemes like PLI haven't fully achieved their goals. *[Financial Express]*

New project announcements at all-time high in March quarter-CMIE data Proposals for new factories, roads, and power plants surged to an all-time high in the March 2025 quarter, partially propelled by state-level investment summits, according to data from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). *[Business Standard]*

India's March factory activity expands at its fastest pace in 8 months: India's manufacturing activity grew at its fastest pace in eight months in March, recovering from a more than a one-year low as "buoyant demand" helped sales by companies, said a private survey on Tuesday. *[Business Standard]*

Tariff war clouds India's growth outlook, but fundamentals stay strong: The growth outlook for the Indian economy in the financial year beginning April 1 may be under a shadow of the looming threat of reciprocal tariffs, trade uncertainty, and geopolitical tensions, but economists argue that the inherent strengths and declining inflation would keep India in good stead. *[Business Standard]*

MGNREGA ends FY25 with 2.1% higher work demand: The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme (MGNREGA) ended FY25 with a 2.1 per cent rise in households demanding work in March 2025 compared to the previous year, and a negative net balance of nearly ₹30,000 crore, primarily due to unpaid material dues. *[Business Standard]*

MPC likely to trim rate by 25 basis points in April meet: The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expected to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points, after a similar reduction in February, all the 10 respondents of the Business Standard poll said. *[Business Standard]*



Foreign Investment

Foreign investors turn net sellers in Indian equities in 2024-25 since Covid-19: Foreign investors sold the most in the financial year 2024-25, barring 2022, when the outgo was led by Covid-19 pandemic, according to data from NSDL. *[The Hindu]*

Why you should invest in India now-The new investment friendliness index is a game changer: The Investment Friendliness Index, introduced in Union Budget 2025, aims to boost competitive federalism by ranking Indian states based on investment potential. It evaluates factors like infrastructure, taxation, and business ease to attract domestic and foreign investors. While promising growth, challenges remain in data accuracy and state-level reforms. *[The Economic Times]*

Ease of Doing Business 2.0-New panel to begin work on business reforms for cutting red tape: A high-level committee will soon begin reviewing rules and permissions to improve ease of doing business, as announced in Budget 2025-26. The committee aims to provide recommendations within a year, and an Investment Friendliness Index will encourage states to attract investment through competitive federalism. *[The Economic Times]*



Trade Policy and Competitiveness

India-US BTA-Commerce ministry to begin talks with other departments: As India and the United States (US) 'broadly' develop an understanding on the contours of a proposed trade deal, the commerce department is set to soon start talks with the ministries of agriculture, heavy industries and petroleum, among others, amid pressure to import from the US. *[Business Standard]*

India, Brazil well placed to withstand shocks-Moody's Ratings: India and Brazil, which are large and domestically driven emerging economies, are likely to withstand some of the tumult from shifting US policies, even as most of their peers are "exposed to choppy waters" that could potentially reshape global capital flows, supply chains, trade and geopolitics, Moody's Ratings said on Tuesday. *[Business Standard]*

Crisil, CareEdge expect strong corporate balance sheets to act as a shield against changes in US trade policy: Credit rating agencies Crisil Ratings and CareEdge Ratings expect strong corporate balance sheets to act as a shield against changes in the US trade policy and imposition of reciprocal tariffs without affecting their credit quality materially. *[Business Line]*

Challenging times for India-US ties: There are no easy ways to deal with President Donald Trump. And the worst mistake a country could do is to fall into the trap of satisfying itself on occasional praises. *[Business Line]*

Trade war or fair play? How Indian exporters are reacting to Trump tariffs: Indian exporters are evaluating the potential impact of the 27 per cent tariff imposed by US President Donald Trump on all imports from India. While the revised duty structure presents challenges, industry leaders believe India holds a competitive edge over other nations facing steeper tariff increases. *[Business Standard]*

India Inc. guarded as US tariffs loom: India Inc. remains cautious as US tariffs loom, with industries like electronics, auto parts, and pharmaceuticals exploring tariff cuts as mitigation. While the impact on GDP is minimal, reciprocal tariffs could disrupt exports and create global economic concerns. *[Financial Express]*



Corporate Governance

M&A 2.0-Can a new mergers playbook simplify the dealmaking process?: Calls for easing mergers and acquisitions (M&A) are growing, even as the government looks for ways to simplify deal-making. Industry experts suggest policymakers reduce thresholds for shareholder approval, allowing listed entities to merge under a fast-track mechanism, besides easing the process for MSMEs. *[Business Standard]*

Record no of companies, LLPs registered in March: India saw a record number of company and LLP registrations in March, indicating strong investor confidence in the country's economic growth. March company registrations rose 27% year-on-year, while LLP registrations surged 62%, reflecting positive market sentiment amid external challenges such as US tariff policies. *[The Economic Times]*



MSMEs and Start-ups

Exit route for start-ups: It was 128 years ago that the House of Lords passed a landmark judgment in *Salomon v. Salomon* that laid the foundation for the concept of limited liability in liquidation cases. This unanimous ruling segregated corporate and personal liability. *[Business Line]*

Mudra disbursements are benefiting financially weaker states more-SBI: The Government of India set up Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) under the Micro Units Development and Refinancing Agency (MUDRA) to develop and refinance micro units. *[Financial Express]*

Centre has started implementing PLI scheme for textiles on pan India basis-MoS: The government has started implementing Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles on Pan India basis, Pabitra Margherita the Minister of State (MoS) for Textile said in a written reply. *[Financial Express]*

Indian start-ups raised \$1.23 bn venture debt in 2024-Stride Ventures: India's venture debt market soared to \$1.23 billion in 2024, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 58 per cent since 2018, as rising confidence in the country's startup ecosystem catapulted the number of deals to a record 238 last year, up from 56 in 2018. *[Business Standard]*



Employment and Industrial Relations

Provident Fund boost for 7.5 crore Indians! Govt to raise auto settlement of PF withdrawal limit to ₹5 lakh: The EPFO has decided to enhance the auto settlement of advanced claim (ASAC) limit from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh, aiming to improve the ease of living for its 7.5 crore members. This enhancement, along with the introduction of UPI for PF withdrawals, will streamline the process and significantly reduce settlement time. *[The Economic Times]*

Job schemes being reworked to safeguard against fund misuse: The government is revising the proposed employment-linked schemes to prevent misuse of funds. The Cabinet returned the Labour Ministry's proposal seeking amendments for genuine employment generation. The ministry, wary of past fund misuse, plans audits and stronger monitoring to ensure transparency. The revised schemes aim to create 29 million jobs over five years with ₹1.07 lakh crore funding. *[The Economic Times]*



Industrial Finance

IREDA reports significant growth, loan sanctions grow 27% Y-o-Y in FY25: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has reported a significant growth in its financial performance for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025. *[Business Line]*

Shriram Finance targets crossing Rs 3 lakh crore in assets in FY26: Shriram Finance the flagship company of diversified conglomerate Shriram Group, is set to cross Rs 3 lakh crore in assets during the next financial year starting April 1 with loan growth of 15%. *[Financial Express]*

EV financing startups charged up over electric commercial vehicles: Industry estimates suggest India will need \$30 billion in EV financing over the next five years. While banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) focus on passenger EVs, fintechs are targeting commercial vehicles. *[The Economic Times]*

FurtherAI secures \$5 mn in funding to develop specialised AI for insurance: FurtherAI, the company behind AI assistants that master complex insurance workflows, has raised \$5 million in a seed round of funding led by Nexus Venture Partners (through their latest \$700 million AI-dedicated fund). *[Business Standard]*



Technology and Innovation

How Generative AI is transforming industries and building new startup opportunities: It's no big secret that Generative AI (GenAI) is reshaping industries. Large corporations are already exploring and exploiting opportunities, using it to improve efficiencies, reduce costs, and grow their profit margins. *[The Economic Times]*

Foxconn adds machinery worth Rs 276 crore in India for manufacturing Apple devices: Foxconn has added ₹276 crore worth of machinery to boost iPhone production in India, aiming to nearly double output. This comes ahead of U.S. tariff hikes on India. Foxconn will also start AirPods production in Hyderabad, expanding Apple's manufacturing footprint. *[The Economic Times]*

Value creation-From cost centres to innovation hubs: India is transforming into a global hub for engineering R&D, driving innovation in sectors like AI, EVs, aerospace, and renewable energy. With government support and skilled talent, India is set to become a leader in technological breakthroughs by 2047. *[Financial Express]*

Tech M sees strong market in APAC, robust demand for AI-driven solutions: Tech Mahindra sees strong growth in APAC, driven by robust demand for AI-driven solutions in telecom, BFSI, retail, and manufacturing. The company is also strengthening academic ties in New Zealand. *[Financial Express]*

First made-in-India microcontroller coming in 6 months: Mindgrove Technologies plans to launch India's first indigenously designed commercial microcontroller, the Secure IoT chip, within six to seven months. Targeting wearables, smart home devices, and more. *[Financial Express]*



Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

Cargo at state-owned ports grew by 4.4% to 855 mmt in FY25: Amid the government's infrastructure expansion push, cargo at state-owned ports of India (also called major ports) increased by 4.35 per cent in 2024-25 to 855 million metric tonnes (mmt), officials aware of the data said. *[Business Standard]*

NHAI constructs 5,614 km of national highways in FY25; surpasses its target: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) exceeded its construction target for 2024-25 with 5,614 km of national highways built. NHAI's capital expenditure reached an all-time high of over Rs 2,50,000 crore. *[The Economic Times]*

Visakhapatnam Port Authority handled record 82.62 MT cargo in 2024-25: Visakhapatnam Port Authority (VPA) celebrated its highest ever cargo handling in 2024-25 with 82.62 MT, marking a new milestone. Despite global trade challenges, key cargo segments saw increased volumes. The port also set a new record for steam coal discharge, aligning with India's Maritime Vision 2030. *[The Economic Times]*

Mundra Port handled record 200 mn metric tonnes of cargo volume in 2024-25: Mundra Port, under Adani Ports, becomes the first Indian dockyard to handle over 200 million metric tonnes of cargo in 2024-25. APSEZ achieved its highest-ever cargo volume in March 2025, with notable increases in container and liquid/gas cargo handling, contributing to an annual total of 450.2 MMT. *[The Economic Times]*

JICA extends Rs 2,106 cr assistance to Phase 3 of TN Investment Promotion Programme: Japan International Cooperation Agency and Tamil Nadu signed a loan agreement for the third phase of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme, aiming to enhance the state's investment climate. *[The Economic Times]*



Sustainable Industrialisation

Fall in lithium battery prices will boost EV sector-Nitin Gadkari: Union minister Nitin Gadkari has said reduction in the cost of lithium batteries would significantly lower the price of electric vehicles (EVs), making them more affordable for consumers. *[Business Line]*

India's solar PV module manufacturing capacity to reach 125 GW by 2030: Pralhad Joshi India's solar PV module manufacturing capacity will increase to 125 gigawatt (GW) by 2030 from the current 80 GW, and its installed solar cell manufacturing capacity will soon touch 40 GW from 25 GW at present, Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said. *[Business Line]*

JSW Energy tops 10 GW capacity; surpasses FY25 target: JSW Energy surpasses its FY25 target with 10.9GW installed capacity, marking a record 3.6GW addition in FY2025. The company aims for 20GW capacity before 2030, focusing on renewable energy growth. *[Financial Express]*

Solar products exports decline 16% to \$1.5 billion in 2024: India's solar product exports dropped 16% to \$1.5 billion in 2024 due to shipment scrutiny and concerns over Chinese components. The US remained the top destination, accounting for 97.5% of exports. *[Financial Express]*

Adani Group to raise \$ 4-5 billion for Gujarat projects: Adani Group plans to raise \$4-5 billion for its Gujarat projects, including a 30 GW renewable energy park in Khavda. The funding will support solar and wind energy projects by Adani Green Energy. *[Financial Express]*



Sectoral News

Coal sector crosses one billion tonne milestone in FY25: The coal sector has crossed the one billion tonne milestone in cumulative production for the financial year 2024-25, recording a substantial growth of 4.99% at 1,047.57 MT, compared to 997.83 MT in the last fiscal year, the Ministry of Coal said. *[The Statesman]*

India tightens steel procurement policy-Favours local production, adds reciprocity clause: India has overhauled its procurement policy - Domestically Manufactured Iron & Steel Products Policy-2025 - to curb rising steel imports that threaten domestic market stability and primary steel mill production. *[Business Line]*

India records robust growth in metal production during FY 2024-25: The production of key minerals such as iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite and lead in the country have recorded a robust growth in financial year 2024-25 after reaching record production levels in FY 2023-24. *[The Statesman]*

Government targets high-tech, high-growth products to achieve textile 2030 vision-Textile MoS Pabitra Margherita: The government is prioritizing high tech and high growth textile segments to meet the Textile 2030 vision, leveraging large-scale infrastructure and ensuring sustainability. Initiatives such as the PM MITRA Parks Scheme and the PLI Scheme aim to boost the sector. *[The Economic Times]*

Auto-parts companies tap electronics as new growth avenue: With electronics production growing at a compounded annual growth rate of 15 per cent, auto-component makers are shifting their focus beyond traditional automotive products to electronics components manufacturing, said a recent report by Jefferies. *[Business Standard]*

Indian medical devices industry calls USA's 27% tariff challenge for growth: Indian manufacturers of medical devices expect challenges for their growth in the US after President Donald Trump announced imposing a 27 per cent "reciprocal tariff" on imports from the country. *[Business Standard]*

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