





The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

MONTHLY ROUNDUP

ASSOCHAMVOICE



	State of the Indian Economy	1 - 8
	BFSI E-Bulletin	9 - 14
	India's International Trade	15 - 19
	Policy Updates	20 - 23

120 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN INDIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY



For generations, Mafatlal has stood for trust, quality, and resilience. Today, our journey continues with a renewed focus on purposeful innovation, advancing design, strengthening manufacturing excellence, and integrating digital capabilities that support a modern and competitive textile ecosystem.

Learn more about us : www.mafatlals.com

TAMILNAD MERCANTILE BANK LTD.

Regd. Office: 57, V.E. Road, Thoothukudi, Tamilnadu - 628 002.

TMB Tamilnad
Mercantile
Bank Ltd

Be a step ahead in life

**BEST option for
Better RETURNS...**

TMB 400

DEPOSIT SCHEME

For Senior Citizen

7.55 %
P.A.

For General Citizen **7.05** %
P.A.

Open

Deposit

through



at your convenience

Tenure
400
days

Owning your home, no more a Dream...

**Apply
Today**

TMB
Home
Loan Elite

From






8.15 %
P.A.

Features:

- Enjoy hassle-free experience of availing home loan for construction / purchase / Renovation of new / old home
- Shift your existing home loan from other Banks / NBFCs
- Quicker approvals, Competitive in rates
- Minimum Loan Amount Rs. 25 Lakhs

For further details, contact your nearest **TMB** branch

www.tmb.in | Toll-free : 180 0425 0426

#ForwardTogether Follow us on      /tmbankltd

We are committed to treat our customers in a fair, Transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

*Conditions Apply

State of the Indian Economy

Domestic Indicators

Monthly Review of Accounts of Government of India Up to October 2025

The key highlights of the monthly accounts of the Government of India up to October 2025 state the Government has received INR 18,00,475 crore (51.5% of corresponding BE 2025-26 of Total Receipts). This amount consists of INR 12,74,301 crore Tax Revenue (Net to Centre), INR 4,89,079 crore of Non-Tax Revenue and INR 37,095 crore of Non-Debt Capital Receipts. Total Expenditure incurred by Government of India is INR 26,25,619 crore (51.8% of corresponding BE 2025-26).

[\(Read More\)](#)

India's IIP Growth Rate Stands at 0.4% for October 2025

The IIP growth rate for the month of October 2025 is 0.4%, which was 4.0% (Quick Estimate) in the month of September 2025. The growth rates of the three sectors, Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity for the month of October 2025 are (-) 1.8%, 1.8% and (-) 6.9% respectively. Within the manufacturing sector, 9 out of 23 industry groups at NIC 2 digit-level have recorded a positive growth in October 2025 over October 2024. The top three positive contributors for the month of October 2025 are - "Manufacture of basic metals" (6.6%), "Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products" (6.2%) and "Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers" (5.8%).

[\(Read More\)](#)

The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) Stood at 0% in October 2025

The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) stood at 0% in October 2025, down from 3.8% in October of the previous year and 3.3% in September this year. The production of Fertilizer, Steel, Cement and Petroleum Refinery products recorded positive growth in October 2025. The cumulative growth rate of ICI during April to October, 2025-26 is 2.5% (provisional) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Retail Inflation Moves To 0.25% for October 2025

Year-on-year inflation rate based on All India Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of October 2025 over October 2024 is 0.25% (Provisional). There is decrease of 119 basis points in headline inflation of October 2025 in comparison to September 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation of the current CPI series. The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of October 2025 is mainly attributed to full month's impact of decline in GST, favourable base effect and to drop in inflation of Oils and fats, Vegetables, Fruits, Egg, Footwear, Cereals and products, Transport and Communication etc.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Wholesale Inflation for September 2025 Stands at (-) 1.21%

The annual rate of inflation based on All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) number is (-) 1.21% (provisional) for the month of October 2025 (over October 2024). Negative rate of inflation in October 2025 is primarily due to decrease in prices of food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, mineral oils and manufacture of basic metals etc. The month over month change in WPI for the month of October 2025 stood at (-) 0.06% as compared to September 2025.

[\(Read More\)](#)

GST Collection for October 2025 Stood at INR 1.96 Lakh Crore, up 4.6% Y-O-Y

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of October 2025 stood at nearly INR 1.96 lakh crore, an increase of 4.6% year-on-year basis. Central GST collection stood at INR 36,547 crore while State GST collection was INR 45,134 crore. Additionally, for October 2025, Integrated GST collection was INR 1.06 lakh crore. Furthermore, GST Cess collection was reported at INR 7,812 crore. The Gross Import Revenue for October 2025 was INR 50,884 crore, out of which IGST was INR 50,796 crore.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was 55.4% in October 2025

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in Current Weekly Status (CWS) among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.4% in October 2025, compared to 54.2% in June 2025. The overall Unemployment Rate (UR) among persons of age 15 years and above was to 5.2% in between September 2025 and October 2025. The overall Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in October 2025 was 52.5%, which is consistently rising since June 2025. Rise in the female workforce in rural areas has brought about this increase.

[\(Read More\)](#)

External Indicators

Total Exports (Merchandise & Services) for October 2025 are Estimated at USD 72.89 Billion

India's total exports (Merchandise and Services combined) for October 2025* is estimated at USD 72.89 Billion, registering a negative growth of (-) 0.68% vis-à-vis October 2024. Total imports (Merchandise and Services combined) for October 2025* are estimated at USD 94.70 Billion, registering a positive growth of 14.87% vis-à-vis October 2024. Top 5 export destinations, in terms of change in value, exhibiting positive growth in October 2025 vis a vis October 2024 are China P Rp (42.35%), Spain (43.43%), Sri Lanka Dsr (29.02%), Vietnam Soc Rep (21.42%) and Tanzania Rep (17.92%).

[\(Read More\)](#)

India's Forex Reserves Reach USD 688.10 Billion

India's forex reserves declined by USD 4.47 billion to reach USD 688.10 billion for the week ending November 21. The foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 169 million to reach USD 560.60 billion. The gold reserves were down by USD 2.67 billion, taking the total to USD 104.18 billion. The special drawing rights (SDRs) were down by USD 84 million to USD 18.56 billion, while the reserve position in the IMF was up by USD 23 million, reaching USD 4.75 billion.

[\(Read More\)](#)

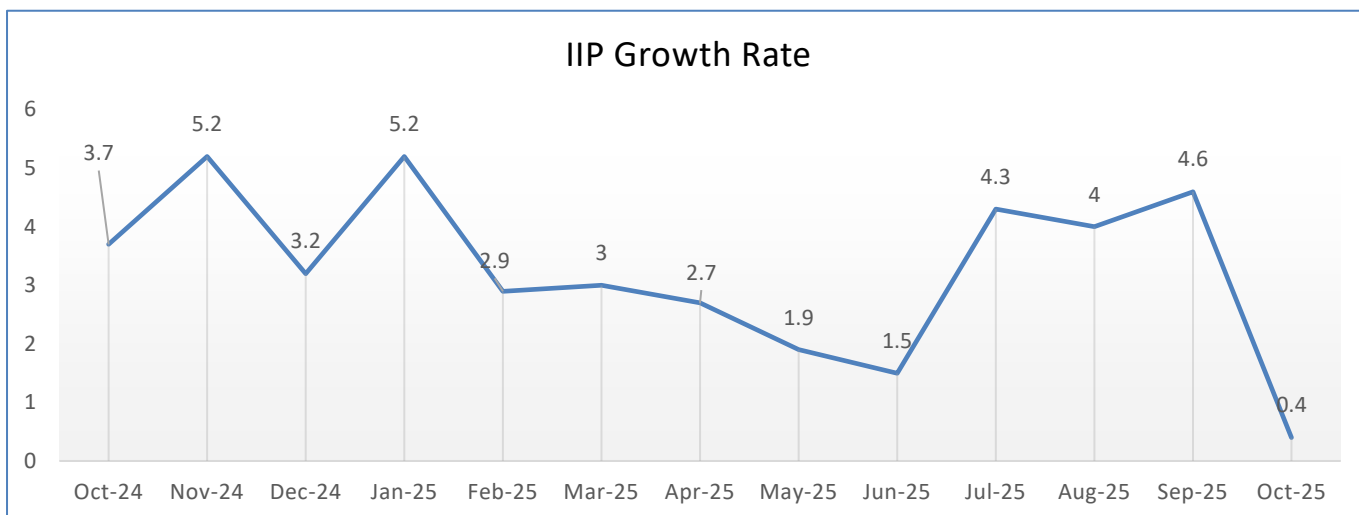
Outward Foreign Direct Investment Stands at USD 3.14 Billion in October 2025

India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments stood at USD 3.14 billion in October 2025, down by 16.56% year-on-year, brought down by loan and guarantee issued. Equity stood at USD 1.852 billion; loans stood at USD 0.738 billion; and guarantees issued stood at USD 0.549 billion.

[\(Read More\)](#)

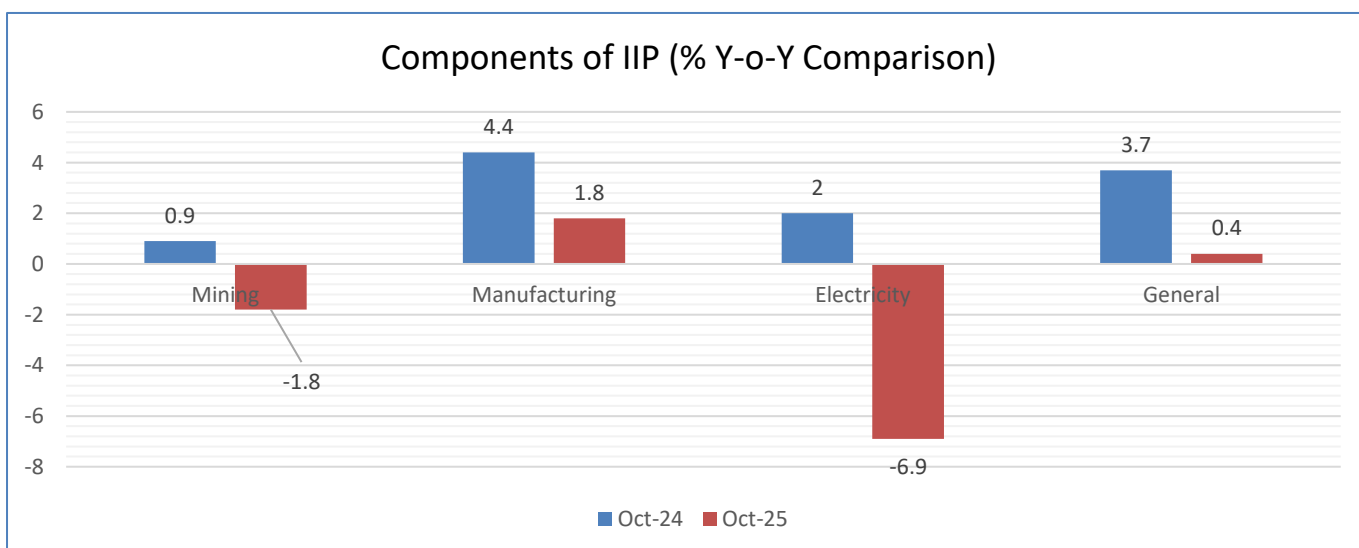
Economic Analysis

Production Scenario (IIP Growth)



(Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), GOI)

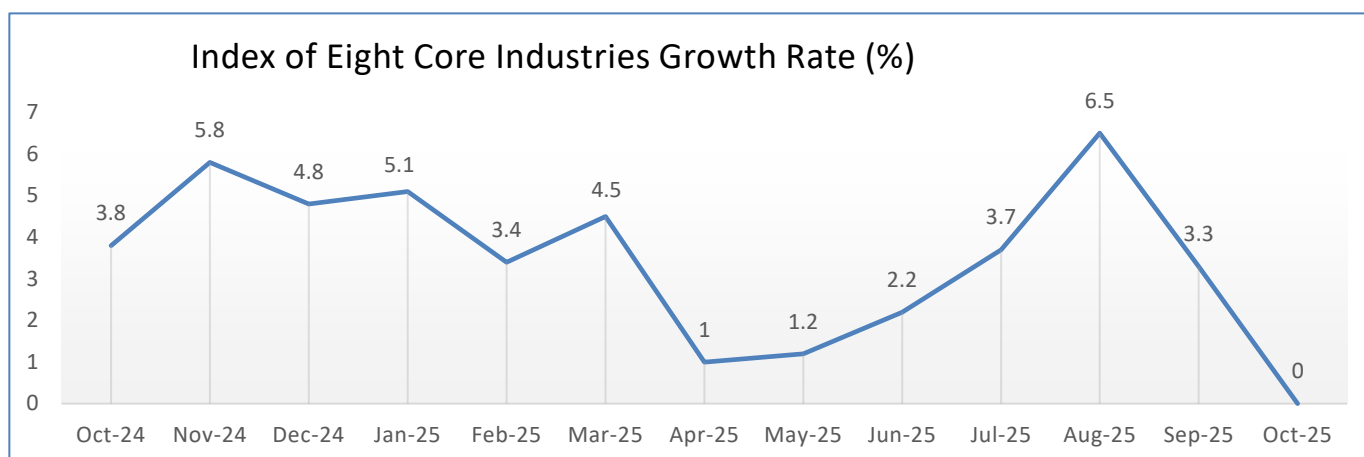
India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth declined to 0.4% in October 2025, compared to 4.6% in September 2025 and 3.7% in October 2024. The slow growth in the month could be attributed to less number of working days because of festivals in the month including Dussehra, Dipawali and Chhath. Lower demand in October 2025 and consequent decline in electricity generation was driven by extended rainfall season and comfortable ambient temperature across multiple States/UTs. The momentum is expected to improve in the upcoming months.



(Source: Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MOSPI), GOI)

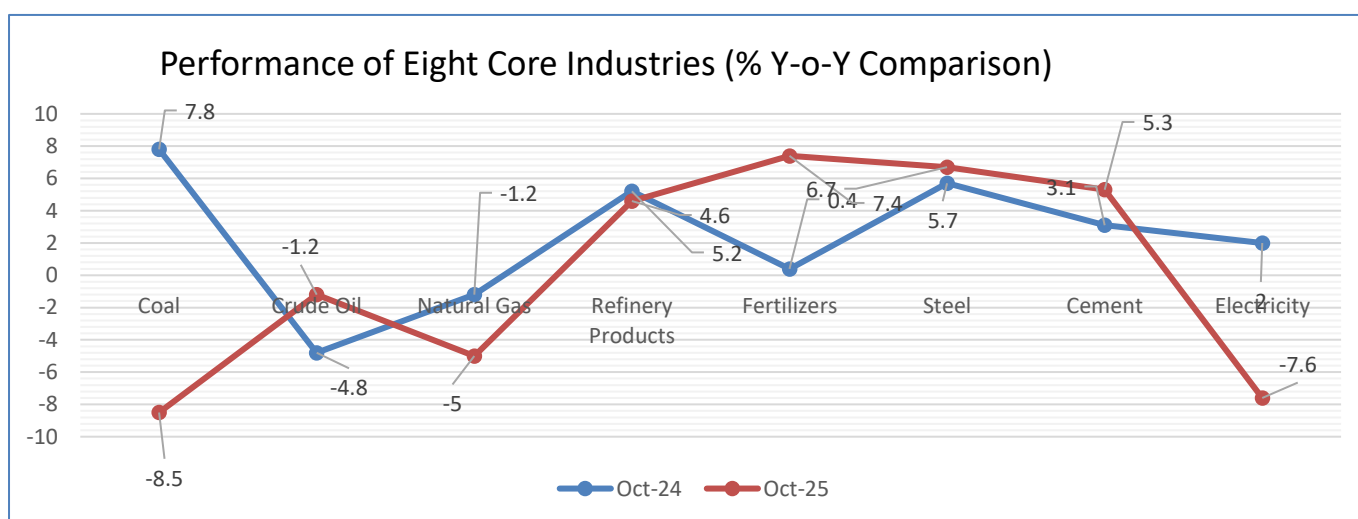
The mining sector's growth decreased from 0.9% to -1.8%, manufacturing growth decreased from 4.4% to 1.8%, and electricity production saw a big dip to -6.9% compared to 2.0% in the same month last year, highlighting subdued demand and effect of festive season.

Production Scenario (Core Infra)



(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI)

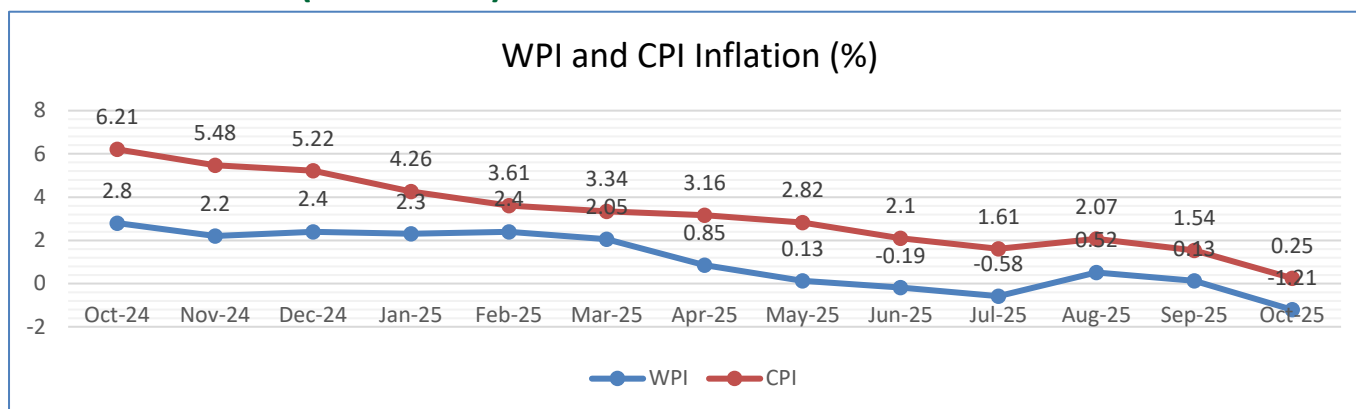
In October 2025, the growth rate of the Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 0%, following a sharp surge to 6.5% in August 2025. This sequential slowdown suggests that the strong momentum seen in August was not sustained, possibly due to a high base effect or temporary supply-side corrections in sectors like coal, natural gas, and electricity. The moderation could also reflect inventory adjustments and uneven performance across industries. Despite the deceleration, the overall trajectory remains positive, signalling underlying industrial stability as India enters the last quarter of FY 2025-26.



(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, GOI)

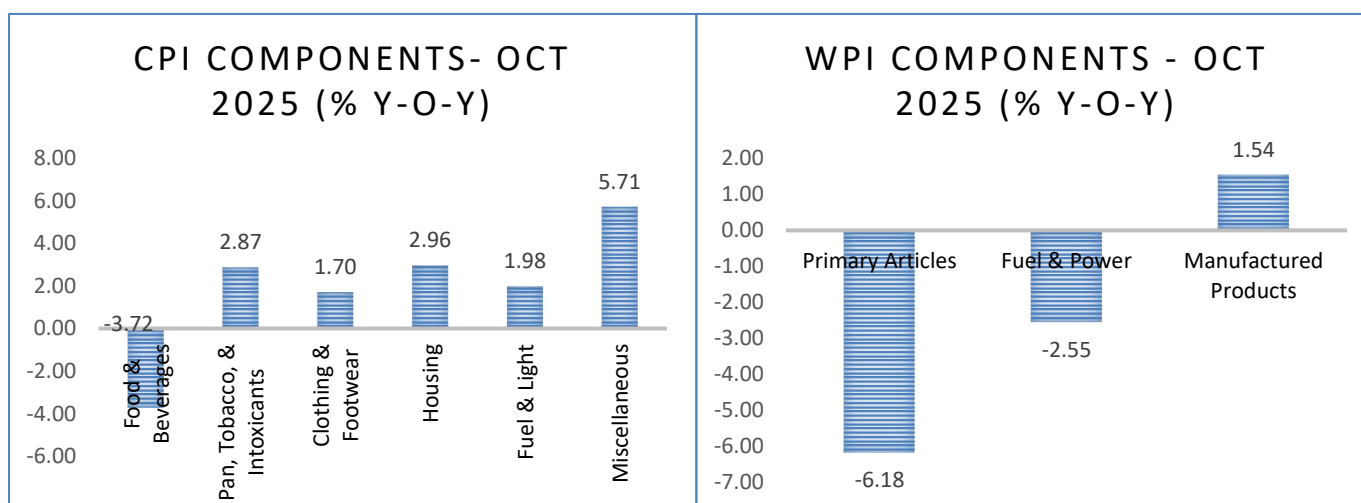
In October 2025, four of the eight core industries – Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, and Cement - registered growth, with Fertilizers showing the highest increase (7.4%). Yearly comparison of the Eight Core Industries shows a downward trend compared in October 2025, compared to October 2024. Refinery Products at 4.6%, Fertilizers at 7.4%, Steel at 6.7%, and Cement 5.3% prevented the Index of Eight Core Industries from slipping towards the negative. Prolonged monsoons and cooler weather reduced the demand for power and led to lower mining activity.

Inflation Trends (WPI & CPI)



(Source: MOSPI and Office of Economic Advisor, GOI)

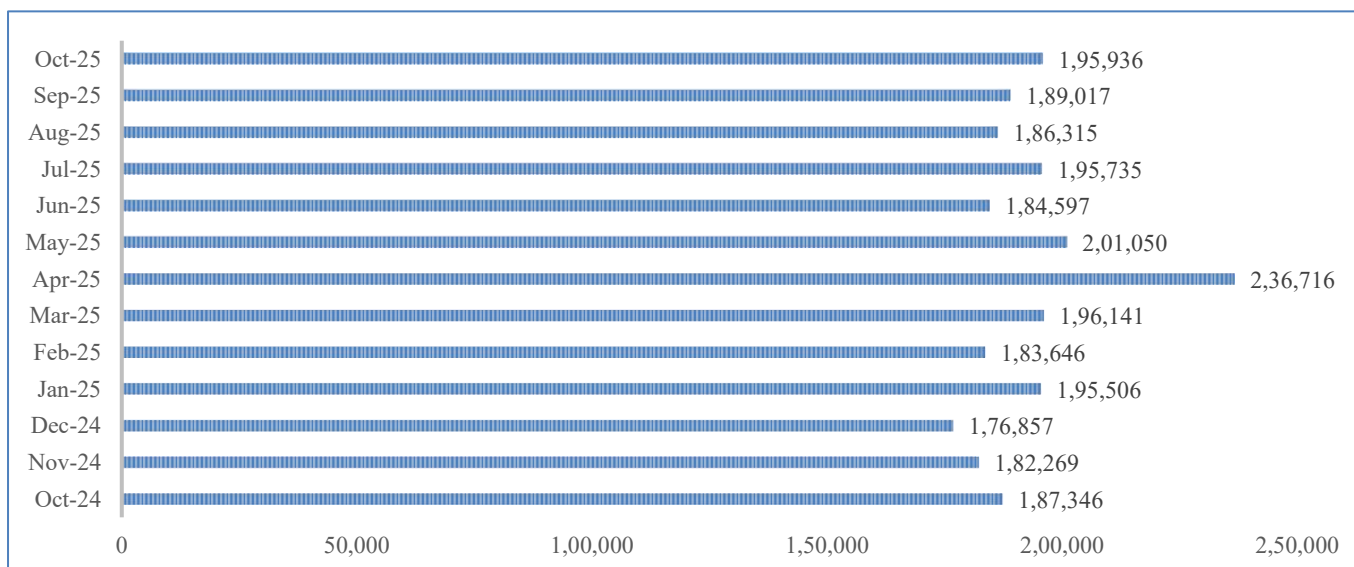
WPI and CPI trends in October 2025 show a clear easing of inflationary pressures. WPI fell further to -1.21%, marking one of its steepest declines of the year and reflecting continued softening in commodity and wholesale prices. This persistent deflation suggests subdued demand and favourable global input costs. CPI, meanwhile, dropped sharply to 0.25%, its lowest level in the 12-month period, driven by corrections in food and fuel inflation. The narrowing gap between CPI and WPI indicates improving price stability. Overall, October 2025 reflects a cooling inflation environment, supporting monetary policy flexibility and signalling relief for households and producers.



(Source: MOSPI and Office of Economic Advisor, GOI)

In October 2025, WPI inflation fell sharply due to steep declines in Primary Articles (-6.18%) and Fuel & Power (-2.55%), partly offset by a rise in Manufactured Products (1.54%). CPI remained subdued at 0.25%, driven by deflation in Food & Beverages (-3.72%), even as Miscellaneous (5.71%), Housing (2.96%), and Pan, Tobacco & Intoxicants (2.87%) stayed firm. Together, the data reflects easing price pressures with pockets of persistent consumer-side inflation.

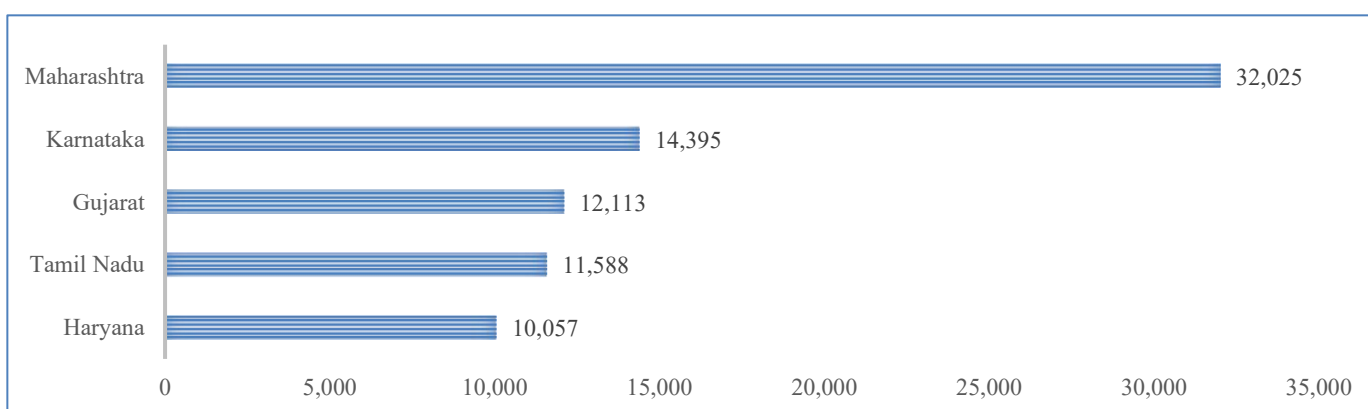
GST Revenue Collection (in INR crores)



(Source: Ministry of Finance, GOI)

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections clocked nearly at INR 1.96 lakh crore in October 2025, registering a Y-O-Y growth of 4.6% compared to October 2024 and an increase of 3.66% compared to September 2025. The increase compared to the previous year (October 2024) shows a revived tax base and improved compliance levels. Strong collection figures indicated resilient economic activity despite recent GST rate reductions. The festive season in India likely contributed to the rise in consumption. Proactive stocking by retailers and e-commerce platforms also boosted import GST revenues.

Top 5 States with High GST Revenue Collection in October 2025 (in INR crores)



(Source: Ministry of Finance, GOI)

Maharashtra led the country with the highest GST revenue collections, totalling INR 32,025 crores, followed by Karnataka and Gujarat. Tamil Nadu and Haryana rounded out the top five. These states have emerged as the largest contributors to GST revenues, reflecting their strong economic activities and business environments. Total State GST collection stood almost at INR 1.45 lakh crore.

Quarterly GDP Estimates for the 2nd Quarter (July-September) of FY 2025-26

- **Real GDP Growth Rate:** 8.2%
- **Nominal GDP Growth Rate:** 8.7%

- **Financial, Real Estate & Professional Services:** 10.2%
- **Public Administration, Defence & Other Services:** 9.7%
- **Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication & Services related to Broadcasting:** 7.4%

- **Primary Sector:** 3.5%
- **Secondary Sector:** 8.1%
- **Tertiary Sector:** 9.2%

India's growth momentum remained strong in Q2 of FY 2025-26, with real GDP expanding by 8.2%, a sharp improvement over last year's performance. The economy's strength is anchored in the Secondary and Tertiary sectors, both of which delivered robust growth. Manufacturing and construction continued to benefit from healthy investment activity and improved capacity utilisation, while services - particularly financial, real estate and professional services - remained a key driver of expansion.

Private consumption also showed renewed vigour, indicating improving household sentiment and a recovery in discretionary spending. This aligns well with the broader demand-side resilience seen through the first half of the year, where real GDP grew around 8%, significantly faster than in the previous year.

At the same time, agriculture and utilities registered more moderate growth, signalling pressure from uneven monsoon patterns and subdued rural demand. Nonetheless, these pockets of softness have not materially weakened overall economic momentum.

The nominal growth trend, remaining slightly above real growth, suggests a low-inflation environment that is supporting real purchasing power without eroding corporate profitability.

Overall, the first half of FY 2025-26 reflects a confident economic trajectory - broad-based, investment-supported, and increasingly led by services - positioning India favourably for sustained high growth in the coming quarters.

BFSI E-Bulletin

BFSI Article

Export Incentives in India: Opportunities Every Business Should Leverage

India has positioned itself as one of the fastest-growing export economies in the world, supported by a policy framework that offers multiple incentives to exporters. These export incentives—issued by both the Central and State Governments—are designed to reduce costs, improve cash flows, and ensure Indian businesses remain competitive in the global marketplace.

Yet, despite their importance, many businesses remain unaware of the full range of benefits available, or are unable to realise them due to procedural complexities. A clear understanding of the framework is critical for companies seeking to maximise value from their export operations

Why Export Incentives Matter

Export incentives are more than just financial perks; they are strategic tools that influence business competitiveness. Some of the key objectives of India's export incentive framework are.

- Duty-free import of inputs required for export production.
- Rebates and refunds to offset hidden costs and infrastructural inefficiencies.
- Regional economic development, particularly through schemes targeted at specific zones.
- Improved ease of exporting by reducing compliance hurdles.
- Faster settlement of foreign exchange to enhance liquidity.

For businesses, these incentives directly affect profit margins, pricing strategies, and working capital management—all of which are vital to success in international markets.

Categories of Export Incentives

Export incentives in India are numerous, but they can broadly be grouped into four categories:

1. Duty-Free Import Schemes

These schemes reduce the upfront cost of production by exempting exporters from paying customs duty on imports.

- Advance Authorisation (AA): Duty-free import of raw materials and inputs physically incorporated in the export product.
- Duty-Free Import Authorisation (DFIA): Similar to AA, but transferable once obligations are fulfilled.
- Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG): Duty-free import of capital goods used to manufacture export products, subject to export obligations.

- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs): Units can import all inputs and capital goods duty-free for export production.

Benefit: Reduced working capital blockage and lower cost of production.

2. Tax Refund and Rebate Schemes

These provide post-export refunds of taxes and levies, ensuring no tax is exported with the goods.

- Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP): Refund of embedded duties and taxes not credited elsewhere.
- Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL): Specific to textiles and apparel.
- GST Refunds on Exports: Refund of unutilised input tax credit (ITC) or integrated GST (IGST) paid on exports.

Benefit: Improves cash flows and ensures tax neutrality for exporters.

3. Duty Deferment Schemes

These schemes allow exporters to postpone tax payments, thereby easing liquidity.

- MOOWR Scheme (Manufacturing and Other Operations in Warehouse Regulations): Duty-free import of raw materials and capital goods into bonded warehouses, with duty payable only when goods are cleared for domestic use.
- Customs Bonded Warehousing: Deferment of customs duty until clearance into the domestic market.

Benefit: Helps in cash flow planning and reduces upfront tax burden.

4. Procedural Flexibility Schemes

These focus on reducing compliance costs and enabling faster movement of goods.

- Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Scheme: Recognises compliant businesses and offers benefits such as faster customs clearances.
- Merchant Export Benefits: Allows traders/exporters to access certain duty exemptions without manufacturing facilities.

Benefit: Enhances ease of doing business and reduces administrative hurdles.

Realising the Benefits of Export Incentives

While the policy framework is robust, accessing benefits is not always straightforward. Each scheme comes with its own eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, filing deadlines, and post-claim compliances. Delays or errors can result in significant financial loss.

A structured approach can make the process more efficient:

How RSM India Can Help

At RSM India, we work with exporters across industries to unlock the full potential of available incentives. Our support typically includes:

- Diagnostic Review: Identifying incentives that apply to your sector, operations, and export markets.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis: Quantifying the duty savings and rebate opportunities versus compliance costs.
- Documentation & Compliance: Preparing and reviewing claim documentation to ensure accuracy and completeness.
- Application & Representation: Assisting with filing claims, liaising with authorities, and ensuring follow-through until benefits are realised.
- Ongoing Advisory: Monitoring changes in the Foreign Trade Policy, GST framework, and customs notifications to keep clients ahead of regulatory shifts.

By combining technical expertise with practical execution support, we help exporters convert policy benefits into tangible business value

Astute Consulting Group

Tel.: +91 22 6121 4444

Email: emails@astuteconsulting.com

BFSI News

RBI Resumes Bond Purchases After Six Months, Infuses Rs 12,470 Crore Liquidity Into Markets

RBI has restarted bond purchases, buying Rs 124.7 billion worth of securities to boost liquidity. Market participants expect the central bank to continue buying and possibly launch OMO auctions from December.

The Reserve Bank of India resumed the purchase of government bonds after a six-month gap, as it infused liquidity into the banking system via the secondary market, says a Reuters report. The RBI net bought bonds worth Rs 12,470 crore (\$1.41 billion) in the week ending November 7, and was on the bidding side for three of the four sessions for which data was published, Reuters reports, quoting RBI data.

The settlement of such screen-based purchases occurs a day after the trade. Market participants had speculated on the RBI's presence after data showed an investment category that includes the central bank buying a net 205 billion rupees of bonds last week. Concerns over demand were also pushing up bond yields, prompting the RBI to cancel the auction of a seven-year paper on October 31. The 10-year benchmark yield fell 2 basis points to 6.51%.

Experts say buying to continue "The purchases are on expected lines, as the earlier elevated figures in the 'others' category were driven by a single underlying factor," said VRC Reddy, treasury head at Karur Vysya Bank. "Such buying is likely to continue, followed by possible Open Market Operation (OMO) auctions from December or January." The RBI typically sells or buys bonds to adjust banking liquidity and rates to align them with its monetary policy. However, these operations also impact yields.

RBI's January bond purchase In January, the central bank had bought bonds worth over Rs 388 billion through screen-based operations before embarking on an aggressive cycle of open market purchases. They had net bought bonds worth Rs 4.84 trillion from the end of January to mid-May via OMO auctions.

Some traders also speculate that the purchases would be for replacement demand, as the RBI had a hefty stock of 5.15% 2025 bond that matured on November 7. "That is why the numbers have started dropping from the second half of this week as the replacement demand would have been completed," a senior treasury official said. The Rupee closed at 88.7425 per US dollar, down about 0.1% on both the day and week

[\(Read More\)](#)

Discussions on With RBI to Build Big, World-class Banks

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India needs large and world-class banks. she also said that the government is focused on infrastructure creation and deepening credit flow to fuel economic growth.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that India needs large and world-class banks and that discussions are underway with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). While addressing the 12th SBI Banking and Economics Conclave 2025, Sitharaman said, “The government is looking at this, and work has already commenced. We are discussing with the RBI and with banks.”

Government, LIC move ahead with IDBI Bank privatisation plan. As part of the privatisation exercise, the government in January 2019 sold its controlling 51% stake in IDBI Bank to the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Subsequently, the government and LIC announced plans for the strategic sale of their remaining stake in IDBI Bank.

In October 2022, both shareholders invited Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from investors for privatising IDBI Bank by selling a total of 60.72% stake — comprising 30.48% held by the government and 30.24% by LIC. In January 2023, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) received multiple EoIs for IDBI Bank.

SEBI clears LIC reclassification, paving way for IDBI Bank sale. Paving the way for the sale of IDBI Bank, SEBI in August 2025 approved the reclassification of LIC as a public shareholder from a promoter of the bank upon completion of the strategic divestment.

Besides, the government has undertaken a major consolidation exercise in the public sector banking space. In August 2019, it announced four major mergers of public sector banks, bringing down their total number to 12 from 27 in 2017.

Effective April 1, 2020, United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce were merged with Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank with Canara Bank; Allahabad Bank with Indian Bank; and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank with Union Bank of India.

In 2019, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank were merged with Bank of Baroda. Earlier, the government had merged five associate banks of the State Bank of India and Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI. Sitharaman emphasised that infrastructure creation remains the government’s main focus, noting that capital expenditure has increased fivefold over the last decade.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Select RBI Circulars

RBI Circulars November - 2025				
Circular Number	Date Of Issue	Department	Subject	Meant For
RBI/2025-2026/101 CO.DPSS.POLC.No. S-955/02-30-010/2025-26	28.11.2025	Department of Payment and Settlement Systems	Compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms	All Payment System Providers and Payment System Participants
RBI/2025-2026/100 DOR.RRC.REC.302/33-01-010/2025-26	28.11.2025	Department of Regulation	Consolidation of Regulations – Withdrawal of circulars	–
RBI/2025-2026/99 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 16	28.11.2025	Foreign Exchange Department	Compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms	All Authorised Persons
RBI/FED/2025-2026/98 A.P. (DIR Series) Circular No. 15	24.11.2025	Foreign Exchange Department	Amendments to Directions - Compounding of Contraventions under FEMA, 1999	All Authorised Persons
RBI/2025-2026/97 DOR.AML.REC.61/14.06.001/2025-26	14.11.2025	Department of Regulation	Implementation of Section 51A of UAPA, 1967: Updates to UNSC's 1267/1989 ISIL (Da'esh) & Al-Qaida Sanctions List: Delisting of 02 Entries	The Chairpersons/ CEOs of all the Regulated Entities
RBI/2025-2026/96 DOR.STR.REC.60/21.04.048/2025-26	14.11.2025	Department of Regulation	Reserve Bank of India (Trade Relief Measures) Directions, 2025	Commercial Banks, Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks, State Co-operative Banks and Central Co-operative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (including Housing Finance Companies), All-India Financial Institutions, and Credit Information Companies (only with reference to paragraph 16 of these Directions)

India's International Trade

Trade Performance October 2025

Highlights

- India's total trade clocked a strong growth of 5.32 per cent in FY 2025-26 (April-October), estimated to reach USD 1062 billion (approx.) in April-October 2025 as against USD 1008 billion in April-October 2024.
- Total exports grew by 4.84 per cent and imports grew by 5.74 per cent during April-October 2025 over April-October 2024.
- In the month of October, merchandise exports fell by 12% whereas merchandise imports grew profoundly by 16.64 per cent during the month of October 2025.
- Consequently, Merchandise trade deficit reach all time high at USD 42 billion, more than doubling in October 2025 over October 2024.
- Services exports rose by around 12 per cent, reaching USD 39 billion and imports rose by 8 per cent, reaching USD 19 billion in October 2025 over October 2024.
- Trade surplus in services sector financed deficit in merchandise trade by 48 per cent.
- Forex reserves rose from USD 666 billion in November 2024 to USD 688 billion in November 2025.
- Rupee plunged to its lowest levels to reach 89.74 per USD in November 2025.
- India's rank as an exporter (merchandise) in the world has fallen from 17th to 18th in 2025, with share in world exports remaining the same.
- India remained 8th largest exporter of commercial services in 2025.

Overall October 2025

India's total trade (Merchandise and Services combined) for October 2025 is estimated at USD 168, rising by around 7.5 per cent over October 2024. The marginal decline in total exports at 0.67 per cent and a steep growth in imports of around 15 per cent, led to more than doubling of trade deficit for October 2025 over October 2024.

India's Trade (US\$ Bn)		
	Oct-24	Oct-25
Total exports	73.39	72.90
Total Imports	82.44	94.70
Total Trade	155.83	167.60
Trade Balance	-9.05	-21.80

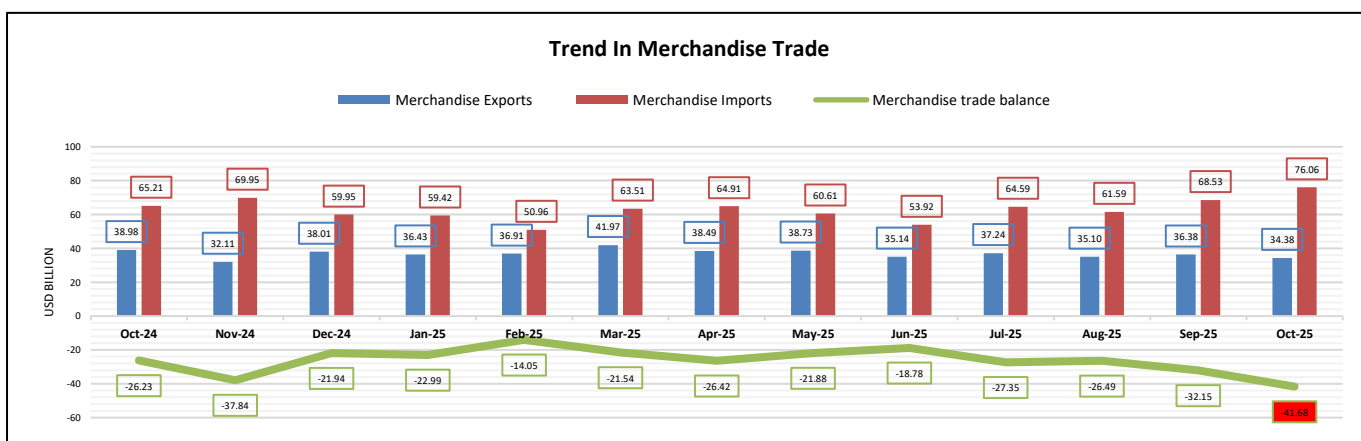
Source: Press Release, Nov 2025, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Merchandise Trade October 2025

Merchandise exports, at USD 34.38 Billion fell drastically by around 12% in October 2025 over October 2024. This fall is attributed to sharp decline in exports to USA (-8.58%), UAE (-10.17%), Netherlands (-22.75%), UK (-27.16%) and Germany (-15.14%) covering more than 50 per cent of the exports in the month.

On the contrary, total merchandise imports grew profoundly at over 16% during the same month. Imports from major sources rose in double digits- China (15.63%), UAE (14.38%), USA (13.89%), Switzerland (404%) and UK (194%). Commodity-wise This rise is attributed to a windfall increase in imports of Silver (528.71%), Gold (199.22%), Fertilizers, Crude and Manufactured (86.85%), Vegetable Oils (53.44%), Metalliferous ores & other minerals (20.40%), Electronic Goods (14.65%), Electronic goods (15.46%), Machinery, electrical & non-electrical (12.22%), Transport Equipment (5.69%) and Chemical material & products (0.76%)..

Subsequently, trade deficit rose to USD 42 Billion, increasing by nearly 58% over its level in October last year, the highest in last two years.

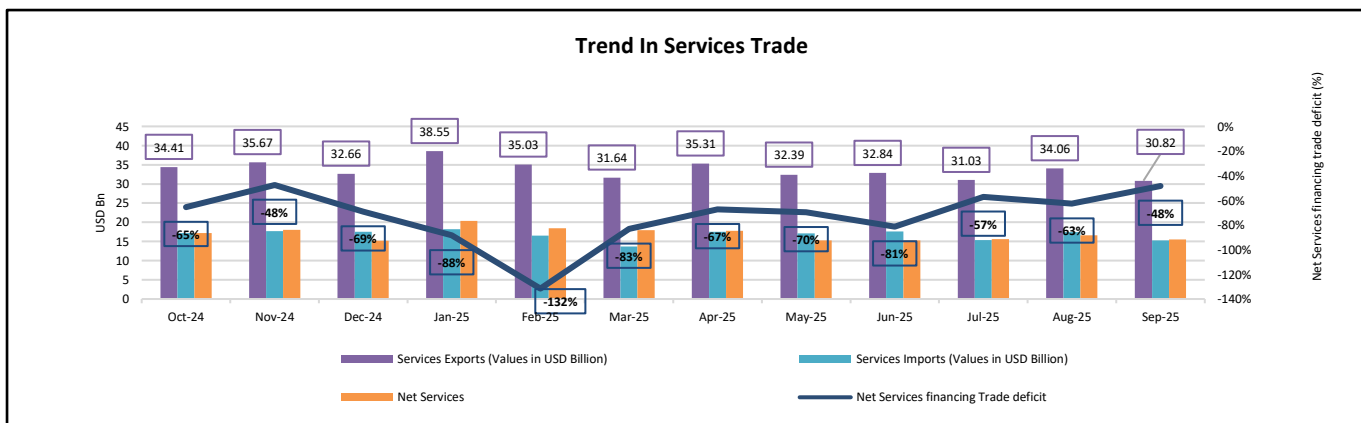


(Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry)

Services Trade October 2025

India's service exports rose by around 12 per cent in October 2025 over October 2024. At the same time, services imports also rise by around 8 per cent. Consequently, Services trade surplus rose by around 16 per cent during the same period, touching a level of USD 20 billion.

With merchandise trade deficit of USD 42 billion in October 2025, the country ended up with a cumulative trade deficit (or net exports) of USD 21.80 billion. Consequently, the net services trade deficit financing ratio reached 48% in October 2025.



(Source: Reserve Bank of India)

Trade Performance April-October 2025

Overall April-October 2025

Cumulative trade for April-October 2025 was recorded at USD 1062 billion, registering a growth of 5 percent (approx.) as compared to April-October 2024. The total exports and imports (merchandise plus services) for April-October 2025 experienced a strong growth of 4.84 per cent and 5.74 per cent over April-October 2024. Consequently, trade balance rose by around 12 per cent during the same period.

India's Trade (US\$ Bn)		
	Apr-Oct 2024	Apr-Oct 2025
Total exports	469.11	491.80
Total Imports	539.02	569.95
Total Trade	1008.13	1061.75
Trade Balance	-69.91	-78.15

Source: Press Release, Nov 2025, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Merchandise Trade April-October 2025

The merchandise exports figures for FY 2024-25 rose marginally by around 0.63%, standing at USD 254 billion in April-October 2025.

Merchandise imports also rose profoundly at around 6.45% during April-October 2025 over April-October 2024.

This led to marginal widening of cumulative trade deficit to USD 196.83 billion, a growth of over 15% in April-October 2025 over the corresponding period last year.

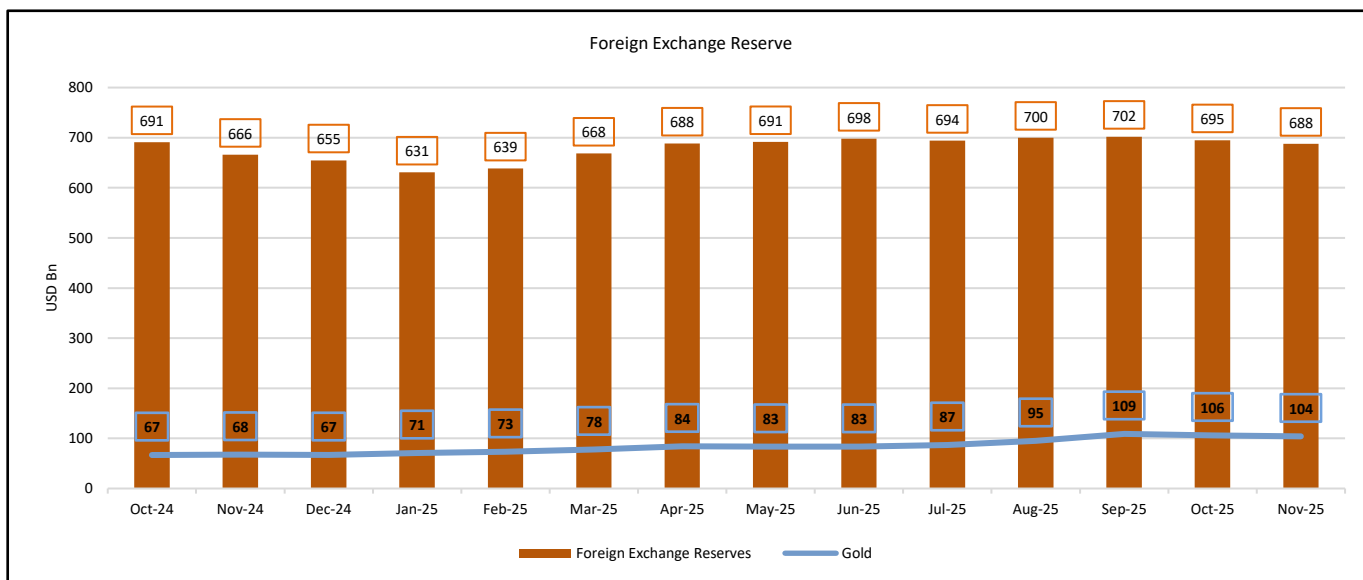
Services Trade April-October 2025

Services exports for the period April-October 2025 grew by around 10 per cent, reaching USD 238 billion (approx.) from USD 216 billion during corresponding period last year. At the same time, services imports grew 3.40 per cent, reaching USD 119 billion (approx.) from USD 115 billion during corresponding period last year.

This led to widening of cumulative trade surplus to USD 119 billion in April-October 2025 from USD 102 billion in April-October 2024, representing a growth of around 17%.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

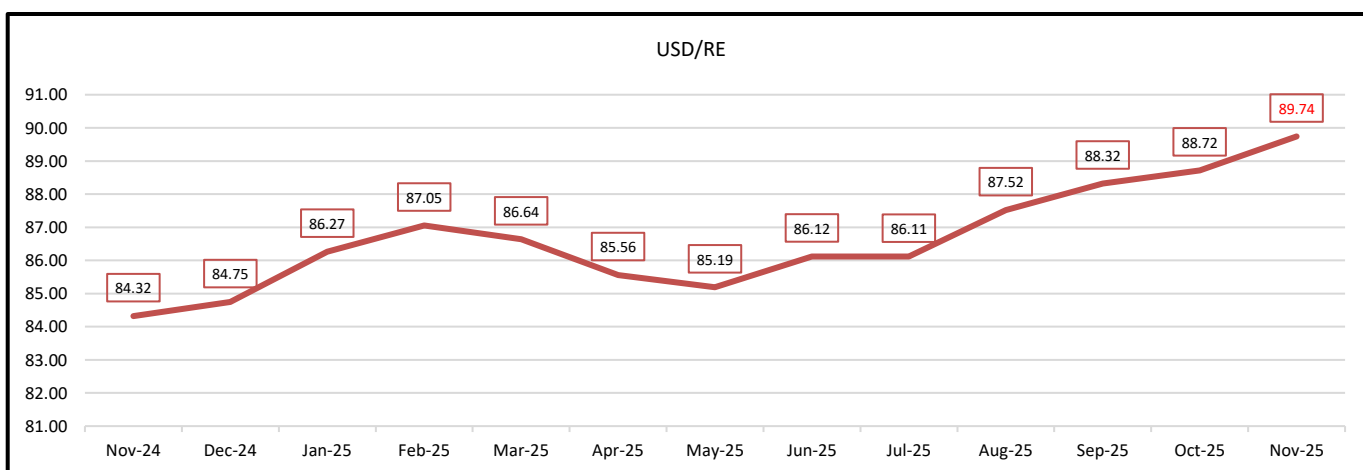
India's forex reserves has risen to USD 104 billion in November 2025 by almost 3 per cent over November 2024. The rise in forex reserves is predominantly attributed to increasing levels of Gold reserves that reached high levels, crossing the USD 100 billion mark in November 2025.



(Source: Reserve Bank of India)

Exchange Rate

In November 2025 rupee depreciated to an all-time high of 89.74 per USD since April 2023. Over November 2024, the depreciation of rupee has been of around 6 per cent.



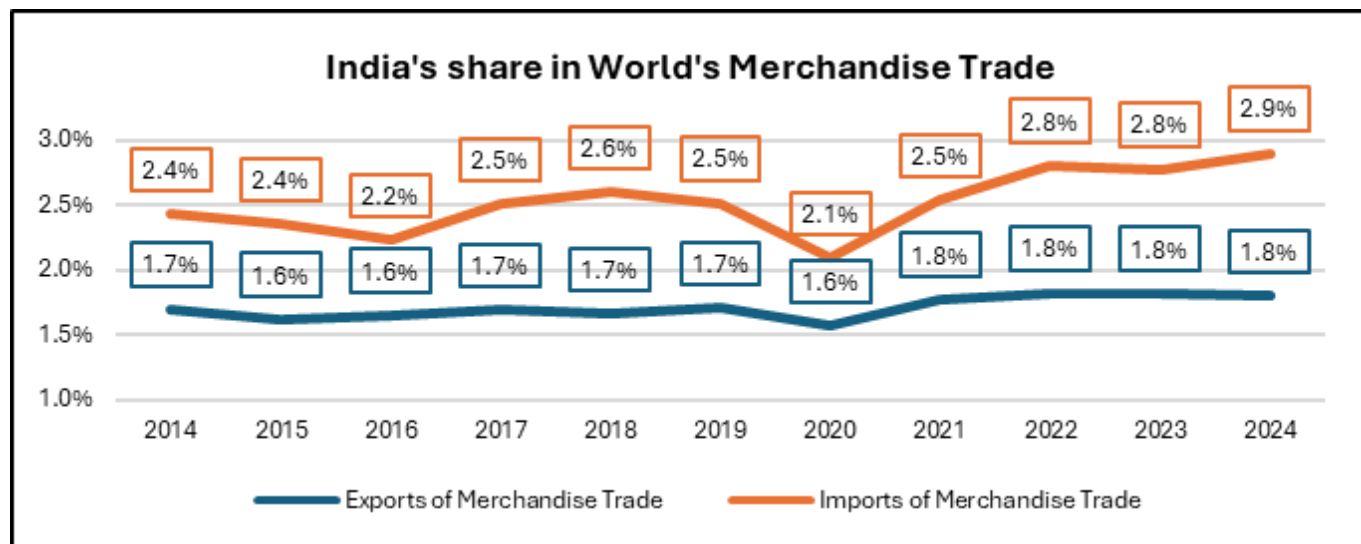
(Source: Reserve Bank of India)

(Note: Exchange Rate for December 2025 is the average of daily exchange rate available at <https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx>)

Global Rankings 2024

India is the 18th largest exporter and 9th largest importer of goods.

India's share in world's exports and imports of goods has remained stable over the years

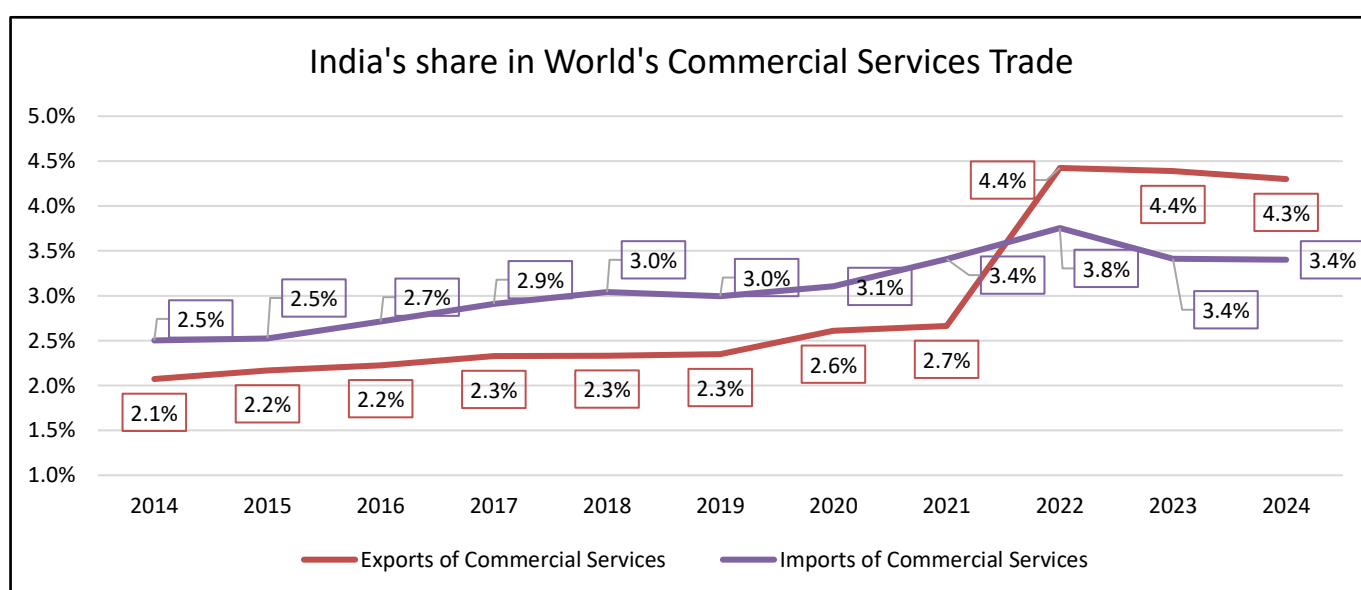


(Source: Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, April 2025, World Trade Organisation (WTO))

India is the 8th largest exporter and 9th largest importer of commercial services

India's share in world's exports of commercial services has risen sharply post 2021. Services exports correlate with various factors such as global demand, economic conditions, infrastructure quality, and human capital, among others. However, it has remained more or less stable since past 3 years.

The country's share in world imports of commercial services has fallen recently after reaching a decadal high in 2022 and remained stable since then.



(Source: Global Trade Outlook and Statistics, April 2025, World Trade Organisation (WTO))

Policy Updates

Labour & Employment

Cabinet Approves the Terms of Reference of the 8th Central Pay Commission

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has issued notifications to bring four Labour Codes into effect: (i) Code on Wages, 2019, (ii) Industrial Relations Code, 2020, (iii) Code on Social Security, 2020, and (iv) Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. These replace 29 labour laws including the Factories Act, 1948, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

[\(Read More\)](#)

A Special-Window Enrolment Scheme Launched to Regularise Past Non-Compliance with EPF

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched the Employees' Enrolment Scheme, 2025.. The scheme provides a special window to extend Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) coverage to eligible workers who were not previously enrolled between July 2017 and October 2025. It applies across sectors and aims to broaden social security coverage and regularise past non-compliance..

[\(Read More\)](#)

Draft Oil Mines Safety Regulations Released for Public Consultation

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has invited comments on the draft Regulations on occupational safety, health and working conditions in oil mines. The draft Regulations have been framed under the Occupational Safety, Health, and Working Conditions Code, 2020. Key features include: Administrative requirements, Duties of management, Risk management, and Environmental safeguards

[\(Read More\)](#)

Information Technology

The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 Notified

The Ministry of Electronics and Information technology has notified the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025. These Rules have been issued under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. The Rules prescribe different timelines for various provisions.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Commerce & Industry

Cabinet Approves the Export Promotion Mission

The Union Cabinet has approved the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) announced in the 2025-26 Union Budget. The mission seeks to strengthen India's export competitiveness, particularly for MSMEs, first-time exporters, and labour-intensive sectors. Key sectors to be prioritised under the Mission include: (i) textiles, (ii) leather, (iii) gems and jewellery, (iv) engineering goods, and (v) marine products. It will involve a total estimated outlay of Rs 25,060 crore between 2025-26 and 2030-31.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Cabinet Approves Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Rare Earth Magnets

The Union Cabinet approved a scheme to promote manufacturing of sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM). The scheme seeks to create 6,000 metric tons per annum of REPM manufacturing capacity in India by supporting integrated facilities that process rare earth oxides into finished REPM. The total outlay for this scheme is Rs 7,280 crore. The scheme will run for seven years, including a two-year gestation period.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Comments Invited on Draft Guidelines for Use of Geographical Indication Logo

The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has invited comments on draft guidelines for use of Geographical Indication (GI) logo. A GI is an indication that includes registered name or any sign which identifies goods that come from a particular place and have special qualities or reputation because of that geographical location. The guidelines are issued under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999..

[\(Read More\)](#)

Finance

RBI Announces Relief Measures for Exporters

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced measures to mitigate the impact on exports given the global headwinds. These measures shall come into force immediately. They include: Extension of time limits and Easing the burden of debt servicing. These measures shall come into force immediately.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Law & Justice

Supreme Court Delivered Opinion on the Presidential Reference Regarding the Governor's Powers on Assent to Bills

A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court delivered its opinion on the 16th Presidential Reference made by the President of India in May 2025. The reference raised 14 questions, primarily related to the Court's authority with regard to the assent to Bills by the President and Governors. The reference followed a Supreme Court judgement in April 2025. In this judgement, the Court had held that the Constitution does not permit the Governor to withhold assent indefinitely.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Supreme Court Struck Down Certain Provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021

The Supreme Court struck down certain provisions of the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021. The Act specifies the manner of appointments and terms and conditions of service of members of the Tribunals. The Court observed that these provisions were re-enacted from the Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021, and were previously struck down in July 2021. These relate to eligibility for appointments, process of selection and appointment, and the length of tenure.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Environment

Supreme Court Upheld Validity of Retrospective Environmental Clearances

Hearing a review petition on an earlier ruling, the Supreme Court held that retrospective Environmental Clearance (EC) can be granted in exceptional circumstances. Further, it held that the Environment Protection Act, 1986 does not prohibit it in exceptional cases. These clearances are issued under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006. EIA provides that certain projects or activities will require prior EC from the concerned regulatory authorities at the central, state, or district level..

[\(Read More\)](#)

Agriculture

Comments Invited on the Draft Seeds Bill 2025

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare invited comments on the Draft Seeds Bill, 2025. The Bill intends to replace the Seeds Act, 1966. It aims to curb the sale of spurious and poor-quality seeds, liberalise imports, protect farmers' rights, and promote ease of doing business. Key features include: Central Seed Committee, Registration of seed varieties, and Regulation of seed trade.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Steel

The Third Round of PLI Scheme for Speciality Steel Launched

The Ministry of Steel has launched the third round of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Speciality Steel. Specialty Steel is a finished steel that is enhanced through processes like coating, plating, or heat treatment. It is used in sectors that require specialised properties, such as defence, space, and power. The scheme aims to boost domestic production and reduce import dependence..

[\(Read More\)](#)

Defence

DRDO and DGA Sign Agreement for Cooperation

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Directorate General of Armaments (DGA), France signed an agreement for further collaboration in defence research and development. The agreement provides a formal framework for joint research and training programmes, testing activities, and exchange of information to enhance research and development in defence..

[\(Read More\)](#)

Power

Policy Regarding Co-Firing of Biomass in Coal-Based Plants

The Ministry of Power has released a revised policy regarding use of biomass pellets in coals based thermal plants for co-firing. Co-firing is the simultaneous combustion of two or more different fuels in the same power plant to produce energy.

[\(Read More\)](#)

Corporate Office

ASSOCHAM

4th Floor, YMCA Cultural Centre and Library Building, 01, Jai Singh Road,
New Delhi - 110001

Phone: 46550555(Hunting Line) Email: assochem@nic.in

Website: <https://www.assochem.org>

Follow us on social media

ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India)

 ASSOCHAM4India

 ASSOCHAM

 ASSOCHAM4Ind

 ASSOCHAM India

Branding Opportunity – Full Page Advertisement

Annual Charge (Combo Offer) (Weekly + Monthly Edition)	INR 3.75 Lakhs + GST
For 12 Editions of the Monthly Newsletter	INR 2 Lakhs + GST
For 4 Editions of the Weekly Newsletter	INR 17,000 + GST

For more details, please contact Team Research, ASSOCHAM at
research@assochem.com

Disclaimer

The report is prepared using information of a general nature and is not intended to address the circumstances of any particular individual or entity. The report has been prepared from various public sources and the information received from these sources is believed to be reliable. The information available in the report is selective and subject to updation, revision and amendment. While the information provided herein is believed to be accurate and reliable, ASSOCHAM does not make any representations or warranties, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy or completeness of such information and data available in the public domain.