



**WORLD TRADE CENTER<sup>®</sup>**  
**MUMBAI**



**Connecting Business Globally! Prosperity through Trade and Business.**

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# ON TRADE<sup>®</sup>

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## **Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya**

(15 September, 1860 - 14 April, 1962)

# **FIFTY FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING**

M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research and Development Centre (MVIRDC) is a non-profit company registered and licensed under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (currently Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013). On 26 June, 2020 MVIRDC completed 55 years of continuous service to the promotion of trade and industry.

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.

The global economic landscape in 2026 is undergoing a phase of profound transformation, shaped by intensifying geopolitical tensions and evolving trade alignments. Recent disruptions across critical corridors such as the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz have exposed the fragility of global supply chains, with freight costs on key routes rising by 20–60% and war-risk insurance premiums increasing by nearly 50%. These developments have reinforced the interconnected nature of energy, logistics, and food systems, with global indicators such as the FAO Food Price Index witnessing renewed upward movement.



For India, these shifts hold significant implications. With total trade crossing approximately USD 820 billion, and foreign exchange reserves remaining robust at over USD 650 billion, the country remains deeply integrated into the global economic system. At the same time, its reliance on energy imports and critical commodities underscores its exposure to external shocks, particularly in the Middle East a region.

The global policy environment is also witnessing recalibration. Rising protectionist tendencies, reconfigured supply chains, and strategic economic realignments by major economies are reshaping global trade architecture. Yet, within this complexity lies opportunity. India's consistent GDP growth of 6.5–7%, coupled with strong domestic demand and a rapidly expanding digital economy, continues to position it as the fastest-growing major economy globally.

The quarter has been particularly remarkable, marked by a diverse range of initiatives that seamlessly brought together trade, sustainability, and culture. From thought-provoking engagements on critical areas such as rare earth elements and collaborations with institutions like The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), to large-scale public events like the Vintage Car Fiesta, we have continued to create platforms that foster dialogue, innovation, and global business engagement. These initiatives reflect our commitment to not only promoting trade and investment, but also celebrating culture, heritage, and emerging sectors that are shaping the future of the global economy.

As India progresses towards its long-term vision of "Viksit Bharat 2047," the focus must remain on strengthening manufacturing capabilities, integrating into global value chains, and building resilient supply chains. While geopolitical uncertainties present immediate challenges, they also open avenues for diversification of trade partnerships and positioning India as a reliable global partner.

In this journey, institutions like World Trade Center Mumbai play a pivotal role in fostering dialogue, facilitating trade linkages, and enabling global business engagement. As India advances toward becoming a USD 5 trillion economy in the near term and potentially a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, strategic foresight, resilience, and collaborative action will be key to sustaining growth and enhancing global competitiveness.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vijay Kalantri".

**Dr. Vijay Kalantri**

Chairman



**T**he current quarter has underscored the increasing complexity of the global trade environment, where geopolitical developments are directly influencing business decisions, supply chain strategies, and market access. Disruptions in key maritime and air corridors have led to extended transit times, increased logistics costs, and heightened uncertainty for exporters and importers alike. These challenges are particularly relevant for sectors such as energy, food and beverages, and critical minerals, where supply chain dependencies are pronounced.



For India, the impact is both immediate and strategic. While merchandise exports have experienced moderation due to global demand fluctuations, the services sector continues to provide resilience, reinforcing India's position as a key player in global trade. At the same time, emerging opportunities in areas such as digital trade, clean energy, and critical minerals are opening new avenues for growth and collaboration.

A key priority in this evolving landscape is strengthening the MSME sector, which forms the backbone of India's economy. With an estimated credit gap of ₹20–25 lakh crore, improving access to affordable finance, enhancing digital capabilities, and supporting export readiness remain critical areas of focus. Additionally, reducing logistics costs currently estimated at 13–14% of GDP compared to 8–9% in developed economies will be essential to improving India's global competitiveness.

During this quarter, World Trade Center Mumbai undertook several impactful initiatives, including the signing of a strategic MoU with the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to enhance market access, while also hosting international delegations from Seattle (USA), Sri Lanka, Australia, Vietnam, and Portugal. Signature events such as the Vintage Car Fiesta and various sector-focused programmes further strengthened trade promotion, global partnerships, and cultural engagement, reinforcing WTC Mumbai's role as a dynamic hub for business and international collaboration. At World Trade Center Mumbai, we continue to play an active role in this ecosystem by facilitating knowledge exchange, hosting international delegations, and creating platforms for business engagement. Our focus remains on enabling industry especially MSMEs and emerging entrepreneurs to access global markets, build strategic partnerships, and enhance competitiveness.

As we navigate this period of transition, it is essential for businesses to remain agile, informed, and forward-looking. This edition of the quarterly magazine aims to provide insights, perspectives that will show quarterly achievements and knowledge sharing during the emerging trends in the global economy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Priya Pansare', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Priya Pansare**

Director - Trade & Investment Promotion

# **MVIRDC WTC Mumbai**

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Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, with the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, H.E Jishnu Dev Varma, on the occasion of his swearing-in ceremony.

## Strategic Autonomy in an Era of Global Realignment: The Nation That Refuses to Choose

*“In a world gradually reorganising into competing spheres of influence, India is charting a path defined not by alignment, but by strategic autonomy.”*

The global order is undergoing a period of structural transition. Overlapping disruptions, geopolitical tensions, supply chain realignments, technological competition, and shifting economic centres of gravity are reshaping how nations engage with one another. Established powers continue to recalibrate their priorities, while emerging economies are redefining their roles within a more complex and less predictable international system. In this evolving landscape, India has steadily positioned itself as a country of growing consequence, combining economic momentum with a distinctly calibrated external engagement.

The India of 2026 reflects a transformation that is both quantitative and qualitative. With a nominal GDP approaching \$4 trillion and growth projections of 6.5–7 percent from institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, India remains the fastest-growing major economy. Its foreign exchange reserves, hovering around \$680–690 billion, provide macroeconomic resilience, while total exports of goods and services have reached approximately \$820–830 billion annually. Digital public infrastructure has scaled to an unprecedented level, with UPI alone processing over 170 billion transactions annually a figure that exceeds the combined volume of many advanced economies.

Yet these headline indicators tell only part of the story. The deeper shift lies in the composition and competitiveness of India's economy. Over the past decade, India has moved from being a largely consumption-driven economy to one that is increasingly diversified across manufacturing, services, and high-value technology sectors. This transition is visible across multiple domains, where India is not only participating in global value chains but, in several cases, emerging as a leading contributor. What is remarkable is not just the pace of this transformation, but its breadth, a simultaneous deepening across sectors that have

traditionally matured in sequence, not in concert.

India today commands approximately 14–15% of the global software development workforce, making it one of the largest technology talent hubs in the world. Its IT and business process management exports alone exceed \$210 billion annually, serving clients across North America, Europe, and Asia. At the same time, India has become a central player in pharmaceuticals, supplying nearly 20% of global generic medicines and over 50% of the world's vaccines, reinforcing its role as a critical component of global healthcare supply chains.

**Over the past decade, India has moved from being a largely consumption-driven economy to one that is increasingly diversified across manufacturing, services, and high-value technology sectors.**

In manufacturing, the “China Plus One” strategy adopted by global firms has further accelerated India's integration into electronics and mobile production ecosystems. India is now the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer globally, producing over 300 million units annually, with exports exceeding \$15–20 billion. The Production Linked Incentive schemes across sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy are further strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities. These are not modest industrial footnotes, they represent a fundamental repositioning of where the world chooses to make things and, more critically, who it trusts to make them reliably.

## India's Sectoral Strength and Global Position (Indicative Snapshot – 2026)

Sector	Key Metrics	Global Standing
IT & BPM Services	Approx \$220+ billion exports	Among top global exporters
Pharmaceuticals	Approx 20% global generics, over 50 % vaccines	Global leader
Mobile Manufacturing	310M+ units annually	2nd largest globally
Digital Payments (UPI)	170+ billion transactions/year	World's largest system
Renewable Energy	200+ GW capacity	Top 5 globally
GCC (Global Capability Centres)	50%+ global share	Dominant hub
Software Workforce	Approx 14–15% global share	Among largest globally
Agriculture	Largest producer of milk & spices	Leading global producer

India's energy landscape is also undergoing a transformation. While it remains a major importer of crude oil with imports exceeding 85% of its requirements, it is simultaneously expanding its renewable energy capacity, which has crossed 200 GW including solar, wind, and hydro. This dual approach reflects both immediate energy security needs and long-term sustainability goals. The fact that India can hold both imperatives without surrendering either is itself a marker of the strategic maturity that now characterises its policymaking.

India's trade architecture reflects this diversification. On the export side, engineering goods, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and IT services dominate. On the import side, crude oil, gold, electronics, and machinery constitute major components. India's merchandise exports have crossed \$450 billion, while services exports continue to rise steadily, contributing significantly to the overall balance of payments.

This expanding economic base provides the foundation for India's external strategy one that is defined not by alignment, but by calibrated engagement across multiple power centres.

This strategic positioning is not confined to high-level diplomacy; it is increasingly translating into tangible

opportunities for businesses, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which form the backbone of India's economy. As global supply chains diversify and companies seek reliable, cost-competitive alternatives, Indian MSMEs are emerging as critical participants in sectors such as engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, textiles, auto components, and digital services. India's network of Free Trade Agreements, including recent frameworks with the UAE and Australia, along with the European Union and other partners, is expanding market access for Indian enterprises.

At the same time, initiatives such as Production Linked Incentives, digital trade platforms, and the formalisation of logistics and customs processes are reducing entry barriers for smaller firms to participate in global trade. For MSMEs, India's multi-aligned approach is not merely a foreign policy strategy, it is a gateway to diversified markets, reduced geopolitical risk exposure, and greater integration into global value chains.

The challenge ahead lies in enhancing competitiveness, improving access to finance and technology, and ensuring that these enterprises can scale alongside India's expanding global footprint. In this sense, India's global strategy is as much about enabling its enterprises to expand outward as it is about positioning the nation

**For MSMEs, India's multi-aligned approach is not merely a foreign policy strategy, it is a gateway to diversified markets, reduced geopolitical risk exposure, and greater integration into global value chains.**

within the international system.

Unlike earlier models of global power ascent, India has not tied itself exclusively to any one geopolitical bloc. Instead, it has adopted a multi-aligned approach that allows it to maintain strong relationships across competing actors. This is evident in its simultaneous engagement with the United States, Europe, Russia, and key partners in the Indo-Pacific. The architecture of this multi-alignment is not improvised it is the product of a sustained, deliberate foreign policy philosophy that has been refined across successive governments and now finds its most confident expression in the current moment.

India's relationship with the United States has expanded significantly over the past two decades, with bilateral trade in goods and services exceeding \$190 billion. Cooperation spans defence, technology, semiconductors, and clean energy. At the same time, India continues to engage with Russia, particularly in energy and defence, with discounted crude imports contributing to domestic price stability and energy diversification.

Its engagement with Europe is set to deepen significantly, supported by the recently concluded comprehensive trade agreement expected to further expand economic ties. Meanwhile, partnerships with Japan and Australia, particularly within the Quad framework, reflect a shared interest in resilient supply chains and maritime stability. French President Emmanuel Macron, holding the G7 Chair for 2026, has made a deliberate and high-profile overture to New Delhi, framing India as an indispensable partner in any credible vision of a reformed multilateral order. Europe and India, long underinvested in each other relative to the depth of their shared interests, are now discovering practical reasons to close that gap.

India's approach toward China remains one of cautious engagement. While strategic differences persist, economic linkages continue, even as India invests in

reducing dependencies in critical sectors such as electronics, semiconductors, and telecommunications. This reflects a pragmatic recognition of economic realities alongside strategic considerations. The India-China border all 3,488 kilometres of it remains a live fault line, and the military standoff at Galwan in 2020 introduced a new sobriety into how New Delhi views the relationship. Yet that sobriety has not produced paralysis. Instead, it has produced precision an India that knows exactly where it will engage and exactly where it will not.

Nowhere is India's multi-alignment more nuanced than in the Middle East. The region continues to experience periodic instability, including the ongoing effects of the Israel-Hamas conflict and disruptions to maritime routes in the Red Sea. These developments have increased shipping costs, extended transit times, and introduced new uncertainties into global supply chains.

India's response has been measured and multi-layered. It has strengthened its strategic partnership with Israel, particularly in defence and innovation, while simultaneously maintaining engagement with Iran through projects such as the Chabahar Port. This port provides India with a vital connectivity route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing traditional constraints. The 10-year agreement to develop and operate Chabahar is not merely an infrastructure play, it is a statement of strategic intent, embedding India permanently into the connectivity architecture of a region it has historically engaged only from the periphery.

At the same time, India's ties with the Gulf economies especially the UAE and Saudi Arabia have expanded significantly. The India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement has already contributed to increased trade flows, while investment partnerships in infrastructure, energy, and technology are deepening. The Gulf region also remains critical to India's energy security, accounting for a substantial share of its crude

oil imports. Beyond energy, the Indian diaspora of nearly nine million people in the Gulf provides a people-to-people foundation to these relationships that no treaty alone could replicate.

Importantly, India has complemented these bilateral engagements with investments in connectivity frameworks such as the International North-South Transport Corridor, which links India to Europe via Iran and Russia. In a context where traditional maritime routes face disruption, such corridors are gaining immediate strategic relevance. The ability to route commerce through multiple pathways is not just logistical convenience it is geopolitical insurance.

**The nation that refuses to choose is, in doing so, making the most consequential choice of all.**

Perhaps nowhere is India's growing strategic ambition more visible than in its approach to defence. The Union Budget for 2026-27 allocated a record ₹7.85 lakh crore approximately \$90 billion, to the Ministry of Defence, a 15 percent increase over the previous year and now accounting for nearly 2 percent of GDP. Of this, ₹2.19 lakh crore has been set aside for capital expenditure, with ₹1.39 lakh crore specifically earmarked for procurement from domestic defence industries.

The message is unambiguous: India intends to be not just a buyer of military hardware, but a producer of it. Defence exports, which stood at near-negligible levels a decade ago, have been growing steadily, with a government target of ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2028-29. Cumulative defence spending between 2026 and 2030 is projected to reach \$543 billion, a figure that will fundamentally reshape India's military industrial base. The Atmanirbhar Bharat doctrine in defence is not just economic nationalism; it is the recognition that strategic autonomy without indigenous capability is borrowed confidence. India is now building its own.

The May 2025 military skirmishes with Pakistan and what followed accelerated several of these priorities. Operation Sindoor, as the episode came to be known,

exposed certain capability gaps in joint operations, drone warfare, and air defence integration, and the armed forces have since moved to address them with a notable urgency. Theatre command structures, long discussed but slowly implemented, are now advancing with concrete institutional momentum.

The episode also reinforced a consistent Indian position: that its security environment will be managed on its own terms, through its own decisions, and it will not outsource that judgement to any external mediator including Washington, which had claimed credit for the ceasefire in ways that New Delhi sharply rejected.

India's role at the multilateral level has also expanded in parallel. Its presidency of BRICS in 2026 places it at the centre of a grouping that now includes eleven full members Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the UAE and ten newly inducted partner countries including Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Vietnam, and others.

Prime Minister Modi has framed India's presidency around four pillars: resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability and introduced a "humanity first" framework as its animating spirit, drawing deliberately on the ethos of India's celebrated G20 presidency in 2023. With over 100 meetings planned across 60 Indian cities through 2026, the presidency is as much about projecting India's soft power domestically as it is about shaping a global agenda.

India has made clear it will not allow BRICS to become an explicitly anti-Western formation resisting moves toward a BRICS common currency and de-dollarisation driven by Russia and China while using the platform to advance Global South priorities on climate finance, AI governance, and reform of the UN Security Council. This is the tightrope that only India, among BRICS members, has the credibility to walk.

India's credibility within the Global South is reinforced by its emphasis on inclusive growth, digital public infrastructure, and capacity building. At the same time, its continued engagement with advanced economies allows it to function as a bridge across different parts of the global system.

The export of India's digital public infrastructure model the open-architecture stack of Aadhaar, UPI, and Digi Locker to developing nations through platforms like the Digital Public Infrastructure initiative is the most concrete expression of this bridge-building. It is technology diplomacy of a quiet but consequential kind: nations that build their digital foundations on India's frameworks develop institutional relationships with New Delhi that no aid cheque alone can create.

Domestically, India's growth trajectory continues to be supported by structural reforms, infrastructure development, and expanding consumption demand. Policy measures aimed at improving ease of doing business, enhancing tax efficiency, and promoting manufacturing are contributing to a more competitive economic environment. A new, simplified Income Tax Act takes effect in April 2026, and a GST 2.0 framework is being developed to further rationalise indirect taxation. Inflation has remained broadly within target ranges averaging just 2.2% in 2025 while financial stability has been maintained through prudent macroeconomic management. The RBI injected ₹6.3 trillion in liquidity into the banking system in recent months to sustain credit growth, and private equity activity surged 31% year-on-year in November 2025, reaching \$5.6 billion in a single month. These are not the indicators of an economy coasting they are the signals of one accelerating through a window of structural opportunity.

India's demographic profile remains a significant long-term advantage. With one of the world's youngest populations, it is well positioned to contribute to global labour markets, particularly in high-skill sectors. However, translating this demographic potential into sustained economic outcomes will require continued investment in education, skills, and innovation. The IndiaAI Mission and the emerging semiconductor design ecosystem represent steps in this direction, but the deeper task of ensuring that growth reaches the margins of the economy rather than merely the commanding heights remains India's most consequential domestic challenge.

During the same time, certain pressures remain real. Ensuring inclusive growth, addressing regional disparities, and improving employment quality are ongoing priorities. Infrastructure development must

continue at scale to support economic expansion. Externally, a neighbourhood that includes nuclear-armed, and an Indian Ocean increasingly contested by multiple naval powers, means that the security environment will not simplify. And the risk of a world hardening into rigid, mutually exclusive blocs where the luxury of multi-alignment eventually runs out is not theoretical. It is a scenario that India's strategic planners are watching carefully.

What is particularly notable about India's position in 2026 is its ability to convert global uncertainty into strategic opportunity. Supply chain realignments have opened avenues for manufacturing growth. Digital innovation has enhanced global competitiveness. Diplomatic engagement across regions has expanded influence without constraining choices. The very disruptions that have weakened or destabilised other major powers war, sanctions, trade fragmentation, institutional decay have, paradoxically, expanded the space available to a country that had the discipline to stay out of every alliance and the economic gravity to remain indispensable to all of them.

The country that was once defined by its potential is now increasingly recognised for its performance. It occupies a position that combines economic scale, demographic strength, and strategic flexibility a combination that is rare in the contemporary global landscape and that no other emerging economy currently replicates.

In a world where many nations are navigating the pressures of alignment and realignment, India offers a different model one that emphasises engagement without exclusivity, partnership without dependence, and growth anchored in both domestic strength and global integration. It is a model born not from ideology but from hard-won experience: of having been too poor to make demands, too large to be ignored, and now confident enough to set terms.

How this model evolves and how effectively it adapts to a more complex and possibly more polarised world will not only define India's trajectory but may also shape the contours of the emerging global order. The nation that refuses to choose is, in doing so, making the most consequential choice of all.

■

## WTO and Indian MSMEs: Trade Rules, Digital Commerce, and the Future of Global Integration

The World Trade Organization (WTO) plays a crucial role in shaping the global trade environment, and its significance for India is deeply linked to the importance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

These enterprises contribute nearly half of India's exports and form a vital part of its economic structure. As a result, WTO rules directly influence not only national trade policy but also the everyday functioning of small businesses. In recent years, global trade has undergone major transformations due to digitalization, evolving supply chains, and geopolitical shifts.

increasing exposure to global competition and regulatory complexity. One of the most important issues in this context is the WTO's e-commerce moratorium, which prohibits customs duties on electronic transmissions. This policy has enabled MSMEs engaged in digital services, software exports, and online businesses to operate with lower costs and fewer barriers.

However, the moratorium is currently under review, with a key decision expected at the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) in 2026. India has raised concerns regarding "policy space" and the need to support domestic digital industries.

trade costs. The WTO estimates that full implementation of the TFA could reduce global trade costs by around 14.3%, a benefit that is particularly significant for MSMEs, which often struggle with delays, paperwork, and high transaction costs.

In India, reforms such as digitization of customs systems, single-window clearances, and improved logistics have helped reduce barriers to trade. Additionally, policies promoting e-commerce exports through postal and courier channels have enabled MSMEs to access international markets more easily.

Despite these improvements, several challenges remain. MSMEs continue to face difficulties related to documentation, classification of goods, payment systems, and compliance with international standards.

While WTO frameworks provide a structure for reducing these barriers, their effectiveness depends on proper implementation at the domestic level.

Furthermore, the ongoing crisis in the WTO's dispute settlement system, particularly the non-functioning of the Appellate Body since 2019, has weakened the enforcement of global trade rules.

This creates uncertainty and increases the risk of power-based trade relations, which can disadvantage smaller economies and businesses, including MSMEs.

**“The WTO estimates that full implementation of the TFA could reduce global trade costs by around 14.3%, a benefit that is particularly significant for MSMEs.”**

This has brought WTO discussions on digital trade, trade facilitation, and dispute settlement to the forefront, making them increasingly relevant for Indian MSMEs.

### Key WTO Developments and Their Impact on MSMEs

Traditionally, the WTO focused on reducing tariffs and improving market access, but global trade has shifted toward services, digital transactions, and global value chains.

For Indian MSMEs, this transformation has opened new opportunities through cross-border e-commerce and digital platforms, while also

The lack of a clear definition of electronic transmissions adds further uncertainty, as it raises questions about whether digitally delivered goods should be taxed. For MSMEs, the outcome of this debate is critical.

A continuation of the moratorium would support low-cost digital trade, while its removal could introduce new tariffs and compliance burdens, making it harder for small firms to compete internationally.

Another major WTO development is the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which aims to simplify customs procedures and reduce



## Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Outlook

The evolving WTO framework presents both challenges and opportunities for Indian MSMEs. One of the key challenges is balancing global trade integration with domestic economic priorities. While open trade systems provide access to larger markets, they also expose MSMEs to intense competition from global firms. This is particularly evident in the digital economy, where large multinational platforms dominate, making it difficult for smaller enterprises to compete on equal terms.

At the same time, WTO developments offer significant opportunities for MSMEs if leveraged effectively. Digital trade can enable small firms to reach global customers, while trade facilitation measures can reduce costs and improve efficiency. Sectors such as pharmaceuticals, IT services,

engineering goods, and processed agricultural products hold strong export potential for Indian MSMEs. Expanding into these areas can help diversify exports and improve competitiveness.

Global geopolitical shifts, including supply chain disruptions and changing trade alliances, have also increased the importance of resilience and diversification.

In this context, WTO rules can provide a stable framework for international trade, but only if they are updated to reflect current realities. India's participation in WTO negotiations is therefore crucial in ensuring that global trade rules support inclusive growth and development.

Looking ahead, the outcome of key WTO discussions, particularly on e-commerce and dispute settlement, will play a decisive role in shaping the future of Indian MSMEs. A stable

and predictable trade environment, combined with domestic reforms and capacity building, will be essential for enabling MSMEs to fully participate in global trade. Strengthening competitiveness, improving access to technology, and reducing compliance burdens will further enhance their ability to benefit from WTO frameworks.

The WTO remains a central pillar of the global trading system, and its evolving policies have direct implications for Indian MSMEs. While recent developments present challenges in terms of uncertainty and competition, they also offer opportunities for growth and integration into global markets. A balanced approach that combines effective global engagement with strong domestic support will be key to ensuring that MSMEs continue to drive India's economic progress in the years to come.

## Czech Republic Sees India as a Long-Term Strategic Partner



**Kateřina Vovková**  
Consul General of the Czech Republic to Mumbai, India

**How would you describe the current trajectory of India-Czech Republic relations, particularly as both countries seek to strengthen economic resilience and diversify global partnerships?**

Relations between India and Czechia are increasingly shaped by a shared objective of strengthening economic resilience through diversification of partnerships and supply chains. In this context, India represents not only a large and growing market but also a strategic partner capable of supporting industrial resilience. Cooperation is expanding in sectors where both countries seek long-term stability, including engineering, transportation technologies, digitalisation, and advanced manufacturing.

Czechia is also strengthening its export diplomacy and engagement with international business

partners. A clear example is the recent re-establishment of the Consulate General in Mumbai, which focuses on facilitating tourist visas and business travel for Indian entrepreneurs while actively supporting the development of trade and investment relations. The new Consulate General complements the existing CzechTrade offices in Bengaluru and Mumbai, as well as the Embassy of the Czech Republic in New Delhi. This expanded Czech presence in India creates new opportunities for deeper and more dynamic economic cooperation between the two countries.

**India has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. How do Czech businesses view India today as a destination for investment, manufacturing partnerships, and technology collaboration?**

Czech businesses increasingly view India as a long-term partner rather than only a large export market. India's sustained economic growth, expanding consumer base, and strong industrial development programmes create significant opportunities. Rising labour costs and supply-chain risks in other regions have also encouraged Czech manufacturers to explore India as a complementary manufacturing base, particularly in machinery, automotive components, and industrial equipment.

At the same time, Czech companies recognise India's strong engineering workforce and expanding research ecosystem which also make it attractive for joint R&D. Consequently, India is increasingly

perceived as a destination for joint manufacturing, localisation of production, and collaborative technology development.

**The Czech Republic has strong capabilities in engineering, automotive manufacturing, and industrial innovation. What opportunities do you see for deeper collaboration between Czech expertise and India's expanding industrial ecosystem?**

There is substantial complementarity between Czech industrial expertise and India's rapidly expanding manufacturing ecosystem. Czech companies bring advanced engineering know-how, while India offers scale, market growth, and strong implementation capacity. This combination creates favourable conditions for partnerships that move beyond traditional supplier relationships toward joint development and co-production.

Opportunities for deeper collaboration exist in areas such as smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0 solutions, electric mobility and automotive supply chains. Additional potential lies in railway modernisation, metro systems, and broader urban infrastructure projects, where Czech engineering strengths can complement India's large-scale infrastructure expansion.

Energy cooperation also offers significant prospects, particularly in renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency solutions, grid modernisation, and industrial decarbonisation. By combining Czech technological specialisation with India's capacity for large-scale

deployment, both countries can jointly develop scalable solutions that support sustainable industrial growth and long-term competitiveness.

**Central Europe is becoming an important gateway to European markets. How can Indian companies leverage the Czech Republic as a strategic entry point to the wider European Union region?**

For Indian companies, Czechia can serve as an efficient gateway to the European Union due to its central geographic location, strong logistics connectivity, and deep integration into European industrial supply chains.

The country provides direct access to major EU markets, particularly Germany and neighbouring Central European economies such as Poland or Austria. In addition, Czechia offers a skilled industrial workforce, established manufacturing clusters, and a stable regulatory environment aligned with EU standards.

The newly approved national economic strategy “Czechia: Country for the Future 2.0” also prioritises attracting innovation-focused foreign investment and improving the business environment, including reducing bureaucracy and strengthening digitalisation. The strategy is introducing measures such as a “one-stop-shop” for foreign investors and fast-track approval processes for strategic investments above 50 million USD, significantly reducing administrative barriers for international companies.

**The Czech Republic is globally recognised for its expertise in precision engineering and industrial innovation. How can**

**both countries strengthen cooperation in technology transfer, skill development, research collaboration, and innovation ecosystems?**

Both countries can strengthen cooperation by building structured partnerships between universities, research institutions, and industry. Concrete steps could include joint research programmes, mobility schemes for engineers and researchers as well as shared innovation hubs. Technology transfer initiatives, and innovation partnerships can accelerate the development and commercialisation of new technologies. Developing startup connections and innovation clusters could further deepen long-term cooperation.

Skill development cooperation is equally important. Exchanges in education, joint training, and applied research would combine the Czechia’s strong technical education tradition with India’s large pool of highly skilled professionals. The above-mentioned strategy “Czechia: Country for the Future 2.0” also highlights improving education quality, strengthening links between academia and industry, and increasing investment in research and innovation, which creates a strong framework for bilateral collaboration.

Additionally, joint participation in European research programmes and innovation initiatives can provide funding and international visibility for Indo-Czech cooperation projects.

**Over the next five years, how do you envision elevating India-Czech Republic economic cooperation into a more strategic and innovation-driven partner-**

**ship, aligned with sustainability goals, industrial resilience, and future-ready value chains?**

Over the next five years, the expected conclusion and implementation of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement can become a decisive enabler for transforming economic cooperation between India and Czechia into a genuine strategic, innovation-driven partnership.

Crucially, the agreement should be seen as a two-way opportunity: it will not only improve access for Czech companies to one of the world’s fastest growing markets but equally allow Indian companies to expand their presence within the European Union through Czechia.

For Czech businesses, reduced trade barriers and greater regulatory alignment will facilitate deeper participation in India’s industrial expansion. This mutual opening creates strong potential for joint industrial projects rather than one-directional trade flows.

In practical terms, cooperation in coproduction arrangements, shared R&D activities, and innovation partnerships will help both sides build more resilient and geographically diversified value chains while supporting sustainability objectives. Anchored in the EU-India FTA framework, India and Czechia have the opportunity to develop a balanced partnership based on reciprocity where companies from both sides jointly innovate, invest, and compete in future-ready global industries.

## India-ASEAN Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era: Strategic Shifts and Economic Realignments

India-ASEAN relations have gained significant importance in the 21st century, particularly under India's Act East Policy. ASEAN has emerged as one of India's most vital regional partners due to its strategic location in Southeast Asia, growing economic strength, and central role in the Indo-Pacific region. Over the years, the relationship has evolved from limited engagement to a comprehensive partnership covering trade, connectivity, security, and digital cooperation. Among these, economic relations, especially trade form the backbone of India-ASEAN ties. However, recent developments show that while trade has expanded rapidly, it is also marked by structural imbalances that have become a key concern for policymakers.

### Growth in India-ASEAN Trade

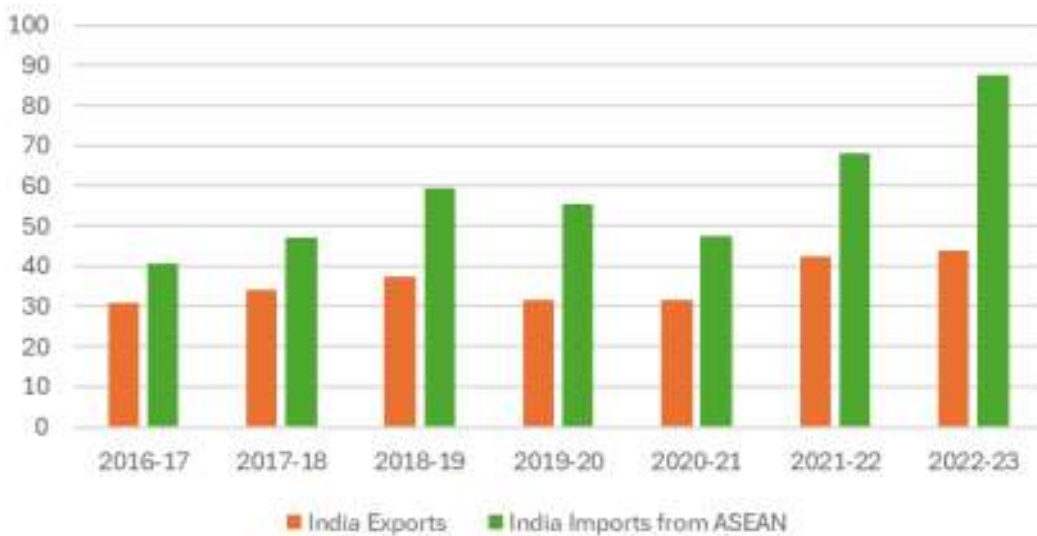
India's trade with ASEAN has shown consistent growth over the past decade, reflecting deeper economic integration. Between 2016-17 and 2022-23, both exports and imports have increased significantly. India's exports to ASEAN rose from \$30.96 billion to \$44 billion, indicating steady growth despite fluctuations during global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, imports from ASEAN increased more sharply, from \$40.62 billion to \$87.57 billion, highlighting ASEAN's strong manufacturing base and its role in supplying industrial and intermediate goods to India.

The growth pattern also reflects the impact of the ASEAN-India Free

Trade Agreement (AIFTA), which facilitated trade expansion by reducing tariffs and improving market access. However, the uneven pace of growth between exports and imports suggests that the benefits of this agreement have not been equally distributed.

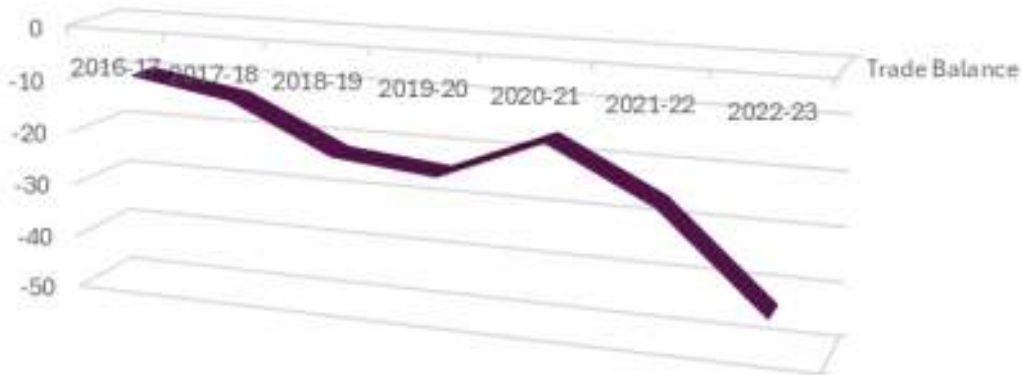
The chart clearly shows that while exports have increased gradually, imports have grown at a much faster rate, especially after 2020-21. This widening gap indicates that India's demand for ASEAN goods particularly electronics, machinery, and industrial inputs has expanded significantly. Although export growth picked up in 2021-22, it has not been sufficient to match the rapid rise in imports.

India's Exports and Imports to ASEAN



Figures in USD Billion

### Trade Balance with ASEAN



Figures in USD Billion

A major concern in recent India-ASEAN relations is the persistent and widening trade deficit and the structural imbalance. The trade balance data reveals that India's deficit has increased from -\$9.66 billion in 2016-17 to -\$43.57 billion in 2022-23. This trend reflects the structural imbalance in trade, where imports consistently exceed exports.

The deficit widened steadily between 2016-17 and 2019-20, reaching -\$23.82 billion, before temporarily narrowing to -\$15.93 billion in 2020-21 due to the pandemic-induced slowdown in trade. However, the post-pandemic recovery led to a sharp increase in imports, causing the deficit to rise again to -\$25.76 billion in 2021-22 and further to -\$43.57 billion in 2022-23.

In response to these trends, reducing the trade deficit has become a key focus of India's ASEAN policy. India is actively reviewing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (AIFTA) to address structural issues such as non-tariff barriers, weak rules of origin, and limited export competitiveness. The aim is to create a more balanced trade framework that promotes

Indian exports while maintaining strong ties with ASEAN economies.

At the same time, India is working to enhance its manufacturing capabilities through initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which aims to boost domestic production and reduce import dependence. These measures are expected to help India integrate more effectively into regional value chains and improve its trade position.

Recent global developments have significantly focused on India's engagement with ASEAN, particularly in the context of changing trade patterns and strategic priorities. India's imports from ASEAN are heavily concentrated in a few key sectors, which explains the widening trade deficit.

The most important imports include electrical and electronic goods (especially semiconductors and components), machinery and transport equipment, mineral fuels, and edible oils such as palm oil. Among these, palm oil imports from countries like Indonesia and Malaysia form a substantial share of India's edible oil consumption, while electronics and machinery

imports reflect ASEAN's strong position in global manufacturing value chains.

The dominance of these sectors highlights a structural issue: India largely imports high-value manufactured and intermediate goods, while exporting relatively lower-value products.

This imbalance is a key reason behind the persistent trade deficit. In contrast, India's exports to ASEAN are concentrated in sectors such as petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, agricultural

**“ Strengthening diplomatic engagements, boosting FDI flows, and fostering deeper economic integration will be critical to unlocking the full potential of this strategic partnership. ”**

goods, organic chemicals, and iron and steel. While these sectors have growth potential, they are not sufficient to match the scale of imports, particularly in high-technology industries.

Recent geopolitical developments, especially in the Middle East, will also have influence on India's trade strategy. Traditionally, India has depended heavily on the Middle East for crude oil and energy imports, but fluctuations in oil prices, geopolitical tensions, and supply disruptions have encouraged India to diversify both its import sources and export markets.

In this context, ASEAN provides an alternative and complementary economic space. For example, instead of relying solely on Middle Eastern energy trade, India is increasingly focusing on manufacturing linkages and supply chain integration with ASEAN economies.

At the same time, India is exploring opportunities to diversify its exports away from traditional markets by strengthening engagement with ASEAN. There is significant potential for India to increase exports in sectors such as:

- Pharmaceuticals and healthcare products, where India has a global competitive advantage
- IT services and digital solutions, especially in emerging ASEAN economies
- Automobile components and engineering goods, which can integrate into ASEAN production networks
- Agricultural and processed food products, including rice, spices, and marine products

“ India can particularly benefit by expanding exports of intermediate goods in machinery and electronics sectors, allowing it to integrate into regional value chains.”

- Renewable energy technology and green solutions, an emerging area of cooperation

India can particularly benefit by expanding exports of intermediate goods in machinery and electronics sectors, allowing it to integrate into regional value chains rather than remaining a final goods importer.

Furthermore, disruptions in global supply chains after COVID-19 and rising geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific have accelerated India's push for supply chain resilience and diversification. ASEAN, being centrally located and economically dynamic, has become a key partner in this strategy. India is increasingly focusing on strengthening ties with ASEAN countries to reduce overdependence on specific regions such as China and the Middle East, while simultaneously improving its export competitiveness.

When considered, the sectoral composition of trade clearly shows that India's imports from ASEAN are concentrated in high-value manufacturing and essential commodities, while exports remain relatively limited in diversification and technological intensity.

Addressing this imbalance requires a strategic shift toward export diversification, value chain integration, and sectoral upgrading. Recent geopolitical developments have reinforced the importance of ASEAN as a key partner in this transition, making it central to India's efforts to achieve a more balanced and resilient trade structure.

India is increasingly focusing on strengthening ties with regional partners like ASEAN to enhance economic resilience and reduce dependence on specific regions. The Indo-Pacific framework has further reinforced this cooperation, with both India and ASEAN emphasizing connectivity, maritime security, and regional stability.

The recent developments in India-ASEAN relations reflect a dynamic and evolving partnership. While trade has grown significantly, the widening gap between exports and imports and the rising trade deficit highlight important structural challenges.

The charts clearly demonstrate that despite increased economic integration, the relationship remains imbalanced. However, India's proactive policy measures such as reviewing trade agreements, promoting domestic manufacturing, and strengthening regional partnerships does indicate a strong commitment to addressing these issues. With continued efforts, India-ASEAN relations are likely to become more balanced, strategic, and sustainable, playing a crucial role in shaping the future of the Indo-Pacific region.

■

## India - Norway Economic Relations



**Ms. Monica Nagelgaard**  
Consul General at the  
Royal Norwegian Consulate  
in Mumbai

**How do you assess the current state of India–Norway economic relations, particularly in the context of global supply chain diversification and India’s growing role as a trusted manufacturing and technology hub?**

India–Norway economic relations are strong, well-established, and continue to grow—offering significant untapped potential for even deeper collaboration. Though bilateral trade remains modest—with Norwegian exports of goods to India at approximately USD 430 million and imports around USD 970 million<sup>1</sup>—the relationship is increasingly defined by strategic complementarities rather than volume alone.

The entry into force of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) marks an important milestone in strengthening bilateral ties, in particular their trade and economic relations. The agreement is expected to deliver substantial and long-term benefits, including

more resilient and integrated supply chains, increased trade and investment flows, new employment opportunities, and sustained economic growth for both India and the EFTA countries.

The Norway–India 2030 strategy further reinforces this trajectory. In parallel, TEPA provides an important framework to facilitate investment, technology transfer, and deeper industrial collaboration across sectors.

Overall, the relationship is entering a more strategic phase, with shared priorities offering strong potential to drive deeper economic engagement, particularly as both countries navigate evolving global trade dynamics and the growing focus on sustainable development.

**With the conclusion of the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, how can both India and Norway leverage this framework to strengthen bilateral trade and investment flows?**

TEPA provides a timely and forward-looking framework to significantly deepen trade and investment between India and Norway. Its value extends beyond tariff reductions, fostering greater predictability, transparency, and business confidence on both sides.

The figures underscore the scale of the opportunity. A substantial share of Norwegian exports will benefit from immediate tariff elimination upon entry into force, with the vast majority transitioning to zero tariffs over a defined implementation period. Indian exporters are

likewise expected to gain from progressive tariff reductions. Beyond trade, the agreement’s investment and employment potential signals a broader shift toward deeper and more sustained economic integration.

<sup>1</sup> Trade Data from Statistics Norway.  
1 NOK= =0.10 USD

For Norway, this opens opportunities to scale its presence in a large and fast-growing market, particularly in sectors where it has established strengths, such as maritime industries, energy, green technologies and aquaculture. TEPA can be viewed as an important framework with significant potential for businesses, with its impact likely to grow over time as it is increasingly leveraged.

**In priority sectors such as renewable energy, offshore wind, maritime services, green hydrogen, and digital innovation, where do you see the strongest potential for India–Norway collaboration?**

The opportunities lie at the intersection of technology and sustainability. This is precisely where India–Norway collaboration is best positioned to unlock meaningful value—by bringing together innovation, scale, and a shared focus on sustainable growth. Just to give you an example, in renewable energy, the focus is no longer just capacity—it’s systems. Norway’s strengths in energy systems, grid integration, energy storage, and carbon management complement India’s rapid expansion of renewable capacity. As India scales up solar and other clean



energy sources, there is growing demand for advanced solutions in grid stability, energy efficiency, and digital energy management—areas where Norwegian expertise can add significant value.

Green hydrogen is another highly promising domain. Norway's capabilities in clean energy technologies and hydrogen value chains align well with India's ambition to become a global hub for green hydrogen. This creates opportunities across the entire ecosystem—from production technologies to storage, transport, and industrial applications.

The maritime sector and broader blue economy also present strong potential, particularly through the lens of sustainability and innovation. Collaboration in green shipping, low-emission fuels, and maritime digitalization can build on Norway's leadership in sustainable maritime solutions and India's scale in shipping, ports, and seafaring talent.

Digital innovation further strengthens these opportunities. Technology transfer in areas such as AI-driven energy management, predictive maintenance, and industrial digitalization can enhance efficiency across both energy and maritime sectors. India's strong IT ecosystem

**“ As Norway and India advance their green transition, demand for renewable energy, storage, and efficient technologies is creating scope for greater collaboration. The maritime and blue economy also offer potential for closer engagement. ”**

provides an ideal platform for scaling and adapting these technologies cost-effectively.

Importantly, these opportunities tend to be particularly effective when supported by long-term partnerships—such as joint research, co-development, and localized production—rather than relying solely on one-way transfers. In that sense, India offers not just a market, but a platform for innovation and scaling, while Norway brings cutting-edge technologies and domain expertise.

**From Norway's perspective, how can Indian businesses leverage improved access to EFTA markets, especially in areas like pharmaceuticals, IT services, advanced manufacturing, and clean technologies?**

As noted earlier, supported by the TEPA framework and the ongoing institutional engagement, the agreement aims to promote balanced and sustainable growth.

In this context, it presents a meaningful opportunity for businesses on both sides. While EFTA markets are highly regulated, quality-driven, and standards-focused, these features can also make them particularly valuable for Indian firms, helping to build credibility and support a shift toward higher value-added activities.

Opportunities are emerging across several sectors. As Norway and India advance their green transition, demand for renewable energy, storage, and efficient technologies is creating scope for greater collaboration. The maritime and blue economy also offer potential for closer engagement, with complementary strengths supporting deeper value chain integration. In parallel, IT and digital services remain a key growth area, driven by rising demand for capabilities in AI, cybersecurity, data analytics, and smart infrastructure.

Ultimately, the opportunity lies in not only in expanding the traditional trade but also in deepening collaboration—so that quality, innovation, and long-term partnerships increasingly define India–Norway economic engagement.

**Norway is globally recognised for its expertise in maritime and blue economy sectors. How can India and Norway deepen cooperation in sustainable shipping, port modernisation, and ocean-based industries?**

India and Norway share a long and well-established relationship in the maritime sector, built over decades of cooperation in shipping, seafaring, and maritime services. Norwegian shipping companies have had a sustained presence in

India, while Indian seafarers have been an integral part of the global maritime workforce, including on Norwegian vessels. This longstanding engagement has created a strong foundation of trust, familiarity, and institutional linkages between the two countries.

Building on this history, there is now a clear opportunity to deepen cooperation in line with emerging priorities around sustainability and technological transformation. In

sustainable shipping, the shift is clear: from traditional operations to low- and zero-emission solutions. Norway brings the technology; India brings the scale. That's a powerful combination. Collaboration on green corridors, vessel retrofitting, and cleaner fuel adoption would be particularly impactful.

In port modernisation, India's ongoing efforts to upgrade and expand its port infrastructure align well with Norway's strengths in digitalisation, smart logistics, and efficient port operations. Partnerships in automation, data-driven systems, and emissions reduction can help create more efficient and sustainable port ecosystems.

In the broader blue economy, the relationship can expand into areas such as offshore energy, marine resource management, and ocean sustainability. Norway's experience in responsible ocean governance offers valuable insights as India seeks to grow its ocean-based industries in a sustainable manner.

Importantly, this next phase of cooperation can be driven by technology transfer, joint research, and long-term industrial partnerships—supported by frameworks

such as the TEPA.

What makes this partnership stand out is that it is not starting from scratch—it's building on decades of trust but moving quickly into the future.

**Over the next five years, how do you envision elevating India–Norway economic cooperation to a more strategic and innovation-driven partnership within the broader India–EFTA framework?**

In the coming years, India–Norway economic cooperation is well positioned to deepen further, with opportunities for a more focused and implementation-oriented partnership under the TEPA, alongside an increasing emphasis on innovation and tangible outcomes.

A key priority will be identifying and advancing projects that demonstrate the depth of cooperation in areas such as green industry, maritime transformation, and clean energy systems. Visible, high-impact initiatives can help build momentum and confidence among businesses on both sides.

At the same time, expanding collaboration at the ecosystem level—through closer linkages between industry, research institutions, and innovation hubs—can support sustained engagement, facilitate knowledge exchange, and encourage the development of new technologies. Overall, the next phase is likely to be shaped by more targeted, innovation-driven engagement that further reinforces the strategic relevance of India–Norway relations within the broader India–TEPA framework.

## New Year Reception Strengthens Cultural Diplomacy



The New Year Reception organized by World Trade Center Mumbai served as an important platform to advance cultural diplomacy, bringing together members of the diplomatic corps, industry leaders, and key stakeholders in an engaging and informal setting. By fostering cross-cultural dialogue and meaningful interactions, the event highlighted the role of such initiatives in strengthening international partnerships and enhancing mutual understanding beyond traditional business engagements.

Blending cultural exchange with economic collaboration, the gathering reinforced WTC Mumbai's commitment to promoting global trade linkages while nurturing people-to-people connections. Such initiatives not only deepen bilateral and multilateral ties but also position WTC Mumbai as a catalyst for integrating culture with commerce, thereby supporting India's expanding engagement with the global community.



## WTC Mumbai and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) inks MoU to Boost Outreach and MSME Inclusion in Public Procurement

This agreement will integrate MSMEs further into government procurement and buttress Atmanirbhar Bharat objective: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries (AIAI)



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries (AIAI) (2nd from the left) and Shri Satya Narayan Meena, Additional CEO and Chief Financial Officer of Government e Marketplace (GeM) (2nd from the right) signs MoU at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai along with Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai (extreme right); Mr. Praneet Kumar Singh, Chief Manager – Training at Government e Marketplace (third from the right); Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Centre, Mumbai (extreme left).

**G**overnment e-Marketplace (GeM), India's National Procurement Portal, and MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai (WTC Mumbai) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster domestic and international collaboration in public procurement. This partnership aims to enhance GeM's global positioning, promote knowledge exchange, and drive inclusive participation for MSMEs, startups, women entrepreneurs, and underrepresented suppliers.

The MoU establishes a structured framework for joint initiatives, such as global procurement dialogues, capacity-building programs, supplier outreach, and research on emerging themes like AI in procurement, sustainability, and green practices.

Through MVIRDC Mumbai's extensive international network, the collaboration will facilitate webinars, trade fairs, and buyer-seller meets, enabling Indian

MSMEs to access global opportunities while onboarding international suppliers to GeM.

Shri Satya Narayan Meena, Additional CEO and Chief Financial Officer of Government e Marketplace (GeM) said, "This MoU marks a pivotal step in evolving GeM into a globally benchmarked platform. With over one crore registered users on the GeM portal, ensuring wider exposure and market access is crucial. By leveraging MVIRDC's trade and exhibition expertise, we aim to empower MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and smaller enterprises while further strengthening India's digital procurement ecosystem."

He further highlighted Womaniya programme, which is playing a key role in empowering women entrepreneurs by enhancing their visibility, access to markets, and participation in public procurement, which enables women to reach greater heights.



From Left to Right: Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance, Accounts and Admin; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries (AIAI), Shri Satya Narayan Meena, Additional CEO and Chief Financial Officer of Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries (AIAI) in his remarks, " WTC Mumbai is proud to partner with GeM to bridge domestic public procurement with a diverse range of markets. WTC Mumbai plays a catalyst role in facilitating MSME's, Women entrepreneurs, startups and With this partnership they will gain access to market and government procurement which will further strengthen their position and supports them to meet their goals through GeM portal"

"WTC Mumbai has advocated for timely credit to MSME's and women entrepreneurs to ensure their competitiveness to the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India, falling in place these would also further strengthen the MSME's towards the objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Since its inception in 2016, GeM continues to scale new heights, in the coming years it has the potential to evolve beyond B2G into B2C or B2E models, further expanding its reach and impact". stated Dr. Kalantri

#### Key areas of collaboration include:

- **Knowledge Exchange and Policy Dialogue:** Joint conferences, policy briefs, and research on AI, transparency, and MSME inclusion.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Global training

hubs, workshops, and train-the-trainer programs for procurement officials and suppliers.

- **Global Procurement Integration:** Supplier readiness toolkits and compliance frameworks for international opportunities.
- **Global Supplier Outreach:** International Outreach initiatives, GeM pavilions at trade fairs and economic forums, roadshows, and partnerships via WTC networks.

A Joint Working Group will oversee the implementation of the initiative, ensuring full alignment with Government of India policies on public procurement, data security, and inclusivity. This collaboration supports the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) agenda, particularly for MSMEs, and strengthens transparent and efficient digital procurement practices. The initiative also contributes to the larger vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 by promoting innovation, empowering domestic enterprises, and positioning India as a global leader in digital public procurement.

The event was held on January 19, 2026

## Vietnam's largest coffee maker at World Trade Center to brew business and commercial opportunities

This visit reflects the importance of institutional platforms such as World Trade Center Mumbai in enabling structured business engagement, market entry support, and cross-border partnerships: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman World Trade Centre, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries



In the Picture: H.E. Mr. Le Quang Bien, Consul General of Vietnam (2nd from the right), Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, President, All India Association of Industries (3rd from right) along with others at the event.

World Trade Center Mumbai hosted a high-level business interaction with the Trung Nguyen Group Corporation, Vietnam's largest coffee maker, in the presence of Consul General of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Le Quang Bien Mumbai marking an important step towards strengthening Vietnam-India commercial cooperation.

The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for expanding Vietnamese coffee beverage within the rapidly growing Indian market. Discussions highlighted India's strong consumer demand, evolving retail ecosystem, and the potential for long-term partnerships with Indian businesses.

During the meeting, Consul General of Vietnam H.E. Mr. Le Quang Bien said, "India and Vietnam share a dynamic and ever-growing partnership. Both the countries are rising economy and today are engines of Asian growth. With India about to become third largest economy and hosting a young population, Vietnam is naturally interested in expanding business and commercial ties with Indian enterprises and MSMEs".

"I sincerely thank Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman World Trade Centre, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries for the catalyst role he has played and is playing to guide our delegation towards a concrete partnership. I also take this opportunity to invite WTC Mumbai to the annual Coffee festival which Vietnam will be hosting in the year 2027 to further take our partnership to new heights", remarked the Consul General.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman World Trade Centre, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries while welcoming the Consul General of Vietnam and the delegation to Mumbai said, "There exists ample opportunities for business collaboration between India and Vietnam. India, being the fastest growing economy, is a land of abundant opportunities. We welcome today's delegation for Vietnam for expanding their coffee products in the Indian markets. With 65% of our population below the age of 35, Indian youths have a knack for developing new tastes. This makes us an attractive consumer in the global market. Mumbai being the commercial and financial capital of

India is the perfect destination for global business giants to venture into Indian markets”.

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai outlined India’s market dynamics, regulatory environment, and sector-specific opportunities, while also emphasizing WTC Mumbai’s role as a trade facilitation platform connecting global enterprises with Indian stakeholders.

The delegation from Trung Nguyen Group Corporation, Vietnam’s leading coffee brand, shared insights into their global expansion strategy and expressed keen interest in establishing a stronger presence in India through strategic collaborations, distribution partnerships, and market localization initiatives.

**The event was held on January 19, 2026**

## World Trade Center to host 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026



Dr. Vijay Kalantri (Center) at the press meet to announce the Vintage, Classic and Mordern Classic Car Fiesta

This year in succession World Trade Center will host the 5th Edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026 with the inauguration ceremony scheduled on 24 January 2026 and 25th January 2026 reserved for public viewing, followed by the ceremonial flag-off on Republic Day, 26 January 2026. The Fiesta aims to reinforce the message of “Sadak Suraksha, Jeevan Raksha. The event is being organised by WTC in association with VCCCI and WIAA”, said Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries at a press conference organized to brief media about the upcoming event at the World Trade Center, Mumbai.

“Last year there were over 1 lakh visitors and this year also looking at the enthusiasm of people from all walks of life, children to senior citizens are expected to visit this rare exhibition. This event is significant as we feel that this heritage of vintage cars should be shared with future generations while also highlighting the cultural significance of Mumbai as a classic city”, remarked Dr. Kalantri.

Mr. Nitin Dossa, Chairman of VCCCI and WIAA speaking on the occasion indicated of his collection which is a 1933 Hudson, believed to be the only surviving example of its kind worldwide, representing a rare and invaluable chapter of global automotive history. Mr. Dossa also apprised the media persons of the event.

**Highlights of Event:**

- India's largest Rolls-Royce Phantom Centenary display of cars from 1927 to till date.
- Historic return of Phantom I (17EX) after 95 years.
- The event is supported by J K Tyre and the cars like Rolls-Royce, Lamborghini and Dodge is participating.
- Strong public-private collaboration promoting heritage, tourism and road safety
- The rare collection of automobiles of Mr. Yohan Poonawalla and others shall be displayed.

**Royal Provenance & Distinguished Collections:**

- A 1937 Rolls-Royce Phantom III from the collection of Late Shri Pranlal Bhogilal, Founder Member of VCCCI, will be exhibited alongside a 1959 Jaguar Mark IX and a 1955 Bentley, reflecting exceptional lineage and restoration excellence.
- Dr. Raghavpati Singhania's 1937 Rolls-Royce Wraith will participate, arriving from Delhi
- Mr. Gautam Singhania will showcase a 1927 Rolls-Royce 20 HP Coupe and a 1928 Rolls Royce Phantom I.

The event was held on January 22, 2026

## World Trade Center Mumbai Hosts Seminar on Labour Codes: Empowering MSMEs for a Future-Ready Workforce

"We are at a pivotal moment where labour reforms meet economic ambition. This seminar equips MSMEs with tools to thrive amid digital trade and automation" - Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.



From (L to R) in the picture: Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Suhas Basakhetre, Managing Director, Prompt Personnel Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Monisha Basakhetre, Executive Director, Prompt Personnel Pvt Ltd., Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai.

**M**umbai, January 23, 2026 – The World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted a high-impact seminar titled "India's New Labour Codes: Impact on Industries and employees" here today at World Trade Center Mumbai. The event brought together nearly 200 industry leaders, business execu-

tives, and HR professionals to understand the impact of the Labour Codes on businesses and MSMEs.

Speaking at the seminar, Mr. Suhas Basakhetre, Managing Director, Prompt Personnel Pvt. Ltd., stated, "enhancing the ease of doing business is the central objective of India's labour law reforms. He noted that the earlier labour laws, many of which had been in force for decades, have now been comprehensively rationalised by consolidating 29 existing laws into four simplified labour codes."

Highlighting the intent behind the reforms, Mr. Basakhetre said that the labour codes focus on simplification of laws, ease of compliance for employers, digitisation of processes, creation of a balanced and equitable framework for both employers and employees and strengthening enforcement mechanisms.

He further added that, "the entire compliance and enforcement ecosystem has now been digitised, significantly reducing regulatory complexity. Over 1,400 compliances have been streamlined to approxi-

mately 400, which is a major step towards improving the ease of doing business. The new labour codes aim to provide equal weightage to the interests of employers and employees, fostering a more transparent, efficient, and growth-oriented labour ecosystem."

In his remark, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, stated, "The consolidation of 29 existing labour laws into four unified labour codes is a landmark reform aimed at simplifying labour regulations, expanding worker protections, and improving predictability and clarity for employers.

"There would be greater job formalization and increased worker welfare, which would lead to potential job creation and increased consumption. These positives come with certain challenges, including higher wages and labour costs, more formalities, possible job insecurity, strained HR capacity, increased compliance workload, and short-term cost impacts. These reforms mark a decisive step towards building a more unified, resilient, and inclusive labour ecosystem, aligned with India's vision of a Viksit Bharat 2047," Dr. Kalantri stated. Ms. Yashashri Kulkarni, General Manager, Labour Law Compliance, Prompt Personnel Pvt. Ltd., highlighted key provisions under the Code on Wages, including the fixation of a National Floor Wage and the need for employers to realign and update their wage structures accordingly.

She further noted that this is the first time Indian labour legislation has formally defined emerging categories such as aggregators, gig workers, platform workers, and fixed-term employment, reflecting the evolving nature of the workforce. Referring to the Code on Social Security, Ms. Kulkarni pointed out that the EPF case deposit requirement has been significantly reduced from 75 per cent to 25 per cent of the estimated amount, while monetary penalties for non-compliance have been enhanced to strengthen enforcement.

She also highlighted important reforms under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, including the introduction of a pan-India single licence regime, liberalisation of leave encashment provisions, and mandatory crèche facilities, all aimed at improving worker welfare while simplifying compliance for employers.

The seminar concluded with an engaging and interactive question-and-answer session. Ms. Priya Pansare, Director Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center, Mumbai, presented the vote of thanks by expressing her gratitude to Mr. Suhas Basakhetre and Ms. Yashashri Kulkarni for the insightful seminar.

**The event was held on January 23, 2026**

## Vintage Motors revs at the World Trade Center Tarmac at the 5th Edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026

The inaugural ceremony of the VCCCI Annual Vintage Car Fiesta 2026 was held here today at the World Trade Centre Mumbai. The three-day celebration, being held from 24th to 26th January 2026 at the iconic World Trade Center, Mumbai inaugurated today. It brings together automotive heritage, royal provenance, and global craftsmanship, positioning Mumbai as a leading destination for culture-driven international exhibitions and is a major attraction for car and motor enthusiasts.

The 2026 edition is significant as it commemorates 100 years of the legendary Rolls-Royce Phantom series, showcased through India's largest-ever Phantom

Centenary exhibition. This year, all seven Rolls Royce Phantom are on display, making it a historic and rare spectacle for visitors.

Inaugurating the 3-day event, Shri Vivek Bhimanwar, IAS, Transport Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, underscored the importance of preserving automotive heritage and its relevance in the context of rapidly evolving mobility landscape. He stated that vintage automobiles function as living museums, showcasing the evolution of engineering excellence, timeless design, and safety innovations that continue to influence and inspire modern transport systems.



In the Picture (from L to R) : Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Shri Vivek Bhimanwar, IAS, Transport Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra; Mr. Nitin Dossa, Chairman, VCCCI and WIAA; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance Accounts and Admin

Shri Bhimanwar further shared that the Government of Maharashtra is exploring plans to establish a Vintage Car Museum in the coming years to preserve and celebrate India's motoring heritage. He emphasized that annual heritage events such as the Vintage Car Fiesta at World Trade Centre Mumbai play a vital role, like iconic museums, by providing premier public spaces that connect history with contemporary audiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Yoohan Poonawalla, noted collector and automobile connoisseur, stated that the selection of vehicles on display is both prestigious and deeply rooted in heritage. He shared that the Phantom series was chosen this year not merely for its symbolism, but for its role in preserving global automotive legacy.

Highlighting a centrepiece of the exhibition, Mr. Poonawalla spoke about the legendary 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I (17 EX), once owned by Maharaja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir, a global icon that has graced the world's most prestigious concours. He noted that the vehicle personally engineered under the guidance of Sir Henry Royce, making it a masterpiece of craftsmanship and historical significance.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre

Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, stated that World Trade Centre Mumbai is proud to host the 5th edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026.

Dr. Kalantri remarked, "This event holds special significance as it aims to preserve and share the rich heritage of vintage automobiles with future generations, while also underscoring Mumbai's cultural identity as a classic city." "Every vehicle on display reflects exceptional craftsmanship, timeless design, and a remarkable legacy," noted Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre Mumbai, adding that with over 187 vintage, classic, and modern classic cars, the Fiesta transforms the venue into a living timeline showcasing the rich cultural legacy and evolution of automotive history, offering a rare and immersive experience for automobile enthusiasts and the general public alike. The event was also graced by diplomats and consul generals from more than 40 countries, 350 plus business executives and dignitaries from economic and trade community for the ceremony.

Mr. Nitin Dossa, Chairman, VCCCI and WIAA, speaking on the occasion, expressed delight in presenting what he described as "walking stories of history." He stated that

the cars on display represent national pride and cultural heritage, noting that such a large-scale congregation of vintage automobiles is a rare gathering. He highlighted from his own collection the 1933 Hudson, believed to be the only surviving example of its kind worldwide.

Among the highlights is the display of the 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I (17EX), formerly owned by the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir; the 1933 Phantom II Continental Sports Saloon once owned by Sir Malcolm Campbell; the 1937 Phantom III from the Maharaja of Panchkote; the 1962 Phantom V used by the former Ruler of Qatar; the 1979 Phantom VI that served Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; the 2005 Phantom VII, the first Phantom delivered to India after the marque's relaunch; and the 2024 Phantom VIII Extended Wheelbase, the final EWB Phantom globally, featuring the exclusive Privacy Suite.

The event also showcases the modern performance icons such as the Ferrari 458 Aperta, Ferrari Pista, and Ferrari Portofino, offering visitors a unique convergence of heritage automobiles and contemporary engineering excellence.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Centre Mumbai, stated, "It has always been our privilege to organise such landmark events that celebrate cultural legacy and heritage be it through vintage automobiles, art, or craftsmanship ensuring these legacies continue to inspire future generations." The Fiesta remains open to the public from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on 25th January 2026, inviting visitors to experience a journey through time where elegance, engineering, and nostalgia come together under one roof.

**The event was held on January 24, 2026**



## Vintage, Classic, and Modern Classic Cars Flagged Off at World Trade Center Mumbai marking an end to the 3-day Car Fiesta 2026

This Fiesta transformed the venue into a living timeline of automotive history: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries



In the Picture (from Left to Right): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance, Accounts and Admin, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)

World Trade Center Mumbai witnessed a spectacular flag-off ceremony of vintage, classic, and modern classic automobiles as part of the 5th Edition of the VCCI Annual Vintage, Classic, and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026. The ceremonial flag-off marked the momentous conclusion of the three-day automotive celebration held from 24th to 26th January 2026 at the World Trade Center, Mumbai.

The event brought together an extraordinary collection of over 187 vintage, classic, and modern classic vehicles, celebrating automotive heritage, royal provenance, and global craftsmanship. Amongst the cars which were part of the exhibition were the cars from the private collection of Mr. Yohan Poonawala, Mr. Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group and Mr. Abhishek Karnani, President, President of the Free Press Journal and many more dignitaries of royal families. The flag-off ceremony symbolised the living legacy of

motoring history and reaffirmed Mumbai's position as a leading destination for culture-driven international exhibitions.

The 2026 edition holds special significance as it commemorates 100 years of the legendary Rolls-Royce Phantom series, showcased through India's largest-ever Phantom Centenary exhibition. For the first time, all seven generations of the Rolls-Royce Phantom were displayed together, offering visitors a rare and historic visual journey through automotive excellence.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, stated, "World Trade Center Mumbai is proud to host and culminate the 5th edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026 with this grand flag-off. This event celebrates not only exceptional automobiles but also Mumbai's rich cultural identity as a city that values heritage, craftsmanship, and timeless elegance."



In the picture (from Left to Right): Mr. Vishaal Kalantri, Director, Balaji Infra Private Limited; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director- Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai; Mr. Bharat Kalasker, Additional Transport Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries and Mr. Abhishek Karnani, President of the Free Press Journal flagging of the Vintage Car Rally

The flag-off ceremony marked a fitting finale to the Vintage Car Fiesta 2026, leaving thousands of enthusiasts and visitors with lasting memories of elegance,

engineering brilliance, and nostalgia coming together at the World Trade Center Mumbai for the annual fiesta.

**The event was held on January 25-26, 2026**

## 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations at WTC Mumbai: Honoring Viksit Bharat and Economic Triumphs

**M**VIRDC World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai celebrated India's 77th Republic Day with a grand flag-hoisting ceremony hosted by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, WTC Mumbai Chairman and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI). The ceremony was graced by the Hon'ble Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, as the distinguished Chief Guest this year.

Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, reflected the nation's transformation from facing basic manufacturing challenges decades ago to today's thriving, export-driven economy. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "It is noteworthy that India has emerged as the world's fourth-largest econ-

omy under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Maharashtra's march toward a trillion-dollar economy and India's role as a global provider, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, when India not only met domestic demands but also extended support to the international community, is a testament to our growing resilience and success of this great nation". Concluding with a call for collective dedication, he urged citizens to build a strong, prosperous, and self-reliant India.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), speaking on the occasion, underscored the significance of Republic Day. "Our growth



In the Picture: Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (6th from the left); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) (5th from left); Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai (5th from the right), along with consular representatives from Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the United States of America, and China at the flag hoisting ceremony at the World Trade Center, Mumbai.



In the Picture: Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Centre); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) (Left); Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai (Right) at the Republic Day ceremony, World Trade Centre, Mumbai.

story is defined not just by self-sufficiency but by our contribution to the global economy. We have seen the valour of our Armed Forces who stood like a strong wall against the enemies of the nation during Operation Sindhoor last year.”

“As we celebrate one more year of the founding of this republic, we need to be cautious of the challenges which we face in our journey towards Viksit Bharat by 2047 in times of geopolitical situations like today’s. This year, we are commemorating 150 years of the National Song “Vande Mataram”, 129 years of the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, and 100 years of Balasaheb Thackeray’s whose enduring legacy continues to guide us for our future, noted Dr. Kalantri.

The presence of senior officials from the consulates of over 15 countries underscored the importance of international friendship and cooperation fostered by WTC Mumbai. Adv. Rahul Narwekar highlighted WTC’s ongoing efforts to bring together global stakeholders and support India’s role as a responsible international partner.

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.

**The program was held on January 26, 2026**

## WTC Mumbai Leads Dialogue on Rare Earths, Industrial Policy, and Strategic Autonomy

Rare earths and strategic materials have moved beyond being commodities to becoming enablers of national sovereignty, resilience, and technological capability: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.



From left to right: Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance, Accounts and Admin, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, FINS, and President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research; 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 and Adv. Bal Desai, Secretary General, Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS) during the launch of a Rare Earth report made by MVIRDC World Trade Center, Mumbai.

World Trade Center Mumbai in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and the Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS), convened a high-level Round Table Discussion on “Rare Earths, Minerals, and Strategic Materials: Securing Supply Chains for National Resilience in a Multipolar World.” The event brought together senior government officials, policymakers, industry leaders, diplomats, and domain experts to deliberate on India’s strategic vulnerabilities and opportunities in critical mineral supply chains.

Adv. Bal Desai, Secretary General, Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS), underscored the fragility of global supply chains in a multipolar world. He noted “majority of global rare earth processing and refining capacity remains concentrated in China and that many critical minerals are geographically restricted to a few regions. He stressed that in the current strategic environment, control over processing and refining capabilities is more critical than merely possessing mineral reserves”.

“Digital infrastructure, defence, space, nuclear energy, clean energy, and advanced electronics all rest on

vulnerable material foundations. Export controls and refining monopolies have replaced pure economic competition. Securing supply chains is no longer optional it is a strategic imperative,” Adv. Bal Desai added.

Delivering the theme address, Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, FINS, and President, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research, the current scenario emerges from past geopolitical disruptions, including China’s rare earth export restrictions to Japan. He highlighted the limitations of focusing only on mining without parallel investments in refining, substitution technologies, recycling, and intellectual property creation.

Dr. Bhattacharya pointed to the paradox in India’s position, “noting that while India ranks among the top three countries globally in rare earth deposits, it faces persistent challenges in high-temperature processing, monazite sand mining, access to finance, information asymmetry, and IPR constraints. Referring to the National Critical Minerals Mission (NCMM) and the evolving MMDR framework, he observed that despite strong geological potential, India continues to face long



Dr. Deependra Singh, President, Rare Earth Association of India, and former CMD of IREL and H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai at the high-level panel discussion

gestation periods, limited processing capacity, and dependence on foreign technologies”.

H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, said “There are vast opportunities for India–Brazil collaboration in the critical minerals space. Brazil currently consists of 27 rare earth projects spread across seven states and holds significant reserves of lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, copper, and germanium. He emphasized that strategic cooperation could help diversify global supply chains and support downstream integration beyond China-centric ecosystems”.

Dr. Deependra Singh, President, Rare Earth Association of India, and former CMD of IREL, highlighted key structural and operational challenges facing India’s rare earth sector. He emphasized that processing and separation capabilities are central to value creation and global partnerships, cautioning against the misconception that the mere availability of mineral reserves ensures strategic security.

“The rare earth elements derive value only when integrated into advanced applications such as permanent magnets and high-end manufacturing”. Dr. Singh also pointed out that while several rare earth deposits were explored decades ago, operational permissions have been granted only in recent years, with regulatory and environmental clearances continuing to shape project timelines.

“India has large reserves of rare earth oxides around 7

million metric tonnes, but we are still heavily dependent on imports for processed materials and magnets,” said Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.

“There is huge potential for India to grow in this sector. However, we face challenges such as lack of large-scale processing and separation technology, environmental and social constraints, and gaps in coordination across institutions. While some regulatory processes are becoming easier, new challenges are emerging as the sector expands. Addressing bottlenecks in technology, processing, and governance will be key for India to fully utilize its rare earth resources,” Dr. Kalantri added. Dr. Kalantri also highlighted the strategic importance of rare earth elements across sectors, from microchips used in consumer electronics to high-precision defence applications.

India possesses significant reserves of uranium, thorium, and rare earth-bearing minerals; however, technology gaps, regulatory uncertainty, and long development timelines constrain commercialization. The event ended on the note that the advancements, economical, technological and geopolitical, over a decade, will solve the current prognosis of policy certainty and ecosystem development.

**The event was held on January 28, 2026**

## World Trade Center Mumbai and TERI Advance Dialogue on India's Low-Carbon Transition

"India's net-zero journey must be driven by a model where sustainability and economic growth reinforce each other." - Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.



In the Picture from (L to R): Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries

World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), convened a High-Level Transformative Leadership Roundtable on India's low carbon transition. The event brought together senior business leaders, investors, and sustainability practitioners to deliberate on accelerating India's low-carbon transition while sustaining economic growth. The discussions highlighted the immediate need for transformative leadership and collective action in shaping India's climate and development pathway, particularly at a time when significant share of the country's future infrastructure is still in early stages of development.

Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, speaking at the session said, "Ambition today must move beyond scale alone. As India's

clean energy economy expands, so does its demand for materials, minerals, and infrastructure. Resource efficiency and circular economy approaches are no longer optional, they are strategic necessities for energy security, cost stability, and long-term resilience."

"The global sustainability landscape today is fundamentally different from even the recent past. Climate ambition is no longer constrained by intent, but by the pace and scale of implementation, shifting the question from whether India will lead to how decisively and credibly that leadership is demonstrated. While India's net-zero commitment sets a clear national direction, achieving this goal will depend equally on private sector leadership, investment, and innovation, alongside public policy." Added Dr. Vibha Speaking from the perspective of industry and institutional leadership, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said "As India moves towards its net-zero target by 2070, our responsibility is to pursue a transformative vision of development where sustainability and economic growth reinforce each other. This transition will be driven by advanced technologies, innovation, and a shared ideology that views climate action not as a constraint, but as an opportunity for long-term, inclusive, and sustainable development."



In the picture: Participants engage in discussion at the World Trade Centre Mumbai-TERI dialogue on India's low-carbon transition.

Moderating the discussion, Mr. Arupendra Nath Mullick, Associate Director, TERI, noted, "We invite not just participation, but the collective intellect of our partners to co-create a platform that harnesses the power of networks, expertise, and implementation, while grounding solutions in real-world perspectives."

Mr. Krishna Kumar Gangadharan, Partner, India Japan Fund, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), highlighted that NIIF has already invested USD 6 billion in infrastructure development in India and emphasized the importance of cohesive supply chain ecosystems in scaling climate-focused business models. Ms. Raakhee Kulkarni, Managing Director and Head of ESG at South Asia Advisors, GEF Capital Partners, noted that GEF's investments across climate mitigation and adaptation sectors in India reflect a growing shift where the business value of sustainability is driving intent into implementation.

The roundtable featured active participation from leaders across industry, finance, impact investing, and

sustainability-focused organizations. Discussions underscored the interdependence of industry sectors in advancing India's low-carbon transition, the need to accelerate renewable energy deployment, strengthen standards and certifications, and mobilize capital through banks, impact investors, and asset managers while emphasizing the importance of collective action across stakeholders.

The event was held on January 28, 2026

## Decoding the Union Budget 2026–27: WTC Mumbai Brings Industry and Policy into Dialogue



In the picture from (L to R): Mr. Pranav Prakash Mehta, Partner KJM INC; Mr. Siddhartha Rastogi, Principal Officer, Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer, Ambit Asset Management; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Arun Kumar Garodia, Former ITAT Member and Income Tax Consultant at the Post Budget discussion session, World Trade Center, Mumbai

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries, organised a post-Budget session today to deliberate on the implications of the Union Budget

2026–27 for MSME's, trade, industry, exports, and India's long-term economic growth trajectory. The discussion brought together industry leaders, exporters, professionals, and policy observers to analyse key

budget announcements and their impact on businesses and the broader economy.

Mr. Siddhartha Rastogi, Principal Officer, Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer, Ambit Asset Management, said that the Union Budget clearly lays a path for upcoming years. Highlighting the importance of inclusive growth, Mr. Rastogi said "Achieving a GDP growth rate of 7.2 percent requires strengthening India's 6 crore MSMEs, which form the backbone of the economy. The initiative to link government spending with the TReDS platform will help unlock liquidity and order books for MSMEs. Promotion of digital payments and securitisation is improving credit flow to the sector and preventing capital from remaining stuck in the system," said Mr. Rastogi.

Mr. Rastogi welcomed the government's focus on critical minerals to ensure Atmanirbharta emphasizing on economic security along with national security noting that, "schemes announced for rare earth elements would help secure stable supply chains and insulate the economy from geopolitical risks".

Explaining the changes brought in by the Union Budget, Mr. Pranav Prakash Mehta, Partner KJM INC Specialist in Indirect Taxation said, " Though there are no headline changes in taxation policy announced in the budget, the minor tweaks proposed will have significant implications as far as ease of doing business is concerned. One such example is the Amendment pertaining to post supply discount which will increase responsibilities of suppliers which in turn will ultimately benefit the customers".

Speaking on the recent amendments proposed by the Union Budget, "issues like supply invoicing, invoice discounting and explanatory facets will reduce litigation in taxation matters speeding up long pending taxation matters". Added Mr. Mehta.

Giving a perspective on the direct taxation policy proposals in the Union Budget, Mr. Arun Kumar Garodia, Ex ITAT Member and Income Tax Consultant said, " The tax holiday given to data centers will help capital flows in new age technology investment in India which will strengthen our domestic economy and long-term investment climate. Further, it will have a multiplier effect on development of an ecosystem where India will become a centre for data processing and data storage".

" The budget has made some proposals relating to Shares buyback which will be now taxed as per the

capital gains rather than being taxed under relevant provisions of the Income Tax. This will benefit both industry and shareholders alike. Similarly, The changes in the application of Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) for persons investing in the economy would help sustain capital flows over the long term, while the decriminalisation of non-payment of taxes demonstrates the government's trust and confidence in the business class, reinforcing a more conducive and collaborative environment for economic growth", said Mr. Goradia.

In his remarks, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries said "This Budget has given us a roadmap for Viksit Bharat by 2047, Whether it is giving incentives to data centres on the lines of tax holidays till 2047, or focused support to technology and industries, it lays down a comprehensive path to achieve a USD 10 trillion economy by 2030".

"India is increasingly becoming a favoured destination due to its strong law and order situation, robust legal framework, and clear government intent. While regulators may be removed, regulations remain. We sincerely hope that the announced measures are implemented effectively to realise their full potential, Simplification in taxes and resolution of legacy issues will significantly improve the ease of doing business in India," added Dr. Kalantri.

Dr. Kalantri stated "government's focus on achieving double-digit economic growth is encouraging, especially at a time when India continues to perform well despite global economic headwinds".

This year the post budget discussion, which is an annual event at the World Trade Centre, saw more than 150 business leaders, MSMEs and innovators and the presence of diplomats from many countries, engaging in a healthy and free flowing discussion on the Union Budget and India's road ahead for Viksit Bharat. The event concluded with Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai presenting vote of thanks.

**The event was held on February 3, 2026**



## Seattle Delegation Lays Thrust on Trade, Technology & Investment to Boost India-US Trade Deal Momentum



In the picture(L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Hon. Angela Birney, Mayor, City of Redmond, Washington; Mr. Dave Somers, County Executive, Snohomish County; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries ; Mr. Sam Cho, Commissioner, Port of Seattle and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance Accounts and Admin, World Trade Center Mumbai.

Just days after India-US relations broke the ice by announcing a trade deal, World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All-India Association of Industries (AIAI), organized a high-level business delegation from Seattle today. This is the first India-focused leadership mission of its kind from the state of Washington, organized by the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Greater Seattle Partners, comprising more than 32 senior leaders from business, real estate, technology, aviation, and the creative economy covering entire gamut of trade ties.

Sharing insights on the Seattle region's economic strengths, innovation ecosystem, and opportunities for Indian companies, Mr. Dave Somers, County Executive, Snohomish County, said, "The county of Snohomish hosts the historic Boeing Factory positioning the city of Seattle as an aerospace hub. We at Seattle value international cooperation in trade and investment. With an experience in being a hub for high value manufacturing, we wish to collaborate in areas such as aerospace, advanced manufacturing and telecom technology, green energy, and infrastructure development. In the coming months we will develop a sustainable hub for aviation fuel in line with international standards thereby providing a window of opportunity for international

players. Being heavily dependent on international trade, we are always open for trade and development in Snohomish County in Seattle".

Speaking at the event, Mr. Sam Cho, Commissioner, Port of Seattle, said, "The Port of Seattle is one of the most diversified ports in the United States and a major international gateway. We are deeply committed to global connectivity, with the largest cruise business on the U.S. West Coast and a strong maritime presence through the Northwest Seaport Alliance formed in 2015. Despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, our trade volumes have remained steady".

"The Seattle metropolitan region is home to global leaders such as Boeing, Amazon, Microsoft, and Starbucks. We see significant opportunities to expand air cargo and passenger services with India, which is currently our 13th-largest air cargo trade partner. With over 277,000 passengers traveling between Seattle and India, we also remain focused on strengthening trade, services, and connectivity. We highly value the role of the World Trade Center and admire the spirit of innovation and service demonstrated by Indian enterprises." added Mr. Sam Cho.

Hon. Angela Birney, Mayor, City of Redmond, Washington, said, “Redmond is a global hub for innovation built on talent, diversity, and international collaboration. Nearly 45% of our residents were born outside the United States, and 75% of adults hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. The Indian community and Indian entrepreneurs play a vital role in our economy and cultural fabric”.

“Redmond hosts a growing startup ecosystem in artificial intelligence, fusion energy, implant computers, and clean technology, and is home to several global Indian companies such as HCL, Tata Group, and Tech Mahindra, strengthening two-way economic ties. India is a strategic partner in education, innovation, culture, and long-term growth. By investing in relationships with India, we invest in shared prosperity. US is seriously looking at India as a preferred investment destination” added Ms. Birney.

In his welcome address, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said “the recent India-US trade deal, aims to scale bilateral trade in goods and services to USD 500 billion by 2030, similarly we should aim to scale capital flows from US to India from the current mark of 50 Billion dollars”.

“This delegation comes at an opportune time as we press reset button to our ties. Seattle is the tech city of the US and as we march towards the 10 trillion-dollar economy by 2030, this relationship with Seattle will

work both ways harnessing capital and required technology for the growth of our economy. With this delegation at World Trade Center, Mumbai, I would like to pass on the message through you that India is eager to grow with mutual support. Let temporary hiccups not be a long aberration for our consequential ties”, stressed Dr. Kalantri.

Dr. Kalantri stated, “The Seattle region represents key opportunities for Indian businesses, particularly in sectors such as technology, logistics, real estate, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and start-ups. Home to global leaders in aerospace, quantum computing, and innovation including Boeing, Microsoft and several other major companies, Seattle offers strong potential for collaboration with Indian industry. Coming immediately after the India-US trade deal, this first leadership delegation from the region carries special significance, and we are proud to host the delegation at World Trade Center Mumbai”.

The event witnessed participation from over 500 representatives from industry, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs. The Seattle business delegation’s visit to World Trade Center Mumbai underscored the shared commitment of India and the United States to deepen economic engagement, foster innovation-led growth, and build resilient global partnerships.

**The event was held on February 5, 2026**

## When Climate Meets Cinema: WTC Mumbai Screens Against the Tide at Mumbai Climate Week

“World Trade Center Mumbai has always been at the forefront of ecological responsibility, and we are proud to be among the city’s first green buildings. As our Chairman, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, has consistently emphasised, sustainability must be embedded into how institutions think, build, and lead. Partnering with Mumbai Climate Week felt like a natural extension of that commitment. We are pleased to host their events, including today’s film screenings and the Against The Tide photo exhibition. Initiatives like these spark meaningful conversations and inspire collective action, and we are glad to support that effort.”



## World Trade Centre Mumbai Leads Discussion on Urban Heat Risks and Climate-Resilient Cities



In the picture: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries addressing at the session



In the picture (L to R): Shashank Jewalikar, Executive Director, State Load Despatch Centre; Ms. Aarti Khosla, Founder and Director of Climate Trends at the session

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai, in association with Climate Trends, hosted a high-level roundtable on “Urban Heat Stress and Its Growing Impact on India’s Economic Sectors and Public Health” as part of Mumbai Climate Week (MCW). The roundtable focused on the growing implications of urban heat stress across key sectors including energy, MSMEs, automobiles, FMCG, textiles, and urban logistics, highlighting how rising temperatures and frequent heatwaves are affecting productivity, worker safety, electricity demand, and supply chain efficiency across Indian cities.

Ms. Aarti Khosla, Founder and Director of Climate Trends, said “Climate action sits at the intersection of public health and economic growth, heat stress is the single largest threat to public health and the macroeconomy. As Mumbai hosts Climate Week for the first time, there is recognition that we are not witnessing daily weather changes, but long-term shifts in climate averages require immediate attention.”

“Investing in resilience makes economic sense, every dollar invested can generate up to 19 dollars in avoided losses. While acting today may seem costly, inaction will be far more expensive. We need practical financial models that go beyond taxonomy debates to support MSMEs and protect vulnerable workers, especially in India’s largely informal workforce, as we accelerate the transition to renewables.” Said Ms. Khosla.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said “If we look at Indian cities today, Urban heat is no longer an environmental issue, it is becoming a serious development challenge. Heatwaves have intensified over the past two decades; many cities are experiencing temperatures 3 to 8 degrees Celsius higher than surrounding rural regions due to the Urban Heat Island effect.”

Dr. Kalantri said, “With India’s urban population expected to cross 40 percent by 2030, rising temperatures are increasingly impacting public health, urban liveability, and economic productivity, particularly for vulnerable communities.”

“Nearly 75 percent of India’s workforce is exposed to high-temperature conditions, and estimates suggest the country could lose around 5.8 percent of total working hours by 2030 due to extreme heat alone. The World Bank has also warned that GDP losses could reach up to 4.5 percent without adequate adaptation measures.” Added Dr. Kalantri.

Mr. Vishwas Chitale, Head, Climate Resilience, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), said, “Rising urban heat is increasingly being driven as much by rapid urbanisation as by climate change. Higher temperatures and relative humidity levels are already impacting overall productivity and industrial output. Addressing heat stress through climate-resilient

solutions should therefore be viewed not only as an environmental response but also from a return-on-investment perspective, as these adaptation measures can deliver measurable economic and operational benefits.”

The session was moderated by Ms. Archana Choudhary, Associate Director, Climate Trends and the participants emphasised that urban heat, often viewed primarily as an environmental concern, is increasingly emerging as a critical economic and development challenge requiring integrated planning and coordinated action.

The roundtable witnessed participation from representatives across industry, finance, healthcare, sustainability, and policy institutions, including auctusESG, ITC, Siemens, Union Bank of India, CEEW, NISM, DSP Asset Managers, State Load Despatch Centre, and the All India MSME Association. The discussion concluded with an interactive exchange among participants, followed by actionable next steps toward strengthening urban climate resilience.

The event was held on February 16, 2026

## When Heat Rewrites the City: Rethinking “Roti, Kapda aur Makaan” in a Warming Mumbai

At the World Trade Center Mumbai, Dialogue Earth hosted a timely panel discussion, supported by the WTC Mumbai, on how rising urban temperatures are affecting daily life in Indian cities. The event explored the challenges extreme heat poses to housing, livelihoods, and public health, as well as how cities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Pune are coping.

spaces and better access to water—that can help make cities more liveable as temperatures continue to rise.

The event underscored the urgent need to rethink how cities manage heat, ensuring that the basic essentials of life—food, clothing, and shelter—remain accessible and safe in a warming climate.

Dialogue Earth



Mumbai Climate Week Panel

Is India getting too hot  
for *roti, kapda aur makaan?*

The discussion highlighted gaps between heat action policies and on-ground realities, and stressed the importance of community-led solutions, climate-responsive urban planning, and cross-sector collaboration. Participants shared insights on practical interventions—from cooler building designs to shaded public

The event was held on February 16, 2026

## World Trade Center Mumbai Woos Sri Lankan Business Delegation to Boost Trade and Economic Partnership



In the picture (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Ms. Shirani Ariyaratne, Consul and Minister, Consulate General of Sri Lanka; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance Accounts and Admin, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Mrs. Mangala Madhuwanthi, Export Development Board Sri Lanka; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai.



In the picture (L to R): Ms. Shirani Ariyaratne, Consul (commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries at the event.

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted a business delegation from Sri Lanka to strengthen bilateral trade, investment cooperation, and industry partnerships between the two countries. The programme focused on enhancing commercial engagement across key sectors including textiles and apparel, handicrafts, lifestyle products, wellness industries, infrastructure, tourism, and IT services. The interaction facilitated over 300 B2B meetings between Indian and Sri Lankan companies,

highlighting new opportunities for collaboration, market access, and supply chain integration.

Ms. Shirani Ariyaratne, Consul (commercial), Consulate General of Sri Lanka, said “India and Sri Lanka share a deep-rooted relationship that goes back millennia. We already have a Free Trade Agreement in goods, and we are now looking to expand cooperation through a Free Trade Agreement in services, which will further strengthen our economic integration. There are significant opportunities in tourism, textiles, automobiles, infrastructure development, and IT, and we are also exploring the further expansion of industrial zones to facilitate greater business engagement. With Sri Lanka offering preferential market access and a rapidly growing economy, the prospects for enhanced bilateral collaboration are extremely promising.”

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said “Since the Free Trade Agreement, India and Sri Lanka have come a long way in strengthening their economic partnership. Bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries has crossed USD 6 billion in FY 2024–25, and we expect this to double over the next five years. With nearly 4,000 products enjoying tariff concessions, there is significant scope to expand trade beyond traditional sectors. In this evolving geopolitical environment, strengthening regional

partnerships is essential to ensure economic resilience and shared prosperity.”

“There is high potential for collaboration in sectors such as textiles and apparel, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, agriculture and food processing, IT and digital services, renewable energy, and tourism. India remains one of the largest contributors to foreign direct investment in Sri Lanka, reflecting strong business confidence and the long-term potential of the bilateral partnership. We are proud to be hosting our sixth delegation from Sri Lanka in the past six months, which reiterates the growing momentum in India–Sri Lanka engagement,” added Dr. Kalantri.

Mrs. Mangala Madhuwanthi, Export Development Board Sri Lanka, said “The Sri Lanka Export Development Board plays a vital role in promoting the country’s export sector, with total exports exceeding USD 17.3 billion last year, including USD 13.6 billion in

merchandise trade, these exports contribute nearly 19% to GDP. The delegation visiting today represents this diversity with companies from lifestyle, leather, wellness, renewable paper, handicrafts, and traditional batik products, and creative industry products showcasing Sri Lanka’s rich heritage and export capabilities”.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, who expressed appreciation to the visiting delegation and participants for contributing to meaningful dialogue and strengthening economic bridges between India and Sri Lanka. He added that by partnering with Sri Lankan enterprises, Indian companies can leverage complementary strengths and access wider regional markets.

**The event was held on February 17, 2026** ■

## Australia Provides Duty-Free Access to All Indian Exports Under ECTA

“The MoU signed between World Trade Center Mumbai and the Australia India Business Council will further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation, creating new opportunities for businesses in both countries” - Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted a high-level interaction with a business delegation from the Australia India Business Council (AIBC), reaffirming the growing momentum in India–Australia economic relations. The engagement focused on expanding bilateral trade, investment collaboration, and sectoral partnerships in emerging areas such as critical minerals, green energy, and advanced technologies.

Mr. Deepak Raj Gupta OAM, National Chair, Australia India Business Council, said, “Our focus remains strongly on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the backbone of both economies. Today’s delegation of 20 members, representing sectors including education, artificial intelligence, law, sports, logistics, technology, and finance reflecting the wide range of opportunities emerging in the India–Australia bilateral corridor.”

“We are focused on collaboration in critical minerals,



In the picture (L to R): Mr. Deepak Raj Gupta OAM, National Chair, Australia India Business Council; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai.

education, AI and emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing, sports and skill-bridging initiatives and

human capital development. Strengthening technology partnerships alongside investing in people-to-people capabilities will be essential in driving sustainable growth between Australia and India.” Said Mr. Gupta.

“The Australia India Business Council is the leading business chamber dedicated to strengthening the bilateral trade and investment relationship between Australia and India. This year represents our 48th year of advancing bilateral cooperation. AIBC has chapters in six Australian state capitals and a growing presence in India, where we continue to shape policy advocacy, raise awareness, and facilitate meaningful business-to-business outcomes,” added Mr. Gupta.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “India and Australia are two large nations with immense potential. With bilateral trade crossing over USD 50 billion, there is significant opportunity to reach USD 100 billion in the next five years. The India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which provides near zero-duty market access on most of the traded goods, has opened massive opportunities for Indian exports. Beyond technological advancements, there remains a substantial skills gap, which presents strong potential for collaborative growth and capacity building.”

“There is considerable scope for cooperation in sectors such as the blue economy, maritime services, mining and critical minerals, particularly lithium as well as education, hydrogen, and green energy. Strengthening partnerships across these strategic areas will further strengthen the India–Australia economic relationship.” Said Dr. Kalantri

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, delivered the vote of thanks and said, “Australia, known for its vast mineral resources and strong economy, is expanding beyond traditional sectors, creating immense opportunities for growth and collaboration. He expressed confidence that the visit of the 20-member business delegation would significantly strengthen bilateral engagement and create meaningful avenues for trade and investment cooperation between the two countries”.

The meeting also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both parties to promote greater collaboration and enhance trade and investment opportunities.

**The event was held on February 18, 2026** ■

## Arunachal Pradesh Delegation Engages with WTC Mumbai to Explore Investment and Employment Prospects

A senior delegation from the Department of Labour and Employment, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, visited the World Trade Center Mumbai. The discussions focused on identifying avenues for expanding employment generation, enhancing skill development programs, and creating cross-regional business opportunities. The delegation also explored strategies to attract investments, promote entrepreneurship, and strengthen industrial linkages that can drive sustainable economic growth and long-term job creation in Arunachal Pradesh.

Shri Sapbi Yomcha, Assistant Labour Commissioner (HQ), Government of Arunachal Pradesh, said, “Arunachal Pradesh offers significant growth opportunities for industries. The state is actively exploring prospects in lithium resources and expanding solar energy initiatives. There is also great scope for horticultural-

ture, including fruits such as oranges, kiwi, and pineapple, alongside large tea plantations.”

“We are strongly focused on employment opportunities, infrastructure development, and ensuring sustainable economic growth for the people of Arunachal Pradesh” said, Mr. Yomcha.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “There is vast industrial potential in states like Arunachal Pradesh, particularly when the state is in its early stages and strongly focused on development. Sectors such as agro-based industries, renewable energy, tourism, infrastructure, MSMEs, and small-scale manufacturing offer significant scope for growth.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, President, All India Association of Industries (3rd from left); Shri Sapbi Yomcha, Assistant Labour Commissioner (HQ), Government of Arunachal Pradesh (4th from left) along with others in the event.

“With the right industry linkages, policy support, and investor facilitation, the state can emerge as a strong destination for industrial investment and large-scale employment generation.” added Dr. Kalantri

The delegation comprised senior labour and employment officials representing various districts of Arunachal Pradesh. During the interaction, discussions centred on enhancing industrial growth, facilitating workforce mobility, promoting entrepreneurship, and attracting investments to generate sustainable employment opportunities across the state.

Representatives at the meeting underscored the

importance of stronger linkages between policy institutions and industry bodies to accelerate state-led economic development. The visit marks a significant step toward fostering interstate collaboration, investment facilitation, and sustainable employment generation, aligned with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat and inclusive growth across emerging states like Arunachal Pradesh. The engagement concluded with a shared commitment to continued dialogue and cooperation aimed at unlocking business potential and strengthening the employment ecosystem in Arunachal Pradesh.

**The event was held on February 24, 2026** ■

## India–Norway Lay Thrust on Exploring Energy, Maritime, Green Growth and Investment Opportunities

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in Mumbai, successfully organized an International Trade Dialogue with Norway. This event brought together government representatives, industry leaders, and trade stakeholders to explore opportunities for strengthening India–Norway economic cooperation, particularly in sustainable energy, maritime innovation, and green technologies.

The event was attended by H.E. Ms. Monica Nagelgaard, Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Mumbai, reflecting the importance of India–Norway bilateral engagement.

Mr. Fredrik Bjerke Abdelmaguid, Deputy Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Mumbai, highlighted “Norway is keen to deepen economic engagement with India and expand cooperation across clean energy, sustainable maritime solutions, and innovation-driven sectors.”

“The complementarities between Norwegian technological expertise and India’s growing industrial and entrepreneurial ecosystem align strongly with the India–EFTA TEPA framework. The USD 100 billion investment commitment under EFTA over the next 15 years represents a significant boost to bilateral cooperation.” added Mr. Fredrik

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “With India aiming to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070 and targeting 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity by 2030, partnerships with countries like Norway, which are global technological leaders play a key role. Beyond clean energy, there is also significant potential for cooperation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, maritime equipment, shipping technologies, and chemicals, where both countries can leverage their complementary strengths to expand trade and industrial collaboration.”

Dr. Kalantri added, “Bilateral trade between India and Norway has crossed USD 1.2 billion, and with the India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which came into effect after nearly 16 years of negotiations, there exists strong potential to significantly double the trade in the coming years.”

Ms. Reena R Rao, General Manager, Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited (MAHAPREIT), a subsidiary of MPBCDC, Government of Maharashtra, said “MAHAPREIT plays a vital role in promoting solar energy, green technologies, and inclusive infrastructure development to drive socio-economic empowerment. She further highlighted MAHAPREIT’s core verticals, including renewable energy and electric vehicles, agro-processing and biofuels, infrastructure and data centre development, as well as CSR-led initiatives, aimed at fostering sustainable and inclusive growth.”

“MAHAPREIT continues to serve as a key facilitator in aligning Maharashtra’s clean energy ambitions with



In the picture (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; H.E. Ms. Monica Nagelgaard, Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Mumbai; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries

community-led development through strategic partnerships and innovative projects.” added Ms. Reena

Mr. Azam Ali Khan, Senior Energy Advisor for India, NORWEP (Norwegian Energy Partners), said “There are emerging opportunities for collaboration in offshore energy, green transition technologies, and sustainable industrial practices. Strengthening partnerships between Norwegian companies and Indian enterprises, particularly MSMEs, can accelerate the adoption of energy-efficient solutions and contribute meaningfully toward achieving global climate goals.”

The session also included an interactive Q&A session, enabling participants to engage directly with speakers and discuss practical pathways for enhancing bilateral trade, investment, and technology cooperation.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, who acknowledged the Norwegian delegation and participants for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas and reaffirmed WTC Mumbai’s commitment to promoting international trade dialogue and economic collaboration.

**The event was held on March 2, 2026**

## Mauritius Lays Thrust on Expanding Trade in Manufacturing, AI and Services, Says H.E. Bappoo



In the picture (L to R): H.E. Mrs. Sheilabai Bappoo, G.O.S.K., High Commissioner of Mauritius to India; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries

The World Trade Center Mumbai and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) hosted H.E. Mrs. Sheilabai Bappoo, G.O.S.K., High Commissioner of Mauritius to India, to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations between India and Mauritius.

H.E. Mrs. Sheilabai Bappoo, G.O.S.K., High Commissioner of Mauritius to India, emphasized that, “Mauritius continues to serve as a safe, secure and treaty-compliant jurisdiction, offering a conducive environment for investors and exporters seeking access to emerging global markets. Mauritius maintains strong bilateral agreements not only with India but also with several major economies including the European Union, the United Kingdom, China, and the United Arab Emirates, positioning the country as an important platform for international trade and investment. Following the recent visit of the Prime Minister, there is renewed interest in further expanding bilateral relations, and we look forward to greater investments and increased manufacturing presence in Mauritius.”

Mrs. Bappoo added, “The country provides an effective gateway for Indian companies looking to expand their footprint, while also welcoming greater participation of Mauritian enterprises in India’s rapidly growing economy. Mauritius network of trade and investment agreements enables businesses to benefit from prefer-

ential market access and smoother entry into several global markets. We are particularly keen to strengthen cooperation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, logistics, and shipping, where there is high potential for bilateral collaboration and investment.”

Mr. Dooshant Kumar Bucktwar, Consul General of Mauritius in Mumbai, assured full support and assistance to the trade and industry community in exploring business and investment opportunities between Mauritius and India.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “Bilateral trade between the two countries is currently around USD 800 million, reflecting the strong commercial ties and growing engagement between our businesses. With stronger business linkages and new opportunities emerging across sectors, there is significant potential for bilateral trade to double over the next five years. Although Mauritius has a relatively small population of about one million people, its strategic location and strong network of international agreements enable businesses operating from Mauritius to access a significant share of global markets, particularly in Africa and beyond.”

“Mauritius is increasingly positioning itself as a future-ready, innovation-driven economy, focusing on key pillars such as Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology, Renewable Energy, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. These sectors offer significant opportunities for strengthening collaboration between Indian and Mauritian enterprises. Mauritius shares deep cultural and historical ties with India, and whenever we are in Mauritius, we feel at home.” added Dr. Kalantri.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, participated in the interaction aimed at strengthening trade and investment ties between India and Mauritius.

The interaction reaffirmed the shared commitment of both sides to further strengthen India–Mauritius economic cooperation and promote greater engagement between businesses, investors, and institutions from the two countries.

**The event was held on March 9, 2026**

## India–Canada Trade Ties Poised for Reset as WTC Mumbai Hosts Canadian Business Delegation



In the picture (L to R): Mr. Prashant Srivastava, President, Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC), Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries and Mr. Andrew Maharaj, Senior Trade Commissioner and Consul, Consulate General of Canada

Signalling a renewed push to revive economic engagement between India and Canada, the World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted a Business Roundtable with a Canadian Trade Delegation led by the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) at Centrum Hall.

Mr. Andrew Maharaj, Senior Trade Commissioner and Consul, Consulate General of Canada, said India–Canada relations are entering what he described as a “phase of reconstruction and acceleration.” He noted that both countries are now looking to rebuild momentum in economic engagement and aim to scale bilateral trade to nearly USD 70 billion by 2030.

Referring to recent discussions between Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Mark Carney and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, Mr. Maharaj said the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) could serve as an important framework for expanding trade and investment between the two countries.

Highlighting priority sectors, he said Canada is keen to deepen cooperation with India in areas such as energy, artificial intelligence, MSMEs, mining, technical education and innovation-driven industries. He also referred to the USD 2.6 billion uranium and nuclear cooperation agreement between the two countries, noting that as India expands its clean energy capacity from 200 GW to 500 GW, collaboration in critical minerals such as lithium and nickel will become increasingly important. Mr. Maharaj added that Canadian investment funds are closely watching India’s growth trajectory, with potential investments estimated to reach USD 100 billion by 2030 across infrastructure and strategic sectors.

Addressing concerns raised by industry representatives on visa issues, he said Canada is working towards streamlining visa processes to better facilitate business travel, industry collaboration and student mobility. Mr. Prashant Srivastava, President, Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) said the current trade mission comes at a pivotal moment for rebuilding economic engagement between the two countries after nearly five years of limited interaction.

“This mission focuses on emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, technology and startups, while also strengthening collaboration in traditional areas including agriculture and agri-food, education and skill development, hospitality and tourism,” he said.

On the sidelines of the roundtable, World Trade Center Mumbai and the Indo-Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at strengthening cooperation in trade facilitation, business delegations, knowledge exchange and industry engagement between India and Canada.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said bilateral trade between India and Canada currently stands at around USD 13 billion, with significant potential for expansion.

“As India continues its strong economic momentum and is expected to become the world’s third-largest economy by 2026, new opportunities are emerging in sectors

such as energy, education, skilled workforce mobility, technology and tourism,” he said.

Dr. Kalantri added that Canada continues to attract Indian businesses and investors, while several Canadian pension funds are exploring investment opportunities in India’s infrastructure and growth sectors.

“Education and talent mobility remain important pillars of bilateral engagement, with more than 700,000 Indian students pursuing higher education in Canada,” he noted.

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, delivered the Vote of Thanks, expressing appreciation to the Canadian delegation and industry participants for contributing to a constructive dialogue aimed at strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

**The event was held on March 13, 2026** ■

## Maharashtra Government Committed to Strengthen Women Entrepreneurs and Exports, Says Rawal

In a significant initiative to strengthen women-led enterprises and integrate them into global trade ecosystems, World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), hosted a high-impact event titled “Empowering Women, Empowering Business – From Grassroots to Export Markets.” The event brought together senior government officials, industry leaders, women entrepreneurs and MSME’s on a common platform to address the critical gap in the country’s growth story enabling women-led businesses to scale beyond local markets and participate meaningfully in global trade.

In his address, Shri Jaykumar Rawal, Minister of Marketing and Protocol, Maharashtra State, said “from MSMEs to large-scale industries, Maharashtra has made a significant contribution to the nation’s economy. Women are increasingly becoming a driving force across manufacturing, services, and agriculture, thereby promoting inclusive development.”

“Under the leadership of Hon’ Chief Minister Shri

Devendra Fadnavis ji, the Government of Maharashtra is fully committed to strengthening women entrepreneurship. We are focused on improving market linkages, expanding digital access, enhancing financial inclusion, and building skills that enable women to scale their enterprises.” said Shri Rawal.

Shri Rawal added “Initiatives such as Umed Malls under the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission are creating permanent, district-level retail ecosystems that provide assured, year-round market access for women Self-Help Groups. By eliminating intermediaries, these platforms empower women directly ensuring no middlemen, no barriers, only opportunity. Our vision is to build a strong enabling ecosystem where women entrepreneurs can confidently participate, compete, and lead in both domestic and global markets.”

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said “It is truly encouraging to see how women are becoming an integral part of India’s growth



In the Picture (L to R): Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Shri Jaykumar Rawal, Minister of Marketing and Protocol, Maharashtra State; Smt. Nidhi Choudhary (IAS), Director - National Gallery of Modern Art, Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Dr. Megha Phansalkar, Founder of Tisser Artisan Trust; Smt. Shwetal Thakare, Chairperson, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority, Government of Maharashtra at the event.

story. Today, female labour force participation has crossed 42%, nearly doubling over the past six years, while literacy among women has risen from about 53% in the early 2000s to over 75% today. With more than 20% of MSMEs now led by women, their contribution is both visible and impactful. As we move towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, women will undoubtedly be at the heart of this transformation.”

“The future of India’s economic growth is closely linked to the empowerment of women entrepreneurs. The presence of over 150 women here reflects their strong commitment not only to manufacturing, but also to go global. By connecting grassroots enterprises with global opportunities, we are fostering inclusive growth while strengthening India’s position in international trade,” added Dr. Kalantri.

Shri Satya Narayan Meena, Additional CEO, Government e Marketplace (GeM), “GeM has brought transparency, efficiency, and inclusivity to public procurement, enabling over 2 lakh women-led enterprises to directly access government buyers and scale their businesses nationwide. With procurement exceeding ₹5.4 lakh crore last year, GeM is not just a digital platform, but a powerful engine driving growth, opportunity, and national recognition for MSMEs and women-led enterprises.” He added that through technological advancements and a transparent marketplace, GeM is strengthening India’s public procurement ecosystem and contributing to the nation’s economic progress.

Smt. Nidhi Choudhary (IAS), Director - National Gallery of Modern Art, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, said “The numbers clearly reflect the growing strength

of women in India’s entrepreneurial ecosystem. Over 2 crore MSMEs are owned by women, contributing nearly 21% of the sector, and more than 45% of startups today have at least one-woman director. Initiatives such as PMEGP, CMEGP, Mudra Yojana, and the Women Entrepreneurship Platform by NITI Aayog are playing a vital role in supporting this growth.

In Maharashtra, the State Innovation Mission’s dedicated women’s wing is also further empowering women to scale their ventures. When women-led enterprises grow, the impact goes far beyond economics; it drives meaningful social change.” added Ms. Nidhi.

Smt. Shwetal Thakare, Chairperson, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority, Government of Maharashtra said, “India represents nearly 18% of the world’s population and today stands around a \$4 trillion economy. Even amid global uncertainties, India continues to be one of the fastest-growing economies. In this journey, it is essential that women have equal access to opportunities, resources, and platforms to grow because when women progress, the nation leads with purpose.”

Ms. Wang Awei, Deputy Consul General of the People’s Republic of China, highlighted the growing role of women in global economic development and said “Technology is profoundly transforming the world, and e-commerce has opened new opportunities for women to grow and scale their businesses. With greater collaboration and shared learning, there is immense scope to further empower women entrepreneurs globally.”

Dr. Megha Phansalkar, Founder of Tisser Artisan Trust, emphasized that the challenge lies not in empowerment, but in access. “Our vision is not just to break barriers ourselves, but to enable thousands of women to rise alongside us. The real issue lies in access to markets, opportunities, and platforms. Once these barriers are overcome, it will unlock immense progress for the nation,” she remarked.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, said, “Enabling women entrepreneurs to access global markets is critical for India’s growth. This requires structured support through policy, capacity building, and stronger international linkages. Empowering women-led enterprises will not only drive inclusive development but also contribute significantly to sustainable economic growth,”

Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association

of Industries, said “Women are playing an increasingly important role in shaping India’s economic progress. Strengthening their participation requires greater focus on digital platforms, financial inclusion, and skill development to help women-led enterprises scale effectively. Enhancing women’s participation is essential to accelerating the nation’s growth trajectory. The program also saw participation from representatives of the Ahilyarani Women’s Development and Educational Organization. The event reinforced the need to move beyond participation towards global competitiveness, and highlighted how aligning government initiatives, institutional support, and international partnerships can help build a robust ecosystem where women entrepreneurs successfully transition from grassroots enterprises to global exporters.

**The event was held on March 25, 2026** ■

## Portugal Can Be a Strategic Gateway to Europe, Says H.E. Manuela Franco

A high-level business delegation from Portugal engaged with the Indian business community at an interactive session hosted by World Trade Center Mumbai in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), reinforcing growing economic ties and exploring new avenues for bilateral collaboration. The session brought together government representatives, business leaders, MSME’s and institutional stakeholders to strengthen trade and investment linkages between India and Portugal, with a focus on sectors such as IT, renewable energy, manufacturing, and services.

H.E. Maria Manuela de Macedo Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa, said, “Engaging with Portugal is not just about accessing one market, it opens doors to multiple global regions through our strong linkages with Europe, Africa, Latin America, and the Portuguese-speaking world. Portugal can serve as a strategic gateway to Europe, offering strong connectivity and market access. By strengthening cooperation and reducing barriers, there is significant potential to deepen trade and investment ties between India and Portugal, particularly in IT and services, where both nations have strong capabilities.”

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “India–Portugal bilateral trade currently stands at around USD 1.4 billion, with significant potential for growth across services, tourism, IT, infrastructure, and startups. Portugal serves as a strategic gateway to the European Union, and with the proposed India–EU FTA, there is immense scope to expand trade and investment into wider European markets, and with strong momentum, bilateral trade can grow multifold by 2030. As India advances towards its target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy by 2030, Portugal’s expertise in renewable energy can play a key role in supporting this transition through technology and collaboration.”

Capt. Somesh Batra, Honorary Consul of Portugal and Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai, said, “India and Portugal share a relationship built on trust and mutual respect. There is strong potential for collaboration in artificial intelligence, infrastructure, education, and technology. Through Portugal, Indian exporters can gain access to quality-driven and high-value markets across the European Union. With India continuing to grow at around 7% even amid global volatility, the opportunity for deeper economic engagement is substantial.”



In the Image (L to R): Capt. Somesh Batra, Honorary Consul of Portugal and Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai; H. E. Maria Manuela de Macedo Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Cristina Castanheira Rodrigues, Chief Executive Officer, Capgemini Portugal; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries at the event.



In the Image: Mrs. Maria Manuela de Macedo Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa addressing at the event.

Cristina Castanheira Rodrigues, Chief Executive Officer, Capgemini Portugal, said, “India has emerged as a global leader in technology and innovation. Portugal, though a nation of 10 million people, serves as a gateway to dynamic markets across Europe. Capgemini chose Portugal for its strong foundation in technology and engineering excellence and its vibrant startup ecosystem. There is significant potential for collaboration between Indian and Portuguese companies in digital transformation, AI, advanced engineering, and IT

services. We see India not as a distant partner, but as a key relationship for the 21st century, with India–Portugal collaboration delivering world-class outcomes.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, “Both nations can effectively leverage their respective strengths, India’s scale and growth potential, and Portugal’s strategic market access and capabilities. We are encouraged by the strong participation, with over 100 companies engaging with the Portugal delegation. This marks the fifth delegation from Portugal hosted at WTC Mumbai in the past year, reflecting growing bilateral interest and strong business potential between the two countries.”

The session also featured an engaging Q&A interaction, allowing participants to explore specific opportunities, market entry strategies, and potential collaborations. The event reinforced the growing importance of India–Portugal relations and highlighted the need to leverage complementarities between the two economies to unlock new opportunities for trade, investment, and innovation.

**The event was held on March 26, 2026** ■

## WTC Mumbai & AIAI Host Diplomatic Holi Celebration – Festival of Colours and Global Friendship



**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai (WTC Mumbai), in collaboration with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted a vibrant Diplomatic Holi Celebration on March 26, 2026, bringing together diplomats, government officials, and business leaders in a festive and engaging setting.

The event witnessed participation from representatives of over 40 countries, along with senior officials from the Government of Maharashtra, offering a meaningful platform for cross-cultural interaction and international engagement.

A highlight of the evening was the elegant celebration of Phoolon ki Holi, where guests participated in the traditional exchange of flower petals, symbolizing harmony, respect, and cultural richness. This unique element added a graceful and inclusive dimension to the festivities, resonating well with the international audience.

Reflecting the spirit of Holi, the celebration emphasized unity, positivity, and cultural harmony. The festive atmosphere encouraged dialogue among members of the diplomatic corps and industry leaders, fostering stronger connections and mutual understanding.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI, highlighted the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening global partnerships and promoting economic cooperation.

The presence of the diplomatic community further underscored Maharashtra's growing prominence as a preferred destination for trade and investment, while facilitating exchanges to enhance bilateral and multilateral relations.



Set against a lively backdrop of colours, music, and traditional festivities, the celebration saw enthusiastic participation from Consuls General, diplomats, and their families, reflecting the universal appeal of Holi in bringing people together.

The event stands as a testament to WTC Mumbai's continued efforts to promote international collaboration through cultural and business engagement initiatives.

**The event was held on February 26, 2026** ■

## Women Empowerment at Workplace Gains Focus at World Trade Center Mumbai

A powerful session on women's empowerment and workplace equality was delivered by Ms. Kay Watson, Professional Coach (PCC), Ameliore, France, at a special masterclass on advancing gender equity in professional spaces, organized by World Trade Center Mumbai in association with World Trade Center Rennes Bretagne.

The session outlined key objectives including creating equitable opportunities in the workplace, strengthening career growth pathways for women, and redefining work-life balance in modern organizations, with a focused theme on "Empowering Women: Improving Gender Equality at Work."

Ms. Watson, said, "despite growing awareness, gender inequality continues to persist due to deep-rooted stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. The historical, cultural, and societal structures have shaped behaviours and systems that unconsciously limit women's progress, particularly in leadership roles and decision-making spaces."

Referring to global benchmarks, she noted that as per the Global Gender Gap Index 2024, countries such as Iceland, Finland, and Norway lead in gender parity, reflecting more adaptive and inclusive work environments. In contrast, the United States ranks 43rd, while India stands at 129th, indicating significant scope for improvement.

Focusing on India, Ms. Watson pointed out key structural challenges. While women constitute 48.5% of the population, only 27.4% participate in the workforce. Additionally, female literacy stands at 65.46% compared to 82.14% for men. She stressed that underutilizing women's potential represents a major economic and social gap that must be urgently addressed.

The session also highlighted impactful initiatives driving change in India. Companies like Hindustan Unilever Limited have empowered nearly 110,000 women through Project Shakti, creating micro-entrepreneurship opportunities across 18 states.



Similarly, Infosys has established leadership programs to help women identify strengths and grow as leaders, while Tata Steel has launched the Tejaswini program to support women's development and participation in the workforce. Government-led initiatives and increasing corporate focus on women entrepreneurship are also playing a crucial role in bridging the gender gap, particularly by enabling access to finance, skills, and market opportunities.

In conclusion, Ms. Watson underscored that achieving true gender equality requires a systemic shift, moving beyond policy to mindset transformation. Organizations must actively foster inclusive cultures, challenge biases, and create environments where women can thrive and lead.

The session served as a strong reminder that empowering women is not just a social imperative, but a strategic necessity for sustainable economic growth and global competitiveness.

**Webinar was held on March 23, 2026** ■

## WTC Mumbai & WTC Vancouver Unlock India's High-Growth Market Potential

**W**orld Trade Center Mumbai in association with World Trade Center Vancouver organized a high-impact webinar for unlocking India's High-Growth Market, bringing together industry leaders, MSME's and international stakeholders to explore emerging trade and investment opportunities between India and Canada.

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

Association of Industries, highlighted the evolving nature of India-Canada economic engagement and said, "Bilateral trade between India and Canada has reached approximately USD 8.6 billion in FY 2024-25. When services and investment flows are considered, the economic relationship becomes even more significant. Despite periodic diplomatic sensitivities, business engagement between the two countries has remained resilient and continues to expand. Indian companies are increasingly showing renewed outbound interest in global markets such as Canada, driven by shifting global supply chains and Canada's growing focus on strengthening ties with the Indo-Pacific region."

Dr. Kalantri pointed out that the nature of Indian investment interest in Canada is undergoing a strategic transformation. While earlier engagements were largely centered around IT services and market access to North America, Indian companies are now exploring long-term opportunities in critical minerals, energy security, and clean technologies. He also noted growing interest in Canada's advanced technology ecosystem, particularly in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, research, and innovation.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri indicated that efforts are underway to organize an outbound Indian business delegation to Canada in the near to medium term, with a focus on strengthening two-way trade and facilitating direct engagement between businesses from both countries,



adding that such initiatives will play a crucial role in building a robust and future-ready India-Canada economic corridor driven by innovation, sustainability, and long-term collaboration.

The webinar highlighted that how provinces such as British Columbia are emerging as attractive destinations due to their strengths in environmental innovation and sustainability-driven industries. Traditional sectors such as mineral fuels and precious stones continue to play a role; however, there is a clear shift toward value-added and future-oriented sectors.

The webinar witnessed interactive engagement and reaffirmed India's growing importance as a high-growth market, while highlighting the need for deeper international partnerships to navigate an increasingly dynamic global trade landscape.

**Webinar was held on February 12, 2026** ■

## World Trade Center Mumbai Shares Global Trade Perspectives at InvestPro India Mumbai 2026



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, spoke at InvestPro 2026,

**A**t the 2nd Annual International B2C Conference, InvestPro India Mumbai 2026, organized by Bosco Conference and held on March 31 at The St. Regis Mumbai, World Trade Center Mumbai engaged with global stakeholders on key economic and trade-related issues.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of World Trade Center Mumbai and President of All India Association of Industries, addressed the audience as a distinguished speaker at the conference. Speaking on the theme “Industry Insights and Perspectives on Global Trade and Economic Trends,” he highlighted the evolving dynamics of global commerce and the need for businesses to adapt to a rapidly changing economic environment.

In his address, Dr. Kalantri emphasized the importance of resilience, diversification, and digital transformation in navigating global uncertainties. He also underscored India’s growing prominence in global value chains, driven by progressive policy reforms, infrastructure

development, and a strong focus on innovation.

The conference brought together international investors, financial experts, and business leaders to deliberate on cross-border investments, fintech advancements, wealth management strategies, and regulatory developments. It served as a valuable platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge exchange among global stakeholders.

All India Association of Industries was a supporting organization for the conference, reinforcing its commitment to promoting international trade, industry engagement, and global business cooperation.

Through participation in such global forums, World Trade Center Mumbai continues to contribute meaningfully to conversations shaping the future of international trade and investment.

**The Conference was held on March 31, 2026** ■



**World trade centre mumbai extends new year greetings and reaffirms commitment to advancing india's trade and commerce**

World Trade Centre Mumbai (WTCM) extends its warmest wishes to all Indians and the world for a prosperous and successful New Year. WTCM reaffirms its commitment to advancing India's trade and commerce, and to providing world-class services to its clients.

WTCM is proud to be a part of the global trade ecosystem, and to be a leading provider of trade and commerce solutions. We are committed to providing our clients with the highest quality of service, and to supporting their growth and success.

WTCM is also committed to promoting trade and commerce between India and the rest of the world. We are actively engaged in various trade and commerce initiatives, and we are committed to continuing this work in the future.

**ट्रेड और कॉमर्स को आगे बढ़ाता रहेगा वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई**

वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई (WTCM) ने नए साल की शुभकामनाएं भेजी हैं और दुनिया भर में व्यापार और वाणिज्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराया है। WTCM अपने ग्राहकों को सर्वोच्च गुणवत्ता के सेवाएं प्रदान करने का प्रतिबद्ध है, और दुनिया भर में व्यापार और वाणिज्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सक्रिय रूप से शामिल है।

WTCM दुनिया के व्यापार और वाणिज्य के लिए एक अग्रणी प्रदाता है, और हम अपने ग्राहकों को सर्वोच्च गुणवत्ता के सेवाएं प्रदान करने का प्रतिबद्ध हैं। हम दुनिया भर में व्यापार और वाणिज्य को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सक्रिय रूप से शामिल हैं, और हम अपने ग्राहकों को सर्वोच्च गुणवत्ता के सेवाएं प्रदान करने का प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

**वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई**

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**Government E-Marketplace (GeM) & WTC Mumbai Sign MoU To Strengthen MSME Participation**

Efficient • Transparent • Inclusive

Government e Marketplace (GeM) and World Trade Centre Mumbai (WTCM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen MSME participation in public procurement. The MoU aims to provide MSMEs with a platform to showcase their products and services, and to facilitate their participation in government procurement. WTCM will provide MSMEs with a platform to showcase their products and services, and to facilitate their participation in government procurement.

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**WTC Mumbai and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Inks MoU to Boost Outreach and MSME Inclusion in Public Procurement**



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**Vietnam's Largest Coffee Brand Eyes India Expansion, WTC Mumbai Hosts High-Level Meet**

World Trade Centre Mumbai (WTCM) hosted a high-level meeting with Vietnam's largest coffee brand, Trung Nguyen Coffee, to discuss India expansion. The meeting was held at WTCM's headquarters in Mumbai, and was attended by WTCM officials and Trung Nguyen Coffee executives. The meeting focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration between the two companies in the Indian market.

WTCM is committed to providing world-class services to its clients, and to supporting their growth and success. We are actively engaged in various trade and commerce initiatives, and we are committed to continuing this work in the future.

**THE MUMBAI BUSINESS WEEKLY**

**WTC Mumbai and Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Inks MoU to Boost Outreach and MSME Inclusion in Public Procurement**



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**India Post India Post 20th E-Home Ambassador Special Covers and Launches 'Sandhya Waaran' Air Campaign in Mumbai**

**WTC to Host 5th Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta in Mumbai**

The five members of the press team for the event are: Dr. Rajesh Chaudhary, Chairman of WTC, Dr. H. S. Doshi, Chairman of VCCCA and WTC, and the three members of the press team.

Among people from all walks of life, few realize the true value of a vintage car. It is not just a mode of transport, but a piece of history, a work of art, and a symbol of status. It is a treasure that can be passed on to future generations, highlighting Mumbai's rich heritage and its status as a global city." Dr. H. S. Doshi, Chairman of VCCCA and WTC, said.

The event will feature several rare and historically significant automobiles, including from his own collection a 1917 Hudson, believed to be the only surviving example of its kind in the world.

Among the key attractions will be India's largest display of Rolls-Royce Phantom models from 1927 to the present day, and the historic return of Phantom 1 (1930) after 95 years. The event, supported by 8K, 5000, will also feature vintage cars such as Rolls-Royce, Land Rover and Daimler, featuring many public-private collaborations in promoting heritage, tourism and road safety.

The exhibition will also showcase rare collections from leading collectors including Mr. Mohan Kulkarni. The rarest vintage cars on display include a 1927 Rolls-Royce Phantom II from the collection of late Shri. Dhanraj Kulkarni, a 1929 Jaguar Mark II and a 1927 Bentley. Dr. Rajesh Chaudhary's 1927 Rolls-Royce Phantom will also be on display. 1927 Rolls-Royce 20 HP Coupe and a 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I.

The event will conclude with a ceremonial flag-off on Republic Day, January 26. Announcing this at a press conference, Dr. V. K. Rajwade, Chairman, World Trade Center, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Indologists, said the event aims to reinforce the message of 'Swachh Bharat, Bharat Mata' while also showcasing India's rich automotive heritage. The event is being organized by WTC in association with the Vintage and Classic Car Club of India (VCCCA) and the Indian Automobile Association (IAAI).

Last year, the event attracted over 1.5 lakh visitors. This year too, it is expected to attract a large number of visitors.

[www.worldtradecenter.com](http://www.worldtradecenter.com)

**FREE PRESS JOURNAL**

**VCCCA's Annual Vintage Car Fiesta 2026 in Mumbai Goes On Wheels This Republic Day- Know When To Visit, Timings & Major Highlights**

VCCCA's Annual Vintage Car Fiesta returns to Mumbai from January 24-26 at WTC, Cluffe Road, showcasing over 100 vintage cars and 50 two-wheelers. Highlights include a 100-year-old Royal Phantom showcased and a rare 1925 Ford. The public exhibition is on January 25, followed by a Republic Day road rally on January 26.

**FINANCE TODAY**

**World Trade Center to host 5th Edition of the Annual Vintage, Classic and Modern Classic Car Fiesta 2026**

**SPRIT OF MUMBAI**

**Vintage, Classic, and Modern Classic Cars Flagged Off at World Trade Center Mumbai marking an end to the 3-day Car Fiesta 2026**

The event brought together an extraordinary collection of over 100 vintage, classic, and modern classic cars, including a 100-year-old Royal Phantom showcased and a rare 1925 Ford. The public exhibition is on January 25, followed by a Republic Day road rally on January 26.

**SPRIT OF MUMBAI**

**27th Republic Day Celebrations at WTC Mumbai Honoring Vikram Bhargava and Economic Triumphs**

The event celebrated the 27th anniversary of India's independence with a series of activities, including a flag-off ceremony and a road rally. The event was held at the World Trade Center Mumbai, Cluffe Road, on January 26, 2026.

**CORPORATE BRIEFS**

**SPRITS (WTC) Vintage, Classic, and Modern Classic Cars Flagged Off at World Trade Center Mumbai marking an end to the 3-day Car Fiesta 2026**

The event brought together an extraordinary collection of over 100 vintage, classic, and modern classic cars, including a 100-year-old Royal Phantom showcased and a rare 1925 Ford. The public exhibition is on January 25, followed by a Republic Day road rally on January 26.



## Historic India-EU Trade Agreement: World Trade Center Mumbai Highlights Its Significance for Global Economic Relations

By NRI Staff - January 27, 2020



With India poised to become the engine of global growth for the upcoming decades, this agreement will ensure that our economic prosperity is shared with the European continent: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AII)



## World Trade Center Mumbai Welcomes Historic India-EU Trade Agreement: Calls It a Defining Moment for Global Economic Partnership

January 27, 2020

By Priyanka Joshi

With India poised to become the engine of global growth for the upcoming decades, this agreement will ensure that our economic prosperity is shared with the European continent: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AII)

Mumbai, January 27, 2020

World Trade Center Mumbai warmly welcomed the landmark conclusion of the long-awaited India-Europe Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) announced in the 19th India-EU Summit. The agreement, hailed by leaders on both sides as the 'Yin-Yang of all deals', marks the conclusion of nearly two decades of negotiations and establishes one of the world's largest trade partnerships, covering markets of nearly one billion people and representing close to 50% of global GDP and one-third of the global trade.

In his address to the announcement, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AII), stated "The conclusion of India-EU trade negotiations marked a landmark moment in the global markets. This agreement between India and the European Union has the potential to enhance global trade flows, strengthen trade relations and unlock greater opportunities for MSMEs, startups, and large enterprises to look ahead."

Dr. Kalantri further said, "With over 70% of India's exports and its key industrial sectors to the European Union market, this will unlock significant growth opportunities. Sectors which include energy, IT & services, textiles, metals, marine products, wheat, grains and poultry will stand to gain. This agreement is a win-win as Indian companies will get easier European products at cheaper prices and consumers will be able to enjoy the European market."

In addition, the landmark partnership will deepen cooperation in various sectors including energy, health, sustainability and digital trade, thereby strengthening the economic ties between India and the European Union. "We will continue our webinars, seminars, forums, webinars, and the rest of regular trading, your investment, demand and environment friendly growth" stated Dr. Kalantri.



## WTC Mumbai Leads Dialogue on Rare Earths, Industrial Policy, and Strategic Autonomy

NATIONALHERALD - January 29, 2020

By Prashant Chaudhary - 3:10

Rare earths and strategic minerals have received increased being attention in becoming essential of national economic resilience and environmental security. Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries.



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Post

All India Radio News @airnewsalerts

#IndiaEUFTA

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of World Trade Centre Mumbai and President of the All India Association of Industries, welcomes the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), stating that it will significantly promote trade, business, and investment opportunities between the two regions. #IndiaEU #IndiaEUTradeDeal #IndiaEUDeal

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 In the picture from (l. to R): Mr. Pranav Prakash Metra, Partner KJM INC, Mr. Read more

Post-Budget Discussion  
 Technology, Industry & Policy Dialogue

**Decoding the Union Budget 2026-27: WTC Mumbai Brings Industry and Policy into Dialogue**

Post-Budget Discussion  
 Technology, Industry & Policy Dialogue

**WTC Mumbai Hosts Post-Budget Discussion on MSMEs and Industry**

**Key Takeaways:**  
 Management, and the Budget has...  
 The World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai, in...  
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 The World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai, in...

**US Delegation Lays Thrust on Trade, Technology & Investment to Boost India-US Trade Deal Momentum**

**TEHKA SAMACHAR**  
 BUDAPEST, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2024

**US Delegation Lays Thrust on Trade, Technology & Investment to Boost India-US Trade Deal Momentum**

**World Trade Center Mumbai Hosts Roundtable on Urban Heat Stress During Mumbai Climate Week**

**Urban Heat in India**

**WEB NEWS**  
post, and provide the platform for news, papers or websites, with high readability.

### Australia Provides Duty-Free Access to All Indian Exports Under ECTA

February 19, 2026

By Pranita Ranani

"The MoU signed between World Trade Center Mumbai and the Australia India Business Council will further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation, creating new opportunities for businesses in both countries" - Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries



In the picture (L to R): Mr. Deepak Raj Gupta CMM, National Chair, Australia India Business Council; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Capt. Sunesh Bhat, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Pragna Pansari, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai.

19th February 2026: World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AII), hosted a high-level interaction with a business delegation from the Australia India Business Council (AIBC), reaffirming the growing momentum in India-Australia economic relations. The engagement focused on expanding bilateral trade, investment collaboration, and technical partnership in emerging areas such as critical minerals, green energy, and advanced technologies.

**DAILYNEWS**

### AUSTRALIA PROVIDES DUTY-FREE ACCESS TO ALL INDIAN EXPORTS UNDER ECTA

By Pranita Ranani

"The MoU signed between World Trade Center Mumbai and the Australia India Business Council will further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation, creating new opportunities for businesses in both countries" - Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries



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**लोकशाही**  
spaper.lokashahi.com  
JALGAON - 23 Feb 2026 - Page 4

### ऑस्ट्रेलियाचा भारतीय निर्यातीला शुल्कमुक्त प्रवेश

"वॉर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई आणि ऑस्ट्रेलिया इंडिया बिजनेस कौन्सिल यांच्यात स्वाक्षरी आयातक करानुसार द्विपक्षीय व्यवहार आणि गुंतवणूक सहकार्य आणखी वाढवण्यासाठी, प्रत्येक दोन्ही देशांमध्ये व्यवसायांसाठी नवीन संधी निर्माण होतील" असे डॉ. विजय कलंत्री, अध्यक्ष, वॉर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई आणि अध्यक्ष, ऑल इंडिया असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज यांचे म्हणणे आहे. वॉर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई आणि इंडिया असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज यांच्या सहकार्याने ऑस्ट्रेलिया इंडिया बिजनेस कौन्सिलच्या व्यावसायिक निर्यातदलाशीय उन्मूलनीय संवादाचे अहवाल केले होते, ज्यामुळे भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया



द्विपक्षीय संबंधांमधील वाढत्या गर्भीची पुढी चाली. या लक्ष्य आणि उद्देश्य आश्रयाने गुंतवणूक सहकार्य आणि सहकार्याच्या क्षेत्रात, इतर उर्जा आणि प्रगत तंत्रज्ञान वापरण्याच्या उद्योगांमध्ये क्षेत्रीय भागीदारी वाढविण्यात लक्ष केंद्रित करण्यात आले. ऑस्ट्रेलिया इंडिया बिजनेस कौन्सिलचे राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष डॉ. टी.ए. राज गुप्ता यांच्या

म्हणणे, "आमचे लक्ष टोपी अर्थव्यवस्थांचे वाढत्या आकाराने वाढविणे आणि उद्योगांचे प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक असे, आजचे २० वर्षांपेक्षा अधिक, शिक्षण, कृषि वृद्धि, आरोग्य आणि विज्ञान सामर्थ्याचे क्षेत्रात प्रतिनिधित्व करणे, जे भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया द्विपक्षीय भागीदारीचे प्रतिबिंबित करते.

**भारत-नॉर्वे ने ऊर्जा, समुद्री और हरित विकास सहयोग को दी नई दिशा**



दिल्ली में आयोजित एक बैठक में नॉर्वे के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री ने भारत के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री के साथ एक संवादात्मक बैठक आयोजित की। बैठक में भारत-नॉर्वे द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को नए दिशा देने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। नॉर्वे के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री ने भारत के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री के साथ एक संवादात्मक बैठक आयोजित की। बैठक में भारत-नॉर्वे द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को नए दिशा देने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए। नॉर्वे के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री ने भारत के उद्योग और वाणिज्य मंत्री के साथ एक संवादात्मक बैठक आयोजित की। बैठक में भारत-नॉर्वे द्विपक्षीय सहयोग को नए दिशा देने के लिए एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

**SPRIT OF MUMBAI**  
 20th Edition | 20th Anniversary Celebration

**India-Norway Lay Thrust on Exploring Energy, Maritime, Green Growth and Investment Opportunities**

Mumbai, March 2, 2020: World Trade Center Mumbai in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIIA) and the Royal Norwegian Consulate-General in Mumbai, successfully organized an International Trade Dialogue with Norway. The event brought together government representatives, industry leaders, and trade stakeholders to explore opportunities for strengthening India-Norway economic cooperation, particularly in sustainable energy, maritime innovation, and green technologies.

The event was attended by H.E. Ms. Monica Naik Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Mumbai, reflecting the importance of India-Norway bilateral cooperation.



Ms. Fredrik Bjerke Abdelmaguid, Deputy Consul General, Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Mumbai, highlighted "Norway's keen to deepen economic engagement with India and expand cooperation across clean energy, sustainable maritime solutions, and innovation-driven sectors."

The complementarities between Norwegian technological expertise and India's growing industrial and service ecosystem align strongly with the India-EFTA TEPA framework. The USD 100 billion investment commitment under EFTA over the next 15 years represents a significant boost to bilateral cooperation," added Mr. Fredrik Dr. Vijay Kalertri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries India aiming to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2070 and targeting 500 GW of non-fossil fuel energy capacity.

**India-Norway Trade Dialogue at WTC Mumbai Explores Energy, Maritime and Green Growth Opportunities**



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**CORPORATE CONNECT**  
 Mumbai, Saturday, March 7, 2020

**Trade and Industry Call for Peace and Stability in the Interest of Economic Growth and Employment**



The Trade and Industry community have expressed concern over the unfolding geopolitical developments in the Middle East and their potential implications for regional stability, global trade, and energy security. The region, which remains one of the most strategically important for global commerce and energy supply, has critical maritime corridors that facilitate significant flows of international trade and transportation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kalertri, President, All India Association of Industries (AIIA) and Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai said, "The current geopolitical situation in the Middle East is being closely monitored by the global business community as the region plays a crucial role in international trade, energy security, and maritime logistics. Stability in this region is vital to ensure the uninterrupted movement of goods, commodities, and energy resources across global markets. The Middle East has strategically important maritime corridors, including the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil supplies pass every day. The disruptions in these shipping routes will have implications for global energy markets, freight costs, and supply chain stability."

Offering reassurance to the Indian business community, Dr. Kalertri further said, "India is in a position of relative resilience and the current volatility in the global market remains, whether in equities, gold, or metals, are not a point of concern, not a reflection of any change in economic fundamentals. We are in cordial relations with all countries and are not a direct participant in the conflict, and we believe in the resolution of war and negotiations through diplomatic dialogue. With strategic petroleum reserves covering 40 to 45 days of requirements and crude sourced from over 40 countries, our supply flexibility is stronger than ever. We urge the business community to stay calm and avoid decisions driven by short-term fear."

"The safety and well-being of millions of people living and working in the region remains a key concern. Nearly nine million Indians reside across Gulf and Middle Eastern countries, and ensuring their economic and social well-being is a top priority. We will continue to work closely with the Indian government and international community to provide diplomatic support and the assistance, ensuring that the Middle East remains a gateway for commerce and cooperation rather than a source of global economic uncertainty."

Read more: [CORPORATE EVENTS - HEALTHY ART and Entrepreneur in India - Trade](#)

**यशोभूमि**

**उत्पाद शुल्क में कटौती से उपभोक्ताओं को राहत : कलंत्री**

उद्योग/प्रतिनिधि  
 मुंबई में 200 भारतीय बिल्डरों और 10 सप्ताह के लिए उत्पाद शुल्क में तत्काल प्रभाव से जो बड़े कटौती का स्वागत करेंगे

वैश्विक अस्थिरता के बीच है समग्रानुकूल कदम

एन.डी.ए. विनय कलंत्री ने इसे वैश्विक अस्थिरता के बीच भारतीय उपभोक्ताओं को राहत देने का एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताया है। उन्होंने कहा कि ऐसे समय में जब वैश्विक एवं चीन-यूएस ट्रेडिंग में टेंशन बढ़ने में 30 से 50 प्रतिशत, उत्तम

सम्बन्धित काम खराब है। कलंत्री ने कहा कि सरकार ने लगभग 1.7 लाख करोड़ रुपये के वैश्विक आर्थिक प्रभाव को स्वीकार करते हुए भारतीयों को ईंधन की बचत में संयोजित राहत देते हैं।

अमेरिका में लगभग 30 प्रतिशत घटा होने में करीब 20 प्रतिशत तक कूटि के बढ़े हैं, भारत में सूख निर्यात बनाए रखने सरकार की जवाबदारी को ध्यान में रखते हैं।

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**यशोभूमि**

**भारत-पुर्तगाल आर्थिक संबंधों को नई ऊंचाई**

उद्योग/प्रतिनिधि  
 मुंबई में 200 भारतीय बिल्डरों और 10 सप्ताह के लिए उत्पाद शुल्क में तत्काल प्रभाव से जो बड़े कटौती का स्वागत करेंगे

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## World Trade Center Bhubaneswar participates at the 25<sup>th</sup> Edition of CII Enterprise Odisha



Shri. Mohan Charan Majhi, Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha during the inaugural ceremony of CII Enterprise Odisha 2026.

**W**orld Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar participated in the 25th Edition of CII Enterprise Odisha, a landmark event organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the Government of Odisha. This milestone edition served as a significant platform to drive enterprise growth, promote trade and foster collaboration across sectors, bringing together policymakers, public sector undertakings (PSUs), large industries, MSMEs, startups, entrepreneurs and investors from across the country.

Exhibiting at this prestigious edition provided an unique opportunity to showcase products, technologies and solutions to a diverse and influential audience. The platform enabled direct engagement with key stakeholders, strengthened brand visibility and reinforced market presence while facilitating dialogue on industrial development and

investment opportunities in Odisha.

Day 1 of CII Enterprise Odisha saw World Trade Center Bhubaneswar engaging in meaningful interactions with industry leaders, entrepreneurs and stakeholders. These engagements focused on exploring opportunities to strengthen enterprise development, enhance trade linkages and promote collaboration across Odisha. The discussions underscored WTC Bhubaneswar's role in connecting local enterprises with global markets and fostering a robust business ecosystem.

Day 2 commenced with the formal inauguration of the program by the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi. The inauguration was graced by several dignitaries, including Deputy Speaker and Talsara MLA Shri B.S. Bhoi, Industries Minister Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, R.N. Pali MLA Shri D.C. Tanti, Rourkela MLA Shri S.P. Nayak, and Additional Chief Secretary, Industries, Shri Hemant Sharma, who accompanied the Hon'ble Chief Minister.



Ms. T. Sweta, Assistant Manager, WTC Bhubaneswar at the last day of CII Enterprise Odisha 2026 in Rourkela.

The day featured insightful sessions on skill development and women empowerment, emphasizing inclusive growth, workforce readiness and sustainable economic development. These sessions set a progressive tone for discussions on building a resilient and future-ready industrial ecosystem. The sessions were followed by engaging B2B meetings, fostering meaningful

collaborations and paving the way for future partnerships and business opportunities.



Ms. T. Sweta, Assistant Manager, WTC Bhubaneswar, with Shri Saswat Mishra, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister of Odisha, during his visit to the WTC Bhubaneswar stall at CII Enterprise Odisha 2026.

Day 3 witnessed continued exhibition-led B2B meetings, offering participants an opportunity to showcase innovations and explore synergies. Dedicated sessions on the energy sector and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) highlighted critical themes such as energy transition, industrial sustainability and the pivotal role of MSMEs as growth engines of the state's economy.

The event was hosted in Rourkela, widely known as the "Steel City of Odisha", owing to the presence of the iconic Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) of SAIL-India's first public sector integrated steel plant established in the 1950s

with German collaboration. Rourkela stands as a major industrial hub and a well-planned city, renowned for its greenery, sporting culture, particularly hockey and a vibrant blend of industrial strength, cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Beyond business engagements, CII Enterprise Odisha featured cultural programs showcasing Odisha's rich artistic traditions and music from across the state, performed by eminent artists. The event concluded with a spectacular drone show, symbolizing innovation and leaving a lasting impression on participants.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar's participation at the 25th Edition of CII Enterprise Odisha reaffirmed its commitment to promoting trade, investment and enterprise development, while strengthening collaboration between local industries, policymakers and global networks. The event emerged as a powerful platform for advancing dialogue, partnerships and inclusive, sustainable economic growth in Odisha.

**The event was held from January 27 – 30, 2026 at Mayfair World Cup Village, Rourkela.**

## World Trade Center Bhubaneswar participates in Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar participated in the Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026, organized by GRIDCO under the Government of Odisha, reaffirming its commitment to facilitating trade, investment and international collaboration in the renewable energy sector. The Conclave served as a high-level platform bringing together policymakers, developers, technology providers, financiers, utilities and industry stakeholders to deliberate on Odisha's rapidly expanding clean energy ecosystem and investment landscape.

The Conclave featured focused and in-depth sessions on Floating Solar PV (FSPV), Pumped Storage Projects (PSP), Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), Wind Energy, Small Hydro Electric Projects (SHEP), PM Surya Ghar and other emerging renewable energy segments. These discussions highlighted Odisha's clean energy roadmap, policy direction and the wide range of investment opportunities available across generation, storage and grid-integrated solutions.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar was represented at



In Photo: Participants and esteemed guests during the session on Odisha's Wind Power Project at the Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026



In Photo: Ms. T Sweta, Assistant Manager, WTC Bhubaneswar representing the center at Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026

the conclave by Ms. T Sweta, Assistant Manager, WTC Bhubaneswar. The participation enabled meaningful interactions with stakeholders across the renewable energy value chain and reinforced the Center's role as a facilitator of investment promotion and business partnerships.

The Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026 was convened at a critical juncture when project pipelines are clearly defined, approvals are advancing and investment decisions are imminent. Building on the success of the Wind Investor Meet (2023) and the Solar

Investor Conclave (2024), this third edition marked a strategic shift towards integrated renewable energy and energy storage deployments, reflecting the evolving needs of the power sector.

Designed as a project-centric and execution-oriented platform, the Conclave focused on presenting investment-ready project pipelines across FSPV, PSP and BESS, while also enabling detailed, technology-specific discussions on project structuring, risk allocation and implementation pathways. It enabled direct B2G interactions to resolve issues related to approvals, project timelines, transmission preparedness and risk mitigation, while also fostering stronger collaboration among developers, OEMs, financiers, utilities and industrial off takers to fast-track project execution.

With strong institutional leadership, clear policy signals, and visible on-ground progress, Odisha is well positioned to scale its renewable energy capacity. The Conclave marked a significant step in translating this momentum into large-scale investments, technology partnerships and timely project implementation, reinforcing Odisha's position as Eastern India's clean-energy growth engine and aligning with the mission of World Trade Center Bhubaneswar to support sustainable economic development.

**The event was held on February 12-13, 2026 at Mayfair Convention.**



## A Regional Consultation on Labour Codes and Draft Rules



Ms. Vandana Gurnani, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, delivering the keynote address.

**A** Regional Consultation on Labour Codes and Draft Rules organized by FICCI and the All-India Organization of Employers (AIOE). This event was held to discuss the implementation and compliance of the new labour codes.

**Key Details of the Event:** Focus: The consultation addressed the four new Labour Codes—Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code—with an emphasis on digital compliance, simplification of procedures, and regulatory efficiency. **Key Participants:** Ms. Vandana Gurnani, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, delivered the keynote address. The event saw participation from senior officials of the Ministry, as well as stakeholders from Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

**Purpose:** The interactive session was designed to gather feedback on operational challenges and ensure a smooth implementation of the codes, which are slated for implementation on November 21, 2025.

**Industry Focus:** The deliberations included participation from industry leaders, employers, and HR/IR professionals to discuss actionable steps for compliance readiness.

This consultation in Bhubaneswar highlighted the



Delegated from across sectors has participated in the programme.

collaborative approach between the government and industry to adopt new labor standards, including fixed-term employment and enhanced social security for workers.

**The event was held on February 18, 2026 at Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**



## Leveraging India's Modern FTAs: Unlocking Export Opportunities in UK & European Markets



Inaugural session dignitaries from left: Shri Hemant Sharma, IAS, Addl. Secretary Industries, Government of Odisha, Dr James Nedumpara, Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) and India Chair, WTO Chairs Programme New Delhi, Shri Ayaskanth Mohanty, Founder and Managing Director, Tatwa Technologies Ltd, Bhubaneswar.

The Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Odisha State Council, successfully convened a Conference on Leveraging India's Modern FTAs: Unlocking Export Opportunities in UK & European Markets - Reshaping Odisha's Export Driven Economy on 19 February 2026 at Hotel Lyfe, Bhubaneswar.

The conference brought together senior policymakers, industry leaders and trade experts to deliberate on how India's evolving Free Trade Agreements with the United Kingdom, European Union and EFTA can be effectively operationalized to enhance Odisha's export competitiveness.

The conference commenced with Welcome Remarks by Mr. Sanjaya Satapathy, Co-Chair, FICCI Odisha State Council & CHRO, IMFA, followed by the Inaugural Address delivered by Mr. Ayaskanta Mohanty, Founder and Managing Director, Tatwa Technologies Ltd. Setting the broader legal and policy framework, Dr. James Nedumpara, Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL) and India Chair, WTO Chairs Programme, outlined the strategic evolution of India's modern FTA architecture, emphasizing institutional preparedness and coordinated Centre-State-Industry engagement in translating negotiated commitments into tangible economic outcomes.



A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar and Ms. T. Sweta, Asst. Manager, WTC Bhubaneswar participated in the event.

The deliberations were further enriched by the Theme Address delivered by Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mishra, OAS (SB), Director, Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing (DEP&M), Government of Odisha, and the Keynote Address by Mr. Hemant Sharma, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary - Department of Industries, Department of Home, and Department of I & PR, Government of Odisha. The conference concluded with a constructive exchange between government, academia and industry, reaffirming the importance of institutional collaboration in ensuring that India's modern trade agreements translate into sustained export growth and strengthened global economic engagement.

**The event was held on on February 19, 2026 at Hotel Lyfe, Bhubaneswar**

## MDP on Export Management Skills for Coir Exports



In Photo: Participants and esteemed guests during the session on Odisha's Wind Power Project at the Odisha Renewable Energy Investor Conclave 2026

India is one of the leading producers and exporters of coir and coir-based products in the world. Derived from coconut husk, coir is a natural, biodegradable and eco-friendly fibre that has gained increasing global demand due to the rising preference for sustainable and environmentally friendly products. Indian coir products such as coir fibre, mats, matting, geo-textiles and garden articles are widely exported to international markets, contributing significantly to the country's export basket and supporting rural livelihoods. With abundant availability of coconut resources and a strong traditional base of coir craftsmanship, India holds immense potential to further expand its presence in the global coir market.

Recognising this potential and the growing opportunities in international trade, the Regional Office of the Coir Board, Bhubaneswar, under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, organised a two-day event for coir exporters on 05th and 06th March 2026 at the Central Tool Room & Training Centre (CTTC), Bhubaneswar. The programme aimed to sensitise exporters, entrepreneurs and stakeholders about export opportunities, global market trends and strategies to strengthen the coir export ecosystem in Odisha.

The programme brought together coir entrepreneurs, exporters, industry representatives, and officials from trade promotion organisations. Various technical sessions and discussions were conducted focusing on export procedures, product diversification, quality standards and international market access for coir products.

On the first day of the program, Ms. A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, joined the session as an esteemed panelist and addressed the participants. In her address, she spoke about the nuances of international trade and highlighted key aspects such as market intelligence, compliance with global standards, logistics considerations and branding strategies required for successful exports.

She further emphasised the significant potential of coir exports from Odisha, noting the state's natural resource base, increasing entrepreneurial participation and the growing global demand for eco-friendly products. She encouraged exporters to leverage international trade networks, explore emerging markets and adopt innovative approaches to enhance the global competitiveness of coir products from the region.

The event served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building and networking among stakeholders of the coir sector. Participants actively interacted with experts and gained valuable insights that would help them strengthen their export capabilities.

The two-day programme is expected to play an important role in promoting coir exports from Odisha and strengthening the state's contribution to India's growing coir export sector.

**The event was held on March 5-6, 2026 at CTTC, Bhubaneswar.**

## International Women's Day Celebration



Guest of Honour Felicitation on the eve of Women's Day Celebrations from Left to Right: A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Smr Rina Routray, Convener, Advisor WTC Women Forum and Chairman, Mahila Atama Nirbhar Abhiyan, Smr Honey Pattnaik, Director, SOA Community Media 94.4 FM, Smt. Abha Mishra, State Head, UNDP, Bhubaneswar, Smt. Jyoshna Das, Co-Convener, WTC Women's Forum and Managing Director Bibabari Pvt.Ltd.

**W**orld Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar Women's Forum WAVE organized a meaningful celebration of International Women's Day on 9th March 2026 at the IDCO Conference Hall, 5th Floor, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar, from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. The event brought together women entrepreneurs, professionals, and leaders for an engaging and inspiring interaction session.

The programme was chaired by A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, who warmly welcomed the guests and participants. In her opening address, she introduced the vision and initiatives of WTC Bhubaneswar and emphasized the importance of strengthening women's participation in entrepreneurship, trade, and leadership. She also encouraged women entrepreneurs to leverage global networks and collaborative platforms for business growth and innovation.

The event was graced by distinguished guests including: Smt. Honey Pattnaik, Director, SOA Community Media 94.4 FM

Smt. Abha Mishra, State Head, UNDP, Bhubaneswar

Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor and Convener, WTC Women's Forum and Chairman Mahila Atma Nirbhar Abhiyan



WTC Women Forum Group Photo

Smt. Jyoshna Das, Co-Convener, WTC Women's Forum and Managing Director Bibabari

The celebration featured an interactive session where women entrepreneurs shared their experiences, challenges, and aspirations in their professional journeys. The discussion created a vibrant platform for networking, knowledge sharing, and inspiration among participants.

**The event was held on March 9, 2026 at Bhubaneswar.**

## Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme



A presentation was presented by the PWC on MSME sector in Odisha.

**A** Composite Awareness Workshop under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme was held in Bhubaneswar on March 17, 2026, at the Mayfair Convention. This workshop focused on strengthening MSME growth through technology, digitization, and improved credit access for Odisha-based entrepreneurs.

WTC Bhubaneswar was participated in the event organised by the MSME Department on RAMP Programme. It's a great opportunity to understand the MSME schemes initiated by the MSME Department at Central and State.

**The event was held on March 17, 2026 at Bhubaneswar.**



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**World Trade Center Bhubaneswar  
Facilitates Businesses to Access Global Markets**

### OBJECTIVE

Facilitates Trade & Investment Promotion of Odisha | Assist local businesses to foray in to global markets

### TRADE SERVICES

Trade related Programmes | Export Counselling | International Market Connections  
Education & Training Programmes | Opportunity to participate in International Trade Shows

#### Registered office

**WORLD TRADE CENTER MUMBAI**  
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#### Administrative office

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e: traderesearch@wtcbhubaneswar.org

## MSMEs, Logistics, Tourism look at AI for Capacity Building



(L-R) Mr. Samir Sathe and Mr. Cyril Desouza

**W**TTC Goa and SAM'SPACE look forward to collaborating through a structured partnership that blends technology, trade facilitation

and capacity building across AI, logistics, tourism, and MSMEs. During discussions Mr Samir Sathe, Founder and CEO SAM'SPACE and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, discussed the idea of jointly organizing awareness programs and skill development workshops on AI and digital transformation. Discussions also looked at the ability to create tools for tourism analytics, logistics & route optimization and for MSME demand forecasting. Setting up of an innovation hub or incubation platform at WTC Goa to mentor startups and small businesses, co-hosting industry forums, B2B matchmaking events, and sector-specific summits which can connect Goan enterprises to national and global markets using the WTCA network were also discussed.

**The Meeting was held at WTC Goa on January 8, 2026**



## Dubai offers a Gateway to the UAE and African Markets.



**R**epresentatives of World Trade Center Goa (WTC Goa) and the Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) held a preliminary webinar to understand the opportunities available for Indian companies to establish and expand their businesses in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The session provided insights into DMCC's business ecosystem, regulatory advantages, sector-specific incentives, and the ease of setting

up operations, helping Indian enterprises understand how Dubai can serve as a strategic gateway to global markets. The online meeting decided to take this collaboration further by organizing special business programs and other events so that Goan Business entities avail of the facilities on offer.

**The Webinar was held on January 13, 2026**



## Building a successful ecosystem for Goan MSMEs engaged in International Trade.



WTC Meeting Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd

**W**orld Trade Center (WTC) Goa on January 15th 2026 held a meeting with a delegation from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to explore avenues for collaboration in strengthening the financial ecosystem for MSMEs and EXIM trade in Goa. The discussion primarily focused on trade finance solutions for MSMEs, including export-import finance, working capital support, and structured banking products that can facilitate smoother cross-border trade.

The Kotak Mahindra Bank delegation shared insights into the bank's trade finance offerings, export-import financing mechanisms, and customized solutions aimed at improving credit accessibility for MSMEs. WTC Goa highlighted the challenges faced by small and medium enterprises in accessing timely finance and emphasized

the need for greater awareness and capacity-building initiatives in the trade finance domain.

Both organizations discussed the possibility of jointly organizing programs, workshops, and knowledge-sharing events to enhance awareness of trade finance products and to improve credit offtake among MSMEs engaged in domestic and international trade. The meeting concluded with a shared intent to work together towards building a robust and inclusive finance ecosystem that supports MSME growth and strengthens Goa's export-import landscape.

**The meeting was held at WTC Goa on January 15, 2026.**

## WTC Goa facilitates a professional Goan Business Principal Correspondent

**O**n behalf of respected Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman World Trade Center Mumbai, WTC Goa felicitated Ms. Shoma Patnaik, Principal Correspondent – Business, The Navhind Times, Goa, on her retirement after nearly 19 years of distinguished service in business journalism.

The felicitation was held on 31 January 2026 during a short ceremony at the WTC Goa premises. Ms. Patnaik was honoured by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, and Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager -Trade Promotion, WTC Goa in recognition of her valuable contribution to business reporting and her



Mr. Cyril Desouza, Ms. Shoma Patnaik and Ms. Sonia Rocha.

consistent support to the trade and industry ecosystem in Goa.

The Felicitation was held at WTC Goa on January 31, 2026

## WTC Goa leads Gaon Industry Professionals on Implications of Union Budget 2026-27



Union Budget 2026

World Trade Center Goa organized a comprehensive post-budget analysis and discussion on the Union Budget 2026, bringing together members, industry representatives, and key stakeholders to deliberate on the budget's implications for businesses and the regional economy. The session aimed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the policy direction, sectoral priorities, and

emerging opportunities arising from the newly announced budget.

The session was led by Mr. Lee Ferrao, a noted tax consultant, who delivered an insightful and engaging presentation on the salient features of the Union Budget 2026. Mr. Ferrao offered a detailed analysis of the budget's impact on critical sectors, with particular

emphasis on MSMEs, medical tourism, and the pharmaceutical industry. He also highlighted various tax and policy measures introduced to enhance ease of doing business, improve compliance efficiency, and support entrepreneurship and innovation. His presentation helped demystify complex provisions of the budget and contextualize them for businesses operating in Goa and beyond.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, outlined WTC Goa's upcoming initiatives, including plans to set up sector-specific think tanks aimed at policy advocacy, knowledge sharing, and industry-led solutions. He also apprised the delegates of WTC Goa being awarded the prestigious Accreditation Certification by the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), New York, recognizing its specialization in trade development and business and member services. This achievement, he noted, further strengthens WTC Goa's role as a catalyst for international trade and business growth in the region.

The discussion featured a highly interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants actively engaged with the speakers, seeking clarifications and sharing perspectives on the budget's practical implications. The dialogue provided valuable clarity on emerging opportunities and the way forward for businesses in Goa in the context of the evolving economic and policy landscape.

The session was supported by Blue Stratos as the Industry Partner, while Rashtra TV partnered as the Media Partner, contributing to the outreach and visibility of the event. Overall, the post-budget analysis served as a meaningful platform for informed dialogue, reinforcing WTC Goa's commitment to knowledge-driven engagement and stakeholder empowerment.

**The Session was held at Nalanda Hall, EDC House, Panaji Goa on February 5, 2026**

## Launch of Export Facilitation Desk



Launch of Export Facilitation Desk

In a significant step towards strengthening the Goa MSME Export Ecosystem, under the guidance of respected Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, 3 entities namely World Trade Goa, Laghu Udyog Bharati and Global Chamber Goa have jointly collaborated in setting up a Export Facilitation Centre. The Facilitation Centre will be operated from the premises of WTC Goa, situated in the Capital City, Panaji.

The center will serve as a dedicated platform to guide and support MSME in their export journey and would also help connect enterprises with relevant government agencies. The initiative will also offer the WTCA Global Network opportunities to grow their business as well as support and enhance the competitiveness of the Goan MSMEs. Present on the occasion were Ms Pallavi Salgaocar, President, Laghu udyog Bharati Goa, Ms Aartii Neemkar, Executive Director, Global Chamber Goa and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade promotion, WTC Goa as well as office bearers and

members of the three signing organizations.

**The Launch was organized at WTC Goa on February 16, 2026**

## Meeting with Cargofirst



Meeting with Cargofirst

In its ongoing efforts to drive innovation and enhance trade efficiencies, WTC Goa had the opportunity to meet with Cargofirst, a tech company focused on offering digital solutions for global trade, supply-chain visibility, quality inspection, and commodity logistics. The meeting explored how tech-driven platforms can help to streamline export-import processes, improve

cargo quality assurance, and bring real-time digital transparency to international trade operations.

**The meeting was held at WTC Goa on February 18, 2026**

## Meeting with WTC Navi Mumbai



WTC Goa meets WTC Navi Mumbai

WTC Goa in a significant meeting interacted with Mr. Ghate, Advisor, WTC Navi Mumbai. The meeting deliberated on the different activities that WTC Goa and WTC Navi Mumbai are organizing. The meeting also discussed on the possibility of having joint events that will bring out the strengths of Goa and Navi Mumbai but more importantly integrate the activities of both WTC Goa and WTC Navi Mumbai to

bring out the strengths that the Global WTCA network has to offer

**The meeting was held at WTC Goa on February 19, 2026**

## Promoted book for Mr. Mukesh Vaswani Dream Build Scale



Book launch - Dream, Build, Scale

Mukesh Vaswani. The book is designed for aspiring and established entrepreneurs, offering practical insights into transforming ideas into sustainable ventures. It highlights key areas such as business financial fundamentals, evaluating the business environment, sustaining growth, and the need for continuous reinvention. A unique feature of the book is its focus on leveraging AI tools to support the journey from vision to venture. Drawing from the author's real-life experiences, the publication also includes a dedicated section on leadership development, making it a valuable guide for business growth and personal transformation. Dream, Build, Scale is available globally through Amazon.

**The Book Launch ceremony was held at WTC Goa on February 20, 2026**

**W**orld Trade Center Goa hosted the book launch of Dream, Build, Scale, authored by Mr.

## Took part in Panel discussion " stepping stone towards a safe and sustainable ocean economy in india



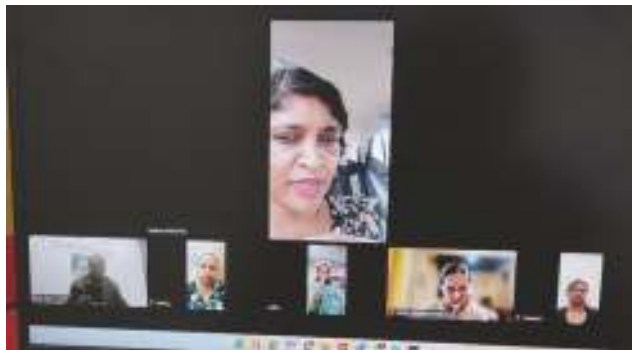
WTC Goa takes part in Panel Discussion

**W**orld Trade Center Goa took an active part in the deliberations and discussions at the Goa Stakeholders Workshop- Stepping towards a safe & sustainable ocean encompassing shipbuilding, traditional fishing & climate-resilient fisheries which was organised by UN Global Compact & Ocean Centres India and supported but LR Foundation in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, Director General of Shipping, Mumbai, Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Goa Institute of

Management. Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director - Trade Promotion, represented World Trade Center Goa as part of an Eminent panel which discussed and deliberated on the theme - Challenges in Shipbuilding and Knowledge & Skill Gap in India. The aim of the workshop was to inspire discussions for a greener marine future!

**The Workshop was held at WTC Goa on February 24, 2026**

## Webinar: Preparatory Meeting for Womens Day 2026



**F**or Women's Day 2026, WTC Goa organized a webinar with leading Women Entrepreneurs and Women Business Professionals from Goa. The agenda of the meeting was to deliberate and chalk out significant programmes to celebrate International Women's Day on a large scale. During the webinar it was decided to launch two women centric initiatives namely

**E n t e r p r i s i n g W o m e n @ W T C G o a a n d B u s i n e s s S t u d i o @ W T C G o a .** The further the discussions also chalked out elaborate plans to also celebrate International Women's Day 2026 by organizing a panel discussion that will highlight new age business models.

The meeting also took a decision to launch the women centric initiatives on the 6th of March 2026 and the Panel Discussion on the 9th of March 2026. The Webinar was held on the Zoom Platform on 02-03-2026. For Women's Day 2026, WTC Goa organized a webinar with leading Women Entrepreneurs and Women Business Professionals from Goa. The agenda of the meeting was to deliberate and chalk out significant programmes to celebrate International Women's Day on a large scale. During the webinar it was decided to launch two women centric initiatives namely

**E n t e r p r i s i n g W o m e n @ W T C G o a a n d B u s i n e s s S t u d i o @ W T C G o a .** Further, the discussions also chalked out elaborate plans to also celebrate International Women's Day 2026 by organizing a panel discussion that will highlight new age business models. The meeting also took a decision to launch the women centric initiatives on the 6th of March 2026 and the Panel Discussion on the 9th of March 2026.

**The Webinar was held on the Zoom Platform on March 02, 2026**

## Meeting for Promotion of Energy Sector

**T**he energy sector in India is doing well and it is imperative that benefits of these new developments in the energy sector also make an impact in Goa. In light of this WTC Goa had organized a very fruitful meeting with business professionals based in Goa. The meeting deliberated on conducive policies as well as the need to strengthen the investment in the energy sector to enable the MSMEs in Goa have a good uninterrupted power supply for running and operating their Industrial manufacturing units. The new opportunities available and opening up in the Hydrogen, Wind and Solar power sectors were also discussed at length.

**The meeting was held at WTC Goa on March 5, 2026**



Meeting to discuss facilitation of Energy efficiency

## Womens Day 2026: Launch of 2 women centric initiatives

In the runup to the celebrations for Women's Day 2026, the World Trade Center Goa (WTC Goa) on 06th March 2026, launched two significant women-centric initiatives – EnterprisingWomen@WTC Goa and BusinessStudio@WTC Goa – aimed at empowering entrepreneurs and strengthening the regional business ecosystem. EnterprisingWomen@WTC Goa will focus on identifying and nurturing women entrepreneurs across Goa. The initiative seeks to support women-led enterprises by addressing their skilling needs, providing capacity-building programmes, and training their personnel in improved management practices. The goal is to enhance product quality, increase productivity, and improve the overall economic profitability of women-run enterprises, enabling them to scale their businesses sustainably. BusinessStudio@WTC Goa will complement this effort by promoting member businesses and helping them leverage opportunities in global markets. The initiative will serve as a platform to guide enterprises on trade readiness, market access and international business linkages, thereby strengthening their



Launch of Women Centric Initiatives

participation in global trade networks. Both initiatives will be led by an exclusive women-led team at WTC Goa, reflecting the organization's commitment to fostering inclusive economic growth and creating stronger opportunities for women entrepreneurs in the state.

**The launch of the initiatives was held at WTC Goa on March 6, 2026**

## Launch of Kushawati Beekeepers FPO as Goa's First Honey Cluster



Launch of Honey & Beekeeping Cluster

On International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March 2026, World Trade Center Goa participated in the launch of the Kushawati Beekeepers' FPO, recognized as Goa's first Honey Cluster. The event was attended by Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, who represented WTC Goa at the initiative. The cluster was formally launched by Mr. Ramesh Tawadkar, Hon'ble Minister for

Tribal Welfare, Government of Goa and dedicated it to the rural women who are engaged in producing 100% natural, hygienic, and premium-quality honey. This initiative aims to strengthen rural women's livelihoods through sustainable beekeeping. The village of Poinguinim, located in South Goa, offers a highly conducive natural environment for beekeeping, with its rich biodiversity and dense forest cover that supports a variety of flora and fauna. These ecological conditions contribute to the production of uniquely flavored natural honey. World Trade Center Goa will support the initiative by helping explore and open international markets for the honey produced by the cluster. WTC Goa will work closely with its member Mr. Suprajit Raikar, owner of Raika & Co, along Department of Agriculture, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and various other Government of Goa agencies, to ensure the long-term success and global outreach of this promising initiative.

**The meeting was held at WTC Goa on March 8, 2026**

## Womens Day 2026 Celebrations



Women's Day 2026 Celebrations

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2026, the World Trade Centre Goa, in association with Laghu Udyog Bharati, Global Chamber Goa, and Goa Dimensions, organised a special program on 9th March 2026 to celebrate the achievements and contributions of women in business and society. The event brought together women entrepreneurs, professionals, dignitaries and guests for an evening of discussions, recognition and networking.

The Chief Guest for the event was Deepali Naik, Project Director of the District Rural Development Agency. The Guests of Honour were Aarti Neemkar, Founder and CEO of the India Economic Development Association and Executive Director of Global Chamber Goa, and Pallavi Salgaocar, Chartered Accountant, Finance Director at Geno Pharma, Founder of Desserts and More Bakery, and Goa State President of Laghu Udyog Bharati.

The program began with a Welcome Address by Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion at World Trade Centre Goa. In his address, he welcomed all the guests and highlighted the importance of supporting women entrepreneurs and creating more opportunities for women to grow in business and leadership.

This was followed by a talk by Aarti Neemkar on the topic "Powerful Impact of Women in Business." She spoke about the growing role of women across different

industries and how their leadership is helping shape businesses and communities. She encouraged women to believe in their abilities, take bold steps in their careers, and support one another. She also shared several real-life case studies of successful women entrepreneurs, which inspired many in the audience.

Next, Pallavi Salgaocar addressed the audience on "Gender Equality at the Workplace." She spoke about the need to reduce gender bias and ensure equal opportunities for women in professional spaces. She also discussed how organisations and society can work together to create more inclusive workplaces and support women in leadership roles. She also said that we need to support each other as women.

The Chief Guest, Deepali Naik, then shared her thoughts with the audience. She spoke about the various initiatives being carried out for the economic upliftment of women in Goa, especially in rural areas. She highlighted the work being done with women's self-help groups and how these initiatives help women become financially independent. She also shared her vision for the future and the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship for women. In addition, she gave a simple but meaningful message — that women should take at least ten minutes every day for themselves, doing something they enjoy, even something as simple as dancing to music.

The program then moved on to an engaging panel discussion, moderated by Cyril Desouza. The panel included Connie Quadros, an ex-banker with overseas experience; Vanessa Almeida, Founder and Owner of The Gift House; Edith Da Silva Pereira, Senior Manager at Union Bank of India; and Karen Fernandes, Founder and Creative Director of Meraki Social.

During the discussion, the panellists shared their personal journeys, including the challenges they faced and the successes they achieved in their careers. They spoke about entrepreneurship, financial awareness, creativity in business, and the importance of confidence and resilience for women in today's competitive environment. Their insights provided useful guidance and motivation for aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals.

The panel discussion was followed by an interactive question and answer session, where members of the

audience had the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the panelists.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Cyril Desouza, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, panelists, partner organisations, exhibitors and all participants for making the event a success.

The program ended with Hi-Tea and a networking session, where attendees interacted with each other and visited the stalls of women entrepreneurs who were showcasing their products. The event served as a meaningful platform to celebrate women's achievements, encourage entrepreneurship and promote collaboration among women professionals and business leaders in Goa.

**The event was held at WTC Goa on March 9, 2026**

## Interactive Meeting with the Officials of R B Business



Meeting with R B Business Nexus

**O**n 10 March 2026, World Trade Center Goa successfully hosted an engaging and productive interactive meeting with the officials of R B Business Nexus. The meeting marked an important step toward strengthening collaborative business relationships and fostering new opportunities for enterprises at both local and global levels.

R B Business Nexus is a dynamic business networking platform dedicated to empowering Bharatiya entrepreneurs by enabling them to explore and expand their

connections across India. Their vision of creating a strong, interconnected business ecosystem aligns seamlessly with the mission of World Trade Center Goa to promote international trade and partnerships.

The session was highly interactive and insightful, focusing on the concept of tailored networking. Discussions highlighted how curated connections can help professionals discover like-minded individuals, build meaningful relationships, and unlock new avenues for collaboration. The emphasis on custom connection suggestions and goal-oriented networking was particularly appreciated, as it reflects a modern and strategic approach to business growth.

Officials from both organizations exchanged ideas on strengthening collaborative partnerships and enhancing engagement among entrepreneurs. World Trade Center Goa reaffirmed its commitment to supporting initiatives that contribute to business development and community building.

During the meeting, R B Business Nexus shared their plans for the RB 11th National Meet along with their 4th Anniversary Celebration, scheduled to be held in Goa in July 2026. They sought the support and collaboration of World Trade Center Goa for the successful organization

of this significant event. World Trade Center Goa responded positively and extended its full support, reflecting its proactive role as a facilitator of business networking and a catalyst for economic growth in the region. The meeting concluded on a highly positive note, with both organizations expressing enthusiasm for future collaborations and a shared vision of fostering a robust and inclusive business ecosystem.

Overall, the interaction underscored World Trade Center Goa's continued efforts in creating impactful platforms for dialogue, partnership, and growth, reinforcing its position as a key enabler of business excellence in Goa.

**The event was held at WTC Goa on March 10, 2026**

## Interactive Luncheon Business Development Meeting



Luncheon Business Meeting

Continuing its focus on building and developing new business avenues for its member companies, WTC. Goa hosted an interactive Luncheon Business Development Meeting at Margao Goa on 10th March 2026. The highlights of the important points discussed in the meeting were Opportunities available in the Electric Vehicle sector encompassing Electric scooters and Bicycles.

The meeting also discussed in detail a business plan to launch the various Electric Vehicles in a phased manner. Business delegation to China to attend the Canton Fair was also discussed. Export of Agro Products from Goa like Cocopeet, Jaggery and Coconut oil were taken up for discussion.

The meeting also touched upon the subject of forming a cluster soon so that the chosen sector could get the

incentives it requires. Purchase of machinery both new and pre used was also taken up for discussion as the delegates present mulled on the idea of joining hands to pool in investments for start of new ventures.

**The meeting was held at Navelim Goa on March 10, 2026**

## Conducted a Session on Explore the World of Exports in association with GDP School for social entrepreneurship skill building and applied social research at Dhempe College Miramar



Explore the world of Exports

**W**TC Goa along with GDP School for Social Entrepreneurship, Skill Building & Applied Social Research conducted a session on Explore the World of Export on March 13th 2026 at Goa. Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director - Trade Promotion, conducted the session on behalf of World Trade Center Goa.

The objective of the session was to sensitize budding entrepreneurs on the amazing world of Exports and how to leverage the opportunities that the Global market can offer.

Importance of Exports, benefits of Exports for a business with emphasis on MSMEs, Key export sectors of India, basic requirements for entering the Export Market, Trade Finance & Support Systems and the importance of Trade Bodies were some of the important topics that the session addressed that was targeted to a distinguished delegation comprising of Faculty coordinators & campus mentors from campuses of MES located in Margao, Quepem, and Panaji.

The different artifacts, paintings and creative work like Mecrame boxes, crochet products, Hand made bag made from recycled material, gift presentation containers made from sea shells etc as made by the different delegates were displayed.

Present on the occasion were Mr. Kishore Shah, Principal Trustee, GDP School, Mr. Ajinkya R Tawde, Branch Head, Central Bank of India, Taleigao Branch, Mr. Vasudev Dhuri, Independent Consultant, Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager - Trade Promotion WTC Goa, Mr. Parag Veluskar of GDP School and Mr. Joshua Dias an upcoming youth entrepreneur.

**The session was held at Dhempe College of College of Arts and Science, Miramar, Goa on March 13, 2026**

## WTC Jaipur gets internationally recognized by the global recycling leaders



In the pic: Mr. Sanjay Mehta, President of the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI), felicitating Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur

**D**ue to the relentless work in recycling sector and our commitment to work holistically towards a healthier planet for ourselves and future generations, World Trade Center Jaipur got globally recognized at the recently concluded conference on “Circular Economy Through Mission Life, An Exclusive Women's Engagement Programme on Sustainable Living and Recycling” inviting more than 800 women participants from all over the state of Rajasthan to understand the rising need for Conserves Natural Resources, Saves Energy, Reduces Pollution & Emissions and Protects Landscapes.

Chief Guest to the program, Mr. Sanjay Mehta, President of the Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI) shared with the audience, “Started as Metal Recycling Association of India, in 2011, the industry body of metal industry stakeholders metamorphosized into a full-blown trade body at the instance of Government, which directed it to embrace and extend the benefits of its benevolent actions all recycling and recyclable commodity stakeholders, not limiting them to the metal sector alone. Today, under the new nomenclature ‘Material Recycling Association of India’, MRAI is the

apex organization of the sub-continent representing the rapidly growing recycling industry. The force multiplier of the sunrise industry, MRAI, caters to those involved in recycling and recyclable commodities, including Metals (Both Ferrous & Non-Ferrous), Plastic, Paper, E-waste, Tyre & Rubber, Glass, Automobile, ELV (RVSF), Building & Construction, and Water.

Mr. Mehta, who also leads the MTC Group, a major business consortium involved in metal scrap recycling and trade, went on to add further to his deliberation, “Working in tandem with the Government to bring about Circular Economy and achieve Sustainable Developmental Goals, MRAI’s activities are centered around promotion and propagation of Responsible Recycling, which by default encompasses the essence of many of the acclaimed projects and programmes of the Government like Make in India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Skill India Mission. Guided by the vision for a Greener, Progressive and Developed Country, MRAI’s programmes are aimed at not only facilitating our industry members to carry out their trade and business in a responsible manner, but also enabling the creation of employment opportunities and women’s empowerment. Headquartered in Mumbai, MRAI has chapters in New Delhi and Kolkata and is active in almost all the important industry hubs across the country.”

The program was also graced by Ms. Robin Wiener, President, Recycled Materials Association (ReMA), United States of America, and Ms. Susie Burrage, President, Bureau of International Recycling, United Kingdom.

Ms. Robin Wiener shared, “The Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) represents more than 1,700 companies in the U.S. and 40 countries around the globe. Based in Washington, D.C., ReMA’s mission is to promote safe, environmentally responsible, and economically sustainable recycling through advocacy, networking, and education.”

Ms. Robin also stressed, “When manufacturers source raw materials for a product, the recycled materials industry provides a more sustainable alternative to cutting trees, mining, drilling, or harvesting natural resources.”

Ms. Susie Burrage voiced, "The Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) is the only global federation for the recycling industry, representing over 30,000 companies and 37 national associations, including UK members. Headquartered in Brussels, it fosters international trade, promotes recycling, and highlights the environmental benefits of using recycled materials."

She continued by saying, "The BIR monitors international trade policies, such as environmental regulations affecting the movement of scrap, which is crucial for UK exporters. The organization promotes research on the environmental benefits of recycling, such as studies on the use of steel scrap, and we also host major international conventions where members, including those

from the UK, discuss market trends and technical developments."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal welcomed MRAI's initiative to educate women on Materials Recycling in Jaipur and also acknowledged MRAI's leading role as a premier agency of advocacy for the Indian Recycling Industry. Mr. Agarwal also lauded the commendable work done by Mr. Sanjay Mehta in this regard and thanked Ms. Robin Wiener and Ms. Susie Burrage for their presentations and for enlightening participants with their huge industry knowledge.

**The event was held on January 19, 2026**

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, for a better tomorrow



In the pic, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur with international delegates during the exhibition.

In today's rapidly transforming economic world, shifting from waste disposal to recovery involves moving from linear "take-make-dispose" systems to circular models that treat waste as a valuable resource. It prioritizes reusing, recycling, and converting materials into new products or energy, rather than landfilling

or incineration, to conserve resources and reduce environmental impact.

With this vision in hindsight and in an attempt to bring together all stakeholders, MRAI Jaipur IMRC 2026 was organized at Novotel Jaipur Exhibition and Convention

Center. The conference and Exhibition brought together Indian and International Recyclers under one roof for Networking and showcasing their technologies, services, new innovations, and perspectives. The three-day conference accommodated 3000+ Delegates and 200+ Exhibitors representing the Recycling Fraternity.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal expressed gratitude to the organizing team for extending the invitation as a special guest and said, “We welcome the initiative that Team MRAI has undertaken in Jaipur, the World Class Exhibition is truly showcasing innovative green technologies, and fostering a circular economy. Today, the recycling exhibitions are crucial for promoting environmental sustainability and for creating a forum for educating the public at large on waste reduction.

These dedicated, focused exhibitions and events highlight methods to conserve resources, reduce pollution, save energy, and encourage collective action for a cleaner planet.”

Ministry of Mines, Government of India, Ministry of Steel, Government of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), NITI Aayog, The Central Pollution Control Board of India (CPCB), and The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change supported the Exhibition and Convention. Jt. Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, Jaipur office, also participated in the program.

**The event was held on January 20 - 22, 2026**

## Crafting sustainable and culturally rooted designs



In the pic: L to R, Mrs. Meenakshi Singh, President of the Association of Designers of India (ADI), and Ar. Gauri Sharma Tikku, the Program Head at the Gyan Vihar Centre of Arts & Design (GCAD), felicitating Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur

**W**orld Trade Center Jaipur, in collaboration with Gyan Vihar Center of Arts and Design, organized TATTVA 2026, “Essence of Design,” A roundtable discussion on the Design Industry, encompassing fashion, communication, interior, and industrial design, to turn ideas into functional, aesthetically pleasing, and marketable solutions.

It was discussed during the program that the design

industry is crucial to real estate for maximizing property value, enhancing functionality, and improving marketability through aesthetic appeal. It converts raw structures into desirable, sustainable spaces that meet modern lifestyle needs and regulatory standards, effectively differentiating projects to drive sales and premium pricing.

Chief guest to the program, Mrs. Meenakshi Singh, President of the Association of Designers of India (ADI) Jaipur Chapter, said, “Well-designed, aesthetically pleasing spaces with good functionality significantly raise market value, and good design increases property value. Buyers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for spaces that require no further work, often leading to better, faster sales for developers. Today, Designers create efficient layouts that maximize space utilization, offering features like better lighting, ergonomic workspaces, and flexible, sustainable, or luxurious spaces. Expert design prevents costly, time-consuming structural changes later by planning for efficiency, compliance, and user needs, which lowers overall project expenses.”

Ar. Gauri Sharma Tikku, the Program Head at the Gyan Vihar Centre of Arts & Design (GCAD), shared, “ Design defines a project's identity, making it stand out in a

competitive market. It transforms 'houses' into 'homes' by creating emotional connections for buyers. Designers ensure projects meet legal building codes and environmental regulations. They also incorporate adaptable features for future needs, making properties more resilient. With nearly all of the buyers now requesting interior design services when booking homes, in-house, customized, or curated designs are essential for addressing the demand for personalization and immediate luxury, such as integrated modular kitchens or specific, customized Vastu-compliant layouts. Overall, the design industry ensures that real estate projects are not just shelters, but sustainable, functional, and aesthetically engaging environments that cater to evolving human needs and market demands."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed, "Architects in the design industry are expected to blend creative vision with

technical expertise to create safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing spaces. They must manage the entire project lifecycle—from conceptual design and regulatory compliance (building codes/permits) to construction administration and client collaboration. Key skills include proficiency in CAD/BIM software, project management, and structural knowledge."

Recognizing World Trade Center Jaipur's enormous contribution to the development of the Design and Architecture field, the Association of Designers of India (ADI) and Gyan Vihar Center of Arts and Design (GCAD) felicitated WTC Jaipur.

Mr. Agarwal expressed gratitude to all the participants and co-organizers for carefully curating the program and making it a learning curve for all.

**The event was held on January 21, 2026** ■

## PDKF's Artisan Collective 2026 - Where heritage meets artistry



In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, with esteemed exhibitors at PDKF's Artisan Collective 2026

**H**onored by the invitation to participate in PDKF's Artisan Collective 2026 (Princess Diya Kumari Foundation) at the Royal City Palace, Jaipur, from January 23-25, and interact with the artisan fraternity from across our Country was a learning curve. The grand Exhibition was a stupendous 3-day celebration of crafts curated specially by women artisans.

During the Exhibition we were delighted to see that artisans who started their journey of exhibiting prod-

ucts at Global Economic Summit and World Trade Expo, year after year, and have got all the great support and handholding due to the leadership efforts of Chairman, Dr Vijay Kalantari, are now a prominent part of the prestigious foundation and are getting invited to showcase their products today at the Royal Palace and interact with groups of international buyers flocking in to the Royal City Palace Courtyard.

Upon interaction, it was also realized that PDKF uses a

stringent process of selecting crafts just like World Trade Center Jaipur does. It was also noteworthy here that the 2nd edition of PDKF's Artisan Collective at the City Palace in Jaipur invited over 70 women artisans from 20+ Indian states. This three-day event featured 40+ traditional craft forms, including handloom textiles, jewelry, and workshops like block printing and pottery, highlighting women-led creativity.

Rajasthan handicrafts are world-renowned for their vibrant colors, intricate craftsmanship, and rich cultural heritage. Key crafts include Blue Pottery (Jaipur), Meenakari jewelry, leather footwear (Mojaris), embroidered textiles, and intricate wood carvings. These items are crafted using traditional techniques passed down

through generations, making them unique and cherished globally. Other Major arts include Blue Pottery, which is known for its striking cobalt blue dye and floral motifs, textiles, which include block printing (Sanganeri, Bagru), Bandhani (tie-dye), and vibrant hand-woven rugs and carpets, Jewelry & Enameling like Kundan (stone setting) work, paintings, intricate miniature paintings, Phad (cloth paintings), and Pichwais. Additionally, renowned arts include woodwork & furniture, specifically from the Shekhawati region, and other crafts like stone carvings, terracotta pottery, and lac jewelry are in tremendous demand globally.

**The event was held on January 23 -25, 2026** ■

## Commemorating the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day and celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Vande Mataram.'



Left to right: Mr. Pradeep Ojha, Deputy Director, MSME – DFO Jaipur, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, with Mr. Navneet Agarwal

**E**choing the spirit of the Constitution of India that came into force in 1950, transitioning the nation into an independent sovereign republic with an elected government, replacing British colonial law and symbolizing democracy, equality, and the rule of law, it was a great moment to become part of The Republic Day Celebrations 2026 at Ministry of MSME – DFO, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, state office at Jaipur on January 26, 2026. The day became special further and a reason for greater happiness by witnessing and marking 150 years of the national song 'Vande Mataram'.

Chief Guest to the program, Mr. Pradeep Ojha, Deputy Director, MSME – DFO Jaipur, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, urged all participants to the celebrations, “All citizens of Bharat should solemnly pledge to uphold democracy through duty, discipline, and unity. Whereas the day emphasizes democratic values, with the Constitution guaranteeing fundamental rights, justice, liberty, and equality to all citizens, it is our duty to abide by the Constitution, respect national symbols, uphold unity, protect public property, preserve the environment, promote harmony, and abide by the law.”

Mr. Ohja also later, in a discussion share one of the Apex schemes for MSME's, “the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to provide all-inclusive and end-to-end support to craftspeople through access to collateral-free credit, skill training,

modern tools, incentive for digital businesses, and market linkage provision. The scheme will initially be executed for five years up to 2027-28.”

Mr. Ojha further explained, “The Scheme envisions provisioning of multiple benefits to the artisans and crafts persons like recognition of artisans and craftspeople through PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card, Skill Upgradation with basic and advanced Training, Toolkit Incentive, and Credit Support, Incentive for Digital Transaction and Marketing Support in the form of quality certification, branding,

onboarding on e-commerce platforms such as GeM, advertising, publicity and other marketing activities to improve linkage to value chain.”

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed gratitude to the MSEM-DFO team for supporting MSME's all throughout the state and for becoming primary facilitators for the implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme, for assisting with digital training and cultivating Banking and Financial habits amongst all.

**The event was held on January 26, 2026**

## Ayushman Bharat: Leading the Global Healthcare System with Innovation and Integrity

**M**edical Conferences are essential for advancing healthcare by providing platforms for continuing education, networking, and the rapid dissemination of new research, technologies, and clinical protocols. They allow professionals to share expertise, improve patient outcomes through evidence-based practice, and stay current in rapidly evolving medical fields. Analyzing the paramount need for medical conferences in Rajasthan, World Trade Center Jaipur, in collaboration with Gyan Vihar School of Pharmacy, Jaipur, organized a two-day International Conference on Cancer Treatment and Research, ICCPDHM 2026.

The International Conference on Comprehensive Approaches to Cancer: Prevention, Diagnosis, and Holistic Management (ICCPDHM 2026) became a major global academic forum focused on advancing interdisciplinary knowledge and collaboration in oncology. The conference gathers academicians, researchers, clinicians, industry experts, and healthcare professionals to share cutting-edge research and innovative clinical practices. The event highlights a holistic understanding of cancer across the continuum of prevention, early detection, advanced diagnostics, precision medicine, therapeutic advancements, rehabilitation, and supportive care. The scientific program spans diverse fields such as pharmaceutical sciences, medical & clinical sciences, physiotherapy & rehabilitation, clinical psychology, biochemical and life sciences, Ayushholistic sciences, AI approach for cancer. The conference includes keynote lectures, invited talks, technical sessions, panel discussions, and presentations by young researchers. A strong



In the pic: left to right: Dr. Prateem Tamboli, CEO, JECRC Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur; Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur; and Dr. Vinay K. Kapoor, Pro- VC, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur.

emphasis is placed on translational research, patient-centered care, mental health support, lifestyle interventions, and integrative medicine approaches. The conference also catalyzes academic networking, industry-academia collaboration, and international research partnerships. By promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and global cooperation, IC-CPDHM 2026 successfully fulfilled the objective to contribute to improved cancer outcomes and inspire innovation, excellence, and compassion in cancer research, education, and clinical practice.

Chief Guest to the program, Dr. Vinay K. Kapoor, Pro- VC, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur,

enlightened the participants with vast knowledge and experience in Medical Sciences. Dr. Kapoor, focusing on Contemporary Approaches to Cancer Diagnosis, shared his views and expounded that Contemporary diagnosis has evolved into a sophisticated biological interrogation, where the integration of liquid biopsies, radiomics, and molecular profiling allows us to intercept the disease not just at its location, but at its very genetic origin.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Prateem Tamboli, CEO, JECRC Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur, delivered his presentation on Multidisciplinary Cancer Management and demonstrated that in the modern oncological landscape, the 'molecule' is only half the cure; the other half is the seamless integration of surgical, radiological, and psychological expertise.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, complimented the organizing committee for wholeheartedly supporting in making the conference a great success. Mr. Agarwal also expressed gratitude to Dr. Vinay K. Kapoor, Mr. Prateem Tamboli, and all dignitaries for making this conference a creating a memorable and inclusive learning experience for all participants and stakeholders.

Due to the continued work done by World Trade Center Jaipur in the field of Medical Science and Research, WTC Jaipur was also felicitated during the International Conference by Dr. Prateem Tamboli, CEO, JECRC Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur, and Dr. Vinay K. Kapoor, Pro-VC, Mahatma Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur.

The event was held on January 30-31, 2026

## The Union Budget 2026-27: accelerating economic growth, fulfilling aspirations, and aiming for a Viksit Bharat



In the pic: left to right, fourth from left, Professor Emiratus, Prof. (Dr.) D. P. Mishra Sir, felicitating Mr. Navneet Agarwal, first from left, Dr. Ravinder Kaur, HoD, JSE, Jaipur, Dr. Umeed Singh, President, Rajasthan Economic Association (REA), and CA Daivya Somani, Partner, Rangamani Associates (Chartered Accountants), Rajasthan

To decode the Union Budget 2026 and to highlight the fact that the Budget 2026 presented by Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Honorable Union Finance Minister of India, is not just about building

capacities to empower citizens, making them partners in prosperity, but also A Yuva Shakti-driven budget aimed at transforming potential into performance. World Trade Center Jaipur, in association with Jaipur School of Economics (JSE), organized a Panel Discussion on the Union Budget 2026 at the Conference Hall, JECRC Group of Institutions.

Speaking during the event, the guest speaker and subject matter expert, CA Daivya Somani, Partner, Rangamani Associates ( Chartered Accountants), Rajasthan, illustrated, “ As rightly said by The Honorable Finance Minister, this is the first Budget prepared in Kartavya Bhawan, it is inspired by 3 kartavya, first kartavya is to accelerate and sustain economic growth, by enhancing productivity and competitiveness, and building resilience to volatile global dynamics, second kartavya is to fulfil aspirations of people and build their capacity, making them strong partners in India’s path to prosperity, and third kartavya, aligned with vision of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas,

is to ensure that every family, community, region and sector has access to resources, amenities and opportunities for meaningful participation.”

Ms. Divya went on to explain, “The decoding is simple, If we try and understand the first kartavya alone, it has a cluster of comprehensive objectives to serve, in order to accelerate and sustaining economic growth, intrusions in six areas have been proposed, scaling up engineering in seven planned and frontier sectors, sectors that are high-growth, cutting-edge industries at the forefront of science and technology, expected to drive significant economic transformation, rejuvenating legacy industrial sectors, traditional, established industries-such as manufacturing, energy, and steel that have historically driven economic growth but now often rely on non-contemporary infrastructure, processes, and carbon-intensive methods, creating “Champion MSMEs (Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength) by creating a platform designed to back, handhold, and resolve complaints for Indian Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and also acting as a one-stop shop to enhance competitiveness, offering services in finance, technology, and marketing while nurturing origination, delivering a authoritative get-up-and-go to Infrastructure, ensuring long-term energy safekeeping and permanency, and Developing City Economic Regions i.e. integrated growth zones combining urban centers with surrounding towns.”

Economist and Guest panelist, Dr. Umeed Singh, President, Rajasthan Economic Association (REA), shared his views by saying, “It is a welcome step positively impacting the entire trade fraternity, for the labor-intensive Textile Sector, an Integrated Programme

with 5 sub-parts is proposed, The National Fibre Scheme for self-reliance in natural fibers such as silk, wool and jute, man-made fibres, and new-age fibres, Textile Expansion and Employment Scheme to revolutionize conventional clusters with capital sustenance for machinery, technology amelioration and common testing and certification centres, powerful National Handloom and Handicraft programme to integrate and reinforce existing systems and ensure up to last mile support for weavers and artisans, Tex-Eco Initiative to promote globally competitive and sustainable textiles and apparels and Samarth 2.0 to modernize and elevate the textile skilling environment through association with industry and academic institutions.”

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur Team JECRC Group of institutions, eminent panelists, and participants, for making the brainstorming session a learning curve for all.

Professor Emiratus, Prof. (Dr.) D. P. Mishra, Rajasthan's renowned Academician and Mentor, Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from IIT, Bombay, MTech in Chemical Engineering from Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, B. Tech in Chemical Engineering from Bihar Institute of Technology (BIT), Sindri, who was also a pioneer in establishing JECRC University, Jaipur, felicitated Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur for active role of World Trade Center Jaipur for promoting literacy in BFSI Sector and for being pioneers in organizing Union and State Budget Analysis Programs in Rajasthan over the last decade.

**The event was held on February 6, 2026** ■

## Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems with Modern Science and Education

**I**ntegrating Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) with modern science and education, mandated by NEP 2020, blends ancient wisdom with contemporary studies to foster holistic development. This approach incorporates disciplines like Ayurveda, Yoga, Vedic Mathematics, and sustainability practices, aiming to cultivate a culturally rooted, innovative mindset and resolve modern global challenges through an interdisciplinary curriculum. To cite, the Pedagogical Approach in teaching methods includes integrating traditional

practices like Yoga and Ayurveda, using storytelling, and conducting field trips to heritage sites and on top of the idea is to have scientific Validation, by accentuating the focus on conducting modern empirical studies on traditional knowledge (e.g., in biotechnology, medicinal herbs) to bridge the gap between ancient concepts and modern technology.

It is believed that by doing so, multiple objectives can be achieved. It nurtures intellectual, ethical, and mental



growth through a balanced approach, fosters pride in Indian intellectual history while encouraging global perspectives, and it leverages indigenous knowledge for environmental conservation, traditional agricultural practices, and organic farming, ultimately leading to Cognitive Development by employing experiential learning through local arts, skills, and community engagement.

With this objective in mind, World Trade Center Jaipur, in collaboration with the Scientific and Humanities Research Society (SAHRS), Jaipur, Forth Dimensions Group, and International Journal of Innovative Research & Growth (IJIRG) India, organized a one-week faculty development program on Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems with Modern Science and Education from 9th February to 14th February 2026.

Chief Convener and Co-Patron of the program, Dr. Preetam Singh Gour, President, SAHRS, said, Integrating the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) with modern science is vital for fostering sustainable development, steering interdisciplinary innovation, and cultivating culturally rooted, principled, and all-inclusive education. This synergy bonds traditional perception—like Ayurveda, mathematics, and ecological management—with modern know-how, addressing global encounters such as climate change and wellbeing.”

Prof. R. C. Dubey, Former Director, IQAC, Gurukul Kangri Deemed to be University, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, explained, “We all should understand and work hard, Integrating IKS requires vigorous documentation, digitization, and interdisciplinary relationships to safeguard this heritage, which an go on to contribute to future methodical progressions.”

Dr. Vijay Singh, Department of Mathematics, Kirorimal College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, urged, “Over-

coming tests in integrating the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) in India requires an organized approach involving reforms in prospectus making, wide-ranging educator training, and digital adoption, as supported by NEP 2020. Key strategies include creating standardized, interdisciplinary syllabi, training educators through workshops, encouraging digital resources, and confirming traditional data through research. One approach, as an example, could be to invite traditional scholars, artisans, and practitioners as “master instructors” to impart authentic, practical knowledge in vocational studies and arts.

Dr. Meenakshi Swamy, Management & Applied Economics, Department of Commerce, St. Aloysius' College, M.P., deliberated, “Key types of pedagogical mismatches may include, disagreements regarding the purpose of a lesson, where students fail to understand what they are expected to learn, it can also be a conflict between an instructor’s teaching style and a student’s favored way of learning, frequently leading to abridged engagement, occurs when educational surroundings ignore the cultural upbringings or ways of knowing of diverse beginners, often affecting marginalized student inhabitants and many more, thus ultimately calling for a collective and all-inclusive approach and effort to overcome all such mismatched.”

There was an overwhelming response, and the seven-day FDP saw participation from all over the country.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal congratulated the organizing committee and conveyed heartfelt gratitude to stalwarts like Prof. P. L. Verma and Prof. A. K. Shrivastava, Chief Patrons, Mr. Deepesh Singh Parihar, Director, Fourth Dimensions Group, Dr. Naveen Kumar Singh, Convener, and Dr. Kapil Pal, General Secretary, SAHRS and complimented Prof. Punit Kumar, Department of Physics, University of Lucknow and Dr. Bharti Shandilya, Department of Journalism, University of Delhi for thoroughly and meticulously presenting on the theme of FDP.

**The event was held on February 14, 2026** ■

# CXO Summit 2026 Powering Viksit Bharat 2027: Startup Success, AI Leadership and Entrepreneurial Synergy



Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur deliberated on CX Metrics, Brand Advocacy and Omnichannel Strategy.

A virtuous Chief Experience Officer (CXO) is indispensable for making an integrated, customer-centric plan that boosts loyalty and drives profits by mixing all customer points of contact. They bridge sections to ensure brand consistency, leverage data to generate actionable insights, and foster a culture of empathy to improve both customer and employee experiences. To dwell upon the emerging role and importance of CXOs with regard to Startup Success, AI Leadership, and Entrepreneurial Synergy, World Trade Center Jaipur Organized CXO Summit 2026, Powering Viksit Bharat 2027: Startup Success, AI Leadership, and Entrepreneurial Synergy in collaboration with ISBM, SGVU Jaipur on 26th of February 2026 at Charles Dukes Hall, SGVU, Jaipur.

Guest of Honour, Parag Kamani, Founder, Cosmic Renewables, enlightened the participants from his vast industry experience by saying, “A good CXO ensures a unified experience across all connections, whether virtual or in-person, positioning marketing, sales, and after-sales service. They embed the customer’s perspective into the core business strategy, moving beyond just customer service to overall experience design and interpreting customer behavioral analytics and feedback to identify trends and make informed decisions that drive ROI. Not just this, they bring departments together to work toward a common goal, breaking down silos to ensure a consistent brand message and proactively identify market trends and adapt to evolving customer expectations, utilizing technology to stay ahead of the competition. Ultimately, a CXO increases customer retention and loyalty.”

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, shared, “We believe CXO is one of the most important responsible positions in an organization. A Chief Experience Officer (CXO) is a senior executive responsible for overseeing and improving the overall experience that customers, clients, and sometimes employees have with an organization. The role focuses on ensuring that every interaction across touchpoints is consistent, positive, and aligned with the company’s brand and values. We also believe that Experience Strategy Development acting as the voice of the customer in executive decision-making, ensuring that the company’s brand promise is consistently delivered across all channels, coordinating between departments such as marketing, sales, product, and customer service to unify the experience, and driving innovation in service delivery, digital experiences, and customer engagement are some of the Key roles of a CXO in today’s rapidly transforming customer centric and AI driven World of Startups and Entrepreneurship.”

Many bright founders of startups gathered in the program and shared their experiences and journeys from start-up to profit-making, which is a multi-stage process focusing on covering initial investments, reaching break-even, and finally scaling to generate consistent profit. The path required a deep understanding of fixed and variable costs, accurate financial planning, and a strategic shift from survival to growth.

**The event was held on February 26, 2026** ■

## Exuberance 2026- Brainstorming Session on Opportunities in International Trade and Commerce

To boost outreach initiatives to educate and propel youth into the ever-expanding world of global exports, World Trade Center Jaipur engaged with the youth-led startups in Jaipur and enlightened them as to how, through World Trade Center Jaipur-driven initiatives, they can expand their businesses and venture into exports as today India's export sector offers huge openings for youth, with exports predictable to exceed \$900 billion by 2030, creating millions of business opportunities and careers in international trade, logistics, and digital commerce. Young entrepreneurs can leverage government support, digital platforms, and skill development programs like Youth for Export, a national initiative dedicated to connecting the gap between tutoring and international trade opportunities. to start industries in agriculture, handicrafts, and manufacturing goods with limited capital.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, illustrated how any prospective exporter can take advantage of WTC Jaipur's global network and learn to select products, conduct market research, and understand trade maps to identify high-demand countries, and, most importantly, develop a thorough understanding of digital platforms to connect directly with global buyers.

WTC Jaipur also disseminated information about



In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, WTC Jaipur, greeted with green saplings marking environmental commitment

important exhibitions and how they can showcase their products to build their brand visibility and launch products straight to a targeted group of customers and buyers.

The participants also learnt that ensuring consistency in quality and focusing on understanding the buyer's unique needs are the key drivers to success in international markets.

**The event was held on February 27, 2026**



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WTC Jaipur is a member of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), New York which represents an unparalleled network of 300+ WTCs in over 90+ countries connecting one million businesses across the world. WTC Jaipur is promoted by M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research and Development Centre (MVIRDC), which is also the promoter of WTC Mumbai, the premium World Trade Center in India. WTC Jaipur will facilitate trade and investment promotion in the state and will assist local businesses to foray into global markets and help enhance competitiveness of Rajasthan.

### Services Offered

- Export Counseling • Seminars / Workshops / Panel Discussions on trade-related topics • Networking Events
- Online Information on trade and investment opportunities • Providing International market connections
- Trade Missions to explore overseas markets • Access to World Trade Centres Association, New York network
  - Promoting inbound trade delegation from overseas • Promoting members online
- Free Registration with Trade Point Mumbai India (Member of World Trade Point Federation, Geneva) for generating business contacts • Participation in International Exhibitions • Access to publications of WTC Mumbai • Access to WTCA Card

#### Administrative office:

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## Networking, industry collaboration, and strategic growth for the real estate sector -NAREDCO Maharashtra Annual Members Meet 2026



In the pic: left to right: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, interacting with Mr. Jhabar Singh Kharra, Urban Development and Housing Minister, Government of Rajasthan

**T**he NAREDCO WEST Maharashtra Annual Members Meet 2026 was held on February 28th and March 1st, 2026, at Chomu Palace, Jaipur. This two-day event brought together industry leaders and Maharashtra chapters for networking, strategy, and collaboration, featuring cultural performances, yoga, and discussions focused on real estate development and growth. World Trade Center Jaipur participated in the Meet and shared with NAREDCO West members its ongoing activities, events, and exhibitions, and how WTC Jaipur has been lending continuous support for 10 years to all sectors in Rajasthan, like Handicrafts and Handlooms, Textiles and Garments, Marbles, Minerals, and Metals, Agriculture, and Organic Farming, Mining, and Metal and Minerals Industry and is now a preferred partner and trade catalyst to manufacturers, services providers and exporting fraternity in Rajasthan.

The event took place in a Royal Palace property, Chomu Palace. It is well known that the Heritage of Chomu Palace, designed in the Indian vastushastra philosophy, and Chomugarh fort initially was strategically built to house the armies and chiefs with a 5-meter-thick outer protective wall to ward off invaders/enemies. From the time of laying the Foundation in the early 16th Century till its transformation from a Fort to a Palace in the late 18th Century, Chomugarh witnessed close to 350 years of Architectural evolution.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, complimented Mr. Prashant Sharma, President, Nardeco, for choosing Jaipur as the destination for organizing the conference and promoting tourism and networking opportunities in the state. Mr. Prashant Shared, "National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) was established as an autonomous self-regulatory body in 1998 under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India. It is in this year that the Government of India redrafted the National Housing & Habitat Policy, giving due importance to the Housing and Real Estate sector, thereby declaring housing for all citizens by the year 2010. NAREDCO works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of the real estate industry in India, partnering with industry and government alike through advisory and consultative processes."

Mr. Prashant went on to share, "Today, the Indian housing and real estate sectors and the allied industries hailed the establishment of NAREDCO as the apex national body for the real estate industry and visualized it as a single platform where the Government, industry, and public would discuss various problems and opportunities face-to-face, which would result in speedy resolution of issues. It was formed with the mandate to induce transparency and ethics in the real estate business and transform the unorganized Indian real estate sector into a mature and globally competitive business sector. The National Real Estate Development Council strives to be the collective force influencing and shaping the real estate industry. It seeks to be the leading advocate of developing standards for efficient and sustainable housing for all."

While interacting with all members of NAREDCO WEST, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, was also fortunate to interact with Mr. Jhabar Singh Kharra, Urban Development and Housing Minister, Government of Rajasthan, and seek his guidance on organizing meaningful programs for the real estate sector

**The event was held on February 28-March 1, 2026**

## Queen of Enterprise: She Leads, She Builds, She Inspires



Participants coming together for celebrations and a felicitation ceremony in progress

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Ms. Anita Motwani, Treasurer, LUB Ajmer, motivated all by quoting, "Let us pledge together that no girl child be left uneducated. Child education is essential for developing critical thoughtfulness, social skills, expressive astuteness, and physical health, laying the foundation for a prolific life. It authorizes girl children to break sequences of deficiency, safeguard their monetary future, fosters unconventionality, and enables them to contribute effectively to society."

The event saw an overwhelming response from Women Entrepreneurs, Professionals, Government officials, Artists, Medical Practitioners, and personalities from many more sectors, sharing their experiences, journeys of a lifetime, stories about how they took to manufacturing handcrafted products and make an honorable living for themselves, followed by felicitations and a banquet.

Today, International Women's Day is commemorated in almost every country around the world. It is a day when women are acknowledged for their hard work and for the significant achievements and noteworthy positions, be it sports, space research, or medical sciences, they have successfully reached through effort, skill, and courage. The celebrations and recognitions are made without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic origins, language, cultural, financial, or radical, meaning there is a principle of equality, non-discrimination, and impartiality and for the same World Trade Center Jaipur and Laghu Udhog Bharti Women Wing Ajmer came together to commemorate International Women's Day in Ajmer on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2026.

Mrs. Mridula Mittal, Patron, Laghu Udhog Bharti Mahila Ikai, Ajmer, said, "A global day for all of us, lets us come together to celebrate the success we have achieved, and let's come together to pledge for accelerated action toward gender equality. This day and all festivities associated with it act as a platform to highlight development, increase consciousness about tenacious challenges like pay gaps, unwanted gender biases, and organize support for women's rights."

Ms. Shilpi Jain, Secretary, LUB Ajmer, quoted, "It is noteworthy here that, officially standardized by the United Nations in 1977, International Women's Day first arose from the happenings and outcomes of emerging labor movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, praised and said, "Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global facet for women in advanced and emerging nations alike. The growing international women's drive, which has been supported by global conferences, deliberations, and forums, has helped make the remembrance a reassembling point to build support for women's rights and involvement in the political and financial spheres. With profound happiness and gratitude, I wish all participants a bright future ahead and sincerely thank CA Divya Somani, President, LUB Ajmer, and the effective team for making the day memorable and enlightening for all."

**The event was held on March 7, 2026**

## Gateway to Growth: Exploring Business and Investment Opportunities in and Via Hong Kong



In the pic: left to right, Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, and Mr. Abhishek Sivan

International exhibitions are crucial for fostering global trade, demonstrating innovation, and driving economic development by linking industries, businesses, and specialists across boundaries. They serve as podiums to launch new products, analyze competitors, gather direct client response, and build global partnerships, eventually accelerating market development and economic growth. To dwell upon the power and eminent need for international Exhibitions, HKTDC, with the active support of World Trade Center Jaipur, organized a seminar on Gateway to Growth: Exploring Business and Investment Opportunities in and Via Hong Kong on 12th March 2026 at Radisson Blu Hotel Jaipur, inviting more than 150 participants representing diverse sectors.

Session Speaker Mr. Rajesh Bhagat, Consultant, South Asia, shared with all the participants, "The Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) is a statutory body established in 1966 to promote, assist, and develop Hong Kong's trade. With 51 offices globally, including 13 in the Chinese Mainland, the HKTDC promotes Hong Kong as a two-way global investment and business hub. The HKTDC organizes international exhibitions, conferences, and business missions to create business opportunities for companies, particu-

larly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in the mainland and international markets. The HKTDC also provides up-to-date market insights and product information via research reports and digital news channels."

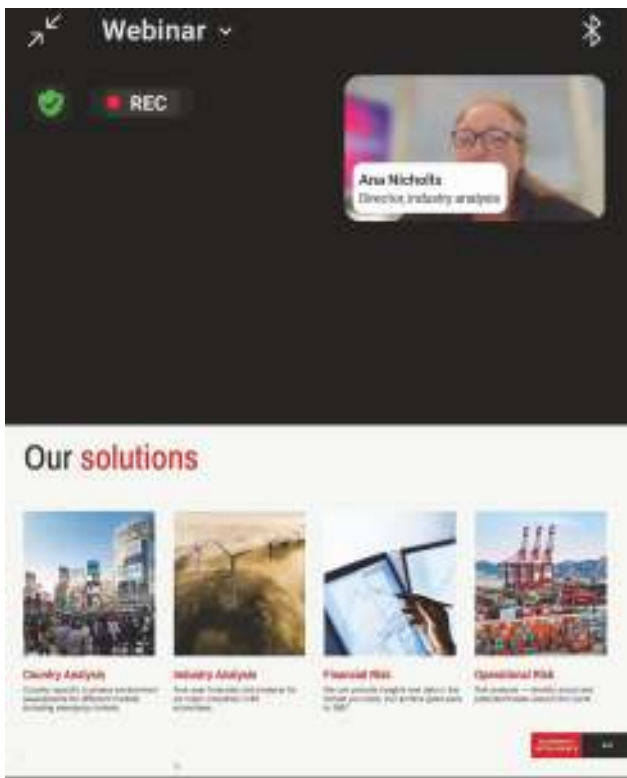
Mr. Bhagat went on to explain, "The HKTDC's mission is to create opportunities for Hong Kong companies. We focus on delivering value by promoting trade in goods and services, while connecting the world's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through Hong Kong's business platform. In striving to be the best trade promotion organization in the world, the HKTDC is committed to developing and expanding new frontiers by exploring, learning, and innovating, building on Hong Kong's economic success through global business, creating and delivering value to our customers, and maintaining trust, respect, and openness in all our relationships."

Earlier, while welcoming Exporters and the manufacturing fraternity to the program, Mr. Abhishek Sivan, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, New Delhi Office, deliberated, "At HKTDC, we believe in creating platforms for international business, facilitating business partnerships and opportunities worldwide, and empowering SMEs and entrepreneurs for global business. In our endeavor to do so, we continuously engage in capacity-building activities."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, while proposing a vote of thanks, complimented HKTDC Office bearers in India, Mr. Rajesh Bhagat and Mr. Abhishek Sivan, for their commendable work and for enlightening the audience with their vast industry knowledge. Mr. Agarwal also expressed gratitude to Dr. K. L. Jain, President, RCCI Jaipur, Mr. Rajiv Arora, Co-Founder of Amrapali Jewels, Jaipur, and Mr. Mahavir Pratap Sharma, Member COA, CEPC, for gracing the occasion with their kind presence and sharing their international exhibition experiences with the program participants.

**The event was held on March 12, 2026**

## The dollar's role in the global economy and rising global debt: Experts Speak up



pressures on the financial landscape to further appraise manufacturers, service providers, exporters, importers, and important stakeholders and plan for their operations going forward. The webinar moved beyond the headlines to examine global debt levels, liquidity risks, and the potential impact on investors and policymakers. The session also provided an independent view of where the next financial risks are likely to emerge and what they mean for the global economy. The webinar was hosted by The EIU (Economist Intelligence Unit).

Mr. Chris Varvares, Regional Director for the Americas, Economist Intelligence Unit, Mr. John Ferguson, Global Lead, New Globalization and Future of Trade Initiative at Economist Impact, and Ms. Ana Nicholls, Director, Industry Director, EIU, shared their expert views during the webinar.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal thanked the EIU team for the invitation and posted queries on global debt and sought advice from the expert panel for the Exporter and Importer fraternity in India.

**The event was held on March 18, 2026**

**H**igh debt and shifting interest rates are testing the resilience of the international financial system. As geopolitical uncertainty grows, identifying the risks to dollar liquidity and global stability is essential for managing market exposure and long-term strategy. WTC Jaipur joined EIU’s analysts speaking over “Dollar liquidity and global debt: navigating the next phase of financial risk” on 18th of March 2026, virtually, for a clear assessment of the emerging

## Rajasthan GCC Policy: Attracting Global Emphasis on R&D, IT, and specialized services



In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal interacting with Mr. Aaditya Kumar from the SBI International Banking Branch (IBB).

To achieve the novel vision of transforming the state of Rajasthan from a cost-efficient IT outsourcing hub into a global leader in high-value innovation, R&D, and digital transformation, and created specialized career opportunities The Economic Times Business Vertical organized The Rajasthan GCC Conclave 2026 at Hotel Lalit on 25th March 2026 where World Trade Center Jaipur participated and interacted with major stakeholders to share WTC Jaipur's initiatives and wholistic working approach in the State and how it can play a major role in getting global investors to the state through its global linkages and dependable research capabilities. The event also called for a long-lasting collaboration between industry and academia to generate a robust, skilled workforce in emerging technologies.

Col Rajyavardhan Rathore, Cabinet Minister for Industries & Commerce, Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of Rajasthan Graced the occasion as the Chief Guest to the program. Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, interacted with Col Rajyavardhan Rathore and complimented him for commendable leadership and for creating investor friendly environment in the state for global corporations.

V. Srinivas (IAS), Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, Mr.

Shikhar Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary, Industries and Commerce & Chairman, Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO), Government of Rajasthan, Mr. Alok Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development and Housing, Government of Rajasthan and Mrs. Shivangi Swarnkar, Managing Director, Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO) joined the program as key speakers to the Conclave.

Mr. Agarwal, realizing the crucial role of the BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) sector, which is a critical, tech-driven backbone of the economy, comprising banks, NBFCs, insurance firms, and mutual funds, and which focuses on capital management, digital transformation, and financial inclusion

interacted the credit management team of SBI (State Bank of India), an Indian multinational public sector bank and financial services statutory body which is also the largest bank in India with approximately 23% market share by assets and has close to 25% share of the total loan and deposits market.

Mr. Agarwal learnt from the SBI Team that SBI Asmita, launched in March 2025, is a specialized collateral-free loan for women-led MSMEs offering up to ₹5 Crore, provides competitive, low-interest working capital and term loans for manufacturing or service businesses, using CGTMSE coverage instead of collateral to Women-led Micro, Small, or Medium Enterprises in the Manufacturing, Trading, or Service sector. Under the scheme, the Repayment/Term is up to 7 years (including a 6-month moratorium) for Term loans.

Mr. Agarwal expressed gratitude to the senior officials at RIICO, NBCC, and the dedicated Team ETGovernment for extending the invitation.

**The event was held on March 25, 2026** ■

## "Yuva Udyayamita Yatra" fostering adaptability and critical thinking amongst youth



In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, being felicitated in the benign presence of Mr. Vasudev Devnani, Hon. Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

It was an honor for team World Trade Center Jaipur to deliberate upon World Trade Center Jaipur Trade Facilitation Services and revert to multiple queries pertaining to Central and State Government schemes, subsidies, and incentives to various sectors in Rajasthan) in the benign presence of Chief Guest, Mr. Vasudev Devnani, Hon., Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly during the Inaugural Session of "Yuva Udyayamita Yatra" on 25th of March at Ajmer, Rajasthan. The program was graced by eminent Industrialists and Senior State Leaders who addressed a large gathering of young entrepreneurs, motivating them to develop sustainable business models that leverage technology, employ a great team, and yet remain adaptable.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, urged all aspirants to create a successful business model that creates, delivers, and captures value by solving a specific client problem while guaranteeing cost-effectiveness and sustainability. Mr. Agarwal also urged all participants to go through a variety of Central and state government schemes that are today meant to provide impetus to new-age businesses and

especially support women entrepreneurs, like providing them access to capital, delivering adequate training, and resources to attain monetary stability and self-assurance. Initiatives like collateral-free loans (Mudra Yojana), the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), a joint initiative by India's Ministry of MSME and SIDBI that provides collateral-free loans and Svayam Siddha Loans, Stree Shakti Package, and SBI Asmita (SME Loan for Women) by State Bank of India are a welcome step in making our women empowered.

Mr. Agarwal expressed gratitude to the organizers for the opportunity to become part of the program and share global opportunities, incentives, and policy measures by the Government while interacting with business enthusiasts from Ajmer, Rajasthan.

**The event was held on March 25, 2026** ■

## World Trade Institute - Launches 73<sup>rd</sup> Post Graduate Batch, Strengthening India's Global Trade Talent Pipeline



In a significant milestone, the World Trade Institute, World Trade Center Mumbai, proudly announced the successful launch of its 73<sup>rd</sup> Post Graduate batch, marking another step forward in its continued commitment to developing skilled professionals in the field of global trade.

This new cohort brings together a dynamic and diverse group of participants, including working professionals and aspiring trade experts from varied industry backgrounds. Their shared objective is to gain in-depth knowledge and practical insights into the evolving landscape of international trade, logistics, and global business operations.

The institute has consistently served as a platform for cross-industry learning, and this batch is expected to further enrich classroom discussions through its blend of experience, perspectives, and expertise. The collaborative environment will enable participants to exchange ideas, address real-world challenges, and build a strong foundation in global trade practices.

As international trade continues to undergo rapid transformation, driven by geopolitical shifts, technological advancements, and changing supply chain dynamics, such programs play a crucial role in preparing professionals to navigate complexities and seize emerging opportunities.

The World Trade Institute extends its best wishes to the newest batch for a rewarding academic journey and looks forward to their future contributions in shaping the global trade ecosystem.

**The Course was held on March 21, 2026.**

## Online session on U.S. GLOBAL TRADE at an inflection point: what it means for INDIA



Amid unprecedented disruptions in global logistics, the international trade ecosystem is experiencing volatility not seen in decades. From maritime rerouting to air corridor closures, supply chains are being reshaped, pushing businesses to rethink strategies in real time. In response, the World Trade Center Mumbai hosted a webinar titled "U.S. Global Trade at an Inflection Point," bringing together professionals to explore emerging challenges and

opportunities. The session featured Dimy Doresca, CGBP, Clinical Associate Professor – Management & Entrepreneurship; Justice Faculty Fellow in International Business; and Executive Director, Institute for International Business, Tippie College of Business, University of Iowa (USA). He shared valuable insights on de-risking strategies and the growing importance of resilient, strategic supply chains. The discussion highlighted the need for agility, risk management, and adaptive business models in today's evolving trade environment. This initiative further strengthens the collaboration between World Trade Center Mumbai and the University of Iowa, with more executive webinars and in-person masterclasses planned ahead.

**The session was held on March 26, 2026.**



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## Exhibitions

### Safex sports (January 15-16, 2026)



### Vintage Car (January 24-26, 2026)



### Indo Japan (January 30, 2026)



Fashion Jalsa (February 6- 9, 2026)



Thailand Shopping Festival (February 6- 9, 2026)



Cipla Health Camp (5 March 2026)



Silk Fab (March 16-17, 2026)



Riwaaz (March 29-30, 2026)



## WTC Mumbai Highlights



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, with the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, H.E Jishnu Dev Varma, on the occasion of his swearing-in ceremony.



Ms. Priya Pansare, Director-Trade and Investment Promotions, World Trade Center Mumbai extends our warmest birthday wishes to Shri. Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), was honoured at CAPTECH 2026 in recognition of his leadership and outstanding contributions to industry development, trade promotion, and global business engagement. The award reflects his continued commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainable economic growth.



Ms. Priya Pansare, Director-Trade and Investment Promotions, WTC Mumbai, participated at the Poland-India Business & Women Leadership Forum 2026, contributing to an engaging discussion on "Women in Leadership: Challenges, Opportunities & Global Collaboration."



Welcome and meet the Hon'ble Mayor of Mumbai, the First Citizen of our city, at the World Trade Center Mumbai.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, attended the "AI Innovation Partnership Models between Industry and Academia: Living Lab Mumbai" event and had the honour of meeting Parliamentary State Secretary Bärbel Kofler during her official visit to Mumbai.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, held a constructive meeting with Ms. Suphatee Suthumpun, Minister of Commerce, Thailand, focusing on enhancing trade engagement, industry cooperation, and mutual investment opportunities.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade & Investment Promotions, attended the Global Economic Cooperation 2026 Anantyaam event, where they participated in discussions and engaged with Shri Gauranga Das, renowned spiritual leader, educator, and inspirational speaker known for his insights on mindful leadership, sustainability, and personal transformation.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai attended the commemorative event organised by the Consulate General of Ukraine in Mumbai, in collaboration with the Consulate General of Sweden in Mumbai, marking the fourth anniversary of Ukraine’s resilience in the face of ongoing challenges. The gathering reflected solidarity, shared values, and a commitment to dialogue, peace, and international cooperation



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, had a cordial meeting with H.E. Dinesh K. Patnaik, High Commissioner of India to Canada.



Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, WTC Mumbai, represented World Trade Center Mumbai at the India–Finland Business Dialogue in Mumbai and also interacted with Mr. Alexander Stubb, President of the Republic of Finland.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, along with Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, attended the Mumbai reception hosted for the Premier of British Columbia, Mr. David Eby, MLA for Vancouver–Point Grey, during his trade mission to India.



A proud moment as we signed an MoU with the Joint Director of Industries, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, during the Mahaniryat Ignite Convention Mumbai City 2026. This collaboration marks a significant step toward promoting entrepreneurship, export readiness, and sustainable industrial development across Maharashtra.



Honoured to share that the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique (HCCD) – Mumbai, under the leadership of Dr. Vijay G. Kalantri, hosted a beautiful evening that brought together distinguished members of the diplomatic community and esteemed guests.



World Trade Center Mumbai was honoured to attend the International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration hosted by the Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue in collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel in Mumbai.



World Trade Center Mumbai was honoured to be represented at the Republic Day “At Home Reception” hosted at Lok Bhavan, Mumbai on the occasion of India’s 77th Republic Day.



World Trade Center Mumbai, in partnership with Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skills University, Maharashtra State Innovation Society and I-Spark Foundation Incubator, hosted the Ideation Competition 3.0 – Final Pitch Round.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, met Mr. Swapnil Thorat, IFS, Regional Passport Officer & Head, MEA Branch Secretariat, Mumbai, for a constructive interaction.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, attended the farewell reception of Mr. Yagi Koji, Consul General of Japan, marking the conclusion of his distinguished tenure.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and Dean, Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique – India, hosted the Consular Day 2026 & Award Distribution, bringing together members of the diplomatic corps and industry leaders.



World Trade Center Mumbai attended the St. Patrick's Day celebration, engaging with members of the diplomatic and business community. The event offered an opportunity to strengthen international connections and celebrate cultural ties, reflecting the spirit of global collaboration and engagement.



World Trade Center Mumbai was proud to partner as the Co-Presenter for the Express Awards for Women Entrepreneurs, an initiative by The Financial Express and FICCI FLO, in association with Gravitus Foundation.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director-Trade and Investment Promotions, met with Mr. Jorge de Lucas Cadenas, Consul General of Consulate General of Spain in Mumbai, to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation, trade and cultural ties between India and Spain. A meaningful engagement towards deeper global collaboration.



Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, World Trade Center Mumbai, Sudha Dev Varma during a warm interaction, Ms. Sangeeta Kalantri, Senior Director - AIAI and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, WTC Mumbai.



World Trade Center Mumbai extends its heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Ashwini Bhide on becoming Mumbai's first woman Municipal Commissioner of BMC.



World Trade Center Mumbai hosted a strategic meeting with the Consulate General of the Czech Republic to strengthen bilateral trade, collaboration, and investment opportunities. Mrs Kateřina Vovková (Consul General), Mr. Petr Buchtyar (Director of CzechTrade Office Mumbai), Maroš Martin GUOTH - Head of Economic and Trade Section.



A privilege to join the Consulate-General of Japan in Mumbai to celebrate the 66th Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, an evening of diplomacy and friendship.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai, met Ritu Tawde, Hon'ble Mayor of Mumbai, for a constructive interaction focused on urban development, economic growth, and strengthening Mumbai's position as a global business hub.



World Trade Center Mumbai marked its presence at the National Day celebration of Bangladesh, reflecting the strong and growing ties between India and Bangladesh.



Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director - AIAI, Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade & Investment Promotions, World Trade Center Mumbai with Sunetra Ajit Pawar Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra



World Trade Center Mumbai extends birthday wishes to Adv. Rahul Narwekar, Hon'ble Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly.



A vibrant showcase of Japanese culture comes alive once again at the World Trade Center Mumbai! We are delighted to host the Japan Mega Festival IV and support the Indo-Japanese Association in bringing art, cuisine, travel insights, cosplay and more to our global community. WTC Mumbai remains committed to encouraging nations around the world to share their stories and traditions.



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**Mr. Vijay Kalantri**

Chairman, MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai

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