



News Letter

Issue #4

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025

India's Ministry of Cooperation has undertaken a range of special initiatives and events to commemorate the United Nations-International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) - 2025 with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World", which was officially launched at the ICA Global Cooperative Conference held in 2024. This year highlights the vital role of cooperatives in promoting inclusive, participatory, and sustainable development in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Read more: [International Year of Cooperatives 2025](#) and [UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

India (World Economic Forum) WEF 'Skills Accelerator initiative'

India's Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), deliberated on the "India Skills Accelerator" initiative which aims to upskill and reskill, mobilize investment in lifelong learning, and foster government-industry collaboration.

Read more: [WEF - Initiatives](#)

Tourist Inflow in Jammu & Kashmir

India's Ministry of Tourism shared that between 2020 and 2024, Jammu & Kashmir saw a significant rise in domestic tourist visits, growing from 2.52 million in 2020 to over 23.5 million in 2024, while foreign tourist visits also rose from 5,317 to 65,452 in the same period. The Ministry of Tourism sanctioned six projects worth approximately US\$ 60 million in 2016–17 to develop tourism infrastructure in the region, all of which are now completed.

Read more: [Press Information Bureau - India](#)

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

SAIL supplies over 31,000 tonnes of steel for Zojila Tunnel Project

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), the country's largest steelmaking Public Sector Undertaking, has become the single largest steel supplier for the under-construction Zojila tunnel, a landmark infrastructure project that will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. Located at an altitude of 11,578 feet in the Himalayan terrain, the Zojila tunnel spans over 30 kilometers and will ensure all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Leh via Dras and Kargil. The tunnel is part of the larger Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway project and is seen as crucial to enhancing civilian and military mobility in the strategically sensitive region. The project is not only vital for national security and connectivity but also promises to bring economic opportunities to the region.

Read more: [SAIL - Zojila Tunnel Project](#)

Semiconductor Projects in India

India has so far approved six semiconductor manufacturing projects, entailing a cumulative investment of approximately US\$ 18 billion. These are expected to generate over 27,000 direct jobs. The approvals are part of the government's 'Semicon India Programme', aimed at building a semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country. The government is also working with global industry and academic partners including Lam Research, IBM, and Purdue University to build capacity in chip design and manufacturing.

Read more: [Semiconductor Projects in India](#)

India to be third-largest economy by 2028: Morgan Stanley

India is expected to become the world's third-largest economy by 2028 and more than double its GDP to \$10.6 trillion by 2035, according to a Morgan Stanley report. The report estimates that three to five Indian states, including Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Karnataka, could each approach the \$1 trillion mark, placing them among the top 20 global economies by 2035. Over the past decade, the report said, infrastructure spending has seen a major push. The Centre's capital expenditure has doubled to 3.2% of GDP in FY25 from 1.6% in FY15. As a result, highway networks have expanded by 60%, airports have doubled, and metro rail systems have quadrupled.

Read more: [Morgan Stanley](#)

Mobile Manufacturing Sees Unprecedented Growth and Exports rise 127 times in a decade

In less than a decade, India has transformed itself from a heavily import-dependent mobile phone market to the world's third-largest exporter of mobile phones, clocking exports worth US\$ 20.5 billion in calendar year 2024. This dramatic shift is at the heart of a new study by the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), which highlights how policy interventions and integration into global value chains have powered this rise.

Read Full Report: [Centre for Development Studies Report](#)

VISION 2030 FOR TEXTILE INDUSTRY

To enhance cotton productivity and quality, promote innovation and strengthen the entire textile value chain in line with the Vision 2030, India announced a five-year 'Mission for Cotton Productivity.' The Department of Agricultural Research & Education (DARE) is the nodal department for implementing the Mission, with the Ministry of Textiles as a partner. The Mission aims to boost cotton production through strategic interventions, including research and extension activities across all cotton-growing states. The Mission also proposes to focus on developing climate-smart, pest-resistant, and high-yielding cotton varieties, including Extra Long Staple (ELS) cotton, using advanced breeding and biotechnology tools.

Read more: [Ministry of Textiles - Vision 2030](#)

Unlocking \$25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector

India's tools industry, encompassing hand and power tools, represents a critical avenue for the country's economic journey and emerging as a global leader in manufacturing and trade. In this context, National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), the apex public policy Think Tank of the Government of India released a report titled "Unlocking \$25+ Billion Exports: India's Hand & Power Tools Sector," giving a roadmap, urging policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders to seize a transformative export opportunity worth over \$25 billion in the next decade.

Read the full Report: [Unlocking \\$25+ Billion Exports: India's Hand & Power Tools Sector](#)

ADB projects India's GDP to grow at 6.5% in 2025, 6.7% in 2026 amid strong domestic demand

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected that India's GDP will grow at 6.5% in 2025 and a robust 6.7% in 2026, driven by strong domestic demand, a normal monsoon, and monetary easing. Inflation in India is expected to stay well within the target range, with headline inflation projected at 3.8% for 2025 and 4.0% for 2026, according to the ADB. A sharp decline in food prices has helped ease overall price pressures, with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation falling to 2.1%, the lowest level in over six years as food inflation turned negative.

Read more: [Asian Development Bank](#)

GREEN ENERGY & EV PUSH

India achieves 20% Ethanol blending in Petrol, five years ahead of schedule

India has successfully achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol in 2025, five years ahead of its original target set for 2030. Highlighting the country's clean energy progress, ethanol blending in petrol has risen from just 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025, a nearly 13-fold increase over 11 years. The shift towards ethanol-blended fuel has not only bolstered energy security but also led to significant economic and environmental benefits. The increased use of ethanol-blended petrol has helped reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 69.8 million tonnes, contributing to India's climate goals.

Read more: [Ethanol Blending in Petrol - Twitter](#)

World Bank Report on Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India

A new World Bank report, Towards Resilient and Prosperous Cities in India, highlighted that Indian cities hold tremendous potential as centers of economic growth with 70% of new jobs coming from cities by 2030.

Read Full Report: [World Bank Report](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment) Policy

India approved BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment) policy to augment innovation-driven support to R&D and entrepreneurship in 6 thematic sectors and accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI hubs and Biofoundry. The policy is enabling industrialization of biology to promote sustainable and circular practices to address some of the critical societal issues-such as climate change mitigation, food security and human health. The policy is also building a resilient biomanufacturing ecosystem in our nation to accelerate cutting-edge innovations for developing bio-based products.

Read more: [Press Information Bureau - India](#)

Space Technology and Exploration

India's Department of Space (DoS) has recently shared updates on various developments in the field of Space Technology and Exploration. DoS shared current status and key milestones achieved on various subject including Gaganyaan Mission, India's Space Technology Collaborations, Navigation with Indian Constellation (NAVIC) and the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2025).

Read more: [Gaganyaan Mission](#) , [India's Space Technology Collaborations](#) , [NAVIC](#) and [GLEX 2025](#)

ISRO to launch Earth Observation Satellite NISAR, jointly developed with NASA

The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO, will launch the NISAR Earth Observation satellite, developed jointly with the American space agency NASA, on the 30th July. GSLV F16 heavy lift rocket will place the satellite into a 743 km Sun Synchronous orbit. The NISAR satellite will scan the entire globe every 12 days and provide high-resolution, all-weather, day and night data. It will observe Earth using SweepSAR technology for the first time. The radars can detect subtle changes in Earth's surface to monitor sea ice, vegetation, storm tracking, soil moisture changes, surface water mapping and disaster probabilities.

Read more: [ISRO - NISAR](#)
