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India's Export Growth in FY 2026-27: Strong Performance, New Milestones

Exports Record Seven Consecutive Months of Year-on-Year Growth

14 November 2026

India's exports grew 16.66% to US$ 568.84 billion during April-October FY 2026-27, with gains across products, services and overseas markets. Export promotion measures, expanding trade partnerships and improved logistics are helping Indian businesses sustain this momentum. This growth complements India's broader economic progress, marked by 7.8% GDP growth in April-June and unemployment declining to 5.1% in July-September. Major international organisations also reinforce this positive picture, projecting continued strong growth for FY 2026-27.

Introduction

International trade enables businesses to grow beyond domestic markets, supporting productivity and long-term economic development. For India, exports have been an important contributor to economic growth, helping sustain expansion despite global headwinds.

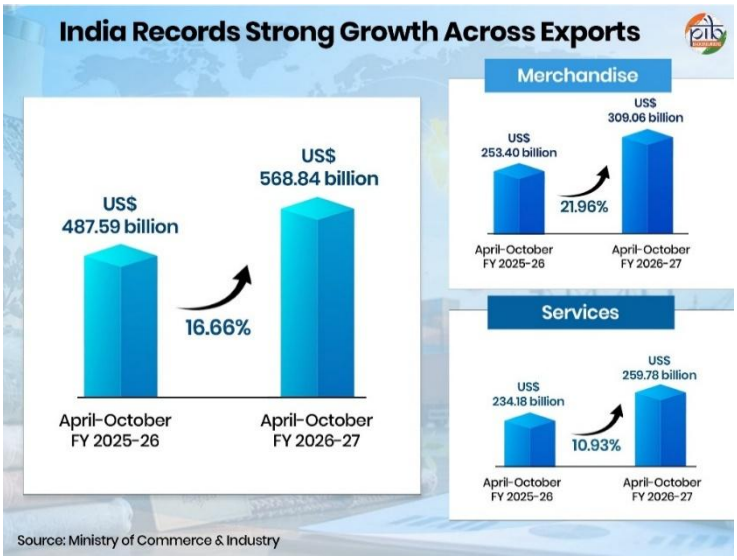
This progress has sustained over several years. After reaching a new high in **FY 2021-22**, India's total exports set fresh records in each successive financial year. By **FY 2025-26**, they had reached **US$ 863.1 billion**, completing five consecutive years of record exports.

This momentum has continued into **FY 2026-27**, with **higher export values and growth** across a range of products and overseas markets.

India's Export Growth Continues in FY 2026-27

Total exports are estimated at US$ 568.84 billion during April-October FY 2026-27, up **16.66%** from US$ 487.59 billion a year earlier. The increase reflected growth in both merchandise and services exports.

Merchandise exports recorded **21.96%** growth during the period, whereas, services exports recorded **10.93%** growth.



Exports Recorded Positive Growth Every Month of FY 2026-27

The strength of this performance is sustained across the first half of FY 2026-27. Total exports reached **record US$ 479.0 billion during April-September FY 2026-27**. Merchandise and services exports also achieved **their highest-ever values for this period**.

- **Merchandise exports** reached **US$ 259.71 billion**, registering **18.4% year-on-year growth**.
- **Services exports** reached **US$ 219.27 billion**, registering **10.2% year-on-year growth**.



October added further momentum, with total exports estimated at **US$ 89.99 billion**, registering **29.90% year-on-year growth**.

- Merchandise exports surged **45.06% to US$ 49.47 billion.**
- Services exports were estimated at **US$ 40.51 billion, registering ~15.2%** Y-o-Y growth.

Broad-Based Sectoral Growth in India's Exports

a) **Services Remain a Strong Pillar of India's Exports:** India's services exports have expanded faster than the global average over the past decade. Services exports have helped **cushion India's external sector** against geopolitical disruptions, reducing vulnerabilities and supporting trade stability.

   Between 2015 and 2025, they grew at a compound annual rate of 10.3%, compared with 6.6% globally. Consequently, India's share of global services exports increased from 3.1% to **4.3%.** During April-October FY 2026-27, they accounted for **~45.7%** of total exports.

   India's growing network of trade agreements is **widening access** to overseas markets for its services sector. These agreements **ease professional mobility** and **open opportunities** for Indian providers across diverse services.

b) **Strong Sectoral Gains Support India's Export Momentum:** India's merchandise export growth drew strength from industrial goods as well as agricultural and traditional products. During April-October FY 2026-27, **seven of the ten leading export categories recorded double-digit growth.** Major growth categories include:

Selected Export Category	Year-on-year growth
Other cereals*	**109.74%**
Petroleum products	**47.71%**
Electronic goods	**46.92%**
Meat, dairy and poultry	**40.81%**
Handicrafts, excluding hand-made carpets	**36.05%**
Engineering goods	**22.00%**
Plastic and linoleum	**19.57%**
Organic and inorganic chemicals	**18.21%**
Marine products	**13.32%**
Gems and jewellery	**12.16%**

*Other cereals include rye, barley, oats, fonio, quinoa, etc, and excludes wheat, rice, maize, and millet

The wider export basket also reflects strong growth. **Non-petroleum exports rose 18.01% to US$ 259.22 billion Y-o-Y in** April-October FY 2026-27 .

Export Success Takes Shape Across Sectors
From electronic components to processed foods, individual product successes illustrate the range of goods reaching overseas markets. **A Wider Range of Electronics Drives Growth:** Electronic goods exports grew **44%** Y-o-Y to US$ 31.97 billion during April-September FY 2026-27, with gains across smartphones and other electronics. • Non-smartphone exports expanded **56.5%,** outpacing smartphone growth of **35.8%.**

- Growth extended across components and equipment. Other mounted circuit boards surged **3,219%.**
- Memory chips and solid-state storage devices grew **2,332% and 1,681%**, respectively.
- Loaded circuit boards increased **304%**, and networking equipment rose **98%**.
- **Singapore, China and Hong Kong** featured prominently among leading destinations for these products. **Malaysia** was the leading destination for memory chips, while **the US and the Netherlands** were major markets for networking equipment.

Indian Staples Make Global Gains : Alongside electronics, certain agricultural products also recorded strong export growth during April-September FY 2026-27.

- **Basmati rice** exports rose **25%** year-on-year to US$ 1,601 million, with Iran, Saudi Arabia and the USA among leading markets.
- Growth also extended to processed foods, with frozen potato exports increasing **21%** to US$ 179 million.
- **Yellow dent corn** recorded the **sharpest growth** among these products, **surging 1,156%** to US$ 123 million. Its leading markets included Bangladesh, Vietnam and the Philippines.

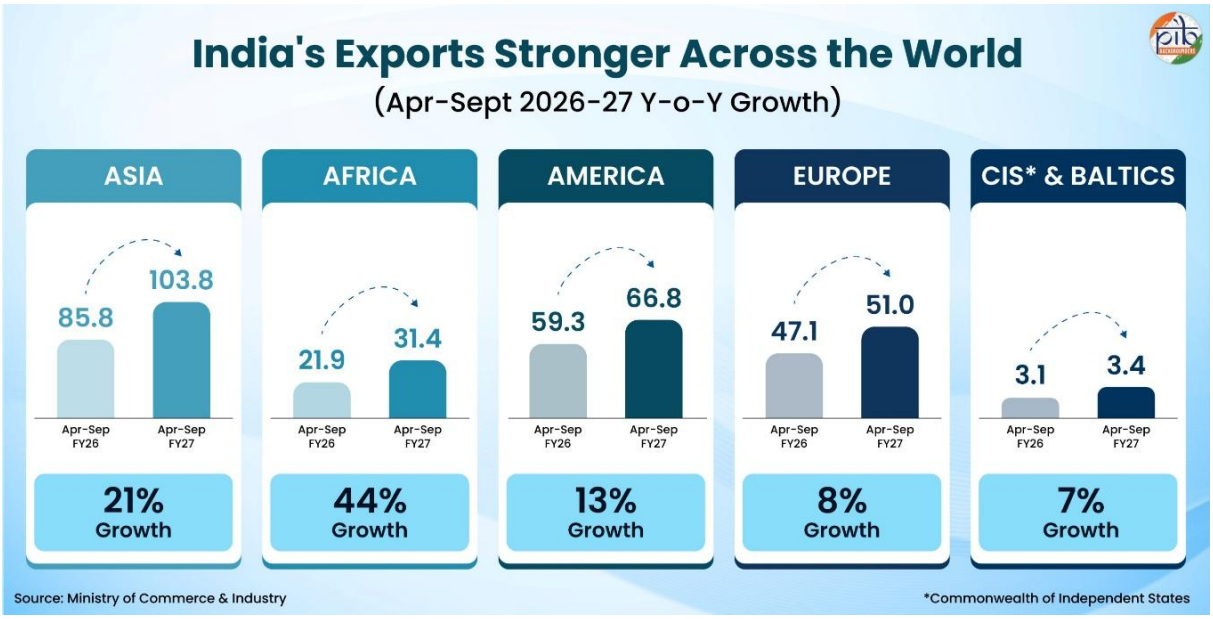
India's Export Footprint Grows Across Global Markets

India's export growth also found strength across its leading overseas markets. During **April-October FY 2026-27, eight of the ten largest merchandise export destinations recorded double-digit growth.**

Selected Export Destinations	Year-on-year growth
Singapore	**107.50%**
Malaysia	**106.87%**
Spain	**88.38%**
South Africa	**62.20%**
Sri Lanka	**60.42%**
Hong Kong	**47.61%**
Japan	**41.02%**
China	**37.71%**
Germany	**14.53%**
USA	**14.48%**
UK	**13.30%**

Export Growth Beyond the Leading Markets

Trade expansion also reached markets beyond India's largest export destinations. The regional picture reflects this wider reach.



More Products Reaching New Markets

A new market is a **product-country combination** with exports recorded in April-September FY 2026-27 but none during the corresponding period last year.

India's export reach also widened during **April-September FY 2026-27**, with **1,985 new product-market pairs generating US$ 622.1 million in exports**. These covered **116 product groups across 229 countries and territories**. Top 5 items under this include:

- Ships, boats and floating structures led with US$ 293.3 million, accounting for **47.2%** of these exports.
- Silver contributed US$ 70.6 million, representing an **11.3%** share.
- Wheat exports totalled US$ 61.3 million, accounting for **9.9%** share.
- Railway equipment and parts contributed US$ 55.8 million, representing **9.0%**, of total share.
- Motor vehicles and cars added US$ 9.5 million, or **1.5%**.

Regional Specialities Find New Markets

Local produce is also reaching new destinations, taking India's regional specialities to overseas buyers. Shipments in **October 2026** illustrate this expanding reach:

Frozen foods: 24 tonnes shipped from Sonipat, Haryana, to Canada**.**

Organic palmyra jaggery powder: First shipment of 1.75 tonnes from Erode, Tamil Nadu, to Bulgaria.

Liquid glucose: First commercial shipment of 48 tonnes from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, to Vietnam.

Sinduri pomegranates: 1.3 tonnes exported from Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, to Dubai.

Kiwi: 1.5 tonnes shipped from Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, to Dubai.

GI-tagged Tandur red gram: First shipment of 2.5 tonnes from Telangana to Australia.

GI-tagged Seoni Jumbo Sitafal: First shipment of approximately 1.25 tonnes from Madhya Pradesh to Sharjah, sourced from a self-help group.

Exports Strengthened Across Trade Agreement Partners

India's exports also expanded across **various trade-agreement partners during April-September FY 2026-27.**

a) **Regional partnerships recorded strong growth**, with exports to **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) rising 58%** and shipments to **South Asian Free Trade Area** (**SAFTA**) members **increasing 22%**.

b) **Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka stood out among individual partner markets.** Exports to Singapore more than doubled at **103%**, followed by Malaysia at **83%** and Sri Lanka at **73%**.

c) **The expansion extended to other long-standing partners**. Exports to Japan and South Korea rose **40% and 24%**, respectively. Nepal, Bhutan and Thailand also recorded increases of **19%, 16% and 7%**.

d) **Export Performance Across Recent Trade Agreements**:

- **Oman and Mauritius** recorded the strongest increases among recent agreement partners**,** with exports growing **47% and 45%,** respectively.
- Exports to **Australia increased 11%,** while the **UK and European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** recorded growth of **7%** and **5%,** respectively.

With India EU FTA coming into force early next year, Indian exports are all set to gain competitive advantage in a large trading block.

Exports within India's Broader Economic Progress

India's export growth complements the country's broader economic progress, alongside strong domestic demand, improving employment conditions and a resilient external position.

A Strong Domestic Base

Real GDP grew **7.8% year-on-year in April-June FY 2026-27** , while the outlook for the financial year remains strong. The **Reserve Bank of India, OECD, IMF and World Bank project growth of 7-7.1%**, highlighting consumption, investment, exports and services as key drivers of economic momentum.

To read more about India's GDP Performance in Q1 2026-27, please refer to India's GDP Performance.

Poverty Reduction Over the Years

India's economic progress is also reflected in falling poverty. According to the World Bank's *Poverty & Equity Brief* (October 2026), the share of Indians living on less than **US$ 4.20 a day** fell from **57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023**, bringing about **496 million people out of poverty**. Over the same period, extreme poverty, i.e., living on less than **US$3 a day**, declined from **27.1% to 2.6%**.

India's Labour Market Shows Broad Improvement

Alongside this expansion, recent labour-market indicators show improving participation and employment.

Indicator	What the indicator denotes	Area	Apr-Jun 2026	Jul-Sept 2026
Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)	Measures the share of the population that is either working or seeking or available for work	Rural	56.9%	58.1%
		Urban	50.2%	50.4%
Worker Population Ratio (WPR)	Measures the proportion of employed persons in the population	Rural	54.2%	55.6%
		Urban	46.8%	46.9%

Additionally, unemployment among people aged 15 and above declined to 5.1% in July-September 2026, from **5.4% in April-June**.

Women's Participation Takes a Step Forward: Labour force participation among rural women rose from **37.2% in April-June to 39.2% in July-September 2026**. Among urban women, it increased from **25.0% to 25.5%** over the same period.

The improvement therefore extends beyond lower unemployment, with more people participating in the labour market and a greater proportion employed.

FDI Inflows and Forex Reserves

India's external position also benefits from continued direct investment inflows and substantial reserves. Net foreign direct investment inflows rose to **US$ 8.8 billion during April-September 2026** , from **US$ 7.4 billion** a year earlier. Foreign exchange reserves also stood at **US$ 719.55 billion as of 6 November 2026**, providing a sizeable external buffer.

Policy Support Sustaining India's Export Momentum

Legal Foundation of India's Foreign Trade

The Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 provides **India's legal framework for foreign trade.**

India's export policy supports businesses through duty relief, production support, local export development and targeted assistance. The **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**, effective from 1 April 2023, provides the overarching framework for India's exports and imports. The accompanying **Handbook of Procedures (HBP)** explains how its provisions are implemented.

Shaping Export Competitiveness

Supporting export production

FTP instruments facilitate access to inputs and equipment used in export production :

Scheme	Key Provisions
Advance Authorisation (AA)	Allows duty-free import of inputs physically incorporated into export products. **26,283 authorisations** issued in FY 2025-26.
Duty Free Import Authorisation (DFIA)	Allows duty-free import of inputs on post-export basis. **3,579 authorisations** issued in FY 2025-26.
Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG)	Allows capital goods imports at zero customs duty for pre-production, production and post-production. **21,838 authorisations** issued in FY 2025-26.

Easing the domestic tax burden

Remission mechanisms address eligible taxes and levies embedded in exported products:

Scheme	Key Provisions
Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)	Extended till **31.12.2026,** it refunds unrebated taxes and duties on eligible exports by Domestic Tariff Area (DTAs) Units**, AA holders,** Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Units and Export Oriented Units (EOUs). Exporters received **₹77,262.60 crore** in benefits during **April 2021-December 2025**.
Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)	Extended till **31.12.2026**, it refunds unrebated State and Central taxes and levies on apparel and made-ups. The Scheme benefited **15,400+ exporters across 444+ districts**, predominantly MSMEs, in **FY 2025-26.**

Broadening export participation: Taking Local Enterprises Global

Various policy and facilitation measures have been undertaken to support exports by MSMEs, startups, artisans and small exporters.

a) Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) : The DEH initiative makes each district a unit of export planning, helping local enterprises build competitiveness and access global markets. Aligned with *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and *Vocal for Local*, it supports district-led growth.

As of **March 2026**, draft plans covered **590 districts**, with **249 formally adopted** by District Export Promotion Committees.

To read more on DEH, please refer to Districts as Export Hubs: Taking India's Exports to Every District

b) E-Commerce Exports: The FTP provides a framework for cross-border trade of goods and services in the digital economy, promoting e-commerce and emerging export channels. One such framework envisages **E-Commerce Export Hubs (ECEHs)** as centres providing business infrastructure and facilities for cross-border e-commerce.

Export Promotion Mission (EPM): An Integrated Push

Approved in **November 2025**, **EPM** has an outlay of **₹25,060 crore for FY 2025-26 to FY 2030-31** to strengthen export competitiveness, expand exports and generate employment. It combines financial and non-financial support across trade finance, compliance, market access and logistics. The Scheme focuses on **MSMEs, first-time exporters, labour-intensive sectors and exporters in interior and low-export regions**.



Support During Trade Disruptions: The **Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF)** has a **₹497 crore outlay** under EPM, particularly **supporting MSMEs.** The component provides covers for higher freight costs, insurance premiums and war-related risks from Gulf-West Asia maritime disruptions. It covers both eligible past shipments and prospective exports.

To read more on EPM, please refer to Export Promotion Mission: Building an Integrated Pathway for MSMEs in Global Trade

Unlocking Overseas Markets: Rising Trade Partnerships

India's expanding trade partnerships are widening market access and strengthening economic resilience amid global challenges.



The Evolving Landscape of India's Trade Partnerships: Alongside implementing recent agreements, India is pursuing **nine trade negotiations** to expand its global reach. This includes talks with the **US, Canada, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and others**. Additionally, f**our review or upgrade negotiations** are also underway, including the **India-Korea CEPA** and **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement.**

To read more on India's Trade Partnerships, please refer to Signed, Sealed and Exporting: India's Trade Agreements in Action

Special Economic Zones (SEZs): Expanding Export Infrastructure

SEZs are designated areas that **promote trade and investment**. They support exports by attracting domestic and foreign investment, developing infrastructure and enabling industrial activity. These zones also **generate foreign exchange** and **create direct and indirect employment**, supporting local businesses and economies. As on July 2026, a total of **372** SEZs have been notified. **Eight** new SEZs were notified during **FY 2026-27.**

Entity	Sector	Location	Proposed investment (~₹ crore)	Proposed direct/indirect employment (approx.)
Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited	Electronic hardware and software, including IT/ITES	Dholera Special Investment Region, Gujarat	91,000	21,900
NDR Infrastructure Private Ltd	Multi-sector	Ranipet district, Tamil Nadu	316.1075	1,000
Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation (PIPDIC)	Multi-sector	Puducherry district, Puducherry (UT)	1,250	5,000
Oulgaret Municipality SEZ	IT/ITES	Puducherry district, Puducherry (UT)	725	3,500
Cognizant Technology Solutions India Private Limited	IT/ITES	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh	1,582.98	17,302
Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Private Limited	Semiconductor	Khordha, Jatni, Odisha	297.39	250
Polymatech Electronics Limited	Electronics and engineering—semiconductor and electronics manufacture	Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh	130	1,300
NIDP Developers Private Limited	IT/ITES SEZ for data centre development	Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar district, Uttar Pradesh	2,448.66	166

To read more on SEZs, please refer to: Union Budget 2026–27: Strengthening SEZs for Global Competitiveness & Growth.

Streamlining Export Delivery

India is strengthening export delivery through digital services, simpler customs procedures and better access to logistics infrastructure.

Trade Connect is designed to empower Indian exporters by bringing international trade information and services into one place, easing access to global markets.

ICEGATE (Indian Customs Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Gateway) connects Indian Customs and traders through a single digital gateway, simplifying customs procedures and facilitating cross-border trade.

Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) integrates government logistics systems through APIs. By July 2026, ULIP linked **46 systems across 12 Central Ministries through 142 APIs**.

Logistics Data Bank (LDB) tracks EXIM containers in real time, improving information exchange and logistics visibility.

Dak Ghar Niryat Kendras (DNKs) simplify postal exports through booking, digital documentation and customs clearance. As of January 2026, **1,013 DNKs** are operational nationwide, helping exporters in remote areas reach global markets.

Broader Policy Framework Supporting Export Growth

India's export growth is reinforced by **Make in India**, **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes** and **PM MITRA Parks**, which strengthen manufacturing capabilities and export capacity.

These efforts are complemented by the **National Logistics Policy**, **PM GatiShakti** and **Sagarmala**, which support better connectivity and lower logistics costs to strengthen export competitiveness.

Conclusion

India's recent export performance reflects growth in both merchandise and services, with gains extending across products and partner countries. This expansion draws on the **collective efforts** of exporters, MSMEs, traders and the government to strengthen competitiveness and reach new buyers. These efforts are backed by consistent policy support through manufacturing incentives, market-access assistance and logistics initiatives.

Additionally, measures to simplify trade, improve connectivity and help businesses enter new markets continue to reinforce this support. These measures will further support Indian enterprises to build their reach across wider markets.

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