

### India overtakes the UK to become fifth largest economy in the world

India has overtaken the U.K. to become the world's fifth-largest economy and is now behind only the US, China, Japan and Germany, according to IMF projections. A decade back, India was ranked 11th among the large economies while the U.K. was at the fifth position.

Gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 13.5% year-on-year compares to a 20.1% expansion a year back and 4.09% growth in the previous three months to March, according to official data from the Indian government. Notably, India's GDP growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal was higher than China's 0.4% expansion in April-June 2022.

### India launches new schemes to support small businesses

India recently launched two new schemes – RAMP and CBFTE – to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Both schemes are part of the 'Udyami Bharat' initiative, which will empower MSMEs in India. The RAMP scheme has an outlay of INR 60 billion and will support market access and finance availability for MSMEs. The CBFTE scheme

aims to ease the export process for first-time exporters in every possible way – be it monetary support or procedural assistance.

Other schemes under the Udyami Bharat program include MUDRA Yojana, Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, and the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

At the end of financial year (FY) 2021-22, there were over 7.9 million MSMEs in India, contributing approximately 30 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) and 48 percent to the country's overall exports. In FY22, India saw a strong rebound in exports, soaring to a record high of US\$418 billion, driven mainly by a surge in demand for products like petroleum, cotton yarn, textiles, chemicals, and engineering goods.

### India ranks third globally in start-up ecosystem and unicorns

India's Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Science and Technology, Jitendra Singh recently remarked that India ranks globally third in start-ups ecosystem and also in terms of the number of unicorns with the total number of privately held start-up companies valued at over \$1 billion rising to 105.

Addressing the 'DST StartUp Utsav' event, the Minister said, the decade 2021-30 is expected to bring transformational changes for Indian Science, Technology and Innovation (STI). He also mentioned that the Indian government has increased the Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) more than three times in the last few years. As per the latest data, India has over 500,000 R&D personnel, a number that has shown a 40-50 per cent increase in the last 8 years.

The Minister further commented that India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research, and is positioned as one of the top five nations in the field for space exploration and also actively engaged in emerging technologies such as quantum technologies and artificial intelligence.

Under its various schemes, the Indian government has promoted 160 incubators, supporting around 12,000 startups in various industries, till date.

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