

Q1 EDITION



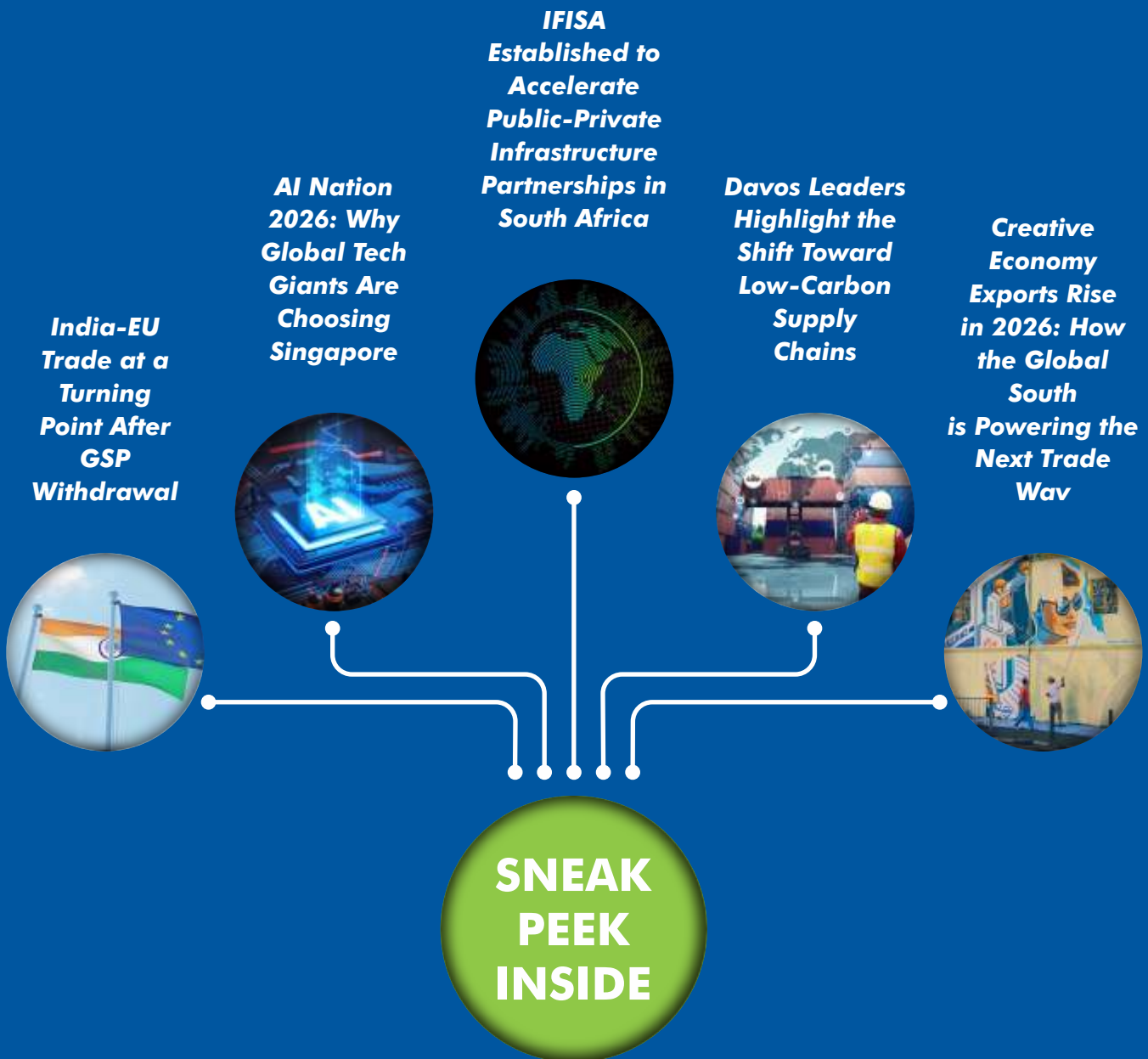
NEWSLETTER 2026

# THE AG COMMUNIQUÉ



# DEAR READERS,

The AG Group once again welcomes you in 2026 with the Quarter 1 edition of its newsletter "The AG communiqué". This insightful newsletter sums up major updates from the corners of the globe about evolving economy, technological innovations, policy governance, sustainability, and cultural economy. This section will strategically offer you important information about India-EU trade, AI ecosystem of Singapore, infrastructure partnership of South Africa, discussions of supply chains among Davos leaders, and rising trend of creative economy in exports.



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# India-EU Trade at a Turning Point After GSP Withdrawal



India–EU trade relations have entered a decisive phase in 2026 following the European Union's withdrawal of Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) benefits. The move has placed **around 87% of Indian exports under higher tariff brackets from January 1**, affecting sectors like textiles, chemicals, and engineering goods. This increase in duties has reduced price competitiveness of Indian products and created challenges for exporters.



Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/eu-suspends-tariff-edge-for-some-indian-exports-ahead-of-key-fta-conclusion/articleshow/127185678.cms?from=mdr>

In response, both sides have accelerated negotiations and concluded a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The agreement is expected to **eliminate or reduce tariffs on nearly 96%–99% of traded goods**, covering most of bilateral trade. This shift marks a transition from unilateral tariff preferences like GSP to a structured, reciprocal, and rules-based trade framework.



Source: <https://www.smalegal.in/home/india-european-union-free-trade-agreement-a-landmark-in-global-trade-and-strategic-partnership>

With **bilateral trade valued at over USD 136 billion**, the evolving FTA signals a structural transformation in India–EU relations. The agreement is expected to offset GSP losses, enhance market access, and promote deeper integration in technology and supply chains.

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# AI Nation 2026: Why Global Tech Giants Are Choosing Singapore



Singapore's emergence as an "AI Nation" in 2026 is increasingly influencing the strategic decisions of global technology firms. The country's focus on **enabling enterprise-level AI adoption** has created an environment where companies can efficiently **integrate advanced technologies** into their operations, strengthening its appeal as a destination for innovation-driven investment and long-term global competitiveness.



Source: <https://www.edb.gov.sg/en/business-insights/insights/why-singapore-is-a-hub-in-asia-for-ai-and-tech-innovation.html>

In recent years, multinational corporations such as **Google, Microsoft, Tata Consultancy Services, Amazon Web Services, and The HEINEKEN Company**, have expanded their regional headquarters and AI-driven operations in Singapore, recognizing its importance as a gateway to Asian markets. Its well-established regulatory framework, robust digital infrastructure, and efficient business environment continue to support seamless expansion.



Source: <https://www.singapore.rgf-professional.com/insights/ai-impact-on-jobs-hiring-upskilling-singapore>

Equally significant is Singapore's sustained emphasis on developing AI capabilities within its workforce. The **availability of highly skilled talent, combined with strong policy support and global market access**, positions Singapore as a dependable base for global technology companies pursuing AI-led growth.

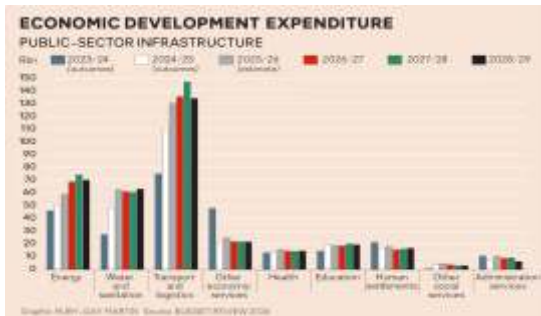
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# IFISA Established to Accelerate Public- Private Infrastructure Partnerships in South Africa



South Africa has taken a significant step in 2026 with the establishment of the Infrastructure Finance and Implementation Support Agency (IFISA) to strengthen public-private infrastructure partnerships. Announced in the national budget, **IFISA will begin operations in April 2026 and will be housed within the Development Bank of Southern Africa**, enhancing coordination across infrastructure planning institutions.



Source: <https://www.businessday.co.za/economy/2026-02-25-budget2026newagencytodriver1trillioninfrastructureinvestment/>

The agency has been created to address longstanding inefficiencies in infrastructure delivery caused by fragmented institutions and limited technical capacity. By consolidating multiple units, including public-private partnership and project appraisal functions, IFISA will **serve as a centralized gateway for infrastructure projects**. Its mandate is to mobilize private finance and expertise, improve project preparation, and enhance risk allocation in infrastructure development.



Source: <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/infrastructure-africa-2026-to-focus-on-unlocking-africas-corridors-through-bankable-project-preparation-2026-01-06>

IFISA is expected to play a critical role in advancing South Africa's large-scale infrastructure programme by **accelerating project pipelines and attracting private investment**. This reform signals a strategic shift toward more coordinated, efficient, and partnership-driven infrastructure delivery.

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# Davos Leaders Highlight the Shift Toward Low-Carbon Supply Chains



At the **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos in 2026**, global leaders strongly emphasized the urgent transition toward low-carbon supply chains. Policymakers and industry executives highlighted that **reducing emissions across production, transport, and logistics systems** is now central to meeting climate targets and maintaining competitiveness in global trade.



Source: <https://www.wfo-oma.org/news/why-farmers-matter-for-global-food-security-and-climate-resilience-wfo-at-davos-2026/>

Leaders at Davos underscored that decarbonizing supply chains requires integrating clean energy, improving energy efficiency, and adopting sustainable sourcing practices. They stressed that businesses must **redesign supply networks to minimize carbon footprints while ensuring resilience** amid geopolitical and economic uncertainties. This shift reflects growing alignment between climate policy and industrial strategy.



Source: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/circular-economy-clean-energy-supply-chain-critical-minerals/>

Discussions further highlighted the importance of public-private collaboration in accelerating this transition. Leaders called for **coordinated efforts to mobilize investment, standardize sustainability practices, and support innovation in green technologies**. The Davos dialogue made clear that low-carbon supply chains are no longer optional but a strategic priority shaping the future of global production systems.

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# **Creative Economy Exports Rise in 2026: How the Global South is Powering the Next Trade Wave**



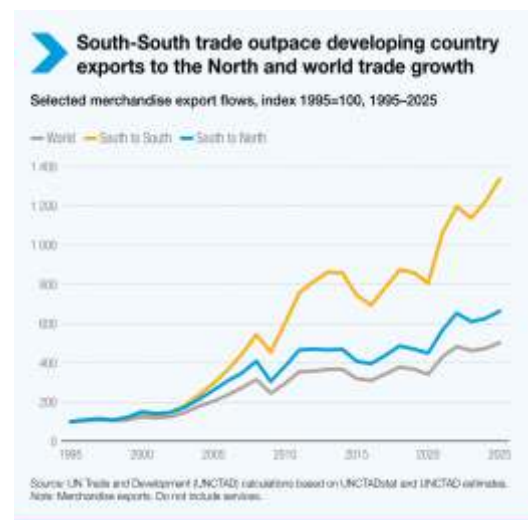
Creative economy exports are gaining momentum in 2026, with developing economies playing an increasingly significant role in global trade flows. Recent updates from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development indicate that **developing countries account for a substantial share of global creative goods exports**, reflecting a gradual shift toward emerging markets.



Source: <https://www.iiem.in/blog/orange-economy-products-and-services-in-india/>

**Developing economies across Asia, Africa, and Latin America have expanded exports of creative goods and services**, including digital media, design, audiovisual content, and cultural products. This growth is supported by rising digital connectivity, policy initiatives, and stronger participation in global value chains, enabling these economies to enhance their export capabilities.

This evolving trend suggests that the Global South is contributing more prominently to the next wave of global trade. By strengthening creative economy exports, these economies are gradually **reshaping trade patterns and reinforcing the importance of innovation and cultural industries** in export growth.



Source: <https://unctad.org/news/10-trends-shaping-global-trade-2026>

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# AG GROUP



AG Horizon Pvt. Ltd., a **multi-disciplinary and multi-functional** organization, has been at the forefront of delivering **Concept to Commissioning** solutions for over **27+ years** across India. We work extensively with **Central and State Governments**, multi-lateral agencies and institutions to implement impactful and sustainable development initiatives.

As the **exclusive Indian business partner of Moody's** — backed by over **100+ years of global risk analytics** expertise — AG Horizon drives risk-informed development through advanced modelling monitoring and financial resilience capabilities.

Being a proud member of the **United Nations Global Compact Network India**, we are committed to strengthening communities and infrastructure with sustainability-led initiatives. Our solutions safeguard communities, infrastructure, livelihoods and economies through **risk anticipation, early alerting, rapid response capability and recovery support**.

## OFFICES



### GURUGRAM

#### HEAD OFFICE:

C-122,  
LGF, Sushant Lok-2,  
Sector 56  
Gurugram - 122011



### DELHI

#### SYNERGY HUB:

B-4/19,  
Safdarjung Enclave,  
New Delhi-110029

#### CORPORATE OFFICE:

609,  
Pearls Best Height - 2,  
Netaji Subhash Place,  
New Delhi



### DIMAPUR

2nd Floor/no.419, 3rd  
mile Darogapathar, Block  
D, Nagarjan Junction.  
Chumukedima- 797115



### GUWAHATI

Krine Vista, Flat - 5B, Block B,  
Ananda Nagar, Bye Lane 3,  
Opp. Anil Plaza, G S Road,  
Guwahati - 781005, Assam



### HYDERABAD

202, Zeenath Residency,  
Srinagar Colony, Panjagutta,  
Hyderabad - 500073



### IMPHAL

Unit-6, Second Floor Customs,  
Office Building, Sangakpham,  
Opp. Dav School, Imphal,  
Imphal East Manipur - 795010



info@aggrp.in



www.aggrp.in



+91 9810046249



0124 4235267

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