1st- 31st March 2025

For Private Circulation Only

BHARAT NEWS

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



Meet & Greet with Hon'ble Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Former MP, New Zealand



Dr. Deepak Jain, President, FII invited as Chief Guest for the Book Swap Camp



Official Visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand to India (March 16-20, 2025)



Sunita Williams Starts a Historic Space Journey on Boeing's Starliner



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred Mauritius' Highest Civilian Honour During National Day Celebrations



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Indian Dream Global Action

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Padma Bhushan L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj







Dr. Deepak Jain President, Federation of Indian Industry

India is rapidly positioning itself at the forefront of the global biological data revolution. This shift is not merely a scientific milestone—it is a strategic imperative for national health security, economic development, and global leadership in precision medicine. With initiatives like the Genome India Project and IndiGen, India is building one of the world's most ambitious population-scale genomic databases. By capturing the extraordinary genetic diversity of our population, these programs will lay the groundwork for identifying disease risks, tailoring treatments, and developing population-specific therapeutics. This is especially critical in a country where healthcare disparities are vast and genetic research has historically lacked representation from our demographics.

What sets India apart is the simultaneous advancement of digital public infrastructure. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) are enabling secure, interoperable health data ecosystems. As these frameworks mature, they will allow genomic, clinical, and demographic data to converge—unlocking transformative potential for personalized healthcare, preventive diagnostics, and public health surveillance.

This is a historic opportunity. With strategic investment, regulatory foresight, and inter-sectoral collaboration, India can lead the world in creating an inclusive, equitable, and secure biological data economy. For policymakers, the path forward is clear: prioritize data infrastructure, incentivize research, ensure ethical oversight, and position India as a global steward of genomics and digital health innovation. The future of healthcare will be data-driven. India is not just participating in that future—it has the potential to shape it.

FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

LET'S JOIN HANDS.



FII CSR PROJECTS :

- PUBLIC HEALTH
- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
- ROAD SAFETY
- SPORTS
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT



- REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 80G
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POSITIVE NEWS FROM BHARAT

Mission MISSION JALDHARA

मिशन जलधारा - बुझाओ धरती की प्यास

What is Mission Jaldhara?

Mission Jaldhara is a joint society initiative - to revive groundwater table level. We call it a "Mission"

No contro mission

- Because it is our fight against the drastically falling groundwater levels.
 Because our entire focus is to revive the groundwater table and the overall water ecosystem which is necessary for a healthy life.
 - Because we are determined to provide safe and healthy drinkable water to every household in India.

With this vision in mind, we are pleased to introduce "Mission Jaldhara" with you.

Why Mission Jaldhara?

According to reports, the over exploited areas were concentrated in Tamil Nadu, Rojathan, Uttar Pradech, Telangana, Purjab and Haryana. To quantify the facts, there has been an 82% decline in the ground watertable in Dist. Gurugram between 2018 – 2020 and it has further declined by aver 50 percent in 2022.

The groundwater table in these parts of the country is rapidly going into the dark zone. This level is dangerously low and requires immediate action



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How do we plan to achieve a sustainable water ecosystem?

Our dream is big. Our vision is to make India a drought free, hydro ecologically balanced and environmentally sustainable Notion.

And we have just begun.

Our campaign is starting in Gurugram and will spread acros states in

What do you get?

O Safer and cleaner water for generations to come

Mission Joidhara shall also award the Title of "Gurugram ka Arjun" in various categories to the stakeholders who make the maximum visible and most impactful contribution to the revival of ground water levels.

What do we need from you?

We want you to join the movement.



Become a Dona

Your donation will help us keep going. It will boost the ground work that we do - maintaining rainwater harvesting wells - which directly seeps into the groundwater table.



the state

Register as a Mativator

Sign up with us and motivate corporates/ teams to join the movement. Corporates can adopt wells under their company's CSR initiatives and we would maintain the wells on their behalf.

Register as a Volunteer

Register on the website and help create more awareness. Tell your friends and family about this movement and spread the word.

Why are we looking for your contribution?



Simply because, Mission Jaldhara was and will always be a joint community project. Our vision is to have as many people join the movement. Clean and safe water is a basic right for everyone and thus, it is important to create awareness about it. We dream this dream for every indian citizen and hence, we need you.

Track your donation



As a Donor, Motivator or a Volunteer, you will be enrolled for aur monthly free newsletter subscription. You will be able to keep a track of the progress being made on ground.

The location of every well shall be provided through Google maps and will be easily accessed by donors and interested parties.

We believe in complete transparency and utter commitment towards our work.

FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Our panel of experts have designed the following plan of action for achieving this dream:

Revival of dry & dysfunctional rainwater harvesting wells across District Gurugram. Different stakeholders constructed these wells in the pre-covid era to jumpstart rainwater harvesting initiative. The project however was put on halt due to corona crisis due to which most of the wells became dysfunctional. With our intervention, these wells shall be revived to their optimum functional levels, and will be maintained by our team of contractors.



Revival of runsi water ecosystem bodies in and around District Ourugram. The falling groundwater level affects the ogricultural economy and day-to-day life of people residing in these villages.



Judicious use of water resources. This is possible through mass awareness of the current situation arising through India and how every individual can contribute through lifestyle changes.

Why is it close to us?

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children."

We want to leave a clean, sustainable environment for our future generations. The world is moving towards cleaner, greener fuels. There is marked awareness about leaving smaller carbon footprint. And all of this becomes possible, when there is clean and sofe water for one and all. Unless we take action today, we are headed towards a colossal crisis. And our next generations may have to pay the price for it.

It is time for us to join hands and come together to revive Jaidhara. Remember, the time is now! "Jai hai to Jeevan hai"



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

About Us

Federation of Indian Industry (FII) is a professional Industry Association. Its objective is to nurture further and give Impetus to India's Economic, Business and Industrial outreach.

We have Fil Chapters in 42 Nations of the world and 22 Indian states with 5000 members mainly industrialists, Professionals, Key-Opinion Leaders, Philanthropists,

We are helping towards the making of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and working towards creating business opportunities and bolstering India's industrial and business outreach globally.

FII CSR Initiatives:

- Q Rural Healthcare Dispensary Establishment during Corona Crisis
- Free Eye Surgeries for 300+ People in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Women in Rural Areas
- Skill Development for Youth in Rural Area (Computer Training Centre)
- Free COVID Vaccination camps (36000+ vaccinations)







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FII IN MEDIA

40 पैसे की बिजली सबसिडी से उद्योगों को जगाएगी

सीएम सुवखु ने बजट में 66 केवी और ज्यादा सप्लाई वोल्टेज पर चलने वाले उद्योगों को सबसिडी देने का किया ऐलान राजीव सिंगला बोले, उद्योगों को मिली राहत उद्यमियों की समस्याओं का जल्द होगा समाधान Record of the sector of the PHERI COST Record of the sector of association of the Record of the sector of the sector of all and proces acros it and processing without all one process and abbra

विभागमा प्रदेश के गुरुरापति गुवालिया निर्देश 10 tion: मन्त्र 4 48

 भोड प्रमोद त्रणप व्यक्ति থান মা চালামি বুর মাম গাঁ দিল থায় ট, প্রমিণ ৫৫ মার্চ alt and after revel doits or upok and added in first ofthe पुनित बिकाली की ख़पल पर 40 फिंब अधनिद्धी की पोत्रपत ने रहता

तर बना में ज्योंनी से तिरा एक the even all bills when all sheve at 2, fail adulties संस्थानी में साराप्त है। 1108 अलाभा चट्टी और पेड्रिकल डिप्स्ट्रम पार्क में चालकाजी महिल्हाओं के लिए हाराटल ची on al age then are te 3: states sain ste.

्र उद्योग्ते को फिल्ली समित्यों के सेर पर उठन के लिए अन्यर जनवा है। उद्योग जगत को प्रदेश सरकार से मिली निराश didics agin at b scap rate some it was been a second and the second at the second statement of the श्रीई आरंग नहीं औरते गया : इस्तेम जगत को प्रदेश जनवार के बजट से निराय ही प्राय लगी है : प्रभोने प्रथा कि विजयत प्रदेश प्रदेश और अर्जन के लिए तराज जाता है, मेरिका क्रमके भीताक के मारकात कार्यन के लिए कोई दरेजना न सेना दुर्शनायपूर्ण है। का मजर को दुर्श नाह में फिला का नाम 1666विंद के जन्मीमाराजी को जो 40 दी में अवीधी की फील्स हुई है, उसका लाभ बंद अफ़ी की फिल्म और एमएसएमई सेक्टर की कोई प्रमाध नहीं होगा। उनकि फ़िल्मक में

सरात में कभी आगती की अभीत मोर्ने पर सांघ कर से उद्यमियों की भी सहत फिल्मि रजन्दने बहार में

concurred Alack & select all more wait impo 8. Affair pa मेरुटर के लिए कोई काटन नहीं उजारा गया হিমাৰল তথা নিৰ্মান কথা বন্দু ভুলা মহিছিল যা ই। চেঞালে মাহল কম মহিছ আৰ মানৱৰ্গ দী মহালা মাহলিকা মহিছে আৰ

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एमएसएमई के उत्थान के लिए नीति की जरूरत

विभागत यहाँ जिसीस भार के अवस्थ सा. समेगा मुझा ने कहा कि बजार से प्रसारकर्यों के लिए अलावन से बड़े रिमार की अमीए ही, सीचक एक कुछ की से प्रकार के अनेने कहा कि प्रयोग जनवार के आप रेजावार के उत्तवन और बंध केवटर की इंडिआलेक करने के लिए सीने बनावें तीनी। उन्होंने कहा कैसेएन में उल्हानपुर कोई की बालक करने के लिए भी कोई सीमल सजह में नहीं दिजी है, उन्होंने काने जावज जातन्व देने कमें इस बंध के विकास की कार्यप्रकार के जाने सकिर सी।

भीते वर्ष प्रदेश आजग इस जह से ही इसे जरता करने की बिजानी के प्रति पुनित पर एक जीन कर रहे में, लेकिन अब प्रदेश रया राजीवती बायत तिन, बाते के प्रत्यक्ष ने विश्वनी के प्रति पूरित जब पूरी कर से है : (मुख्यीमूक)

बजट में बिजली रावसिही से उद्योगों को विलेगी सजीवनी



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वजट में एमएसएमई के लिए कोई भी राहत नहीं

ाजित का किस्तार प्रदेश के उत्पाद अपनेक राज में तथा कि पूरा सार' में उत्पार अगत को सकी सामान की माफिल राजपात्राचा के लिए की मां प्रदेश के राज में हैं। पूरे तथा के किस्तार में कहा परिवार राज में की मोता में और अपने किस्तार के लिए अन्साल में की मोता में सोक नहीं दिया और 4 में की अधिकार सामी है । इन्हें पड़ी करा ज

प्रचल है कुछ भारता का कह कार प्रभावन के किन क्षेत्र जेता भी संकार आग है। इस प्रकार के कि प्रमु उठाने का किसार सभी दन पर किन दर्वांक का सामगढ़ उठान के सबसे की अद्यापाठ है। जाने भूत के करावने किनार पर भर से और उनके मुनेकर के लिए को स्वी संगण्ड नहीं हुई।

औद्योगिक नीति में बदलाव करने की बात बड़ा फैसला

अर्थवीयान क राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारिती के आठव, राज्यात्रीयां के विभावन प्रदेश राज्या आवल और नार्यादक पुरा के सीहजे रहाना रिश्तम में कुळाली कुळालित पुराव से साथ प्रदान के साल आगल के दिन क्षेत्री राज्या करना दिवारी र कुषित विभाज में कार्य की साथ कर में जीवारीक सीत में



बदाना काने की बान कही गई है, जो क्रिकबन इदेश में विदेशकों के लिए एक प्रिस्तापूर्व महीन इद्यम करेंगा। इसके अलगा अभ स्टर्भेच बांवे बीता करने होर आतंग का सिरात होती स्वीम के अधीन दो भहीनों में बांधे अनुबंधित प्रकार किए जर्म माखि कटनों में राज्य में औदांगिक विवास नीत कड़ीना। इस्ट्रेनि कहा कि राज्य सावजा ने उत्तीन भी ४० फेरे प्रति पुनित भी अधीशती देने के जिलाव भी व्यासन्त की है।

Federation of Indian Industry (FII) Core Team Meeting was held, bringing together key industry leaders.

Journalist Jatin Chandigargh: FIL Leadership extended a warm welcome to Sh. Vinod K. Bapna, Executive Director & CEO- Caparo Manuti Ltd. on his appointment as President - Fil Haryana Chapter: His leadership is expected to contribute significantly to industrial growth and the region. The discus-

al

execution, partnerships, Shallendra business networking in and strategies to create impactful programs for sions focused on plan- businesses and profes-Uditendu ning FI's future events, sionals. The meeting was Additional aiming to foster industri- attended by Dr. Deepak development, Jain, President, FI, Sh. Sanjeev Mehta, Chairperson, Media & IT enhance skills, and Hitender strengthen global col- Chairman,

deliberated on event Committee, Fil, Dr. Director,



Vvas. Committee, FIL Ms. Ritu Chairperson, Start-Up Jain, Strategy Expert, Committee, FII, Sh. MSME Committee-FII , Venna, members shared valu-General able insights to shape its Secretary, Fil, Sh. future plans. With a Arora, strong focus on industry growth, Fil remains committed to driving Committee, Fil, Dr. International Affairs Rimika Kappor, Joint innovation and business ESG excelence.

I would like to place an incode air structer approachion and graduale to you for your gaberous natarigents in erganising the Horbite Descend Allers Winters, Di-Jahranders's Westwelter with the Index Community, Warr personal WestWest Sevents India and the entertweld young placed and exclusions where to your continuing means togot, differences in the among packopation and waters aget within during the sevents west.

It is a great privilege for size to have the coparturity to well sugnified with a rismas like you, cash forward to keeping in touch.

white warm regards and best withes,

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प्रमुख उत्योग जगत के दिग्फर्स ने FII बैठव में भाग लिया, और्वागित विकास और नवाबार पर हई वर्व

laborations. Members

अगय मारखी, जीतर, राजा मुख्युम, एम्प्राय के उत्तेश स्थित के प्रेटीजन और गीतरन देवर्थ (FIC) के पार्टिकार्गिय में एक प्राप्तपूर्व किन्द्र का मुद्राय उदित्य प्रेरी इस किन्द्र का मुद्राय उदित्य प्रेरी इस किन्द्र का मुद्राय उदित्य प्रेरी इस किन्द्र का मुद्राय उदित्य तीवाल संकर्षन की ब्यानक देख सी। लिबक अंगरन आइन्डेन की संवर्षन

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गुरुग्राम (जलिन /राजा)सभी समानता/विक्षेत्र संवाददाता। गुल्डम राजेग विद्युर में शुरूखर की शम् FII (फेलेशन और वीशन इंडस्ट्री)के पदाधिकारियों की एक बैठक का आगोजन किया गया। बैठक में आगली कार्यक्रमों की योजना पर चर्चकी याँ, जिसका डोटम और्यागक विकास को बहुवा देना, कौशन संवर्धन करना और वैश्विक सहयोग

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्री (FII) की कोर टीम बैठक आयोजित प्रमुख उद्योग जगत से जुड़े लोग हुए बैठक में शामिल



को मजबूत करना है। सटम्पों ने कार्यक्रमों के आयेजन, साईवरियों और व्यापर एवं पेलेक्से के लिए प्रभावशाली पोजनाएँ बनाने की रणनीतिये चरत्रियाः थिमतं क्रियाक्षम मंडिंग में कैपेरो माल्डी के विदेशक और सोईओ विनोध वापना को FII इतिप्रणा पेप्टर के अल्लाब के रूप में नियुक्त किए जाने पर हार्दिक स्वागत किया। पक्षधिकारीयों ने कहा कि

उनके नेतृत्व से धेत में औग्रोतिक विकास और असमस्तिक मेटवर्षित को नहें गाँत मिलने की जम्मीद है। इस बेठक में ही. देशक जैन अध्यक्ष FIL लिंद मेहत, अध्यक्ष, अंतर्यधीय मामानें की मामिति अच्यक थीं, जैलेन्द्र णाम, स्टारंअप समिति अध्यक्ष उदितेन्दु वर्मा, अलिरिक महासचिष, संजीव अगेहा, अध्यक्ष, मॅहिवा एव आईटी समिति, जी रिमिका कपूर,

संयुक्त निरोशक, आस्त्र स्वमिति, सि the could findua MSMF समिति ने भाग लिया। सदस्यों ने F11 के भाषित्र की पोलनाओं को आका देने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव साझ किए। ज्योग विकास पर विजेष भारत केडिश करते हुए विनोद बायना ने कहा कि F11 नवाच्या और व्यापसप्रिक प्रस्तारम को प्रेल्मॉल करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।





Business Opportunities



German chemical company to invest \$1.5 billion in India, says Piyush Goyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, on March 29, 2025, stated that a German company from the chemical sector had decided to invest \$1.5 billion in India, and a state had identified land for the project.

Although the Minister did not disclose the name of the company or the state, he mentioned that the company's head was expected to meet the state's Chief Minister.



PwC suggests an IDEA framework for Indian companies to navigate US tariff uncertainties

Global consultancy firm PwC had suggested the IDEA (Invest, Diversify, Express, stay Aware) Framework for Indian

businesses to navigate trade uncertainties following the decision by the US administration to impose reciprocal tariffs. Since the United States (US) presidential elections in November 2024, global trade dynamics have shifted significantly, and the Donald Trump administration has already implemented several tariff measures impacting major economies.



BYD denies Hyderabad EV plant plans, calls investment reports 'untrue'

Chinese electric vehicle (EV) maker BYD refuted claims suggesting it intended to establish a manufacturing plant in India, according to a report by TechinAsia.com. The company dismissed the reports

as "untrue" in an official statement posted on its WeChat account.



Indian Railways to invest Rs 16.7 lakh crore in freight corridors, HSR, station upgrade by 2031: Report

Indian Railways (IR) has planned a massive investment of Rs 16.7 lakh crore by 2031 for various infrastructure projects, according to a report by ICICI Securities. The report stated that this investment will focus on station upgrades, freight corridors, highspeed rail (HSR) projects, and electrification of tracks to enhance railway operations.



Australia to invest \$16m to boost trade ties with India

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Australia unveiled an ambitious roadmap to expand and diversify its trade and investment ties with India, with a focus, among other areas, on defense industries, sports,

culture, space, and technology.



Excellent time, opportunity to invest in India: Apax co-CEO

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British private equity firm Apax Partners planned to step up investment activity in India under its new country head, with a sharper focus on the consumer sector following a relook at its investment

strategies and senior leadership exits. "We believed that it was an excellent time and opportunity to invest in India," Mitch Truwit, co-CEO of Apax Partners, told ET in an exclusive interview. "We were focusing on the tech and consumer sectors, where we saw significant growth potential," he said.



Business Opportunities



Aditya Birla Real Estate streamlines portfolio and sells Century Pulp and Paper to ITC for Rs 3,498 crore

The board of Aditya Birla Real Estate Limited approved the execution of a business transfer agreement for

the divestment of the company's Pulp and Paper undertaking located in Lalkuan, Uttarakhand, to ITC Limited. The deal is valued at ₹3,498 crore, which will be paid by ITC to ABREL. The divestment of the Pulp and Paper undertaking is a value-unlocking exercise for ABREL and will enable the company to pursue growth opportunities in its core business—real estate, the company stated in a press release.



India and Chile decide to start talks on a comprehensive trade pact

India and Chile decided to start negotiations on a mutually beneficial C o m p r e h e n s i v e Economic Partnership Agreement as PM Modi

hosted Chilean President Gabriel Boric Font for wideranging talks focused on boosting bilateral ties across diverse areas. President Boric was on a five-day state visit to India to explore ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including trade and defense.



Govt to notify Rs 23K cr electronics manufacturing scheme in three weeks: Vaishnaw

Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government is likely to notify the ₹22,919 crore

electronics manufacturing scheme within three weeks. The Union Cabinet has approved the country's first-ever electronics components manufacturing scheme, focusing on the indigenous production of passive (non-semiconductor) components.



US tariffs unlikely to impact India, may create opportunities: NITIAayog

The US plan to impose reciprocal tariffs would not have had much impact on India and would have created

several opportunities for the country, Niti Aayog Programme Director Pravakar Sahoo said on Friday.

Compared to Mexico, China, and Canada — which account for 50 percent of America's total imports — India was favorably placed, he added.



The manufacturing sector must take advantage of the opportunities available: PM

PM Modi urged the industry not to remain a "mere spectator" but to actively seize the opportunities available in the global supply chain.

Emphasizing that the world is looking to strengthen its economic partnership with India, Modi said the country's manufacturing sector should capitalize on the growing global demand by producing high-quality products.



US envoy discusses business opportunities with Bihar Industries minister

The US Consul General, Kathy Giles-Diaz, met Bihar Industries Minister Nitish Mishra to discuss various aspects through which investment, technology transfer, and

economic activities could be promoted between Bihar and the USA. According to a statement issued by the Industries Department, the envoy appreciated Bihar's development initiatives and its investment-friendly environment



POLITICAL NEWS



Gujarat CM inaugurates India's 'largest' Chlorotoluene Plant at Dahej

On the foundation day of Gujarat Alkalies and

Chemicals Limited (GACL), Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel virtually inaugurated the country's largest Chlorotoluene plant, established by GACL at Dahej, according to a statement from the CMO.



PM Modi to visit Rameshwaram on Ram Navmi, inaugurate PambanBridge

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pray at

Ramanathswamy Temple in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, on April 6 on the occasion of Ram Navmi.

PM Modi will also inaugurate the new Pamban Bridge on the occasion. The new Pamban Bridge will replace the old 1914-built bridge, which was closed in 2022 due to corrosion problems.



Delhi CM allocates Rs 900 crore for slums; takes 'Sheesh Mahal' jibe at AAP Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced an allocation of more than Rs

900 crore for providing basic amenities in slum clusters as she accused the previous AAP government of building a "Sheesh Mahal" and neglecting the needs of slum dwellers. She also took a jibe at the opposition AAP MLAs, saying in a lighter vein that the "Sheesh Mahal" would be included in Delhi's tourism circuit.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Donald Trump announces Hyundai's \$5.8 billion US Steel investment

South Korea's Hyundai Motor Group announced a \$21 billion investment in the

United States with President Donald Trump at the White House. The investment included a new \$5.8 billion Hyundai Steel plant in Louisiana that will produce over 2.7 million metric tons of steel annually, creating more than 1,400 jobs.



China's vice premier reassures foreign CEOs on investment, business growth

China sought to reassure foreign corporate chiefs

about the country's business potential when Vice Premier He Lifeng met with the heads of Apple, Pfizer, Mastercard, Cargill, and other major companies.

He also held discussions with executives from the pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly, medical device manufacturer Medtronic, and specialty glass producer Corning, according to a statement from the Ministry of Commerce.



U.S. Imposed Iran-Related Sanctions on Oil Tankers, Chinese 'Teapot' Refinery

The United States imposed new sanctions aimed at curbing Iran's oil exports,

including what the State Department said were the first U.S. measures targeting a Chinese "teapot refinery" that processed Iranian crude.



BANKING AND FINANCE



Public Sector Banks' Dividend Rises 33% to ₹27,830 Crore in FY24 Dividend payouts by public sector banks (PSBs) rose by 33 percent to ₹27,830 crore in

FY24, indicating a significant improvement in the financial health of these lenders. According to government data, PSBs declared a dividend of ₹27,830 crore to shareholders in 2023-24, compared to ₹20,964 crore in the previous fiscal, registering an increase of 32.7 percent.



Indian banks must continue to innovate, boost efficiency: Finance Minister

Indian banks must continue to innovate and enhance

operational efficiency to deliver personalized services in an increasingly competitive business environment, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

She made the remarks while speaking at the launch of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the State Bank of India's (SBI) Foundation Day in Mumbai.



NPLs in microfinance segment to peak by FY26 end: S&PGlobal Ratings Tighter lending norms,

including those that became operational in April for

microfinance institutions in India, will help keep a check on asset quality strain, and the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio in the microloans segment is expected to peak by the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), global rating agency S&P said.

INDUSTRY



India's tea exports touch the highest levels, but rising imports are a concern

As India's tea exports reached their highest levels in years, a sharp rise in imports has

raised concerns among domestic producers. In 2024, India secured the third spot in global tea exports, surpassing Sri Lanka by exporting 254.67 million kg (mkg) of tea, up from 231.69 mkg in 2023.

Export earnings rose to ₹7,111.43 crore, compared to ₹6,160.86 crore in the previous year.



Industry cheers Rs 22,919 crore PLI boost for electronics components

The electronic component manufacturing industry welcomed the Cabinet's

approval of a ₹22,919 crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which is expected to attract investments worth ₹59,350 crore and generate direct employment for around 91,600 people.



India's e-retail market set to reach \$190 billion GMV by 2030: Bain report

India's e-retail market is projected to triple to \$170-\$190 billion in gross

merchandise value (GMV) by 2030, driven by an expanding shopper base and emerging business models, according to a report by Bain & Company and Flipkart. The report highlighted India's position as the world's second-largest e-retail shopper base, with over 270 million online shoppers in 2024.





START-UP



India's Tech Startups Raise \$2.5 Billion in Q1 2025, Up 8.7% Year-on-Year India's tech startups raised

\$2.5 billion in the first quarter of the financial year 2025 (Q1

FY25), marking a 13.64% increase from the previous quarter and an 8.7% rise compared to the same period last year, according to a report. With this performance, India ranked third among the highest-funded geographies globally—after the United States and the United Kingdom.



Syneriq Global Opens AI GCC in Hyderabad, Targets \$150 Million Revenue

Syneriq Global opened its new Global Capability

Center (GCC) for AI products, solutions, and consulting services in Hyderabad. The state-of-the-art 40,000-square-foot facility, established with an investment of ₹50 crore, is set to strengthen Syneriq Global's position in the global digital sector.

In addition, the company launched a new AI platform, Zyrix, aimed at driving innovation and advancing product engineering.



Fashion-Tech Brand Virgio to Invest \$1 Million Across 16 Stores Under Expansion Plan

Virgio, a Bengaluru-based fashion-tech brand, has announced plans to invest \$1

million to establish 16 stores as part of its expansion strategy. The company is also targeting a revenue of $\gtrless120-150$ crore in Fy26. "We have finalized high-street store locations in Ahmedabad, Surat, Mumbai, and Delhi, which are scheduled to open by June 2025," a company spokesperson said.

AGRICULTURE



Global farm firms come together to train 500,000 rural entrepreneurs

Global agriculture major Corteva Agrisciences, the Sustainable Agriculture

Foundation International Association (SAFIA)—formerly known as the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Development—and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have collaborated to establish a virtual academy aimed at mentoring 500,000 rural entrepreneurs worldwide.



Shivraj Singh Chouhan Urges Swift Transfer of Farm Tech from Labs to Fields

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized the need for

the rapid transfer of agricultural technologies from laboratories to fields to benefit farmers.

Speaking at the 63rd convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Chouhan highlighted the importance of adopting agricultural machinery, smart farming practices, and advanced digital technologies to tackle global challenges.



Google Developing Digital Agri Stack for India Using Satellite Imagery

Global tech giant Google is developing a digital agristack for India using satellite imagery and has

begun with a base layer designed to help identify farm boundaries, a senior official said. The data and analysis from this base layer can be applied across a range of use cases, including improving subsidy disbursements, farm insurance, and agricultural loans, said Manish Gupta, Senior Director at Google DeepMind.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Uttar Pradesh Focuses on Skill-Based Training for Over 11 Lakh Persons with Disabilities

In addition to providing pension benefits to over 11

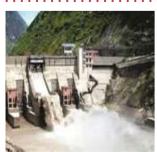
lakh persons with disabilities, the Uttar Pradesh government is placing special emphasis on equipping them with skill-based training tailored to their interests. Over the past eight years, the state government has implemented several schemes aimed at the welfare of Divyangjans, ensuring their inclusion and empowerment across various sectors, according to a press release issued by the UP government.



Chhattisgarh Govt Signs MoU with Nasscom to Boost Skill Development

The Chhattisgarh government has signed a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) to enhance skill development and generate employment opportunities in the state.



Delhi Govt Signs MoU with Centre to Boost Skill Development Among Sikh Youth

Delhi government has

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Centre for the Skill Development of Sikh Youth, allocating ₹100 crore to enhance employment opportunities, officials said.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



From Chips to Training Models: Tracking the Progress of India's AI Mission

The government launched the INDIAai Mission on

March 7 last year to "bolster" the country's leadership in artificial intelligence and "democratize" the benefits of the technology. The program has a total outlay of ₹10,300 crore over five years. These funds are earmarked for investments in AI projects, including the development of computing infrastructure and large language models (LLMs — AI systems capable of understanding and generating human language by processing vast amounts of text data).



IIT Guwahati-Backed Startup Develops Robots for AI-Driven Border Surveillance

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have

developed advanced robots designed for manning international borders, offering AI-powered surveillance and uninterrupted, real-time monitoring across challenging terrains, according to officials.



Firefly's 'Blue Ghost' mission successfully lands on the Moon's surface

Private space firm Firefly Aerospace announced the successful landing of its

Blue Ghost Mission 1 on the Moon's surface. The achievement marks the first fully successful commercial Moon landing in history, furthering NASA's partnership with private industry to advance lunar exploration.



AUTO TECHNOLOGY



IIT Madras Leads India's eMobility Push with 15 Government Projects

With the Government of India eyeing a market potential of ₹20 trillion for

electric vehicles by 2030, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is contributing through multiple initiatives, including over 15 projects aimed at accelerating the transition to eMobility. From zero-emission trucking strategies to policy advocacy, the institute is actively involved in a wide range of efforts to support the government's vision.



UK EV delegation visits Kolkata, FIDC spots challenges for clean mobility

A UK electric vehicle (EV) delegation, comprising six innovative SMEs specializing

in fleet telematics, battery energy storage systems, AI, IoTbased cybersecurity, and modular decentralized generators, visited Kolkata to explore opportunities in India.Facilitated by Connected Places Catapult and supported by Global Business Inroads (GBI) in association with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I), the visit aimed to foster bilateral trade and investment between the UK and India—particularly in the 2- and 3-wheeler EV segments.

in the 2- and 3-wheeler E v segments.



Ducati to Launch Motocross Bikes in India by 2026

Italian superbike manufacturer Ducati is planning to launch its

motocross bikes in the Indian market in 2026, as it seeks to further strengthen its product portfolio in the country, a senior company executive said. The company has several products in the pipeline for India, including upgraded versions of existing models.

CSR



Government Launches Mobile App for PM Internship Scheme

Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched a dedicated mobile

application for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme, urging more companies to participate in the initiative. She also mentioned that she has appealed to Members of Parliament (MPs) to encourage youth to enroll in the program. The pilot phase of the scheme, aimed at offering 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to young individuals during 2024–25, was officially launched on October 3, 2024.



India's social sector funding soars: Projected to reach Rs 45 lakh cr by 2029, driven by public & private sector growth

India's social sector funding grew at approximately 13%

CAGR over the last five years, reaching around Rs 25 lakh crore (\$300 billion) in FY24. Going forward, social sector funding is projected to reach Rs 45 lakh crore in FY29, with public funds continuing to account for about 95% of this, according to the latest India Philanthropy Report 2025 (IPR) by Bain & Company and Dasra.



HDFC Bank Parivartan Brought Irrigation to 2 Lakh Acres of Unirrigated Land

HDFC Bank, through its CSR initiative Parivartan,

brought two lakh acres of unirrigated land under irrigation, enhancing water access for farmers and helping to mitigate water scarcity.

Aligned with national and global efforts to combat climate change and protect critical resources, the bank remains committed to improving water conservation through initiatives such as watershed development, rainwater harvesting, and efficient



DEFENCE NEWS



Govt Clears ₹62,000 Crore Deal to Procure 156 Light Combat Helicopters

The Cabinet Committee on Security has approved the largest-ever deal to procure

156 Light Combat Helicopters worth over ₹62,000 crore for the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This marks the biggest order for HAL to date, and the helicopters will be built at the company's manufacturing facilities in Bengaluru and Tumkur, Karnataka.



Dharma Guardian: India, Japan Hold 7th Army Talks, Discuss Defence Ties

India and Japan recently held the 7th Army-to-Army

Staff Talks in New Delhi, focusing on enhancing defense cooperation, the joint military exercise Dharma Guardian, military education, and other key areas.The discussions also explored potential collaboration in niche technologies and operational training between the two countries.



Ashok Leyland's defense unit bags orders worth Rs 700 cr from Indian Army

Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland announced that its

defense business secured orders worth over ₹700 crore from the Indian Army, reinforcing the company's leadership in the sector. The vehicles to be supplied are set to fulfill the Army's requirements for troop transportation, logistics, and other specialized mobility needs under the Close-In Weapon Systems (CIWS) program.

ENERGY AND POWER



Energy Investors Summit: Chhattisgarh gets investment proposals of Rs 3 trn

The Chhattisgarh government has received investment proposals worth over ₹3 trillion in the energy sector during a recently held investors' summit, officials said. These proposals have been submitted under various state government schemes aimed at strengthening Chhattisgarh's energy infrastructure. Investments in nuclear, thermal, solar, and pumped storage power generation projects are expected to benefit not only industries but also ensure affordable and uninterrupted electricity for the general public, the officials added.



REC board approves ₹1.70 trillion borrowing plan for FY26 operations

R E C L i m i t e d h a s announced that its board of directors has approved a

borrowing plan of ₹1.70 trillion for the financial year 2025–26. The decision was taken during a recent board meeting. In a regulatory filing, the company stated that the borrowing program for FY26 includes raising ₹1,55,000 crore through various instruments such as domestic bonds or debentures, capital gains tax exemption bonds, rupee term loans from banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, corporates, and external commercial borrowings (ECBs).



Initiatives by Govt. & Invest India

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



Cabinet Approves Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) Rates for Kharif 2025 on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) Fertilizers

The Union Cabinet, chaired

by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers to fix the Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the Kharif season 2025 (from April 1, 2025, to September 30, 2025) on Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers.



The Uttar Pradesh govt plans to develop a comprehensive database to boost industrial investment and transparency

Aiming to establish Uttar Pradesh as a leading industrial hub in the country, the state government plans to develop a comprehensive database of all major industrial authorities in the state. As the nodal agency for attracting and tracking investments, Invest UP will create this extensive database to enhance transparency in the land allotment process.



Delhi govt to provide free online coaching for CUET, NEET to 1.63 lakh students

The Delhi government has signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with BIG Institute to offer free crash courses to students preparing for CUET and NEET after Class 12. The agreement, signed between the Delhi Directorate of Education and BIG Institute, will enable 1.63 lakh students from government schools to access free online coaching for NEET and CUET. The signing ceremony took place in the presence of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Education Minister Ashish Sood.

INVEST INDIA



German chemical company to invest \$1.5 billion in India, says PiyushGoyal

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

announced that a German company from the chemical sector has decided to invest \$1.5 billion in India. A state has already identified land for the project, he added. Although the minister did not disclose the name of the company or the state, he stated that the company's head is expected to meet the state's Chief Minister.



Why you should invest in India now: The new investment friendliness index is a game changer

In an era where India is

rapidly emerging as a prime destination for foreign investment, the launch of the Investment Friendliness Index in the Union Budget 2025 marks a significant shift in the nation's economic landscape. This strategic initiative is designed to promote both competitive and cooperative federalism, encouraging states to enhance their policy environments and infrastructure to become more attractive to domestic and international investors alike.



India, EU Explore Phased Negotiation Approach for Free Trade Agreement

India and the European Union (EU) are currently exploring the possibility of

negotiating their Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in phases, amid an increasingly uncertain global trade environment triggered by the imposition of sweeping tariffs by the United States, an official said.



MEA and Diplomatic Postings

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



Shri Anshuman Gaur was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary Anshuman Gaur, an Indian Foreign Service officer of the

2001 batch and currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.

He is expected to assume the assignment shortly.



Shri Ramu Abbagani appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam

Shri Ramu Abbagani, an Indian Foreign Service officer

of the 2001 batch and currently serving as Ambassador of India to the Dominican Republic, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam.

He is expected to assume the assignment shortly.



Shri Arun Kumar Sahu Concurrently Accredited as Ambassador of India to North Macedonia

Shri Arun Kumar Sahu (IFS: 1996), currently serving as

the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of North Macedonia, with residence in Sofia.

He is expected to take up the additional assignment shortly

MEA



10th BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue (March 24-25, 2025)

The 10th BRICS Policy Planning Dialogue was held on March 24–25, 2025, in

Brasilia, bringing together policy planners from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, along with senior representatives from the expanded BRICS membership.



2nd India-Sierra Leone Foreign Office Consultations, New Delhi (March 10, 2025)

The second round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)

between India and Sierra Leone was held on March 10, 2025, in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sevala Naik Mude, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and H.E. Mr. Alan C. E. Logan, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, who led the delegation from the Sierra Leonean side.



Shri Suneet Mehta concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to Tuvalu

Shri Suneet Mehta (IFS: 2007), currently serving as

the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji, has been concurrently accredited as the High Commissioner of India to Tuvalu, with residence in Suva. He is expected to assume the new assignment shortly.



FII President, Dr. Deepak Jain Attends Bulgaria's National Day Celebration



In a grand celebration of Bulgaria's rich history and strong diplomatic ties with India, H.E. Dr. Nikolay Yankov, Ambassador of Bulgaria to India, hosted a distinguished gathering on 4th March at the Embassy of Bulgaria in New Delhi to commemorate Bulgaria's Liberation Day and celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations with India.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), was honored to be invited to this prestigious occasion. The event brought together diplomatic corps and dignitaries, fostering meaningful discussions and cultural exchanges.

The evening concluded with a delightful dinner, further strengthening the bond between the two nations.



FII Core Team Meeting was held on March 7, 2025, bringing together key industry leaders.



Federation of Indian Industry (FII) leadership extended a warm welcome to Sh. Vinod K. Bapna, Executive Director and CEO of Caparo Maruti Ltd., on his appointment as President of the FII Haryana Chapter. His leadership is expected to play a pivotal role in driving industrial growth and fostering robust business networking across the region.

During the meeting, discussions centered around planning FII's upcoming events with a focus on promoting industrial development, skill enhancement, and strengthening global collaborations. Members engaged in meaningful deliberations on event execution, strategic partnerships, and initiatives aimed at delivering high-impact programs for businesses and professionals.

The session was attended by Dr. Deepak Jain, President of FII; Sh. Hitender Mehta, Chairman of the International Affairs Committee; Dr. Shailendra Vyas, Chairperson of the Start-Up Committee; Sh. Uditendu Verma, Additional General Secretary; Sh. Sanjeev Arora, Chairperson of the Media and IT Committee; Dr. Rimika Kapoor, Joint Director of the ESG Committee; and Ms. Ritu Jain, Strategy Expert with the MSME Committee. The collective insights shared during the meeting will play a key role in shaping FII's strategic direction in the months ahead. With a steadfast commitment to industry advancement and innovation, FII continues to pave the way for sustainable economic growth and business excellence.





Dr. Deepak Jain, President FII meets Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa State



Dr. Deepak Jain, President FII meets Dr Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa State Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII, had a fruitful meeting with Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, at his office in Panaji.

The discussion focused on strengthening cooperation between FII and the Government of Goa to promote investments and accelerate the state's industrial development. Both sides explored opportunities to attract industries and enhance Goa's position as a thriving hub for business and innovation.

FII expressed its full commitment to supporting the Government of Goa in driving this vision forward.

Powering Sustainability: FII and Minister of State for Power Join Hands Ahead of Resilience 360



Dr. Deepak Jain, President, Federation of Indian Industry (FII), met Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power, for an exchange of views and greetings.

The discussions focused on sustainability and the power sector, highlighting the importance of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and innovative strategies for a greener future. They also explored opportunities for industry-government collaboration to drive sustainable energy solutions and enhance India's energy security.

Dr. Jain invited Sh. Naik to be the Chief Guest at Resilience 360: International Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Management, scheduled for June 26–27, 2025, and organized by FII. He graciously accepted the invitation, demonstrating his support for collaborative efforts in sustainability and disaster management. His presence is expected to enrich the discussions on energy and climate resilience.



Dr. Deepak Jain, President, FII invited as Chief Guest for the Book Swap Camp



Dr. Deepak Jain, President of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), was honored to be invited as the Chief Guest at the Book Swap Camp and had the pleasure of inaugurating the event. Held on 22nd March 2025 in Gurugram, this remarkable initiative aimed to foster a culture of book sharing while promoting sustainability.

The event made a meaningful impact by enabling nearly 400 students to access books, thereby encouraging knowledgesharing and easing the financial burden on learners. Beyond its academic benefits, the initiative significantly contributed to environmental conservation by reducing the demand for new book production—helping to lower carbon emissions and prevent deforestation associated with paper manufacturing.

By advocating for the reuse of books, the Book Swap Camp reflects a powerful vision of an educated and sustainable future. It ensures that learning resources are circulated widely while minimizing the ecological footprint.

FII extends heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, partners, and every participant whose efforts helped make this event a resounding success.



Meet & Greet with Hon'ble Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Former MP, New Zealand



A special Meet & Greet program was organized to welcome Hon'ble Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Former Member of Parliament, New Zealand. The session facilitated insightful discussions on global business collaborations and industry growth between India and New Zealand.

The event was attended by Dr. Deepak Jain, President, FII; Mr. Vinod K. Bapna, President, FII Haryana Chapter; Mr. Sunil Kaushal, Businessman, New Zealand; Mr. Kuldeep Singh, Businessman, UK; Ms. Ritu Jain, Strategy Expert, MSME Committee – FII; Mr. Tejender Sehrawat; and Mr. Akash Gupta. The discussions focused on strengthening Indo–New Zealand industry relations and exploring new business opportunities.



Indian Ambassador Strengthens Economic Ties with North Macedonia along with FII Bulgaria President



On March 28, 2025, the Ambassador of India to Bulgaria and North Macedonia, Shri Arun Kumar Sahu, along with Mr. Neeraj Kumar from the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), visited the Economic Chamber of North Macedonia in Skopje. The discussions focused on enhancing trade and investment opportunities between the two nations. Ambassador Sahu invited the Chamber to visit India after September 2025, while FII proposed signing an MoU to formalize cooperation. Both sides expressed optimism about future collaborations and committed to regular follow-ups to strengthen economic ties and foster mutual growth.



Sunita Williams Starts a Historic Space Journey on Boeing's Starliner



On June 5, 2024, astronaut Sunita Williams flew into space on Boeing's Starliner spacecraft as part of a NASA mission. The trip, which launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, was supposed to last only eight days and test how well the Starliner works in space. But soon after reaching the International Space Station (ISS), problems with the spacecraft's thrusters caused the mission to be extended.

Sunita and her fellow astronaut, Butch Wilmore, ended up staying on the ISS for nine months. During that time, they worked on science experiments and helped test systems on the station. They finally came back to Earth safely on March 18, 2025, using a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft. This mission added to Sunita Williams' amazing space career and showed her strength, courage, and dedication to space exploration.



State Visit of His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar to India (February 17-18, 2025) Concluded Successfully



External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar (EAM) was on an official visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland from 04 to 09 March 2025.

India and the UK share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which has strengthened across diverse areas including defense and security, trade and economy, health, education, and people-to-people ties. During the visit, EAM held discussions with his counterpart, Foreign Secretary David Lammy, and met several other dignitaries as well as members of the Indian community.

India and Ireland shared friendly bilateral relations based on shared democratic values, cultural ties, and growing economic engagement. During his visit to Ireland from 06 to 07 March 2025, EAM met with his Irish counterpart, Simon Harris, along with other dignitaries and members of the Indian community.

EAM's visit provided renewed impetus to India's friendly relations with both the UK and Ireland.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred Mauritius' Highest Civilian Honour During National Day Celebrations





Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred Mauritius' Highest Civilian Honour During National Day Celebrations



On the invitation of the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, PM Modi paid a State Visit to Mauritius from March 11–12, 2025, to attend the National Day celebrations held on March 12 as the Chief Guest. A contingent of the Indian Defence Forces participated in the celebrations, alongside a ship from the Indian Navy. This visit marked Prime Minister Modi's second visit to Mauritius, the previous one being in 2015.

During the visit, PM Modi called on the President of Mauritius, held discussions with Prime Minister Ramgoolam, and met with senior dignitaries and leaders of various political parties. He also interacted with members of the Indian-origin community and inaugurated the Civil Service College and the Area Health Centre—both constructed with India's grant assistance. Several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were also exchanged to deepen bilateral cooperation.

India and Mauritius share a close and enduring relationship rooted in historical, cultural, and strong people-to-people ties. Mauritius continues to be a key partner in India's Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The visit reaffirmed the robust partnership between the two nations and further strengthened cooperation across various sectors



Prime Minister Narendra Modi Conferred Mauritius' Highest Civilian Honour During National Day Celebrations



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 57th National Day celebrations of the Republic of Mauritius as the Chief Guest.

During the event, the President of Mauritius, H.E. Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, conferred upon PM Modi the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (G.C.S.K.)—the highest civilian award of Mauritius. This was the first time an Indian leader had received this prestigious honor.

PM Modi dedicated the award to the unique and longstanding friendship between India and Mauritius, as well as to the 1.4 billion people of India and their 1.3 million brothers and sisters in Mauritius.

The celebrations also featured the participation of an Indian Navy marching contingent in the ceremonial parade. Additionally, an Indian Naval Ship made a port call in Mauritius to coincide with the occasion, reflecting the strong maritime and defense ties between the two nations.



Official Visit of Prime Minister of New Zealand to India (March 16-20, 2025)







At the invitation of PM Modi, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, The Right Honourable Christopher Luxon, paid an Official Visit to India from 16–20 March 2025. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials, business leaders, media personnel, and members of the Indian diaspora community in New Zealand.

This was Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon's first visit to India in his current capacity. He visited New Delhi and Mumbai before returning to Wellington on 20 March 2025. During the visit, PM Luxon held talks with PM Shri Narendra Modi on 17 March 2025, covering various aspects of India–New Zealand relations. PM Modi hosted a lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. A call on Hon'ble Rashtrapati Smt. Droupadi Murmu was also held that same day.

PM Luxon participated as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the 10th Raisina Dialogue 2025 on 17 March in New Delhi and delivered the Keynote Address. He then traveled to Mumbai on 19–20 March, where he engaged with Indian business leaders and representatives from various sectors.

PM Luxon's visit underscored the longstanding and enduring ties between India and New Zealand. It reaffirmed the shared commitment of both nations to further strengthen bilateral relations across all sectors and deepen close people-to-people connections.





CHANGING WORLD ORDER ARE WE DRIFTING TOWARDS WORLD WAR 3?



Dr. Deepak Jain President-FII

Geopolitical alliances are shifting, economic power centers are evolving, and the balance of influence that once seemed unshakable is now under strain. From Eastern Europe to the Indo-Pacific, tensions are rising—often in ways that defy the rules-based systems established after World War II. While diplomacy continues on the surface, underlying currents of distrust, competition, and militarization suggest a deeper, more dangerous trajectory. The question is no longer whether the world is changing—it's how close we are to a tipping point.

The Ukraine War: A Spark with Global Consequences

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 sent shockwaves through the global order. While Russia's aggression is condemned internationally, the context behind the conflict includes years of posturing, security dilemmas, and growing East-West mistrust.

The war has led to more than 500,000 people killed or injured and an economic cost nearing \$1.6 trillion, according to estimates by the IMF and independent watchdogs. Despite unprecedented Western sanctions, Russia's economy only briefly contracted and rebounded with energy exports redirected toward China and India. The ruble saw volatility, but Russia's global repositioning ensured its survival.

Sanctions: A Blunt Tool

Sanctions were the West's go-to strategy, but their effectiveness is increasingly questioned. Europe experienced its worst energy crisis in decades in 2022, with electricity prices in Germany and France spiking by over 500% at their peak. Many NATO members, directly or indirectly, continued to rely on Russian energy via intermediaries, undermining the moral positioning behind the sanctions.

Meanwhile, countries in the Global South faced indirect fallout—food shortages, fuel inflation, fertilizer crises—and began to view Western sanctions as instruments of control rather than justice. The perceived hypocrisy has further driven a wedge between the West and emerging economies.



The Russia–China Axis

One of the most profound outcomes of the ongoing global turbulence is the tightening of strategic ties between Russia and China. Their coordinated military exercises, robust energy deals (valued at over \$100 billion), and plans to



bypass the U.S. dollar through local currency trade are reshaping global power dynamics. While their interests don't always align, their shared goal is clear: challenge the existing Western-led order.

Their growing clout is forcing middle powers and neutral states to reevaluate alliances. It's no longer about choosing democracy or autocracy—it's about surviving in a divided world.

The Myth of Western Economic Superiority

The traditional anchors of global stability—Europe and the United States—are grappling with internal challenges. America, once a symbol of economic strength, faces \$34 trillion in national debt, political paralysis, and rising protectionism. The 2023 Fitch downgrade of the U.S. credit rating highlighted real vulnerabilities in what was assumed to be an unshakeable financial system.



The West's push for tariff walls, decoupling from China, and control over critical technologies like semiconductors has sparked retaliation and fostered an environment of mistrust. The global south and key players like Brazil, Indonesia, and Turkey are now exploring more self-reliant economic models, and often refusing to take sides.

India: A Rising Pole of Power

Amidst the global disorder, India has quietly emerged as a potential stabilizing force. Its 7.6% GDP growth in 2023, expanding digital economy, and robust defense modernization are reshaping Asia's geopolitical landscape.

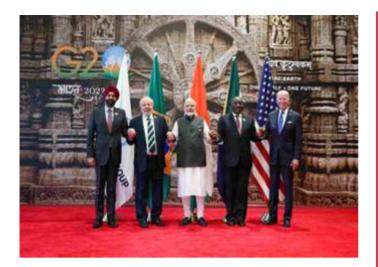
India's strategic balancing—maintaining ties with both Russia and the U.S., and participating in forums like QUAD while also attending BRICS—has been viewed as diplomatic agility.



Its leadership during the G20 and its role in resolving regional crises, like Sri Lanka's debt negotiations, have further enhanced its credibility.

India's regional supremacy in South Asia is now established, and it is increasingly assertive in the Indo-Pacific. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global presence, with strong personal rapport with leaders like Trump, Biden, Putin, Macron, and Kishida, has turned India into a bridge between the Global North and South.

However, India still stops short of asserting itself as a global enforcer or peacemaker. Its cautious stance protects its neutrality—but if India is forced to tilt decisively in a future crisis, the global power equilibrium could dramatically shift.



Superficial Peace and Militarized Diplomacy

Despite peace talks and summits, the world is rearming. The U.S. passed its largest-ever defense budget—\$858 billion. China increased its military spending by 7.2%. Russia's defense expenditure now stands at 6% of its GDP.

Multilateral institutions like the UN are increasingly symbolic. They struggle to enforce peace or even facilitate dialogue beyond the optics. Nations today speak more about "deterrence" than "diplomacy." The arms race is disguised under "security concerns," and peace negotiations are often PR exercises.



What's even more alarming is the subtle normalization of conflict—civilian populations are becoming desensitized, and media narratives are more polarized than ever before. The war isn't just on the battlefield—it's in economies, information channels, and strategic trade wars.

ACritical Crossroads

The world is no longer defined by a clear bipolar structure, nor has it yet transitioned into a stable multipolar order. Instead, it remains in a state of flux—fragmented, unpredictable, and increasingly unstable. No single nation or bloc—be it the United States, China, Russia, or even a rapidly rising India—possesses the leverage to restore global equilibrium on its own.

But history reminds us: that power vacuums don't last forever. They are filled, often violently.

So, the question stands can this fractured world recalibrate peacefully, or are we simply stalling the inevitable detonation of World War 3?

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.





Prof. M.M. Goel Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

The Indian banking sector, a critical pillar of the economy, is struggling with a trust deficit. Despite regulatory frameworks, consumer confidence has been eroded due to poor customer service, unresolved complaints, and increasing cybercrimes. Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under the leadership of Governor Sanjay Malhotra, must address these challenges with a fresh perspective. Needonomics school of thought prioritizes necessity over greed, and offers a viable solution to transform Indian banking into a trustworthy and efficient system.

Crisis of Consumer Confidence

Indian banking is deeply entangled in what can be termed as Greedonomics—an economic system driven by profit maximization at the expense of customer satisfaction. The Ombudsman scheme, designed to resolve grievances, has failed to provide adequate relief. The number of unresolved complaints has surged by 50% annually, reflecting a systemic failure. Alarmingly, even with 1 crore reported complaints in 2023-24, there is significant underreporting and window-dressing of data, where even routine requests and queries are counted as resolutions. This regulatory violation calls for urgent intervention.

A lack of customer-friendly policies, high service charges, and poor communication between banks and customers further exacerbate the crisis. Hidden fees, slow grievance redressal mechanisms, and the burden of unnecessary documentation alienate customers and erode trust. Many customers feel helpless, as their issues remain unresolved despite multiple escalations. In this scenario, an urgent shift from profit-centric banking to needo-banking is the only way forward.

Needonomics as the Only Solution

Needonomics advocates for a shift from profit-centric banking to need-based banking, where the core objective is to serve consumers efficiently rather than exploit them. To restore consumer confidence, Indian banks must adopt the following principles:

1. Ethical Banking Practices

Banks must prioritize transparency and honesty in their dealings. Misleading data reporting and regulatory violations must be penalized heavily. The RBI should ensure strict adherence to consumer protection guidelines, reinforcing trust in the system.

• RBI must introduce stringent penalties for banks indulging in fraudulent reporting practices.

• Banks must adopt a voluntary code of ethics that ensures fair treatment of customers.

• Loan approvals and credit evaluations must be based on clear, unbiased criteria, eliminating favoritism and corruption.

2. Customer-Centric Banking Services

Banking should focus on fulfilling the genuine needs of customers, ensuring timely grievance redressal and proactive service improvement. The customer service culture must be revamped to eliminate bureaucratic delays and negligence at all levels.

• Banks should introduce a single-window grievance redressal mechanism to speed up complaint resolution.

• The introduction of performance-linked incentives for employees based on customer satisfaction metrics can encourage better service.

• Customer feedback must be actively sought and implemented, making banks more responsive to consumer needs.

3. Zero-Tolerance for Cyber Crimes and Fraud

Cyber security in banking must be strengthened with advanced fraud detection mechanisms and strict



enforcement of digital safety norms. Banks should invest in continuous cyber-security training for staff to prevent internal malpractices and external threats.

• Investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) tools for fraud detection and prevention.

• Mandatory cyber hygiene training for bank employees to enhance awareness about security protocols.

• Implementation of multi-layered authentication systems to prevent cyber fraud.

• Public-private partnerships to enhance banking cyber infrastructure and real-time fraud monitoring systems.

4. Accountability and Responsibility from Top to Bottom A Needonomics-driven accountability framework should be implemented, ensuring that banking officials at all levels, from top executives to branch-level employees, take full responsibility for customer service failures and ethical breaches.

• Public disclosure of service quality ratings for each bank, enabling customers to make informed choices.

• Strict legal consequences for executives found guilty of customer exploitation or financial mismanagement.

• Independent ombudsman monitoring teams to oversee complaint resolution efficiency.

5. Financial Literacy and Consumer Awareness

Empowering consumers with knowledge about their banking rights, security measures, and grievance redressal mechanisms is crucial. RBI must launch nationwide financial literacy campaigns under Needonomics to make consumers more vigilant and confident.

• Inclusion of financial literacy as part of school and college curricula.

• Conducting awareness drives about banking fraud, digital transactions, and consumer rights.

• Establishment of consumer helplines to assist the public in banking-related queries and complaints.

Needo-Banking for Viksit Bharat 2047

The banking sector must play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047—a developed India characterized by economic stability, inclusivity, and financial security. The transition from Greedonomics to Needonomics in banking will lay the foundation for

sustainable economic growth.

The roadmap to achieving trustworthy banking includes:

1. Regulatory Overhaul: Strengthening banking laws and ensuring stricter enforcement mechanisms.

2. Ethical Governance: Implementing robust corporate governance policies to eliminate corruption and unethical practices.

3. Customer Empowerment: Providing consumers with greater access to information and stronger grievance redressal mechanisms.

4. Sustainable Banking Models: Promoting green banking, microfinance for rural empowerment, and need-based financial products.

Time for Change is now

To conclude, India to achieve its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, its banking sector must align with Needonomics—an approach that prioritizes consumer welfare over corporate greed. By adopting ethical banking practices, improving service quality, ensuring cybersecurity, and enforcing strict accountability, the RBI can rebuild trust in Indian banking. Governor Sanjay Malhotra has the opportunity to lead this transformation, making India's financial ecosystem truly customer-friendly and resilient.

The time for change is now—from Greedonomics to Needonomics for a trustworthy banking future. Only by realigning the banking system with the principles of Needonomics can India create a financially inclusive and transparent economy where the needs of the people are at the forefront of economic progress. It is not merely an option but a necessity to ensure that every Indian, from rural to urban regions, benefits from a fair, secure, and efficient banking system. The RBI must take decisive action now to set the course for a new era of trust, transparency, and economic justice.

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.





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Recently, Delhi experienced its hottest day of the year on Tuesday, March 25, with temperatures expected to soar even higher in the coming months. This heatwave is not confined to the capital alone—many regions across the country are witnessing unprecedentedly high temperatures in March, marking an unusually intense start to the summer season. In this scenario, it is crucial to examine the far-reaching impacts of climate change on various aspects of human life. One of the most pressing concerns is its economic consequences. Rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and shifting climate patterns disrupt industries, strain infrastructure, and threaten livelihoods. Let's delve into the economic ramifications of this growing crisis.

India, one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, is highly vulnerable to climate change. With its vast geographical diversity and reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, the country faces significant economic consequences due to rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, and extreme weather events. This article explores the profound impact of climate change on India's economy across various sectors.

1. Agriculture and Food Security: Agriculture, which contributes around 18% to India's GDP and employs nearly 60% of the population, is highly dependent on monsoons. Erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and unseasonal floods

disrupt crop yields, leading to economic instability. Climate change affects staple crops like wheat, rice, and pulses, reducing productivity and increasing food prices. Additionally, farmers suffer financial losses due to crop failures, exacerbating rural distress and migration.

2. Water Scarcity and Its Economic Impact: India is already a water-stressed nation, and climate change is aggravating the crisis. Reduced rainfall, shrinking glaciers, and depleting groundwater levels threaten water availability for agriculture, industry, and households. Water shortages impact industrial production, increase operational costs for businesses, and create socioeconomic tensions, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions.

3. Infrastructure Damage and Rising Costs: Extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, and heatwaves cause severe damage to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and buildings. The increasing frequency of these disasters leads to higher government expenditure on disaster relief, reconstruction, and climate adaptation

measures. Additionally, the financial burden on insurance companies rises, leading to higher premiums and economic losses for individuals and businesses.

4. Impact on Industry and Manufacturing: Industries that rely on natural resources, such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals, are affected by changing climatic conditions. Heat stress reduces labor productivity, increases cooling costs, and disrupts supply chains. Manufacturing hubs located in coastal areas, such as Mumbai and Chennai, are at risk of flooding,

5. Energy Sector Challenges: Rising temperatures increase energy demand for cooling, putting pressure on India's power supply. Hydroelectric power generation

affecting economic output and employment levels.



declines due to reduced water availability, affecting renewable energy goals. Extreme weather events also damage energy infrastructure, leading to power outages and economic losses.

6. Public Health and Workforce Productivity Heatwaves, air pollution, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria are rising due to climate change. The resulting health burden increases medical costs, reduces workforce productivity, and affects overall economic growth. Labor-intensive sectors like construction and agriculture suffer the most as workers face health risks and reduced efficiency.

7. Coastal Economy and Tourism: Rising sea levels and coastal erosion threaten India's coastal economy, which includes fisheries, ports, and tourism. Popular tourist destinations like Goa and Kerala face the risk of losing their appeal due to changing coastlines and extreme weather events. The loss of biodiversity, coral bleaching, and declining fish populations impact livelihoods and revenue generation.

8. Policy Responses and Economic Adaptation: The Indian government has launched initiatives such as the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and various state action plans to mitigate climate change impacts. Investments in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and resilient infrastructure are essential to safeguard economic stability. However, more private sector involvement and global cooperation are needed to finance climate adaptation strategies.

Climate change poses a formidable challenge to India's economic growth and development. While policies and technological advancements can help mitigate some impacts, proactive measures and sustainable development strategies are crucial to safeguarding India's economy from the long-term effects of climate change. Addressing this crisis requires a collaborative effort from government, industry, and society to build a climate-resilient economy.



INTEGRATIVE OMICS: A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH TO HEALTHCARE



Dr. Shailendra Vyas Chairperson Start-Up Committee & Skill Development

nfectious diseases have long been a global health challenge, necessitating innovative approaches for their diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Traditional methods often rely on isolated molecular analyses, limiting the ability to capture the full complexity of host-pathogen interactions. The revolutionary shifts in medical research have their roots in genomic science, which is found to be better suited for the creation of research results against infectious diseases. However, with the latest advancements, the integration of multi-omics approaches-genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, epigenomics, and ionomics-offers unprecedented insights into the pathophysiology of infectious diseases. By leveraging these technologies in a systems biology framework, researchers can identify novel biomarkers, uncover host-pathogen interactions, and develop targeted therapeutic strategies. Integrative omics provides a comprehensive perspective by combining data from multiple biological layers, enhancing our understanding of disease mechanisms. This paper discusses the transformative potential of integrative omics in infectious disease research and public health applications. As a research methodology, it surpasses conventional approach because it makes a complete overhaul of the way we grasp microbial threats as well as the way we forecast and combat them. Here, we explore the role of integrative omics in revolutionizing diagnostics, treatment, and public health, while addressing challenges such as data integration and ethical considerations.

Integrative Omics: What all are included

1. Genomics: Sequencing pathogen genomes enables identification of virulence factors and drug resistance genes, while host genomics helps determine genetic susceptibility to infections.

2. Transcriptomics: Analysis of RNA expression profiles reveals dynamic changes in host and pathogen responses during infection.

3. Proteomics: Protein profiling aids in understanding pathogen survival mechanisms and immune system evasion tactics.

4. Metabolomics: Metabolic shifts in both host and pathogen can serve as diagnostic biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

5. Epigenomics: Epigenetic modifications influence gene expression and immune responses, offering new insights into disease progression.

6. Ionomics: The study of elemental composition and homeostasis in biological systems provides insights into how infections disrupt essential metal ion balances, influencing pathogen survival and host immune responses.

Integrative Omics: A Systems Biology Approach

At the core of molecular genomics revolution lies the capacity to read the genetic instructions of both disease agents and human hosts. Genomic sequencing surpasses conventional microscopic examination, providing scientists with an unprecedented window into the complex realm of microorganisms. By studying the entire genetic profile of causative agents, researchers can now track transmission patterns with uncanny accuracy, forecast possible mutations, and create more pinpoint interventions. However, the genetic blueprint is shaped by the environment in space and time.

Consider the complexity of this process: each infectious agent carries a unique genetic signature, much like a molecular fingerprint. It gets its cues from ambience like other infectious agents present, the cellular environment, the immunological condition of the host etc. Scientists use genetic code analysis to determine both microbial structure and evolutionary methods used by the pathogen. New insights into pathogen genetic sequences transform medical practices from treatment-based intervention to prevention-based strategies.

By integrating multi-omics data, we can construct holistic disease models that elucidate complex biological networks. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning facilitate the analysis of large-scale omics datasets, improving disease prediction and treatment strategies. Case studies, such as COVID-19 and tuberculosis, demonstrate the power of integrative omics in guiding precision medicine approaches. Precision in Diagnosis, Treatment and Public Health

Genomic science makes observations that transcend basic



observation capabilities. Next-generation sequencing technologies brought dramatic advances to diagnosis through their ability to perform immediate infectious agent identification. Due to genomic analysis, pathogen detection and characterization that once needed weeks or days can now be done in only hours.

Through this method scientists achieve a degree of precision that was before impossible. With modern scientific tools, researchers have gained the ability to distinguish different strains in viruses and bacteria while analyzing their resistance mechanisms for developing highly focused treatment strategies. Medical practitioners now use this method to achieve previously unimaginable precision in their intervention procedures. Integrative approaches may lead to insights into:

- **Biomarker Discovery:** Identification of omics-based biomarkers for early disease detection and prognosis.
- **Personalized Medicine:** Tailoring treatments based on patient-specific molecular profiles.
- **Drug Repurposing and Vaccine Development:** Utilizing omics data to accelerate the discovery of novel therapeutic targets.
- **Epidemiological Surveillance:** Enhancing outbreak prediction and monitoring through multi-omics integration.

A Real-World Scenario: Confronting an Emerging Threat Rapid genome sequencing would play a pivotal role in response to a newly emerging respiratory virus in a highly populated metropolitan area.

A rapid analysis method is used to determine the complete genetic structure of the virus. The team would gain fundamental genetic knowledge about the virus as well as its transmission pathways and distinct features within a few hours of examination. The quick analytical process would deliver critical early observations needed to stop an epidemic from spreading.

Scientifically advanced diagnostic tests must be created so they can precisely identify which exact strain exists with maximum accuracy. Testing methods would discover virus presence together with precise genetic information about the virus.

The rapid development of vaccines can be achieved by discovering specific genetic points suitable for medical interventions. Genomic science shows the capacity to decrease vaccine production duration from traditional years to months or potentially to weeks.

Beyond the Pathogen: Understanding Host Interactions

The finding of individual genetic impacts on disease susceptibility generates the most thrilling scientific breakthrough. Each individual possesses a unique genetic profile that identifies how one's body responds to pathogens. The genetic makeup of some individuals includes protection mechanisms lacking in other individuals.

The individualized strategy is a whole new frontier in infectious disease medical treatment. Medical professionals today continue to drift away from broad therapeutic strategies by designing precise interventions according to individual patients' genomes.

Challenges and Potential

Science involves many challenges to overcome. The extensive computational needs for large genetic database evaluation along with ethical issues in genetic research create insurmountable barriers alongside the requirement of international cooperative infrastructure.

But the potential is enormous. As computers get more powerful and our understanding deeper, genomic science can transform our approach to infectious disease. It is a science frontier where we can anticipate, understand, and combat microbial threats with unprecedented precision.

The future of infectious disease management is not just about treating illnesses but understanding them at their most fundamental genetic level.

Despite its promise, integrative omics faces challenges such as data heterogeneity, computational complexity, and ethical concerns regarding data privacy and accessibility. Standardization efforts and collaborative research initiatives are crucial to overcoming these barriers. Future developments, including AI-driven omics analysis and digital twin technology, will further advance the field, paving the way for more effective disease management strategies.

Integrative omics is transforming infectious disease research and healthcare by providing comprehensive molecular insights. Its application in diagnostics, therapeutics, and public health interventions holds great promise for improving patient outcomes and controlling infectious disease outbreaks. Continued interdisciplinary collaboration and technological advancements will be key to realizing its full potential.

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.



REIMAGINING FMCG: INNOVATING RESPONSIBLY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Dr. Anjali Jain, PhD Member- CSR Committee-FII

he fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) industry is undergoing a seismic shift. No longer can brands rely solely on legacy business models that prioritize speed and scale at the cost of environmental and social impact. Today, global consumers are not just buying products-they are buying into values. They demand authenticity, responsibility, and innovation that aligns with a sustainable future. At the same time, climate change, resource scarcity, and rising regulatory expectations are redefining the rules of competition. In this pivotal moment, FMCG companies face a dual mandate: to innovate faster than ever, while embedding sustainability at the core of every decision. The ability to balance cutting-edge innovation with long-term responsibility is not just a competitive advantage-it is a survival strategy. This article explores how FMCG brands can balance innovation and responsibility, leveraging cutting-edge technologies and sustainable practices to build a resilient FMCG industry and forge a new path forward.

The evolution of sustainability in FMCG

Traditionally, sustainability in FMCG has been an add-on rather than an integrated strategy. Early efforts included biodegradable packaging and carbon offset programs. However, the definition of sustainability has evolved significantly, with brands now focusing on circular economy models, digital sustainability, and regenerative business practices.

Key Drivers of Sustainable FMCG:

- **Consumer Demand:** 73% of global consumers say they would change their consumption habits to reduce environmental impact (Nielsen, 2018).
- **Regulatory Pressure:** Governments worldwide are enforcing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies and carbon taxation.
- **Investor Expectations:** ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) factors might influence over \$40 trillion in global investments (Bloomberg, 2024)

Integration of sustainable practices into product development

1. Sustainable ingredients

Sourcing sustainable ingredients is a foundational element of building environmentally responsible FMCG products. This involves shifting from conventional, resource-intensive raw materials to bio-based, renewable, and ethically sourced alternatives. Companies are embracing plant-derived actives, upcycled food waste, and lab-grown ingredients to reduce environmental impact while maintaining product efficacy. In this direction, L'Oréal's Green Sciences initiative emphasizes the use of green chemistry and biotechnology to replace petrochemical-based components with naturally derived ones. Similarly, precision fermentation, a cutting-edge biotechnology, is also gaining momentum in replacing animalderived or environmentally damaging ingredients, such as palm oil or collagen, with lab-grown versions that minimize deforestation and biodiversity loss.

2. Sustainability in manufacturing processes

Sustainable manufacturing goes beyond energy efficiency—it's about reimagining the production ecosystem to minimize carbon footprint, conserve water, reduce waste, and enable circularity. Leading FMCG firms are adopting low-energy processing technologies, closed-loop water systems, and renewable energy solutions to power their plants. For instance, Unilever has committed to achieving carbon neutrality across all its operations by 2030. Advanced process automation and AI-driven predictive maintenance are also playing a vital role in optimizing resource use and lowering emissions throughout the production cycle.

3. Sustainability in packaging

Packaging is often the most visible symbol of a brand's environmental responsibility. FMCG companies are transforming packaging by designing for recyclability, replacing virgin plastic with post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials, and investing in compostable, biodegradable, and refillable solutions. Innovations like digital watermarks for smart sorting, seaweed-based films, and mushroom-derived packaging materials are helping companies reduce reliance on fossil-fuel-derived plastics. Initiatives such as the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's "New Plastics Economy" have encouraged brands to commit to 100% reusable, recyclable, or compostable packaging by 2025, marking a significant shift toward waste-free packaging ecosystems.



4. Sustainable supply chain

A sustainable supply chain ensures that every stage—from sourcing and production to distribution and retail—minimizes environmental impact and promotes ethical labor practices. FMCG companies are integrating blockchain and IoT to improve traceability, monitor emissions, and ensure supplier compliance with sustainability standards. For example, Nestlé uses blockchain to trace cocoa beans from farm to shelf, ensuring ethical sourcing and supply chain transparency. Logistics optimization through AI and route planning algorithms are reducing fuel consumption, while partnerships with local suppliers and regenerative farming initiatives are fostering community development and reducing transportrelated emissions.

Balancing innovation with corporate responsibility

While innovation is crucial, FMCG brands must align their technological advancements with ethical and environmental responsibilities.

A. Greenwashing vs. authentic sustainability

Many companies exaggerate sustainability claims to appeal to eco-conscious consumers. While regulatory bodies are working toward tightening scrutiny around greenwashing, to offer authentic sustainable value to consumers, brands must adopt life cycle assessments (LCA) and third-party certifications to validate sustainability efforts.

B. Economic feasibility and scalability

Sustainable materials and processes are often costlier initially, posing challenges for large-scale adoption. Investing in digital R&D and forming partnerships with startups can accelerate cost-efficient sustainability solutions.

C. Consumer behavior and education

While consumers demand sustainability, they may not always be willing to pay a premium for sustainable products. FMCG brands must educate consumers through digital campaigns and transparent communication about the long-term benefits of sustainability.

The Future roadmap for sustainable FMCG

Innovative solutions are critical to making sustainability feasible and scalable. Companies are leveraging AI, bio-based materials, circular economy principles, and digital transformation to push the boundaries of responsible innovation.

• **AI-powered R&D:** AI is being used in accelerating sustainable product development by predicting ingredient interactions and optimizing formulations for minimal waste. AI-powered platforms will offer personalized sustainable

product recommendations.

• **IoT & blockchain for supply chains & logistics:** Companies have started using blockchain to ensure ethical sourcing of raw materials. Smart sensors are being used to optimize energy usage and reduce waste in supply chains.

• Waste-free business models: Refillable and zero-waste retail models will dominate mainstream FMCG sales.

• **Carbon-neutral production:** Advances in green energy and carbon capture technologies will drive the shift toward netzero manufacturing.

The future of sustainable FMCG hinges on a holistic approach combining innovation, collaboration, and long-term responsibility.

Conclusion

The FMCG industry has an unprecedented opportunity to redefine its role in sustainability by merging innovation with responsibility. Companies that invest in circular economy solutions, AI-driven R&D, and regenerative sourcing will not only gain consumer trust but also secure long-term competitive advantages. The future of FMCG is not just about selling products—it is about creating ecosystems that sustain both people and the planet. By embracing this dual approach, FMCG companies can lead a transformative shift toward a greener, more responsible, and innovative future.

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"FII is working in synergy with the changing defence front and revival of water resources."

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"I have great faith in the Federation of Indian Industry to keep working towards bringing the two Nations – India and New Zealand together."

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"Indian Industry is entering new dynamics in terms of innovation, technology, upgradation and FII is actively doing great work to protect these interests and build an international platform for Indian businesses."

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As a member of FII, you become empowered as you gain access to a world of opportunities.

Govt. Policies

- 1. Opportunity to contribute to Govt. policy initiatives
- 2. Opportunity to contribute to pre budget planning
- 3. Be up to date about govt. schemes to gain maximum advantage for business interests

Networking

- 1. Networking opportunities with Indian Sectoral Experts across different verticals
- 2. Networking with Global Leaders, counterparts in all continents
- 3. Opportunity to connect with 5000 industry members all over India
- 4. Platform to meet global business and political leaders
- 5. Opportunity to participate in seminars, conferences and B2B meetings

Events & Other Deliverables

- 1. WhatsApp Group Inclusion facilitating networking with business contacts in FII Chapters
- Complimentary subscription to monthly Newsletter (audience in 150 countries) highlighting business opportunities in India and abroad
- 3. Opportunity to establish visibility of your business via ads in FII Newsletter
- 4. Support regarding Finance, upgradations, investment opportunities, healthcare, sports etc
- 5. Weekly Awareness programme "Talk with an Expert" inviting experts/departmental heads to discuss policies, new laws, startups, MSMEs, Legal, Financial Issues, Corporates etc
- 6. General body meeting with all FII members
- 7. Participation in development activities like webinars, symposiums, workshops, seminars, buyer seller activities and other activities related to industry.

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 - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Fintech
 - Goods & Services Tax (GST)
 - Health
 - Media & IT
 - Startup & Skill Development
 - Social Communication & Outreach
 - Road Safety & Traffic Awareness
 - Entrepreneurial Skill Development
 - Women Empowerment
 - Support Children with Special Needs
 - Sports & Recreation
- 2. Credit Counselling, Advice on GST & Taxes, Advice on loans, Recovery of Delayed/ Stuck Payments, Advice on Subsidies & Grants
- 3. We provide help in revival of sick units with experts on every domain
- Support for business development through participation in Exhibitions within/outside India and plan for visit to International Trade Fairs
- 5. Empower Indian Businesses in their global outreach for business expansion
 - 6. Opportunity to take part in FII Overseas Business Delegations





FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

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- Promoting an environment of strong business relationships of India with growing Economies
- Assisting Indian businesses to expand in 42 Nations where FII has its Country Chapters
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- Our strengthened relations with International Consulates helps easing of setting up business internationally
- We support our members in case of any dispute arises in overseas projects and the implementation.
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- Support for international exhibitions, stalls in all continents
- Networking opportunities for overseas B2B, B2G
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- · Assistance to Overseas Business for setting up operations in India
- · Strengthening Indian Diaspora, Businesses and Professionals
- Promoting brotherhood and Business Networking among Indian Diaspora
- · Creating Awareness for Indian Diaspora to Business Opportunities in India
- International Conferences on side-lines of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to facilitate networking across eminent businesspersons
- Celebration of Indian & International Holidays in synergy to recognize and promote International Brotherhood



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| 25 | Manufacturers' Association Faridabad (MAF) |
|----|--|
| 26 | Sport Physical Education Fitness And Leisure Skills Council |
| 27 | Kisan Chambar of Commerce (KCC) |
| 28 | Starex University, Gurugram |
| 29 | Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak |
| 30 | Hindu Shiksha Samiti Haryana (HSS) |
| 31 | Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, Delhi (GOPIO) |
| 32 | Govt of Haryana |
| 33 | Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation |
| 34 | Pravasi Haryana Divas(PHD) |
| 35 | Haryana Swarna Jayanti |
| 36 | Public Works Department (PWD) |
| 37 | Beti & Shiksha Foundation |
| 38 | 4th International Oil & Gas Chemistry, Chemicals and Additives Conference (IOGCA 2021) |
| 39 | NITI Aayog |
| 40 | Enjay IT Solutions Ltd. |
| 41 | Merger Domo Services Private Limited |
| 42 | Times Internet Limited |
| 43 | Connect Business Private limited |
| 44 | Haryana State Roads Bridges Development Corporation Limited |
| 45 | Dell Technologies |
| | |



OBITUARIES

Veteran BJP Leader and Former Union Minister Dr. Debendra Pradhan Passes Away at 84



Dr. Debendra Pradhan (1934-2025)

Dr. Debendra Pradhan, a senior BJP leader and former Union Minister, passed away at the age of 84. A stalwart in Indian politics, he was known for his leadership, dedication, and contributions to the nation's growth.

A Distinguished Political Career

Dr. Pradhan held key ministerial positions, playing a significant role in policymaking and governance. His tenure in the Union Government saw impactful reforms, particularly in the fields of energy and rural development. He was also a guiding force in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), mentoring several young leaders, including his son Dharmendra Pradhan, the current Union Minister.

Renowned Odia Poet Ramakanta Rath Passes Away



Ramakanta Rath (1934-2025)

Eminent Odia poet Ramakanta Rath, one of the most celebrated literary figures of Odisha, has passed away, leaving behind a remarkable legacy in Indian literature.

A Literary Icon

Born in 1934, Ramakanta Rath was known for his profound and thought-provoking poetry, which explored themes of philosophy, human emotions, and spirituality. His masterpiece "Sri Radha" is considered one of the finest works in modern Odia literature. Awards and Recognition

Dr. Senkalong (Senka) Yaden: The Legacy of a Naga Scientist



Dr. Senkalong (Senka) Yaden (1949-2025)

Dr. Senkalong (Senka) Yaden, a distinguished scientist from Nagaland, has left behind a remarkable legacy in the fields of science, research, and education. As one of the pioneering Naga scientists, his contributions have been instrumental in advancing scientific knowledge and inspiring future generations A Trailblazer in Science Dr. Yaden dedicated his career to scientific research, innovation, and academic excellence. His work in specific field of expertise, e.g., biotechnology, environmental science, or any relevant domain] has been widely recognized, making a significant impact in both national and international research communities.



DAYS TO REMEMBER IN MARCH 2025

| 3 March | 🔲 Bulgaria | Liberation Day |
|----------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 6 March | 💼 Ghana | Independence Day |
| 17 March | Ireland | Saint Patrick's Day |
| 25 March | 🔚 Greece | Independence Day |
| 03 Mon | Chaturthi Vi | rat , Somvar Vrat |
| 07 Fri | Holashtak, | Durga Ashtami Vrat |
| 08 Sat | International Women's Day | |
| 10 Mon | Govinda Dwadashi , Amalaki Ekadashi | |
| 11 Tue | Bhauma Pradosh Vrat, Pradosh Vrat | |
| 13 Thu | Holika Dahan | |
| 14 Fri | Holi | |
| 15 Sat | World Consumer Rights Day | |
| 17 Mon | Chhatrapati Shivaji Tithi Based Jayanti | |
| 19 Wed | Rang Panchami | |
| 22 Sat | Kalashtami , Sheetala Ashtami , Hindi New Year | |
| 25 Tue | Papamochani Ekadashi | |
| 29 Sat | Amavasya | |
| 30 Sun | Chandra Da | rshan , Gudi Padwa , Chaitra Navratri |
| | | |

GREETINGS IN MARCH 2025



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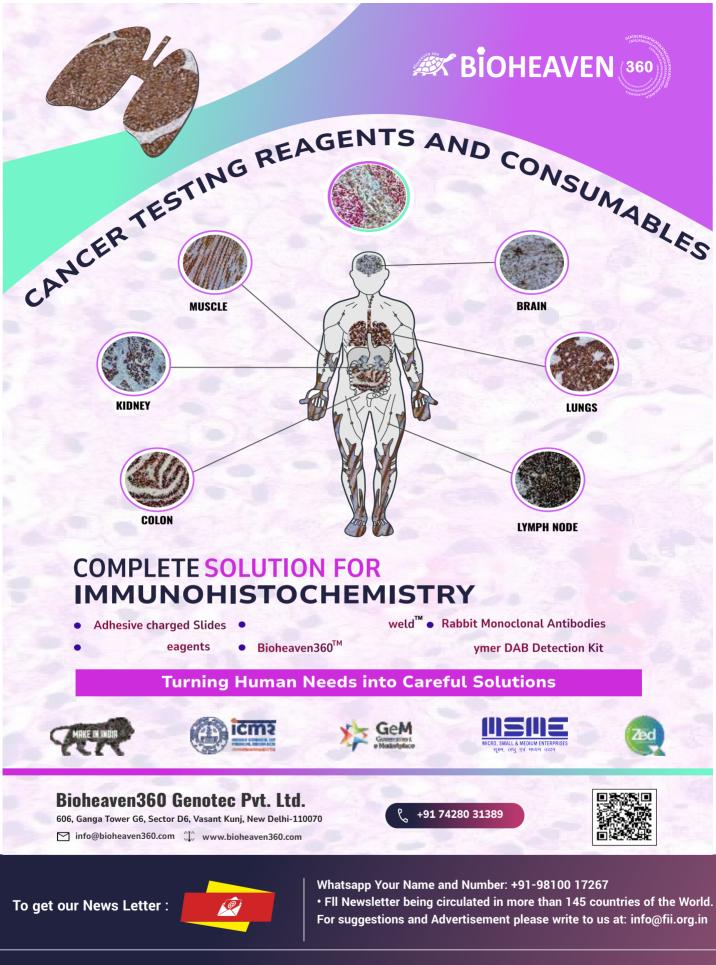
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