

## ANALYSIS REPORT INDIA @ 2024

**JANUARY 2025 EDITION** 



### 01 OVERVIEW



India in 2024 emerged as a nation striving towards growth, innovation, and resilience. It marked significant achievements across various domains, highlighting its journey to becoming a global leader through realizing its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.





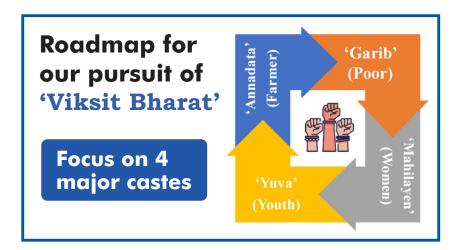


The country faces a mixed landscape of progress and challenges. Economic growth is projected at 6.4%, marking a four-year low, primarily due to slowed manufacturing and corporate investments. Despite this, India remained resilient, focussing on structural reforms and sustainable growth strategies.

The Union Budget 2024-25, emphasized employment generation, Skill Development, support for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and relief for the middle class. Education also emerged as a critical area, with NITI Aayog emphasizing the need to double the number of universities to 2,500 to achieve a 50%

gross enrolment ratio in higher education, addressing the aspirations of its burgeoning youth population.

Further, the introduction of the Draft National Sports Governance Bill 2024 signaled a push toward greater transparency and better athlete welfare. India's performance at the Paris Paralympic Games was historic, with 29 medals, including seven golds, reflecting the nation's growing focus on inclusivity and excellence in sports.



#### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024**

#### **ECONOMIC**

6.4% GDP growth projected

#### **EDUCATION**

NITI Aayog calls for 2500 universities

#### **SPORTS**

29 medals obtained at Paris Paralympics

#### **DEFENSE**

Focus on indigenous defense technologies

#### **SOCIETY**

Initiatives for unity and inclusive development



Defense modernization and enhancing space capabilities remained a priority, with investments in indigenous production and developing cutting-edge technology to enhance national security. India also launched a submarine, a destroyer, and a frigate to strengthen its maritime security in the Indian Ocean, reflecting its commitment to bolstering naval power amidst increasing regional challenges.

Socially, India's diverse demographic and religious fabric continued to be a cornerstone of its identity, with ongoing initiatives to foster unity and equitable development. These multifaceted advancements demonstrate India's dynamic progress and strategic vision for an inclusive and prosperous future.

# O2 INDIA @ CENTRE OF GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS



In 2024, India emerged as a key player in global geopolitics through strategic diplomacy and economic advancements. A significant breakthrough was resolving the long-standing border standoff with China, leading to troop disengagement in eastern Ladakh. This achievement demonstrated India's dedication to regional stability through persistent diplomatic and military efforts.

### MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

### CHINA BORDER RESOLUTION

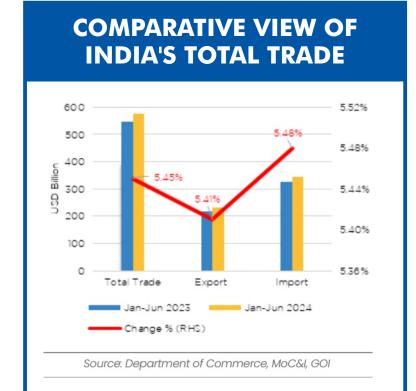
India resolved the eastern Ladakh standoff, reinforcing regional stability.

#### **TRADE GROWTH**

NITI Aayog reported a 5.45% trade increase, boosting economic performance.

#### **MARITIME INFLUENCE**

India gained control of Chabahar Port, strengthening Central Asia connectivity.



India's trade performance remained robust, with NITI Aayog reporting a 5.45% year-on-year rise in total trade during the first half of 2024, reaching \$576 billion. This growth was attributed to increased merchandise imports and a services export surplus, signaling the nation's expanding global economic presence.

Strategically, India fortified its influence in the Indian Ocean by gaining operational control over Iran's Chabahar Port, enhancing connectivity with Afghanistan and Central Asia. This move countered China's Belt and Road Initiative, strengthening India's position in vital maritime trade routes.



However, challenges persisted and relations with the Maldives faced strains following the withdrawal of Indian military personnel at the new government's request.

Diplomatic tensions with Canada required skilful management to maintain bilateral ties in evolving world geopolitics. India's 2024 foreign policy balanced assertiveness with diplomacy, thereby cementing its role as a pivotal global actor.



## 03 INDIAN ECONOMY @ 2024



In 2024, India's economy demonstrated robust growth, with real GDP expanding by 8.2%. This expansion was largely driven by a 9.5% surge in the industrial sector, with manufacturing and construction sectors.



The manufacturing sector achieved an average annual growth rate of 5.2% over the past decade, propelled by industries such as chemicals, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, and machinery. India's transition from being an importer to a net exporter of finished steel, alongside increased domestic coal production, contributed to reduced import dependency.

### **SECTORWISE HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **AGRICULTURE**

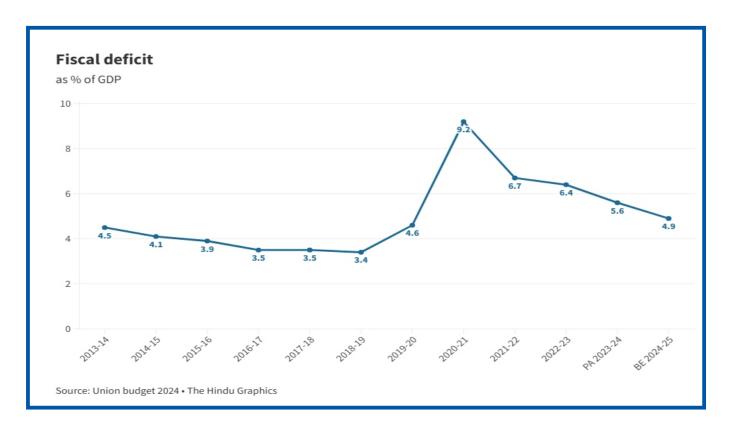
Contributed 17-18% of GDP, with enhanced mechanization, digital platforms, and PM-Kisan Scheme boosting productivity.

#### **INDUSTRY**

Strong growth in manufacturing, steel, electronics, and infrastructure, driven by "Make in India" and PLI schemes.

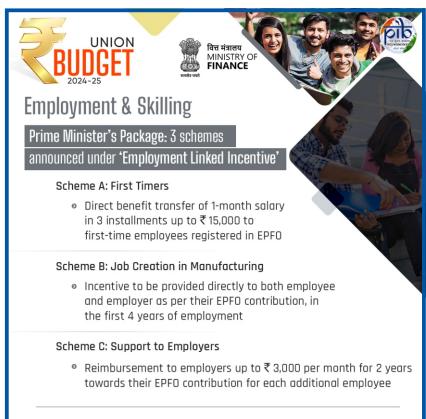
#### **SERVICES**

Over 50% of GDP, led by IT, financial services, and tourism, with rising exports in digital solutions



Fiscal management improved significantly, lowering the fiscal deficit to 5.6% of GDP in FY24 from 6.4% in FY23. Inflation moderated to 5.4%, although food inflation remained elevated due to unfavourable weather conditions impacting agricultural output.

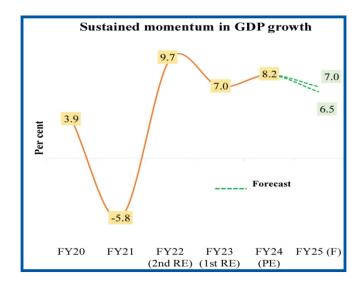
The Union Budget 2024 focussed on job creation and rural development, allocating Rs 32 billion for rural programs and Rs 24 billion for employment initiatives over five years. It also introduced tax reforms, increasing levies on equity investments while providing incentives for employment training and education loans.

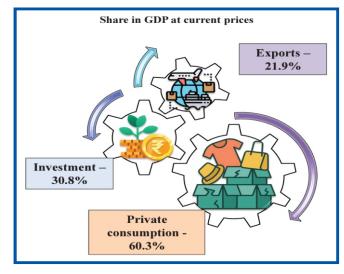






According to the Economic Survey, **India is expected to maintain GDP growth between 6.5% and 7% in the coming years**, emphasizing structural reforms in private investment, agriculture, and job markets.





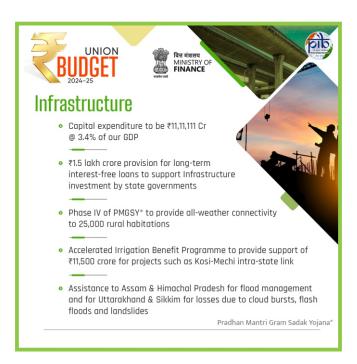
### **How You Can Tap the AG Group Expertise**

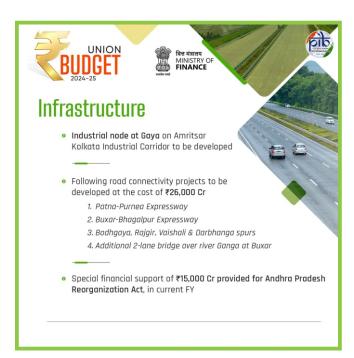
To strengthen your supply chain operations with our innovative approaches Click Here

### 04 INFRASTRUCTURE **UPDATE**



In 2024, India achieved significant infrastructure milestones, advancing major projects. The government's capital expenditure touched nearly Rs 11 lakh Crore, driven by the National Infrastructure Pipeline and PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.





A landmark development was the inauguration of the Atal Setu, India's longest sea bridge, in January 2024. Spanning 21.8 kilometres, it links Mumbai and Navi Mumbai, cutting travel time from nearly two hours to 20–25 minutes. Built at a cost of Rs 21,200 Crore, it strengthens connectivity within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.







The Mumbai Coastal Road Project also progressed, creating a north-south route with India's first undersea tunnel. Its initial 10.5-kilometer phase from Marine Drive to Worli was completed, reducing travel time significantly. Metro expansions transformed urban transit highlighted by Kolkata's underwater metro beneath the Hooghly River and Bengaluru's Green Line extension.



Upcoming infrastructure projects are expected to cut travel time to three hours when finished in August 2025, and Noida International Airport, set to open in mid-2025, initially handling 12 million passengers annually.



These transformative projects reflect India's dedication to driving economic growth and nationwide connectivity improvements.

### 05 EDUCATION & **HEALTHCARE IN** 2024



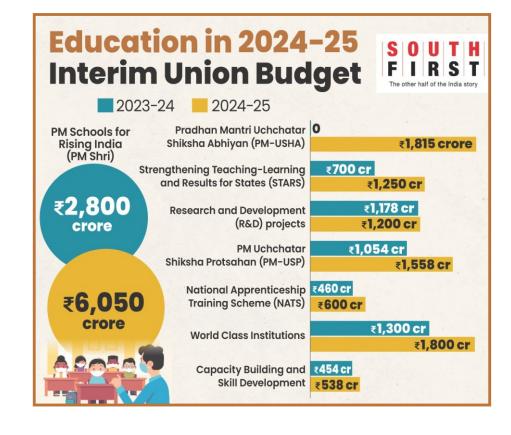
India made remarkable progress in education and healthcare in 2024, emphasizing broader access and improved quality, alongside efforts to boost domestic infrastructure and empower communities.

### UNION BUDGET 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2024 budget increased education funding, including a 50% increase for the PM SHRI scheme.
- 75,000 new medical seats will be added over five years.
- Ayushman Bharat coverage expanded, with a cervical cancer vaccination drive.

The interim budget of February 2024 raised allocations for school and higher education. The Department of School Education received Rs73,008 Crore, up from Rs68,805 Crore. Funding for the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme surged by nearly 50%, reaching Rs 6,050 Crore.

The plan to create 75,000 new medical seats within five years was announced. NITI Aayog stressed the need to double the number of universities to 2,500 to attain a 50%



**higher education enrolment rate**, reinforcing the government's focus on expanding educational access and enhancing quality.

The healthcare sector also received a boost in the budget with the proposal to establish new medical colleges by utilizing existing hospital facilities. The government prioritized vaccination for girls aged 9-14 to prevent cervical cancer and plans to merge maternal and child health programs into a single, streamlined initiative for better efficiency.





Ayushman Bharat insurance coverage has also extended to ASHA workers, Anganwadi staff, and helpers, strengthening support for frontline healthcare providers. These initiatives illustrate India's determined push in 2024 toward greater accessibility, quality, and self-reliance in both critical areas.

### 06 SPORTS & TOURISM **HIGHLIGHTS**



India Made Remarkable Strides In Sports And Tourism In 2024, Solidifying Its Growing Influence On The Global Stage.

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

### 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS & PARALYMPIC GAMES

6 medals (1 Silver, 5 Bronze)

### FIDE CHESS OLYMPIAD

- Double Gold for India
- Gukesh D becomes youngest World Chess Champion

### TOURISM GROWTH IN 2024

- Rs.2,479 Crore allocated for tourism infrastructure
- Ranked 39th in the Travel & Tourism Development Index

### 2024 PARIS PARALYMPICS

29 medals (7 Gold, 9 Silver, 13 Bronze)

At the 2024 Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games, India achieved historic success. **The country achieved six medals out of which one was silver and five were bronze**. The Indian Hockey Team also successfully defended its bronze medal. These accomplishments were nationwide celebrated during India's Independence Day on August 15, 2024.



India's performance at the 2024 Paralympics was groundbreaking. With its largest-ever contingent, the country earned 29 medals—seven gold, nine silver, and thirteen bronze—placing 18th in the overall standings.

In chess, India made history with a double gold victory at the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Budapest. The men's team, including Gukesh D, Praggnanandhaa R, and others, dominated, while the women's team also claimed gold. Gukesh D further cemented his legacy by becoming the youngest World Chess Champion, defeating Ding Liren in Singapore.









Tourism in India also flourished with the country's global rank as 39th in the Travel and **Tourism Development Index,** reflecting improvements in safety, security, and health. The government also allocated Rs 2,479 Crore to boost tourism infrastructure and promote India as a premier global destination.

These developments showcased India's dedication to fostering sports excellence and enhancing its tourism appeal, positioning the nation as a prominent player on each front.

### 07 TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATION



This year India's technology and communication sectors saw major advancements, reaffirming its commitment to digital transformation.

### **KEY THEMES @ 2024**

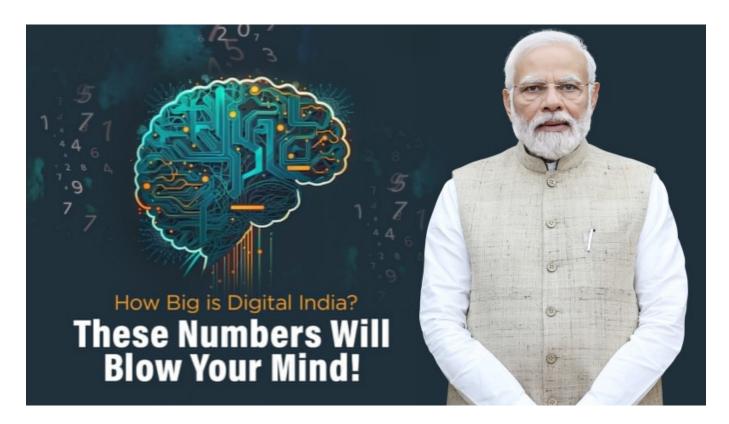
**Digital India** promotes affordable devices, connectivity, and accessibility.

India invests in Al through the IndiaAl Mission and private partnerships.

India leads in digital governance with reforms at ITU-WTSA.

India offers \$5 billion in incentives to boost local electronic production.

Prime Minister emphasized four pillars of the Digital India initiative: affordable devices, nationwide digital connectivity, accessible data, and a 'digital first' approach. He highlighted achievements like increased mobile manufacturing, optical fibre networks, and affordable data, with mobile data costing 12 cents per GB, one of the lowest globally.



India is becoming a key player in artificial intelligence, investing \$1.25 billion through the IndiaAl Mission to support Al development. Major companies like Microsoft and Amazon have committed to building data centres and cloud infrastructure in India.

The International Telecommunication Union - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (ITU-WTSA) 2024, held in New Delhi, highlighted India's leadership in digital governance, with global industry leaders acknowledging its reforms, innovation, and collaborative efforts.





To reduce reliance on China, India introduced incentives of up to \$5 billion for local electronics manufacturing, aiming to boost domestic supply chains and reach a \$500 billion electronics production target by 2030. These developments reflect India's dedication to advancing its technology and communication sectors, fostering innovation, and enhancing digital infrastructure.



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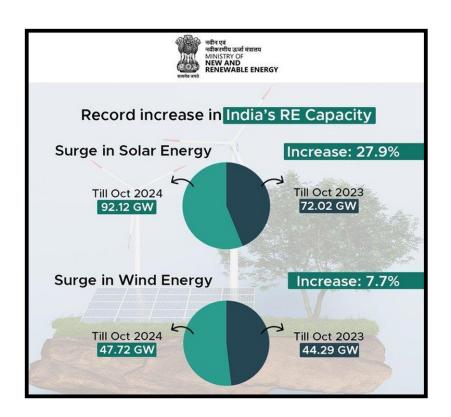
**INDIA @ 2024** 

### 08 ENERGY **SECURITY & GREEN MOBILITY**



India's commitment to energy security and green mobility has been bolstered in 2024 through various government initiatives. The focus was on diversifying energy sources, enhancing domestic production, and transitioning to cleaner energy alternatives.

In the first half of 2024, India saw a 16% increase in EV registrations, totalling 842,396 units, highlighting growing consumer confidence in sustainable transportation. The E-Vehicle Policy, launched in March 2024, aims to attract global EV manufacturers and enhance the domestic EV ecosystem.



### Rewing up...

	Overall EV sales in 2023	Overall EV sales in 2024	e2W sales in 2023	e2W sales in 2024
January	1,02,882	1,45,033	64,558	82,085
February	1,07,221	1,41,728	65,949	82,563
March	1,40,920	2,09,780	86,325	1,37,088
April	1,11,357	1,13,271	66,866	64,454
May	1,58,467	1,23,732	1,05,398	63,954
June	1,02,645	1,08,852	46,102	53,108

The FAME India, Phase II scheme, with Rs 11,500 Crore in funding, focuses on electrifying public transport and encouraging the adoption of electric buses, three-wheelers, and more.

Additionally, the PLI Scheme for the **Automotive Sector** offers incentives of up to 18% for electric vehicles. The Electric **Mobility Promotion** Scheme 2024, with Rs 500 Crore outlay also aims to accelerate the adoption of two- and three-wheelers Evs.



Renewable energy investments in India are set to increase by 83%, reaching \$16.5 billion in 2024, aligning with the target of 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. In January 2024, the National Green Hydrogen Mission was approved with Rs 19,744 Crore in funding, targeting 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen production by 2030.

The Interim Budget 2024-25 further supports the EV ecosystem, enhancing manufacturing and charging infrastructure. These efforts highlight India's quest to achieve energy security through green mobility solutions for a sustainable future.



### **OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS**

Renewable energy investments rise 83% to \$16.5 billion, with a target of 5 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030

EV registrations up by 16% in H1, 2024, supported by policies like E-Vehicle Policy and FAME India Phase II

2024 Budget boosts EV ecosystem with incentives for manufacturing and charging infrastructure

### **SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**



In 2024, India strengthened its efforts in sustainability and climate change mitigation through several key initiatives. On World Environment Day, June 5, the Prime Minister launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, urging citizens to plant trees. By December, over 102 crore trees were planted, with a target of 140 crore by March 2025.

### National Clean Air Programme

Rs. 10,595 cr.

Total funds released from 2029 to 2024

Rs. 6,922 cr.

Total funds utilised

131

Total number of targeted cities

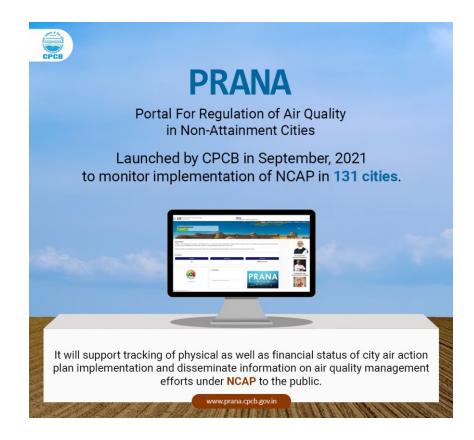
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Cities that continue to be polluted\*

\*Pm10 exceeds 60, which is five-year average

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) reduced particulate matter (PM) levels by 40% in 23 cities. The government allocated Rs 11,200 Crore for pollution control, launching the Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities (PRANA) portal for real-time air quality monitoring.

The **Manarove Restoration** Initiative (MISHTI) aimed to restore 22,561 hectares of mangroves across 13 states, with Rs 17.96 Crore allocated for the restoration of 3,836 hectares. The Biological Diversity Rules, 2024, were introduced in



October to enhance biodiversity conservation, with 125 projects sanctioned under the Nagar Van Yojana, receiving Rs 106.38 Crores.



India's tiger reserves grew to 57, with the addition of two new reserves. Thirteen beaches across six states and three union territories received Blue Flag Certification for the 2024-2025 season.



The Economic Survey 2023-24 revealed India's climate adaptation expenditure was 5.6% of GDP in 2021-2022, stressing the need for increased international finance to meet sustainable development goals. Thus, the Union Budget 2024-25 introduced climate finance taxonomy to support India's green transition. These initiatives demonstrate India's proactive approach to addressing climate change and sustainability at the core.

## 10 WAY FORWARD



In 2024, the Indian government unveiled strategic initiatives to propel the nation's economic and technological advancement. A significant focus is on developing "plug and play" industrial parks in 100 cities, in collaboration with states and the private sector, to provide investment-ready infrastructure and stimulate manufacturing growth.

Additionally, the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme will sanction twelve new industrial parks, further enhancing the manufacturing sector's capabilities. Recognizing the importance of critical minerals in modern industries, the government has proposed establishing a Critical Mineral Mission that will boost domestic production, recycling, and overseas acquisition of essential minerals in the time to come. It will ensure a sustainable supply chain for sectors like electronics and renewable energy.

In the realm of space exploration, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is progressing toward establishing the Bharatiya Antariksha Station, a modular space station. The first module is slated for launch in 2028, with full completion targeted by 2035. This endeavour underscores India's commitment to advancing its space capabilities and contributing to global space research over the years.

These initiatives reflect India's strategic direction post-2024, emphasizing infrastructure development, industrial growth, resource security, and technological innovation to drive sustained economic growth and enhance its position on the global stage.







The year 2024 presented a mixed bag for the Indian economy, with notable successes tempered by emerging challenges. While the economy displayed remarkable resilience amid global uncertainties, persistent domestic issues dampened some of the optimism.



**Ms Diksha Tripathy Editor Economic Times** Online

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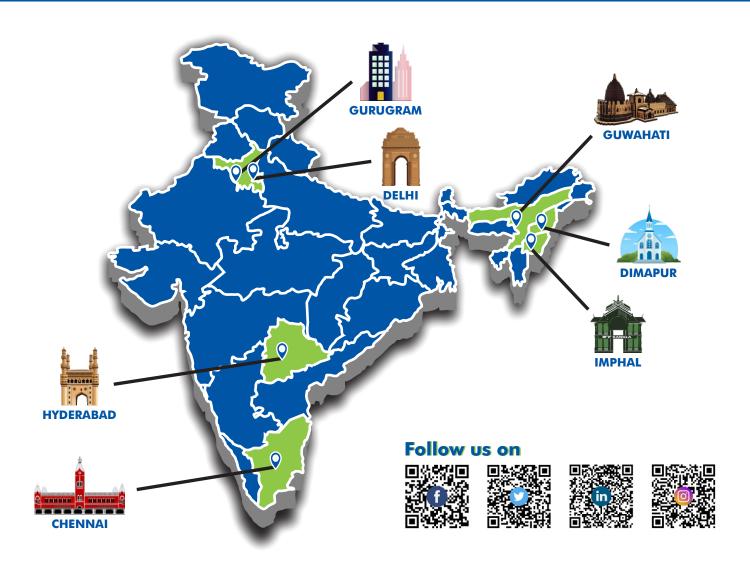




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