

02/06/2026 Daily Current News

1. 2026 Asian U20 Athletics Championships:

Context: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today congratulated the Indian contingent for its outstanding performance at the 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships.

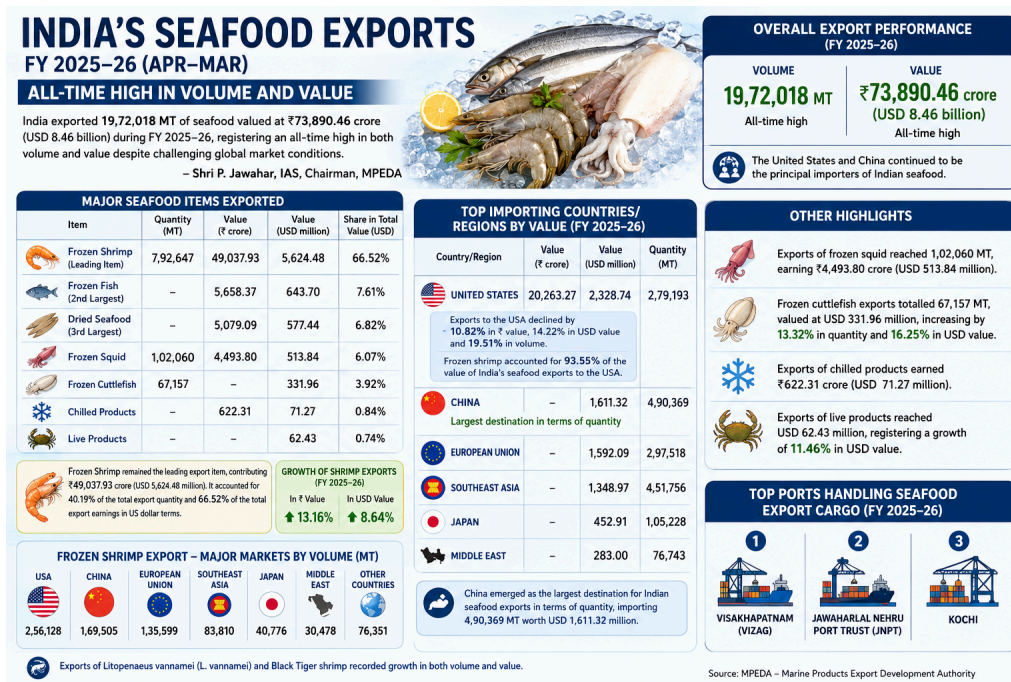
About 22nd Asian U20 Athletics Championships:

- ❖ 22nd edition of the Asian U20 Athletics Championships, organized by the Asian Athletics Association held from 28–31 May 2026.
- ❖ Venue: Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground, Hong Kong.
- ❖ Participation restricted to athletes born between 2006 and 2009 (Under-20 category).
- ❖ Features 46 events in total: 22 men's events, 22 women's events and 1 mixed event
- ❖ Serves as a qualifying event for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships.
- ❖ The World Athletics U20 Championships will be held in August 2026 at Eugene, Oregon, United States.
- ❖ India finished 2nd at the 2026 Asian U20 Athletics Championships medal table with 19 medals (10 Gold, 5 Silver, 4 Bronze).
- ❖ China topped the standings with 25 medals (14 Gold, 9 Silver, 2 Bronze), while India secured its place as the second-best performing nation.

2. India's Seafood Exports:

Context: India's Seafood Exports Reach Record High of ₹73,890 Crore in FY 2025–26.

More details:



- ❖ India exported 19,72,018 metric tonnes (MT) of seafood valued at ₹73,890.46 crore (USD 8.46 billion) during FY 2025–26, registering an all-time high in both volume and value.
- ❖ The United States and China remained the principal importers of Indian seafood in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp was the top export item, earning ₹49,037.93 crore (USD 5.62 billion) and contributing 66.52% of seafood export earnings.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp exports grew by 13.16% in rupee terms and 8.64% in dollar terms during FY 2025–26.
- ❖ India exported 7.93 lakh MT of frozen shrimp, with the United States being the largest importer, followed by China and the European Union.
- ❖ Exports of L. vannamei and Black Tiger shrimp recorded growth in both volume and value.
- ❖ Frozen fish was the second-largest seafood export, generating ₹5,658.37 crore (USD 643.7 million).
- ❖ Dried seafood products ranked third, earning ₹5,079.09 crore (USD 577.44 million) and recording 78.05% growth in rupee value.
- ❖ The United States remained the largest seafood importer from India in value terms, importing seafood worth USD 2.33 billion.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp accounted for 93.55% of the value of India's seafood exports to the United States.
- ❖ China was the largest destination by quantity, importing 4.90 lakh MT of Indian seafood.
- ❖ The European Union was the third-largest export destination in value terms, followed by Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Japan was the fifth-largest importer, while the Middle East ranked sixth.
- ❖ The top three seafood export ports in FY 2025–26 were Visakhapatnam Port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, and Cochin Port.

3. India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

Context: India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force marking a defining milestone in bilateral economic relations and opening a transformative new chapter in strategic trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. The India-Oman CEPA was signed on 18th December, 2025 in Muscat.

Major highlights of India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):



India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

Gateway to the Gulf: Amplifying Trade, Services and Prosperity for Viksit Bharat 2047



Bilateral Trade
USD 11.18 billion
in FY 2025-26



India's Exports to Oman
USD 6.35 billion
in FY 2025-26



India's Trade Surplus
USD 3.32 billion
in FY 2025-26



Vision: Viksit Bharat @2047 – Stronger Global Integration

TRADE IN GOODS: TRANSFORMATIONAL 99.38% DUTY-FREE ACCESS



99.38%

Duty-free access for 99.38% of India's exports to Oman by value, covering 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines – one of the most comprehensive market access outcomes in the Gulf.



All zero-duty concessions effective immediately – certainty and competitiveness for Indian exporters.



Earlier only 15.33% of India's exports entered Oman duty-free. CEPA gives Indian exporters price competitiveness in Oman's nearly USD 28 billion import market.



Boosts MSMEs, manufacturing & employment in sectors like gems & jewellery, textiles, leather, footwear, marine products, engineering goods, processed foods and pharmaceuticals.



Indian exporters now compete on equal or better terms than suppliers from countries without preferential trade arrangements with Oman.



Oman's hubs at Sohar, Duqm & Salalah provide Indian exporters access to Oman, wider GCC & East African markets.

CALIBRATED MARKET ACCESS AND PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE SECTORS



India has offered tariff liberalization on 77.79% of tariff lines covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value.



Products protected under the exclusion list include dairy, cereals, fruits, vegetables, edible oils, oilseeds, rubber, leather, spices and key agricultural products.



Tariff Rate Quotas and Minimum Import Price mechanisms for selected sensitive industrial and agricultural products.



Balanced concessions structure safeguards food security, farmer welfare and rural livelihood protection.

MARINE PRODUCTS: ENHANCING INDIA'S PRESENCE IN REGIONAL SEAFOOD VALUE CHAINS



All marine products including shrimp, fish & cuttlefish get immediate duty-free access (earlier duties up to 5%).

- Oman's marine imports: USD 35.3 million in 2025;
- India's exports: USD 10 million – huge potential.
- Expected boost to exports from Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Gujarat.
- Improved competitiveness, faster clearances & stronger integration into Gulf food supply chains.

GEMS AND JEWELLERY: ENHANCING INDIA'S LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL JEWELLERY TRADE



- Up to 5% import duty on gems & jewellery eliminated from Day One.
- Structural price advantage over competitors (Italy, Turkey, Thailand, China).

Oman's market size
USD 1.07 billion
annually

India's exports in 2025
USD 25.78 million
(USD 18.48 mn diamonds,
USD 6.67 mn gold jewellery)

Projected exports in
3 years
USD 150 million

- Clusters in Surat, Jaipur, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai poised to capture growth & create employment.
- Six-fold growth projection in exports within three years.

AGRICULTURE & PROCESSED FOOD: HARNESSING INDIA'S AGRICULTURAL STRENGTH FOR GLOBAL MARKETS



- India is Oman's 2nd largest agricultural supplier with 17.8% share.
- Exports grew at 9.13% CAGR to USD 552.85 million in 2025.



Honey,
Condiments,
Cashews,
Basmati Rice,
Butter,
Biscuits
duty-free



India supplies
94%+ of Oman's
bovine meat
imports



India supplies
98%+ of Oman's
fresh egg
imports

- Key items: rice, cashews, onions, potatoes, soybean meal, biscuits, butter, meat, eggs & more.
- Benefits farmers & agri-exporters across UP, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, AP & Tamil Nadu.

PHARMACEUTICALS: ADVANCING MARKET ACCESS THROUGH REGULATORY BREAKTHROUGH



- Zero-duty access for medicines, vaccines & pharmaceutical ingredients (incl. penicillins, streptomycins, tetracyclines).

Oman's pharma market
USD 302.84 million
in 2025

Projected to reach
USD 473.71 million
by 2031 (CAGR 6.6%)

- USFDA, EMA, UK MHRA & TGA approved products: Marketing authorization within 90 days (no prior inspection) & 270 working days if inspection required.
- Acceptance of GMP & inspection reports reduces compliance burden & accelerates market entry.
- Enhanced predictability, faster approvals & competitiveness.

ELECTRONICS & ENGINEERING GOODS: FULL TARIFF CERTAINTY TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S MANUFACTURING EXPORT ADVANTAGE



- All engineering products get zero-duty access (earlier MFN tariffs up to 5%).
- Covers machinery, automobiles, electrical equipment, iron & steel, industrial machinery.

Oman's electronics
imports in 2025
USD 1.7 billion

India's electronics
exports in 2025
USD 146 million

India's engineering
exports in FY 2025-26
USD 875.83 million

- Engineering exports projected to reach USD 1.3–1.6 billion by 2030 (iron & steel, machinery, motor vehicles, copper products, etc.).
- PLI-linked exporters to gain increased market share.

SERVICES: BEST-EVER OFFER BY OMAN CATALYZING NEW FRONTIERS FOR SERVICES



Bilateral services trade: USD 863 million in 2024; India surplus: USD 447 million. Oman's services imports: USD 12.52 billion; India's share: 5.31% – huge potential.



- First time in any FTA: Binding commitments for Accounting, Engineering, Medicine, IT, Education, Construction professionals.
- Enhanced mobility: Business visitors – 90 days; Independent professionals – 180 days; ICTs – up to 4 years.
- Framework for future Social Security Agreement (SSA) to avoid dual contributions.
- MFN in key sub-sectors: Any better treatment to others automatically extended to India.

SMART REGULATION & TRADE FACILITATION



- Oman to accept India's EIC certificates – no duplicative testing or inspections.
- India's NPOP organic & halal certifications recognized by Oman.



Dedicated SPS & TBT chapters reduce non-tariff barriers & improve transparency.



Standard cargo clearance timelines & fast-track for perishables – lower costs, faster exports.

INVESTMENT: DEEPENING THE ECONOMIC ARCHITECTURE



- Framework for investment facilitation in manufacturing, logistics, energy & services.
- Reduced compliance burdens & regulatory certainty to boost MSME competitiveness.
- Startups, women, entrepreneurs & service professionals to benefit from GCC value chains.

BILATERAL TRADE: STRONG MOMENTUM, REINVIGORATING TRADE



Bilateral trade between India & Oman reached USD 11.18 billion in FY 2025-26 and continues strong growth momentum. CEPA to drive substantial expansion through market access, cooperation, investment flows & deepening economic synergies.

“The Agreement establishes a robust economic architecture between India and Oman encompassing trade, investment, services, logistics and regulatory partnership. The India-Oman CEPA represents another major step in India's journey towards becoming a globally integrated, resilient and competitive economy under the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.”



Stronger Partnership



Shared Prosperity



Sustainable Future

4. *Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water Mission:*

Context: Launching the ₹200-crore "Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) –Ministry of Jal Shakti MAHA Water Mission to support StartUps in the Water sector, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh today said that the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) is democratising research funding by expanding opportunities for StartUps, MSMEs, universities and innovators across the country.

About Missions for Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) Water Mission:

- ❖ The MAHA Water Mission seeks to build on that vision by creating a collaborative platform that connects scientific institutions, industry, startups and grassroots stakeholders to develop scalable and sustainable solutions for the water sector.
- ❖ With a projected outlay of ₹200 crore over five years, jointly contributed by ANRF and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the programme will support multidisciplinary consortia involving universities, national laboratories, research organisations, startups, MSMEs and industry partners.
- ❖ Up to ₹20 crore support will be available for selected consortia to undertake technology development, field assessment, validation and deployment of high-impact solutions in the water sector.
- ❖ The mission will focus on five priority themes, Water Resource Assessment and Sustainable Management, Drinking Water, Water Quality and Ecological Health, Water Use Efficiency and Circular Economy, and Climate Resilience and Adaptation.
- ❖ It aims to support innovations from laboratory research to field deployment while generating scalable and localised solutions for strengthening India's long-term water security.

About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):

- ❖ Established under the ANRF Act, 2023 to promote research and innovation across India.
- ❖ Aims to seed, grow, and foster a research culture as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP).
- ❖ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has been subsumed into ANRF.
- ❖ Funding target: ₹50,000 crore for the period 2023–2028.
- ❖ Anusandhan National Research Foundation was established under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023.
- ❖ It functions under the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The Science and Engineering Research Board has been merged into ANRF.
- ❖ Funding will be sourced through the ANRF Fund, Innovation Fund, Science and Engineering Research Fund, and Special Purpose Funds.
- ❖ ANRF promotes collaboration among industry, academia, research institutions, and government departments.

5. *Majuli Island:*

Context: A new study has reconstructed nearly 4,000 years of climate and vegetation history of Majuli Island, Assam—the world's largest inhabited river island, culturally significant as the settlement of several tribes and as a major centre of Neo-Vaishnavite culture, a reformist Vaishnavism movement.

About Majuli Island:

- ❖ Majuli Island, perched between the Brahmaputra River to the south and east, the Subansiri River to the west, and a branch of the Brahmaputra to the north, has been severely affected by recurrent flooding and intense riverbank erosion.
- ❖ Despite its global importance in acquiring UNESCO tentative status for cultural significance, the region lacked any comprehensive long-term palaeoecological reconstruction based on palynological evidence resting on integrated modern and fossil pollen records.
- ❖ Majuli is the world's largest river island, located in Assam.
- ❖ It is formed by the Brahmaputra River in the south and the Kherkutia Xuti branch of the Brahmaputra, joined by the Subansiri River in the north.
- ❖ The island is characterized by lush greenery, wetlands, water bodies, and extensive paddy fields.
- ❖ Rice cultivation is the primary occupation of the inhabitants.
- ❖ Famous local rice varieties include Komal Saul and Bao Dhan.
- ❖ The major tribes inhabiting Majuli are the Mishing, Deori, and Sonowal Kachari communities.
- ❖ Majuli is the cultural center of Assamese Neo-Vaishnavism.
- ❖ The Neo-Vaishnavite movement in Majuli was initiated in the 16th century by Srimanta Sankardeva and his disciple Madhavdeva.
- ❖ The island is renowned for its Satras, the Vaishnavite monastic institutions established by Sankardeva.
- ❖ The Satras have preserved the classical dance form Sattriya.
- ❖ Majuli is also known for preserving Bhaona (traditional theatre), literature, music, and dance traditions.
- ❖ The island is famous for its traditional mask-making art.
- ❖ Pottery making is another important traditional craft practiced in Majuli.
- ❖ Majuli also has a rich tradition of boat-making, reflecting its riverine culture.
- ❖ The island is often regarded as the cultural capital of Assam.

6. *Index of Industrial Production (IIP):*

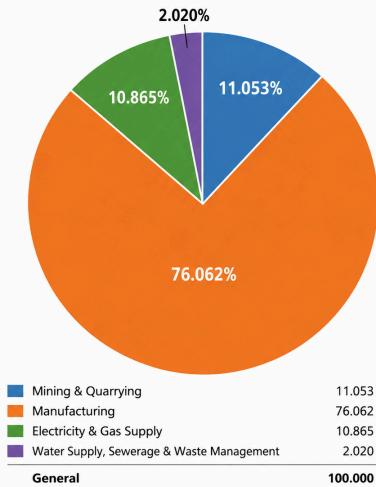
Context: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised the base year of the All India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2011–12 to 2022–23 with the objective of making the index more representative of the current structure and dynamics of the industrial sector.

About Index of Industrial Production (IIP):

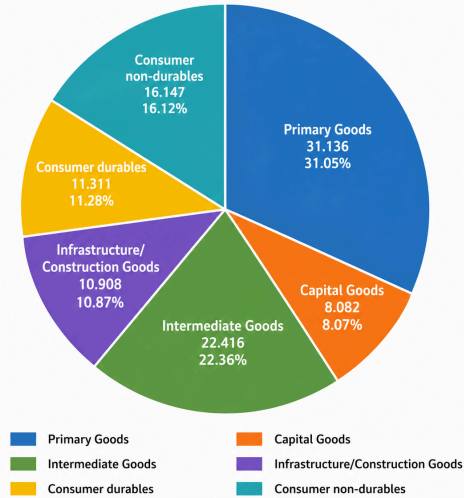
- ❖ The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures short-term changes in the volume of industrial production in India.
- ❖ It is an important indicator used to assess the growth or slowdown of industrial activity and overall economic performance.
- ❖ The IIP is published by the Central Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- ❖ The previous base year of the IIP is 2011–12 and currently it is 2022-23, adopted to better reflect the modern industrial structure and production trends.
- ❖ The old IIP is divided into three major sectors: Manufacturing – 77.63% weight, Mining – 14.37% weight and electricity-7.99%. Where as the new IIP series weightage is as follows:

INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION – SECTORAL

(Base: 2022-23=100)

**STATEMENT III: INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION – USE-BASED**

(Base :2022-23=100)

**INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX (IIP)****WHAT'S NEW?**

A More Comprehensive, Granular and Relevant Index for Today's Economy



Base year revised
from 2011-12
to 2022-23.

**Expanded scope & coverage**

by including Gas Supply,
Water Supply, Sewerage,
and Waste Management
activities while retaining
the existing sectors.

**Greater granularity**

by providing separate indices for

- Electricity generation from Renewable and Non-renewable sources
- Fuel Minerals, Metallic Minerals and Non-Metallic Minerals



Item basket revamped
to cover **463 item groups**

ADDITIONS

Cards with a magnetic stripe



CCTV camera



Articles of non-woven textiles



Parts of aircraft and spacecraft



Stents



Vaccine (other than veterinary)

DELETIONS

Kerosene



Fluorescent tubes and CFLs



Tubes for bicycle/tricycle/rickshaw tyres. Tubes for LMV tyres



Printing machinery



Sewing machines

**1. EXPANDED SCOPE & COVERAGE**

The new IIP series (2022-23) has been broadened by incorporating Gas Supply and Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management activities, while retaining the existing three core sectors—Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity. In the Mining sector, minor minerals and rare earth minerals are now included along with major minerals, making the index more inclusive and aligned with global standards.



Mining



Manufacturing



Electricity



Gas Supply



Water Supply, Sewerage & Waste Management

**2. ENHANCED GRANULARITY**

More detailed disaggregation of industrial activities enables better analysis of sectoral performance.

MINING & QUARRYING SECTOR

(i) Fuel Minerals



(ii) Metallic Minerals, including Rare Earth Minerals



(iii) Non-Metallic Minerals, including Minor Minerals

ELECTRICITY INDEX

Now compiled based on source of generation:



(i) Non-Renewable Sources



(ii) Renewable Sources

**3. REVAMPED ITEM BASKET**

The item basket and weights have been revised to add relevant commodities and remove outdated ones.

NEW IIP SERIES (2022-23)**1,042****products****463****item groups****OLD IIP SERIES (2011-12)****839****products****407****item groups**

The number of item groups for which production data is collected in value terms has increased significantly to **234 item groups**, up from **109 item groups** in the old series.

**4. UPDATED WEIGHTS**

Weights are updated using latest data on Gross Value Added from National Accounts Statistics (base 2022-23) at sectoral level and Annual Survey of Industries at NIC-2/3/4 digit for FY 2022-23.



In Electricity sector, weights are based on the share of each source in total revenue generated during FY 2022-23.



In Mining & Quarrying sector, weights are updated according to share in GVA of each mineral received from IBM and NAS for FY 2022-23.



The new IIP series (2022-23) offers a more comprehensive, granular and up-to-date measure of industrial performance, supporting better policy decisions and aligning with global best practices.

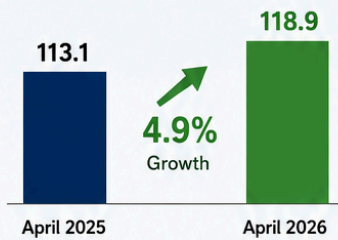


Major highlights:

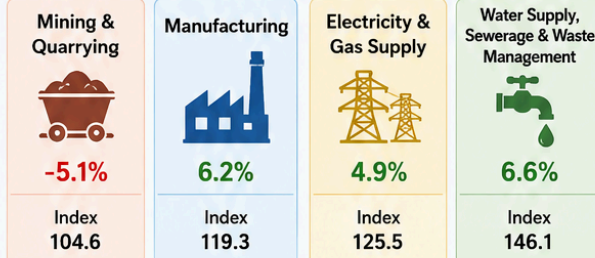
INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION (IIP) – APRIL 2026

Overall IIP growth rate for April 2026 is **4.9%** as compared to April 2025

OVERALL IIP (QUICK ESTIMATE)



IIP GROWTH RATE BY SECTOR (April 2026 over April 2025)



MANUFACTURING SECTOR HIGHLIGHTS (April 2026 over April 2025)

17 out of 23 industry groups (at NIC 2 digit-level) recorded positive growth.

Top 3 positive contributing industry groups:

1. Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers



12.7%

2. Manufacture of electrical equipment



19.2%

3. Manufacture of machinery and equipment n.e.c.



12.9%

Key item groups contributing in "Motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers"

- Auto Components, Spares and Accessories
- Passenger Cars
- Rim (Wheel)



Key item groups contributing in "Electrical equipment"

- Electrical Apparatus for Switching or Protecting Electrical Circuits (e.g., Switchgear, Circuit Breakers/Switches, Control/Meter Panels) and Parts Thereof
- Articles of Graphite or Carbon Used for Electrical Purposes Including Carbon Electrodes and Carbon Brushes
- Transformers (Small)

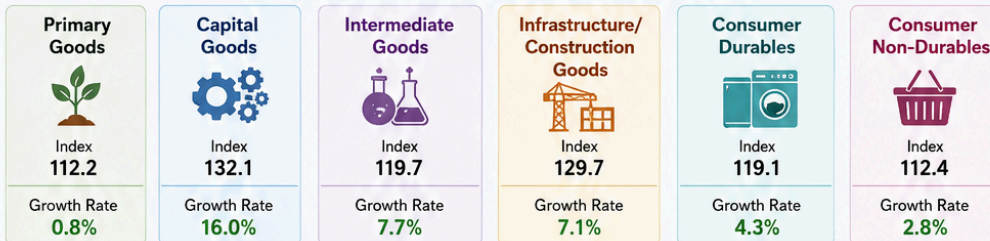


Key item groups contributing in "Machinery and equipment n.e.c."

- Fire-Fighting Equipment
- Cranes – All Types and Parts Thereof
- Stationary and Internal Combustion Piston Engines Not for Motor Vehicles



IIP AS PER USE-BASED CLASSIFICATION – APRIL 2026



Top three positive contributors to the growth of IIP for April 2026 (Use-Based Classification):
Intermediate Goods, Capital Goods and Infrastructure/ Construction Goods.



Note: Quick Estimate of IIP for April 2026 is 118.9 against 113.1 in April 2025.
Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

About Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):

- ❖ The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is released by the Office of Economic Advisor under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The ICI measures the production performance of eight core industries: Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.
- ❖ These eight industries together account for **40.27% weight** in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making them crucial indicators of industrial growth.
- ❖ Among the core industries, **Refinery Products** have the highest weight (**28.04%**), followed by **Electricity (19.85%)** and **Steel (17.92%)**. The remaining sectors and their weights are:
 - Coal (**10.33%**)
 - Crude Oil (**8.98%**)
 - Natural Gas (**6.88%**)
 - Cement (**5.37%**)
 - Fertilizers (**2.63%**)

7. *Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana relics:*

Context: Relics of Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana, the two chief disciples of Lord Buddha, enshrined at Gandantegchenling Monastery, Mongolia These relics were preserved for centuries in the sacred stupas of Sanchi.

About Arhat Sariputra and Arhat Mahamoggallana relics:

- ❖ Arhat Sariputta was one of the two chief disciples (Aggasāvakas) and Dhamma-Senapatis of Gautama Buddha.
- ❖ Sariputta is regarded as the first human disciple to directly learn the Abhidhamma from the Buddha.
- ❖ He is considered the first teacher to propagate the Abhidhamma tradition in Buddhism.
- ❖ Maha Moggallana was the other chief disciple and Dhamma-Senapati of the Buddha.
- ❖ Moggallana was also known as Kolita.
- ❖ He served as the teacher of Rahula, the son of the Buddha.

8. *Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project:*

Context: The Central government of India approved the Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project in May 2026 as one of the major river-linking infrastructure projects connected with the Chenab river. The project is planned in Himachal Pradesh and has an estimated cost of ₹2,352 crore.

Details about Chenab–Beas Link Tunnel project:

- ❖ The project includes an 8.7-kilometre tunnel for diverting surplus water from the Chenab basin into the Beas river system.
- ❖ The diversion is linked to the Indus river system, which includes the Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers.

- ❖ Phase 1 of the project includes a proposed 19-metre-high barrage on the Chandra river near Koksar village in the Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Chandra river is a tributary in the upper Chenab basin in the western Himalayas.
- ❖ The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, or NHPC, will handle the project.
- ❖ The project is expected to facilitate nearly 4,000 MW of additional hydropower generation in Himachal Pradesh.

9. *Divyastra Mk-1:*

Context: The Indian Army conducted an operational demonstration of the indigenous Divyastra Mk-1 tactical loitering munition in Jodhpur on 1 June 2026. The system is developed by Hoverit, a Lucknow-based defence technology startup, and it has a reported 95% indigenous component rate.

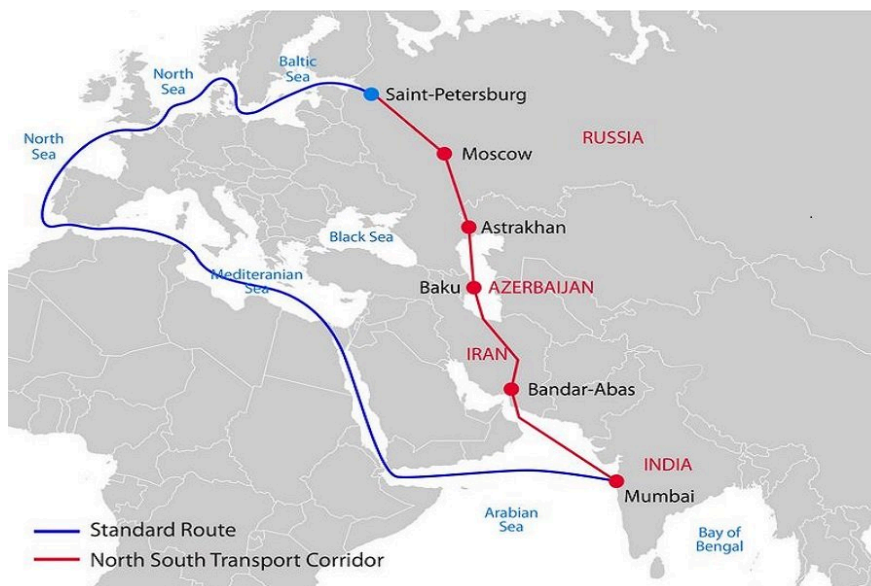
About Divyastra Mk-1:

- ❖ The Divyastra Mk-1 is an AI-powered tactical unmanned aerial vehicle used for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and precision strike missions.
- ❖ It has an operational range of up to 500 km, an endurance of up to 5 hours, an attack speed of 300–400 km/h, and a payload capacity of 15 kg.
- ❖ A loitering munition is an aerial system that can remain over an area before striking a target.
- ❖ The Divyastra Mk-1 has AI and swarm capabilities for autonomous navigation, target recognition, and coordinated strike operations.

10. *International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):*

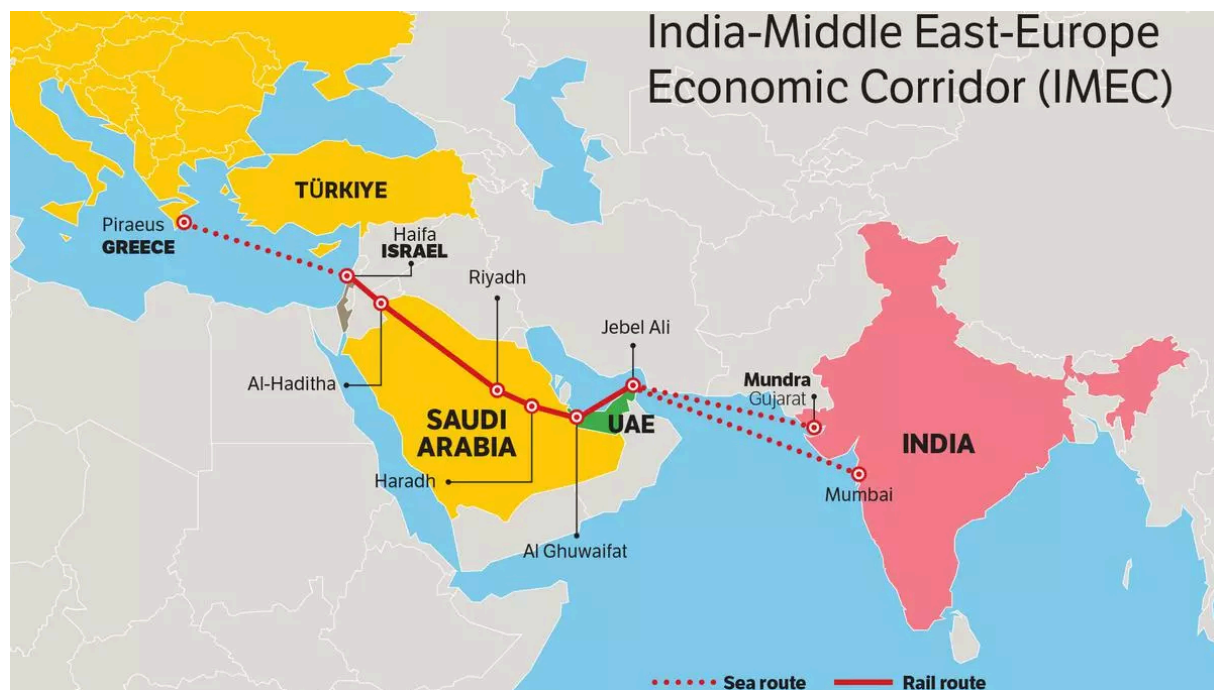
Context: There is an urgent need to explore and develop alternative connectivity options beyond existing trade routes, particularly maritime routes. New routes and corridors such as INSTC and IMEC must be developed that avoid the two ‘C’s — conflict zones and choke points.

About International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):



- ❖ It is a multi-modal transportation network designed to facilitate trade between India, Russia, and Iran, along with Central Asia and Europe.
- ❖ The INSTC stretches for approximately 7,200 kilometers (4,500 miles) and involves a combination of ship, rail, and road routes.
- ❖ Currently, 13 countries are members of the INSTC: India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman and Syria
- ❖ The primary objective of the INSTC is to increase trade connectivity and reduce transportation costs between member countries.
- ❖ It aims to provide a faster and more efficient alternative to traditional routes, such as the Suez Canal.
- ❖ Compared to traditional routes, INSTC offers a potentially shorter route between India, Russia, and Europe, leading to cost and time savings.

About India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):



- ❖ India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is a major connectivity initiative linking India, the Arabian Gulf, and Europe through integrated transport networks.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to boost economic growth, trade, and regional economic integration among participating countries.
- ❖ IMEC aims to strengthen manufacturing, enhance food security, and build resilient supply chains.
- ❖ The corridor involves India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the European Union, Italy, France, and Germany.
- ❖ IMEC will combine railways, ship-to-rail networks, and road transport routes for seamless movement of goods.
- ❖ It consists of two corridors: the East Corridor connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and the Northern Corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.

- ❖ Key Indian ports under IMEC include Mundra Port, Deendayal Port (Kandla), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port.
- ❖ Major UAE ports in the corridor are Port of Fujairah, Jebel Ali Port, and Khalifa Port.
- ❖ Key Saudi Arabian ports include King Abdulaziz Port and Ras Al Khair Port.
- ❖ IMEC is envisioned as a strategic trade and connectivity corridor to improve transport efficiency and reduce logistics costs between Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Ramasiya village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, delivering a clear message to farmers that if the soil is protected, agriculture will thrive, farmers will become stronger, and the nation will prosper.
- ☐ 2nd BRICS Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will be held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 4th - 5th June 2026. The two-day meeting, scheduled for 4-5 June 2026, will facilitate structured multilateral dialogue on cultural cooperation in keeping with India's BRICS 2026 theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- ☐ India is hosting the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum on 11–12 June 2026 in New Delhi. The Urbanisation Forum will be held under the theme 'Cities for People: BRICS Cooperation for Inclusive and Resilient Urban Futures'.
- ☐ The Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology (IPFT), Gurugram, an autonomous institution under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, organized the two-day Symposium-cum-Workshop "BIOPSF 2026: NextGen Bio-Inputs – Bio-based Pesticides, Stimulants and Fertilizers" at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), New Delhi.
- ☐ Hindi Journalism Day is celebrated on 30 May to mark the first publication of 'Udant Martand', the world's first Hindi newspaper. Udant Martand, meaning 'the rising Sun', was published under the editorship of Pandit Jugal Kishore Shukla (lawyer from Kanpur) in Calcutta (1826).
- ☐ Malaysia began enforcing a rule on 1 June 2026 that bars children below 16 years from owning social media accounts. Malaysia began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from having social media accounts, joining a growing global effort to tighten safety protections. Not all families approved, and critics raised concerns about data protection and surveillance. Australia, Brazil and Indonesia have initiated similar regulations.
- ☐ Mesalina bishnoi is a newly described lizard species from Rajasthan and the first confirmed record of the genus Mesalina in India.
- ☐ Tyrannosaurus rex was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only T. rex that terrorised the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named Tylosaurus rex — the T. rex of the sea — that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

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