

Over 32 countries and 150 Exhibitors at World Trade Center Mumbai for the 6th World Trade Expo to accelerate global trade

Special Correspondent | IGT

MUMBAI: The 6th World Trade Expo, organised by the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai, opened in Mumbai with a strong call for deeper international cooperation, sustainable trade partnerships, and accelerated economic growth. The two-day event brings together trade missions, diplomats, MSMEs, state agencies and industry leaders from more than 32 countries, making it one of India's most globally diverse trade platforms this year.

Inaugurating the expo, Ms. Pankaja Munde, Maharashtra's Minister for Environment and Climate Change, said the event would play a pivotal role in strengthening India's ties with Africa, Latin America, the ASEAN region, Europe and the United States. She noted that the Expo's cross-border discussions and collaborations would support India's ambition of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and help Maharashtra achieve its USD 1 trillion economic goal by 2027.

"This significant platform for partnership and collaboration will deepen our trade relations and

open new avenues for developing countries," she said.

She added that the Expo would bring together international trade missions, foreign delegates, Indian MSMEs, and government officials to foster technology transfer, joint ventures, and enhanced import-export opportunities from Maharashtra.

Mr. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister for Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, highlighted the government's focus on building a globally competitive workforce. "We expect exports to create meaningful and sustainable partnerships that strengthen knowledge exchange and global trade connectivity," he said. He noted that Maharashtra has several skilling schemes and is keen to collaborate with the private sector to boost entrepreneurship and supply skilled talent to global markets.

Mr. Ameet Satam, Mumbai BJP Chief, emphasised Maharashtra's commitment to attracting investment through streamlined approvals and investor support. "The state has laid out a red carpet for international investors. Mumbai, as India's economic capital, remains the ideal

destination for global business," he said.

The Expo also underscored its focus on MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and start-ups—sectors seen as vital for India's global trade expansion. Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI, said the Expo aims to empower these segments through international collaborations.

"We expect over 6,000 business visitors and more than 5,000 B2B meetings," he said, noting the growing interest from untapped markets such as Africa, CIS nations, Australia and Latin America. Dr. Kalantri stressed the importance of improving connectivity, enhancing communication and settling trade in local currencies to reduce costs and ease business operations.

He added that participating countries at this year's Expo represent significant yet underexplored business opportunities, reflecting strong confidence in India's rising influence in the global economic order.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director of Trade and Investment Promotion, said the World Trade Expo continues to serve as a key hub for diplomatic



Ms. Pankaja Munde, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra inaugurating the 6th World Trade Expo along with (from right to left) Mr. Ameet Satam, Mumbai BJP Chief; Mr. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department, Government of Maharashtra; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade Promotion and Investment; Governor Gustavo Adolfo Valdés, Governor of Corrientes, Argentina; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center, Mumbai; Mr. John Nickel, Head of Political and Bilateral Affairs, Counsel General of Belarus in Mumbai; Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou.

and business engagement. "This edition reinforces WTC Mumbai's mandate as a nexus for global partnerships, knowledge exchange and sustainable business growth," she said.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Captain Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman of MVIRDC World Trade Centre. Mr. Sharad

Upasane, Vice Chairman of MVIRDC WTC, and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director of AIAI, felicitated participating delegates and exhibitors.

The Expo continues to position Mumbai as a gateway for global trade, reaffirming India's growing presence in international economic leadership.



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Pankaja Munde, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra while inaugurating the 6th World Trade Expo organised by the All India Association of Industries (AII) and MVRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai said, "I am confident that the 6th Word Trade Expo will promote India trade relations and closeness with African continent, Latin America, ASEAN Countries, Europe and USA and shall also lay more thrust on developing countries.

This significant platform for cross border partnership and collaboration where more than 32 countries and 150 participants, participants including the State Governments will enable us to achieve 5 trillion economy the vision of our Hon'ble Prime Minister and 1 trillion economy goal set by our Hon'ble



Pankaja Munde, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Maharashtra inaugurating the 6th World Trade Expo

Chief Minister of Maharashtra by 2027". Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Department, Government of Maharashtra said, "We are expecting that exports shall create a successful conducive, meaningful and sustainable partnership for exchange of

knowledge, global trade connectivity and resilience. We have various schemes to promote skilling and the Government is keen to partner with private organisation in promoting skill entrepreneurship to meet the needs of the growing economy which will help us to export our skilled manpower.

Ameet Satam, Mumbai BJP Chief, speaking on the occasion said, "Maharashtra has laid a red carpet to the investors from various countries and single window clearance and all possible support to the investors and existing industries over here for better growth, employment and exports". Mr Satam further said that

Mumbai being the economic and commercial capital of India is the right destination for doing business.

Dr Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Centre, Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AII) said on the occasion, "The expo is organised to empower MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and start up to globally access and collaborate with businesses across the world.

We expect over 6000 business visitors from India and Overseas along with 5000 plus B2B meetings.

We are specially looking at the untapped markets such as the African continent, CIS countries, Australia, Latin America and other countries which have an enormous business potential. We need to improve connectivity, communication and settle our trade transactions in local currency to reduce the cost of doing business".