

REPORTING PROFORMA FOR COMMERCIAL WINGS

FRE/COM/201/01/2023

Name of the Mission (Country): High Commission of India, Freetown (Sierra Leone)

MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2026

a) **Trade in goods**

(i) **Quantitative Data**

a) **Total trade in goods during**

MONTHLY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2026

A. **Trade in goods**

a) **Total trade in goods during:**

0	2	2	0	2	6
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US\$ in millions						
Status P – Provisional F – Final R – Revised Final	February 2025 (R)	February 2026 (F)	% Growth	April – February 2025 (R)	April – February 2026 (F)	% Growth
India's export to Sierra Leone	31.03	37.93	22.24	357.64	369.55	3.33
India's import from Sierra Leone	1.08	4.70	335.11	19.74	29.96	51.75

(Source: Department of Commerce: India & Trade Map Statistics)

b) **Top 10 items of Export from India to Sierra Leone during (February 2026)**

S.No.	Commodity (6 digit HS tariff line)	Value (US\$ million)	Quantity in Thousands Units	Unit of Measur ement	% share in total import of the commodity
1.	Semi/Wholly Milled Rice W/N Polished/Glazed – HS Code 100630	8.49	22,119,300	MTs	N/A
2.	Other Medicine Put Up For Retail Sale – HS Code 300490	8.26	789,266	MTs	N/A
3.	Mechanical shovels, excavators and shovel loaders; with a 360 degree revolving super structure – HS Code 842952	3.97	81	MTs	N/A
4.	Motorcycles (including mopeds and cycles; fitted with an auxiliary motor, internal combustion piston engine, of cylinder capacity exceeding 50CC but not exceeding 250CC, with or without side-cars, side-cars – HS Code 871120	2.31	4,176	MTs	N/A
5.	Plastics; articles for the conveyance or packing of goods n.e.c. in heading on. 3923 – HS Code 392390	0.97	788,192	MTs	N/A

6.	Vehicles, with only spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine cylinder not over 1000CC – HS Code 870321	0.70	513	MTs	N/A
7.	Other, Containing Antibiotics – HS Code 300420	0.68	21,522	MTs	N/A
8.	Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not containing biodiesel, not crude, not waste oils, preparations n.e.c containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or oils from bituminous minerals, not light oils and preparations – HS Code 271019	0.60	472,605	MTs	N/A
9.	Prefabricated building of other than wood – HS Code 940690	0.53	112,159	MTs	N/A
10.	Boilers, water-tube boilers with a steam production exceeding 45t per hour – HS Code 840211	0.50	54,746	MTs	N/A

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India)

Data shown above are the most recent data available as of **February 2026**

c) Top 6 items of Import from Sierra Leone to India during (February 2026)

S.No.	Commodity (6 digit HS tariff line)	Value (US\$ million)	Quantity in Thousands Units	Unit	% share in total export of the commodity
1.	Aluminium ores & concentrates – HS Code 260600	3.71	50,070,000	MTs	N/A
2.	Crude Palm Kernel/Babasu Oil And Its Fractions – HS Code 151321	0.71	340,620	MTs	N/A
3.	Oil-Cake and other residue of palm nut/kernel – HS Code 230660	0.15	782,097	MTs	N/A
4.	Other Unrefined Lead And Lead Alloys – HS Code 780199	0.11	52,390	MTs	N/A
5.	Titanium ores and concentrates – HS Code 261400	0.02	54,000	MTs	N/A
6.	Polypropylene – HS Code 390210	0.01	24,120	MTs	N/A

(Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India)

*Data shown above are the most recent data available as of **February 2026**

d) Potential products of Exports from India to Sierra Leone

S.No.	Commodity (6 digit HS tariff line)	Rationale (Max.200 words)
1.	Semi/Wholly Milled Rice W/N Polished/Glazed – HS Code 100630	<p>With reference to the Trade Statistics of the Department of Trade and Industry in India.</p> <p>The listed commodities are the top 10 demanded by Sierra Leone for this Month I.e. February 2026.</p> <p>From this data we noticed that Semi/Wholly Milled Rice W/N Polished/Glazed is the highest in demand followed by Other Medicine Put Up For Retail Sale; Mechanical shovels, excavators and shovel loaders; Motorcycles (including mopeds and cycles; fitted with an auxiliary motor, internal combustion piston engine, of cylinder capacity exceeding 50CC but not</p>
2.	Other Medicine Put Up For Retail Sale – HS Code 300490	
3.	Mechanical shovels, excavators and shovel loaders; with a 360 degree revolving super structure – HS Code 842952	
4.	Motorcycles (including mopeds and cycles; fitted with an auxiliary motor, internal combustion piston engine, of cylinder capacity exceeding 50CC but not	

	exceeding 250CC, with or without side-cars, side-cars – HS Code 871120	<p>engine, of cylinder capacity exceeding 50CC but not exceeding 250CC, with or without side-cars, side-cars; Plastics; articles for the conveyance or packing of goods n.e.c. in heading on; etc.</p> <p>Thanks to a bilateral agreement and competitive prices, exporting goods to Sierra Leone has become affordable.</p>
5.	Plastics; articles for the conveyance or packing of goods n.e.c. in heading on. 3923 – HS Code 392390	
6.	Vehicles, with only spark-ignition internal combustion piston engine cylinder not over 1000CC – HS Code 870321	
7.	Other, Containing Antibiotics – HS Code 300420	
8.	Petroleum oils and oils from bituminous minerals, not containing biodiesel, not crude, not waste oils, preparations n.e.c containing by weight 70% or more of petroleum oils or oils from bituminous minerals, not light oils and preparations – HS Code 271019	
9.	Prefabricated building of other than wood – HS Code 940690	
10.	Boilers, water-tube boilers with a steam production exceeding 45t per hour – HS Code 840211	

e) Significant trends in trade and investment:

S.No.	Category	Details of significant trends (Max.200 words)	Analysis (Max.200 words)
1.	Governance and Public Sector Development Sector	<p>A significant trend in Sierra Leone’s development landscape is the evolving nature of international development cooperation, particularly the United Kingdom’s shift from traditional aid delivery towards investment-oriented and partnership-based engagement. Discussions between the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Government of Sierra Leone highlighted growing emphasis on blended development models that combine project financing with systems strengthening, technical expertise, institutional partnerships, and private sector participation.</p> <p>This transition reflects broader global reforms in development finance and reduced Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets, encouraging more</p>	<p>The proposed reorientation of the UK–Sierra Leone development partnership represents a strategic shift from a predominantly donor–recipient relationship towards a more collaborative and investment-driven model. This approach has the potential to enhance the sustainability and long-term impact of development interventions by strengthening national institutions, promoting private sector participation, and improving domestic resource mobilization.</p> <p>For Sierra Leone, the shift aligns well with ongoing efforts to attract investment, develop bankable projects, and diversify development financing sources amid declining global aid flows. The emphasis on technical cooperation and systems strengthening could improve government capacity in critical areas such as revenue collection, public financial management, and service delivery. The HMRC–NRA partnership provides evidence of how targeted expertise can generate measurable institutional</p>

		<p>sustainable and results-driven approaches. The UK’s collaboration between HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Sierra Leone’s National Revenue Authority (NRA) demonstrates the increasing focus on capacity building and long-term institutional reform rather than short-term project support.</p> <p>Sierra Leone is responding proactively through initiatives such as the establishment of the South–South and Triangular Cooperation Directorate and the development of a portfolio of bankable investment projects. These developments indicate a growing emphasis on investment readiness, strategic partnerships, domestic resource mobilization, and evidence-based development planning as key drivers of future economic growth and sustainable development.</p>	<p>improvements.</p> <p>However, the transition may also present challenges. Many proposed investment projects require further preparation to meet investor standards, and reduced reliance on grant-based financing could limit support for social sectors that are less attractive to private investment. Success will therefore depend on Sierra Leone’s ability to strengthen project readiness, maintain a conducive investment environment, and ensure that development priorities remain inclusive and aligned with national objectives.</p> <p>Overall, the trend offers opportunities for more resilient and sustainable development outcomes if effectively managed.</p>
2.	Economic Development and Trade Sector	<p>A significant trend emerging in Sierra Leone’s development landscape is the strengthening of South–South economic cooperation through strategic partnerships with emerging global economies. The signing of the UAE–Sierra Leone Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) reflects growing efforts to diversify trade, investment, and development partnerships beyond traditional donors.</p> <p>The agreement emphasizes increased investment and collaboration in high-growth sectors such as artificial intelligence, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure, highlighting a shift towards technology-driven and private sector-led development. The UAE’s \$1 billion “AI for Development” initiative further demonstrates rising interest in</p>	<p>The UAE–Sierra Leone Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) represents a significant opportunity for Sierra Leone to strengthen economic diversification and attract new sources of investment. By focusing on strategic sectors such as artificial intelligence, energy, agriculture, and infrastructure, the agreement aligns with the country’s long-term development objectives of promoting industrialization, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The partnership reflects a broader global trend in which developing countries are increasingly engaging with emerging economic powers to access capital, technology, and expertise. The UAE’s emphasis on innovation and digital transformation could help Sierra Leone accelerate modernization efforts, particularly in sectors where technological adoption remains limited. Additionally, increased foreign direct investment may improve infrastructure, enhance productivity, and strengthen the country’s competitiveness</p>

		<p>leveraging digital innovation and emerging technologies to accelerate economic transformation across Africa.</p> <p>The partnership also reflects a broader trend of Gulf countries expanding their economic engagement in Africa through trade agreements, infrastructure investments, and development financing. For Sierra Leone, this presents opportunities to attract foreign direct investment, enhance market access, promote industrial development, and support economic diversification.</p> <p>In addition, the agreement’s focus on renewable energy, climate resilience, and water security indicates growing integration of sustainability priorities into international economic partnerships. These developments signal a move towards more strategic, investment-oriented, and innovation-driven development cooperation.</p>	<p>within regional and global markets.</p> <p>However, realizing these benefits will depend on Sierra Leone’s ability to create an enabling business environment, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and ensure that investments generate broad-based socio-economic benefits. Capacity constraints, infrastructure gaps, and implementation challenges could limit the impact of the agreement if not adequately addressed.</p> <p>Overall, the CEPA has the potential to deepen economic cooperation, support sustainable development, and position Sierra Leone more effectively within emerging global investment and trade networks.</p>
3.	Governance and Public Sector Development Sector	<p>A significant trend in Sierra Leone’s governance landscape is the growing recognition of the country’s leadership and expertise in public financial management, auditing, and accountability at regional and international levels. The appointment of the Auditor General of Sierra Leone to the Governing Council of the African Professionalisation Initiative (API) reflects increasing efforts across Africa to strengthen professional standards in public sector auditing and financial oversight.</p> <p>This development highlights a broader trend toward enhancing institutional capacity, transparency, and accountability in public finance management as governments seek to</p>	<p>The appointment of Sierra Leone’s Auditor General to the Governing Council of the African Professionalisation Initiative (API) represents a significant achievement for the country’s public financial management and governance agenda. It reflects growing international recognition of Sierra Leone’s efforts to strengthen audit systems, accountability mechanisms, and fiscal oversight institutions.</p> <p>The role provides Sierra Leone with an opportunity to influence continental initiatives aimed at improving the professionalism and effectiveness of public sector auditing. Participation in regional and global governance platforms can facilitate access to best practices, technical expertise, and professional networks that support ongoing reforms in public financial management. These benefits can contribute</p>

		<p>improve fiscal discipline, strengthen revenue management, and address growing economic challenges. The API's focus on professionalizing public sector accountants and auditors supports the adoption of international best practices and improved governance systems.</p> <p>The appointment also demonstrates Sierra Leone's expanding role in regional and global governance networks, following the Auditor General's election to the Board of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management (ICGFM). Such engagements facilitate knowledge exchange, technical cooperation, and capacity building across countries.</p> <p>Overall, the trend reflects increasing emphasis on strengthening oversight institutions, promoting good governance, and enhancing public sector accountability as essential foundations for sustainable development, effective service delivery, and investor confidence.</p>	<p>to stronger financial controls, improved transparency, and more efficient use of public resources.</p> <p>The appointment may also enhance Sierra Leone's credibility among development partners, investors, and international financial institutions, as robust oversight institutions are often viewed as indicators of good governance and responsible fiscal management. However, translating international recognition into tangible domestic outcomes will require continued investment in institutional capacity, implementation of audit recommendations, and sustained political commitment to accountability and transparency.</p> <p>Overall, the development strengthens Sierra Leone's position within regional governance frameworks and supports broader efforts to improve public sector performance, fiscal discipline, and citizen trust in government institutions.</p>
4.	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector	<p>A significant trend emerging in Sierra Leone's digital economy and regulatory environment is the persistent challenge of compliance and enforcement within the telecommunications sector, particularly in relation to statutory financial obligations. The Auditor General's 2024 report highlights widespread non-compliance among Internet Service Providers (ISPs), where a majority failed to submit required financial statements necessary for calculating the Universal Access and Service Levy. This trend points to weaknesses in regulatory enforcement mechanisms and institutional capacity to ensure</p>	<p>The Auditor General's findings on non-compliance by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Sierra Leone highlight significant governance and regulatory enforcement weaknesses within the telecommunications sector. The failure of the majority of ISPs to submit financial statements and pay the Universal Access and Service Levy indicates gaps in oversight, accountability, and enforcement capacity of the Universal Access Development Fund (UADF).</p> <p>This situation has important implications for the country's digital development agenda. The Universal Access and Service Levy is a key financing mechanism for expanding broadband infrastructure to underserved and rural areas. Weak compliance therefore directly constrains the availability of</p>

		<p>adherence to sectoral obligations. The absence of penalties or sanctions against defaulting operators further underscores gaps in accountability and compliance management. Such shortcomings have direct implications for the Universal Access Development Fund (UADF), which relies on these levies to finance broadband expansion and improve digital inclusion in underserved communities.</p> <p>The situation reflects a broader structural issue within Sierra Leone’s digital infrastructure governance, where regulatory compliance is inconsistent and enforcement remains limited. This undermines efforts to expand internet access and support the growth of the digital economy, which is increasingly critical for innovation, education, and economic diversification.</p> <p>Overall, the trend highlights the need for stronger regulatory oversight, improved enforcement of financial obligations, and enhanced institutional coordination to ensure sustainable financing of universal access initiatives and equitable digital development.</p>	<p>resources needed to reduce the digital divide and support inclusive access to internet services, which are essential for education, innovation, and economic competitiveness.</p> <p>The absence of timely sanctions or penalties further undermines regulatory credibility and may encourage continued non-compliance among operators. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, including consistent application of penalties and improved monitoring systems, is critical to improving compliance levels.</p> <p>Additionally, this trend underscores the need for enhanced institutional coordination between regulatory bodies and greater transparency in reporting requirements. Without corrective action, the effectiveness of universal access initiatives may be compromised, limiting progress toward a more inclusive and digitally connected economy.</p> <p>Overall, the findings reflect broader challenges in regulatory governance that must be addressed to ensure sustainable financing and equitable development of Sierra Leone’s digital sector.</p>
5.	Economic Management / Public Finance Sector	<p>A significant trend in Sierra Leone’s fiscal environment is the marked improvement in domestic revenue mobilisation despite challenging external economic conditions, including declining mining output and weaker global commodity prices. The Fiscal Report 2024 indicates that revenue performance strengthened due to a combination of administrative reforms, enhanced enforcement measures, and targeted one-off inflows rather than broad-</p>	<p>The improvement in Sierra Leone’s fiscal performance in 2024 reflects a deliberate shift toward stronger domestic resource mobilisation through enforcement, administrative reforms, and digitalisation. Despite weak mining output and unfavourable global commodity prices, the increase in revenue indicates that institutional reforms are beginning to enhance the efficiency and reach of the tax system.</p> <p>A key driver of this performance is the tightening of compliance mechanisms across</p>

		<p>based economic growth. Key drivers of this improvement include intensified tax compliance efforts, expanded data matching systems, and increased audits across major revenue-generating sectors. The recovery of arrears from domestic taxes, customs duties, and non-tax revenues reflects strengthened enforcement capacity. Additionally, reforms in import valuation systems and the implementation of HS Code 2022 contributed to higher recorded import values and increased customs revenue.</p> <p>Digitalisation has emerged as a major structural trend, with the deployment of technological solutions significantly improving tax collection efficiency. Systems such as SICPA and N-soft have enhanced excise and GST collection, while mobile applications have broadened the tax base by improving compliance in vehicle licensing and personal income tax.</p> <p>Furthermore, policy reforms under the Finance Act 2024, including revised duties and harmonised tax structures, have further strengthened revenue flows. Overall, the trend reflects a shift toward a more technology-driven, enforcement-oriented, and reform-focused fiscal system aimed at improving domestic resource mobilisation and fiscal sustainability.</p>	<p>major revenue agencies, including Customs, Domestic Taxes, and non-tax revenue units. Expanded audits, arrears recovery, and improved monitoring of large taxpayers have strengthened enforcement and reduced revenue leakages. However, the reliance on one-off inflows and arrears recovery suggests that part of the revenue growth may not yet be fully sustainable.</p> <p>The introduction of digital tax systems has been particularly transformative, improving transparency, reducing manual inefficiencies, and expanding the tax base. Technologies used for excise, GST, and licensing demonstrate the potential of digital governance to enhance fiscal outcomes.</p> <p>At the same time, policy measures under the Finance Act 2024 have broadened the tax base and increased duties on key imports, contributing to higher collections but potentially raising cost pressures on households and businesses.</p> <p>Overall, the trend indicates progress toward a more efficient and technology-enabled revenue system, though long-term sustainability will depend on broad-based economic growth and continued institutional strengthening.</p>
6.	Governance and Public Sector Development Sector	A significant trend in Sierra Leone's governance and fiscal decentralisation framework is the improving revenue performance of local councils alongside persistent dependence on central government transfers. According to the Auditor	The Auditor General's findings on local council finances reveal both progress and persistent structural weaknesses in Sierra Leone's decentralisation framework. The improvement in own-source revenue collection from 61% in 2023 to 89% in 2024 indicates that local councils are becoming

		<p>General’s 2024 report, councils have significantly strengthened their own-source revenue mobilisation, with collection performance rising from 61% in 2023 to 89% in 2024. Several councils even exceeded their revenue targets, reflecting improved local fiscal discipline and administrative efficiency in selected jurisdictions.</p> <p>This progress indicates growing capacity at the sub-national level to generate and manage internal revenues, supported by better enforcement and improved local financial management practices. However, structural weaknesses remain, particularly in property valuation systems and limited citizen participation in local budgeting processes, which continue to constrain full revenue potential.</p> <p>At the same time, the trend highlights a critical reliance on central government transfers, which remain the dominant source of council financing. The shortfall in grant disbursements—where only 78% of budgeted funds were received—has significantly undermined service delivery and stalled key development projects under the decentralisation framework.</p> <p>Overall, the trend reflects a dual reality of improving local revenue mobilisation capacity but continued fiscal vulnerability due to inconsistent central government funding and institutional constraints affecting sustainable local governance and service delivery.</p>	<p>more efficient in mobilising internal revenues and strengthening basic fiscal administration. This suggests gradual improvements in local governance capacity, particularly in councils that exceeded their targets.</p> <p>However, the gains remain constrained by systemic limitations. Weak property valuation systems and limited citizen participation in budgeting continue to undermine the full potential of local revenue mobilisation. These gaps reduce transparency, weaken accountability, and limit public ownership of local development planning.</p> <p>More critically, the heavy dependence on central government transfers exposes councils to fiscal instability. The shortfall in grant disbursements (78% of budgeted funds received) has had a direct impact on service delivery, delaying or halting key development and administrative activities. This undermines the objectives of decentralisation, which aim to empower local authorities with predictable and adequate funding.</p> <p>Overall, while there are encouraging signs of improved local revenue performance, sustainable decentralisation will depend on strengthening local revenue systems, improving property tax administration, enhancing citizen engagement, and ensuring timely and predictable intergovernmental fiscal transfers.</p>
7.	Economic Development and Trade	A significant trend in Africa’s economic landscape is the strengthening of continental financial integration and intra-	South Africa’s accession to Afreximbank represents a strengthening of Africa’s institutional capacity to finance trade and industrial development, with important

Sector	<p>African trade facilitation through expanded participation in multilateral development finance institutions. South Africa's accession to the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) represents a major step toward deepening regional economic cooperation and enhancing trade connectivity across the continent. This development reflects a broader shift toward strengthening African-led financial institutions to support industrialisation, export expansion, and regional value chain development. The US\$8 billion country programme linked to South Africa's membership underscores growing emphasis on large-scale financing for infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, and trade-enabling sectors.</p> <p>The initiative aligns with Africa's broader agenda for economic transformation under frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), aiming to reduce trade barriers and improve cross-border investment flows. By integrating Africa's most industrialised economy more deeply into Afreximbank's operations, the partnership is expected to enhance trade finance availability and stimulate regional supply chains.</p> <p>For smaller economies such as Sierra Leone, this trend presents opportunities to access expanded export markets, trade finance instruments, and regional partnerships. It also signals increasing interconnectedness of African economies through shared financial platforms that support industrial growth, export competitiveness, and private sector</p>	<p>implications for regional economic integration. By joining the continent's leading trade finance institution, South Africa enhances the scale and credibility of Afreximbank's operations, while also expanding access to structured financing for industrial and export-led growth.</p> <p>The US\$8 billion country programme reflects a broader shift toward large-scale, development-oriented trade financing aimed at strengthening manufacturing, infrastructure, and regional value chains. This aligns with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which seeks to boost intra-African trade by reducing barriers and improving supply chain connectivity.</p> <p>For smaller economies, including Sierra Leone, this development offers indirect but meaningful opportunities. Increased trade finance availability and expanded regional networks may improve access to markets, attract investment, and support export diversification. However, the ability to fully benefit will depend on domestic readiness, including competitiveness of local industries, infrastructure quality, and ease of doing business.</p> <p>At the same time, the trend underscores the growing importance of African-led financial institutions in reducing reliance on external funding sources and shaping development priorities within the continent. Effective coordination and inclusive participation will be critical to ensuring that benefits are widely shared across both larger and smaller economies.</p> <p>Overall, the development signals deeper financial integration and a more structured approach to financing Africa's industrial transformation.</p>
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		<p>development.</p> <p>Overall, the trend highlights accelerating economic integration and the growing role of African financial institutions in driving sustainable trade-led development across the continent.</p>	
8.	Economic Development and Trade Sector	<p>A significant trend in Africa's economic development landscape is the increasing emphasis on regional integration and cross-continental cooperation as a response to global economic uncertainty and shifting supply chains. The IMF has highlighted the need for stronger economic linkages between North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe to enhance resilience, boost trade, and accelerate inclusive growth.</p> <p>This trend underscores growing recognition of Africa's potential to benefit from integrated markets under frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Key priorities include reducing trade barriers, improving customs efficiency, and investing in cross-border infrastructure such as transport corridors and energy networks.</p> <p>Another important dimension is the rising focus on industrialisation and energy cooperation. North Africa's renewable energy potential, particularly in solar, wind, and green hydrogen, is being positioned as a driver of both regional industrial growth and Europe's energy transition, while addressing electricity deficits in sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>The emphasis on human capital development, including vocational training and digital skills for emerging technologies such as</p>	<p>The IMF's call for deeper economic integration between North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe reflects a strategic response to increasing global uncertainty and fragmentation of trade systems. It highlights the growing recognition that regional cooperation is essential for improving resilience, competitiveness, and long-term growth prospects across interconnected economies.</p> <p>A key implication of this trend is the potential acceleration of trade and investment flows through reduced barriers, improved infrastructure, and stronger policy coordination. Reforms such as modernizing customs systems, enhancing transport corridors, and lowering tariffs could significantly improve intra-African and inter-regional trade efficiency. The projected gains in exports and GDP suggest that integration-led reforms could yield substantial economic dividends if effectively implemented.</p> <p>The focus on energy integration, particularly North Africa's renewable energy capacity, also signals an emerging opportunity to address both Africa's energy deficit and Europe's transition needs. This creates potential for cross-regional value chains in energy-intensive industries and green technologies.</p> <p>However, achieving these outcomes will require sustained political commitment, coordinated policy reforms, and significant investment in infrastructure and human capital. Without addressing structural bottlenecks such as weak connectivity and skills gaps, the benefits of integration may remain unevenly distributed.</p>

		<p>artificial intelligence, reflects a broader shift toward knowledge-based economies.</p> <p>Overall, the trend highlights a coordinated push toward deeper regional integration, infrastructure connectivity, and skills development as key drivers of economic transformation across Africa and its global partners.</p>	<p>Overall, the trend underscores a shift toward cooperation-driven development, positioning regional integration as a central pillar of Africa’s economic transformation strategy.</p>
9.	Mining and Natural Resources Sector	<p>A significant trend in Africa’s mining and natural resources sector is the accelerating shift from raw mineral extraction toward value addition, industrialisation, and greater control over global mineral value chains. Despite holding substantial global reserves of critical minerals such as cobalt, manganese, and platinum group metals, African countries are increasingly seeking to reposition themselves from primary commodity exporters to active participants in higher-value segments of the global economy.</p> <p>This trend reflects a strategic focus on leveraging mineral wealth to stimulate domestic industrial development, create employment opportunities, and enhance technological capacity. Key priorities include downstream beneficiation, expansion of mineral processing industries, infrastructure development, and the formalisation of artisanal and small-scale mining activities to improve productivity and governance.</p> <p>There is also growing emphasis on inclusive and equitable participation within the sector, including improved gender representation and broader stakeholder involvement, as part of efforts to strengthen governance and competitiveness. Furthermore, regional cooperation</p>	<p>A significant trend in Africa’s mining and natural resources sector is the growing push to shift from raw material extraction toward value addition, industrialisation, and greater control over global mineral value chains. Despite holding dominant global reserves of critical minerals such as cobalt, manganese, and platinum group metals, African leaders are increasingly advocating for a redefinition of the continent’s role in the global energy transition.</p> <p>This trend reflects a strategic ambition to leverage Africa’s mineral wealth to drive domestic industrial growth, technological development, and job creation, rather than remaining primarily an exporter of raw commodities. Emphasis is being placed on downstream beneficiation, infrastructure modernisation, and the formalisation of artisanal mining to integrate more actors into structured value chains.</p> <p>There is also a growing focus on equitable participation, including improved gender representation and inclusive leadership within the mining sector, as part of broader efforts to enhance governance and competitiveness. Additionally, partnerships and regional cooperation are being promoted as essential mechanisms for strengthening bargaining power and ensuring fairer distribution of benefits from resource exploitation.</p> <p>Overall, the trend signals a shift toward resource nationalism, industrial policy reform, and inclusive growth strategies aimed at transforming Africa’s mineral</p>

		<p>and strategic partnerships are being promoted to enhance bargaining power and ensure fairer distribution of benefits from resource exploitation.</p> <p>Overall, the trend highlights a shift toward resource-driven industrial policy, greater economic sovereignty, and inclusive growth strategies aimed at transforming Africa’s mineral endowment into sustainable long-term development gains.</p>	<p>endowment into long-term sustainable economic development.</p>
10.	Mining Sector	<p>A significant trend in Sierra Leone’s mining sector is the increasing focus on mobilising private sector financing to support the commercialisation and value addition of mineral resources, particularly diamonds. The \$25 million financing agreement between Ecobank and Meya Mining reflects a broader strategy to attract investment into large-scale, ethically sourced mining operations aimed at boosting exports, employment, and domestic economic linkages.</p> <p>This development highlights a shift toward positioning the mining sector as a driver of inclusive economic growth rather than solely resource extraction. Emphasis is being placed on job creation for local communities, strengthening domestic supply chains, and ensuring greater retention of mining revenues within the national economy through local financial channels.</p> <p>Another key trend is the growing commitment to transparency, traceability, and ethical sourcing in the diamond industry, aligned with international frameworks such as the Kimberley Process. This is aimed at improving the global reputation of</p>	<p>The Ecobank–Meya Mining financing arrangement reflects a broader shift in Sierra Leone’s mining sector toward investment-led growth anchored in formalised, large-scale, and ethically governed operations. By securing commercial financing for diamond production, the country is signaling improved investor confidence driven by regulatory reforms, political stability, and efforts to strengthen sector governance.</p> <p>A key implication of this trend is the deliberate attempt to link mineral extraction more directly to domestic economic benefits. Requirements such as routing payments through local accounts and prioritising local employment indicate a policy push toward greater local value retention and broader socio-economic spillovers, including job creation and community development.</p> <p>The emphasis on ethical sourcing, traceability, and compliance with international standards such as the Kimberley Process also reflects a strategic repositioning of Sierra Leone’s diamond industry. This is intended to distance the sector from its historical association with conflict and opacity, thereby improving access to responsible global markets and financing.</p> <p>However, the sustainability of these gains will depend on continued investor confidence, effective regulatory oversight, and the ability to ensure that mining revenues</p>

	<p>Sierra Leone’s mineral exports and attracting responsible investment.</p> <p>In addition, the use of public–private partnerships and engagement with multilateral financiers signals an effort to de-risk the sector and expand access to capital for large-scale mining projects. Overall, the trend reflects a broader push toward sustainable, investment-driven, and socially responsible development of Sierra Leone’s mineral resources.</p>	<p>translate into inclusive development outcomes. Strengthening local supply chains and enhancing institutional capacity will be critical to maximising long-term benefits.</p> <p>Overall, the trend highlights a transition toward structured, finance-driven, and reputation-sensitive mining development aimed at integrating Sierra Leone more competitively into global mineral markets.</p>
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Source: - <https://awokonewspapersl.com/category/business-finance/>

*Data shown above are the most recent data available as of **February 2026***

e) Number of Sierra Leonean companies in India and investment value:

Industry	Number of Sierra Leonean Companies in India (January – February 2026)	Invested Amount (Unit: USD Million)
N/A	N/A	N/A

f) Market Access Alerts

0	2	2	0	2	6
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Alerts on customs tariff changes: -

Sr. No.	Notification no. and date	HS code	Description	Original customs tariff	Present customs tariff	Effective from	Remarks if any	Upload notification (pdf only)
NIL								

Source: -

g) Alerts on non-tariff measures (SPS/TBT/ import and export procedures/ restrictions/ prohibitions, licensing/ STEs etc.)

Sl. No	Notification no./ date	Measure	Classification / HS CODE	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

h) Alerts on standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures:

Sl. No.	Notification no./ date	Standard/ technical regulation/ conformity assessment procedure	Classification / HS CODE	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

I) Any other alerts on trade defense measures taken by respective country:
(Safeguards including special safeguard, antidumping, CVD or anti- subsidy)

Sr. No.	Notification no., date or other references	Type (initiation, final, prov., sunset, consultations, new shipper review)	Details of products/ sectors affected (including HS codes)	Effective from	Remarks if any
1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

J) Alert on services, regulatory regime, qualification requirement, licensing procedures, visa regime, barriers etc.

Sl. No.	Notification no., and date or other references	Service sectors affected	Modes	Effective from	Remarks if any
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

K) Representation of trade issues

Sr. No.	Select Issue Field*	Issues Details	HS Code	Products Description	Reporting Agency (India)	Company/ Exporter Name if any	Status of the Issue #	Importing Country Authority Name and Remarks
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

L) Stakeholders' Feedback and Action Taken

a) Feedback from major Indian industries/other commercial concerns and Indian trade visitors to that country

Sr. No.	Name of the Firm/Company	Sector	Trade barrier issues if any (incl. HS codes)	General Feedback (Max.200 words)
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

b) Feedback on major trade promotion activities/events

Sr. No.	Activity/Events (trade fair, BSM etc.)	Date and venue	Number of participants from India	Name of EPC/Trade Body coordinating participants	Mission's Feedback (Max.200 words)
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

c) Feedback from local commercial visitors to trade fairs in India, including under RBSM; number of Business Visas issued:

Sr. No.	Activity (trade fair)	Date and venue	Number of participants from the relevant country	List of large/ key participants from the relevant country	Number of Business Visas issued	Mission's Feedback
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

d) Trade Queries for Imports/Exports (if not uploaded on the Indian trade portal) (Source: Mission)

Trade Queries for Imports/Exports for the month of February 2026

S.No	Name Of Company	Product(s) / Services	Nature of Business(Import/Export/ Services)	Purposes	Date Received	Date Replied	Email I.D
1.	Praiz Exim Llp	Banana Powder	Export	Trade Tie	01-02-2026	03-02-2026	sales@praizexim.com
2.	Shree Global Exim	List of products:- Banana Powder – HS Code: 08039090 Onion Powder – HS Code: 07122000 Jaggery Powder – HS Code: 17019990,17011410, and 17011490 Spices 09109100,09109990,09109110,09109100 cardamom – 09083120,09083200 Rices – 10063020,10062000,10063010 Frozen Sea fish – 03038950,03038990,0306171619	Export	Trade Tie	31-01-2026	03-02-2026	shreeglobalexim@gmail.com
3.	Nka Global Exports	List of products:- Fruits & Vegetables (Chapter 7 & 8) 070110 – Seed potatoes, fresh or chilled 70310 – Onions and shallots, fresh or chilled 070960 – Capsicum/Pimenta (e.g., green chilies), fresh or chilled 80300 – Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried	Export	Trade Tie	04-02-2026	05-02-2026	info@gov.nkaglobalexports.com

080610 – Fresh grapes					
081010 – Fresh strawberries					
080450 – Guavas, mangoes, and mangosteens					
Pulses – Dried Leguminous Vegetables (Chapter 7)					
071310 – Dried peas (<i>Pisum sativum</i>), shelled					
071320 – Dried chickpeas (<i>garbanzos</i>), shelled					
071331 – Urad and moong beans					
071333 – Kidney beans, including white pea beans					
071340 – Dried lentils, shelled					
Rice & Cereals (Chapter 10)					
100610 – Rice in the husk (paddy/rough)					
100620 – Husked (brown) rice					
100630 – Semi or wholly milled rice (including Basmati)					
100199 – Wheat and meslin (other than seed quality)					
100590 – Maize (corn)					
100820 – Millet					
Coffee, Tea & Spices (Chapter 9)					
090111 – Coffee, not roasted or decaffeinated					
090240 – Black tea (fermented) and partly fermented tea					
090411 – Whole black pepper					
091010 – Ginger					
091030 – Turmeric					
090830 – Cardamoms					
090930 – Cumin seeds					

4.	Varni Enterprise	Rice	Export	Trade Tie	14-02-2026	19-02-2026	nisargmajmudar8@gmail.com
5.	M/S Rig Fashion Wear	Ready-Made Men's Suits, Blazers, Indo-Western Outfits, Sherwanis, and related Formal & Indian Ethnic Wear	Export	Trade Tie	25-02-2026	27-02-2026	bansalishaan.work@gmail.com

M) Tourism:

a) Tourist / Business Visa Issued by Mission:

Sr. No	No. of Tourist Visa issued during the February 2026	No. of Business Visa issued during the February 2026
1.	N/A	N/A

b) Indian Tourism Promotion Events/Interactions held / organised:

Sr. No.	Details of Event/ Interaction	Theme/Topic	Description / No. of Participants and type of participation (tour operators/ tourism companies/ social influencers etc.)
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A

c) Any advisory issued by the country for travelling to India:

Sr. No.	Date	Advisory	Reason	Action Taken
NIL during the period				

N) Opportunities in Technology/Investment/Procurement:

a) Opportunities in Technology:

Sr. No.	Name of Technology	Sector	Potential opportunity for ToT/ collaboration	B2B partnership possible/ identified companies
1.	N/A	Mining Sector	Sierra Leone Mining Week 2026 is the country's flagship mining sector conference and exhibition, scheduled to take place in Freetown from 21–23 May 2026 at the Freetown International Conference Centre. The event presents a high potential for Transfer of Technology and collaboration in mining exploration, mineral processing, ESG compliance systems, and capacity building through partnerships between international mining firms, technology providers,	Sierra Leone Mining Week 2026 is expected to facilitate B2B partnerships between mining companies, equipment suppliers, logistics firms, financial institutions, and technology providers, supporting joint ventures, mineral exploration, equipment procurement, and investment collaborations in the mining sector.

			government agencies, and local institutions.	
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b) Out borne opportunities for investments/ assets on offer/major company divestment:

Sr. No.	Sector Name (List attached)	Particulars of the asset /company	Contact details
Nothing during the period.			

c) Export Opportunities – Information on tender Notices for projects and procurements which are open to Indian project exporters / suppliers (USD 5 million & above) – Government Procurement (GP) as well as non-GP.

Sr. No.	Tender/ procurement notice No and date	GP/Non-GP	Sector	Value of tender/ procurement
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d) Any press coverage/notification on new technology/ IPR Regulations:

Sr. No.	Sector	Details	Remarks	Upload Documents
1.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

e) Details of trade research, information dissemination activity of the commercial wing

Sr. No.	Nature of activity (trade research, information dissemination, seminars/webinars etc) (Max.200 words)	Details of Seminar/ webinar conference (date/ venue, no of participants) or research (Max.200 words)	Details of trade research (title of the report, executive summary, date of publication) (Max.200 words)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

g) Details of activities conducted out of Trade promotion budget:

BE for current financial year	RE for current financial year	Amount utilized	Details of Activity (Max.200 words)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

h) Action taken on Complaints from foreign/ Indian Buyer/Supplier:

No. of Trade complaints received	From Local companies	From Indian Companies	Description/ No. of complaints on which Action is Taken
1	N/A	N/A	N/A
