INDIA GROWTH NEWS

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON 4th LARGEST ECONOMY

www.samsaragroup.com

Week 33, 2026 (Aug 08 – Aug 14)

Policy & Economy News

- India enters FY27 with resilient exports and strong FDI inflows despite trade deficit: RBI
- India sees 15% export growth in first four months, targets US$1 trillion this year: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Piyush Goyal

Business News – The India Boom Factor

- India’s Iron Ore Imports Surge 149% in Three Years
- India’s Q1 pharma exports up 6.8% to $8.1bn; U.S. remains largest export destination
- Highest-ever merchandise export value recorded for July
- TVK govt's first investment conclave attracts ₹67,000 cr (Rs.670 billion)
- India's electronics exports surge 11-fold to US$ 47.98 billion, women's workforce nears 30%

Shipping News

- India’s Container Manufacturing Scheme Targets Import Dependence, 53,000 Jobs
- T.S. Lines strengthens China-West India-China connectivity with CWX2 service
- GT Lines Strengthens Gulf Connectivity with Expanded Intra-Gulf Network

Logistics News

- E-Way Bill Generation Nears Record High at 13.98 Crore (139.8 million) in July, Signals Strong Economic Momentum
- Kolkata’s Industrial and Warehousing Stock Surpasses 24 Million Sq Ft

Indian Port News

- DPA Kandla Records 21.03% YoY Growth in Cargo Handling, Crosses 62.86 MMT
- Dhamra Port Commences Commercial Operations at New Mechanized Loading System
- Chennai Port Introduces Concession Scheme to Boost Outer Anchorage Maritime Services
- India’s Major Ports Improve Ship Turnaround Time; JNPA Ranks 22nd Globally

`

Policy & Economy News

India enters FY27 with resilient exports and strong FDI inflows despite trade deficit: RBI

August 10, 2026

India has entered the new financial year (FY27) supported by robust macroeconomic fundamentals, resilient non-oil merchandise exports, and a rebound in foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) State of the Economy bulletin.

Despite a widening merchandise trade deficit driven by elevated crude oil prices and strong domestic capital goods demand, India's external sector remains well-buffered. The central bank highlighted that surging service exports—led by Global Capability Centres (GCCs), software, and business services—alongside steady private remittances continue to keep the current account deficit within manageable limits.

Furthermore, net FDI and foreign portfolio investments have shown sustained momentum, reinforcing foreign exchange reserves and providing a solid cushion against global trade headwinds, according to a report.

India sees 15% export growth in first four months, targets US$1 trillion this year: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr. Piyush Goyal

August 13, 2026

India recorded around 15% growth in exports during the first four months of FY27 and is targeting Rs. 95.34 lakh crore (US$1 trillion) in exports this year, reflecting the country's growing integration with global markets. Speaking at the Bharatiya Vyapar Mahotsav 2026, the focus was placed on increasing scale, competitiveness and global market access for Indian businesses.

India registered record exports of Rs. 76.27 lakh crore (US$ 863 billion) in FY26, comprising Rs. 39.06 lakh crore (US$ 442 billion) in merchandise exports and Rs. 37.21 lakh crore (US$ 421 billion) in services exports, with exports growing by around 73% over the past six years. The current export target represents a significant increase amid global economic uncertainty and ongoing geopolitical conflicts. The growth recorded during the first four months indicates continued momentum in India's export performance.

India's trade access has also expanded through nine free trade agreements signed over the last four years, covering economies with a combined GDP of Rs. 5,720.40 lakh crore (US$ 60 trillion) and providing preferential access to international trade worth Rs. 2,383.50 lakh crore (US$ 25 trillion).

Sustaining export growth will require greater participation from manufacturers, MSMEs, farmers, fishermen and the services sector, alongside stronger focus on quality, design and

`

innovation under the Make in India initiative. Indian businesses and entrepreneurs are being encouraged to expand beyond domestic markets, digitise operations, adopt good manufacturing practices and follow fair trading practices. Greater consumer participation in domestic products can support higher production, trade and economies of scale, while helping Indian businesses become more competitive globally. Businesses are also being encouraged to focus on sustainability, recycling, reuse and the development of a circular economy to support resilient and sustainable export-led growth.

Business News – The India Boom Factor

India's Iron Ore Imports Surge 149% in Three Years

August 12, 2026

India's imports of iron ore and pellets rose nearly 149% over the past three years, highlighting growing raw-material requirements and supply pressures faced by the domestic steel industry.

According to data presented by the Ministry of Steel in the Lok Sabha, iron ore and pellet imports increased from 4.9 million tonnes to 12.2 million tonnes during the three-year period.

The sharp increase comes as steelmakers face higher input and logistics costs, fuel shortages and constraints in the availability of key raw materials. The government said these factors have affected the steel sector and contributed to increased dependence on imported materials.

Coking coal imports also increased during the period, rising from 58 million tonnes to 66 million tonnes, an increase of about 13.8%. In contrast, ferrous scrap imports declined by nearly 19% from 9.5 million tonnes to 7.7 million tonnes.

The rise in iron ore imports reflects strong domestic steel demand as well as the need for specific grades and qualities of ore that may not be sufficiently available from domestic sources. Industry data also indicates that India's iron ore and pellet imports reached a seven-year high in FY26.

Despite raw-material and supply-chain challenges, India's steel production continued to expand. Crude steel output in May 2026 increased 1.4% year-on-year, while finished steel production rose 5.9% compared with May 2025, according to the Ministry of Steel.

The government has been taking measures to address fuel shortages, rising input and logistics costs, raw-material availability and broader supply-chain constraints affecting the steel sector.

The continued increase in iron ore imports underscores the challenge of matching India's rapidly expanding steelmaking capacity with reliable and cost-effective domestic supplies of key raw materials.

`

India’s Q1 pharma exports up 6.8% to $8.1bn; U.S. remains largest export destination

August 13, 2026

India’s pharmaceutical exports rose 6.8% year-on-year (YoY) to $8.1 billion in the first quarter (Q1) ended June, according to the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil).

Drug formulations and biologicals exports stood at $5.98 billion, registering a 4.14% YoY increase and accounting for 73.85% of total exports. Bulk drugs and drug intermediates, the second-largest export category, grew by 13.84% YoY to $1.36 billion, vaccine exports by 35.68% YoY to $0.39 billion. and surgical products exports by 11.95% YoY to $0.21 billion.

The broad-based growth reflects sustained global demand for affordable generic medicines, increasing procurement from regulated and emerging markets and India’s growing strength as a pharmaceutical manufacturing and export hub, said the pharma exporters body, under the Ministry of Commerce.

NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), Europe, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) together continued to be the key destinations region-wise, accounting for nearly 75% of the exports. NAFTA alone was the largest market, accounting for 34.28% of the exports.

Country-wise, the U.S. remained India’s largest pharmaceutical export destination, followed by Brazil, the U.K, the Netherlands, and France. The top 25 export destinations, during the quarter, accounted for nearly 70% of pharmaceutical exports, with shipments valued at $5.65 billion, which was 5.50% YoY growth.

“The export performance demonstrates the sector continues to combine scale in established markets with growing momentum across a wider set of geographies. The U.S. remains our largest export destination, with shipments valued at $2.50 billion and a 30.89% share, while the strong performance of Brazil, the Netherlands, France and several emerging markets reflects the expanding global footprint of Indian pharmaceutical companies,” Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi said.

The double-digit growth recorded across Europe, Africa, Latin America, ASEAN and South Asia is important in the present global trade environment. The ability to combine quality, regulatory credibility, manufacturing scale and market diversification will determine strength of India’s next phase of pharmaceutical export growth, he said.

In June, pharmaceutical shipments increased 7.13% to $2.81 billion ($2.62 billion). June exports were 6.86% higher compared to $2.63 billion in May FY27, Pharmexcil said.

India’s pharmaceutical exports in FY26 increased more than 2% YoY to $31.11 billion.

`

Highest-ever merchandise export value recorded for July

August 13, 2026

India's merchandise exports delivered a spectacular performance in July 2026, growing by over 19% to a record US$ 44.24 billion, the highest-ever merchandise export value recorded for the month of July. The sharp growth assumes even greater significance against the backdrop of persistent geopolitical uncertainties, shipping and logistics disruptions, elevated freight costs and volatility in key global markets.

Commenting on the trade data, Mr S. C. Ralhan, President, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said: "The over 19% growth in merchandise exports in July is an outstanding achievement and a strong testimony to the resilience, competitiveness and adaptability of Indian exporters. Achieving record exports despite continuing disruptions in global logistics and supply chains, besides higher transportation costs, demonstrates the ability of Indian businesses to respond swiftly to an increasingly complex global trading environment."

Mr Ralhan said that the performance during April-July 2026-27 reinforces this positive trend. Merchandise exports increased by 17.04% to US$ 173.78 billion, while India's overall exports of merchandise and services grew by 13.16% to US$ 316.42 billion. Particularly encouraging is the 12.79% growth in non-petroleum exports, indicating that the export momentum is broad-based and increasingly supported by manufacturing and value-added sectors.

Key categories

Among the major export categories, engineering goods emerged as the largest, followed by petroleum products, electronic goods, drugs & pharmaceuticals, organic & inorganic chemicals, gems & jewellery, readymade garments, cotton yarn/fabrics/made-ups and handloom products, rice, and plastic & linoleum. The strong presence of manufacturing and value-added products among the leading export categories augurs well for the structural transformation of India's exports.

FIEO President also highlighted the encouraging geographical spread of exports. The US, UAE, Singapore, China, Netherlands, UK, Germany, South Africa, Bangladesh and Tanzania were among India's leading export destinations during April-July 2026-27. "While resilience in major markets such as the US, EU and China is encouraging, the growing presence of Indian products in the UAE, Singapore, Africa and other emerging markets reflects the conscious efforts of exporters to diversify. In the current uncertain environment, deeper market and product diversification will remain one of our most effective risk-mitigation strategies," he said.

At the same time, Mr Ralhan cautioned that the rising import bill and widening trade deficit require attention. Merchandise imports reached US$ 76.22 billion in July, resulting in a merchandise trade deficit of US$ 31.98 billion. During April-July, merchandise imports grew by 19.27%, compared with 17.04% growth in merchandise exports. Overall imports of goods and services increased from US$ 311.94 billion to US$ 365.85 billion, taking the overall trade deficit from US$ 32.32 billion to US$ 49.43 billion.

`

Looking ahead, Mr Ralhan said that sustaining the present export momentum would require continued policy support, particularly as geopolitical tensions, shipping disruptions, freight volatility and evolving trade policies remain significant risks to global commerce.

Policy support

“Indian exporters have once again demonstrated that they can deliver even under difficult circumstances. The need now is to build on this momentum through a responsive trade policy framework, adequate and competitive export credit, easier access to working capital, faster trade facilitation and urgent attention to shipping and logistics challenges. Special support to MSMEs and labour-intensive sectors, together with aggressive market diversification, will further strengthen India’s export competitiveness,” he said.

“With continued partnership between the government and industry, we are confident that India can sustain this momentum and move decisively towards a stronger, more diversified and globally competitive export economy,” Mr Ralhan added, as per a communique.

TVK govt's first investment conclave attracts ₹67,000 cr (Rs.670 billion)

Aug 13, 2026

In the first major investment conclave of the newly elected govt in Tamil Nadu, the state exchanged memoranda of understanding with 97 companies for investments totalling Rs 67,000 crore (Rs.670 billion), according to the government. This includes 56 greenfield projects.

The projects are spread across areas where Tamil Nadu has an existing ecosystem, such as electronics, electric vehicles, automobiles, data centres, aerospace, wind and textiles, while attracting fresh investments in space-tech, quantum, life sciences and R&D. The largest commitments came from the data centre sector, at Rs 26,417 crore (Rs.264.1 billion). Automotive sector commitments stood at Rs 17,073 crore (Rs.170.7 billion), renewables at Rs 15,787 crore (Rs.157.8 billion) and engineering at Rs 9,525 crore (Rs.95.2 billion). Foreign direct investment commitments stood at Rs 22,268 crore (Rs.222.6 billion) from countries such as Australia, Germany, Japan, France, Singapore and South Korea. The projects are spread across more than 20 districts and are expected to create over one lakh jobs.

Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay on Thursday headed the Vetri Tamil Nadu investment conclave, showcasing the government's intent to facilitate industry, with companies signing MoUs to set up new facilities or expand their operations, while a few companies inaugurated their facilities.

The MoUs include Skyroot Aerospace, which recently became the first private player to launch rockets into orbit.

The startup will invest Rs 250 crore (Rs.2.5 billion) in its facility in Thoothukudi. TOI wrote about the development on August 9.

`

Agnikul committed Rs 400 crore (Rs.4 billion) for its launch vehicle assembly and integration facility in Thoothukudi, showing the momentum building around the ISRO launchpad in Kulasekarapattinam.

Lighthouse Green Data Centre has committed an investment of Rs 10,000 crore (Rs.100 billion) to set up a hyperscale data centre in Thoothukudi, marking the single largest investment at the event, while Airtel's Nxtra will invest Rs 1,417 crore (Rs.14.1 billion) to expand its Chennai campus and set up an edge data centre in Trichy.

Ultraviolette Automotive signed an MoU for Rs 779 crore (Rs.7.7 billion) to set up an electric motorcycle plant in Krishnagiri.

Lucas TVS committed Rs 2,500 crore (Rs.25 billion) for EV and automotive component facilities. Supermicro, the US-based Al server maker, signed an MoU for its first India facility, with an investment of Rs 477 crore (Rs.4.7 billion) in Chennai for Al server manufacturing. Avalon Technologies committed Rs 1,000 crore (Rs.10 billion) for electronic components in Kanchipuram.

Daimler will invest Rs 4,000 crore (Rs.40 billion) in BharatBenz product development and manufacturing. JK Tyre committed Rs 5,143 crore (Rs.51.4 billion) for tyre manufacturing in Kanchipuram, while Titan signed an MoU for Rs 1,000 crore (Rs.10 billion) for premium watches and electronics automation in Hosur.

Saint-Gobain of France signed MoUs for Rs 2,000 crore (Rs.20 billion) across a new Krishnagiri unit and an expansion in Kanchipuram. Hinduja Group committed Rs 2,500 crore (Rs.25 billion) for solar, wind, battery and mobility solutions.

YKK of Japan, the world's largest zipper manufacturer, committed Rs 1,651 crore (Rs.16.5 billion). With the potential to create 4,316 jobs in Thiruvallur, it is among the major job-creating MoUs of the day. Phoenix Kothari Footwear signed an MoU for Rs 1,000 crore (Rs.10 billion) in Ramanathapuram, the district's first major industrial investment.

The conclave also saw a lot of fresh investment in the textile sector, with MAS India of Sri Lanka signing an MoU for Rs 880 crore (Rs.8.8 billion) for apparel, textiles and wearable technology manufacturing across multiple districts, creating 7,000 jobs. Pallava Group committed Rs 1,000 crore (Rs.10 billion) for man-made fibres, while RB Wovens signed an MoU for Rs 675 crore (Rs. 6.7 billion) for home textiles, both in the upcoming PM-MITRA textile park in Virudhunagar. Sberbank, Russia's largest bank, signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government, though it was not immediately clear what the agreement entails.

According to the government, cumulative commitments in the first 100 days have crossed Rs 1 lakh crore (Rs.1 trillion). State industries minister S Keerthana said the government has set a 21-day deadline for issuing approvals, licences and NOCs, and the move is intended to speed up investments and improve the ease of doing business in Tamil Nadu.

`

India's electronics exports surge 11-fold to US$ 47.98 billion, women's workforce nears 30%

August 14, 2026

India's electronics exports have surged more than 11-fold to Rs. 4.24 lakh crore (US$ 47.98 billion) in FY2025-26, with women accounting for nearly 30% of the workforce in the broader electronics manufacturing ecosystem. The sector's growth has been supported by initiatives including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0).

Electronic goods have emerged as India's third-largest export category, with exports increasing from Rs. 38,000 crore (US$ 6.21 billion) in FY2014-15 to Rs. 4.24 lakh crore (US$ 47.98 billion) in FY2025-26. India has also become the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer, with mobile phones moving from the 153rd-largest export item in FY2014-15 to the country's largest export product in FY2025-26. Electronics production increased from Rs. 18,000 crore (US$ 2.94 billion) in FY2014-15 to Rs. 6.27 lakh crore (US$ 70.95 billion) in FY2025-26, reflecting the expansion of domestic manufacturing capabilities.

Mobile phone exports recorded a 165-fold increase, rising from Rs. 1,500 crore (US$ 245.30 million) in FY2014-15 to Rs. 2.59 lakh crore (US$ 29.30 billion) in FY2025-26, while the sector generated around 12 lakh jobs.

Women account for nearly 70% of the workforce in mobile manufacturing, highlighting the sector's growing role in women's employment. India's digital economy now contributes up to 14% of GDP, supported by wider digital connectivity and declining data costs. Internet subscribers increased from 25.15 crore in 2014 to more than 109.2 crore by March 2026, while wireless data costs declined from Rs. 308 per GB (US$ 5.04) in 2014 to Rs. 7.51 per GB (US$ 0.08) in 2026.

Average mobile broadband download speed rose from 13.67 Mbps in March 2022 to 132.00 Mbps in December 2025. 5G services are now available in 99.9% of districts across States and Union Territories, with 5.63 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations as of June 2026, while 4G services cover 6.31 lakh villages.

Shipping News

India's Container Manufacturing Scheme Targets Import Dependence, 53,000 Jobs

August 12, 2026

The Central government's proposed Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) aims to strengthen domestic container production, reduce India's dependence on imported empty containers and generate more than 53,000 jobs, according to an official statement.

`

The scheme is expected to create around 3,000 direct jobs and more than 50,000 indirect employment opportunities across container manufacturing and allied industries. The employment potential is expected to extend to suppliers and supporting sectors involved in components and logistics equipment.

The government estimates that the initiative could support investments of around ₹99,149 crore (Rs.991.4 billion) in the development of a fleet of 51 container vessels of different sizes as well as domestic container procurement.

The proposed scheme carries an allocation of ₹10,000 crore (Rs. 100 billion) over five years. It is designed to encourage investment in container manufacturing, expand production capacity and promote technology development. The Union Budget 2026-27 had announced the scheme with the objective of creating a globally competitive container manufacturing ecosystem.

India currently relies significantly on imported containers to meet its trade and repositioning requirements. Building domestic manufacturing capacity is therefore expected to improve the availability of containers, strengthen supply-chain resilience and reduce exposure to overseas supply disruptions.

The initiative is also intended to support a wider manufacturing ecosystem involving industries producing components such as corner castings, Corten steel and wooden flooring and other container- related materials. This could create additional opportunities for domestic suppliers and small and medium enterprises.

The government has separately set an ambition to significantly increase India's annual container manufacturing capacity. In July, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said the broader container manufacturing framework targets an annual capacity of up to 7.5 lakh TEUs, supported by capital assistance, operational incentives, research, testing and technology development.

The container manufacturing push forms part of India's broader strategy to develop a self-reliant maritime and logistics ecosystem. By expanding domestic production, the government aims to strengthen supply-chain security, support employment and improve India's competitiveness in global trade.

The initiative is expected to complement efforts to expand domestic shipping and shipbuilding capacity, helping India build a more integrated maritime manufacturing base and reduce its reliance on imported logistics equipment.

T.S. Lines strengthens China-West India-China connectivity with CWX2 service

August 13, 2026

Enhancing direct trade links between China and the Indian Subcontinent

The T.S. Lines (TSL) vessel ESL Dachan Bay made its maiden call at Hazira on August 5-6, 2026 and handled a parcel exchange of 3,103 TEUs during its stay. T.S. Lines (India) Pvt. Ltd, agents for T.S. Lines, felicitated the vessel Master and crew on its maiden call at Hazira.

The launch of CWX2 (China-West India Express 2) service further reinforces TS Lines' network between China and the West India market.

`

The 42-day rotation offers a focused and efficient routing from East and South China to key West India gateways, delivering improved transit efficiency and greater schedule reliability through a more direct and streamlined service design.

Port Rotation: Shanghai → Ningbo → Shekou → Port Klang (West) → Nhava Sheva → Hazira → Mundra → Port Klang (West) → Shanghai

Network Highlights

* Direct China-West India service, connecting major load ports in East and South China with key Indian gateways and ICDs located in West and North India.

* Expanded West India coverage with direct calls at Nhava Sheva, Hazira and Mundra — including TSL's first service call at Hazira.

* Improved transit efficiency through a more streamlined routing structure with reduced reliance on transhipment hubs.

* Complementary to TSL's existing ISC network, enhancing service frequency, flexibility and overall network resilience.

With the introduction of CWX2, T.S. Lines continues to optimise its Indian Subcontinent network — delivering more focused, reliable and efficient shipping solutions to support the growing China-India-China trade demand, highlighted a communique.

GT Lines Strengthens Gulf Connectivity with Expanded Intra-Gulf Network

August 13, 2026

GT Lines is strengthening its regional maritime network with the expansion of its "Gulf Connect" intra-Gulf service, enhancing direct connectivity between key GCC markets, Iraq and the carrier's wider international network.

The Gulf Connect network is designed to provide fast and reliable container connectivity across the Gulf, linking the UAE, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain while offering connections to GT Lines' international corridors covering Pakistan, India, Asia, China and East Africa.

The network currently comprises three dedicated intra-Gulf loops operated by six dedicated vessels:

SIX - Sharjah Iraq Express: Sharjah - Umm Qasr - Shuwaikh - Sharjah, with three departures per

week.

SQX - Sharjah Qatar Express: Sharjah - Hamad - Bahrain - Sharjah, with two departures per week.

SKX - Sharjah KSA Express: Sharjah - Dammam - Sharjah, with weekly departures.

`

According to GT Lines, its strategically positioned operations through Sharjah and Khorfakkan, supported by an integrated UAE logistics ecosystem, enable Gulf Connect to go beyond conventional feeder services.

The network provides connectivity to Iraq through Gulftainer ICT, as well as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, while linking these markets with GT Lines' broader international service corridors.

The carrier said the initiative reflects its vision of creating an integrated logistics ecosystem that combines shipping, terminals, inland logistics and regional distribution to support more efficient cargo movement across the Gulf and beyond.

With growing trade flows between the Gulf, the Indian subcontinent, Asia and East Africa, the strengthened Gulf Connect network is positioned to provide exporters, importers and logistics operators with additional regional shipping options and improved access to international markets.

Logistics News

E-Way Bill Generation Nears Record High at 13.98 Crore (139.8 million) in July, Signals Strong Economic Momentum

August 11, 2026

India's e-way bill generation surged to 13.98 crore (139.8 million) in July, approaching record levels and signalling continued resilience in economic activity despite ongoing geopolitical headwinds, according to GST Network data.

While e-way bill generation does not translate directly into Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, the sustained rise indicates robust movement of goods across the country and provides an important proxy for economic momentum. GST collections, being based on consumption, depend on factors such as actual consumption levels, while services and certain movements of goods are outside the scope of e-way bills.

The July numbers could have a bearing on GST collections for August, which are scheduled to be released on September 1.

According to Saurabh Agarwal, Tax Partner at EY India, the sustained increase in e-way bill generation reflects strong goods movement across supply chains. He also noted that the combination of GST rate rationalisation and tighter compliance enforcement appears to be expanding the taxable base, a trend that could support GST collections through the year.

An e-way bill is an electronic document generated on the GST portal to facilitate and record the movement of goods. Under Rule 138 of the CGST Rules, 2017, registered persons moving goods with a consignment value exceeding ₹50,000 are generally required to generate an e-way bill, subject to applicable exceptions and lower thresholds for certain intra-State movements.

GST Revenue Growth Shows Signs of Recovery

`

According to a research report by the State Bank of India (SBI), overall GST revenue, including compensation cess, grew by 5.6% in FY26, compared with 9.4% in FY25.

However, the first four months of FY27 have recorded growth of more than 10%, indicating an improvement in revenue momentum.

The SBI report expects GST collections to rebound, with annual growth projected in the range of 8-9%. It attributed the earlier moderation partly to GST rate rationalization, describing it as an expected impact of the policy changes.

The report also challenged concerns over the impact of the discontinuation of compensation cess on State finances. It argued that claims of annual losses of ₹15,000-20,000 crore (Rs.150-200 billion) for States may be misplaced, estimating that States could actually receive around ₹1.43 lakh crore (Rs.1.43 trillion) more in FY27 compared with FY26.

The near-record e-way bill activity, coupled with improving GST revenue growth, points to strengthening goods movement and a potentially more resilient tax base as India moves through FY27.

Kolkata's Industrial and Warehousing Stock Surpasses 24 Million Sq Ft

August 11, 2026

Kolkata's industrial and warehousing real estate market has crossed the 24 million sq ft mark, highlighting the city's growing importance as a logistics and distribution hub in eastern India.

The expansion is being supported by rising demand from third-party logistics (3PL) providers, e-commerce companies, manufacturers and other supply-chain-intensive businesses. Improved road connectivity, access to major consumption centres and the city's strategic position as a gateway to eastern and northeastern India are also supporting the development of logistics infrastructure.

The broader Indian industrial and logistics sector has maintained strong momentum. CBRE reported that warehousing absorption exceeded 30 million sq ft across India during the second half of 2025, with 3PL and engineering and manufacturing companies among the key demand drivers.

Kolkata itself recorded 3.8 million sq ft of industrial and logistics leasing during the first nine months of 2025, according to CBRE, placing it among the major markets contributing to national leasing activity.

The growth of Kolkata's industrial and warehousing stock is expected to strengthen its role in regional distribution, supporting faster movement of goods across West Bengal and neighbouring eastern and northeastern markets. Continued investment in modern warehousing facilities could further improve supply-chain efficiency and attract new logistics and manufacturing activity to the region.

DPA Kandla Records 21.03% YoY Growth in Cargo Handling, Crosses 62.86 MMT

August 10, 2026

Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla, continues to strengthen its cargo handling performance, recording a robust 21.03% year-on-year growth up to August 9, 2026.

The port handled 62.86 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo during the period, compared with 51.94 MMT handled during the corresponding period last year.

The increase represents an additional 10.92 MMT of cargo handled over the previous year's performance, underlining the port's growing operational momentum and its strategic importance in India's maritime trade network.

The latest performance reflects DPA Kandla's continued focus on enhancing cargo handling capabilities, operational efficiency and connectivity to hinterland markets.

With cargo volumes maintaining a strong growth trajectory, DPA Kandla is further consolidating its position as one of India's key gateways for bulk and other cargo movements.

Dhamra Port Commences Commercial Operations at New Mechanized Loading System

August 11, 2026

Dhamra Port has commenced commercial operations through its newly commissioned mechanised loading system at Export Terminal Berth 4, marking a significant addition to the port's bulk cargo handling capabilities.

The milestone was achieved with the successful handling of MV APJ JAOUAD, the first commercial vessel to be handled through the newly operational system.

The commissioning of the mechanised loading facility is expected to enhance operational efficiency, improve vessel turnaround and strengthen Dhamra Port's ability to handle growing volumes of bulk cargo.

The development reflects the continued focus of Adani Ports and SEZ on investing in advanced port infrastructure and expanding capabilities to support India's growing trade and logistics requirements.

With the addition of the new mechanised loading system, Dhamra Port further strengthens its position as an important gateway for bulk cargo movement and maritime trade on India's eastern coast.

`

Chennai Port Introduces Concession Scheme to Boost Outer Anchorage Maritime Services

August 12, 2026

Chennai Port Authority has introduced a Promotional Concession Scheme offering significant discounts on Port Dues and Anchorage Fees for vessels calling exclusively at Chennai Port Outer Anchorage for bunkering and other eligible maritime services.

Under the new scheme, vessels with a Gross Register Tonnage (GRT) of up to 50,000 will receive an 85% concession, while vessels above 50,000 GRT will be eligible for a 90% concession on applicable Port Dues and Anchorage Fees.

The initiative covers a broad range of maritime services, including bunkering, supply of provisions and stores, spares, crew changes, sick crew disembarkation, vessel repairs, underwater operations, surveys and inspections, among other eligible activities.

The scheme has come into effect from 10 August 2026 and is designed to encourage greater use of Chennai Port Outer Anchorage as a hub for offshore maritime services.

According to the port, the concession is aimed at promoting an Integrated Offshore Maritime Services Hub at Chennai Port Outer Anchorage, strengthening the port's role in providing cost-effective and efficient services to vessels operating along the Indian coastline and regional maritime routes.

The move is expected to enhance Chennai Port's competitiveness in the offshore maritime services segment while creating opportunities to attract vessels that require essential services without entering the main port facilities.

The promotional scheme is also aligned with efforts to expand the range of ancillary maritime services available at Chennai Port and improve the overall efficiency of vessel operations.

India’s Major Ports Improve Ship Turnaround Time; JNPA Ranks 22nd Globally

August 14, 2026

India's major ports have recorded a significant improvement in operational efficiency, with the average turnaround time of ships declining from 52.87 hours in 2021-22 to 48.84 hours in 2025-26, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal informed the Lok Sabha.

The improvement reflects the government's continued focus on modernising port infrastructure, mechanisation, digitalisation and streamlining cargo-handling processes to enhance India's maritime competitiveness.

A key achievement has also come from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), which secured the 22nd position in the World Bank's Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2025. JNPA's ranking places it alongside some of the world's leading container ports, with Singapore ranked 21st and Shanghai 23rd.

The performance highlights the growing efficiency of Indian ports and their increasing ability to compete with established global maritime hubs.

`

According to the government, initiatives including infrastructure upgrades, mechanisation and the implementation of the One Nation One Port Process (ONOP) have helped simplify port operations, reduce vessel turnaround time and improve overall productivity.

The continued improvement in port performance is expected to support faster cargo movement, reduce logistics costs and strengthen the efficiency of India's supply chains.

With India positioning its ports as key enablers of international trade, the gains in turnaround time and global port rankings underline the country's progress towards building a more efficient, competitive and globally integrated maritime logistics ecosystem.

`

ISO 9001:2015 Certified Group

OUR SHIPPING AGENCY & LOGISTICS NETWORK IN INDIA

ISO 9001:2015 Certified Group

INDIA'S MOST COMPREHENSIVE SHIPPING SOLUTION NETWORK

Corporate Office: 106/107, Technopolis Knowledge Park, Mahakali Caves Road, Chakala, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 093. (India)

Tel.: +91-22-66775000 | **Email :** corporate@samsaragroup.com

Disclaimer:
Above information is only indicative and given in good faith. We have collected the above information from various secondary sources. We have tried our best to be as correct as possible. However, we cannot guarantee 100 % accuracy in the above data. Our company / group will not be responsible for any mistakes / inaccuracies which might have crept in inadvertently.