

# NEWS TODAY

## CAPEX (Capital expenditure) survey Released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)

The Forward-Looking Survey on Private Sector Capex Investment Intentions (**Capex Survey**), the first of its kind by the **National Statistics Office (NSO)** (under MOSPI), was conducted under the **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008**.

### Key Findings

- ▶ **Private sector CAPEX** grew **66% from FY22 to FY25**, reaching ~Rs 6.5 lakh crore.
- ▶ **Manufacturing enterprises** accounted for **48% of total private sector CAPEX** in FY24-25.
- ▶ In **2024-25**, most enterprises focused **CAPEX on core assets**, with others investing in **value addition, opportunistic assets, and diverse strategies**.

### Significance of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)

- ▶ **Capex involves spending on assets:** That have long-term benefits for the business. **E.g.**, Property, equipment, acquiring new technology.
- ▶ **Strategic Decision-Making:** Capex decisions reflect strategic priorities, indicating where resources are allocated to drive future growth.
- ▶ **Competitive Advantage:** By investing in Capex, companies can enhance their **operational efficiency, innovate products or services**, and stay ahead of competitors.
- ▶ **Asset Maintenance and Upgrades:** Capex is needed to maintain existing assets, upgrade technology, or expand production capacity.
- ▶ **Investor Confidence:** Capex signals to investors that the company is committed to its long-term growth and value creation.

### Challenges hindering private sector Capital Expenditure

- ▶ Difficulty in **mobilizing large equity and affordable debt**.
- ▶ **Project structuring issues** related to risk estimation and mitigation.
- ▶ **Delays in clearances and land acquisition**.

 Aspect	 Capital Expenditure	 Revenue Expenditure
 Nature	Creates assets for the future	Does not create assets or reduce liabilities
 Impact	Results in long-term benefits or returns	Day-to-day operational spending
 Duration	One-time or infrequent spending	Ongoing, recurring spending

### About Capital Expenditure

- ▶ **Definition:** Capital expenditure is the money spent by the government on the development of machinery, building, health facilities, education, etc.
- ▶ **Capital expenditure includes money spent on the following:** Acquiring fixed and intangible assets; Upgrading an existing asset; Repairing an existing asset & Repayment of loan

## Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam pioneers India's first certified Green Municipal Bonds

It was issued under the **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban**, raising ₹150 crore for the development of a cutting-edge **Tertiary Sewage Treatment Plant (TSTP)**.

- ▶ TSTP ensures that **treated water meets the highest standards**, making it suitable for reuse in industrial processes.
- ▶ The TSTP was developed under the **Public-Private Hybrid Annuity Model (PPP-HAM)**, with **40% municipal funding**.

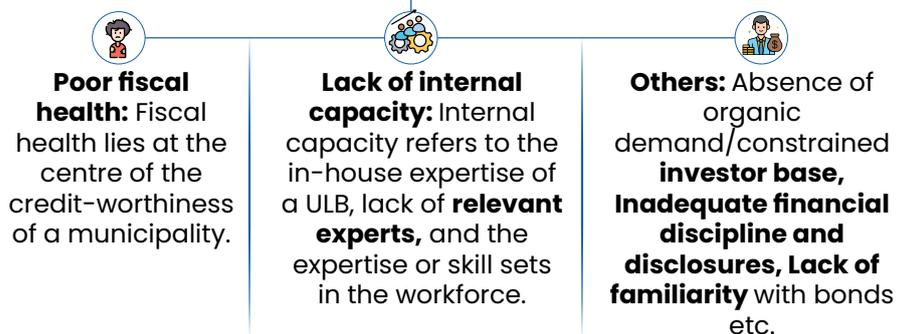
### Green Municipal Bond (GMB)

- ▶ **Municipal bonds** refer to **non-convertible debt securities** issued by a municipal body or another entity that is established for such purposes and entrusted with functions under **Article 243W** of the Indian Constitution.
- ▶ **Green bonds** are used to raise funds **specifically for the climate mitigation, adaptation and other environment friendly and low carbon projects (World Bank)**.

### Significance of GMB

- ▶ **Sustainable development:** Investors are increasingly focused on integrating **Environment, Social and Governance (ESG)** factors into their investment processes.
- ▶ **Low cost, long term capital:** They are **cost-competitive with other bonds** and can provide capital at a **lower cost than commercial bank loans**.
- ▶ **Broaden investor base:** As existing traditional financing sources such as domestic bank loans are not sufficient to support capacity addition.

### Challenges of Raising GMB



## United States Places India on 'Priority Watch List' Over Alleged Intellectual Property Rights Violations

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) **Special 301 Report** placed **8 countries** on Priority Watch List, indicating concerns regarding **intellectual property (IP) protection and enforcement**.

- IP refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce. (WIPO)

### Issues with the IP ecosystem in India

- **Patentability Criteria:** Discretionary and procedural use of criteria under the Indian Patents Act.
  - ⊕ E.g., **Section 3(d)** of the **Patents Act, 1970**, considers as non-patentable “the mere discovery of a new form of a known substance which does not result in the enhancement of the known efficacy of that substance.”
- **Ineffective IP Enforcement:** Weak Law Enforcement; National and state law enforcement agencies do not collaborate effectively; Penalties for IP violations lack severity; Piracy and Counterfeiting Hubs.
  - ⊕ E.g., India features in the 2024 Notorious Markets List.
- **Trademark-Related Issues:** High Levels of Counterfeiting; Poor Examination Quality.
  - ⊕ E.g., India is not a party to the Singapore Treaty on the Law of Trademarks.
- **New Burdens on Foreign Entities:** The Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 require foreign entities to seek approval for IP protection on Indian biological resources.
- **Others: Delays** in IPR Granting and Backlog, **lack of awareness** and education on IPR, **digitization** leading to **online piracy** etc.

### Initiatives for strengthening IP ecosystem in India

- **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy, 2016:** In line with WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) Agreement.
- **National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM),** Scheme for **Startups** Intellectual Property Protection (SIPP), IP Saarthi chatbot
- **Patents (Amendments) Rules, 2024:** Easing process of Patent registration and approval.
- **Intellectual Property Divisions:** Calcutta and Himachal Pradesh High Courts have established IP Divisions in 2024, joining Delhi and Madras High Courts.
- India committed to aligning with the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and Copyright Treaty.

## Centre launches Green Hydrogen Certification Scheme of India (GHCI)

It is launched under the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM)**.

- it aims to create a **robust framework** for certifying green hydrogen (GH) **production** and ensuring **transparency, traceability, and market credibility**.

### About GHCI

- **Ministry:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- **Purpose:** To develop detailed methodology for the **measurement, monitoring, reporting, onsite verification, and certification** of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- **Nodal Authority:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- **Certification details:**
  - ⊕ **Certification Scope:** Shall operate at the project level of Green hydrogen production, encompassing all stages up to the compression and purification of hydrogen for transport.
    - ◆ Processes such as transport and storage of hydrogen outside plant boundaries, conversion into hydrogen carriers, reconversions, and utilization are **excluded from the certification scope**.
  - ⊕ **Two Types of certificates may be issued for GH production facilities: concept certificate** (voluntary) and **facility level certificate** (mandatory).
  - ⊕ **Calculation of GHG emissions intensity** for GH production shall follow the **MNRE Green Hydrogen Emission Calculation Methodology**.
  - ⊕ **'Green' Certification** is **conditional** on meeting the average **emission intensity** requirements of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq/kg H<sub>2</sub> or less.
  - ⊕ The certificate is **non-transferable or tradable** and cannot be claimed for any **emission reduction credits**.

### About NGHM

- Launched in **2023** with an aim to make India a **Global Hub** for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- **Target:** Production of **5 MMT per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030**.
- **Key Components:** Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme; Green Hydrogen Hubs.
- **Strategies:** **Demand creation** through promoting **exports and domestic consumption**; addressing **supply-side constraints**; **certification framework**.

## Principal Scientific Adviser Unveils Report on Research & Development (R&D) Organizations

The Report "Evaluation of Innovation Excellence Indicators of Public Funded R&D Organizations", is aimed at benchmarking & enhancing innovation performance across India's publicly funded research ecosystem.

### Key Highlights of the Report

- ▶ **India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD):** It has doubled from Rs. 60,200 crores in 2010–11 to Rs. 1,27,400 crores in 2020–21.
  - ⊕ **Major contributions:** Came from the Central Government (43.7%), followed by Private Sector, Higher Education, and State Governments.
- ▶ **Socio-economic Impact:** Public R&D labs/institutes are harnessing digital technologies (e.g., IoT sensors, drones and big data analytics) to create solutions.
  - ⊕ E.g., Development of new genotypes (underlying genetic blueprint) that enhance farmer incomes.
- ▶ **Engagement with Startup Ecosystem:** Number of labs engaging in incubation process remains low.
  - ⊕ E.g., Only about **one in four** public-funded R&D organisations **give incubation support to start-ups** and only **one in six** provide support to 'deep tech' startups.
- ▶ **Limited Collaboration and Access to Facilities:** E.g., Only **15% collaborated with industry overseas** and **only half of them** opened their facilities to **outside researchers**.

### Recommendations

- ▶ **Labs should align** their mandates with **Viksit Bharat goals**, focusing on critical technologies.
- ▶ **Foster industry collaborations** to enhance innovation.
- ▶ **Open research facilities** to external researchers and students.
- ▶ **Increase support for deep-tech startups**, including setting up Section 8 companies.

### About India's R&D ecosystem

- ▶ India spent **0.64% of its GDP** on R&D in 2020–21. Most of the **developed countries** spent more than **2% of their GDP on R&D**.
- ▶ **WIPO Report 2022:** India is ranked at 7th position in terms of Resident Patent Filing activity in the world.
- ▶ **Initiatives by the Government:**
  - ⊕ **Impacting Research Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT):** It provides solutions to the most relevant engineering challenges.
  - ⊕ **Research Park:** Provide an interface between entrepreneurship and Industry to establish their R&D units.

## Also In News



### Bees

Recent studies show that **microplastic pollution** can impair pollinators like bees and bumblebees, affecting their ability to **forage and pollinate**.

#### About Bees

- ▶ **Range:** Wild bees species live on every continent **except Antarctica**.
- ▶ **Characteristics**
  - ⊕ **Only female bees have stingers** (which are modified ovipositors, organs originally used to lay eggs).
  - ⊕ Feed exclusively on **sugary nectar and protein-rich pollen** from flowering plants.
- ▶ Pollinate a staggering **80 percent of all flowering plants**.



### Zojila Pass

**Zojila pass is now open to tourists** and does not require **prior authorisation or a no-objection certificate (NOC)**.

#### About Zojila Pass

- ▶ **Elevation:** Around 3528 m (11, 649 ft) above sea level.
- ▶ It is an important link between **Ladakh and Kashmir**, separating the Kashmir Valley from Drass Valley.
- ▶ Nestled on **National Highway 1** between Srinagar and Leh, this pass is considered to be the **second-highest pass** after Fotu La.
- ▶ In 2018, the **Zojila tunnel project** was launched.
  - ⊕ When completed, it will be the **longest bi-directional Tunnel in Asia**.



### Drugs & Cosmetics (Compounding of Offences) Rules 2025

The **Drugs & Cosmetics (Compounding of Offences) Rules 2025** have been notified

#### About the rules

- ▶ **Purpose:** To allow minor offences under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act to be compounded—i.e., settled through fines instead of legal proceedings.
- ▶ **Applicable to:**
  - ⊕ **Pharmaceutical companies** and
  - ⊕ Any person involved in **manufacture, import, sale, distribution**, or related activities under the Act.
- ▶ **Conditions for Compounding:** Only first-time offenders are eligible.



### Locust

Locust movement is based on a cognitive decision-making process based on their perception of nearby motion as per a new study.

#### About Locust

- ▶ Locusts are the **short-horned grasshoppers** with highly migratory habits, marked polymorphism and voracious feeding behavior.
- ▶ They are capable of forming **swarms (adult's congregation) and hopper bands (nymphal congregation)**.
- ▶ They cause **great devastation to natural and cultivated** vegetation.
- ▶ **Only four species** viz. Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), Bombay Locust (*Nomadacris succincta*) and Tree locust (*Anacridium sp.*) are found in India.



### Long-period average (LPA)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast 'above normal' rainfall – 105% of the long-period average (LPA) of 87 cm (1971-2020) – during the June-September southwest monsoon season.

#### About Long-period average (LPA)

- **Concept:** It refers to the average rainfall recorded over a specific region during a defined time interval.
- **Period:** It is calculated over a long historical period – usually 30 years.
- **Purpose:** LPA serves as a benchmark to compare current or forecasted rainfall, helping to categorize it as normal, above normal, or deficient.
- **LPAs for various meteorological region ranges:** Varies from around 61 cm for the drier Northwest India to more than 143 cm for the wetter East and Northeast India.



### Golconda Blue diamond

The Golconda Blue, a 23.24-carat Fancy Vivid Blue Diamond, was scheduled for auction in Geneva.

#### Golconda Blue diamond

- Historically owned by Maharaja Yeshwant Rao Holkar of Indore.
- Origin: Likely from Golconda region, known for its diamond mines.
  - ⊕ Golconda diamonds include the Koh-i-Noor, Darya-i-Nur, and Archduke Joseph diamond.
- **Accounts by European Travellers**
  - ⊕ Jean-Baptiste Tavernier (1605–89) recorded booming diamond trade and royal monopoly.
  - ⊕ Others: Jean de Thévenot (1633–77) noted there was no uniformity in diamond prices; Marco Polo (1292): Praised India's monopoly over high-quality diamonds.



### Risk Society

It is a concept given by sociologist Ulrich Beck in his book 'Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity.'

#### About Risk Society

- Definition: Risk Society describes a shift from an industrial society to one increasingly shaped by uncertainty and hazards created by technological and environmental developments.
  - ⊕ E.g. Nuclear technology and associated risks of disasters.
- In such a society, the focus moves from the distribution of wealth to the prevention and management of risks.
- Gender dimension: In a risk society, women, especially in developing countries, face greater risks due to unequal access to resources, decision-making power, and healthcare.



### Project Kuiper

Amazon launched the first 27 satellites under its Project Kuiper for deployment of an internet-from-space network.

#### About Project Kuiper

- It is Amazon's low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite broadband network.
  - ⊕ LEO is an area of space that extends up to 2,000 kilometers above Earth.
- Consists of: Ground infrastructure, a constellation of ~3232 satellites, and customer terminals.
- Aim: To provide high-speed, low latency, affordable global broadband access to unserved and underserved areas.
- It is named after the Kuiper belt, a region of the solar system beyond the 8 major planets.
- Similar projects: SpaceX Starlink

## Personality in News



### Jagadguru Basaveshwara

The Prime Minister paid homage to Jagadguru Basaveshwara on the occasion of Basava Jayanti.

#### About Jagadguru Basaveshwara

- A 12th-century philosopher, poet, statesman, Born in 1131 AD in Bagevadi, Karnataka, into a Brahmin family.
- Founder of the **Lingayat tradition**.
- He spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas.
- **Social contribution**
  - ⊕ Advocated social equality and **eradication of caste discrimination**.
  - ⊕ Supported women's participation in spiritual life
  - ⊕ **Key Beliefs:** Kayak (work as worship), Dasoha (equal distribution of wealth).

