



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

12 July, 2025

Navigating Global Shifts with Strategic Insight

Dear Walmond Community,

May and June have been a month of significant global developments, impacting economies, industries, and businesses worldwide. From escalating trade tensions to evolving healthcare strategies, the environment is shifting rapidly. As we mark a decade since Walmond began its journey in 2015, it's a moment to reflect on how far we've come, growing through change, challenge, and collaboration. What started as a focused consultancy has, over the past ten years, evolved into a global advisory presence.

Our commitment to strategic clarity and execution excellence has allowed us to support clients across borders and sectors.

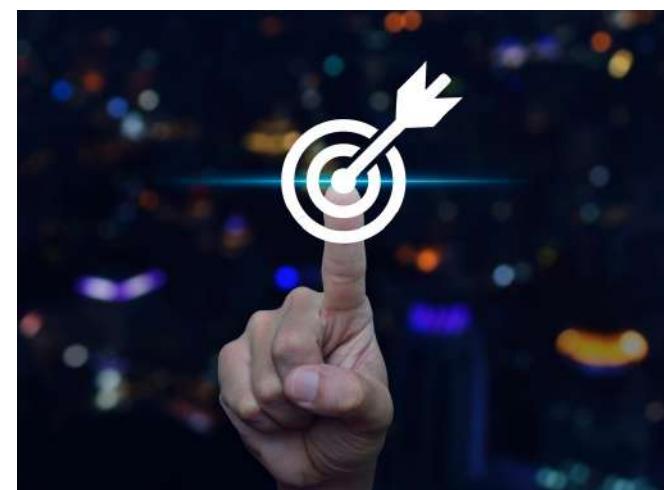
One of our proudest milestones in this journey has been the expansion of our [International Desk](#), which now operates actively across the USA, UAE, Singapore, and the UK. These hubs enable us to serve a wider global clientele and help us stay closer to the pulse of shifting economic, regulatory, and innovation environments.

Let's explore how strategic foresight, adaptability, and the right partners can empower businesses to turn these uncertainties into opportunities.



Walmond Achieves ISO 9001:2015 Certification

Let's begin the newsletter by sharing our latest achievement. We're proud to share that Walmond Consultancy LLP is now ISO 9001:2015 certified, a globally recognized standard that affirms our commitment to delivering consistent, high-quality services.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR CLIENTS:

We believe this achievement is not just a milestone but a promise. A promise that Walmond remains committed to operational excellence, no matter the complexity of your strategic goals.



QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST

Our internal systems now align with global best practices for Quality Management, ensuring every client interaction is governed by precision and reliability.



FOCUS ON CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT RETENTION

This certification reinforces our approach to ongoing enhancement, be it in process design, client onboarding, or post-engagement reviews.



CLIENT-CENTRIC DELIVERY

The standard underscores our emphasis on customer satisfaction, helping us respond more effectively to evolving client needs, industries, and geographies.



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Now, moving on to some global developments, followed by national and then how Walmond progressed in May.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET:

SPRINGBOARD SERVICE FOR UK-INDIA GROWTH

As global businesses re-evaluate their international expansion strategies, models that balance control, cost-efficiency, and speed-to-market are gaining traction. One such offering is Walmond's Springboard service—a market entry platform tailored for UK-based companies looking to establish or explore their presence in India.



WHAT SPRINGBOARD BRINGS TO THE TABLE

Walmond enables UK firms to appoint a dedicated consultant or ambassador to represent them on-ground in India, providing a low-risk and high-control solution to:

- Conduct sector-specific market overviews
- Identify potential clients, partners, or distributors
- Navigate HR compliance, payroll, and performance systems
- Gain budgeting support and strategic market intelligence
- Participate in industry masterclasses and local networking events



WHY IT MATTERS



For UK companies in tech, manufacturing, life sciences, and beyond, India represents not only a growth engine but a critical piece of long-term strategy. Walmond's Springboard service offers a trusted pathway into the Indian market, combining hands-on execution with strategic advisory.

KEY TAX AMENDMENTS – FY 2025-26

SEVERAL KEY TAX UPDATES WERE INTRODUCED IN FY 2025-26, IMPACTING CORPORATES, STARTUPS, AND MSMES. HERE'S A QUICK SUMMARY OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS:

Amendment

Impact

Reduction in Corporate Tax Rate

Reduced to 22% (from 25%) for domestic companies not availing incentives.

Start-up Tax Holiday Extension

Extended till March 2027 for eligible startups under Section 80-IAC.

TDS on Online Transactions

TDS at 1% now applicable for digital services exceeding INR 2 lakh/year.

MSME Payment Compliance

New penalty introduced for delayed payments beyond 45 days under Income Tax Act.

Revised Presumptive Tax Limits

Presumptive taxation limits increased to INR 3 crore for small businesses.

Advisory regarding non-editable of auto-populated liability in GSTR-3

From July-2025 tax period, auto-populated liability in Form GSTR-3B will be made non-editable.

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Reporting of HSN codes in Table 12 of GSTR-1/1A	Taxpayer need to enter HSN summary details of “B2B Supplies” and “B2C Supplies” separately under respective tab.
Advisory to file pending returns before expiry of three years	As per the Finance Act 2023, the taxpayers shall not be allowed file their GST returns after the expiry of three years from the due date of furnishing the said return under Section 37, 39, 44 and 52.

In addition to these, here are notable developments across tax and corporate law domains:

- **Direct Tax:**

- New Income Tax Slabs: Introduced with zero tax on income up to ₹12.75 lakh, promoting middle-class and lower-income group relief.
- Increased Standard Deduction: Raised to ₹75,000, benefitting salaried individuals and pensioners.
- Start-up Tax Holiday Extended: Eligible startups under Section 80-IAC can now claim a tax holiday until March 2030.
- Capital Gains Simplified: Streamlined for non-residents, with reduced compliance and aligned treatment of listed and unlisted securities.
- Presumptive Taxation Thresholds Raised: Small businesses can now opt for presumptive taxation up to ₹3 crore, and professionals up to ₹75 lakh.
- MSME Payment Compliance: New penalty provisions introduced under the Income Tax Act for payments delayed beyond 45 days.

• In Direct Tax:

GST Filing Reforms:

- From July 2025, auto-populated liability in GSTR-3B will be non-editable, reducing error and manipulation.
- Mandatory separate HSN code reporting for B2B and B2C supplies in GSTR-1.
- Three-year limit for late GST returns strictly enforced; post that, filing is not permitted.

Customs Duty Restructuring: Adjusted to encourage domestic manufacturing, especially in electronics, green tech, and EV sectors.

Simplified GST Procedures: Ongoing digitisation and single-window clearances for MSMEs and exporters.

E-invoicing Expansion: Threshold for mandatory e-invoicing lowered to ₹5 crore turnover.

• International Tax:

- Equalisation Levy on Digital Ads:** **Removed**, aligning India with international tax practices and easing cross-border digital business.
- Significant Economic Presence (SEP): Relaxed norms** to reduce compliance burden on foreign service exporters.
- Global Minimum Tax (Pillar Two):** India has **deferred implementation**, allowing more time for businesses to prepare for OECD's BEPS 2.0 framework.
- Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs):** Processing timelines shortened to **improve certainty for MNCs**.

• Corporate Tax:

- Fast-Track Merger Scheme Expanded:** Now includes **more classes of companies**, including certain startups and LLPs.
- Loss Carry-Forward Rule:** Tax loss carry-forward limited to **8 years**, with stricter continuity-of-ownership conditions.
- New Income-Tax Bill:** Draft released to **simplify legal language**, remove obsolete provisions, and **decriminalise minor offences**.
- Corporate Governance Push:** New SEBI guidelines emphasize **ESG disclosures**, board diversity, and digital transparency for listed firms.
- Ease of Doing Business:** MCA introduces integrated '**One Form**' **compliance filing** for startups and MSMEs.

INDIA: A GROWTH BEACON AMID GLOBAL VOLATILITY

Amid global economic uncertainties, India continues to demonstrate robust growth. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) projects a GDP growth of 6.5% for FY 2025–26, positioning India as the fastest-growing major economy. This resilience is underpinned by strong rural consumption, government-led infrastructure initiatives, and a burgeoning digital economy.



INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECASTS FOR FY 2025 - 26

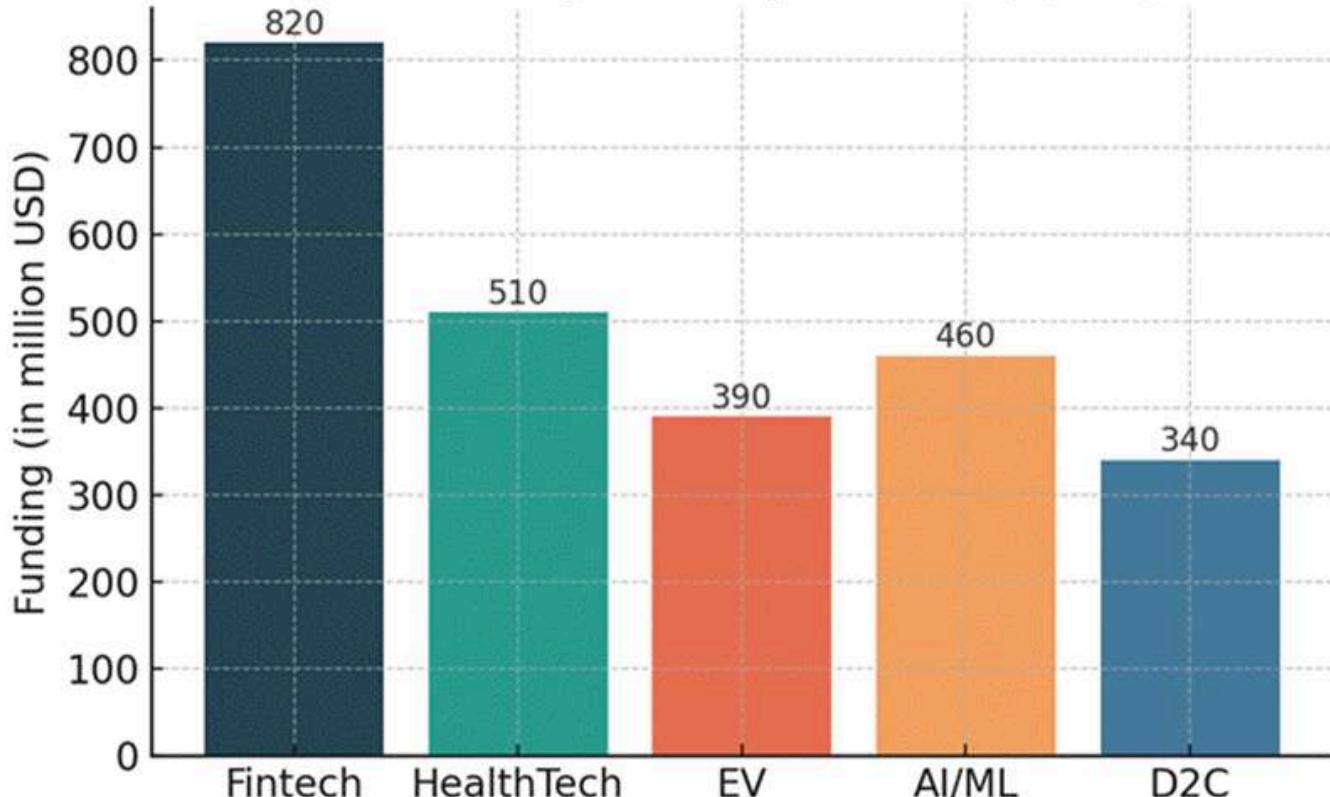
Institution	FY 2025 – 26 GDP Growth Forecast	Key Drivers / Risks
Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	6.50%	Strong rural consumption, easing inflation, and supportive monetary policy
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	6.70%	Robust public investment and infrastructure development
Moody's	6.30%	Global trade uncertainties and geopolitical tensions
International Monetary Fund (IMF)	6.20%	Moderate global demand and domestic structural reforms
Deloitte	6.3%–6.5%	Tax incentives, lower inflation, and improved liquidity

STARTUP TRENDS: GROWTH & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

Despite macroeconomic uncertainty, the Indian startup ecosystem continues to show resilience and sector-specific acceleration. Here's a look at which sectors have attracted the most funding so far in 2025:



Funding Trends by Startup Sector (Q1-Q2 2025)



KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- Fintech leads with \$820M raised, driven by embedded finance and digital lending.
- HealthTech and AI/ML sectors are growing with use cases in diagnostics and automation.
- EV startups see continued interest due to sustainability trends.
- D2C brands thrive on improved logistics and digital reach.

THE ROLE OF CFOS: FROM STEWARDS TO STRATEGISTS



In 2025, the role of the CFO is expanding rapidly. No longer just stewards of finance, today's CFOs are expected to:

- Lead digital transformation initiatives
- Navigate geopolitical risk
- Drive sustainability reporting
- Manage cyber and regulatory compliance
- Build resilient supply chains

Alongside this evolution, virtual CFOs (vCFOs) are emerging as a powerful solution, especially for growth-stage companies and SMEs. A virtual CFO brings deep financial expertise on-demand, without the cost of a full-time executive. They offer strategic insights, help optimize capital efficiency, and enable data-driven decision-making, often with greater agility and scalability than traditional setups. Whether full-time or virtual, CFOs must now operate as architects of long-term value creation.



Recommendation:



Boards must empower CFOs with cross-functional authority. Equally, CFOs must upgrade their skillsets in data science, ESG literacy, and digital finance tools. Strategic finance is no longer optional, it's mission critical.



LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD: WALMOND'S MAY 2025 REFLECTIONS

Walmond's leadership team engaged deeply with industry challenges and business transformation this month. Here are key takeaways:

Is Your Startup Valuation Backed by the Right Method?

In our [latest article](#), we explore valuation techniques (DCF, Berkus, Scorecard, etc.) and what today's investors look for. Especially relevant for Indian startups, the article stresses choosing a method aligned with your stage, sector, and regulatory context.



Choosing the Right Business Structure in India (2025 Edition)

We also published a [guide for startups and MSMEs](#) on choosing the optimal legal structure (LLP, Pvt Ltd, OPC, etc.). It covers how legal forms affect taxation, investor readiness, MSME benefits, and compliance strategy.



Investor Expectations Are Evolving

Post-pandemic, investors are prioritising sustainable profitability over revenue-at-all-costs. We encouraged startups and mid-sized firms to refocus on long-term financial viability. Read more about it [here](#).

Simplifying Compliance for SMEs

In our client conversations, we advocated for streamlined compliance systems, helping SMEs reduce friction and scale confidently.



Strategic Financial Planning

We posed a timely question to CFOs and CEOs: What do you prioritise when building a financial plan? Risk mitigation, innovation investment, and sustainable growth emerged as common themes.

INSIGHT OVER INSTINCT

In a world where disruption is constant, the edge belongs to those who combine insight with action. Whether you're planning a strategic pivot, exploring India as your next big market, or navigating operational risks, **Walmond stands ready to partner with you.**

Subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to engage with our latest ideas.

Need strategic support? Reach out to our team at: info@walcon.in

Note: The data and projections presented in this newsletter are sourced from reputable organizations, including the OECD, ADB, Conference Board, and others, as cited throughout the document.





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