

# Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

May 16, 2025



## Economy, Industry and Policy

**Manufacturing mission-The sector needs the right policy intervention:** The Union government's recent move to set up an interministerial panel to draft a National Manufacturing Mission signals a renewed push to revive the manufacturing sector in the country. *[Business Standard]*

**Govt to release first monthly labour force data for April 2025 this month:** The National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation will start releasing the monthly employment numbers in the form of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) from this month, starting with the data for April 2025. *[Business Standard]*

**India's manufacturing and services PMI is highest among developed and emerging markets-JP Morgan:** India has topped the global charts in both manufacturing and services activity, according to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) data in a report released by J.P. Morgan. *[Business Line]*

**India's retail inflation eases to a 6-year low of 3.16% in April:** India's retail inflation eased to a six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April from 3.34 per cent in March, driven by a further moderation in food prices. *[The Economic Times]*

**India's wholesale inflation rate hits one-year low of 0.85% in April; a quick look at kitchen prices:** India's wholesale inflation eased further to 0.85% in April on an annual basis as against a four-month low of 2.05% in March. *[The Economic Times]*

**WPI at 13-month low in April on declining food prices:** India's wholesale price inflation fell to a 13-month low of 0.85% in April as food prices continued its decline. *[The Economic Times]*

**Primus Partners unveils roadmap to increase India's textiles exports to \$100 billion in 5 years:** Diversifying export offerings coupled with enhancing infrastructure including skilled manpower can help India propel its textile shipments to over \$100 billion over the next five years, according to management consulting firm Primus Partners. *[Business Line]*

**Capex at small private airports to rise up to 60% by FY28-Crisil:** Capital expenditure (capex) of small private airports is expected to rise 50-60 per cent on an average over the next three years on the back of capacity expansion on account of substantial increase in terminal utilisation levels, ratings agency Crisil said. *[Business Standard]*

**Panels formed to undertake eighth economic census:** The government has begun preparations for the eighth economic census, with committees being formed at both state and district levels. *[The Economic Times]*

**Improving govt buying: Foreign companies join in, but hurdles remain:** The Indian state every year procures goods and services worth an estimated 15-20 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) or about ₹60 trillion a year. How procurement is conducted should be a central concern of public finance. *[Business Standard]*



## Foreign Investment

**Indian entities committed FDI worth \$6 mn in Azerbaijan & Turkiye in April:** Four Indian entities committed foreign direct investments worth nearly \$6 million in Azerbaijan and Turkiye, accounting for a small part of the total \$6.8 billion overseas investments proposed by Indian companies in April. *[Business Standard]*

**Vedanta board approves \$1.5 billion investment for capacity expansion:** Vedanta's board has approved a \$1.5 billion investment for the aluminium capacity expansion. The company is looking to expand its smelters and increase the share of value-added products in its aluminium portfolio. *[Financial Express]*

**A.P. attracts several investment proposals in aerospace and defence manufacturing sectors:** The Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) Government's efforts to attract Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing (A&DM) units on a large scale appear to be yielding the desired result as a host of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), most of them Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) making niche products, have submitted proposals to set up their facilities in the State. *[The Hindu]*



## Trade Policy and Competitiveness

**India proposes retaliatory duties against US over steel, aluminium tariffs in WTO:** India on Monday proposed to impose retaliatory duties under the WTO (World Trade Organisation) norms against the US over American tariffs on steel and aluminium in the name of safeguard measures. *[Business Line]*

**India must ensure balanced, fair terms in trade deal with US-GTRI:** The limited trade deal announced between the US and UK on May 8 offers clues about the kind of trade arrangements Washington may pursue with other major partners, most notably India, the GTRI said. *[Business Line]*

**Medtech industry seeks FTA advisory board to counter non-tariff barriers:** With trade talks with the US and the European Union (EU) in motion, medical technology lobby groups are seeking the formation of a joint government-industry Free Trade Agreement (FTA) advocacy body to suggest steps to tackle non-tariff barriers (NTBs) across all future trade talks. *[Business Standard]*

**EXIM Bank pegs overall merchandise exports to grow 3 pc to USD 113.7 bn in Apr-Jun:** The Export Import Bank of India on Thursday said it expects a 3.3 per cent growth in the country's overall merchandise exports to USD 113.7 billion in the June quarter. *[The Economic Times]*

**FTAs-It is time for India to pause and reassess its trade strategy:** India's trade deal with the United Kingdom, announced on May 6, crosses several long-standing red lines. For the first time in any free trade agreement (FTA), India has agreed to slash car import duties, open up its vast government procurement market to a foreign country, and weaken its patent regime under external pressure — a sweeping shift that signals how far India is now willing to go to close a deal. *[Business Standard]*

**Revenge of the rich-Time to rethink and rewrite the global trade script:** United States President Donald Trump has put global trade in goods on the hot burner. It is impossible to predict the outcome of this reset in the world trade order, which is extremely complex in its interrelationships and has established itself as the only game in town for any country's economic growth and prosperity. *[Business Standard]*



## Corporate Governance

**NCLT rejects Adani Ports' late bid for insolvent Tuticorin Coal Terminal:** The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has dismissed a request from Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) to submit a delayed resolution plan for Tuticorin Coal Terminal, a company undergoing insolvency proceedings. *[Business Standard]*

**Mahindra seeks CCI approval to acquire 59% stake in SML Isuzu for ₹555 cr:** Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has sought approval from the Competition Commission of India to acquire majority stake in commercial vehicle maker SML Isuzu. The company had earlier announced that it would acquire 58.96 per cent stake in SML Isuzu for Rs 555 crore. *[Business Standard]*

**RIL looking to sell 4.9% stake in Asian Paints:** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is planning to sell its entire 4.9 per cent stake in Asian Paints, stated a report by The Economic Times citing sources. For this purpose, it has roped in Bank of America (BofA) to manage the transaction. *[Financial Express]*

**Motilal Oswal co-founders acquire \$100-million Zepto shares:** Motilal Oswal and Raamdeo Agrawal invest \$100 million in Zepto to boost its domestic ownership ahead of IPO. The quick commerce firm, valued at \$5 billion, is also in talks for a \$250M secondary round as it aims to compete with Blinkit and Instamart in the growing q-commerce market. *[Financial Express]*



## MSMEs and Start-ups

**Startups get boost as govt raises credit guarantee cover to ₹20 crore:** In a bid to improve access to capital for startups, the government on Friday expanded the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS). The revised scheme doubles the maximum guarantee cover per borrower to ₹20 crore from ₹10 crore. *[Business Standard]*

**Indian startups face funding, regulation, trust challenges-Rukam founder:** Indian startups today contend with a range of hurdles, including access to consistent funding, navigating intricate regulatory and tax frameworks, overcoming bureaucratic obstacles, retaining talent, and earning consumer confidence in a price-sensitive market, according to Rukam Capital's Archana Jahagirdar. *[Business Standard]*

**71% of Indian SMEs sought external funding in 2024-CPA Australia Survey:** With one of the youngest entrepreneur bases in Asia-Pacific, India's SME sector is well-positioned to drive sustained growth and innovation, says the 2025 edition of the Asia-Pacific Small Business Survey. *[The Economic Times]*

**Assocham for upgrade of state, central policies to boost MSMEs:** Assocham advocates for policy reforms at national and state levels to improve the ease of doing business for small enterprises and foster a competitive MSME ecosystem. The industry body's paper identifies regulatory barriers in building and construction, environment, labor, and logistics. *[The Economic Times]*

**AI infrastructure startup Flam raises \$14 million in Series A round:** AI infrastructure startup Flam has raised \$14 million in its Series A round led by RTP Global, with participation from Dovetail and other strategic investors. With this round, Flam has raised a total of \$22 million to date. *[Business Standard]*

**SIDBI on MSMEs-Rs 30 lakh crore gap persists despite credit push, need for sector-focused policies:** The latest survey -- on the progress of Indian MSMEs and challenges faced -- noted that timely and adequate credit access is one of the key challenges for the MSME sector, which has an addressable credit gap of around Rs 30 lakh crore despite increasing credit supply. *[Financial Express]*

**MSMEs in Tier II, Tier III cities register 20% revenue spike after integrating with ONDC:** Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tier II and Tier III cities are reporting an average 20 per cent increase in revenue after integrating with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), according to data released by fintech firm Easy Pay. *[The Statesman]*



## Employment and Industrial Relations

**Job application by women in hardware engineering industry rises 26% in 2024:** India's hardware engineering sector is experiencing a notable shift, with a 26% surge in job applications from women in 2024, according to a WorkIndia report. This growth signifies increasing female participation in traditionally male-dominated tech roles. Overall tech job postings rose by 11%. *[The Economic Times]*

**India releases first-ever monthly unemployment data; April jobless rate at 5.1%:** In a landmark move, India on Thursday released its first monthly labour force and unemployment data, marking a shift toward real-time employment monitoring. *[The Economic Times]*

**8th Pay Commission-Central govt employees' real salary hike to be much lower despite 2.86 fitment factor – here's why:** Various employee organisations are demanding a high fitment factor. Some of them have demanded a fitment factor of 2.86 so that there can be a substantial increase in the current salaries and pensions of government employees and pensioners. *[Financial Express]*



## Industrial Finance

**IFCL is putting in place a framework and strategies to catalyse the process of green financing:** India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) plans to lay big focus green financing. It also feels that contrary to popular perception, private investors are coming in large ways. *[Business Line]*

**Hudco plans to refinance up to ₹7,000 crore of costly debt in FY26:** State-owned Housing & Urban Development Corporation (Hudco) plans to refinance old high-cost debt of up to ₹7,000 crore in financial year 2025-26 (FY26) to lower its cost of funds, taking advantage of softening interest rates in the system. *[Business Standard]*

**Filter Capital invests \$10 mn in trade discounting platform M1xchange:** Growth-stage investment firm Filter Capital on Monday said it has invested approximately USD 10 million (Rs 85 crore) in trade receivables discounting system platform M1xchange. *[Business Standard]*



## Technology and Innovation

**NxtCell ties up with Dixon's Padget to manufacture Alcatel phones in India:** NxtCell India has teamed up with Padget Electronics, a subsidiary of Dixon Technologies, to begin local production of Alcatel-branded devices in India, news agency PTI reported. *[Business Standard]*

**How India's \$54-billion BPO sector is being rewired by AI and Agentic AI:** The \$54 billion business process outsourcing (BPO) industry — long known for its human capital advantage and operational scale — is undergoing a transformation more profound than any seen since its start almost three decades ago. *[Business Standard]*

**Artificial intelligence checks in: How it is changing the travel sector:** The travel industry runs on personal interaction and here technology is making relationships more efficient. Travellers and service providers are leaning on artificial intelligence (AI) for more informed decisions. *[Business Standard]*

**India-made GPUs to be tech demo-ready by 2025, production by 2029:** The first made-in-India graphics processing units (GPUs) will likely be ready for technology demonstrations by the end of this year, sources told Business Standard. *[Business Standard]*



## Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

**Major ports' cargo handling rises 4.3% to 855 MT in FY25; Paradip, Deendayal cross 150 MT:** India's major ports experienced a 4.3% surge in cargo handling, reaching 855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25, fueled by container, fertilizer, and POL throughput. Paradip and Deendayal ports exceeded 150 MT, while JNPA achieved a record 7.3 million TEUs. *[The Economic Times]*

**India gives approval to Russia's Sberbank, other insurers for marine cover at its ports:** India approves three Russian insurers, including a Sberbank unit. They will provide marine cover for ships at Indian ports. This move helps Russia maintain oil supplies to India. India is a top buyer of Russian oil after China. *[The Economic Times]*

**Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal conducts comprehensive review of key maritime projects:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal reviewed key maritime projects in Mumbai, emphasizing smooth cargo operations and India's maritime leadership. He assessed the progress of projects like the National Maritime Heritage Complex, Vadhvan Port, Chabahar Port, and Sittwe Port. *[The Economic Times]*

**Govt mulls key changes in highway monetisation norms:** The government plans key changes in highway monetisation by offering smaller Toll Operate Transfer (ToT) bundles to boost investor interest and competition. Amid a pause in ToT, a review is underway to balance monetisation via ToT and InVIT to meet the Rs 30,000 crore annual target. *[Financial Express]*

**Uttar Pradesh government to develop 12 e-way hub across two expressways at Rs 425.43 crore:** The Uttar Pradesh government has prepared a detailed blueprint to develop 12 state-of-the-art e-way hubs along the Purvanchal and Bundelkhand Expressways. *[The Economic Times]*

**Entry barriers for shipbuilding cluster bids likely to be lowered:** The Centre is likely to lower the number of entry barriers in tenders floated for shipbuilding clusters across major ports, a top government official told Business Standard. *[Business Standard]*



## Sustainable Industrialisation

**₹50,000-crore wind investment in India at risk over new localisation rule:** A proposed rule of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy that mandates higher indigenisation of wind turbines has got the industry up in arms; many wind industry leaders have been writing to the ministry seeking more time for compliance. *[Business Line]*

**BC Jindal Group's JIRE secures 300-MW solar power project from SJVN:** BC Jindal Group's renewable energy arm JIRE on Monday said it has secured a 300-MW solar energy project from SJVN Ltd. The project is part of SJVN's 1,200-MW inter-state transmission system-connected solar power projects tender, which also includes 600 MW/2400 MW of battery energy storage systems (BESS). *[Business Standard]*

**ReNew Power to build Rs 22,000 crore RE facility in Andhra Pradesh:** Green energy major ReNew Power is set to unveil a ₹22,000 crore renewable project at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh on Friday. Touted as the largest renewable energy (RE) complex at a single location in India, the facility will have a generation capacity of around 2.5 gigawatt (Gw) and will include a battery energy storage system (BESS) of 1 gigawatt hour (GWh) in two phases. *[Business Standard]*

**Global forum hails India's leadership in driving Asia's energy transition:** A global forum focussed on climate protection has lauded India's progress in the renewable energy sector and said the country has a leadership role in Asia's energy transition. *[Business Standard]*

**Vikram Solar to supply 326 MW solar modules for Gujarat's renewable energy park project:** Vikram Solar has secured a substantial 326.625 MW solar module supply order from Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPL) for the Khavda Renewable Energy Park in Gujarat. *[The Economic Times]*

**Accelerating towards tomorrow: India's electric vehicle revolution:** Government initiatives, including the FAME and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, have bolstered local manufacturing and competitiveness. PM E Drive underscores India's policy dedication to innovation and sustainability in the EV sector. *[The Economic Times]*



## Sectoral News

**India PV growth likely at 1-2% in FY26; Maruti to outpace industry-Suzuki:** Japanese small car major Suzuki Motor Corporation on Monday said overall passenger vehicle wholesale in the Indian market is expected to grow around 1-2 per cent in 2025-26, with the company's arm Maruti Suzuki looking to outpace industry growth. *[Business Standard]*

**Policy clarity-Trai recommendations should pave way for satellite internet:** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has paved the way for commercial satellite internet service in India by issuing recommendations on pricing, duration, and allocation modalities of spectrum. *[Business Standard]*

**Chemical Industry to see gradual demand recovery in 2025:** B&K Research anticipates a gradual demand recovery in the global chemical industry in 2025. While 2024 saw modest improvements, companies are cautiously optimistic. Volume increases drove growth in FY24, but pricing remained weak. *[The Economic Times]*

**Term insurance becomes top financial priority for Gen Zs:** Term insurance has become the top financial priority for Gen Zs, driven by a strong desire for long-term security, affordability, and simplicity, a study has said. *[The Statesman]*

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