

Newsletter

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL REFLECTS CONSISTENT AND MEASURED GLOBAL TRADE APPROACH



Speaking on the recently concluded India-US trade agreement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined that the deal reflects India's long-standing, consistent and carefully calibrated approach to global trade negotiations. He emphasized that India's trade engagements are guided by national interest, long-term economic resilience, and mutual benefit rather than short-term gains. The agreement, finalised in early February 2026, aims to deepen bilateral trade and enhance market access. Prime Minister Modi noted that such partnerships position India as a reliable and predictable global trade partner at a time of growing uncertainty in the global trading system. The trade deal is expected to significantly boost exports, investment flows, and supply-chain integration, while supporting India's broader ambition of becoming a global manufacturing and innovation hub.

With the agreement, India has secured expanded access to the US\$ 30-trillion U.S. market, marking a significant trade milestone across multiple export-oriented sectors. The development is expected to benefit industries such as manufacturing, textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, and technology-driven services.

[READ MORE: INDIA-US TRADE DEAL](#) ; [INDIA-US TRADE DEAL](#)

INDIA-AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026

The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 is being held in New Delhi from 16-20 February 2026, marking the first-ever global AI summit hosted in the Global South. The five-day event positions India as a key platform for shaping the global AI agenda and as a convenor for international cooperation on artificial intelligence. With participation from over 100 invited countries and more than two lakh online registrations, the Summit aims to advance shared standards, collaborative frameworks and scalable AI solutions for the global public good.



World leaders from around 20 countries, including France, Brazil, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Seychelles and Bhutan, are scheduled to attend, alongside leaders from several other nations and ministerial delegations from over 45 countries. The UN Secretary-General and senior officials from international organisations are also participating. The Summit is guided by three core pillars - People, Planet and Progress - and its discussions are organised across seven themes covering areas such as human capital, inclusion, safe and trusted AI, innovation, resilience, and use of AI for economic development and social good.

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

INDIA JOINS UNITED NATIONS HONOUR ROLL

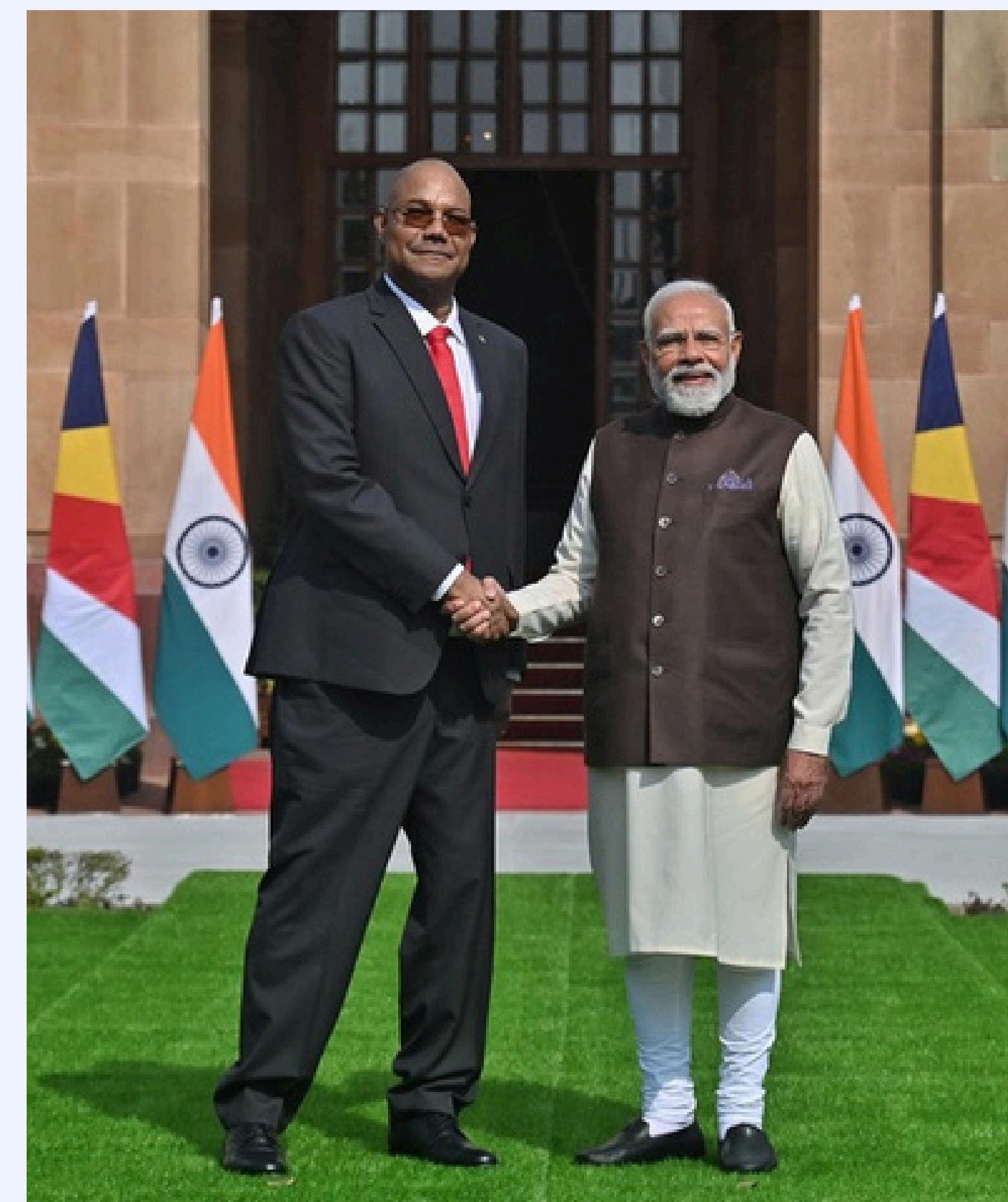
India has been placed on the United Nations Honour Roll after promptly paying its assessed contribution of US\$ 35.18 million for the year 2026. The payment was made well ahead of schedule, reinforcing India's commitment to multilateralism and the effective functioning of the UN system. The Honour Roll recognises member states that meet their financial obligations in full and on time. India's timely contribution strengthens its standing as a responsible stakeholder in global governance and international cooperation. The move comes at a time when India is playing an increasingly active role within the UN, including leadership on issues such as development, climate action, digital public infrastructure, and responsible use of emerging technologies.

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INDIA-SEYCHELLES JOINT VISION FOR SUSTAINABILITY, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SECURITY

India and Seychelles have adopted a Joint Vision statement aimed at deepening cooperation in sustainability, maritime security, and economic growth. The framework strengthens bilateral engagement across climate resilience, blue economy development, infrastructure, defence cooperation, and people-to-people linkages. The partnership reflects India's continued commitment to the Indian Ocean Region under its "Security and Growth for All in the Region" (SAGAR) vision. Enhanced maritime collaboration, development partnerships, and connectivity initiatives are expected to further consolidate stability and sustainable growth in the region.

[READ MORE: INDIA AND SEYCHELLES - JOINT VISION STATEMENT](#)



ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

NEXT 20-25 YEARS WILL BE ERA OF INDIA, SAYS BLACKROCK CEO LARRY FINK



Larry Fink, CEO of global asset-management giant BlackRock, has expressed strong confidence in India's long-term growth trajectory, stating that the next two to two-and-a-half decades will belong to India. His remarks were made following interactions with Indian leadership in early February 2026. Fink pointed to India's young demographic profile, expanding middle class, digital public infrastructure, and sustained reform momentum as key drivers of future growth. He also highlighted India's increasing attractiveness as an investment destination amid global supply-chain realignments.

[READ MORE: NEXT 20-25 YEARS WILL BE ERA OF INDIA, SAYS BLACKROCK CEO LARRY FINK](#)

INDIA'S EASE OF DOING BUSINESS STRENGTHENED; WORLD BANK B-READY ASSESSMENT IN 2026

India's business regulatory environment continues to improve, with reforms aimed at simplifying compliance, strengthening digital governance, and enhancing investor facilitation. These efforts are expected to be reflected in the upcoming World Bank Business Ready (B-READY) Assessment scheduled for 2026. The B-READY framework replaces the earlier Ease of Doing Business index and evaluates regulatory quality and public service delivery. India's continued structural reforms are aimed at improving transparency, reducing procedural burdens, and strengthening its attractiveness as an investment destination.

[READ MORE: WORLD BANK B-READY ASSESSMENT IN 2026](#)



INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL OPENS US\$ 118 BILLION GLOBAL TEXTILE MARKET



According to the Government of India, the India-US trade agreement opens access to a US\$ 118 billion global textile and apparel market, offering significant opportunities for Indian manufacturers and exporters. The deal is expected to benefit labour-intensive sectors such as garments, home textiles, and technical textiles by improving market access, reducing trade barriers, and enhancing supply-chain integration with the US market. This development aligns with India's broader strategy of boosting exports, creating employment, and strengthening its position as a reliable global sourcing hub for textiles and apparel.

[READ MORE: INDIA-US TRADE DEAL OPENS US\\$ 118 BILLION GLOBAL TEXTILE MARKET](#)

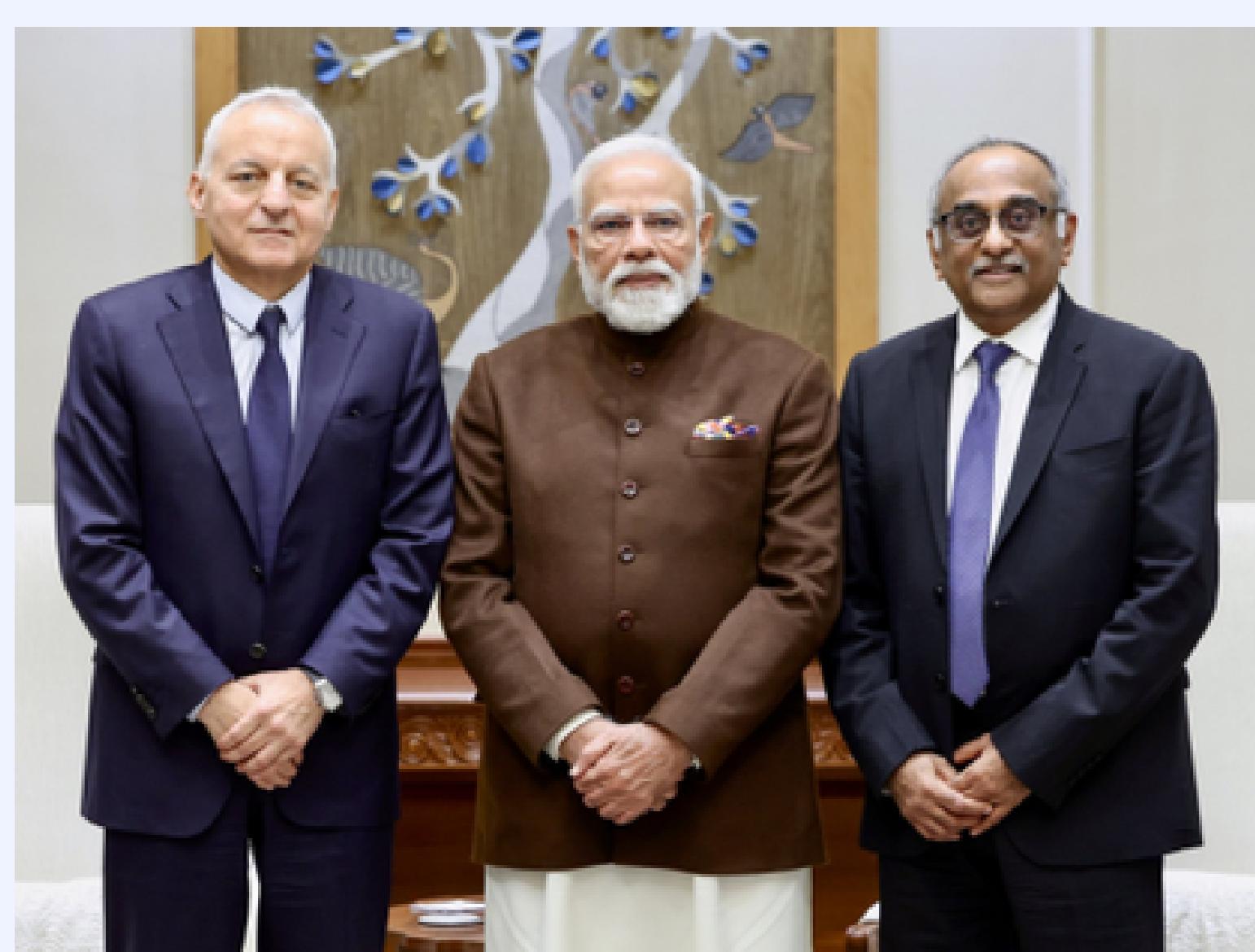
CHEMICAL PARKS, BIOPHARMA, RARE EARTHS AND SEMICONDUCTORS GET MAJOR PUSH

India's Union Budget announced targeted initiatives for chemical parks, biopharmaceutical manufacturing, rare earth supply chains, and the Semicon India Programme. Ten semiconductor projects have been approved so far, while India's IT sector revenue has reached US\$ 283 billion. India's rare-earth strategy focuses on domestic manufacturing, dedicated corridors, and global integration to reduce supply-chain vulnerabilities. Parallel efforts aim to position India as a global biopharma hub through innovation-driven manufacturing.

[READ MORE: BUDGET INITIATIVES ; BUDGET INITIATIVES ; BUDGET INITIATIVES](#)



ROLLS-ROYCE EXPANSION PLANS IN INDIA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the CEO of Rolls-Royce to discuss the company's expansion plans in India. The discussions focused on advanced manufacturing, defence collaboration, aerospace engineering, and long-term technology partnerships. The engagement signals continued investor confidence in India's manufacturing ecosystem and skilled workforce. Expansion plans are expected to contribute to domestic industrial capacity, technology transfer, and employment generation in high-value engineering sectors.

[READ MORE: ROLLS-ROYCE EXPANSION PLANS IN INDIA](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

ISRO ACCELERATES ITS SPACE MISSIONS, & PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR AMBITIOUS CHANDRAYAAN - 4 & 5 PROJECTS



Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan has said that following the historic success of Chandrayaan-3, India has accelerated its space missions and preparations are underway for the ambitious Chandrayaan-4 and Chandrayaan-5 projects. Mr. Narayanan said that India is implementing a comprehensive space programme, including advanced research missions to Mars. He said the country's remarkable progress in space science and technology has earned global recognition. With its ability to execute high-quality missions at comparatively low cost, India is now counted among the top five space-faring nations in the world.

[READ MORE: ISRO ACCELERATES ITS SPACE MISSIONS](#)

AI DATA CENTRES CAN RECREATE INTERNET-ERA JOB BOOM IN INDIA, SAYS NVIDIA CEO JENSEN HUANG

Jensen Huang, CEO of NVIDIA, has stated that the expansion of AI data centres in India could recreate an internet-era-style employment boom. He highlighted India's talent pool, digital infrastructure, and growing demand for AI-driven services as key enablers of this transformation. The remarks underline India's potential to become a global hub for AI infrastructure, innovation, and high-value digital jobs.



[READ MORE: AI DATA CENTRES CAN RECREATE INTERNET-ERA JOB BOOM IN INDIA](#)

NITI AAYOG RELEASES 'TECHNOLOGY SERVICES – REIMAGINATION AHEAD' ROADMAP



NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub has released the "Technology Services – Reimagination Ahead" roadmap, outlining a strategic framework to strengthen India's global leadership in technology services. The roadmap focuses on artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cybersecurity, and emerging digital platforms. It aims to reposition India's technology services sector from a cost-driven outsourcing model to innovation-led, high-value digital transformation services. The strategy supports India's ambition to remain a leading global technology partner.

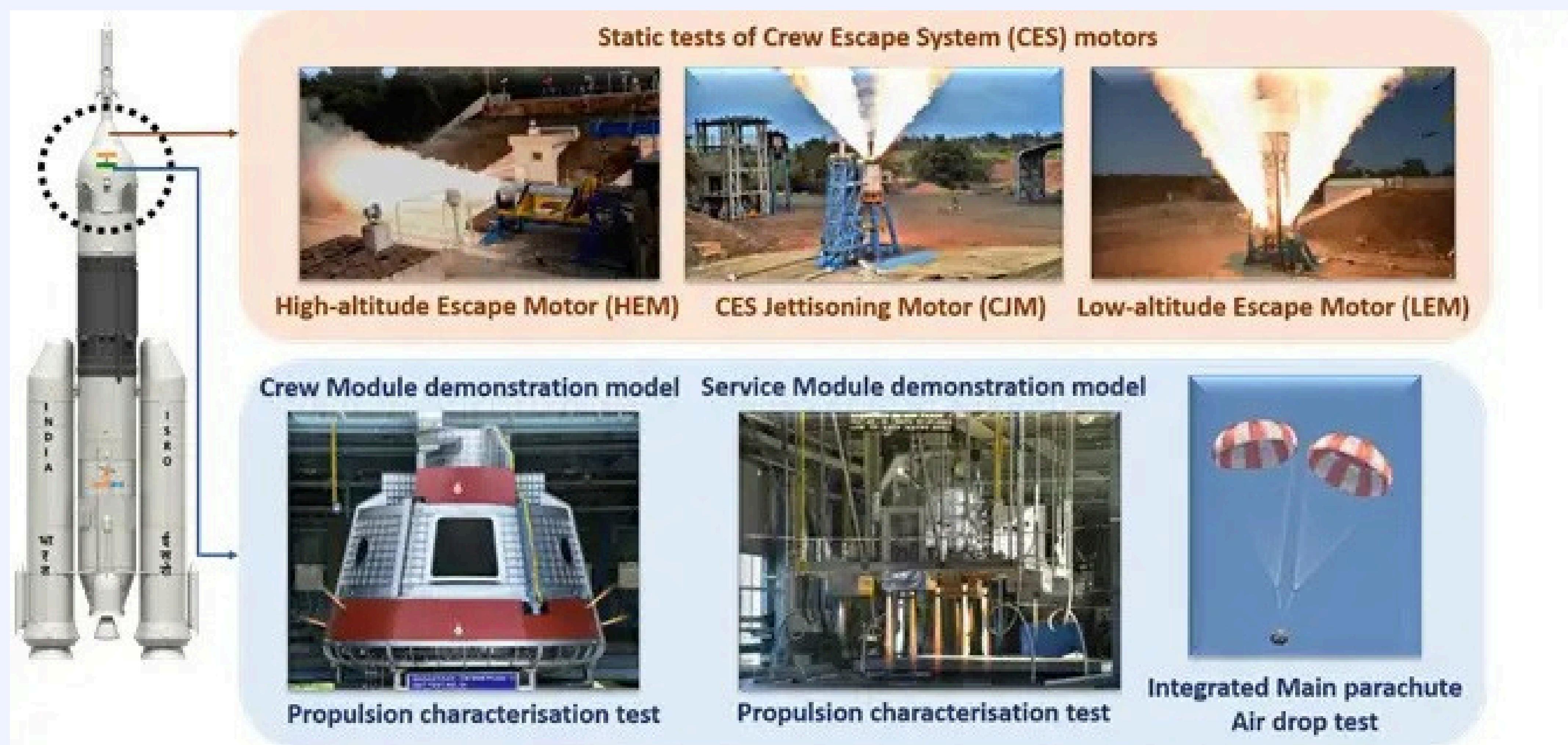
READ MORE: ['TECHNOLOGY SERVICES – REIMAGINATION AHEAD' ROADMAP](#)

SPACE START-UPS GAIN MOMENTUM IN INDIA

India's space start-up ecosystem continues to expand, supported by regulatory reforms, private-sector participation, and access to national space infrastructure. The sector has seen growing investment interest and increasing collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Private companies are contributing to satellite launches, space-based services, manufacturing, and deep-tech innovation. The expansion of space start-ups reflects India's broader push to commercialise space activities and build a globally competitive space economy.

READ MORE: [SPACE START-UPS GAIN MOMENTUM IN INDIA](#)

GAGANYAAN MISSION ACHIEVES KEY MILESTONES



India's Gaganyaan programme has achieved several key milestones over the past year, particularly in validating critical crew safety and mission systems. It is India's flagship human spaceflight mission aimed at sending Indian astronauts to low Earth orbit and safely bringing them back using indigenous technology. As of January 2026, cumulative expenditure under the programme stands at approximately US\$ 730 million, with a strong emphasis on risk mitigation through rigorous ground testing that simulates multiple failure scenarios.

Recent parachute tests successfully validated system performance even with simulated drogue and main parachute failures. Reflecting expanded ambitions, the scope of the Gaganyaan programme was revised in October 2024 from three to eight missions, covering three uncrewed flights, two crewed missions, and subsequent docking missions, including those involving India's future space station modules. These details were shared by Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to the Indian Parliament.

READ MORE: [GAGANYAAN MISSION ACHIEVES KEY MILESTONES](#)