

# Industry Matters

Weekly Updates

March 27, 2026



## Economy, Industry and Policy

**Green industrial push 'strategic necessity', says EAC-PM chairman:** India's push for green industrialisation has become a "strategic necessity" with the conflict in West Asia exposing the fragility of global fuel markets, driving up prices of crude oil and gas, said S Mahendra Dev, chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). [*Business Standard*]

**Capex rebounds, revenue growth slows for states:** Capital expenditure by state governments during April-February points to a mixed but gradually improving investment cycle, with a handful of large states sustaining infrastructure spending even as others lag under fiscal pressure. [*Financial Express*]

**RBI's policy battle amid oil shock, rupee pressure to be complex as many challenges ahead:** The Reserve Bank of India faces a complex policy challenge amid rising energy prices, with trade-offs between inflation, growth, liquidity and currency stability, according to an Emkay Global Financial Services report. [*The Economic Times*]

**EPFO plans auto-settlement to clear Rs 5,200 crore in inoperative accounts:** The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is developing an auto-settlement system. This will help subscribers claim unclaimed money from inactive accounts. The facility will initially focus on Aadhaar-verified accounts with small balances. This initiative aims to clear idle funds efficiently. [*The Economic Times*]

**S&P lifts India FY27 GDP forecast to 7.1% on strong consumption, investment:** S&P Global Ratings said risks from renewed geopolitical tensions and persistent trade-related uncertainties could affect India through fluctuations in commodity prices. [*Business Standard*]

**Unincorporated sector establishments increased 8% last year, shows survey:** India's unincorporated sector saw nearly 8% growth in establishments and over 6% rise in employment in 2025, with GVA expanding 10.87%, reflecting steady expansion. [*Business Standard*]

**Govt restores full RoDTEP rates to support ailing exporters:** In a move that would give some relief to exporters grappling with trade disruptions due to the West Asia crisis, the government has restored full benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, reversing a sharp cut in rates announced last month. [*Business Line*]

**Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill 2026-27, advancing government's fiscal plans:** The Finance Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha. This marks a key step for the Central Government's financial plans for 2026-2027. The bill brings legal backing to budget proposals. Changes in taxes and duties will affect individuals and businesses. The budget focuses on growth, jobs, and inclusive development. [*The Economic Times*]

**The story behind promotions in PSBs and the growing need for reform:** For public sector bankers, March is the most hectic and emotionally draining month of the year. There's intense pressure to meet business targets. It continues into April to ensure statutory audits run smoothly and earnings calls go well with analysts. [*Business Standard*]

**India, US face off over e-commerce moratorium at WTO meet:** India has called for a "careful reconsideration" of the long-running e-commerce duty moratorium at the World Trade Organization at the

WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference at Yaounde given its significant implications, triggering a face-off with the US. *[Business Line]*

**High growth has not translated into meaningful job creation-Jayati Ghosh:** India's economic growth has not translated into sufficient job creation, with weak formal employment and low female participation, says economist Jayati Ghosh. *[Business Standard]*

**High energy prices may impact FY27 fiscal position; buffers available-ICRA:** Elevated global crude and gas prices may affect India's FY27 fiscal position, though buffers such as expenditure savings and fiscal tools could help manage pressures, ICRA said. *[Business Standard]*

**India's GDP growth above 7% in FY27 despite global headwinds-Assocham:** India's economy is expected to grow above 7% in FY27, supported by domestic demand and investment, even as geopolitical tensions and global slowdown risks persist. *[Business Standard]*



## Foreign Investment

**Attracting FDI-The Reform Imperative:** India faces an opportune moment to attract substantial Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amidst global capital shifts. While reforms for Foreign Portfolio Investments (FPI) have progressed, a sharper focus on simplifying FDI regulations and execution pathways is crucial. *[The Economic Times]*

**Revised FDI rules set to unlock India next growth phase and boost investment:** Policy allows limited non-controlling investments with faster approvals in key sectors to attract global capital and strengthen technology and industrial growth. *[The Telegraph]*

**China to recoup 2% share in Indian FDI after Press Note 3 changes:** Easing of Press Note 3 norms is expected to unlock a pipeline of pending proposals, potentially driving a near-term uptick in inflows from China, including Hong Kong, the report said. *[Business Standard]*

**Bosch, Tata AutoComp form joint venture to boost India's e-mobility push:** Technology and services provider Bosch Ltd on Monday announced the formation of a joint venture with Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd to cater to the requirements of electric mobility. *[Business Standard]*

**Net FDI negative for fifth straight month in January 2026 as outflows exceed inflows by \$1.4 billion:** Data from the RBI shows that the outflows were mainly driven by repatriation and disinvestment by foreign companies in India, while the gross amount of money entering India also contracted. *[The Hindu]*



## Trade Policy and Competitiveness

**Input costs may deny exporters edge gained from rupee at record low. Textiles, leather, agro products, carpets may benefit:** The Indian rupee has reached an unprecedented low against the US dollar. While this opens up favorable avenues for exporters, the simultaneous rise in raw material and energy costs is likely to negate these gains. Industries such as textiles and leather might experience slight improvements, yet others will grapple with inflated import bills. *[The Economic Times]*

**An opportunity in a crisis: Oil import dependence needs urgent policy fix:** The ongoing oil crisis risks becoming a lost opportunity unless the government outlines a clear plan to reform exploration policies and boost India's domestic crude oil output. *[Business Standard]*

**Supply woes spur call for easing quality curbs on critical imports:** Indian industries are seeking relaxed quality control rules. This move aims to secure vital components from alternative sources like China. Supply

chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict are impacting sectors such as automotive and electronics. The government is considering these requests to ease the current supply squeeze. *[The Economic Times]*

**Ahead of WTO's 14th ministerial meet, USTR pushes rethink in MFN norm:** The US has called for a rethink of the MFN trade principle ahead of WTO's 14th ministerial meet, citing changing economic realities and concerns over reciprocity. *[Business Standard]*

**WTO market access panel adopts outcome-tracking mechanism for trade concerns:** India, too, is party to concerns raised on seven issues against other members, including the EU's controversial Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and the EU Deforestation Regulation. *[Business Line]*



## Corporate Governance

**A structural reset in Indian M&A financing: RBI reforms reshape market:** India's mergers and acquisitions (M&As) and corporate financing landscape is entering a more dynamic phase. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) amendments to the October 2025 acquisition finance guidelines expand flexibility, strengthen safeguards and align regulatory intent with market evolution. *[Business Standard]*

**Private capex intention may moderate in FY27-NSO surveys:** India's private corporate sector reported a pick-up in capital expenditure (capex) in the current financial year, but investment plans signal a noticeable moderation heading into FY27, according to the latest forward-looking survey released by the National Statistics Office (NSO). *[Financial Express]*

**Sebi board approves tighter disclosures, FPI netting:** Sebi approves stricter conflict-of-interest norms for officials, mandates disclosures and investment curbs; allows FPI netting to ease liquidity pressure. *[Financial Express]*

**Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 referred to JPC-Easier CSR, buyback norms proposed in new bill:** The government has proposed to increase the minimum net profit threshold for mandatory corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending by companies to Rs 10 crore. This move aims to ease the burden on companies with nominal profits, allowing them to focus on growth rather than CSR contributions. *[Financial Express]*

**GAIL (India) Limited to acquire 49% stake in Leafiniti Bioenergy Private Limited:** The joint venture will focus on establishing multiple greenfield Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants across Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Odisha. *[Business Line]*



## MSMEs and Start-ups

**SilverX to invest in AI infra firms from its \$90-million Fund II:** SilverX Fund plans investments in AI infrastructure, deeptech and semiconductors from its \$90 million Fund II, focusing on scalable, profitable startups. *[Financial Express]*

**Finmin makes changes to Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to support MSMEs:** Finance Ministry on Saturday said that loans up to ₹100 crore for the purchase of plant, machinery and equipment by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will be eligible for guarantee coverage. *[Business Line]*

**Why can't some MSMEs scale if policy is on their side? The ET MSME Awards 2025 had answers:** The mood at the ET MSME Awards 2025 was cautiously optimistic. Headwinds such as manufacturing stress, credit gaps, and compliance overload exist, yes, but the policy architecture is shifting fast enough that the sector's champions believe the tide may finally be turning. *[The Economic Times]*

**AI-led wealthtech rising as VCs bet on a fintech disruption:** As middle-income Indians increasingly diversify beyond real estate and gold into financial assets, the investment thesis is evolving. New-age startups are leveraging AI to build products at lower cost and with greater efficiency. *[The Economic Times]*

**Collateral-free lending may widen risks for banks before helping MSMEs:** Mandating such a shift may not solve the problem. Ignoring information gaps and banning collateral risks weakening the financial system and could reduce, not expand, credit supply. *[Business Standard]*



## Employment and Industrial Relations

**Gratuity under new labour laws: Govt clears confusion, says rule applies from THIS date:** Government clarifies that gratuity under new labour codes will apply prospectively from November 21, 2025, ending confusion over retrospective impact. FAQs also explain wage rules, PF, overtime and fixed-term employee benefits. *[Financial Express]*

**Govt weighs expanding social security with insurance cover for 32 cr unorganised, gig and platform workers:** The Union Labour and Employment Ministry is considering expanding social security with insurance cover to at least 32 crore unorganised, gig and platform workers to fulfil the mandate provided by the four Labour Codes which are in the final stages of implementation. *[Business Line]*

**Employment in India's unincorporated sector surges to 128.1 million in 2025:** India's small businesses created 7.5 million new jobs in 2025. Total jobs reached 128.1 million, a significant rise. The services sector led job growth, followed by trade and manufacturing. Gross value added also increased, with rural establishments showing strong performance. *[The Economic Times]*

**Labour codes push 4 in 5 firms to rework pay, hiring:** India's new labour codes are driving significant changes in employment, with most employers revising salaries and facing higher costs. This is prompting a moderation in wage growth and a strategic recalibration of workforce models. *[The Economic Times]*



## Industrial Finance

**States receive full Rs 1.5 L cr capex loan support for FY26:** Centre meets FY26 target of Rs 1.5 lakh crore interest-free capex loans to states under SASCI, supporting over 9,000 infrastructure projects. *[Financial Express]*

**Govt unveils Rs 20K-crore credit guarantee scheme for MFIs:** The government has introduced the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0), a targeted initiative designed to strengthen the microfinance ecosystem and support small borrowers. *[Financial Express]*

**Banks seek NRI deposit window, tax relief as liquidity tightens:** India's financial markets are turning up the heat on policymakers, seeking tax relief for foreign investors and a revival of NRI-focused deposit schemes to ease a tightening liquidity environment. *[Financial Express]*

**VinFast Auto India partners with CSB Bank for EV financing:** VinFast Auto India has partnered with CSB Bank to offer auto and inventory financing for its dealer network and customers. The tie-up will provide credit solutions for buyers of its electric SUVs, VF 6 and VF 7, and support dealer operations as the company expands in India. *[The Economic Times]*



## Technology and Innovation

**T-Hub incubated chip design startup Deepgrid Semi looking to raise ₹25 cr:** Semiconductor chip designer and manufacturing startup, Deepgrid Semi, is looking to raise ₹25 crore to begin tape-out and marketing of its artificial intelligence-powered System-on-Chip (SoC) solutions for Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). *[Business Standard]*

**AI servers drive policy rethink on PLI scheme:** MeitY flags need to reassess PLI incentives amid rise of AI servers, as India looks to boost domestic value addition and manufacturing. *[Financial Express]*

**China's AI ambitions, and ours** While Washington debates how artificial intelligence may influence the next phase of warfare, and New Delhi focuses on attracting global technology investment, Beijing is building that may sound almost dull: data exchanges. *[Business Line]*

**Tata Communications launches AI-powered self-healing network for data centre connectivity:** The platform is designed to automatically re-route network traffic within seconds during disruptions — such as cable outages, route failures or sudden demand spikes — without manual intervention. *[Business Line]*



## Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

**Adani Green Energy commissions 510 MW capacity power projects in Gujarat:** Adani Green Energy on Monday said it has operationalised 510 megawatt of power projects in Khavda, Gujarat. With the commissioning of the plants, its total operational renewable generation capacity has increased to 17,982.3 megawatt (MW), Adani Green Energy said in an exchange filing. *[Business Line]*

**India-Africa meet focuses on grid planning and financing in energy transition:** India and Africa are boosting their energy partnership. Leaders met at the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 to focus on executing energy transition projects. They emphasized grid planning, new financing methods, and working together across the electricity sector. *[The Economic Times]*

**BOT snub-Rs 22,000 crore highway projects fail to attract bids:** Private companies are shying away from four major highway projects totaling ₹22,000 crore. Concerns over contract terms, especially dispute resolution and tight timelines, are deterring bidders. Developers cite a lack of arbitration provisions and unrealistic project durations as key risks. *[The Economic Times]*

**India can mobilise Rs 8 lakh cr per year for road projects-Gadkari:** India's highways sector can attract Rs 8 lakh crore annually for road projects. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari highlighted slow spending as a key challenge. He announced new projects in Pune and a Mumbai-Bengaluru expressway. *[The Economic Times]*

**AM/NS India lays foundation for ₹70,000 crore steel plant in Andhra:** AM/NS India has begun construction of a major steel plant in Anakapalli, Andhra Pradesh. This significant project represents a Rs 70,000 crore investment. The plant will have an initial capacity of 8.2 million tonnes. *[The Economic Times]*

**Dredging Corporation of India eyes Rs 3,000 crore topline, targets new markets and mega projects:** Dredging Corporation of India plans a significant expansion, targeting a Rs 3,000 crore topline within six years. The company will explore new markets and business ventures, including dams and reservoirs. This growth aligns with the government's focus on maritime development and inland waterways. *[The Economic Times]*

**A war lesson-The road to energy security runs on electricity:** The key lesson of the present trauma is that we should give up thinking of gas as an intermediate fuel and accelerate our transition away from oil and gas. *[The Indian Express]*

**Infrastructure projects see ₹5.66 lakh crore cost overrun, says government report:** Several infrastructure projects worth above Rs 150 crore each registered a cumulative cost overrun of Rs 5.66 lakh crore, according to a monthly government report for February 2026. *[Business line]*



## Sustainable Industrialisation

**Realising solar power's potential for energy security:** Recent geopolitical tensions in the Gulf have once again highlighted the fragility of global energy supply chains. For a country like India, heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, improving energy security is both an economic and strategic priority. *[Business Line]*

**JSW MG Motor India looks to leverage on non-metros to accelerate sales of EV Windsor:** With 70 per cent of its best-selling electric vehicle model Windsor coming from non-metros, JSW MG Motor India is stepping up efforts to accelerate sales by leveraging the opportunity through increased awareness, according to a senior company official. *[Business Line]*

**Delhi government eyes private push to expand EV infrastructure ahead of policy rollout:** With the existing electric vehicle (EV) policy set to lapse by March-end, the government plans to finalise and notify the revised policy by then, looking to table the policy in the upcoming budget session. *[The Economic Times]*

**Tata Steel partners with Hindustan Zinc for sustainable steel manufacturing:** Tata Steel and Hindustan Zinc have joined forces. They will use EcoZen, a low-carbon zinc, in steel production. This partnership aims to make steel manufacturing more sustainable. EcoZen uses renewable energy and has a much lower carbon footprint. *[The Economic Times]*

**NeuEN JV Wins 10,000 TPA Green Hydrogen Supply Deal from Numaligarh Refinery:** NeuEN Green Energy will supply 10,000 tonnes of green hydrogen annually to Numaligarh Refinery Limited. A new green hydrogen production facility will be established at the refinery in Assam. Commercial operations are scheduled to commence in 2028. *[The Economic Times]*



## Sectoral News

**Uttar Pradesh to get major pharma boost with ₹2,500 crore investment:** Uttar Pradesh is ramping up investments in pharma parks and medical device manufacturing to emerge as a major healthcare production hub in South Asia. *[Business Standard]*

**Bima Sugam Scheme Explained – Will it make insurance more affordable?:** Bima Sugam portal nears launch, with insurers preparing zero-commission motor, health and life products to make insurance cheaper and more accessible. *[Financial Express]*

**CIE scheme to be notified by mid-2026 to boost equipment manufacturing:** The government will notify the CIE incentive scheme by mid-2026 to boost domestic manufacturing, raise value addition, and attract investments in construction equipment. *[Business Standard]*

**Telecom sector braces for higher expenses as diesel price increases:** India's telecom sector, one of the major consumers of diesel, is bracing for higher operating expenses (opex) following the hike in price of bulk diesel by ₹22 per litre from March 21 sold to industrial users by oil marketing companies (OMCs). *[Business Standard]*

**Copper import dependence surges, Niti Aayog, experts call for reforms to push mining:** India's growing natural resource gap affects the base metals sector, the energy sector, and the emerging areas of critical minerals and rare earths. *[Financial Express]*

**Datanomics-India's gems and jewellery export growth flat in FY26:** Nearly half of the pearls and precious stones coming to India were imported from UAE in FY26 (till Jan). The UAE also supplied around 23% of India's gold imports in the same period. [*Business Standard*]

**India must aim to become a global aviation hub:** India stands on the cusp of an aviation revolution. As the world's third-largest domestic aviation market and projected to become the third largest globally by 2030, the potential for growth is immense. [*Business Line*]

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