



2025 Year End Review for Department of Commerce

India Registers Best-Ever First-Half Export Performance in FY 2025-26

₹25,060-Crore Mission Unveiled to Transform India's Export Ecosystem

CETA With UK Opens Major Market Access Boost for Indian Goods and Services

Commerce Ministry's Digital Overhaul Streamlines Trade Compliance and Intelligence

GeM Emerges as India's Biggest Procurement Platform With ₹16.41 Lakh Crore GMV

FTAs Gain Momentum as India Deepens Engagement Across US, EU, GCC, and Asia-Pacific

India Pavilion Gains Global Spotlight With Major Recognition at World Expo Osaka 2025

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 10 DEC 2025 11:05AM by PIB Delhi

Trade Performance

India registered a landmark achievement in external trade. Total exports (merchandise and services) hit an all-time high of US\$ 825.25 billion in 2024-25, reflecting a robust 6.05% annual growth. This strong momentum continued into the new fiscal year, with exports rising to US\$ 418.91 billion during April-September 2025, a 5.86% increase over the same period last year—reinforcing India's sustained upward export trajectory. Remarkably, India's trade performance in the first half (H1) of FY 2025-26 (April-September 2025) is a record high, highest ever first half (H1) export. Moreover, both the first quarter (April-June 2025) and second quarter (July-September 2025) have registered highest ever in their respective quarters, in spite of persisting global uncertainties.

India's services sector continued to drive India's overall export momentum, achieving a record US\$ 387.54 billion in 2024–25, a strong 13.63% growth. This upward trajectory remained firmly intact in the current fiscal year, with services exports rising to US\$ 199.03 billion during April–September 2025, registering a 9.34% increase over the same period last year.

India's merchandise exports remained steady in 2024–25 at US\$ 437.70 billion, while non-petroleum exports surged to a historic US\$ 374.32 billion, recording a 6.07% growth. The positive trend continued in the current fiscal year, with merchandise exports rising to US\$ 219.88 billion during April–September 2025, an increase of 2.90% over the same period last year.

Key export drivers during April-September 2025 include Electronic Goods (41.94%), Engineering Goods (5.35%), Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (6.46%), Marine products (17.40%) and Rice (10.02%), which collectively propelled India's strong export momentum.

India's export performance was strongly supported by export destinations including USA (13.34%), United Arab Emirates (9.34%), China (21.85%), Spain (40.30%), and Hong Kong (23.53%), each registering robust growth during April-September 2025 as compared to same period last year.

Export Promotion Mission (EPM)

The Export Promotion Mission (EPM) is a landmark initiative to boost India's export competitiveness. The mission is anchored in a collaborative framework involving the Department of Commerce, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Finance, and other key stakeholders including Financial Institutions, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards, industry associations, and state governments. It represents a forward-looking reform that strengthens India's global trade framework while aligning with the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, positioning the country as a modern, technology-driven, and globally competitive economy.

The Mission will provide a comprehensive, flexible, and digitally driven framework for export promotion, with a total outlay of Rs.25,060 crore for FY 2025–26 to FY 2030–31. EPM marks a strategic shift from multiple fragmented schemes to a single, outcome-based, and adaptive mechanism that can respond swiftly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs.

The Mission will operate through two integrated sub-schemes:

- a. NIRYAT PROTSAHAN – focuses on improving access to affordable trade finance for MSMEs through a range of instruments such as interest subvention, export factoring, collateral guarantees, credit cards for e-commerce exporters, and credit enhancement support for diversification into new markets.
- b. NIRYAT DISHA – focuses on non-financial enablers that enhance market readiness and competitiveness, including export quality and compliance support, assistance for international branding, packaging, and participation in trade fairs, export warehousing and logistics, inland transport reimbursements, and trade intelligence and capacity-building initiatives.

EPM consolidates key export support schemes such as the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES) and Market Access Initiative (MAI), aligning them with contemporary trade needs.

Digital Transformation

The Department of Commerce has advanced its Digital Transformation agenda to strengthen trade facilitation and intelligence through data-driven solutions. Initiatives such as Trade eConnect and Trade Intelligence & Analytics (TIA) portal lay a strong foundation for evidence-based decision-making at various levels across all stakeholders. Trade e-Connect serves as a one-stop digital platform for exporters,

while the TIA portal delivers almost real-time market insights and automated reporting. Key measures like 24x7 e-IEC generation, the migration to eCoO 2.0, and the digitization of Appendix 4H certificates have streamlined compliance processes and significantly enhanced ease of doing business.

InCENT Lab Grown Diamond (LGD) Project

A research and development grant for five years to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machine has been approved and commissioned to IIT Madras on March 2023 with a grant of Rs 242.96 crore. Significant achievement has already been made in this regard:

- a. Fully functioning National Centre of Excellence in LGD with state-of-the-art facilities at three locations.
- b. Installation and training of five commercial CVD machines successfully completed. Growth trials ongoing.
- c. Installation and training of two commercial HPHT machines successfully completed. Initial growth trials in the machines are on-going.
- d. Development of indigenous HPHT Machines (design for full-scale model finalised) is underway.
- e. Design, development and fabrication and demonstration test of a solid-state microwave generator (SSMG), a key component of CVD machine underway.

Free Trade Agreements (FTA) Negotiations

India's global economic partnerships have gained significant momentum through a series of recent trade agreements that are reshaping its export landscape. The landmark India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) grants duty-free access to 99% of Indian exports, setting the stage for bilateral trade to reach US\$ 100 billion by 2030. Beyond the UK, India has broadened its outreach with strategic agreements such as the UAE–India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), the Australia–India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), and the pact with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Moreover, India is currently negotiating FTA with several key countries and regions. These partnerships are unlocking new opportunities across diverse sectors while also strengthening India's integration into global value chains.

The current ongoing FTAs negotiations includes:

- a. India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- b. India- USA Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)
- c. India Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA)
- d. India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- e. India-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- f. India – Korea CEPA (upgraded negotiation)
- g. India-Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- h. India-Sri Lanka Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA)
- a. India-EAEU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- j. India-Maldives Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- k. ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)

Bilateral Cooperation

a. North America

- i. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Hon President of USA, Mr. Donald Trump have announced on 13th February 2025 'Mission 500' – aiming to more

than double the bilateral trade to US\$ 500 Billion by 2030. Accordingly, discussions are ongoing between Indian and US trade teams for the expeditious conclusion of a mutually beneficial Bilateral Trade Agreement.

- ii. The 7th India- Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade and investment was held on 13th November, 2025 in New Delhi. It was co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Trade and Commerce of India, Shri Piyush Goyal, and Minister of International Trade, Canada, Mr. Maninder Siddhu. The meeting marked a renewed phase of engagement aimed at reinvigorating bilateral trade and investment ties and setting a forward-looking agenda for cooperation. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral economic ties and advancing sectoral collaboration across priority domains. The Ministers also reviewed recent trade policy developments, covering trade in goods and services, and discussed issues of mutual interest.
- iii. The Hon'ble Minister of Trade and Commerce, Shri Piyush Goyal, met with Mr. Francisco Cervantes, President of the Business Coordination Council of Mexico (Consejo Coordinador Empresarial- CCE), on 10th September, 2025. The meeting centered on strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations, with discussions focused on expanding trade, investment, expanding economic cooperation, fostering business collaborations, and exploring opportunities across diverse sectors.

b. Europe

- i. The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed in July 2025. The agreement provides for immediate duty-free access for key Indian labour-intensive sectors like textiles, leather, and gems, while the UK gains phased tariff reductions on high-end goods like whisky and automobiles under quotas. Key features boosting services and mobility include market access across numerous sectors, a specific Double Contribution Convention saving costs for Indian professionals on short-term UK assignments, and streamlined entry for business visitors, chefs, and musicians, all supported by a broader "Vision 2035" strategic roadmap.
- ii. 14 rounds of India-EU FTA negotiations have been completed. Technical discussions were also held during 3-7 November 2025 in New Delhi with the upcoming discussion scheduled from 3-9 December 2025 in New Delhi. Further, several high dialogues were also held during the year between HCIM and EU Commissioners.
- iii. The MoU on establishment of Joint Trade and Investment Committee was signed between M/o Commerce & Industry and the M/o Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands on 13th May, 2025.
- iv. 6th Session of India - Portugal Joint Economic Commission was held virtually on 23rd January, 2025.
- v. 12th Session of Slovak-Indian Joint Economic Committee was held on 19th February, 2025, New Delhi.
- vi. 18th Session of India-Belgium Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was held in 9th April, 2024, New Delhi.
- vii. 22nd Session of India-Italy Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation was held on 5th June, 2025 in Brescia, Italy.
- viii. 21st Session of India-Finland Joint Commission was held in 17th October 2024, New Delhi.
- ix. 19th Session of India-Romania JEC meeting was held in Bucharest on 5th November 2025.
- x. 10th Session of the India-Slovenia Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (JCTEC) took place in New Delhi on 25th November 2025.

- xi. **EFTA:** A High-level event named “Prosperity Summit 2025” was held on October 1, 2025, in New Delhi to mark the official entry into force of the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA). EFTA was represented by Ms. Helene Budliger Artieda, Swiss State Secretary at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs; Mr. Ragnar Kristjánsson, Director General of External Trade and Economic Affairs at the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs; Ms. Christine Lingg, Deputy Director of the Office for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein; Ms. May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India and Mr. Markus Schlagenhof, Deputy Secretary-General of EFTA. The dignitaries welcomed the shared objectives to mobilize USD 100 billion of investments in India over the next fifteen years and to support the creation of one million direct jobs, along with an investment facilitation mechanism to monitor implementation and progress. The event also brought together a range of business representatives from all parties, providing an opportunity to establish new ties and strengthen existing partnerships. Business engagement at the Prosperity Summit led to several investment announcements by companies from EFTA countries in various key sectors viz. maritime, renewable energy, biochemical and manufacturing automation."

c. South Asia

- i. The Inter-Governmental Committee (IGC) meeting on Trade, Transit and Cooperation to Control Unauthorized Trade, between India and Nepal was held on 10th - 11th January 2025 in Kathmandu, Nepal. On the sidelines, the Second Joint Business Forum Meeting was held on 11th January 2025, at Chandragiri, Kathmandu.
- ii. Signing of Lettar of Exchange (LoE) to facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) including bulk cargo under an expanded definition by amending the Protocol to the Treaty of Transit between India and Nepal. Both countries interchanged Letter of Exchange (LoE) on 13th November 2025 to facilitate the movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal) including bulk cargo under an expanded definition. This liberalization extends to key transit corridors - Kolkata-Jogbani, Kolkata-Nautanwa (Sunauli), and Visakhapatnam-Nautanwa (Sunauli), thereby strengthening multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and Nepal's trade with third countries.
- iii. India-Maldives FTA The Terms of Reference (ToR) to FTA between India and Maldives was signed on 3rd July 2025 in Male, Maldives. The ToR sets the framework and scope for the upcoming FTA negotiations. During the visit of Prime Minister, India to Maldives on 25th-26th July, 2025 the Terms of Reference of the India-Maldives Free Trade Agreement (IMFTA) was exchanged and negotiations have been launched.

d. North East Asia (NEA)

The 10th meeting of India-Taiwan Working Group on Trade (WGT) was held on 8.10.2025 in virtual mode. Several issues including supply chain diversification, market access, non-tariff barriers and MoUs under signing/implementation were discussed in the meeting. One of the MoU i.e. on Organic Equivalence which was signed in 2021 and implemented in July 2024 has resulted in export of first consignment of organic tea from India to Taiwan in September 2025

e. West Asia and North Africa (WANA)

- i. **India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA):** India and Israel have been negotiating an FTA since 2010, completing ten rounds covering 280 tariff lines. Although both sides agreed in October 2021 to relaunch the negotiations, progress stalled due to Israel's reluctance to provide meaningful services market access sought by India, particularly regarding the temporary movement of IT professionals and highly skilled workers, a concern reiterated by

CIM during a bilateral meeting in April 2023. Negotiations have since been revived, and in November 2025, India and Israel signed the Terms of Reference for the proposed FTA, paving the way for the formal resumption of discussions.

- ii. **Bharat Mart, Dubai:** Bharat Mart is a landmark physical trade hub under development in JAFZA, Dubai, designed to provide Indian exporters a dedicated wholesale and retail platform serving the UAE, Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, and Europe. The foundation stone was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in February 2024. Extensive outreach including six roadshows and eighteen investor meets were conducted in the first half of 2024. The facility is expected to begin construction by end-2025, with completion targeted for 2027 and full operationalization by Q3 2027.
- iii. **India–UAE CEPA: 3rd Joint Committee Meeting:** The 3rd Joint Committee Meeting under the India–UAE CEPA was held on 26th November 2025 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Additional Secretary Shri Ajay Bhadoo and H.E. Juma Al Kait. Both sides welcomed the increase in bilateral trade to US\$ 100.06 billion in FY 2024–25, marking a 19.6% rise. The meeting conducted a comprehensive review of CEPA implementation, covering market access, data sharing, Gold TRQ allocation, anti-dumping cases, Rules of Origin, services, and BIS coordination. Discussions also emphasized regulatory cooperation in pharmaceuticals, resolution of Certificate of Origin issues, and early signing of the APEDA–MoCCA MoU on Food Safety and Technical Requirements. Both sides agreed to strengthen trade facilitation, regulatory collaboration, and data-sharing processes, and to convene the Services Subcommittee meeting at the earliest.
- iv. **India–Saudi Arabia Trade Working Group (TWG):** India and Saudi Arabia have agreed in principle in 2025 to establish a Joint Working Group on Trade, Economy, and Finance under the Strategic Partnership Council's Minister-level Economy and Investment Committee. India has shared the ToR proposing co-chairmanship at the Additional Secretary level. Convening of the first TWG meeting to activate the mechanism is under consideration by both the sides.
- v. **India–Bahrain JWG on Trade and Investment:** The establishment of the India–Bahrain Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment is under process. India has shared its JWG composition at Joint Secretary level and provided a draft ToR, to which Bahrain has submitted comments. The revised ToR is currently being examined by the Department of Commerce. Both sides have also exchanged draft ToR for initiation of CEPA negotiations.
- vi. **India–Qatar Joint Commission Meeting:** The upgraded India–Qatar Joint Commission meeting, held on 6–7 October 2025 in Qatar at the Commerce and Industry Minister level, reviewed the US\$ 14 billion bilateral trade relationship and set an ambitious goal to double trade by 2030. Both sides agreed to fast-track the finalization of the ToR for an India–Qatar CEPA and enhance cooperation across the digital economy, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, culture, and environmental sustainability. The first Joint Business Council meeting—co-organized by FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, and the Qatar Chamber—was also convened on the sidelines, strengthening private-sector engagement.
- vii. **India–Qatar Free Trade Agreement:** During a meeting with India's External Affairs Minister on 7th December 2024, Qatar expressed interest in negotiating an FTA similar to India's CEPAs with the UAE and Oman. India has shared a draft ToR, incorporating comments on Qatar's earlier version. The ToR has been substantially finalized, and both sides are actively engaged in discussions.
- viii. **India–Oman CEPA:** India and Oman launched CEPA negotiations in November 2023. After three rounds of intensive negotiations (Nov 2023–Mar 2024), both sides reached agreement on all CEPA components, including text and market access offers. A Cabinet proposal submitted in March 2024 was deferred, prompting further renegotiations. The 4th round (September 2024) and 5th round (13–14 January 2025) focused on revised offers. Following

approval of the competent authority, the Draft Cabinet Note for signing and ratification was circulated to relevant Ministries. Both sides are now in the process of securing internal approvals.

- ix. **India–Oman Joint Commission Meeting:** The 11th Joint Commission Meeting was held in Oman on 27–28 January 2025, led by the Hon’ble Commerce & Industry Minister. Discussions covered trade, investment, technology, food security, renewable energy, and other key sectors. The Minister also addressed the India–Oman Joint Business Council meeting, supported by FICCI, and participated in a business roundtable with leading Omani CEOs. The 12th JCM is scheduled for 2026.
- x. **India–Kuwait JWG on Trade and Commerce:** The newly established India–Kuwait JWG held its first meeting on 23rd October 2025 in virtual mode. Discussions included a review of bilateral trade performance, diversification of the trade basket, and reduction of non-tariff barriers. Both sides considered new export opportunities for India in machinery, automobiles, textiles, pharmaceuticals, construction materials, and electrical appliances. They also explored prospects for enhancing investments in important sectors and potential MoUs to enhance trade cooperation.
- xi. **India–GCC Free Trade Agreement:** FTA talks between India and the GCC began with the signing of a framework agreement in 2004, followed by two rounds in 2006 and 2008. The GCC paused negotiations globally in 2011. Talks resumed after the GCC Secretary General’s visit to India in November 2022. A revised ToR was shared by GCC in October 2023, and both sides have since exchanged updated versions. Discussions to finalize the ToR are ongoing.

f. Africa

- i. The third session of India-Uganda Joint Trade Committee was held during 25th -26th March, 2025 in New Delhi. Both sides agreed to explore MoUs for recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia and cooperation in Public Works and Infrastructure Development, Agriculture and Allied sectors, Traditional Medicine, Tele-medicines, strengthening collaboration in Standardization, among others. On the side-lines of the JTC, a visit to Noida SEZ was arranged to provide the Ugandan delegation with insights into India’s industrial and export ecosystem.
- ii. The Second session of the Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment with South Africa was held in Pretoria, South Africa on 22nd – 23rd April, 2025. Both sides undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. Both sides also identified several areas of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial investments.
- iii. The Third session of the India - Zambia Joint Trade Committee meeting was held on 16th June, 2025 in Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, in hybrid mode. Both sides undertook a detailed review of recent developments in bilateral trade and investment ties and acknowledged the vast untapped potential for further expansion. To this effect, both sides identified several areas of focus for enhancing both bilateral trade as well as mutually beneficial investments and explored potential areas of collaboration such as Mining, Finance, Agriculture, Food Processing, MSME, Pharmaceuticals, Health, Capacity Building, Power and Renewable energy among others.
- iv. 20th edition of CII India Africa Business Conclave was held during 27th – 29th August 2025 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. 20 senior ministers and over 40 senior government officials from Africa participated in the Conclave. The Conclave witnessed the participation of more than 1,800 industry leaders from 65 countries, including 1,100 delegates from Africa and 700 delegates from India. Over 2,000 B2B meetings were concluded during the Conclave. The

conclave highlighted the importance of local value addition, greater localization of industries, and integrating sustainability into business models as critical pathways for future growth.

- v. On the side-lines of the conclave, bilateral meeting of Hon'ble HCIM with counterparts from South Africa and Mauritius and Meeting of MoS (C&I) with Trade/Commerce Minister of Chad and Gambia were held.

DGFT

- i. In 2025, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) continued to strengthen India's trade facilitation ecosystem through timely issuance of authorizations, rationalisation of policy measures, and the alignment of the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 with evolving trade and domestic requirements. Regional Authorities processed a substantial volume of Advance Authorisations, EPCG licences, and IECs to support exporters' access to critical inputs and ensure smooth conduct of foreign trade operations.
 - ii. During the year, DGFT introduced several **significant policy updates**, including the launch of the **Diamond Imprest Authorization** to support the gem and jewellery sector, extension of the "Free" import policy for key pulses to stabilize domestic markets, and regulatory adjustments in import and export policies relating to synthetic knitted fabrics, urea, platinum, areca nut, agro-products, and sensitive food commodities. Export permissions were issued for wheat to Nepal and broken rice to Senegal, while essential supplies to Maldives were facilitated under India's neighborhood commitments.
 - iii. DGFT also strengthened **policy transparency and stakeholder engagement** by amending the FTP to introduce Paras 1.07A and 1.07B, institutionalising formal consultations for future policy changes. Several notifications aligned India's **Import and Export Policy Schedules** with updates to the Customs Tariff and Finance Acts of 2024 and 2025, ensuring regulatory coherence.
 - iv. A key facilitation measure was the **restoration and alignment of RoDTEP benefits**, including for Advance Authorization holders, SEZs, and EOUs. DGFT also streamlined provisions for QCO-regulated imports by enabling AA/EOU/SEZ units to import mandatory-quality-controlled inputs under defined conditions.
 - v. The year saw continued action to maintain **strategic and supply-chain security**, including updates to the SCOMET list, rationalization of port restrictions, and amendments to import conditions for items under Chapters 28, 29, 38, 70–85, and 71 of the ITC(HS).
- a. To ease GST compliance, improve refund facilitation for MSMEs and small exporters engaged in cross-border e-commerce. *[These matters were referred to DoR by DGFT on 8 May 2025]*
 - b. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has introduced a new digital facility that allows exporters to correct unutilized and un-transferred Duty-Free Import Authorisations (DFIAs) online vide Public Notice 22 dated 09/09/2025.
 - c. Exporters applying for the Diamond Imprest Authorization can now submit a Chartered Accountant's certificate if their latest Income Tax Return (ITR) is not yet finalized, provided they submit proof of the ITR by December 31 of the application year, vide Notification dated 19/08/2025.
 - d. The export obligation (EO) period for Advance Authorizations containing inputs covered under Quality Control Orders (QCO) has been brought on par with the regular Advance Authorisations.
 - e. The earlier Export Obligation period of AA with QCO inputs was restricted to 180 days, while the EO of AAs without such inputs would range to 18 months.

- f. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has introduced a reform by updating India's SCOMET (Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies) list, reflecting international best practices and future-oriented controls. The update draws upon 18 proposals currently under discussion in the Wassenaar Arrangement (WA), to which India has extended its support.
- g. The Export Inspection Council (EIC) has approved the extension of the validity period of Technologists from two to three years in EIC approved establishments engaged in the export of notified commodities. These establishments are required to have qualified Technologists approved by the authorities to ensure compliance with prescribed quality and safety standards of the commodity intended for export.
- vi. On the E-Governance front, DGFT, through the E-Governance and Trade Facilitation division has continued its pioneering work that was started over 6 years ago.
- a. DGFT issued a Trade Notice on 29th October 2025 expanding coverage under *Source from India* (SFI) on the Trade Connect ePlatform. Exporters with a minimum export turnover of USD 100,000 in any of the past three financial years will now be onboarded to the verified SFI directory. The revised framework enhances profile completeness, standardised data fields, product-level classification, and digital verification workflows with EPCs and Indian Missions. The step aims to strengthen global discoverability of credible Indian suppliers, especially MSMEs.
- b. DGFT launched the pilot phase of Bharat Aayat Niryat Lab Setu—a unified digital platform integrating accredited testing and inspection agencies nationwide to provide streamlined, paperless certification for export and import commodities. The platform enables exporters/importers to search, select, apply for, track and receive digitally signed test reports through a single online interface accessible via the Trade Connect ePlatform. Onboarding of laboratories begins 4 November 2025, and applications for testing go live from 15 November 2025. The pilot initially covers labs under the Tea Board, Coffee Board and Rubber Board, with phased onboarding of Commodity Boards, EPC-empanelled and private laboratories. The platform is meant to result in the following benefits:
- i. Improved transparency and accountability through real-time visibility of lab operations.
 - ii. Reduced dwell time by streamlining testing and clearance procedures
 - iii. Enabled global data standardization to support regulatory compliance and interoperability
 - iv. Centralized access to lab services for Exporters.
 - v. Strengthened coordination within the cross-border trade ecosystem.
- c. Over the past six years, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has undertaken a series of digital and process-based reforms to improve Ease of Doing Business in the foreign trade sector. The implementation of the DGFT IT System Revamp on July 13, 2020 served as a pivotal step in this direction, aimed at making DGFT-related processes completely paperless, user-friendly, and easy to navigate. The objectives of the revamp included reducing the time taken for issuance of DGFT documents, enabling real-time data exchange with partner departments, ensuring greater transparency through real-time status tracking, and promoting paperless and contactless application processing.
- d. These reforms have focused on end-to-end automation, improved service delivery, and streamlined stakeholder interaction. The introduction of the e-Certificate of Origin platform for both Preferential and Non-Preferential categories has enabled centralised issuance, online verification, and eliminated the requirement for physical documentation. Jan-Sunwai, a video conferencing-based interface, has provided Exporters and importers with direct access to designated officers for resolution of trade-related issues. The Trade Connect ePlatform serves as a digital platform for connecting entrepreneurs and Exporters with various stakeholders, including EPCs, Indian Missions Abroad, and DGFT offices.

- e. The digitisation of Appendix 4H certification, along with the automation of Advance Authorisation, EPCG, and related FTP processes, has led to reduced processing times, improved verification, and better compliance. The online EPCG redemption facility has further streamlined closure and monitoring functions.
- f. Modules such as Self-Certified eBRCs, RCMC integration, and Status Holder Certificate issuance have reduced manual handling and improved procedural transparency. Document verification mechanisms like QR code and Unique Document Identification Number validation have enabled easier and more secure access to official documents.
- g. The establishment of E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEH) has supported warehousing, customs clearance, and logistics for cross-border e-commerce activities. Additional digital tools such as the DGFT Trade Facilitation App, e-Meeting Management Systems, and the virtual helpdesk have supported information dissemination and application tracking.
- h. Further to address foreign trade disruptions, dedicated helpdesks were set up for COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Monitoring mechanisms for the Interest Equalisation Scheme, a refund application module, and the facilitation of rupee-based international trade settlements have also been implemented.

These initiatives have contributed to improved service efficiency, document non-reputability, and simplified trade processes.

SEZ

In 2025, Special Economic Zones continued to attract steady investment and support employment generation across key sectors. During the year, Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 have been amended vide notification G.S.R. 364(E) dated 3rd June, 2025 reducing the requirement of minimum contiguous land area to 10 Hectares for setting up Special Economic Zones in Semiconductors and Electronics Component manufacturing sector. Further, various Ease of Doing Business measures were also undertaken to remove the requirement of filing SoFTEX for services provided by SEZs to DTA, and powers were delegated to Development Commissioners to allow demarcation of Non-Processing Area into Processing Area. In addition to this, three SEZs were notified in Sanand, Gujarat and one in Dharwad, Karnataka for manufacturing of semiconductors/ electronic components on 23.06.2025, 23.09.2025 and 26.09.2025 respectively. Additionally, one IT/ITES SEZ in Nava Raipur for setting-up a data centre and one Multi sector SEZ in Balinong, Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh were notified on 09.07.2025 and 30.07.2025 respectively.

Government e Marketplace (GeM):

- i. Government e Marketplace is an online platform that facilitates end-to-end procurement of goods and services by various Central/State Ministries, departments, organizations, public sector undertakings (PSUs) Panchayats, and Cooperatives. The Government's concerted efforts to harness the power of digital platforms to achieve 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' led to the genesis of GeM in 2016. The online portal was established with a clear objective to eliminate age-old manual public procurement processes that were riddled with inefficiencies and Transparency related issues. GeM is a paperless, cashless and contactless ecosystem for Government buyers to directly purchase products and services from pan-India sellers and service providers through an online platform. GeM was envisioned to utilise the agility and speed that come along with a digital platform to reinvigorate public procurement systems and bring about a lasting change for all stakeholders. GeM covers the entire gamut of procurement process, right from vendor registration and item selection by buyers to receipt of goods and facilitation of timely payments.
- ii. The total number of orders placed on GeM is close to 3.27 crore, with a cumulative GMV of more than ₹16.41 lakh crore since inception & the GMV of services has reached ₹7.94 lakh

crore, while the GMV of products has reached ₹8.47 lakh crore since its inception as of 30th November 2025.

- iii. The portal has more than 10,894 product categories and over 348 service categories, and it is home to more than 1.67 lakh buyer organizations. Additionally, more than 24 lakh profile completed sellers and service providers are registered on GeM.
- iv. Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) have made a substantial impact on GeM, contributing to 44.8% of the cumulative order value, with over 11 lakh MSEs registered on the platform. These enterprises have collectively received orders valued at more than 7.35 lakh crore as of 30th November 2025.

v. **Major Achievements and New Functionalities in FY 2025-26**

- **Milestone Achievement - ₹15 Lakh Crore GMV:** GeM's cumulative GMV since inception crossed the ₹15 lakh crore mark and reached ₹16.41 lakh crore as of 30th November 2025. This achievement highlights GeM's growing adoption across all tiers of government and its increasing contribution to the national procurement ecosystem.
- **MSEs on GeM crossed 11 Lakh:** GeM has crossed 11 lakh registered MSEs, with their share in GMV for FY 2025-26 standing at 44.8%, significantly exceeding the mandated 25% procurement target. This reinforces GeM's pivotal role in enabling MSE participation in public procurement.
- **Caution Money Exemption:** In accordance with the latest policy decision towards ease of doing business, the requirement for Caution Money deposit on GeM has been removed for all Sellers and Service Providers. Sellers who have already deposited the amount can withdraw it through the Caution Money Dashboard available on the GeM portal. This move is expected to increase number of onboarded sellers.
- **Introduction of Rate Contract Functionality:** GeM has introduced the Rate Contract functionality to cater to the demand of small repeated procurements of Government buyers. This will ensure efficiency and faster ordering without repeated tendering.

vi. **Major MoUs:**

- **MoU with IN-SPaCe:** On 16th April 2025, GeM signed a MoU with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE). The collaboration is purposed to increase the visibility, accessibility and adoption of indigenous space-tech products and services across government departments.
- **MoU with DFI:** On 21st April 2025, GeM signed a MoU with the Drone Federation India (DFI), a leading industry-led, not-for-profit body representing over 200 drone OEMs across the country. This strategic partnership marks significant step towards strengthening the drone ecosystem in public procurement.
- **MoU with Union Bank of India:** In an endeavour to seamlessly facilitate collateral-free, short ticket, short duration affordable loans to GeM-registered sellers and service providers under #GeMSahay initiative, GeM signed an MoU with the Union Bank of India on 6th May, 2025.
- **MoU with AJNIFM:** On 24th September 2025, GeM signed an MoU with the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM), a leading institute under the Ministry of Finance, in New Delhi.
- **MoU with CareEdge Ratings Limited:** On 8th October 2025, GeM signed an MoU with CareEdge Ratings Limited to collaborate on capacity building, sectoral research, knowledge exchange, and joint publications, and to support GeM events as a knowledge partner.
- **MoU with NCGG:** On 08th October 2025, GeM signed an MoU with National Centre for Goods Governance (NCGG) to strengthen collaboration in academic & policy research, transparent procurement and joint publications.

- **MoU with IIPA, New Delhi:** On 31st October 2025, GeM signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) to build a future-ready, knowledge-led public procurement ecosystem.
- **MoU with EPFO:** On 1st November 2025, during the EPFO Foundation Day event at Bharat Mandapam, in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Labour & Employment, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya; GeM signed an MoU with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to enhance transparency and strengthen compliance of the Acts in manpower outsourcing services. Through this partnership, GeM and EPFO will work together to enable system-level integration that facilitates monthly verification of provident fund contributions by service providers, thereby ensuring compliances of the Acts.
- **MoU with UN Women:** On 20th November 2025 in New Delhi, GeM signed an MoU with UN Women to strengthen the empowerment and integration of women entrepreneurs, especially from the informal sector into India's public procurement ecosystem. The collaboration aims to promote gender-responsive procurement, expand market access for women-led businesses under the #Womaniya initiative, and jointly undertake advocacy, outreach, awareness, and capacity-building efforts. It also supports the adoption of best practices in public procurement and advances UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

vii. **Procurement savings | Select case studies**

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) achieved savings of 18% on a bid of estimated value ~₹13.7Cr. for the transition of Extended Producers Responsibility Portal into a unified portal.
- Airport Authority of India accrued ~19% savings on a bid of estimated value ~₹ 22.8 Cr for Multi-Protocol Label Switching (MPLS) services.
- South-Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) realized savings of 19% on composite mining services worth ₹1,702 Cr.

viii. **Unique Contracts| Select case studies**

- Indian Navy- Installation and setup of 4 AR based welding simulator (~₹86 lakh).
- Forest Department, Gujarat GIS survey and demarcation of 20,000 hectares of forest land (₹64 Lakh).
- Energy Department, Odisha Supply, installation and maintenance of Solar Power Plant for 10 years (₹41 Crore).
- Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Establishing and running district level AADHAR Sewa Kendra (₹3,427 Crore).

GeM continues to strengthen its position as a transformative platform in public procurement, driving transparency, efficiency, inclusivity, and accountability across all levels of governance. Through continuous innovation, process reforms, and stakeholder engagement, GeM is committed to advancing the vision of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Plantation Boards (Coffee Board, Rubber Board, Tea Board and Spices Board)

- Coffee Exports during April to October FY 2025-26 were USD 1176.31 million, which is about 12% higher than the corresponding period of last year. Tea exports, during the period from April to October 2025-26, reached USD 605.90 million, compared to USD 526.14 million in the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 15.16%.
- Under the INROAD Project, which was initiated in 2021-2022 and under which 200,000 ha area is envisaged to be brought under Rubber plantation in the North- East region, a total of planting has been completed in an area of 1,79,376 ha (as of October 2025)
- The headquarter of the National Turmeric Board (NTB) was inaugurated at Nizamabad, Telangana by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah on 29th June

2025.

- The 53rd Annual Sessions and Meetings (ASM) of the International Pepper Community (IPC), along with the International Spice Exhibition, was jointly organized by the Spices Board India, and the International Pepper Community at Le Meridien, Kochi, from 28 to 30 October, 2025.
- The 8th Session of CCSCH (Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs) was hosted by Spices Board at Guwahati from October 13–17, 2025. During CCSCH8, three new international standards—large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander—were finalized and recommended for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

- **Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8):**

- a. The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), headquartered in Rome, is an intergovernmental body of 194-member countries that develops internationally harmonized food standards and is recognized by the WTO as a reference for resolving food-safety-related trade disputes. Recognizing the absence of harmonized standards for spices and culinary herbs, India, through the Spices Board, proposed the establishment of a dedicated Codex committee in 2012. This proposal was approved at the 36th Session of the CAC in July 2013, leading to the creation of the CCSCH with India as the host country and the Spices Board as the host organization. The committee is also chaired by India. Since its inception, Spices Board has organized eight sessions of the CCSCH committee.
- b. The Eighth Session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH8) was convened in Guwahati, Assam, from 13–17 October 2025. The session concluded successfully with the participation of delegates from 27 Member Countries, one Member Organization (EU), and one Observer Organization (ISO). During CCSCH8, three new international standards—large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander—were finalized and recommended for adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The development of the vanilla standard required extensive deliberations owing to the complexity of flavour chemistry and the diversity of processing methods. Its completion reflects strong global collaboration to deliver scientifically sound and internationally acceptable standards. The adoption of harmonized benchmarks for large cardamom, vanilla, and coriander is expected to enhance global trade by providing clear and uniform quality requirements. These developments hold particular significance for India, which is a major exporter of large cardamom and coriander. Uniform international standards for vanilla will also support consistency and trust in global trade, although India is predominantly an importer of this commodity.
- c. At the conclusion of the 8th session, the Committee has so far developed 17 full-fledged international Codex standards covering 19 spices. These include standards for: (1) black/white/green pepper, (2) cumin, (3) thyme, (4) basil, (5) oregano, (6) ginger, (7) garlic, (8) cloves, (9) chilli pepper and paprika, (10) nutmeg, (11) saffron, (12) turmeric, (13) small cardamom, (14) a group standard for allspice, juniper berries and star anise, (15) vanilla, (16) coriander, and (17) large cardamom.
- d. As the CCSCH Secretariat, the Spices Board coordinated the organization of the session, facilitated member participation, prepared session documents, and ensured adherence to Codex procedures. These efforts reinforce India's leadership in the development of global spice standards and its commitment to promoting fair, safe, and transparent international trade in spices.

ECGC

- Collateral-Free Cover under WT-ECIB: In order to stimulate export credit among MSE exporters, who are not in a position to offer any collaterals or third-party guarantee, a scheme offering 'Collateral-Free Cover' has been introduced by ECGC w.e.f. July 1, 2025. The scheme aims to support collateral-free

export credit lending by Banks under its WT-ECIB, for export credit working capital limits up to ₹10 crore, without any additional premium. This will enable the banks to offer liberal credit to MSEs.

- Enhanced Cover without additional premium under WT-ECIB: In order to bring down the insurance cost and ease of doing business, the Company is offering enhanced cover of 90% to the eligible banks and accounts for their export credit loans up to ₹50 crore, as against earlier limit of up to ₹20 crore, without any incremental cost, w.e.f. October 1, 2025.
- Strategic Review of Countries: Amidst the global economic uncertainty and the likely trade disruption caused by US tariff hike, ECGC has undertaken strategic review of country ratings to liberalize underwriting and encourage market diversification. To tide over the US tariff disruptions, country ratings of 24 countries have been upgraded w.e.f. September 19, 2025, thereby reducing insurance cost for these countries. This would assist exporters, particularly MSEs, in de-risking their business and exploring new export destinations such as Latin America, Middle East, Africa, East Asia, & other emerging markets, thereby reducing over-exposure to markets affected by tariffs, protectionist policies or restrictive market access.
- Simplified procedure for settlement of claims: In order to provide better service and improve the turnaround time for settlement of claims under Short Term (ST)- ECIB, the Company had simplified the procedure for settlement of ECIB Claims for limits up to ₹5 crore, with reduced requirement of documents, w.e.f. March 1, 2024. The scope of the scheme was further revised w.e.f. February 1, 2025 to consider claims with net principal outstanding up to ₹10 crore for the exporter/group, irrespective of the export credit limits sanctioned.
- Facultative Reinsurance: With the objective of having cost effective and stable reinsurance support, the Company has initiated partnerships with Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) for facultative reinsurance arrangements. During the periods of market volatility, where private reinsurers may reduce their capacity or may not be supporting for some countries, ECA based reinsurance covers ensure continuity for exporters providing a stability even when commercial markets retreats.
- Facultative Inward Reinsurance: The Company has introduced Facultative Inward Reinsurance w.e.f. May 29, 2025, as part of its business expansion and diversification strategy. The inward reinsurance shall be offered for MLT projects where some Indian components/ services are included. The cover shall be provided in US Dollar (USD) from the GIFT City IFSC Insurance Office (IIO) of the Company.

ITPO

- The 38th edition of the India International Leather Fair (IILF) was organized by ITPO in Chennai from February 1 to 3, 2025. The fair was held in close collaboration with key industry organizations, including the Council for Leather Exports (CLE), Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Indian Shoe Federation (ISF), Indian Finished Leather Manufacturers and Exporters Association (IFLMEA), Indian Footwear Components Manufacturers' Association (IFCOMA), and the Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI). A total of 491 companies, comprising 330 Indian and 61 overseas participants, took part in IILF 2025, collectively occupying an exhibition space of 11,022 sqm. Approximately 17,245 business visitors attended the fair, including 248 overseas visitors from 49 countries and 16,997 Indian visitors.
- The 14th East Himalayan Trade Fair & 1st East Himalayan Agri Expo 2025 from January 23–29, 2025 at Chandmari Field, Guwahati in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, Government of Assam, showcased the Northeast's vibrant trade and agricultural potential.
- The New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2025 was held from February 1 to 9, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organized by the National Book Trust (NBT), India, under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and co-organized by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), this annual event celebrated its theme "Republic@75", marking 75 years of India as a republic.

- India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) organized the 39th edition of AAHAR - The International Food & Hospitality Fair jointly with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) from March 4 to 8, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam. Spread over a gross area of over 1,10,000 sqm, AAHAR 2025 provided excellent opportunities for Networking Avenues, Online Match-making, pre-scheduled meetings and new Products Launches. Over 1700 companies including domestic online participants, overseas participants from 22 countries and 13 associations participated in this fair. Overseas national pavilion was setup by Italy and Turkey. Approx. 65,000 business visitors which include overseas visitors and Indian visitors visited the fair.
- **WORLD EXPO, OSAKA (JAPAN) 2025:** World Expo is organized every five year. This edition was held in Osaka, Japan, from 13th April to 13th October 2025. India Pavilion – Bharat won the Bronze Award in the Exterior Design category for Modular Pavilion. India Pavilion – Bharat was among the 5 most recommended pavilions by local surveys, recording the third-highest visitorship with 3.72 million visitors, representing around 14% of total Expo visitors. The Pavilion received six appreciation letters from the Expo authorities for its flawless execution, high reputation, and for serving as an example for other pavilions. India Pavilion – Bharat successfully branded India as a nation that reflects a balance between development and cultural heritage. The country's name "Bharat" gained significant global recognition and popularity during the Expo. Overall, the participation of India Pavilion – Bharat at World Expo Osaka 2025 was a hugely successful endeavour, enhancing India's global image in culture, innovation, and diplomacy.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

- The **Committee on Agriculture (CoA)** oversees the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture and provides a forum for members to raise questions related to agricultural policies. Its key responsibility is to monitor how WTO members are complying with their commitments. The CoA usually meets four times a year. In the year 2025, 4 CoA meetings have taken place in Geneva, wherein India had raised a total of 143 questions on the agriculture policies of the developed countries and Cairns Group Members including USA, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Paraguay, Uruguay, Thailand, EU, UK, Argentina, Japan, Switzerland.
- In order to discuss important issues pertaining to WTO negotiations along with having a holistic overview on the State of Play at WTO, Geneva, a **Retreat of Permanent Mission of India (PMI)** to the WTO was organized from 25th -29th August, 2025 at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. During the Retreat, officials from PMI, Geneva made presentations on the State of Play and progress made in different areas of negotiations for the upcoming MC14. The Officers of TNM Wing, the DGFT along with stakeholder Ministries/ Departments i.e.; Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Department of Food and Public Distribution (including Food Corporation of India); Ministry of External Affairs, former Secretaries/ Ambassadors, Experts, Industry Associations/ Export Promotion Councils and Heads of CWTOS and CTIL among others participated in the relevant Sessions.
- Following notifications have been submitted by India at the WTO:
- **Domestic Support (DS:1)** notification for the Marketing Year 2023/2024 on 25th April 2025 (G/AG/N/IND/33)
- **Export Restriction (ER:1)** notification on 10 June 2025 for **Wheat (G/AG/N/IND/34), Sugar (G/AG/N/IND/35), Onion (G/AG/N/IND/36), Non-Basmati Rice (G/AG/N/IND/37) and Broken rice (G/AG/N/IND/38)**.
- **Market Access (MA:2)** notification regarding market access commitments on 18 November 2025 (G/AG/N/IND/39).
- A **Group of Experts on WTO Reform** was constituted on 16th October, 2025 by the Department comprising former Ambassadors and Trade experts, which held its first meeting on 7th November 2025 under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary. The discussion emphasized the need for India

to sharpen its reform narrative, identify red lines, and shape a coherent strategy, as WTO Reform is being embarked upon as a major priority for MC-14, structured around the three pillars of Governance, Fairness, and Future Issues.

Abhishek Dayal/Nihi Sharma/Shabbir Azad

(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2201284) आगंतुक पटल : 7504

इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: हिन्दी , Marathi , Gujarati , Tamil , Kannada , Malayalam