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Industry Matters

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Economy, Industry and Policy

As India urbanizes, rural places reclassified as urban should not deprive anyone of welfare benefits: A binary classification of areas as urban or rural doesn't reflect today's reality of urbanization, but state programmes still go by it. This could result in abrupt cut-offs from schemes that vulnerable households depend on. Here's what policymakers should consider that's both doable and just. *[Mint]*

CBIC to step up outreach as EMI scheme struggles to attract manufacturers: The CBIC will conduct outreach programs to encourage EMI scheme adoption. Data and documentation requirements for the scheme have been substantially reduced. This aims to improve cash flow management for eligible manufacturers. *[The Economic Times]*

India's middle-income trap has a problem money may fix: Economist Thomas Piketty says India can escape the middle-income trap through massive investment in education, healthcare and infrastructure, while deeper global cooperation is needed for inclusive growth. *[The Economic Times]*

NITI seeks easier access to geological data, capital for small exploration companies: Niti Aayog recommends government support for junior exploration firms and increased private participation. Streamlining approvals and forest procedures will reduce project delays significantly. Harmonizing renewable energy rules and addressing GST for logistics are also advised. *[The Economic Times]*

Taxman's JAARing move opens fresh debate over Mauritius treaty: The recent invocation of JAAR, a GAAR-type tool in the armoury of the taxman, in a certain case has stunned many. Even though technically the tax department has the power to invoke JAAR, the recent move was entirely unforeseen following the CBDT assurance and subsequent change in the law to spare grandfathered shares from GAAR. *[The Economic Times]*

India's big projects need continuity as much as capital: Long-gestation investments are reshaping India's industrial landscape, emphasizing the need for leadership continuity to navigate risks and build sustainable manufacturing capacity for the future. *[Financial Express]*

35 yrs of liberalisation-Tax system makes progress, but reforms unfinished: India's tax system has come a long way since 1991, but simplifying GST, clearing tax disputes and improving taxpayer services remain key priorities. *[Business Standard]*

Eliminating non-tariff barriers, smooth payment mechanism key to boosting BRICS trade-EEPC India: The country's apex engineering exports promotion body, EEPC India, on Sunday called for eliminating non-tariff barriers and having a smooth payment mechanism among BRICS nations to boost trade. *[Business Line]*

BRICS fin mins, central bank chiefs raise concerns on unilateral trade and finance-related measures: BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors voiced concerns over unilateral trade measures. They backed efforts for cross-border payment interoperability and local-currency settlements. The group also called for reforms of international financial institutions for greater representation. *[The Economic Times]*

Monetary skew-RBI must not let its liquidity moves work against its rate-setting panel's decisions: A dollar deluge has placed the Reserve Bank of India's liquidity management in focus and instances of it being out of whack with the monetary policy committee's interest-rate decisions suggest it might be time to revisit the latter's remit. *[Mint]*

Centre eases export compliance for shipments up to Rs 3 lakh, seeks 5-year RoDTEP extension: Exporters will not need a registration certificate for shipments valued up to three lakh rupees. This change reduces compliance burdens for new and small businesses entering overseas markets. The government is also seeking a five-year extension for the RoDTEP export promotion scheme. *[The Economic Times]*

India's 'missing' trillions in nominal GDP are not a mystery but the result of a statistical upgrade: Questions have arisen over India's GDP data for the first quarter of 2026-27, but we should let the numbers do the talking. Downward revisions of past data are explained by better calculations while today's economic momentum is hard to dispute. *[Mint]*

Bank of India raised $2.4 bn FCNR-B deposits, Indian Bank $2.3 bn: The state-owned lenders are using cheaper foreign-currency funding to meet rupee liquidity needs, extend loans and reduce dependence on high-cost deposits and borrowings. *[Business Standard]*

Rising inflation sparks buzz of early rate hike: The simultaneous rise in the two inflation gauges points to intensifying price pressures across the economy. *[Mint]*

Govt paves way for banks to levy charges on UPI payments above ₹2,000: MDR is the fee that merchants pay to banks and payment service providers for processing digital payment transactions. *[Business Standard]*

Foreign Investment

Niti flags low FDI in mining, calls for reforms: NITI Aayog advocates policy coordination, faster mine operationalisation, and regulatory reforms to boost foreign investment and global trade share in India's mining and metals sector. *[Financial Express]*

India should aim to attract at least $100 billion a year in net FDI—but much reform work must be done for that: The country should aim to attract FDI that can embed India in global value chains, build export capacity, transfer technology and create competitive domestic supply chains. However, turning globally competitive to join value chains requires reform action on many key fronts simultaneously. *[Mint]*

How Daiichi-Fortis ruling could hurt FDI: Foreign investors need to know that when they enter through the front door, rules governing the transaction will continue to mean something after the deal is done. *[Financial Express]*

PwC US, PwC India form JV to combine advisory talent, capabilities: The venture will combine PwC India's consulting business with PwC US Advisory's India-based capabilities; transaction expected to close in H1 2027. *[Business Standard]*

WTO cites India-EFTA trade deal as unilateral mechanism to achieve market access outcome: Trade agreements beyond the multilateral trading system can also offer examples whereby unilateral enforcement mechanisms have been tailored to the particular market access outcome arrived upon, according to the WTO's World Trade Report 2026. *[The Economic Times]*

Trade Policy and Competitiveness

India-EU FTA opens premium car mkt, gives Indian firms larger export quota: European carmakers get a first-year quota of 100,000 ICE and hybrid cars, while Indian-origin vehicles priced up to 50,000 euros get access to a 250,000-unit EU quota. *[Business Standard]*

India's carbon market shifts from compliance to trade: India's nascent carbon market is rapidly moving beyond a domestic emissions-compliance mechanism to become a trade and industrial competitiveness tool, as the government begins integrating carbon pricing into its trade strategy and overseas markets start recognising costs paid under the country's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). *[Financial Express]*

India to set up central processing department for faceless trade facilitation: A central processing department will be established within the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. This new unit aims to implement a faceless trade facilitation system for businesses. The system is scheduled for national dedication during the second fortnight of October 2026. It will enable faceless, paperless, and jurisdiction-free processing of trade applications. *[The Economic Times]*

A 'Prisoner's Dilemma' is driving the trade war & the costs could be huge: The WTO's World Trade Report 2026 says global trade is caught in a "Prisoner's Dilemma": countries have an incentive to protect their own markets, but when everyone raises tariffs and restricts imports, retaliation can shrink trade, raise prices and leave all sides worse off. *[The Economic Times]*

BRICS pushes local-currency trade to cut transaction costs: At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, member countries prioritized national currency trade settlements and cross-border payment interoperability over a single BRICS currency, while opposing unilateral tariffs and WTO disruption. *[Financial Express]*

BRICS trade in numbers-What exports, imports and $226 billion deficit reveal as global leaders gather in New Delhi: BRICS Summit today: With the US dollar's dominance being questioned, BRICS' economic dynamics and India's role within it could redefine global trade relationships. Dive into the intricate details!. *[Mint]*

Trade fragmentation could hit poor economies nearly four times harder than rich ones, WTO warns: Global trade fragmentation will severely impact the world's poorest economies. Least-developed countries could see GDP fall significantly by 2050. These nations rely heavily on international trade and global production networks. *[The Economic Times]*

No major change in imports, exports after India-EU FTA-Schaeffler India MD: Schaeffler India MD and CEO Harsha Kadam says the pact will offer similar tariff benefits to European companies, limiting any major competitive advantage for the firm. *[Business Standard]*

India-Russia target $100 billion trade by 2030; BIT fast-tracked as Goyal eyes pharma, textiles and auto exports: India and Russia aim to boost their bilateral trade to an impressive hundred billion dollars by 2030, focusing on growth in key sectors such as pharmaceuticals and textiles. A new bilateral investment treaty is set to enhance legal confidence for investors, while improvements in local currency settlement will ease transaction hurdles. *[The Economic Times]*

Corporate Governance

Tata Sons to take up top leadership, IPO issues on Sep 17 after RBI missive: Board members could back a third term for Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran. The support is believed to have been strengthened after the RBI directive. *[Business Standard]*

Search rankings-When consumer law issue meets competition law: For digital platforms, the challenge from Jan 2027 will be to demonstrate not merely that information is disclosed, but that disclosure, design of platform enable genuinely informed consumer choice. *[Business Standard]*

IBBI proposes tighter checks on personal guarantors, "related" creditors: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has issued a discussion paper proposing tighter rules for personal guarantor insolvency, including barring related-party voting, mandating independent asset valuations, and scrutinizing avoidable transactions. *[Financial Express]*

Insolvency regulator mulls tighter safeguards for personal guarantee insolvency: India's insolvency regulator is proposing tighter safeguards for personal guarantor cases, including zero voting rights for related-party creditors, independent asset valuations and scrutiny of questionable transactions. *[The Economic Times]*

Wanted, a fit and proper director-Bill proposes tighter governance norms: Independent directors (IDs), who are meant to safeguard shareholder interests by providing an objective check on company management, have often found themselves in the eye of corporate storms. Now, the Corporate Laws Amendment Bill 2026 could ease some risks associated with taking up an independent directorship, while also seeking greater accountability from them. *[Business Standard]*

MSMEs and Start-ups

Brics 2026-Delhi Declaration backs startup fund, incubator network: Brics members back greater startup cooperation through a proposed innovation fund, incubator network and virtual platform for youth-led startups under the New Delhi Declaration. *[Business Standard]*

From local strength to global supply chains-The challenges before Tamil Nadu MSMEs: Despite the benefits of a cluster-based industrial ecosystem, MSMEs in Tamil Nadu continue to face challenges such as limited awareness of government schemes, cumbersome processes, and a higher dependence on exports, which hold them back from realising their full growth potential. *[The Economic Times]*

Beyond the unicorn-why India needs a real innovation index: A National Innovation Index would score startups on innovation and inclusive growth. A National Transmission Index would score the government on delivery. Together, they would form a closed, positive-feedback loop that accelerates the economy towards Viksit Bharat. *[Mint]*

FISME calls for easier trade finance, tech access for MSMEs under Brics: FISME said Brics cooperation should move beyond sharing experiences and create mechanisms that help smaller firms trade, invest and adopt technologies. *[Business Standard]*

CBIC to handhold MSMEs as less than 1,000 join customs duty payment scheme: With less than 1,000 businesses opting for the EMI scheme, the CBIC 'substantially reduced' the data and documentation requirements for businesses who enrol under the scheme. *[Business Standard]*

Employment and Industrial Relations

EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25000 per month; over 10 million formal sector workers to benefit: The enhanced wage ceiling, approved by the Cabinet on Wednesday, will put additional financial burden on employees and the government while the employees may see a dip in take home salary. As per government estimates, the average additional outgo for employers will be Rs 600 per worker per month under the enhanced wage ceiling, which comes into effect from Thursday. *[The Economic Times]*

India Inc's apprenticeship participation remains limited to 30%: Only thirty percent of registered establishments actively provide apprenticeship training. Administrative issues and stipend payment delays hinder wider participation in the scheme. Government data shows a dip in dropout rates, which is expected to boost apprentice numbers. *[The Economic Times]*

India's 647 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes shift to digital platforms: The 647 Rural Self Employment Training Institutes are moving to a digital platform from paper-based assessments, aiming to improve transparency and speed. The reform links skills, certification, and credit, helping rural youth turn training into sustainable livelihoods. *[Mint]*

India's unemployment rate eases to 5% in August from 5.1% in July: India's unemployment rate for adults (15+) dipped slightly to 5% in August, down from 5.1% in July. This is even better than the 5.2% economists had predicted in a Reuters poll, suggesting a positive trend in the job market. *[The Economic Times]*

Industrial Finance

RBI clarifies principal business rules for NBFCs, CIC definition after Tata Sons CoR rejection: The Reserve Bank of India has clarified definitions for financial activity and core investment companies. This clarification follows the rejection of Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration. Companies must meet specific asset and income thresholds to be regulated by the central bank. *[The Economic Times]*

Vi eyes ₹35,000-crore loan to fund next decade's capex: Vodafone Idea is arranging a significant loan to fund its capital expenditures. State Bank of India has approved a substantial portion of this ₹35,000-crore. Kumar Mangalam Birla's continued chairmanship is a condition for this long-term financing. *[The Economic Times]*

Chip maker Applied Materials to invest Rs 3,600 crore-Karnataka minister: According to a statement issued by the Minister's office, with the signed MoU for the project being received, Patil explained that Applied Materials would focus its investment on research and development, manufacturing of essential equipment, and developing software technologies required for semiconductor chip production. *[The Economic Times]*

Centralised interoperable digital layer can help bridge Rs 60 lakh crore MSME credit gap: India's MSME sector faces a significant formal credit gap, with existing channels meeting limited debt demand. A new digital layer can connect businesses, banks, and payment providers to bridge this gap. *[The Economic Times]*

Fintech rules must match risks, not make firms resemble banks-RBI's Murmu: RBI Deputy Governor Shirish Chandra Murmu says regulation should address risks appropriately while allowing responsible innovation and experimentation to scale. *[Business Standard]*

Technology and Innovation

Four priorities for India's AI policy: A policy framework is needed to prevent India from becoming dependent on others and to retain some control over AI. *[Business Standard]*

Odisha AI CoE gets MeitY nod, Blue Cloud to invest ₹4 crore in centre: STPI will implement the Bhubaneswar centre under the IndiaAI Mission, with Blue Cloud providing funding, industry leadership, mentorship and strategic support to startups. *[Business Standard]*

FM Sitharaman for AI safeguards to keep pace with rapid tech evolution: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman calls for stronger AI safeguards, human oversight and regulatory coordination while warning against emerging systemic risks. *[Business Standard]*

Xi proposes China-led AI ecosystem: At the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed leading a BRICS AI open-source community, expanding digital cloud platforms, creating an engineer alliance, and boosting intelligent manufacturing cooperation across developing economies. *[Financial Express]*

Bank of Baroda's new mobile app to help customers make payments using voice commands: Bank of Baroda launched its updated mobile application, bob World 2.0, with new features. This app now allows users to make payments using voice commands and navigate functionalities. It also includes a personal finance management module for better financial wellness. *[The Economic Times]*

Industrial Infrastructure, Clusters and SEZs

FSEZ clears ₹3,406 crore SiCSem semiconductor unit near Bhubaneswar: The integrated facility at Info Valley-II will manufacture SiC diodes and MOSFETs, with projected five-year exports of ₹7,043 crore and employment for around 1,270 people. *[Business Standard]*

Yogi Cabinet clears ethanol plant in Mathura, new toy manufacturing policy: Sugarcane Minister Chaudhary Lakshmi Narayan said the Cabinet had approved a proposal to restart the sugar mill in Chhata tehsil of Mathura district, which had been closed 19 years ago. *[Business Standard]*

India's Data Centre development pipeline through 2030 reaches 3,860 MW: India's data centre pipeline is projected to reach 3,860 MW by 2030. This expansion requires nearly $29.9 billion in development capital for the country. APAC data centre capacity will grow 2.7 times by 2030. Mumbai leads with 890 MW operational capacity and significant upcoming supply. *[The Economic Times]*

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders to invest ₹27,000 cr to set up shipbuilding cluster in Raigad: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) will invest around ₹27,000 crore to establish a greenfield shipbuilding cluster at Dighi in Raigad district, in a move expected to generate 90,000 jobs, the Maharashtra government said on Tuesday. *[Business Line]*

Can BRICS turn its expanded footprint into deeper economic bloc? Xi pitches SEZ network, trade links: Chinese President Xi Jinping proposes linking special economic zones across expanded BRICS members to enhance trade, investment, supply chains, and AI cooperation by 2027. *[Financial Express]*

How is Odisha positioning itself for large-scale investments in critical minerals and ports?: CM Mohan Majhi said Odisha offers rich resources, industrial strength, strategic location and growing infrastructure. *[Financial Express]*

SEZ Port City Colombo woos tech cos to derisk India ops: Port City Colombo is attracting technology companies from India seeking to diversify risks. This special economic zone offers a lower cost of doing business compared to Singapore. Indian firms can leverage Port City Colombo for access to the RCEP trading bloc. *[The Economic Times]*

Sustainable Industrialisation

Smart tech powers India's energy needs: Smart grid technology and modern transmission infra are critical for country's renewable-powered economic agenda. *[Business Standard]*

India's $140 million/GW solar race-Why Jefferies expects 90% localisation by 2030: India has rapidly grown into the world's second-largest solar PV manufacturer by localizing 90% of its solar supply chain through phased government mandates, boosting cell capacity and reducing imports. This strategic push favors financially strong companies able to invest in integrated manufacturing amid rising domestic demand and competition with thermal power. *[Financial Express]*

Transmission upgrades, coal flexibilisation-How India is planning to unlock green power: India's green power push faces grid, storage and coal-flexibility hurdles as renewables surge toward 500 GW by 2030. Read what's next. *[Financial Express]*

Luminous Power plans ₹2,000 crore investment in solar manufacturing: Luminous Power Technologies plans to invest ₹2,000 crore over five years as it targets 3X growth through solar manufacturing, batteries and energy storage. *[Business Standard]*

Brics declaration eyes deeper cooperation on sustainable transport systems: Brics nations seek deeper cooperation on sustainable transport, resilient supply chains, urban mobility and infrastructure under the New Delhi Declaration. *[Business Standard]*

Sectoral News

SEMICON 2.0-Building a resilient chip ecosystem from 'silicon to systems' – What to expect?: SEMICON 2.0: The programme is designed to support important technologies and strengthen domestic capabilities in areas critical to national security, communications, automotive manufacturing, AI, electronics and industrial systems. *[Financial Express]*

India's semiconductor sector draws $1.4 bn funding, half of it since 2025: India's semiconductor sector has attracted $1.4 billion in all-time equity funding across 281 funded companies, with nearly half of this amount - $701 million - raised since 2025 alone, according to data from Tracxn. *[Business Standard]*

India secures 1.64 MT steel access under EU FTA: India has negotiated country-specific tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) for 1.64 million tonnes of steel under its FTA with the European Union, safeguarding exporters from the EU's new 50% out-of-quota import tariffs. *[Financial Express]*

Satcom to play key complementary role in reaching remote areas-TRAI Chairman: India is set to enhance connectivity in its challenging and remote areas through satellite communications. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has advised the government on allocating spectrum for broadband services. Companies like Starlink and OneWeb are waiting for essential approvals. *[The Economic Times]*

Leather, footwear exports may hit $5.5 billion as UK, EU trade pacts boost growth: CLE Chairman Juneja: India's leather exports are projected to reach USD 5.5 billion by 2026-27. Trade pacts with the UK and EU will significantly boost these future exports. The India-UK agreement offers zero-duty access for Indian leather goods. The sector currently employs over 4.4 million people. *[The Economic Times]*

Favourable ecosystem helps auto industry post record August sales: SIAM: Wholesale dispatches across major vehicle segments surged in August, supported by consumer confidence, rural demand and improving financing conditions. *[Business Line]*

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