

GIST OF YOJANA

Skilling India's Workforce

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CHAPTER 1: ENHANCING SKILLS FOR INDIA'S EXPORTS

INTRODUCTION

Exports play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, creating employment, and enhancing foreign exchange reserves. For India, an export-led growth strategy is critical to realizing the vision of a USD 20 trillion economy.

- With favorable demographics, rising manufacturing capabilities, and expanding digital infrastructure, India is poised to emerge as a global export powerhouse—particularly in high-tech sectors like semiconductors, electric mobility, and digital services.

CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIA'S EXPORTS

1. Sectoral Growth

- **Non-petroleum exports** grew by 7% in FY23, led by pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, and engineering goods.
- **Electronics exports** rose from \$11 billion (FY21) to \$26 billion (FY24), supported by the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme.
- **Textiles** saw a rebound with 7.6% growth, while **renewable energy and EVs** are emerging as new drivers of export growth.

2. Global Context

- Amidst a **2% global trade slowdown (2023)**, India's **diversified export base** and **incentivized policies** helped maintain resilience.
- Trade agreements like **India-UAE CEPA** and **India-Australia ECTA** are opening up new market access.

SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPORT-LED GROWTH

1. Employment Generation and Equity

- Export-oriented industries can potentially generate **200 million+ jobs**, addressing chronic underemployment.
- Industrial hubs in **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh** contribute to balanced regional development.

2. Technological Upgradation

- Integration into **Global Value Chains (GVCs)** enhances competitiveness, innovation, and access to cutting-edge technology.

3. Strategic and Economic Diplomacy

- Enhanced exports bolster India's bargaining power in international negotiations and deepen strategic partnerships through trade pacts.

CHALLENGES TO EXPORT GROWTH

1. Infrastructure and Logistics Bottlenecks

- **Logistics costs** remain high at **14–16% of GDP**, versus 8–10% in developed nations.
- Issues include **port congestion, last-mile connectivity gaps**, and **slow customs processing**.

2. Structural and Sectoral Constraints

- Over-reliance on traditional sectors like **IT, petroleum products, and gems/jewellery**.
- **Low value-addition** in sectors like textiles and agriculture.

3. Regulatory and Market Access Issues

- **on-tariff barriers (NTBs)** from EU/US hamper exports (e.g., 3,925 Indian food shipments were rejected by USFDA in 5 years).
- Lack of globally accredited **testing and certification infrastructure**.

4. Financial and Geopolitical Constraints

- **MSMEs** face high credit costs and lack awareness of export schemes.
- Global challenges like **protectionism, carbon border taxes, and geopolitical conflicts** disrupt supply chains.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

1. Policy and Financial Support

- **PLI Schemes** across 14 sectors including electronics, EVs, and pharma.
- **Export Promotion Mission** with ₹2,250 crore to address NTBs and enhance export financing.
- **PM Gati Shakti** for integrated multimodal logistics infrastructure.



2. Digital Infrastructure

- **BharatTradeNet** for streamlining trade documentation and finance (modelled on Singapore's TradeNet).
- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP)** to enhance supply chain visibility.

3. Skill Development

- **Skill India Mission 2.0** aligned with AI, green technology, and digital trade to prepare future-ready workforce.

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS

1. Infrastructure Modernization

- Develop **export hubs near ports**, use **AI-driven customs**, and strengthen **Sagarmala/Bharatmala** projects.
- Integrate with **dry ports and logistics parks** for seamless cargo movement.

2. Diversification and Value Addition

- Focus on high-growth sectors: **green hydrogen, semiconductors, aerospace, and precision tools.**
- Promote **processed agri-products, technical textiles, and organic food** for global niche markets.

3. MSME Empowerment

- Scale up **RAMP** and **TIES** schemes to boost MSME productivity and market access.
- Enable MSMEs to participate in **global public procurement** through platforms like **GeM**.

4. Quality and Compliance

- Build globally accredited **testing labs** and negotiate **Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)**.
- Promote the adoption of international **ISO, Codex, and HACCP** standards.

5. Leveraging Digital Trade

- Expand **cross-border e-commerce** through **ONDC** and robust **digital payment infrastructure**.
- Facilitate digital onboarding and product traceability.

6. Brand Building and R&D

- Launch a **"Brand India" campaign** focused on innovation, sustainability, and quality.
- Increase **public-private R&D investment** in AI, biotech, semiconductors, and pharmaceuticals.

CONCLUSION

To unlock its export potential, India must adopt a **multi-dimensional strategy**: modernising infrastructure, diversifying products and markets, empowering MSMEs, and aligning with Industry 4.0. By addressing supply-side bottlenecks, ensuring regulatory convergence, and leveraging its young workforce, India can emulate the success of nations like **South Korea and Vietnam**. **Policy coherence, global adaptability, and sustainable practices** will be crucial in making India a reliable and resilient export engine for the world.

CHAPTER 2: INDIA'S TURF: A GLOBAL INVESTOR HAVEN

INTRODUCTION

India's economic trajectory in the past decade has showcased a structural transformation, evolving from a policy-constrained, cash-strapped economy to a global investment magnet. Guided by initiatives like **Viksit Bharat @2047**, India is aligning its growth story with inclusive development, sustainability, and global competitiveness. Key enablers such as **FDI liberalization, Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** reforms, and **strategic infrastructure push** are driving investor confidence.

- The **PwC Global CEO Survey 2024** places India among the **Top 5 global investment destinations**, signaling a global endorsement of its economic resilience and reform-centric governance.

PROGRESSIVE TRENDS & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

A. Domestic Production & Self-Reliance

- **Make in India:** Targeting strategic sectors like electronics, defense, and pharmaceuticals to reduce import dependency. *Eg: India's mobile manufacturing grew 20x in less than a decade.*
- **PLI Schemes** (₹1.97 lakh crore across 14 sectors): Aimed at boosting domestic manufacturing and job creation.
- **IPR Ecosystem:** Faster patent approvals, Start-up India incentives, and lower compliance costs encourage innovation.
- **Digital India & AI Push:** Public digital infrastructure (e.g., **Aadhaar stack, DigiLocker, ONDC**) forms the backbone for digital entrepreneurship.

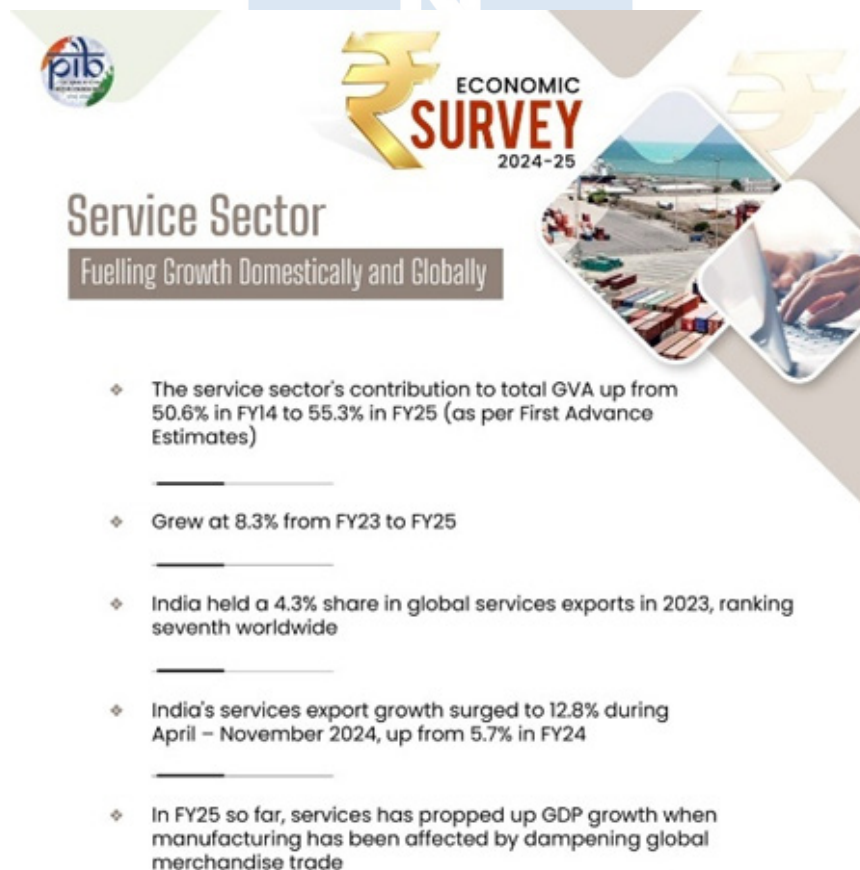


B. Structural & Policy Reforms

Reform	Outcome
GST	Unified tax structure; improved tax buoyancy and formalization.
IBC	Increased credit discipline; recovery of ₹2.5 lakh crore as of 2023.
Labor Law Consolidation	Four Labor Codes simplify 44 complex laws (awaiting implementation).
Decriminalization of Minor Offenses	Business-friendly regulatory landscape.
National Single Window System (NSWS)	56 Central Ministries & 23 States onboarded for faster approvals.

C. Global Recognition & Rankings

- **PwC 2024 CEO Survey:**
 - India ranked **5th most attractive investment destination** (from 9th in 2023).
 - **86% Indian CEOs** believe the economy will improve in the next 12 months.
- **World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (2023):** India jumped from **44th to 38th** position, indicating better trade facilitation.
- **Global Innovation Index (2023):** India ranked **40th**, up from 81st in 2015.

FDI LIBERALIZATION & EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**A. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Trends**

- **Cumulative FDI (2014–24):** Over **\$650 billion** (119% growth vs. previous decade).
- **Sectoral Surge:**
 - **Manufacturing FDI** grew from **\$98 bn to \$165 bn** (2014–24).
 - **Digital and Fintech:** Over \$70 billion in tech-related FDI in last five years.

B. Ease of Doing Business Outcomes

- **Startup Ecosystem:**
 - Over **1 lakh DPIIT-recognized startups**; 110+ unicorns.
- **IPO Boom:**
 - **H1 FY25** saw IPOs raise **2x more funds** than in FY24 (KPMG).
 - Oversubscription and robust **SIP inflows (~₹19,000 crore/month)** indicate retail investor confidence.

C. Global Financial Integration

- Inclusion in **JP Morgan's GBI-EM index (2024)** and expected inclusion in **Bloomberg's index** to attract **\$30–40 billion** in passive flows.

RIPPLE EFFECTS ON THE ECONOMY**A. Employment & MSME Growth**

Metric	2013	2024
MSME Jobs	10 crores	24 crores
Overall, Jobs Created	–	17.9 crore under PM Modi govt

PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy, and industrial corridors have spurred local entrepreneurship and supply chain resilience.

B. Skill Development & Inclusion

- **Skill India Mission:** Over **1.5 crore youth trained** across 500+ trades.
- **MUDRA Yojana:** Over **₹24 lakh crore disbursed**; ~70% beneficiaries are women.
- **Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity:** Financial inclusion of **50 crore+ bank accounts**.

INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITIES

- **Semiconductor Mission:** ₹76,000 crore outlay; TATA Group & Micron setting up fabrication plants.
- **Mega Infra Push:**
 - **PM Gati Shakti, NIP (₹111 lakh crore), High-Speed Rail, Expressways, Green Energy Corridors.**
- **RE Sector:** India is the **4th largest in RE capacity** globally, targeting **500 GW by 2030**.

CHALLENGES

- **Geopolitical Volatility:** Supply chains disrupted by wars and decoupling.
- **Structural Reforms Pending:**
 - **Land acquisition and labor code implementation** face state-level resistance.
 - **Judicial delays** in contract enforcement.
- **Skill Gaps:** In **AI, green hydrogen, semiconductors**.

WAY FORWARD FOR VIKSIT BHARAT @2047

1. **Boost R&D Spending:** From 0.7% to at least 2% of GDP.
2. **Integrated Skill Mapping:** Align education with future-ready skills (AI, climate tech, robotics).
3. **Sustainable Growth Models:** Accelerate **green finance, carbon credit trading, ESG compliance**.
4. **Deepen Global Trade:** Finalize **FTAs** with EU, UK; strengthen **G20 and IPEF** leadership.
5. **Institutional Stability:** Predictable policy, contract enforcement, and transparency.

CONCLUSION

India's transformation into a **global investment haven** is not merely a result of favorable demography, but of deliberate **policy calibration, visionary leadership, and stakeholder synergy**. If India sustains its **reform momentum**, invests in **human capital**, and leverages its **geopolitical centrality**, the **Viksit Bharat 2047** vision is well within reach. It could very well mark India's arrival not just as an economic giant, but as a **decisive force in shaping global economic governance**.

CHAPTER 3: TRANSFORMING INDIA'S FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE

INTRODUCTION

India's aspiration of becoming a 'Viksit Bharat by 2047' is firmly tied to transformative financial reforms that promote inclusive growth, technological advancement, and global competitiveness.

- Reforms like liberalizing FDI in insurance, expanding rural banking through India Post, and enhancing infrastructure financing via NaBFID reflect the government's commitment to building a resilient, tech-driven economy.
- These reforms are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as poverty reduction (SDG 1), industry innovation (SDG 9), and financial inclusion.

KEY REFORMS AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

1. Liberalizing FDI in Insurance

The cap on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance has been **raised from 74% to 100%** to attract global players.

- This policy change has resulted in **\$6.5 billion in FDI over the past nine years**, with expectations for further inflows.
- It is poised to **expand market reach**, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, where insurance penetration remains **low (3.7% in India vs. 7% globally)**.
- By 2030, the sector is expected to create **3 million jobs**. However, challenges remain, including ensuring compliance with rural service obligations and avoiding market monopolization.

2. GST Rationalization for Insurance

The current **18% GST on insurance premiums** restricts affordability. Lowering the GST rate could significantly boost insurance penetration, particularly among low-income groups.

- While the immediate trade-off may involve revenue loss, the long-term benefits of financial inclusion make this proposal vital.

3. Technology-Driven Insurance

The government has allocated Rs 500 crore for **AI Centers of Excellence** to enhance underwriting, fraud detection, and policy personalization through technology.

- This would **improve operational efficiency, customer satisfaction, and product innovation**. However, challenges such as the urban-rural digital divide and data privacy concerns need to be addressed for effective implementation.

4. India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) Expansion

IPPB plays a pivotal role in financial inclusion by leveraging **2 lakh postmen/Gramin Dak Sevaks** to offer banking services in over **1.36 lakh post offices**.





As a result, India's **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** has improved from 53.9 in 2021 to 64.2 in 2024. This initiative has significantly enhanced rural access to savings, insurance, and pensions, but challenges remain in improving last-mile connectivity and digital literacy.

5. NaBFID's Credit Enhancement Facility

NaBFID (National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development) facilitates infrastructure financing through Partial Credit Enhancement (PCE) for corporate bonds, with Rs 1.3 lakh crore approved for roads and energy projects.

- This is expected to **grow to Rs 3 lakh crore by FY26**, significantly boosting the corporate bond market, which currently accounts for **16% of GDP**, below the **global average of 40%**. The key challenge is ensuring bond viability and maintaining investor confidence.

6. Grameen Credit Score (GCS) for SHGs

The introduction of the Grameen Credit Score (GCS) offers data-driven credit assessments for rural borrowers, especially Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and farmers.

- This reduces dependence on informal lenders and complements traditional credit scores like CIBIL. However, issues such as data accuracy and the potential for over-indebtedness need to be managed to ensure sustainable credit access.

CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Key challenges include finding a regulatory balance that ensures foreign insurers fulfill rural coverage obligations while maintaining competition.

- There is also a need for skill development to match the growing demand for AI-related roles, especially in cybersecurity for the insurance sector.
- Transparent risk-assessment frameworks must be implemented by NaBFID for infrastructure financing.

- Additionally, inclusive policies such as combining GST reductions with targeted subsidies will help mitigate the potential revenue losses from lower taxes.

CONCLUSION

India's financial reforms are essential for achieving a \$10 trillion economy by 2047. By focusing on increasing FDI, leveraging technology, and enhancing financial inclusion, these policies aim to close significant gaps in insurance penetration, rural credit access, and infrastructure financing. The success of these reforms depends on their effective implementation, collaboration across stakeholders, and adaptive regulation. These measures will not only accelerate India's economic growth but also ensure equitable, resilient, and sustainable development, fulfilling the vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.'

CHAPTER 4: ENHANCING INDIA'S MANUFACTURING AND TRADE

India's **Union Budget 2025-26** outlines a comprehensive framework to enhance the country's manufacturing sector, reduce trade deficits, and achieve self-reliance under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** initiative.

- The budget focuses on policy reforms, fiscal incentives, and infrastructure development to drive growth in key sectors and boost India's integration into global trade.

1. National Manufacturing Mission (NMM)

- **Goal:** Increase the manufacturing GDP share from 16-17% to **25% by 2030**, bringing it in line with global leaders like China (28%) and South Korea (25%).



Focus Areas: The mission emphasizes improving the **ease of doing business**, enhancing **skills development**, supporting **MSMEs**, providing **technology access**, and ensuring **product quality**.

- **Sustainability Focus:** Promotes **clean technologies** (solar PV, EVs, and batteries) and circular economy practices to reduce environmental impact.
- **Trade Deficit Target:** Aims to reduce the \$250 billion trade deficit by ramping up local production of high-demand goods such as semiconductors and solar panels.

2. Fiscal and Policy Reforms

- **Customs Duty Exemptions:**
 - **BCD Waivers** on critical minerals like lithium and cobalt, and shipbuilding inputs to reduce production costs and attract foreign investment.

- **Smartphone Components:** The removal of a 2.5% import duty to position India as a global electronics manufacturing hub.
- **Simplified Tax Structure:** Introduction of a single cess/surcharge to make the tax system more predictable for investors.
- 3. **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme Expansion**
 - **Sectors Covered:** Expanded to **14 key sectors**, including electronics, automobiles, and textiles.
 - **Allocations:**
 - **Electronics/IT:** ₹8,885 crore.
 - **Automobiles:** ₹2,819 crore for EV component manufacturing.
 - **Impact:** Positioned India as the **2nd-largest mobile phone producer** globally, driving significant growth in manufacturing output.
- 4. **MSME Support**
 - **Contribution to Economy:** MSMEs account for 35% of manufacturing output, 30% of GVA, and provide employment to **25.18 crore** people.
 - **Credit Support:**
 - Guarantee limit raised to **₹10 crore** for micro and small enterprises (from ₹5 crore).
 - **₹1.5 lakh crore** additional credit over 5 years.
 - **Entrepreneurship Focus:** **₹2 crore loans** for **5 lakh first-time entrepreneurs**, with special emphasis on women, SC/ST communities.
- 5. **Labour-Intensive Sectors**
 - **Leather and Footwear:** A target to create **22 lakh jobs**, with exemptions on BCD for crust and wet blue leather.
 - **Textiles:**
 - Launch of **Cotton Productivity Mission** for high-quality staple varieties.
 - A **57.7% budget increase** (₹5,272 crore) for textiles.
 - **Toys:** Focus on increasing domestic manufacturing hubs to reduce dependency on China, which accounted for **64% of toy imports** in FY24.
- 6. **Export Promotion & Digital Infrastructure**
 - **Export Promotion Mission:** ₹2,250 crore allocated to enhance **credit access**, address **non-tariff barriers**, and promote cross-border factoring.
 - **Bharat TradeNet (BTN):** A unified digital platform for streamlining trade documentation and reducing non-tariff barriers, fostering smoother trade operations.
- 7. **Infrastructure & Research & Development**
 - **Logistics:** Investments in upgrading air cargo infrastructure, particularly for perishables.
 - **R&D Fund:** ₹20,000 crore allocated for **AI, semiconductors, renewable energy, and Industry 4.0**.
 - **SEZ Reforms:** The new **DESH legislation** will replace existing SEZs, enabling faster customs clearances and facilitating state partnerships.
- 8. **Sustainable Growth**
 - Emphasis on **green manufacturing** practices, including investments in **electric vehicles (EVs)** and **solar technologies**, while improving resource efficiency across industries.

CONCLUSION

The Union Budget 2025-26 lays out a strategic framework to strengthen India's manufacturing base, boost exports, enhance MSME capabilities, and align with global sustainability trends. By prioritizing domestic production, fiscal incentives, and robust infrastructure, India aims to position itself as a leading global manufacturing hub and a **\$5 trillion economy**.

CHAPTER 5: POLICY UPDATES

INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR LOW-VALUE BHIM-UPI (P2M) TRANSACTIONS:

- The Union Cabinet approved an **Incentive Scheme** for low-value **BHIM-UPI (P2M)** transactions for small merchants in FY 2024-25, with an outlay of **Rs 1,500 crore**.
- It covers transactions up to **Rs 2,000**, offering an incentive of **0.15%** per transaction. **80%** of the claims will be disbursed without conditions, while the remaining **20%** is contingent on **technical decline** being below **0.75%** and **system uptime** above **99.5%**.
- The scheme aims for **Rs 20,000 crore** in transactions, promotes **BHIM-UPI**, and targets enhanced penetration in rural areas with products like **UPI 123PAY** and **UPI Lite**.
- This initiative supports the **less-cash economy** and strengthens **digital payment infrastructure**.
- BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money)** is a mobile app that allows users to make payments and send money using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). BHIM is a safe and secure way to make digital payments.
- The government promotes digital payments for financial inclusion, recovering service costs through **Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)**. MDR for **debit cards** is up to **0.90%**, and for **UPI P2M** transactions, it is **0.30%**. Since **January 2020**, MDR is waived for **RuPay Debit Cards** and **BHIM-UPI** to boost digital transactions.
- The **Incentive Scheme** supports **RuPay** and **BHIM-UPI** transactions, with payouts to **acquiring banks**, **issuer banks**, **payment service providers**, and **app providers (TPAPs)**.

REVISED NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR DAIRY DEVELOPMENT (NPDD)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Revised National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD)** for the period **2021-2026**.

- The scheme focuses on modernizing dairy infrastructure, enhancing milk procurement, processing, and quality control, aimed at improving farmers' access to markets, better pricing, and supply chain efficiency.
- It consists of **two components**: **Component A** enhances dairy infrastructure, especially in remote areas, while **Component B** fosters dairy cooperatives with the help of Japan's cooperation.
- The NPDD has already benefitted over **18.74 lakh farmers**, creating **30,000 jobs**, and increasing milk procurement capacity by **100.95 lakh liters/day**.
- It also upgraded **51,777 village-level milk testing labs** and installed **5,123 bulk milk coolers**. The revised scheme is expected to establish **10,000 new dairy cooperatives**, generate **3.2 lakh jobs**, and strengthen rural livelihoods, supporting **White Revolution 2.0**.

REVISED RASHTRIYA GOKUL MISSION (RGM)

The Union Cabinet approved the **Revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)** with an enhanced allocation of **Rs 3,400 crore** for the **2021-2026** period.

- Key additions include **35% capital assistance** for **Heifer Rearing Centres** (30 facilities, 15,000 heifers) and **3% interest subvention** on loans for purchasing **High Genetic Merit (HGM) IVF heifers**.
- The scheme strengthens **semen stations**, **artificial insemination**, **bull production**, and **breed improvement**. Over the past decade, milk production has increased by **63.55%**, and milk availability per person has risen from **307 grams/day (2013-14)** to **471 grams/day (2023-24)**.

- The **Nationwide AI Programme** has covered **8.39 crore animals** and benefitted **5.21 crore farmers**. The mission also focuses on preserving indigenous bovine breeds through **genomic chips** and **IVF technology**, boosting **milk productivity** and **farmers' incomes**.

CHAPTER 6: NEWS DIGEST

INDIA'S FIRST INDIGENOUS SEMICONDUCTOR CHIP SET FOR PRODUCTION BY 2025

- India's first **indigenous semiconductor chip** will be produced by **2025**.
- The Madhya Pradesh hosts **85 active electronics companies** and two new **electronics manufacturing clusters** in **Bhopal** and **Jabalpur**. **85,000 engineers** are being trained in advanced electronics, with **20,000 engineers** trained in Madhya Pradesh.
- India's **electronics exports** are valued at **Rs 5 lakh crore**, ranking among the top three export categories.

AIKOSHA

- **AIKosha**, also known as the IndiaAI Datasets Platform, is a secured repository designed to foster AI innovation in India. It offers access to over 300 datasets and 80 AI models for a wide range of applications.
- The platform features an AI sandbox with an integrated development environment (IDE), tools, and tutorials to support AI research and development.
- Key datasets available include the 2011 Census data, satellite imagery from Indian satellites, Open Governance Data, health data, and meteorological and pollution data, facilitating diverse AI solutions for various sectors.
- This initiative aims to empower developers, researchers, and organizations by providing reliable data for AI-driven innovation.

JAIPUR 3R AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY DECLARATION (2025–2035)

At the 12th Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum in Jaipur, Asia-Pacific nations adopted the **Jaipur Declaration (2025–2035)**, aiming for a **circular, low-carbon, and resource-efficient economy**.

- The declaration promotes **3R principles—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, aligns with global frameworks like the **SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework**, and builds on the **Hanoi 3R Declaration (2013–2023)**.
- Key outcomes include India's proposal for the **Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3)** to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing, a **working group** for its operational framework, and an **MoU under CITIIS 2.0** for circular projects in urban areas. Focus areas include tackling the **triple planetary crisis** (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution), boosting **resource efficiency**, and promoting **local industry and employment**.

MARITIME REFORMS 2025

The government has launched major maritime reforms, including the **'One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP)'**, aimed at standardizing operations across all major ports to boost efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and improve ease of doing business.

- The **Bharat Global Ports Consortium** was announced to enhance global trade resilience and support **'Make in India'** exports. The **MAITRI platform** (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface), leveraging **AI and Blockchain**, will facilitate a seamless **Virtual Trade Corridor**.
- Additionally, **India Maritime Week 2025** will be held in **Mumbai from October 27–31**, expecting **1,00,000 delegates from 100 countries**, highlighting India's maritime ambitions.

INDIA'S FIRST SEMICONDUCTOR FAB

India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication unit will be set up in **Dholera, Gujarat**, under a **Fiscal Support Agreement (FSA)** between **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** and **Tata Electronics**.

- The project, valued at **over Rs 91,000 crore**, will receive **50% fiscal support** from the Indian government. Backed by **Taiwan's PSMC**, the fab will manufacture chips for sectors like **automotive, computing, AI, and communication**, and is expected to generate **over 20,000 jobs**.
- This initiative marks a major leap in India's journey toward **technological self-reliance** and **semiconductor supply chain resilience**.

KHELO INDIA PARA GAMES 2025

The **2nd edition of Khelo India Para Games (KIPG)** will be held in **New Delhi** from **March 20–27, 2025**, featuring **1,230 para-athletes** across **six disciplines**.

- The event will see participation from top Indian para-athletes, including **Paris 2024 Paralympics** and **2022 Asian Para Games** medallists like **Harvinder Singh (archery)**, **Dharambir (club throw)**, and **Praveen Kumar (high jump)**.

UPSC MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- Q1. What are the key challenges in implementing skill development programmes in rural India? Suggest measures to improve outreach and effectiveness.
- Q2. The manufacturing sector is often seen as the backbone of a country's economic growth. Discuss the current state of manufacturing in India and suggest measures to enhance its global competitiveness.

