India set to enter global chipmakers' club with Micron's Sanand debut today

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The Micron Technology plant in Sanand, set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, is expected to put India commercially on the global semiconductor map.

At full capacity, the output at the Sanand unit of the Boise (Idaho)-headquartered memory solutions giant is estimated to account for 10 per cent of its worldwide production. It will cater to markets in India and abroad.

The $37.4 billion company has facilities in the United States (US), China, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Japan, among others, with 13 major manufacturing sites. India will now join this group.

Confirming the development, a top official in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said: "The area of the ATMP (assembly, test, marking and packaging) plant at its peak will be equal to the combined size of six to seven cricket fields and will be able to meet the growing demand for memory chips in the country India and also for exports."

Officials say the move is significant because it comes at a time when Micron has been reducing its dependence on China and shifting investment to India and the US. Homegrown Chinese companies in the memory space, like YMTC, have been gaining market share in their country, supported by government policy focused on enhancing its local supply chain.

At full tilt, the Sanand ATMP unit will account for 10 per cent of Micron Technology's global output REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

The move started in 2023, when the Chinese government prohibited Micron products from being used in critical information infrastructure for reasons of national security.

As part of the Indian government's $10 billion semiconductor scheme, the government has offered applicants 50 per cent of the cost of building an ATMP or OSAT (outsourced semiconductor assembly and test) plant as incentive, and Micron was its first beneficiary, building its plant at an investment of ₹22,516 crore.

The plant can do assembly and testing for dynamic random access memory, NAND (a type of flash memory used in storage devices). It will manufacture solid-state storage devices.

At its peak the plant is expected to give 5,000 direct jobs.

To begin with, wafers will be imported from its plants in other plants, will go through assembling and testing in India, and then packaged after being converted into finished memory products. Then they will be exported and also sold for its clients in the country.

Micron has shifted some of its machines from Penang, Malaysia, to India to kick off the setting up of the plant.

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Modi flagged the need to strengthen the project sanction methodology and appraisal quality, keep life-cycle costing uppermost, and stop wastages and delays by conducting cost-benefit analysis of projects.

The PM also emphasised that bond market reforms are essential enablers of long-term growth at the webinar that was also attended by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and senior officials. He asked stakeholders, policymakers, and experts to learn from global best practices to help strengthen the bond market and foreign investment framework.

The government is making efforts to develop more active bond markets, simplifying bond trading processes, and strengthening project sanction methodologies through rigorous cost-benefit analysis and life-cycle costing. “These steps aim to make the system more predictable and investor-friendly while managing risk effectively,” the PM said.

Ministers asked for reforms agenda

Meanwhile, PM Modi has asked Cabinet ministers to prepare a detailed note on the initiatives their respective ministries will undertake

in the coming years. The exercise is part of the government's renewed thrust to simplify processes, improve ease of doing business and expand technology-led governance under its ‘Reform Express’ agenda, official sources said.

The ministers were told to prepare the note themselves so they can present it in the Union Cabinet meeting and brief the cabinet on their respective ministries' activities and reform outlook. The Cabinet Secretariat has circulated a specific form outlining the format in which each ministry will document its future reform initiatives as well as achievements from the last few years, *PTI* reported.

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When the project was being planned, executives in Micron had said that at the heart of the plant would be the clean room, which would be 1 million square feet, among the largest for an ATMP plant. It has to be free of dust (the requirement being 1,000 small particles per square metre, a tenth of the norm for an operating theatre).

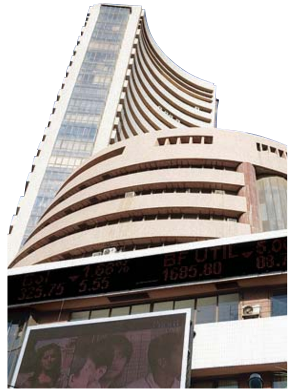
It is also expected to be one of the most automated ATMP plants in the world and will offer value addition in the product, which could range from 10-40 per cent.

The commissioning of the plant is expected to be followed by three more ATMP/OSAT plants, many of which are doing pilot production, trying up buyback arrangements, and even preparing for the next stage of expansion. This will happen by December.

These include Kaynes Technology and CG Power, which are also located in Sanand, and one by the Tata group in Assam.

Sensex, Nifty cap volatile Feb with another 1% drop

Foreign portfolio investors sold equities worth ₹3,466 crore on Thursday and continued trimming exposure on Friday, offloading shares worth ₹7,536 crore. Domestic institutions made purchases worth ₹12,293 crore, their largest single-day buying in a year.



The late-month retreat came after what had otherwise been a positive stretch for overseas inflows. Until Wednesday, net FPI purchases stood at ₹25,000 crore, the highest in 17 months.

Sentiment was further damped by weak global cues. Asian markets tracked Wall Street losses, after chipmaker Nvidia fell despite reporting strong quarterly results. Investor caution deepened as US-Iran nuclear talks ended without a breakthrough, while renewed tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan added to geopolitical unease.

Most sectoral indices ended February in positive territory. The Nifty Consumer Durables index rose 9.3 per cent and the Nifty Public Sector Bank index advanced 8.9 per cent. Gains in the latter were underpinned by State Bank of India, which surged 11.6 per cent, its strongest performance since March 2025, on the back of robust earnings.

Excluding IT, realty and FMCG, all other major sectoral indices posted monthly gains.

The broader market showed relative resilience. The Nifty Midcap 100 and Nifty Smallcap 100 indices rose 1.2 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively, over the month, though both fell more than 1 per cent on Friday. Market breadth was negative at the close, with 1,660 stocks advancing and 2,528 declining on the BSE.

“Although domestic growth trends and sectoral traction provide support, the direction of institutional flows and macro developments will shape near-term market movement. Ambiguity around US-Iran negotiations and broader geopolitical implications are likely to keep participation selective,” said Siddhartha Khemka, head of research (wealth management) at Motilal Oswal Financial Services. He recommended tilting portfolios towards domestically oriented sectors with stronger earnings visibility and limited exposure to AI-led disruption.

The India VIX rose nearly 3 per cent to 13.44, signalling elevated uncertainty. “Any further spike in volatility could intensify downside risks. The key psychological support is seen at 25,000, and the broader structure suggests continued weakness, with pullbacks likely to face selling pressure,” said Nilesh Jain, vice-president and head of technical and derivative research at Centrum Finverse