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A Foundry Bulletin..

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Chairman-FIC Message



Dear Fellow Foundrymen!

India's indigenous defence systems have not only enhanced our national security but also demonstrated the country's growing prowess in cutting-edge defence technology. The successful development and deployment of these systems are a testament to the ingenuity and expertise of our scientists, engineers, and defence personnel. This achievement is a significant step towards achieving self-reliance in defence production.

Defence OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers are securing long-term casting and forging capacity by investing directly in foundries, forming joint ventures, or developing in-house capabilities. This ensures critical components for defence systems are available when needed. Collaboration between foundries, OEMs, and government agencies fosters innovation and ensures supply chain integrity.

The Indian foundry industry is gearing up to play a vital role in the country's defence production, driven by the government's 'Make in India' initiative and the increasing demand for indigenous defence equipment.

Being a critical partner in the country's defence production, and with the right strategies and investments, it can capitalize on the growing opportunities. By adopting advanced technologies, developing strategic partnerships, enhancing quality control, and building supply chain resilience, Indian foundries can ensure a secure future and contribute to the country's national security.

Defence is a sector which holds immense potential for Indian foundries. The Defence sector requires high-precision components and a substantial portion of which is currently imported. The domestic industry is undergoing swift technological upgradation and is geared to address Defence's growing casting requirements, including the portion being imported. The Indian foundry industry is already supplying Defence-grade castings, and supporting aerospace, military vehicle production, and advanced weapon systems.

I am happy to share that FIC has been organising numerous programmes where Defence procurement officials had participated in the past. Successful interactive response of industries for such defence procurement programmes has motivated FIC to organize such programmes particularly for defence only. Current global situation across the borders has generated huge requirement for defence production capabilities. FIC in association with MoD, has planned a mega defence procurement programme in coming days in Delhi. There is huge response from industry to showcase their products and process capabilities during the event. On behalf of FIC, I would request all foundries to take on this opportunity and participate either by showcasing their products or by attending the programme for a bright future. India certainly needs patronage not only on the borders, but also in their supply chain, which defence system can trust and count on for meeting futuristic demand. Strengthening foundries is essential for resilient, secure, and agile defence supply chains, underpinning both readiness and technological superiority.

I would sincerely urge you to come, join hands and make the most of it.

Jai Hind.

Pradeep Mittal
Chairman - FIC

KEY FEATURE DOCUMENT: INDUSTRIAL POLICY - TAMIL NADU



Need for A New Policy

The Industrial Policy serves as a critical instrument that will help achieve Tamil Nadu's Vision 2023. Tamil Nadu's Vision 2023 is a roadmap for state's development, encompassing themes like economic prosperity, inclusive growth, world-class infrastructure, a healthy investment climate, and improving the quality of governance to improve and sustain the growth of both manufacturing and associated services. It aims for an 11 percent annual growth rate in the State's economy, a 14 percent growth rate in manufacturing, and targets investments worth INR 15,00,000 cr. (US\$ 214.286 billion) in numerous projects over ten years. Growth shall be balanced across regions with a stronger focus on reducing poverty and inequality.

As a leading industrialized State, Tamil Nadu periodically revises its Industrial Policy to respond to the changing economic scenario and technology; and to offer direction and support for future growth. This Policy aims to build on the momentum generated by the State through the Industrial Policy of 2014 in upholding its position as a preferred destination for investment in India. Intending to be contemporary and progressive, this Policy incorporates recent changes in the regional and national economy, new initiatives and policy changes like Make in India, Ease of Doing Business, and Goods and Services Tax, and provides direction for future development. With this Industrial Policy, Tamil Nadu reaffirms its commitment to creating new jobs, improving labour quality, fostering innovation, and ensuring inclusive and balanced growth.

Approach

Keeping these goals and recent events in mind, the policy has been developed with the following pillars:

- a) Achieve inclusive and balanced regional growth,
- b) Accelerate industrial growth through incentives and facilitation measures
- c) Promote resilient industrial development that aligns with environmental sustainability,
- d) Develop an innovation ecosystem and promote investment in technology adoption
- e) Encourage FDI & exports
- f) Implementation mechanism that delivers incentives in an objective, transparent and time bound manner.

The policy uses the following levers aligned with these pillars:

- Structured Package
- Incentives for Sunrise Sector
- Incentives for Industrial Parks
- Incentives for R&D Projects
- Incentives for Logistics Infrastructure
- Incentives for Foreign Direct Investment
- Incentives for Sub-Large Projects

High-level implementation guidelines have been provided in this Policy and detailed operational guidelines/clarifications will be issued from time to time.

Focus Sectors

The Policy shall continue to promote the existing focus sectors, which are drivers of economic growth and development in the state. These focus sectors are *Automobile and Auto Components*, Chemicals, Electronics & Hardware, Heavy Engineering, Leather, Textiles, Financial Services, and Software.

Innovation & Ecosystem Development

The State is actively encouraging firms to explore and push the frontiers of technology that can transform the industrial eco-system. The Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy 2018-2023 aims to provide an enabling, innovative ecosystem in the State. Chennai ranks 4th nationally in the startup ecosystem with a significant representation from startups in e-commerce, mobile-based technology, and education. The State strives 11 to position itself as one of the leading start-up hubs in the country by leveraging the attractive investment climate in the state to develop a world-class ecosystem for such companies. The Government of Tamil Nadu shall undertake the following initiatives to focus on R&D, innovation, and developing enabling ecosystems.

1. Innovation Centres SIPCOT is planning to establish Industrial Innovation Centres at the Sriperumbudur & Hosur Industrial Parks. SIPCOT is working alongside a suitable technology partner to design, operate and maintain these Innovation Centres. Through this initiative, the Government of Tamil Nadu intends to accelerate the adoption of technology in Industrial Projects in the State. Tamil Nadu is cognizant of its advantage as an industrial powerhouse and is well positioned to leverage Industry 4.0 technologies to improve total factor productivity while scaling and moving up the value chains. The State has initiated this process by launching policies such as Block Chain Policy 2020 and Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020. The Government of Tamil Nadu shall encourage the adoption of innovative technologies such as Industry 4.0 for focus and sunrise sectors under the Research and Technology Adoption Fund. Further, incentives shall be provided to industries in sunrise sectors and emerging segments that seek to promote advanced technologies. The State is home to IIT-M Research Park, one of the most successful models of Research Parks or innovation hubs in the country. The Government of Tamil Nadu shall encourage grant-based development of university-affiliated Research Parks under the Industrial Ecosystem Fund that would serve as a catalyst for radical and high-tech development envisioned.

2. MSME Ecosystem Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are significant drivers of growth in Tamil Nadu's economy. Tamil Nadu has an established presence of a diversified and robust MSME ecosystem with about 50 lakh MSMEs. MSMEs support the industrial ecosystem synergistically through their complementarity to the large industries as ancillary units as well by attracting large greenfield projects with a well-established supply chain. The growth of MSMEs in tandem with large industries is vital for sustainable and balanced regional development. The existing policy for reservation of 20% of land area in SIPCOT Industrial Parks for MSMEs shall continue. The Government of Tamil Nadu supports MSMEs through a separate policy. 12

3. Industrial Parks and Townships In the past, the State has seen companies such as India Cements, SPIC, DCW, Ramco, and PSUs such as BHEL and NLC promoting self-contained residential colonies with housing, playground, healthcare, shopping, and recreational facilities while setting up their plants. These integrated industrial townships with safe and regulated working and living environments are also better positioned to control pandemics. The State Government and its promotional agencies shall develop integrated townships with social infrastructure facilities in the new and existing growth centres and industrial complexes in Tamil Nadu. Initially, 15% of industrial parks' area exceeding 500 acres shall be reserved for social infrastructure.

4. Industrial Housing The State supports the walk-to-work concept to decongest the cities and improve work-life balance. Industrial projects will be encouraged to develop accommodation and hostel facilities for employees within a 5 km radius of the work area. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken the initiative to develop two industrial housing facilities to accommodate 20,000 workers to cater to the housing needs of five industrial parks in the Sriperumbudur belt. This shall be provided on a rental basis

to the industry and its workers. The Report of the High-level Committee on the Impact of Covid on Tamil Nadu's Economy chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, hereinafter referred to as Dr. C. Rangarajan Committee Report, has recommended that the Government through its various institutions may also support Industrial Housing projects through PPP models.

5. Export Readiness Tamil Nadu is the third-largest exporter in India contributing 9.38% of India's exports in 2018. It accounted for a value of over INR 2 lakh cr. (US\$ 30.45 billion) in exported goods and services. Tamil Nadu is a major exporter of Leather and Leather Goods, Textiles and Garments, Automobiles and Components, Engineering Goods, Castings, Pharmaceuticals, Spices, Agro-Products, Marine Products, Electronic Hardware, and Software. Tamil Nadu exports goods where it has a comparative advantage. The State recognizes the need for the upgradation of infrastructure and quality in export focused regions. As such, the State shall encourage industries to be set up in EOUs, SEZs, and near ICDs and CFSSs. It shall provide market development assistance to firms for development and promotional activities to promote export of their products and commodities. Guidance has also created an Export Cell with regional investment facilitators to facilitate exporters.

Skill Development

As the State makes efforts to grow its focus sectors and create new capabilities in sunrise sectors, a skilled and efficient workforce is a pre-requisite to achieve this vision. The State already has the highest number of technical universities in the country and more than 2400 colleges across various courses. Tamil Nadu has a total of 475 ITIs spread across the state providing vocational training. Nearly 85% of the state ITIs are privately owned, which demonstrates the contribution of the private sector in the skilling ecosystem. The State has nearly 2 million students who enrol for higher education on an annual basis and adds nearly a million students to the workforce every year. In addition to the existing infrastructure and initiatives, the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation oversees skill development in the state. The State is developing a comprehensive ecosystem around skill development enabled by support infrastructure and increased labour participation of women and differently-abled persons in the industrial workforce.

1. Apex Skill Development Centres The Government has accorded administrative sanction for establishing Apex Skill Development Centres (ASDC) with the assistance of Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) as part of the Tamil Nadu Investment Promotion Programme (TNIPP) Phase II for imparting hi-end training in various sectors. ASDCs for three sectors, namely, Auto, Auto Components & Machine tools; Hospital and Health Care Services and Transportation & Logistics are being structured as Centres of Excellence through a special purpose vehicle.

2. Creating Opportunities for Inclusive Employment Tamil Nadu is among the states with the highest labour participation from women. However, the levels of labour participation in absolute terms remain low. The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued amendments to the Tamil Nadu Factories Rules, 1950 in 2017 which provides guidelines for employing women during night shifts in factories. This is intended to promote labour force participation through flexibility in labour laws, without compromising labour welfare. There is an expressed need from industries in the Skilling for the Future- Action Plan for Tamil Nadu (2019-2025) for promoting employment for locals in supervisory roles in the skilled workforce. Subject to applicable labour laws, flexibility in employment conditions including flexible working hours, 24x7 operations (3 shifts), employment of women in the night 14 shifts and flexibility in hiring contract labour will be permitted. Further, incentives will be provided to industries that encourage employment for locals, women, transgenders, and persons from the SC/ST communities in the workforce. It is also important to engage and accommodate differently-abled persons in industrial activities to achieve inclusivity. In this Policy, employment for persons with benchmarked disabilities gets double weightage for employment-based-incentives employment boosters and eligibility criteria for investment promotion subsidies and higher training subsidies, where applicable.

Ease of Doing Business

The Government of Tamil Nadu accords the highest priority to the interest of the investors. The State is on course to meet global standards for ease of doing business by undertaking 301 reforms suggested under World Bank and DPIIT's Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2020-21, 45 reforms suggested under District Reforms Action Plan (DRAP) 2020, and other regulatory and process reforms beyond these. The reforms are spread across thematic areas such as access to information and transparency, single window system, land availability and land allotment, registering property, construction permit, environmental registration, utility permits, labour regulations, sector-specific reforms, inspection, indirect taxes filing, contract enforcement, and procurement. Further, the State is implementing new initiatives such as completely digitizing government-to-business (G2B) interactions through the development of a New Single Window Portal, development of Central Inspection System to monitor compliance inspection, Deemed Clearances, Comprehensive Land Portal, Construction Permit Portal, creation of Investment Facilitation Desks across countries and sectors and automatic renewal of select licenses. These initiatives are aimed at easing the experience of the investors for doing business in Tamil Nadu and demonstrates the State's interest in creating a conducive investor-friendly climate that is aligned to domestic and global market demands.

1. Single Window Facility In its continued effort to improve the investment climate and facilitate rapid industrialization in the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu introduced the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act and Rules in 2017-18. This covers 87 services offered by various departments with defined timelines for granting approvals/clearances at various stages of the business lifecycle. 15 All enterprises with a proposed investment in 'plant and machinery or equipment' that exceeds Rs.50 cr., and turnover that exceeds Rs.250 cr. are eligible to make use of the current Single Window Portal. The current Single Window Portal offers 38 services/ clearances pertaining to 14 Departments. As of August 2020, the State has received more than 160 applications through the Single Window Portal since its launch in 2018. About 70% of these eligible applications received (excluding incomplete and rejected applications) with a combined proposed investment of over 15,000 cr. and employment for 64,000 persons have been provided all the requisite clearances. By 2021, the New Single Window Portal will be providing more than 180 services (includes sector specific and sector-agnostic clearances) offered by 38 departments making the process completely faceless, contactless, and paperless.

As part of BRAP/DRAP, and based on the feedback received from industry stakeholders and investors, the following interventions shall ensure that the requisite services are delivered in a timely, transparent, and consistent manner to industries:

- Ensuring adequate availability of information needed by investors for securing necessary clearances in English/Tamil
- Onboarding all relevant government service providers to integrate the remaining services
- Providing time-bound clearances and providing deemed approvals prior to commencement of commercial operations for all identified clearances
- Developing a repository for common documents required for clearances
- Online facility for application for incentives
- Deploying an online tracking mechanism for all clearances, incentives, and communication.

2. Investor Facilitation Desk Investor Facilitation Desks have been set up to provide information to entrepreneurs regarding the scope of setting up of industries in the state of Tamil Nadu, give them guidance on the procedural aspects of starting industries, incentives and facilities available and, assist them in resolving any problems they may face in setting up an industry. Desks for Taiwan and the USA have already been created. A dedicated desk and portal for Non-Resident Tamils – “Yaadhum Oorae” has been constituted to encourage and facilitate investments in Tamil Nadu by the substantial Tamil diaspora spread across the globe. The State also has joint working committee agreements with Japan, U.S.A., U.K., U.A.E., Korea, and Germany to further international cooperation for industries.

3. *Biz Buddy Biz Buddy* is Tamil Nadu's industry help desk portal designed to help businesses report operational issues for resolution by various government departments, disbursal of incentives, and approval of pre-establishment, establishment and operation clearances required, within 30 days on a best effort basis. The platform offers features for tracking and monitoring the status of the application through SMS and email notifications. Biz Buddy will also serve as a mechanism for industries to share their ideas and suggestions for improving the industrial climate in the state and to crowd source solutions for specific challenges. With business-centricity at its core, Biz Buddy is developed on robust IT infrastructure to ensure seamless service for facilitating all regulatory services throughout the life-cycle of the investment and operation. As of August 2020, the portal has 103 officers across 15 departments, 48 agencies and including all district collectors. Biz Buddy has reduced the processing time of pending applications by over 80%

Incentives for Industries

Government of Tamil Nadu intends to support the projects in manufacturing with the potential for positive externalities in the State, through the following Incentive Packages:

- Structured Package
- Incentives for Sunrise Sector
- Incentives for Industrial Parks
- Incentives for R&D Projects
- Incentives for Logistics Infrastructure
- Incentives for Foreign Direct Investment
- Incentives for Sub-Large Projects

Subsidies

1. *Training Subsidy* 1.8% Employment >4000 jobs 1.75% 1.8% 2% Skilling support can be availed in form of a Training Subsidy of Rs. 4000 per worker per month for 6 months for residents of Tamil Nadu. For women and transgender employees, persons with benchmarked disabilities, persons from SC/ST communities the training subsidy shall be Rs. 6000 per worker per month for 6 months.

2. *Land Cost Incentive* The Government strives to provide land to industries at competitive rates. For eligible projects in SIPCOT in "A" & "B" districts, land allotment will be made at a 10% concessional rate and at a 50% concessional rate in "C" districts for land up to 20% of EFA. The timelines for allotment of Land in SIPCOT Industrial Area shall be as per Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Rules 2018 and a deemed approval shall be issued on expiry of the time limit.

3. *Interest Subvention* Interest Subvention of 5% as a rebate in the rate of interest shall be provided to Ultra Mega Projects only on actual term loans taken for the purpose of financing the project, up to Rs. 4 cr. per annum for a period of 6 years

Standard Incentives

The following incentives shall also be available to Large, Mega and Ultra-Mega projects.

1. *Electricity Tax Incentive* New or expansion manufacturing projects will be given an electricity tax exemption for a period of 5 years on power purchased from the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd. (TANGEDCO) or generated and consumed from captive sources.

2. *Stamp Duty Incentive* 50% Concession on Stamp duty payable on lease or purchase of land/shed/buildings meant for industrial use shall be offered in parks promoted by SIPCOT in "A" & "B" Category Districts. In all "C" districts, 100% Concession on Stamp duty payable on lease or purchase of land/shed/buildings meant for industrial use shall be offered in parks promoted by SIPCOT/SIPCOT JV/SIDCO.

3. *Green Industry Incentive* Industrial projects undertaking green initiatives for recycling waste and water for industrial use and sustainable energy usage, coupled with online monitoring (wherever applicable)

indicated below, shall be eligible for a 25% subsidy on the cost of setting up such environmental protection infrastructure in the following solution areas subject to a limit of Rs. 1 cr.

Special Incentives for R&D Projects

Tamil Nadu is emerging as a hub for industrial R&D. Upgradation, advancement, and innovation in technology for industrial use is a key focus area for the State. This provides a pathway to leapfrog industrial development and to accelerate Tamil Nadu's integration into the global value chains. The transformative potential of technology in improving productivity and capacity utilization has shifted the paradigm of viewing R&D expenditure as an investment. As one of the pioneering States in R&D, this Policy includes R&D as part of Eligible Fixed Assets. The Government of Tamil Nadu shall provide incentives to R&D Projects in the State to further the development of intellectual property and adoption of technology in industries. Stand-alone R&D projects shall be eligible for the following Incentives, in addition to the Standard Incentives, subject to the following conditions:-

- Must have a Minimum Investment of Rs. 50 cr. in Eligible Fixed Assets and creation of Employment for 50 persons
- Clearly demarcated facilities inside or outside the industrial unit.
- Must be located in Tamil Nadu- Must be Registered with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India (DSIR)

1. Land Cost Incentive for Standalone R&D Projects R&D projects shall be given an incentive of 50% of the cost of purchase or lease of land for up to 20 acre, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakh/acre. This shall be provided as a reimbursement upon commencement of the R&D Centre. R&D projects shall also be given priority in land allotment in SIPCOT Industrial Parks.

2. R&D Training Incentive R&D Training Incentive of Rs. 10,000 per person per month can be availed for 12 months. This incentive is intended for employees engaged in core R&D who have:

- Undergraduate degree in technology/sciences and work experience of 7 years, or
- Post-graduate degree in technology/sciences and work experience of 5 years, or
- Doctorate in sciences/technology

It excludes employees in administration or in support services deployed in R&D projects. Projects availing the R&D Training Incentive shall not be eligible for Training Subsidy under the Structured Package.

3. Enhanced Quality Certification Incentive Projects obtaining certifications like ISO, ISI, BIS, FPO, BEE, AGMARK, and ECOMARK or any other national or international certification shall be given a subsidy of 50% of the total cost incurred for obtaining the certification, as certified by the Chartered Accountant, limited to Rs. 1 cr. for the period of investment.

4. Enhanced Intellectual Property Incentive The Government will reimburse 50% of the expenditure incurred by the Project subject to a maximum of Rs. 1 cr. for the period of investment for in-house R&D for a patent, copyright, trademarks, and Geographical Indicators registration and up to Rs 5 cr. for standalone R&D assets.

You may download the complete document here

[Industrial Policy](#)

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO IIF BATALA & CHANDIGARH CHAPTERS

Objective of the Visit:

The IIF President's visit to Batala and Chandigarh Chapters was part of the ongoing national initiative to strengthen Chapter connect, promote grassroots engagement, and accelerate membership growth through direct interaction.

The central aim of the visit was to conduct Chapter-level Town Hall meetings, aligned with the vision of "Each One Get One", to build a more responsive and participative IIF.

2. Chapter: Batala

Event: Chapter Day Celebration and Town Hall

Venue: Hotel Wonder

Key Highlights:

The event was well-attended by over 60+ local foundrymen, entrepreneurs, and regional stakeholders.

The President addressed the members, outlining IIF's national vision, emphasizing collaboration, modernization, and the need for stronger Chapter involvement.

A Town Hall interaction was conducted by the NOBs, facilitated by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, along with Northern Region leadership.

The discussion revolved around:

- Challenges faced by foundries in Tier-2 cities.
- Training and skilling opportunities.
- Need for technical seminars and localized support.
- Membership mobilization under the "Each One Get One" campaign.

Feedback was constructive, with multiple members expressing willingness to support local events and onboarding new members.

3. Chapter: Chandigarh

Event: Technical Seminar – "Manual to Mastery" & Town Hall

Venue: Hotel Ramada, Jalandhar

In Collaboration With: Northern Region & Bharat Sinto

Key Highlights:

A high-quality technical session was conducted in partnership with Bharat Sinto, focused on Semi-Automatic Moulding solutions.

Over 100 participants attended, including students, suppliers, and IIF members from adjoining cities.

During the Town Hall, open dialogue encouraged member participation and chapter-level planning.

Key discussions:

- Promotion of technical excellence through such seminars.
- Better industry-academia connect in Chandigarh region.
- Steps to strengthen local chapter activities and revive dormant memberships.

4. Outcomes & Way Forward:

The Town Hall format proved to be a highly effective engagement tool, enabling two-way communication and deeper connect with members.

The message of “Each One Get One” was well received, and Chapter Committees were urged to set internal targets for new memberships.

Chapters expressed interest in hosting more focused technical events and industry dialogues.

A follow-up mechanism will be initiated to track progress in member mobilization, chapter activity calendar, and training initiatives.



IIF Meeting with Bureau of Indian Standards



IIF Delegation comprising of key industry members including Mr V. P. Prem Kumar, Mr Ganesh Jagadeesan, Dr CB Senthil Kumar, Mr K Velusamy, Sr. Adviser IIF - Dr Sheela Bhide, IIF Director - Mr Sanjeev Kumar and IIF Joint Director - Mr Basant Kumar, had a meeting with BIS officials with regards to the representation on marking fee issue on 9th May 2025 at Manak Bhawan, New Delhi.

The meeting was held with Mr. Pramod Tiwari, IAS, Director General, BIS and Sh. S K Verma, Senior Director and Head, CMD-2, BIS who takes care of the marking/ licensing fee process. IIF had a detailed discussion on industry concerns and recommendations to revise the existing applicable fee.

During the detailed meeting, BIS mentioned that calculation of marking fee for BIS licensing can vary depending on several factors, such as product category, manufacturing volume, and complexity. BIS has agreed and assured to reconsider IIF's representation and towards this, BIS has requested some specific details for their review towards the same which FIC will submit shortly.

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DPIIT and Hafele India Sign MoU to Boost Manufacturing Innovation and Localized Supply Chains

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Hafele India Pvt. Ltd. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 07 May 2025 in New Delhi, to strengthen India's manufacturing and innovation ecosystem by empowering product startups, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to building resilient local supply chains and accelerating India's vision of becoming a global manufacturing hub.

Under this strategic collaboration, Hafele will drive initiatives that support product innovation, local sourcing, and entrepreneurship through targeted investments, mentorship, and integration into global value chains [read more..](#)

Cabinet approves National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and Setting up of Five National Centres of Excellence for Skilling

In a major step towards transforming vocational education in India, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and the Setting up of five (5) National Centres of Excellence for Skilling as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

National Scheme for Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation and Setting up of five (5) National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) for Skilling will be implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme as per announcement, made under Budget 2024-25 and Budget 2025-26 with outlay of Rs.60,000 crore (Central Share: Rs.30,000 crore, State Share: Rs.20,000 crore and Industry Share: Rs.10,000 crore), with co-financing to the extent of 50% of Central share by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, equally [read more..](#)

Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Starmer welcome the conclusion of a mutually beneficial India -UK Free Trade Agreement and the Double Contribution Convention

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom H.E. Sir Keir Starmer had a telephone conversation today. The two leaders welcomed the successful conclusion of an ambitious and mutually beneficial India-UK Free Trade Agreement along with the Double Contribution Convention.

The Leaders described it a historic milestone in the bilateral Comprehensive Strategic Partnership that would foster trade, investment, innovation and job creation in both the economies. Both agreed that the landmark agreements between the two big and open market economies of the world will open new opportunities for businesses, strengthen economic linkages, and deepen people-to-people ties [read more..](#)

India's Total Exports Grow by 6.01% to Reach Record \$824.9 Billion in 2024–25, Up from \$778.1 Billion in 2023–24:RBI Report

India's total exports have touched an all-time high of US\$824.9 billion in the financial year 2024–25, as per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India on services trade for March 2025. This marks a growth of 6.01% over the previous year's export figure of US\$778.1 billion, setting a new milestone in the country's trade trajectory.



Services exports continued to drive the growth momentum, reaching a historic high of US\$387.5 billion in 2024–25, up 13.6% from US\$341.1 billion in the previous year. For March 2025, services exports stood at US\$35.6 billion, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 18.6% compared to US\$30.0 billion [read more..](#)

Indian and U.S. officials meet in Washington, Bilateral Trade Agreement Talks Make Positive Progress

As part of ongoing discussions on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, representatives of India's Department of Commerce and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative met in Washington, D.C. from 23-25 April 2025. This follows earlier bilateral discussions held in March, 2025 in New Delhi.

During the meetings in Washington, D.C., the team had fruitful discussions on wide ranging subjects covering tariff and non-tariff matters. The team discussed the pathway for concluding the first tranche of the mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement by Fall of 2025, including through

opportunities for early mutual wins. While productive Sectoral expert level engagements have taken place through the virtual format, in-person Sectoral engagements are planned from end May [read more..](#)

Towards a new approach for green hydrogen production

Researcher have developed fresh insights into proton adsorption behaviour at the surface of catalysts, which can help construct electrocatalysts useful for producing green hydrogen.

Plethora of heterostructures have been studied for green hydrogen generation with the effect of built-in electric field (BIEF). However, the metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) based p-n heterojunction can be considered as a promising material to have robust BIEF due to asymmetric electronic environment.

Recent research is focused on leveraging BIEFs at the interface of different electronic environments to improve hydrogen production. Therefore, analysing and correlating parameters such as the work function, BIEF, and Gibbs free energy (a thermodynamic potential that can be used to calculate the maximum amount of work) is crucial for understanding the reaction mechanism. The difference in work functions between two materials is what drives the initial charge redistribution, which in turn sets up the built-in potential across the junction. BIEF directly affects the dynamics of proton adsorption/desorption, which was evaluated by Gibbs free energy of adsorption [read more..](#)

Centre Writes to Chief Secretaries/Administrators of all States/UTs on Measures for Effective Management and mitigation of Adverse Effects of Extreme Heat Waves on Workers and Labourers

The Ministry of Labour and Employment has advised all States and UTs to ensure effective measures to reduce the impact of extreme heat waves on workers and labourers engaged in different sectors.

In a letter addressed to Chief Secretaries /Administrators of all States/UTs, Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment emphasized upon the need to issue directions to the occupiers / employers / construction companies / industries to undertake necessary steps to mitigate the adverse effects of extreme heatwave on workers/labourers.

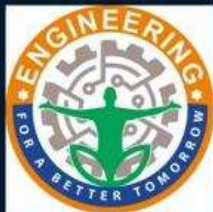
The letter recommended for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach listing out various steps including rescheduling of working hours, ensuring adequate drinking water facilities, ventilation and cooling of work places, rest areas, conducting regular health check-ups for workers and providing emergency ice packs and heat illness prevention materials to construction workers etc [read more..](#)

Centre imposes 12% safeguard duty to shield Indian steel sector

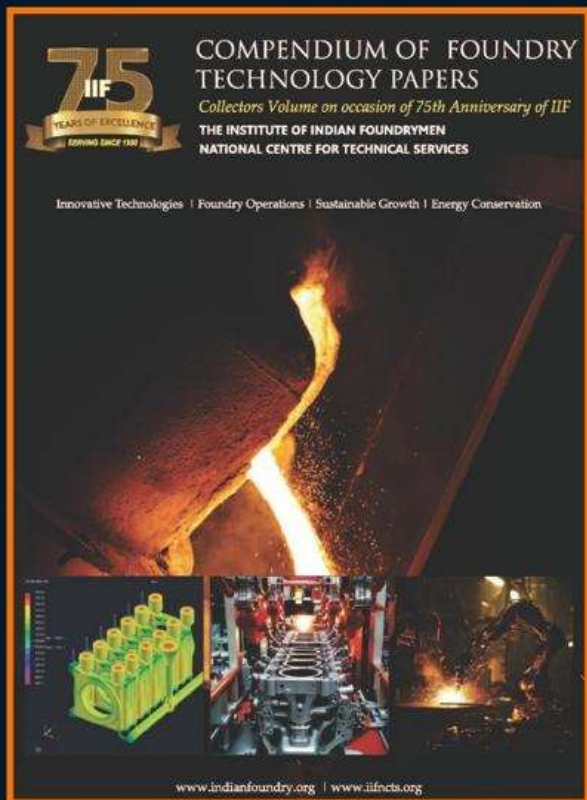
The Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy, welcomed the decision to impose a 12 percent safeguard duty on the import of certain non-alloy and alloy steel flat products. This

measure is a timely and necessary step to protect domestic steel manufacturers from the adverse impact of import surges and to ensure fair competition in the market.

“This move will provide critical relief to domestic producers, especially small and medium-scale enterprises, who have faced immense pressure from rising imports. The safeguard duty will help restore market stability and reinforce the confidence of the domestic industry.” [read more..](#)



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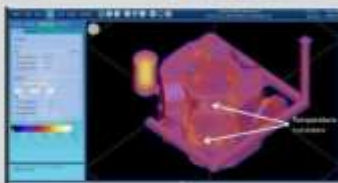
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India offers tariff-free access to US steel, auto parts in trade talks

India has proposed zero tariffs on steel, auto components and pharmaceuticals on a reciprocal basis up to a certain quantity of imports in its trade negotiations with the US, people familiar with the matter said.

Beyond this threshold, imported industrial goods would attract the regular level of duties, the people said, asking not to be identified as the discussions are private. The offer was made by Indian trade officials visiting Washington late last month to expedite negotiations on a bilateral trade deal expected by fall this year, the people said.

The two nations are prioritizing certain sectors to strike an early trade deal before the end of the 90-day pause on US President Donald Trump's tit-for-tat tariffs, the people said [read more..](#)

US may seek tariff cuts, regulatory reforms in trade deal with India

The US is expected to push for sweeping changes in India's policies, ranging from tariff reductions to regulatory overhauls, that could benefit American firms and exporters, under the proposed bilateral trade agreement with India, think tank GTRI said on Sunday.

In the agri sector, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the US demands include scaling back India's minimum price support (MSP) programmes for crops like rice and wheat, removing restrictions on genetically modified (GM) imports, and lowering farm tariffs.

Similarly, on dairy, the US argues that India's GM-free feed certification and facility registration protocols effectively bar American dairy imports [read more..](#)

India likely to secure first trade deal amid US tariff push: Treasury Secy

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has indicated that India is on track to become the first country to finalise a bilateral trade agreement aimed at avoiding President [Donald Trump's proposed reciprocal tariffs](#).

During a media roundtable held alongside the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, Bessent said trade negotiations with India are nearing completion. He attributed the progress to India's relatively open trade practices.

"India also has fewer non-tariff trade barriers, obviously, no currency manipulation, very, very little government subsidies, so that reaching a deal with the Indians is much easier," Bessent told reporters, as quoted by the *New York Post* [read more..](#)

India-UK FTA: From auto to textiles, India Inc hopes to reap benefits

Bilateral trade between India and the United Kingdom (UK) will increase by 25.5 billion pounds with the sealing of their free-trade agreement (FTA), and it is expected to benefit sectors such as textiles, marine products, leather, gems and jewellery, footwear, and engineering goods, said companies and industry experts.

It may also give an impetus to trade in services: Information technology, finance, and education.

Trade between the two nations in 2024 stood at 42.6 billion pounds.

However, some segments like medical devices raised concern over the possibility of the UK becoming a transshipment hub for Chinese products [read more..](#)

Hero MotoCorp records 43% YoY fall in April auto sales due to temporary production halt

Hero MotoCorp said that it had dispatched 305,406 motorcycles and scooters units in April 2025, which is lower by 43% as compared with the dispatch figure of 533,585 units recorded in April 2024.

Domestic sales and export sales during the period under review were 288,524 units (down 44% YoY) and 16,882 (down 17% YoY), respectively.

While motorcycle dispatches declined by 42% to 286,089 units, scooter dispatches fell by 48% to 19,317 units in April 2025 over April 2024.

As part of a planned operational strategy, the company implemented a temporary production halt from April 17/19 at its Dharuhera, Gurugram, Haridwar, and Neemrana facilities to facilitate supply chain alignment and conduct scheduled maintenance and infrastructure enhancements; normalization is anticipated in May 2025 [read more..](#)

Trump to ease 25% auto tariffs to support US carmakers, factory jobs

President [Donald Trump](#) will sign executive orders Tuesday to relax some of his 25 per cent tariffs on autos and auto parts, the White House said, a significant reversal as the import taxes threatened to hurt domestic manufacturers.

Automakers and independent analyses have indicated that the tariffs could raise prices, reduce sales and make US production less competitive worldwide. Trump portrayed the changes as a bridge toward automakers moving more production into the United States.

"We just wanted to help them during this little transition, short term," Trump told reporters. "We didn't want to penalise them."

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who spoke earlier at a White House briefing on Tuesday, said the goal was to enable automakers to create more domestic manufacturing jobs [read more..](#)

Auto component firms bank on localisation, diversification amid tariff woes

As the global trade landscape faces potential shifts with evolving tariff policies, Indian auto component manufacturers are proactively strategising to mitigate adverse impacts. From increased localisation to strategic market diversification, industry leaders are recalibrating operations to maintain resilience in an evolving global trade environment.

Leading players such as Kinetic Engineering and Samvardhana Motherson International (SAMIL) are placing strong emphasis on localisation, long-term partnerships, and a cautious yet opportunistic outlook on market diversification [read more..](#)

Auto exports rise 19% to over 5.3 mn units in FY25 on strong demand: Siam

Automobile exports from India rose by 19 per cent to over 5.3 million units in the last 2024-25 fiscal year driven by robust demand for passenger vehicles, two wheelers and commercial vehicles in the overseas markets.

Overall exports last fiscal stood at 5.4 million (5,363,089) units as compared with 4.5 million (4,500,494) units in 2023-24 fiscal ending March 31, 2024.

Passenger vehicle shipments rose by 15 per cent to 770,364 units last fiscal as against 672,105 units in FY24 [read more..](#)

Tractor sales likely to hit record high in FY26 on monsoon, MSP hike

Expected above-normal monsoon, increased minimum support prices (MSPs) for key crops, and rising replacement and construction demand are likely to drive domestic tractor sales to a record high of approximately 9,75,000 units in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), marking a 3-5 per cent year-on-year growth.

In FY25, tractor sales had dipped by 1.04 per cent.

Sales for that year had come in at 8,83,095 units, down from 8,92,410 units in FY24, according to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) [read more..](#)

Mahindra & Mahindra records 34% jump in tractors sales in March

Mahindra & Mahindra's Farm Equipment Sector sold 34,934 tractors in month of March 2025 compared to 26,024 units in March 2024, recording a growth of 34%. Total sales include domestic tractors sales of 32,582 units (up 34% YoY) and tractor exports of 2352 units (up 35% YoY).

Commenting on the March performance, Hemant Sikka, President - Farm Equipment Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra said We have sold 32582 tractors in the domestic market during March' 25, a growth of 34% over last year. The tractor industry has been witnessing good momentum on account of favorable weather conditions, good reservoir levels, strong rabi outlook and positive terms of trade for farmers. Harvest season has commenced in the northern regions and is expected to progress smoothly across the country [read more..](#)

Escorts Kubota tractor sales volume rises 15% YoY in March'25

The tractor manufacturer announced that its agri-machinery business division sales grew by 15.03% to 11,374 units in March 2025 as against 9,888 units sold in March 2024.

While domestic sales also grew 15.18% to 10,775 units in March 2025 compared with 9,355 units sold in March 2024.

The companys exports jumped 12.38% to 599 units in March 2025 as against 533 units posted in March 2024.

Further, the company's construction equipment business division sold 614 machines in March 2025, registering a decline of 16.35% from 734 machines sold in March 2024.

Escorts Kubota is primarily engaged in the business of manufacturing agricultural tractors, engines for agricultural tractors, construction, earthmoving, and material handling equipment; round and flat tubes; heating elements; and double-acting hydraulics [read more..](#)

MSMEs Cannot Afford Additional Rs 1.5 Lakhs per year as Cost of Compliance due to IMS

The India SME Forum (ISF), the country's largest non-governmental organization for small and medium enterprises, has urged the government to reconsider the timeline for the implementation of the Invoice Management System (IMS) under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) framework. Given significant operational and financial challenges faced by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in integrating IMS, the Forum is calling for a phased implementation for transition to ensure small businesses can adapt without financial or operational distress.

Since its introduction in 2017, GST has played a transformative role in formalizing the Indian economy, increasing transparency, and streamlining tax compliance. The IMS,

introduced as an extension of the GST system, aims to eliminate Input Tax Credit (ITC) mismatches by ensuring real-time invoice reconciliation [read more..](#)

NITI bats for MSME Credit Guarantee Fund overhaul, AI, skilling support

The government must reform the existing Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) to make it more transparent, reduce premium rates, and raise coverage for women-led units, along with several fiscal, technological, and infrastructural interventions to enhance the competitiveness of Indian MSMEs, the NITI Aayog said in a report on Friday.

“The Trust managing the CGTMSE fund lacks regulatory authority and oversight in its operations, governance, and access to state-owned funds. The government should bring the Trust under a regulatory authority to balance fund availability with financial discipline [read more..](#)

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR INDUSTRY



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**Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Government of India**

Inviting applications for:

NATIONAL MSME AWARDS 2024



CATEGORY OF AWARDS

Category	Manufacturing Sector (12 Awards)	Service Sector (09 Awards)
Micro Enterprises	3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd)	3 Awards (1st, 2nd & 3rd)
Small Enterprises	2 Awards (1st & 2nd)	2 Awards (1st & 2nd)
Medium Enterprises	1 Award (1st)	1 Award (1st)
Technologically Efficient Enterprises	3 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro, Small & Medium	-
Export Oriented Enterprises	3 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro, Small & Medium	3 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro, Small & Medium



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SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARDS

Category	Manufacturing	Service
Women Entrepreneurship	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small
Entrepreneurs belonging to SC/ST	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small
Entrepreneurs belonging to 'Divyang'	One Award (1st)– Award for overall MSME Category	One Award (1st)– Award for overall MSME Category
Entrepreneurs belonging to states of NER	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small	2 Awards (1st) – One each for Micro & Small



Note:

- Only online applications will be considered.
- An enterprise may apply for more than one category of award. However, in no case a particular MSME will get more than one award.



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- For Registration, Eligibility criteria & other details, please visit:

https://dashboard.msme.gov.in/na/Ent_NA_Admin/Ent_index.aspx

Or

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For more details, please contact the MSME Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO) of the respective State.

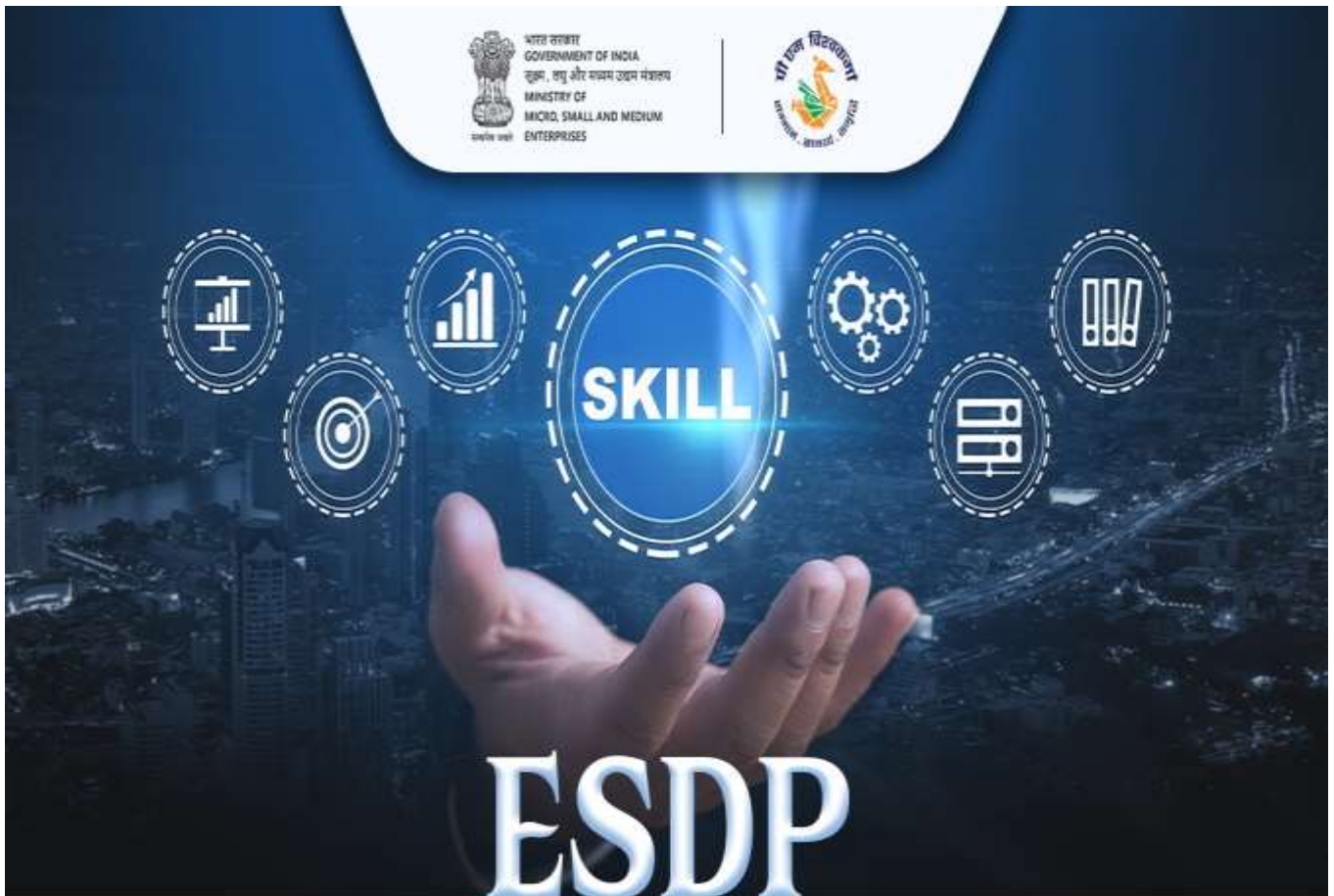
The Ministry of MSME honors its outstanding contributions by conferring 35 NATIONAL AWARDS for 2024 in various categories.

You can apply through the National Award portal

https://dashboard.msme.gov.in/na/Ent_NA_Admin/Ent_index.aspx



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Achievements

Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) Scheme

MSE-CDP



Supports the sustainability and growth of MSEs.



Creates and upgrades infrastructural facilities in the new/ existing Industrial Areas/Clusters of MSEs.



Sets up Common Facility Centres.



Promotes green & sustainable manufacturing technology for the clusters.

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- Gov Assistance: up to **80%** of the maximum Project cost of Rs. **30 crores**.

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- Development of land, roads, drainage, power distribution etc. in new/existing industrial (multi-product) areas/estates/Flatbed Factory Complex.
- Gov Assistance: up to **70%** of the maximum Project cost of **Rs. 15 crores**.

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- For more information, visit- **cluster.dcmsme.gov.in**

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RAW MATERIAL PRICE TRENDS

India's ferrous & non ferrous raw material prices



SI No.	Particulars	Location	prices	Remarks
1	Copper Armature Scrap, Cu 99%	Delhi	792,000	As on 9 May
2	Copper Armature Scrap,BME, Cu 98%	Mumbai	813,000	As on 9 May
3	Copper primary CC Wire rods (CCR),BME, 8 mm, Cu 99.99%	Mumbai	880,000	As on 9 May
4	Copper primary CC Wire rods (CCR), 8 mm, Cu 99.99%	Delhi	860,000	As on 9 May
5	Copper secondary CC Wire rods (CCR), 8 mm, Cu 99.99%	Delhi	844,000	As on 9 May
6	Ferro Manganese, HC 70%, 25-150 mm	Durgapur	72,000	As on 9 May
7	Ferro Manganese, HC 70%, 25-150 mm	Raipur	72,300	As on 9 May
8	Ferro Manganese,MC (Mn 70% min), 10-150mm	Durgapur	96,100	As on 8 May
9	Ferro Molybdenum (FeMo60%), Mo 60%, 10-100mm	Nagpur	2,541,000	As on 9 May
10	Ferro Silicon, FeSi 70%,25-100 mm	Guwahati	95,100	As on 9 May
11	GP 120 GSM, 0.6 mm	Mumbai	67,000	As on 8 May
12	GP 120 GSM, 0.6 mm	Chennai	69,900	As on 8 May
13	GP 120 GSM, 0.6 mm	Delhi	67,300	As on 8 May
14	GP 120 GSM, 0.6 mm	Hyderabad	69,200	As on 8 May
15	GP 120 GSM, 0.8 mm	Mumbai	65,500	As on 8 May
16	GP 120 GSM, 0.8-1.6 mm	Chennai	68,400	As on 8 May
17	GP 120 GSM, 0.7 mm	Delhi	65,800	As on 8 May
18	GP 120 GSM, 0.8 mm	Hyderabad	67,700	As on 8 May
19	HC Ferro Chrome (Low Silicon), HC 60%, Si -2%, 10-150 mm	Jajpur	106,000	As on 8 May
20	HC Ferro Chrome (Medium Silicon), HC 60%, Si-4%, 10-150 mm	Jajpur	100,400	As on 9 May
21	Melting Scrap ,CR Bushelling (Loose)	Ludhiana	36,900	As on 9 May
22	Melting Scrap ,CR Bushelling (Loose)	Mandi Gobindgarh	37,400	As on 9 May
23	Melting Scrap ,CR Bushelling (Loose)	Jalna	35,700	As on 9 May
24	Melting Scrap ,CR Bushelling (Bundle)	Chennai	34,600	As on 9 May
25	Melting Scrap ,CR Bushelling (Bundle)	Ahmedabad	36,700	As on 9 May
26	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Mumbai	33,000	As on 9 May
27	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Jalna	32,700	As on 9 May
28	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Alang	33,900	As on 9 May
29	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Raipur	32,000	As on 9 May
30	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Durgapur	33,000	As on 9 May
31	Melting Scrap, HMS (80:20)	Mandi Gobindgarh	34,000	As on 9 May
32	Nickel Cathode, BME, Ni 99.99%	Mumbai	1,350,000	As on 9 May
33	Pig Iron, Foundary Grade	Ludhiana	40,300	As on 10 May
34	Pig Iron, Foundary Grade	AHMEDABAD	43,000	As on 10 May
35	Pig Iron, Foundary Grade	Delhi	40,500	As on 10 May
36	Pig Iron, Foundary Grade	Durgapur	40,000	As on 10 May
37	Pig Iron, Foundary Grade	Kolhapur	43,300	As on 10 May
38	Pig Iron, Steel Grade	Durgapur	32,850	As on 9 May
39	Pig Iron, Steel Grade	Raipur	33,800	As on 9 May
40	Pig Iron, Steel Grade	Hyderabad	36,400	As on 9 May
41	Pig Iron, Steel Grade	Ludhiana	36,300	As on 9 May
42	Pig Iron, Steel Grade	Raigarh	33,200	As on 9 May
43	Tin Pure Ingot, BME, Sn 99.99%	Mumbai	2,761,000	As on 9 May

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28.10.2026 - 30.10.2026

Monterrey, Mexico

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21.06.2027 - 25.06.2027

Düsseldorf, Germany

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