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Export promotion measures launched to offset tariffs

The government said it is taking steps to reduce the impact of the tariff hike imposed by the US administration on Indian goods. These measures, which include launching an export promotion mission, will enhance diversification and resilience of the country's trade, it said.

"The government continues to work to mitigate the impact of the US tariff measures on Indian exports through a comprehensive multi-pronged strategy encompassing intensive engagement with the US government for a mutually beneficial India-US bilateral trade agreement," minister of state for commerce and industry, said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

He said immediate relief has been given through trade relief measures of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the announcement of the credit guarantee scheme for exporters, enhancement of domestic demand through GST reforms, and negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with more countries.

On July 31, the US issued an executive order with reciprocal tariff rates for its trading partners. The order notified country-specific additional ad-valorem duty rates for certain American trading partners, including those which have agreed to or are in the process of concluding trade agreements with them.

India's gems, jewellery exports in November grew 20 pc to USD 2.5 bn: GJEPC

India's gems and jewellery exports grew 19.64 per cent to USD 2.5 billion in November compared to the same month last year, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

Total exports stood at USD 2.1 billion during the corresponding month of the previous year, according to GJEPC data. The overall exports of gems and jewellery were flat at USD 18.86 billion during April-November period as compared to USD 18.85 billion in the same period of last year. The overall gross export of Cut & Polished diamonds was at USD 919.74 million in November as compared to USD 666.34 million in the same period of the previous year.

Provisional gross export of Polished Lab Grown Diamonds witnessed a 10.55 per cent rise in November at USD 76.09 million over USD 68.83 million a year ago.

Meanwhile, volatile prices affected gold

jewellery exports which were flat at USD 1.21 billion in November against USD 1.23 billion a year ago.

Studded gold jewellery shipments surged to USD 828.89 million last month from USD 555.39 million a year ago due to high demand for job works. Exports of silver jewellery surged to USD 197.97 million from USD 63.99 million.

"Markets are stabilising and demand in many export markets is picking up including Hong Kong, China and the Middle East. Even as the performance in the US is slow, robust demand in other markets is adding on to the growth. Exports of gold studded jewellery surged as job work demand has gone up in India," GJEPC chairman Kirit Bhansali told PTI.

Silver exports had suffered in the previous months due to shortage of the bullion, however, with the supply chain restored the shipments surged, he added.

Government Promotes Technical Textiles and Handloom Sectors Through NTTM and Startup Initiatives

The Minister of State for [Textiles](#), Pabitra Margherita, stated that to promote technical [textiles](#) in India, the National Technical Textile Mission (NTTM) was launched in 2020 with a fund outlay of Rs 1,480 crore.

Under NTTM, the Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) Scheme supports technical textiles entrepreneurship with grants up to Rs 50 lakh per start-up, approving 24 so far.

Responding to a question in Parliament, the Minister said that Promotion & Market Development component under the flagship scheme has held 35 national and international events to boost awareness and demand.

Handloom Workforce Statistics
According to the Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-20, there are 26,73,891 handloom weavers and 8,48,621 allied workers in the handloom sector across India.

Support Through Startup India Initiatives

Under the Startup India initiative, the Government, through the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), implements three flagship schemes: the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), and Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS). These schemes provide funding to various sectors, including textiles and [fabrics](#).

Handloom and Handicraft Sector Support

The Government promotes handloom and handicraft products through NHDP events and provides financial support for raw materials, upgraded looms, infrastructure, product innovation, marketing, concessional loans, and social security. To boost entrepreneurship, 163 Handloom Producer Companies have been established nationwide.

Labour ministry and microsoft ink mou to strengthen jobs, AI training, and global workforce mobility

The Ministry of Labour & Employment signed an MoU with Microsoft to expand employment opportunities, scale AI-driven skilling programmes, and enhance global mobility for India's workforce. The agreement was formalised in New Delhi in the presence of Union Labour & Employment Minister and Microsoft CEO underlining the collaboration between the government and a global technology partner to strengthen job platforms and skills development. Under the partnership, Microsoft will encourage more than 15,000 employers and partners from its global network to join the Ministry's National Career Service (NCS) platform — a move

expected to deepen access to formal jobs, support high-growth sectors and open overseas opportunities for Indian professionals and young workers.

The MoU also scales up AI-focused skilling programmes through DigiSaksham, aimed at equipping millions with capabilities in AI, cloud computing, cybersecurity and other digital productivity tools to meet emerging global industry demands.

Describing the collaboration as a significant step, He said it reflects a shared intention to draw on India's demographic advantage and create a "globally competitive, digitally skilled and future-ready workforce."

He added that Microsoft's involvement will accelerate job access and strengthen India's position in global labour mobility.

Acknowledging India's sharp expansion in social protection coverage, Nadella praised the e-Shram platform for bringing millions of unorganised workers under the safety net and enabling real-time, worker-focused policymaking.

He also expressed Microsoft's interest in supporting India's next phase of building an Employment Digital Public Infrastructure (Employment DPI), saying it has the potential to spur private-sector innovation and deliver interoperable labour-market solutions at scale.

According to the Ministry, Microsoft's Azure and AI strengths will support efforts to modernise employment services, enhance the NCS platform, strengthen e-Shram analytics and labour market intelligence, and improve job-matching systems. The partnership will also leverage Microsoft's partner ecosystem to widen employer outreach and drive greater adoption of NCS across industry, training institutions and other stakeholders.

Nadella met Prime Minister and announced the company's largest-ever investment in Asia, committing more than \$17.5 billion (around ₹1.5 lakh crore) to

develop artificial intelligence capabilities in India. Following the meeting, Prime Minister Modi posted on X: "When it comes to AI, the world is optimistic about India! Had a very productive discussion with Mr. Satya Nadella. Happy to see India being the place where Microsoft will make its largest-ever investment in Asia. The youth of India will harness this opportunity to innovate and leverage the power of AI for a better planet."

In a separate post, Nadella said, "Thank you, PM Narendra Modi, for an inspiring conversation on India's AI opportunity. To support the country's ambitions, Microsoft is committing US\$17.5B — our largest investment ever in Asia — to help build the infrastructure, skills, and sovereign capabilities needed for India's AI first future."

Nadella also met Ashwini Vaishnav to discuss the role of artificial intelligence in public welfare, emerging technologies and data sovereignty. Vaishnav wrote on X, "Met Microsoft CEO Mr. Satya Nadella. Discussed the use of AI for public good, frontier technologies, and data sovereignty. Microsoft's landmark investment reflects India's rise as a reliable global technology partner. This partnership will drive the country's leap from digital to AI public infrastructure."

RBI updates rules for Basic Savings Bank Deposit accounts under revised conduct norms

The Reserve Bank of India has issued Amendment Directions to update its Responsible Business Conduct Directions, 2025, formally revising the framework for Basic Savings Bank Deposit (BSBD) accounts offered by commercial banks.

The updated rules expand the set of minimum facilities that every BSBD account must provide to ensure greater ease and accessibility for low-value deposit holders.

Under the revised norms, BSBD accounts will offer unlimited monthly deposits, free ATM or debit card usage without issuance or renewal fees, cheque-books with at least 25 leaves per year, internet and mobile banking, and either a passbook or a monthly statement.

Banks must also allow a minimum of four free withdrawals a month, including ATM and inter-bank ATM transactions.

US rate cut eases pressure on rupee, stocks, but road ahead uneasy

The Federal Reserve on Thursday reduced US benchmark interest rates by 0.25 percentage points to 3.5-3.75 percent, the lowest in nearly three years. However, the central bank's third cut of the year drew policymakers' dissent amid a weakening job market, America's inflation trajectory, and the state of its economy. The dot plot—the Fed members' individual expectations on rates—indicated one more reduction in 2026 and 2027 each, before the federal funds rate hits the longer-run target of 3 percent. In other words, the hawkish move carried caution flags about inflation favouring higher rates, while those with a dovish stance argued for lower rates to support the labour market. On balance, the central bank signalled a tougher road ahead, indicating that further easing may be put on hold. Nonetheless, the rate cut led to a rally in the American and Asian stock markets; even the Sensex and the Nifty ended three-day losing streaks to close 426.86 and 140.55 points higher, respectively. On the US economy, the

Fed raised the 2026 GDP growth projection to 2.3 percent, while it pegged inflation above its 2 percent target until 2028. As for the effect of tariffs, Powell noted it would be a one-time shift in price levels and not an ongoing inflation stirrer.

A Fed rate cut often makes global liquidity cheaper, softens the dollar, and lowers the yield of US Treasuries. As dollar investments become less lucrative, foreign portfolio investors explore emerging markets like India. The upside of such capital inflows is that it offers relief to the rupee, eases pressure on the Indian markets, and opens up space for the RBI to reduce rates again. Indian markets have been bleeding despite the recent rate cut, thanks to persistent foreign portfolio outflows, rupee depreciation, and uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. The emerging markets, particularly India, can benefit from a softer dollar, though volatility cannot be ruled out amid the swirling geopolitical uncertainties.

TRAI launches pilot for customer control over spam call and SMS

The initiative, involving nine TSPs and eleven major banks (including SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank), aims to close a regulatory gap by providing consumers with greater control and transparency over previously recorded offline consents.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India ([Trai](#)) has launched a pilot where selected customers will receive an SMS to continue, modify or revoke consent for promotional communications under the [Digital Consent Acquisition \(DCA\)](#) process. Launched in collaboration with the [Reserve Bank of India \(RBI\)](#), the pilot begins with nine telecom service providers (TSPs) and eleven major banks, including State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, [ICICI Bank](#) and others, that have completed necessary technical integration.

Secure Mechanism for Consent Management

Under the initiative, selected customers will receive an SMS from the short code '127000', directing them to a secure consent-management page. There, they can view all previously recorded consents including older, paper-based ones and choose to continue, modify or revoke them. No personal or financial data will be requested.

Closing the Gap in Consent Transparency

While existing rules under the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, allow consumers to block or allow promotional communications, they do not provide a mechanism for users to examine or revoke legacy offline consents. This gap impacted consumer control and transparency, Trai said.

Insurance companies must switch to 1600-series numbers by Feb 15: TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) has asked all [insurance companies](#) to adopt special 1600-series [telephone numbers](#) by February 15, to help protect consumers from [fraud calls](#). All entities regulated by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India must use the designated numbering series for customer service and transaction-related calls, Trai said in a direction issued. The deadline was set in consultation with the insurance regulator. The 1600 series, assigned by the Department of

Telecommunications specifically for banking, financial services and insurance sector entities and government organisations, will help citizens identify legitimate calls from regulated financial institutions, Trai said in a news release. This distinguishes them from standard 10-digit numbers that fraudsters often use to impersonate trusted institutions. Trai had previously issued similar mandates for entities regulated by the Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India and the pension fund regulator

India's telecom exports jump 72% in 5 years

Union Minister announced a 72% surge in India's telecom exports, reaching 18,406 crore in 2024–25.

[Telecom exports](#) have grown by 72% over the last five years, rising from 10,000 crore in 2020–21 to 18,406 crore in 2024–25, Union Minister for Communications informed the Lok Sabha.

He said that during the same period, telecom imports have remained stable at around 51,000 crore.

100-Crore Milestone

India currently has around 36 crore 5G subscribers, a number projected to rise to 42 crore by 2026 and reach 100 crore by 2030.

From Importer to Innovator

Placing the figures before the house, He added the export growth shows India's transformation from a large telecom importer to a globally competitive [manufacturing](#) and services hub. On India's rapid 5G rollout, the minister said that 767 out of 778 districts have already been connected to the 5G network.

RBI governor urges banks to lower intermediation costs, improve efficiency

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor has urged Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of public and select private sector banks to reduce intermediation costs and improve operational efficiency, citing the 125 basis points (bps) policy rate reduction since February.

"The Governor noted that the 125 basis point easing, combined with greater use of technology, should translate into lower intermediation costs and higher efficiency, thereby supporting sustainable growth and deeper financial inclusion," the RBI said in an official statement. These interactions are part of the Reserve Bank's ongoing engagement with senior management of regulated entities, following similar meetings held in January 2025.

The RBI Governor observed that while there has been steady improvement in the health and operations of the banking sector in 2025, banks must avoid complacency and remain vigilant in a dynamic environment.

He further urged banks to focus on reducing customer grievances and strengthening internal systems. Highlighting the growing risks of digital fraud, he called for more robust, intelligence-driven safeguards.

Appreciating banks' efforts on re-KYC and unclaimed deposits, he encouraged proactive outreach and sustained awareness campaigns. He also reaffirmed the Reserve Bank's consultative approach, referring to recent initiatives in consolidation and simplification of regulations, the statement said.

Participants shared their feedback and perspectives on a wide range of policy, supervisory, and operational matters, it added.

The interaction took place after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) lowered the benchmark repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent, the lowest level in three years.

According to RBI's monetary transmission data, banks' weighted average domestic term deposit rates fell by 102 basis points between February and September, while interest rates on new rupee loans declined by 73 basis points.

In the December policy review, the RBI proposed launching a two-month campaign from January 1, 2026, to address all complaints pending with the RBI Ombudsman for more than a month.

Government expands financial support measures for MSMEs to boost credit access

The Government of India has expanded a series of financial support measures aimed at improving access to credit for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Minister of State for MSMEs informed the Lok Sabha.

According to the MSME Ministry, multiple schemes have been strengthened to enhance the flow of credit and provide easier financing options for small businesses, artisans, and traditional craftsmen across the country.

One of the major steps includes increasing the guarantee ceiling under the Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) from 5 crore to 10 crore. The CGTMSE, set up jointly by the MSME Ministry and SIDBI in 2000, enables micro and small businesses to secure collateral-free loans through participating lending institutions.

Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), new micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector are eligible for a margin money subsidy of up to 35%. The subsidy is available for

projects costing up to 50 lakh in manufacturing and 20 lakh in services. The government also highlighted progress under PM Vishwakarma, launched in September 2023, to support artisans and craftspeople from 18 traditional trades. The scheme provides loans of up to 3 lakh with an interest subvention of up to 8%, along with a wider package of training and toolkit support.

In addition, the Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund has been established to infuse 50,000 crore into MSMEs through equity funding. Of this, 10,000 crore comes from the central government, with the remaining 40,000 crore mobilised from private equity and venture capital funds.

Beyond these flagship initiatives, the government has undertaken several measures to further ease credit access, including collateral-free loans for micro and small enterprises, wider adoption of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), introduction of a Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans up to ₹100 crore for machinery procurement, and a reduction in loan-processing timelines across banks.

Indian pharma exports jump over 9% to USD 30.47 billion in 2024–25: commerce secretary

Indian pharmaceutical products are globally recognised, with exports rising by 9% in 2024–25, Commerce Secretary said, highlighting India's expanding presence in quality-conscious global markets.

India's pharmaceutical exports stood at USD 30.47 billion in 2024–25, registering a growth of 9.4 percent over the previous year. He made the remarks while inaugurating a one-day Regional Chintan Shivir on Pharmaceutical Exports through a video address from Chandigarh. He noted that India's domestic pharmaceutical market is currently valued at around USD 60 billion and is expected to nearly double to approximately USD 130 billion by 2030, underlining the sector's scale, depth and innovation potential.

India is now the world's third-largest pharmaceutical producer by volume and 14th by value, with more than 3,000 companies, 10,500 manufacturing units and over 60,000 generic brands across 60 therapeutic areas. Indian medicines are exported to more than 200 markets worldwide, with over 60 percent of exports going to stringent regulatory destinations. The United States accounts for around 34 percent of exports, followed by Europe at about 19 percent, reflecting global trust in the quality and reliability of Indian pharmaceutical products.

The Chintan Shivir, organised by the Department of Commerce, Government of India, in collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL), brought together policymakers, regulators, industry representatives, exporters including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Indian missions abroad and technical experts to discuss strategies for strengthening India's pharmaceutical export ecosystem. Discussions focused on addressing non-tariff barriers and regulatory challenges, expanding regulatory

cooperation and mutual recognition mechanisms, and building a robust life sciences innovation ecosystem encompassing research and development, clinical trials, biologics, vaccines and biosimilars.

Participants were briefed on recent developments in India's international trade framework, including the India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement signed in July 2025, and the India–European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into force in October 2025. Emphasis was placed on the zero-tariff provisions under these agreements and their potential to enhance the competitiveness of Indian generic medicines, along with the investment and employment opportunities they could generate.

Technical sessions during the programme covered issues such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), skilled manpower development, emerging changes in the Foreign Trade Policy, the evolving Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and the implementation of revised Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP). Experts from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research–Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR–IMTECH), National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), state drug control authorities, and industry shared insights on regulatory readiness, quality management systems and workforce development.

The Chintan Shivir concluded with an interactive session on the revised Good Manufacturing Practices framework, reiterating the government's focus on regulatory strengthening, trade facilitation and close collaboration with industry to further enhance India's pharmaceutical export competitiveness and global standing.

Govt launches MCA21 V3 to boost ease of doing business and digital compliance

The government has introduced Version 3 of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs 21 (MCA21) portal to advance Ease of Doing Business and reinforce compliance mechanisms.

The update was shared by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs in response to a question during the current Parliament session.

He said MCA21 V3 has introduced several new digital modules. These include web-based filings, Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) and company modules, e-Enforcement, e-Adjudication and e-Consultation.

The platform also features an integrated e-learning system. All corporate filings are now routed exclusively through the upgraded portal. The minister said the portal enables real-time validation, pre-filled master data and reduced manual errors, helping companies cut compliance timelines and avoid repeated submissions.

The e-Adjudication module also allows entities to respond to notices online and meet statutory deadlines more efficiently.

He added that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) tools are being deployed for helpdesk support, feedback analysis and name-approval processes through fuzzy-matching algorithms for new companies and LLPs.

Highlighting recent reforms, the minister said the government has decriminalised several technical and procedural offences under the Companies Act, 2013, converting them into civil defaults with monetary penalties.

This shift has eased the burden on criminal courts and the National Company Law Tribunal while promoting trust-based compliance.

He noted that the reforms particularly benefit startups, small companies and MSMEs, with Section 446B allowing for reduced penalties for one-person companies, small companies, startups and producer companies.

India's exports rebound in Nov on supply-chain shifts, US restocking: GTRI

Supply-chain realignments and inventory restocking ahead of the US holiday season helped India's exports rebound in November, think tank GTRI said.

After recording contraction for two consecutive months, India's merchandise exports to the US rose 22.61 per cent to \$ 6.98 billion in November despite steep 50 per cent tariffs on domestic goods, according to commerce ministry data.

Imports during the month grew 38.29 per cent to \$ 5.25 billion.

During the April-November period of this fiscal year, the country's exports to the US increased 11.38 per cent to \$ 59.04 billion, while imports rose 13.49 per cent to \$ 35.4 billion.

The US has imposed a sweeping 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering American markets from August 27.

The Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in sectors such as electronics and machinery, "supply-chain realignments and inventory restocking ahead of the US holiday season also supported shipments".

It added that the rebound after September therefore reflects adjustment to a tougher tariff regime, not relief, and remains fragile, driven by short-term coping strategies rather than a lasting improvement.

The drop in India's exports to the US between May and September likely reflected the shock

and uncertainty created by impending tariff hikes, which led buyers to delay orders and run down inventories, GTRI Founder said.

"Once the higher tariffs became certain, exporters and US buyers began adjusting, absorbing part of the cost, renegotiating prices, and shifting toward less-affected or hard-to-substitute products," he said.

According to a GTRI report, the fall-and-recovery pattern is visible in 85 per cent of India's November exports across most product categories.

These include electronics (smartphones), gems and jewellery, machinery, vehicles and auto components, pharmaceuticals, textiles and garments, carpets, mineral fuels, organic chemicals, plastics, rubber articles, fish, dairy products, and edible fruits and nuts.

Exports of smartphones, India's single largest export, fell from \$ 2.29 billion in May to \$ 884.6 million in September, then recovered to \$ 1.8 billion in November.

Exports of gems and jewellery, a category that can swing sharply with demand and pricing, plunged from \$ 500.2 million in May to \$ 202.8 million in September, before surging back to \$ 406.2 million in November.

It said that a similar pattern played out in machinery and mechanical appliances where exports eased to \$ 516.8 million in September, then returned to \$ 614.6 million last month.

Pharmaceutical exports reached \$ 669.2 million in November.

Mineral fuels and oils fell moderately despite being tariff-exempt from \$ 291.5 million in May to \$ 251.5 million in September before rising to \$ 274.3 million in November, it added.

Exports record healthy growth in November

The country's exports, which fell by about 12 per cent in October, have registered healthy growth in November, Commerce and Industry Minister said. However, he did not disclose the numbers.

The commerce ministry will release the export and import data for November on December. "Merchandise exports are also on a strong wicket. Merchandise exports went down in October. Incidentally, November has gone up by a greater amount than what went down in October. If I aggregate October and November, there is growth in merchandise exports despite the global turmoil," he told reporters here.

He said India is working towards deeper integration with global trading partners, and in the months and days to come, "you will hear a lot more about our own successful engagements with many of our trading countries". India is negotiating several free trade agreements (FTAs) with various countries and regions, including the US, European Union (EU), New Zealand, Oman, Chile, and Peru

When asked about the rupee value against the US dollar, he said the Indian economy continues to power on. "The growth is at 8.2 per cent in Q2, beating all estimates. We have seen the lowest-ever inflation in the last few months. Foreign exchange reserves continue to be strong. Capital inflows and investments in infrastructure, consumer spending, and all the levers of the economy have demonstrated a great deal of positivity," the minister said.

The rupee hit a historic low of 90.15 against the US dollar on Wednesday, raising fears of inflation. India's exports contracted 11.8 per cent to USD 34.38 billion in October on account of the impact of high tariffs by the US, while the trade deficit widened to a record high of USD 41.68 billion, mainly due to a jump in gold imports. In April-October this fiscal year, exports increased marginally by 0.63 per cent to USD 254.25 billion, and imports rose 6.37 per cent to USD 451.08 billion.

Pfizer and Cipla forge exclusive marketing and distribution pact for key brands in India

Pfizer India and Cipla Limited announced a partnership where Cipla will exclusively market and distribute four brands of Pfizer in India.

Under the agreement, Cipla now has the sole right to market, distribute and sell the cough syrup Corex Dx and Corex LS, the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) Dolonex, the proton pump inhibitor (PPI) Nexsium and the oral antibiotic Dalacin C in India. Pfizer will continue to manufacture, source and supply these medicines to Cipla for India.

Country President, Pfizer India, said, "At Pfizer, expanding the reach of our medicines for patients is paramount and we are delighted to partner with Cipla to achieve this common mission. With Pfizer's legacy of breakthroughs, quality and innovation, and Cipla's extensive distribution reach and network, we believe this partnership will help meet the needs of millions of patients across India effectively.

Together, we are committed to advancing healthcare outcomes and enhancing patient lives everywhere."

Global Chief Operating Officer, Cipla Ltd. said, "At Cipla, we believe meaningful partnerships help make strong brands even stronger. This association with Pfizer aligns with our continued focus on building a formidable presence across key therapy areas and enhancing access to high quality treatments guided by our purpose of 'Caring for Life'. Our distribution capabilities will support wider reach for such trusted therapies to patients who need them the most." Pfizer has been serving patients across India for over 75 years, driven by a commitment to deliver breakthroughs that transform lives. This marks the first partnership between Pfizer and Cipla in India. The agreement aims to make Pfizer's medicines widely available by combining its well-established portfolio with Cipla's deep market reach.

India will surpass Germany to become third-largest economy by 2027

Union Minister expressed confidence that India will surpass Germany to become the world's third-largest economy by the end of 2027, lauding the policies and institutional reforms ushered in by the Centre under Prime Minister.

Union Minister was addressing the YEF Bharat Summit 2025' organised by the Young Entrepreneurs Forum Bharat here.

He said, India was once known as the golden bird. About 2,000 years ago, India's share in the world's gross domestic product (GDP) was 20 per cent. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, India will move forward with this vision and emerge as a star on the global stage.

India's economy has leapt from the 10th position 12 years ago to fourth, leaving

behind Japan, he said. By the end of 2027, we will surpass Germany to become the world's third-largest economy, asserted the minister.

In the race for economic development, India has already surpassed the country that tried to rule it for 200 years, he said without naming Britain.

Union Minister stressed that India's perseverance defines the country. This perseverance has transformed India from a country with a GDP of \$2.3 trillion to a nation with a GDP of \$4.5 trillion, he said.

The Union minister said the country is moving towards becoming a major global manufacturing hub, powered by the steady policies and deep institutional changes brought in by the Modi government.

He said, In every cabinet meeting, the prime minister instructs us ministers to throw colonial laws into the dustbin. He tells us to discuss with all stakeholders and resolve their difficulties to improve the ease of doing business.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, who also addressed the conference, said that MP has emerged as India's fastest-growing state.

He urged the large number of new entrepreneurs present at the conference to move forward with innovation, clear thinking, and social responsibility and to invest more in the state.

The CM said, The state has a favourable environment, resources, and facilities for industrial investment. The state government will provide all possible support to investors.

For the first time, he said, the state government has given priority to the Industry Department directly at the chief minister's level to ensure faster decision-making and strengthen investor confidence. The CM said that a new resolve has been taken in the state with a clear policy to improve lives through industries. This policy will not only accelerate economic development but also create large-scale employment opportunities for the youth, he said.

The CM also said that at the Global Investors Summit held in Bhopal in February, agreements worth Rs 32 trillion were signed, of which the foundation stone for projects involving investments worth Rs 6 trillion has already been laid.

100 वर्ग मीटर तक के भूखंड पर निरीक्षण शुल्क खत्म, परमिट फीस एक रुपये

राज्य सरकार ने 100 वर्ग मीटर के आवासीय व 30 वर्ग मीटर के व्यावसायिक भूखंड पर निर्माण करने वालों को बड़ी राहत देने का निर्णय किया है। अब भवन मानचित्र पास कराने पर इन्हें जहां निरीक्षण शुल्क नहीं देना पड़ेगा वहीं परमिट शुल्क भी सिर्फ एक रुपये लगेगा। इसके लिए उग्र नगर योजना और विकास (विकास परमिट फीस, भवन परमिट फीस और निरीक्षण फीस का निर्धारण, उद्ग्रहण और संग्रहण) नियमावली-2024 को संशोधित करते हुए नए सिरे से बनाई गई प्रथम संशोधन नियमावली-2025 की अधिसूचना जारी कर दी गई। आवास एवं शहरी नियोजन विभाग के प्रमुख सचिव की ओर से जारी छह पेज की संशोधित नियमावली संबंधी अधिसूचना में भवन निर्माण के लिए वसूले जाने वाले विभिन्न शुल्कों से संबंधित कई नियमों में बदलाव के साथ ही उन्हें स्पष्ट किया गया है। भवन परमिट फीस को तो आवासीय भूखंड, समूह, कार्यालय व वाणिज्यिक उपयोग के मामले में यथावत पांच से 30 रुपये प्रति वर्ग मीटर ही रखा गया है लेकिन 100 वर्ग मीटर से कम क्षेत्रफल वाले आवासीय और 30 वर्ग मीटर तक के व्यावसायिक भूखंड के लिए भवन परमिट फीस सिर्फ एक रुपये कर दिया गया है। अभी तक पांच रुपये की दर से 100 वर्ग मीटर पर 500 रुपये फीस देना पड़ता था।

- 30 वर्ग मीटर के व्यावसायिक भूखंड पर भी निरीक्षण शुल्क समाप्त, एक रुपये ही देनी होगी परमिट फीस
- उग्र नगर योजना और विकास (भवन परमिट व निरीक्षण फीस) नियमावली-2025 की अधिसूचना जारी

भवन परमिट के मामले में निरीक्षण शुल्क नि कुल एफएआर (फर्शिय क्षेत्रफल अनुपात) पर 20 रुपये प्रति वर्ग मीटर ही रखा गया है, लेकिन 100 वर्ग मीटर तक के आवासीय व 30 वर्ग मीटर के व्यावसायिक भूखंड पर अब नहीं देना होगा। अब तक 100 वर्ग मीटर के आवासीय भूखंड पर दो हजार रुपये निरीक्षण शुल्क वसूला जाता था।

उद्योगों को प्रदूषण की एनओसी के लिए देना होगा ढाई गुना तक शुल्क

यूपी जल-मल निस्तारण और वायु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण नियमावली -2025 को कैबिनेट की मंजूरी

प्रदेश में उद्योगों, स्थानीय निकायों और आवासीय परियोजनाओं के लिए प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड की एनओसी लेने के लिए पहले के मुकाबले 2 से 2.6 गुना तक शुल्क देना होगा। इसके लिए कैबिनेट ने उप्र जल (मल और व्यावसायिक बहिस्साव निस्तारण के लिए सहमति) (तृतीय संशोधन) नियमावली-2025 और वायु (प्रदूषण निवारण एवं नियंत्रण) (चतुर्थ संशोधन) नियमावली-2025 को जारी करने प्रस्ताव पर मुहर लगा दी है। इसके तहत हर दो वर्ष में शुल्क में 10% तक की वृद्धि की जा सकती है।

राज्य सरकार के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि औद्योगिक इकाइयों और स्थानीय नगर निकायों में शुद्धीकरण संयंत्रों (एसटीपी आदि) की स्थापना और संचालन के लिए सहमति शुल्क में संशोधन के लिए ये नियमावलियां लाई गई हैं। वर्तमान में उद्योगों से प्राप्त होने वाली सहमति जल एवं वायु शुल्क ही उप्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (यूपीपीसीबी) के राजस्व का प्रमुख स्रोत है। बोर्ड में उद्योगों से प्राप्त होने वाली सहमति जल एवं वायु शुल्क में वर्ष 2008 के बाद वृद्धि नहीं हुई थी। मूल्य सूचकांक में तब से 2.65 गुना की वृद्धि हो चुकी है। बोर्ड का तर्क था कि कामों में वृद्धि और बढ़ते खर्च को ध्यान में रखते हुए आय में वृद्धि जरूरी है।

250 केवीए के डीजल सेट पर कोई शुल्क नहीं

ऐसे औद्योगिक संयंत्र जिनमें डीजल जनरेटर, वायु प्रदूषण का एकमात्र स्रोत है, उन्हें डीजल जेनरेटर की क्षमता के आधार पर 1 हजार से लेकर 5 हजार रुपये तक का वार्षिक शुल्क देना होगा। 250 केवीए या इससे कम का जेनरेटर होने पर कोई शुल्क नहीं देना होगा।

कॉम्प्लेक्स के लिए भी नई दरें

स्थानीय निकायों और अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं (आवासीय व अन्य) के लिए वार्षिक शुल्क की भी नई दरें तय कर दी गई हैं जो उत्सर्जित और उपचारित मल के आधार पर 5 हजार रुपये से लेकर 6 लाख रुपये तक हैं। सहमति के लिए संचालन शुल्क डेढ़ गुना होगा। इसमें अपार्टमेंट, वाणिज्यिक कॉम्प्लेक्स, कार्यालय कॉम्प्लेक्स, शैक्षणिक संस्थान, टाउनशिप, स्थानीय निकाय जल आपूर्ति और सीवरेज बोर्ड शामिल हैं।

शुल्क निर्धारण के लिए सात श्रेणियां

शुल्क की दरों में यह परिवर्तन केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय के शुल्क पुनर्निर्धारण के निर्देशों के श्रेणियां तय की गई हैं। शुल्क निर्धारण तहत किया गया है। इसमें शुल्क की कुल 7 प्रदूषण स्तर की तीन श्रेणी के हरी, नारंगी लाल के तहत करने के निर्देश दिए गए। वायु अधिनियम और जल अधिनियम के अनुसार अलग-अलग शुल्क निर्धारित किया गया है। केंद्र की इस अधिसूचना में राज्य सरकार को शुल्क निर्धारण का अधिकार दिया गया है।

उद्योगों के लिए जल व वायु प्रदूषण नियमावली के तहत निर्धारित शुल्क की नई दरें (रुपये में)

- 1000 करोड़ से अधिक पूंजी निवेश होने पर हरी 5 लाख, नारंगी 5.75 लाख और लाल श्रेणी की 6.5 लाख
- 500-1000 करोड़ तक पूंजी निवेश पर हरी श्रेणी के लिए 1.5 लाख, नारंगी के 1.72 लाख और लाल 1.95 लाख
- 100-500 करोड़ तक पूंजी निवेश पर हरी के लिए 1.0 लाख, नारंगी 1.15 लाख और लाल श्रेणी के लिए 1.3 लाख
- 50-100 करोड़ तक पूंजी निवेश पर हरी के लिए 75 हजार, नारंगी 86 हजार और लाल 94 हजार
- 10-50 करोड़ के निवेश पर हरी श्रेणी के लिए 50 हजार, नारंगी 58 हजार और लाल 65 हजार
- 1-10 करोड़ रुपये तक पूंजी निवेश पर हरी के लिए 20 हजार, नारंगी 23 हजार और लाल 26 हजार
- एक करोड़ रुपये तक पूंजी निवेश पर हरी 5 हजार, नारंगी 7500 और लाल 10 हजार

फिर से बिजली संशोधन विधेयक को लेकर संशय, दो बार संसद में पेश हो चुका है बिल; अब कहां अटका मामला?

देश के बिजली क्षेत्र में, खास तौर पर बिजली वितरण व्यवस्था में आमूल-चूल बदलाव करने, बिजली क्षेत्र में क्रास-सब्सिडी की व्यवस्था (एक खास वर्ग से ज्यादा वसूलना, कुछ अन्य वर्ग को सस्ती या फ्री बिजली देना) को खत्म करने, देश में सही मायने में पूरी तरह से एक बाजार आधारित बिजली कारोबारी व्यवस्था बनाना, बिजली शुल्क तय करने में किसी भी तरह की राजनीतिकरण को रोकने की बात करने के उद्देश्य से बिजली कानून, 2003 में व्यापक संशोधन करने वाले इस विधेयक को लेकर असमंजस बरकरार है।

केंद्र सरकार वर्ष 2014 से अभी तक दो बार संसद में पेश कर चुकी है। दो बार इस विधेयक को संसदीय समितियों को भेजा गया और तीन बार अलग से इसका ड्राफ्ट तैयार किया गया, फिर भी कभी राज्यों के विरोध की वजह से तो कभी कुछ अन्य वजहों से सरकार इस पर दो टुक कदम नहीं उठा पाई। हद तो यह है कि केंद्र सरकार ने कुछ ही हफ्तों के भीतर सस्टेनेबल हार्नेसिंग एंड एडवांसमेंट ऑफ न्यूक्लियर एनर्जी फॉर ट्रांसफॉर्मिंग इंडिया (शांति) बिल, 2025 को अंतिम रूप भी दे दिया और उसे पारित भी करा लिया लेकिन बिजली संशोधन विधेयक, 2025 पर मशविरा का दौर चलता ही जा रहा है।

अगले साल पेश होगा बिल

चालू साल में शीतकालीन सत्र समाप्त होने के बाद तो इस विधेयक को अब अगले वर्ष बिजली संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 के नाम से ही पेश किये जा सकेगा। केंद्रीय बिजली मंत्री की अध्यक्षता में हुई बिजली मंत्रालय की सलाहकार समिति की बैठक में उक्त विधेयक को लेकर विस्तार से चर्चा हुई। चर्चा को लेकर जो बातें सामने आई हैं उससे यह लगता है कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक के जिन प्रस्तावों को लेकर राज्यों का विरोध था वह अभी तक खत्म नहीं हो पाया है। राज्य सरकारों में शुरू से ही इस विधेयक को लेकर एक आपत्ति है कि यह उन्हें आम जनता और किसानों को सब्सिडी देने के अधिकार से वंचित कर देगा।

वर्ष 2014 में जब पहली बार यह विधेयक तत्कालीन बिजली मंत्री ने पेश किया था तब 12 राज्य सरकारों ने इसी आधार पर इसका विरोध किया था। तब विरोध करने वाले अधिकांश राज्य गैर-भाजपाई थे। इनमें से कई राज्यों में अब भाजपा की सरकारें हैं लेकिन राज्यों का विरोध बहुत कम नहीं हुआ है। इस विरोध के पीछे राजनीति भी है। केंद्र सरकार के स्तर पर बार-बार यह सफाई दी गई है कि राज्यों की तरफ से बिजली सब्सिडी देने के अधिकार पर कोई रोक नहीं लगाई जा रही। पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश, हरियाणा आदि में श्रम संगठन इसे शुरू से ही 'निजीकरण की रोडमैप' बता रही हैं। केरल, पंजाब व पश्चिम बंगाल इसे संघीय ढांचे के खिलाफ भी बताती हैं।

उपभोक्ताओं के लिए लागत में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होगी

18 दिसंबर, 2025 की बैठक में, 'बिजली मंत्री ने स्पष्ट किया कि राज्य सरकारें घरेलू और कृषि उपभोक्ताओं जैसे प्राथमिकता प्राप्त उपभोक्ता समूहों को सब्सिडी प्रदान करना जारी रख सकती हैं और ऐसे उपभोक्ताओं के लिए लागत में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होगी। इससे यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि वित्तीय अनुशासन और उपभोक्ता कल्याण साथ-साथ चलें।' केंद्र सरकार की तरफ से जारी सूचना के मुताबिक, 'उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि निजीकरण, लागत में वृद्धि या कर्मचारियों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ने की आशंकाओं का कोई आधार नहीं है। उपभोक्ताओं या कर्मचारियों के किसी भी वर्ग पर कोई प्रतिकूल प्रभाव न पड़े, यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उपयुक्त नियामकीय और नीतिगत उपाय किए जाएंगे।'

बिजली मंत्री की तरफ से इस बैठक को बिजली संशोधन विधेयक पर राज्यों की सहमति हासिल करने की अंतिम कोशिश के तौर पर देखा जा रहा है। लेकिन इस आश्वासन का कम से कम पश्चिम बंगाल, कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना, तमिलनाडु, हिमाचल प्रदेश, केरल जैसे गैर भाजपाई सरकारों पर कोई फर्क पड़ने की संभावना नहीं है। अप्रैल-मई, 2026 में पश्चिम बंगाल, केरल, असम और तमिलनाडु में चुनावों को देखते हुए अब अगले वर्ष मानसून सत्र में ही इसे पेश किये जाने की संभावना है।

टाउनशिप के लिए न्यूनतम 25 एकड़ क्षेत्रफल की बाध्यता खत्म

प्रदेश में इंटीग्रेटेड टाउनशिप नीति-2005 और 2014 के अधीन स्वीकृत और अब तक निष्क्रिय आवासीय परियोजनाओं को निरस्त करने व चालू करने का रास्ता साफ हो गया है। सरकार ने आवंटियों के हितों को देखते हुए इंटीग्रेटेड टाउनशिप नीति में स्वीकृत डिटेल्ड प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट (डीपीआर) में संशोधन और परियोजना अवधि में विस्तार की सुविधा दे दी है। अब इस नीति में न्यूनतम 25 एकड़ में टाउनशिप बसाने की बाध्यता खत्म कर दी गई है। बिल्डर न्यूनतम 12.5 एकड़ भूमि पर अब इस योजना में टाउनशिप बना सकेंगे। 25 एकड़ तक तीन साल और इससे अधिक होने पर पांच साल में टाउनशिप को पूरा करना होगा।

इससे इन योजनाओं में आवंटियों को प्लैट और भूखंड मिलने का रास्ता हो गया है। सीएम की अध्यक्षता में हुई कैबिनेट बैठक में आवास विभाग के इससे संबंधित नीति के प्रारूप को मंजूरी दे दी है। इंटीग्रेटेड टाउनशिप नीति-2005 और 2014 के तहत बिल्डरों को न्यूनतम 25 एकड़ से लेकर 500 एकड़ में टाउनशिप विकसित करने के लिए विकास प्राधिकरण व आवास विकास परिषद से लाइसेंस दिया गया था। इसमें परियोजनाओं को 8 से लेकर 12 साल में पूरा करना था लेकिन कई परियोजनाएं पूरी नहीं हो पाईं और आवंटियों का पैसा फंस गया। इसे देखते हुए सरकार ने इस संशोधित नीति में बिल्डरों को कई सहूलियत देने का फैसला किया है।