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MVIRDC

M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research and Development Centre

Celebrating



years

Connecting business globally! Prosperity through business and trade.

THE ARCADE



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.

It is a pleasure to present the April–June 2025 issue of ON TRADE, a magazine that offers in-depth perspectives on trade and investment, featuring key events, expert insights, and dialogues with members of the diplomatic corps, trade, and industry leaders.

This quarter, WTC Mumbai strengthened global ties through meetings with delegations from Chile, Australia, Uzbekistan, Invest Hong Kong, and the Ambassadors of Iceland and Portugal, reinforcing its role in promoting trade and investment.

WTC Mumbai hosted a luncheon with ASEAN consular representatives to discuss the upcoming ASEAN-India Conclave and Global Economic Summit, focusing on trade and sectoral collaboration, especially involving MSMEs and startups. An MoU was also signed with IFBEC to promote India's fashion and innovation sectors globally.

Continuing this momentum, our colleagues from WTC Mumbai and WTC Bhubaneswar represented India at the 55th WTCA Global Business Forum in Marseille, France. The Forum provided a platform for global dialogue on trade and innovation, where WTC Bhubaneswar showcased India's growing role in international commerce.

Following the Forum, both Centers travelled to Geneva for a series of high-level consultations with key international trade institutions. At the United Nations, our teams engaged with UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC) and Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), exploring collaboration on inclusive trade, digital innovation, and investment promotion.

It was a pleasure to exchange ideas with Mr. Escipion Joaquin Oliveira Gomez, Director of Country Programs at the International Trade Centre. Our conversation reaffirmed a shared focus on inclusive trade, innovation, investment promotion and supporting MSMEs, which continue to be key priorities for WTC Mumbai.

Additionally, discussions with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) opened avenues for a co-branded seminars on Intellectual Property (IP) for startups and exporters, particularly in Mumbai and Maharashtra's industrial belts. The focus was on demystifying IP for grassroots innovators and building awareness and capacity.

WTC remains committed to empowering youth by bridging aspirations with opportunities. This quarter saw the launch of the MY Bharat portal with AIAI, the Career Counselling Fair 2025 in Mumbai, and an export preparedness session by WTC Goa, attended by Hon'ble CM Dr. Pramod Sawant.

June 26 marks a momentous milestone as MVIRDC WTC Mumbai celebrates 55 glorious years since its establishment in 1970 as a not-for-profit under the Companies Act 1956. To commemorate this occasion, we will soon launch the WTC Mumbai Coffee Table Book 2025, capturing our journey and role as a catalyst in India's trade development.

WTC Mumbai stays committed to fostering trade through dialogue and cooperation and I thank our affiliates for their continued support and look forward to stronger collaborations ahead.



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03 From the Chairman's Desk

06 Cover Story

Fostering Strategic Collaboration in the Asia-Pacific for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth



In Conversation

10 Belarus Calls India a Strategic Ally in the Heart of Europe



Viewpoint

14 GIGST Refund Restored: Gujarat High Court's Landmark Verdict Paves the Way for Exporters Under Advance Authorisation and EPCG

16 **WTO Focus**
Global Growth at Risk Amid Rising Trade Protectionism

17 **ASEAN Desk**
Asia-Pacific Offers a Strategic Hedge To ASEAN Nations

41 **WTC Mumbai - Outreach Programmes**

61 **WTC Bhubaneswar: Dr. Rina Routray**

76 **WTC Mumbai - World Trade Institute**

79 **M. Visvesvaraya Center of Excellence**

81 **Exhibitions and Events**

84 **WTC Highlights**

Events

Trade Promotion Activities

19

▼ WTC MUMBAI



44

▼ WTC BHUBANESWAR



63

▼ WTC GOA



69

▼ WTC JAIPUR



Fostering Strategic Collaboration in the Asia-Pacific for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

The Asia-Pacific region, stretching from the shores of East Asia to the Pacific Islands and the economies of South Asia, has, over the years, emerged as a key epicenter of global growth and trade. According to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), the region comprises 53 countries, including some of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, such as China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Australia. These countries are spread across six major geographical subregions: Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Western Asia.

The region plays a vital role in international trade, investment flows, and technological innovation. As the world prepares for an economic transformation focused on sustainability and climate-adaptive technologies, the role of this region as a critical enabler of the transition has become increasingly important.

The below map showcases the Asia-Pacific countries in the shaded area as per the UN ESCAP Economic snapshot

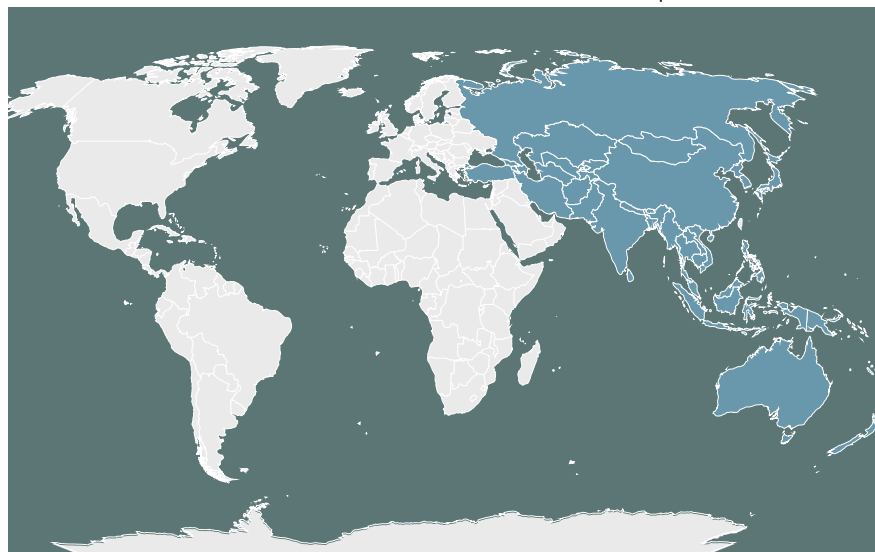
Economic snapshot

The Asia-Pacific region is one of the most dynamic and diverse regions of the world, home to approximately 4.7

As the world prepares for an economic transformation focused on sustainability and climate-adaptive technologies, the role of this region as a critical enabler of the transition has become increasingly important.

billion people, which represents close to 58% of the global population. It is also a major center of economic activity, generating a combined GDP of USD 38 trillion accounting for 35% of the global output. Though there remains significant imbalance in how population and economic output are distributed across the region, highlighting varying levels of development.

South Asia, which includes populous countries such as India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, holds the largest share of the region's population at 42%. However, its contribution to the region's GDP is only 12%. In comparison, East Asia, which includes major economies like China, Japan, and South Korea, accounts for 34% of the population but contributes a dominant 62% of the regional GDP. This contrast reflects the uneven pace of economic development and industrialization within the Asia-Pacific landscape.



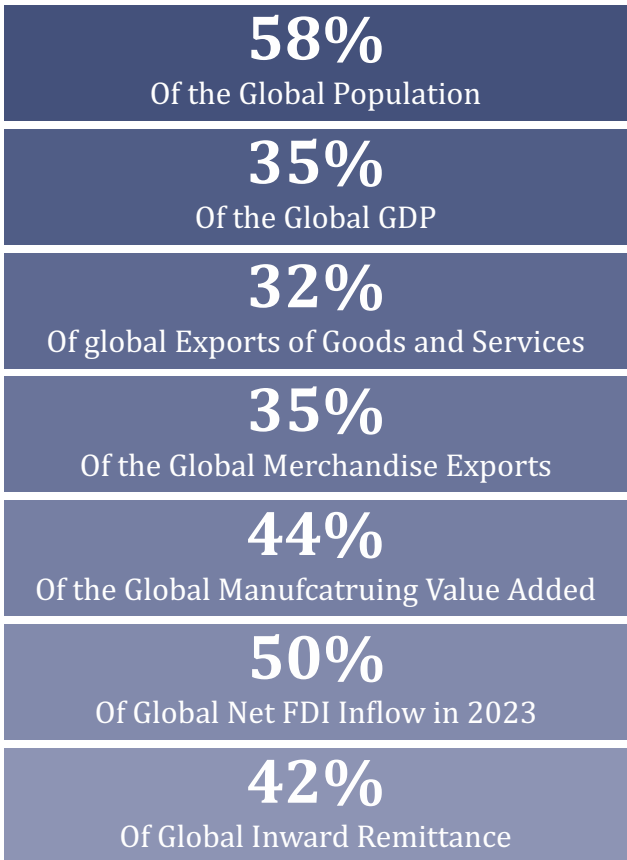
The region is also a critical hub for global trade. In 2023, it contributed around 32% of the world's total exports of goods and services, reaching a value of approximately USD 10 trillion. Often, referred to as the "factory of the world," the Asia-Pacific region plays a pivotal role in global manufacturing and supply chains. Its share of global merchandise exports reached 35.36% in 2023, an increase from 34% in 2014, demonstrating sustained growth and resilience. The region accounted for 44% of the

East Asia, which includes major economies like China, Japan, and South Korea, accounts for 34% of the population but contributes a dominant 62% of the regional GDP.

global manufacturing value added in the year 2023 and attracted about half of the global net FDI inflow with total FDI inflow at USD 411 billion out of the USD 820.4 billion.

The region serves as a key provider of skilled labour to the global economy. In 2023, It accounted for 42% of global inward remittances, highlighting the region's vast and talented labour pool. This labor mobility not only provides support to the domestic economies in the region, but also contribute to the global growth.¹

Economic Snapshot of the Asia Pacific Region



Epicenter of Digital Revolution

The Asia-Pacific region has firmly established itself as the center of the global digital revolution. This transformation is driven by its youthful and tech-savvy population, along with widespread penetration of smartphones and internet in the region enabling rapid adoption of emerging technologies. Countries such as China, India, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore have become leading digital powerhouses, setting the pace in areas like artificial intelligence, e-commerce, financial technology, and telecommunications.

The region's digital momentum has also encouraged deeper cross-border cooperation. Nations within the region are increasingly partnering to strengthen cybersecurity frameworks, expand digital trade networks to address digital divides, creating a more inclusive and secure digital environment.

Along with the digital innovations, Asia-Pacific plays a foundational role in the global digital supply chain. Asia-Pacific is the leading manufacturing base for critical components in the electronics sector. In 2023, it

Asia-Pacific is the leading manufacturing base for critical components in the electronics sector.

accounted for over 80% of the world's semiconductor exports,² and in 2022, contributed more than half of all high-tech exports. The region also provides essential human capital, accounting for 28% of global ICT service exports, underscoring its importance not just in hardware but also in knowledge-based digital services.³

As the digital economy becomes central to global competitiveness, the Asia-Pacific's role remains pivotal in shaping the future of technology, innovation, and inclusive digital growth.

Sustainability and Climate-conscious growth

Asia-Pacific region plays a critical role in driving

¹ Data Source – World Bank Open Data

² Data Source- ITC Trade Map – HS Code 8541

³ Data Source – World Bank Open Data

By aligning economic ambitions with environmental responsibility, the region can serve as a model for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth in the face of climate change.

sustainable and climate-friendly growth, given its vast population, diverse economies, and significant share of global emissions and resource consumption. According to the UNESCAP, the Asia-Pacific region accounts for 52.2% of global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions as of 2023. This significant share is primarily due to the region's heavy reliance on fossil fuels, particularly coal, which comprises 56% of electricity generation. As home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, including China, India, and Southeast Asian nations, the region faces the dual challenge of maintaining economic growth while mitigating environmental impact.

Governments across the Asia-Pacific are increasingly adopting green development strategies, investing in renewable energy, sustainable urban planning, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Countries like China and India are leading in solar and wind power capacity installations with the Asia-Pacific region collectively accounting for 57% of total renewable energy installed capacity.⁴

Regional cooperation is also gaining momentum through initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network and cross-border investments in green technology and sustainable transport. These efforts are critical in addressing transboundary environmental issues such as air pollution, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss.

As a global manufacturing and consumption hub, the Asia-Pacific region holds immense potential to shape the transition toward a greener global economy. By aligning economic ambitions with environmental responsibility, the region can serve as a model for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth in the face of climate change.

⁴Data Source – IMF Climate Dashboards

Challenges and Opportunities

Asia-Pacific region, despite its robust economic and technological growth, faces several significant challenges that could impact its long-term prospects and regional stability. Geopolitical tensions, particularly among major economies, create uncertainty and hinder regional cooperation. The region is also highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with frequent natural disasters like typhoons, floods, and earthquakes disrupting economies and threatening lives.

However, this vulnerability also presents opportunities for collaboration in areas like disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and sustainable development. Countries in the region can share knowledge, technologies, and resources to build more resilient infrastructure, improve early warning systems, and strengthen disaster response strategies. Collaboration in renewable energy and climate adaptation can also lead to innovation and shared growth.

Countries in the region can share knowledge, technologies, and resources to build more resilient infrastructure, improve early warning systems, and strengthen disaster response strategies.

Economic disparities between developed and developing nations, combined with differences in resources and population growth, create further challenges. For instance, while East Asian nations face the issue of aging and shrinking populations, South Asia has a rapidly growing population but remains less developed. This disparity presents an opportunity for complementary relationships, where more industrialized nations can support emerging economies.

Rapid urbanization places immense pressure on infrastructure, leading to traffic congestion, pollution, and inadequate public services. However, countries like Japan and South Korea, with advanced infrastructure, could assist other nations in building resilient systems.

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geopolitical tensions• Vulnerable to Climate Change• Economic Inequalities• Underdeveloped Infrastructure• Resource Disparities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Conflict Resolution Mechanism• Green Energy Transition Framework• Regional Climate Resilience Fund and Action Plan• Collaborative Digital Infrastructure• Regional Value Chain Integration

The digital divide remains a key concern, limiting equal opportunities for education and economic participation. Countries like India and China, leaders in digital technology, could help bridge this gap. Addressing these challenges through coordinated regional efforts and strong governance could unlock a prosperous and stable future for the Asia-Pacific.

While East Asian nations face the issue of aging and shrinking populations, South Asia has a rapidly growing population but remains less developed.

The 10th Global Economic Summit on Asia-Pacific Driving the Global Market

Recognizing the immense potential for collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region and its pivotal role in shaping the sustainable transformation of the global economy, WTC Mumbai will host the 10th edition of its annual flagship event, the Global Economic Summit, from August 20 to 22, 2025. Centered on the theme ‘Asia-Pacific Driving Global Market’, the Summit will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, trade experts, and entrepreneurs to explore emerging opportunities across trade, investment, and tourism in this diverse and rapidly advancing region.

The Summit will serve as a catalyst for strategic partnerships among businesses, MSMEs, startups, and women entrepreneurs, encouraging knowledge



exchange, capacity-building, and cross-border collaboration. Special focus will be given to leveraging digital transformation, sustainability & green innovation, and critical emerging technologies to foster sustainable and inclusive growth in the region.

The Summit will feature Inaugural Session, Keynote address, Conference, B2B meetings, and exhibitions facilitating networking and showcasing regional innovations and best practices. It aims to chart a forward-looking roadmap that channels collective strengths in building resilient supply chains, sustainable infrastructure, and inclusive economic ecosystems for the region as well as for the world.

By fostering open dialogue and collaborative action, the Global Economic Summit aspires to position the Asia-Pacific region not only as a growth engine but also as a global leader in advancing a resilient, equitable, and sustainable economic future.



Belarus Calls India a Strategic Ally in the Heart of Europe



Mr. Alexander Matsukou

Consul General of the
Republic of Belarus

India and Belarus have enjoyed cordial economic relations for several decades, reinforced by numerous agreements to enhance cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, quality standards, sports, skill development, and more. Could you share insights on the evolving commercial partnership across various sectors for the benefit of our business members?

Belarus and India cooperate in numerous fields of international trade which is stipulated by many bilateral agreements. For decades Belarus has exported potash fertilizers, trucks, wood cellulose, hydrazine, hydroxylamine, fiber-glass, monofilament, plait of synthetic threads, construction details from plastics, cord materials and many more to India. In return, India has supplied Belarus with retail and non-retail pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, seafood, heterocyclic compounds

In a conversation marked by warmth and vision, **Mr. Alexander Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai**, reflects on the enduring friendship and expanding cooperation between Belarus and India. From thriving trade and educational exchanges to cultural diplomacy and innovation-driven partnerships, both nations are working closely to build a more interconnected future. With direct connectivity, shared values, and mutual respect at the core, this dialogue reaffirms the commitment to deeper bilateral ties in the years to come.

“**Belarus would also like to foster cultural cooperation with India, especially in cinema, education and tourism.**”

containing nitrogen atoms, shoe uppers, organic colouring matter, parts and accessories for cars and tractors, coffee, tea (natural and its essences and concentrates), peanuts, etc.

Unfortunately, Western economic sanctions imposed on Belarus in certain domains – which contradicts the UN Charter and International Law – have hindered the full realization of our trade potential with India. However, thanks to the measures we’ve taken, we are beginning to see positive outcomes.

On the other hand, I believe there is a reason to be, in a way, proud of these sanctions. They indicate that the countries imposing them recognize the quality of Belarusian goods and services and view us as a serious competitor in global markets. Unfortunately, instead of engaging in fair competition, some have chosen to use non-competitive measures.

To sustain the relations with Indian partners Belarusian companies

have visited India for participation in numerous expos as well as for holding business talks and negotiations. Belarus is also witnessing a growing demand for Indian manpower with an increasing number of visas issued to Indians for work and other purposes. Since 2020, the inflow of Indian visitors has tripled, although it has not yet returned to pre-COVID levels seen in 2019.

Since August 2022 we have been enjoying the direct flights connecting Minsk and Delhi on a regular basis. Both countries are looking forward to enhancing regional collaboration.

Other than this, Belarus would also like to foster cultural cooperation with India, especially in cinema, education and tourism. In 2024, National cinema studio “Belarusfilm” participated in Mumbai Indian Film Festival (June) and International Film Festival of India (November) bringing to Indian audience a piece of Belarusian culture with its films. At IFFI, the Belarusian film ‘The Dark

Castle' was showcased during the Gala Premiere under the 'From the Consulates – 2024' category. The film received an exceptionally warm response, met with enthusiastic applause and keen interest from the Indian public.

With Indian students primarily pursuing medical studies in various Belarusian universities, how can both countries further strengthen their collaboration in education, as well as science and technology?

Belarus possesses a wide network of higher and medium professional educational establishments. Traditionally, medicine remains the most popular field among young Indians and there are well founded grounds for that.

“Belarus and India cooperate in numerous fields of international trade, which is stipulated by many bilateral agreements.”

The education is offered both in Russian and in English. But I believe, education in Russian brings much more benefits and opportunities. It not only allows students to learn one more language but also gives a first-hand experience of living abroad and learning the culture and traditions of the hosting country.

Indian students in Belarus are much higher than commonly cited figures and are engaged mostly in medical and technical studies. Besides, the recent trend is that more and more Indian students travel to Belarus to participate in linguistic trainings particularly to study Russian. The

“Despite sanctions, we are beginning to see positive outcomes. There is even a reason to be proud of these sanctions—they confirm the competitiveness of Belarusian goods on the global stage.”

reason for this being the strengthening economic ties between the countries which brings to life the demand for the language training and for better communications.

We hope to welcome more young Indians to Belarus for studies and academic exchanges. It is equally important that universities, faculties, and students from both countries engage in mutual exchanges, benefitting from one another's expertise, perspectives, and academic offerings.

For instance, as a part of these efforts, in 2024-25 we organized and held three teleconferences “Minsk-Mumbai”, in cooperation with the Lyceum of the Belarusian State University, on the subject “Culture Unites Us”. In November, in one of the conferences a variety of topics were discussed like “Ancient Belarusian architecture” (in comparison with India), “Traditional festivals of Belarus” (in comparison with India), “Parallel poetry of Belarus and India”, “Objects of intangible heritage of UNESCO in Belarus and India”, “Development of agro- and ecotourism in Belarus and India”, “Traditional Belarusian costume” (in comparison with India), “Similarities between Marathi and Russian language”, “Neuroscience and cognitive intelligence”. The participants were also shown an Indian documentary film “Wari – Spirit of Management”. During the four hours of interaction, the participants were speaking 5

languages: Marathi, Hindi, Belarusian, Russian, English.

India and Belarus held their first-ever Consular Dialogue last year, with a strong emphasis on strengthening people-to-people ties. Could you share the progress made so far on the key outcomes of this dialogue?

Well-developed infrastructure has encouraged and facilitated trips and travelling between the two nations which has prompted the authorities for the Consular Dialogue, or, as we call it, interministerial consultations between the countries on consular affairs. It was the first time ever when the two sides gathered together at the table to discuss consular concerns of mutual interest.

It is a shared objective of both governments to encourage and facilitate greater people-to-people movement. However, with the rise in travel, we must also acknowledge the parallel increase in challenges—ranging from minor offenses to more serious issues such as irregular migration and human trafficking, often orchestrated by illicit networks.

Consular consultations provide an effective platform to address such sensitive matters. These dialogues typically focus on measures to promote safe and positive migration, mitigate associated risks, ensure the protection of citizens' rights on both sides, and foster the



“ **Belarus is witnessing a growing demand for Indian manpower, with the number of work and other visas issued to Indians increasing significantly since 2020.** ”

exchange of statistics and best practices. They offer a constructive and pragmatic approach to resolving concerns that affect our compatriots abroad.

During the consultations held in Minsk, both sides were driven by the classical approaches. They have appreciated the functionality of the direct flights between New Delhi and Minsk, the growth of mutual travels, exchanged the views on visa processes and practices and discussed how to counteract illegal migration along with other items on the agenda. Both nations also agreed to look into ways to increase

travel between them. The session was held in a very friendly and constructive manner.

We sincerely hope the practice of holding Consular Dialogue sessions between Belarus and India will continue on a regular basis. As part of our broader outreach, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all readers and tourism agencies to explore what Belarus has to offer. We warmly welcome our Indian friends to visit and experience the beauty, culture, and hospitality of our country.

According to media reports, both countries are collaborating on joint pharmaceutical production at the Dr. Yusuf Hamied Scientific and Practical Centre in Minsk. Could you elaborate on the growing partnership in the pharmaceutical sector?

Pharmaceuticals play a significant role in the wellbeing of an individual's life and is an important part of any country's social security. Indian pharma is known widely in the world due to its outstanding quality and affordable prices. In Belarus we

“ **It is my personal belief that people-to-people connections are the true driving force behind meaningful engagement.** ”

appreciate the benefits of Indian pharmaceuticals and welcome opportunities for collaboration with Indian pharma companies.

One such project is a joint innovative production of pharmaceuticals at the Yusuf Hamied Pharma R&D Center. Belarusian company has already completed construction of an industrial building of 33 000 sq.m. Apart from that experimental industrial equipment from India was delivered to Belarus for the same.

This is one of the positive examples of cooperation between the countries in pharma. Hopefully, many more will follow.

It is observed that India has emerged as an increasingly attractive destination for Belarusian tourists in recent times. Could you share your strategy for strengthening bilateral ties through tourism and cultural exchange?

Let's be frank, any diplomatic or

“ Belarus remains largely undiscovered by Indian travelers, but we are seeing a growing interest from Indian tourists and agencies.”

consular mission is, to a large extent, established to promote the interests of its country, including its culture and tourism. In India, our mission is actively working to raise awareness and appreciation of Belarus. Likewise, the Indian Embassy in Belarus plays a similar role in encouraging tourism to India.

This is how it works. The two sides create a two-way road of exchange which is essential to strengthen bilateral ties. It is my personal belief that people-to-people connections are the true driving force behind meaningful engagement. It is this human chemistry that makes things happen. Apart from that, knowledge of the country, its society, style of living are also essential to understand one another.

Belarusian tourists very often prefer to pass the time on the beautiful shiny beaches. Sometimes they need yoga practices, sometimes spiritual practices. That's why they choose to travel to India.

For Indian tourists Belarus is now “terra incognita” – unknown land. Many have traveled extensively across the European Union and visited Russia multiple times. Belarus lies between these regions, absorbing the best of both worlds. And yet, it remains largely undiscovered by Indian travelers.

In our day-to-day activities, we continue to witness a growing interest from Indian tourists and travel agencies in exploring Belarus. This gives us hope that Belarus will

soon become a sought-after destination for Indian travelers, just as India has long held a special place in the hearts of Belarusians.

How does Belarus plan to contribute to India's flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Smart Cities, and the country's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047?

In recent decades, India has become as attractive for investments as never before. The initiatives like “Make in India” and “Smart Cities” are aimed to enhance the economic attractiveness with growth to the “Viksit Bharat 2047” as a desired result.

I am sure, given the size and diversity of India, it is capable to embed any initiatives and projects of any nation.

Belarusian IT companies would gladly participate in those projects. In fact, many are actively exploring opportunities to collaborate with their Indian counterparts, particularly in research and development. Belarus has technological expertise across various sectors—from retail to the nuclear industry—that could be of great value to Indian businesses.

Industrial companies are seeking to export best practices and goods to India with subsequent development of cooperation with Indian business in various forms such as joint ventures, technologies transfer and more. At the same time, Indian companies are looking for

the opportunities to expand its businesses far beyond country's borders and we believe Belarus offers a strategic and reliable platform for such expansion, paving the way for mutually beneficial partnerships.

What message would you like to convey to Indian investors and small businesses seeking opportunities in the Belarusian market?

In Belarus we have created necessary preconditions to attract investors and to protect their rights and funds.

Geographically, Belarus is situated in the very centre of Europe. The country has very attractive logistical infrastructure which is well connected to the free and special economic zones making it ideal for long lasting cooperation for investors.

We offer a wide range of attractive incentives to Indian and other foreign investors, including benefits that extend over several years—even decades. The investment process is supported by minimal bureaucratic barriers, streamlined administrative procedures, and ongoing digitalization of business registration and licensing systems. These measures have significantly enhanced the ease of setting up manufacturing and industrial operations in the country.

Hospitable attitude of Belarusians and welcoming atmosphere will make your Belarusian experience unforgettable!

Welcome to Belarus! Your presence is always awaited and appreciated!

■

IGST Refund Restored: Gujarat High Court's Landmark Verdict Paves the Way for Exporters Under Advance Authorisation and EPCG



Mr. Abhishek A Rastogi

Advocate, CA,
Tax and Constitutional Expert,
Founder, Rastogi Chambers

In a game-changing and long-anticipated judgment, the Gujarat High Court has turned the tide for Indian exporters by quashing pending proceedings under the now-omitted Rule 96(10) of the CGST Rules. The Court's verdict in *Cosmo Films Ltd. vs. Union of India* is nothing short of a breath of fresh air for exporters operating under Advance Authorisation and EPCG schemes who were denied IGST refunds for years.

This landmark ruling comes after years of wrangling, where exporters found themselves caught between the proverbial devil and the deep blue sea, struggling to comply with contradictory provisions while facing delayed refunds, blocked capital, and an overzealous enforcement mechanism.

The Root of the Problem: Rule 96(10)

Rule 96(10), though framed with the intention of curbing double benefits, became a blunt instrument in the hands of tax authorities. It disqualified exporters from claiming IGST refunds if they availed exemptions like Advance Authorisation or EPCG, regardless of whether any actual undue benefit was claimed.

This resulted in thousands of exporters being painted with the same brush, and IGST refunds were denied en masse. What followed was a barrage of show cause notices, adjudication orders, and prolonged litigation, crippling working capital for businesses and shaking confidence in the GST refund mechanism.

The Twist in the Tale: Rule Omitted

In a surprising but welcome twist, the Central Government issued Notification No. 20/2024-Central Tax on 8th October 2024, formally deleting Rule 96(10) from the

statute book. This move acknowledged, perhaps tacitly, that the rule had outlived its purpose and had become more of a legal obstacle than a protective shield.

This deletion provided the perfect opening in the *Cosmo Films* litigation, allowing us to argue that any adjudication or show cause notice based solely on this deleted rule stood on shaky ground.

“This landmark ruling comes after years of wrangling, where exporters found themselves caught between the proverbial devil and the deep blue sea.”

The Court's Approach: Fair and Far-Sighted

The Gujarat High Court adopted a



balanced and judicious approach. Instead of getting entangled in the complex web of constitutional arguments, the Court chose a straight-shooting path, focusing on the effect of the deletion.

It held that although the notification was prospective in form, it would apply to all pending proceedings, thereby rendering them dead in the water. This meant:

- Show cause notices under Rule 96(10) were quashed.
- Ongoing adjudication or appeals based on the rule could not continue.
- Exporters became eligible to claim long-denied IGST refunds.

The Court rejected the notion that authorities could clutch at straws by proceeding with cases on the basis

orders-in-original, or appeals, are rendered null and void.

3. Pre-deposits Recoverable with Interest: Exporters who had deposited funds under protest or during appeals can now seek refunds with interest, as the legal basis for such adjudication has vanished.

This ruling is a shot in the arm for India's export ecosystem. It not only unlocks crucial liquidity but also restores confidence in the legal process.

Beyond Gujarat: Echoes Across the Nation

Though the ruling originates from Gujarat, its legal ripple effect will be felt across the country. It is a strong persuasive precedent that exporters and professionals in other states

“ This ruling is a shot in the arm for India's export ecosystem. It not only unlocks crucial liquidity but also restores confidence in the legal process.”

of a deleted rule. It offered a textbook example of how judicial interpretation can uphold legislative clarity and administrative fairness without straying from the letter of the law.

Windfall for Exporters: What It Means on the Ground

1. IGST Refunds Released: Exporters previously ineligible under Rule 96(10) can now breathe easy and file for long-pending refunds.
2. Adjudications Dismissed: All pending proceedings under this rule, be they show cause notices,

must leverage.

Adjudicating authorities nationwide would do well to take judicial notice and refrain from pursuing proceedings that now hold no water. Courts outside Gujarat will likely adopt a similar stance to ensure consistency and prevent multiplicity of litigation.

The Road Ahead: Don't Let the Grass Grow Under Your Feet

The Revenue is expected to challenge the ruling before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, likely accompanied by a request for a stay. Exporters must not rest on their laurels.

“ The Gujarat High Court's ruling is a watershed moment in GST litigation. It reaffirms the idea that tax laws, while strict in enforcement, must not turn into traps for the compliant.”

Immediate steps should include:

- Filing refund claims for IGST and pre-deposits at the earliest, before any stay is granted.
- Seeking statutory interest on delayed refunds under Section 56 of the CGST Act.
- Filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court to challenge the constitutional validity of Rule 96(10), ensuring that the issue is put to bed once and for all.

Conclusion: A Win Rooted in Logic and Fairness

The Gujarat High Court's ruling is a watershed moment in GST litigation. It reaffirms the idea that tax laws, while strict in enforcement, must not turn into traps for the compliant. Exporters can now focus on their core business instead of being dragged into endless procedural tangles.

As someone who had the privilege of leading the arguments in this case, I view this decision as a symbol of judicial pragmatism, a ruling that upholds both the letter and spirit of India's tax laws.

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Global Growth at Risk Amid Rising Trade Protectionism

The World Trade Organization's April 2025 Global Trade Outlook reflects a significant deterioration in the global trade environment, driven by escalating protectionist measures and increasing uncertainty surrounding trade policies.

The publication estimates that global trade volume will decline by 0.2% in 2025, a substantial downward revision from the 3% growth forecast published in the October 2024 edition. This negative adjustment is primarily due to the resurgence of tariffs and heightened trade policy uncertainty. A key contributor to this contraction is the proposed imposition of reciprocal tariffs by the United States, which alone may further reduce global trade by 0.6%. These tariffs are expected to disproportionately affect emerging economies, which often rely heavily on exports to developed markets. If trade policy uncertainty becomes more widespread and prompts more countries to adopt protectionist policies, the publication estimates an additional 0.8% decline in global trade growth.

Regional Impact

The impact of these developments varies substantially by region. North America is now projected to subtract 1.7 percentage points from global merchandise trade growth in 2025, turning the overall global trade figure negative. Asia and Europe continue to contribute positively, but their roles are significantly diminished. Asia's contribution is expected to decline to just 0.6 percentage points. Other regions maintain modest positive contributions, although at reduced levels.

US China Shift

One of the most notable developments in the trade landscape is the reconfiguration of trade flows between the United States and China. As tariffs suppress direct trade between the two economies, Chinese exports are expected to be redirected to other regions. Chinese merchandise exports to all markets outside North America are expected to rise by 4 to 9%. While this shift may create export opportunities for some economies, it also presents a major concern for import-sensitive countries such as India.

India faces the risk of its domestic market being flooded with redirected Chinese goods, which may be priced below fair market value. This makes India's domestic industries, such as textiles and apparel, electrical and electronic equipment, steel, plastics, and related products, highly vulnerable to dumping by Chinese companies. India must therefore strengthen its anti-dumping mechanisms and adopt timely, evidence-based measures.

Services Slowdown

Although services trade is not directly affected by tariffs, it is indirectly impacted through declining merchandise trade volumes and a broader climate of economic uncertainty. Services linked to physical trade, including transport and logistics, are experiencing reduced demand. Meanwhile, uncertainty is suppressing discretionary spending in sectors such as travel and delaying investment-related services. The World Trade Organization now forecasts global commercial services trade to grow by 4.0% in 2025 and 4.1% in 2026, which is

well below the baseline estimates of 5.1% and 4.8% respectively.

Weaker Growth

In parallel with the downgrading of trade forecasts, global gross domestic product at market exchange rates is now projected to grow by only 2.2% in 2025, down from earlier estimates of 3.0%. A modest recovery to 2.4% is expected in 2026. Tariff-induced economic losses are expected to be most severe in North America, where output could decline by 1.6 percentage points. Asia is projected to experience a reduction of 0.4 percentage points, and Latin America and the Caribbean by 0.2 percentage points. While the direct effect of reciprocal tariffs on global gross domestic product is limited, the indirect effect of persistent trade policy uncertainty may amplify the total output loss to 1.3 percentage points relative to the baseline scenario.

India's Response

The World Trade Organization's April 2025 Outlook is a clear indication of the fragility of the current global trade system, as nationalistic policies and economic uncertainty undermine previous expectations of sustained recovery. For policymakers in emerging economies, and particularly in India, this shift presents both a challenge and an opportunity. While the immediate priority must be to shield domestic industries from the potential dumping of goods from China, India should also seek to identify and develop new export markets, deepen regional trade agreements, and enhance supply chain resilience.

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Asia-Pacific Offers a Strategic Hedge To ASEAN Nations

The growing trend of trade protectionism in developed economies is beginning to reshape the global trade landscape in significant ways. In the United States, these measures are often justified as efforts to correct trade imbalances, while the European Union has introduced initiatives such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to align trade with environmental objectives. As a result, tools such as higher tariffs, import restrictions,

local content requirements, and environmentally driven trade barriers are becoming more common.

These measures challenge the core tenets of globalization that have historically supported economic growth and interconnectedness. Globalization has not only spurred development in emerging markets but has also improved consumer welfare and productivity in developed countries by enabling access to cost-effective goods and services.

These developments pose a substantial challenge for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a regional bloc that has historically prospered through export-driven growth and integration into global supply chains. In 2023, merchandise exports from ASEAN countries totalled USD 1.8 trillion, representing 48.4% of the region's gross domestic product.

Collectively, ASEAN remains a net exporter, with trade surpluses

contributing 2.67% to the region's GDP. However, with high-income markets such as the European Union and the United States accounting for approximately 55 percent of ASEAN's total merchandise exports, the bloc remains highly vulnerable to tightening trade policies and the shifting priorities of these developed economies.

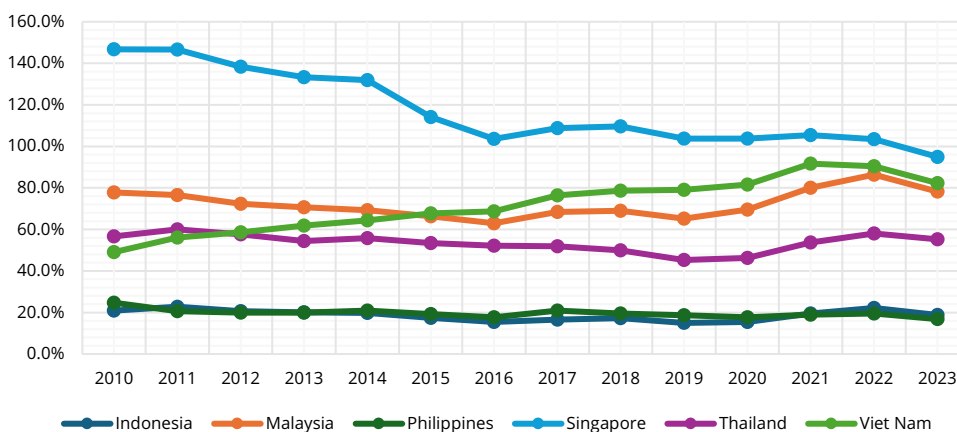
Country-Specific Impacts

Among ASEAN's ten member states, six—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam—are net exporters. Each of these economies faces unique challenges under the evolving global trade regime.

Brunei Darussalam, with 75 percent of its exports stemming from energy, may be relatively insulated from the impact of global trade fragmentation, as its trade is less dependent on industrial goods. On the other hand, countries such as

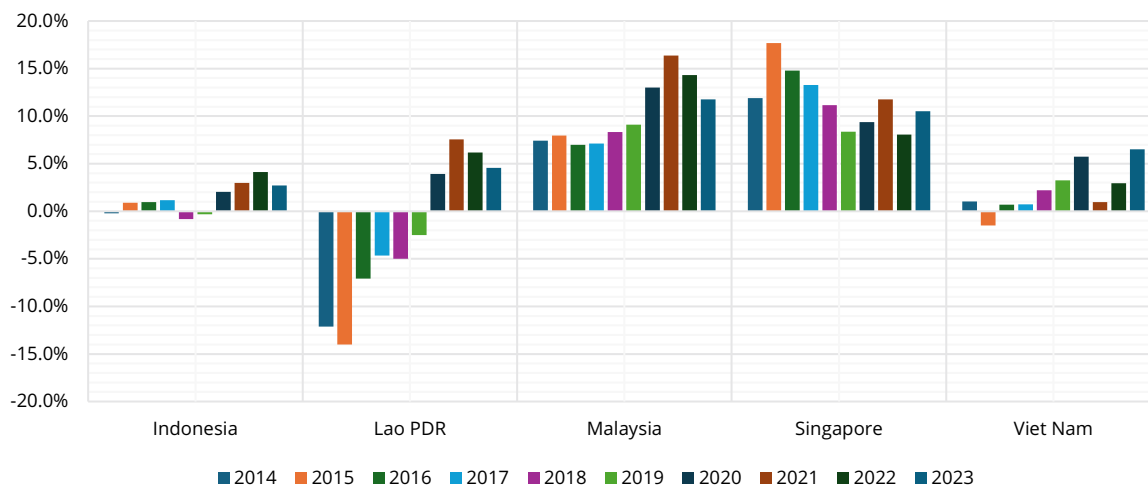
ASEAN can look at deeper economic integration with other dynamic economies in the Asia-Pacific region, including India for greater regional collaboration and diversification.

Merchandise Exports to GDP for Major ASEAN Countries



Source- World Bank, Compiled by MVRDC WTC Mumbai

Contribution of Net Export to the GDP (%) for Select ASEAN Nations



Source- World Bank, Compiled by MVRDC WTC Mumbai

Vietnam, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia are more exposed.

These countries have leveraged their competitive advantages in manufacturing, especially in sectors such as electronics, machinery, textiles, and automotive components, to integrate deeply into global value chains. Their economic models have been closely aligned with the dynamics of free and open global trade.

The erosion of globalization and rise in protectionist measures threaten to undermine these advantages. Vietnam, Singapore, and Malaysia in particular have seen substantial economic gains from their export-oriented development strategies. In 2023, net exports accounted for 11.8% of Malaysia's GDP, 10.5% of Singapore's, and 6.5% of Vietnam's.

These figures illustrate the extent to which trade performance is tied to national economic well-being. The contraction of global trade could lead to job losses, reduced investment, and long-term economic

India offers ASEAN a large and growing market, especially in areas such as digital services, pharmaceuticals, green technologies, and infrastructure development.

instability in these countries unless strategic adjustments are made.

Strategic Opportunities for ASEAN in the Asia-Pacific

In response to these global headwinds, ASEAN must reconsider its long-term economic positioning. Strengthening economic resilience will require greater regional collaboration and diversification. One viable path forward is deeper economic integration with other dynamic economies in the Asia-

Pacific region, including India.

India offers ASEAN a large and growing market, especially in areas such as digital services, pharmaceuticals, green technologies, and infrastructure development. Collaborating with India can help ASEAN reduce its dependence on Western markets and foster more balanced and resilient supply chains.

ASEAN nations may also benefit from greater engagement with regional frameworks such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, which include several key partners from East Asia and the Pacific. These platforms can serve as vehicles to promote shared infrastructure, regulatory cooperation, technology exchange, and capacity building.

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India, Chile aim to conclude CEPA negotiation by end of 2025



(From left to right): Mr. Jorge Loyola Castro, Trade Commissioner to India, ProChile, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), Mr. Kunal Khemnagar, (IAS), Joint Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Mr. Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle.

MIDC invites Chilean investors to participate in Maharashtra's USD 1 trillion economic vision. World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI) organised an interactive meeting with a High-Level Business Delegation from Chile representing EdTech, Biotechnology, Renewable Energy, Start-ups, Manufacturing, Pharmaceuticals, Construction, Mining, Banking & Financial services and IT services.

The delegation was led by **Mr. Jorge Loyola Castro, Trade Commissioner to India, ProChile**. Mr. Castro informed, "Chilean President has visited India with the largest delegation ever led by the present Chilean government to any country. This is the first Chilean Presidential visit to India in 16 years. A key highlight of this visit is the launch of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with India. Both the countries have set an ambitious target of concluding negotiation for this agreement by the end of 2025. We deliver what we promise."

Mr. Castro further informed, "We are keen to strengthen trade relations with India in priority sectors such as agriculture, critical minerals and renewable energy. There is great potential for export of Chilean walnuts, cherries and wines to India. ProChile has signed agreement with the Forum of Indian Food Importers (FIFI) to deepen trade and investment in agriculture sector."

Mr. Castro pointed out that he is visiting Mumbai for the

fifth time in the last eight months of his service in India and he plans to deepen trade and investment between Maharashtra and Chile by facilitating exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and other trade events.

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. Kunal Khemnagar, (IAS), Joint Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC)** invited Chilean companies to participate in Maharashtra's goal of USD 1 trillion economy from the current size of USD 510 billion. "Our mission is to promote industrialization in 10 industrially backward districts. The Gadchiroli Steel City is the success story of our industrialization effort even in Naxal-affected areas. I assure single window clearance and all business support to Chilean companies willing to invest in Maharashtra," he remarked.

Mr. Khemnagar informed, "MIDC has the largest land bank among all the government corporations in India and operates the largest water supply network in Asia. MIDC operates 300 industrial areas across Maharashtra and it has invested in inland container depots, water & electricity network all other support facilities. MIDC is the Special Planning Authority in Integrated Industrial Areas, where Chilean investors can operate economic zones or industrial area. MIDC is developing defence manufacturing clusters in Ratnagiri, Nagpur; food processing clusters in Konkan, electronic clusters in Pune, electric vehicle cluster in Aurangabad. The Steel City in Gadchiroli and the Industrial Smart City AURIC are recent success stories of industrial clusters.



Chilean companies can invest at industrial area 40 km near Dighi Port, which is 2 hours drive from Pune and Mumbai and where more than 6,000 acre land is available.”

Mr. Khemnari informed that the state will soon release New Industrial Policy and it is willing to customize policies related to electronics and other sectors to meet the unique needs of industry. Maharashtra is already a pioneer in Drone policy, IT and aerospace policies, he informed.

Speaking about the advantage of Maharashtra, Mr. Khemnari mentioned, “The state has 54 minor and major airports and the upcoming Vadhvan Port will have 23 million TEU container handling capacity, more than the capacity of all the ports in Eastern coasts of India.”

Earlier in his welcome remarks, **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)** mentioned, “The visit of the Chilean President comes at the most opportune time when India is signing new trade agreements and strategic alliances with different countries. I congratulate both the governments for launching negotiation for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and I hope we can soon conclude this. There is tremendous scope to enhance trade and investment relations in agriculture, mining, R&D, energy and other critical sectors.”

Dr. Kalantri expressed optimism that under the dynamic leadership of the Chilean Trade Commissioner the bilateral trade can double next year from the current level of USD 2.6 billion. He extended all possible support to enhance two-way trade and investment relations in

the coming years. Dr. Kalantri informed, “WTC Mumbai organizes more than 64 trade events annually with special focus on empowering MSMEs, startups and women entrepreneurs. WTC Mumbai organised India-Latin America Conclave some years ago, which received overwhelming response from more than 17 Ambassadors and Consulate offices of all the Latin American countries.”

WTC Mumbai can facilitate exchange of delegations and visits to MIDC industrial areas for Chilean companies to exchange ideas and explore collaboration between businesses of both the countries.

In future, Dr. Kalantri suggested introduction of trade settlement in Chilean Peso and Indian rupee to facilitate two-way trade.



Dr. Kalantri concluded that India and Chile have great potential to strengthen economic partnership at a time when US administration is erecting tariff barrier with its trade partners.

In his remarks, **Mr. Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle** highlighted the recent initiatives of Indian Post such as Dak Niryat Kendra for export facilitation in rural areas. He also informed about other initiatives such as paper-less customs clearance, inhouse customs and truck control checking system for seamless movement of goods.

The event was attended by more than 20 Chilean companies, who engaged in fruitful business to business meetings with around 70 Indian companies to explore trade, investment, technology tie-ups and joint ventures.

The event was held on April 3, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.



WTC Mumbai at the 55th WTCA Global Business Forum: Advancing Trade, Innovation, and Collaboration

World Trade Center Mumbai proudly represented India at the prestigious 55th WTCA Global Business Forum, held in Marseille, France, from April 6–9, 2025. This participation reflected India's growing stature in the spheres of international trade, innovation, and economic diplomacy. Organized under the theme “Gateway to the Mediterranean,” the Forum brought together over 400 high-level delegates from more than 50 countries, including representatives from nearly 120 World Trade Centers. It served as a vital platform for dialogue on global trade, investment, and sustainable development.

The Forum featured strategic discussions on inclusive trade, digital transformation, regional connectivity, and real estate innovation, including the WTCA's first-ever Real Estate Summit. Marseille's strategic location, linking Southern Europe with North Africa and the Middle East—was highlighted as a key enabler for advancing global trade and regional integration.

Further building on this international engagement, WTC Mumbai representatives held strategic consultations in Geneva with prominent multilateral organizations such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Trade Centre (ITC), and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). These high-level dialogues opened new avenues for collaboration in areas such as MSME empowerment, intellectual property awareness, inclusive trade practices, and digital transformation.

These engagements have laid the foundation for a series of impactful initiatives, including knowledge-sharing seminars and capacity-building programs to be organized in Mumbai. These forthcoming efforts aim to equip local businesses with the tools and insights necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex global trade environment.



Adding further depth to the Forum's deliberations, sessions with global institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) addressed evolving trade policies and investment landscapes. The Forum concluded with the announcement of Philadelphia, USA,

as the host city for the 56th edition in 2026 - reaffirming the WTCA's enduring commitment to advancing international trade cooperation and economic connectivity.



WTC Mumbai team met with Mr. Garjee, Indian Consul to Marseille, during their visit to France for the Global Business Forum. The interaction focused on strengthening India-France business ties and exploring new avenues for trade and investment between Maharashtra and Southern France.



WTC Mumbai had the honour of engaging in high-level discussions at the United Nations in Switzerland with key global trade institutions, including UNCTAD's Division on International Trade and Commodities (DITC) and Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE). It was a privilege to exchange insights with Mr. Escipion Joaquin Oliveira Gomez, Director, Country Programs at the International Trade Centre. These dialogues reinforced our shared commitment to inclusive trade, innovation, investment promotion, and empowering MSMEs priorities where WTC Mumbai continues to lead with purpose.



The World Trade Center Mumbai team had the opportunity to meet Mr. Senthil Pandian, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of India to the WTO, at the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva. The discussion focused on strengthening global trade partnerships and India's evolving role at the WTO.

Australian Businesses Advocate for a Comprehensive FTA with India

Leaders from business and government highlight trade potential, call for greater private sector engagement and a comprehensive free trade agreement

World Trade Center Mumbai organised a business networking session for an in-bound delegation from Australia to explore areas of trade, investment, technology opportunities on April 7, 2025. The delegation was led by **Mr. Yann Sinclair, Vice Consul at the Australian Consulate General in Mumbai** and it included **Mr. Raman Bhalla, President of the Sydney Investors, Professionals and Business Network Inc.**, **Ms. Malini Dutt, Trade and Investment Commissioner – India, Investment NSW** and **Ms. Dimple Merchant, Committee Member and Regional Coordinator, ANZ India Business Chamber.**

Speaking on this occasion, **Mr. Sinclair** informed, “India holds immense strategic and economic importance for Australia. The Australian government has recently launched an India-specific strategy titled ‘New Roadmap for Australia’s Economic Engagement with India’, aimed at deepening and broadening its trade and investment relationship with India.”

In the last five years, bilateral trade between India and Australia has more than doubled, rising from USD 10.7 billion in 2020 to USD 22.4 billion in 2024. This month marks the third anniversary of the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Since its implementation, ECTA has emerged as a pivotal catalyst for trade and investment growth. However, there remains immense untapped potential in both trade and investment between our two countries. Both nations may consider expediting the negotiation process for a comprehensive trade agreement to fully unlock the economic potential of this partnership.

Mr. Bhalla highlighted the growing importance of India-Australia relations amidst shifting global trade dynamics. He stated, “Amidst the rising global trade protectionism, India stands out with its trade liberalization policies, including tariff reductions. India, with its vast consumer base, presents tremendous economic opportunities for Australian businesses. To fully leverage this potential, Australia must strategically identify and engage in key sectors such as defence,



(From right to left): Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries with Mr. Raman Bhalla, President, Sydney Investors Professionals and Business Networking Inc (SIPBN)

agribusiness, critical minerals, renewable energy, and food & beverages.”

Ms. Dutt informed, “Since the implementation of ECTA, bilateral trade has witnessed remarkable progress. There is great enthusiasm within the business communities of both countries regarding the strengthening of India-Australia relations. India and Australia are natural allies with strong complementarities. A comprehensive free trade agreement is a vital tool to fully harness these complementarities, and it remains one of our key priorities.”

Ms. Merchant highlighted the importance of the India-Australia-New Zealand partnership in building a progressive Indo-Pacific region.

The event was attended by the WTC Mumbai committee members along with industry leaders, businesses, MSMEs and startups from various sectors

Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Associations of Industries proposed the vote of thanks for the event

The event was held on April 7, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.



WTC Mumbai organizes Luncheon Meeting on Asean-India Conference



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) [8th from left] with Consular corps of ASEAN countries. Also seen in the photograph are: Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director - Operations, WTC Mumbai (4th from left), Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai (5th from left), Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director-Finance Accounts & Admin., WTC Mumbai (left) and members of Council of Management of WTC Mumbai.

World Trade Center Mumbai organised a Luncheon Meeting on Asean-India Conference Initiatives with the consular corps of major ASEAN countries to discuss the proposed ASEAN-India Conclave on April 16, 2025.

The Luncheon meeting was attended by H.E. Mr. Le Quang Bien, Consul-General of Vietnam, H.E. Mr. Ahmad Zuwairi Yusoff, Consul-General of Malaysia, Ms. Siti Nur Nafhatun Awang Tuah, Vice Consul (Trade) & Deputy Trade Commissioner of Malaysia, H.E. Mr. Donnawit Poolsawat, Consul-General of Royal Thai Consulate, Ms. Thitiporn Chuchinnawat, Deputy Consul-General of Royal Thai Consulate and consular officials of other ASEAN countries.

During the meeting, WTC Mumbai invited the trade missions of the ASEAN countries to actively participate in the upcoming ASEAN-India Conclave, which will be held alongside the 10th edition of WTC Mumbai's flagship event Global Economic Summit during August 20-22, 2025 at WTC Mumbai. The Conclave will have keynote address, panel sessions, exhibition and networking sessions to facilitate business connections between Indian and ASEAN companies.

The objective of this proposed Conclave is to highlight emerging trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange opportunities in ASEAN region and India and

promote fruitful business connections between both the sides. The Conclave will be addressed by Ministers, Bureaucrats, Regulators, Industry Leaders, Economists and experts on trade and supply chain.

ASEAN and India are the fifth largest economies of the world and there are tremendous opportunities for deepening cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, technology exchange and cultural areas.

The looming threat of tariff barrier by USA poses significant challenges and opportunities for mutual collaboration between ASEAN and India to diversify their supply chains and explore alternative markets.

The Conclave will focus on ASEAN-India cooperation in agriculture, manufacturing, services and frontier technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Semiconductor, Biotechnology, Drone and Space.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) suggested the trade missions of the ASEAN countries to invite their countries' industry associations, MSMEs, start-ups, women entrepreneurs and large corporates to participate in the proposed Conclave.

The Luncheon meeting was attended by **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion,**



Left to right: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) addressing the Luncheon meeting with the consular corps of ASEAN countries at WTC Mumbai.

WTC Mumbai, Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director-Operations, WTC Mumbai and members of Council of Management of WTC Mumbai.

Ms. Naik suggested that as part of the Conclave, WTC Mumbai can organize a visit to industrial clusters or technology parks in Maharashtra for the ASEAN delegates so that they can understand industrial

landscape in India and explore potential business collaboration.

The event was held on April 16, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

India-Rostov Region (Russia) Business Meet Focuses on Deepening International Partnerships



Exploring Trade and Investment Opportunities between India and the Rostov Region.

A virtual meeting was jointly organised by WTC Mumbai, AIAI and Ministry of Economic Development of Rostov Region to promote trade and economic cooperation between India and the Rostov Region of Russia. The session featured senior government officials, trade representatives, and businesses from both sides and served as a platform to explore synergies in key sectors such as agriculture, food processing, agro-engineering, logistics, and chemicals.

Mr. Mammad Akhmedov, Head of the Russian Trade Mission in India (Mumbai), opened the session by highlighting India's strong economic fundamentals. He noted that India, with its 700 million internet users and a growing middle class of 450 million people, represents a highly attractive market for Russian goods. He emphasized the importance of capitalizing on the cordial bilateral ties between India and Russia to boost trade and commercial engagement.

Mr. Pavel Pavlov, Minister of Economic Development of the Rostov Region, delivered a detailed address on the economic landscape and potential of the Rostov Region. He explained that the region, which ranks sixth



in population among Russian federal subjects, is strategically located on major North-South and East-West transport corridors. It is home to three seaports and the largest air hub in southern Russia, making it a vital logistics and trade gateway. The Rostov Region recorded a GDP of USD 34 billion in 2024 and a trade turnover of USD 13 billion, with exports reaching 112 countries—64.8% to Asia and 25.1% to Africa.

Mr. Pavlov further elaborated on the region's sectoral strengths. He noted that the Rostov Region is a leader in agriculture, particularly in the production of milk, eggs, grains (such as barley, corn, and rice), and sunflower. Its fertile lands and developed agri-engineering sector, known for the production of grain harvesters, make it an ideal location for agro-based industries. The region is also a global leader in food packaging, has a strong presence in the chemical and petrochemical sectors, and holds more than 20.8% of Russia's nuclear reactors, positioning it as a key nuclear region. Additionally, the Rostov Region is known for its aerospace capabilities, producing amphibious aircraft and load-lifting helicopters. Fishing and marine production are also significant industries, offering opportunities for Indian companies in marine product processing.

Ms. Anna Bendictova, Representative of the Russian Export Center in India, spoke about the Center's role in facilitating business linkages and supporting Russian exporters in finding Indian buyers. She underscored the importance of agricultural cooperation, noting that agricultural products are the second-largest category of exports from the Rostov Region to India. She encouraged Indian businesses to explore collaborations with companies from the Rostov Region in agriculture, agro-processing, and related industries.

The webinar also featured presentations from several exporters and businesses from the Rostov Region, representing sectors such as agriculture, food processing, agro-engineering, logistics, and finance. These companies showcased their products and services and expressed interest in exploring partnerships with Indian counterparts. The session concluded with an interactive discussion where Indian participants engaged with the Russian delegation through questions and exploring specific avenues for collaboration.

The Webinar was held on April 17, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

WTC Mumbai Hosts Interactive Session with High-Level Business Delegation from Mauritius

WTTC Mumbai recently hosted an interactive session with a high-level business delegation from Mauritius. The session was attended by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman; and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director of Trade and Investment Promotion, along with business representatives from four key sectors: Ayurveda and Healthcare, Advertising, Blockchain and AI, and Electronics.

The Mauritian delegation was led by Ms. Rehma Imrith,

Managing Director of IQ-EQ Mauritius, and Ms. Lorna Pillay, Head of Debt, Capital Markets and Corporates at IQ-EQ. During the session, a presentation was made on the Mauritius International Financial Centre (IFC), positioning the country as an ideal investment destination. The presentation covered residency schemes, Mauritius' Investment Protection Agreements, various tax and duty incentives, and highlighted the country's strengths as an emerging global financial hub. Mauritius was portrayed as a strategic springboard for doing business in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.



Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai (center) with Ms. Lorna Pillay, Head of Debt, Capital Markets and Corporates, IQ-EQ (4th from right). Also seen in the picture are Ms. Priya Pansare, Director- Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai (4th from left) and Ms. Rehma Imrith, Managing Director- Mauritius, IQ-EQ (3rd from right) along with representatives from Indian companies.

The delegation invited Indian companies to leverage the Mauritius IFC's state-of-the-art infrastructure and its modern, innovative legal framework to expand their global presence.

Dr. Kalantri emphasized the historical ties between India and Mauritius and underlined the importance of collaboration in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, green manufacturing, and renewable energy. He also brought attention to some of the regulatory challenges faced by Indian industries operating in Mauritius.

The session included a productive discussion among Indian business representatives on topics such as regulatory and legal clarity, ease of doing business, and specific requirements like the mandatory employment of 30% local workers by foreign companies in Mauritius. Other topics discussed included the time required to set up a business, and the clauses and duration involved in winding up operations in the country.

The delegation shared that setting up a company in the Mauritius IFC typically takes 7 to 10 working days, while obtaining a business license in the local market can take as little as 2 to 3 working days. They also assured Indian businesses of Mauritius' political stability and robust rule of law. It was noted that winding up a foreign business in Mauritius generally takes around six months, subject to settling creditors, with a "strike-off" clause available for quicker exits. Additionally, delegates were informed that appeals can be made to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the United Kingdom, which serves as the final court of appeal.



(From left to right) Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries interacting with Ms. Rehma Imrith, Managing Director- Mauritius, IQ-EQ and Ms. Lorna Pillay, Head of Debt, Capital Markets and Corporates, IQ-EQ during the session.

The session concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing strong interest in fostering deeper economic cooperation. The exchange of ideas and insights underscored the potential for bilateral collaboration across a range of high-growth sectors. WTC Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to facilitating meaningful engagements between Indian businesses and international partners, while the Mauritian delegation extended an open invitation to Indian enterprises to explore the vast opportunities available through the Mauritius IFC. The session served as a valuable platform to strengthen India-Mauritius business ties and chart a roadmap for future collaborations.

The event was held on April 22, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

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Strengthening Global Trade Linkages: WTC Mumbai Hosts Delegation from the British Virgin Islands

As part of its continuous efforts to foster international trade and investment, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted an interactive meeting with a visiting delegation from the British Virgin Islands (BVI).

The high-level delegation was led by Dr. Ricardo Wheatley, Director of BVI House Asia, and Ms. Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director. The meeting focused on strengthening bilateral relations and exploring strategic opportunities in financial services, corporate structuring, and global trade facilitation between India and the BVI.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, AIAI, extended a warm welcome to the visiting dignitaries and emphasized the importance of diversifying global partnerships to support India's expanding economic landscape. He highlighted India's potential as a hub for trade and investment and reiterated the role of WTC Mumbai in facilitating meaningful global connections.

Dr. Wheatley presented an overview of the British Virgin Islands as a respected international business and finance centre. He outlined the jurisdiction's strengths in offering transparent, compliant, and investor-friendly services to global businesses, with a focus on Asia-Pacific collaborations.



From left to right: Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director- Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai and Dr. Ricardo Wheatley, Director of the BVI House Asia in Hong Kong.

Ms. Siobhan Flax elaborated on BVI's offerings in wealth management, fintech, and its growing appeal as a gateway to global financial markets. She expressed optimism about collaborating with Indian enterprises, particularly in structuring international investments and joint ventures.

The meeting concluded with mutual appreciation and a shared vision of future collaboration. In a message following the meeting, Dr. Wheatley and Ms. Flax extended their gratitude, stating:

"The conversation was full of insight and we came away feeling rewarded on many levels. We look forward to maintaining a positive and friendly relationship as trade continues to grow between our countries."

This engagement reflects WTC Mumbai's commitment to nurturing global partnerships and creating platforms for knowledge exchange and investment dialogue. The interaction with the British Virgin Islands delegation has opened new pathways for business cooperation and cross-border growth, reaffirming Mumbai's position as a global trade and investment destination.

The meeting was held on April 23, 2025 at AIAI, Mumbai

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Iceland Seeks to Deepen Bilateral and Economic Engagement with India to Foster New Business Opportunities



The Ambassador pointed out that the ongoing global tariff tensions are driving countries to diversify their trade relationships, and that India has emerged as a preferred partner.

Turning to sustainability and clean energy collaboration, Mr. Höskuldsson underlined the growing importance of the India-Iceland partnership. He said, "Climate and energy cooperation are vital to India-Iceland relations. In May 2022, the Prime Ministers of India and the Nordic countries launched a joint task force to strengthen bilateral collaboration on climate-related issues."

He emphasized that climate challenges are largely energy-related and that India's proactive stance in renewable energy aligns perfectly with Iceland's expertise. "As per the International Energy Agency, 75% of climate challenges stem from energy-related issues. Iceland is already working with Indian partners such as ONGC and Oil India on geothermal energy, and we look forward to expanding this cooperation further," Mr. Höskuldsson said.

"Amidst the growing global uncertainties, India can provide the much-needed stability to global trade dynamics with its large market size and emerging manufacturing base. EFTA countries, which include Iceland, have strategic advantages as they already have a trade pact with India," said **H.E. Mr. Benedikt Höskuldsson, Ambassador of Iceland to India** at an interactive event organised by WTC Mumbai and AIAI.

He emphasized that while several major economies are currently pursuing new trade agreements with India, the EFTA bloc is already well-positioned to leverage its early engagement. "Today, nations such as the United States, United Kingdom, and the European Union are looking to deepen trade ties with India. EFTA countries must act quickly and strategically, as they already have a signed agreement to build upon," Mr. Höskuldsson remarked.

Acknowledging India's leadership in renewable energy access, he praised India's ambitious solar energy programs that have successfully bridged energy





transfer, and technical collaboration, particularly in renewable energy and emerging technologies, are essential.”

He noted that Iceland and other Nordic countries, with their sovereign wealth funds, technological expertise, and leadership in sustainability, can be valuable partners for India’s growth.

Highlighting the recently signed Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade

poverty. “India’s achievement in expanding solar power access to millions of households sets a global example. It is why India stands as an ideal partner for Iceland in our shared quest for sustainable energy solutions,” he added.

Speaking about connectivity, Mr. Höskuldsson announced upcoming initiatives to bring the two countries even closer. He said, “Iceland’s major airline is set to enter into a codeshare agreement with Air India later this year. We are also exploring opportunities to establish direct flights to further enhance tourism and business exchanges between our nations. These measures will significantly improve travel and economic interaction between India and Iceland.”

Mr. Höskuldsson reaffirmed Iceland’s strong and consistent support for India’s global aspirations stating, “Iceland has always backed India’s positions in multilateral forums and will continue to do so. However, to fully unlock the potential of our partnership, both sides must redouble efforts to deepen bilateral ties.”

The Ambassador also urged both nations to seize the moment and strengthen cooperation across sectors including trade, energy, climate action, and connectivity. In his welcome address, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries emphasized the critical role of international collaboration in helping India achieve its long-term goals.

He said, “India aims to become a developed economy by 2047 and achieve net carbon neutrality by 2070. To realize these targets, strategic investments, technology

Association (EFTA), Dr. Kalantri said, “EFTA countries have committed USD 100 billion of investment into India over the next 15 years, creating over one million jobs. India has also set up a dedicated EFTA desk to promote bilateral trade and investment.”

On trade relations, he observed, “Our current bilateral trade with Iceland, though modest at USD 23 million, is balanced and offers strong growth potential. We must work to diversify and aim to double this figure within five years, tapping sectors like electronics, seafood, engineering goods, and medical devices.”

Dr. Kalantri further noted that India’s affordable electric vehicles (EVs) have a significant opportunity in Iceland, given its high EV adoption rate.

“Iceland’s strengths in geothermal energy, fisheries technology, and deeptech open exciting avenues for innovation and co-production with Indian companies like ONGC,” he said.

He concluded, “Through expanded trade, strategic investments under TEPA, and deeper technological partnerships, India and Iceland can jointly drive sustainable, inclusive growth for the future.”

The vote of thanks for the event was proposed by Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai.

The event was held on April 28, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.



WTC Mumbai Signs Strategic MoU with IFBEC to Boost Global Trade Education and International Collaboration



From right to left: Ms. Priya Pansare, Director- Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Mr. Vinit Parekh, Co-Founder and Global President of IFBEC, and Ms. Neha Gupta, Director at IFBEC.

In a landmark development aimed at strengthening international cooperation and advancing global trade education, MVRDC World Trade Center Mumbai signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Federation of Business and Economic Council (IFBEC). This partnership is envisioned to create a collaborative platform for knowledge sharing, entrepreneurship development, business networking, and capacity building across borders.

The MoU was formalized during a ceremony hosted at WTC Mumbai, in the presence of Mr. Vinit Parekh, Co-Founder and Global President of IFBEC, and Ms. Neha Gupta, Director at IFBEC. The meeting brought together thought leaders, senior officials, and representatives from both institutions to chart a strategic roadmap for impactful joint initiatives in the areas of international trade, economic research, innovation, and skill development.

Welcoming the delegation, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of MVRDC WTC Mumbai and President of the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), noted:

“This partnership marks the beginning of a new chapter

in our efforts to promote global connectivity and knowledge-driven economic progress. We are confident that this association with IFBEC will strengthen the global positioning of Indian businesses, particularly SMEs and emerging entrepreneurs.”

The MoU outlines several areas of cooperation, including:

Joint organization of international conferences, workshops, and training programs on trade facilitation, policy development, entrepreneurship, and emerging markets.

Development of exchange programs to provide business leaders and students with global exposure and learning opportunities.

Collaboration on research publications and white papers focused on trade policy, economic development, and innovation.

Facilitation of trade delegations and business match-making programs, enabling Indian enterprises to explore foreign markets through IFBEC’s extensive global network.



The event also included a roundtable discussion on “Innovative Pathways for Global Trade Capacity Building,” where both parties discussed upcoming initiatives and action points for the next quarter. Special emphasis was placed on empowering women entrepreneurs, youth-led startups, and MSMEs by leveraging

digital tools and international mentorship.

This partnership is a reflection of WTC Mumbai’s ongoing commitment to fostering global linkages, enabling knowledge-driven economic development, and creating inclusive trade platforms for Indian enterprises. The MoU with IFBEC is poised to catalyze new collaborations, open new markets, and create value-driven opportunities across sectors.

As both institutions move forward with a shared vision, the partnership is expected to set a benchmark in collaborative international trade facilitation and global economic diplomacy.

The MOU signing between WTC Mumbai and IFBEC was held on May 12, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.



Dubai can be India’s strategic gateway to access African and European Markets



From left to right: Ms. Hitika Shewakramani, Assistant to the Chief Representative- India, Dubai Chambers, Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director-Operations, WTC Mumbai, Ms. Priya Pansare, Director- Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, Mr. Abhijitsinh Jadeja, Chief Representative – India, Dubai Chamber, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, AIAI, Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai and Capt. Ramesh Gulati, Member of Council of Management, WTC Mumbai at the event.

“UAE is a very crucial strategic partner for India and can play a significant role in enabling India’s access to Europe through the India-Middle East Economic Corridor,” said Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of World Trade Center Mumbai and President of the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), at the International Business Roundtable with the Dubai Chamber of

Commerce at World Trade Center Mumbai. The event was jointly organised by WTC Mumbai and AIAI and witnessed participation from more than 60 Indian companies. He further added, “India shares deep historical and economic ties with the United Arab Emirates, which is currently our third-largest trading partner. Bilateral trade between the two countries

stands at approximately USD 84.8 billion,”

Highlighting Dubai's strategic importance in the region, he said, “Dubai, in particular, plays a vital role as a commercial and logistics hub, and serves as a major re-export center for Indian goods, including gems and jewellery, food products, electronics, and textiles. Its business-friendly environment, with a focus on initiatives like simplified tax policies and the establishment of free zones, continues to attract Indian enterprises. The city hosts a large and vibrant Indian diaspora and has seen significant investment from Indian companies in sectors such as real estate, infrastructure, energy, private equity, and financial services. On the other hand, UAE's cumulative investment in India is around USD 23 billion.”

Speaking about the purpose of the meeting, Dr. Kalantri stated, “The main objective today was to align synergies and enhance business opportunities between the two regions. Although Dubai has shown strong interest in investing in India, the pace of actual investment has been relatively slow. Nonetheless, Dubai's participation in Indian business summits and India's engagement in Dubai-hosted expos are promising signs of a shared commitment to deeper economic cooperation.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Kalantri underlined India's appeal as a high-growth economy. “India remains a highly

attractive destination for investors from Dubai, being the fastest-growing major economy and on course to become a USD 5 trillion economy in the near future. There is great potential for future cooperation in areas like digital trade, logistics, clean energy, and innovation. With a strong global network of World Trade Centers, including one in Dubai, we are happy to assist Indian businesses in establishing a presence there. We also look forward to facilitating stronger ties through the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.”

Mr. Abhijitsinh Jadeja, Chief Representative – India, Dubai Chamber, in his presentation highlighted Dubai's growing relevance as a global hub for Indian enterprises. He said, “Dubai continues to evolve as a strategic gateway for global trade and investment. With its diversified economy, strong logistics network, world-class infrastructure, and investor-friendly environment, it offers Indian businesses a robust platform to access the wider Middle East, Africa, and European markets. The city ranks consistently among the top global destinations for ease of doing business. Key enablers such as 100% foreign ownership in most sectors, zero personal income tax, and an extensive network of free zones make it extremely attractive for Indian entrepreneurs.”

Referring to the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), he added, “The CEPA



has opened new opportunities across sectors, particularly in food processing, textiles, gems and jewellery, electronics, and services. Bilateral trade has already crossed USD 84 billion, and we anticipate further momentum as more Indian companies tap into the Dubai ecosystem. With initiatives like the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) and the city's focus on digital transformation, AI, fintech, and clean energy, there is immense potential for Indian startups and SMEs to scale globally through Dubai."

Underscoring the Chamber's role, Mr. Jadeja remarked, "The Dubai Chamber's India office is committed to facilitating partnerships, offering market intelligence, and handholding Indian businesses through every step of their expansion journey. We invite Indian companies to explore Dubai not just as a trading hub, but as a long-term strategic partner for growth."

The event was held on May 14, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

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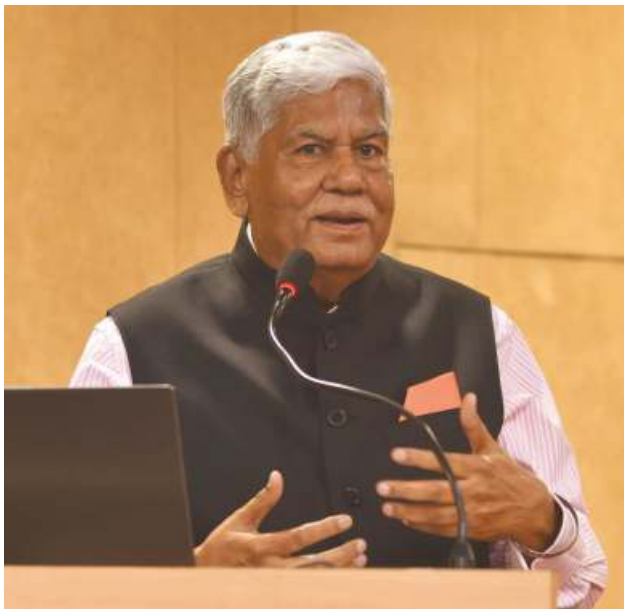
WTC Mumbai Joins Hands with MY Bharat to Strengthen Youth Engagement and Skilling



(From left to right): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade Promotion and Investment, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Raghavendra Singh, Product Head – Strategy and Marketing, MY Bharat; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Captain Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and Mr. Rohit Kalra, Asist. Director, MY Bharat interacting with the participants at the event.

"On its journey to becoming a developed nation, the Indian economy is currently facing a dichotomy. While the country grapples with youth unemployment, industries are simultaneously raising concerns about the shortage of a skilled workforce. India has the world's largest youth population, and a robust skilling ecosystem is critical to ensure that this demographic becomes a productive asset. If India is to realize its vision of

becoming a developed economy by 2047, it must scale up its GDP per worker by six to seven times," said **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)**, at an interactive meeting on MY Bharat, an initiative of the Government of India, held at WTC Mumbai. The event was jointly organized by WTC Mumbai and AIAI.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), addressing the audience during the event.

Dr. Kalantri emphasized the significance of the MY Bharat initiative. He stated, “Youth are the future of our country. Indian youth are known for their constructive work and ideas. The initiative is an effort to engage with the youth meaningfully. WTC Mumbai is proud to contribute to the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of upskilling India. We are already playing a small role through our Skill Centre, which conducts various

programs aimed at upskilling MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, and startups.”

Speaking on the vision of MY Bharat, Mr. Raghavendra Singh, Product Head – Strategy and Marketing, MY Bharat, said, “In October 2023, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India laid out a plan to create a platform for the youth, connecting them with government bodies, knowledge institutions, non-profit organizations, and for-profit enterprises. Leveraging the power of technology and AI, this platform is designed to match youth with relevant opportunities based on the profiles created by both youth and institutions on the MY Bharat platform. We began within the government ecosystem and have since expanded to include knowledge institutions, NGOs, and private sector organizations. I am pleased to announce that the platform now has approximately 1.75 crore youth profiles, most of which are publicly accessible.”

Highlighting the features of the platform, Mr. Singh added, “MY Bharat is the first of its kind DIY platform with features not seen in any existing social platform. It offers a ‘phygital’ (physical + digital) setup with experiential learning programs, volunteering opportunities, quizzes, and mentoring. Youth across the country, including those in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, can access these opportunities—made possible by the might of the government.”

Mr. Singh also underscored the potential for partnerships through the platform. He said, “The MY Bharat



Mr. Raghavendra Singh, Product Head – Strategy and Marketing, MY Bharat being felicitated by Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI). Also seen in the picture are (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade Promotion and Investment, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Captain Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Rohit Kalra, Asist. Director, MY Bharat and Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director-Operations, World Trade Center Mumbai

portal allows businesses to collaborate by creating their own dedicated pages on this government platform to provide opportunities to the youth. I would like to point out that WTC Mumbai and AIAI were among the first not-for-profit organizations to reach out for collaboration. We hope companies in the audience will come onboard. The first step building the platform has been taken. Now it is up to you, the companies, to guide us on what features the portal should include and what the youth truly need. This is where the collective intelligence of organizations becomes essential, and the expertise of institutions like WTC Mumbai plays a vital role by creating a feedback loop."

He further noted, "Another reason to sign up is the government's recognition of contributions made via the

platform especially through government-backed certificates for learning programs and the ability to access the youth of the nation through a single platform." Mr. Singh also gave the audience a live demonstration of the platform, showcasing the various causes currently active and how users engage with them.

The event concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session.

Captain Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai, proposed the vote of thanks.

The event was held on May 20, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

Spotlight Session on Startup and SME Growth Hosted by WTC Mumbai



In line with its mission to empower entrepreneurs and strengthen the SME ecosystem, World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), hosted an engaging and thought-provoking Spotlight Session on the theme: "Expanding the Health and Lifespan of Startups and SMEs".

The session was conducted by Mr. Samir Sathe, a

distinguished business transformation expert and thought leader. The event attracted an audience comprising startup founders, MSME leaders, investors, and industry professionals, all eager to gain insights into building sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises in an increasingly complex business landscape.

Mr. Sathe delivered a dynamic presentation, offering *fresh perspectives on resilience, scalability, and long-



term value creation. He emphasized the importance of building robust business models*, staying agile in times of uncertainty, and aligning strategy with execution to thrive in competitive markets.

“Scaling a startup or SME is not just about growth in numbers it’s about the strength of purpose, the clarity of vision, and the discipline of execution,” said Mr. Sathe during the session.

Drawing from real-world case studies and his extensive advisory experience, Mr. Sathe highlighted key factors that influence the longevity of startups, including leadership adaptability, risk management, innovation mindset, and the ability to pivot strategically when needed. He urged entrepreneurs to shift their focus from short-term survival to long-term resilience, driven by value-centric leadership and customer relevance.

The interactive dialogue that followed allowed participants to engage directly with the speaker, sharing challenges from their own entrepreneurial journeys and exploring practical solutions.

WTC Mumbai curated the session as part of their broader initiative to nurture knowledge-based entrepreneurship and provide value-driven support to India’s fast-growing startup and MSME sectors. The program underscored the vital role of strategic guidance and expert mentorship in enabling business longevity.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to Mr. Samir Sathe for his invaluable insights and to all attendees for contributing to the rich, interactive learning environment.

This Spotlight Session is part of a continuing series by WTC Mumbai aimed at supporting startups and MSMEs with high-impact knowledge, industry networks, and global exposure.

The event was held on May 29, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.



Portugal safe investment destination says H.E. Mr. Almeida



Dignitaries and Consul Members at the Welcome Reception for H.E. Mr. João Ribeiro de Almeida, Ambassador of Portugal to India, hosted by MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries.

Portugal believes in Multilateralism and is a safe investment destination for trade, investment and tourism. We are keen to strengthen our bilateral ties in regards to our long standing historical relation between Portugal and India which is over 500-Years of Legacy said **H.E. Mr. João Ribeiro de Almeida, Ambassador of Portugal to India** while addressing the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai.

H.E. Mr. Almeida said there is a historical connection between Portugal and Mumbai, as an influential city name besides historical and cultural contacts and wants to reaffirm our growing partnership to attract investment in Portugal. The partnership has evolved from a colonial legacy to a modern, forward looking co-operation across strategic areas such as

Pharmaceutical, automotive, technology, life sciences, wellness, tourism, marine, research, nanotechnology, cultural co-operation, start-ups and other sectors.

Today we mark the 50th anniversary of re-establishing our diplomatic relations between India and Portugal - a milestone that reflects the strength of our economic and cultural ties," added H.E. Mr. Almeida.

H.E. Mr. Almeida said while encouraging tourism and investment opportunities we are also considering to ease visa regulation to support business mobility and investment further assured and said you may feel Portugal as a second home for investment and experience yourself. Today we need to strengthen our ties in the field of innovation in the new global world of business and investment opportunities and once the



India EU agreement is signed by India it will boost the India-Portugal commercial ties added H.E. Mr. Almeida.

Mr. Miguel CM Crespo, Economic and Trade Counsellor to India, underscored the Portugal's stable and diversified economy, with particular strengths in exploring business between India and Portugal for a mutually beneficial ventures, stating: "Portugal and India share a rich cultural bond, rooted in history, but our future lies in global cooperation and innovation to build foundation for tomorrow."

He further said that the symbolic significance of **Porto**, the Portuguese city known for its iconic **port wine**, and expressed optimism for future collaboration in various areas.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and Chairman – WTC Mumbai said that today trade has surpassed **\$1.5 billion** and can double in next 5 years in view of the various opportunities offered by the Portugal in the field of the sectors where India has the expertise to work on.

Dr. Kalantri added that Portugal can also be used as a hub for manufacturing and expanding trade across Europe and other countries and further added that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi and Mr. Om Birla Speaker of Lok Sabha, has visited Portugal. During the Hon'ble Prime Ministers visit India has signed 11 MoUs especially in important sectors including science and technology, innovations, space, youth and sports and Startups.

Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman MVIRDC World Trade Center and Hon. Consul of Portugal highlighted the rich economic culture and landscape, its strong global presence, and the promising business opportunities in sectors like marble, wine, and tourism. He acknowledged existing bilateral agreements and encouraged deep collaboration between India and Portugal in the future in view of the existing bilateral agreements.

The event was held on June 9, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

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WTC Mumbai Hosts Spotlight Session on Leveraging LinkedIn for Business Growth

Mumbai, July 2025 – World Trade Center Mumbai organised a Spotlight Session titled "How LinkedIn Branding Fuels Business Growth", featuring renowned LinkedIn Strategist and Founder of Crafting Your Story, Ms. Shweta Ojha, as the

keynote speaker. The session attracted an audience of business owners, founders, CXOs, and senior leaders from across sectors.

Ms. Ojha, a leading voice in the space of digital personal



(From left to right): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade Promotion and Investment, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) and Shweta Ojha, LinkedIn Strategist, Founder, Crafting Your Story.



branding, shared actionable insights into how LinkedIn can be leveraged as a business development tool. Drawing from her experience of consulting over 100 CXOs and training 10,000+ professionals, she presented real-world examples from manufacturing, fintech, and technology sectors, demonstrating how digital leadership visibility directly impacts trust, engagement, and growth.

She introduced a practical 3-layer framework for effective LinkedIn presence focusing on leadership branding, company page optimisation, and employee advocacy and highlighted how strategic storytelling and engagement can convert passive profiles into business assets.

Delivering the welcome remarks, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, emphasised the importance of adapting to the digital age and the role of platforms like LinkedIn in building global credibility. "In a time where digital presence often precedes personal meetings, leaders must establish their voice online. LinkedIn is not just a professional network it is a critical interface for business validation," he remarked.

The Spotlight Session forms part of WTC Mumbai's broader mission to support businesses through knowledge exchange, innovation, and strategic insights. These initiatives aim to empower entrepreneurs and enterprises to remain competitive in a fast-evolving global economy.



The event was held on June 11, 2025 at WTC Mumbai.

WTC Mumbai Co-Presents Express Adda with Indian Express Group



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis - Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Anant Goenka- Executive Director, The Indian Express and other distinguished guests at 'Express Adda'.

As part of its continued commitment to fostering high-level dialogue and policy engagement, World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with the Indian Express Group, is proud to co-present Express Adda an exclusive and insightful interaction with the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

Scheduled as a part of Indian Express's prestigious Express Adda series, this special edition brings together business leaders, policymakers, thought influencers, and members of civil society for a dynamic conversation with one of India's most influential political leaders. The event offers a unique platform for open discussion on Maharashtra's development agenda, governance reforms, economic strategy, and the state's vision for investment, infrastructure, and innovation.

Shri Devendra Fadnavis, known for his forward-thinking leadership and transformative initiatives in urban development, infrastructure, and industrial growth, will address key issues impacting Maharashtra's socio-economic landscape. Topics such

as the ease of doing business, public-private partnerships, inclusive growth, and the state's positioning as an investment hub are expected to feature prominently.

WTC Mumbai's association with this initiative underlines its role as a catalyst for thought leadership and public-private dialogue. By co-presenting this event, WTC Mumbai reinforces its commitment to creating spaces where business meets policy, and where meaningful conversations help shape the future of trade, industry, and governance.

This edition of Express Adda is not just a conversation it is a convergence of ideas and vision. It is expected to spark dialogue that resonates far beyond the evening, with tangible outcomes for Maharashtra's business and investment ecosystem.

The event was held on May 28, 2025

WTC Mumbai Extends Support to Maha CSR Summit 2025, Reinforces Commitment to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

The Maha CSR Summit 2025 was held at World Trade Center Mumbai, bringing together CSR leaders, organizations, and changemakers to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration around sustainable development.

As a supporting partner, WTC Mumbai was proud to be part of this impactful initiative.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman – WTC Mumbai, extended his full support and commitment to the Maharashtra Government through a special video message, congratulating the organisers and reaffirming his belief in prosperity through trade and meaningful partnerships. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, represented WTC Mumbai and participated in a panel discussion, sharing insights on WTC's initiatives in driving inclusive and responsible growth.



CSR Summit 2025 was held on June 5-6, 2025 at World Trade Center Mumbai.

WTC Mumbai Joins as Supporting Partner for MSME Conclave Celebrating Maharashtra MSME Week 2025

As part of Maharashtra MSME Week 2025, FICCI FLO Mumbai, in association with World Trade Center Mumbai and AIAI, hosted a vibrant MSME Conclave spotlighting policy discussions, market access tools, and inspiring journeys of women entrepreneurs.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri graced the occasion with his insights on emerging industry challenges and emphasized the importance of global collaboration in MSME growth.

Representing WTC Mumbai, Ms. Priya Pansare reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting MSMEs through continued knowledge exchange, trade facilitation, and capacity-building initiatives.

The conclave brought together over 150+ MSMEs to explore opportunities through platforms like ONDC, GeM, FLO Bazaar, and more celebrating resilience, opportunity, and progress.



The Event was held on June 23, 2025

WTC Mumbai Sponsor ET Make in India SME Regional Summit 2025 in Thane



In a significant effort to champion the voice of Indian MSMEs, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) proudly sponsored the ET Make in India SME Regional Summit 2025, which was successfully held on Thursday, 26 June 2025, in Thane, Maharashtra.

Organized by The Economic Times, the summit served as a powerful platform for dialogue, networking, and knowledge sharing focused on empowering small and medium enterprises in India. As sponsors, WTC Mumbai and AIAI reaffirmed their commitment to supporting initiatives that drive entrepreneurial growth, innovation, and integration into global markets.

The summit witnessed the participation of prominent policymakers, industry leaders, financial institutions, and SME stakeholders who deliberated on critical issues impacting the sector. Key topics included:

Strategies to boost exports and global competitiveness of Indian SMEs

Opportunities in digital transformation and automation

Enhancing financial access and leveraging government incentives

Promoting sustainable business practices and skill development

In his remarks, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of MVIRDC WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI, stated:

“The MSME sector is the backbone of our economy. We are pleased to support this important initiative that brings together all key stakeholders and provides SMEs with the insights and tools they need to grow sustainably and globally.”

The event also featured inspiring case studies, interactive sessions, and industry-led panel discussions that provided actionable strategies for scaling up operations and navigating market challenges. Several exhibitors showcased innovations in digital tools, financial services, and green technologies tailored for SMEs.

As sponsors, WTC Mumbai and AIAI contributed to the summit’s vision of building a resilient and globally



integrated SME ecosystem. Their participation emphasized the importance of institutional support in nurturing the next generation of Indian entrepreneurs and driving inclusive economic growth.

This engagement underscores WTC Mumbai’s leadership role in trade promotion and AIAI’s legacy of empowering Indian industries, especially at the grassroots and regional levels.

The event was held on June 29, 2025



World Trade Center Bhubaneswar participates in the 55th Global Business Forum 2025



(L-R) Ms. T Sweta, Trade Promotion Officer, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Mr. John Drew, Chairman, WTCA; Captain Somesh Batra, Chairman, WTC Bhubaneswar; Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director – Operations, WTC Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance, WTC Mumbai

The 55th World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Global Business Forum was successfully held in the historic and vibrant city of Marseille, France, hosted by World Trade Centers Association and World Trade Center (WTC) Marseille Provence. The prestigious international event brought together members from the global network of WTCs, policymakers, business leaders, and trade experts from across continents.

Representing World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, **Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director**, and **Ms. T Sweta, Trade Promotion Officer**, actively participated in the forum, reinforcing the centre's growing global engagement and commitment to promoting trade, investment, and economic collaboration.

The forum commenced with a vibrant welcome reception at the iconic Fort Ganteaume, offering a scenic backdrop and an ideal atmosphere for networking and cultural exchange. Delegates from around the world were warmly greeted, setting the tone for the days ahead.

The second day began with a high-level Opening Ceremony featuring welcome addresses by **Mr. John E.**

Drew, WTCA Chair (WTC Boston, WTC Dublin, and WTC Washington, D.C.), **Mr. Benoit Vincent**, WTC Marseille Provence, **Mr. Pierre Veyres**, Aix Marseille Provence International Chamber of Commerce.

This was followed by a series of thought-provoking and interactive sessions, covering major themes around trade, investment, innovation, and global collaboration. The forum's second day featured a rich line-up of mainstage sessions that explored diverse aspects of global trade, investment, innovation, and economic growth.

Following the opening ceremony, the day kicked off with an engaging session on titled "Gateway to the Mediterranean & Shifting Global Trade Dynamics: Strategies for Success in an Evolving Marketplace". Esteemed speakers such as **Ms. Amal Louis** from the Grand Port Maritime de Marseille – Port de Marseille Fos, **Mr. Scott Center**, WTCA Board Member and representative of WTC Savannah, Mr. Carles Anglada from WTC Barcelona, and **Ms. Yang Haobo** from CCPIT Shenzhen shared their perspectives on leveraging maritime infrastructure and adapting to changing global trade dynamics.



Team WTC Bhubaneswar Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan and Ms. T Sweta at the welcome reception of Global Business Forum held at Fort Ganteaume, Marseille, France

Following this, the spotlight turned to real estate as a catalyst for global commerce in the session titled "Real Estate Investment in Global Trade Hubs". The session was formally opened by **Dr. Vijay Kalantri**, Chairman of WTC Mumbai. Panelists including **Ms. Lia Rochat** from Archismart Energy, **Mr. Diego Cortese** from Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC), **Mr. Pierre Edouard Boudot** from CBRE France, and **Mr. Ed Allison-Wright** of Fairhomes Group, WTC Gibraltar and WTCA Board Member, discussed evolving real estate trends and their pivotal role in shaping international trade infrastructure.

Another engaging session, "Innovative and Impactful: Disrupting Industries and Driving Change," brought together leading voices in innovation. Speakers such as **Mr. Philippe Veran** from Biotech Dental Group and Upperside Group, **Mr. Remy Swaab**, Vice Chair-Treasurer of WTCA and representative of WTC Panama, **Mr. Dominique Clarac** from Deep2drive, and **Ms. Carla Coyle** from C2 Custom Furnishings Inc. shared transformative ideas and case studies highlighting disruption across various industries.

The theme of innovation continued with the session "Innovation in Action: Free Trade Zones as Engines of Growth." This session featured insights from **Ms. Pamela D. Pascual**, WTCA Board Member and representative of WTC Metro Manila, **Mr. Ignacio Del** from WTC Montevideo, **Mr. Martín Ibarra** from the World Free Zones Organization, **Mr. Panayotis Liolios of Africalink**, and **Mr. Vincent Abeille** from ClassM. The panel discussed how free trade zones can serve as catalysts for economic development, job creation, and global investment.

The final session of the day, "Crossroads of Connection: Inspiring Journeys from Local to Global," featured inspiring narratives from **Mr. Edward Grunwald** of Revolugo and **Mr. Olivier Rousseau** of FlyCup. Both speakers emphasized the importance of connectivity, innovation, and community in scaling local businesses to the global stage.

The day concluded with the highly anticipated WTCA General Assembly. The session began with the Chairman's Remarks delivered by **John E. Drew**, followed by presentations from the WTCA Executive Team outlining strategic goals and priorities for 2025. The assembly also showcased the WTCA Accreditation program, celebrating centers of excellence within the network. Delegates came together for a group photo, symbolizing unity and collaboration across borders, before dispersing to attend the WTCA Regional Dinners, which fostered closer regional engagement and camaraderie.

The third and final day of the 55th WTCA Global Business Forum was rich with dynamic sessions that delved into pressing global business themes and region-specific opportunities. The day began with strategic insights into navigating trade and investment trends for 2025, where experts outlined evolving market dynamics, followed by a compelling session on mentorship as a key to growth and success, emphasizing leadership development and knowledge transfer across generations.

A special focus was placed on the vital role of logistics and geopolitical shifts in global trade through the session on International Sea Freight and Geopolitics, where speakers explored how evolving political landscapes and maritime strategies impact international commerce.

Further strengthening the agenda, the Real Estate Summit offered critical discussions on infrastructure challenges and opportunities for global investors and businesses. In a regionally tailored session titled "Welcome to Eastern France, Cross-Border Region!", **Ms. Patricia Moinard-Drouvot** from WTC Metz-Saarbrücken highlighted the strategic advantage of Eastern France's transnational positioning for trade and enterprise expansion.

In another inspiring session, **Ms. Salima Chelabi** of Provence Promotion and **Mr. Charles-Henri Marquet** of SME Apples Composites introduced the "Go Between" Program, which is designed to support business takeover opportunities, especially for entrepreneurs



Delegates from World Trade Centers across the globe unite to mark the successful conclusion of the 55th Global Business Forum 2025 at Marseille, France.

seeking transitions or entry into established markets.

Ms. Anne Desaix from Plasseraud IP delivered a crucial talk on Intellectual Property: Patents and Trademarks Protection in Foreign Markets, providing actionable insights on safeguarding innovation and brand assets internationally.

Global opportunities were spotlighted in sessions such as “Investing in Pennsylvania: Seizing Opportunities at the 2026 WTCA Global Business Forum”, preparing stakeholders for the upcoming edition in the United States, and “Nantes: A Leading Economic Hub in Western France”, where **Ms. Martine Secher** from WTC Nantes Atlantique and **Mr. Yann Goyat**, Vice President of WTC and International Ouest Club, discussed how initiatives like the “International Week” event serve as tools for visibility and business acceleration.

The discussion then shifted west to Brest, with **Ms. Lucie Vallier** from WTC Brest presenting on the attractiveness of Brest as an emerging economic locomotive in Western Brittany. In a practical and solutions-driven session titled “Finding Real Estate Solutions for Foreign Businesses in Provence,” participants explored actionable pathways for international firms to establish and expand in the region.

North American perspectives were brought to the table through the session on “The Advantages of Doing Business in the Canadian Market,” with inputs from **Ms. Natalie Courcelles Beaudry** and **Mr. Paul Gill** of WTC Winnipeg and Economic Development Winnipeg, respectively. They offered insights into Canada’s economic landscape, investment incentives, and ease of market access.

As cybersecurity continues to be a crucial area in

international affairs, **Mr. Maxime Vermeulen** from Hello Lille led a session on “Cybersecurity in the Context of an International Forum Held in Lille,” discussing best practices and the importance of digital security in global engagements.

The day also included a vibrant WTCA Power Pitch session where businesses and trade centers presented compelling ideas and partnerships, followed by a presentation on Financing and Public Aid for Businesses in Provence, highlighting tools and incentives available to foreign and domestic investors.

A unique highlight of the day was the session on High-End Gastronomy & Diplomacy, which explored the strategic collaboration between Ferrandi Paris – Rennes Campus and World Trade Center Rennes Bretagne, presented by **Mr. Nicholas Beaty**. The session illustrated how culinary excellence can be leveraged as a form of soft diplomacy and brand identity in global business contexts.

The day concluded with a final round of Business-to-Business (B2B) Meetings, where delegates held direct discussions aimed at forging cross-border collaborations, partnerships, and trade opportunities.

The participation of WTC Bhubaneswar at this global forum marks an important step in strengthening its international presence and forging valuable connections with fellow WTCs and global business leaders. The event provided meaningful insights into global trade trends, investment prospects, and innovative business models, all of which will contribute to future initiatives and collaborations led by WTC Bhubaneswar.

The event was hosted by WTC Marseille Provence from April 6th – 9th, 2025.



Interactive Meeting with UNICEF India



(L-R) Ms. T Sweta, International Trade Promotion Officer, WTC Bhubaneswar; Mr. Manna Biswas, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF; Ms. Choudhury Jyoshna Das, Honorary Convenor, WTC Women Forum & Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar post the interactive meeting

The World Trade Center Bhubaneswar facilitated an interactive meeting with **Mr. Manna Biswas, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF** to engage in a meaningful dialogue around child protection, community welfare, and sustainable development.

The interaction served as a platform to explore collaborative opportunities and discuss key areas of mutual interest, including the promotion of child rights, safeguarding vulnerable populations, and integrating child protection frameworks into community development initiatives.

A major highlight of the meeting was the discussion around joint initiatives that both organizations can undertake under the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed earlier. Both parties reiterated their commitment to leveraging this partnership to co-develop impactful programs focused on capacity-building, awareness generation, and advocacy for child welfare.

During the exchange, Mr. Biswas shared insights into UNICEF's current programs and best practices implemented in the region, emphasizing the importance of

collaborative action and multi-sectoral engagement. He encouraged platforms like WTC Bhubaneswar to act as catalysts for social change by engaging with industry stakeholders and civil society.

Officials from WTC Bhubaneswar echoed this sentiment, expressing interest in exploring targeted activities that align with their CSR goals and inclusive development mission. The potential for conducting joint outreach programs, workshops, and campaigns in partnership with UNICEF was discussed in depth.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with a shared vision to translate discussions into action through strategically planned initiatives that reflect the shared values of both organizations ensuring child safety, rights, and well-being remain at the center of development efforts.



(L-R) WTC Bhubaneswar Officials and Mr. Manna Biswas, Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF, showcasing the latest edition of WTC Bhubaneswar's bi-monthly magazine

This interaction marked another step forward in strengthening the ongoing collaboration between WTC Bhubaneswar and UNICEF, reinforcing a joint commitment to fostering sustainable and socially responsible growth.

The interactive meeting was held on Wednesday, April 30th 2025 at WTC Bhubaneswar office premises.

■

“Beyond Diagnostics”: An exclusive Cancer Awareness Session & Health Camp



Members of WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum, Esteemed Speakers and WTC Bhubaneswar Officials post successful execution of the Cancer Awareness Session

In a significant initiative to raise awareness about cancer and promote holistic healthcare, the Women Forum of **World Trade Center Bhubaneswar** in association with **SVETA Trust** and **Awaaken Foundation** organized a comprehensive and insightful session exclusively for women titled “Beyond Diagnostics”: An exclusive Cancer Awareness Session & Health Camp. The event brought together medical experts, mental health advocates and community leaders to shed light on cancer awareness, diagnosis, mental resilience, and treatment modalities.

The session opened with a warm welcome address by **Ms. Choudhury Jyoshna Das, Honorary Convenor of the WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum**, who warmly greeted the participants and spoke passionately about the ongoing initiatives of WAVE (Women as Vibrant Entrepreneurs): WTC Women Forum. She highlighted how the forum regularly undertakes programs to empower women, create awareness, and provide handholding support across various aspects of personal and professional life, including healthcare, education, and entrepreneurship. She emphasized that such platforms are vital in ensuring women feel informed, supported, and connected.

This was followed by opening remarks from **Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor to the WTC Women Forum**, who

reflected on the emotional, social, and financial challenges faced by cancer patients and their families. She underscored the importance of empathy and timely intervention and applauded the role of public platforms in facilitating such important discussions.

A powerful and moving address was delivered by **Ms. Swagatika Acharya, Founder of Awaaken Foundation** who spoke passionately about the psychological journey of a cancer patient. She shared how her foundation works to support individuals through counselling and awareness campaigns, encouraging patients to stay mentally strong and emotionally balanced while undergoing treatment. Her session focused on the human side of cancer, reminding attendees that healing goes beyond medical procedures.

The event’s core medical segment featured two distinguished oncologists who provided deep insights into cancer care:

Dr. Sthiti Das, MBBS, MD, with a Fellowship in Advanced High Precision Radiotherapy Techniques and **Senior Consultant Clinical and Radiation Oncologist**, elaborated on the latest advancements in radiation therapy and the need for personalized treatment approaches.



Dr. Sthiti Das, MBBS, MD, with a Fellowship in Advanced High Precision Radiotherapy Techniques and Senior Consultant Clinical and Radiation Oncologist and Dr. Sourav Mishra, Oncologist and Head & Neck Specialist from AIIMS Bhubaneswar during their deliberations

Dr. Sourav Mishra, Oncologist and Head & Neck Specialist from AIIMS Bhubaneswar, spoke on the nuances of cancer diagnosis, common myths, and the significance of multidisciplinary care in improving patient outcomes.

Both the doctors emphasized the importance of regular screenings, awareness of early warning signs, and the growing role of technology in cancer treatment.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar** who extended gratitude to all guest speakers, partners, and participants for their valuable contributions. She also reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to promoting public health and wellness through meaningful partnerships and informative community initiatives.

"Beyond Diagnostics" proved to be more than just a health camp, it was a thoughtful convergence of medical science, emotional support, and community engagement, aiming to empower individuals with the knowledge and mindset to fight cancer with confidence and clarity.

The event was held on Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 at O' Kareem, Stalwarts Jajati, Bhubaneswar.

WTC Bhubaneswar inks MoU with ESC India



A moment from the inaugural ceremony graced by esteemed guests and dignitaries, marking the beginning of a promising collaboration and shared vision for growth and innovation

In a significant step toward fostering global outreach and promoting technology-led exports, the **World Trade Center Bhubaneswar** and the **Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC India)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the august

presence of eminent government and industry leaders.

Dr. Mukesh Mahaling, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Electronics & Information Technology Department, Government of Odisha deliberated on the state's growing focus on electronics manufacturing and



WTC Bhubaneswar official Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan alongside esteemed dignitaries from ESC India and government representatives during the MoU signing ceremony, marking a significant step toward strengthening global outreach and technology-led trade from Odisha

emphasized that semiconductor production is expected to commence in Odisha within the next couple of years.

Gracing the occasion **Mr. Vishal Kumar Dev (IAS)**, Principal Secretary of the IT Department, highlighted the rising contribution of the services sector to Odisha's economy. He spoke about the state's attractive IT and semiconductor policies, which offer some of the best incentives in India for companies willing to invest in these sectors.

Mr. Manish Chadha, Joint Secretary to the Government of India provided insights into how India's electronics manufacturing sector has improved over the past few years. He lauded the supportive central government policies for which 99% of mobile phones used in India are now manufactured within the country. He noted that India is becoming a major player in global smartphone manufacturing.

The event also witnessed the august presence of **Mr. Manas Panda**, Managing Director, OCAC, **Mr. Manoj Kumar**, Deputy CEO of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), **Mr. Gurmeet Singh**, Executive Director, ESC, **Mr. Sandeep Narula**, Chairman (Global Outreach), ESC, **Mr. Veer Sagar**, Chairman, ESC, **Dr. Ashwini Kumar Rath**, Chairman, ESC (Eastern Region).

All ESC dignitaries expressed their optimism about the partnership, viewing it as a strategic move to accelerate

market access, technology transfer, and export facilitation for businesses in Eastern India. They underscored ESC's commitment to empowering MSMEs and emerging startups to compete in the global technology landscape.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar aims to leverage this MoU to further strengthen trade facilitation, drive skill development and expand international networking opportunities for Odisha's fast-evolving IT and electronics sector. The collaboration envisions joint initiatives including global B2B platforms, export promotion activities, and comprehensive capacity-building programs to empower local enterprises for global competitiveness.

The MoU signing ceremony concluded on a promising note, with both organizations pledging to work together to unlock new trade and investment opportunities for Indian technology enterprises, particularly from the Eastern region.

This partnership marks a major milestone in WTC Bhubaneswar's ongoing mission to position Odisha as a hub for technology-driven economic development and international trade engagement.

The MoU was inked on Friday, May, 2nd 2025 at IHCL Hotel Crown, Bhubaneswar.



Stakeholders Consultation Meet on Boosting Tourism in Odisha



Glimpses from the Consultation Meeting

Tourism plays a vital role in Odisha's socio-economic development by generating employment, fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting the state's unique cultural identity on the global map. The tourism sector contributes around 7% to Odisha's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and provides direct and indirect employment to lakhs of people across rural and urban areas. Despite its rich heritage, Odisha remains underrepresented in national and international travel circuits. Enhanced promotion and infrastructure investment can significantly improve the state's tourism share, particularly in niche segments like eco-tourism, tribal tourism, and spiritual tourism.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar (WTCB) in collaboration with the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Odisha (HRAO), hosted a dynamic Stakeholders Consultation Meet to deliberate on strategic initiatives for boosting tourism in Odisha. The event brought together key stakeholders including government officials, travel operators, hoteliers, industry experts, and entrepreneurs for insightful discussions on unlocking Odisha's vast tourism potential.

Representatives from WTC Bhubaneswar and HRAO emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in

positioning Odisha as a top tourism destination. The meeting highlighted the urgency of creating a cohesive tourism growth strategy.

Interactive discussions enabled industry and government representatives to exchange ideas and co-create solutions to barriers in tourism development, such as infrastructure gaps, regulatory issues, and lack of awareness.

The Stakeholders Consultation Meet marked a significant step towards catalysing Odisha's tourism sector. By leveraging its unmatched cultural heritage, natural beauty, and growing infrastructure, Odisha can emerge as a leading destination in the Indian tourism landscape. WTC Bhubaneswar and HRAO reaffirmed their commitment to driving sustained collaboration among all stakeholders and turning the discussed strategies into ground-level action.

The event was held on May 15th, 2025 at Hotel Swosti Premium.



Amul Cooking Competition 2025



A proud moment with WTC Bhubaneswar officials, core team, dignitaries, judges, Amul representatives, and influencers after the successful completion of the program.

The Amul Cooking Competition 2025 was successfully conducted today at the SOA Institute of Hotel Management, bringing together culinary enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds for a dynamic celebration of talent, innovation, and inclusivity. The event was jointly organized by Amul India, the World Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar, and the SOA School of Hotel Management.

This year's competition was held under the inspiring theme **"Table to Trade"**, emphasizing the journey of culinary creativity from the kitchen to commercial viability—highlighting how local culinary talent can evolve into entrepreneurial ventures and contribute to broader trade ecosystems.

With over 65 participants, the competition showcased a rich diversity of skill and originality, as contestants prepared signature dishes using Amul products, judged for flavour, presentation, and innovation.

The event was graced by notable figures from the hospitality, corporate, and development sectors:

Dr. Susanta Ranjan Chaini, Dean, SOA School of Hotel Management, attended as Guest of Honour, speaking on the institution's commitment to enhancing hospitality education and hands-on skill development.

Mr. Viswajeet Kumar, Zonal In-Charge, Bhubaneswar Zone, Amul India, also served as Guest of Honour, applauding the inclusive nature of the competition and Amul's mission to support both emerging and experienced culinary talent.

Chef Biswajit Moharathi, acclaimed MasterChef India Season 7 contestant, presided as Chief Judge, lending his expert evaluation to the competition.

Ms. Payal Routray, prominent food influencer, joined the judging panel, providing valuable insights on presentation and current culinary trends.

Mrs. Subhra Mishra, Head of Corporate Affairs, SPARC Private Limited, served as the Chief Guest, underlining the importance of community-driven platforms in nurturing individual empowerment and collective growth.

Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, who spoke about the World Trade Center's trade promotion initiatives, and the role of such events in encouraging entrepreneurship and connecting local skills with global opportunities—echoing the event's "Table to Trade" theme.

Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor to the WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum, also joined as Guest of Honour, elaborat-



Participant receiving recognition for her culinary creation following the tasting session.

ing on the Forum's initiatives in empowering women through capacity-building, entrepreneurship, and outreach in the culinary and hospitality sectors.

After an intense round of cooking and evaluation, three

winners were selected for their exceptional culinary performance. In addition, three participants were honoured with Jury's Choice Awards, recognizing their creativity, innovation, and future potential.

All participants were commended for their passion, originality, and enthusiasm.

The Amul Cooking Competition 2025, under the theme "Table to Trade," stood out not just for its culinary brilliance but also for its deeper message—bridging creativity, education, and enterprise. It demonstrated the power of collaboration between academia, industry, and community in nurturing skill, promoting equality, and creating pathways from the kitchen to the marketplace.

The event was held on Friday, May 30th, 2025 at SOA School of Hotel Management, Bhubaneswar.

Raja Sutra 2025 – “Vibes with a Purpose”



Participants of Raja Sutra 2025, organized by WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum in association with Odisha Potli, gather for a group photograph after a vibrant celebration of Raja Festival at the picturesque Bindusagar Lake.

The WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum, in collaboration with Odisha Potli, hosted a vibrant and soulful celebration titled “Raja Sutra 2025 – Vibes with a Purpose” on the serene banks of Bindusagar Lake, Bhubaneswar. The event brought together tradition, empowerment, and cultural pride in a refreshing celebration of Odisha's much-loved Raja Parba, a festival that honours the cycles of womanhood and Mother Earth.

Set against the tranquil backdrop of the historic Bindusagar Lake, the event beautifully blended the spirit of festivity with purpose. More than 45 women, adorned in colourful traditional attire, gathered in celebration of this festival that uniquely acknowledges menstruation as a symbol of life and fertility, breaking taboos and embracing womanhood with pride.

The venue came alive with vibrant décor, traditional



Glimpses from Raja Sutra 2025



Glimpses from Raja Sutra 2025 during the traditional welcome ceremony

textiles, and the joyful rhythm of Odia folk music. The traditional Raja swing, beautifully decorated with flowers and fabrics, became the centrepiece of the gathering. Laughter and cheer echoed through the space as women took turns swinging, rekindling nostalgic memories and forming new bonds.

In keeping with Raja's rituals, the participants engaged in traditional customs, paying homage to the cultural roots that tie this festival to themes of rest, rejuvenation, and feminine energy. The event was not just a celebration but also a cultural immersion, with women taking part in rituals that symbolized respect for the Earth and the feminine spirit.

The energy of the event was elevated through a series of interactive cultural activities—including traditional games, impromptu dance performances, storytelling, and discussions around sustainable practices. These moments fostered camaraderie and encouraged

participants to reflect on the evolving meaning of tradition in modern times.

No Raja celebration is complete without its signature delicacies and Raja Sutra 2025 was no exception. The women savoured a delectable spread of traditional Odia pithas (cakes or sweet-savoury delicacies) freshly prepared and served in an eco-conscious, community-style setup. These treats not only added to the sensory joy of the day but also highlighted Odisha's rich culinary heritage.

True to its theme, "Vibes with a Purpose," the event served as a platform to celebrate not just the festival, but also the ideas of self-care, inclusivity, and cultural preservation. It encouraged open conversations around topics often considered sensitive, such as menstruation, environmental awareness, and women's well-being turning the celebration into a space of reflection and learning.

The WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum, through this unique initiative, continues to create spaces where tradition and modern values harmoniously coexist fostering a culture of empowerment, pride, and community among women.

Raja Sutra 2025 was more than just a festival celebration, it was a vibrant expression of Odisha's heritage, a tribute to womanhood, and a joyful gathering of like-minded individuals who came together to celebrate, connect, and inspire.

The event was held on Wednesday, June 4th, 2025 at Soshi Ghat, Bhubaneswar.



Awareness Session on SME Funding and IPO Listing



Esteemed dignitaries and speakers on the dais during the session

Access to capital remains one of the most critical challenges for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) striving to scale and compete in today's dynamic marketplace. Funding through capital markets, particularly Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) offers a strategic avenue for SMEs to raise equity, enhance credibility, improve visibility, and accelerate growth. In line with this, an Awareness Session on SME Funding and IPO Listing was successfully conducted on [insert date] at [insert venue], jointly organized by the National Stock Exchange (NSE), World Trade Center (WTC) Bhubaneswar, Affinity Global Capital Markets, Balasore Chamber of Industries & Commerce (BCIC), and the North Orissa Chamber of Commerce & Industry (NOCCI).

The session was designed to educate and engage local enterprises on the benefits and processes of accessing capital through public listing and other structured financial mechanisms. It brought together key industry leaders, financial experts, and entrepreneurs under one platform to share knowledge, insights, and success stories.

The session commenced with opening remarks by Mr.

Sanjay Das, President of BCIC Balasore, who emphasized the pressing need for financial literacy among MSMEs and highlighted how market-linked funding can significantly boost their growth trajectory.

This was followed by a special address from Mr. P.K. Dave, President of NOCCI, who spoke on the critical role of regional industry clusters in India's economic growth and the opportunities that access to formal capital markets presents for these enterprises.



Entrepreneurs and stakeholders participating in the interactive session

Mr. Avik Gupta, Senior Manager at the National Stock Exchange (NSE), presented an in-depth overview of the NSE SME platform, explaining the eligibility, compliance requirements and the procedural aspects of IPO listings for SMEs. His session also covered the long-term benefits of

listing, including improved governance, investor confidence, and market reach.

Adding to the technical perspectives, CA Sanjay Bhalotia, Chairman of Affinity Global Capital Markets, delivered a detailed session on financial preparedness for IPOs, valuation approaches, and strategies to attract institutional and retail investors.



Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar felicitating Mr. Chandra Prakash Bhartia, Managing Director of Jagdamba Polymers Limited

A highlight of the event was the address by Mr. Chandra Prakash Bhartia, Managing Director of Jagdamba Polymers Limited, who shared his entrepreneurial journey, including his insights on navigating funding challenges and leveraging capital markets for expansion. His real-world experience served as a powerful inspiration to attending business owners.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Ms.

Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar who acknowledged all partners, speakers, and participants. She reiterated WTC Bhubaneswar's continued support to SMEs through capacity-building and market access initiatives.

Following the formal presentations, an engaging Q&A session was held, where participants had the opportunity to interact directly with the speakers. This interactive segment allowed MSME representatives to clarify their queries regarding IPO procedures, regulatory requirements, market timing, and investor expectations. The session reflected the enthusiasm and readiness of regional businesses to explore equity financing as a strategic growth path.

The session successfully raised awareness among regional MSMEs about structured funding options and the transformative potential of SME IPOs. It fostered productive dialogue between entrepreneurs and market experts and laid the groundwork for future partnerships and advisory support aimed at unlocking the financial potential of Odisha's small businesses.

The event was held on Friday, June 6th, 2025 at Udyog Bhawan, BCIC, Balasore.

Inauguration of Bhubaneswar-Abu Dhabi Flight & First Air Cargo Consignment Flag-off

Air connectivity plays a pivotal role in enhancing global trade and accelerating regional economic growth. With reduced transit time, improved logistics, and direct access to international markets, exporters can now reach global buyers faster and more efficiently. This not only enhances competitiveness but also encourages businesses to scale up their operations and tap into new opportunities.

For Odisha, the launch of direct international passenger flights with belly cargo space boosts investor confidence, attracts foreign exchange, and supports sectors like agriculture, handicrafts, textiles, seafood, and tourism. Improved air connectivity also strengthens

supply chains, supports MSMEs, and fosters an enabling ecosystem for innovation and exports.

WTC Bhubaneswar proudly marked its presence at a landmark event that signals a new era of global connectivity and trade for the state of Odisha. The inaugural IndiGo flight from Bhubaneswar to Abu Dhabi took off, opening a vital new air corridor between Odisha and the Middle East. This milestone is expected to significantly boost international connectivity, trade, and tourism.

In a historic first, the event also witnessed the official flag-off of the maiden air cargo consignment from Bhubaneswar to Abu Dhabi. The consignment, compris-



Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar, at the flag-off ceremony in the esteemed presence of Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha, and Smt. Usha Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport Department, Government of Odisha and other stakeholders.



IndiGo aircraft to Abu Dhabi receiving a water cannon salute ahead of its inaugural take-off.

ing 1 metric ton of premium Amrapalli mangoes, was flagged off by the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Mohan Charan Majhi in the august presence of Smt. Usha Padhee, IAS, Principal Secretary, Commerce & Transport Department, Government of Odisha. This symbolic export underscores Odisha's potential in agri-export and positions the state's high-quality produce on the global map.

WTC Bhubaneswar, as the State Export Facilitation Cell, is proud to have played an integral role in supporting this initiative. The Centre continues to work closely with

exporters, stakeholders, and government bodies to create new avenues for global market access and trade facilitation for Odisha-based businesses.

This dual achievement not only enhances Odisha's trade infrastructure but also reinforces its growing reputation as a key player in international logistics and export excellence.

The flag off was held on Thursday, June 12th, 2025 at BPIA, Bhubaneswar.



District-Level Workshop on Marketing, Branding & Promotion for MSMEs



Participants and stakeholders during the session

In today's competitive market landscape, marketing, branding, and packaging play a vital role in determining the success of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These elements are no longer optional—they are essential tools for enhancing product visibility, building customer trust, and capturing new markets, both domestic and global. However, for many rural and district-based enterprises, access to such knowledge and skills remains limited.

Recognizing the urgent need for district-level interven-

tions to bridge this gap, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar continues its outreach to support MSMEs at the grassroots. As part of this initiative, WTC Bhubaneswar participated as a key resource partner in a district-level workshop held in Rayagada, Odisha, focused on "Marketing, Branding & Promotion for MSMEs" in the Food Processing, Handloom, and Handicrafts sectors.

Representing the Center, **Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director**, and **Ms. T. Sweta, Trade Promotion Officer**, led an informative and engaging session tailored to the unique challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs. The session highlighted the importance of creating compelling brand identities, adopting effective packaging techniques, and leveraging digital platforms for promotion. It also offered actionable strategies to enhance market reach and build long-term customer loyalty.

The event was graced by **Shri. Akshaya Kumar Khemundu, Chief Development Officer, Zilla Parishad, Rayagada**, who joined as Guest of Honour and encouraged local entrepreneurs to leverage such opportunities for scaling up their businesses.

Shri. Bijaya Kumar Sahoo, General Manager, District



Ms. Nimeshika Natarajan, Assistant Director, WTC Bhubaneswar being felicitated post the workshop



Ms. T Sweta, Trade Promotion Officer, WTC Bhubaneswar being felicitated post the workshop

Industries Centre (DIC), Rayagada, welcomed all the dignitaries and participants and proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the collective efforts to strengthen MSMEs at the district level.

The workshop was attended by local MSME owners, artisans, and district officials, all of whom actively participated in discussions and knowledge-sharing. The speakers used relatable case studies and practical examples to help participants understand how effective branding and packaging can unlock new opportunities and elevate their business potential.

This intervention is part of WTC Bhubaneswar's broader mission to strengthen Odisha's MSME ecosystem by reaching entrepreneurs at the district and grassroots level, offering them the tools, training, and confidence to compete in an evolving global economy.

WTC Bhubaneswar remains committed to fostering inclusive growth, rural entrepreneurship, and enhanced market access for MSMEs across Odisha.

The session was held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 at Rayagada, Odisha.

6th Odisha Tourism Conclave 2025

Tourism plays a pivotal role in shaping the economic and cultural landscape of Odisha. With its unique blend of heritage sites, diverse ecosystems, tribal traditions, crafts, festivals, and coastal beauty, the state holds immense potential to emerge as one of India's most vibrant and sustainable tourism destinations. The sector is not only a major source of employment and entrepreneurship especially for rural and tribal communities, but also a catalyst for infrastructure development, global visibility, and cultural exchange.



Esteemed dignitaries during the inaugural session of the Odisha Tourism Conclave

The **6th Odisha Tourism Conclave 2025**, jointly organized by the **Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO)** and **World Trade Center Bhubaneswar** brought together an esteemed group of stakeholders from the tourism, hospitality, government, and international trade sectors to chart the future course of Odisha's tourism development.

Centered around the theme **"Positioning Viksit Odisha**

on India's Tourism Map," the conclave sparked in-depth discussions on several priority areas crucial for shaping the future of Odisha's tourism landscape. A key area of focus was the development of core tourism infrastructure and hospitality projects, with stakeholders highlighting the urgent need for improvements in connectivity, quality accommodations and tourist amenities at major destinations. Investment in hotel



WTC Bhubaneswar official along with members from WTC Bhubaneswar Women Forum during the conclave

construction and modern hospitality services was underscored as essential for enhancing Odisha's capacity to host both domestic and international tourists.

Another significant highlight was the introduction of 21-day immersive tourism packages, aimed at encouraging longer and more meaningful stays. These extended travel circuits are designed to immerse visitors in Odisha's diverse cultural, natural, and culinary experiences, thereby increasing tourist spending, deepening engagement, and contributing to regional economic growth.



Ms. T Sweta, Officer - International Trade Promotion, WTC Bhubaneswar representing the center

The conclave also placed strong emphasis on strengthening Odisha's global tourism profile. Delegates discussed strategies to attract foreign tourists through targeted marketing, international partnerships, and enhanced digital outreach. The need to reposition Odisha on the global tourism map as a culturally rich and experiential destination was echoed throughout the sessions.

In addition, the importance of building sustainable tourism ecosystems was widely discussed. Participants explored the integration of eco-friendly tourism models, community participation, and digital innovation to create tourism experiences that are both inclusive

and environmentally responsible. Special attention was given to preserving Odisha's unique heritage while fostering investment in cultural showcasing and modern tourism infrastructure.

As part of the outcome, recommendations were gathered from participating stakeholders across sectors, which shall be compiled into a formal document and submitted to the State Government of Odisha to inform future tourism policy, investment frameworks, and promotional strategies.

The 6th Odisha Tourism Conclave 2025 reaffirmed the state's vision of tourism as a transformative economic and cultural force. With focused efforts on infrastructure, long-stay travel, sustainability, and global branding, Odisha is well on its way to becoming a leading experiential tourism destination in India and beyond.

The collaboration between HRAO and World Trade Center Bhubaneswar provided a meaningful platform for collective thinking, innovative ideas, and strategic alignment between policymakers, industry leaders, and global stakeholders.

The event was held on Wednesday, June 25th, 2025 at Hotel Swosti Premium, Bhubaneswar.

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Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs: A Women's Day Message of Empowerment and Inspiration



Dr. Rina Routray

Chairperson,
Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan and
Advisor, WTC Bhubaneswar
Women Forum

On this International Women's Day, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible women entrepreneurs who continue to redefine the business world. The journey of entrepreneurship is not just about having a great idea; it's about having the courage to turn that idea into reality. It's about overcoming challenges with resilience and moving forward with determination despite the obstacles that may arise.

As women entrepreneurs, you hold immense power within you. Your journey is a testament to your strength, creativity, and drive. You are leaders, innovators, and sources of inspiration for others. The world needs more women like you—those who lead with passion and transform challenges into opportunities. Keep pushing forward and success will follow.

Here are some keyways to navigate the challenges you may face in your entrepreneurial journey:

1. Stay Focused on Your Vision

It's easy to get distracted by challenges but always remind yourself why you started in the first place. Your purpose is the driving force behind your business and will keep you motivated, especially during tough times. Staying aligned with your vision will help you stay grounded and focused.

2. Embrace Failures as Learning Opportunities

Setbacks are inevitable, but they are not failures; they are lessons in disguise. Every challenge provides an opportunity to learn and grow. Reflect on what went wrong, extract valuable insights, and use them to refine your approach. Failures are stepping stones on the path to success.

3. Develop a Strong Support System
Entrepreneurship can be a lonely journey, but you don't have to do it alone. Surround yourself with mentors, advisors, and fellow entrepreneurs who share your vision and can offer guidance, encouragement, and support. A strong support system can provide the motivation you need to keep going.

4. Manage Finances Wisely

One of the most common challenges women entrepreneurs face is managing cash flow. Keep a close eye on your finances—track your expenses, eliminate unnecessary costs, and ensure financial stability

by planning for the future. Good financial management is key to the long-term sustainability of your business.

5. Adapt to Market Changes

The business landscape is ever-changing, and so must your strategies. Stay informed about industry trends, market shifts, and evolving customer needs. Be open to pivoting your business model or adjusting your strategy if necessary. Adaptability is essential to staying competitive and resilient in today's fast-paced market.

6. Take Care of Your Mental and Physical Well-being

The pressure of running a business can take a toll on your mental and physical health. Stress and burnout can slow you down and hinder your productivity. It's important to prioritize self-care, maintain a work-life balance, and take time for yourself. A healthy entrepreneur is a successful entrepreneur.

7. Stay Persistent and Patient

Entrepreneurship is a long-term journey. Success doesn't happen overnight, and there will be times when you face setbacks or feel disheartened. Stay persistent, keep a positive mindset, and trust the process. Patience is essential as you navigate the highs and lows of your entrepreneurial path.

8. Seek Help When Needed

Never hesitate to ask for help. Whether it's seeking expert advice, attending workshops, or collaborating

ing with others who can add value to your business, asking for support is a sign of strength, not weakness. Collaboration and continuous learning will only enhance your entrepreneurial skills.

9. Believe in Yourself

Confidence is key to entrepreneurial success. If you believe in your abilities, others will too. Keep faith

in your ideas, your vision, and yourself. When you approach challenges with a positive mindset and unwavering belief in your potential, success will follow.

To all the women entrepreneurs out there, you are the future. Your resilience, innovation, and commitment are shaping the world of tomorrow. Keep striving, keep growing, and never stop believing in

your power to make a difference. As you continue to lead, innovate, and inspire, you are creating a legacy that will empower generations to come.

Happy Women's Day to all the amazing women entrepreneurs who are making an impact and paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.



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

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar Facilitates Businesses to Access Global Markets

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Discussion on the U.S Tariffs highlights Opportunities and Challenges for India



(L to R): Ms. Sonia Rocha, Officer, WTC Goa; Mr. Nirmal Sanzagiri, Founder and CEO, Revati Consultancy; Mr. Wilson Rodrigues, CEO, Rodricks; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa

The topic of U.S tariffs and way forward for India is both timely and strategic especially as Global Trade dynamics shift, and countries reassess economic partnerships. Over the last decade, U.S. tariff and trade policies have undergone significant changes, with a strong focus on: Protecting domestic Industries and countering unhealthy trade practices of certain countries in their dealings with the U.S. The imposed Tariffs will certainly impact those nations who are major trade partner of the US and India being one of them it became imperative to have a discussion on the tariffs imposed and analyse some of the key Opportunities and Challenges in store for India.

In 2019, India lost Its Generalized System of Preference (GSP) Status which impacted a whopping \$5.6 billion worth of Indian exports that entered the U.S. duty free. Concerns have also been expressed about Indian market access for U.S. companies especially in the fields of Medical devices and dairy among others.

While discussing on the subject, Mr Wilson Rodrigues, CEO of Rodricks said that the Impact on India could be understood on two fronts. He said that India has faced reduced competitiveness in certain exports like textiles, jewellery and pharmaceuticals and faced higher costs for key imports from the U.S. in areas of Technology, machinery and defence needs. But on the other front he expressed the aspect of U.S. still being India's largest

trading partner as the year 2023 saw over 120 billion in bilateral trade and has benefitted from supply chain realignments, especially as companies move away from China. Mr Rodrigues maintained that India should use the 90 day pause in the Tariffs implementation to have in-depth negotiations with the U.S to safeguard its operations in the U.S. markets.

Mr Nirmal Sanzagiri, Founder and CEO of Revati Consultancy, said that going forward India should indulge in more trade negotiations and diplomacy. The primary push should be to restore the GSP status and make a study on proposing a limited trade deal focused on some of the like jewellery, pharmaceuticals etc. where India has an edge. He stated that India needs to improve its manufacturing capabilities and ease of business to attract foreign investment and boost growth. A strategic focus is required to boost sectors like IT & Digital services, Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare as well as organic agriculture Exports. Improving logistics & infrastructure, focusing on ease of doing business and investing more in the skilling arena will help strengthen domestic competitiveness. Mr Sanzagiri also emphasized on Diversifying India's Exports Markets and expansion into Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America which will not only help us boost our exports but also at the same time reduce our over- reliance on the U.S. markets.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center (WTC) Goa, is an integral part of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) and the WTCA is uniquely positioned to help international trade flourish, even in the face of protectionist measures like U.S. tariffs, because of its global footprint, deep business networks, and focus on facilitating cross-border trade. The Association can connect exporters and importers to alternative markets through its 300+ WTCs based in close to 100 countries. He said that by global WTCs could play a vital role in promoting Trade Diversification. He said that the WTCs arrange Conferences, exhibitions and also promote

trade missions to different countries, these could be immensely beneficial to the Goan companies in diversifying their alternatives market access.

The vote of thanks was given by Ms. Sonia Rocha, Officer, World Trade Center Goa.

The discussion was held at WTC Goa on the April 15, 2025.

■

Career Guidance and Entrepreneurship Awareness Workshop for the youth of Goan Chari community



Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble CM of Goa in his speech said that the Artisans in the community can play a vital role in Enhancing Goa's Economic Development and mentioned this is the first time initiative "Career guidance and Entrepreneurship Awareness Workshop for the youth of Goan Chari community" and was happy and said this will go along way for the youth of the Chari community to choose the right career path and understand the different aspect of the entrepreneurship

Mr. Cyril D'Souza, Assistant Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Centre - Goa gave a comprehensive and engaging presentation on import-export opportunities through the WTC network spanning over 100 countries was truly remarkable. The global perspective you provided on international trade opportunities has broadened our participants' understanding of the vast possibilities available in the field of international business and commerce.

Ms. Chandani Naik, Economic Development Corporation (EDC), gave a presentation on loan schemes and various financial support programs offered by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The detailed information about EDC's initiatives has equipped the youth of Chari Community with crucial knowledge about financial assistance available for their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Ms. Dixita Morajkar, In-charge Manager Projects, Goa Education Development Corporation gave a presentation on education loans for Goan students

World Trade Center Goa conducted a session on Export Preparedness at the career guidance and entrepreneurship awareness workshop for the youth of the Goan Chari Community.

The Workshop was Graced by **Hon'ble CM of Goa, Dr. Pramod Sawant** as Chief Guest, along with other distinguished dignitaries including **Dr. Purnanand Chari, President of Goa Konkani Academy, Shri Chandan Chari, Businessman, and Smt. Anita Pravin Chari, Sarpanch of Verla-Canca Village Panchayat**

pursuing higher education both in India and abroad was extremely beneficial for our young attendees. The comprehensive information shared about the Goa Education Development Corporation's loan schemes and procedures has provided the youth with clear pathways to pursue their educational dreams without financial constraints.

Shri Umesh Naik-Senior Inspector Goa Khadi and Village Industries Board, an informative session on the support and training programs provided by the Goa Khadi Gramudhyog Organization to promote village industries was truly eye-opening for our participants. The insights shared about traditional crafts, skill development opportunities, and the potential of village-

based enterprises have inspired many youths to consider entrepreneurship in these sectors.

Shri Ram Parwar, Manager Projects, Goa State SC/ST and OBC Commission, gave insights and guidance as Manager Projects at the Goa State SC/ST and OBC Commission. The information shared about various schemes, opportunities, and support mechanisms available through the Commission which has opened new avenues of possibilities for the youth.

The workshop was organized at the Auditorium, Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panaji Goa on the May 18, 2025.

Interactive Meeting on Promoting Goan Cuisine locally and Globally Organized by WTC Goa

The primary objective of the interactive meeting organized by World Trade Center (WTC) Goa on 30th May 2025 was to explore strategies to promote Goan cuisine locally and in global market.

Goan cuisine, shaped by over four centuries of Portuguese influence, has evolved into a unique blend of flavors. Two distinct genres of cuisine stand out namely the Saraswat and Catholic culinary traditions both are so unique in their own way that the same dish may be prepared differently within each tradition however both styles offer distinct and delectable flavors.

WTC Goa invited three women entrepreneurs from Goa who have made significant contributions in the field of Goan cuisine, **Mrs. Revati Sanzagiri** –Proprietor of Reva's and an Expert in Goan masalas and Saraswat cuisine; **Ms. Vibhuti Kamat** – Specialist in Saraswat cooking and culinary education **Mrs. Ruth Marchon**–Expert in Catholic Goan sweets and snacks.

Mrs. Revati Sanzagiri emphasized the importance of using authentic Goan masalas and ingredients. She highlighted dishes like Ambadache Udameti, Polle, and Khatkhate. She said that her ready to cook masalas need just coconut powder, coconut milk and fresh grated coconuts to carve out Goan dishes thus making it convenient for global use. She stressed adapting with time while preserving traditional practices and presented a dish called Ambache Shiro which is a sweet snack made with semolina and having the distinct taste of Mangoes keeping the season in mind.



Goan ready to cook Masalas and select range of Food ingredients set to flavour the Global Markets

Mrs. Ruth Marchon shared her journey of starting by selling local snacks like samosas, rolls, and patollios. Mrs Marchon stressed on the fact that one needs to always use fresh and best ingredients so that the flavours of the dish can be highlighted. She also emphasized the importance of preserving and promoting Goan sweets and expressed a desire to take them to the local and international markets.

Ms. Vibhuti Kamat highlighted her work in educating youth about Goan culinary traditions. She focuses on catering for large gatherings and emphasized the need to educate Goan catering professionals on business upscaling and quality enhancement. She said that she has created a unique powder form of a popular Goan beverage known as Solkadi and just adding the required

water to the powder will bring out an authentic beverage ready for consumption.

The discussion also addressed the challenges of ingredient availability for the Goan diaspora. In response, **Mr. Cyril Desouza** from WTC Goa outlined the potential of the **WTCA Network**, which has a presence in over 300 locations across nearly 100 countries. This global network could be instrumental in taking Goan

cuisine to international markets. The meeting successfully brought to light the diverse richness of Goan cuisine and the potential avenues to globalize it. Collaboration, innovation, and use of global trade networks were recognized as key to ensuring Goan culinary traditions thrive worldwide.

The meeting was held at World Trade Center Goa on the May 30, 2025.

Goa Positions Itself as Emerging Logistics Gateway to South-Western India



Mr. Mohammed Irfan Shaikh, Assistant Manager, GOX, Sharaf Cargo Pvt Ltd, Mr Michael Gomes, Associate Manager – Cargo Sales, Air India Limited, Goa, Mr Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, Mr. Vishnu Prasad, Sr. Manager, Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal Pvt Ltd, Mr Vincent Fernandes, Proprietor, Krystal Holidays and Courier Services and Mr Joshua Periera, Branch Manager, Athena Global Logistics Pvt Ltd.

World Trade Center Goa (WTC Goa) successfully hosted a high-impact event titled “**Global Logistics, Advantage Goa**” at its center in the business district of Patto, Panaji on the 2nd of June 2025. The event aimed to spotlight Goa’s rapidly growing potential as a key logistics hub, leveraging its robust infrastructure and strategic geographic location.

The event brought together key players from the logistics and cargo sectors to explore how Goa could serve as the Gateway to South-Western India, offering seamless access to industrial clusters in neighboring states such as Maharashtra and Karnataka. With two international airports in North and South Goa, a modern multimodal logistics park, a well-developed rail and road network, and the strategic Mormugao Port, Goa presents a comprehensive multimodal logistics ecosystem.

One of the major highlights of the event was the proposal to launch a feeder vessel service connecting Mormugao Port to Mundra Port. This initiative is expected to significantly reduce logistics costs, especially for MSMEs, who currently rely on JNPT in Mumbai for exports. The alternate route via Mundra promises not only cost-efficiency but also an increase in domestic cargo movement, generation of employment, and enhanced revenue for the state.

Other key points discussed included:

- Establishment of bonded warehouses
- Less-than-container load (LCL) services tailored for MSMEs
- Expansion of reefer (refrigerated) facilities
- Strengthening rail connectivity

- Enhancing air cargo facilities for high-value and perishable exports

Participants noted that these developments would reduce planning time for MSMEs by offering export infrastructure closer to their base of operations. Hinterland exporters from neighboring states would also benefit from Goa's superior road connectivity and convenient access to its airports.

The event was attended by prominent representatives from Delta Ports Mormugao Terminal Pvt Ltd, Air India Limited, Sharaf Cargo Pvt Ltd (representing Gulf Air and Oman Air), Athena Global Logistics Pvt Ltd, and Krystal Holidays and Courier Services, among others.

Stakeholders unanimously acknowledged the need for a follow-up meeting involving formalized MoUs and collaborative frameworks that could drive transformative growth in Goa's logistics landscape.

WTC Goa reiterated its commitment to act as a facilitator in bringing stakeholders together and unlocking new economic opportunities that align with the state's potential to become a regional logistics powerhouse.

The event was held at World Trade Center Goa on the June 2, 2025.

High-Level Delegation from WTC Goa Visits State-of-the-Art GMR Goa Air Cargo Facility at Mopa

On 24th of June 2025, a high-level delegation from the logistics sector of World Trade Center (WTC) Goa visited the cutting-edge Greenfield air cargo facility of **GMR Goa Air Cargo Logistics**, located at the Manohar International Airport, Mopa, North Goa. The visit marked a significant step in reinforcing Goa's potential as an emerging logistics hub.

The delegation was given a guided tour of the facility, which operates 24/7 and offers a comprehensive suite of cargo services under one roof, including clearance of both **domestic and EXIM cargo**, and **temperature-controlled storage** ranging from **2-8°C and 15-25°C**, along with **reefer container facilities at -20°C**.

Key features highlighted during the walkthrough included:

- **Faster clearances** from Participating Government Agencies (PGAs)
- An on-site **Drug Controller Office**
- A **dedicated pharmaceutical handling zone**
- Connectivity to **29 domestic** and **10 international destinations**
- Advanced infrastructure such as **motorized conveyors, automated workstations, roller beds, ULD weigh scales, and cool containers/freezers**

The facility, operated by **GMR Aero Cargo Logistics**, a division of **GMR Airports Limited**, represents a





significant milestone in enhancing Goa's logistics infrastructure. Its strategic capabilities and global connectivity position it as a **game changer** for the logistics sector and a vital catalyst in promoting Goa as a premier logistics hub for India and beyond.

The visit was organized at MOPA, Pernem Taluka, on June 24, 2025 where the facility is situated, and allowed

stakeholders to explore future collaborations that will unlock the full potential of Goa's multimodal logistics ecosystem.

The visit was organized on June 24, 2025 at MOPA, Pernem Taluka,

From Goa to the Globe, brand blue Stratos is ready to soar



LHS – Mr Cyril Desouza, Assistant Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa and on
RHS – Mr Tome Menezes, Co- Founder, Neltrade Pvt. Ltd.

World Trade Center Goa proudly facilitated the soft launch of blue Stratos an iconic grooming brand owned by its esteemed member company, Neltrade Private Limited, on 27th June 2025 at the WTC Goa premises.

blue Stratos has been a trusted name in men's grooming solutions since 1974, known for its legacy of quality and sophistication. With this launch, the brand marks a new chapter aimed at expanding its footprint in domestic and international markets and successfully showcases Goa's entrepreneurship for global recognition.

WTC Goa extends its best wishes to blue Stratos on this exciting journey and assures the brand of its full support through the powerful World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network that has a presence of a World Trade Center in 300+ cities across 90+ countries and territories, reaching over 1 million affiliated businesses. We are confident that the WTCA Network's prowess will be a catalyst to assist in taking blue Stratos to the global stage.

The event was held at World Trade Center Goa on the June 27, 2025.

Fostering Foreign Trade and Investments in Rajasthan through Trade Fairs and Expos



Ms. Priya Pansare – Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Jaipur With Mr. Aditya Singh, State in charge, ECGC, Jaipur, Rajasthan

As business activity once again gains momentum in the Capital City of Rajasthan, it was an opportune time to interact with important stakeholders, State and central government office bearers, and Real estate sector stalwarts to understand what is driving growth and how World Trade Center Jaipur can assist the local business community to diversify businesses overseas and usher into foreign trade by leveraging WTC's global linkages across 91 countries and 330 World Trade Centers.

Ms. Priya Pansare – Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, visiting Rajasthan on a roadshow to promote the Global Economic Summit 2025 to be organized at the World Trade Center Mumbai.

In a candid conversation with the Rajasthan State Head in Jaipur for ECGC (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited), Mr. Aditya Singh, Ms. Priya, while extending the invitation to Mr. Aditya and his team to collaborate and attend the Global Economic Summit 2025, explained, "Themed 'Asia Pacific Drives Global Trade,' the 2025 APC will take place concurrently with the Global Economic Summit (GES), a WTC Mumbai signature conference, and feature keynote speeches, high-level panel discussions, business tours to share expertise, exchange ideas, deepen collaboration, and

effectively promote regional and global economic development. Focusing on trade development in India and Asia Pacific, the 2025 APC will invite esteemed experts to share insights and strategies on how to do business in different areas of Asia Pacific under the current business environment."

During the meeting with Mr. Singh, Ms. Priya advocated the eminent need for a World Trade Center Facility. She said, "A World Trade Center (WTC) is a beneficial addition to India because it fosters international trade, promotes business networking, and provides access to global business opportunities. WTCs connect businesses with international trade services and facilities, simplifying and stimulating trade. Not just this, they offer shared spaces for brainstorming, incubation, and cross-industry collaborations, fostering innovation and knowledge sharing."

Mr. Singh shared, "ECGC Ltd. (Formerly Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.), wholly owned by the Government of India, was set up in 1957 with the objective of promoting exports from the country by providing Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and is managed by a Board of Directors comprising representatives of the Government, Reserve Bank of India, banking, and insurance, and the exporting community. Over the years, ECGC's roles have evolved; we today provide a range of credit risk insurance covers to exporters against loss in the export of goods and services, we offer Export Credit Insurance coverage to banks and financial institutions to enable exporters to obtain better facilities from them, we also provide Overseas Investment Insurance to Indian companies investing in joint ventures abroad in the form of equity or loan."

In another important stakeholder consultation meeting with the Director, MSME- Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Jaipur, Mr. Gaurav Joshi and Mr. Balram Meena, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, Jaipur, it was understood that by taking a lead role, Ministry of MSME, government of India is ensuring MSME's gets business ready and achieve all necessary support to make product and services competitive enough to be not just sold domestically but exportable as well. Mr. Gaurav shared the main facilities rendered by the MSME DFO offices across India, "we actively advise in policy formulation for the promotion and development of

MSMEs, we provide techno-economic and managerial consultancy, common facilities, and extension services to MSMEs, providing facilities for technology upgradation, modernization, quality improvement, and infrastructure. We assist in developing human resources through training and skill upgradation, facilitating cluster development as a vehicle for MSME Ecosystem development, and providing economic information services. We also maintain a close liaison with the Central Ministries, NITI Aayog, State Governments, Financial Institutions, and other Organizations concerned with the development of MSMEs, evolving and coordinating Policies and Programmes for the development of MSMEs as ancillaries to large industries, including CPSUs.” Ms. Priya extended an invitation to the entire MSME DFO team to GES 2025.

Ms Priya, during the visit, also spoke with Mr. Kiran V. N., Assistant Director, O/o DC. (Handicrafts), Karnataka and Mr. D. D. Maheshwari, General Manager, National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), Mumbai Metropolitan Region, and apprised them about GES 2025 and invited them to be part of the summit in Mumbai.

In yet another landmark meeting at the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Ms. Priya invited Mr. Anand Tripathi, Additional Director of the Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, and requested to showcase the great heritage of the state through a pavilion and share



Ms. Priya Pansare – Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Jaipur With Mr. Anand Tripathi, Additional Director, Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, Jaipur



Ms. Priya Pansare – Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Jaipur With Mr. Subhash Sharma, Joint Commissioner, DIC (District Industries Centre), Government of Rajasthan

The extends a warm invitation to all travelers world-wide, particularly those interested in exploring the rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes of the state, reiterating the slogan, "Padharo Mhare Desh" (Welcome to my land)." On a lighter note, Mr. Tripathi shared how the World had become infatuated with the state's remarkable beauty, "Rajasthan is not only one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world but also the most widely captured on film. Ranging from runaway successes with massive finances to documentaries made on a tight budget, Rajasthan offers a vast range of locations and facilities for every kind of filmmaker and genre of cinema. It has been a favored location with both Indian and International filmmakers such as Christopher Nolan and Wes Anderson, and many more." Mr. Tripathi also explained how the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister, Mrs. Diya Kumari's efforts are putting the State on the World Map. Though Festivals and Fairs, development of Local Art, impetus to local dance and music, and many more steps have once again put the state as a must-visit destination in every traveler's bucket list.

Speaking to a delegation from CDOS (Center for Development of Stones), Jaipur, Mr. Mukul Rastogi, CEO, CDOS & Ms. Anju Singh from Laghu Udhog Bharti Ms. Priya invited CDOS and LUB to explore from abundant possibilities to collaborate for GES 2025.

While interacting with the State Government's most important department, the District Industries Center, meeting with Joint Commissioner, **Mr. Subhash Sharma**, District Industries Center, and his team members. Agenda for the meeting: Invitation to GES 2025, creation of Rajasthan Pavilion, recommending



Ms. Priya Pansare – Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Jaipur With Mr. Mukul Rastogi, CEO (CDOS), and Mrs. Anju Singh, Laghu Udhog Bharti

good exhibitors from different districts, and organizing events collaboratively all over the potential business districts of Rajasthan.

Mr. Sharma was keen to emphasize the role of DIC in Rajasthan, “In Rajasthan, the District Industries Centre (DIC) plays a crucial role in promoting MSMEs by

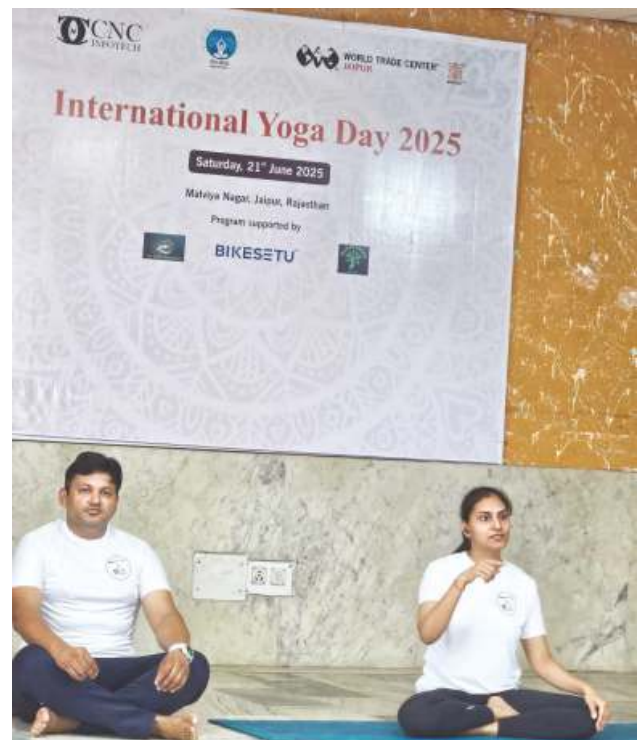
providing financial assistance, training, and support services. They act as a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs, helping them navigate government schemes, access finance, and develop their businesses. In addition, DICs organize exhibitions, trade fairs, and buyer-seller meets to help entrepreneurs promote their products and services. DICs also work with other agencies like RIICO (Rajasthan Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation) to promote industrial growth. In true spirit, DICs are instrumental in fostering entrepreneurship and driving industrial growth in Rajasthan by providing a comprehensive support system for MSMEs. Mr. Sharma also shared how the Honorable Chief Minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal Sharma, Industries Minister, Mr. Raghvaendra Rathore, and RIICO Chairman, IAS, Mr. Ajitabh Sharma, are leaving no stone unturned in making Rajasthan one of the most progressive states, ultimately changing Rajasthan's export landscape, bolstering products manufacturing and booming services sector.

The meeting was held on May 22nd and 23rd, 2025.

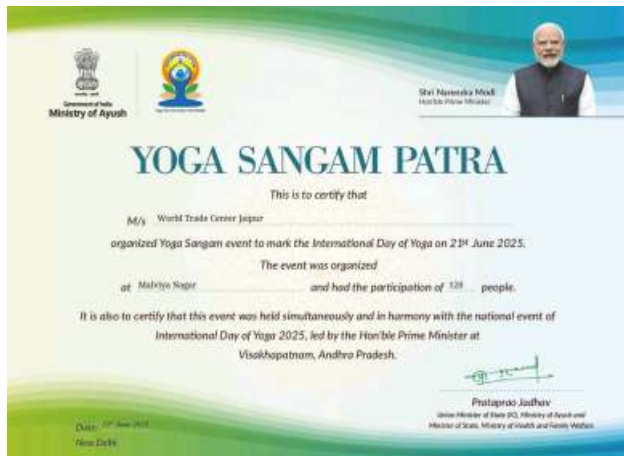
Yoga for wellness and global peace

Yoga, derived from the Sanskrit word “Yuj”, meaning “to unite,” is an ancient Indian discipline that harmonizes the body, mind, and spirit. It transcends a mere physical exercise routine and is a comprehensive approach to holistic well-being. Practiced for thousands of years, yoga has grown into a global movement for good reason. World Trade Center Jaipur, in collaboration with CNC Infotech, organized a Yoga training session, inviting a certified trainer for hundreds of participants from Malviya Nagar, Jaipur Region. The program later got appreciated with certification from the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, applauding the organization of such a mass welfare event.

Ms. Gargi Agarwal, Yoga Trainer, followed the Yoga Day Protocol and later demonstrated Standing Asanas, (Tadasana (Mountain Pose), which improves posture, balance, and focus, Vrikshasana (Tree Pose), which enhances balance and strengthens legs, Trikonasana (Triangle Pose), Virabhadrasana), Sitting Asanas, Forward Bending Asanas, Backward Bending Asanas, Inverted Asanas and Balancing Asanas.



Mr. Navneet Agarwal with Ms. Gargi Agarwal



Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India Acknowledgement Certificate

Mr. Manish Dhameja, Director, CNC Infotech, and Mrs. Kala Dhameja, President, RSPSS, welcomed the participants and shared the benefits of adopting yoga in everyday life and practicing it on a continued basis. +

Chief Guest to the program, Mrs. Jai Shree Garg, Councilor, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur, motivated the young participants by saying, "Yoga has multifaceted importance. Yoga improves flexibility & Strength. Regular yoga practice stretches and tones the muscles, improving flexibility, posture, and core strength. Yoga Boosts Immunity, supports the proper functioning of every organ, and strengthens the immune system by reducing stress and inflammation. it also better your Cardiovascular Health. Certain forms of yoga, like Vinyasa or Power Yoga, increase heart rate and support cardiovascular endurance. One should remember that Yoga Enhances Respiratory Function, Pranayama (breath control) improves lung function, and oxygenates the body more effectively. Yoga is often prescribed for chronic pain, especially back pain, arthritis, and migraines."

Mr. Madhusudan Dadich, Skill Expert, Guest of Honour to the program, added, "I believe, the primary aim of yoga is to create harmony in the human body and mind. It provides a balanced approach to life by combining physical postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), meditation (dhyana), and ethical principles (yamas and niyamas). While many today practice yoga mainly for fitness, its real strength lies in its power to bring inner peace and self-awareness."

Mr. Dadich continued by saying, "In today's fast-paced and stressful world, yoga has become more relevant than ever. With long working hours, sedentary lifestyles, and increasing mental health issues, people are turning to yoga to restore balance and calm. Schools, colleges, offices, and even correctional facilities are adopting yoga to promote discipline, relaxation, and emotional intelligence. The rise of technology has made it easier to access yoga classes online, allowing people to practice from the comfort of their homes. Yoga is also being integrated into fitness routines and therapy programs worldwide."

Around 150 participants attended and practiced yoga in main auditorium, Agarwal Community Hall, Malviya Nagar Jaipur and benefitted from the program.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Jaipur, acknowledged the presence of all dignitaries, program supporters Bikesetu and Second Spring, the active participation of the dedicated yoga trainer, and all participants. Mr. Agarwal also expressed gratitude to Agarwal Samaj for allocating the prestigious Hall for organizing the Yoga Day Training Session.

Yoga training session was held on June 21, 2025

BRISKPE: Revolutionizing Cross-Border Payments

In a uniquely curated power-packed program for Rajasthan, BRISKPE organized Global Trade Connect 2025 at The Lalit, Jaipur, a full-day event with 200+ exporters, Amazon sellers & D2C brands. It was a forum that deep-dived into cross-border payments, compliance, and marketplace growth. The event also showcased expert panels and provided opportunities to network. World Trade Center collaborated with BRISKPE as a panel partner and shared how World

Trade Center Jaipur is supporting MSMEs to help them foray into foreign trade, leveraging its robust network of over 330 World Trade Centers in 100 countries.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Sanjay Tripathy, Chief Executive Officer- BRISKPE, shared about the organization, "BRISKPE is a leading Mumbai-based cross-border payments platform dedicated to empowering Indian MMEs and freelancers. Our platform seamlessly



Left to right, Mr. Indunath Chaudhary, Chief Operating Officer – BRISKPE, CA Snehal Sukhadia, Atharv Advisors, Ahmedabad, and CA Ravi Chopra, Parshotam & Associates, Ludhiana, Punjab, and Mr. Navneet Agarwal.

integrates regulatory expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a steadfast commitment to supporting Indian exporters and freelancers in the global market.”

Mr. Tripathi continued by saying “At BRISKPE, our mission is to equip Indian MSMEs and freelancers with the tools they need to succeed internationally. We believe that every Indian exporter, regardless of size, should have access to resources that simplify and optimize international payments.”

Mr. Indunath Chaudhary, Chief Operating Officer – BRISKPE, in a conversation with Team WTC Jaipur, shared, “What we do is we do Regulatory Expertise: We navigate complex international regulations to ensure smooth and compliant transactions, our platform leverages the latest technology to offer fast, secure, and cost-effective cross-border payments and our unwavering commitment to transforming each transaction into a traceable journey, providing transparency and peace of mind for our customers.” Mr. Chaudhary, while addressing the audience, discussed on how to reduce transaction costs and manage forex volatility.

Mr. Nilesh Pathak, Chief Product & Tech Officer, BRISKPE, when asked, rightly answered the question-Why Choose BRISKPE? “Empowerment: We empower Indian MSMEs and freelancers to compete on a global scale, our platform is user-friendly, making interna-

tional payments simple and efficient, not just transactions; we offer comprehensive support to help our users navigate the complexities of international finance.” Mr. Pathak dwelled upon how tech can transform the Global payment system.

Mr. Rakshit Poddar, President, Garment Export Association of Rajasthan, delivered the keynote address and shared how Rajasthan has made a name for itself globally in Garment manufacturing and global exports. Mr. Mohan Dan Ratnoo, Additional Commissioner – Administration, GST, in his special address, congratulated the organizers and ensured every manufacturer and every services provider in the state that the Government is prepared and leaving no stone unturned to help the fraternity grow and prosper.

Earlier at Global Trade Connect 2025, Mr. Indunath Chaudhary moderated the first panel discussion, Cracking the Code - Trade Compliance & Tax Clarity, and urged panelists to brainstorm together on breaking down one of the biggest barriers in international business. Subject matter experts CA Snehal Sukhadia, Atharv Advisors, Ahmedabad and CA Ravi Chopra, Parshotam & Associates, Ludhiana, Punjab deliberated upon GST, FEMA, E-FIRA & reconciliation, common pitfalls & purpose codes that often trip up even seasoned exporters, how businesses—especially in IT, SaaS, or services—can map transactions to the correct purpose

codes, how exporters should structure their GST documentation to ensure refund eligibility while avoiding scrutiny under IGST on exports, What are some lesser-known but high-impact FEMA dos and don'ts that often catch exporters off-guard, What role do tools like e-FIRA and automated reconciliation play in easing the GST refund and EDPMS closure process and whether banks/ADs aligned with exporters' tech adoption here, how can exporters better prepare for audits around foreign inward remittances and GST reconciliations and how can exporters build a scalable compliance framework that keeps pace with their growth - especially when operating across multiple tax jurisdictions. Experts also dwelled upon Tax implications for non-resident sellers while selling on various marketplaces, Basic compliance requirements in various countries, and how to protect your brand, and the importance of knowing the destination country's law.

A series of panel discussions followed after the Fireside Chat on D2C (Direct-to-Consumer) with Mr. Anshuman Jain, D2C Consultant.

Moderated by Mr. Nilesh Pathak, Chief Product & Tech Officer, BRISKPE, Mr. Kiran Patil, Chief Executive Officer, Growisto, Mr. Sumedh Sachdev, Founder, Lucria Consult, Mr. Percy Avari, Country Manager, Aramex India, and Mr. Piyush Garg, Sr. Export Enablement Manager, Amazon joined for panel discussion on E-commerce Beyond Borders, Themed: Sell Globally, Deliver Locally: Growing Through Marketplaces.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal- Assistant Director – Trade and Investment Promotion- World Trade Center Jaipur thanked Mr. Indunath Chaudhary and the team at BRISKPAY for the opportunity to collaborate and urged the organizers to visit the state frequently and organize similar programs so that other cities in Rajasthan, too, can benefit from their expertise in managing Cross-Border Payments.

The meeting was held on June 25, 2025. ■

World MSME Day Celebrations: Seeking enlightenment, Fostering Growth and Developing Perspective

Commemorating World MSME Day 2025, World Trade Center Jaipur, Laghu Udyog Bharti, MSME-Development and Facilitation Center (DFO) Jaipur, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and the State Bank of India, Ajmer division organized a knowledge session to acknowledge the rising contribution of MSMEs to the growth and development of the economy and apprised the participants with new support schemes and guidelines of ministry and financial institutions.

Chief Guest to the program, Mr. Girish Kumar, Assistant Director- MSME DFO, Ministry of MSME, Jaipur, shared with the participants, "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector has emerged as a highly vibrant and dynamic sector of the Indian economy over the last five decades. MSMEs not only play a crucial role in providing large employment opportunities at comparatively lower capital cost than large industries, but also help in industrialization of rural & backward areas, thereby reducing regional imbalances, assuring more equitable distribution of national income and wealth. MSMEs are complementary to large industries as ancillary units, and this sector contributes enor-

mously to the socio-economic development of the country.

Mr. Girish continued by saying, "The Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in India offers a wide array of schemes to support and promote the growth of MSMEs. These schemes cover various aspects like financial assistance, technology upgradation, infrastructure development, skill development, and marketing support. Some key schemes include the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), and the Credit-Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation. I would like to emphasize the Objectives of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), which clearly states that the scheme aims to serve the dual objectives, one to provide financial assistance to set up self-employment ventures and generate sustainable employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas and secondly to generate sustainable and continuous employment opportunities for rural and unemployed youth as well as prospective traditional artisans and thereby halt occupational



Participants and dignitaries attending World MSME DAY 2025

migration. The key benefits could be Credit credit-linked subsidy program for setting up new micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector; Margin Money subsidy ranges from 15% to 35% of the project cost for projects up to Rs. 50 Lakh in the Manufacturing sector and Rs. 20 Lakh in the Service sector. And for beneficiaries belonging to Special categories such as SC/ST/ Women/ Minorities/ Ex-Servicemen/ Transgenders/ Aspirational districts/ NER, the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas. One has to remember the fact that the own contribution of the beneficiary is 10% of the project cost in case of General category and 5% of the project cost in case of Special category (S C / S T / O B C / P H / W o m e n / E x S e r v i c e m e n / T r a n s g e n d e r s / A s p i r a t i o n a l D i s t r i c t s / N E R) beneficiaries and If the application for loan is approved, banks sanction and release the balance amount of 90 to 95% of the total project cost suitably for setting up of the units by the beneficiaries. Not only this, the Government of India has introduced an online process for the flow of applications and the disbursement of Margin Money directly to financing branches.”

Mr. Girish dealt with other schemes as well, like Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) offering collateral-free credit to MSMEs, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation that provides financial assistance to MSMEs for adopting new and improved technologies and Interest Subvention Scheme that offers interest relief on loans taken by MSMEs and responded to multiple queries of participants.

Earlier, Mr. Rjaesh Bansal, President, Laghu Udhog Bharti, Palra Industrial Area, Ajmer, and CA Divya Somani, President, Laghu Udhog Bharti Mahila Ikai, Ajmer, welcomed the dignitaries and participants and apprised them all of the ongoing initiatives and welfare program organized for Women Entrepreneurs and MSMEs in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Multiple knowledge sessions were organized for the participants, CGWA - No Objection Certificate (NOC) for Groundwater Abstraction, presented by OGGN E (Authorized CGWA Consultancy), Amazon Connect - Ajmer Edition - All about E-commerce, Listing of Products, Amazon Karigar & Amazon Saheli, presented by Amazon Team Representatives, and Presentation by State Bank of India on Various Finance options/schemes for MSMEs and Women Entrepreneurs

The celebrations on World MSME DAY 2025 were appreciated by all major newspapers in Rajasthan.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Assistant Director – Trade and Investment Promotion, expressed gratitude to LUB Ajmer, MSME-DFO Jaipur, and SBI for the collaborative association and thanked participants for joining the celebrations.

World MSME Day 2025, World Trade Center Jaipur was held on June 27, 2025 at Vega Mall, Ajmer, Rajasthan.

■

Sourcing Buyers – Most Sought After among Business Owners



ised yet another program on the topic titled, 'Finding the Right International Buyers and Markets' for the benefit of the trading and business community. The insightful session provided valuable knowledge, strategies and expert insights to help businesses to navigate the complexities of global trade and connect with credible buyers worldwide. The session was conducted by Mr. Arun Sehgal, Chairman and Managing Director, Chempro Group of Companies.

Most MSMEs and business owners are faced with the daunting task of finding buyers in competitive global markets for successful expansion. To assist them, the World Trade Institute organised the first program in the last quarter of 2024. The program was well received across trade and industry.

On popular demand, the World Trade Institute organ-

While the session catered to existing exporters looking to strengthen their place in international networks, it also offered actionable guidance and opportunities for newer connections.

The program was held on April 25, 2025.

Understanding Nuances of Export Documentation and Procedures

The World Trade Institute designed a unique three-Saturday program titled 'Certificate Course in Export Documentation and Procedures'. This intensive, hands-on program was curated to impart critical skills to navigate the complex procedures and regulations of international trade. The participants received a comprehensive training on export documentation from handling export orders, shipping bills and other customs documentation, documentary credits, Incoterms 2020, etc. The session was conducted by Mr. Shailendra Binju, Former Head - International Logistics, HEG Limited.

The professionals in freight forwarding agencies, supply chain management, export-oriented units, exim consultants, and aspiring exporters and entrepreneurs were also imparted practical training in filling export documents. Besides, they were also taught the role of



various agencies in trade facilitation and how to efficiently manage export-import compliance through case studies in real world application.

The sessions were held on May 10, 17 and 31, 2025.

Unlock the Future of Trade with AI in Customs and Compliance



Artificial Intelligence has pervaded all areas of work including, International Trade. Against this backdrop most businesses would look to taking their trade expertise to a next level. In this scenario, World Trade Center Mumbai conducted an exclusive session on AI in Customs & Compliance. This session

was designed for customs professionals who want to master the next evolution in international trade. The session was conducted by Dr. Joshua Ebenezer, Principal Consultant - Customs & Trade Law Expert, NuCov Facility Trade.

The two-hour session provided ways to gain a competitive edge in an evolving industry, predict risks before they happened and prevent costly mistake, stop fraud using cutting-edge technology, automate compliance with precision and speed to save time and resources.

The session was more than just a session – a transformative experience - providing thinkers insight into shaping tomorrow's trade.

The session was held on June 5, 2025.

Unlock Global Financial Opportunities with PGDFERM

The World Trade Institute rolled out the Post Graduate Diploma in Forex and Risk Management (PGDFERM) - 32nd batch, virtually. This online five-month course serves as a gateway to mastering the complexities of global financial markets and safeguarding business against risks.

The PGDFERM proves to be a game changer where the prospective students have the opportunity to master forex markets and learn various risk strategies, have access to practical, real-world insights into forex markets and risk management techniques.

The curriculum is a comprehensive one covering foreign exchange, risk management, technical analysis and



international trade finance, besides skills that are high demand across industries. This faculty will not just teach the curriculum but will also mentor and guide the prospective student. The sessions are

The course commenced on June 24, 2025.



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Offline: Sat | 10:00 am - 5:00 pm



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Career Fair 2025: Charting Paths to a Future-Ready Generation



Dr Niranjan Hiranandani, Provost, HSNL University inaugurating CCF 2025 in presence of Dr R S S Mani, Co-founder, ITM University, Pooja Ramchandani, Principal, HR college, Rupa Naik, ED, WTC Mumbai along with Disha Mehra, co-founder Blink Prime Events.

World Trade Center Mumbai's Career Counselling Fair 2025 wasn't just an event; it was a vibrant hub where future aspirations took flight.

In a rapidly evolving world of work, the need for insightful career guidance is paramount. This landmark initiative brought together students, parents, educators, universities, startups, and industry leaders for an empowering, future-focused dialogue.

The success of the 2025 Fair was made possible through the generous support of sponsors IDFC FIRST Bank and İstanbul Gedik University, and the seamless execution of our partner, Blink Prime Events.

Setting the Stage for Future Readiness

The inaugural session featured powerful insights from key personalities. Ms. Rupa Naik, Executive Director of World Trade Center Mumbai, alongside Dr. Pooja Ramchandani, Principal of HR College of Commerce & Economics, and Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Founder and Chairman of Hiranandani Group, along with Prof. RSS Mani (Co-Founder & VP, Institutional Development, ITM Group of Institutions) collectively emphasized the critical need for relevance, agility, and future-readiness in today's educational landscape.

Dr. Hiranandani framed education as a vital tool for nation-building, urging a purposeful and forward-thinking approach. In an age of information overload, he stressed the importance of turning data into actionable knowledge, advising students to **"Be cutting-edge, whatever you choose,"** and to strive for daily growth – **"1% better every day."**

Dr. Pooja Ramchandani highlighted the vast array of choices available to today's students, emphasizing that the real task lies in leveraging these opportunities effectively. "Follow the counsellor for sure, but not without your own analysis. There is always a leader hidden somewhere in every student and Gen Z must find that leader," Dr. Ramchandani remarked.

She lauded the WTC Mumbai's Career Counselling Fair 2025 as a crucial platform for exploring diverse paths, aligning with individual talents and interests. Dr. Ramchandani **pointed out, "A mere paper of the degree is not sufficient. What skills you have are important. A book will tell you the definitions, but not the activity from where it came from."** Dr. Ramchandani also reminded students that with opportunity comes responsibility, a key consideration for Gen Z.

Prof. RSS Mani (Co-Founder & VP, Institutional Development, ITM Group of Institutions) stressed on the crucial role of parents as enablers, not decision-makers, in their children's career choices. He encouraged students to embrace their individuality, act with integrity, and utilize platforms like LinkedIn for continuous learning, underscoring his powerful mantra: **"Life never stops teaching, so never stop learning."**

The one-day fair hosted over 40 leading educational institutions and student finance support companies. Engaging panel discussions featured top counsellors and HR experts, offering valuable perspectives on the journey from education to impactful careers.

Expert Insights: Navigating the Path from Education to Performance



An expert panel discussion - "From Potential to Performance: Empowering Career Journeys", with top HR heads, education founders, and principals was anchored by Ms. Smita Deshmukh, Head, Center of Excellence, WTC Mumbai.

Key voices in the panel on career readiness

- **Ms. Vibha Kagzi (Founder & CEO, ReachIvy.com):** Articulated the "**3 Cs of Career Readiness**"—**courage, clarity, and confidence**—as cornerstones of modern professional success, passionately advocating for purpose-driven careers rooted in personal values.
- **Ms. Sajita Thomas (HR, Diebold Nixdorf):** Pointed to the increasing demand for humanities professionals, emphasizing the growing importance of empathy, creativity, and ethics in an automated world. She shared a key insight: "**Hiring today prioritizes will over skill**," with employers seeking individuals with a growth mindset.
- **Dr. Seema Tatwawadi (Ruselle Square International College):** Underscored the vital role of schools in nurturing essential life skills and cultural grounding, preparing students for both careers and responsible citizenship.
- **Ms. Manisha Khemlani (CEO, Central Chinmaya Mission Trust):** Highlighted the non-negotiable importance of soft skills like communication, emotional intelligence, and collaboration as the bedrock for personal and professional growth in a dynamic world.
- **Ms. Sujatha Rajgopalan (Deputy General**

Manager, Sterling & Wilson Pvt. Ltd.): Emphasized the need to cultivate global citizens who remain deeply connected to their cultural heritage.

- **Dr. Samir Karkhanis (CEO, Yango Executive Education):** Stressed on the necessity of stronger industry-academia collaborations to ensure curriculum relevance.

- **Mr. Vedant Podar (CEO & Co-Founder, Podar Eduspace):** Provided a policy perspective, explaining how NEP 2020 promotes a more interconnected and holistic educational model integrating community, purpose, and experiential learning.

- **Mr. Dhaval Gandhi (Co-founder, The School of Luxury Retail):** Offered a simple yet profound insight: "**Exposure builds awareness, and awareness leads to clarity**," advocating for exposing children to diverse real-world professionals.
- **Ms. Anju Saini (Founder, Elegant Success Impressions):** Emphasized on the significance of authentic self-expression, reminding students that fulfilling career journeys begin with self-awareness.
- **Mr. Navroz Billimoria (Principal, Secondary School, B.D. Somani International School):** Reminded attendees that modern schools are dynamic platforms for discovery, dialogue, and ambitious dreams, extending far beyond traditional syllabi.

A Compass for the Future

The Career Counselling Fair 2025 was more than just an event; it was a catalyst for building pathways to future readiness. By providing invaluable guidance rooted in purpose, adaptability, and curiosity, it empowered young minds to not only navigate the evolving world of work but to actively shape it.

The Fair was held on April 5, 2025



Exhibitions

Haat of Art (18 April, 2025)



Coin Fair (25 April, 2025)



Silk India 29 May- 8 June, 2025



Exhibitions

Brand Universe Bharat (23 - 25 May, 2025)



Kidz World (3-4 May, 2025)



Mother's Day Special Flea Market (9 May, 2025)



Mumbai International Chess Tournament-2025 (16-24 June, 2025)



Promotional Activity

Embark Perfume (10 June, 2025)



HSBC Promotional Activity (12 June, 2025)



MG Motors Car Promotional Activity (18 June, 2025)



Mahindra Life Spaces (12 June, 2025)



Landmark MG Mumbai / Game Park Pvt Ltd (13 to 15 June, 2025)



WTC Mumbai Highlights



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with H.E. C. P. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, at Raj Bhavan.



WTC and AIAI Team had a meeting with Ms. Shirani Ariyaratne, Consul General of Sri Lanka, to discuss opportunities for trade promotion and economic collaboration. The discussion focused on enhancing bilateral trade, facilitating investment opportunities, and strengthening commercial ties between Sri Lanka and global markets.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President of AIAI along with Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Sr. Director - All India Association of Industries and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade and Investment Promotion - WTC Mumbai, met with Dr. Ricardo Wheatley Director / Asia-Pacific Affairs Officer - Government of the Virgin Islands and Ms. Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director / Asia-Pacific Affairs Officer - Government of the Virgin Islands. The meeting focused on exploring trade opportunities and extending an invitation to participate in the upcoming Global Economic Summit 2025 and World Trade Expo 2025.



All India Association of Industries (AIAI) participated in the 6th International Conference and Exhibition on the Steel Industry, engaging with key stakeholders and industry leaders. Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI, shared key insights on the future of the steel sector and had a meaningful interaction with Shri. Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma, Hon'ble Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Government of India.



WTC Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI) hosted a welcome reception for H.E. Mr. Benedikt Höskuldsson, Ambassador of Iceland to India. The interaction marked a step forward in strengthening trade and cultural ties between Iceland and India.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President All India Association of Industries (AIAI) participated in the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) organised in Mumbai.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis - Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra and Protocol Minister Jaykumar Rawal



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Mr. Ganesh Naik Cabinet Minister of Forest, Government of Maharashtra.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis - Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Anant Goenka- Executive Director, The Indian Express and other distinguished guests at 'Express Adda'.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI at the International Labour Organization (ILO) meeting in Geneva,



Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director of the All India Association of Industries, and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Smt. Raksha Khadse, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports, at WAVES 2025.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI with Mr. Ali Nuhu Mohammed Actor/MD Nigerian Film Corporation.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI along with the Ambassador of Indonesia to India H.E. Ina Hagniningtyas Krisnamurthi



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and President of AIAI along with Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Sr. Director - All India Association of Industries and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade and Investment Promotion - WTC Mumbai, met with Dr. Ricardo Wheatley Director / Asia-Pacific Affairs Officer - Government of the Virgin Islands and Ms. Siobhan Flax, Deputy Director / Asia-Pacific Affairs Officer - Government of the Virgin Islands.



- ▲ Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman - World Trade Center Mumbai and President - All India Association of Industries AIAI, at the International Labour Organization (ILO) meeting in Geneva, contributing to ongoing global discussions on labour standards, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.
- ◀ Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman - World Trade Center Mumbai and President - All India Association of Industries AIAI with Mr. Borislav Gutsanov, Bulgaria, Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria at the 113th International Labour Conference in Geneva.



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