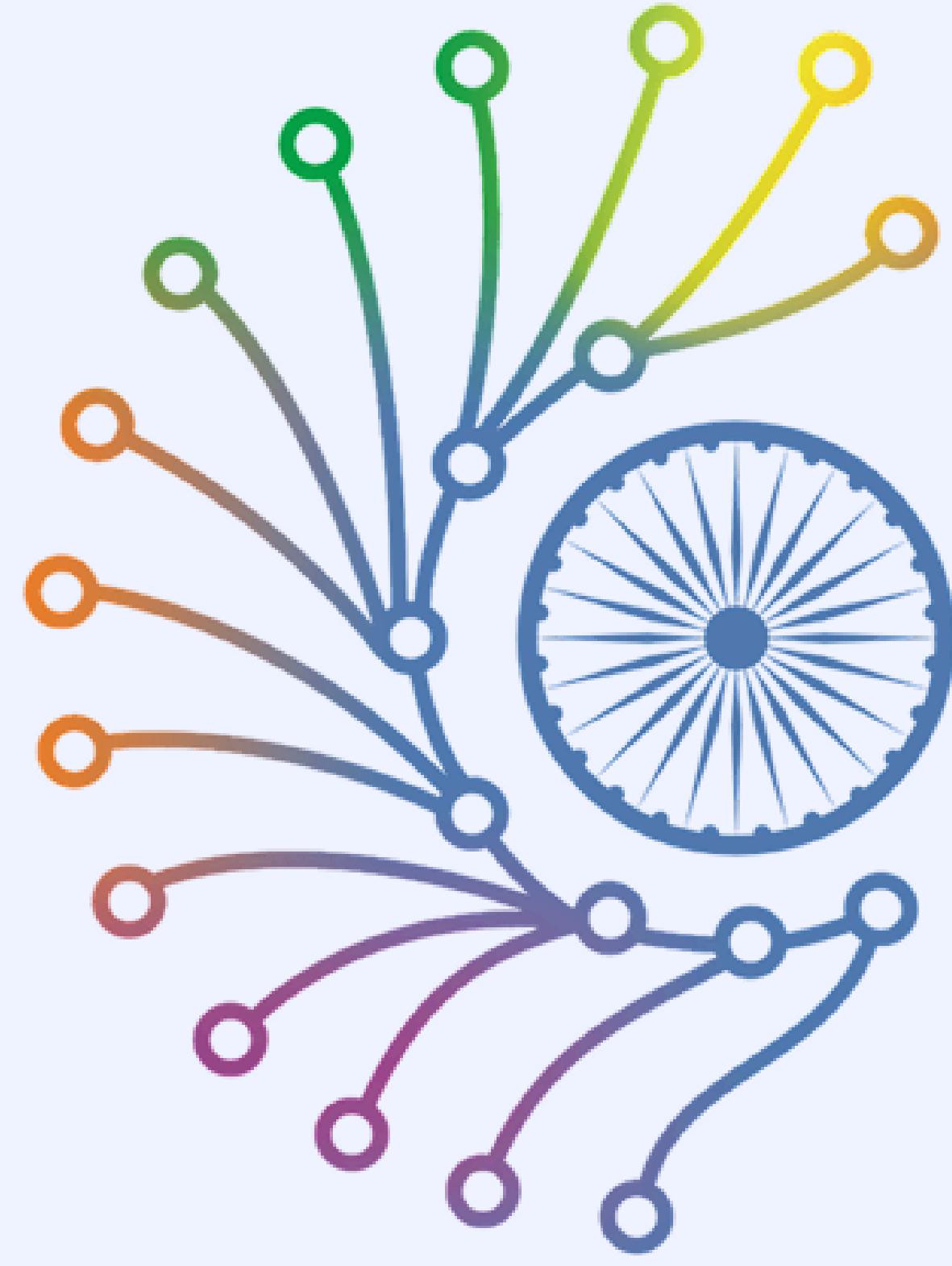


Newsletter

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026



AI IMPACT SUMMIT भारत 2026 INDIA

India's Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is hosting the India - AI Impact Summit 2026, Scheduled from 19-20 February 2026 in New Delhi. It will be the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South, focusing on inclusive growth and featuring regional conferences. It will bring together experts, leaders, world organisations, students and innovators from all over the world to discuss how the transformative power of AI serves humanity, drives inclusive growth, fosters social development and promotes people-centric innovation to protect our planet. French President Emmanuel Macron had already confirmed that he would be paying a visit to India and attend the AI Impact Summit 2026.

[READ MORE: AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026](#)

GERMAN CHANCELLOR FRIEDRICH MERZ TO PAY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA

Chancellor of Germany, Friedrich Merz, will pay an official visit to India on 12th and 13th January at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This will be Chancellor Merz's first official visit to India. He will be travelling to Ahmedabad and Bengaluru. The two leaders will take stock of the progress made in diverse aspects of the India-Germany Strategic Partnership, which completed 25 years last year. The discussion will also focus on further intensifying cooperation in trade and investment, technology, education, skilling and mobility, while also advancing collaboration in important domains of defence and security, science, innovation and research, green and sustainable development, and people-to-people relations.



Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Merz will also engage with business and industry leaders and exchange views on issues of regional and global importance. The visit will build on the momentum generated by regular interactions at the highest political level. It will provide an opportunity to reaffirm the shared vision of India and Germany to build a forward-looking partnership for the benefit of the people of both countries and the wider global community.

[READ MORE: GERMAN CHANCELLOR FRIEDRICH MERZ TO PAY FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA](#)

INDIAN RAILWAYS BECOME BIGGEST ELECTRIFIED RAIL SYSTEM GLOBALLY



Indian Railways has become one of the most extensively electrified rail systems in the world. Nearly all of India's 70-thousand route-kilometre broad-gauge network is now powered by electricity. Till November last year, over 99% of its entire network was already electrified, marking a major milestone. The pace of electrification has risen sharply - from about one and a half kilometres per day between 2004 and 2014 to over 15 kilometres per day in the last six years. Indian Railways has also expanded its use of renewable energy, with solar power capacity reaching nearly 900 megawatts by November last year, up from just under four megawatts in 2014.

[READ MORE: INDIAN RAILWAYS BECOME BIGGEST ELECTRIFIED RAIL SYSTEM GLOBALLY](#)

INDIA ASSUMES BRICS PRESIDENCY



India on Thursday officially took over the rotating presidency of the BRICS grouping for 2026, a role in which New Delhi is expected to emphasise inclusive development and elevate the concerns of the Global South in global economic decision-making. India's chairmanship is structured around four pillars - Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Environmental Stability/Sustainability. India will host the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026.

READ MORE: [INDIA ASSUMES BRICS PRESIDENCY](#)

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

INDIA'S GDP ESTIMATED TO GROW BY 7.4% IN 2025-26



The real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been estimated to grow by 7.4% in 2025-26 against the growth rate of 6.5% during the last fiscal year. As per the first advance estimates of GDP for the current financial year, the real GDP is estimated to attain a level of over US\$ 2.23 trillion in the current financial year, against the provisional estimates of GDP for 2024-25 of over US\$ 2.08 trillion. The buoyant growth in the services sector has been found to be a major driver in the estimated real growth. Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to the broadcasting sector have been estimated to grow by 7.5% during this fiscal. The manufacturing and construction in the secondary sector have been estimated to achieve a growth rate of seven per cent.

READ MORE: [INDIA'S GDP ESTIMATED TO GROW BY 7.4% IN 2025-26](#)

INDIA POISED TO BECOME US\$ 26 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2047-48: EY REPORT

Even while maintaining a stable yet moderate growth rate averaging around 6% per annum, India is projected to become a US\$ 26 trillion economy by 2047-48, with per capita income exceeding US\$ 15,000, nearly six times the current level, according to a report by Ernst & Young (EY). The report said several key growth enablers uniquely position India to strengthen its standing in the global economy over the next decade and beyond. India is expected to overtake Germany and Japan to become the world's third-largest economy after China and the United States by 2030.



The report noted that India's growth projections remain the highest among major global economies over the coming decades. The report highlighted that consistent government backing over the past decade in building India's Digital Public Infrastructure has yielded significant economic benefits, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Between 2014 and 2019, the digital economy grew at an annual rate of 15.6% in absolute US dollar terms - 2.4 times faster than the overall Indian economy.

READ MORE: [INDIA POISED TO BECOME US\\$ 26 TRILLION ECONOMY BY 2047-48: EY REPORT](#)

INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST RICE PRODUCER

India has become the world's largest producer of rice, surpassing China. This was stated by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in New Delhi. He said India's rice production has reached 150.18 million tonnes, compared to China's 145.28 million tonnes. Mr. Chouhan said India is now supplying rice in overseas markets. The minister unveiled 184 improved varieties of 25 field crops developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at an event held in the national capital. The 184 released varieties include 122 cereals, 6 pulses, 13 oilseeds, 11 fodder crops, 6 sugarcane, 24 cotton, and one each of jute and tobacco.

[READ MORE: INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S LARGEST RICE PRODUCER](#)

REFORMS, INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH AND EXPORT GROWTH PROPEL INDIA'S TEXTILE SECTOR

The year 2025 marked a defining phase for India's textile sector, with the Ministry of Textiles accelerating reforms, infrastructure development and export promotion to strengthen India's global competitiveness while ensuring inclusive growth across the value chain. India's textile and apparel exports registered growth in 2025, reaching US\$ 37.8 billion and reinforcing the country's position as the world's sixth-largest exporter. Traditional markets such as the US, EU and UK remained dominant, while emerging destinations contributed a growing share.



The ministry reiterated its Vision 2030 target of US\$ 100 billion in textile exports, driven by market diversification, sustainability and innovation across more than 500 exporting districts nationwide. Bharat Tex 2025 emerged as India's largest global textile event, drawing over 120,000 trade visitors from more than 120 countries and showcasing the full spectrum of India's textile capabilities. The event reinforced India's "Farm to Fibre, Fabric, Fashion and Foreign Markets" vision and underscored its ambition to triple textile exports by 2030.

[READ MORE: INDIA'S TEXTILE SECTOR](#)

INDIA'S PHARMA SECTOR BULLISH ON EXPORT GROWTH

India's pharmaceutical exports reached US\$ 30.47 billion in FY 2024-25, registering a year-on-year growth of 9.4%, and are on track to surpass last year's performance in the current financial year, the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) informed. India is the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer by volume and a supplier of affordable, quality-assured medicines to more than 150 countries, underscoring the sector's potential for sustained export-led growth. The trade body noted that India's domestic pharmaceutical market, currently valued at around US\$ 60 billion, is projected to expand to US\$ 130 billion by 2030.

[READ MORE: INDIA'S PHARMA SECTOR BULLISH ON EXPORT GROWTH](#)

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

INDIA ADDS RECORD 44.5 GW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY IN 2025

India recorded its highest-ever renewable energy capacity addition in 2025, with 44.51 GW added till November, nearly double the 24.72 GW installed during the same period last year. With this addition, the country's total installed renewable energy capacity reached 253.96 GW in November 2025, marking an increase of over 23% compared to 205.52 GW in November 2024. Solar power led the expansion, with capacity additions of 34.98 GW, up from 20.85 GW during the corresponding period last year. India crossed the landmark of 100 GW of installed solar capacity in January 2025, and total solar capacity stood at 132.85 GW in November 2025, an increase of over 41 per cent from 94.17 GW in November 2024, according to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The country crossed the 250 GW mark of non-fossil power installed capacity in August 2025. As of November 2025, total non-fossil fuel-based installed power capacity stood at 262.74 GW, accounting for 51.5% of India's total installed electricity capacity of 509.64 GW.

[READ MORE: INDIA ADDS RECORD 44.5 GW RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY IN 2025](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME IN 2025: TECHNOLOGY, DIPLOMACY AND THE ROAD TO SPACE VISION 2047



India's space programme marked a defining phase in 2025, combining major technological demonstrations, deeper global partnerships and a clear push towards long-term goals under Space Vision 2047. The Department of Space's year-end review shows a year focused not just on launches, but on mastering complex capabilities needed for human spaceflight, future space stations and a competitive commercial ecosystem. The year-end review highlights progress in complex technologies such as autonomous docking through the SPADEX mission, space biology via the CROPS-1 experiment, and the successful use of the POEM-4 platform for diverse in-orbit experiments. These achievements demonstrate growing maturity in critical systems needed for long-duration missions and sustainable space operations.

Scientific and operational outcomes also expanded India's global standing. ISRO released the first datasets from Aditya-L1, strengthening solar and space weather research, while Earth observation satellites supported national planning, including crop forecasting. The launch of the joint ISRO-NASA NISAR mission enhanced global disaster monitoring capabilities. Infrastructure development gained momentum with approval of a Third Launch Pad at Sriharikota and progress on the SSLV Launch Complex, alongside propulsion milestones such as semi-cryogenic engine tests and advanced electric thrusters. Human spaceflight advanced through key Gaganyaan safety tests and the historic ISS mission of Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla, supported by new initiatives in space medicine and astronaut health research.

The year also marked deeper self-reliance and industry participation, with the development of indigenous space-grade microprocessors, commercialisation of SSLV, and growing private-sector contributions to launch technologies. Internationally, India strengthened its leadership by hosting major global forums and contributing to disaster management mechanisms. Collectively, these developments signal India's transition from a capable launch nation to a comprehensive space power, laying a robust foundation for ambitious scientific, commercial and human exploration goals in the decades ahead.

READ MORE: [INDIA'S SPACE PROGRAMME IN 2025: ROAD TO SPACE VISION 2047](#)

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