

1 Core Industries (Source: The Hindu)



CORE INDUSTRIES



Core Industries are a group of 8 key sectors that play a vital role in the **economic development of India**. They form the backbone of industrial growth and infrastructure.

OVERVIEW	THE 8 CORE INDUSTRIES			
- Introduced by the Government of India in April 2004. - Comprises 8 fundamental industries critical to the economy. - Their combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) indicates the growth performance of the industrial sector. - These industries are capital intensive and have forward & backward linkages with many other sectors. 	1 COAL  Primary source of energy for power generation, steel, cement and other industries.	2 CRUDE OIL  Essential for fuel, petrochemicals, fertilizers and many other products.	3 NATURAL GAS  Cleaner fuel used for power, fertilizer, household and industrial applications.	4 REFINERY PRODUCTS  Includes products like petrol, diesel, ATF, LPG, naphtha and lubricants.
	5 FERTILIZERS  Essential for agriculture productivity and food security.	6 STEEL  Base for infrastructure, construction, machinery, transport and manufacturing.	7 CEMENT  Key input for construction, infrastructure and real estate development.	8 ELECTRICITY  Power is the driving force behind all industrial and economic activities.

IMPORTANCE	INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES (ICI)	RECENT TRENDS
 Contributes significantly to Industrial Production and GDP.  Generates employment directly and indirectly.  Provides essential inputs to other industries.  Supports infrastructure development and economic growth.  Strengthens self-reliance and industrial competitiveness.	 - The growth rate of these 8 industries is compiled into the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI). - It is released monthly by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). - It helps in assessing the overall performance of the industrial sector.	 Growing emphasis on clean energy and natural gas.  Expansion in refining capacity and petrochemical integration.  Increase in steel and cement capacity to support infrastructure and housing.  Focus on sustainable practices and reducing carbon intensity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Together, the 8 Core Industries account for approximately 40% of the Weight in Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

WHY THEY MATTER



Ensure Energy Security



Drive Industrial Growth



Build Infrastructure & Nation Building



Support Agriculture & Livelihoods



Strengthen the Economy

 **Strong Core Industries → Strong Economy → Stronger India**



DATE: 21 AUGUST 2026

2 Gaganyaan Mission (Source: The Hindu)

Gaganyaan Mission is the manned space mission of India.

Fact To Know

- The crewed spaceflight plans to place humans to **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** in the initial missions.
- Will help India gain practical knowledge and experience in launching future space exploration missions.
- *The first uncrewed mission with a robot called Vyom-Mitra will help in assessing the preparedness of ISRO in manned missions.*



Manned Space Exploration Across the World

- Project Apollo of the USA- Moon
- Artemis Programme of the USA- Moon
- Tiangong space station of China



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3 National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) Scheme (Source: The Hindu)

NAMASTE scheme is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Government of India to eliminate hazardous manual scavenging and ensure the safety, dignity, and social security of sanitation workers, especially those cleaning sewers and septic tanks.

Launch

- Launched in 2022 (approved in the Union Budget 2022–23) as a joint initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) – nodal ministry and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Objectives

- Achieve zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- Ensure sanitation workers have no direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Promote 100% mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.
- Provide alternative sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship opportunities to sanitation workers.
- Strengthen occupational safety, skill development, and social security for sanitation workers.

Implementation

- **Implementing Agency:** National Safai Karmacharis Finance Development Corporation (NSKFDC) under MoSJE.
- **Implementation Area:** Initially targeted at 500 cities notified under the AMRUT scheme; process underway to extend to all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- **Duration & Outlay:** Approved for four years: 2022–23 to 2025–26