सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA
BRUSSELS

THE INDIA CONNECT

AUGUST 2026

A Message from the Ambassador

India today shares a strong partnership with Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union than ever before. Built on shared values and mutual trust, our relationship continues to expand across trade, investment, technology, innovation, and people-to-people connections. As our economies grow closer, so do the opportunities for businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, and institutions to work together in meaningful ways.

At the heart of every successful partnership lies communication. In an increasingly interconnected world, staying informed about each other's priorities, achievements and emerging opportunities is essential. It is through this continuous exchange of ideas and information that stronger collaborations are formed and lasting relationships are built.

It is with this spirit that I am delighted to introduce the inaugural edition of “The India Connect”, a monthly publication of the Embassy of India. Created for policy makers, business community and friends of India, this magazine brings together three central features: key economic developments and policy updates; insights into Indian states and emerging sectors of growing importance; and information on upcoming trade fairs, business events and opportunities for engagement.

As we celebrate India’s 80th Independence Day today and work towards the vision of transforming India into a developed nation by 2047, the launch of this new initiative will give us an opportunity to stay connected, foster meaningful dialogue and strengthen our shared bond. Through regular editions, we hope to bring our communities closer and facilitate the exchange of ideas that contribute to our collective growth and shared prosperity by building new avenues for collaboration.

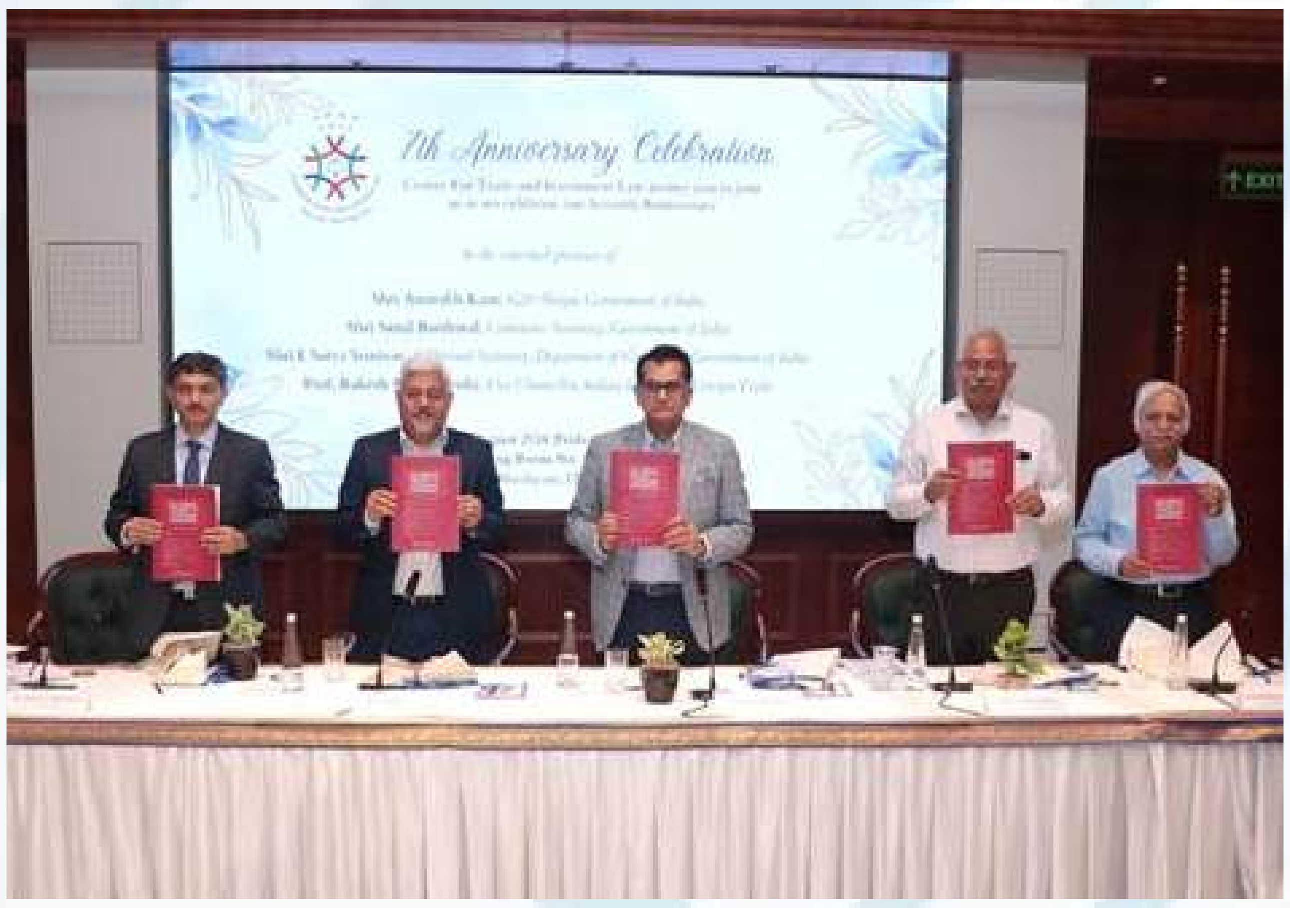
I warmly invite you to make this publication a part of your monthly reading. I hope you will find it informative and that it will serve as a meaningful bridge connecting India with Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union.

Pranay Verma
15th August 2026

THE INDIA BRIEF - RECENT UPDATES

India Rises in Global Reform Rankings

- Competere Foundation report revealed India jumped 25 spots from 82nd to 57th in global rankings for structural and pro-competitive reforms between 2010 and 2023.
- CTIL (Centre for Trade and Investment Law) hosted a discussion highlighting progress in reducing market distortions, GST implementation, and modernizing trade facilitation.



India-EU Trade & Technology Council Ministerial (TTC)

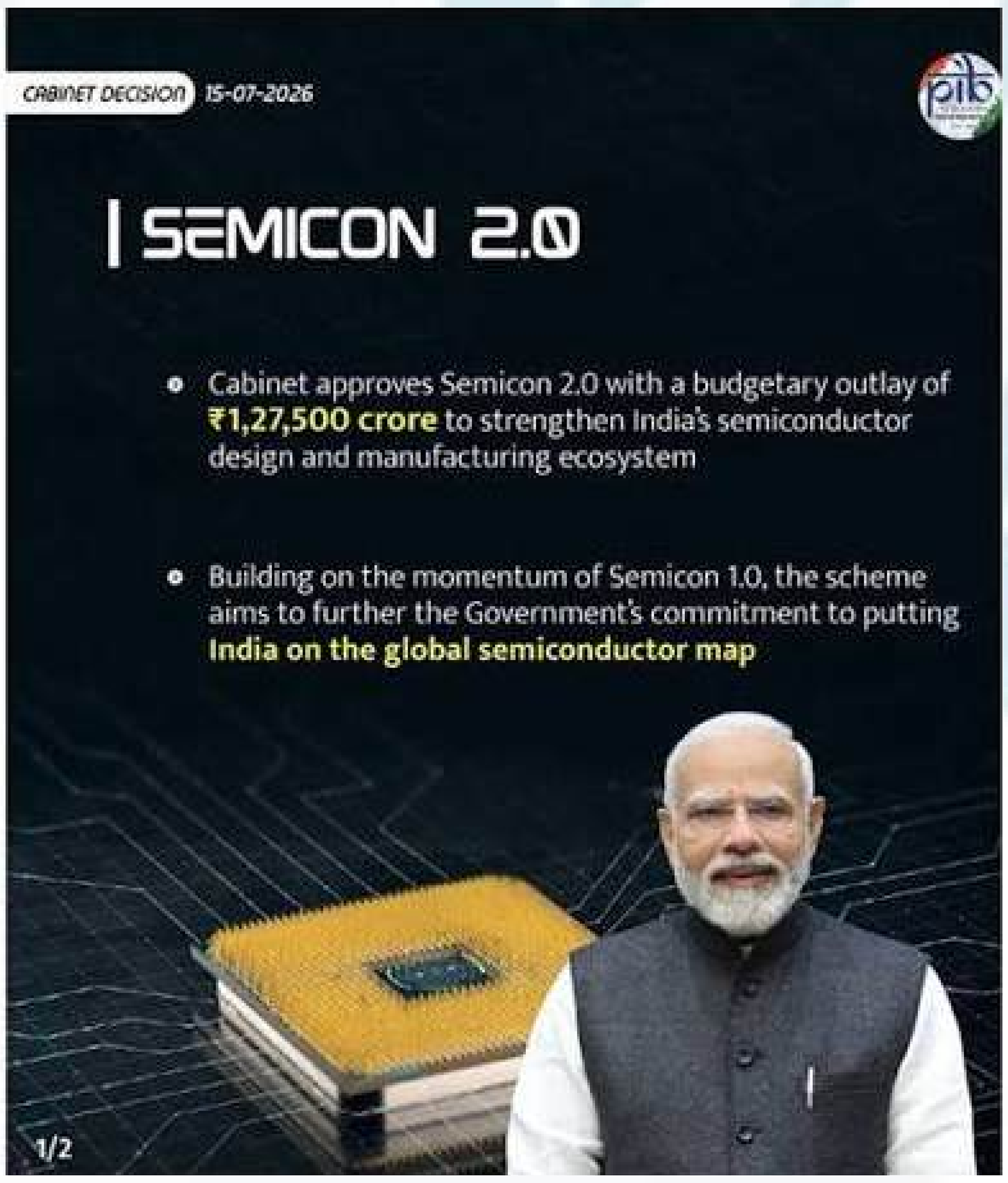
- The TTC was co-chaired by Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security & Democracy, Commissioner for Trade & Economic Security, and Commissioner for Startups, Research & Innovation. On the Indian side, it was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister and Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology
- Formal talks launched on India's association to the EU's €95.5 bn research programme.
- 1st India-EU Innovation Hub on EV-charging technology & Deep-Tech Startup Partnership.
- Cooperation on semiconductors, high-performance computing, quantum tech, AI & 6G.

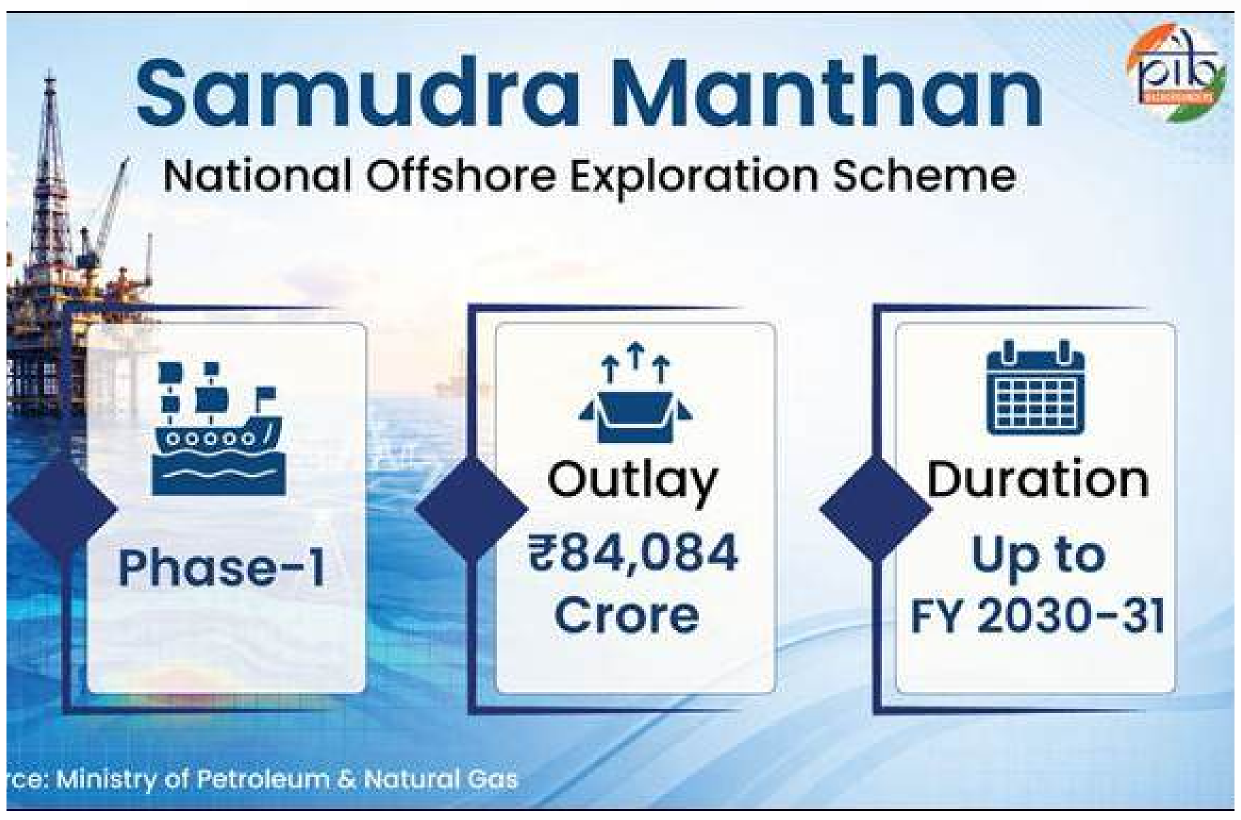
India's Toy Exports Soar 89.1%

- India's toy exports grew by 89.1% while imports fell 37.5%, making the nation a net exporter.
- Quality Control Orders and National Action Plan for Toys increased market quality compliance from 33% in 2019 to 95% in 2025.

Launch of Semicon India 2.0

- Government launched Semicon India 2.0 with a $13.3 billion outlay to build a complete chip design, fabrication, packaging, and materials ecosystem.
- The initiative aims to boost domestic manufacturing, attract foreign investment, and lower import reliance.



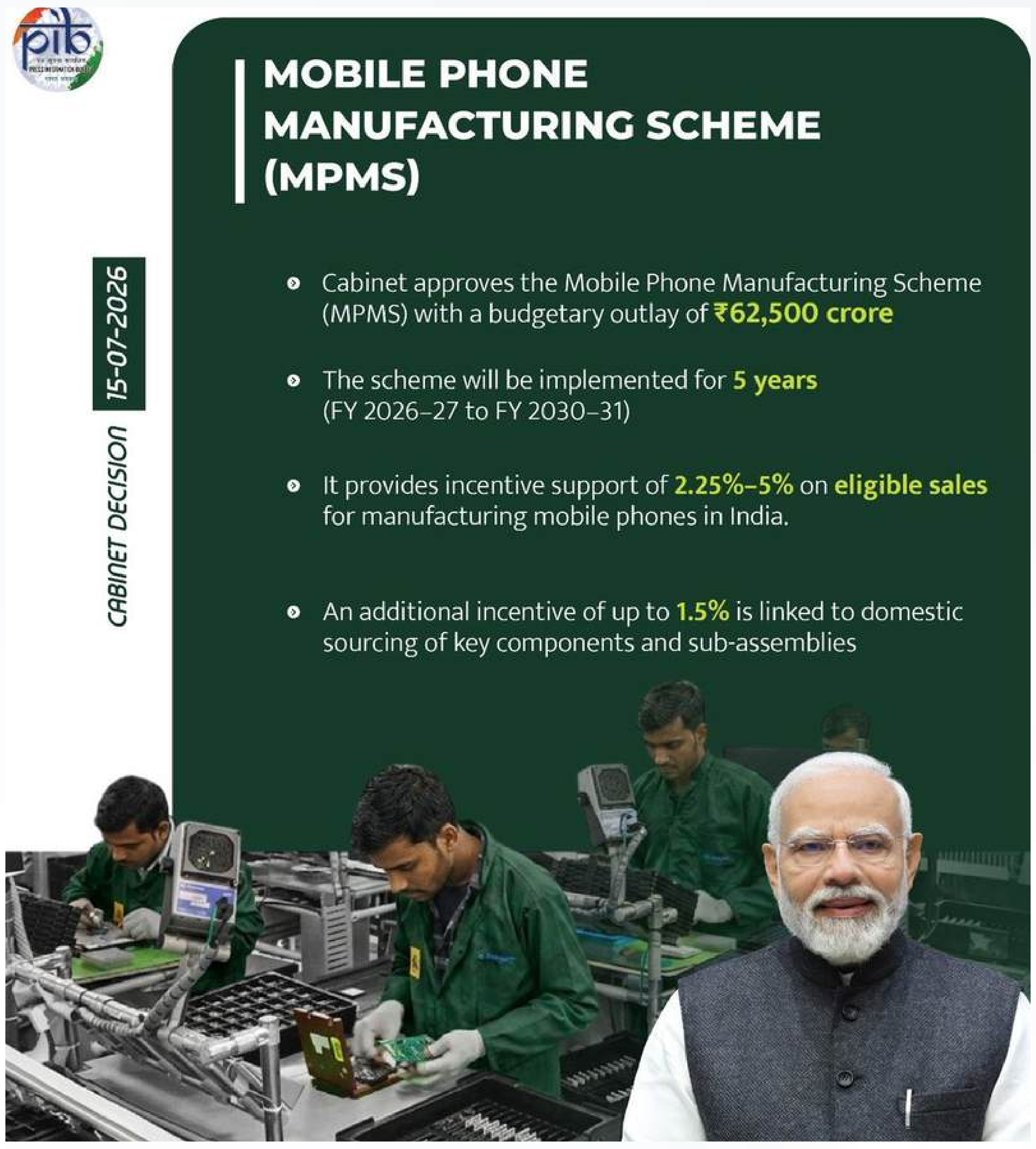


Approval of Samudra Manthan

- Cabinet approved the $8.8 billion National Offshore Exploration Scheme to accelerate deepwater drilling, seismic surveys, and infrastructure.
- It aims to unlock 600+ MMTOE reserves, boost domestic oil production, and reduce energy import dependence.

BHAVYA Rasayan Parks Scheme

- Cabinet approved the BHAVYA Rasayan scheme with an outlay of US$ 360 million to establish three plug-and-play Chemical Parks.
- Aims to lower logistics costs, improve environmental safeguards, boost exports, and strengthen integration into global chemical value chains.



Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS)

- Cabinet approved it with an outlay of US$ 6.5 billion offering 2.25%-5% sales incentives over 5 years.
- Focuses on deepening domestic component sourcing, building Indian mobile brands, generating 60,000 direct jobs, and boosting electronics export growth.

Initiatives for Promotion of AYUSH

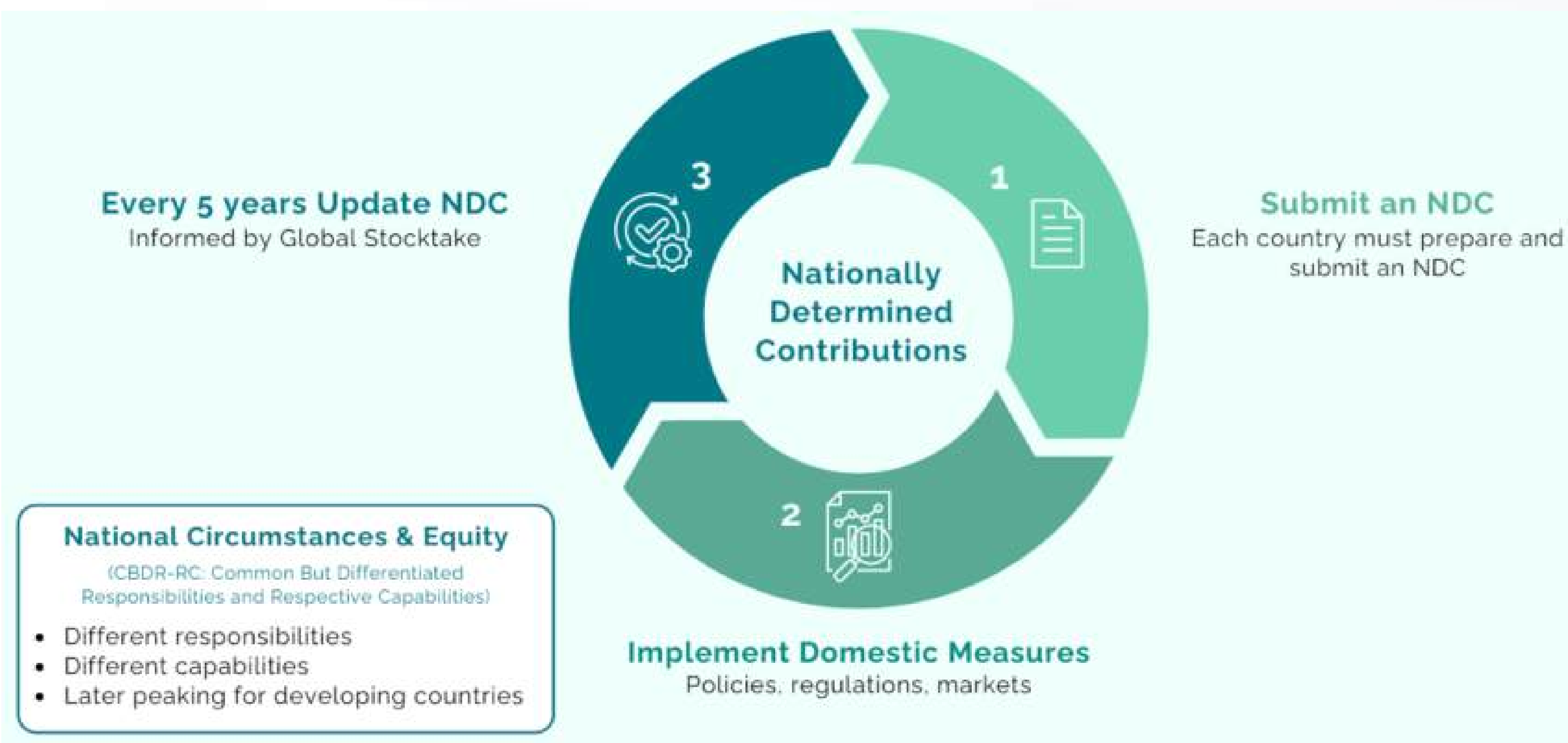
- Ministry of AYUSH launched schemes including AOGUSY and AYURGYAN to upgrade pharmacies, strengthen drug testing labs, and promote evidence-based research.
- Focuses on quality compliance via WHO-GMP standards, expanding global exports, and launching the 'Ayush Suraksha' portal for adverse drug reaction reporting.

INDIA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC 2031-35)

Background

- This contribution outlines the country's updated climate commitments under the Paris Agreement 2015 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- It sets enhanced targets for lowering the emissions intensity of GDP, increasing the share of non-fossil fuel energy and expanding forest and tree cover to strengthen carbon sinks by 2035.
- Submission for next NDC for the period from 01.01.2031 to 31.12.2035 has been submitted by India in April, 2026

- India had already created 2.29 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent by 2021.
- Afforestation and ecosystem restoration efforts continue to contribute towards India's carbon sink targets while supporting rural livelihoods.
- NDC identifies five qualitative goals to strengthen climate action: promoting technology collaboration and transfer, supporting carbon markets and cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, enhancing capacity building and knowledge exchange, encouraging sustainable lifestyles and climate-resilient development.
- It creates economic opportunities by generating employment in sectors such as renewable energy, electric vehicles, green technologies and sustainable industries

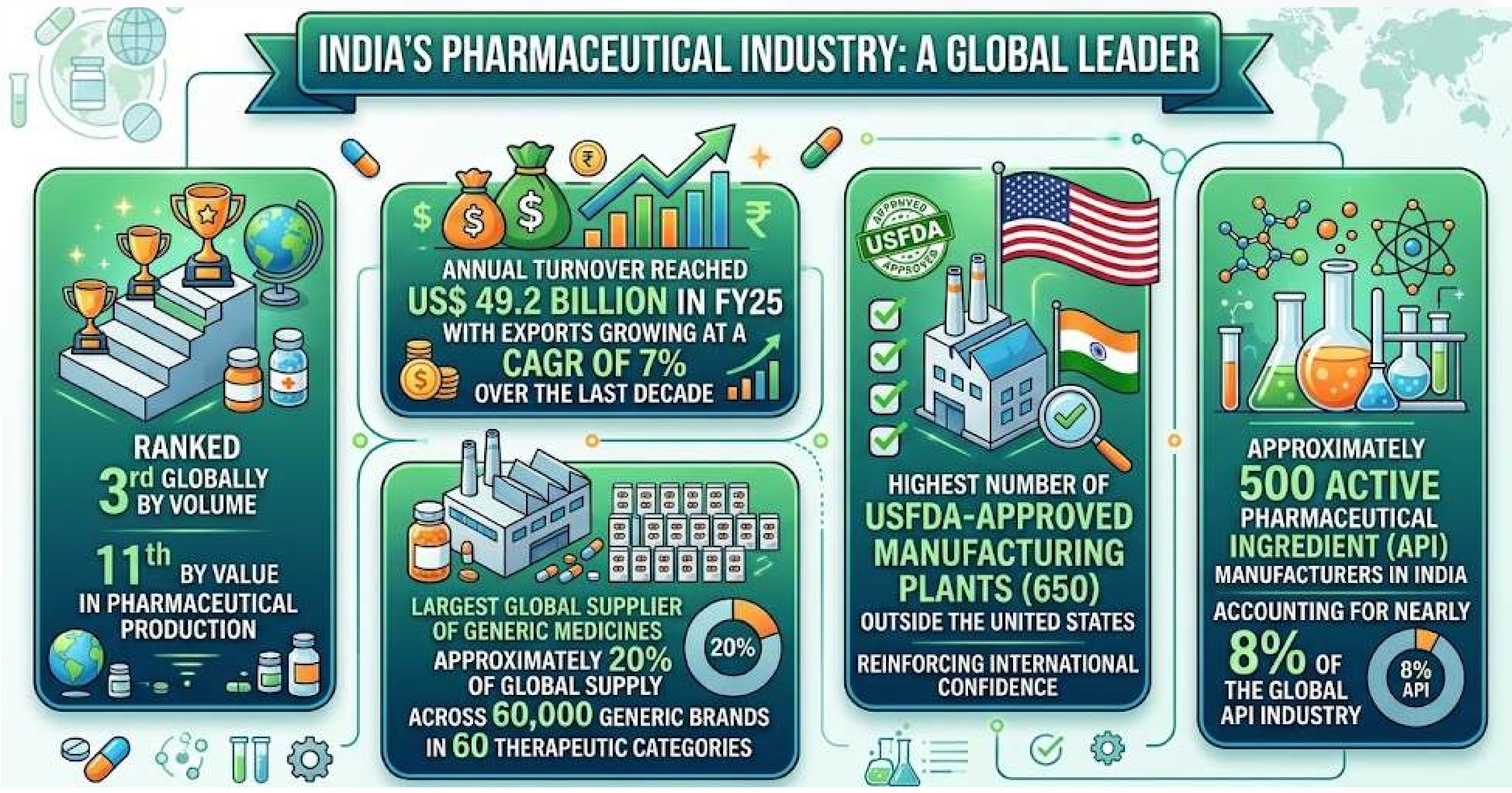


DEEP DIVE : PHARMACEUTICALS AND BIOPHARMA

Pharmaceutical Industry

- One of the world's most distinctive and socially significant sectors, positioning India among the largest and most technologically advanced pharmaceutical producers.
- The Government of India's vision is to make India a global provider of quality medicines at reasonable prices.
- Key government initiatives include promoting domestic manufacturing of APIs, supporting research, innovation and strengthening pharmaceutical education.

- The Union Budget 2026 - 27 places biopharma at the centre of its healthcare and manufacturing strategy.
- This aligns with the Government of India's vision to capture 5% of the global pharmaceutical market share.
- The Government is also improving access to affordable medicines through programmes such as Jan Aushadhi.

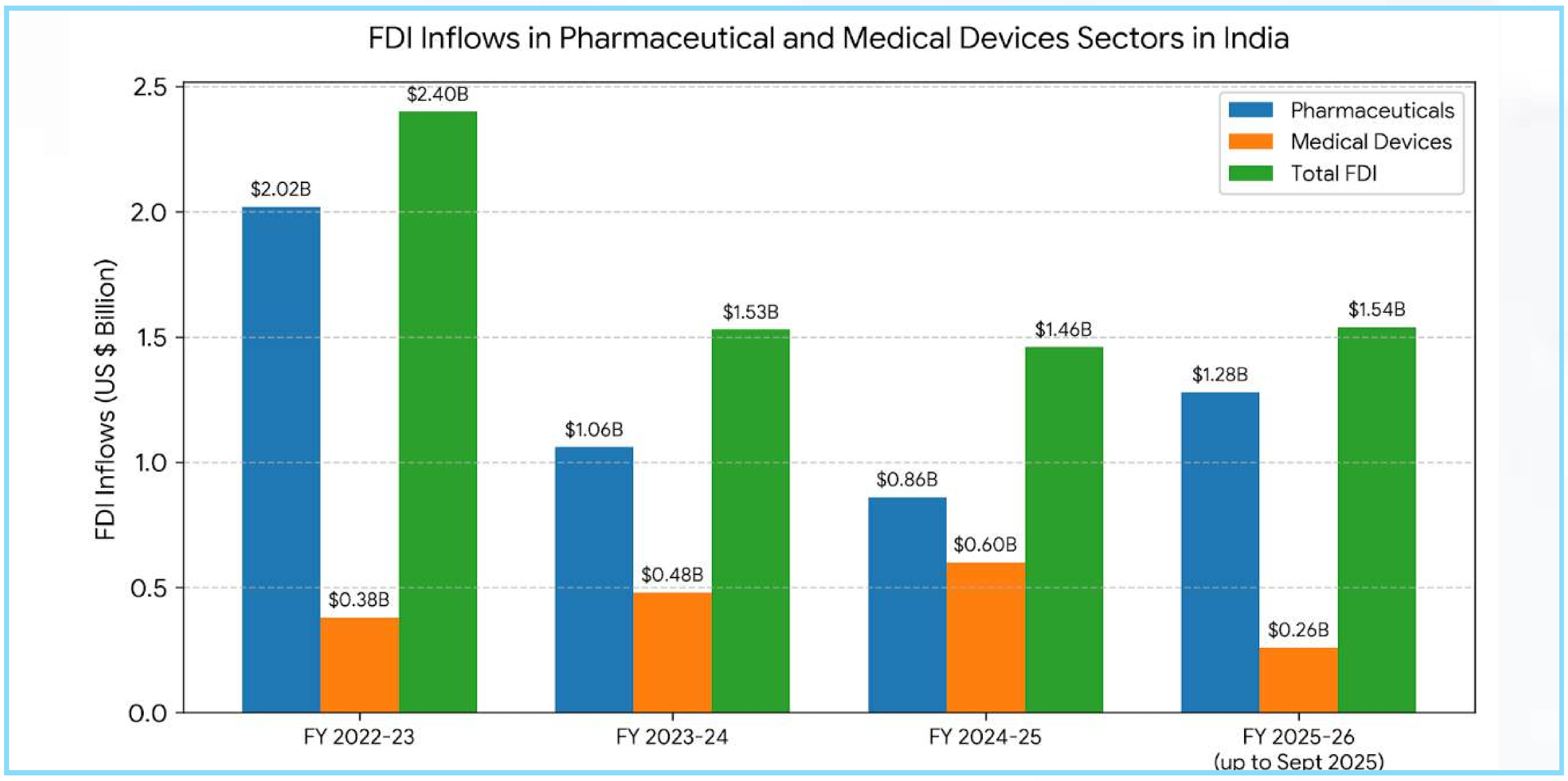


PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTS - GLOBAL REACH & INVESTMENT GROWTH

Pharmaceutical Exports

- India's pharmaceutical exports has grown from around US$ 14 billion in FY 2014 - 15 to approximately US$ 31 billion in FY 2025 - 26
- India is the global leader in supply of DPT, BCG and measles vaccines. Indian manufacturers:
- Provide about 60% of vaccine supplies to UNICEF.
- Meet 40-70% of global demand for DPT and BCG vaccines.
- Account for 90% of WHO's measles vaccine demand.

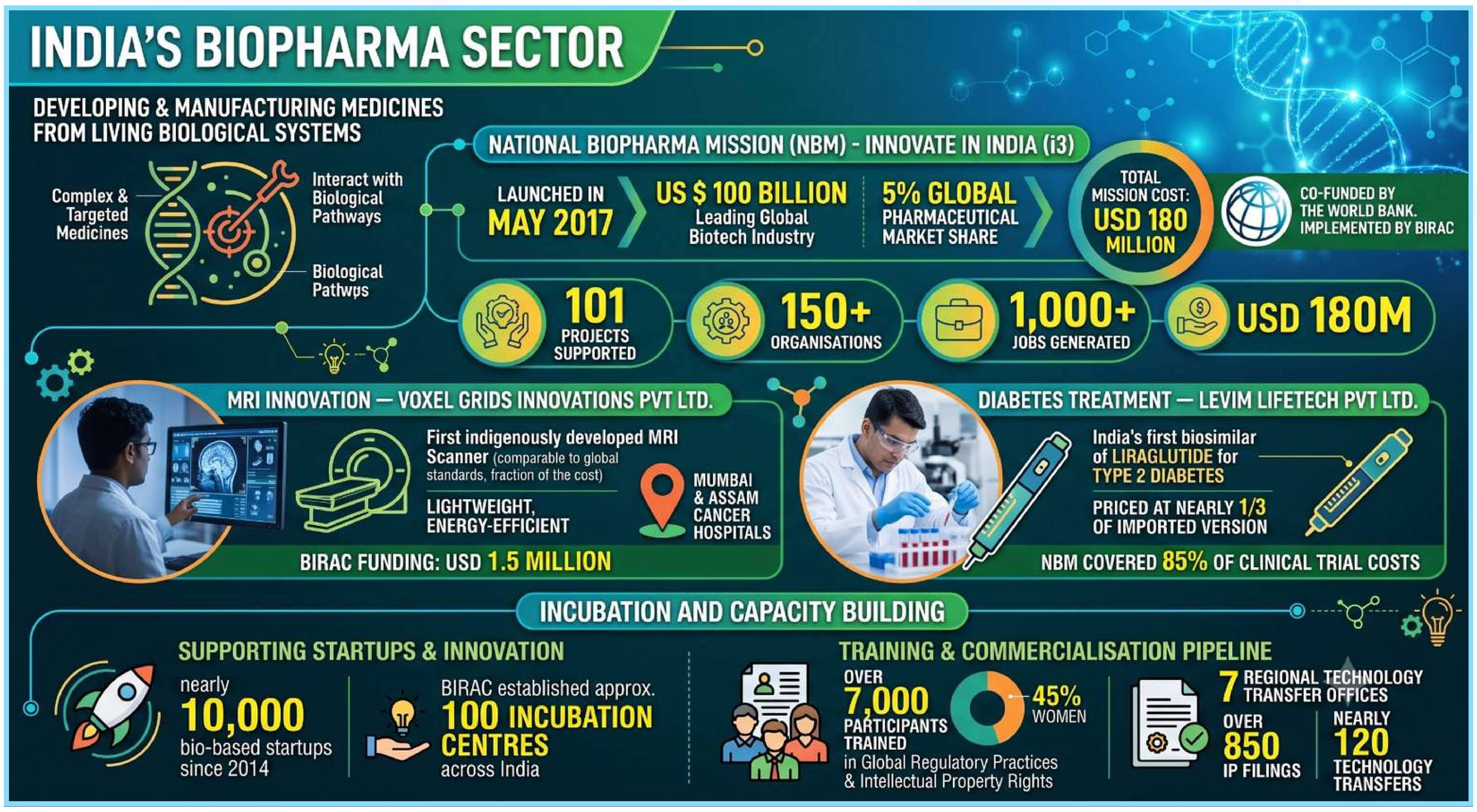
- The Indian pharmaceutical sector is among the top 10 industries attracting foreign investment.
- Foreign investment in medical devices and Pharmaceuticals reached US$ 1.38 billion for FY2025-26 (up to September).
- A major driver of this investment is the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Pharmaceuticals covering 55 selected applicants making high-value products such as patented and off-patented drugs, biopharmaceuticals, complex generics, anti-cancer and auto-immune drugs.



BIOPHARMA SECTOR

- Global Ranking: Ranks 3rd worldwide by volume and 11th to 13th by value.
- Overall market valued around $60–65 billion in 2025/2026, projected to reach $130 billion by 2030.
- India ranks among the top 12 biotechnology destinations globally and 3rd in Asia-Pacific.
- India hosts over 3,000 pharmaceutical companies and more than 10,500 manufacturing facilities.
- Outside the US, India holds the highest number of US FDA-approved manufacturing plants.
- India accounts for 20% of the world's supply of generic medicines by volume.
- The Indian biosimilars and biologics segment is growing rapidly, targeting a market value of $12 billion.

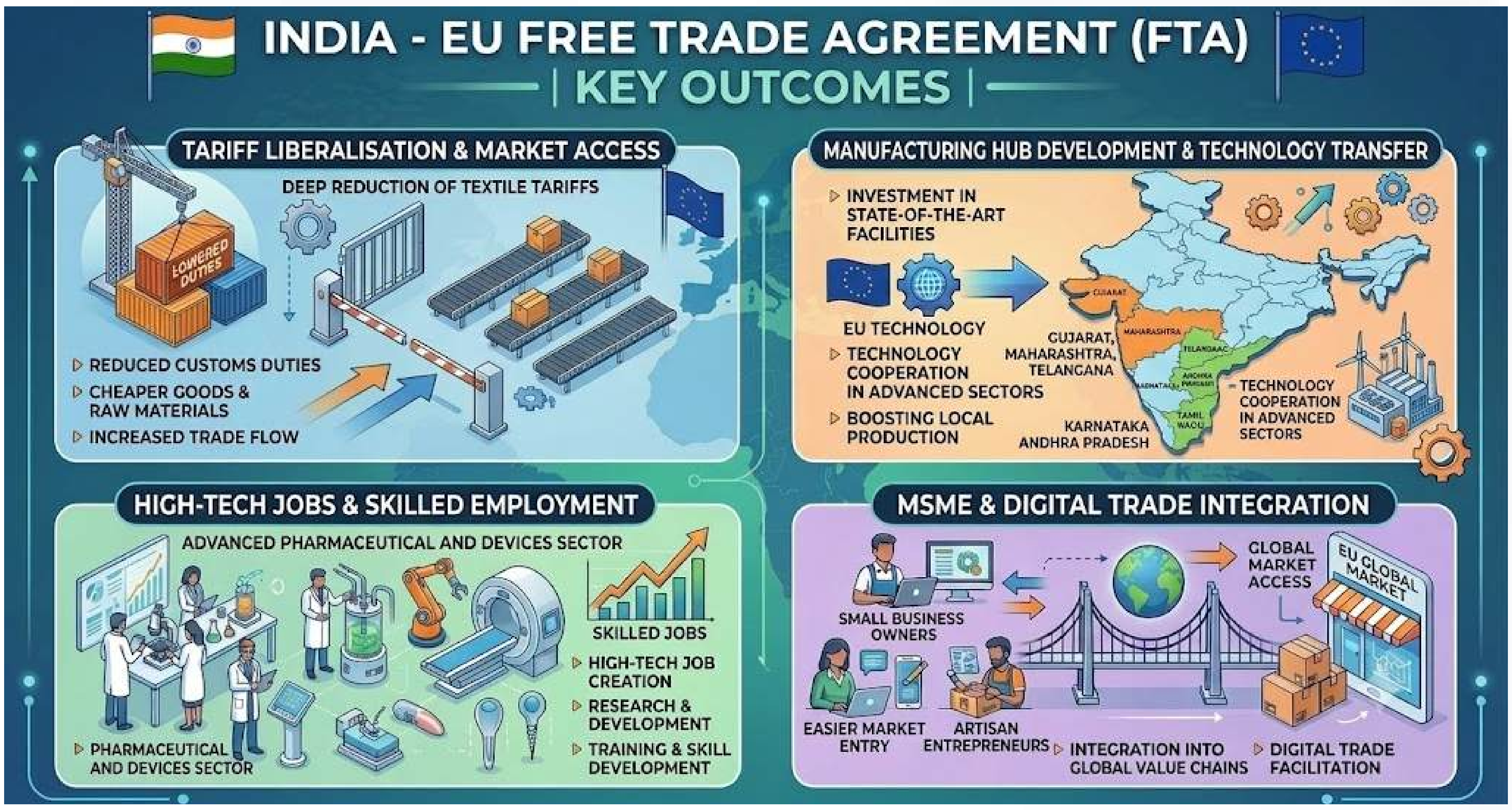
- India has over 100 approved biosimilar products, including insulins, monoclonal antibodies, and recombinant proteins.
- Represents about 8% of the global API industry.



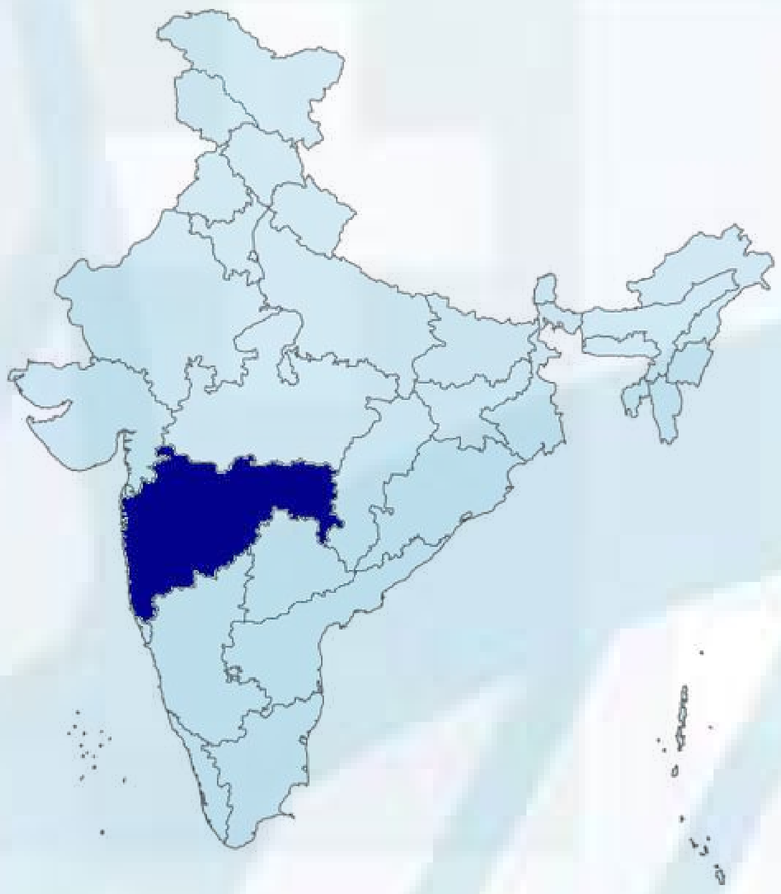
INDIA - EU FTA

- The FTA could provide better access to EU markets by reducing trade barriers, simplifying regulatory procedures and encouraging cooperation on standards and approvals.
- This may increase exports of generic medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and other pharmaceutical products from India.
- Enables access to the EU pharmaceutical and medical devices market valued at US$572.3 billion.

- Under FTA, roughly 90% of EU pharma product lines move to zero tariff, also giving European firms significantly easier entry into India's high-end medical devices market.
- Major pharmaceutical manufacturing hubs such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh are expected to benefit from increased export opportunities.
- The EU will eliminate tariffs on almost all pharmaceutical products, with tariff removal phased in over 5 - 7 years for most products.



STATE IN FOCUS: MAHARASHTRA

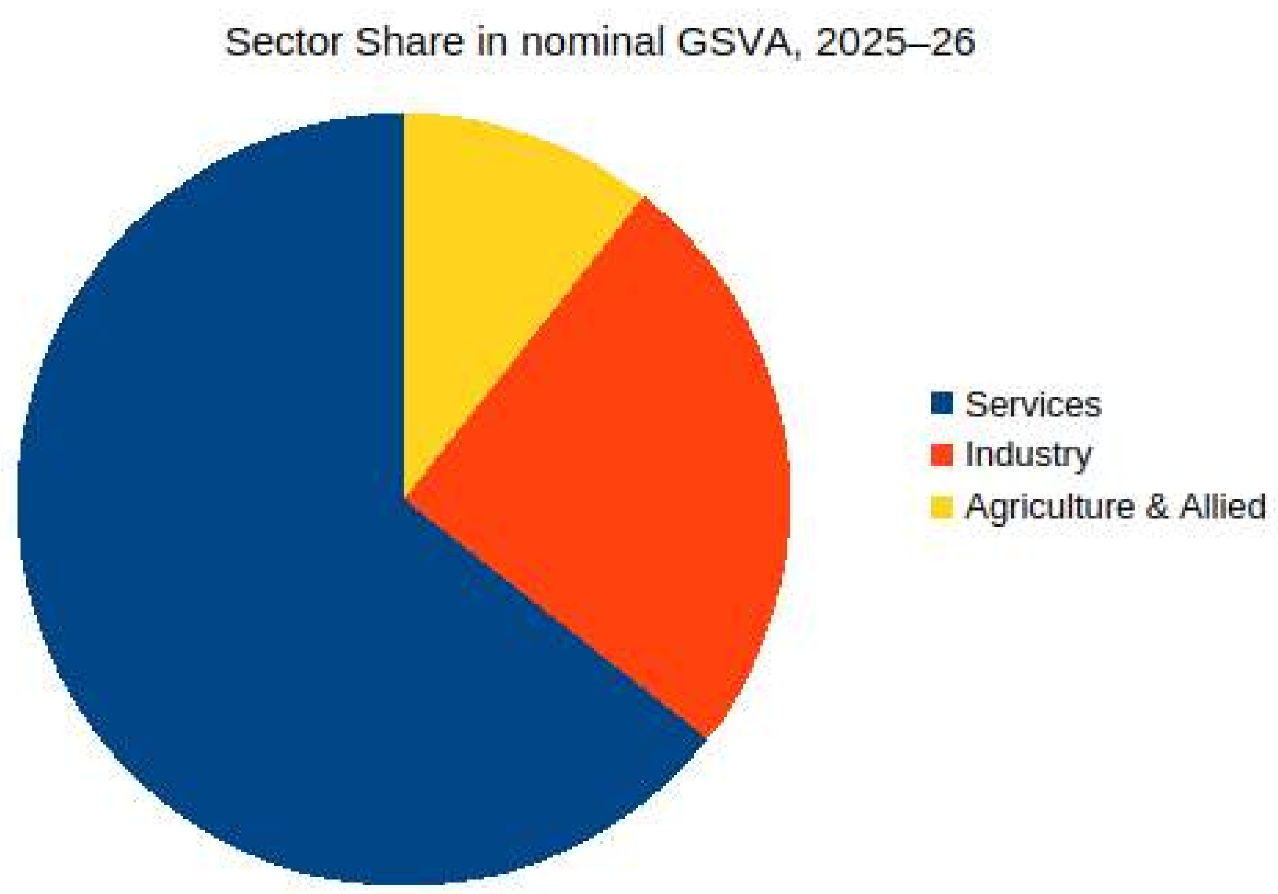


GATEWAY TO INDIA’S GROWTH STORY

Maharashtra combines the scale of India’s largest State economy with the capabilities of a global centre for finance, manufacturing, technology and innovation.

- Maharashtra accounted for 14% of India’s nominal GDP in 2024-25, the highest share among Indian States.
- Mumbai, the State capital, is also one of the major financial hub in India.

SECTORAL SHARE



IN CONTEXT OF INDIA-EU TRADE

Maharashtra’s pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical-technology ecosystem makes it a natural partner for European companies seeking manufacturing, R&D, clinical, technology and supply-chain partnerships in India. Other sectors likely to benefit are advanced manufacturing, technology & services and green transition.

GATEWAY FOR TRADE

- Maharashtra’s ports handled over 231.3 Mt of cargo in 2024-25.
- JNPA (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority) and Mumbai Port alongside 48 minor ports connect manufacturing centres to global shipping routes.
- Maharashtra is also integrated with the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor.

ECONOMIC STRENGTHS

FDI leader: Attracted US$19.2 billion in FY 2024–25, 39% of India's FDI Equity inflows.

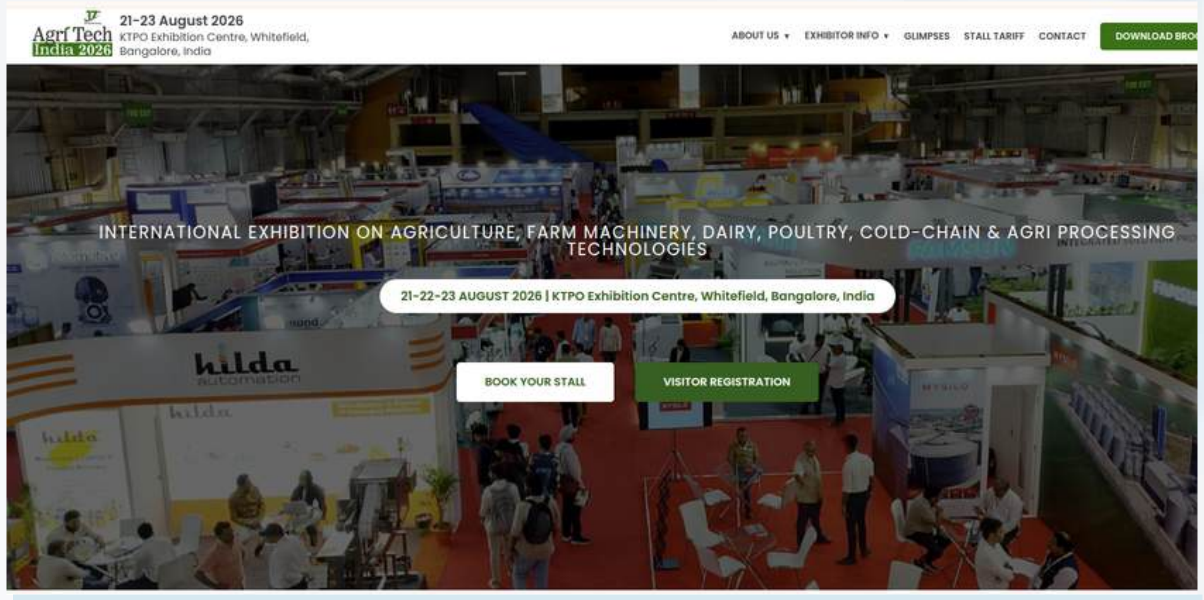
Industrial powerhouse: Contributes around 15.5% of national industrial output

Global investment hub: Signed MoUs worth US$350+ billion at the WEF Davos 2026, with projects expected to generate 4 million jobs

DID YOU KNOW ?

Maharashtra contributes 14% of India's pharma output and hosts around 30% of its biotech enterprises.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/CONFERENCES IN INDIA

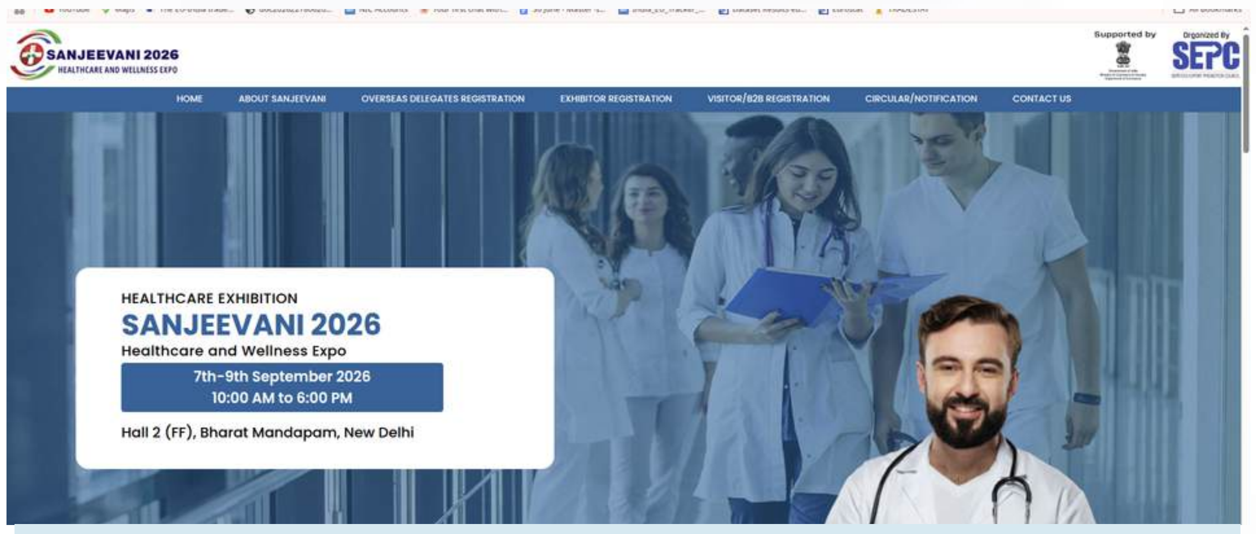


17th AgriTech India 2026: Agriculture and Farm Macchinery

6th Genomics India Conference: Genomics and Bioeconomy

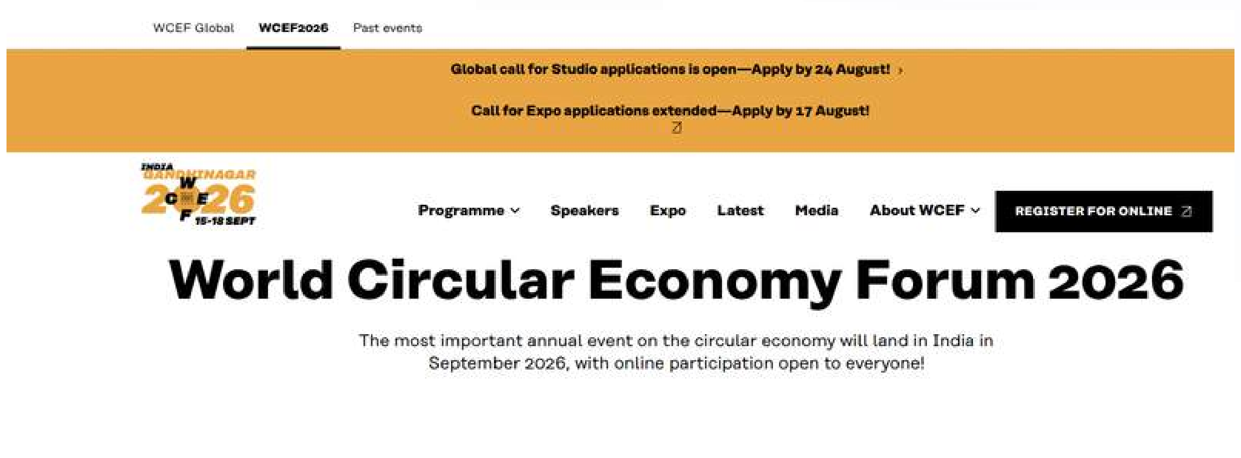
INDIBIOCOM 2026: Bioinformatics and computational Biology

9th Bengaluru Space Expo 2026: Space Economy



Sanjeevani 2026: Healthcare and Wellness Expo

Pharma and Machtech& Labnext Expo 2026: Pharmaceuticals

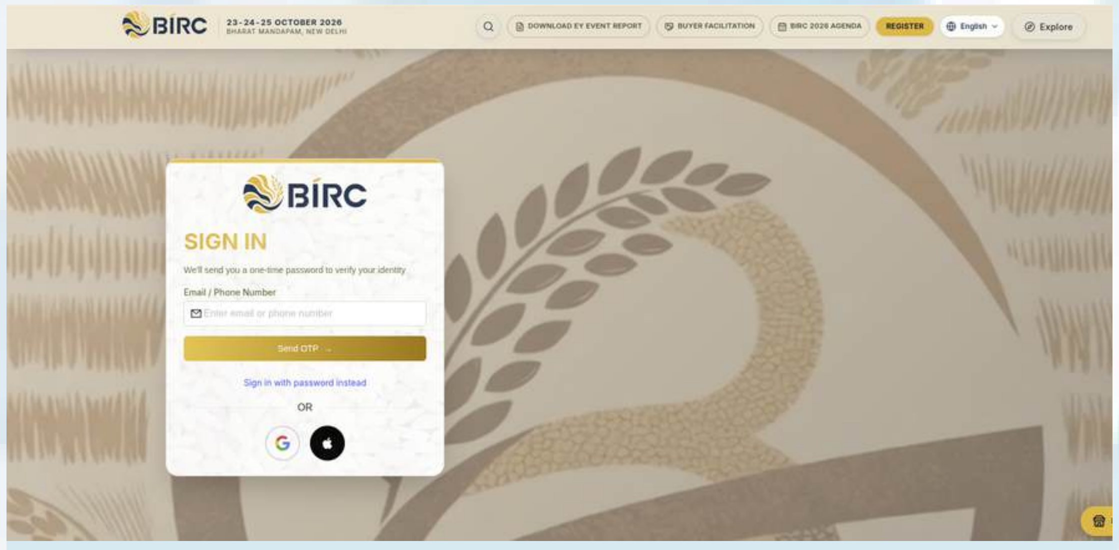


World Circular Economy Forum 2026 : Circular Economy, Sustainability

Semicon India 2026: Semiconductor and Electronics

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS/CONFERENCES IN INDIA

Sagarmanthan: Ocean Systems



Bharat International Rice Conference 2026

Maritime India Conference &Expo 2026: Maritime Logistics

Bharat Renewable Summit and Expo 2026 : Renewable Energy, Solar Energy

Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2027: Automotives, Energy, Technology, Logistics, and Infrastructure

Bharat Sustainability Expo 2027 : Environmental Sustainability

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