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GOVERNMENT
POLICY REPORT

Frontier Nagaland
Territorial Authority

Launch of the Namo Bharat RRTS and Delhi-Meerut Corridor Marks a New Era of Infrastructure

The launch of the Namo Bharat Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and the completion of the Delhi–Meerut corridor mark a defining milestone in India's modern infrastructure journey. **Inaugurated on 22 February 2026, the 82-kilometre corridor connects Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Meerut, introducing the country's first semi-high-speed regional rail service.** The simultaneous rollout of the Meerut Metro alongside the RRTS reflects an integrated vision for regional and urban mobility, setting a new benchmark in coordinated transport planning.

Source: https://ddnews.gov.in/en/pm-modi-inaugurates-indias-first-namo-bharat-rrts-dedicates-delhi-meerut-corridor-to-nation/

Engineered for a **design speed of 180 km/h and operational speeds of around 160 km/h**, Namo Bharat trains drastically reduce travel time between Delhi and Meerut to less than an hour. The corridor **links major urban centres including Ghaziabad, Sahibabad, and Modinagar**, offering fast, reliable, and comfortable transit for daily commuters. With modern stations, advanced signalling systems, and energy-efficient rolling stock, the project represents a significant technological upgrade in India's rail-based transportation network.

Source: https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/namo-bharat-trains-travel-from-delhi-to-meerut-in-just-35-minutes-at-160-kmph-on-rrts-from-fares-to-route-map-amp-stations-top-10-facts/photostory/116992648.cms

A key feature of the corridor is its seamless multimodal integration. Stations are strategically connected with existing Delhi Metro lines, interstate bus terminals, and local transport systems to ensure smooth last-mile connectivity. The shared infrastructure model in Meerut, where both regional rapid rail and metro services operate in coordination, demonstrates efficient use of resources and forward-looking urban design.

Source: https://www.magicbricks.com/news/property-values-along-delhi-meerut-rrts-increased-up-to-69-percent--check-realty-report/140702.html

Beyond mobility, the corridor is expected to generate wide-ranging economic benefits. Faster connectivity **expands employment catchment areas, supports industrial growth, and stimulates real estate and commercial development** along the route. Improved accessibility between Delhi and surrounding cities is also likely to ease pressure on the capital while encouraging balanced regional growth across the National Capital Region (NCR).

IMPACTS OF THE NAMO BHARAT RRTS CORRIDOR

STRENGTHENING DELHI -NCR CONNECTIVITY

Faster regional mobility between major urban centres

ADVANCEMENT IN RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduction of high-speed regional transit technology

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

Encouraging large-scale public transport adoption

DRIVING REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Improved accessibility for business and urban development

The Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat corridor signals the emergence of a new era in infrastructure development—one that **combines speed, sustainability, and strategic urban planning**. As additional RRTS corridors are proposed across the NCR, this pioneering project stands as a model for **future high-capacity regional transit systems** in India.

02 ECONOMY

India's Economic Transformation: Insights from ET Now Global Business Summit 2026

The ET Now Global Business Summit 2026, held in New Delhi under the **theme "A Decade of Disruption, A Century of Change,"** offered important insights into India's evolving economic landscape. The theme reflected how rapid technological advancements, global economic shifts, and policy reforms over the past decade are reshaping the foundations of economic growth. Discussions at the summit highlighted how **India is navigating these disruptions while positioning itself for long-term structural transformation and sustainable development**.

Source: https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/et-now-global-business-summit-2026-a-decade-of-disruption-theme-sets-stage-for-pm-modis-address-article-153603960

One of the key insights emerging from the summit was India's rising role in the global economic order. Participants emphasized that **strong domestic demand, macroeconomic stability, and consistent forward-looking policy-driven reforms have helped the country maintain a steady growth trajectory** despite global uncertainties. India's resilience, combined with expanding investment and entrepreneurship, has strengthened its position as one of the fastest-growing major economies.

"Human resource training and improving human resource knowledge and capability has to be at the root of building strategic sovereignty"
VIVEK LALL
Chief Executive,
General Atomic Global Corporation

"When India started liberalising 30-plus years ago, it was hungry and chasing capital, but today, you have capital chasing India"
KISHORE MOORJANI
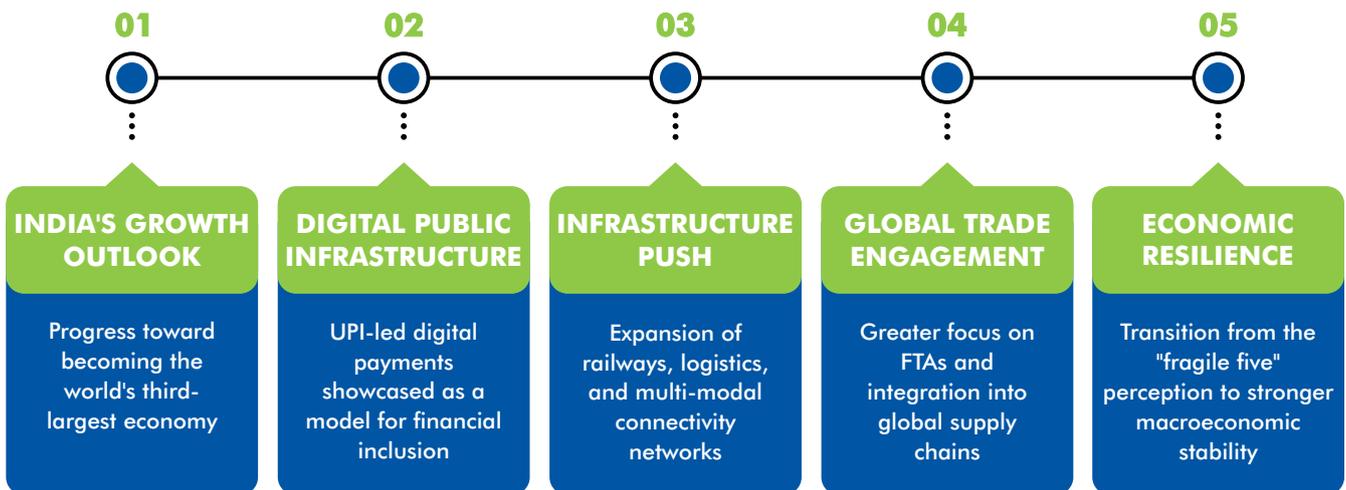CEO - Alternatives, Private Funds,
CapitaLand Investment

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/from-capital-to-capability-experts-decode-strategic-sovereigntyatetnowglobalbusinesssummit2026/articleshow/128320723.cms?from=mdr

Another important discussion focussed on the role of cooperative federalism in strengthening economic transformation. Experts noted that **improved coordination between the central and state governments has enabled more efficient, transparent and inclusive implementation of development initiatives**. Greater fiscal decentralization and policy collaboration have empowered states to expand infrastructure, attract investments, enhance regional economic capabilities, and long-term development prospects.

Source: https://www.etnownews.com/news/et-now-global-business-summit-2026-times-groups-gbs-2026-set-to-turn-global-disruption-into-durable-advantage-a-decade-of-disruption-a-century-of-changeliveblog153603709

Infrastructure expansion and manufacturing growth also featured prominently in global summit deliberations. Participants highlighted that large-scale investment in transport networks, logistics systems, and industrial corridors are improving productivity and connectivity across the country. **Strengthening domestic manufacturing and integrating India more deeply into global value chains were identified as key strategies** for boosting competitiveness and creating employment opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMIT

01
INDIA'S GROWTH OUTLOOK
Progress toward becoming the world's third-largest economy

02
DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE
UPI-led digital payments showcased as a model for financial inclusion

03
INFRASTRUCTURE PUSH
Expansion of railways, logistics, and multi-modal connectivity networks

04
GLOBAL TRADE ENGAGEMENT
Greater focus on FTAs and integration into global supply chains

05
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
Transition from the "fragile five" perception to stronger macroeconomic stability

Thus, the insights shared at the ET Now Global Business Summit 2026 reflect a strong and growing optimism about India's economic future. **The discussions reinforced that sustained reforms, technological innovation, and infrastructure development will remain central to the country's transformation.** As the summit theme suggests, the disruptions of the past decade are laying the groundwork for a century of economic change, with India emerging as a significant driver of sustained global growth.

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03 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Orange Economy in India: New Dawn for AVGC Sector

The concept of the **Orange Economy**, which revolves around creativity, culture, and intellectual capital, is increasingly shaping modern economic development. In India, this creative economy has gained prominence through the rapid expansion of the **Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC)** sector. As digital platforms, streaming services, and gaming markets grow, the demand for digital content has increased significantly. **The AVGC sector is therefore emerging as a vital contributor to India's cultural industries**, blending creativity with advanced technology.

Source: https://beatsinbrief.com/2026/02/16/create-in-india-mission-orange-economy-ashwini-vaishnaw-2026/

India has been taking significant steps to strengthen the AVGC ecosystem as part of its broader digital economy strategy. **The Union Budget 2026–27 emphasized the development of creative digital skills through the establishment of AVGC Content Creator Labs in schools and colleges across the country.** These labs are expected to nurture young talent in animation, gaming, and digital storytelling while connecting education with employment opportunities in the growing creative technology sector.

Source: https://www.drishtiias.com/dailyupdates/dailynewsanalysis/potential-of-india-s-avgc-xr-sector

Another major development is the continued implementation of the **AVGC-XR Mission**, which aims to position India as a global hub for animation, gaming, and immersive technologies such as virtual and augmented reality. The initiative focuses on **strengthening skill development, promoting research and innovation, and building industry–academia collaborations**. By encouraging startups and creative enterprises, the mission seeks to expand India's participation in the global digital content market.

KEY STATISTICS OF INDIA'S AVGC SECTOR IN 2026

EMPLOYMENT POTENTIAL

- Around 2 million jobs by 2030

SKILL DEVELOPMENT PUSH

- 15,000 schools with AVGC labs
- 500 colleges with creator labs

INDUSTRY GROWTH

- Reach about $26 billion market by 2030
- Estimated 16-18% annual growth

MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT SECTOR

- Valued at Rs.2,502 billion in 2024
- Expected to grow to Rs.3,067 billion by 2027

GAMING MARKET

- Valued at Rs.23,200 crore in 2024
- Projected to reach Rs.31,600 crore by 2027

The AVGC industry also holds potential for employment generation. With India's large youth population and growing digital infrastructure, the sector is expected to create jobs in areas such as animation design, game development, visual effects production, and digital content creation. Additionally, **Indian studios are increasingly collaborating with international production houses**, enabling the country to contribute to global entertainment and gaming markets.

Picture Perfect
Global studios shift from film distribution to co-owning Indian IPs as box office and OTT reach surge

Amazon MGM Studios to release **3-4** Indian theatrical films annually from **2026**

Warner Bros Pictures signs **five-film** deal with **Bhanushali Studios** and **JOAT Films** for Indian adaptations of **WB classics**

Universal Studios has been eyeing **M&A** in **India**

OTT user base hits **601 million** with **148 million** paid subscriptions (Ormax)

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/media/entertainment/hollywood-studios-shift-from-acquiring-films-to-co-owning-ips-in-indian-productions-to-unlock-new-revenue-streams/articleshow/124709999.cms?from=mdr

Thus, **2026 marks a promising phase for India's Orange Economy**, particularly the AVGC sector. Government initiatives, expanding digital infrastructure, and a creative workforce are driving the sector's growth. By combining innovation, storytelling, and technology, the AVGC industry can **enhance India's global cultural presence while contributing to economic growth and employment generation**.

04 WATER

Predicting Urban Water Scarcity through AI and IoT: Groundwater Assessment in Bengaluru by BWSSB and IIS

Urban water scarcity has become a major challenge for rapidly expanding cities. **Bengaluru, one of India's fastest-growing metropolitan areas, faces increasing stress on its water resources due to urbanisation, population growth, and climate variability.** Groundwater serves as a crucial source of water for the city, particularly in areas dependent on borewells. However, continuous extraction and limited natural recharge have resulted in declining groundwater levels across several parts of the city, raising concerns about long-term water security.

Source: https://www.thehansindia.com/bengaluru/bengaluru-launches-iot-groundwater-monitoring-to-address-water-shortages-937222

To address this challenge, the **Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to apply Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies** for monitoring and predicting groundwater availability. The initiative aims to develop a data-driven system that analyses groundwater patterns and forecasts potential water shortages, enabling authorities to take preventive measures.

AI-IOT FRAMEWORK FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING IN BENGALURU

1 IOT SENSOR INSTALLATION

Sensors installed in borewells to monitor groundwater levels

2 REAL-TIME DATA COLLECTION

Continuous recording of water levels, recharge rates, and seasonal variations

3 AI-BASED DATA ANALYSIS

Machine learning models analyse patterns and detect groundwater depletion trends

4 PREDICTIVE WATER STRESS MAPPING

Identification of high-risk areas, including 65 vulnerable wards

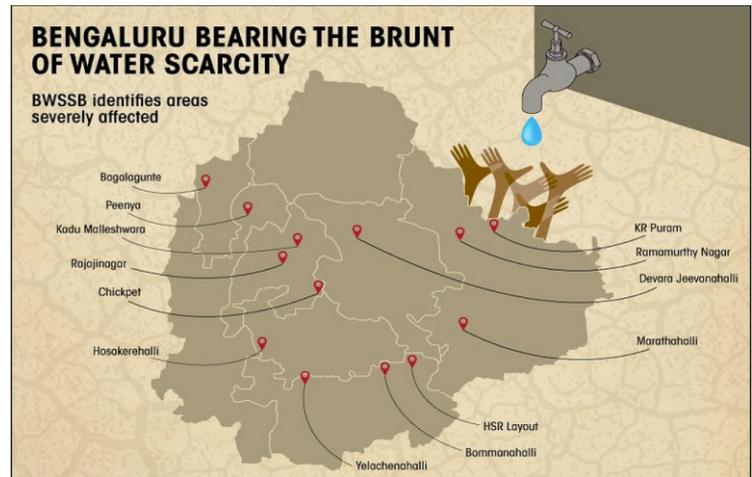**5 DECISION SUPPORT FOR AUTHORITIES**

BWSSB receives insights to plan water management strategies

6 PREVENTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

Infrastructure planning, tanker deployment, and conservation measures

As part of the project, IoT sensors installed in borewells collect real-time data on groundwater levels, recharge rates, and seasonal fluctuations. This data is analysed using **AI-based models developed by IISc researchers** to identify patterns of groundwater depletion and estimate future water availability across the city. The analysis has identified **a total of 65 wards in Bengaluru vulnerable to groundwater stress**, particularly during summer when water demand increases significantly.

Source:https://www.downtoearth.org.in/water/bengaluruwatercrisisbwssbannounces20watercuttobulkconsumersidentifiesareasbearng-the-brunt-94973

The predictive insights generated through this system enable city authorities to take proactive steps to mitigate shortages. BWSSB has initiated **preparedness measures such as continuous monitoring borewells, strengthening water distribution infrastructure, repairing pipelines, and deploying water tankers and temporary storage facilities** in areas expected to face water scarcity.

Source: https://thebengalurulive.com/bengaluru-activates-summer-water-shield-65-wards-flagged-after-iisc-groundwater-warning/

Thus, the use of AI and IoT for groundwater assessment represents an important step toward smarter and more sustainable urban water governance. **By enabling early prediction of water shortages and supporting informed decision-making, the BWSSB–IISc initiative demonstrates how digital technologies can strengthen urban resilience.** Such approaches serve as a model for other growing cities seeking effective solutions to manage groundwater resources and address urban water scarcity.

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05 NORTH-EAST CORNER

Agreement on Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority to Drive Regional Progress

On 5 February 2026, the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland, and the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO) reached a **tripartite agreement to create the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)**, marking an important step toward addressing the region's long-standing aspirations. The agreement aims to **improve governance and accelerate development in eastern Nagaland while maintaining the unity of the state**. It reflects ongoing efforts to promote inclusive growth and strengthen administrative responsiveness in India's northeastern region.

Tripartite Pact for Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA)

Objectives
- Equitable Development
- Local Self-Governance
- Peace & Stability

Key Provisions
- Creation of FNTA
- Devolution of 46 Subjects
- Financial Autonomy

Mini-Secretariat · Chief Secretary Level Head · Article 371(A) Safeguard

Source: https://akkaias.com/tripartite-pact-for-frontier-nagaland-territorial-authority-fnta/

The proposed authority will cover **six districts of eastern Nagaland—Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire, Longleng, Noklak, and Shamator**. These districts have historically raised concerns about uneven development, limited infrastructure, and inadequate representation in decision-making processes. The new administrative arrangement seeks to address these concerns by providing **greater autonomy in local governance and enabling more focused development planning** for the region.

FEATURES OF FNTA

- ☑ **Tripartite Agreement Signed**
- ☑ **Six Eastern Nagaland Districts Covered**
- ☑ **46 Administrative Subjects Transferred**
- ☑ **Mini-Secretariat for Governance**
- ☑ **Dedicated Development Funding**

Under the agreement, the FNTA will be granted powers over **46 administrative and developmental subjects**. This transfer of responsibilities will allow the authority to plan and implement policies tailored to the specific needs of the region. To ensure effective functioning, a **mini-secretariat** will be established and headed by a senior administrative officer. This institutional framework is intended to strengthen coordination between the regional authority, the state government, and the central government.

Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2224071&reg=3&lang=2

Financial provisions are also a key component of the agreement. **The central government has committed to providing a dedicated annual development fund for eastern Nagaland**, while initial administrative expenses for establishing the authority will be supported through central assistance. Development funds will be allocated considering the population and geographical area of the region, ensuring a more balanced distribution of resources.

Source: https://www.sentinelassam.com/topheadlines/frontier-nagaland-territory-naga-body-says-talks-at-advanced-stage

The demand for a separate administrative arrangement in eastern Nagaland has been voiced for several years by the ENPO, which represents several tribal communities in the region. The creation of the FNTA, therefore, represents a negotiated solution aimed at addressing developmental concerns while preserving the state's territorial integrity. By strengthening local governance and prioritizing regional development, the agreement has the potential to **foster long-term socio-economic progress in eastern Nagaland.**

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