



January 30, 2025 – Thursday

## Economy

### Centre launches occupational shortage index to boost job opportunities

In a bid to match labour market demand and supply and enhance employment outcomes, the ministry of labour and employment on Wednesday launched the Occupational Shortage Index (OSI). “Based on ILO methodology and quarterly PLFS data, the OSI will provide data-driven insights into occupations facing shortages, helping align job seekers' skills with industry demands, while also supporting policymakers, training institutions, and businesses in bridging skill gaps in high-demand sectors,” the labour ministry said in a statement after the conclusion of the first day of the labour minister’s conference. Additionally, the ministry launched the multilingual e-Shram microsite facility to ensure that unorganised workers have seamless access to both state and central government welfare programmes.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-launches-occupational-shortage-index-to-boost-job-opportunities-125012901490\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/centre-launches-occupational-shortage-index-to-boost-job-opportunities-125012901490_1.html)

### India needs fiscal policy changes for 6.4% GDP growth rate in 2025: Moody's

India needs to change its fiscal and monetary policy to achieve a 6.4 per cent GDP growth in 2025 amid a weak rupee, declining foreign investment and volatile inflation, Moody's Analytics said on Wednesday. Moody's Analytics said it expects the 2025-26 Union Budget to support domestic demand, particularly investment while aiming for a fiscal deficit of less than 4.5 per cent of GDP for the next fiscal. In 2023-24, the fiscal deficit was 5.6 per cent of GDP, which is estimated to come down to 4.9 per cent in the current fiscal.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-needs-fiscal-policy-changes-for-6-4-gdp-growth-rate-in-2025-moody-s-125012900979\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-needs-fiscal-policy-changes-for-6-4-gdp-growth-rate-in-2025-moody-s-125012900979_1.html)

### Unincorporated sector sees strong growth in 2023-24: MoSPI survey

The unincorporated sector saw notable growth between October 2023 and September 2024, with a 12.84% increase in the number of establishments, a 10.01% rise in workforce, and a 16.52% jump in Gross Value Added (GVA) at current prices, compared with the same period in 2022-23, the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) said in a report on Wednesday. Unincorporated sector enterprises are typically owner-operated businesses that are not registered as separate legal entities from their owners. The unorganized sector is a significant part of the Indian economy.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/unincorporated-sector-non-agricultural-sector-informal-sector-ministry-of-statistics-mospi-survey-msmes-11738159800164.html>

### India considering lowering tariffs on some high-end products from US

India is considering lowering tariffs on some high-end products from the United States, including specific steel, luxury motorcycles, and electronic goods, a report in NDTV Profit said, citing sources. This move, expected to be confirmed when Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents the budget on Saturday, might not significantly impact Indian industries. India currently imposes duties of over 100 per cent on 20 items imported from the US.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-considering-lowering-tariffs-on-some-high-end-products-from-us-125012901178\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-considering-lowering-tariffs-on-some-high-end-products-from-us-125012901178_1.html)

## Finance

### Markets to remain open on Feb 1 for Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget 2025 speech

Both the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the BSE have confirmed that the exchanges will operate full trading sessions on Saturday, as the Union Budget is scheduled to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. In a circular issued on Monday, the exchanges outlined that the equity markets would be open from 9:15 am to 3:30 pm, with the commodity derivatives market trading until 5:00 pm. However, the "T0" session will not be scheduled due to a settlement holiday. Pre-market trading will take place from 9:00 am to 9:08 am, and indices will be calculated throughout the day.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/markets-bse-nse-open-saturday-feb-1-nirmala-sitharaman-budget-2025-speech-125012900777\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/markets-bse-nse-open-saturday-feb-1-nirmala-sitharaman-budget-2025-speech-125012900777_1.html)

### Bank unions' Budget wishlist: Scrap tax on profits of cooperative banks

The banking sector unions, under the aegis of the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), have sought exemption from income tax on profits of cooperative banks in the upcoming Union Budget to be presented on February 1. The cooperative banking entities are not commercial undertakings. Whatever is earned (as surplus) will go to the members only. The taxation of profit defeats the purpose of cooperation. The exemption should be restored, said C H Venkachalam, Secretary General, AIBEA. Earlier profits of cooperative banks were not taxed. It was the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance that brought profits of cooperative banks under the ambit of tax, he added.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/scrap-tax-on-profits-of-cooperative-banks-banking-sector-unions-125012901357\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/scrap-tax-on-profits-of-cooperative-banks-banking-sector-unions-125012901357_1.html)

### Indian banks facing margin pressure amid high interest rate and declining loan growth: S&P Global

Indian banks are experiencing margin pressure due to slowed loan growth and high interest rates. Loan growth for major banks is projected to decline to 12.3% in FY 2025, down from 22.5% previously. Despite slower profit growth, banks are focusing on retail deposits and managing bad loans, with the GNPA ratio falling to 2.6%.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/indian-banks-facing-margin-pressure-amid-high-interest-rate-and-declining-loan-growth-sp-global/articleshow/117676457.cms>

### With loans to MTNL turning into NPAs, PSBs may agree to 20% haircut

Public sector lenders to the ailing Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL) may agree to a 20 per cent haircut on their Rs 8,144 crore exposure to the state-owned telecom firm, with the loans turning into non-performing assets (NPAs). The joint lenders' forum for MTNL, comprising seven public sector banks (PSBs), recently discussed the matter and communicated its stance to the Department of Financial Services, multiple sources said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/with-loans-to-mtnl-turning-into-npas-psbs-may-agree-to-20-haircut-125012901270\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/with-loans-to-mtnl-turning-into-npas-psbs-may-agree-to-20-haircut-125012901270_1.html)

### NaBFID loan disbursements more than double in Q3; to raise Rs 20k cr in Q4

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development's (NaBFID's) loan disbursements doubled to Rs 10,193 crore in the third quarter of the financial year 2025 (Q3FY25) from Rs 4,996 crore in the same quarter of last year (Q3FY24). The sanctions in the reporting quarter rose sharply to Rs 35,491 crore up from Rs 11,405 crore in Q3FY24.

[https://www.business-standard.com/companies/results/nabfid-loan-disbursements-more-than-double-in-q3-to-raise-rs-20k-cr-in-q4-125012901557\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/companies/results/nabfid-loan-disbursements-more-than-double-in-q3-to-raise-rs-20k-cr-in-q4-125012901557_1.html)

### RBI expresses concerns over small finance banks: Mergers suggested to mitigate risks

The RBI has developed 'supervisory discomfort' with some small finance banks due to high concentration risks and rising asset quality stress. These banks have been advised to explore mergers to mitigate these concerns. Small

finance banks with significant exposure to the microfinance sector and certain geographic areas are particularly affected.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-expresses-concerns-over-small-finance-banks-mergers-suggested-to-mitigate-risks/articleshow/117703105.cms>

#### **IBBI streamlines rules on information utilities to expedite bankruptcy resolution**

The bankruptcy regulator on Wednesday amended technical standards guidelines for key services extended by information utilities (IUs), which typically store financial information about stressed firms in electronic databases, to streamline their operations and help speed up insolvency resolution. As per the latest Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) rules, an IU will use demographic authentication from the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) database to establish the identity of users, including creditors, during their registration with the utility. For this purpose, the IU will have to obtain the so-called "sub-authentication user agency license" from the UIDAI.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ibbi-streamlines-rules-on-information-utilities-to-expedite-bankruptcy-resolution/articleshow/117696761.cms>

#### **RBI's digital payments index rises to 465.33 as of September 2024**

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments index (DPI) rose to 465.33 as of September 2024, compared to 445.5 in March 2024, reflecting the rapid adoption of digital payments in the country. "The increase in the RBI-DPI index was driven by growth in payment infrastructure and payment performance across the country over the period," the central bank said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-s-digital-payments-index-rises-to-465-33-as-of-september-2024-125012901401\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/news/rbi-s-digital-payments-index-rises-to-465-33-as-of-september-2024-125012901401_1.html)

#### **Tokenisation drives security: 98% of e-commerce transactions now card-free, says RBI**

Card tokenisation has witnessed exponential growth in India, with over 91 crore tokens issued up to December 2024. These tokens have facilitated over 320 crore transactions, amounting to nearly ₹11 lakh crore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/tokenisation-impact-rbi-says-98-of-e-comm-transactions-now-process-without-using-actual-card-data/article69154363.ece>

#### **Sebi mulls amending investor charter for stock brokers to protect consumers**

Markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday proposed reviewing the investor charter for stock brokers in a bid to boost financial consumer protection alongside enhanced financial inclusion and financial literacy. The proposal is also in view of the recent developments in the securities market including introduction of Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform and SCORES 2.0 - a web based centralized grievance redressal system of Sebi. In its consultation paper, Sebi has proposed to modify the investor charter for stock brokers and sought comments on the proposal till February 17.

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/sebi-mulls-to-amend-investor-charter-for-stock-brokers-to-protect-consumers-125012901267\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/news/sebi-mulls-to-amend-investor-charter-for-stock-brokers-to-protect-consumers-125012901267_1.html)

### **Industry**

#### **Govt approves Mutual Credit Guarantee scheme to strengthen MSME sector**

The Centre on Wednesday approved the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to give a fillip to manufacturing by micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs), fulfilling a promise made in the previous budget and just days ahead of Union Budget 2025. According to an official statement, under this scheme, eligible MSMEs with a valid Udyam Registration Number can avail substantial credit support to enhance their operational capabilities. Key features of the scheme include a loan guarantee up to Rs 100 crore, with a minimum of 75 per cent of the project cost allocated for equipment or machinery. For loans up to Rs 50 crore, a repayment period of up to eight years is allowed, with a moratorium on principal payments for up to two years

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-approves-mutual-credit-guarantee-scheme-to-strengthen-msme-sector-125012901573\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/govt-approves-mutual-credit-guarantee-scheme-to-strengthen-msme-sector-125012901573_1.html)

### **Budget 2025: Steel makers expect protectionist measures to prevent dumping**

Domestic steel makers said they are expecting protectionist measures in the upcoming Budget to safeguard the sector from dumping. AMNS India CEO Dilip Oommen said he expects the government to continue its focus on infrastructure development while enhancing the ease of doing business.

[https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/budget-2025-steel-makers-expect-protectionist-measures-to-prevent-dumping-125012901268\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/budget/news/budget-2025-steel-makers-expect-protectionist-measures-to-prevent-dumping-125012901268_1.html)

### **India's semiconductor market to grow at 13%, reach \$103 bn by 2030: IESA**

India's semiconductor market is expected to grow from \$52 billion (Rs 4.5 trillion) in 2024 to \$103.4 billion (Rs 9 trillion) by 2030, according to a report by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA). The report, assessed by The Financial Express, attributes this growth to major sectors including mobile handsets, information technology (IT), telecommunications, consumer electronics, automotive, aerospace, and defence. Mobile handsets, IT, and industrial applications alone contribute to nearly 70 per cent of the semiconductor industry's revenue and are anticipated to remain the primary drivers of growth.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-semiconductor-market-manufacturing-growth-consumer-electronics-iesa-125012900252\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/india-semiconductor-market-manufacturing-growth-consumer-electronics-iesa-125012900252_1.html)

### **India strengthening its infrastructure, research capabilities for Olympics**

India is focussing not just on strengthening infrastructure capabilities, but also intellectual preparedness as it eyes hosting rights for the 2036 Olympic Games, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha said on Wednesday. The former track and field star noted India's engagement with the quadrennial international games goes beyond competitive sports to embrace its true spirit of promoting peace and cultural exchange. She was addressing the 1st International Olympic Research Conference at Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) near Dehgam in Gandhinagar district.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/sports/india-strengthening-its-infrastructure-research-capabilities-for-olympics-pt-usha/articleshow/117689645.cms>

### **Restaurant openings expected to be high this year, but so will closures**

With 1,000-2,000 new restaurant openings expected each month in India, many mid-sized eateries and cloud kitchens are shutting due to high costs and hefty commissions. The National Restaurant Association of India cites a 30-35% closure rate, while international franchises continue to sign deals to enter the market.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/hotels/-restaurants/restaurant-openings-expected-to-be-high-this-year-but-so-will-closures/articleshow/117701248.cms>

## **Agriculture**

### **India's coffee exports likely to decline over 10% on lower production**

India's coffee exports are expected to decline more than 10 per cent in 2025 due to lower production and reduced carry-forward stocks from last season's crop, even as beans fetch record high prices, industry officials told Reuters on Wednesday. The South Asian country, a major tea producer, is also the world's seventh-largest coffee grower. The country mainly produces robusta beans used to make instant coffee, but also grows the more expensive arabica variety. Lower exports from India could further tighten global supplies, already squeezed by weaker output from top producer Brazil, which would support benchmark futures that hit a record high this week.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/india-s-coffee-exports-likely-to-decline-over-10-on-lower-production-125012900925\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/agriculture/india-s-coffee-exports-likely-to-decline-over-10-on-lower-production-125012900925_1.html)

### **Pulses import double to record 66.33 lakh tonnes during 2024**

India's pulses imports almost doubled to an estimated record 66.33 lakh tonnes during the 2024 calendar year. This followed the government move to make imports duty-free to boost supplies and keep prices under check on shortfall in domestic output during the year.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/pulses-import-double-to-record-6633-lakh-tonnes-during-2024/article69155468.ece>

### **Experts call for a shift in PDS; suggest including millets for nutritional security and cost saving**

Experts have called for the inclusion of millets in the country's public distribution system (PDS) and proposed a shift in the PDS. The current system, they argue, carries hidden economic and environmental costs. Research by the Tata-Cornell Institute (TCI) reveals that the true cost of the PDS in 2021-22 was significantly higher than the government's budget for the programme. The TCI's research demonstrates that replacing a portion of rice with millets in the PDS could lead to substantial cost savings. Through its project on the true cost of food subsidies in India, TCI has estimated the hidden costs associated with the PDS.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/experts-call-for-a-shift-in-pds-system/article69155083.ece>

## **Infrastructure**

### **India's much showcased affordable housing market see a steep decline**

Multiple factors like circle rates going up (land price increase), non-availability of interest subsidy under PMAY, overall rise in construction costs, and low margins have contributed for the fall in affordable home sale.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/real-estate/indias-much-showcased-affordable-housing-market-see-a-steep-decline/article69154736.ece>

## **Energy**

### **Cabinet approves National Critical Minerals Mission worth Rs 16,300 cr**

The government on Wednesday approved a Rs 16,300-crore National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) to promote exploration of critical minerals within the country and at offshore locations. The approval was given by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, minister for information and broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the mission aims to reduce the dependence on import of critical minerals and ensure self-reliance. The NCMM will encompass all stages of the value chain, including mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, and recovery from end-of-life products.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cabinet-approves-national-critical-minerals-mission-worth-rs-16-300-cr-125012900827\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/cabinet-approves-national-critical-minerals-mission-worth-rs-16-300-cr-125012900827_1.html)

### **Cabinet approves hike in ethanol procurement prices for fuel retailers**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), led by Prime Minister, has sanctioned an increase in the ethanol procurement price for Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2024-25, which runs from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025, under the government's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme. As a result, the ex-mill price of ethanol derived from C Heavy Molasses (CHM) for the 2024-25 EBP programme has been set at Rs 57.97 per litre, up from Rs 56.58 per litre. The approval will not only support the government's ongoing policy to ensure price stability and fair compensation for ethanol suppliers but also reduce reliance on crude oil imports, save foreign exchange, and offer environmental benefits, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs said in a press release.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/cabinet-ethanol-procurement-prices-fuel-retailers-ebp-program-125012900873\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/cabinet-ethanol-procurement-prices-fuel-retailers-ebp-program-125012900873_1.html)

### **PSBs to finance ₹10 trillion for green energy projects by 2030**

Public sector banks (PSB) are likely to finance about ₹10 trillion to renewable energy projects in the country by 2030 to help India achieve its energy transition goals. Speaking at the India Energy Transition Summit (IETS) organized by FICCI, M. Nagaraju, secretary to the department of financial services, also highlighted issues such as delayed payments which impact the growth of the green energy space.

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/green-energy-projects-renewable-energy-public-sector-banks-energy-transition-power-generation-11738164574995.html>

## **States**

### **'States/UTs expected to pre-publish draft rules under labour codes by Mar'**

All 36 states and Union Territories (UTs) are expected to pre-publish “harmonised” draft rules in line with the four new labour codes by March this year, the labour ministry said in a statement on Wednesday. The ministry is organising a two-day labour ministers’ conference in the national capital on January 29-30, with participation from all the states and UTs. “It was noted that over 18 states/UTs have already implemented the majority of the reforms and more than 32 states/UTs have pre-published the draft rules under the four labour codes, while the remaining states/UTs have made satisfactory progress during the year. All 36 states/UTs are expected to complete pre-publication of harmonised draft rules in line with the labour codes by 31st March 2025,” the ministry said in a statement.

[https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/states-uts-expected-to-pre-publish-draft-rules-under-labour-codes-by-mar-125012901574\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/states-uts-expected-to-pre-publish-draft-rules-under-labour-codes-by-mar-125012901574_1.html)

### **Himachal govt forms carbon credit panel to explore additional revenue stream**

The Himachal Pradesh government has constituted a Carbon Credit Committee to explore various aspects of the carbon market and generate additional revenue for the state. The ten-member committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary, Forests, will study the existing International and domestic carbon market in order to develop sector specific study for the state, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said in a statement on Tuesday.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sustainability/himachal-govt-forms-carbon-credit-panel-to-explore-additional-revenue-stream/articleshow/117670389.cms>

### **Odisha looks beyond temple tourism, sets eyes on destination weddings**

Looking beyond temple tourism and Buddhist circuits, the Odisha government is now eyeing to promote the state for destination weddings and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions) tourism. The state has a lot to offer when it comes to the tourism sector. It has a long coastline, beautiful temples, wildlife, natural beauty, ecotourism destinations, waterfalls, mountains, lakes, and dams. Domestic tourists visit these sites around the year, an officer said. As the state seeks to evolve beyond its traditional offerings, it is positioning itself to become a premier hub for high-profile weddings and business events, rivalling the likes of Rajasthan's royal cities, Goa and Kerala, the officer from the state tourism department said.

[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/odisha-looks-beyond-temple-tourism-sets-eyes-on-destination-weddings-125012900663\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/odisha-looks-beyond-temple-tourism-sets-eyes-on-destination-weddings-125012900663_1.html)

### **Delhi airport's shops, restaurants, and rentals outpace aviation revenue**

For an airport, one would expect its primary business to be aircraft operations — landing fees, parking charges, and passenger security fees. But at Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, aviation-related services now take a backseat. Traditional aeronautical revenue contributed just 20 per cent to the airport’s total earnings in the first nine months of FY25, while 57 per cent came from non-aero activities — retail, duty-free shopping, advertising, food and beverages, cargo, and commercial rentals, according to a report by Livemint. Delhi airport, the busiest in the country, handled over 20 million passengers in the October-December quarter — the highest in its history. Passenger traffic grew by 8.3 per cent in Q3 FY25, while revenue increased by 8.1 per cent in the same period.

[https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/delhi-igi-airport-revenue-non-aero-activities-shops-rentals-aviation-125012900790\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/industry/news/delhi-igi-airport-revenue-non-aero-activities-shops-rentals-aviation-125012900790_1.html)

## **External**

### **India, UK to relaunch talks on free trade, investment pact: UK high commissioner**

The UK and India will resume free trade and bilateral investment treaty talks. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to restart FTA negotiations during the G-20 Summit. Britain’s Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds will visit India next month to advance discussions, focusing on issues like electric vehicles, alcoholic beverages, and services.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-uk-to-relaunch-talks-on-free-trade-investment-pact-uk-high-commissioner/articleshow/117698649.cms>

### **Govt revises quality control order to promote high-quality PV products**

The government has notified a revised Quality Control Order (QCO) to promote high-quality and efficient solar photovoltaic (PV) products, an official statement said on Wednesday. The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has notified the Solar Systems, Devices, and Components Goods Order, 2025, which revises and supersedes the existing Solar Photovoltaics, Systems, Devices, and Components Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2017.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/renewables/govt-revises-quality-control-order-to-promote-high-quality-pv-products/articleshow/117682447.cms>

#### **Govt removes curbs on import of certain kinds of boats, vehicles**

The government on Wednesday removed import restrictions on certain kinds of patrol boats and vehicles with immediate effect, according to a notification. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said the import policy of patrol or surveillance boats, air-cushion vehicles, and remote-operated vehicles is "revised from restricted to free with immediate effect".

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/govt-removes-curbs-on-import-of-certain-kinds-of-boats-vehicles/articleshow/117681193.cms>

#### **France to double Bengaluru visa issuance by 2026, boost for techies**

France plans to double the number of visas it currently issues in Bengaluru to 100,000 by 2026, according to the consulate, which has been operating in the city since 2010. Recently, Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar met with Marc Lamy, the newly appointed French Consul-General in Bengaluru, to discuss this initiative. The French Consulate General in Bengaluru provides various consular services. In 2024, it issued nearly 50,000 visas, its highest number to date. Officials have confirmed that visa services are expected to commence within the next two years.

[https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/france-to-issue-visas-in-bengaluru-by-2026-boost-for-techies-tourists-125012800560\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/finance/personal-finance/france-to-issue-visas-in-bengaluru-by-2026-boost-for-techies-tourists-125012800560_1.html)