

THE TRILLION-DOLLAR ROAR

India's evolution into a world-shaping economy is powered by bold ideas, decisive reforms, and unstoppable momentum



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In 1947, India awoke to freedom with an economy rooted in farmlands, as farming sustained the nation and emerging industries marked its first steps toward modernisation.

Today, India's GDP exceeds USD 4 trillion, its markets pulse with innovation, and it stands as the world's fourth-largest economy. Akash Kohli, founder and CEO of a prominent real estate firm, notes that this growth has been powered by "policy changes, global connections, infrastructure development and different sector developments." Real estate alone makes up 7.3 per cent of GDP, and Kohli sees "sustainable urban growth and digital integration" as vital to shaping a USD 10 trillion economy by 2047.

In the early decades, agriculture was the backbone, employing most people and contributing over half of national income. Large irrigation projects, fertiliser subsidies, mechanisation, and modern farming techniques turned food shortages into surpluses. The sector remains vital, with gross production value projected at USD

FUTURE VISION (2047)

Manufacturing: Targeting 25 per cent of GDP, up from the current 17 per cent, to strengthen India's industrial base and global competitiveness

Global merchandise exports: Aiming to surpass 2 per cent of global trade, increasing India's footprint in international markets

Strategic focus areas: Driving growth in sunrise sectors such as semiconductors, green hydrogen, deeptech, and Agritech 2.0 to foster innovation and sustainability

Economic goal: Building a USD 30–35 trillion economy by 2047, powered by investment, technology, skilled talent, and entrepreneurial energy

530.88 billion in 2025 and expected to grow 3.05 per cent annually to USD 598.72 billion by 2029.

Somdutta Singh, founder and CEO of a recognised e-commerce accelerator brand, recalls that "Today, besides agriculture, a thriving

manufacturing base and a dynamic services sector generate about half of GDP, reflecting the nation's successful economic diversification." Singh cites milestones from the Green Revolution to the 1991 reforms and highlights digital strides such as UPI processing 19.47 billion transactions in July 2025.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SECTORAL SHIFTS

Industrial capacity grew steadily with steel plants, cement factories, textile mills, and an expanding automotive sector. The 1990s' economic liberalisation brought foreign investment, modern technology, and global value chain integration. IT, financial services, and telecom emerged as growth engines. Priya Agarwal Hebbar, non-executive director of a well-known mining company, stresses that "true economic strength rests on resource security," with metals, energy, and critical minerals underpinning infrastructure, defence, aerospace, automotive, and technology. Achieving self-sufficiency in these is essential for sustaining

momentum.

Manufacturing now spans electronics, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy, while healthcare, food processing, and technology continue to draw strong investment. Infrastructure has expanded, from airports and ports to highways, waterways, and power generation, driven by

the USD 1.3 trillion Gati Shakti master plan. "Rapid industrialisation accelerated after liberalisation in 1991, driven not only by foreign capital but also by foreign expertise," says Lajpat Yadav, COO of a leading welding company. He sees manufacturing as central to achieving a USD 30 trillion

economy by 2047, with sustainability, innovation, and global value chain integration defining the next phase.

THE ROAD TO 2047

Economic gains have been matched by social progress. A median age of 28.4 offers a demographic edge, underpinning ambitions for a USD

30–35 trillion economy by 2047.

Appalla Saikiran, founder and CEO of a noted startup networking platform, points out, "By 2047, India must aim for manufacturing to reach 25 per cent of GDP, up from the current 17 per cent, and increase its share in global merchandise exports beyond 2 per cent."