ON TRADE®

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE RESEARCH JOURNAL OF MVIRDC WTC MUMBAI

JULY-SEPTMBER 2026 | VOL. 13 ISSUE 1

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MVIRDC became a member of the World Trade Centers Association, New York, in 1971 and established the World Trade Center Mumbai, which is the first World Trade Center (WTC) in India. MVIRDC, having spearheaded the movement of World Trade Centers in India with the establishment of WTCs at Bhubaneswar, Goa and Jaipur, is assisting MSMEs in these regions through various Trade Research, Trade Promotion, Trade Infrastructure including Commercial Offices, Business Center, Trade Facilitation Services and Trade Education Programmes.

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India's Global Opportunity: A Leadership Perspective

The global trading environment continues to be reshaped by geopolitical uncertainty, changing supply chains, technological transformation and greater emphasis on economic security. Businesses are increasingly required to look beyond cost and efficiency and place greater importance on resilience, market diversification, regulatory preparedness and trusted partnerships. At the same time, technology is transforming the way trade is conducted, while sustainability, traceability and compliance are becoming increasingly important determinants of access to international markets.

Against this backdrop, India has an important opportunity to strengthen its position in the global economy. Merchandise and services exports crossed USD 860 billion in FY 2025–26, reflecting the growing scale of India's engagement with world markets. The priority now must be to translate this momentum into stronger manufacturing capabilities, higher value-added exports, deeper participation in global value chains and greater internationalisation of MSMEs. India's growing network of economic partnerships can provide wider market access, but sustained success will depend upon competitiveness, quality, technology and the ability of enterprises to respond quickly to changing international requirements.

During the quarter, World Trade Center Mumbai continued to create platforms that address these emerging priorities. Our Round Table on Geopolitics and Exchange Rate Risk Management focused on the impact of geopolitical and currency volatility on exporters, importers and businesses with foreign-exchange exposure, while the programme on Strengthening Cyber Security for MSMEs highlighted digital resilience as an essential element of business competitiveness. International business engagements and participation in the WTCA European Conference 2026 further strengthened institutional relationships, business connectivity and opportunities for cross-border collaboration.

> *Resilient enterprises, stronger partnerships and innovation will shape India's journey towards a more competitive global economy.*

As India moves towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, our focus must remain on building competitive enterprises, resilient supply chains and stronger international partnerships. Guided by our philosophy of "Prosperity Through Trade," World Trade Center Mumbai will continue to work with government, industry, diplomatic missions and the global WTC network to facilitate trade, investment, knowledge exchange and meaningful business opportunities for Indian enterprises.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri
Chairman

Director's Desk

The July–September 2026 quarter has highlighted the growing complexity of the global trade environment, shaped by geopolitical uncertainty, changing supply chains, new bilateral and regional trade arrangements and increasing emphasis on economic resilience. For businesses, competitiveness today depends not only on price and market access, but also on the ability to manage currency risks, comply with evolving standards, adopt technology responsibly and build resilient international partnerships.

For India, the quarter has been particularly significant with the expansion of market-access opportunities through agreements such as the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement and the India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. These developments create new possibilities across manufacturing, services, technology, logistics, healthcare and other sectors. The real opportunity, however, lies in ensuring that Indian enterprises, particularly MSMEs, are able to understand and effectively utilise these agreements through better awareness of tariff benefits, rules of origin, certification, market requirements and business partnerships.

This focus was reflected in World Trade Center Mumbai's engagements during the quarter. The India–UK CETA Dialogue brought together DGFT, the British Deputy High Commission, export-finance and investment representatives to translate the agreement into practical opportunities for exporters and MSMEs. The interaction with the Oman business delegation explored opportunities arising from CEPA across industrial manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, logistics, minerals, renewable energy and regional market access. WTC Mumbai also hosted business engagements with delegations and representatives from Sri Lanka, Panama, Russia and Mexico, creating platforms for B2B connections, technology partnerships, joint ventures, distribution linkages and investment collaboration across sectors ranging from gems and jewellery and MedTech to engineering, automobiles and pharmaceuticals.

As global trade continues to evolve, businesses will need to remain informed, adaptive and globally connected. This edition of ON TRADE seeks to provide timely perspectives on the developments shaping international commerce and their implications for India and its business community. Through research, analysis and knowledge-sharing, the journal aims to support a deeper understanding of emerging opportunities and challenges in the global economy.

Priya Pansare
Director – Trade & Investment Promotion

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Skilling India Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

Turning India's Demographic Dividend into a Global Talent Advantage

India stands at a defining demographic and economic moment. It has one of the world's largest young populations, an economy undergoing rapid technological transformation, an expanding manufacturing base and growing ambitions to emerge as a major global centre for production, innovation and services. Yet the success of this transformation will ultimately depend on one fundamental question: can India equip its people with the capabilities required by the economy of tomorrow?

As the country works towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, skilling can no longer be regarded merely as a social-sector programme or as an intervention meant primarily for those outside conventional higher education. It must increasingly become a central pillar of India's economic strategy. India can build highways, ports, industrial corridors, semiconductor fabrication plants, data centres, logistics parks and digital platforms, but physical and digital infrastructure alone cannot generate productivity. Every factory requires trained operators and technicians. Every logistics network needs skilled managers and digital systems specialists. Every hospital needs healthcare professionals. Every advanced manufacturing facility requires engineers, maintenance experts and supervisors. Every new technology requires workers who know how to use it.

Skills, therefore, need to be viewed as a form of economic infrastructure. Just as ports connect products to global markets, skills connect people to economic opportunity.

India's Demographic Moment

India's greatest long-term economic asset may well be its people. Nearly **65 per cent of the country's population is below the age of 35**, giving India a demographic profile very different from many advanced economies that are already grappling with ageing populations and workforce shortages.

But demographic advantage does not automatically become a demographic dividend.

A young population contributes to growth only when people are educated, healthy, appropriately skilled and productively employed. Without these connections, a country can simultaneously have millions of young job seekers and employers struggling to find workers with the capabilities they require.

Official labour-market data illustrate this challenge clearly. The Periodic Labour Force Survey's annual indicators for 2025 estimated that India had around 61.6 crore employed persons aged 15 years and above. Yet only 4.2 per cent of people aged 15–59 reported having received or currently receiving formal vocational or technical training. Among those aged 15–29, around 25 per cent were estimated to be neither in employment, education nor training under the usual-status measure.

These numbers reveal one of the central development challenges before India. The country possesses an enormous human-resource base, but a substantial proportion of people still enter

the labour market without structured vocational preparation. At the same time, industries are demanding increasingly specialised capabilities across manufacturing, electronics, logistics, healthcare, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, financial services, renewable energy and digital technologies.

The real challenge, therefore, is not simply to produce more graduates or distribute more training certificates. It is to improve the transition from education to employability, from training to employment and from employment to productivity and career progression. That transition will determine whether India's demographic scale becomes an economic advantage by 2047.

From Skill India to Skills at Scale

Over the past decade, India has constructed one of the world's largest skill-development ecosystems. The Skill India Mission, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Industrial Training Institutes, Jan Shikshan Sansthans, apprenticeships, Sector Skill Councils and an expanding digital-skilling architecture collectively represent an enormous national effort to connect education with employability.

The scale achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is significant. Between the programme's launch in 2015 and the end of December 2025, more than **1.64 crore candidates had been trained or oriented.** Under PMKVY 4.0 alone, around **28.17 lakh candidates had been trained by 30 June 2026**, spanning 36 sectors, all States and Union Territories and 738 districts, with more than 16,900 institutions participating in programme delivery.

In February 2025, the Government approved the continuation and restructuring of the Skill India Programme with an overall outlay of **₹8,800 crore for the 2022-23 to 2025-26 period**, integrating PMKVY 4.0, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme and Jan Shikshan Sansthan within a composite programme architecture.

These are important achievements, but scale is only the beginning of the story.

The next generation of India's skilling strategy must answer a more difficult question: **what happens after training?**

A training programme cannot be considered successful merely because a candidate completes a course. The more meaningful questions are whether the person secures employment, whether income improves, whether the qualification is valued by employers, whether the worker remains employed, whether productivity improves and whether the candidate eventually progresses into a higher-skilled role.

An independent evaluation of PMKVY 4.0 offers useful evidence. Among surveyed Short-Term Training candidates, the proportion reporting employment or self-employment increased from **26.6 per cent before training to 45.4 per cent after training.** The same evaluation reported that **41.4 per cent of Short-Term Training candidates and 48.9 per cent of Recognition of Prior Learning candidates experienced an increase in income after training and certification.**

The numbers are encouraging, but they also point towards a larger policy shift.

India's skills ecosystem must increasingly move from measuring **certificates issued to capabilities created.**

The national conversation needs to move from enrolment to employment, from training numbers to wage improvement, and from course completion to productivity, career progression and employer satisfaction.

The Meaning of Skilling Is Changing

For much of the industrial era, vocational education was designed around relatively stable occupations. A worker trained as an electrician, fitter, welder, mechanic or machine operator could

expect the core nature of that occupation to remain broadly recognisable for years.

That assumption is disappearing.

Artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, digitalisation, electric mobility, advanced electronics, cybersecurity, renewable energy, drones, connected manufacturing and the Internet of Things are rapidly changing workplaces.

The shelf life of technical knowledge is becoming shorter. A qualification obtained at the age of 20 may no longer be sufficient for an entire working life that could extend for another four decades.

Skilling must therefore evolve from a one-time intervention into a system of **lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling.**

This may be one of the most important philosophical changes required in the skills ecosystem. India must gradually move from training people for one occupation towards preparing workers to continuously adapt as their occupations themselves change. A factory supervisor may increasingly use AI-enabled predictive maintenance tools. A warehouse manager may rely on algorithms for inventory planning and route optimisation. A financial-services professional may interact with automated risk-assessment systems. Healthcare professionals may increasingly use AI-assisted diagnostics. Small businesses may use generative AI for accounting, customer service, marketing and productivity.

This means that India does not need only AI scientists and software engineers. It also needs millions of workers across sectors who know how to **work effectively with AI and digital technology.**

PMKVY 4.0 has responded to this shift by introducing more than **600 new-age and future-oriented courses.** By June 2026, over **5.44 lakh candidates had been trained or oriented in future-skill roles** covering areas such as artificial intelligence, drones, 5G, solar technology, semiconductors, additive manufacturing and the Internet of Things.

Artificial intelligence deserves particular attention. More than **53,000 candidates had been trained or oriented in AI-related job roles under PMKVY 4.0 by June 2026.** The Skilling for AI Readiness initiative, or SOAR, has sought to expand foundational AI capabilities among a much wider learner population.

The challenge for India is therefore broader than creating an elite pool of technology specialists. It is to ensure that AI and digital capability spread horizontally across manufacturing, services, logistics, agriculture, finance, healthcare, commerce and entrepreneurship.

The future of skilling will increasingly be about making technology useful to ordinary workers.

Reimagining the Industrial Training Institute

India's manufacturing ambitions make the transformation of Industrial Training Institutes particularly important. The ITI system remains one of the country's largest institutional platforms for vocational education. Enrolment increased from around **12.51 lakh in FY 2022-23 to 14.70 lakh in FY 2025-26**, while the country today has roughly 13,900 operational ITIs, according to recent government reporting. The next challenge, however, is quality rather than simply quantity.

An industrial training institute preparing workers for the economy of 2047 cannot operate with outdated machinery, obsolete curricula and limited industry exposure. Modern training requires advanced equipment, digital laboratories, trained instructors, practical simulations, updated curricula and much deeper participation by employers.

The **Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs, or PM-SETU**, represents one of the most ambitious attempts to address this challenge.

With an envisaged total outlay of **₹60,000 crore**, the programme aims to upgrade **1,000 government ITIs through a hub-and-spoke structure consisting of 200 Hub ITIs and 800 Spoke ITIs**. It also seeks to train around **20 lakh youth over five years** and strengthen links between training institutions and industry. The significance of PM-SETU should not be measured only through buildings or equipment. The deeper opportunity is to redefine the relationship between industry and vocational education.

Employers often see technological and occupational changes long before education systems respond to them. Giving industry a stronger role in curriculum design, equipment selection, instructor development, apprenticeships, assessment and employment can reduce the persistent gap **between what institutions teach and what workplaces need.**

An upgraded ITI should therefore become more than a vocational training centre. It should increasingly function as a **regional industrial talent hub.**

Apprenticeships: Taking the Classroom to the Workplace

One of the persistent weaknesses in the education and skilling ecosystem is the distance between theoretical learning and actual work.

A student may understand machinery in a textbook without ever having operated a production system. A logistics trainee may

understand supply-chain terminology without experiencing warehouse operations. A hospitality graduate may understand customer-service principles without facing the pressures of a real service environment.

Employers, meanwhile, frequently seek candidates who already possess practical experience.

Apprenticeships offer one of the most effective ways of bridging this divide.

By the end of March 2026, more than **54 lakh apprentices had been engaged under the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme since its inception,** with approximately 12 lakh engagements taking place during FY 2025-26 alone.

The importance of apprenticeship lies in the fact that it changes where learning happens.

Factories, warehouses, hospitals, hotels, technology firms, financial institutions, retail establishments and MSMEs themselves become classrooms.

For a young person, this provides exposure to real equipment, workplace discipline, production schedules, safety standards, customer interaction and organisational culture. For employers, it provides an opportunity to shape workers according to actual operating requirements.

India should therefore aim to make apprenticeship as natural a component of vocational and technical education as internships have become in many professional programmes.

Education should not end before work begins.

Increasingly, education and work must overlap.

Beginning Skills Education Earlier

India's talent pipeline cannot begin only after school.

Vocational exposure needs to enter education much earlier so that students understand the relationship between classroom learning and real occupations.

Under Samagra Shiksha, vocational and skill education has been expanding across schools. By late 2025, skill education initiatives covering **138 approved job roles were being implemented in more than 25,000 schools and reaching over 35 lakh students. This has significance beyond the numbers.**

For decades, vocational education in India has often been perceived as a secondary option compared with conventional academic pathways. But an economy increasingly built around advanced manufacturing, technology, logistics, healthcare, creative industries and specialised services cannot afford such a rigid distinction.

A student should be able to move more easily between academic education, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education.

The future system must create multiple pathways rather than one narrow hierarchy of qualifications.

> ***That is ultimately what Skilling India Towards Viksit Bharat 2047 must represent, Not merely training millions but transforming aspiration into capability. Capability into employment. Employment into productivity and productivity into prosperity.***

Digital Infrastructure for Skills

India's scale presents another challenge. Physical training institutions alone cannot satisfy the learning requirements of hundreds of millions of workers spread across thousands of cities, towns and villages.

Digital infrastructure can help bridge this gap.

The **Skill India Digital Hub**, launched in 2023, seeks to integrate skilling, assessment, certification, apprenticeship, employment and entrepreneurship services within a digital ecosystem while connecting with platforms such as DigiLocker, e-Shram, the National Career Service and BHASHINI.

By early 2026, government reporting indicated that more than **1.5 crore candidates had been onboarded onto the platform**, alongside thousands of training providers, assessment agencies and tens of thousands of employers and industry partners.

Its long-term potential is substantial.

India could eventually create a continuously evolving digital skills record for every worker. Such a record could capture qualifications, micro-credentials, apprenticeships, employment experience and later reskilling. Employers could verify skills more easily, while workers could identify occupations in demand and discover courses needed to transition into them.

For a person beginning work today, a career may last 40 years or more.

During that period, technologies, business models and entire occupations will change.

The conventional sequence of **study first and work later** will therefore become increasingly inadequate.

The future will look more like a continuing cycle of **learning, working, upskilling, reskilling and progressing.**

Digital infrastructure can make that cycle possible at population scale.

Women and the Untapped Talent Opportunity

Viksit Bharat cannot be built while a substantial share of the country's available human capital remains underutilised. Women therefore need to remain at the centre of India's skills strategy.

The Jan Shikshan Sansthan programme provides an important example. Since 2018, more than **36 lakh beneficiaries had been trained under JSS by March 2026**, with women accounting for more than **80 per cent of participants.** India's training infrastructure also includes more than 300 ITIs exclusively for women and specialised National Skill Training Institutes.

Yet access to training is only the first step.

The real objective must be to convert training into sustained economic participation.

Transport, workplace safety, childcare, digital access, flexible working conditions and the availability of jobs close to home can determine whether a woman who completes a course is actually able to enter and remain in the workforce.

The measure of inclusive skilling therefore should not simply be who receives training, but **who ultimately receives economic opportunity.**

The same principle applies to rural youth, persons with disabilities and communities facing geographical or economic disadvantage.

Skilling for Entrepreneurship and MSMEs

India's skills strategy must also recognise that not every young person will become an employee of a large company. MSMEs, entrepreneurship, self-employment, family businesses and newer forms of platform-based work will remain major sources of livelihoods.

Technical competence alone is not enough in this environment. An electrician establishing a small business needs knowledge of pricing, payments and customer acquisition. A food-processing entrepreneur needs an understanding of packaging, quality standards and digital marketing. A craft producer increasingly needs knowledge of e-commerce and logistics. A young exporter needs trade documentation, market intelligence and compliance capabilities.

Skilling therefore needs to connect much more closely with **enterprise creation.**

Financial literacy, digital marketing, communication, e-commerce, basic management and regulatory awareness should increasingly complement occupation-specific training. Particularly in rural and semi-urban India, a skilled individual who becomes an entrepreneur may create employment not only for himself or herself, but also for others.

The skills ecosystem should therefore aim to produce not only **job seekers, but job creators.**

Can India Become the World's Talent Capital?

India's demographic advantage is not limited to its domestic economy.

Many developed economies are ageing and facing shortages of healthcare workers, technicians, engineers, construction workers, hospitality professionals and specialised technology talent.

This creates a significant international opportunity for India. A NITI Aayog working paper released in 2026 highlighted India's large overseas migrant population and the need for stronger institutional systems for international labour mobility. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is also developing mechanisms to align training more closely with requirements in destination markets.

The establishment of Skill India International Centres is part of this effort. These centres seek to combine technical preparation with foreign-language training, orientation and overseas employment pathways.

But global mobility requires more than a certificate. Indian workers need internationally benchmarked occupational standards, language capabilities, familiarity with workplace culture, confidence in destination-country regulations and qualifications that foreign employers can readily recognise.

Building globally portable skills can produce two economic advantages simultaneously.

First, it can expand employment opportunities for Indian workers in markets where labour shortages are emerging.

Second, it can strengthen India's attractiveness as an investment destination.

A multinational company deciding where to establish a manufacturing facility considers infrastructure, taxation, logistics and market access. But it also asks a simple question: **can this location provide the skilled technicians, engineers, supervisors and managers that the facility requires?**

A strong talent base therefore becomes a competitive advantage in attracting global investment. Skills are not merely a labour-market issue. They are part of industrial policy, investment policy and trade competitiveness.

Government, Industry and Education Must Work Together No single institution can build the workforce India requires. Government cannot accurately forecast every occupation that will exist 20 years from now. Industry cannot independently train hundreds of millions of workers. Educational institutions cannot remain relevant unless they understand how workplaces are changing. India therefore requires a much stronger compact between government, industry and education.

Employers need to move from being merely end-users of talent to becoming active participants in talent creation. Industry involvement should extend to curriculum design, laboratories, faculty exposure, equipment, apprenticeships, assessment and placement. Educational institutions, meanwhile, must integrate workplace exposure, digital capability, communication, problem-solving and entrepreneurship into traditional academic education. The distinction between education and skilling will consequently become increasingly blurred. An engineer needs communication skills. A machine operator increasingly needs digital literacy. A commerce graduate needs data capability. An entrepreneur needs financial knowledge. An experienced professional will need to return repeatedly to learning.

The most valuable worker in 2047 may therefore not simply be the person possessing the highest qualification. It may be the person with the strongest ability to **learn, unlearn and relearn**.

From Certificates to Capabilities

India has demonstrated an exceptional capacity to build programmes at national scale. The next challenge is more difficult because it concerns quality and outcomes.

Does a qualification correspond to an identifiable competency? Does training lead to higher productivity? Does a young person find better employment? Do wages improve? Can workers return to the skills system midway through their careers? Are qualifications recognised internationally? Do employers trust the training received? Can MSMEs participate effectively in apprenticeships and training?

These questions will define the next generation of India's skills reforms.

The country's performance indicators must therefore gradually move beyond enrolment and certification towards employment, wages, productivity, career progression, entrepreneurship, retention and employer satisfaction.

India will know that its skilling mission has truly succeeded when a skill becomes economically visible in the life of the person who acquired it.

Skilling the India of 2047

The workforce that will build Viksit Bharat is already entering schools, universities, ITIs, skill centres and workplaces.

By 2047, many occupations familiar today will have been transformed.

Artificial intelligence will be embedded across enterprises. Manufacturing will become increasingly automated and interconnected. Electric mobility and renewable energy will generate new technical requirements. Semiconductors, advanced electronics, drones, robotics, healthcare, logistics and digital services will employ workers possessing capabilities that are only beginning to emerge today.

Yet technological progress will not make human skills less important. It may make them more important. Problem-solving, adaptability, communication, creativity, collaboration, entrepreneurship and the capacity to continuously learn will increasingly complement technical knowledge.

India therefore faces a historic opportunity. Its youthful population can remain merely a demographic statistic, or it can be transformed into one of the world's largest pools of productive human capital.

The foundations of that transformation are already being created. Millions of candidates are entering skill programmes. ITIs are being modernised. Apprenticeships are expanding. Digital-skilling platforms are connecting training with employment. New-age courses in AI, semiconductors, drones and green technologies are entering vocational education. Schools are introducing vocational exposure earlier. Industry is being drawn more deeply into training. International mobility pathways are beginning to take shape.

The challenge now is to connect all these elements into an integrated national talent pipeline.

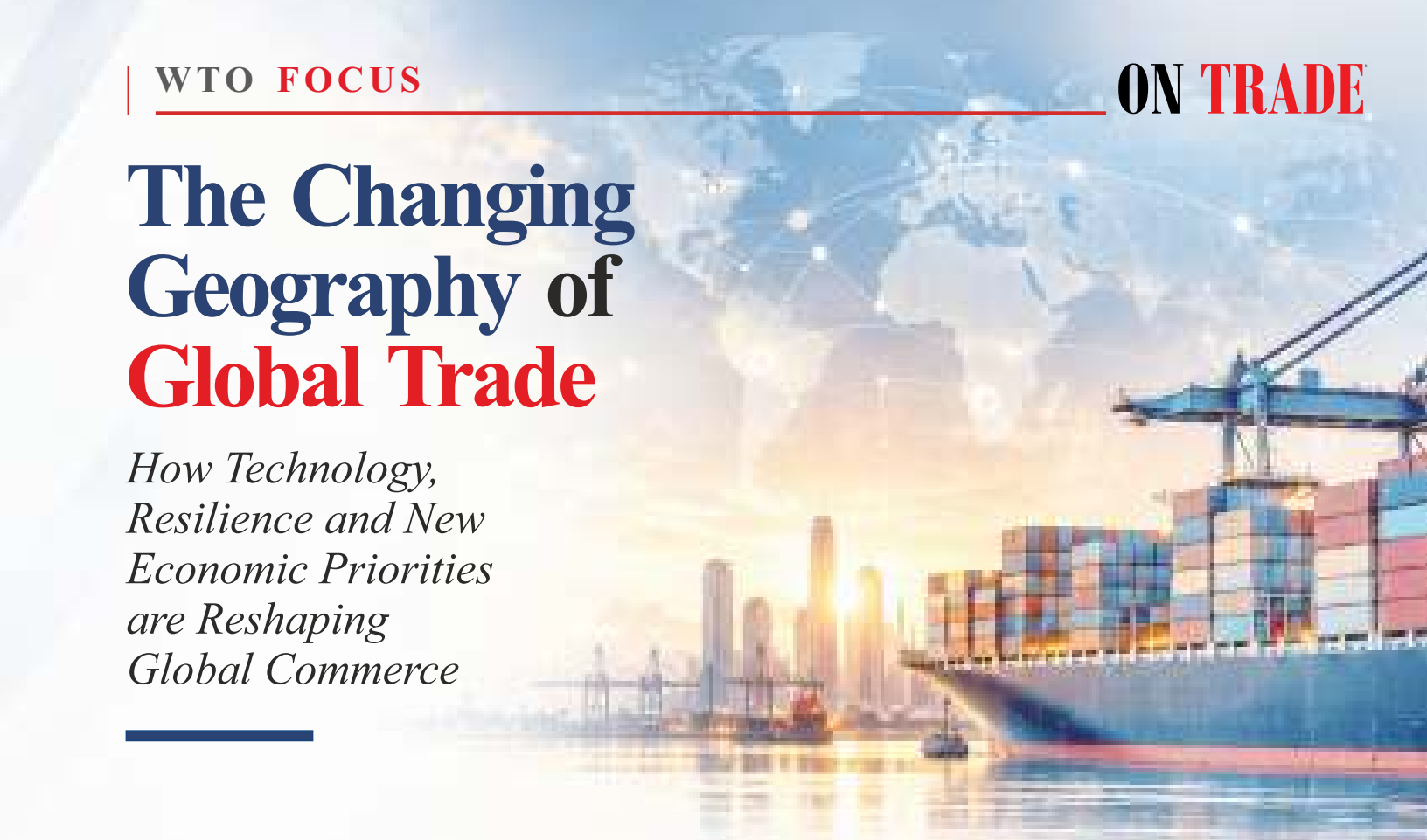
India does not merely need a larger skilling system. It needs a system in which education connects with industry, industry connects with technology, technology connects with workers, training connects with employment and employment connects with productivity and career progression.

By the centenary of Independence in 2047, India's greatest competitive advantage need not be only the size of its economy, the scale of its domestic market or the reach of its digital infrastructure. It can be its people their ability to learn faster, adapt faster, innovate faster and perform at global standards.

A skilled India will not simply participate in the economy of the future. It can help build it.

The Changing Geography of Global Trade

How Technology, Resilience and New Economic Priorities are Reshaping Global Commerce

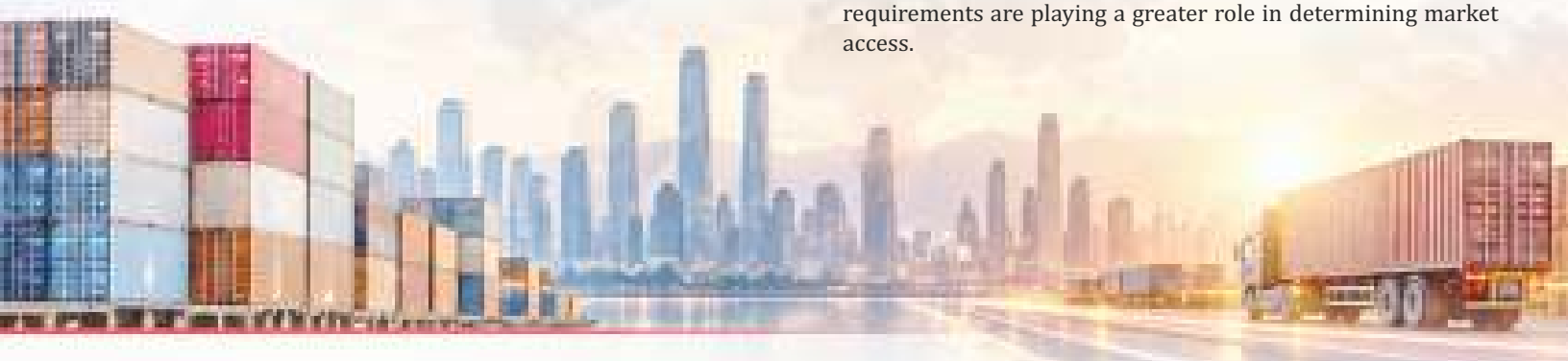


The Changing Geography of Global Trade: How Technology, Resilience and New Economic Priorities Are Reshaping Global CommerceFor decades, globalisation was built around a relatively straightforward economic principle: production should move towards efficiency, capital should move towards opportunity and goods and services should cross borders wherever commercial incentives made that possible. The result was an extraordinary expansion of international commerce. Supply chains stretched across continents, manufacturing became increasingly specialised and economies became deeply interconnected. A finished product could contain minerals sourced from one region, components manufactured in several others, technology developed elsewhere and services delivered from yet another market.

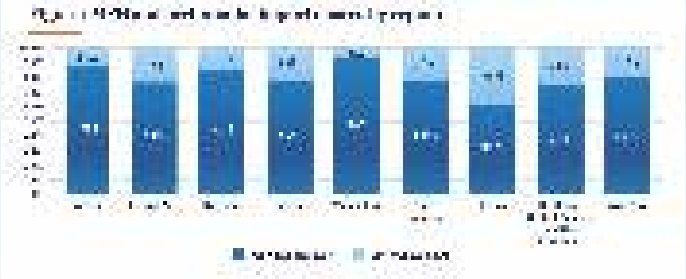
That architecture is now being recalibrated.

The transformation does not necessarily represent a retreat from globalisation. Rather, the underlying logic of international commerce is becoming broader. Cost, efficiency and market access remain important, but governments and businesses are increasingly assessing trade through additional considerations such as supply-chain resilience, technological capability, access to critical resources, sustainability, regulatory certainty and diversification of sourcing.

Supply chains that were once evaluated primarily on cost are now also being examined for concentration risk. Technologies previously treated simply as commercial products are increasingly recognised as essential inputs into industrial development. Critical minerals are becoming fundamental to new manufacturing and energy systems, while environmental standards, digital regulations and product compliance requirements are playing a greater role in determining market access.



The multilateral trading system nevertheless remains deeply embedded in global commerce. The World Trade Organization's analysis indicates that around 72% of global merchandise trade continues to take place under WTO most-favoured-nation terms. This suggests that even as trade patterns evolve and countries diversify their commercial relationships, the basic architecture of global rules continues to support a substantial share of world trade.



Source: WTO Database, Compiled by MVIRDC, WTC Mumbai

Despite growing fragmentation and the rise of preferential trade arrangements, the multilateral trading system continues to remain the foundation of global commerce. A large share of world merchandise trade still moves under WTO most-favoured-nation terms, underscoring that globalisation is not disappearing but evolving. The emerging trade order is therefore not defined by the disappearance of globalisation. It is defined by its reconfiguration.

Resilience Is Becoming a Core Part of Trade Strategy

One of the most significant changes in global commerce is the growing importance attached to supply-chain resilience. The experience of recent years has shown that highly concentrated production networks can create vulnerabilities when transportation, access to intermediate goods or the availability of key inputs is disrupted. As a result, businesses are increasingly examining where their inputs come from, how many alternative suppliers are available and whether production can continue if one part of a supply chain is interrupted.

Companies are consequently exploring supplier diversification, dual sourcing, regional manufacturing, alternative logistics routes, strategic inventories and stronger domestic supplier networks. These strategies do not necessarily replace globally integrated supply chains; rather, they are intended to make them more capable of absorbing disruptions.

This changes the traditional calculation of efficiency. The least expensive supplier may remain commercially attractive, but businesses increasingly need to consider reliability, delivery timelines, regulatory stability, availability of alternative sources and continuity of production. The impact is particularly important for sectors such as electronics, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering, energy systems and advanced manufacturing, where the interruption of one important component can affect an entire production chain.

For businesses, therefore, supply-chain management is moving beyond procurement. It is increasingly becoming part of long-term business strategy. For emerging economies, this shift also creates opportunity. Countries capable of providing reliable manufacturing ecosystems, efficient logistics, skilled workers, quality infrastructure and predictable regulation can attract production and investment as companies seek to diversify their international operations.

Technology Is Changing the Geography of Production

Technology is another major force reshaping international commerce. Semiconductors, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, telecommunications, advanced manufacturing technologies, automation and high-performance computing have become essential inputs into a wide range of economic activities.

Semiconductors illustrate this change particularly clearly. Chips are no longer limited to computers and mobile phones. They are embedded in automobiles, industrial equipment, telecommunications networks, medical devices, consumer electronics, energy systems and increasingly sophisticated manufacturing processes.

The ability to design, manufacture, package and test semiconductors therefore influences far more than the electronics industry. It affects a country's wider industrial capabilities.

India has been working towards developing a broader semiconductor ecosystem covering design, fabrication, assembly, testing, research, equipment and talent. By September 2026, five semiconductor manufacturing plants had commenced commercial production, while the next phase of the India Semiconductor Mission was being structured around areas including design, materials and machinery, fabrication capacity, assembly and testing, research and talent development.

The wider economic impact could extend across electronics manufacturing, automobiles, telecommunications, industrial automation and other technology-intensive sectors. Developing such capabilities can also create opportunities for smaller enterprises supplying specialised components, engineering services, materials, equipment maintenance and supporting technologies.

The larger lesson is that competitiveness in future trade may increasingly depend not only on the ability to manufacture a finished product, but also on the ability to participate in the technology ecosystem surrounding that product.

India Is Becoming Part of the Global Diversification Equation

For India, the changing geography of trade creates both opportunities and responsibilities.

As global companies reassess the concentration of production and sourcing, India's large domestic market, manufacturing base, engineering capabilities, technology sector and services economy provide several channels for participation in international value chains.

India recorded total exports of approximately US$863.1 billion in FY2025–26, comprising about US$441.8 billion in merchandise exports and US$421.3 billion in services exports.

The composition of these exports is important. India's international competitiveness does not depend on manufacturing alone. It combines engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics and industrial products with information technology, business services, financial services and professional capabilities.

This combination provides India with a distinctive opportunity. While manufacturing can connect Indian enterprises with global production networks, services can increasingly be embedded within those same networks through software, engineering, design, logistics, finance and digital solutions.

Trade agreements are also supporting India's efforts to deepen market access. The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement entered into force in July 2026, expanding market access across goods and services. India and the European Union also concluded negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in January 2026, subject to the formal processes required before implementation.

The importance of these agreements goes beyond tariff reductions. They can potentially support greater participation by Indian businesses in international markets, encourage investment and provide a framework for longer-term commercial relationships.

However, converting market-access opportunities into actual exports requires strong domestic competitiveness. Infrastructure, logistics, customs efficiency, skilled manpower, technology adoption, product quality and regulatory compliance will determine how effectively Indian firms can benefit.

Critical Minerals Are Becoming Essential Industrial Inputs

The global transition towards renewable energy, electric mobility, electronics and advanced manufacturing has increased the importance of critical minerals.

Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earth elements and other minerals are essential for batteries, electric vehicles, renewable-energy systems, electronics and several advanced manufacturing applications. Their growing importance has brought greater attention to the geographic concentration of mineral production and processing.

As a result, mineral strategy is increasingly moving beyond simply securing access to raw materials.

The emerging objective is to develop a broader value chain involving exploration, extraction, refining, processing, recycling, recovery and downstream manufacturing.

India's National Critical Mineral Mission reflects this wider approach. India has also pursued overseas mineral partnerships, including exploration rights secured by Khanij Bidesh India Limited for lithium brine blocks in Argentina.

The economic impact of such strategies can extend well beyond mineral supply. Developing processing, recycling and component-manufacturing capabilities can create opportunities in batteries, electric vehicles, renewable-energy equipment, electronics and specialised industrial materials.

For Indian industry, the objective is therefore not merely access to resources. It is to capture a larger share of the value created after those resources are extracted.

Geography Has Returned to the Centre of Trade

Globalisation was often described as making physical geography less important. Digital communication reduced distances, containerisation reduced transportation costs and global production networks allowed companies to separate design, manufacturing, assembly and distribution across multiple locations.

Yet geography never disappeared. Ports, shipping routes, logistics corridors, industrial clusters, warehousing networks and transport infrastructure remain essential to international commerce.

A disruption in an important shipping corridor can affect freight rates, insurance premiums, delivery schedules and inventory requirements thousands of kilometres away. Similarly, congestion at a major port can influence production schedules in industries dependent on imported inputs.

This has encouraged companies to reconsider logistics networks around resilience as well as cost. Alternative ports, multiple transportation routes, regional distribution centres and inventory buffers are increasingly being considered strategic business assets.

The impact on India is significant because the country's ambitions to expand manufacturing and exports require equally

strong logistics capabilities. Investments in ports, freight corridors, highways, rail connectivity, warehousing and digital logistics systems can directly influence the competitiveness of Indian products in international markets.

For MSMEs, logistics efficiency is particularly important because transportation and inventory costs can account for a relatively higher share of their operating expenses.

The future geography of trade will therefore be shaped not only by where products are manufactured, but also by how efficiently they can reach domestic and international markets.

The New Trade Barrier Is Often Regulatory

Tariffs remain important, but market access is increasingly influenced by requirements that operate beyond traditional customs duties.

Product standards, environmental regulations, data rules, traceability requirements, technical certifications, quality standards and supply-chain due diligence are becoming important elements of international trade.

An exporter may therefore receive favourable tariff treatment and still encounter substantial compliance costs before entering a foreign market.

Large companies often have specialised teams dealing with international standards, documentation and regulatory requirements. Smaller businesses may find these requirements more difficult to navigate because they operate with fewer financial and technical resources.

This creates an important competitiveness challenge for MSMEs.

Testing laboratories, certification facilities, digital compliance systems, export advisory services, standards awareness and easier access to market intelligence can increasingly determine whether smaller companies are able to participate in international markets.

For trade-promotion institutions, this also changes the nature of export support. Helping businesses identify overseas buyers remains important, but exporters increasingly need assistance understanding standards, certification, documentation and regulatory conditions before they can successfully access those buyers.

Sustainability Is Becoming Part of Export Competitiveness

Environmental requirements are also becoming more closely connected with international commerce.

The European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism entered its definitive regime on 1 January 2026, covering selected imports including cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen. The mechanism links the carbon intensity associated with covered goods with conditions for accessing the European market.

The broader significance extends beyond one regulation or one market. Companies selling internationally are increasingly being asked to understand the environmental footprint of their products, measure emissions, trace production processes and demonstrate compliance with sustainability requirements.

This is gradually changing the definition of export competitiveness. Cost, quality and delivery remain essential, but energy efficiency, cleaner production and environmental reporting may increasingly influence a company's ability to participate in global supply chains.

For Indian manufacturers, particularly MSMEs, the transition could require investment in energy-efficient machinery, renewable power, waste reduction, digital monitoring systems and improved environmental reporting. At the same time, these requirements can create new business opportunities in clean technologies, renewable energy, recycling, environmental services and sustainable manufacturing.

Services Are Becoming the Hidden Infrastructure of Trade

The transformation of international commerce is not taking place only in factories, ports and mines. It is also occurring through software, finance, logistics, engineering, consulting, design, data management and other services embedded within production.

UN Trade and Development estimates that services accounted for 71% of global intermediate inputs in 2022, while services represented around 27% of global exports in 2025. Digitally deliverable services accounted for 56% of global services exports in 2024.

Source: UNCTAD Compiled by MVIRDC, WTC Mumbai

This is changing the very meaning of an export. A manufactured product may physically cross an international border, but the economic value embedded within it can include software development, design services, financial services, logistics management, engineering solutions and digital systems delivered from several locations.

India's position is particularly relevant because its trade strengths extend deeply into information technology, business services and digitally delivered professional services.

This gives India an additional route into global value chains. The country does not have to participate only through physical manufacturing; it can also capture value through engineering, software, finance, design, digital platforms, consulting and other knowledge-intensive services.

However, digital trade also highlights differences in connectivity, skills and infrastructure. Participation depends increasingly on broadband access, data networks, digital payment systems, cybersecurity, cloud infrastructure and human capital.

The infrastructure of future trade will therefore include ports and factories as well as data centres, digital networks, cloud platforms, payment systems and skilled professionals.

The Multilateral Trading System Must Adapt

The growing complexity of global commerce has created a more demanding environment for the multilateral trading system.

Traditional trade negotiations concentrated heavily on tariffs and market access. Today's international trading environment increasingly includes questions relating to industrial policy, digital trade, artificial intelligence, environmental standards, services, technology and supply-chain resilience.

At the same time, the WTO remains the legal foundation for a substantial share of global trade. Around 72% of world merchandise trade continues to occur under WTO most-favoured-nation terms, demonstrating the continuing importance of predictable international rules.

The challenge is therefore not simply to preserve the trading system developed during an earlier period of globalisation, but to ensure that international rules remain relevant to the changing nature of commerce.

Predictability is particularly important for smaller economies and MSMEs because large multinational companies may have greater resources to manage regulatory uncertainty. Smaller businesses benefit considerably from transparent rules, clear procedures and stable market-access conditions.

India's Next Trade Phase Will Depend on Depth, Not Only Scale

India's record export performance demonstrates growing scale, but the next phase of trade expansion will increasingly depend on the depth of India's participation in global value chains.

Exporting larger volumes is important, but the value captured from trade also depends on where Indian companies participate within the production process.

Greater emphasis will be needed on components, intermediate goods, specialised machinery, advanced materials, intellectual property, design, technology and sophisticated services.

At the same time, India's export expansion needs to reach beyond a limited number of large companies.

Smaller manufacturers and service enterprises require access to affordable finance, reliable logistics, technology, testing and certification facilities, digital infrastructure, export intelligence and simplified compliance systems. A wider base of internationally connected MSMEs would make India's export ecosystem both more inclusive and more resilient.

This is particularly relevant because MSMEs can play an important role as suppliers within larger manufacturing ecosystems. An MSME may not export a finished automobile, electronic device or industrial machine, but it may produce components, software, packaging, specialised materials or engineering services that ultimately form part of an exported product.

Greater integration of MSMEs into domestic and global value chains can therefore multiply the economic impact of trade.

India's semiconductor initiatives, critical-mineral strategy, infrastructure investments, manufacturing programmes and expanding network of trade partnerships should consequently be viewed as interconnected elements of a broader economic architecture.

The objective is not simply to export more. It is to build stronger capabilities across the value chain.

Globalisation Is Being Rewritten, Not Reversed

The emerging trading system is not a world without interdependence.

Countries will continue to trade across borders. Companies will continue to operate international supply chains. Capital will continue to move across markets and services will increasingly be delivered digitally.

What is changing is the way businesses and economies manage risk and dependence. Supply chains are likely to become more diversified. Technology will play a larger role in determining industrial competitiveness. Sustainability and regulatory requirements will increasingly influence market access. Critical resources will become more closely linked with manufacturing strategies, while services and digital infrastructure will become even more deeply integrated into global commerce.

The result will be a more complex form of globalisation. Production may become more regional in some sectors while remaining global in others. Companies may diversify suppliers without abandoning major markets. Manufacturing and services will increasingly converge, while technology will influence both the products being traded and the way trade itself is conducted.

For India, this transition presents a substantial opportunity. Its expanding export base, growing manufacturing capabilities, large services economy and widening network of international economic partnerships provide multiple avenues for participation. But external opportunity alone cannot determine success.

Infrastructure, logistics, skills, technological capability, regulatory efficiency, sustainability and the ability of Indian businesses to move into higher-value activities will ultimately determine India's position in the evolving global trade architecture.

The geography of global trade is therefore changing in several ways simultaneously: through the relocation and diversification of supply chains, through the growing importance of technology and critical resources, through new environmental and regulatory requirements and through the rapid expansion of digitally delivered services.

The most important impact is that the definition of competitiveness itself is becoming broader. In the emerging global economy, being competitive will no longer depend on cost alone. It will increasingly depend on a combination of capability, connectivity, resilience, innovation, sustainability and trust.

For businesses, this means adapting supply chains, investing in technology and understanding new market requirements. For MSMEs, it means becoming more digitally enabled, standards-compliant and connected to larger value chains. For policymakers and trade institutions, it means creating an ecosystem in which enterprises can compete internationally not merely through price, but through productivity, quality, technology and reliability.

Globalisation is therefore not disappearing. It is entering a new phase, one in which trade remains global, but the foundations of successful participation are being rewritten.

India-ASEAN Economic Partnership at a Crossroads

From AITIGA Reform to Resilient Supply Chains

September 2026 has brought several strands of the India-ASEAN economic partnership together at an important moment. The Ninth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry in New Delhi on 9 September placed food security, agricultural innovation and resilient value chains firmly on the agenda. This was followed by the 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and its dialogue-partner consultations in Manila, where regional economic resilience, trade facilitation, digital integration and stronger supply chains dominated discussions. ASEAN's official calendar also scheduled the Twenty-Third AEM-India Consultation for 21 September 2026. At the time of writing, however, the final joint media statement from that consultation has not yet been published on ASEAN's public statements portal, making it important not to overstate any specific negotiating outcome from the meeting.

The broader direction is nevertheless increasingly clear. The question before India and ASEAN is no longer simply how to increase bilateral trade, but how to build an economic relationship capable of withstanding geopolitical uncertainty, supply-chain disruptions, technological change and new forms of protectionism. ASEAN's economy expanded by 4.9 per cent in 2025 and is projected to grow by 4.5 per cent in 2026, well above projected global growth of 3.0 per cent. The 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting specifically highlighted sustained manufacturing, exports, investment and domestic demand as sources of regional resilience despite global geo-economic uncertainty.

> A stronger India-ASEAN partnership can drive more resilient supply chains, greater innovation and shared prosperity across a dynamic Indo-Pacific.

The regional context was reinforced in September at the Fourteenth East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting in Manila, in which India participates alongside ASEAN and other major economies. The meeting noted that the combined nominal GDP of EAS participating countries reached US$69.6 trillion in 2025, while ASEAN's merchandise trade with non-ASEAN EAS economies stood at US$3.07 trillion. The scale of these flows underlines why India-ASEAN economic integration must increasingly be viewed as part of a much larger Indo-Pacific production, investment and technology network rather than simply as a bilateral tariff relationship.

The India-ASEAN Economic Foundation

Bilateral trade between India and the ten ASEAN member states reached US$128 billion in the 2025-26 Indian fiscal year, according to India's Department of Commerce, with ASEAN accounting for roughly 11 per cent of India's total global trade. ASEAN's own calendar-year statistics, presented at the Twenty-Second AEM-India Consultation, recorded two-way trade of US$106.9 billion for 2024, alongside Indian FDI inflows into ASEAN of US$3.3 billion in the same year, placing India as ASEAN's eighth-largest trading partner and tenth-largest source of FDI. The gap between the two sets of figures is a function of fiscal-year versus calendar-year reporting and India-side versus ASEAN-side methodology, not a contradiction, but it is a reminder that the two sides do not yet share a fully common statistical picture of their own relationship.

Figure 1: India-ASEAN bilateral trade has grown roughly three-fold since the AITIGA came into force in 2010.

The trajectory is real, but the composition of that trade has changed only slowly. Energy, commodities and a narrow band of manufactured goods still dominate the flow, and India continues to run a structural trade deficit with the bloc as a whole. Sustaining the next leg of growth will depend less on the volume of trade than on its texture: how much of it moves through resilient, rules-based, value-added channels rather than simple tariff arbitrage.

The Unfinished Agenda: Why AITIGA Needs Modernisation

The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement was signed on 13 August 2009 and entered into force on 1 January 2010. It has done its founding job of establishing a tariff framework for merchandise trade, but sixteen years on, exporters and officials on both sides have converged on the same complaint: the agreement is dated. Rules-of-origin provisions are seen as too loosely drawn, permitting third-country goods, most pointedly from China, to enter India at concessional ASEAN tariffs through limited processing in a member state. Non-tariff barriers, uneven customs procedures and thin coverage of newer product categories have left the pact behind the pace of trade it was meant to facilitate.

India first pressed formally for a review of AITIGA in 2019, and the Joint Committee overseeing that review finalised its terms of reference and negotiating structure across its first two meetings before substantive negotiations began at the third meeting in New Delhi in 2024. Eight Sub-Committees were constituted to carry the technical work: on trade in goods, rules of origin, customs procedures and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, standards and technical barriers to trade, economic and technical cooperation, dispute settlement, and legal and institutional issues.

> ***The Meeting emphasized the importance of concluding the review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) within this year.***
>
> ***— ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India, Manila.***

AITIGA Review 2026: Market Access, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation

By July 2026, the review had reached its 13th Joint Committee meeting, hosted at New Delhi. Three Sub-Committees met on the sidelines, on Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation, National Treatment and Market Access, and Rules of Origin, each assigned time-bound deliverables to keep the process on schedule. Independent trade-advisory assessments put the review at roughly ten completed rounds by early 2026, with conclusion targeted for late 2026.

Table 1: Core negotiating tracks of the AITIGA review, as constituted under the Joint Committee process

Negotiating Track	What Is at Stake	2026 Status
Rules of Origin	Tightening value-addition and processing thresholds to prevent third-country transhipment through ASEAN	Active Sub-Committee negotiation; a stated Indian priority
National Treatment & Market Access	Tariff-line coverage, non-tariff barriers and parity of treatment for goods once inside the market	Sub-Committee met July 2026; chapters still to close
Customs Procedures & Trade Facilitation	Simplifying clearance, documentation and border processes to cut transaction time and cost	Sub-Committee met July 2026; time-bound deliverables assigned
Sanitary & Phytosanitary / TBT	Harmonising standards and certification for agricultural and processed food trade	[Status to be confirmed against latest Sub-Committee readouts]

Table 1: Core negotiating tracks of the AITIGA review, as constituted under the Joint Committee process

The Bigger Transformation: From Tariff-Based Trade to Value-Chain Integration

A modernised AITIGA is necessary, but it cannot by itself deliver deeper India-ASEAN economic integration. The more important transformation is the shift from viewing the partnership mainly through tariff concessions towards building interconnected production, logistics, technology and investment networks. ASEAN's Community Vision 2045 and its emerging economic architecture place resilience, innovation, connectivity, digitalisation and competitiveness at the centre of regional integration. India's own approach to ASEAN increasingly reflects similar priorities, particularly through its Act East Policy, manufacturing initiatives, digital public infrastructure, supply-chain diversification and connectivity with Southeast Asia.

This matters because trade preferences alone do not automatically create production networks. Deeper integration requires investment to move alongside trade, standards to become easier to navigate, customs systems to communicate more effectively, transport corridors to become commercially viable and firms to identify partners across borders. In this sense, the AITIGA review should be seen as one component of a wider India-ASEAN economic architecture rather than as the entire relationship.

Figure 2: India's trade with ASEAN remains well below the scale ASEAN has achieved with Japan and the Republic of Korea, underlining the room for deeper integration.

Manufacturing and Supply Chains

Manufacturing provides perhaps the clearest opportunity to turn the India-ASEAN partnership into a genuine value-chain relationship. ASEAN already has sophisticated electronics and machinery production networks centred particularly around economies such as Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. India, meanwhile, is expanding domestic capacity across electronics, semiconductors, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, renewable-energy equipment and other manufacturing sectors.

The opportunity lies in identifying areas in which Indian and ASEAN capabilities can complement one another rather than simply competing for the same investment. Electronics, semiconductor ecosystems, auto components, electric mobility, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, renewable-energy equipment

Figure 2: India's trade with ASEAN remains well below the scale ASEAN has achieved with Japan and the Republic of Korea, underlining the room for deeper integration.

and machinery can all support greater regional co-production. Critical minerals are also becoming increasingly important as India seeks diversified and reliable sources of inputs for batteries, electronics and clean technologies.

Food and agricultural supply chains form another important component of this agenda. The Ninth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry, held in New Delhi on 9 September 2026, placed food security, resilient value chains, climate-resilient agriculture, digital innovation and farmer-centred technology cooperation at the centre of the relationship. Ministers looked forward to implementing the ASEAN-India Medium-Term Plan of Action for Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry 2026-2030, covering food security, trade and investment, resilient value chains, digital innovation, technology cooperation, joint research, human-resource development and rural enterprise.

This agricultural dimension is particularly important because supply-chain resilience is often discussed primarily in terms of electronics, critical minerals or industrial goods. Yet disruptions to food, fertilisers, agricultural inputs and transport can be equally damaging to regional economic stability. A broader India-ASEAN resilience strategy therefore needs to encompass industrial and agricultural supply chains together.

Digital Economic Integration

Digital integration is becoming the second major pillar of ASEAN's economic transformation. ASEAN Senior Economic Officials resolved the remaining negotiating issues in the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, or DEFA, during meetings in Manila. ASEAN describes it as its first region-wide digital economy agreement and estimates that successful implementation could help the regional digital economy reach around US$2 trillion by 2030.

The September 2026 ASEAN economic meetings have kept this agenda prominent. Philippine officials have highlighted DEFA as a key regional initiative intended to create a more predictable environment for digital trade and to support MSMEs in selling and transacting across borders. Its areas of focus include digital trade, electronic payments, data governance, cybersecurity, digital identity and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

India is not a party to DEFA, but the development is highly relevant to India-ASEAN economic cooperation. India has developed considerable experience in digital public infrastructure, real-time payments, digital identity and technology-enabled public services. Closer interoperability between Indian digital platforms and emerging ASEAN frameworks could reduce transaction costs, support cross-border payments and create new opportunities for services companies, fintech firms, digital exporters and MSMEs.

The objective should therefore not be to duplicate ASEAN's internal digital framework, but to build bridges between the two systems. Cross-border payment connectivity, paperless documentation, trusted digital identities, cybersecurity cooperation and compatible standards could eventually become as important for India-ASEAN commerce as traditional tariff preferences.

Maritime Integration

2026 has been designated the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, and the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India in Manila this year used the occasion to underscore synergy between the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. In economic terms, maritime cooperation is the connective tissue for a trade relationship that moves overwhelmingly by sea: port efficiency, shipping-line connectivity, blue-economy cooperation and maritime domain awareness all bear directly on the cost and reliability of the supply chains the rest of this agenda depends on.

Physical Connectivity: The Northeast - Myanmar - Thailand Corridor

Physical connectivity remains one of the most difficult but potentially transformative elements of the India-ASEAN relationship. India's Act East Policy has long envisaged its Northeast as a gateway to Southeast Asia, supported by projects

such as the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway.

The Kaladan project is designed to connect India's eastern seaboard with Myanmar through Sittwe Port and onward through inland waterways and roads towards Mizoram. The Trilateral Highway is intended to provide an overland connection from India through Myanmar to Thailand, with the longer-term potential to connect into wider Southeast Asian road networks.

Both projects have faced delays and implementation difficulties, particularly because of conditions in Myanmar. Yet their underlying economic logic remains compelling. Without reliable land and multimodal connectivity, the Northeast will find it difficult to participate fully in ASEAN-centred manufacturing, tourism, logistics and agricultural value chains.

The key measure of success should therefore move from kilometres of infrastructure completed to actual commercial utilisation. Border logistics, customs facilities, warehousing, multimodal terminals, banking, insurance and business networks must develop alongside roads and ports if connectivity infrastructure is to translate into trade.

MSMEs: Making Integration Reach Beyond Large Corporates

MSMEs should be the ultimate test of whether India-ASEAN economic integration is becoming deeper and more inclusive. Large companies can absorb regulatory complexity, maintain specialised compliance teams and build their own distribution networks. Smaller businesses generally cannot.

The 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting placed MSME participation within the broader regional agenda of resilience, investment, digital transformation and competitiveness. The wider ministerial discussions in Manila have similarly emphasised the importance of ensuring that regional trade arrangements are actually usable by smaller enterprises rather than remaining primarily accessible to large multinational companies.

For India, this means that the success of a modernised AITIGA should be measured not only by the number of tariff lines liberalised but by whether exporters can understand and use the agreement. Simplified origin certification, digital customs documentation, accessible trade finance, transparent standards, logistics support and structured buyer-seller engagement can have a greater practical impact on MSMEs than headline tariff reductions alone. Digital integration can amplify this effect. If smaller Indian firms can access ASEAN buyers through digital platforms, make and receive cross-border payments efficiently, verify documentation electronically and navigate customs procedures through interoperable systems, the cost of entering Southeast Asian markets can fall substantially.

This is where institutions such as chambers of commerce, trade-promotion organisations, export councils and the ASEAN-India Business Council have an important role. Businesses need sector-specific market intelligence, partner identification, regulatory guidance and sustained commercial matchmaking, not simply information about an agreement after it has been signed.

Conclusion

India-ASEAN economic relations are entering a phase in which the quality of integration matters as much as the quantity of trade. The nearly US$128 billion trade relationship provides a substantial base, but the next stage must be built around stronger value chains, more balanced market opportunities, efficient customs systems, investment partnerships, digital connectivity, maritime logistics and wider MSME participation.

The developments of September 2026 reinforce this direction. The Ninth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry expanded the resilience agenda into food security, agricultural technology and rural value chains. The 58th ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting placed regional resilience, competitiveness and economic integration at the centre of ASEAN's response to global uncertainty. The East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting highlighted the vast scale of the wider regional economy in which both India and ASEAN operate. And the Twenty-Third AEM-India Consultation scheduled for 21 September placed the unfinished AITIGA review directly within this broader economic context.

The key question is therefore no longer simply whether India and ASEAN can trade more with one another. It is whether they can produce together, innovate together, move goods and data more efficiently, diversify critical supply chains and create commercial opportunities that reach beyond large corporations to MSMEs, start-ups and emerging exporters.

A modernised AITIGA can provide an important foundation, but it will deliver its full value only when it works in concert with digital integration, maritime cooperation, physical connectivity, investment, agriculture and MSME development. If these different strands are aligned, India and ASEAN can move from a conventional free-trade relationship towards a more integrated and resilient economic partnership capable of supporting growth across a rapidly changing Indo-Pacific economy.

India-Ireland Economic Relations

Mr. Patrick Duffy
Consul General of Ireland in Mumbai, India

> *Ireland offers Indian partners a unique combination of EU and UK market acess, a pro-business, innovation-driven economy, deep cultural and human connections, shared values*

1 India and Ireland have witnessed growing economic engagement across technology, pharmaceuticals, financial services, education and innovation. Which sectors do you see offering the greatest potential for expanding bilateral trade and investment, particularly for businesses from Maharashtra?

Ireland is deeply invested in the economic success story of India, which is on course to become the third largest economy globally by the end of the decade.

Ireland is one of India's largest trading partners within the European Union, with bilateral trade of just over €17 billion - representing close to 10% of total EU/India trade. The relationship is dynamic, expanding, and full of untapped potential. As such, we very much look forward to the finalisation and entry into force of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement.

Beyond trade, EU companies have invested hundreds of billions of euro into India in recent years, creating around 7 million jobs. Irish companies are an important part of this success story and have a significant impact in creating value in the Indian Economy. The state of Maharashtra has been an important partner in this, attracting over one-third of all EU companies in India.

We see definite scope for growing economic engagement across these sectors and more with Maharashtra and India. Irish companies and Irish-based companies are at the cutting edge in the fields of ICT, pharmaceutical, medical technology, financial technology, agricultural technology, spirits, renewable energy, aviation, higher education, tourism, textiles and other economic sectors. This offers excellent complementarity with Maharashtra and the wider Indian economy.

2 India and Ireland agreed in 2025 to establish a Joint Economic Commission to deepen bilateral economic cooperation. What key priorities would you like to see addressed through this mechanism, and how can it translate into tangible trade, investment and technology opportunities for businesses on both sides?

Senior officials from India and Ireland are currently engaged in work to finalise the Joint Economic Commission (JEC). This will be a fitting way to progress the increasingly important trade and economic relationship between our two countries, following the celebration of 75 years of bilateral relations in 2024. The JEC will be a platform to foster economic growth through cooperation and experience-sharing on shared priorities. This will include areas as diverse as trade in goods, partnerships on innovation and research, and engagement in sectors such as energy and transport.

3 With negotiations for the India–EU Free Trade Agreement concluded on 27 January 2026, what opportunities do you see the agreement creating for India–Ireland trade and investment, particularly in terms of market access, services and investment flows?

India and the European Union's free trade agreement will boost trade and investment between the two partners, strengthen our economic and political ties, and demonstrate the continued ability of international rules-based cooperation to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes. This is more important than ever, given the volatile international trade environment and rising geopolitical risks. The agreement will create a combined market of approximately two billion people.

As noted, Ireland is one of India's largest trading partners within the European Union. We again see scope for enhanced partnership, investment and complementarity across the sectors and their products and services: ICT, pharmaceuticals, medical technology, financial technology, agricultural technology, spirits, renewable energy, aviation, higher education, tourism, textiles and other economic sectors.

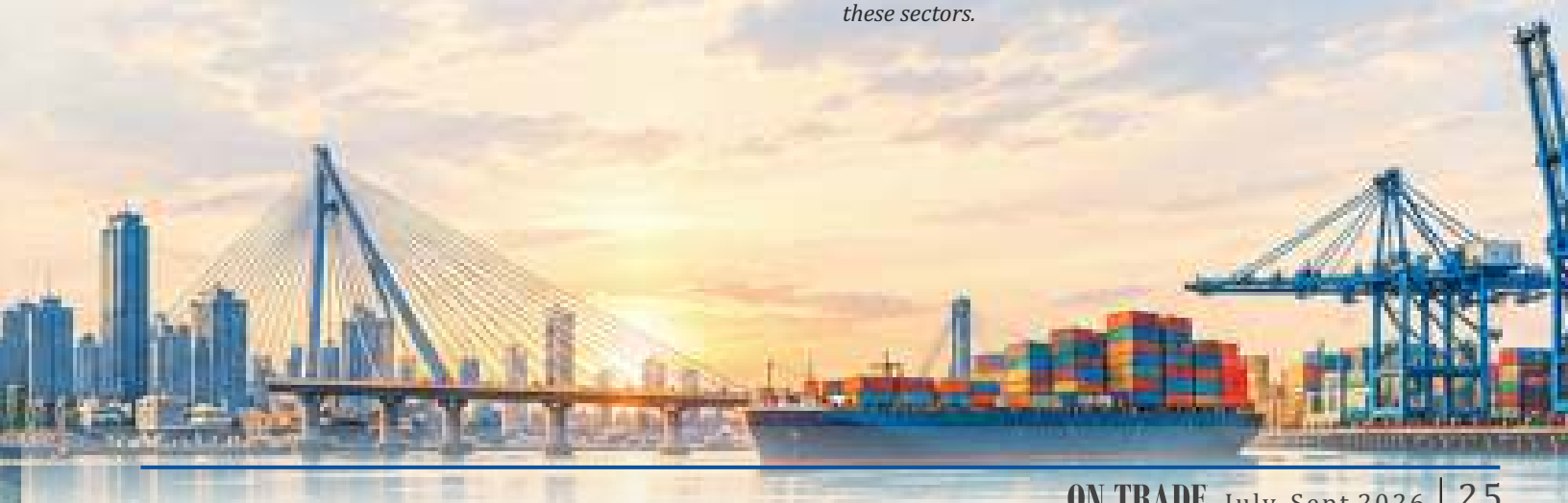
A case in point is how we look forward to continued growth in the spirits and premium whiskey sector as a result of the free trade agreement. Irish whiskey is one of the fastest-growing spirits categories in India, with sales exceeding 700,000 cases in 2024, an increase of 57.5% on the previous year and more than 900% since 2020. This growth demonstrates the increasing demand among Indian consumers for premium Irish products and underlines the significant opportunities that the EU-India Free Trade Agreement can unlock for future trade and investment.

India too stands to benefit from the increased competitiveness and openness that will come from this ambitious agreement, the largest trade deal for both partners. This deal will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96% of EU goods exports to India. The deal brings a massive new market of 450 million people in the EU who will buy Indian products and services. It also opens space to bring Indian companies more closely into global value chains, by partnering with companies in Ireland and across the European Union.

4 As India deepens its economic engagement with the European Union, what advantages can Ireland offer Indian companies seeking to establish or expand their presence in the wider EU market?

Ireland is in the geographical sweet spot and presents a strategic global gateway for Maharashtra and India. As an English-speaking EU member, Ireland offers seamless access to the European Single Market, while maintaining deep historical, economic, cultural and geographic ties with the UK and the US. Our success is built on a strong commitment to open, rules-based trade - making Ireland one of the world's most globally connected and prosperous economies.

Ireland's population is innovative, hard-working, and highly-educated, and this has helped us achieve success in a wide-range of sectors high up the value chain. This resonates well with the Indian experience also. Ireland is home to 22 of the world's top 25 financial services companies, 21 of the top 25 global banks, 9 of the top 10 global pharmaceutical firms, 16 of the top 20 global tech companies, and 14 of the top 15 medical technology companies. I hope and expect that the free trade agreement will deliver benefits to Irish-Indian trade and investment across all these sectors.



Ireland also has one of the largest per capita Indian-origin populations in the EU —around 2% of our residents—who contribute to Irish society and the economy across finance, engineering, IT, health, sport, culture and other sectors. Ireland offers Indian partners a unique combination of EU and UK market access, a pro-business, innovation-driven economy, deep cultural and human connections, shared values, a trusted, independent global voice and a high quality of life - for business, study and tourism alike. There is therefore great potential to strengthen our relationship and with these many advantages for Indian firms arriving or expanding their presence in Ireland.

5 Ireland has globally recognised strengths in pharmaceuticals, medical technology, digital and financial services, and advanced technologies, while India brings scale, skilled talent and expanding manufacturing capabilities. Where do you see the strongest potential for joint ventures, technology partnerships, and research and innovation-led collaboration between the two countries?

This question brings together many of the strands of the earlier questions. India and Ireland have identified synergies in multiple industries, including those listed above. Ireland's strategic position within the European Union offers Indian businesses a gateway to Europe and beyond, while India's burgeoning market provides ample opportunities for Irish enterprises and collaboration.

6 Looking ahead over the next five years, what should be the key priorities for taking India–Ireland economic relations to the next level, particularly in expanding trade, investment, innovation and business collaboration between the two countries?

There is such positive momentum around this special time in India-EU and Ireland-India relations, with great scope to work together across all the sectors we have discussed today. Ireland's presence in India continues to expand, with strengthened diplomatic and commercial engagement through our Embassy in New Delhi and Ireland House in Mumbai. 2026 has seen a record number of high-level ministerial visits, underlining the priority both countries place on this partnership.

To capitalise on this special time, it will be important for us all to deliver accessible and high-quality information for Irish and Indian businesses to support new and enhanced partnerships and trading between our two countries, identifying the critical success factors for entering both the Irish and Indian markets. It will also be important to raise awareness of the valuable resources available - such as through engagement with our state agencies including IDA Ireland, our foreign investment promotion agency that helps companies expand into Ireland and beyond, Enterprise Ireland, which supports Irish businesses on their journey to start, scale and succeed in global export markets, Bord Bia (the Irish food board), and Tourism Ireland, together with our Embassy in New Delhi and Consulate General which is co-located with the state agencies in Ireland House in Mumbai.

WTC MUMBAI
TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India must sustain growth of around 7.5-8% to strengthen its global relevance and achieve its economic potential - Prof. Ananth Narayan

July 10, 2026

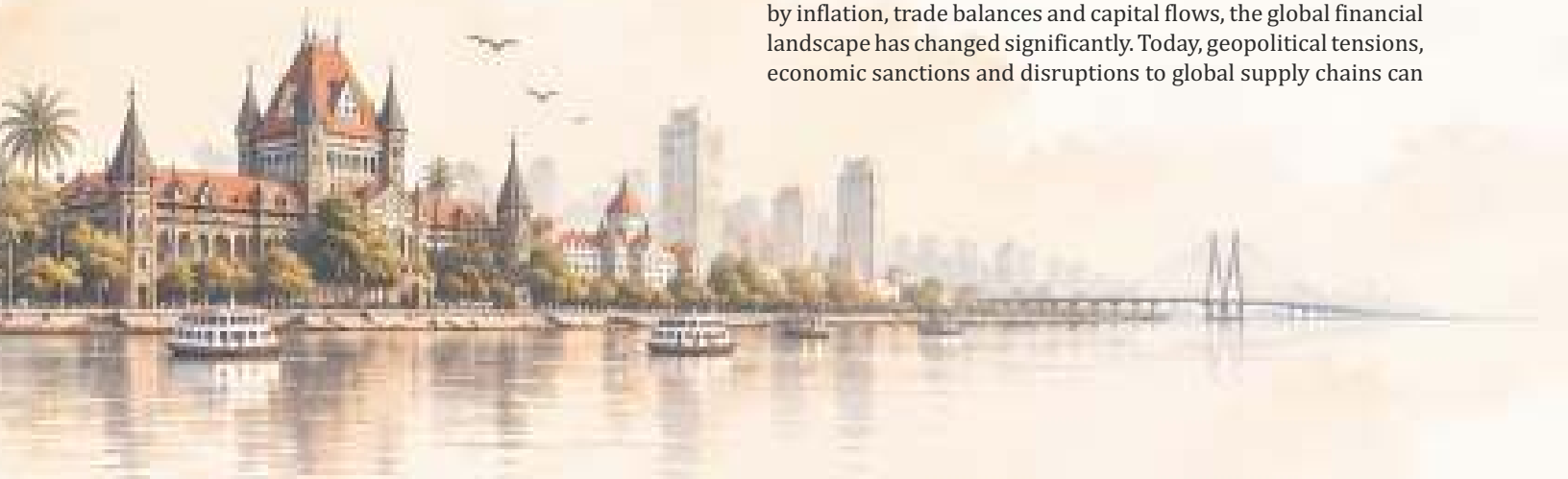
In the Picture: Prof. Ananth Narayan, Former Whole-Time Director of SEBI and Financial Market Expert addressing at the roundtable.

The traditional rules-based global order is changing rapidly, making economic strength, self-reliance and strategic preparedness increasingly important. India has a unique opportunity to position itself as a trusted manufacturing, investment and supply-chain partner as global trade and investment patterns undergo significant realignment, said, **Prof. Ananth Narayan, Former Whole-Time Director of SEBI and Financial Market Expert**, at Round Table Discussion & Deliberation on "Geopolitics and Exchange Rate Risk Management" organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI).

"India must sustain growth of around 7.5–8% to strengthen its global relevance and achieve its economic potential. With substantial global liquidity available, India must communicate a strong and credible growth story to attract a greater share of international capital. As interest rates, equity valuations, foreign investment, capital flows and exchange rates are closely interconnected, exporters, importers and companies with foreign currency exposure should make prudent hedging and exchange-rate risk management an integral part of their business strategy," said Prof. Ananth.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India's strong foreign exchange reserves of around USD 667 billion as of late June 2026 provide an important cushion against external volatility. At the same time, merchandise and services exports crossing USD 860 billion in FY 2025–26 reflect the growing strength and global integration of India's trade sector. To build on this momentum, India must sustain GDP growth of around 7–8% and strengthen its economic resilience and competitiveness. For businesses, however, exchange-rate and geopolitical volatility can translate into higher import costs, pressure on export margins where contracts are not adequately hedged, increased freight and insurance expenses, fluctuations in foreign currency loans, and greater uncertainty in pricing and working capital planning."

Adv. Bal Desai, Secretary General, Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS), said, "For India, one of the world's fastest-growing economies, exchange-rate movements have far-reaching implications for trade competitiveness, inflation, energy imports, foreign investment and overall macroeconomic stability. While currency values were traditionally driven largely by inflation, trade balances and capital flows, the global financial landscape has changed significantly. Today, geopolitical tensions, economic sanctions and disruptions to global supply chains can



exert a major influence on exchange rates. Geopolitical risk assessment, therefore, is no longer confined to diplomats and strategic experts; it has become equally important for central banks, exporters, importers, treasury managers, financial institutions and investors."

Further discussions were moderated by **Dr. Nitin S. Kulkarni, Senior Fellow, FINS and Associate Professor, MET's Institute of Management and featured Mr. Maulik R. Shah, Co-Founder & CEO, Almus Risk Consulting, and Prof. Sathianarayana Murthy, Former Banker and Forex, Treasury & Risk Management Professional.** The discussions examined how geopolitical shocks influence rupee depreciation, India's foreign exchange reserves, import-export performance and the Real Effective Exchange Rate, while also assessing volatility through India's Volatility Index and Extreme Value Theory.

Mr. Maulik R. Shah, Co-Founder & CEO, **Almus Risk Consulting,** said, "India has made steady economic progress, but it must accelerate manufacturing, exports and trade competitiveness to fully benefit from the changing global economic landscape. In an increasingly volatile environment, businesses must prepare proactively for uncertainty rather than react after risks emerge. Fluctuations in foreign exchange rates, commodity prices and interest rates can significantly affect profitability, making financial risk management a strategic necessity."

Prof. Sathianarayana Murthy, Former Banker and Forex, Treasury & Risk Management Professional, said, "Currency volatility is a natural feature of an open economy and should be viewed in perspective rather than with undue concern. Despite geopolitical uncertainty, India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong, supported by healthy foreign exchange reserves, a stable current account position and prudent monetary management by the Reserve Bank of India. The present geopolitical and currency pressures are 'passing clouds', as India has successfully navigated similar challenges in the past. The country's strong fundamentals and adequate reserves provide confidence in its ability to withstand current pressures and maintain long-term stability."

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants discussed practical approaches to managing foreign exchange exposure, treasury operations, commodity price risks and corporate hedging strategies.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. Satish Marathe** said, "This discussion is timely, as India is poised to maintain a strong growth trajectory over the next decade. The country must ensure that this growth is broad-based and helps reduce income disparities across all segments of the economy. With manufacturing capacity utilisation exceeding 70%, rising global confidence and sustained investment inflows, India is increasingly emerging as a preferred manufacturing destination for major companies. The depreciation of the rupee should not be viewed as a sign of economic weakness, as India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong and the country is well positioned to attract significant capital in the years ahead."

Dr. Nitin S. Kulkarni delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the keynote speaker, panellists, dignitaries and participants. The roundtable concluded with a consensus that geopolitical risk management and exchange-rate preparedness must become integral to corporate strategy, enabling Indian businesses to navigate global uncertainties while strengthening their international competitiveness. Through such knowledge-driven dialogues, World Trade Center Mumbai continues to foster informed policy discussions and equip businesses with the insights needed to thrive in an increasingly dynamic global trade environment.

In the Image (L to R): Mr. Satish Marathe; Adv. Bal Desai, Secretary General, Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Prof. Ananth Narayan, Former Whole-Time Director of SEBI and Financial Market Expert; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion; Prof. Sathianarayana Murthy, Former Banker and Forex, Treasury & Risk Management Professional; Mr. Maulik R. Shah, Co-Founder & CEO, Almus Risk Consulting, at the session.

Aware Citizenry is the Crux of National Progress

July 17, 2026

"India's five-century journey demonstrates that technological capability, maritime strength and innovation have always been the foundations of economic prosperity and strategic sovereignty. As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the country must strengthen indigenous innovation, scientific research, technological self-reliance and maritime capabilities to secure its position in the evolving global order", said **Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Space and Emerging Technology Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and Senator, University of Mumbai**, while introducing his book The Long Siege: 500 Years of India's Struggle for Technopolitical Freedom at the panel book discussion on **"Mumbai Chronicles: 500 Years of Technopolitical Progress towards a Global Innovation and Maritime Hub,"** organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries in association with the Observer Research Foundation.

In the Picture: Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Space and Emerging Technology Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation (ORF).

In the Picture (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Space and Emerging Technology Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and Senator, University of Mumbai

Dr. Chaitanya Giri, Space and Emerging Technology Fellow, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), and Senator, University of Mumbai, said, "Mumbai's future cannot be defined solely by its position as India's financial and commercial capital. The city's next phase of growth must be driven by innovation, technology and maritime leadership. By leveraging its strategic geography, entrepreneurial ecosystem and global connectivity, Mumbai can emerge as one of the world's foremost centres of technopolitical innovation."

"The Long Siege: 500 Years of India's Struggle for Technopolitical Freedom underscores that cities which understand their history are better equipped to shape their future. An informed and aware citizenry is the foundation of national progress. By exploring Mumbai's scientific, technological and maritime evolution over the past five centuries, the book provides valuable insights that can help address contemporary urban and developmental challenges." said, Dr. Giri.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, "Mumbai's evolution from a maritime trading settlement into India's financial and commercial capital reflects the country's remarkable journey of resilience, enterprise and continuous reinvention. Every phase of the city's development has been shaped by the convergence of technology, governance, public policy, strong institutions and entrepreneurship."

"India was historically recognised as the 'Golden Bird' for its prosperity, advanced knowledge systems, flourishing industries and extensive global trade networks. Around 1700, India accounted for over one-fifth of global GDP and was a leading exporter of textiles, handicrafts, metal products and ships. The next chapter of Mumbai's journey must support India's rise as a global leader in science, technology and innovation, with the city serving as a gateway for knowledge, trade, maritime connectivity and technological leadership." added Dr. Kalantri.

Dr. Sameer Patil, Director, Centre for Security, Strategy and Technology, Observer Research Foundation, who moderated the panel book discussion, said, "Mumbai's financial prosperity was shaped by its connections with global trade corridors. Having lost economic control during the colonial period, the city must now reclaim its legacy and anchor India's next phase of innovation."

Mr. Abhijit Mulye, Veteran Science, Environment and Political Journalist, said "Mumbai's early Marathi newspapers played a pioneering role in science communication by publishing articles on agriculture, medicine, Ayurveda and scientific thought. Publications such as Shrishti Dnyan carried this tradition forward, while the period between 1870 and 1930 witnessed a remarkable resurgence in Indian science, culminating in Sir C. V. Raman's Nobel Prize."

Prof. Madhavi Narsalay, Professor of Sanskrit and In-Charge Director, Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Mumbai, "Mumbai emerged as an important centre of knowledge creation through institutions such as the Nirnaya Sagar Press and Venkateshwar Steam Press, which advanced Devanagari printing and regional literature. The Long Siege lays thrust on the close relationship between technology, politics and civilisation, while emphasising the need to preserve India's indigenous knowledge systems."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "Mumbai's story is one of continuous transformation, from a maritime trading settlement to India's financial, commercial and entrepreneurial capital. As global trade routes, technology, innovation and geopolitics are being redefined, Mumbai is uniquely positioned to emerge not only as a global financial centre but also as a leading hub for innovation, technology and maritime enterprise. The convergence of technology, governance, trade and strategic vision has shaped the city's remarkable journey over the past five centuries and will be equally important in enabling Mumbai to contribute to India's aspiration of becoming a global economic and technological leader."

The programme concluded with an engaging interactive discussion on India's technopolitical evolution, Mumbai's strategic importance in emerging global trade corridors, and the role of technology, innovation, research and maritime connectivity in advancing India's vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Cyber Security Emerges as a Fundamental Pillar of Business Resilience and Competitiveness

July 31, 2026

In The Image (L to R): Ms Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion; Dr. C.P. Johnson, Senior Director, C-DAC Mumbai; Shri Amol Suroshe, Program Director, Cyber Security, C-DAC Mumbai

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Mumbai, organised a seminar on "Strengthening Cyber Security for MSMEs" to enhance awareness on emerging cyber threats and equip enterprises with practical strategies to strengthen their digital resilience. The seminar brought together industry leaders, technology experts, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and professionals to deliberate on the growing importance of cyber security in today's digital economy.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “Cyber security has become a strategic business priority in an increasingly digital economy. Today, over 86% of Indian households have internet access, India is among the world’s largest digital economies, and billions of UPI transactions are processed every month, making digital payments an integral part of everyday business. As businesses embrace digital payments, cloud computing, e-commerce and online banking, they also become more vulnerable to cyber threats.”

“This is particularly important for our MSME sector. MSMEs contribute nearly 30% of India’s GDP and around 45% of India’s exports. As the backbone of the Indian economy, they must strengthen their preparedness through employee awareness, robust cyber hygiene, data protection and the adoption of best security practices.”

C-DAC senior officials Dr. C.P. Johnson and Shri Amol Suroshe said that C-DAC has a four-decade legacy as a premier research and development organisation under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, with contributions across high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, cyber security, digital governance, healthcare and education. They referred to C-DAC’s involvement in key national initiatives, including Chandrayaan, the Aditya Mission, e-Sanjeevani, the Digital Census and various e-Governance platforms. Addressing the growing sophistication of AI-driven cyber threats, they urged MSMEs to view cyber security as a strategic investment and adopt a structured framework covering risk assessment, regulatory compliance, third-party risks, continuous monitoring and employee awareness. They also stressed the importance of collaboration among government, industry and academia in building a resilient cyber ecosystem.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, said, “While digitalisation has unlocked unprecedented opportunities for businesses, it has also significantly increased their exposure to cyber risks. Cyber security is therefore no longer merely an IT concern; it has become a business imperative and a key element of organisational resilience and competitiveness.”

“As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, digital trust will emerge as a key competitive advantage. Enterprises with strong cyber security practices will be better positioned to build customer confidence, attract investment and integrate seamlessly into global value chains.”

The seminar witnessed active participation from entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs, industry professionals and students, who engaged in interactive discussions with the experts on cyber security challenges, regulatory developments, cyber hygiene practices and practical approaches to strengthening organisational cyber resilience.

The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants engaged with the experts on practical cyber security challenges and preventive measures. World Trade Center Mumbai reiterated its commitment to strengthening cyber awareness, digital resilience and the competitiveness of MSMEs through continued capacity-building initiatives and collaboration with C-DAC Mumbai.

There is No Greater Donation than the Gift of Education - says Shri Madan Dilawar

August 1, 2026

"Every child deserves the opportunity to receive quality education and build a better future. Rajasthan today has over 67,000 schools supported by nearly 5.75 lakh teaching and non-teaching staff, reflecting the Government's strong commitment to ensuring that no child is left behind. Through the Gyan Sankalp initiative, we invite individuals, corporates and institutions to partner with us in strengthening government schools. If you provide food, you satisfy hunger for a day; if you provide clothing, it lasts for a few months; but if you educate a child, you empower generations," said **Shri Madan Dilawar, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for School Education, Panchayati Raj and Sanskrit Education, Government of Rajasthan**, while addressing a session on Strengthening School Education, organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries.

"Through the Gyan Sankalp initiative, individuals, corporates and institutions can directly support the specific requirements of government schools, including infrastructure, learning resources and digital facilities. Such collective participation can help strengthen the education system and create better opportunities for every student," added Shri Dilawar.

Shri. Rajesh Kumar Yadav, Additional Secretary, Department of School Education, Government of Rajasthan, "Rajasthan has one of the country's largest school education networks, serving millions of students across urban and rural areas. The State Government is focusing not only on expanding access to education but also on improving learning outcomes, digital transformation and community participation. Through the Gyan Sankalp initiative, individuals, alumni, corporates and CSR partners are encouraged to support government schools with infrastructure, learning resources and digital facilities, helping bridge resource gaps and strengthen the quality of education for future generations."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries said "Education is the strongest pillar of national development. India's literacy rate has increased from nearly 74% in 2011 to approximately 80.9% in 2023–24, reflecting the country's steady progress in expanding access to education. However, greater emphasis must now be placed on quality, inclusivity, skill development and future-ready learning. India's young population is our greatest strength, and empowering youth through education, entrepreneurship, innovation and global exposure will be essential to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047,"

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries; Mr. Purshottam Kejriwal; Shri Madan Dilawar, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for School Education, Panchayati Raj and Sanskrit Education, Government of Rajasthan; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director - Trade, Investment and International Relations, at the session.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade Investment and International Relations, highlighted the important role of education in nurturing responsible, skilled and future-ready youth. Referring to the MY Bharat "Nasha Mukt Yuva" initiative scheduled for the following day, she noted that WTC Mumbai was among the 10,000 centres across the country participating in the programme and emphasised that educating, guiding and positively engaging young people through such initiatives is essential to realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, and reaffirmed WTC Mumbai's continued support for quality education, skill development and industry-academia collaboration.

World Trade Center Mumbai Hosts Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' as One of 10,000 Nationwide Centres

August 2, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai served as one of the participating centres for the nationwide launch of the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan', an initiative of MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. WTC Mumbai hosted students, youth volunteers and members of the community for the live virtual address by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Addressing youth across the nation, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said, "The 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' is not merely a campaign for individuals; it is a movement for families, society and above all for the nation. Building a drug-free India is a collective responsibility, and educational institutions, youth organisations, civil society groups, industry bodies, NGOs and spiritual organisations must work together to make this national mission a success."

Highlighting the connection between a healthy younger generation and the vision of a developed India, the Hon'ble Prime Minister said, "As India moves towards becoming a Viksit Bharat, it is essential that our youth remain healthy in body and mind, confident and completely free from substance abuse. What began as a pilot initiative in Kashi has now grown into a nationwide people's movement, and sustained public participation will be crucial to achieving the goal of a Nasha Mukt Bharat."

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, said, "A developed nation can only be built when its citizens are healthy. Healthy individuals create a healthy society, and a healthy society forms the foundation of a prosperous and developed country. Referring to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat, he said that the Prime Minister has envisioned all 140 crore Indians as active partners in the nation's development. He emphasised that empowering the youth and ensuring their physical and mental well-being are essential to building a healthy society, achieving the goal of a drug-free India and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat."

Students participating in the nationwide launch of the 'Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan' by attending the live virtual address of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at World Trade Center Mumbai.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries said "World Trade Center Mumbai is honoured to be one of the centres participating in this historic nationwide campaign. As an institution committed to empowering youth through education, entrepreneurship and skill development, we believe that a healthy, disciplined and responsible young generation is the foundation of a Viksit Bharat. Through our continued engagement we will actively support this campaign and encourage young people to become ambassadors of a drug-free India."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "We are honoured to have hosted one of the nationwide centres for the Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan. World Trade Center Mumbai remains committed to supporting such transformative national initiatives and will continue to actively contribute towards empowering youth and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 through meaningful partnerships and community engagement."

The launch also marked the beginning of a 100-week nationwide Jan Bhagidari campaign against substance abuse. As part of the campaign, activities such as sports events, walkathons, meditation sessions, cultural programmes, awareness drives, discussion forums, art competitions and community engagement programmes will be organised every Sunday across the country.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various educational institutions, youth volunteers and members of the WTC Mumbai community, who collectively reaffirmed their commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles and spreading awareness against substance abuse.

The programme brought together students, young professionals, educators, volunteers and members of the WTC Mumbai community, who joined the nationwide initiative and collectively took the pledge to contribute towards building a drug-free India. Through its active engagement, WTC Mumbai continues to promote youth participation in national development and meaningful community-based initiative.

Ceylon Sapphires Open New Avenues to Strengthen the India–Sri Lanka Partnership

August 11, 2026

"Sri Lanka and India share a relationship that goes well beyond trade, anchored in centuries of cultural and civilizational ties. Our partnership with WTC Mumbai and AIAI has consistently helped Sri Lankan business delegations connect with Indian industry and explore new opportunities in trade, investment and tourism. Sri Lanka's globally recognised Ceylon sapphires and gemstone sector offer significant scope for value-chain partnerships with India's vibrant gems and jewellery industry. We also look forward to strong participation by Indian businesses, especially MSMEs, at Sri Lanka Expo 2027 in Colombo and to further strengthening business ties between our two nations," said **Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne, Consul/Minister (Commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka, at the Sri Lanka–India Trade and Investment Promotional Event** organized by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI)

Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman and CEO, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, said, "Sri Lanka recorded economic growth of over 6% last year, while its exports grew by around 6% to reach USD17.3 billion. Our skilled workforce, strategic location and growing export ecosystem position Sri Lanka as an attractive trade and investment hub. Beyond gems and jewellery, opportunities exist in automotive components, minerals, beverages, logistics, rubber-based products, tourism, education, wellness and healthcare. The Indo–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement provides a strong foundation for businesses from both countries to deepen this partnership."

Prof. S.P. Chaminda, Chairman and CEO, National Gem and Jewellery Authority of Sri Lanka, said, "Our vision is to position Sri Lanka as the sapphire capital of the world and as a trusted global source of responsibly produced gemstones. Sri Lanka possesses a spectrum of coloured gemstones, and our focus is on strengthening ethical mining, licensing, testing, certification, hallmarking and regulatory compliance. We are encouraging greater domestic value addition by promoting the export of cut and polished gemstones instead of raw stones. Infrastructure initiatives such as the Gem Tower at Demuwawatha, envisioned as an international gem and jewellery trading centre, will further strengthen Sri Lanka's position in the global market."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment and International Relations, World Trade Center Mumbai, highlighted the growing trade and economic relations between India and Sri Lanka and encouraged greater exchange of business delegations between the two countries. She reaffirmed WTC Mumbai's commitment to facilitating meaningful industry connections and strengthening bilateral cooperation in trade and investment.

The programme brought together senior representatives of Sri Lankan trade and investment organisations, gem exporters and members of Indian industry to explore opportunities across gems and jewellery, manufacturing, tourism, education, healthcare, logistics and other services. The event also featured presentations on investment opportunities in Sri Lanka, followed by B2B meetings.

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne, Consul/Minister (Commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment and International Relations, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Mangala Wijesinghe, Chairman and CEO, Sri Lanka Export Development Board at the event.

Let Us Pledge and Work Together Towards the Prime Minister's Vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

August 15, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India with a grand Flag Hoisting Ceremony, bringing together representatives from the government, diplomatic community, industry and other distinguished guests to commemorate the spirit of freedom, unity and national pride.

Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Government of Maharashtra said, "Independence Day is a moment of immense pride for every Indian and reminds us of our collective responsibility towards the prosperity and well-being of our nation. India today stands as the world's fourth-largest economy and is steadily moving towards becoming the third-largest, with the larger vision of emerging as a fully developed nation by 2047. This remarkable journey has also been strengthened by the cooperation, friendship and goodwill India shares with nations across the world."

"India believes in the timeless principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family. As India progresses, it seeks not only its own prosperity but also the peace, progress and well-being of the entire world. On this historic occasion, let us move forward together with confidence and commitment towards building a stronger, developed and globally respected India," added Shri. Narwekar.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries said, "India is progressing rapidly across sectors, from agriculture to aviation, manufacturing to technology, and infrastructure to innovation. With a growth rate of around 7%, India continues to be among the fastest-growing major economies, and nations across the world are increasingly looking towards India as a trusted partner and a major engine of global growth. Powered by the aspirations and enterprise of 140 crore Indians, our nation is scaling new heights of progress across different sectors. The MSME sector and Indian industry must now look ahead, rise to emerging opportunities and strengthen their competitiveness in global markets. As we celebrate this historic occasion, we must collectively work towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047."

The celebration was attended by diplomats and consular representatives from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Brazil, Japan, China and other countries, reflecting India's strong bonds of friendship and international cooperation.

With the flag unfurled and patriotic fervour in the air, the event reaffirmed the commitment of MVIRDC WTC Mumbai to the nation's spirit of unity and pride.

In the image (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Admin, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investments & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Shri Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), at the 80th Independence Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony at World Trade Center Mumbai.

Diplomats Lay Thrust on Trade, Investment and Global Opportunities

August 18, 2026

In the Image: Shri Praveen Singh Pardeshi, CEO, MITRA (Maharashtra Institution for Transformation), addressing the gathering at the Diplomatic Evening organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries.

"It is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell to Mumbai after one of the finest tenures of my diplomatic career. The warmth of the people, the friendships we have built and the opportunity to work with Mumbai's highly responsive business community have made this experience truly memorable. Mumbai, as India's commercial, financial and entertainment capital, offers tremendous opportunities for strengthening economic engagement. Looking ahead, there is a need to build long-term business relationships, particularly in view of the forthcoming India–EU Free Trade Agreement. Belgium remains an important strategic partner for India across various sectors, with our strong relationship in the diamond industry being particularly significant. As you spend time in Mumbai, you do not merely live here; the city grows on you, and I leave with a deep sense of satisfaction about what we have been able to accomplish during my tenure," said **H.E. Ambassador Frank Geerkens, Consul General of Belgium in Mumbai,** while addressing the Diplomatic Corps Gathering organised by **MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai** in his honour.

Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, said, "Being diplomats and bureaucrats, moving from one country to another and taking up a new posting is not always an easy task. In such circumstances, even a small gesture of warmth and generosity can make a meaningful difference. Arriving in a new country and a state like Maharashtra, and particularly a city like Mumbai, requires us to get to know people, build relationships, identify common interests in business, investment and technology transfer, and establish connections that can facilitate opportunities. Institutions such as World Trade Center Mumbai play an important role in fostering goodwill, strengthening people-to-people connections and creating a positive foundation for greater cooperation and trade between countries."

Ms. Sato Hitomi, Consul General of Japan in Mumbai, said, "India and Japan have developed strong goodwill and people-to-people relations over the years. There is growing interest among Indians in visiting Japan and Japanese people visiting India, not only for business but also for tourism and employment

opportunities. We hope to encourage greater exchanges between the two countries and explore opportunities that can benefit both India and Japan. Mumbai is not only India's commercial and economic centre but also an important destination for Japanese investment. Japan has been associated with major infrastructure projects in Mumbai and Maharashtra, including the Atal Setu, Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail, and Metro projects. These engagements demonstrate the scope for further strengthening bilateral ties."

Shri Praveen Singh Pardeshi, CEO, MITRA (Maharashtra Institution for Transformation), said, "Maharashtra continues to welcome foreign investment and remains committed to extending all necessary support and cooperation for the successful implementation of projects in the state. Maharashtra is among India's leading destinations for Foreign Direct Investment and, as one of the country's foremost industrial states, is working towards becoming a USD 1 trillion economy by 2030. The Government is also placing special emphasis on policies and initiatives for women entrepreneurs, MSMEs and exporters to drive economic growth, strengthen entrepreneur-ship and create greater employment opportunities across Maharashtra."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), said, "Mumbai has always welcomed people with warmth and openness. We look forward to building strong associations with our new colleagues from Japan and Brazil, while bidding farewell to our dear friend from Belgium with gratitude for his contribution to strengthening bilateral relations. India's bilateral trade with Belgium, Japan and Brazil stands at over USD 52 billion, with the potential to double to USD 104 billion over the next five years through stronger trade, investment, business and people-to-people ties. There are significant opportunities for greater cooperation in areas such as innovation, artificial intelligence, technology, healthcare and other emerging sectors."

The gathering witnessed participation from over 30 Consuls General and members of the diplomatic corps, along with senior government officials and representatives from the business and industry community. Among the distinguished attendees were Mr. Sven Östberg, Consul General of Sweden in Mumbai; Shri Om Prakash Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary (Finance), Government of Maharashtra; Ms. Roop Rashi, Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Government of India; among other senior dignitaries and representatives.

The presence of the diplomatic corps, government and industry leaders gave added thrust to strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations, fostering deeper economic engagement and creating new opportunities for business collaboration, investment and industry partnerships between India and partner countries.

In the Image (L to R) : H.E. Ambassador Frank Geerkens, Consul General of Belgium in Mumbai; Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai; Mr. Mahendra Kumar Sanghi, Honorary Consul of Kazakhstan in Mumbai; Sven Östberg, Consul General, Consul General of Sweden in Mumbai; Mr. Ramavtar Goenka, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Kenya and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), addressing the gathering at the Diplomatic Evening.

India–UK CETA Creates New Opportunities for Trade, Investment and MSMEs - Shri R.K. Mishra

August 21, 2026

The India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) marks a landmark step in bilateral economic relations and is one of India's most ambitious trade agreements, covering goods, services, investment and mobility. It presents a major opportunity for Indian exporters and MSMEs to strengthen their presence in the UK, access new markets and integrate more deeply into global supply chains," said **Shri R.K. Mishra, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Mumbai, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, at the "India–UK CETA Dialogue: Unlocking New Trade & Investment Opportunities"** organised by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries (AIAI).

"The focus under CETA must now shift towards effective utilisation of the agreement by businesses, particularly MSMEs, through tariff benefits, simplified rules of origin, self-certification and opportunities in UK government procurement. The Government of India's Export Promotion Mission will further strengthen MSME competitiveness through export credit, market intelligence, certification and compliance support. The UK's strengths in technology, finance and advanced manufacturing, combined with India's skilled manpower, manufacturing capacity and entrepreneurial strength, can create significant new opportunities. Stronger business-to-business connections and greater awareness at the enterprise level will be critical to realising CETA's full potential," said **Shri R.K. Mishra,**

Mr. Mark Birrell, Trade Counsellor – South Asia, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai, said, "CETA is a landmark agreement between two of the world's largest and most dynamic economies. It makes trade cheaper, quicker and easier, but its success will ultimately depend on businesses using the opportunities it creates through exports, investment and collaboration. The agreement opens significant opportunities across advanced manufacturing, medical devices, aerospace, automotive, clean energy, textiles, engineering goods and processed foods, as well as services such as finance, education, research and innovation. Mumbai and Maharashtra will have an important role to play in strengthening the India–UK trade and investment corridor."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, AIAI, said, "CETA provides zero-duty access to nearly 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering almost 100% of India's export value, while India will remove or reduce tariffs on 90% of tariff lines for UK goods, covering 92% of existing UK goods exports to India. Key Indian sectors such as textiles, pharmaceuticals, leather, engineering goods and other labour-intensive industries stand to benefit significantly from improved market access and lower tariffs. Effective implementation, greater awareness among MSMEs and stronger business-to-business linkages will be crucial to converting these advantages into higher exports, investments and long-term commercial partnerships."

Ms. Garima Jain, International Market Advisor, Export Support Service; Mr. Sandeep Kudtarkar, Country Head, UKEF; and Mr. Abhishek Jha, Head of Inward Investment – Western India, shared their perspectives on the practical opportunities emerging from CETA. They highlighted the growing interest of UK companies in partnering with Indian businesses, the availability of government-backed export finance for eligible trade transactions, and the scope for Indian companies to use the UK as a platform for international expansion. They also pointed to opportunities across technology, healthcare, advanced engineering, energy, professional services, R&D and innovation, along with the benefits of the Double Contribution Convention for Indian companies deploying professionals to the UK.

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, World Trade Center Mumbai; Shri R.K. Mishra, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Government of India; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, AIAI; Mr. Mark Birrell, Trade Counsellor – South Asia, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai at the India-UK CETA Dialogue.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "The India–UK CETA opens significant opportunities for both trade and services, with several sectors poised to benefit from greater market access, investment, technology collaboration and business partnerships. By enabling Indian enterprises, particularly MSMEs, to integrate more deeply with global markets and value chains, the agreement can contribute meaningfully towards strengthening India's competitiveness, creating employment and advancing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047."

The dialogue brought together MSMEs, exporters, entrepreneurs and industry representatives to understand how CETA can be translated into practical opportunities in trade, investment, financing, technology collaboration and market partnerships.

Panama is a Strategic Gateway to Global Trade and Opens New Opportunities for Indian Businesses - H. E. Miguel

August 24, 2026

"Panama can serve as a strategic gateway for Indian companies seeking to expand their presence across Latin America, the Caribbean and the wider Americas. Its strategic geographical location, the Panama Canal, strong maritime and logistics ecosystem, special economic zones and the Colón Free Trade Zone provide significant opportunities for Indian companies to establish regional distribution, warehousing, manufacturing and commercial operations," said H.E. Mr. Alonso Correa Miguel, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama, during a high-level interaction at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.

In the Image: Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries; H.E. Mr. Alonso Correa Miguel, Ambassador of the Republic of Panama; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade Investment and International Relations; Mr. Roberto Rodríguez Prada, Consul General of Panama in Mumbai at WTC Mumbai.

"Indian companies can explore Panama not only as an export destination but also as a regional business platform from which they can serve multiple Latin American markets. Opportunities exist for establishing regional headquarters and distribution centres, particularly for companies in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automobiles, motorcycles, engineering, consumer products and technology. Panama can help businesses address some of the challenges associated with entering individual Latin American markets, including logistics, local regulations, distribution networks and market-specific business practices," said H.E. Mr. Miguel.

Mr. Roberto Rodríguez Prada, Consul General of Panama in Mumbai, said, "There is considerable scope to strengthen direct engagement between Indian and Panamanian businesses, particularly in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and manufacturing, with opportunities ranging from warehousing and distribution to assembly, testing, finishing and manufacturing within Panama's special economic regimes. Indian companies with established customers across the Americas can potentially use Panama to improve regional market access, supply-chain efficiency and customer servicing."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and Panama have strong complementary capabilities across pharmaceuticals, chemicals, manufacturing, engineering, automobiles, maritime services, logistics and technology. With bilateral merchandise trade currently at around US$600 million, there is significant potential to double this to over US$1.2 billion in the next two years through stronger B2B engagement, greater market awareness and focused cooperation in high-potential sectors. Panama's strategic location and connectivity to the Americas can provide Indian companies with an effective platform for regional expansion."

The interaction concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen India–Panama economic engagement through greater business-to-business linkages, sector-focused cooperation and sustained institutional engagement. Both sides emphasised the need to translate identified opportunities into concrete trade, investment and commercial partnerships, while leveraging Panama's strategic position as a gateway and India's strengths in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, technology and entrepreneurship.

Healthcare and MedTech Emerge as High-Potential Thrust Areas for India–Russia Trade

August 25, 2026

In the picture: Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Accounts & Finance, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (2nd from left), and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (3rd from left), along with members of the business delegation from St. Petersburg, Russia, during their visit to MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

"Healthcare and medical technology offer significant opportunities to expand trade and business collaboration between India and Russia. After establishing its global leadership in IT, India has also emerged as the 'Pharmacy of the World' and is today the world's 3rd largest producer of pharmaceuticals by volume. With pharmaceutical exports exceeding USD 30 billion annually and the medical devices sector expanding rapidly, there is considerable scope for Indian MSMEs and Russian enterprises to collaborate in pharmaceuticals, medical devices, healthcare technologies, joint manufacturing, technology transfer, exports and re-exports to third-country markets," said **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries** at an interactive business meeting with a delegation from St. Petersburg, Russia, hosted by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries (AIAI).

The visiting delegation represented companies from the healthcare, medical devices and MedTech sectors and interacted with Indian MSMEs to explore potential partnerships in sourcing, distribution, manufacturing, technology collaboration and market access.

The interaction provided an opportunity for Russian enterprises to understand India's growing capabilities in healthcare manufacturing and for Indian MSMEs to explore business opportunities with companies from St. Petersburg. Discussions also highlighted the potential for joint ventures and partnerships that could enable both sides to access wider markets across Russia, India, Central Asia and other international markets.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai reiterated its commitment to facilitating meaningful business linkages between international companies and Indian MSMEs and to promoting greater trade, investment and technology cooperation between India and Russia.

Mexico Can be a Key Manufacturing and Market-Access Hub for Indian Companies - H.E. Adolfo Garcia Estrada

August 27, 2026

Mexico's strong manufacturing base, large domestic market and close integration with the North American economy offer significant opportunities for Indian companies seeking to expand their international presence. Indian businesses can explore opportunities across automobiles and auto components, aerospace, information technology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, electronics, chemicals and petrochemicals. Mexico can serve not only as an important domestic market but also as a strategic base for manufacturing, distribution and access to markets across North America and Latin America, said H.E. Adolfo Garcia Estrada, Consul General of Mexico in Mumbai, during the India–Mexico Business Roundtable organised at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai in association with the Indian Chamber of Commerce and All India Association of Industries.

"Indian companies have considerable potential to establish a stronger physical and manufacturing presence in Mexico. He pointed to opportunities for Tier 2 and Tier 3 automotive component manufacturers, IT and engineering companies, pharmaceutical producers and chemical manufacturers, where Indian industry has established capabilities. Mexico's proximity to the United States and its industrial ecosystem can also provide advantages to Indian companies serving North American customers and that the Consulate General of Mexico in Mumbai can support Indian businesses with market and regulatory information, identification of suitable partners, connections with local authorities and facilitation of business and investment visits to Mexico." added, Mr. Adolfo.

Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and Mexico have considerable untapped potential to expand bilateral trade and investment by moving beyond conventional exports towards joint ventures, technology partnerships, manufacturing collaboration, sourcing arrangements and two-way investment. With bilateral trade crossing US$11 billion, the two countries should focus on converting their complementary strengths into concrete commercial opportunities. India's capabilities in manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, engineering, technology and entrepreneurship, combined with Mexico's industrial ecosystem and strategic location, provide a strong foundation for a deeper economic relationship and bilateral trade can be doubled in next 5 years."

The event emphasised the need to strengthen business-to-business linkages, investment partnerships and sector-specific collaboration between India and Mexico. The interaction concluded that the complementary strengths of both countries can create new opportunities for trade, investment and long-term commercial partnerships.

In the Image (L to R): Ratheesh Nair, Regional Director, Indian Chamber of Commerce; H.E. Adolfo García Estrada, Consul General of Mexico in Mumbai, being felicitated by Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Chair – Maharashtra Committee, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai.

WTC Mumbai Strengthens European Trade and Institutional Partnerships at WTCA European Conference 2026

August 28-30, 2026

Participation in WTCA European Conference 2026

The delegation from MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai participated in the WTCA European Conference 2026, joining representatives and business leaders from World Trade Centers across Europe and other international markets. The Conference provided an important platform for exchanging perspectives on emerging global trade opportunities, strengthening institutional relationships and exploring new avenues for international trade, investment and business development.

As part of the programme, the delegation engaged in discussions with fellow WTC representatives on enhancing cooperation within the global World Trade Centers network. The interactions focused on strengthening trade promotion services, facilitating business-to-business connections, exchanging market intelligence and creating opportunities for enterprises to access new international markets. The Conference also enabled participants to share experiences and explore collaborative initiatives aimed at supporting businesses in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Delegates and representatives from World Trade Centers across Europe and other international markets participating in the WTCA European Conference 2026 in Denmark.

WTC Mumbai's visit to the WTCA European Conference 2026 began with insightful visits to World Trade Center Helsingborg, World Trade Center Lund and World Trade Center Malmö. The visits provided an opportunity to connect with fellow WTC leaders, exchange experiences and explore new avenues for international collaboration, trade promotion and business growth.

WTC Mumbai's participation provided an opportunity to further strengthen its relationships with European WTCs and identify potential areas for future institutional cooperation. The deliberations underscored the importance of international business networQks in promoting cross-border partnerships, investment facilitation and greater market access, particularly for MSMEs seeking to expand their global presence.

Meeting with the Ambassador of India to Denmark

In the Image: WTC Mumbai senior leadership met with H.E. Ambassador Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Denmark

Continuing its engagements in Denmark, the WTC Mumbai delegation had the privilege of meeting H.E. Mr. Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Denmark. The interaction provided a valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives on strengthening India–Denmark economic relations and advancing bilateral cooperation in trade, investment and business development.

The discussions focused on expanding business-to-business engagement, encouraging institutional cooperation and creating stronger market linkages between Indian and Danish enterprises. Emphasis was placed on identifying opportunities for collaboration, facilitating business connections and supporting companies interested in exploring trade and investment prospects in both markets.

The meeting also highlighted the important role of institutions such as WTC Mumbai in connecting domestic enterprises with international business networks and promoting sustained commercial engagement. The interaction provided an opportunity to explore how institutional partnerships and coordinated business outreach could contribute to strengthening bilateral economic ties and facilitating long-term cooperation between India and Denmark.

MoU Signing

WTC Mumbai Signs Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) During the European Conference

A significant milestone of WTC Mumbai's European engagement was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Trade Center Ballerup, marking an important step towards strengthening institutional cooperation and expanding business connectivity between India and Denmark. The engagement included Ms. Henriette Bjerg Persson, CEO & Director, World Trade Center Ballerup, and Mr. Ib Henrik Rønje, Founder, Owner & Managing Director, Kongeegen A/S, and Co-Owner, World Trade Center Ballerup.

The MoU established a foundation for closer cooperation between the two World Trade Centers, with opportunities to facilitate business networking, trade promotion, exchange of market information and institutional engagement. The partnership is expected to support stronger connections between Indian and Danish enterprises, encourage cross-border business opportunities and create avenues for collaborative initiatives benefiting businesses in both countries.

The programme also included a networking lunch with representatives from WTC Ballerup and the business community, providing an opportunity for meaningful dialogue and relationship-building. The interactions enabled

participants to exchange perspectives on emerging business opportunities, explore potential areas of collaboration and discuss avenues for strengthening commercial and institutio-nal linkages.

The three-day engagement marked an important step in further strengthening WTC Mumbai's international partnerships and its association with the European World Trade Centers network.

Through its participation in the WTCA European Conference, interaction with the Indian Ambassador and formalisation of cooperation with WTC Ballerup, WTC Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to fostering international business relationships, promoting trade and investment and creating new opportunities for Indian enterprises to connect with global markets.

In the Image: Group photograph of delegates and representatives from World Trade Centers across Europe and other international markets at the WTCA European Conference 2026 in Denmark.

Pause, reflect and rediscover the inner strength by looking within: Rajyogi BrahmaKumar Nikunj ji

September 2, 2026

In the Image (L - R): Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne, Minister (Commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai; Mr. Aliaxsandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai and Rajyogini Brahmakumari Shaku Didi Ji; at the ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurating the Aarambh – It's Never Too Late in Life art exhibition.

"In today's fast-paced world, we are increasingly connected with everything around us yet often disconnected from our inner selves. The book Echoes of the Soul is an invitation to pause, look within and rediscover the peace, clarity and inner strength that already exist within us. The book seeks to present spiritual wisdom in a simple and practical way so that it can become part of our everyday lives and help us respond to situations with greater awareness, positivity and balance," said **Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji, author of Echoes of the Soul – Reflections for a Conscious Life at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai** during the book launch of his collections of works spanning across decades.

Rajyogi Nikunji added, "True progress is not measured only by what we achieve externally, but also by the quality of our thoughts, relationships and state of mind. Technology and material advancement have transformed the way we live, but inner wellbeing remains equally important. Through this book, I hope to encourage readers to make reflection, positivity and conscious living an integral part of their journey." The remarks came during "Aarambh – It's Never Too Late in Life", an art exhibition celebrating the creative journey of **Rajyogini Brahmakumari Dr. Nalini Didi Ji (Didi Maa).**

Speaking on the occasion, R**ajyogini Brahmakumari Shaku Didi Ji** said, "Aarambh carries the inspiring message that it is

never too late to begin something new. Didi Maa's creative journey demonstrates that age can never be a limitation when there is enthusiasm, determination and a desire to express oneself. Creativity and spirituality together can help us discover our inner potential and bring greater peace, happiness and purpose to our lives."

Mr. Aliaxsandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai said, "India is exceptionally rich in culture, traditions and spirituality, and these values are recognised across the world. Having served in India for almost three years, I have had the opportunity to experience these traditions closely and exchange perspectives on culture and society. Belarus too has strong cultural and spiritual traditions, I was also pleased to learn about the presence of Brahma Kumaris centres in Belarus, and we attach great importance to strengthening cultural cooperation and people-to-people understanding with India and said they also have centers in Belarus."

Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne, Minister (Commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, said, "it is a privilege to be part of this special occasion and to learn more about the Brahma Kumaris, their spiritual values and the message of love, peace and harmony they continue to share with people across the world. I was also pleased to learn that the Brahma Kumaris have a strong presence in Sri Lanka through 22 centres, contributing to the promotion of spiritual awareness and inner well-being. I sincerely appreciate the organisers for bringing together such a meaningful programme and for giving us the opportunity to be part of this special evening."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Brahmakumaris have always given us a message to remain humble in our thoughts and actions. The artwork we have witnessed today is the reflection of the deep spiritual and dedication of Didi maa's in her duty and devotion towards God and society. Looking at within gives us an opportunity to introspect, to seek wisdom and discover inner potential – a quality which remains pertinent in today's world. This book is not mere collection of thoughts, but a compilation of Brahmakumar Nikunj's wisdom accumulated over the years. Today, we are blessed to read the thoughts of Nikunj ji through this book – imparting us vidya which no education or training can provide us receive".

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade Investment and International Relations, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "World Trade Center Mumbai has always been a platform for connecting businesses, governments, diplomats and

In the Photo (L-R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, World Trade Center Mumbai; Rajyogini Brahmakumari Shaku Didi Ji; Ms. Shirani Ariyarathne, Minister (Commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai; Mr. Aliaxsandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; and Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji, during the ceremonial lamp-lighting at Aarambh – It's Never Too Late in Life and the launch of book, Echoes of the Soul – Reflections for a Conscious Life.

institutions, while also supporting initiatives that enrich individuals and communities. Aarambh carries the powerful message that there is no fixed age or stage in life to begin something meaningful, while Echoes of the Soul encourages us to find clarity, positivity and balance amidst our increasingly demanding lives."

The Aarambh exhibition showcases the sketches and creative expressions of Rajyogini Brahmakumari Dr. Nalini Didi Ji, reflecting her journey of discovering and pursuing creativity later in life. The exhibition carried the inspiring message that age is no barrier to creativity, learning, self-expression or making a new beginning.

The ceremonial launch of Echoes of the Soul – Reflections for a Conscious Life by Rajyogi Brahmakumar Nikunj Ji brought together reflections on self-awareness, positivity, inner strength, relationships and purposeful living. Together, Aarambh and Echoes of the Soul celebrated the convergence of art, literature and spirituality, highlighting the importance of inner wellbeing and conscious living in today's rapidly changing world.

Omani Delegation Seeks Long-Term Investment Partnerships Amid Regional Tensions

September 4, 2026

(From Left to Right) Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Khalid bin Sulaiman Al Salehi, Director General – Marketing & Commercial Affairs and Official Spokesperson, Madayn ; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries and Mr. Al Rashidi, Vice Consul, Consulate General of the Sultanate of Oman in Mumbai at the Business Delegation Meet, World Trade Center, Mumbai.

"India and Oman are natural partners with a history of illustrious commercial civilizational and commercial ties spanning centuries. With the signing of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Oman, we have taken a step ahead in strengthening our future relations further. Our continued engagement evident through CEPA, we are hopeful that **longstanding issues like the pending oil pipeline project and the India-Middle East-Europe (IMEC) will be expedited** giving a new thrust to the bilateral ties between both the countries. This will not only enhance trade ties but will position Oman as a gateway to access Gulf Cooperation Countries, Africa and Europe. We invite Indian entrepreneurs and companies to come to Oman and become part of this growing economic partnership", said Mr. Al Rashidi, Vice Consul, Consulate General of the Sultanate of Oman in Mumbai, during an interactive business session with the Oman delegation at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Mr. Khalid bin Sulaiman Al Salehi, Director General – Marketing & Commercial Affairs and Official Spoke-sperson, Madayn, said, "Oman's strategic geographical location and its vibrant industrial ecosystem offers growing opportunities across aluminium, food processing, minerals and mining, energy, renewables and green hydrogen. Under Oman Vision 2040, we are expanding opportunities across food processing, logistics, polymers, automotive, minerals, renewable energy, IT and AI. Foreign investors can also benefit from 100% ownership in

eligible activities, long-term industrial leases and other investment incentives."

Mr. Al Salehi further added, "India is an important partner, particularly in pharmaceuticals, where there is strong potential for APIs, local manufacturing and further processing in Oman for exports to other markets. Similar opportunities exist across polymers, food industries, logistics, minerals, automotive and renewable energy. Through Madayn's integrated industrial cities and investor facilitation services, we invite Indian companies to establish, manufacture and expand from Oman into regional and global markets."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and Gulf have traditionally enjoyed strong and vibrant commercial ties. With bilateral trade of around USD 11 billion, there is considerable scope to expand our trade baskets across pharmaceuticals, chemicals, engineering, infrastructure, shipping, maritime services and green energy. Our potential is to double this trade to 25 billion dollars to endure a long-term relationship. Oman's world-class ports, airports and logistics infrastructure make it an attractive gateway for Indian companies to access regional and global markets. CEPA gives us a strategic advantage, and we must now move from discussions to delivery by promoting trade, investment, joint ventures and stronger business partnerships. We also acknowledge the positive role Oman has played over the years in ensuring peace and harmony in the region. This complements India's position as an oasis of growth amidst global headwinds. This demonstrates the strong potential between both the countries to anchor their long-term partnership".

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, highlighted the longstanding India–Oman relationship and the new opportunities created by CEPA said, "CEPA is a landmark development, providing Indian exporters zero-duty access across about 98% of Oman's tariff lines, covering over 99% of India's exports by value, while India has liberalised about 78% of its tariff lines, covering nearly 95% of imports from Oman. This provides a strong platform to deepen cooperation across energy, investment, logistics, manufacturing, technology and healthcare. The participation of over 100 entrepreneurs today reflects the strong business interest in taking this partnership forward."

Presenting vote of thanks to the visiting delegation Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai said, "India and Oman share strong people-to-people and maritime connections, and the opportunity now is to translate these ties into tangible partnerships across energy, logistics, manufacturing and connectivity. World Trade Center Mumbai is ready to facilitate business linkages, delegations and investment partnerships, while greater regional peace and stability will further strengthen trade and prosperity."

Bridging the Trade Gap through Localised Production, Market Access and Technology Sharing: Russian Delegation Intents to Deepen Business Ties with India

September 8, 2026

"There is a renewed interest among Russian enterprises in Indian products, reflecting a broader effort to diversifybilateral trade. While Indian exports to Russia have grown consistently over the years, they remain significantly lower in value, highlighting immense untapped potential. Greater awareness among Russian businesses about the competitiveness of Indian products vis-à-vis markets such as China and Southeast Asia can help bridge this gap. Events such as this exemplify the critical role played by trade service organisations like World Trade Center Mumbai in connecting businesses and creating new commercial opportunities," said **Mrs. Olga Kulikova, Business Ambassador to India, Business Russia Public Organization**, during an interactive business session with a **12-member business delegation from the Leningrad Region of Russia**, representing sectors including pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, waste-to-energy and manufacturing, at **MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.**

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (extreme left) welcoming Mrs. Olga Kulikova, Business Ambassador to India, Business Russia Public Organization. Also seen in the picture, Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (middle), Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (second to the right); Mr. Alexey Chernukhin, Director, Korchega, Leningrad Region, Russia (extreme right)

"The Leningrad Region offers strong industrial capabilities, modern infrastructure and excellent connectivity through St. Petersburg and its ports. Our delegation represents Russian companies from sectors including logistics, pharmaceuticals, specialised industrial equipment and organic fertilizers, and they are keen to identify reliable Indian partners. We see considerable potential not only for trade, but also for technology cooperation, localization and long-term business partnerships between companies from India and the Leningrad Region", said **Mr. Alexey Chernukhin, Director, Korchega, Leningrad Region, Russia.**

Welcoming the business delegation, **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)** said, "India-Russia share a longstanding bilateral and economic ties. Underpinned by strong trust and cooperation, this relationship has consistently been moving north despite of global hiccups. However, in recent years, we have seen massive trade imbalance to the tune of 55 billion dollars. In times to come, we need to find ways and means to decrease this trade imbalance by focusing on joint ventures, technology sharing, innovative trade settlement mechanism and complementing capabilities of both the countries in specific sectors like defence production and advanced manufacturing. With Russia's defence capabilities and technology, India could be a launchpad to boost defence exports to the rest of the world".

Dr. Kalantri further added, "With an economy growing at 7.8% quarterly, India enjoys cordial relations with nearly every major economy. This could be used by Russian companies to invest in India and then export it to the rest of the world. This will also contribute to India's target of achieving a 30 trillion dollars economy by 2047. India's sustained focus to enhance ease of doing business by reducing compliances and deregulations has enable it to emerge as a quality supplier of pharmaceuticals, electronic goods, textiles and gems and jewellery which outpaces Chinese products. This facet should be explored by Russians to fill the trade deficit gap."

Presenting vote of thanks, **Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai** said, "India and Russia share a longstanding relationship, and the next step should be to translate this goodwill into greater business collaboration. We see opportunities in specialised machinery, agriculture, organic fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, logistics and several other sectors represented. World Trade Center, Mumbai remains committed to help this objective."

9/11 Reminds us that Terror knows no boundaries, needs Global Response

September 11, 2026

"Twenty-five years after the tragic attacks of September 11 on World Trade Center, New York, we continue to remember the innocent lives that were lost and salute the courage and sacrifice of the first responders. The tragedy reminds the world that terrorism has no place in a peaceful and progressive society. PM Modi has consistently called for global response to the menace of terrorism and has advocated peace and harmony for sustaining economic growth. As part of this global family, WTC Mumbai pays tribute to the lives lost, honours the bravery of first responders and reiterates its commitment to peace, advancing trade and international cooperation" said Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries at an event held in remembrance of the victims of 9/11 terror attack at World Trade Center, Mumbai.

"The 9/11 attacks were not merely an attack on the World Trade Center or on one nation; they were an attack on humanity. We condemn terror attacks in all forms and manifestations and stand in solidarity with the victims of the terror attack" said. Adv. Ashish Shelar, Minister of Electronics, IT, AI and Culture Affairs, Government of Maharashtra who lit the candle in the memory of the victims of the horrific terror attack.

Mr. Praveen Pardeshi, Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA) expressed hope that the world comes together in one brotherhood so heinous terrorist activities like 9/11 are never repeated in future.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the September 11th terror attack on the World Trade Center, New York which shocked the global community and brought terrorism at the fore of international discussions. Early in the morning, PM Modi also expressed his condolences and denounced in strong words the scourge of terrorism. The event at the World Trade Center, Mumbai was held to commemorate and show solidarity with victims of terror attacks globally.

In the image: Adv. Ashish Shelar, Minister of Electronics, IT, AI and Culture Affairs, Government of Maharashtra and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries lighting the candle in memory of the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks. Also seen in the picture are Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and international Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (extreme right); Mr. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (2nd from left) and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, , MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai (extreme left)

As a mark of solemn remembrance, a candle was lit and one minute of silence was observed by the dignitaries along with senior office bearers of the World Trade Center, Mumbai in memory of the innocent lives lost in the 9/11 terror attacks.

A Century Ahead of His Time: M. Visvesvaraya's Ideas Continue to Guide India Towards Viksit Bharat

September 15, 2026

"Sir M. Visvesvaraya believed in building, creating and transforming ideas into institutions that would serve generations. He was a visionary far ahead of his time. As early as 1940, he had envisaged the need for a metro system and better connectivity for Mumbai. His contribution to planned development and institution-building continues to guide us even today. As India moves towards Viksit Bharat 2047, his emphasis on infrastructure, industrialisation, engineering excellence and long-term planning remains more relevant than ever. We are thankful to the Government of India for commemorating his birth anniversary as National Engineers' Day and giving the nation an opportunity to remember the extraordinary contribution of this great engineer and nation-builder", said **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)** in his tribute to Bharat Ratna Shri Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya on his 165th Birth Anniversary, also celebrated as National Engineers Day, at MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai.

Dr. Kalantri further added, "He understood that as India developed its manufacturing capabilities, the country would also need to expand its exports and connect Indian industry with global markets. His vision of establishing a Trade Center in Mumbai, India's commercial capital, and developing a multi-storeyed complex dedicated to promoting international trade was remarkably farsighted and in tune with his broader vision for the country".

Speaking on the occasion **Mr. Sharad Upasani, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai**, said, "We are proud and grateful to have Sir M. Visvesvaraya as one of the founding visionaries behind World Trade Center Mumbai. The institutions and infrastructure inspired by his thinking stand as enduring monuments to a man whose contribution to India is immeasurable. His ideas and vision have a left a long-lasting legacy which continues to inspire us every single day".

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "Sir M. Visvesvaraya's vision of 'Prosperity through Trade' has profound relevance today. At a time when the global economy is increasingly fragmented, trade can provide common ground for countries to collaborate, create opportunities and pursue shared development. World Trade Center Mumbai continues to carry forward this vision by connecting Indian businesses with international markets, promoting exports, facilitating trade and investment, and strengthening global economic partnerships. In doing so, we remain committed to advancing the vision that Sir M. Visvesvaraya laid down generations ago."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) paying floral tributes to Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya on his birth anniversary and National Engineers' Day at World Trade Center, Mumbai. Also seen in the picture (From Left to Rights) are Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Capt. Ramesh K. Gulati, Member, Council of Management, MVIRDC World Trade Center; Mr. Sharad Upasani, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center, Mumbai and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai

Observed annually on September 15, National Engineers' Day marks the birth anniversary of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and recognises the invaluable contribution of engineers to India's economic and technological development. Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962) was one of India's most distinguished engineers and administrators. Renowned for his contributions to irrigation, water management, infrastructure and industrial development, his legacy continues to serve as an inspiration for engineers and nation-builders across the country.

WTC Mumbai paid homage to the legendary engineer and highlighted the importance of nurturing engineering talent and innovation to strengthen India's productivity, sustainability and global competitiveness.

The event underlined the growing convergence of technology, finance and real-world assets and the need for collaboration among government, regulators, financial institutions, technology companies, developers and investors.

Wankhede's Vision Put Mumbai on the Global Trade Map: Tributes Pour in for Shri Sheshrao Wankhede on His 112th Birth Anniversary

September 24, 2026

"Shri Sheshrao Wankhede was a visionary far ahead of his time. He recognised the importance of connecting Indian enterprise with global markets to drive Mumbai and Maharashtra's economic progress. His unwavering commitment to the State's development inspired the establishment of the M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research and Development Centre (MVIRDC) World Trade Center Mumbai. Today, WTC Mumbai stands as an enduring testament to his remarkable foresight, dedication and institution-building legacy," said Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai while paying tribute to Late Shri Sheshrao Krishnarao Wankhede on his 112th birth anniversary here at World Trade Center, Mumbai.

Ms. Ramola Mahajani, daughter of Late Shri Sheshrao Wankhede, fondly remembered her father as a man of determination, discipline and action. She said, "My father firmly believed that institutions must be built with a long-term vision and should continue to serve society for generations. Whether in public service, trade or sports, he was driven by a strong commitment to Maharashtra's progress. It is a matter of great pride for our family to see World Trade Center Mumbai carrying forward his vision even today. On his 112th birth anniversary, it is heartening to see his legacy being remembered and, more importantly, carried forward through the institutions he helped create."

(From L to R) Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Capt. Ramesh K. Gulati, Member, Council of Management, MVIRDC World Trade Center; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Ramola Mahajani, daughter of Late Shri Sheshrao Wankhede and Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, remembering Shri Wankhede said, "At a time when India is aspiring to become a developed economy by 2047, his belief in trade, enterprise and international engagement assumes even greater significance. Strengthening MSMEs, promoting exports and connecting Indian businesses with global opportunities will be critical to realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. As we commemorate this occasion, let us rededicate ourselves to carrying forward the enduring legacy and visionary ideals of Shri Sheshrao Wankhede".

Late Shri Sheshrao Krishnarao Wankhede (1914–1988) was a freedom fighter, lawyer, statesman, cricket administrator and visionary institution builder who made a lasting contribution to Maharashtra's public and economic life. He served in several important public positions, including as Finance and Industry Minister and Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, and represented India at the United Nations General Assembly. As the Founder President of MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, he played a pivotal role in establishing the institution and advancing its mission of connecting Indian industry with global trade and investment opportunities. His contribution to sports was equally significant, with Mumbai's iconic Wankhede Stadium bearing his name in recognition of his contribution to cricket administration.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai commemorated the occasion by offering floral tributes to its Founder President, remembering his contribution to institution building and Maharashtra's economic and social development.

On the occasion, WTC Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to carrying forward Shri Wankhede's vision by promoting international trade and investment, empowering MSMEs and entrepreneurs, and strengthening India's connections with the global business community.

Automobiles, Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering to Drive India–Slovakia Economic Partnership

September 25, 2026

H.E. Robert Maxian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to India with Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)

"Slovakia has developed a strong manufacturing ecosystem, while India offers scale, talent and a rapidly expanding market. The presence of global automakers demonstrates the possibilities that manufacturing, technology sharing and global supply chains can create. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Slovakia has given fresh impetus to our bilateral relationship, and we now have an opportunity to translate this into stronger business partnerships, investment and technology cooperation between Slovakia and India" said **H.E. Robert Maxian, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to India** in his meeting with **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)** at New Delhi.

Reiterating the Prime Minister's remarks on the maiden visit of an Indian PM to Slovakia since Slovakia's Independence, Mr. Maxian said that the visit has provided new impetus and enthusiasm to Slovak companies. India–Slovakia ties should move from a traditionally friendly relationship towards a deeper economic and technological partnership.

"India and Slovakia have considerable untapped potential to expand trade, investment, joint ventures and industrial cooperation. As one of the most industrialised states of the country, Maharashtra, with its strong manufacturing base, skilled workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem, can play an important role in taking this partnership forward particularly in automobiles, Railway locomotives, EVs, battery technology, engineering, advanced manufacturing, technology and innovation," said **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI).**

"In the past World Trade Center Mumbai have had the privilege of hosting Slovakian Prime Ministers and other high-level dignitaries for bilateral talks. Such high-level interactions should be resurrected once again to engage and enable meaningful dialogue to expand trade opportunities. World Trade Center Mumbai remains committed in playing a meaningful role in facilitating this. As India advances towards its vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and aspires to build a USD 30 trillion economy, Slovakia can play a meaningful role in this journey—not only as a longstanding friend, but as a trusted economic and strategic partner", added Dr. Kalantri.

The meeting also highlighted the potential of The India–Slovakia economic relationship is also expected to benefit from the broader India–EU framework. It reaffirmed the growing scope for Maharashtra as a gateway for Slovak companies seeking to expand their presence in India, given the State's strengths in automobiles, engineering, financial services, technology, logistics and manufacturing. industry, investment, technology and joint ventures providing strong avenues for the next phase of bilateral economic cooperation.

Vietnam India plans to enhance global south cooperation; E-commerce, IT and semiconductor, Food Processing to power trade to 25 billion dollars by 2030

September 30, 2026

"India and Vietnam are entering a new phase of economic cooperation. Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City, as major economic centres of our respective countries, can play an important role in strengthening this partnership. Connectivity between our countries has expanded significantly over a short span of time showing the willingness on both the sides to expand cooperation. However, considerable potential remains to be realised. Delegations like this are channels to harness the business potential between both the countries" said **H.E. Le Quang Bien, Consul General of Vietnam in Mumbai** here at the Vietnam-India Business Connect organized by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai which hosted a strong 20-member business delegation from Vietnam.

Mr. Bui Trung Thuong, Trade Counsellor and Head of the Vietnam Trade Office in New Delhi, India, said that the two countries share complementary development ambitions and can collaborate extensively in artificial intelligence, information technology, textiles, food processing and advanced manufacturing where the countries are major global players. "India and Vietnam should create more centres of cooperation in emerging sectors and encourage companies from both countries to develop integrated supply chains. Vietnam's position at the heart of ASEAN and its extensive network of free trade agreements can provide Indian businesses with access to markets well beyond Vietnam."

(In the image: From L to R) Mr. Bui Trung Thuong, Trade Counsellor and Head of the Vietnam Trade Office in New Delhi, India ; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Mr. Tran Trong Tuyen, Chairman of the Vietnam E-Commerce Association (VECOM); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; H.E. Le Quang Bien, Consul General of Vietnam in Mumbai; Mr. Pham Son Tung, Vice Chairman, HGI Investment and Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai at the signing of the MoU at the Vietnam-India Business Connect organized by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai

He also highlighted the potential for a Vietnam–India industrial ecosystem, cooperation between food-processing hubs and integration of digital payment systems to facilitate cross-border commerce, including possibilities around India's UPI ecosystem, could further improve the ease of conducting business between the two countries.

"India and Vietnam have built a strong relationship based on mutual trust, growing trade and shared economic aspirations. Bilateral trade has reached nearly USD 16.5 billion, but this is only a fraction of our true potential. We must now move towards deeper partnerships in manufacturing, semiconductors, electronics, digital technologies, logistics and food processing. Greater business-to-business engagement, joint ventures and investment can take our economic partnership to the next level," said **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.**

Dr. Kalantri further added, "The strong complementarities between the two economies should be utilized to double trade in the coming years. As a competitive South Asian Giant, India is keen to learn many things like special SEZs for manufacturing. Such Vietnam specific parks should be set up in India to boost manufacturing competitiveness and prowess".

(In the image: From L to R) Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Mr. Bui Trung Thuong, Trade Counsellor and Head of the Vietnam Trade Office in New Delhi, India; Mr. Tran Trong Tuyen, Chairman of the Vietnam E-Commerce Association (VECOM); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; H.E. Le Quang Bien, Consul General of Vietnam in Mumbai; Mr. Pham Son Tung, Vice Chairman, HGI Investment and Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai

Mr. Tran Trong Tuyen, Chairman of the Vietnam E-Commerce Association (VECOM), highlighted three priorities for strengthening bilateral digital commerce: expanding two-way trade, helping businesses access each other's markets through e-commerce, and enabling MSMEs to use digital platforms, greater interoperability between payment platforms and software solutions that can operate across both markets.

Mr. Pham Son Tung, Vice Chairman, HGI Investment highlighted the transformative impact of direct connectivity and Vietnam's rapidly expanding digital economy. "We need more connections and more business between India and Vietnam. E-commerce today is not merely online shopping; it encompasses technology, logistics, software, digital payments and cross-border commerce. When India's capabilities in technology and digital payments are combined with Vietnam's manufacturing base and digital ecosystem, we can create businesses capable of serving markets globally."

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, proposed the Vote of Thanks and said, "India and Vietnam share a relationship built on trust, friendship and growing economic cooperation. Today's discussions have demonstrated that there is considerable scope to take this partnership beyond traditional trade towards **technology, e-commerce, manufacturing, logistics, investment and stronger MSME linkages."**

The event also saw signing MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI) sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HGI Investments and Development Joint Stock Company to boost cooperation, facilitation and promotion of digital trade for MSMEs in both the countries. The programme brought together a Vietnamese business delegation and Indian enterprises for B2B interactions, providing a platform to explore opportunities in e-commerce, manufacturing, sourcing, technology, logistics, consumer products and investment.

WTC Mumbai Strengthens Global Engagement on Blue Economy and Water Innovation at Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum in Rome

September 28- 1 October 2026

With water security, sustainability and the Blue Economy gaining increasing importance in global economic development, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai strengthened its international engagement through its participation in a series of high-level programmes and interactions in Rome, Italy. Representing WTC Mumbai, **Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations**, engaged with international institutions, industry representatives, innovators and investment promotion organisations to explore emerging opportunities for technology cooperation, sustainable development and cross-border business partnerships.

The engagements, organised by UNIDO ITPO Italy from September 28 to October 2, 2026, were held alongside the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 and the UNIDO–WTCA Blue Economy Global Call 2026. The Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum, held at the Roma Convention Center, brought together policymakers, international organisations, industry, academia and civil society to exchange perspectives on water security, sustainable water management, innovation and cooperation. The Forum provided an important international platform for examining emerging challenges in water resource management while highlighting the role of technology, investment and institutional partnerships in developing sustainable solutions.

In the Image: Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, along with fellow panellists, speaking during the panel discussion "Advancing Blue Innovation: From UNIDO Projects to Global Solutions" at the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 in Rome, Italy.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai along with Mr. Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office Bahrain on the sidelines of the Euro Mediterranean Water Forum 2026, Rome, Italy.

A major highlight of the programme was the UNIDO–WTCA Blue Economy Global Call 2026 Award Ceremony, held on September 30, which recognised six innovative solutions selected for their potential to advance a more sustainable and inclusive Blue Economy. The 2026 edition attracted 300 applications from 85 countries, reflecting strong global interest in technologies and business models that address environmental sustainability, economic development and the responsible use of marine and freshwater resources. The initiative highlighted the growing importance of innovation-driven approaches in addressing environmental challenges while creating new opportunities for entrepreneurship, industrial development and international business cooperation.

The six winning solutions represented diverse segments of the Blue Economy, including Blue Renewable Energy, Sustainable Blue Food, Green Maritime Transport & Smart Ports, Coastal & Marine Tourism & Recreation, Sea, Lakes & River Health & Restoration, and Blue Tech & Biotechnology. The programme also featured the panel "Advancing Blue Innovation: From UNIDO Projects to Global Solutions", during which the selected innovators presented their projects to an international audience of institutions, investors, businesses and other stakeholders. The initiative provided a platform not only to recognise innovation, but also to facilitate connections that could support future development and scale-up. Such exchanges underscored the importance of connecting promising technologies with

Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai along with Mr. Hashim Hussein, Head UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office Bahrain on the sidelines of the Euro Mediterranean Water Forum 2026, Rome, Italy.

institutional support, investment networks and market opportunities to translate innovative ideas into commercially viable and sustainable solutions.

Speaking during the panel discussion "Advancing Blue Innovation: From UNIDO Projects to Global Solutions," Ms. Priya Pansare highlighted the importance of translating innovative ideas into commercially viable and scalable solutions through international technology partnerships, investment facilitation and institutional cooperation. Referring to India's growing Blue Economy potential, she drew attention to the Government of India's Programmes, which focuses on port modernisation, improved maritime connectivity, coastal shipping, port-led industrialisation and coastal community development. She also emphasised the opportunities emerging under India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, particularly in green shipping, sustainable port infrastructure, marine ecosystem protection and technology-driven maritime development. Highlighting the role of international networks such as UNIDO and the World Trade Centers Association, she underscored the need to connect innovators, MSMEs, investors and technology providers to facilitate knowledge exchange, encourage sustainable industrial development and create opportunities for cross-border collaboration in the Blue Economy.

The discussions were particularly relevant in the context of UNIDO's global ITPO network, which works to promote investment and technology cooperation by connecting businesses, investors, technology providers, entrepreneurs and institutions internationally. For WTC Mumbai, engagement with this network presents opportunities to facilitate stronger connections between Indian enterprises and overseas partners, while creating channels through which international technologies, expertise and investment opportunities can be introduced to the Indian market. Such institutional linkages can also support Indian MSMEs and entrepreneurs in identifying suitable international partners, accessing technology-driven solutions and exploring opportunities for participation in emerging global value chains.

An important outcome of the visit was the signing of an Exchange of Letters between MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain, represented by Ms. Priya Pansare and Dr. Hashim S. Hussein, Head, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain. The exchange establishes a platform to explore cooperation in entrepreneurship development, business matchmaking, investment promotion, technology collaboration and cross-border business opportunities. The engagement strengthens WTC Mumbai's interface with the wider UNIDO ITPO network and creates possibilities for future initiatives aimed at connecting Indian businesses with global technologies, investment networks and sustainable business opportunities. The exchange

also represents an important step towards developing institutional cooperation that can support business outreach, knowledge sharing and the identification of mutually beneficial projects and partnerships.

Alongside the UNIDO–WTCA Global Call 2026 on the Blue Economy and the Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum, an evening of Aperitivo in Rome brought together Blue Economy innovators, UNIDO colleagues, representatives of UNIDO's Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs), World Trade Centers and international partners. The gathering provided an informal yet productive setting to continue conversations initiated during the Forum and strengthen relationships among stakeholders in the working across sustainability, technology, investment and industrial development. The interaction also offered an opportunity to deepen institutional connections and explore potential partnerships beyond the formal sessions of the programme.

The interaction enabled meaningful exchanges with representatives from different countries and institutions on emerging business and technology opportunities. Discussions extended beyond the formal programme to areas such as technology partnerships, investment promotion, entrepreneurship, innovation, sustainable industrial solutions and international business matchmaking. The engagement demonstrated the value of bringing together innovators, businesses and investment-promotion institutions within a common platform where potential collaborations can be identified and developed. These exchanges further underscored the importance of international networking in facilitating knowledge sharing, investment opportunities and stronger business linkages across markets.

The discussions were particularly relevant in the context of UNIDO's global ITPO network, which works to promote investment and technology cooperation by connecting businesses, investors, technology providers, entrepreneurs and institutions internationally. For WTC Mumbai, engagement with this network presents opportunities to facilitate stronger connections between Indian enterprises and overseas partners, while creating channels through which international technologies, expertise and investment opportunities can be introduced to the Indian market. Such institutional

partnerships can also support Indian MSMEs and entrepreneurs in accessing innovative solutions, exploring international markets and strengthening their participation in emerging global value chains.

Building upon these engagements, World Trade Center Mumbai intends to explore closer cooperation with UNIDO ITPOs across areas of mutual interest. Potential avenues include business delegations, technology partnerships, entrepreneurship programmes, investment facilitation, business matchmaking and other joint initiatives. The Rome engagement has therefore laid the foundation for wider collaboration, reinforcing WTC Mumbai's role as a bridge connecting Indian businesses with global networks and opportunities in the Blue Economy, water technologies, sustainability, innovation and investment. Through continued engagement with international institutions and industry stakeholders, WTC Mumbai aims to strengthen opportunities for Indian enterprises to access global expertise, participate in emerging sectors and develop meaningful partnerships that contribute to sustainable economic and industrial growth.

Industry Association Conclave: Advancing Youth Skills & Employment

July 3, 2026

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), attended the Industry Association Conclave, where he engaged in meaningful discussions with Ms. Pallavi Jain Govil, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, IAS, and Smt. Raksha Khadse, Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) & Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, participated in the Industry Association Conclave organised by the Department of Youth Affairs. During the programme, he interacted with Hon'ble Minister of State Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse; Ms. Pallavi Jain Govil, IAS; and Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukherjee, IAS.

The interaction provided an opportunity to exchange views on strengthening engagement between government, industry and youth-focused institutions. Discussions centred on enhancing opportunities for young people through skill development, entrepreneurship, industry exposure and stronger linkages with the evolving requirements of the economy.

Dr. Kalantri highlighted the importance of closer collaboration between industry associations and government institutions in creating pathways for employment, enterprise development and greater youth participation in economic growth. The interaction also reinforced AIAI and WTC Mumbai's commitment to supporting initiatives that empower India's youth and contribute to inclusive and sustainable development.

India–UAE Partnership Poised for Growth in New-Age Sectors and Emerging Economic Opportunities

August 5, 2026

The India–UAE economic partnership has evolved significantly beyond traditional sectors such as petroleum, gems and jewellery, and commodities, opening new avenues for collaboration in artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, technology, logistics, renewable energy, innovation and digital trade. The India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has further strengthened bilateral trade relations, facilitated greater market access and created new opportunities for investment and business partnerships between the two countries," said Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, while delivering his address at the "DMCC Made For Trade Live – Mumbai" programme.

Dr. Kalantri further highlighted Dubai's emergence as a major global trade, investment and innovation hub, offering Indian businesses access to international markets across the Middle East, Africa and beyond. He emphasised that Indian MSMEs, startups and emerging enterprises must explore opportunities in new-age industries, particularly AI-driven technologies, digital services, sustainable manufacturing and knowledge-based sectors, to diversify exports and strengthen their global competitiveness.

Emphasising the need to unlock the next phase of India–UAE economic growth, Dr. Kalantri called for stronger business-to-business partnerships, increased cross-border investments, technology exchange and joint ventures in high-growth sectors.

In the Image: Panellists addressing during the Panel discussion on Scaling Business in Dubai and Internationally.

In the Image: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman MVIRDC WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries addressing at the gathering at the DMCC, Business Growth Talks: Mumbai Edition

He observed that the complementary strengths of India's expanding industrial and technological capabilities and Dubai's advanced infrastructure and global connectivity provide a strong foundation for deeper economic cooperation.

Dr. Kalantri also reaffirmed MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai's commitment to strengthening bilateral economic engagement through trade and investment promotion, business networking and strategic partnerships, particularly by connecting Indian MSMEs with emerging opportunities in the UAE and international markets.

Addressing the panel discussion on "Scaling Business in Dubai and Internationally," Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, highlighted the growing economic partnership between India and the UAE, with bilateral merchandise trade reaching USD 101.25 billion in FY 2025–26. She emphasised the opportunities presented by the India–UAE CEPA for Indian exporters and MSMEs, particularly in manufacturing, engineering, textiles, food processing and services. She further underscored Dubai's strategic position as a gateway to the Middle East, Africa and other international markets, highlighting the importance of business networking, cross-border partnerships and market diversification in helping Indian enterprises expand their global footprint.

UN Global Compact Dialogue: Advancing MSME Sustainability in Global Supply Chains

August 18, 2026

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries, delivered the Key-note Address on "Indian MSMEs and their Quest for Sustainability in the Global Supply Chain", highlighting the importance of sustainability, resilience and global integration for India's MSME sector. He also had a meaningful conversation with Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, UN Assistant Secretary-General & CEO, UN Global Compact, exchanging perspectives on sustainable and responsible business practices and India's role in advancing sustainable global supply chains.

The UN Global Compact Network India (UN GCNI) closed-door dialogue on "Indian MSMEs and their Quest for Sustainability in the Global Supply Chain", held in Mumbai, brought together MSME leaders, industry institutions and sustainability experts to deliberate on building resilient, responsible and globally competitive supply chains. The dialogue focused on helping Indian MSMEs move beyond sustainability compliance and leverage responsible business practices to strengthen competitiveness and global market access.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), shared his perspectives on the critical role of MSMEs in India's economic growth and their increasing integration with global supply chains. The session also featured Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and CEO of the UN Global Compact; Ms. Sushma Morthania, Director General, India SME Forum; Dr. Joydeep Chatterjee, ESG Programme Director and Quality FE Leader, India Region, Cummins India; and Mr. Ratnesh Jha, Executive Director, UN Global Compact Network India.

A key focus of the dialogue was the need to position sustainability as a business capability rather than merely a compliance requirement, linking responsible practices with resilience, market access, finance and long-term competitiveness. The session also highlighted the MSME Sustainability Framework and practical mechanisms aimed at strengthening sustainability preparedness, peer learning, supplier development, ethics and compliance among smaller enterprises.

Dr. Kalantri emphasised the importance of enabling MSMEs with greater access to finance, technology, capacity building and international markets so that they can respond effectively to evolving global supply-chain requirements. Stronger collaboration between large enterprises, MSME suppliers and institutions can help Indian businesses enhance their sustainability credentials while strengthening India's position in global value chains.

Vibrant Goa Global Summit 2026: Mobilising International Buyers and Business Partnerships

September 8, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai engaged with key stakeholders from Goa to explore a strategic collaboration for facilitating an International Buyers' Delegation at the Vibrant Goa Global Summit 2026. The interaction focused on creating a structured platform that can connect Goan enterprises with prospective buyers, investors and business partners from international markets.

Leveraging its global World Trade Centers network and extensive international business linkages, WTC Mumbai aims to support the mobilisation of overseas buyers and facilitate meaningful business-to-business engagements at the Summit.

The initiative reflects WTC Mumbai's broader commitment to strengthening the international reach of regional enterprises and connecting them with global markets. Through such collaborations, WTC Mumbai continues to facilitate trade promotion, investment engagement and cross-border business opportunities while contributing to Goa's growing positioning as an attractive destination for enterprise and investment.

WTC Mumbai was pleased to engage with stakeholders from Goa to explore a strategic collaboration for an International Buyers' Delegation at the upcoming Vibrant Goa Global Summit 2026.

The BOX Launch Spotlights India's Emerging Real-World Asset Tokenisation Ecosystem; Maharashtra's pioneering role acknowledged

September 12, 2026

> ***Real World Asset Tokenisation Can Democratise Investment and Unlock New Asset Markets. Dr. Vijay Kalantri calls for innovation, regulatory clarity and trusted digital infrastructure as tokenisation opens new possibilities for investment and ownership of real-world assets***

Adv. Ashish Shelar, Minister of IT, AI and Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra being felicitated by Ms. Neera Inamdar, Cofounder, RealX

(In picture) Pravin Pardeshi, CEO, Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), Government of Maharashtra being felicitated at the RealX event. Also seen in the picture are Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (extreme left) and Mr. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

"Tokenisation presents a significant new opportunity for Maharashtra as technology increasingly transforms the way real-world assets are owned, accessed and transacted. Maharashtra has always been at the forefront of innovation, supported by a strong financial sector, vibrant start-up ecosystem and a large pool of young talent. Initiatives like this and through blockchain-based infrastructure for Real World Assets, can help make transactions more transparent, verifiable and secure, thereby strengthening investor confidence", said **Adv. Ashish Shelar, Minister of IT, AI and Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra** while inaugurating the "The BOX Launch", a high-level gathering focused on the emerging potential of Real-World Asset (RWA) tokenisation in India.

"India is moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy and achieving the vision of a developed nation by 2047, and this aspiration will require technological advancement and innovation. Maharashtra must continue to provide an

(In the Image from Left to right) Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, MVRIDC World Trade Center, Mumbai; Ms. Neera Inamdar, Cofounder, RealX; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Shri Yashasvi Yadav, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Maharashtra Cyber, Maharashtra; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade, Investment and International Relations, MVRIDC World Trade Center, Mumbai; Mr. Vishal Kalantri, Director, Strategy and Investment, RealX and Director, Balaji Infrastructure Private Limited at the BOX Launch event of RealX.

environment where emerging technologies can be developed, tested and responsibly adopted. Initiatives such as this can contribute to strengthening Maharashtra's position as a leading destination for innovation and investment," said **Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Government of Maharashtra.**

Pravin Pardeshi, CEO, Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), Government of Maharashtra, in his remarks said, "Real estate remains one of the most preferred asset classes for long-term value creation, returns and wealth preservation. Tokenisation can make such investments more secure, transparent and accessible, while also helping channel savings into productive assets. The real potential lies in unlocking value from underutilised or idle public assets like transmission lines which when tokenised could potentially allow wider participation in the income generated by such assets, on lines like investment structures such as REITs".

Citing example of US where the amount of asset under tokenization is as much as 3 times larger than equity market, Dr. Pardeshi added, "Maharashtra, being a power-surplus state, can explore such models to create additional revenue streams. This can enhance the State's capacity to invest in new infrastructure and create a virtuous cycle in which existing assets generate resources for creation of future assets".

"Cybersecurity must be built into the foundation of Real-World Asset and land tokenisation before such systems are deployed at scale. Digital assets create new vulnerabilities through wallets, private keys, smart contracts, identity theft, phishing and fraudulent tokenisation, which can expose asset owners to serious financial risks. Regular cybersecurity audits, vulnerability assessments and adequate security provisions must therefore be incorporated at the design stage itself. Today, Maharashtra Cyber today handles around 8,000–10,000 cyber-related calls daily and has helped save nearly ₹1,600 crore from cyber fraud in less than a year," said **Shri Yashasvi Yadav, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Maharashtra Cyber, Maharashtra.**

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries in his address said, "Technology is rapidly transforming the way capital, assets and businesses interact. Real-World Asset tokenisation represents an emerging opportunity to make investment ecosystems more efficient, transparent and accessible. India has the technology capabilities, entrepreneurial talent and large market required to become an important participant in this evolving global ecosystem. Our previous

experiments in indigenous digital stack, JAM trinity has shown that scalable use of technology in governance can bring a paradigm shift"

Dr. Kalantri further emphasised that innovation must progress alongside an enabling regulatory environment. "For India to realise the full potential of emerging technologies such as blockchain and asset tokenisation, we need innovation accompanied by trust, investor protection and regulatory clarity. Maharashtra has taken pioneer steps through its DELTA Act assuring statutory backing with legal certainty. Once integrated, this can be utilized in unlocking dormant capital, novel financing mechanisms and ownership clarity aiding businesses and MSMEs", he added.

Setting the context, **Mr. Vishal Kalantri, Director, Strategy and Investment, RealX and Director, Balaji Infrastructure Private Limited** said, "Tokenisation and Real-World Assets are emerging as important components of the evolving digital economy, bringing together stakeholders from policy, finance, technology and industry on a common platform. The REALx gathering comes at an important time when emerging technologies are reshaping ownership, investment and the way businesses operate across markets. The global World Trade Centers network, with access across more than 300 jurisdictions under one umbrella, has enabled WTCs to facilitate trade, investment and cross-border business opportunities, helping enterprises operate more seamlessly across global boundaries. This global connectivity and ability to bridge markets becomes particularly relevant as tokenisation opens new possibilities for investment, asset ownership and cross-border participation,"

World Trade Center Mumbai hosted "The BOX Launch", here on 11th September 2026, a high-level gathering focused on the emerging potential of Real-World Asset (RWA) tokenisation in India. The event brought together policymakers, technology experts, real estate leaders, investors and financial-sector professionals to deliberate on how blockchain-based infrastructure can reshape ownership, investment and access to real-world assets. The event presented by RealX marked the launch of REDbox and Whitebox, described as open infrastructure for India's Real-World Asset tokenisation ecosystem.

RWA tokenisation involves digitally representing rights or interests in physical or financial assets through blockchain-based tokens. The emerging model has the potential to facilitate fractional participation, improve transaction efficiency and create new investment structures, while also raising important questions relating to regulation, investor protection, custody, transparency and interoperability.

The event underlined the growing convergence of technology, finance and real-world assets and the need for collaboration among government, regulators, financial institutions, technology companies, developers and investors.

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Business News

India-UK CETA Opens New Trade and Investment Opportunities for MSMEs

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is set to create significant opportunities for Indian exporters, MSMEs and businesses by strengthening market access, investment flows and integration into global value chains, according to Shri A.K. Mishra, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Mumbai, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Speaking at the **"India–UK CETA Dialogue: Unlocking New Trade & Investment Opportunities"**, organised by **HKWBDC World Trade Center Mumbai** in association with the **All India Association of Industries (AIAI)**, Mishra described CETA as a landmark agreement covering goods, services, investment and mobility.

He said the agreement represents an important opportunity for Indian exporters and MSMEs to expand their presence in the UK, enter new markets and strengthen their participation in international supply chains.

Mishra emphasised that the focus should now move towards the **effective utilisation of CETA by businesses**, particularly MSMEs. Key areas include tariff benefits, simplified rules of origin, self-certification and access to opportunities in UK government procurement.

He also highlighted the role of the Government of India's **Export Promotion Mission** in strengthening MSME competitiveness through capital credit, market intelligence, certification and compliance support.

According to Mishra, the complementary strengths of the two economies could further strengthen bilateral commercial ties. The UK brings capabilities in technology, finance and advanced manufacturing, while India offers skilled manpower, manufacturing capacity and entrepreneurial strength.

"Stronger business-to-business connections and greater awareness at the enterprise level will be critical to realising CETA's full potential," he said.

CETA Opens Opportunities Across Key Sectors

Mr. Mark Birrell, Trade Counsellor – South Asia, British Deputy High Commission, Mumbai, said CETA could make bilateral trade "cheaper, faster and easier", adding its long-term success would depend on businesses actively using the opportunities created by the agreement.

He pointed to significant potential across **advanced manufacturing, medical devices, aerospace, automotive, clean energy, textiles, engineering goods and processed foods**, along with services including finance, education, retail, food and innovation.

Birrell also highlighted the role of Mumbai and Maharashtra in strengthening the India-UK trade and investment corridor.

World Trade Institute, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and Institute of Technology and Management Sign MoU to Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaboration

July 8, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and the Institute of Technology and Management (ITM Skills University) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and create greater opportunities for students, professionals and industry stakeholders. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to developing future-ready talent equipped with the knowledge, skills and practical exposure required in today's global business environment.

The collaboration aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by promoting skill development, experiential learning, research, innovation and industry engagement. Through this partnership, both institutions will work together to enhance employability and prepare students for the evolving demands of international trade, business, logistics and global commerce.

Under the MoU, the World Trade Institute and ITM Skills University will jointly explore opportunities for executive education, industry-oriented certification programmes, internships, workshops, guest lectures, research initiatives and knowledge-sharing activities. Students will also benefit from greater interaction with industry leaders and exposure to global business practices through WTC Mumbai's extensive trade and international business network.

The partnership is expected to create a dynamic platform that integrates academic excellence with practical industry experience, enabling students to develop the competencies required for successful careers in international business. It will also encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and collaborative learning while strengthening the connection between higher education and industry.

The MoU reinforces the commitment of the World Trade Institute, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and the Institute of Technology and Management to nurturing globally competent professionals and supporting India's vision of building a skilled workforce capable of driving economic growth and international competitiveness.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and Mr. Nitin Putcha, Executive President, Institute of Technology and Management Skills University , signing the Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and skill development.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and ITM Skills University. Pictured: Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Mr. Nitin Putcha, Executive President, ITM Skills University; Prof. Dr. R. S. S. Mani, Co-Founder, ITM Group of Educational Institutions; Mr. Santosh Kargutkar, Group Director – Marketing; and Dr. Lakshmi Mohan, Pro Vice Chancellor, ITM Skills University.

WTC Mumbai and ESLSCA University, Egypt Sign MoU to Advance Global Education and Trade Collaboration

July 11, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and ESLSCA University, Egypt, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic collaboration and promote greater cooperation in international trade, business education and professional development. The partnership reflects a shared vision of developing globally competent professionals while enhancing educational and trade linkages between India and Egypt.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, and Mr. Hassan Elmiligui, Chief Operations Officer, ESLSCA University – Pyramids, Egypt, signing the Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen academic collaboration and international trade education between India and Egypt.

The collaboration will focus on the development of joint executive education, postgraduate programmes and specialised certification courses in areas such as Foreign Trade, Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Forex & Risk Management, and other emerging business disciplines. Both institutions will also collaborate on faculty exchanges, research initiatives, webinars and knowledge-sharing programmes to promote international learning.

As the knowledge and training arm of MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, the World Trade Institute (WTI) will play a pivotal role in designing and delivering industry-oriented programmes that combine academic excellence with practical business insights. Participants will benefit from exposure to global trade practices, international business perspectives and applied learning relevant to today's dynamic business environment.

The MoU reinforces the commitment of the World Trade Institute, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and ESLSCA University to promoting international education, capacity building and industry-academia collaboration, while preparing future professionals with the skills and global outlook required to succeed in international trade and commerce.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and ESLSCA University, Egypt. Pictured : Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Mr. Hassan Elmiligui, Chief Operations Officer, ESLSCA University – Pyramids, Egypt; and Ms. Dahlia Tawakol, Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt.

World Trade Institute and SVIMS Launch Certificate Programme in Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management

July 18, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with the **Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Management Studies (SVIMS)**, launched the **Certificate Programme in Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management** on 18TH July 2026. The initiative reflects the shared commitment of both institutions to strengthening industry-oriented education and preparing students for careers in international trade and logistics.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, delivering the welcome address and interacting with students at the launch of the Certificate Programme in Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management, organised by the World Trade Institute, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Management Studies (SVIMS).

The programme has been designed to provide participants with practical knowledge and globally relevant competencies in logistics, supply chain management, freight forwarding, customs procedures, international trade operations and emerging developments shaping global commerce. The curriculum combines academic learning with industry insights to equip participants with the skills demanded by today's dynamic business environment.

Students of Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Management Studies (SVIMS) with Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Ms. Khyati Desai, Professor – Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management; and Ms. Dhanashree Potey, Associate Professor and Head – Marketing, SVIMS Business School, during the launch of the Certificate Programme in Global Logistics & Supply Chain Management.

Through this collaboration, students and working professionals will benefit from expert-led sessions, practical case studies and exposure to contemporary logistics and supply chain practices. The programme aims to enhance participants' understanding of global trade processes while building the capabilities required for employment and career advancement in the sector.

The partnership between the World Trade Institute and SVIMS reinforces the importance of industry-academia collaboration in developing future-ready professionals. By integrating academic excellence with practical industry experience, the programme seeks to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the evolving requirements of the global logistics and supply chain industry.

The launch of the Certificate Programme further strengthens the World Trade Institute's mission of delivering high-quality professional education that supports skill development, enhances industry readiness and contributes to building a globally competitive workforce for India's growing trade and logistics sector.

World Trade Institute Conducts Masterclass on International Trade & Forex Risk Management

July 25, 2026

he World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, successfully conducted a **Masterclass on International Trade & Forex Risk Management** for exporters, importers, industry professionals and trade practitioners. The programme was designed to enhance participants' understanding of international trade operations and equip them with practical strategies to manage foreign exchange and trade-related risks in an increasingly dynamic global business environment.

The masterclass covered key aspects of foreign exchange markets, currency movements and hedging strategies, enabling participants to understand the impact of exchange rate fluctuations on international business transactions. Sessions also provided practical insights into trade finance instruments, including Letters of Credit (LCs), Bank Guarantees (BGs) and Packing Credit, highlighting their role in facilitating secure and efficient cross-border trade.

Participants were introduced to essential regulatory requirements under the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) framework, with emphasis on compliance, documentation and best practices for international trade transactions. The programme also addressed practical issues faced by exporters and importers while dealing with banks, logistics providers and overseas business partners.

Through case studies and detailed demonstrations of export-import documentation, participants gained hands-on exposure to the end-to-end trade process and effective risk mitigation strategies. The interactive sessions enabled attendees to better understand operational challenges and adopt practical solutions for managing international trade transactions.

The programme reaffirmed the World Trade Institute's commitment to building industry capabilities through high-quality executive education and capacity-building initiatives. By combining regulatory knowledge with practical business applications, the masterclass equipped participants with the skills and confidence required to navigate global markets and manage international trade risks effectively.

Mr. Sachin Swami addressing participants and sharing practical insights during the Masterclass on International Trade & Forex Risk Management, organised by the World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Participants, faculty and the World Trade Institute (WTI) team following the successful completion of the Masterclass on International Trade & Forex Risk Management and the certificate distribution ceremony at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

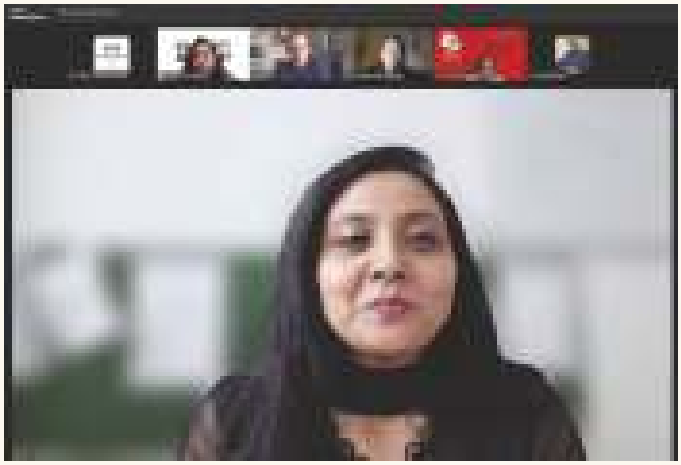
Green Trade Futures 2026: Preparing Industry for a Sustainable Global Trade Landscape

August 5, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with Climate Academy, successfully organised the webinar "Green Trade Futures 2026: The European Green Deal and the Future of Global Trade – What Every Industry Needs to Know" on August 5, 2026. The programme brought together exporters, MSMEs, industry professionals, academicians and students to understand how sustainability policies are increasingly influencing international trade and market access.

Speakers and participants during the Green Trade Futures 2026 webinar, organised by the World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with Climate Academy, discussing emerging sustainability requirements and the future of global trade.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of preparing businesses for emerging sustainability requirements. The webinar featured expert sessions by Ms. Alessandra Lehmen, Mr. Matthew Pye and Ms. Pooja Godfrey, who shared perspectives on the European Green Deal, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting, and Digital Product Passports (DPPs).



Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, welcoming participants and delivering the opening remarks at the Green Trade Futures 2026 webinar, organised by WTI, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with Climate Academy

The interactive programme provided practical insights into how evolving climate regulations and sustainability standards are reshaping global supply chains, compliance requirements and international competitiveness. Participants gained a better understanding of the implications of these developments and the steps exporters and MSMEs can take to integrate sustainability considerations into their operations and global market strategies.

The programme reinforced WTI's commitment to strengthening industry preparedness through international knowledge partnerships and capacity-building initiatives. Through its collaboration with Climate Academy, WTI continues to support Indian businesses in understanding emerging climate-linked trade requirements and building the capabilities necessary to compete effectively in the future of sustainable global commerce.

WTI Commences 74th Batch of Post Graduate Diploma in Foreign Trade

August 8, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, commenced the **74th Batch of its Post Graduate Diploma in Foreign Trade (PGDFT)**, marking another milestone in the Institute's longstanding journey of developing skilled professionals for international trade and global business.

The new batch brings together aspiring trade professionals and individuals seeking to strengthen their understanding of international business. The programme is designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of foreign trade while combining academic knowledge with practical insights into the functioning of global markets.

The 74th Batch commenced with an engaging session on **International Marketing**, conducted by **Prof. Virendra Gupte**. The session introduced participants to global markets, international marketing strategies and the evolving dynamics of cross-border business, providing a strong foundation for their learning journey.

Through the PGDFT programme, participants will gain knowledge across important areas of international trade, including export-import procedures, trade documentation, international marketing, trade finance, foreign exchange, logistics and customs procedures. The industry-oriented curriculum aims to equip participants with practical competencies required to understand and navigate international business operations effectively.

Launch of the 74th Batch of the Post Graduate Diploma in Foreign Trade (PGDFT) at the World Trade Institute, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, marking another milestone in WTI's journey of developing global trade professionals.

With the commencement of its **74th Batch**, WTI continues to build on its legacy in trade education and professional capacity building. The programme reinforces the Institute's commitment to transforming knowledge into global opportunities and preparing a new generation of professionals to contribute to India's growing engagement with international markets.

Students of the 74th Batch of the Post Graduate Diploma in Foreign Trade (PGDFT) with Prof. Virendra S. Gupte and the World Trade Institute (WTI) team at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Gateway to Global Trade 2026: Strengthening Industry-Academia Collaboration

August 10, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with **Pillai University**, organised "Gateway to Global Trade 2026", an interactive programme designed to introduce students to the opportunities, challenges and evolving dynamics of international trade and global business. The programme brought together around **290 students** and provided a platform to connect academic learning with practical insights into the international business ecosystem.

A significant highlight of the programme was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and Pillai University**, marking a new chapter in industry-academia collaboration. The partnership aims to create opportunities for experiential learning, skill development, industry exposure, knowledge exchange and initiatives that prepare students for careers in international trade and global business.

The programme was graced by **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investments & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; and Dr. Daphne Pillai, Executive President, Pillai University**. Their participation underscored the importance of collaborative initiatives between educational institutions and industry in developing globally competent and future-ready professionals.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), and Dr. Daphne Pillai, Executive President, Pillai University, following the signing of the MoU, along with Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investments & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai;Shri Amit Sharma, ITS, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Mumbai.Dr. Kavita Kathare, School of Business (UG) & Director – Global Partnerships, Pillai University; and Prof. Deepika Sharma, Dean, School of Computing, Pillai University;

A key highlight was an insightful session by **Mr. Amit Sharma, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Mumbai,** who shared practical perspectives on India's foreign trade ecosystem, exports and emerging opportunities in international business. Students actively interacted with the speakers, raised questions and gained a better understanding of how trade policies, export frameworks and international market developments translate into real-world business and career opportunities.

Dignitaries, faculty and students of Pillai University at Gateway to Global Trade 2026, organised by World Trade Institute (WTI),MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with Pillai University, bringing together around 290 students for exposure to international trade and global business opportunities.

Through **Gateway to Global Trade 2026** and the newly formalised partnership with Pillai University, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai continues to strengthen the interface between academia and industry. The initiative reflects a shared commitment to equipping young professionals with practical knowledge, global exposure and industry-relevant skills, enabling them to contribute effectively to India's expanding role in international trade.

World Trade Institute and SDA Bocconi Asia Center, Italy, Strengthen Global Executive Education Collaboration

August 18, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SDA Bocconi Asia Center, Italy, to strengthen international academic collaboration and expand access to globally oriented executive education. The partnership marks another step in WTI's efforts to connect professionals and business leaders with international learning and professional development opportunities.

A key focus of the collaboration is the **International Executive Master in Business (IEMB)**, designed for experienced professionals and executives seeking to strengthen their capabilities in management, leadership and international business. The programme provides participants with exposure to contemporary management practices and global perspectives relevant to an increasingly interconnected business environment.

Through the collaboration, **WTI and SDA Bocconi Asia Center** aim to promote executive learning, knowledge exchange and professional development while creating opportunities for participants to engage with international perspectives and business practices. The initiative seeks to bridge academic knowledge with the evolving requirements of industry and global markets.

The MoU reinforces the **World Trade Institute's commitment to building international academic** partnerships and providing professionals with access to globally relevant education. Through its association with **SDA Bocconi Asia Center,** WTI continues to strengthen its role as a platform connecting education, industry and international business.

WTI and Bhujbal Skill Tech University Strengthen Industry-Academia Collaboration

August 19, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhujbal Skill Tech University, Mumbai Education Trust, Nashik**, to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and support the development of a skilled, employable and industry-ready workforce.

The collaboration will focus on **skill development, industry-oriented education, training, capacity building and knowledge exchange.** Through expert interactions, workshops, industry exposure and practical learning initiatives, the partnership aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and evolving industry requirements while enhancing career readiness among students and young professionals.

The MoU reflects the shared commitment of **WTI and Bhujbal Skill Tech University** to empowering youth with relevant skills, strengthening connections between academia and industry, and creating meaningful pathways for professional development. The partnership will contribute towards building a future-ready workforce aligned with India's vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047.**

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Prof. Madan Kharat, Bhujbal Skill Tech University, Mumbai Education Trust, Nashik; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director – Trade, Investments & International Relations, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; and Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, following the signing of the MoU to strengthen industry-academia collaboration, skill development and capacity building.

WTI Conducts Masterclass on FEMA & RBI Regulations

August 29, 2026

Participants from banking institutions, industry and the business community attending the Masterclass on FEMA & RBI Regulations, organised by the World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

The **World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai,** organised a **Masterclass on FEMA & RBI Regulations, conducted by Prof. Eknath Birari**, to provide businesses, professionals and entrepreneurs with practical insights into India's evolving foreign exchange and financial regulatory framework. The programme aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of compliance requirements and their implications for international transactions and cross-border trade.

The masterclass brought together experts from **Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India, SBI Factors, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd. and UCO Bank**, along with entrepreneurs and industry professionals. The diverse participation facilitated an exchange of perspectives on regulatory requirements and the practical challenges encountered by businesses while undertaking international financial transactions.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre and Prof. Eknath Birari , with participants and the WTI team following the successful completion of the Masterclass on FEMA & RBI Regulations and certificate distribution at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

The sessions covered key aspects of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, regulatory compliance and cross-border financial transactions.** Through interactive discussions and practical examples led by Prof. Birari, participants gained a better understanding of regulatory procedures, compliance obligations and issues that businesses may encounter while dealing with international trade and finance.

The programme reinforced WTI's commitment to providing industry-oriented learning and capacity-building platforms that connect businesses with domain expertise and practical knowledge. Such initiatives help professionals and enterprises remain informed about regulatory developments and strengthen their preparedness to conduct international trade and financial transactions in a compliant and effective manner.

WTI Masterclass Focuses on Transforming Family Businesses into Global Brands

September 2, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with **Billion Growth Circle**, successfully organised the Masterclass **"From Invisible Family Business to Global Brand".** The programme brought together family-business owners, founders and next-generation leaders to explore strategies for transforming traditional enterprises into professionally managed, competitive and sustainable businesses.

The masterclass was conducted by **Mr. Neeraj Kapoor, Family Business Transformation Architect and ICF-Certified Master Coach,** who shared practical insights on business clarity, growth strategy, branding and global market expansion. The session also addressed critical areas such as succession planning, leadership development, generational transition and legacy building, which are increasingly important for the long-term continuity of family enterprises.

Through interactive discussions and practical perspectives, participants explored approaches to strengthening business structures, building stronger brands and preparing family enterprises for expansion into new markets. The programme also provided a platform for participants to exchange experiences and discuss common challenges faced by family-owned businesses across generations.

The masterclass reinforced WTI's commitment to providing industry-oriented capacity-building programmes that respond to the evolving needs of entrepreneurs and businesses. Such initiatives support family enterprises in preserving their values and legacy while adopting professional practices, strengthening competitiveness and exploring opportunities for sustainable growth in domestic and global markets.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, welcoming and greeting participants at the Masterclass "From Invisible Family Business to Global Brand" at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

Participants of the Masterclass "From Invisible Family Business to Global Brand", organised by the World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with Billion Growth Circle.

The World Trade Institute and Forum for International Trade Training, Canada Sign MoU

September 16, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT), Canada**, marking an important step towards strengthening international collaboration in trade education, professional training and capacity building.

The partnership aims to promote **international trade education, knowledge exchange, professional development and industry-oriented learning opportunities.** The collaboration will provide a platform to explore joint training initiatives and programmes that equip students, professionals, entrepreneurs and trade practitioners with practical knowledge and globally relevant competencies required to navigate international markets.

The MoU reinforces WTI's commitment to expanding its network of global knowledge partnerships and strengthening the connection between education and international business. Through its collaboration with **FITT Canada.**

WTI Strengthens Practical Understanding of Incoterms® 2020

September 26, 2026

The World Trade Institute (WTI), MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, conducted an intensive training programme on I**ncoterms® 2020** on **26 September 2026**, providing exporters, banking professionals, entrepreneurs and trade practitioners with practical knowledge of one of the most important frameworks governing international commercial transactions.

The programme was conducted by **Prof. Eknath Birari**, who explained the practical application of Incoterms® 2020 and their significance in defining the responsibilities, costs and risks of buyers and sellers in international trade. The session covered selection of appropriate trade terms, cost and risk analysis, export finance, documentary credits and insurance responsibilities, along with the practical differences between **FCA, FOB, CIF and CIP.** Real-world trade contracts and common errors in the application of Incoterms were also discussed.

The programme witnessed participation from professionals from **SBI Factors, Central Bank of India, NKGSB Co-operative Bank and Bank of India**, alongside exporters, entrepreneurs and international trade professionals. Interactive discussions provided participants with an opportunity to raise transaction-specific queries and gain greater clarity on the commercial and financial implications of different Incoterms.

The programme forms part of **WTI's continuing efforts to provide industry-oriented trade education and capacity building.** By combining conceptual understanding with practical applications, WTI aims to equip businesses and professionals with the knowledge required to structure international transactions effectively, minimise commercial risks and participate in global trade with greater confidence.

WTC Mumbai Conducts Certificate Workshop on Commercial Exports through India Post

September 28, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, along with its knowledge and training arm, **World Trade Institute (WTI),** organised a workshop on **"Certificate in Commercial Exports through India Post",** providing aspiring and established exporters with practical insights into using India Post services for international trade and commercial shipments.

The programme was graced by **Shri Ramchandra Jaybhaye, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle**, who shared valuable perspectives with participants. The workshop focused on the practical aspects of commercial exports through the postal network and helped participants better understand the procedures and opportunities available for reaching international markets.

The session witnessed enthusiastic participation, with attendees actively raising questions and discussing practical challenges related to export procedures, documentation and commercial shipments. The interactive format enabled participants to clarify their queries and gain useful insights relevant to their export activities.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), welcoming Shri Ramchandra Jaybhaye, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle, along with officials from India Post and Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director -MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai,Santosh Kotre-Director-Finance,Accounts & Admin ahead of the Certificate Workshop on Commercial Exports through India Post.

The programme reflected WTC Mumbai and WTI's continued commitment to strengthening export awareness and building the capabilities of entrepreneurs, MSMEs and trade professionals. By connecting businesses with institutions and domain experts, such initiatives help make international trade processes more accessible and enable enterprises to explore opportunities in global markets with greater confidence.

Skilling India's Youth for a Future-Ready Workforce

September 29, 2026

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai hosted the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Vishvavikrami Rojgar Mahakumbh**, an initiative of the Government of Maharashtra aimed at creating a direct platform connecting aspiring job seekers with employers. The event witnessed an enthusiastic response, attracting over 1,000 visitors and featuring more than 100 stalls representing employers, skilling organisations and participating institutions.

Addressing the event virtually, **Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra**, highlighted the importance of transforming Maharashtra's demographic advantage into opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and economic progress. He emphasised the need to equip young people with industry-aligned and future-ready skills that respond not only to the requirements of Indian industry but also to opportunities in the global labour market.

Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Hon'ble Minister of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra, visited the Rojgar Mahakumbh in person, toured the event and interacted with participating organisations and stakeholders. He emphasised that employment is a shared responsibility of government, industry

Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, virtually addressing participants at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Vishvavikrami Rojgar Mahakumbh, organised at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

and educational institutions. With AI, automation and emerging technologies transforming the workplace, he stressed the importance of continuous upskilling and reskilling and creating a stronger connection between skills and employment opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President**, All India

Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Hon'ble Minister of Skills, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra, during his visit to the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Vishvavikrami Rojgar Mahakumbh at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, along with Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance, Accounts & Administration, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, among other dignitaries.

Association of Industries (AIAI), highlighted India's potential to become the talent capital of the world. He emphasised that India's demographic dividend must be matched by employability and called for a stronger interface between industry, academia and skilling institutions so that education leads to employability, employment and ultimately economic growth.

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, highlighted the importance of skilling in transforming the energy and potential of India's youth into a driving force for the country's economic prosperity. He also proposed the Vote of Thanks on the occasion.

Mr. Krishnaraj Mahadik, Maharashtra State President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), visited the Rojgar Mahakumbh and interacted with participating organisations, reviewing the employment, skilling and career opportunities being offered to young job seekers. **Mr. Abhijeet Ashok Rane, President, BJP Mumbai Kamgar Aghadi, Journalist and Founder of Dhadak Kamgar Union**, also **visited the event and interacted with participating organisations and job seekers.** The programme also featured **Mr. Farhad Arora, Office Bearer, BJP Mumbai Kamgar Aghadi and COO, Cinema and Entertainment Cooperative Society of India, Ministry of Cooperation**. Their participation underscored the importance of creating stronger bridges between government, industry, skilled graduates and job seekers and expanding platforms that connect young talent directly with employment opportunities.

Mr. Abhijeet Ashok Rane, President, BJP Mumbai Kamgar Aghadi, Journalist and Founder of Dhadak Kamgar Union, visiting the Rojgar Mahakumbh at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and interacting with participating organisations and job seekers during the eve

Enthusiastic participation at the Rojgar Mahakumbh at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, with young job seekers interacting directly with employers, recruiters and skilling organisations to explore employment opportunities, available roles and career pathways across diverse sectors.

Mr. Krishnaraj Mahadik, Maharashtra State President, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), visiting the Rojgar Mahakumbh at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and interacting with participating organisations to understand the employment, skilling and career opportunities available for young job seekers.

WTC BHUBNESHWAR

TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

From Farm to Foreign Market: Are Indian Agri Exporters Ready for the New Rules of Global Trade

Capt. Somesh Batra
Chairman, World Trade Center, Bhubaneswar

India's diverse landscape and rich agricultural heritage have always attracted foreign markets towards it. Further, the food processing industry has aided the agriculture sector by adding value to the agricultural products. Pawan Lohani, Senior Sub-Editor, Food Infotech Magazine, interacted with Mr. Somesh Batra, Chairman, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, and A Rajya Laxmi, Regional Director for Trade Promotion, WTC Bhubaneswar, to know more about the prospects of India's agri-commodities in the international market placing greater emphasison quality assurance, traceability, food safety, and sustainability rather than price alone. This shift is significantly reshaping the opportunities and responsibilities of Indian agricultural exporters. Quality has become a prerequisite for accessing premium international markets such as the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Exporters must now comply with stringent food safety standards, including pesticide residue limits, phytosanitary regulations, and internationally recognized certificationss uch as Global G.A.P., HACCP, and Codex Alimentarius. Failure to meet these standards can result in shipment rejections and loss of market access. Traceability is another critical requirement. Importing countries increasingly demand transparency across the supply chain, enabling products to be tracked from farm to consumer.

In response, India has strengthened digital traceability systems through initiatives led by APEDA, enhancing product credibility and consumer confidence.

> ***Traceability and documentation have become essential. Importing countries increasingly require complete records on product origin, cultivation practices, processing, and logistics.***

International markets are increasingly focusing on quality assurance, traceability, and sustainability rather than just pricecompetitiveness. How is this changing the landscape for Indian agricultural exporters?

Somesh Batra: The global agricultural trade landscape is rapidly evolving, with international buyers placing greater emphasison qualityassurance, traceability, food safety, and sustainability rather than price alone. This shift is significantly reshaping the opportunities and responsibilities of Indian agricultural exporters. Quality has become a prerequisite for accessing premium international markets such as the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Exporters must now comply with stringent food safety standards, including pesticide residue limits, phytosanitary regulations, and internationally recognized certifications such as Global G.A.P., HACCP, and Codex Alimentarius. Failure to meet these standards can result in shipment rejections and loss of market access.

Traceability is another critical requirement. Importing countries increasingly demand transparency across the

supply chain, enablingproducts to be tracked from farm to consumer. In response, India has strengthened digital traceability systems through initiatives led by APEDA, enhancing product credibility and consumer confidence.

The growing focus on sustainability is also influencing export strategies. Consumers prefer products produced using environmentally responsible and ethical farming practices. Consequently, Indian exporters are increasingly investing in organic farming, sustainable cultivation, value addition, and eco-friendly packaging to remain competitive. These practices not only meet international expectations but also help secure premium prices in global markets.

However, the transition presents challenges, particularly for small and marginal farmers, who often face constraints related to certification costs, digital infrastructure, and compliance with international standards. To address these issues, the Government of India, through APEDA, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and export promotion initiatives, is supporting capacitybuilding, quality certification, and market linkages.

Recent scrutiny of Indian exports, including mangoes, spices and other food products, has highlighted compliance-related challenges. What lessons should Indian exporters draw from these developments?

Somesh Batra: The recent scrutiny of Indian exports, includingmangoes, spices, and other food products, underscores the growing importance of strict compliance with international food safety and quality standards. opportunity for Indian exporters.

Several export consignments have faced increased inspections, temporary restrictions, or recalls due to issues such as pesticide residues, microbial contamination, and non-compliance with importing countries' regulations. These developments serve as an important learning

The foremost lesson is that compliance must be integrated across the entire supply chain, from farm to export. Exporters should work closely with farmers to promote Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), ensure the responsible use of pesticides, and maintain proper hygiene during harvesting, processing, packaging, and transportation

Secondly, traceability and documentation have become essential. Importing countries increasingly require complete records on product origin, cultivation practices, processing, and logistics. Digital traceability systems not only enhance transparency but also help exporters respond quickly to quality concerns and build buyer confidence.

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> ***Quality has become a prerequisite for accessing premium international markets such as the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Exporters must now comply with stringent food safety standards.***

Another key lesson is the need for regular quality testing and certification. Exporters should conduct laboratory testing for pesticide residues, contaminants, and microbiological safety before shipment and comply with internationally recognized standards such as HACCP,

Global G.A.P., and Codex Alimentarius. Investing in accredited testing facilities and quality management systems can significantly reduce the risk of shipment rejection.

Capacity building is equally important. Small farmers and exporters should be trained on evolving international regulations and supported through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), APEDA, and other export promotion agencies.

Do you believe India's nex t phase of agricultural export growth will be driven more by value creation and compliance than by production volumes? Why?

Somesh Batra: Yes, I believe India's next phase of agricultural export growth will be driven more by value creation and compliance than by production volumes. While India is one of the world's largest producers of agricultural commodities, merely increasing output is unlikely to generate sustained export growth in an increasingly competitive global market.

Value creation is equally important Instead of exporting raw commodities, India has significant opportunities to increase exportearnings through value-added products, improved processing, attractive packaging, branding, Geographical Indication (GI) products, organic produce, and ready-to-eat or processed food products. These products generate higher returns and enhance India's global brand as a supplier of safe and highquality agricultural products.

Government initiatives such as the Agriculture Export Policy, APEDA's quality and traceability programmes, and the promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are encouraging exporters to adopt international best practices and strengthen the agricultural value chain. Investments in cold chain infrastructure, modern processing facilities, and digital traceabilitywill further improve India's competitiveness.

Which international regulations and certification requirements are likely to have the biggest impact on Indian agri - exporters over the next five years?

Somesh Batra: One of the most significant regulations will be theEuropean Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which requires exporters of certain commodities, such as coffee, cocoa, soy, and their derivatives, to prove that products are not linked to deforestation. This regulation will require robust traceability systems and geo location data for farms supplying export markets. Food safety standards will continue to be critical. Compliance with Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures under the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Codex Alimentarius standards will remain essential for market access. Exporters must alsoensure strict adherence to microbiological and contaminant limits prescribed by importing countries.

Private certification standards are becoming equally important. Certifications such as GlobalG.A.P., HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), ISO 22000 Food Safety Management System, and organic certifications (such as India's

NPOP, the EU Organic Regulation, and USDA Organic) are increasingly demanded by global retailers and food processors to ensure quality, safety, and sustainable production.

Inaddition, buyers are placing greater emphasis on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices, sustainable packaging, responsible water use, carbon footprint

reduction, and ethical labour practices. Exporters who adopt

these standards will gain a competitive advantage in premium international markets.

In conclusion, the future of Indian agricultural exports will depend on proactive compliance with evolving global regulations and certifications.

Digital traceability is becoming a prerequisite for accessing premium global markets. How important are technologies such as block chain, IoT, AI and digital documentation in transforming India's agricultural export ecosystem?

Somesh Batra: Digital traceability is rapidly becoming a key requirement for accessing premium global markets,

making technologies such as blockchain,

the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial

Intelligence (AI), and digital documentation

Somesh Batra: Digital traceability is rapidly becoming a key requirement for accessing premium global markets, making technologies such as blockchain, the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and digital documentation

essential for the future of India's agricultural exports. These technologies enhance transparency, improve food safety, and strengthen compliance with international standards.

Blockchain provides a secure and tamper-proof record of every stage of the supply chain—from cultivation and harvesting to processing and export. It enables buyers and regulators to verify the origin and authenticity of products, thereby increasing consumer confidence and reducing the risk of fraud.

IoT technologies, including smart sensors and GPS - enabled devices, help monitor critical parameters such as soil conditions, temperature, humidity, and storage during transportation. This ensures product quality, minimizes post-harvest losses, and supports compliance with food safety requirements, particularly

for perishable products.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) supports predictive analytics by identifying pest outbreaks, crop diseases, weather risks, and quality issues before they become major problems. AI also assists exporters in demand forecasting, inventory management,

and quality assessment, enabling better decision-making and improved operational efficiency.

Equally important is digital documentation, which simplifies export procedures by enabling electronic certification, traceability records, phytosanitary certificates, and customs documentation. Digital platforms developed by APEDA and other agencies are helping exporters improve transparency, reducepaperwork, and speed up regulatory approvals.

However, widespread adoption requires investment in digital infrastructure, farmer training, and affordable technology, particularly for small and marginal farmers.

A Rajya Laxmi
Regional Director -Trade Promotion, WTC Bhubaneswar

Quality has become a prerequisite for accessing premium international markets such as the European Union, the United States, Japan, and Australia. Exporters must now comply with stringent food safety standards.

How does WTC Bhubaneswar help businesses leverage the World Trade Centers Association's global network spanning over 300 locations across nearly 100 countries and territories?

Rajya Laxmi: WTC Bhubaneswar serves as a strategic bridge between Odisha and the world by leveraging the WTCA's extensive international network. It enables businesses to expand their global footprint, build meaningful international partnerships, attract investments, and increase exports, thereby contributing to Odisha's economic growth and strengthening India's position in global trade.

Export Facilitation Center (EFC) was a joint initiative of the MSME Department, Government of Odisha, and WTC Bhubaneswar to facilitate import-export business-related awareness sessions and workshops for various stakeholders dealing with cross-border trade in the State of Odisha.

Since the establishment of the Export Facilitation Centre in 2023, the Department of MSME, Government of Odisha, and WTC Bhubaneswar have facilitated exports in Fruits, Engineering, Mango, Cashew Nuts, and other agri-based products to different countries, such as Bangladesh, Europe, and the USA. This initiative has played a pivotal role in enabling Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to explore international trade opportunities, build export readiness and access global markets through structured guidance and outreach programs.

Through the Export Facilitation Cell, WTC Bhubaneswar has supported entrepreneurs in understanding export procedures, documentation, market intelligence, export financing and international compliance frameworks. The Centre has also facilitated initiatives such as promotion of air cargo connectivity from Bhubaneswar, containercargo movement through Paradip Port and export of agricultural products by women led enterprises thereby contributing to the overall export momentum of the State.

> ***Support from APEDA, export promotion initiatives, and organizations such as WTC Bhubaneswar can further help businesses identify buyers, understand market requirements, and establisg lobal partnerships.***

what opportunities do you see for Odishabased agri-food companies in emerging export destinations across Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa?

Rajya Laxmi: Odisha is well positioned to emerge as a significant exporter of agri-food products, supported by its rich agricultural base, long coastline, strategic ports such as Paradip and Dhamra, and growing food processing ecosystem. With increasing global demand for safe, nutritious, and sustainably produced food, Odisha - based agri food companies have immense opportunities in emerging markets across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa.

In Asia, countries such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and Malaysia offer strong demand for premium rice, seafood, spices, fresh fruits, vegetables, processed foods, and millets. India's focus on strengthening trade partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region further enhances export prospects.

The Middle East remains one of the fastest growing markets for Indian food products due to its dependence on food imports. Countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman present significant opportunities for basmati and non-basmati rice, seafood, spices, ready-to-eat foods, fresh produce, and organic products. The large Indian diaspora also supports sustained demand for authentic Indian food products

In Europe, consumers increasingly prefer organic, sustainably produced, and valueadded foods. Odisha has the potential to exportorganic millets, turmeric, ginger, spices, processed fruits, and Gitagged products, provided exporters comply with stringent quality, traceability, and sustainability standards

Emerging economies in Africa are witnessing rapid urbanization, rising incomes, and increasing demand for affordable processed foods, cereals, pulses, edible oils, and agricultural inputs. Odisha's competitive production and port connectivity offer an advantage in serving these expanding markets.

To capitalize on these opportunities, companies should invest in value addition, quality certification, modern packaging, digital traceability, and international branding. Support from APEDA, export promotion initiatives, and organizations such as WTC Bhubaneswar can further help businesses identify buyers, understand market requirements, and establish global partnerships.

Odisha has significant strengths in seafood, rice, spices, millets, horticulture, and processed foods. Which product categories do you believe have the highest untapped export potential?

Rajya Laxmi: Odisha possesses a diverse agricultural and marine resource base, giving it immense potential to expand its agri-food exports. Seafood continues to hold the highest export potential. Odisha's long coastline and a quaculture sector provide a strong foundation for exporting shrimp, crab, fish, and other marine products. Greater investment in processing, cold-chain infrastructure, and international quality certification can help access premium markets in Japan, Europe, the United States, and the Middle East.

Millets represent another high growth opportunity. With 2023 declared as the International Year of Millets and growing global demand for healthy and climate resilient foods, Odisha's traditional millets such as ragi, foxtail millet, and little millet can be marketed as nutritious, gluten-free super foods. Value - added products such as millet flour, snacks, breakfast cereals, and ready-to-cook foods have strong export potential.

Spices, particularly turmeric from Kandamal, which is a GI tag product, are doing well in exports; others like ginger, chilli, and black pepper can achieve higher export earnings through organic certification, better processing, branding, and attractive packaging.

Similarly, horticultural products such as mangoes, bananas, vegetables, and floriculture products offer opportunities in nearby Asian and Middle Eastern markets, supported by improved cold-chain logistics.The processed food sector is also gaining potential. Ready-to-eat foods, frozen foods, dehydrated fruits and vegetables, fruit pulp, pickles, spice blends, and convenience foods are witnessing increasing global demand.

With geopolitical shifts, changing trade agreements and evolving supply chains, where do you see the biggest opportunities for India's agricultural exports over the next decade?

Rajya Laxmi: The next decade presents significant opportunities for India's agricultural exports as global supply chains diversify, free trade agreements evolve, and countries seek reliable and resilient sourcing partners. India's large agricultural base, diverse agro - climatic conditions, and expanding food processing sector position it well to meet this growing demand.

One of the biggest opportunities lies in the Middle East, where countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman rely heavily on food imports to ensure food security. India's proximity, strong trade relations, and efficient shipping connectivity make it a preferred supplier of rice, spices, fruits, vegetables, seafood, and processed foods. The Indo-Pacific region, including Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, and Australia, also offers strong growth potential. Rising demand for premium, safe, and sustainably produced food creates opportunities for exports of organic products, millets, spices, marine products, fresh fruits, and value-added foods.

In Europe, demand is increasing for organic, traceable, and environmentally sustainable products. Indian exporters who comply with stringent food safety and sustainability standards can expand exports of spices, tea, coffee, basmati rice, processed foods, and GI - tagged products.

Africa is another emerging market driven by rapid urbanization, population growth, and increasing demand for affordable food products.

India can strengthen exports of cereals, pulses, edible oils, processed foods, and agricultural technologies while building long-term trade partnerships. In conclusion, India's future agricultural export growth will depend not only on entering new markets but also on supplying high-quality, value - added, sustainable, and traceable products. By leveraging trade agreements, strengthening compliance, and investing in value addition, India is well positioned to become a trusted global supplier of agricultural and food products over the next decade..

Odisha Secures India's Largest FDI in Aluminium Sector with ₹1.08 Lakh Crore Investment from IHC Group

July 2, 2026

WTC Bhubaneswar received the invitation to participate in the MoU Ceremony of Government of Odisha held on 02-07-2026 at State Convention Centre, Lok Seva Bhavan, Bhubaneswar. A historic milestone event of India's largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the aluminium sector, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of Odisha, Adani Enterprises Ltd. (AEL) and International Resources Holding (IRH), a subsidiary of International Holding Company (IHC), Abu Dhabi. The landmark investment, valued at ₹1.08 lakh crore (approximately USD 11.5 billion), marks one of the most significant industrial partnerships in the country's mining and metals sector.

Recognising the strategic importance of this investment, the Government of Odisha organised a formal MoU Signing Ceremony on 2 July 2026 at the State Convention Centre, Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi. The event brought together senior Government officials, the leadership of IHC Group, industry representatives and key stakeholders involved in facilitating the project. The Government described the project as a transformational initiative that will strengthen Odisha's position as one of India's leading metals and minerals-based manufacturing hubs while generating large-scale employment, encouraging technology adoption and accelerating industrial development.

The proposed integrated aluminium project will be developed in the Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Gopalpur, through a 50:50 joint venture between Adani Enterprises Ltd. and International Resources Holding. Considered the largest FDI in Odisha's history, the project will establish an integrated aluminium manufacturing ecosystem with a production capacity of 4 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of alumina refinery, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000 MW captive power plant, and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park, supported by world-class logistics, refining, smelting and ancillary infrastructure.

The investment will be implemented in two phases. Phase-I is expected to attract an investment of approximately ₹66,000 crore, while Phase-II will involve an additional investment of nearly ₹44,000 crore. During the construction phase, the project is expected to generate employment for around 35,000 people, while the mining sector is projected to create another 18,500 jobs, resulting in substantial direct and indirect employment opportunities across the State.

The newspaper report highlights that International Holding Company (IHC) is one of the world's largest investment holding companies with diversified interests spanning infrastructure, mining, manufacturing, energy, technology, healthcare and financial services. The company's entry into Odisha reflects growing international confidence in the State's investment-friendly policies, industrial ecosystem and long-term economic potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi stated that the project would firmly establish Odisha as a global aluminium manufacturing hub by creating a complete value chain—from alumina refining to aluminium smelting and downstream manufacturing. He further emphasised that the project aligns with the State Government's long-term development vision, "Samruddha Odisha 2036", while making a significant contribution towards India's national aspiration of "Viksit Bharat 2047."

Beyond its impressive investment size, the project is expected to catalyse the growth of downstream industries, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), engineering services, logistics, technology providers and ancillary manufacturing units. The integrated manufacturing ecosystem is likely to enhance Odisha's export competitiveness, strengthen industrial infrastructure, increase value addition within the State and attract further domestic and international investments in the metals sector.

The Government of Odisha, in its invitation to industry associations, emphasised that the signing of the MoU represents the first step towards one of the State's most significant FDI-led industrial partnerships. It further noted that the participation of industry bodies would reinforce the shared commitment towards industrial development, investment promotion and stronger collaboration between Government and industry in building Odisha's future economic landscape.

From Extreme Left Speech delivering by Shri Hemant Sharma, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary of the Government and Department of Industries, Senior Representative of IHC Abu Dabi, Shri Karan Adani, Executive Director, Adani SEZ, Shri Syed Basar Shueb, CEO IHC, Abu Dhabi, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Smt Anu Garg, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha, Shri Sagar Adani, Chief Executive officer Adani Group.

Conclusion

The ₹1.08 lakh crore integrated aluminium project represents a watershed moment in Odisha's industrial journey. By combining global capital, advanced technology and large-scale manufacturing capabilities, the investment has the potential to transform Odisha into one of the world's leading aluminium production centres. The project is expected to significantly boost employment, enhance exports, promote value-added manufacturing, strengthen the State's industrial ecosystem and reinforce Odisha's position as India's preferred destination for large-scale strategic investments. With this landmark initiative, Odisha has taken a decisive step towards becoming a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse while contributing substantially to India's long-term economic growth and industrial self-reliance.

Ms. A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Centre, Bhubaneswar

Odisha bags India's largest metallurgy FDI with ₹1.08L cr aluminium project

Media coverage of the event

Training Session on Understanding Odisha's Export Policy & Export Landscape

July 8, 2026

From left to right: Shri Kamal Sahoo, Senior Official FIEO, Shri Sanjeev Kumar Patro, Honorary Secretary Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Shri Prafulla Khujur OAS, Director, Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing, Odisha, Ms. Saswati Dey, IFS, Director, AMS (Ministry of External Affairs), Dr. B.B Nanda, Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics and Senior Official MPEDA.

disha has significant potential to expand its presence in international markets through stronger coordination among government agencies, export promotion organisations, industry associations and entrepreneurs. MSMEs and startups must leverage available policy incentives, improve product quality, adopt international standards and explore new markets to strengthen the State's export competitiveness," said **Ms. Saswati Dey, IFS, Director, AMS, Ministry of External Affairs**, while delivering the keynote address at the training session on **"Understanding Odisha's Export Policy & Export Landscape"**, organised by the **Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing, Government of Odisha,** on 8th July 2026 at O-Hub Conference Hall, Startup Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Shri Prafulla Kujur, OAS (S), Director, Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing, Government of Odisha, welcomed the participants and emphasised the importance of strengthening export awareness, enhancing institutional support and creating a conducive business environment to position Odisha as a competitive export-oriented state. He highlighted the need to encourage greater participation of MSMEs, startups and entrepreneurs in international trade.

standards, value addition and market diversification. The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** outlined the State's potential in agricultural and processed food exports, with emphasis on certification, export readiness and access to international markets.

The programme brought together government officials, export promotion organisations, industry associations, exporters, MSMEs, startups and entrepreneurs to discuss strategies for strengthening Odisha's export ecosystem and improving its global competitiveness.

Shri Sisir Ranjan Mishra, Assistant Director, Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing, proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of the speakers, participating organisations and industry representatives. The programme concluded with an emphasis on sustained collaboration, policy awareness and capacity building to accelerate Odisha's export growth.

Member Enrichment Programme (MEP)

July 9, 2026

World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar successfully organised a Member Enrichment Programme (MEP) on 9 July 2026 at the 5th Floor, IDCO Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar, with the objective of enhancing the professional and personal development of its members. The programme featured two insightful sessions focusing on Healthy Active Lifestyle & Stress Management and Entrepreneurship Development Skills, reflecting WTC Bhubaneswar's commitment to building a healthy, resilient, and globally competitive business community.

The programme commenced with the registration of participants, followed by a Welcome Address by the Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, who welcomed the distinguished speakers, members, entrepreneurs, women business leaders, and professionals. In the inaugural remarks, the Regional Director highlighted the importance of continuous learning, personal well-being, and entrepreneurial capacity building in today's rapidly evolving business environment.

The Opening Remarks were delivered by Smt. Jyoshna Das, Managing Director, Bivabari Fashions Pvt. Ltd. and Convener, WTC Women's Forum, Bhubaneswar. She emphasized the significance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance while continuously upgrading entrepreneurial skills to meet emerging business opportunities and challenges.

Session I:
Healthy Active Lifestyle & Stress Management

The first technical session was delivered by Dr. Anand Mishra, Senior Consultant – Critical Care Medicine, SUM Ultimate Medicare, Bhubaneswar.

Dr. Mishra delivered an engaging and informative presentation on the importance of preventive healthcare, healthy lifestyle choices, stress management, and maintaining physical and mental well-being amidst demanding professional schedules. He shared practical strategies on nutrition, regular exercise, adequate sleep, stress reduction techniques, and maintaining emotional resilience. The session also highlighted how good health directly contributes to enhanced productivity, better decision-making, and sustained professional success.

Participants actively interacted with the speaker during the session, seeking guidance on maintaining work-life balance and adopting healthier lifestyle practices.

Session II: Entrepreneurship Development Skills

The second session was conducted by Dr. Subrat Kumar Biswal, Regional In-charge & Faculty, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Bhubaneswar.

Dr. Biswal delivered a highly informative session on entrepreneurial competencies required to build sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises. The session covered various aspects of entrepreneurship development, including innovation, business planning, leadership, opportunity identification, market orientation, strategic decision-making, and business resilience. He encouraged participants to continuously upgrade their knowledge and skills to remain competitive in the rapidly changing global business ecosystem.

The programme concluded with an interactive Question & Answer session, during which participants exchanged ideas with both speakers and sought practical solutions to challenges related to health management and entrepreneurship. The interactive discussions added significant value to the programme and encouraged meaningful knowledge sharing among members.

Vote of Thanks

The formal proceedings concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Smt. Jyoshna Das, Managing Director, Bivabari Fashions Pvt. Ltd. and Convener, WTC Women's Forum, Bhubaneswar. She expressed sincere gratitude to both distinguished speakers for sharing their valuable knowledge and practical insights. She also thanked the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and acknowledged the efforts of the organising team in making the programme a grand success.

From left to right: Members, Officials and Guests of World Trade Center Bhubaneswar during the Member Enrichment Programme, held on 9th July 2026 at Bhubaneswar.

GIST - Interactive Meeting between WTC Bhubaneswar and WTC Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

July 20, 2026

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar and World Trade Center Kuala Lumpur explored avenues for strengthening bilateral trade, investment and business cooperation between India and Malaysia during a virtual meeting. The interaction focused on expanding institutional collaboration under the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network, facilitating business delegations and creating new opportunities for enterprises from Odisha to engage with Malaysian businesses.

Dato' Sri Dr. Haji Irmohizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Group Managing Director, WTC Kuala Lumpur, welcomed the initiative and expressed keen interest in strengthening cooperation with WTC Bhubaneswar. He highlighted the longstanding economic relationship between India and Malaysia and the potential for greater collaboration through trade promotion, business networking and institutional partnerships. He also expressed WTC Kuala Lumpur's willingness to host and facilitate the proposed business delegation from Odisha to Malaysia.

Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Bhubaneswar, outlined the organisation's trade promotion initiatives and emphasised the importance of leveraging the WTCA network to strengthen bilateral business relations. She proposed exploring a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations to facilitate exchange of business opportunities, knowledge sharing, institutional cooperation and regular business delegation visits.

The discussions also focused on the proposed business delegation from Odisha to Malaysia in October 2026, aimed at exploring trade, investment and partnership opportunities for Indian enterprises. WTC Kuala Lumpur offered guidance on coordinating the delegation and recommended engagement with the Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), Consulate General of Malaysia in Mumbai and High Commission of India in Malaysia to facilitate meaningful business interactions.

WTC Kuala Lumpur further assured its support in connecting WTC Bhubaneswar with relevant Malaysian government agencies, trade promotion organisations and industry stakeholders. The proposed collaboration is expected to facilitate B2B networking, market access, business matchmaking and greater participation of MSMEs in bilateral trade.

The interaction marked an important step towards establishing a long-term institutional partnership between the two World Trade Centers. Both organisations expressed their commitment to strengthening India–Malaysia economic relations through sustained engagement, trade promotion activities, knowledge exchange, capacity building and future business delegations under the WTCA network.

From Trade to Tradition: WTC Bhubaneswar Celebrates Odisha's Cultural Heritage with Utkalamitra

July 21, 2026

WTC Bhubaneswar Invites Members to Celebrate WTC Delight with Utkalamitra From Trade to Tradition – WTC Evening with Utkalamitra, on 21st July from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm, Venue- Utkalamitra Store, Mastercanteen, Janpath Road, Bhubaneswar.

WTC Bhubaneswar is pleased to invite its members to join the celebration of WTC Evening with Utkalmitra, an initiative exclusively dedicated to promoting Odisha's GI-tagged products. Utkalmitra is celebrating its 11th Anniversary on Rath Yatra 2026, commenced on 16th July and will continue until 27th July 2026.

Founded by the Sabat Sisters, who are esteemed members of WTC Bhubaneswar, Utkalamitra is commemorating this milestone by bringing together Odisha's veteran artists from diverse art forms to showcase the State's rich cultural heritage through live performances and demonstrations every evening from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

On Tuesday, 21st July 2026, the celebration will be dedicated to the traditional Chandua Artwork of Pipili. WTC Bhubaneswar members are cordially invited to visit Utkalamitra and witness a live demonstration of Chandua art by a master artisan.

We warmly invite all our members to join the celebration of WTC Evening with Utkalamitra on 21st July from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm and be a part of this special occasion during the auspicious festival of Rath Yatra.

From left to right: Ms. Amrita Sabat, Founder, Utkalamitra; Mr. Rajen Padhi, Convenor, International Trade Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. Rina Routray, Advisor, Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. Choudhury Jyoshna Das, Convenor, Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar; Pattachitra Artist; and Ms. Anita Sabat, Founder, Utkalamitra during the WTC Evening with Utkalamitra held on 21st July 2026.

Seminar on "Enhancing Exports from Odisha: Opportunities & Financing Solutions"

July 31, 2026

From left to right: Ms. Yogita Hatangadi, General Manager, India Exim Bank; Ms. Susmita Mohanty, Government of Odisha; Ms. Juin Choudhury, Regional Head, FIEO; Dr. Soumya Prakash; Mr. Sanjeeb Mohapatra, Honorary Secretary, Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar; and officials from MPEDA, during the Seminar on "Enhancing Exports from Odisha: Opportunities & Financing Solutions" held on 31st July 2026.

The Seminar on "Enhancing Exports from Odisha: Opportunities & Financing Solutions" was jointly organised by India Exim Bank and the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) in association with the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), World Trade Center Bhubaneswar and the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry (UCCI). The seminar served as an important platform to deliberate strategies for enhancing Odisha's export competitiveness, improving access to export finance, and strengthening the institutional ecosystem for exporters.

The programme commenced with registration and networking, followed by the Opening Remarks by Shri Anirudha Barooah, Regional Head – Kolkata, Exim Bank, who highlighted the growing significance of Odisha in India's export landscape and the need for stronger collaboration among government, financial institutions and industry.

The Inaugural Address by Shri Tarun Sharma, Deputy Managing Director, Exim Bank, who emphasized Exim Bank's commitment to supporting Indian exporters through innovative financial solutions and strategic interventions.

The Special Address was delivered by Ms. Rashmita Panda, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of MSMEs, Government of Odisha, who outlined the State Government's initiatives to promote exports, strengthen MSMEs, and improve Odisha's global trade competitiveness.

A key highlight of the seminar was the release of Exim Bank's study titled "The Odisha Opportunity: A Trade and Investment Roadmap," presented by Shri Rahul Mazumdar, Deputy General Manager – Research & Analysis, Exim Bank, which showcased Odisha's emerging strengths and identified opportunities for accelerating exports and attracting investments.

A presentation on the Export Promotion Mission by Shri Manoj Singh, Assistant DGFT, Kolkata, who discussed export promotion initiatives, policy support and facilitation measures available to exporters.

Ms. Yogita Hatangadi, General Manager – MSME Group, Exim Bank, subsequently delivered a detailed presentation on Exim Bank's Financial Solutions, highlighting various credit facilities, financing instruments and support mechanisms designed to assist MSMEs and export-oriented enterprises.

An engaging panel discussion on "Strengthening Exports from Odisha" brought together industry leaders including Shri Anjan Mohanty (Falcon Marine Exports Ltd.), Shri Prashuk Jain (Ferro Alloys Corporation Ltd.), and Shri Amit Agarwal (IFGL Refractories Ltd.), under the moderation of Shri Rikesh Chand, Chief General Manager – Credit Appraisal, Exim Bank. The panel deliberated on opportunities, sector-specific challenges, export diversification, infrastructure requirements, and the importance of enhancing Odisha's integration with global value chains.

The seminar concluded with an interactive Open House on "Institutional Infrastructure for Exports from Odisha", moderated by Ms. Yogita Hatangadi. The discussion featured representatives from key export promotion and trade facilitation institutions, including the Department of Industries, FIEO, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), CHEMEXCIL, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, and the Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, shared the role of WTC Bhubaneswar in promoting international trade, facilitating market access, supporting MSMEs, and strengthening global business linkages for Odisha-based enterprises. The session generated valuable recommendations on improving export infrastructure, institutional coordination, capacity building, market intelligence, and access to finance for exporters.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Juin Choudhury, Regional Head, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), who expressed appreciation to all dignitaries, speakers, industry representatives and participants for their valuable contributions.

The event ended with networking over dinner, providing an opportunity for stakeholders to explore future collaborations aimed at strengthening Odisha's export ecosystem.

Nasha Mukt Yuva Bharat: Empowering the Youth for a Drug-Free India

WTC Bhubaneswar and Srusti Academy join hands to inspire young minds towards a healthier and addiction-free future

August 1, 2026

Inspiring the Youth, Strengthening the Nation

With a strong message of responsibility, awareness and collective action, World Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar, in association with Srusti Academy of Management & Technology, organized the "Nasha Mukt Yuva Bharat" programme on 2nd August 2026 at the Srusti Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar.

The programme was organized as part of the nationwide "Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan", aimed at motivating India's youth to stay away from substance abuse and actively contribute towards creating a healthier and stronger society.

Youth at the Heart of Nation-Building

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across diverse academic disciplines. The gathering provided a meaningful platform for young minds to understand the serious social consequences of substance abuse and reflect on the importance of making healthy and responsible choices.

The event emphasized that the youth are not merely the future of the nation—they are also an important force shaping India's present. By choosing a healthy and purposeful lifestyle, young people can become powerful ambassadors of positive social change.

A Call for Collective Responsibility

A key message of the programme was that creating a drug-free India requires collective effort. Educational institutions, families, communities, civil society organizations and young citizens all have an important role to play in spreading awareness and preventing substance abuse.

The inspiring message of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted the immense strength and potential of India's youth. He called upon young citizens to remain away from drugs and encourage others to embrace a healthy, disciplined and productive way of life.

Taking the Pledge for a Nasha Mukt Bharat

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by the participants, reaffirming their commitment to the ideals of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

The pledge reflected the determination of the young participants to make responsible choices, discourage substance abuse and contribute towards building a healthier society

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Building a Healthier India, One Young Mind at a Time

The "Nasha Mukt Yuva Bharat" programme served as animpactful platform for awareness, reflection and youth engagement. The enthusiastic participation of students demonstrated the growing commitment of the younger generation towards a healthier and addiction-free India. Through initiatives such as these, WTC Bhubaneswar continues to support meaningful social initiatives that empower young people and contribute to the broader vision of a strong, responsible and Viksit Bharat.

National Handloom Day Celebration

August 7, 2026

World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar, in association with its Women's Forum, successfully celebrated National Handloom Day on 7th August 2026 at Hotel Padmaja Premium, Bhubaneswar, with the objective of promoting Odisha's rich handloom heritage, encouraging innovation in the sector, and providing a platform for artisans, entrepreneurs, designers, industry experts, and young talent to come together. The day-long programme featured an inaugural session, panel discussions, a handloom heritage fashion showcase, exhibition stalls, and interactive activities dedicated to strengthening the handloom ecosystem.

The programme commenced with registration and exhibition stall arrangements, followed by the inaugural session. Guests were welcomed by Smt. Mousumi Pattnaik, Director, Choco Galleria and Co-Convener, WTC Women's Forum. As a symbol of sustainability and appreciation, dignitaries were presented with potted plants by Smt. Jyoshna Das, Co-Convener, WTC Women's Forum and Managing Director, Bivabari Fashions Pvt. Ltd. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Madan Mohan Sethi, I.F.S., Consulate General, Auckland, as the Chief Guest, along with distinguished Guests of Honour including Shri P.K. Gupta, Director, MSME-DFO, Cuttack; Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor, WTC Women's Forum and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, Odisha; Dr. Vibhavari Kumar, Director (I/C), NIFT Bhubaneswar; and the President of UCCIL.

The inaugural session featured the National Anthem and ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by welcome and keynote addresses by the distinguished dignitaries. The speakers highlighted the significance of preserving India's handloom heritage, empowering women entrepreneurs, enhancing design innovation, strengthening MSMEs, and expanding market access for handloom products at both national and international levels. The guests were felicitated in recognition of their valuable contributions, followed by the vote of thanks delivered by A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar.

One of the major highlights of the celebration was the "Handloom Heritage Fashion Showcase – A Tribute in Every Thread," featuring an inspiring ramp walk by children from Little Steps Preschool, who beautifully showcased traditional handloom attire. The participants were felicitated for their enthusiastic participation, after which the dignitaries visited the exhibition stalls displaying a wide range of exquisite handloom products crafted by artisans and entrepreneurs.

The afternoon session commenced with Panel Discussion I on the theme, "The Next Generation is Transforming Odisha's Handloom Sector through Innovation, Branding and Digital Commerce." Moderated by Ms. Benorita Das, Founder of Ladyben Design House, the discussion brought together eminent entrepreneurs and handloom experts who shared valuable insights on innovation, digital marketing, branding strategies, and the evolving opportunities for Odisha's handloom sector in the digital economy.

Following the lunch break and an engaging quiz session, Panel Discussion II was held on the theme "Handlooms: From Heritage to Global Markets – Building Success Story." Moderated by Smt. Jyoshna Das, the session featured renowned experts from the handloom and design sectors, including representatives from the National Handloom Development Corporation and NIFT. The panel deliberated on strategies to enhance product quality, preserve traditional craftsmanship, improve market competitiveness, and promote Odisha's handloom products in global markets.

The programme concluded with activities by UMIKA, followed by the felicitation of participants and contributors. The exhibition continued until 5:00 PM, enabling visitors to interact with exhibitors and explore a diverse collection of authentic handloom products. The event successfully reinforced the importance of preserving Odisha's rich weaving traditions while encouraging innovation, entrepreneurship, collaboration, and sustainable market development for the handloom sector.

Insightful Talk on Financial Literacy by - Ms. Madhu Lunawat

August 21, 2026

Financial literacy plays a vital role in empowering individuals, particularly women, to make informed financial decisions, build confidence and achieve long-term economic independence," emphasised **Ms. Madhu Lunawat, Founder, The Wealth Company AMC (Pantomath Group)**, while addressing a Financial Literacy Session organised by Mahila Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan in association with World Trade Center Bhubaneswar in Bhubaneswar. The session focused on strengthening financial awareness, encouraging responsible financial planning and enabling women to participate more confidently in financial decision-making.

Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor, Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan Odisha, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of financial knowledge in advancing women's economic empowerment. She emphasised the need to create greater awareness of financial opportunities and encourage women to develop the confidence and skills required to manage their finances independently.

Ms. Latika Pradhan, Former MLA and Advisor, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan Odisha, highlighted the significance of financial literacy in promoting women's self-reliance and economic participation. She emphasised the importance of equipping women with the knowledge and awareness necessary to make informed financial choices and contribute meaningfully to their families, businesses and communities.

Mr. Debasish Mohanty, Managing Director & Chief Strategy Officer, The Wealth Company, delivered a special address, underscoring the importance of financial education, responsible financial management and long-term planning in building financial security. He highlighted the need to encourage greater awareness and participation in financial decision-making.

The programme featured an interactive session led by Ms. Madhu Lunawat, who shared insights on financial awareness, informed decision-making and the importance of building financial confidence. The discussion was followed by a question-and-answer session, providing participants an opportunity to seek guidance and gain a better understanding of financial matters.

The session brought together distinguished guests and participants to promote financial education as an essential component of women's empowerment. It reinforced the importance of continuous learning, responsible financial choices and knowledge-sharing in supporting greater financial independence.

Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, proposed the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to the distinguished speakers, organisers and participants for their contributions. The programme concluded with networking interactions, providing opportunities for continued engagement and exchange of ideas on financial literacy and women's economic empowerment.

7th National Rural Management Konclave 2026

August 22, 2026

Speakers, Delegates, Guests, and KIIT Faculty, Staff & Students during the 7th National Rural Management Konclave 2026, held on 22nd August 2026.

The event commenced with an inspiring inaugural session comprising the National Anthem, ceremonial lighting of the lamp, welcome address and context-setting by the distinguished leadership of KSRM and KIIT University. The inaugural proceedings were followed by an address by Mr. Dibyajyoti Pattnaik, Director, Annapurna Microfinance (P) Ltd., and a thought-provoking keynote address by Mr. Rajendra Singh, popularly known as the "Waterman of India" and Ramon Magsaysay Award winner, which added significant depth to the discussions on sustainable rural development. The occasion also witnessed the release of "RURAL BUZZ," the Newsletter of Rural Management, KSRM.

Professors from KIIT School of Rural Management felicitating Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, during the 7th National Rural Management Konclave 2026, held on 22nd August 2026.

The inauguration was followed by a meaningful and engaging panel discussion on "Reimagining Rural India: Innovations, Sustainability and Inclusive Growth," moderated by Mr. Biraj Patnaik, Executive Director, National Foundation for India (NFI). Eminent leaders from the development and social sector participated in the discussion, bringing diverse perspectives on rural transformation, sustainability, inclusion, water, livelihoods, social development, community empowerment and responsible development practices. The session was further enriched by an interactive Question-and-Answer segment.

A significant highlight of the Konclave was the felicitation of 20 Civil Society Organisations working in different fields and making valuable contributions towards rural development, social empowerment and inclusive growth. The recognition acknowledged the important role played by civil society organisations in addressing grassroots challenges and contributing to the transformation of rural communities.

In this context, KIIT School of Rural Management felicitated the World Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar in recognition of its contribution towards trade promotion and strengthening the trade and business ecosystem in the State of Odisha. The recognition was particularly significant as it acknowledged the role of trade promotion and economic linkages in creating opportunities for inclusive and sustainable development.

Women Start-Up Meet

August 24, 2026

The Women Start-Up Meet was organised by the Start-Up Odisha in association with WTC Bhubaneswar on 24th August, 2026 at O-Hub Bhubaneswar from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm followed by the lunch, with the objective of encouraging women-led entrepreneurship, promoting innovation, and creating greater awareness about the opportunities and support available for women entrepreneurs in Odisha.

The programme commenced with the registration of participants, followed by the arrival of the Chief Guest, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bhubaneswar.

The inaugural proceedings included the felicitation of dignitaries, a welcome address by Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Startup Odisha, and a keynote address by Smt. Rashmita Panda, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, MSME Department & Chairman, Startup Odisha.

The inaugural address by the Chief Guest, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, provided an encouraging perspective on the importance of strengthening women's participation in entrepreneurship and creating an enabling ecosystem for women-led businesses. The inaugural session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar.

From left to right: Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar; Smt. Rashmita Panda, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, MSME Department & Chairman, Startup Odisha; Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bhubaneswar; and Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Startup Odisha, during the Women Start-Up Meet held on 24th August 2026. ta Sarangi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bhubaneswar; and Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Startup Odisha, during the Women Start-Up Meet held on 24th August 2026.

ISCCI – WTC Bhubaneswar Joint Webinar Bridging Corridors of Growth: Advancing India–Sri Lanka Trade, MSME Globalization & Investment Partnerships"

August 25, 2026

The Indo–Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ISCCI), in association with World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, organised a high-level virtual webinar titled "Bridging Corridors of Growth: Advancing India–Sri Lanka Trade, MSME Globalization & Investment Partnerships" on 25 August 2026. The webinar was conceived as a knowledge-driven and outcome-oriented platform to strengthen bilateral trade and investment linkages and identify new avenues for business collaboration between India and Sri Lanka.

The programme commenced with an opening segment setting the strategic context for India–Sri Lanka economic engagement, followed by discussions on Trade Corridors & Market Access, MSMEs, Startups & Women-Led Enterprises, and Investment Pathways & Delegation Synergies. The keynote segment featured Sri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, IAS, Chief Executive Officer, Start-Up Odisha, Government of Odisha. The discussions explored high-potential sectors for bilateral trade, export-import facilitation, the role of chambers and trade bodies, MSME internationalisation, digital trade and e-commerce, cross-border startup collaboration, women entrepreneurship, investment opportunities, policy incentives and the role of business delegations and trade missions.

A dedicated Business Exchange & Live Q&A segment enabled participants to interact directly with the speakers, introduce their businesses and express interest in potential partnerships. The interactive session provided an important platform for exchanging practical perspectives and identifying areas of mutual business interest.

Key Outcomes & Way Forward

The webinar highlighted the importance of deepening India–Sri Lanka trade relations, supporting MSME and startup globalisation, promoting women-led enterprises, encouraging investment partnerships and strengthening B2B connections. The discussions also emphasised the need for structured business matchmaking, investor pipelines and stronger institutional cooperation.As a way forward, ISCCI and WTC Bhubaneswar will explore opportunities for B2B engagements, sector-specific business linkages, joint business delegations and trade missions, industry visits, startup and MSME collaborations, women entrepreneurship initiatives, and future conferences, expos and knowledge-sharing programmes. These efforts are aimed at converting dialogue into tangible commercial partnerships and creating a sustainable platform for India–Sri Lanka business cooperation.

Interactive Meeting on Strengthening Odisha - Myanmar - Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation

September 11, 2026

An interactive meeting was held on 11 September 2026 at 1:00 PM between the Consulate-General of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Kolkata and WTC Bhubaneswar to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade, tourism and investment between Odisha and Myanmar.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Aung Aung Myo Thein, Consul General, Myanmar, and Ms. Phyu Thae New, Economic Attaché / Consul, along with Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, and Mr. Sagar Mohapatra, Manager – Trade Promotion, from WTC Bhubaneswar.

The Myanmar side proposed the signing of three MoUs with the Government of Odisha in the areas of Tourism, Investment in Agriculture Technology and Livestock Development, and Agriculture. The proposed Tourism MoU would promote investment and cooperation in Buddhist heritage tourism, including a potential Buddhist Heritage Trail linking Puri and Konark with Bagan in Myanmar. Opportunities for beach and cruise tourism connecting Myanmar with Puri, Konark and Chilika were also discussed.

WTC GOA TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

International markets are increasingly rewarding exporters who can consistently demonstrate quality, traceability and sustainable production practices

SHARAD UPASANI
Chairman, World Trade Centre, Goa

> ***International markets are increasingly rewarding exporters who can consistently demonstrate quality, traceability and sustainable production practices***

International agricultural trade is undergoing a fundamental shift, with buyers and regulators placing greater emphasis on quality assurance, traceability, sustainability and regulatory compliance. For Indian exporters, market access increasingly depends on their ability to demonstrate transparency and adherence to global standards across the value chain.

While these evolving requirements present challenges, they also create opportunities for reliable and compliant exporters to strengthen their global presence. In an exclusive interaction with AgroSpectrum Sharad Upasani, Chairman, World Trade Center Goa, discusses how India can navigate this changing trade landscape and build a more competitive agricultural export ecosystem.

International markets are increasingly focusing on quality assurance, traceability and sustainability rather than just price competitiveness. How is this changing the landscape for Indian agricultural exporters?

International markets are increasingly rewarding exporters who can consistently demonstrate quality, traceability and sustainable production practices. From the perspective of World Trade Center (WTC) Goa, this presents a significant opportunity for Indian and Goan agri-exporters to move beyond competing solely on price and instead position themselves as suppliers of premium, high-quality products.

Exporters today must comply with stringent international standards relating to food safety, pesticide residues, hygiene and environmental sustainability. Buyers also expect complete traceability from farm to consumer, which strengthens consumer confidence and brand value. This transition is encouraging investments in better quality control systems, digital traceability, cold-chain infrastructure. warehousing and value addition. While these investments involve higher initial costs, they enable exporters to access premium global markets, command better prices and build long-term competitiveness.

> ***Over the next 5 years, several international regulations will significantly influence Indian agri-exports. Compliance with the US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA),Global G.A.P., HACCE BRGS and internationally accepted organic certification standards will become increasingly important.***

Do you believe India's next phase of agricultural export growth will be driven more by value creation and compliance than by production volumes? and Why?

Absolutely. The next phase of India's agricultural export growth will be driven increasingly by value creation, product differentiation and global compliance rather than production volumes alone. With shrinking arable land, climate-related uncertainties and rising consumer expectations, sustainable growth will depend on producing higher-value agricultural products supported by robust quality assurance and traceability systems. Consumers across premium international markets are willing to pay more for products that are safe, ethically produced and sustainably sourced. Compliance also reduces shipment rejections, strengthens buyer confidence and improves long-term profitability. WTC Goa believes that value addition, branding and adherence to global standards will define India's future agricultural export success.

Which international regulations and certification requirements are likely to have the biggest impact on Indian agri-exporters over the next five years?

Over the next five years, several international regulations will significantly influence Indian agri-exports. Compliance with the US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), Global G.A.P., HACCP, BRCGS and internationally accepted organic certification standards will become increasingly important. Social compliance frameworks such as SMETA and SASooo will also gain prominence as global buyers focus on ethical sourcing and responsible labour practices.

In addition, the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) will place greater emphasis on supply chain transparency and traceability. Although these regulations will require exporters to invest in better documentation, auditing and compliance systems, they will also provide access to premium markets and strengthen India's global competitiveness. WTC Goa actively encourages exporters to prepare for these evolving requirements through awareness and market connectivity.

Traceability is becoming a prerequisite for accessing premium global markets. How important are technologies such as blockchain, loT, Al and digital documentation in transforming India's agricultural export ecosystem?

Digital technologies are rapidly becoming indispensable for agricultural exports. Blockchain, loT, Artificial Intelligence and digital documentation significantly improve traceability, transparency, operational efficiency and compliance with international regulations.These technologies enable real-time monitoring of production and logistics, reduce fraud, strengthen food safety systems and improve buyer confidence. Digital adoption will not only facilitate access to premium international markets but also enhance supply chain efficiency and improve price realisation. WTC Goa sees digital transformation as an important enabler of globally competitive agricultural exports.

How does WTC Goa help businesses leverage the World Trade Centers Association's global network spanning over 300 locations across nearly 100 countries and territories?

As part of the global World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network, WTC Goa provides Goan businesses with direct access to one of the world's largest international trade ecosystems spanning more than 300 WTC businesses across nearly 100 countries and territories.

Through the WTCA Reciprocity Desk, WTC Goa facilitates business matchmaking, trade enquiries, buyer-seller connections and market intelligence. We also organise inbound and outbound trade delegations, business networking events, sector-specific seminars and capacity-building programmes to connect Goan enterprises with international markets. Our recently launched Mission 100/100 initiative aims to empower 100 Goan MSMEs to collectively achieve a turnover of Rs 100 crore by 2035 by leveraging global trade opportunities, strategic partnerships and the WTCA network.

WTC Goa also benefits from the research, knowledge resources and international expertise of WTC Mumbai, enabling Goan businesses to make informed decisions while expanding globally.

What opportunities do you see for Goa-based agri-food companies in emerging export destinations across Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa?

Goa possesses significant potential to expand exports across emerging markets in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa. Growing demand for premium, authentic and sustainably produced food products presents excellent opportunities for Goa's agri-food sector.

> ***"Digital technologies are rapidly becoming indispensable for organic exports. Blockchain, IoT, Artificial Intelligence and digital documentation significantly improve traceability, transparency, operational efficiency and compliance with international regulations."***

Gl-tagged products such as Mancurad Mangoes, Harmal Chillies and Goa Cashew, along with processed seafood, organic spices, virgin coconut oil, ready-to-cook foods, frozen marine products and premium cashew products have strong export potential. The phased development of Mormugao Port and improving logistics infrastructure will further enhance Goa's export competitiveness WTC Goa is committed to connecting local businesses with international buyers and helping them meet global market requirements.

With geopolitical shifts, changing trade agreements and evolving supply chains, where do you see the biggest opportunities for India's agricultural exports over the next decade?

Global supply chain diversification and evolving trade agreements are creating new opportunities for India's agricultural exports. Demand is expected to grow for value-added processed foods, organic products, functional foods, speciality grains, millets and sustainably sourced agricultural products.

WTC Goa Strengthens Financial Ecosystem Through Strategic Engagement with Leading Chartered Accountants

July 4, 2026

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the business support ecosystem in Goa, WTC Goa held a fruitful meeting with CA Yogesh Kulkarni, CEO & Founder of GFP Management Consulting Services, and CA S. B. Patil, Partner of S. B. Patil & Co. Both are eminent Chartered Accountants with vast experience in audit, taxation, finance, and business advisory services.

The meeting explored avenues for strategic collaboration to enhance financial literacy, tax compliance, and access to expert advisory services for Goa's MSMEs. By leveraging the combined expertise of these distinguished professionals, WTC Goa aims to create meaningful initiatives that will empower entrepreneurs, strengthen financial governance, and contribute to the sustainable growth of the MSME sector in the state.

Seen in the picture: (L-R)
CA S. B. Patil, Partner, S. B. Patil & Co, CA Yogesh Kulkarni, CEO & Founder Director, GFP Management Consulting Services Pvt. Ltd and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Centre, Goa

WTC Goa Convenes Strategic Meeting to Explore Agro-Food Export Opportunities and Strengthen Logistics Ecosystem

July 9, 2026

World Trade Center Goa convened a strategic meeting on 9th July 2026 to deliberate on enhancing the export potential of Goa's agro-food products and strengthening the logistics ecosystem required to support exporters in accessing global markets.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders from the logistics, infrastructure and business sectors, including Mr. Prasad Satardekar, Director, Zuari Infinity Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Aakash Parcha, Founder & CEO, Mahalaxmi Estates Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Vishnu Prasad, Senior Manager – Business Development, Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; and Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa.

The discussions focused on identifying agro-food products from Goa with strong export potential and the logistics support required to facilitate seamless exports. The participants reviewed the existing EXIM infrastructure available in Goa, particularly the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Balli, South Goa, and the cargo handling facilities at the Manohar International Airport, Mopa, which together provide exporters with multiple options for accessing international markets.

The meeting also examined the evolving regulatory landscape for food exports, including the requirement for obtaining a Central FSSAI licence for export-oriented food products. Participants deliberated on the practical challenges faced by merchant exporters and traders in complying with export regulations while remaining competitive in global markets.

Among the products identified for immediate export potential were garlic paste and mushrooms, both of which are widely cultivated and readily available in Goa. The participants agreed that value-added agro-food products present significant opportunities for increasing exports, generating rural employment, and enhancing farmers' incomes through access to international markets.

A key highlight of the discussions was the growing role of Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal Pvt. Ltd., which is actively working towards promoting green cargo movement between Mormugao Port, Goa, and Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), Nhava Sheva, Mumbai. This initiative is expected to improve cargo connectivity, reduce logistics costs, enhance supply chain efficiency, and promote environmentally sustainable freight movement for exporters from Goa.

WTC Goa reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with industry, logistics providers, government agencies, and exporters to create an enabling ecosystem that will strengthen Goa's export competitiveness, particularly in the agro-food sector. The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to continue collaborative efforts aimed at positioning Goa as an emerging hub for high-value agricultural and food product exports.

Seen in the picture: (L-R) Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Vishnu Prasad, Senior Manager – Business Development, Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Aakash Parcha, Founder & CEO, Mahalaxmi Estates Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Prasad Satardekar, Director, Zuari Infinity Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

Launch of the Export Facilitation Cell along with a new initiative to mentor 100 SME Export Champions from Goa

July 14, 2026

The Launch of the Export Facilitation Cell was successfully held on 14th July 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., as a joint initiative of World Trade Center Goa, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa and Global Chamber Goa, and. The initiative was conceived to strengthen Goa's export ecosystem by creating greater awareness on international trade, fostering collaboration among key stakeholders, and empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to successfully access global markets.

The programme commenced with the registration of delegates, followed by the inaugural session. Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa, delivered the Welcome Address, underscoring the importance of developing an export-oriented MSME ecosystem in Goa. She emphasized the need to enhance export awareness, build institutional partnerships, and provide sustained support to local enterprises through the newly established Export Facilitation Cell.

This was followed by a Special Address by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, on the theme "Connecting Goan Enterprises to International Trade Opportunities." He highlighted the extensive global network of the World Trade Centers Association and explained how WTC Goa will facilitate market access, international business linkages, trade promotion activities, and strategic partnerships to help Goan businesses expand into overseas markets.

Seen in the Picture:Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa addressing the business delegates present at the meeting

The next session featured a special presentation by Ms. Aartii Neemkar, Executive Director of Global Chamber Goa and Founder & CEO of the India Economic Development Association (IEDA). Her presentation, titled "Goa to Global – Empowering 100 SME Export Champions," presented a comprehensive roadmap for developing export-ready enterprises in Goa. She elaborated on export preparedness, market access strategies, mentorship opportunities, and the advantages of leveraging the Global Chamber's international network, while introducing the ambitious initiative to nurture 100 SME Export Champions from the State

The Chief Guest, Mr M K Meena, Director, MSME DFO Goa, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, addressed the delegates, emphasizing the pivotal role of exports in driving. economic growth, employment generation, and industrial competitiveness. He encouraged MSMEs to embrace global opportunities and take advantage of the support mechanisms available through the Export Facilitation Cell.

The programme also featured inspiring addresses by Mr. Sachin Sabnis, Prabhari, Laghu Udyog Bharati Goa, and Mr. Prakash Chandra Ji, National Organising Secretary, Laghu Udyog Bharati. Both speakers highlighted the importance of innovation, entrepreneurship, collaboration, and institutional support in strengthening India's export ecosystem and making MSMEs globally competitive.

A highly informative technical session was conducted by Mr. Naman Marjadi, Assistant Director, Plexconcil, on "Unlocking Goa's Plastic Export Potential." He shared valuable insights into emerging opportunities in the plastics export sector, government support mechanisms, and industry best practices. The session concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment, enabling participants to clarify key export-related issues and gain practical guidance.

One of the highlights of the programme was the session "Global Trade Simplified: AI Revolution," presented by Mr. Rohit Salveru, Founder of Cargo First and Creator of Blinkus.ai. He demonstrated how Artificial Intelligence is transforming global trade by simplifying export documentation, improving operational efficiency, reducing costs, and enabling MSMEs to compete more effectively in international markets through digital innovation.

The formal proceedings concluded with the Vote of Thanks proposed by Mr. Mudit Agarwal, General Secretary, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa. He expressed sincere appreciation to the Chief Guest, distinguished speakers, partner organisations, industry representatives, delegates, and participants for their valuable support and contribution towards the successful launch of the Export Facilitation Cell.

The programme concluded with a networking session over high tea, providing an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs, exporters, industry leaders, government representatives, and business stakeholders to exchange ideas, establish meaningful connections, and explore future collaborations.

The successful launch of the Export Facilitation Cell marks a significant milestone in Goa's journey towards becoming an export-oriented State. The collaborative initiative by Laghu Udyog Bharati Goa, Global Chamber Goa, and World Trade Center Goa reflects a shared commitment to building a vibrant export ecosystem, enhancing the global competitiveness of Goan enterprises, and positioning Goa as an emerging hub for international trade and exports.

Seen in the Picture:Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa addressing the Business Delegates present at the meeting Seated at the Dais: CA Vibhor Keny, State Treasurer Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa; Ms. Aariti Neemkar, Executive Director of Global Chamber Goa and Founder & CEO of the India Economic Development Association (IEDA); Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, State President of Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa; Mr. Prakash Chandra Ji, National Organising Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB); Mr M K Meena, Director, MSME DFO Goa, Ministry of MSME; Mr. Sachin Sabnis, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa Prabhari; Mr. Mudit Agarwal, General Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) Goa

Seen in the Picture:Business Delegates seated at the Meeting

WTC Goa Strengthens Engagement with JCOM to Promote Global Business Opportunities

July 15, 2026

World Trade Center Goa had an engaging and productive interaction with the members of JCOM, the business wing of JCI, and Taleigao Elite Table 1.0 at Hotel Park Prime, Panaji, on 15th July 2026.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and presented the vast opportunities offered through the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) global network. The session highlighted how Goan businesses can leverage the WTC ecosystem to expand their global footprint through international trade, investment, and strategic partnerships.

The programme also featured insightful presentations on business financial profitability and the ancient Indian science of Vaastu, providing valuable takeaways for entrepreneurs.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of WTC Goa's two upcoming international seminars-"Dubai: The Business Gateway to Global Trade" and "Doing Business with the United Kingdom," focusing on opportunities arising from the recently signed India–UK Free Trade Agreement. Both announcements generated enthusiastic interest among the participants.

The meeting concluded with both organisations expressing their commitment to future collaboration, with JCOM inviting WTC Goa to participate in its upcoming State-level meeting, paving the way for stronger partnerships and enhanced global business opportunities for Goa.

Seen in the Picture: (L to R) :Ms. Neha Naik, Interior Designer; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director-Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, Ms Carool Ruzarrio ,Real Estate Profressional; Omkar Desprabhu, Social Media Consultant

Dubai: The Business Gateway to Global Trade

July 23, 2026

World Trade Center Goa, and Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) along with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), Goa and Global Chamber Goa successfully organized the Seminar titled Dubai: The Business Gateway to Global Trade, which was organized on 23 July 2026, at Panaji Goa, bringing together industry experts, business leaders, and institutional representatives to explore emerging trade and investment opportunities between India and the United Arab Emirates. The seminar served as a platform to strengthen bilateral business relations by providing participants with valuable insights into Dubai's dynamic business ecosystem, market access, and international expansion opportunities for Indian enterprises.

The Knowledge partners for the seminar were Mangal Analytics and Research Centre (MARC Global) whereas Rashtra TV were the Media Partners

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, who welcomed the distinguished dignitaries, delegates, guests and the PRESS. He highlighted the extensive global network of the World Trade Centers Association and explained how World Trade Center Goa facilitates international trade by connecting businesses with global markets, fostering strategic partnerships, and creating opportunities for trade and investment across the WTC network.

Addressing the delegates, Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), Goa, shared an overview of (LUB)'s nationwide presence through over 250 branches across India. She emphasized the significant contribution of the MSME sector to the Indian economy, describing it as the backbone of the nation's economic growth through entrepreneurship, employment generation, innovation, and industrial development.

In his address, Mr. Gautam Kharangate, Director & CEO of Rashtra TV, Goa's first Hindi national television channel, spoke about the vision and future plans of Rashtra TV, highlighting the need to project Goa's business potential, tourism, and entrepreneurial success stories to audiences across India and strengthen the state's national economic presence.

Delivering his address, Mr. Arman Bankley, Trustee of Vibrant Goa Foundation (VGF) encouraged entrepreneurs to leverage the opportunities offered through the Vibrant Goa – Global Business Summit to be held later in 2026. He elaborated on how participation in the summit would enable businesses to network with investors, explore collaborations and expand into new domestic and international markets.

While delivering his address, Mr. Abhijitsinh Jadeja, Chief Representative – India Office, Asia Region, Dubai Chambers presented an insightful session on "Why Dubai?" His presentation covered Dubai's thriving business landscape, favourable regulatory framework, increasing foreign direct investment, and its growing appeal as a destination for global talent. He also highlighted the impressive growth of the UAE's retail e-commerce sector, noting that online retail sales in 2025 were estimated at US$10.9 billion, accounting for 16% of the country's total retail sales while recording an annual growth rate of 14%, reflecting the emirate's rapidly evolving digital economy.

Further enriching the seminar, Mr. Bassel Bitar, Regional Representative – Asia & Eastern Europe, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), delivered an insightful presentation on Dubai's position as a preferred global business destination. He highlighted Dubai's strategic geographic advantage, noting that over 2.5 billion people live within a four-hour flight radius of the emirate, making it an ideal gateway for international trade and investment. His presentation also covered Dubai's diverse economic sectors, world-class infrastructure, business-friendly ecosystem, company setup solutions, representative office facilities, and the extensive trade and networking opportunities offered through DMCC.

Adding muscle to DMCC's global operations, Mr. Siddharth Shah, India Head – India Promotional Office in his address, elaborated on the strong and growing economic partnership between India and the UAE. He emphasized how DMCC serves as an ideal gateway for Indian businesses looking to expand into global markets, while also highlighting the centre's international recognition, achievements, and its role in fostering cross-border trade, investment, and business growth.

Seen in the Picture: Group Picture of the Business Delegates who participated in the Dubai: The Business Gateway to Global Trade Program.

Representing the Knowledge Partner, Mr. Xavier Fernandes, Financial Analyst, Mangal Analytics and Research Consulting (MARC) shared how the organization supports businesses through market intelligence and strategic research. He explained how data-driven market analysis enables companies to make informed business decisions and illustrated his presentation with practical case studies demonstrating successful market entry and business expansion strategies.

A key highlight of the Seminar on India–UAE Business Environment was the official launch of the World Trade Cener Goa's Knowledge Report on the India–UAE Business Environment by the distinguished dignitaries, reaffirming World Trade Center Goa's commitment to equipping businesses with valuable information to facilitate international trade and investment.

The other highlight of the Seminar was the launch of Mission 100/100 initiative which aims to empower 100 Goan MSMEs achieve a combined turnover of Rs 100 Crores by the year 2035.
A very interesting Q & A session was also conducted.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Desouza, who expressed his gratitude to the distinguished dignitaries, speakers, partners, delegates, and guests for making the seminar a meaningful platform for knowledge exchange and strengthening of the India–UAE business relations.

Launch Of the Knowledge Report on The India–UAE Business Environment

Seen the Picture: (L to R): Business Delegates seated during presentation

Seen the Picture: (L to R): Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Gautam Kharangate, Director & CEO of Rashtra TV; Mr. Abhijitsinh Jadeja, Chief Representative – India Office, Asia Region; Mr. Bassel Bitar, Regional Representative Asia & Eastern Europe; Mr. Arman Bankley, Trustee of Vibrant Goa Foundation; Mr. Siddharth Shah, India Head – India Promotional Office; Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, State President, Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), Goa

Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan

August 2, 2026

World Trade Center Goa proudly participated in the nationwide **"Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan"**, joining thousands of organisations and institutions across India in support of the national movement towards a drug-free society. As part of the initiative, the WTC Goa team virtually connected to the inspiring address delivered by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

The campaign seeks to promote a drug-free, physically healthy, and mentally resilient youth population, contributing to the broader vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

World Trade Center Goa, as an institution committed to promoting trade, entrepreneurship, innovation, and inclusive economic growth, recognises that sustainable economic development is closely linked to the well-being and empowerment of people. A healthy, skilled, responsible, and resilient youth population forms the foundation for stronger businesses, productive workplaces, vibrant communities, and a prosperous nation.

The Nasha Mukt Yuva initiative reinforces an important message that economic progress and human development must advance together. Addressing substance abuse is not only a public health priority but also a vital investment in the country's future talent, workforce productivity, social well-being, and global competitiveness.

The nationwide campaign encourages young people to become active participants in the movement against substance abuse and calls upon institutions, communities, and organisations to contribute through awareness, collective participation, and sustained community engagement.

By participating in this national initiative, **World Trade Center Goa reaffirmed its commitment to supporting programmes** that promote healthy communities, responsible leadership, youth empowerment, and inclusive development.
WTC Goa will continue to carry forward the message of **"Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat"** through its various outreach programmes, awareness initiatives, and community engagements, encouraging young people and stakeholders to contribute towards building a healthier, stronger, and more responsible society.

As we work towards the **vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, WTC Goa** remains committed to creating opportunities that empower youth, foster responsible leadership, and connect local aspirations with global possibilities.

Students participating in the Online Broadcast message Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan

WTC Goa addresses session on Beyond the Degree – Charting an Unconventional Career Orbit

August 5, 2026

The Department of Management Studies, in association with the Career Guidance Cell of Dnyanprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre (DMC), Assagao, Goa, organised an insightful career guidance programme titled "Beyond the Degree – Charting Your Unconventional Career Orbit" on 5 August 2026. The session featured Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Centre Goa, as the resource person and was attended by students of the Commerce and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) streams. The programme aimed to broaden students' perspectives on career opportunities and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in an evolving professional landscape.

The programme commenced with an address by Dr. Anson Leopold Albuquerque, Assistant Director (Academic), Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) Government of Goa, who spoke about the numerous career opportunities available after graduation. He explained how Commerce and BBA programmes provide students with a strong academic foundation and opens pathways to careers in finance, banking, accounting, marketing, entrepreneurship, human resources, international business, and management. Dr. Albuquerque encouraged students to make informed career choices based on their interests and aspirations while highlighting the importance of continuous learning and skill development in today's competitive job market.

Delivering the keynote session, Mr. Cyril Desouza engaged the students with an interactive and thought-provoking presentation centred around four key themes: Expanding Career Horizons, Mapping Skill Transferability, Fostering Strategic Problem Solving, and Building Networking Agility.

Dr. Anson Leopold Albuquerque, Assistant Director (Academic), Directorate of Higher Education (DHE) Government of Goa speaking to students

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Centre Goa, addresses students during the session, with Dr. Anson Leopold Albuquerque, Assistant Director (Academic), Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa, and Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager – Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre Goa, seated on the dais.

He encouraged students to look beyond conventional career paths, recognise the value of transferable skills, develop analytical thinking to solve complex challenges, and build meaningful professional networks that would support their long-term career growth. Through practical examples and real-world insights, he motivated students to remain adaptable and embrace lifelong learning in an ever-changing global business environment.

An analysis of the career opportunities available in Goa for the Logistics sector was presented to the attending students.

Mr. Desouza also introduced the students to the 30-hour Certificate Course in International Trade offered by World Trade Centre Goa. He explained that the programme is designed to provide participants with a practical understanding of international trade practices, global markets, and business operations, enabling them to gain valuable exposure to the expectations and realities of the business world. He encouraged interested students to enrol in the course to enhance their employability and prepare themselves for global career opportunities.

The programme concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session, during which students actively interacted with the speaker, seeking guidance on career planning, skill enhancement, and opportunities in international business. The session proved to be highly informative and inspiring, encouraging students to think beyond traditional career options and prepare themselves for a dynamic and globally connected professional future.

Goan Handloom and Handicraft Stakeholders get ready to reach global markets.

August 7, 2026

The Directorate of Handicrafts, Textile and Coir, Government of Goa, invited Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, to address Goan artisans and stakeholders at the World Handloom Day programme held at Sanskriti Bhavan, Panaji, Goa.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Desouza described the occasion as a historic day, emphasizing that the annual observance of World Handloom Day celebrates India's rich culture, creativity, and weaving heritage. He highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting the country's traditional handloom sector while recognizing the invaluable contribution of artisans.

Mr. Desouza noted that while Goa is globally renowned for its tourism and beautiful beaches, many are unaware of the state's rich tradition of weaving and handloom craftsmanship. He stressed that Goa's textile heritage deserves greater recognition and promotion, both within the country and internationally.

Concluding his address, Mr. Desouza encouraged the artisans and stakeholders present to leverage the opportunities offered by the World Trade Center network, which comprises more than 300 World Trade Centers across over 100 countries. He urged them to explo ubre global markets, build international partnerships, and showcase Goa's unique handloom products to the world.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa addressing the business delegates present at the meeting

Strengthening Goa's Global Business Connect

August 11, 2026

11th August 2026, marked an important and significant day for the World Trade Center (WTC) Goa, as the Center had the privilege of hosting Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, during his visit to Goa.

The WTC Goa team was honored to accompany Dr. Kalantri during his visit and facilitate his participation in a series of important engagements aimed at strengthening trade, investment, and international business opportunities for Goa.

One of the key highlights of the visit was Dr. Kalantri's meeting with Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa. During the meeting, Dr. Kalantri apprised the Chief Minister of the various initiatives and activities being undertaken by WTC Goa, as well as the Center's plans to further promote trade, investment, and international business linkages in the state.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the initiatives of WTC Goa and assured Dr. Kalantri of his full support and cooperation for the Center's future activities and initiatives aimed at enhancing Goa's economic and international business ecosystem.

Seen in the Picture (L to R): Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa; Mr. Rajkumar Kamat, Chairman; Vibrant Goa Foundation

Seen in the Picture (L to R): Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

Another significant milestone during the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WTC Goa and Vibrant Goa Foundation, in the august presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa. The MoU seeks to establish a strategic collaboration between the two organizations to promote international business engagements, facilitate trade and investment opportunities, and create stronger linkages between Goa and global business communities.

The visit concluded with Dr. Kalantri addressing the distinguished dignitaries and delegates attending "Rise 2.0", a prominent business seminar held in Goa. The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Mauvin Godinho, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Government of Goa, along with other distinguished guests and delegates.

Dr. Kalantri's visit was a significant occasion for WTC Goa and provided an important platform to strengthen institutional relationships, highlight Goa's potential as a destination for trade and investment, and reaffirm WTC Goa's commitment to facilitating international business opportunities for the state.

The visit and the strategic engagements undertaken during the day are expected to contribute positively towards building stronger partnerships and creating new avenues for trade, investment, and global business collaboration in Goa.

World Trade Center Goa Participates in Independence Day Celebrations at Jnyan Vikas School, Porvorim Goa

August 15, 2026

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa addressing the students of Jnyan Vikas School

World Trade Center (WTC) Goa took an active part in the 80th Independence Day celebrations held at Jnyan Vikas School, Porvorim.

The programme featured a vibrant array of performances by the students, including group singing, Bharatanatyam dance and gymnastics. The occasion also included the felicitation of students who had secured top positions in the previous academic year, recognizing their hard work and achievements.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, represented WTC Goa at the celebration. Addressing the students on the theme "Learning to be Independent on Independence Day," he encouraged them to develop an independent mindset, think creatively and explore new ideas.

Mr. Desouza also highlighted the importance of nurturing commercially viable ideas and assured the students of WTC Goa's support in taking their innovative ideas to the global stage. He introduced them to the WTCA's global ecosystem of 300+ World Trade Centers across nearly 100 countries, which provides opportunities for international connections, collaboration and market access.

The celebration was a meaningful blend of patriotism, student talent and inspiration, encouraging young minds to become confident, independent thinkers and future contributors to India's growth and global presence.

Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future

August 24 2026

World Trade Center Goa, in association with Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB), Global Chamber Goa and the Solar Power Association of Goa (SPAG), organised a seminar on "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future" on 24 August 2026 at Kala Academy, Panaji, Goa. The seminar brought together representatives from industry, academia and the solar energy sector to discuss the growing importance of solar power, policy support, opportunities for MSMEs, skill development and the potential for solar energy to contribute to Goa's sustainable economic development. The programme was held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and featured addresses by experts from Laghu Udyog Bharati, Government Polytechnic Goa, Solar Power Association of Goa and World Trade Center Goa.

The programme commenced with the welcome address, followed by a session by Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, President, Laghu Udyog Bharati, Goa Chapter. She provided an introduction to solar energy and spoke about the foundation and development of Laghu Udyog Bharati. LUB is a nationwide voluntary organisation that works towards supporting, promoting and protecting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India. She also highlighted the activities of the Goa Chapter and its role in supporting the local MSME ecosystem.

The seminar then featured Dr. Raghuvir Chary Nachinolkar, Lecturer (Selection Grade), Department of Mechanical Engineering, Government Polytechnic, Goa, who delivered a detailed presentation on the opportunities emerging from the intersection of engineering, solar energy and entrepreneurship. His presentation, titled "Engineering Goa's Solar Economy – Monetizing the CC504 & CC603 BTE Syllabus into High Value Career and Entrepreneurial Pathway," explored the potential of using technical education and engineering skills to create new career and entrepreneurial opportunities in Goa's solar economy. He also touched upon the Goan mandate for rapid localized deployment and the Swayampurna model, including the example of Harvalem energy independence supported by the government.

A detailed presentation on Goa's solar sector was delivered by Mr. Amol Shirodkar, President, Solar Power Association of Goa (SPAG). He provided an overview of SPAG, which was incorporated in 2017 by the Government of Goa and currently has 34 members. He explained that SPAG takes up solar-policy-related matters in Goa and has contributed suggestions towards the state's solar policy. According to his presentation, the solar policy was drafted, gazetted and notified after taking suggestions from the Solar Power Association of Goa.

Mr. Shirodkar also highlighted the financial incentives available for solar adoption. Under the Central Government subsidy, an amount of ₹22,500 per kilowatt is available, while the Government of Goa provides a subsidy of ₹78,000 per kilowatt. He further highlighted that there are 75 empanelled agencies in Goa, creating opportunities for employment and supporting the growth of the solar ecosystem in the state.

He also drew attention to the timelines for availing the available incentives. The last date for taking the solar policy under the Central Government scheme is 31 March 2027, while the last date for availing the subsidy under the Government of Goa is 31 March 2028. He further spoke about the Muft Bijli Yojana, highlighting the importance of government-supported initiatives in encouraging wider adoption of solar energy.

Representing World Trade Center Goa, Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, introduced participants to the organisation's mission and vision and its role in facilitating international trade. He highlighted the strength of the global World Trade Center network, comprising 300+ WTCs across 100+ countries, and spoke about the Export Facilitation Center and its role in supporting businesses seeking to access and expand into international markets.

Mr. Desouza also presented Mission 100/100, an initiative aimed at supporting 100 MSMEs to achieve a collective turnover of ₹100 crore by the year 2035. The initiative reflects WTC Goa's focus on strengthening the capabilities of MSMEs and creating pathways for them to participate more effectively in domestic and international trade.

The seminar provided a platform to examine solar energy not only as a source of clean and sustainable power but also as an area capable of generating new business, employment, technical and entrepreneurial opportunities. The discussions highlighted the importance of policy support, financial incentives, technical education and industry participation in accelerating the adoption of solar energy in Goa.

The programme concluded with a Panel Discussion and Q&A Session, providing participants with an opportunity to engage with the speakers and discuss various aspects of solar energy, policy, technical education and opportunities in the sector. The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks.

The "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future" seminar highlighted the growing relevance of renewable energy to Goa's economic and environmental future. By combining policy incentives, industry participation, technical education and entrepreneurship, the state can create a stronger ecosystem for solar energy adoption. The discussions also reinforced the importance of empowering MSMEs and skilled professionals to participate in this emerging sector, thereby contributing to employment generation, energy independence and sustainable development in Goa.

Address by Dr. Raghuvir Chary Nachinolkar, Lecturer, (Selection Grade) Department of Mechanical Engineering, Government Polytechnic, Goa during the Seminar on "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future"

Address by Mr. Amol Shirodkar, President, Solar Power Association of Goa (SPAG) during the Seminar on "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future"

Address by Ms. Pallavi Salgaocar, President, Laghu Udyog Bharati, Goa Chapter, during the Seminar on "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future"

Address By Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World trade Center Goa "Solar Energy – Powering a Sustainable Future"

Logistics International – Sustainable Cargo Movement

August 25, 2026

World Trade Center Goa organised a seminar on "Logistics International – Sustainable Cargo Movement" in association with Laghu Udyog Bharati and Global Chamber Goa, on 25 August 2026 at Kala Academy, Panaji, Goa. The programme brought together representatives from industry and logistics organisations to discuss the evolving logistics landscape, the importance of efficient cargo movement, opportunities for MSMEs, and Goa's potential to emerge as a regional logistics hub. The seminar featured insightful addresses from industry experts representing Laghu Udyog Bharati, Delta Ports Pvt. Ltd., Kaizen Global Solutions, Athena Global Logistics and World Trade Centre Goa

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The programme commenced with the welcome address, followed by an address by Mr. Jayesh Raikar, Managing Director, Goldy Industries Pvt. Ltd. and Vice President, Laghu Udyog Bharati, Goa Chapter. He highlighted the important role played by Laghu Udyog Bharati (LUB) in supporting and strengthening the MSME sector. He explained that LUB provides a collective platform for small businesses to participate in policy advocacy and representation, giving its members a stronger voice in influencing government policies, rules and standards. The organisation also works towards simplifying regulations and reducing compliance burdens for small business owners.

Mr. Raikar further highlighted LUB's initiatives in promoting business growth and digitalisation. The LUB E-Vyapar Advanced Platform facilitates lead generation and digital showrooms, helping businesses strengthen their market presence. LUB also conducts training programmes relating to Government e-Marketplace (GeM) registration and public procurement, enabling MSMEs to access new business opportunities. On the technology and skill-development front, LUB works to bridge the gap between research laboratories and small businesses through technology-transfer initiatives and collaborates with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to support curriculum development and the creation of skilled workers.

The seminar then featured an address by Mr. Vishnu Prasad, Senior Business Development Manager, Delta Ports Pvt. Ltd. He presented an overview of the Delta Group's extensive experience in logistics and port operations, spanning four decades. The group provides end-to-end logistics solutions and has a presence across Mangalore, Goa, Tuticorin, Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Its areas of expertise include container handling, transportation and cargo handling, customs brokering, stevedoring, refinery logistics, steamer agency services and freight forwarding

Mr. Prasad also highlighted the capabilities of the Delta Port Mormugao Terminal, including its harbour mobile crane, in-house fleet availability, T1, T2 and T3 sheds, bagging systems, safety protocols and technological solutions. His presentation underlined the importance of integrated port infrastructure and operational capabilities in facilitating efficient cargo movement and supporting the wider logistics ecosystem.

Mr. Jeffrin Rodrigues, Proprietor, Kaizen Global Solutions, provided an overview of India's economic and logistics environment. He touched upon India's GDP, strong demand and steady manufacturing output before focusing on Goa's economic position and its role within the regional logistics network. He highlighted Mormugao Port as the principal port in Goa anddiscussed the importance of neighbouring industrial regions in North Karnataka, South Maharashtra and Central Karnataka to Goa's cargo ecosystem.

The presentation examined the major cargo catchment areas outside Goa, including the Bellary-Hospet region, Belgaum and Dharwad districts, Uttara Kannada and southern Maharashtra. Major imports routed through this network include coal, coke, gypsum and limestone, primarily destined for steel and manufacturing plants in Karnataka. On the export side, the cargo profile includes iron ore, pig iron and steel products originating from mines and industrial plants in interior Karnataka. Containerised cargo from North Karnataka and southern Maharashtra also forms an important component of the regional logistics network.

Mr. Rodrigues also discussed the existing logistics layout and transportation considerations for industries in Goa, including the distance from the Verna Industrial Estate to Nhava Sheva and the associated cost considerations for transporting a 40-foot container. He highlighted the cargo-handling potential of Manohar International Airport, Goa, which has an initial cargo-handling capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes per annum at its integrated GMR Goa Air Cargo Logistics Terminal.

A key focus of the presentation was whether Goa could develop into a major regional logistics hub. Mr. Rodrigues emphasised that Goa has strong potential to emerge as a regional logistics hub owing to its strategic location on India's western coast, its upgraded multimodal transport network and proactive state policies. Goa's proximity to major markets in Maharashtra and Karnataka, along with access to international trade routes, provides a significant strategic advantage.

Group Photo of the delegates who attended "Logistics International – Sustainable Cargo Movement"

The state's multimodal infrastructure further strengthens this potential, with the integration of Mormugao Port, Manohar International Airport, Dabolim Airport, railway connectivity and upgraded national highways. In addition, the Goa Logistics and Warehousing Incentives Scheme offers capital investment reimbursement, interest subsidies and skill-development funds aimed at attracting logistics and warehousing players to the state.

The next session featured Mr. Joshua Pereira, Branch Manager, Athena Global Logistics Goa, who provided an overview of the company's logistics services. His address covered sea freight, air freight, multimodal transportation, project cargo, warehousing and allied services, reflecting the broad range of solutions required to support modern domestic and international cargo movement

Representing World Trade Center Goa, Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, introduced participants to the organisation's mission and vision and its role in facilitating international trade. He highlighted the strength of the global World Trade Center network, comprising 300+ WTCs across 100+ countries, and spoke about the Export Facilitation Center and its role in supporting businesses seeking to expand into international markets.

Mr. Desouza also presented Mission 100/100, an initiative aimed at supporting 100 MSMEs to achieve a collective turnover of ₹100 crore by the year 2035. The initiative reflects WTC Goa's focus on strengthening the capabilities of MSMEs and creating pathways for them to participate more effectively in domestic and international trade..

In highlighting Goa's advantages for international trade, Mr. Desouza pointed to the state's strategic location on India's west coast and the presence of Mormugao Port.

He also highlighted Goa's strong export sectors, including pharmaceuticals, seafood, spices, beverages and information technology, along with its growing logistics, shipping and tourism industries. Increasing foreign investment and international business activity, the availability of well-qualified professionals and Goa's high quality of life were also identified as factors contributing to the state's attractiveness as a business and trade destination.

The seminar concluded with an interactive Q&A session, providing participants an opportunity to engage with the speakers and gain further insights into logistics, cargo movement, trade opportunities and the development of Goa's logistics infrastructure. The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks by Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager – Trade Promotion,

WTC Goa.

The seminar highlighted that efficient and sustainable cargo movement is increasingly important for strengthening trade competitiveness and enabling businesses, particularly MSMEs, to access wider markets. With its strategic location, port and airport infrastructure, multimodal connectivity, proximity to major industrial regions and supportive policy environment, Goa has considerable potential to strengthen its position as a regional logistics and international trade hub. The discussions also reinforced the importance of collaboration between industry, government, logistics service providers and trade-support organisations in building an efficient, technology-enabled and sustainable logistics ecosystem.

Interactive meeting strengthens Goa's Global Trade Connects

September 3, 2026

A meeting was held between World Trade Center Goa (WTC Goa) and Smart Iting Ltd., a company with operations in Italy and Hong Kong, on 03 September 2026 at the WTC Goa premises.

The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for cooperation in international trade promotion, with particular emphasis on creating avenues for Goan products and services to access and expand their presence in global markets.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa and Ms. Gloria Giradi, Founder and Director, Smart Iting Ltd. The discussions explored broad areas of potential cooperation between WTC Goa and Smart Iting Ltd. with both sides expressing interest in developing collaborative initiatives that could strengthen international business linkages and facilitate greater global market access.

Two important highlights of the meeting were to identify suitable sectors and products from Goa with potential for global market penetration and the other was to encourage greater participation of Goan businesses in international trade and cross-border business opportunities. The discussion also considered the possibility of introducing products and services from the International arena that could do well in the local Goan and Indian Markets which could go a long way in supporting the growth and globalisation of local businesses.

The discussions established a broad framework for further engagement, with the shared objective of creating opportunities for Goan products and services to reach global markets and strengthening international business connections for enterprises from Goa that could translate into concrete trade and business opportunities.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center presenting Copy of ON Trade Magazine to Ms. Gloria Giradi, Founder and Director, Smart Iting Ltd

WTC Goa Hosts Meeting to Explore Growth Potential of Goa's Logistics Sector

4 September , 2026

World Trade Center Goa hosted an important meeting at its premises on 4 September 2026 to discuss the growth and development of Goa's logistics and supply chain sector. The meeting focused on assessing the current logistics and supply chain ecosystem in the state, reviewing the positive developments that have taken place in recent years, and exploring opportunities to further strengthen Goa's position as an important logistics and cargo-handling hub in the region. The discussion also examined how the growth of the sector could benefit Goa while supporting the logistics requirements of the neighbouring industrialised regions of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The meeting saw the active participation of Mr. Wilfred Menezes, Director, Athena Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Center Goa; and Mr. Joshua Pereira, Branch Manager, Athena Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd., Goa. The participants discussed the existing strengths and challenges of Goa's logistics ecosystem and the need for continued improvements in infrastructure, connectivity and logistics services to facilitate greater movement of cargo and strengthen the state's role in regional trade.

A key area of discussion was the potential to attract businesses from Tier-II and Tier-III cities in the surrounding regions to consider Goa as a logistics and cargo-handling hub. Cities and industrial centres such as Kolhapur, Miraj, Karwar, Belagavi, Ratnagiri, Dodamarg and Kankavli were identified as potential markets that could benefit from improved logistics connectivity t hrough Goa. Greater engagement with companies and businesses in these locations could create new cargo flows for Goa while providing these neighbouring markets with an alternative and strategically located logistics gateway.

The meeting further emphasised the need for proactive and forward-looking measures to encourage companies from these Tier-II and Tier-III cities to explore Goa for their logistics requirements. Among the measures discussed were the development of more regular port sailing facilities, targeted outreach to businesses in neighbouring industrial and commercial centres, and greater awareness about the logistics infrastructure and services available in Goa. Strengthening communication with potential users of Goa's logistics facilities was seen as an important step towards demonstrating the advantages and opportunities that the state can offer.

The discussions also highlighted the broader potential of Goa to emerge as a logistics gateway to South-West India and, in the long term, contribute to wider national supply-chain connectivity. By improving port connectivity, strengthening linkages with neighbouring industrial centres and creating greater awareness among businesses, Goa can further integrate itself into regional supply chains and enhance its role in cargo movement and trade. The meeting concluded with an emphasis on identifying practical next steps and building greater collaboration among stakeholders to unlock the potential of Goa's logistics sector and contribute to the state's economic growth.

(L to R): Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Wilfred Menezes, Director, Athena Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd.; and Mr. Joshua Pereira, Branch Manager, Athena Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd., Goa

Building a Self-Reliant and Export-Ready Goa: Strengthening Entrepreneurship and Global Trade

September 7, 2026

The World Trade Center Goa was pleased to host Mr. Sateen Khanna, Managing Director, Atheris International Pvt. Ltd., on 7 September 2026 for an engaging interaction focused on bringing entrepreneurs together on a common platform and strengthening the platform the mission 100/100.

The meeting between Mr Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa and Mr sateen Khanna, Managing Director, Atheris International Pvt Ltd saw a lively exchange of ideas which included opportunity for knowledge exchange, skill development, farming, production, manufacturing, and packaging, with the vision of creating a cohesive and self-sufficient entrepreneurial ecosystem in Goa.

By working collaboratively, entrepreneurs can strengthen local capabilities and collectively promote Goa-made products and services in international markets, contributing to the growth of exports from Goa.

The discussions also highlighted the potential of green energy and explored how Goa can develop and position sustainable energy solutions for international markets.

Together, we can build stronger businesses, foster innovation, promote sustainability, and put Goa on the global map of exports.

Seen in the Picture (L to R): Mr. Sateen Khanna, Managing Director, Atheris International Pvt. Ltd and Mr Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

Connecting Goan Businesses To Global Markets

September 11, 2026

A business interaction meeting titled "Connecting Goan Businesses to Global Markets" was organised on 11 September 2026 at the World Trade Center Goa with the objective of understanding the business requirements, challenges and aspirations of likeminded business entities under the WTC Goa umbrella to explore better opportunities for collaboration, market access, knowledge sharing and international business development. The meeting saw the participation from diverse sectors including logistics, merchant exports, IT and software services, construction, real estate, agriculture, food processing, handicrafts, mining, environmental solutions, green energy, healthcare and trading

A key theme that emerged during the discussion was the need for a mindset shift from operating as individual businesses towards building a stronger and more collaborative business ecosystem in Goa. Members discussed the importance of connecting like-minded businesses, developing stronger business networks, identifying complementary capabilities and exploring opportunities for collective manufacturing, sourcing and market development. There was a common understanding that businesses could benefit significantly by working together, sharing knowledge and resources, and looking beyond individual commercial interests to develop an ecosystem that could strengthen Goa's presence in national and international markets.

Mr. Joshua Camilo Noronha Dias, Founder of TOTAAC LLP, expressed interest in exploring new opportunities in construction materials and to understand the similarities and differences between Goa and other markets. He also highlighted potential opportunities in B2B manufacturing and agricultural processing. The discussion noted that Goa has limited manufacturing capacity in certain construction-related segments, resulting in businesses sourcing products and manufacturers from outside the state, including neighbouring regions such as Udupi. This highlighted the need to examine opportunities for strengthening local manufacturing capabilities and developing appropriate industrial linkages within Goa.

Round Table Discussion

Mr. Joshua Pereira, Branch Manager of Athena Global Logistics Pvt. Ltd., spoke about the logistics sector in Goa and the company's ability to provide integrated logistics solutions covering air, sea and road transportation. The discussion recognised the important role of logistics in enabling Goan businesses to access domestic and international markets efficiently. Better coordination between manufacturers, exporters, traders and logistics providers was identified as an important factor in improving supply-chain efficiency and supporting the expansion of Goan businesses into new markets.

Members also discussed opportunities in exports and international business development. Ms. Suprita Gaitonde, Director of EXIM Global Ventures, spoke about merchant exports, particularly handcrafted candles. Mr. Sushant, representing Agri Aura, highlighted the company's export activities to markets such as Dubai and Sri Lanka and discussed some of the challenges faced by merchant exporters in accessing relevant information and effectively utilising government schemes and support programmes. Mr. Shambunath Maurya, Proprietor of Essential Import Export, also shared his experience in electrical merchant exports and discussed the potential for expanding business through international market linkages.

Ms. Harsha Pednekar, CEO of Aari Art World, spoke about zari designing and the training classes conducted by her organisation. The discussion highlighted the potential for traditional skills, handicrafts and creative products to be developed into commercially viable offerings for wider domestic and international markets. Product development, skill enhancement, branding and appropriate market linkages were identified as areas that could support the growth of such enterprises.

Mr. Tejas Madhav Talak, Partner at Anchora, discussed activities relating to real estate, food processing and export orders, highlighting the potential for collaboration across these areas. Mr. Yatin Sanjeev Kanekar, CEO of Infipre IT Services OPC Pvt. Ltd., spoke about the company's software exports to markets including the United States, Israel, South Africa and Tanzania, as well as its activities in recruitment and training. He also shared initiatives relating to custom gifting, paper quilling and technology solutions, including a scrap-management application. His presentation demonstrated the potential for technology-driven solutions to support traditional businesses and address practical challenges in areas such as waste management, trading and manufacturing.

Mr. Bhavesh Melwani and Mr. Haresh Melwani, Directors of Nathurmal Eco Minerals Pvt. Ltd., spoke about their activities in dolomite and fuller's earth mining, red ochre and Ayurvedic applications. They emphasised the importance of scientific mining, responsible resource development and market expansion. The discussion also highlighted the potential for developing stronger market linkages and identifying new applications and commercial opportunities for locally available mineral resources.

Round Table Discussion

Mr. Richard Dias, representing Mr. Cedric Vaz of Global Spirits & Foods, spoke about the manufacture and market potential of Goan Cashew Feni. The discussion highlighted the importance of developing a stronger ecosystem around cashew cultivation, processing and value addition within Goa. Strengthening linkages between farmers, processors, manufacturers and markets was recognised as an important step towards creating greater value within the state and developing opportunities for wider market access.

fertilisers while supporting farmers in producing premium-quality crops in Goa. The discussion emphasised the importance of making appropriate technologies and modern agricultural practices accessible to farmers and ensuring that such solutions are practical, commercially viable and suited to local requirements.

Mr. Gavin D'Souza, Director of Lila Digital and Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd., spoke about sewage treatment plants, Water management for agriculture irrigation solutions and environmental infrastructure. Mr. D'Souza's also spoke on, sewage treatment and sustainable infrastructure as areas with significant potential for development and collaboration in Goa. These areas were also seen as opportunities where technology, business expertise and market linkages could be brought together to address local requirements while creating commercially sustainable solutions.

A recurring theme throughout the meeting was the importance of making information, technology, quality products and market opportunities more accessible to farmers and MSMEs in Goa. Agriculture, food processing, healthcare and power were identified as sectors with significant potential for development and global market access. The meeting emphasised that farmers require greater awareness of available technologies, machinery, government schemes, market requirements and quality standards so that they can improve productivity, soil quality and product quality and gradually develop products that meet the requirements of larger domestic and international markets.

The discussion also highlighted the need for greater awareness of MSME schemes, government funding and other support programmes, particularly for businesses operating in agriculture, fisheries, mining, manufacturing and exports. It was noted that although various schemes and opportunities are available, businesses often face difficulties in obtaining practical information, understanding eligibility requirements and navigating the implementation process. The need for knowledgeable professionals who can guide entrepreneurs and businesses through relevant government schemes, documentation, funding opportunities and implementation procedures was therefore identified as an important area for further action.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, World Trade Center Goa, emphasised the importance of building a network of like-minded businesses, promoting economic development and creating sector-specific ecosystems. He proposed the organisation of more networking meeting to help foster practical business outcomes, partnership and market opportunities through sustained engagement among businesses.

The key objective emerging from the meeting was to connect Goan businesses with the right people, knowledge, technology and markets, enabling local capabilities to develop into sustainable and globally competitive opportunities. Through continued engagement, knowledge sharing and practical collaboration, WTC Goa aims to facilitate stronger business linkages and contribute towards the development of a more connected, innovative and internationally oriented business ecosystem in Goa.

WTC Goa Initiates Strategic Roadmap for Goa's Global Economic Growth

September 16, 2026

On 16 September 2026, the World Trade Centre Goa organised a brainstorming session focused on identifying and strengthening sectors in Goa with significant potential in international markets. The session was conducted in the presence of Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre Goa, and witnessed the participation of Mr. Sateen Khanna, Managing Director, Atheris International Private Limited; Mr. Joshua Camilo Noronha Dias, Founder, TOTAAC LLP and Mr. Joven Stephen Fernandes, Director, Kings Throne Services and Exports Pvt Ltd .

The discussions centred on developing a structured and collaborative strategy to enhance Goa's production capabilities and position quality Goan products to meet International and Global market requirements. The brainstorming exercise highlighted the importance of bringing together key elements such as people, products, skill development, technology upgradation, finance, and support available through various government schemes and prominent government organisations.

A key outcome of the session was the recognition of the need for greater coordination among stakeholders and the creation of a common platform through WTC Goa. Such a platform can facilitate collaboration, knowledge sharing, capacity building, access to institutional support, and market linkages, enabling enterprises and producers in Goa to better understand and respond to international market opportunities.

Seen in the picture (L to T): Mr. Sateen Khanna, Managing Director, Atheris International Private Limited; Mr. Joshua Dias, Founder, TOTAAC LLP; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre Goa and Mr. Joven Stephen Fernandes, Director, Kings Throne Services and Exports Pvt Ltd

The initiative aims to contribute towards the development of a stronger and more competitive ecosystem in Goa, encouraging the production of high-quality products that are aligned with global standards and specific international market segments. Through strategic collaboration and focused interventions, WTC Goa seeks to support the growth of local enterprises and help expand the global reach of quality Goan products and services

WTC Goa Explores Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Gardening with Former Director of Agriculture, Government of Goa

September 17, 2026

On 17 September 2026, World Trade Centre Goa had the privilege of meeting Mr. Nevil Alphonso, Former Director of Agriculture, Government of Goa, to discuss the potential of urban agriculture, sustainable cultivation practices and the adoption of modern agricultural techniques to increase productivity despite the growing constraints on available agricultural land.

Goa's rich natural biodiversity plays an important role in the lives of its people, providing food, flowers, fruits and medicinal plants. With increasing urbanisation and the consequent reduction in available agricultural spaces, there is a growing need to promote innovative and practical methods of cultivation that can enable households to produce more within limited spaces. Mr. Alphonso shared valuable insights and guidance on how improved agricultural practices and appropriate technologies could contribute towards achieving greater output from smaller land holdings.

During the interaction with Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre Goa, Mr. Alphonso emphasised the importance of encouraging Goan households to transform available spaces around their homes into productive urban gardens. Such household gardens could support the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, medicinal plants, flowers and ornamental plants. Apart from improving access to fresh and quality produce, increased household cultivation can contribute to a greener environment and provide supportive habitats for insects, birds and honeybees, which play an important role in the agricultural ecosystem.

As a practical way forward, Mr. Alphonso suggested implementing the initiative in a phased manner through three focused workshops: Container Gardening, to educate households on growing vegetables, fruits, flowers and ornamental plants in limited spaces; Growing of Microgreens, focusing on simple techniques for growing nutritious microgreens at home; and fruit plant cultivation, providing guidance on selecting, planting and maintaining suitable fruit plants in household spaces.

Seen in the Picture: Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre Goa along with Mr. Nevil Alphonso, Former Director of Agriculture, Government of Goa

Responding positively to the proposal, Mr. Desouza expressed his support for conducting these workshops and for creating greater awareness among Goan households about healthy and sustainable cultivation practices. The initiative aims to encourage more families to participate in urban gardening and, over time, create opportunities for surplus production. Such surplus, if developed at scale and to appropriate quality standards, could potentially contribute to broader agricultural value chains and explore future opportunities in markets beyond Goa.

The meeting marked a constructive step towards exploring sustainable, household-level agriculture and promoting practical solutions that can strengthen food production, biodiversity and the quality of life in Goa.

World Trade Center Goa participates in the Webinar for Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit (VGGBS) 2026,

September 19, 2026

World Trade Center Goa, represented by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, participated in an insightful webinar held on 19 September 2026 to highlight the objectives and key features of the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit (VGGBS) 2026, scheduled to be held from 29 to 31 October 2026 in Goa.
WTC Mumbai and WTC Goa have extended their support to the Summit as International Partners.

The webinar proceedings were coordinated by Mr. Arman Bankley, Co-Chairman, VGGBS 2026. Mr. Vinay Verma, Chairman, VGGBS, provided an overview of the key conclaves planned during the Summit and highlighted the opportunities that the event will offer to participating businesses and stakeholders.
Mr. Ajay Gramopadhye, Hon. Secretary, Vibrant Goa Foundation, presented details of the exhibition being organised concurrently with the Summit. He explained how companies can participate and showcase their products and services through exclusive exhibition stalls.

A significant part of the webinar focused on the business opportunities in Africa, highlighting the immense potential for trade and investment collaboration between Indian and African businesses. An update was also shared regarding international participation, with nearly 600 international delegates having already registered for VGGBS 2026 in Goa.

The webinar provided valuable insights into the objectives, business opportunities, exhibition prospects and international participation planned for VGGBS 2026. WTC Goa's participation reaffirmed its support for initiatives that promote international trade, business networking and global economic cooperation.

View of the webinar participants

WTC Goa Explores Global Opportunities for Goa's Information Technology Sector

September 19, 2026

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa presenting Mr. Saurabh Naik, Marketing Executive, Genora Infotech with the latest copy of ONTrade Magazine.

The Information Technology (IT) sector in Goa is steadily making its mark by providing quality technology solutions to both the Indian and international markets.

Recognising the growing importance of the sector as a potential driver of economic diversification and high-value employment, the World Trade Center (WTC) Goa held an interesting and constructive meeting with Mr. Saurabh Naik, Marketing Executive, Genora Infotech, a Goa-based technology company that is successfully exporting its software solutions to several international markets.

The meeting, held at WTC Goa on 19 September 2026, provided an opportunity to understand the emerging strengths, opportunities and challenges of Goa's IT industry, particularly in the context of expanding the state's presence in global markets

AI + IT = Enhanced Profitability

September 28, 2026

World Trade Center Goa, represented by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, had a very interesting and insightful meeting with Mr. Rajesh Rathod, an Independent Consultant working at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology.

The discussion focused on leveraging the combined potential of AI and IT to develop meaningful solutions that can help businesses; Improve operational efficiency, enhance employee, productivity & effectiveness, optimize costs & resource utilization, and Strengthen business processes and create a positive impact on overall profitability

The meeting highlighted the growing opportunities for businesses to harness emerging technologies and innovative solutions to drive sustainable growth and remain competitive in an evolving global business environment. September 2026.

WTC Goa looks forward to exploring meaningful avenues for collaboration and supporting businesses in leveraging technology for greater efficiency and growth.

Seen in the picture: Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa along with Mr. Rajesh Rathod, Independent Consultant, the intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology

The meeting was held at World Trade Center Goa on 28 September 2026.

WTC JAIPUR
TRADE HIGHLIGHTS

India Rising in a fragmented world order – An analysis of the geopolitical and economic state of the World

July 2, 2026

In the pic: left to right Prof. Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dr. Ravinder Kaur and Mr. Navneet Agarwal

The global geopolitical landscape is witnessing unprecedented shifts driven by changing power dynamics, regional conflicts, trade realignments, technological competition, and supply chain disruptions. As the world transitions towards a more fragmented order, these developments are reshaping international trade, investment, and economic growth. Amidst these changes, India has emerged as one of the fastest-growing major economies with the potential to play a pivotal role in the global economy. Towards exploring how geopolitical developments are influencing India's economic trajectory, the challenges ahead, and the opportunities that can strengthen India's position in the evolving global order, noteworthy speakers with illustrious careers gave their insights in a session organized by World Trade Center Jaipur with Jaipur School of Economics, JECRC Group of Institutions, at Sitapura Industrial Area.

As a distinguished speaker at the session, Mr. Dinesh Gupta, President, Shekhawati Impex, one of Rajasthan's Leading Manufacturers, said, "The current geopolitical environment is undergoing a significant transformation due to strategic rivalries, conflicts, and changing global alliances. India is well-positioned to leverage these developments through its stable democratic framework, strong domestic market, and balanced foreign policy. The speaker emphasized that sustained economic growth will require continued reforms, enhanced manufacturing capabilities, and deeper engagement with global partners."

Mr. Gupta continued by saying, "India has consistently demonstrated resilience during periods of global uncertainty. By strengthening its industrial base, encouraging innovation, improving ease of doing business, and expanding strategic partnerships with both developed and emerging economies, India can transform global challenges into long-term opportunities for sustainable economic development and inclusive growth.

Prof. Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, JECRC Group of Institutions, emphasized, "Energy security is fundamental to India's economic development. The volatility in global oil and gas markets, coupled with supply chain disruptions, has reinforced the need to diversify our energy sources. Investments in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and strategic energy reserves will play a crucial role in ensuring India's long-term energy and economic security."

Prof. Mishra Continued by Saying, "India's transition towards clean energy is not only an environmental necessity but also an economic opportunity. Strengthening domestic energy production, promoting energy efficiency, and encouraging public-private partnerships in the renewable energy sector will reduce import dependence while creating employment and supporting sustainable industrial growth."

Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Head of the Department (HoD) for the Jaipur School of Economics (JSE), quoted, "India's long-term economic prospects remain promising despite an increasingly fragmented world order. Achieving sustained economic growth while navigating complex geopolitical realities will require comprehensive policy reforms, technological advancement, sustainable development, and strategic international partnerships. Strong collaboration among the government, industry, academia, and investors will be instrumental in positioning India as a leading global economic power."

Dr. Kaur went on to say, "Building a resilient economy requires long-term vision and coordinated action. Greater investment in

cont...

education, research, innovation, and digital infrastructure, along with effective governance and policy stability, will enable India to strengthen its global leadership and achieve sustained, inclusive, and environmentally responsible growth."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, shared, speaking on the activities of World Trade Center Jaipur, Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, said, "The World Trade Center Jaipur plays a vital role in promoting international trade, investment, and global business connectivity through the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network. At a time when the global oil crisis is affecting supply chains, increasing logistics costs, and creating market uncertainties, it is essential to build resilient and diversified trade strategies. He further added, "The WTCA network enables businesses to access new international markets, identify reliable trade partners, participate in trade missions and B2B engagements, obtain valuable market intelligence, and explore cross-border investment opportunities. By leveraging this global network, the trade fraternity can effectively mitigate geopolitical and supply chain risks, enhance trade efficiency, and strengthen its global competitiveness in an increasingly dynamic international business environment."

Mr. Navneet thanked the co-organizers and the team for their active support in organizing this need-of-the-hour program and esteemed participants for their benign participation.

In the pic: left to right Prof. Sunil Kumar Mishra, Dr. Ravinder Kaur and Mr. Navneet Agarwal.

Rajasthan's Tourism and Hotel Industry: Where Unparalleled Opulence Awaits

July 15, 2026

The hospitality and tourism industry plays a vital role in promoting economic development, preserving cultural heritage, generating employment, and enhancing a region's global image. Tourism not only creates livelihood opportunities for local communities but also showcases the traditions, arts, cuisine, architecture, and cultural identity of a destination to visitors from across the world. Recognizing the growing importance of this sector, the programme on Hospitality and Tourism was organized to educate students about the immense career opportunities available in the industry and to encourage them to consider Hotel Management and Tourism as a strong and rewarding professional career. The event aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements by creating awareness about the diverse employment prospects, entrepreneurial opportunities, and global career pathways available in the hospitality and tourism sector. To discuss the current scenario in the hotel and tourism industry and to enlighten young aspirants, World Trade Center Jaipur participated in an orientation program organized by the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management, MLSU, Udaipur, Rajasthan.

As Chief Guest to the program, Prof. (Dr.) Kailash Daga, Honourable Vice Chancellor, MLSU, Udaipur highlighted,

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal with Prof. (Dr.) Kailash Daga, Prof (Dr.), Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Kailash Daga, MLSU, Udaipur

"Tourism is one of the strongest pillars of economic development because it generates employment, promotes entrepreneurship, earns valuable foreign exchange, and supports several allied sectors such as hospitality, transport, handicrafts, aviation, retail, food services, and event management. Rajasthan, with its magnificent forts, palaces, heritage hotels, desert landscapes, wildlife, colourful fairs and festivals, traditional arts, and rich

cultural heritage, continues to be one of India's most preferred tourism destinations. The continued growth of domestic tourism, international travel, medical tourism, wellness tourism, heritage tourism, and rural tourism has significantly strengthened the hospitality industry in the State. I encourage students to pursue Hotel Management and Tourism because the sector offers rewarding careers not only in hotels but also in airlines, airports, cruise tourism, travel companies, destination management, luxury hospitality, event management, and entrepreneurship. Today, tourism is not merely a service industry; it is a catalyst for inclusive economic development and sustainable employment generation.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Prof (Dr.) Meera Mathur, Director and Chairperson, Faculty of Management Studies, MLSU, shared, "Medical tourism has emerged as one of the fastest-growing segments of India's tourism industry, making the country a preferred global destination for quality and affordable healthcare. India's medical tourism market is projected to witness strong growth over the coming years, driven by world-class hospitals, internationally trained doctors, advanced medical technology, and affordable treatment costs. Every year, hundreds of thousands of international patients visit India for specialised treatments such as cardiology, oncology, orthopaedics, organ transplantation, fertility treatment, cosmetic surgery, and Ayurveda-based wellness therapies. Cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Kochi have emerged as major medical tourism hubs because of their advanced healthcare infrastructure. Rajasthan is also steadily strengthening its position in medical and wellness tourism through its multi-speciality hospitals, Ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy centres, rehabilitation facilities, and wellness resorts, particularly in Jaipur, Udaipur, and Jodhpur. The expansion of medical tourism has generated significant employment opportunities not only in healthcare but also in hotels, transport services, travel agencies, hospitality, wellness centres, and other allied sectors. I encourage students to recognize the tremendous potential of medical tourism and consider it as an emerging area of professional growth within the hospitality and tourism industry."

Special guest, mentor and renowned educator, Prof (Dr.) Hanuman Prasad, Director and Chairperson. Faculty of Management Studies, MLSU, the Indian hospitality industry is reflecting sustained growth in domestic tourism, international travel, MICE tourism, heritage tourism, wellness tourism, and luxury hospitality. Rajasthan has made remarkable progress in strengthening its tourism ecosystem through sustained investments in tourism infrastructure, heritage conservation, road and airport connectivity, destination development, promotion of cultural festivals, and preservation of its historical monuments. The Government of Rajasthan has played a commendable role in positioning the State as one of India's premier tourism destinations by encouraging heritage tourism, eco-tourism, rural tourism, religious tourism, and investment in hospitality infrastructure. These initiatives have significantly enhanced employment opportunities, promoted local entrepreneurship, and strengthened Rajasthan's reputation as a globally recognised tourism destination."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Centre Jaipur, said, "MICE Tourism—Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions—is one of the fastest-growing segments of India's tourism industry and presents tremendous opportunities for Rajasthan. Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, and Jaisalmer have emerged as preferred destinations for conferences, exhibitions, corporate meetings, incentive travel programmes, and destination weddings because of their world-class hotels, heritage venues, convention facilities, and excellent connectivity. The expansion of MICE tourism generates business for hotels, convention centres, transport operators, event management companies, catering services, travel agencies, and numerous allied industries."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal further added, "World Trade Center Jaipur has been actively promoting Rajasthan's trade and tourism ecosystem by organizing international trade delegations, business networking programmes, buyer-seller meets, exhibitions, seminars, and capacity-building initiatives. WTC Jaipur has supported MSMEs, startups, exporters, artisans, women entrepreneurs, and local businesses by connecting them with national and international markets, expanding their customer base, facilitating business collaborations, and promoting Rajasthan's globally renowned handicrafts, textiles, gems and jewellery, marble, blue pottery, leather products, and other traditional industries. Through these initiatives, WTC Jaipur continues to strengthen trade promotion, tourism, entrepreneurship, and international business linkages, thereby contributing to the sustainable economic development of Rajasthan. I encourage students to seize the opportunities offered by MICE tourism and the broader hospitality sector, as they represent one of the most promising career pathways in India's expanding service economy."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal thanked the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Kailash Daga, for a very meaningful and thought-provoking interaction, Prof (Dr.) Hanuman Prasad and Prof (Dr.) Meera Mathur for creating a meaningful platform for all to deliberate, and expressed his gratitude to all the participants for their enthusiastic presence and active participation.

"Young entrepreneurs and businesses must embrace technology, develop globally competitive products, and contribute towards nation-building" - Mr. Suresh Prabhu

July 25, 2026

World Trade Center (WTC) Jaipur had the distinct privilege of interacting with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, a senior Indian statesman, global policy influencer, and respected reform architect with more than four decades of distinguished public service at The Leela Palace, Jaipur. A six-time Member of Parliament, Mr. Prabhu has served as a Union Cabinet Minister heading 10 major ministries, including Commerce & Industry, Railways, Civil Aviation, Power, Environment & Forests, Fertilizers & Chemicals, Heavy Industry & Public Enterprises, and several other key portfolios. He has played a pivotal role in shaping India's economic transformation, environmental governance, cooperative sector reforms, aviation expansion, energy consolidation, and railway modernization. Mr. Prabhu has also represented India as the country's Sherpa to the G20 and later to the G7, significantly contributing to India's global economic and diplomatic engagements. He currently serves as the Chancellor of Rishihood University and is a Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics, reflecting his continued contribution to academia, public policy, and global thought leadership. The interaction provided valuable insights into India's evolving trade landscape, innovation ecosystem, and the importance of sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal with Mr. Suresh Prabhu

Speaking with Mr. Prabhu on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "Innovation, entrepreneurship, and global partnerships are the driving forces behind Rajasthan's economic transformation. At WTC Jaipur, we are committed to creating a vibrant platform that connects businesses, startups, policymakers, and international markets. Through trade facilitation, startup incubation, investment promotion, and global collaborations, we are enabling enterprises from Rajasthan to compete internationally while fostering innovation and sustainable economic growth."

Dr. Kalantri further said, "Rajasthan possesses immense potential to emerge as a global destination for trade, manufacturing, tourism, and innovation. By strengthening collaboration between industry, academia, government, and international institutions, we can create an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurship and attracts investments. WTC Jaipur remains committed to empower-ing businesses through knowledge-sharing, market access, strategic partner-ships, and capacity-building initiatives that contribute to the state's long-term economic prosperity."

Mr. Suresh Prabhu emphasised, "India's future lies in innovation-driven growth, sustaina-bility, and global collaboration. Young entrepreneurs and businesses must embrace technology, develop globally competitive products, and contribute towards nation-building through responsible and inclusive development. Institutions like World Trade Center Jaipur play an important role in connecting local enterprises with international opportunities and strengthening India's position in global trade. I urge the youth to pursue knowledge with humility, work with dedication, dream ambitiously, and remain committed to serving society through ethical leadership and innovation."

Mr. Suresh Prabhu further said, "India is entering a transformative phase where competitiveness will be determined by innovation, sustainability, and the ability to adapt to emerging technologies. We must invest in skill development, research,

digital transformation, and green infrastructure to build globally competitive enterprises. Every entrepreneur has the potential to contribute to India's growth story, and institutions such as World Trade Center Jaipur can play a catalytic role in fostering innovation, facilitating global partnerships, and creating opportunities for future generations."

Sharing his views, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, said, "Our interaction with Mr. Suresh Prabhu has been truly inspiring and enriching. His vast experience in governance, international trade, infrastructure, and sustainability provides valuable guidance for businesses, startups, and aspiring entrepreneurs. WTC Jaipur will continue to promote international trade, facilitate global business linkages, support startups and MSMEs, organize knowledge-sharing programmes, and create opportunities that strengthen Rajasthan's position as an emerging hub for trade, investment, and innovation."

In conclusion, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, thanked Mr. Suresh Prabhu for his gracious presence and for sharing his invaluable insights, experiences, and vision for India's future. He also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Jaipur, for his visionary leadership and unwavering support.

Empowering Youth, Transforming Tomorrow: A Report on the Sensitization Event for Prime Minister's Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan

August 2, 2026

World Trade Center (WTC) Jaipur organised a sensitisation and awareness programme on 3 August under the Prime Minister's Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA). The initiative was spearheaded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, with multi-sectoral support through an inter-ministerial framework involving the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. The necessity for such an event stem from the urgent need to address the growing threat of substance abuse among young people—a crisis that severely impacts physical and mental well-being, educational progress, family relationships, and overall national productivity. Early awareness and timely guidance are essential to protect the aspirations of the youth and ensure the future prosperity of the nation.

In addressing the vision behind this national movement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated: "As the nation sets its sights on becoming a Viksit Bharat, it is essential that our youth be healthy in body and mind, brimming with self-confidence, and forever free from the deadly habit of drugs. The campaign we are witnessing today is for the individual, the family, and society; above all, it is for the nation."

The programme served as a multi-stakeholder platform bringing together around 100 diverse participants. These included medical professionals and health consultants who highlighted health risks and early intervention strategies, as well as students and their guardians who engaged in open discussions regarding prevention and overcoming peer pressure. Additionally, spiritual and religious leaders actively participated in the event, bringing moral values, positive life choices, and community support networks into the overall movement for youth wellness.

At the conclusion of the session, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director of World Trade Center Jaipur, emphasized the long-term impact of such collaborative platforms. In his address, he stated: "Such programmes can provide a beacon of light to the present youth by giving them real-time information, creating awareness about the consequences of substance abuse, and motivating them towards healthier living options." He added that when medical experts, educationists, guardians, and spiritual voices unite, young people gain not only vital knowledge on the benefits of healthy living options but also a strong support system to guide them toward a drug-free future.

In the pic Honorable Prime Minister Addressing the youth and Youth taking oath following Hon PM motivational words

Bridging Capability and Opportunity - Ntional-level MSME Vendor Development Program

August 7-8, 2026

In today's fiercely competitive economy, being a capable manufacturer or service provider is merely the entry ticket; the true transformation happens when an enterprise becomes a trusted, long-term supplier to large institutional buyers. This strategic imperative took center stage at the National-Level MSME Vendor Development Program held on August 7th and 8th, 2026. Designed as a high-impact bridge connecting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs), the offline summit focused on opening institutional markets, demystifying procurement expectations, and turning isolated tender bids into sustained national supply-chain partnerships.

Mr. R. K. Rai, IEDS, Additional Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, New Delhi, attended as the Chief Guest for the summit. As a senior leader in the Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS), Mr. R. K. Rai has been instrumental in shaping policies for MSME technology upgradation, cluster development, and expanding market access through public procurement initiatives across the country. Addressing the delegates on the program and national procurement mandates, he stated, "In the past three fiscal years alone, CPSUs across India procured over ₹1.5 lakh crore in goods and services directly from MSMEs, successfully driving public procurement policy target allocations from 25% to nearly 30% across key industrial sectors. Previous Vendor Development Programs have proven their value: participating MSMEs experienced an average 35% increase in successful tender conversions, while buying institutions reported a 20% reduction in procurement lead times by sourcing locally. While India's 63 million MSMEs contribute over 30% to our national GDP, thousands of capable enterprises still miss out on multi-crore public contracts due to preventable gaps in operational awareness and compliance. This program serves as a practical bridge between raw capability and massive institutional opportunity. Direct interaction allows CPSUs to identify reliable domestic vendors while helping MSMEs upgrade their quality, productivity, technology, and delivery systems so they can evolve from occasional suppliers into strategic, long-term partners."

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center, Jaipur addressing the gathering

Mr. Robin Das, Chief General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Chaksu, Jaipur, brings extensive expertise in managing large-scale energy infrastructure, petroleum distribution, and strategic procurement operations, having consistently championed the integration of local technical vendors into energy-sector supply chains. Addressing the delegates on operational readiness and quality standards, he said, "Simply seeking registration with a CPSU is not sufficient; an MSME must be fully equipped to consistently deliver the right product or service, at the required quality, within agreed timelines, and in strict accordance with all applicable procedures. In high-stakes energy and industrial sectors like IOCL, compliance and zero-defect performance are non-negotiable. Small businesses must master four non-negotiable practices: analyzing tender requirements meticulously before bidding, building robust compliance and audit-ready documentation into daily workflows, maintaining zero-defect batch quality to earn market trust, and modernizing procurement protocols to handle large-scale demand spikes. These platforms are hands-on opportunities to align your operational capabilities directly with buyer specifications."

Mr. Brijesh Dixit, Managing Director, Rajasthan Electronics & Instruments Ltd. (REIL), Jaipur, is a veteran leader with vast

expertise across major public sector engineering and electronics enterprises, continuing to lead REIL in pioneering initiatives across solar energy, industrial electronics, and IT solutions. Highlighting technology integration and vendor capabilities, he remarked, "To become trusted suppliers to technology-driven PSUs like REIL, MSMEs must bridge the gap between basic production and high-precision manufacturing. Modern public sector undertakings are looking for domestic vendors who actively invest in technology adoption, quality certifications, and sustainable practices. Vendor development programs provide the precise technical exposure MSMEs need to upgrade their processes, understand complex tender specs, and scale from small component suppliers into long-term strategic technology partners."

Mrs. Parimita Mishra, Convener, SLBC Rajasthan & General Manager, Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Jaipur, leads state-level financial coordination, priority sector lending, and banking initiatives to ensure credit accessibility for industries across Rajasthan. Speaking on financial readiness and credit access for vendors, she stated, "Timely execution of large institutional procurement contracts requires robust financial backing and disciplined cash-flow management. Through the State Level Bankers' Committee and institutions like Bank of Baroda, we are committed to facilitating tailor-made working capital solutions, collateral-free credit schemes, and TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) platforms for MSMEs. When small vendors secure verified purchase orders from CPSUs, banks are fully equipped to empower them with the financial liquidity needed to scale production and deliver on time."

Organizing vendor development programs is vital because it replaces fragmented market access with direct, face-to-face engagements between MSMEs and institutional buyers, demystifying strict expectations surrounding quality, technical specifications, pricing, documentation, and delivery compliance. Currently, India's 63 million MSMEs contribute over 30% to national GDP, yet many continue to face challenges due to limited automation, inadequate quality management systems, and unfamiliarity with complex public procurement documentation. In contrast, successful vendors in advanced industrial economies like Germany (under the Mittelstand model) and Japan are deeply integrated into tier-1 supply chains through automated quality tracking, zero-defect manufacturing, and continuous R&D collaboration. Indian vendors can learn from their international counterparts by shifting from short-term low-cost bidding to long-term capability building, adopting digital documentation, zero-defect workflows, and modernized procurement protocols. Participating in such programs delivers measurable financial and operational gains across the ecosystem: suppliers and vendors achieve a 35% increase in successful tender conversions and an estimated 15% to 25% growth in profit margins through reduced rework and penalty avoidance, while buyers experience a 20% reduction in procurement lead times by sourcing locally.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center, Jaipur, thanked the organizers, the chief guest, and the guest of honors for their invaluable contribution and support in executing this successful summit. Speaking on the strategic value of vendor development, he stated, "Effective vendor development is the single most powerful mechanism for helping MSMEs transition from local market participation to becoming dependable, high-value suppliers within the CPSU ecosystem. To meet the demanding standards of large buyers, MSMEs must relentlessly focus on consistent quality, competitive pricing, timely delivery, regulatory compliance, technological capability, and professional management practices. Regular interaction with CPSUs enables small enterprises to anticipate evolving institutional needs and build long-term supply-chain integration. I warmly congratulate the organizers and extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed chief guests for successfully conducting this impactful programme. Such programmes should be organized every year to maintain consistency and ensure continuous interaction between MSMEs and CPSUs. With sustained guidance and exposure, MSMEs can better understand buyer requirements and develop themeselves as effective, reliable, and competitive suppliers to CPSUs."

WTC Jaipur joins the delegation to Copenhagen, Denmark

August 25, 2026

In the pic from left to right Dr.Vijay Kalantri, Chairman WTC Mumbai, Mr. Sharad Upaseni, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai, Mrs. Batra and Capt. Somesh Batra, H.E. Mr.Manish Prabhat, Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade Promotion, Investments and International Relations, WTC Mumbai, Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, WTC Jaipur.

A five-member delegation led by Dr. Vijay G. Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Board Director, World Trade Centers Association, New York; and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), visited the Embassy of India in Denmark to interact with H.E. Mr. Manish Prabhat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of India to the Kingdom of Denmark. The delegation comprised Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Mr. Sharad P. Upasani, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Senior Director, Trade Promotion, Investments and International Relations, WTC Mumbai; and Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, WTC Jaipur.

H.E. Mr. Manish Prabhat, a 1996-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer based in Copenhagen, highlighted the Embassy's efforts to strengthen bilateral trade, clean-energy cooperation, talent mobility, and economic partnerships between India and Denmark. During the visit, the Ambassador invited Dr. Vijay Kalantri to interact with innovative Danish startups at a dedicated event organized by the Embassy. The startups were formally introduced to Dr. Kalantri, resulting in an engaging interaction in which entrepreneurs discussed their businesses, raised questions, and sought insights on global expansion. To facilitate continued engagement, Ambassador Prabhat also agreed to include WTC Mumbai in the Embassy's official mailing list, enabling the organization to receive regular information on upcoming events, trade programmes, and diplomatic initiatives.

Ambassador Prabhat highlighted Denmark's global leadership in renewable energy and emphasized the country's expertise in offshore wind technology, including wind turbines installed in marine environments. He noted the potential for such advanced clean-energy technologies to be adapted and introduced in India through greater bilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange. The discussion also identified several sectors with potential for enhanced India–Denmark collaboration, including battery technology and energy storage, waste-to-energy,

telecommunications, defence, textiles, gems and jewellery, and regional tourism.

Capt. Somesh Batra highlighted the Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (MMPA) as an important framework for strengthening cooperation in migration, talent mobility, and institutional engagement. He noted that such partnerships can facilitate the movement of skilled professionals and create new avenues for international business and workforce collaboration. Building on the discussion on international mobility, Ambassador Prabhat referred to the UK–India Agreement on Labour Mobility, emphasizing its role in facilitating the movement of skilled professionals and creating greater employment opportunities and stronger workforce linkages.

The discussion subsequently focused on employment opportunities for skilled professionals in Denmark. Ambassador Prabhat stated that Indian professionals working in Denmark receive equal remuneration without discrimination and highlighted the fair and cohesive work culture within the Danish corporate environment. He also pointed to growing demand for skilled workers in areas such as automotive repair, maintenance, and auto-hauling. In response, Ms. Priya Pansare suggested that WTC Mumbai could facilitate specialized skill-development programmes to prepare trained and market-ready professionals for employment opportunities in Denmark.

The delegation also discussed opportunities for strengthening India–Denmark academic and knowledge partnerships. Mr. Sharad P. Upasani highlighted existing collaborations between Indian and Danish universities and research institutions, including student and academic exchange programmes, joint research, and paper-writing initiatives. He emphasized the need to further expand these engagements through joint capacity-building and skill-development programmes aimed at strengthening professionals and institutions in both countries.

Ms. Priya Pansare emphasized the importance of the India–European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in strengthening trade and investment relations between India and European countries. She highlighted the potential of the agreement to provide greater market access for Indian businesses, encourage investment, and create new opportunities across key sectors. She also stressed the importance of leveraging the FTA to develop stronger, sustainable, and mutually beneficial economic partnerships between India and Europe.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Manish Prabhat highlighted the outcomes of the 3rd India–Nordic Summit held in Oslo, emphasizing the growing strategic partnership between India and the Nordic countries. He noted the importance of strengthening cooperation in green technology, clean energy, innovation, and sustainable development. The Summit provided an important platform for advancing collaboration in areas such as green hydrogen, carbon capture technologies, digital infrastructure, and climate solutions, while also promoting greater mobility for students, researchers, and skilled professionals and creating opportunities for trade, investment, and technology partnerships.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal highlighted the contribution of major Danish corporations to Rajasthan's economic development, particularly through investments in the power and infrastructure sectors. He noted that the presence of such companies is creating infrastructure requirements and opening further possibilities for increased trade, investment, and business cooperation between Rajasthan and Denmark.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri also highlighted the upcoming Tourism Conference – Confluence 26, to be held in Goa with the support of WTC Mumbai and WTC Goa. The conference is expected to bring together key stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality sectors and provide a platform to explore new business and collaboration opportunities, strengthen B2B networks, and promote tourism partnerships across domestic and international markets.

Further strengthening the engagement, Ms. Priya Pansare, invited the Ambassador and his team to participate in the upcoming Global Economic Summit at World Trade Centre Mumbai. She also extended an invitation to Danish companies, associations, and organizations to participate in the Summit and engage with their Indian counterparts. The initiative would provide an opportunity to showcase the Danish business environment and facilitate greater understanding of the opportunities and practical aspects of doing business in Denmark. The session concluded with Dr. Vijay Kalantri presenting an official souvenir to Ambassador Manish Prabhat, with both sides reaffirming their shared commitment to strengthening trade, educational cooperation, talent mobility, and long-term economic linkages between India and Denmark.

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14 - 16 Aug Fashion Affair

14 - 16 Aug Fashion Affair

19 -22 Aug Paramparik Karigar

19 -22 Aug Paramparik Karigar

MUMBAI Exhibitions

24 - 26 Aug - SBI Credit Card

1 Sept - HSBC Credit Card

28 Aug - 2 Sept National Silk Expo

28 Aug - 2 Sept National Silk Expo

28 Aug - 2 Sept National Silk Expo

8 - 9 Sept - Samsung

8 - 9 Sept - Samsung

29 Sep - Hsbc Credit Card

MUMBAI Highlights

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), along with Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), had a productive meeting with Dr. (Ms.) Kadambari Balkawade, IAS, Development Commissioner (Industries), Government of Maharashtra.

The WTC Mumbai team had the privilege of meeting Hon'ble Mayor of Mumbai, Smt. Ritu Tawde, to discuss opportunities for strengthening Mumbai's position as a global hub for trade, investment, and business collaboration.

WTC Mumbai team met Dr. Shrikant Patil, Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra State Innovation Society (MSInS), Government of Maharashtra.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, had the privilege of meeting Mr. Sibi George, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Pleased to be part of the Ceremonial Inauguration of the India–UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in Mumbai.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), attended the Industry Association Conclave, where he engaged in meaningful discussions with Ms. Pallavi Jain Govil, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ms. Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, IAS, and Smt. Raksha Khadse, Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), attended the Industry Association Conclave, where he engaged in meaningful discussions Smt. Raksha Khadse, Hon'ble Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai was proud to be a Supporting Partner for the IIUSA EB-5 Event Passport Series, a premier platform that convened industry experts, investors, and business leaders to explore emerging opportunities in the global investment migration ecosystem.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, delivered the keynote address, sharing valuable insights on India's growing global economic engagement, international investment trends, and the importance of fostering cross-border partnerships.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), attended BRICS WAVES Bazaar 2026, engaging with global leaders, creative enterprises, investors, and policymakers from across the BRICS+ ecosystem.

28 Aug - 2 Sept National Silk Expo

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) & Chairman, MVIRDC WTC, Mumbai, had the honour of meeting Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries were honoured to attend the Independence Day special gathering hosted by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries, delivered the Keynote Address on "Indian MSMEs and their Quest for Sustainability in the Global Supply Chain", highlighting the importance of sustainability, resilience and global integration for India's MSME sector.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, participated in the IACC National Convention 2026, bringing together distinguished leaders to discuss and strengthen the India–US Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

On the occasion, Dr. Kalantri also had a meaningful conversation with H.E. Sergio Gor, US Ambassador to India, exchanging perspectives on bilateral relations, trade, investment and opportunities for deeper economic collaboration between India and the United States.

The convention was honoured by the presence of Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, and H.E. Sergio Gor, US Ambassador to India.

28th August

WTC Mumbai's visit to the WTCA European Conference 2026 began with insightful visits to World Trade Center Helsingborg, World Trade Center Lund and World Trade Center Malmö.

The visits provided an opportunity to connect with fellow WTC leaders, exchange experiences and explore new avenues for international collaboration, trade promotion and business growth.

A productive first day of building stronger connections across the global World Trade Centers network.

29th August
WTC Mumbai met with H.E. Ambassador Manish Prabhat, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Denmark, during the WTCA European Conference 2026.
The discussion focused on trade, investment and opportunities to deepen business engagement between India and Denmark, opening the way for stronger economic collaboration and new international connections.
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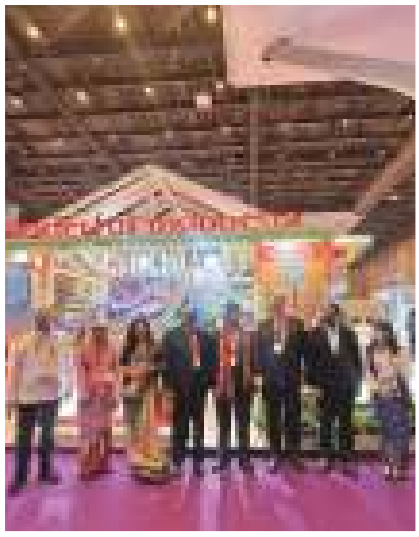
30th August
WTC Mumbai's European engagement marked an important milestone with the signing of an MOU .

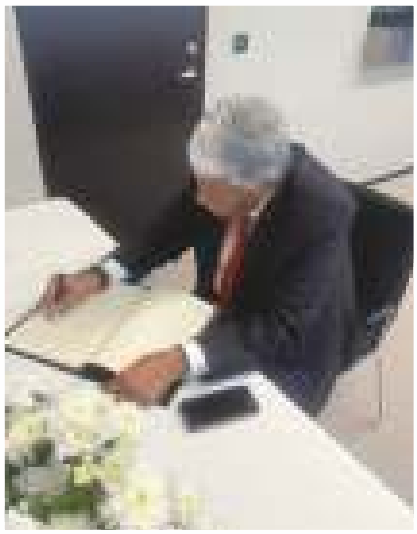
31st August
WTC Team at the vibrant Networking Reception at TechBBQ, celebrating the collaboration between NISS – The Nordic India Startup Summit 2026 and the Embassy of India in Denmark, Dr. Vijay Kalantri joined the conversation and shared his perspectives on the growing potential for India–Nordic business and technology partnerships.

1st september
WTC Mumbai was pleased to be part of the inauguration of ITB India 2026, bringing together leading travel industry professionals, international exhibitors and key stakeholders from across the MICE, Leisure, Corporate Travel and Travel Technology sectors.



22nd september
Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai, along with Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade, Investment & International Relations, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, attended the China National Day celebration in Mumbai.

The gathering brought together members of the diplomatic and business community, providing an opportunity to connect, exchange perspectives and celebrate the enduring people-to-people and business ties between India and China.



1st september
Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, expressed his condolences by signing the Book of Condolences at the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Mumbai following the passing of His Majesty King Harald V of Norway.

8th september
WTC Mumbai was pleased to engage with stakeholders from Goa to explore a strategic collaboration for an International Buyers' Delegation at the upcoming Vibrant Goa Global Summit 2026.

26th september
Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, and President AIAI, attended the Uzbekistan National Day celebration, joining distinguished guests and members of the diplomatic community in marking the occasion.

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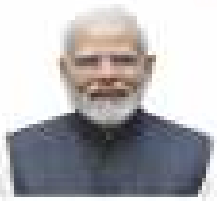
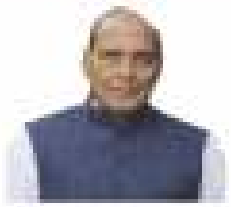


Shri. Narendra Modi
Hon. Prime Minister of India

"India has emerged as one of the world's largest defence exporters, underscoring a transformation in the country's strategic and manufacturing capabilities. When untapped potential is given the freedom and opportunity to perform without obstacles, transformation becomes inevitable. With this vision the country is marching ahead with a target to reach 50,000 crores of defence exports by 2030."



Shri. Rajnath Singh
Hon. Minister of Defence

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