



**EMBASSY OF INDIA  
BRUSSELS**



# **THE INDIA CONNECT**

**OCTOBER 2026**

## From the Ambassador's Desk



We are pleased to present the October edition of *The India Connect*.

Over the past decade, India has made significant progress in expanding and modernising its infrastructure, from highways, railways and dedicated freight corridors to industrial cities and multimodal logistics networks. This edition explores India's efforts to build a more integrated and efficient logistics ecosystem through initiatives such as the National Logistics Policy, the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and digital platforms that improve supply-chain visibility and coordination. Together, these initiatives reflect India's commitment to building modern, efficient, resilient and future-ready infrastructure to support its long-term economic growth.

This edition also brings you recent economic and policy updates from India, along with a special focus on the coastal state of Tamil Nadu, highlighting its industrial strengths, export potential and investment opportunities.

We hope our readers gain useful insights into India's infrastructure priorities and the opportunities they present for collaboration and partnership. As always, we welcome your comments and feedback and look forward to strengthening our shared partnerships.

A handwritten signature of Pranay Verma in black ink, written in a cursive style.

**Pranay Verma**

# THE INDIA BRIEF - RECENT UPDATES

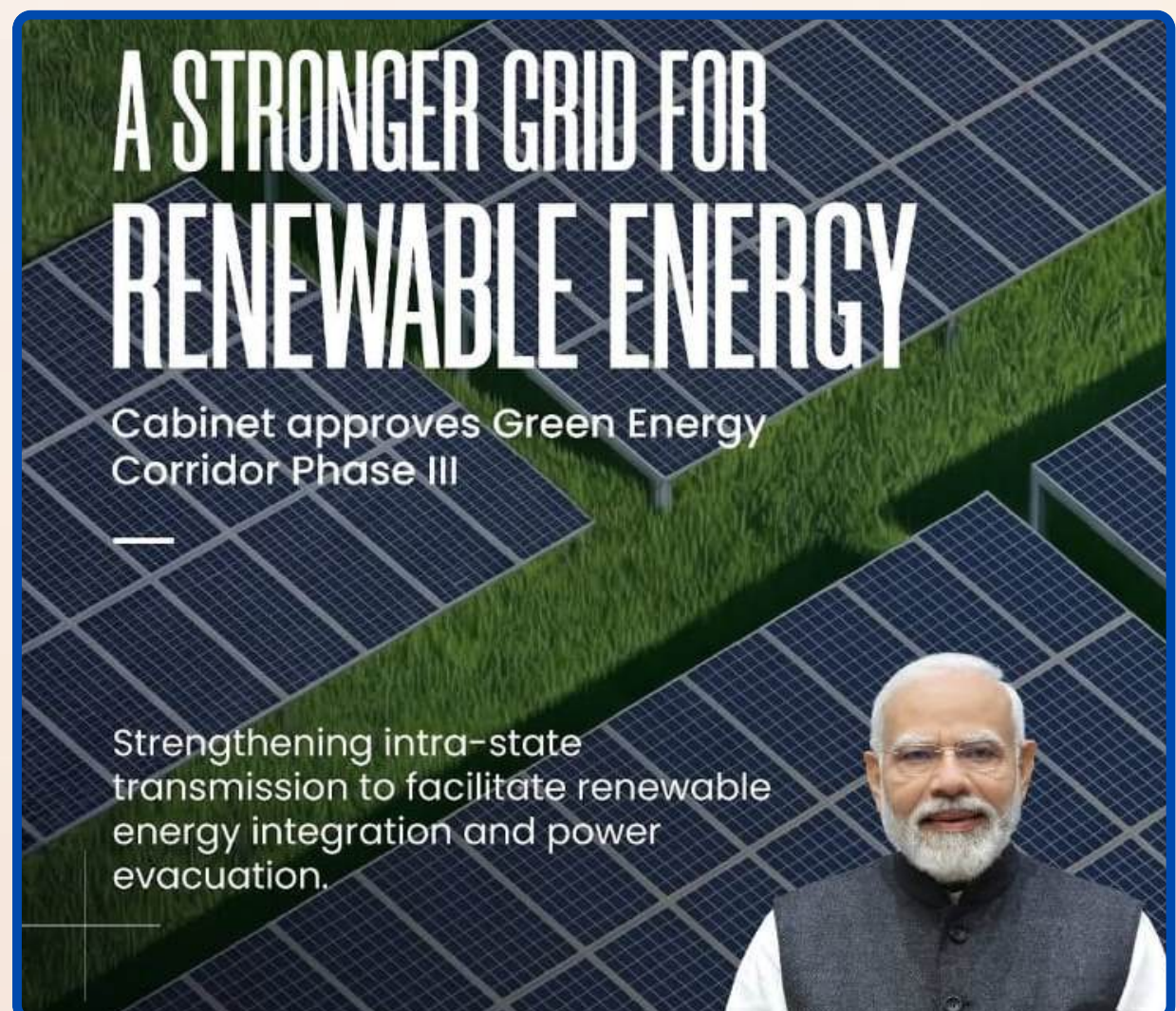


## India-Belgium Ties Strengthen

- Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Bart De Wever met in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral cooperation
- Launched the India-Belgium Investment Fast-Track Mechanism to facilitate investments
- Both countries aim to double bilateral trade within five years

## Green Energy Corridor Approved

- Cabinet approved Phase III on 30 September 2026
- Strengthens intra-state transmission networks to improve integration
- Enables evacuation of up to 135 GW of renewable power and 50 GWh of battery storage
- US\$19.38 billion outlay, with completion targeted by FY2032-33



## Five Railway Projects Approved

- 5 multitracking projects covering 17 districts across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana
- Will add 540 km to India's railway network, improving connectivity and freight movement
- Estimated investment of US\$1.04 billion, with completion targeted by FY2029-30

# THE INDIA BRIEF - RECENT UPDATES

## Strengthening Social Security Coverage for India's Workforce



### EPFO Expands Social Security

- Mandatory EPFO wage ceiling raised from US\$ 155 to US\$ 259 monthly, effective 17 September
- Over 5.1 million additional employees expected to gain coverage
- Expands access to provident fund, pension and insurance benefits.

### India-Luxembourg Tech Cooperation

- Ministers Jitendra Singh and Lex Delles met to strengthen bilateral cooperation
- Explored opportunities in space, AI, quantum technologies, life sciences and high-performance computing
- Proposed deeper collaboration among research institutions, industries and technology companies.



## SEMICON India 2026

SILICON TO SYSTEMS : BUILDING THE ECOSYSTEM  
SEPTEMBER 17-19 | YASHOBHOOMI (ICC), NEW DELHI



### SEMICON India 2026

- Brought together 600+ exhibitors and representatives from 52 countries in New Delhi
- Recorded 56 MoUs and strategic initiatives across design, manufacturing, packaging and skilling
- Five semiconductor units have begun commercial operations

# DEEP DIVE: INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

## Infrastructure Planning and Development

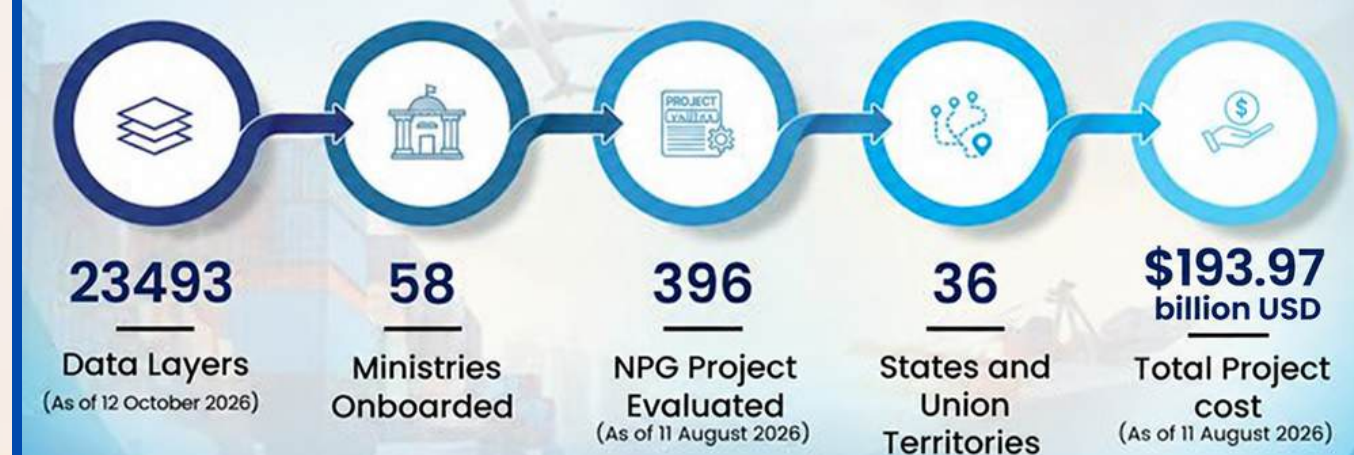
### National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

- Launched in **2019**, the NIP was created to provide a coordinated pipeline of infrastructure projects and improve investment visibility across India.
- It envisaged around **US\$ 1.15 trillion** of investment during FY2020-25, covering **9,700+ projects across 37 sub-sectors**.

### PM GatiShakti National Master Plan

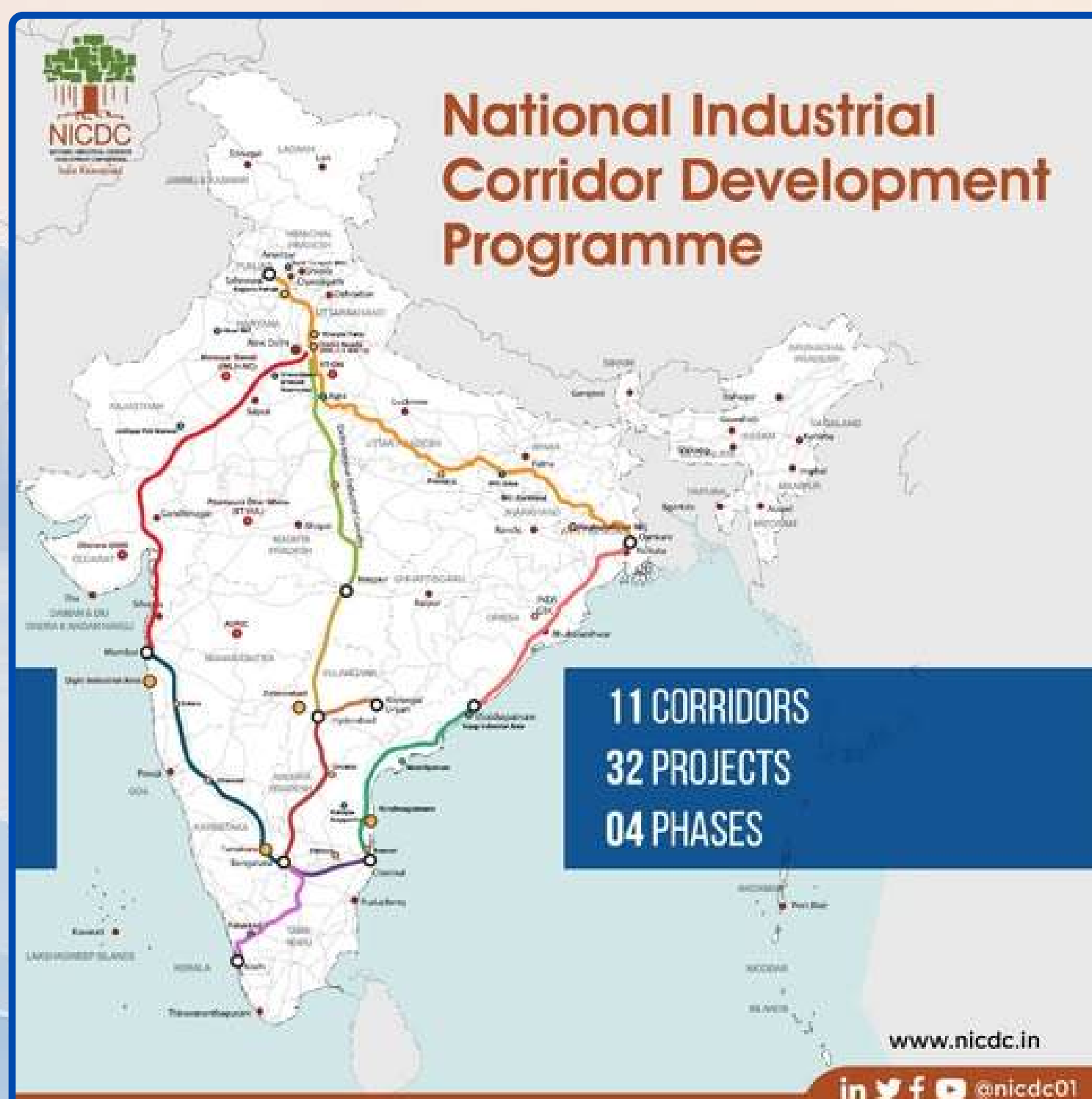
- Launched on **13 October 2021**
- Brings data onto a common GIS platform spanning **58 Ministries, 36 States/UTs, and over 23,493 data layers**.

### PM GatiShakti: Five Years of Scale and Reach



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

## National Industrial Corridor Development Programme



- Aims to develop integrated **industrial corridors & smart cities**
- Provides planned industrial land, reliable utilities, transport **connectivity and modern logistics** to support businesses
- Funds projects through **National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT)**
- 4 out of 20 projects have already been completed

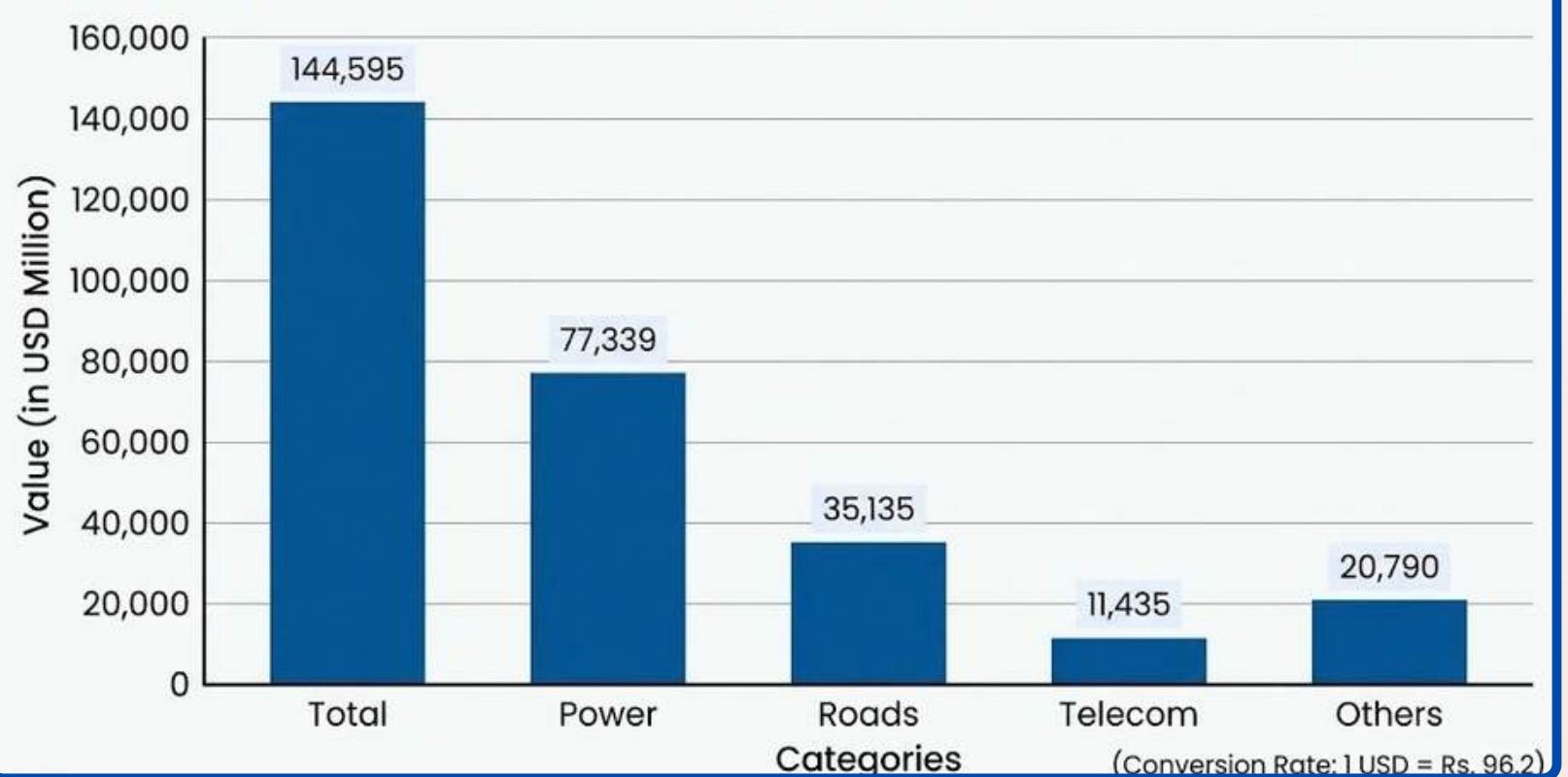
## Industrial and Manufacturing Infrastructure

- As of May 2026, India's Industrial Land Bank mapped **4,220 industrial parks across 698 thousand hectares, with 133 thousand hectares** of land available.
- **20 industrial smart cities** have been approved across **7 industrial corridors**
- **The BHAVYA scheme** administered by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), with an outlay of **US\$ 3.5 billion**, aims to develop **100 new plug-and-play** industrial parks across India.

## Investment and Infrastructure

- Public capex rose from about **US\$ 20.79 billion** (FY 2014-15) to **US\$126.82 billion** (FY 2026-27)
- RBI's Sectoral Credit Deployment (Oct 2025) shows power, roads and telecom as top priorities.

### Deployment of Gross Bank Credit to Infrastructure



## Physical Infrastructure

### Roads and Highways

- India has **world's 2nd largest** road network of **6.37 million kms**
- National Highways network has **grown by 61%** from 2014 to 2026 while 4-lane-and-above highways have **more than doubled to 45,516 km** by March 2026.
- Rural roads have expanded by **410 thousand kms**

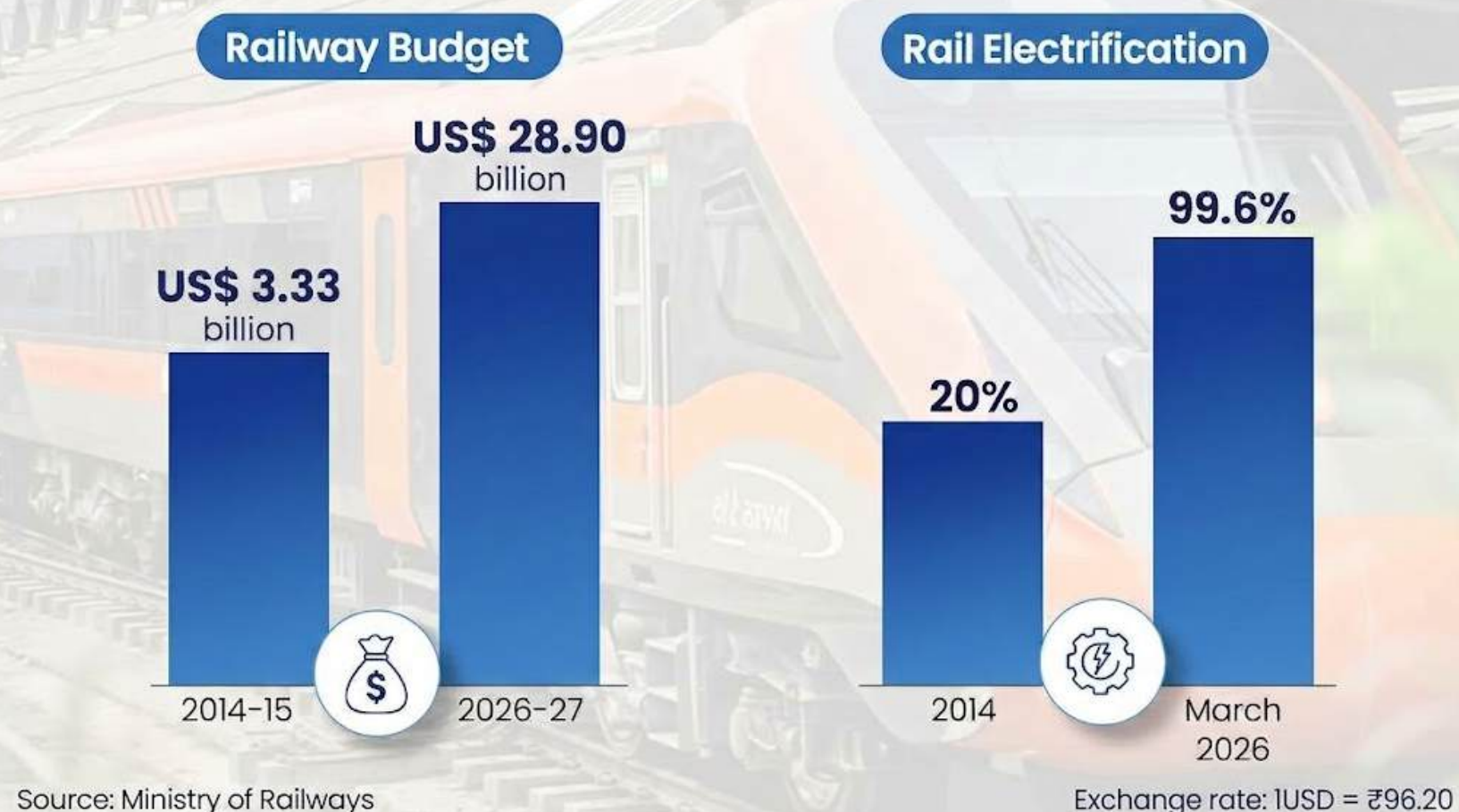
### India's Expanding Highway Network



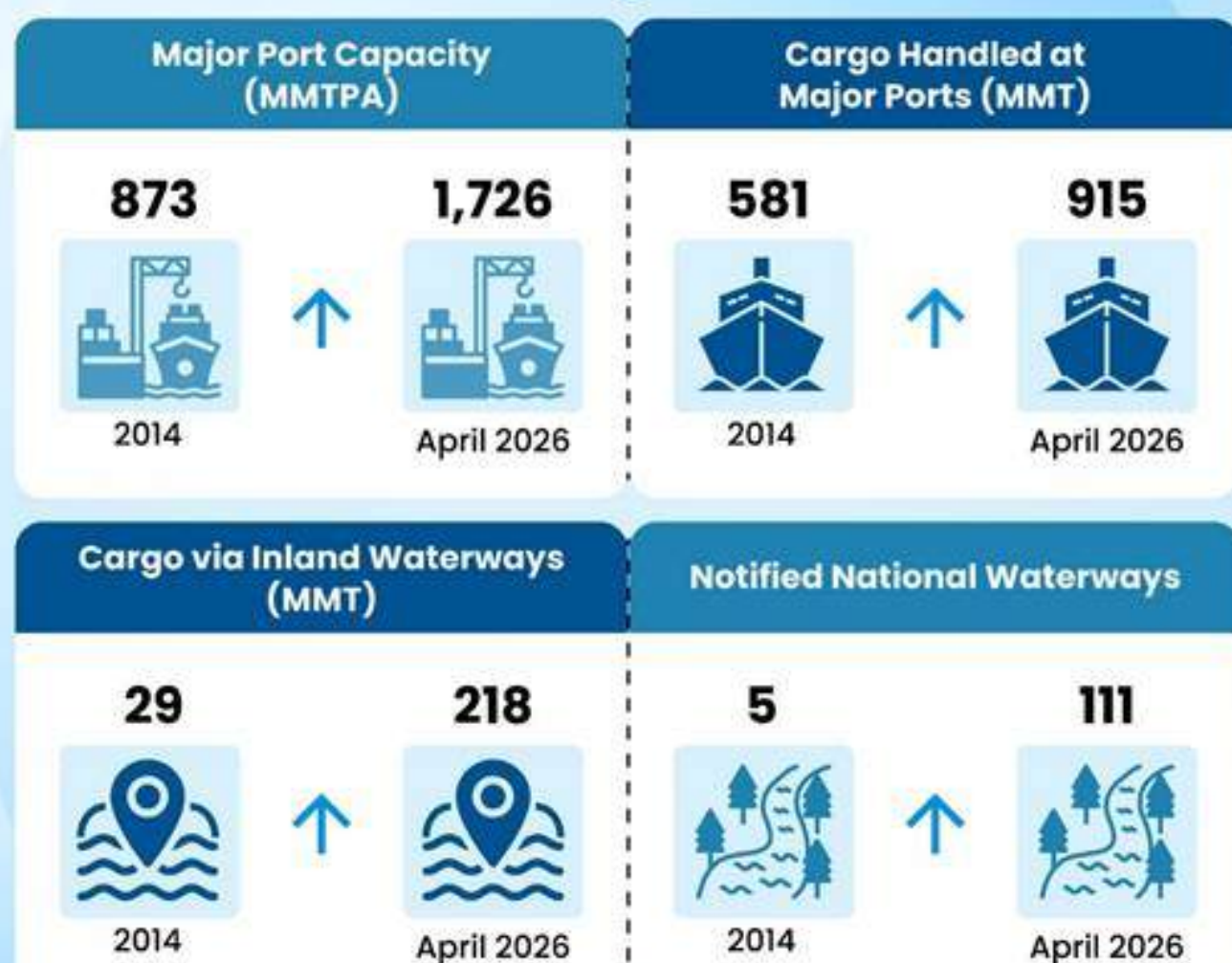
## Railways

- **Dedicated Eastern and Western freight corridors (2,843 km)**, are operational with over 443 trains running daily
- **7 new high-speed rail corridors** announced in 2026
- India's **1<sup>st</sup> hydrogen fuel cell trainset** ran in July 2026.

## Railways Under Transformation



## Ports and Waterways Powering Growth



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

## Ports and Waterways

- India ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** with **35.4%** market share in Global Ship-Recycling
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) ranks **22nd globally** in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index (CPPI)
- Sagarmala Project comprises **845 projects worth US\$ 63 billion**, with **315** fully completed

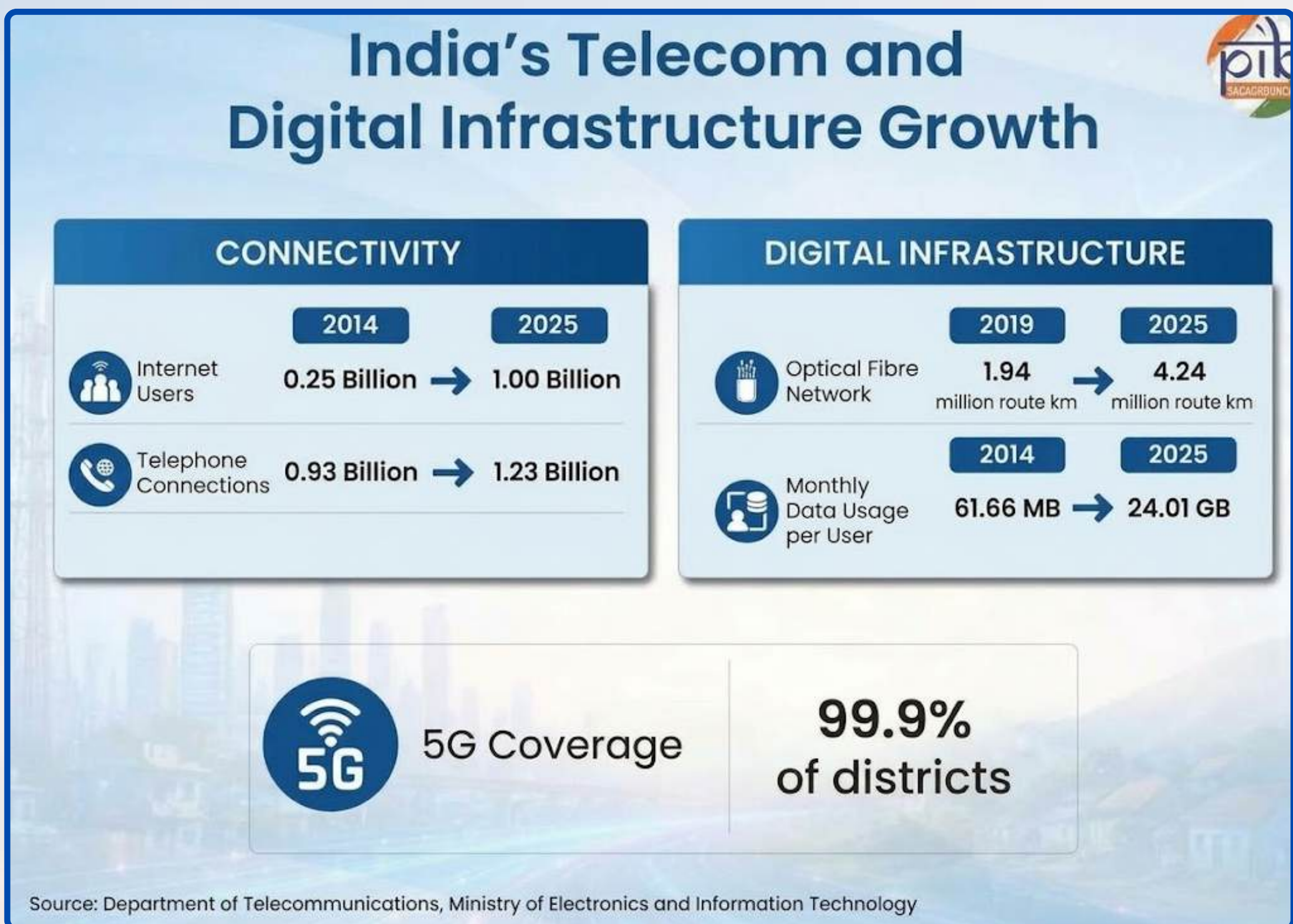
## Civil Aviation

- Operational airports rose from **74 to 165**
- **25 greenfield airports** approved since 2014
- UDAN scheme connects 95 airports through 679 routes and **16.8 million passengers**
- Modified UDAN has an outlay of **US\$ 3 billion** for **100 new airports** and **200 helipads**

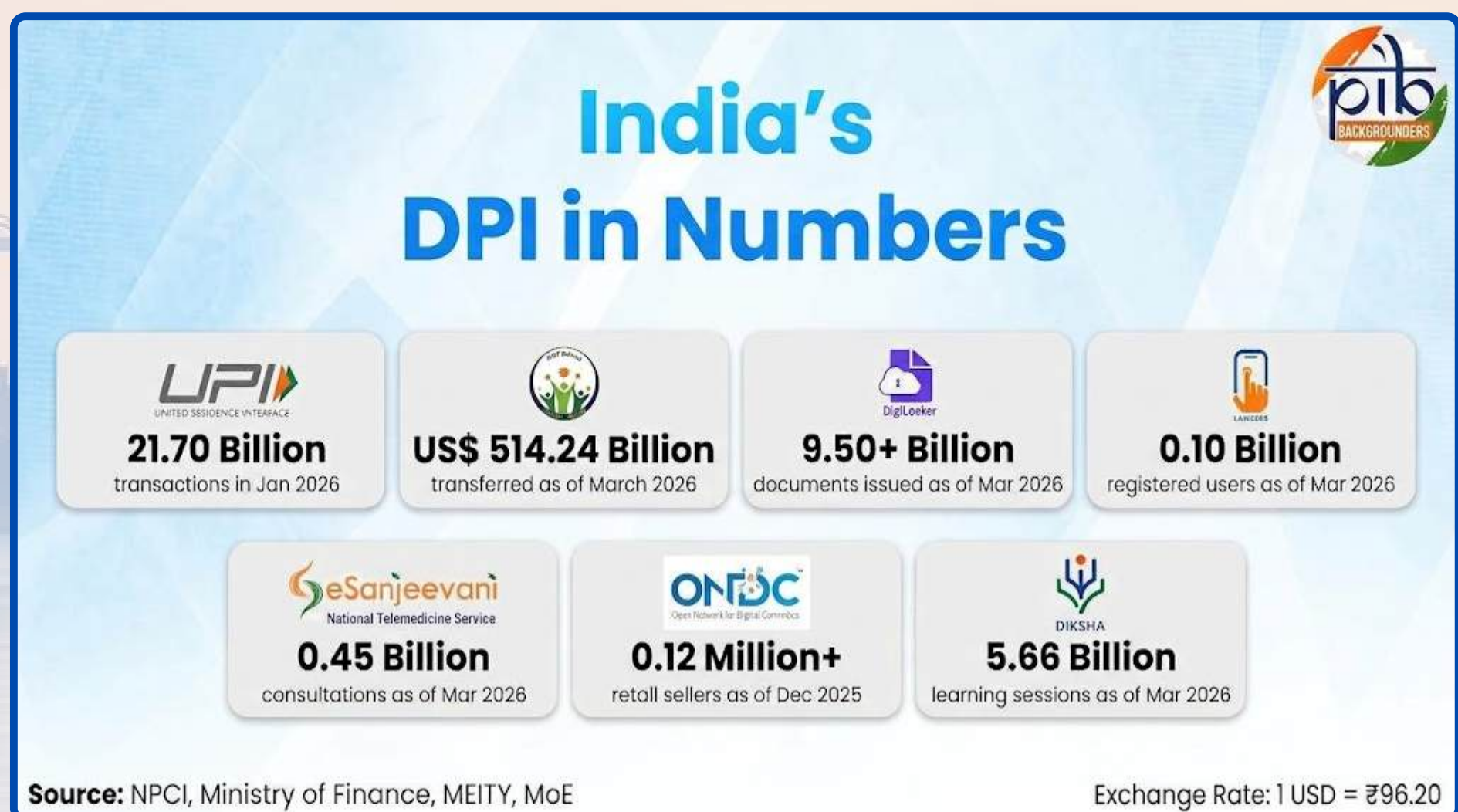
## CONNECTING INDIA THROUGH REGIONAL AVIATION



## Digital Public Infrastructure



- **India's DPI** connects digital identity through **Aadhaar**, payments through **UPI**, and data exchange through **API Setu**.
- **UMANG** provides access to over **2500 government services across 241 departments** & **DigiLocker** enables sharing authenticated digital documents.
- **BharatNet** has made **221 thousand** Gram Panchayats service-ready for broadband connectivity



**United Payments Interface (UPI)** connects **555 million individuals, 65 million merchants and 741 banks**, powering **85%** of India's digital payments. It is operational in **11 countries**, supporting the international adoption of Indian digital platforms.

# LOGISTICS

## National Logistics Policy (NLP)

- Launched in **September 2022** to complement the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the National Logistics Policy **aims to reduce logistics costs to global benchmarks, improve supply-chain efficiency** and place India among the top 25 countries in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index by 2030.
- By **September 2025, 27 States and Union Territories** had formulated their own logistics policies, strengthening coordination between national and regional logistics reforms.

## Logistics Data Bank (LDB)

- Launched in **2016**, the LDB uses digital tracking technology to improve visibility of export-import container movements
- In **August 2026**, it reached the **100 million EXIM containers** tracked
- Using **RFID** and other technologies, the platform helps businesses monitor cargo movement, assess transit times and identify delays



The banner features the logos of NICDC (National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation) and NLDS (NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd) at the top. The main text reads 'LDB2.0 Modernizing Export Logistics'. Below this, a red box states 'Now users will be able to track shipments using'. At the bottom, four icons represent different transport modes: Container Numbers (warehouse icon), Vehicle Numbers (truck icon), Railway FNR Numbers (train icon), and Export Containers on High Seas (ship icon).

## Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)



The image shows the ULIP logo with the tagline 'REDEFINING LOGISTICS'. Above the logo are logos of its partners: PM GatiShakti, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India; NITI Aayog; NICDC; NLDS; and 75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- ULIP connects logistics-related digital systems across government departments through a common interface
- By **February 2026**, it integrated **44 systems across 11 ministries** & supported **1,700 companies** and **2 billion** API transactions.

## Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS)

- **LEADS** is a flagship benchmarking framework launched in **2018**
- It is an **annual assessment** that benchmarks logistics performance across States and Union Territories
- The framework accounts for **perception and objective** indicators



**LEADS 2025** introduced a four-tier classification- **Exemplars, High Performers, Accelerators and Growth-Seekers** to benchmark performance

### Outcomes of LEADS 2025 Survey

|                                                                                                     |  Coastal States Group |  Landlocked States Group |  Union Territories Group |  North-Eastern States Group |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Exemplars       | Tamil Nadu                                                                                               | Uttar Pradesh                                                                                                | Delhi                                                                                                         | Mizoram                                                                                                          |
|  High Performers | Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra                                                                             | Haryana, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Bihar                                                                      | Jammu and Kashmir, Puducherry                                                                                 | Tripura, Meghalaya                                                                                               |
|  Accelerators    | Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka                                                                   | Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh                                             | Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Chandigarh, Ladakh, Lakshadweep                                         | Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Assam                                                                      |
|  Growth Seekers  | West Bengal                                                                                              | Rajasthan                                                                                                    | Andaman and Nicobar Islands                                                                                   | Sikkim                                                                                                           |

India approved the **Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority (ITLA)** in **October 2026** to coordinate planning, assess projects, monitor outcomes and integrate data across roads, railways, ports and waterways.

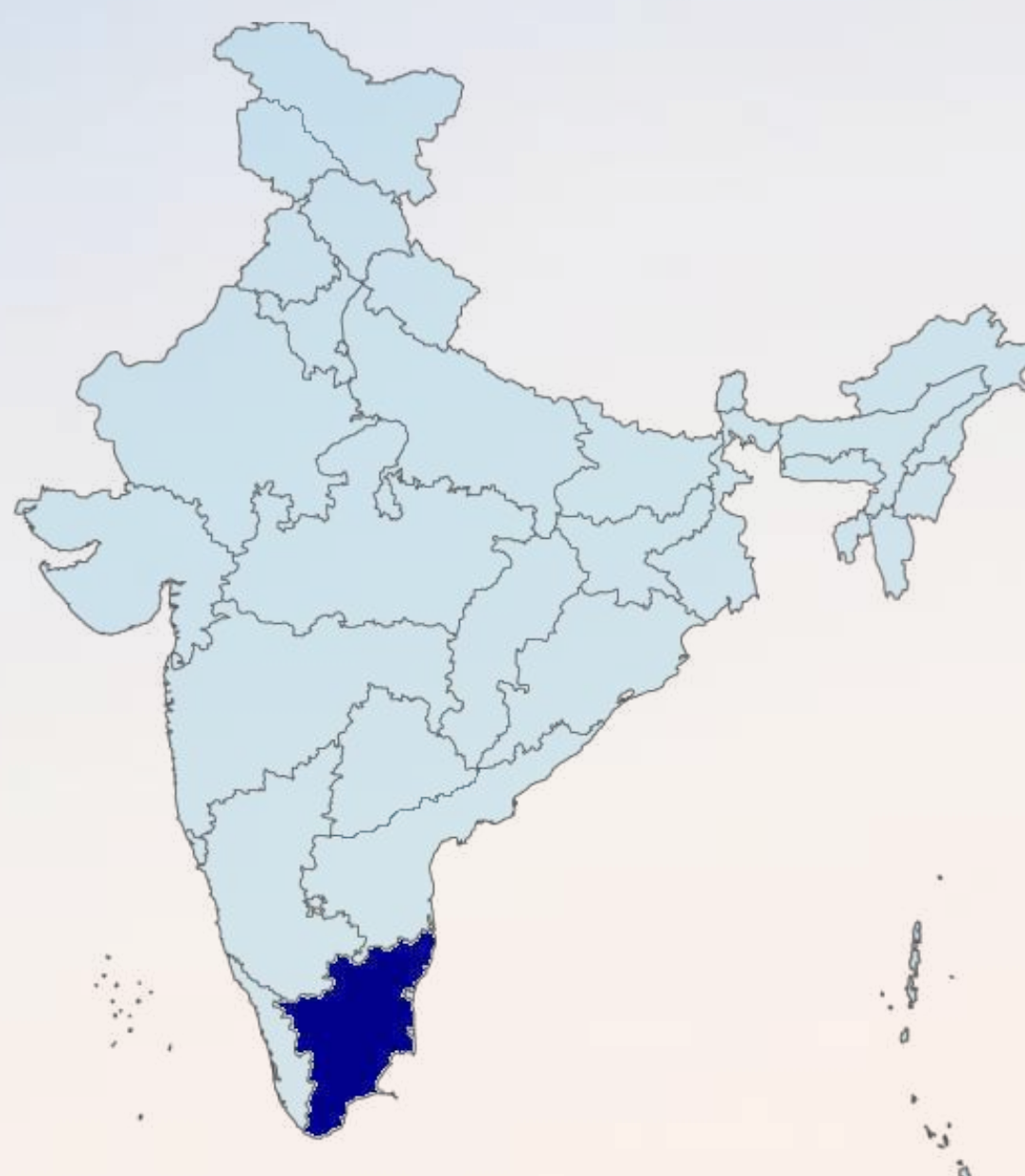
# STATE IN FOCUS: TAMIL NADU

## GATEWAY TO INDIA'S GROWTH STORY

- 6% population, 4% geographical area, 9.4% of India's GDP (FY 2024-2025)
- GSDP in FY 2024-25: US\$ 324.22 billion

## ECONOMIC STRENGTHS

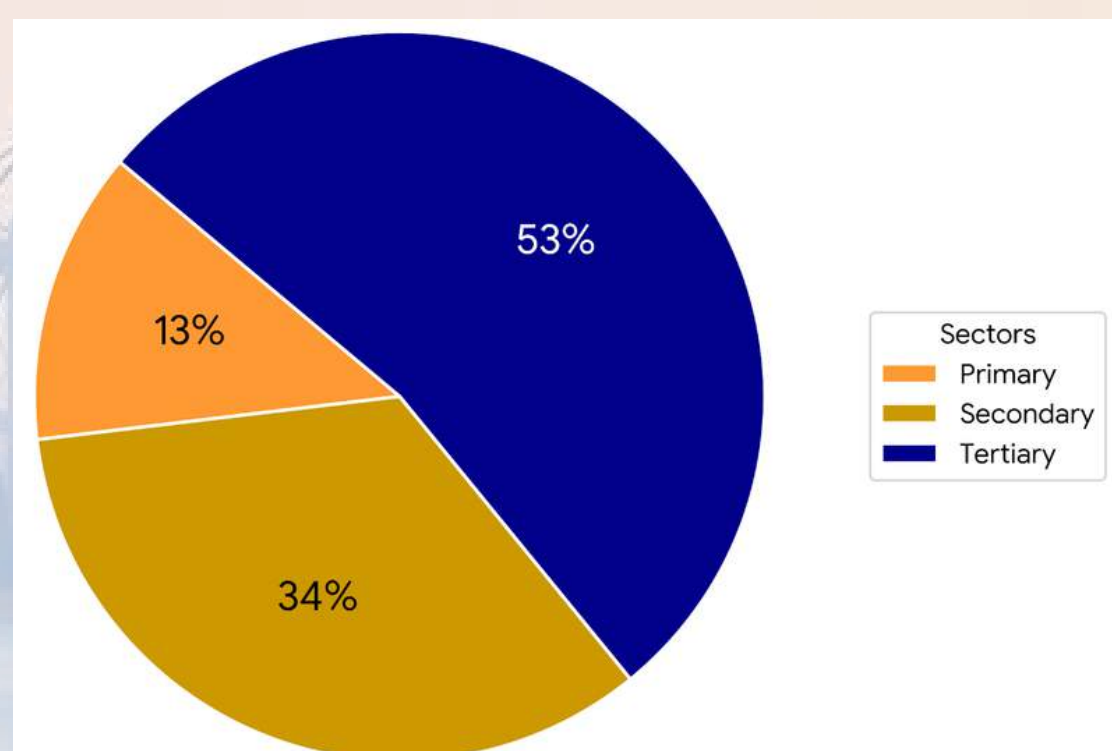
- **India's largest factory base:** 41221 operating factories in 2024 - 25, the highest among Indian States.
- **Manufacturing employment leader:** 3.15 million people in registered factory sector and accounted for 10.90% of India's factory-sector GVA.
- **Foreign investment:** FDI equity inflows of US\$ 4.72 billion in FY 2025 - 26.
- **Merchandise exports:** Export value stood at US\$ 58.95 billion in FY 2025 - 26



## INDIA - EU TRADE

Leads the country in exporting engineering goods, electronics, ready-made garments, cotton yarn, handloom products, and leather goods positioning for a deeper India-EU cooperation.

## SECTORAL SHARE - GSVA (FY 2024 - 25)



## DO YOU KNOW !

- Ranked Exemplar in LEADS 2025
- Largest exporter of Electronics with a share of 41.6% in FY 2025 - 26.
- Contributes to 46% of India's total renewable energy manufacturing

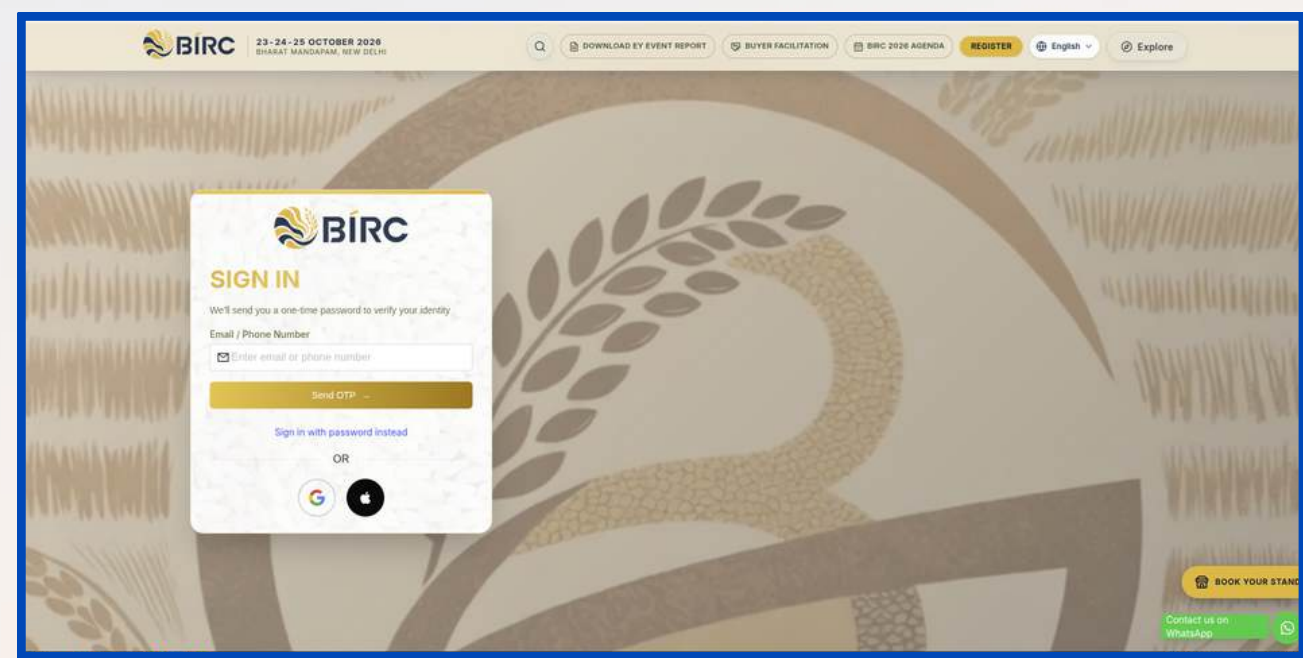
## GATEWAY FOR TRADE

- 1069 km coastline with 21 sea ports handling 6.43 % of India's port cargo
- 6 airports and 5 major Industrial Corridor with 110 Industrial Parks

# UPCOMING MAJOR BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA



**62nd IHGF Delhi Fair (Autumn) 2026**  
**13 - 17 Oct 2026**  
**Textiles, Lifestyle**



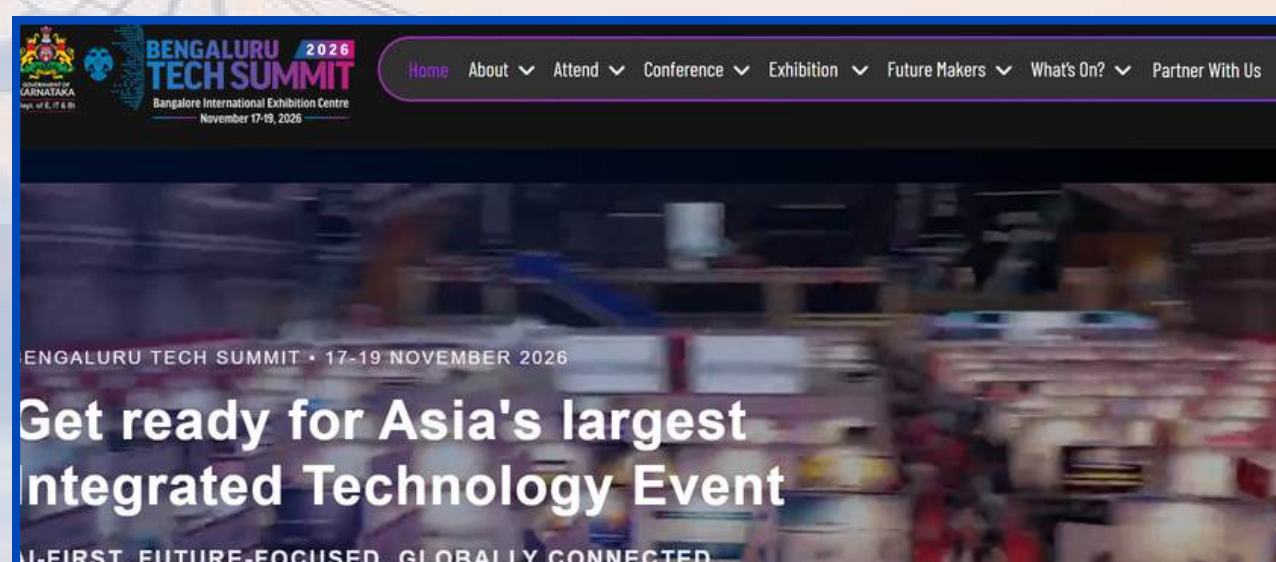
**Bharat International Rice Conference**  
**23 - 25 Oct 2026**  
**Rice trade, Agri - business**



**Maritime India Conference & Expo**  
**2 - 4 November 2026**  
**Maritime Logistics**



**Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026**  
**2 - 5 November 2026**  
**Renewable Energy**



**Bengaluru Tech Summit**  
**17 - 19 November 2026**  
**AI & Technology**



**International Engineering Sourcing Show**  
**26 - 28 Nov 2026**  
**Engineering Products, Industrial Machinery**

# UPCOMING MAJOR BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA



**World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo**  
**10 - 13 Dec 2026**  
**Ayush Products, Nutraceuticals**



**25th India Med Expo**  
**18 - 20 Dec 2026**  
**Med Tech and Healthcare**



**Indusfood 2027**  
**08 - 10 Jan 2027**  
**Processed Foods, Food tech**



**Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2027**  
**4 - 9 February 2027**  
**Automobiles, Logistics**



**Bharat Fintech Summit 2027**  
**10 - 11 February 2027**  
**Fintech**



**India International Coffee Festival**  
**26 - 28 February 2027**  
**Coffee Roasting and Brewing**

**CONTACT US:**

**EMBASSY OF INDIA, BRUSSELS**  
**Email: [com.brussels@mea.gov.in](mailto:com.brussels@mea.gov.in)**