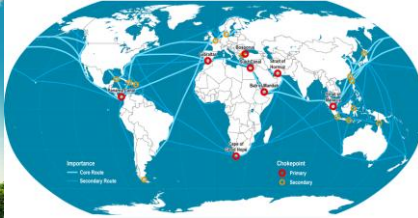


Association for Global Economic Development-India

Corporate Office: A/111, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Mumbai -India 400 021.



Indian International News Express

1st May 26

Mumbai-India

China supplies over 30% of India's industrial goods; overdependence on single nation critical: GTRI



India faces significant reliance on China for industrial goods. China supplies over 30 percent of India's industrial imports. This dependence, especially in electronics and machinery, poses risks to India's manufacturing sector. India needs to build domestic capacity and diversify its supply chains to mitigate these vulnerabilities. Trade figures show a widening deficit with China.

New Delhi: China accounts for around 16 per cent of India's total imports, but its dominance is significantly higher in industrial goods, supplying as much as 30.8 per cent of the country's requirements, think tank GTRI said on Tuesday.

Dependence on a single supplier for critical inputs leaves sectors like pharmaceuticals, electronics and clean energy exposed to disruptions, whether geopolitical or commercial, it said.

The GTRI analysis said that about 66 per cent of India's imports from China, valued at USD 82.6 billion, are clustered in electronics, machinery, computers, and organic chemicals.

China accounts for 43 per cent of India's electronics imports, 40 per cent of machinery and computer imports, and 44 per cent of organic chemicals.

India's FTA

India and Ecuador exploring preferential trade deal to boost economic ties

India and Ecuador are strengthening ties. Discussions focused on a preferential trade agreement. Cooperation will expand in healthcare, agriculture, and digital technology. Ecuador will join the International Solar Alliance and International Big Cat Alliance. India will provide grant assistance for development projects in Ecuador. Discussions also covered pharmaceutical exports and critical mineral supply chains.

New Delhi: India and Ecuador are looking at the possibility of firming up a preferential trade pact, besides agreeing to shore up cooperation in areas of healthcare, agriculture and digital technology.

Ways to further solidify bilateral relations were the focus of talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Ecuadorian counterpart Gabriela Sommerfeld Rosero this week, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The two-day visit of Foreign Minister Sommerfeld, along with her deputy Alejandro Davalos, to India marked a "new chapter" in strengthening bilateral ties between the two nations, the MEA said on Saturday.

The ministry said that in their talks on April 29, Jaishankar and Sommerfeld "reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral cooperation in multiple areas, including healthcare and pharmaceuticals, agriculture, trade and investment, digital technology, cultural relations, capacity building and cooperation in multilateral institutions".

(Source: Ecomics Times)

France seeks enforceable rules in India-EU FTA talks

In a move to strengthen economic ties, France is pushing for actionable measures to eliminate trade obstacles between India and the European Union. Minister Delegate Nicolas Forissier emphasized the urgency of addressing non-tariff challenges. With the recent Free Trade Agreement in place, the aim is to ensure it serves as a win-win for both regions.

Paris: France has pitched for a more granular and enforceable framework in the India-EU free trade negotiations, stressing that political alignment must now give way to concrete action on non-tariff barriers that continue to obstruct market access



ITCPE
2026 (The 21st)
Guangzhou International Textile, Clothing
and Printing Industry Expo

Textiles, Garment Manufacturing, Textile Printing, Embroidery,
Sewing, Knitting, Dyeing, Fabrics and Accessories, All In ITCPE!

19-21 May, 2026 | Guangzhou Poly World Trade
Center Expo (PWTC Expo)

Welcome to
China to participate
in ITCPE

International Business

India, Kenya discuss possibility of trade settlement in local currencies



India and Kenya are exploring trade settlements in their own currencies. Discussions also covered digital payment systems like UPI. A joint trade committee meeting in Nairobi focused on boosting bilateral commerce. An agreement was signed to exchange customs information. Bilateral trade saw a significant increase in the last fiscal year.

Discussions on digital public infrastructure covered collaboration on UPI-like payment systems, Bharat Connect and digital platforms to enhance financial inclusion, which also helps officials of the two nations.

These issues were discussed in the India-Kenya Joint Trade Committee meeting on April 27-28. It was co-chaired by Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal and Principal Secretary, State Department for Trade, Kenya, Regina Akotah Ombam, in Nairobi.

"Both sides acknowledged the potential for promoting trade settlement in local currencies. The possibility of adopting a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) mechanism was also discussed," the Commerce Ministry said.

It was noted that Kenyan banks have opened Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs) with Indian banks, and greater utilisation of this framework could facilitate smoother bilateral transactions.

An advertisement for Casa Pascal Restaurant. On the left, two women are smiling and holding live lobsters. In the center, text reads "Live Lobsters cooked to perfection" and "Fine dining at an attractive price". Below this is a phone number: "061.643.99.69". On the right, there is a close-up image of a cooked lobster. At the bottom right, the restaurant's name "Casa Pascal Restaurant" is displayed in a blue box.

India discusses boosting trade with UK and local currency trade settlement with Tanzania

India and the UK are strengthening trade and investment ties. Discussions focused on maximizing benefits from the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement. Separately, India and Tanzania are exploring trade settlements in local currencies. This move aims to boost bilateral economic relations. Both nations also discussed collaboration in various sectors including mining and digital services.

New Delhi: India and the UK Friday discussed ways to boost two-way commerce and investments and leverage opportunities under the comprehensive economic and trade agreement signed in July last year. It was discussed during a virtual meeting between commerce and industry

DEA notice awaited on easing FDI rules for foreign cos with up to 10% in China firms

FDI rules for overseas companies with up to 10% Chinese shareholding are set to be notified soon, as the Department of Economic Affairs is finalising the required approval under FEMA, an official said. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had already issued a March Press Note easing norms for investments from land-border countries, allowing such firms to invest in India under the automatic route across sectors.

New Delhi: The decision to ease foreign direct investment (FDI) norms for overseas companies with up to 10% stake in Chinese companies will be notified soon as the Department of Economic Affairs is yet to issue the notification under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), an official

Noida International Airport to begin commercial flights from June 15, IndiGo to operate first service

Noida International Airport (NIA) on Friday announced that it will begin commercial flight operations from June 15, marking a key milestone in the long-awaited greenfield aviation project in Uttar Pradesh.

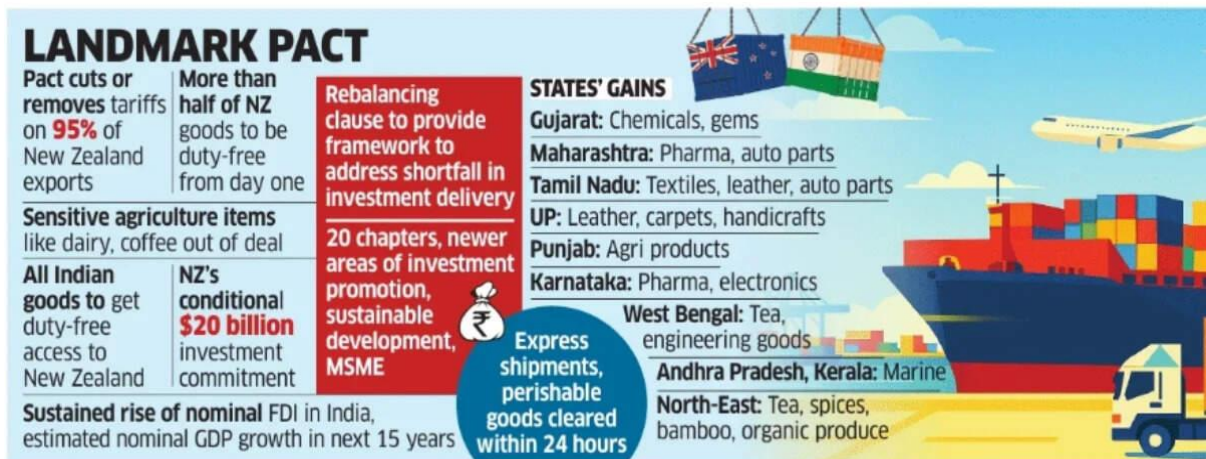
IndiGo will operate the first passenger flight from the airport, followed shortly by Akasa Air and Air India Express, according to a statement issued by the airport operator.

The commencement of operations comes after its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the receipt of approval for the Aerodrome Security Programme (ASP) from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security.



Special Report

India–New Zealand FTA to double India’s engineering exports to \$280–300 mn in five years



India's engineering exports to New Zealand are set to double in the next five years. A new free trade agreement grants zero-duty market access for all Indian goods. This pact will significantly boost the sector, especially for MSMEs. Engineering shipments are expected to reach USD 280-300 million.

Kolkata: India's engineering exports to New Zealand are poised to double over the next five years from USD 140.5 million to USD 280-300 million, following the signing of a free trade agreement (FTA) that grants zero-duty market access to all Indian goods, officials said.

Industry body EEPC India's Chairman Pankaj Chadha said the pact would provide a strong tailwind to the sector, particularly MSMEs, by lowering trade barriers and ensuring stable market access in a relatively small but high-potential destination.

Engineering shipments to New Zealand have already shown steady traction, rising around 8 per cent to USD 140.5 million in 2025-26 from USD 129.8 million in the previous fiscal.

Growth has been led by automobiles, dairy sector machinery and medical and scientific instruments, while metal-based products such as iron and steel, aluminium and zinc have also contributed meaningfully.

Landmark trade pact aimed at doubling bilateral trade

Signed in New Delhi, the India–New Zealand FTA is designed to deepen economic engagement and double bilateral trade from around \$2.4 billion to \$5 billion within five years. The agreement now awaits approval from New Zealand’s Parliament and India’s Union Cabinet.

- A key feature of the deal is New Zealand’s elimination of tariffs across all 8,284 tariff lines, including the removal of duties on most Indian exports, while India has adopted a calibrated approach protecting sensitive sectors such as dairy and select agricultural goods.
- **Textiles & apparel:** Duty-free access improves price competitiveness and supports V A. exports
- **Leather & footwear:** Major gains for clusters such as Agra, dominated by MSMEs
- **Engineering goods:** Exports expected to near double to \$280–300 million in five years
- **Pharmaceuticals & medical devices:** Faster regulatory approvals and reduced compliance burden

Indian's Foreign Trade

"India's fresh product shifting gears amid FTAs and W A disruptions."

Amid accelerating Free Trade Agreement (FTA) momentum and supply disruptions stemming from tensions in West Asia, India's fresh produce trade is shifting gears, says M B Naqvi, CEO and Chief Coordinator of Fresh India Show, scheduled for less than a month between 29–30 May at the CIDCO Exhibition & Convention Center in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. "Volatility in freight, pricing, and trade routes is compelling India's produce sector to diversify sourcing, strengthen supply chain resilience, and align more closely with global quality and compliance standards. As new trade corridors open alongside rising global expectations, the industry faces both expanded opportunities and intensified competitive pressures."

Against this backdrop, the FIS event comes at a critical juncture, Naqvi highlights. "The forum is positioned as a focused platform to bring together global buyers, Indian exporters, and supply chain stakeholders to address immediate challenges, explore alternative sourcing strategies, and foster stable, long-term trade partnerships, advancing a more resilient and globally integrated fruits and vegetables ecosystem."

According to him, the event is being structured as a "working interface" for global trade engagement. "It is being organized adjacent to Vashi APMC, one of Asia's largest wholesale fruit and vegetable markets, and close to Mumbai's port and international airport, which offers a practical lens into India's evolving supply chain ecosystem."

"What distinguishes this edition is the balance of trade intent," Naqvi explains. "We are bringing together Indian exporters, FPOs, and agri-tech providers alongside international buyers and grower associations who are looking at India both as a sourcing base and as a fast-growing consumption market."



EDB **BOI** **Deloitte.** **The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce**

EDGES OF SRI LANKA

Reimagining the Future of Exports & Investments

Edges of Sri Lanka, a national branding initiative, was unveiled alongside the launch of Sri Lanka Expo 2026 by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board (EDB), developed in partnership with the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka (BOI) and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, with Deloitte as knowledge partner.

The initiative presents curated case studies highlighting innovative, resilient Sri Lankan enterprises with globally relevant capabilities rooted in local strengths.



[Click Here](#) or Scan the QR code to explore digital booklet & case study cards

Indian mango exports face rising air freight costs V/s U.S. demand

Global demand for mangoes is expected to remain firm in 2026, led by the United States, one of the largest importers. Imports into the U.S. are projected to grow by around 7%, supported by per capita consumption of about 3.6 to 4 kg, retail promotions, and year-round availability, according to APEDA. Supply conditions vary. Peru's production is expected to decline by around 10% due to delayed flowering and weather disruptions, while Pakistan's exports may fall by about 8% due to quality rejections. Mexico remains a key supplier to the U.S., although it faces weather and market access constraints.

India, the largest mango producer, is expected to see a marginal increase in production in 2026, supported by productivity gains in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. However, its share in global fresh exports remains limited due to logistics and shelf-life constraints.

Fresh mango exports depend on speed and temperature control. The fruit has a short shelf life and is sensitive to transit conditions. For long-haul routes such as India to the U.S., air freight remains the only viable option, as sea freight is not suitable due to transit time.

India's long-haul air cargo flows are linked to Middle Eastern transit hubs, which provide connectivity to North America. Disruptions in this region continue to affect exports. Although the Middle East conflict has ended, airlines are still adjusting routes, which has increased fuel use and operating costs. Freight rates remain elevated, and capacity is constrained.

Exporter feedback indicates ongoing operational uncertainty, including tighter connections and reduced flexibility. In this context, Kaybee Exports began its season with its first U.S. shipment on 28 March from Mumbai to San Francisco, with volumes dependent on freight rates and capacity. "The biggest challenge has been the sharp rise in freight costs along with operational uncertainty," said Kaushal Khakhar.

Freight rates from India to the U.S. increased from around ₹350 (US\$4.20) per kg last year to about ₹500 to ₹550 (US\$6.00–6.60) per kg this season, driven by higher fuel costs. "While sectors like pharma can absorb such increases, mango exports are extremely price-sensitive, making this the single biggest challenge this season," Khakhar said.

Exporters are also facing tighter capacity as airlines prioritise passenger baggage and higher-yield cargo, increasing the risk of delays. "We continue to depend largely on Gulf hubs, though routings have become more flexible," Khakhar said. Direct India to U.S. flights are being evaluated, but cannot replace hub-based routes due to limited capacity.

"We are mitigating this through tighter packhouse controls, strict temperature management, and faster cargo handovers to preserve quality and shelf life," Khakhar said.

"For US-bound mangoes, air freight remains the only viable option," Khakhar said.

Global mango exports are expected to grow by around 8 to 9% in 2026, but export performance will depend on freight rates, capacity, and transit reliability.

(Source: [The Stat Trade Times](#))

India in talks with Nepal for ethanol exports, exploring shipments to SAARC

India is discussing ethanol exports with Nepal and other SAARC countries. This initiative aims to support farmers and strengthen the rural economy. Higher ethanol blending levels could lead to significant foreign exchange savings. The government is also engaging with auto manufacturers for flex-fuel vehicle introductions. Consumer awareness and pricing will be key for wider adoption.

New Delhi: India is in talks with Nepal for ethanol exports and is also exploring opportunities to supply ethanol to SAARC nations, CK Jain, President of the Grains Ethanol Manufacturers Association of India (GEMA), told ANI.

Our GEMA delegation went to Nepal two days ago. We just heard that Nepal wants to start 10 per cent blending. We suggested that till their domestic industry is set up, they can start taking from India," Jain said. Countries like Nepal currently lack sufficient feedstock and processing infrastructure, making India a natural supplier in the interim.(Source: Economics Times)

India's 25-26 sugar exports seen at 7.5 to 8 lakh tonnes

New Delhi: India is likely to ship only 7.5 to 8 lakh tonnes of sugar in the 2025-26 marketing season (October-September), well short of the quota made available, as weak global price parity continues to discourage outbound sales, a senior government official said, according to PTI.

"The full season physical shipments would likely land around 7.5 to 8 lakh tonnes. There is no parity in global prices for exports to be undertaken at present," the official said, adding that mills are unlikely to utilise the full export quota even though outbound sales were more active earlier in the season.

India, the world's second-largest sugar producer, keeps exports under government control through quotas distributed proportionally among mills. The Food Ministry had initially permitted up to 15 lakh tonnes in exports for 2025-26, before opening an additional 5 lakh tonne pool, of which only 87,587 tonnes have been approved so far. As of March 3, the country had already shipped 5 lakh tonnes, the official said.(Source: Chini Mandi)

Compiled by Dr.Sham Choughule through various sources for private circulation

Director



(International Business, Logistics, and Maritime Transport)

Shamc2001@yahoo.co.in

Association for Global Economic Development-India

Corporate Office: A/111, Mittal Court, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

1st May 2026