

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION



Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

- It was launched to build a **comprehensive digital health ecosystem** for the country.
- The mission aims to **develop the backbone necessary** to support the **integrated digital health infrastructure** of the country.
- **Time Period:** The flagship scheme was launched with an outlay of ₹1,600 crore for 5 years from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026.

Key Components of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission:

- **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) Number:** It is a **14 digit health ID** for hassle-free method of accessing and sharing your health records digitally.
- **Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR):** It is a comprehensive **repository of all healthcare professionals** involved in delivery of healthcare services across both modern and traditional systems of medicine.
- **Health Facility Registry (HFR):** It includes **both public and private health facilities** including hospitals, clinics, diagnostic laboratories and imaging centers, pharmacies
- **Health Information Exchange and Consent Manager (HIE-CM):** It empowers **citizens to securely access and share their health records**, ensuring that data exchange is driven by informed consent.
- **Unified Health Interface (UHI):** It is envisioned as an open protocol for various digital health services. UHI Network will be an **open network of End User Applications (EUAs)** and participating Health Service Provider (HSP) applications.
- It is **implemented by the National Health Authority** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

INDIA'S FDI DATA 2025-26

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released data showing that India's **gross Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** inflows rose to a record high of \$94.53 billion in 2025-26 — up 17% from the previous year.

However, despite this record gross figure, **net FDI inflows** stood at a mere **\$7.65 billion** — revealing a significant and concerning gap between headline numbers and actual retained investment.

Understanding the Key Terms

- **Gross FDI** — The total amount of foreign investment that flows **into** India before any deductions.
- **Net FDI** — Gross FDI **minus** the money repatriated (taken back) by foreign companies **minus** overseas investments made by Indian companies. It represents the **actual net addition** to India's investment stock.
- **Repatriation** — When foreign companies take back money they had previously invested in India — in the form of profits, dividends, or sale of assets.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** — FPI is investment by foreign entities in a country's financial assets like stocks and bonds. It is a **passive, short-term investment**, unlike FDI, which involves ownership and control of businesses.

The Gross vs Net FDI Gap — The Real Story

- | Metric | 2025-26 | 2024-25 | 2023-24 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Gross FDI Inflows | \$94.53 billion | ~\$80.8 billion | — |
| Repatriation by Foreigners | \$53.58 billion | \$51.49 billion | \$44.47 billion |
| Overseas FDI by Indian Companies | \$33.29 billion | \$28.17 billion | \$16.68 billion |
| Net FDI Inflows | \$7.65 billion | \$959 million | Higher than both |

 - Despite record gross inflows, **net FDI has been extremely low** in the past two years because of two simultaneous trends — foreign investors increasingly repatriating previously invested capital and Indian companies investing more abroad.

- Together, these two outflows nearly cancel out the record gross inflows — leaving very little net addition to India's investment base.
- **Why Are Foreign Investors Repatriating?**
 - Repatriation at \$53.58 billion — the **highest in at least three years** — reflects several concerns among foreign investors including:
 - global risk-off sentiment,
 - the West Asia war disrupting supply chains and raising uncertainty,
 - rupee depreciation (making rupee-denominated returns less attractive in dollar terms), and
 - profit-booking after years of strong Indian market performance.

Impact on the Rupee

- The weak net FDI inflows have been a significant contributor to pressure on the Indian rupee.
- The rupee came close to breaching the 97-per-dollar mark earlier in the week — a record low — before the RBI intervened to stabilise it.
- The rupee ended the week at 95.69 per dollar and is down 5% since the West Asia war began on February 28.

Conclusion

The record gross FDI figure is reassuring at the headline level but masks serious structural concerns. India's ability to retain foreign investment (net FDI) has weakened significantly. The rising trend of repatriation and outward FDI suggests that foreign companies are becoming more cautious about India's near-term environment.

The West Asia war has emerged as the **single biggest external shock** to India's capital flows — triggering both FPI outflows and forex reserve depletion simultaneously.

The RBI's aggressive intervention in forex markets has helped stabilise the rupee but at the cost of drawing down India's foreign exchange reserves. The distinction between gross and net FDI is therefore critically important — headline numbers can be misleading without understanding what lies beneath.



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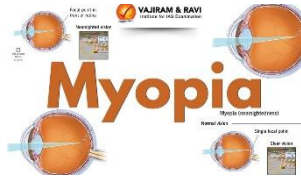
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MYOPIA

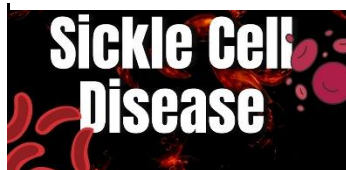


- Myopia (Nearsightedness) is a common vision condition in which close objects look clear but far objects look blurry.
- How it occurs?
 - For people with normal vision, light passes through the clear cornea at the front of the eye and is focused by the lens onto the surface of the retina.
 - People who are having myopic typically have eyeballs that are too long from front to back.
 - As a result, light entering the eye is focused too far forward, in front of the retina instead of on its surface.
 - It is this change that causes distant objects to appear blurry.
 - The longer the eyeball is, the farther forward light rays will be focused and the more severely nearsighted a person will be.
- Eye experts are still unsure of the exact cause of myopia, but believe it to be a mix of hereditary and environmental factors.
- It usually begins in childhood or adolescence.
- It tends to worsen with age until adulthood, when it may stop getting worse (stabilize). In some people, nearsightedness improves in later adulthood.
- **Symptoms:** Nearsightedness can lead to squinting, eyestrain, headaches, and significant visual impairment.

Treatment:

- Glasses or contact lenses can correct myopia in children and adults.
- For adults only (with rare exceptions for children), there are several types of refractive surgeries that can also correct myopia.
- Negative (minus) powered lenses are used to correct nearsightedness.

WHAT IS SICKLE CELL DISEASE?



- It is a group of **inherited blood cell disorders** that affect **hemoglobin**, the molecule in **Red Blood Cells (RBCs)** that delivers oxygen to cells throughout the body.

- SCD can cause episodes of **severe pain** and lead to **life-threatening complications**.
- The most **common and severe type** of SCD is **sickle cell anemia**.
- **How Does it Affect Blood Flow?**
 - **Normally, RBCs are disc-shaped and flexible** enough to move easily through the blood vessels.
 - **People with SCD have atypical hemoglobin molecules** called **hemoglobin S**, which can **distort RBCs into a sickle, or crescent, shape**.
 - When RBCs sickle, they **do not bend or move easily** and can **block blood flow** to the rest of the body.
 - The sickle-shaped cells can **also stick to vessel walls, causing a blockage** that slows or stops the flow of blood.
- **What causes it?**
 - The cause of SCD is a **defective gene**, called a **sickle cell gene**.
 - A person will be born with SCD **only if two genes are inherited**—one from the **mother and one from the father**.
 - If born with **one sickle cell gene**, it's called **sickle cell trait**. People with sickle cell trait are **generally healthy**, but they can **pass the defective gene on to their children**.
- **Treatments:**
 - A **bone marrow transplant** (stem cell transplant) can cure SCD.
 - There are treatments that can help relieve symptoms, lessen complications, and prolong life. **Gene therapy** is also being explored as another **potential cure**.
 - **UK** recently became **first country to approve gene therapy treatment for SCD**.

CYBER WARFARE IS OUTPACING GLOBAL LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- States and non-state actors use hacking, digital disruption, and information manipulation to weaken opponents before or alongside physical attacks.
- Such operations **target infrastructure**, defence systems, and communication networks, thereby extending conflict beyond traditional battlefields.
- Groups such as the **Handala Hack Team** have reportedly carried out attacks on foreign organisations, including a U.S.-based medical technology company.
- These incidents demonstrate how cyber conflict affects civilian, commercial, and governmental sectors simultaneously.
- Unlike traditional warfare, cyberattacks can occur across borders without direct military confrontation, making them difficult to control or regulate.

The Difficulty is Establishing Threshold

- **Applicability of International Law**
 - If a cyber operation causes severe disruption to critical systems or essential services, it may qualify as an **internationally wrongful act**.
 - However, determining the legal threshold remains extremely difficult.
 - Cyberattacks often create indirect, temporary, or non-physical damage that is harder to measure than conventional military destruction.
 - As a result, deciding when a cyber operation becomes serious enough to constitute a prohibited use of force remains uncertain.
- **Gap Between Law and Practice**
 - Although international law theoretically allows affected states to seek accountability and compensation, legal remedies are rarely successful in practice.
 - This creates a growing gap between legal principles and real-world enforcement.
 - Cyber incidents frequently cause significant disruption, yet they seldom lead to meaningful legal consequences.

Concerns that Hinder Litigation

- **The Problem of Attribution**
 - Cyber operations are usually conducted through hidden networks and multiple jurisdictions, making it difficult to identify the actual perpetrator.
 - Governments may possess intelligence indicating responsibility, but transforming such information into legally admissible evidence is highly challenging.
- **Lack of Effective Judicial Forums**
 - International institutions such as the **International Court of Justice** generally require state consent before hearing disputes, which states involved in cyber operations rarely provide.
 - Domestic courts also face limitations because foreign governments are often protected by **sovereign immunity**.
- **Political and Strategic Constraints**
 - States often avoid legal proceedings due to political and strategic concerns.
 - Consequently, many cyber incidents are addressed through diplomacy and political negotiations rather than through courts.
- **Challenges Related to Evidence**
 - Cyber litigation also faces evidentiary difficulties. Courts frequently struggle to establish who conducted the operation, how much damage occurred, and how the attack caused specific harm. This makes legal proceedings uncertain and difficult.

Conclusion

- Cyber warfare has become an inseparable part of modern conflict, operating alongside traditional military force.
- Although **international law** formally applies to cyberspace, practical barriers such as attribution problems, lack of judicial forums, political constraints, and evidentiary difficulties prevent effective enforcement.

PASHUPATINATH TEMPLE



Kathmandu's outskirts.

India recently gifted a special type of sandalwood to the Nepal government to be used at the Pashupatinath temple on

- It is a **Hindu temple** located on both banks of the **Bagmati River** on the eastern outskirts of **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- It is dedicated to **Lord Shiva** in his form as **Pashupati, protector of animals**.
- There has been a religious foundation here since at least the 5th century BCE, though the **oldest recorded temple dates from 400 CE**.
- The **original, mainly wooden, buildings** were eaten by termites and **replaced by the current stone and metal structures** in the 15th century CE.
- In 1979, the temple was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Features:

- The main temple is designed in the **Nepalese pagoda style**, with a **tiered roof and plinth**.
- It is a **cubic construction** with four main doors, all covered with silver sheets.
- The **two-storied roof** is made from **copper** and is **covered with gold**.
- The temple has two interior rooms where the Pashupatinath idol is placed.
- One of the most astonishing decorations of the temple is the **huge golden statue of Nandi, Shiva's bull**.

AGNI-1 MISSILE

Recently, India successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha.

- It is a **single-stage, solid-fuel missile**.



- It is a **short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)** with a heavy payload but can travel up to 1200 km with lighter payloads, which makes it a **medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM)**.

- **Range:** 700 km- 1200 km
- It is powered by a **solid-propellant booster** based on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) SLV-3.
- It is **nuclear-capable road-mobile missile** and was first deployed by the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command in 2007.
- The Agni-I is designed to be **launched from rail-based platforms or road-mobile transporter erector launchers (TELs)**.
 - The **Agni missile series includes missiles I–V**, with the most advanced, Agni-V. In addition to the Agni-V, India currently has the following Agni missiles: **Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III, and Agni-IV and Agni Prime**.
- The Agni-I originated from India's 1983 **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)**.