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Connecting Business Globally! Prosperity through Trade and Business.

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ON TRADE®

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Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya

(15 September, 1860 - 14 April, 1962)

55 years MVIRDC

M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research and Development Centre

Estd 1970

FIFTY FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

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

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

The global economy continues to undergo profound transformation, driven by geopolitical realignments, technological innovation, climate priorities, and evolving trade and investment patterns. Supply chain disruptions, protectionist trends, regional conflicts, and economic uncertainties have accelerated the need for resilient supply chains, trusted partnerships, and diversified markets. At the same time, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, digital technologies, clean energy, and sustainable business practices are creating new opportunities for innovation, competitiveness, and long-term growth. Increasingly, global commerce is being shaped not only by the movement of goods and capital, but also by digital connectivity, strategic collaboration, and resilient economic ecosystems.

Against this backdrop, India has emerged as the world's fastest-growing major economy, supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, progressive reforms, a thriving digital ecosystem, world-class digital public infrastructure, and a competitive manufacturing sector. Flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, PM Gati Shakti, the National Logistics Policy, Startup India, and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme continue to strengthen India's industrial capabilities and integration into global value chains.

During the second quarter of 2026, World Trade Center Mumbai further strengthened its role as a catalyst for international trade and investment through high-level engagements with governments, diplomatic missions, trade promotion organisations, and business leaders from Belgium, Portugal, Vietnam, Egypt, Ecuador, Russia, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Australia, and the United States. These interactions promoted collaboration in trade, investment, manufacturing, logistics, technology, renewable energy, tourism, and other emerging sectors, reinforcing Mumbai's position as India's gateway to global commerce.

The quarter also witnessed the signing of strategic Memoranda of Understanding to promote trade facilitation, MSME internationalisation, market access, institutional cooperation, and knowledge exchange. Recognising the growing importance of technology, the Centre convened discussions on digital finance, fintech, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and trusted digital ecosystems, helping businesses prepare for an increasingly interconnected global economy.

A significant milestone during the quarter was the release of a Special Postal Cover by India Post, commemorating MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai's contribution to promoting international trade, industry, entrepreneurship, and global business engagement over the past five decades. This prestigious recognition reflects the Centre's enduring legacy and its role as a trusted facilitator of economic cooperation.

Guided by our enduring philosophy of "Prosperity Through Trade," we will continue working closely with governments, industry, academia, and international partners to foster a resilient, innovative, and sustainable global trading ecosystem. This publication highlights the Centre's key initiatives and partnerships during the quarter and reflects our collective commitment to advancing international cooperation, strengthening business relationships, and supporting India's journey towards becoming a globally competitive developed nation.

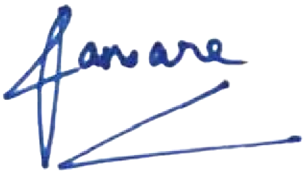
Dr. Vijay Kalantri
Chairman

The second quarter of 2026 reaffirmed World Trade Center Mumbai's commitment to its enduring philosophy of "Prosperity Through Trade." As global trade continues to evolve amid technological transformation, shifting supply chains, and changing economic priorities, the Centre remained a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and business facilitation. By bringing together governments, diplomatic missions, trade promotion organisations, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, academia, and policymakers.

During the quarter, World Trade Center Mumbai welcomed business delegations, diplomats, policymakers, and institutional representatives from Vietnam, Egypt, Russia, Sri Lanka, Ecuador, Portugal, and several other countries, while also facilitating engagements with the United States and other strategic partners.A major focus of the quarter was strengthening India's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which remain central to innovation, employment, exports, and inclusive economic growth.

The observance of World MSME Day brought together policymakers, financial institutions, industry experts, and entrepreneurs to discuss improving access to finance, accelerating digital adoption, strengthening market linkages, enhancing export readiness, and promoting innovation in support of the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.Recognising that economic competitiveness depends on a skilled workforce, the Centre organised programmes on leadership, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and industry-academia collaboration.

These initiatives highlighted the importance of future-ready skills, innovation, and continuous learning in building resilient enterprises. Environmental sustainability also remained a key priority. On the occasion of World Environment Day, World Trade Center Mumbai organised a tree plantation drive and partnered with leading institutions to launch Mumbai's Mega Post-Consumer Textile Waste Collection and Upcycling Initiative. These efforts promoted circular economy practices, responsible resource management, and collaborative environmental stewardship. The Centre also convened discussions on digital finance, fintech, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and workplace safety, reflecting the increasing importance of technology, trust, and resilience in modern business. Complementing these initiatives were programmes that encouraged safer and more productive workplaces, recognising that sustainable growth depends on strong institutional and human foundations. This edition presents an overview of the Centre's initiatives, institutional collaborations, and knowledge-sharing activities undertaken during the quarter. We hope it serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, businesses, entrepreneurs, researchers, and our global partners by highlighting emerging opportunities and the collaborative efforts shaping the future of trade and industry.



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Contents

We are delighted to share that the WTC Mumbai team was recognized at the Exhibition Excellence Awards 2026 (EEA 2026), also received an award on behalf of our chairman Dr. Vijay Kalantri for best Distinguished Leadership Award

INDIA IN THE NEW WORLD TRADE ORDER
From Rising Power to Trade Cornerstone

The global trading order is undergoing its most profound transformation since the post-war Bretton Woods era. Supply chains are fracturing. Alliances are being redrawn. At the centre of this historic realignment stands India not merely as a beneficiary, but as a cornerstone of the new architecture of world trade. With $860 billion in total exports in FY 2025-26, 13 active Free Trade Agreements, and landmark deals with the EU, the UK, and the US sealed within a single year, India's trade moment has arrived.

\$860B **Total Exports** FY 202526	**13** **Active FTAs** as of June 2026
7.6% **GDP Growth** FY 202526	**#5** **Economy** Global GDP Rank

1. A World in Disruption: The Trade Reset

For decades, the global trading system rested on three pillars: multilateralism through the WTO, hyper-globalised supply chains anchored in China, and a rules-based liberal order underwritten by the United States. All three are now in flux.

The real turning point came on April 2, 2025, what the Trump administration branded 'Liberation Day', when the United States imposed a universal 10% tariff on all imports, fundamentally reshaping global commerce and accelerating one of the largest reorganisations of trade relationships in modern economic history. For the first time in decades, every exporting nation was forced to rethink its trade strategy almost overnight.

The fragmentation of supply chains once considered an economic heresy is now deliberate policy. The buzzwords of 2026 are 'friendshoring', 'nearshoring', and 'China+1'. Corporations across the world are actively rebuilding their manufacturing footprints, looking for trusted partners, democratic governance, and demographic depth. On every one of these counts, India stands out.

India now ranks third among Global South economies in trade partnership diversity, according to UNCTAD's 2025 Trade and Development Report. Its trade openness indicator stands at 44.59%, and with a GDP of $3.91 trillion, ranking fifth globally, the country's sheer scale makes it impossible for any global trade architecture to be designed without it.

2. The FTA Blitz: India Signs the World

In a remarkable diplomatic and economic sprint, India concluded five landmark trade agreements in less than 18 months, fundamentally redrawing its place in the global economic order. Here is what was achieved, and what it means:

The EU Deal: Why It Earned the Title 'Mother of All Deals'

Signed on January 27, 2026, in New Delhi after nearly two decades of stalled negotiations, the India-EU Free Trade Agreement is a 1,000-plus page document that stands as the most comprehensive trade pact ever concluded. It links India with the European Union, together representing almost 2 billion people and a combined GDP of over $24 trillion, or approximately a quarter of the world economy.

Under the deal, India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96.6% of EU exports by value, while the EU will reduce tariffs on 99.5% of Indian goods. The European Commission projects $4.7 billion in annual duty savings for Indian exporters. For Indian textiles alone, the elimination of the 12% EU duty opens access to a market that buys over $260 billion in textiles and clothing annually. The agreement is notably structured as a 'living document', with built-in review mechanisms to adapt to evolving technology and trade patterns.

The US Deal: From Tariff War to Trade Partnership

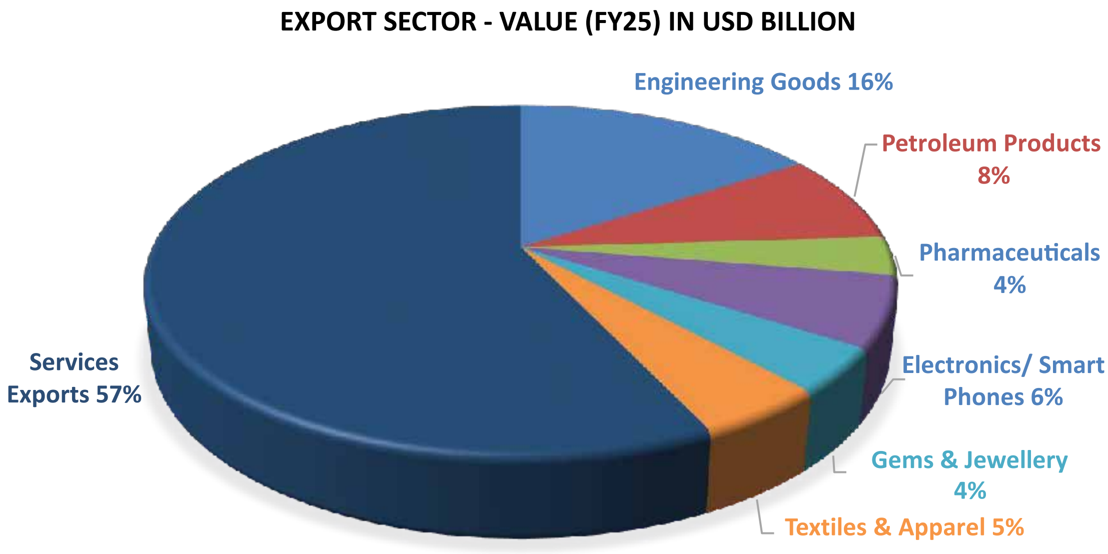
When President Trump imposed punitive tariffs reaching 50% on Indian goods in early 2025, India's $87 billion in US-bound exports, nearly 2.5% of GDP, faced a

Partner	Agreement Type	Status	Key Benefit for India
European Union	FTA (Mother of All Deals)	Signed Jan 2026	Covers 2 billion people, 25% of global GDP; 99.5% of Indian goods get dutyfree EU access; zero duty for textiles
United States	Bilateral Trade Agreement	In force 2026	Tariffs cut from 50% to 18%; Mission 500 target of $500B bilateral trade by 2030
United Kingdom	CETA	In force 2026	99% of Indian exports gain dutyfree UK access; strong services chapter for IT professionals
EFTA (4 nations)	TEPA	In force 2025	$100B investment pledge over 15 years; 1 million jobs; access to Switzerland, Norway, Iceland
Oman	CEPA	In Force 2026	98% of Indian exports gain dutyfree Oman access; boost to gems, textiles, engineering goods

severe shock. Sectors from textiles to gems and jewellery and pharmaceuticals braced for impact. The February 2, 2026, bilateral trade agreement was therefore a pivotal reset. By reducing reciprocal tariffs to 18% and fully withdrawing punitive duties, the deal restored confidence across India's export community. India secured lower tariffs than regional competitors including China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam.

3. India's Export Engine: The Numbers That Matter

India's total exports of goods and services for FY 2025-26 reached $860.09 billion, a 4.22% increase over the previous year. Services exports led the charge, reaching $418.31 billion, powered by India's dominant IT, BPO, and professional services sectors. Merchandise exports,



India's Export Basket: Composition and Outlook (FY 2025-26)

India's total exports of goods and services reached $860 billion in FY 2025-26, and the composition of that basket reveals both the depth of India's existing strengths and the sectors poised for transformational growth in the years ahead.

Services exports dominate the basket with a commanding 57% share, driven by India's world-leading IT, BPO, and professional services industries. This is the fastest-growing segment of India's export economy, generating a trade surplus of $188.8 billion, a buffer that comfortably offsets merchandise trade pressures. India's services export engine, anchored by its 14-15% share of the global software development workforce, is effectively subsidising the country's manufacturing transition.

Within merchandise exports, engineering goods lead with a 16% share of the total basket equivalent to $116 billion making it India's single largest goods export category. The sector is expected to register significant gains as the India-EU FTA eliminates tariff barriers into a market that is among the world's largest buyers of capital goods and industrial equipment, and as the India-US deal stabilises access to America's deep manufacturing supply chain.

Petroleum products account for 8% of total exports at $60 billion, though this segment remains exposed to global crude price volatility and geopolitical disruptions to refining and shipping routes. Diversification away from commodity-linked exports remains a stated policy priority.

Electronics and smartphones, at 6%, are the sector with the most dramatic growth trajectory recording 55% year-on-year growth in FY26, with smartphone exports alone crossing Rs. 1 lakh crore in just the first five months of the fiscal year. India's emergence as the world's second-largest mobile phone manufacturer is the most visible proof point of the China+1 strategy taking root.

Textiles and apparel, at 5%, represent one of India's most labour-intensive and MSME-dominated export sectors. The India-EU FTA's elimination of the existing 12% duty on Indian textiles entering Europe is widely described as a game changer for clusters in Tirupur, Surat, and Ludhiana, opening access to a European apparel market that imports over $260 billion annually.

Pharmaceuticals and gems & jewellery each contribute 4% to the export basket. India's pharmaceutical sector the world's third-largest producer by volume supplies 40% of all generic medicines consumed in the United States, making it a critical component of global healthcare supply chains. In gems and jewellery, India supplies 45% of US diamond imports, with the sector being almost entirely MSME-driven; the tariff relief secured under the US trade agreement is therefore not a corporate benefit but a lifeline for hundreds of thousands of small artisans and traders concentrated in Mumbai, Surat, and Jaipur.

Taken together, this export composition tells a story of an economy transitioning from commodity dependence toward services depth, high-technology manufacturing, and value-added goods. The challenge and the opportunity ahead lie in ensuring that the bottom half of the chart grows faster than the top, reducing India's reliance on services exports while building the manufacturing muscle that will define its next decade of trade leadership.

4. The China+1 Opportunity — And India's Honest Reckoning

Perhaps no phrase has generated more optimism and more debate in Indian trade policy circles than 'China+1'. As corporations accelerate supply chain diversification away from China, India has been widely touted as the natural alternative. The reality is more nuanced and understanding it is essential for policymakers and businesses alike.

A frank assessment from NITI Aayog's trade data shows that Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia captured a larger share of the China+1 shift in the initial years, driven by cheaper labour costs, simpler tax regimes, and more proactive FTA signing. However, the landscape is changing. India's Manufacturing PMI has remained above 56 for sustained periods in 2025-26, indicating strong industrial momentum. Government capital expenditure of Rs. 11.1 trillion is building the infrastructure backbone that trade growth demands.

Where India Can Win

- Electronics & Smartphones: Smartphone exports hit $47.96 billion in FY26, up 55% YoY. Apple's India manufacturing ramp-up has become a landmark in the China+1 narrative.
- Pharmaceuticals: India supplies 40% of US generic drugs and is the world's 3rd largest pharma producer by volume. The sector's depth and cost competitiveness make it a natural supply chain anchor.
- Defence & Aerospace: India's defence exports crossed Rs. 21,000 crores in FY25, growing at 30%+ annually. As Western nations look for trusted manufacturing partners, India's democratic credentials matter.
- Chemicals & Specialty Manufacturing: India's chemi-

cals sector is a growing alternative to China for mid-tier specialty compounds, with the EU and US deals improving market access dramatically.
- Textiles & Apparel: The EU FTA's zero-duty access is potentially transformative for India's textile belt — Tirupur, Surat, Ludhiana — which directly employs tens of millions of MSME workers.

5. MSMEs: The Backbone of India's Export Story

India's export ambitions cannot be realised without MSMEs. They account for roughly 45% of India's merchandise exports and employ over 110 million people. Yet they are also the most vulnerable to the disruptions and opportunities that the new trade order creates.

The India-US trade deal provided immediate relief. By capping reciprocal tariffs at 18%, it created a 'margin cushion' of 2-3% for small exporters modest in absolute terms, but transformative for businesses operating on single-digit margins. For MSME-dominated clusters in Tirupur (textiles) and Surat (diamonds), the previous 50% tariff had pushed many units into losses or forced temporary shutdowns.

The India-EU FTA compounds this advantage. Zero duty on textiles to a market that imports $260 billion annually in apparel and clothing means that Indian MSME garment exporters now compete on a level playing field with factories in Bangladesh and Vietnam for the first time in decades.

The Union Budget 2026 complemented these trade deals with structural MSME enablement measures, including a Rs. 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund designed to improve access to credit. For the first time, MSMEs are being positioned not just as traditional exporters of goods, but as Tier-2 suppliers in high-value global supply chains electronics, drone components, EV subsystems through the India-US agreement's emphasis on deep manufacturing integration.

What MSMEs Need to Capitalise

- Trade Finance Access: Export credit at competitive rates remains a bottleneck. RBI's Vostro account framework for Rupee trade settlement helps, but more needs to be done.
- Standards Compliance Support: Non-tariff barriers US SPS regulations, EU CBAM for steel and aluminium, require MSMEs to invest in compliance infrastructure they often cannot afford alone.
- Digital Trade Enablement: India's DGFT has moved Certificate of Origin to digital issuance in 2026 a positive step. E-commerce exports need faster customs and simplified RBI compliance.
- Market Intelligence: MSMEs need accessible, ground-level intelligence on which markets, which products, and which FTA provisions benefit them most. This is where institutions like WTC Mumbai play a critical role.

6. Challenges India Cannot Afford to Ignore

Alongside the opportunities, India's trade policymakers face genuine headwinds that require honest acknowledgement and strategic response.

The Trade Deficit Challenge

India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to $333.24 billion in FY 2025-26, with total imports reaching $776.03 billion. While some import growth reflects an ongoing investment cycle, capital goods and intermediate inputs feeding manufacturing expansion, the persistent gap between export growth and import intensity signals structural dependencies that FTAs alone cannot resolve.

Steel Dumping & Trade Remedy Measures

India, until 2023 a net steel exporter, has become a net importer, driven by the slowdown in China's property market and global tariff realignments that diverted Chinese steel exports toward India. The DGTR issued 16 final determinations and opened 31 new investigations in September 2025 alone, reflecting the scale of the challenge. Protecting domestic manufacturing while remaining a credible trade partner requires careful calibration.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which remains intact despite Indian objections in the FTA negotiations will impose new carbon costs on Indian steel and aluminium exports to Europe from 2026 onwards. While the EU has pledged a €500 million Green Transition Assistance package to help India reduce emissions, the compliance burden on Indian industry is real and growing.

Agriculture: The Protected Frontier

India successfully protected its agriculture and dairy sectors in both the EU and US negotiations, a significant diplomatic achievement. The US deal exempts spices, tea, coffee, cashew nuts, avocado, banana, mango, kiwi, and papaya from tariffs. However, as India moves toward zero-tariff commitments, product-specific safeguards for farming communities will need careful design and vigilance.

Priority	Strategic Action Required
Deep Manufacturing	Move beyond 'Assemble in India' to full manufacturing depth in electronics, chemicals, and defence. Use the 18% US tariff window as a stable 'Make in India for the World' pitch to attract global supply chains.
Logistics Efficiency	India's logistics costs remain 1314% of GDP vs. 8% for global best practice. Port throughput hit 795 million tonnes in FY26, but inland connectivity, cold chain, and digital customs need acceleration.
Services Export Growth	Services exports at $418 billion already exceed merchandise in valueaddition. Digital trade barriers data localisation, visa restrictions, must be negotiated proactively in all FTA frameworks.
MSME Globalisation	Embed MSMEs in global value chains, not just as exporters of finished goods. Clusterlevel export infrastructure, shared compliance facilities, and trade finance access are critical enablers.
Market Diversification	Fasttrack FTAs with Gulf nations and ASEAN to reduce concentration risk. India's export dependence on the US (20% share) creates vulnerability to future tariff swings.
Rupee Trade Settlement	Expand Rupee Vostro account framework. Reducing dollar dependency in trade settlement strengthens India's financial resilience and supports Rupee internationalisation.

7. The Road Ahead: India's $870 Billion Export Target

The base case projection for India's exports in FY 2026-27 is $870 billion, a 1.2% increase. But analysts at major institutions see a more optimistic scenario where the full force of the India-US and India-EU trade deals comes into effect, unlocking delayed investment decisions and supply chain integrations that could push export growth into double-digit territory.

'Mission 500', the India-US bilateral trade target of $500 billion by 2030, requires nearly quadrupling the current $129 billion bilateral trade relationship. It is ambitious, but not impossible. India's electronics exports alone grew 55% in a single year; if that trajectory holds across two or three high-growth sectors, the $500 billion target becomes reachable.

Conclusion: Prosperity Through Trade

India's trade story in 2025-26 is one of historic ambition matched by tangible achievement. The signing of the EU FTA, the reset with the United States, the completion of agreements with the UK, Oman, and EFTA, these are not incremental steps. They represent a fundamental reorientation of India's position in the global economy.

But trade deals are only the beginning. The real test lies in execution, in ensuring that the tariff concessions won by diplomats translate into market share won by Indian exporters; that the supply chain opportunities created by global fragmentation are seized by Indian manufacturers; and that the benefits of trade reach not just India's large corporations, but its tens of millions of MSME entrepreneurs, farmers, artisans, and workers.

WTC Mumbai and AIAI stand at this intersection of policy and practice. Our role connecting Indian businesses to global markets, providing trade intelligence, facilitating delegations, and building the networks that turn trade agreements into trade reality has never been more important.

The new world trade order is being written in real time. India has earned its seat at the table. The question now is how decisively it chooses to lead.

■

MC14 and India's Role in Shaping a Fairer Global Trade Order

The 14th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, popularly known as MC14, was held from 26 to 30 March 2026 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. It came at a crucial moment for the global trading system, when countries are facing rising protectionism, geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, digital trade disputes and growing pressure to reform the WTO.

For India, MC14 was significant not only as a trade negotiation platform, but also as an opportunity to represent the concerns of developing economies and the Global South. India's position focused on fairness, food security, livelihood protection, policy space, consensus-based decision-making and development-oriented reforms.

The key agenda at MC14 included WTO reform, fisheries subsidies, incorporation of the Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, e-commerce work programme and moratorium, agriculture, and development-related issues including LDC concerns.

India's Stand on WTO Reform

India strongly emphasized that **consensus-based decision-making is the foundation of the WTO's legitimacy.** This is important because the WTO works on the principle that all member countries, irrespective of size or economic strength, should have a voice in framing global trade rules.

India's concern was that WTO reform should not become a way to dilute the rights of developing countries. Reforms must strengthen the multilateral trading system, not create pressure on smaller or developing economies to accept rules shaped mainly by advanced countries. India therefore called for reforms that are **member-driven, transparent and development-oriented.**

Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture remained one of the most important issues for India at MC14. India has consistently maintained that public stockholding for food security is a legitimate policy tool for developing countries. In a country like India, where millions of people depend on agriculture and food welfare schemes, public procurement and food distribution cannot be viewed only as trade-distorting measures.

India called for progress on long-pending issues such as **Public**

MC14: Key Agenda and India's Position

MC14 Issue	Global Discussion	India's Position
WTO Reform	Reforming WTO functions and decision-making	Reforms must be transparent, inclusive and consensus-based
Agriculture	Public stockholding, food security, market access	Permanent solution for public stockholding and protection of farmers
Fisheries Subsidies	Disciplines on harmful subsidies	Protect small and traditional fishers while ensuring sustainability
E-commerce Moratorium	Customs duties on electronic transmissions	Need to examine impact on revenue and policy space of developing countries
Investment Facilitation	Inclusion of IFDA into WTO framework	Opposed to inserting plurilateral agreements without full consensus
Development Issues	Concerns of developing and least developed countries	Stronger special and differential treatment provisions

Stockholding for food security, Special Safeguard Mechanism and cotton. These issues are important for developing countries because they directly affect farmers, food security and rural livelihoods.
India's position was clear: global trade rules must not restrict the ability of developing countries to feed their people, support farmers and maintain food security programmes.

Fisheries Subsidies and Livelihood Protection

Fisheries subsidies were another major issue at MC14. The WTO discussions focused on curbing harmful subsidies that contribute to overfishing and overcapacity. India supported sustainability but also stressed that rules must not unfairly affect small and traditional fishers.

India highlighted that it already follows conservation measures, including seasonal fishing bans, and that developing countries should not be penalised in the same way as countries with large industrial fishing fleets. India's argument was based on equity: those who historically contributed more to overfishing must take greater responsibility.

MC14 concluded with some adopted decisions, but discussions on key issues such as WTO reform, e-commerce, TRIPS non-violation complaints and the LDC package were pushed forward for further deliberations in Geneva.

For India, fisheries are not only an economic sector; they are a source of livelihood for millions of coastal families. Therefore, any WTO agreement on fisheries must balance environmental sustainability with livelihood protection.

MC14 concluded with some adopted decisions, but discussions on key issues such as WTO reform, e-commerce, TRIPS non-violation complaints and the LDC package were pushed forward for further deliberations in Geneva.
E-commerce Moratorium and Digital Trade

The e-commerce moratorium was one of the most consequential and deeply debated issues at MC14. The moratorium, in place since 1998, had prevented countries from imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions covering software, audiovisual content, digital media, and a wide range of cross-border digitally delivered services. Developed economies strongly supported its continuation, while many developing countries, including India, raised serious concerns about its long-term impact on revenue and future digital policy space.

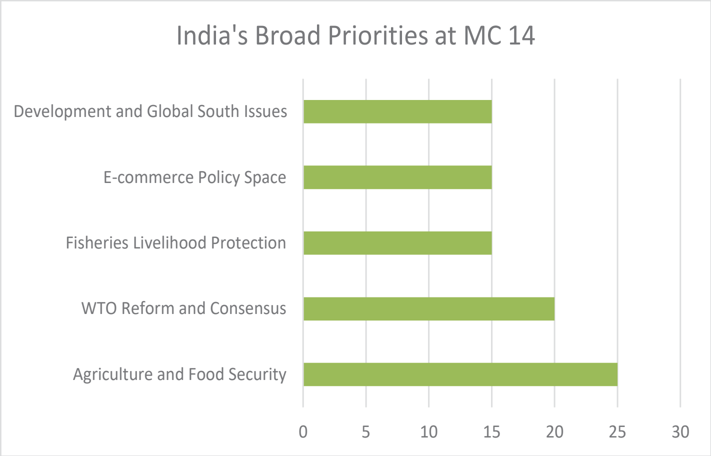
India's position was not against digital trade. Rather, India argued that developing countries should not be forced into permanent commitments without fully understanding the economic impact. As digital trade grows, the ability to regulate, tax, or frame domestic policy around digital products becomes increasingly important for nations still building their digital economies. India therefore called

Chart 1: MC14 Outcome Status

Issue	Status	Interpretation
WTO Reform	Under discussion	Reform talks to continue in Geneva
Agriculture	Unresolved	No permanent solution on public stockholding
Fisheries Subsidies	Negotiations continue	Further work required before outcome
E-commerce Moratorium	No full consensus	Differences remain among members
Development and LDC Issues	Continued discussion	Some progress, but broader issues remain
Small Economies	Decision adopted	Positive movement on integration of small economies

for careful reconsideration of the moratorium, citing the lack of a common understanding among WTO members on its scope and the potentially significant revenue implications for developing countries. The most consequential outcome at MC14 was that the multilateral moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions expired on 30 March 2026 for the first time since its introduction in 1998. Some members blocked renewal despite broad support from most of the membership, resulting in the collapse of a 28-year-old trade discipline. With no agreement, countries are now technically free to impose customs duties on digital transmissions for the first time in nearly three decades.

Chart 2: India’s Broad Priorities at MC14



Note: This chart is illustrative and not based on official percentage allocation. It is meant to visually represent India’s broad policy emphasis at MC14.

In response, 66 WTO members representing approximately 70% of global trade moved ahead with interim implementation of a plurilateral E-Commerce Agreement, establishing baseline rules on digital trade facilitation, consumer protection, e-payments, data protection, and a commitment among participants not to impose duties on electronic transmissions. India objected to such an approach, maintaining that WTO agreements should be adopted multilaterally and not through selective plurilateral routes, as such deals once embedded within the WTO framework, risk gradually reshaping the institution’s multilateral character and sidelining countries that are not part of them.

The WTO’s dispute settlement system remains one of its biggest challenges. The Appellate Body has remained non-functional, weakening the enforcement capacity of the WTO. For developing countries, this is a serious concern because a rules-based trading system is meaningful only when rules can be enforced fairly.

Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement

The proposed incorporation of the **Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement** into the WTO framework was another sensitive issue. Many members supported the agreement, arguing that it could help improve transparency and ease investment flows. However, India opposed its incorporation into the WTO framework without full consensus.

India’s objection was not necessarily to investment facilitation as an idea. Its concern was institutional. India argued that allowing plurilateral agreements to be inserted into the WTO framework could weaken the multilateral character of the organisation and reduce the influence of countries that are not part of such agreements.

This position reflects India’s larger concern that WTO rules should not be shaped through smaller groups and later pushed upon the entire membership.

Dispute Settlement and WTO Credibility

The WTO’s dispute settlement system remains one of its biggest challenges. The Appellate Body has remained non-functional, weakening the enforcement capacity of the WTO. For developing countries,

As India moves towards over 30$ trillion economy and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, it has a strong interest in a stable and rules-based global trading system.

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WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala also underlined the need to address the crisis in the dispute settlement system and broader issues affecting global trade governance.

India has consistently supported a fair and functional dispute settlement mechanism. Without such a system, smaller and developing countries may find it difficult to challenge unfair trade measures taken by more powerful economies.

India as the Voice of the Global South

India's role at MC14 must be understood in the larger context of South-South cooperation. India represented not only its own interests but also the concerns of many developing countries that seek a fairer global trade order.

India's position on food security, fisheries, e-commerce, development issues and WTO reform reflects the needs of countries where trade policy must also support poverty reduction, employment, rural livelihoods, industrial growth and digital development.

As India moves towards over 30$ trillion economy and the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, it has a strong interest in a stable and rules-based global trading system. At the same time, India continues to argue that trade rules must allow developing countries the flexibility to grow according to their own national priorities.

India's Stand - Balanced, Firm and Development-Oriented

MC14 showed that the WTO remains important, but also deeply divided. The conference did not deliver major breakthroughs on several difficult issues, but it clearly highlighted the future direction of global trade debates. Developed countries are pushing for faster movement on digital trade, investment facilitation and new-generation trade rules. Developing countries, including India, are asking for fairness, policy space and resolution of long-pending development concerns.

India's stand at MC14 was balanced and necessary. India did not oppose reform; it opposed reform without fairness. It did not reject sustainability; it asked that sustainability should not hurt small fishers and poor communities. It did not reject digital trade; it asked that developing countries should not lose future policy choices. This is a practical and responsible position.

The WTO can remain relevant only if it respects both trade efficiency and development justice. A global trading system that ignores farmers, small businesses, fishermen, food security and digital inequality cannot be sustainable. India's role at MC14 was therefore important because it reminded the world that trade must serve people, not just markets.

As negotiations continue in Geneva, India is expected to remain a strong voice for a fair, inclusive and development-oriented multilateral trading system. MC14 may not have solved all issues, but it has made one thing clear: the future of the WTO will depend on whether it can balance global trade ambitions with the real needs of developing economies.

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Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou
Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai.

From Trade to Trust: Unlocking India–Belarus Economic Partnership

Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou is the first Consul General of Belarus in Mumbai in the history of diplomatic relations between Belarus and India. He has more than 16 years diplomatic experience. Before to arrive in Mumbai he worked in Belarusian Embassies in Moldova, Turkmenistan and France. He assumed in duties in December 2023.

The main focus of his activity is the development of the bilateral relationships with India and its states in the domains of trade, education, tourism, infrastructure, sports, culture, humanitarian, consular and visa affairs.

"Belarus and Maharashtra have complementary strengths in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, machinery, education, textiles, tourism and other fields."

Given the complementary strengths of Maharashtra and Belarus in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, machinery, education, textiles, tourism, what practical steps can be taken to translate these opportunities into sustained business partnerships and institutional collaborations?

India is a large and diverse country. Every state is comparable to many sovereign countries globally. That is why the comparison of Maharashtra between Belarus is pertinent. As you have rightly mentioned, Belarus and Maharashtra have complementary strengths in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, machinery, education, textiles, tourism and other fields.

I my opinion, to translate these opportunities into sustained business partnerships and institutional collaborations between the two countries or even regions, including the Belarus and Indian regions we need to expand a legal basis at the inter-regional level in order to fix our goals and steadily approach them. Since we have a lot of things which might be mutually interesting as well as common values, these should be stipulated in a memorandum, or agreement, or any other relevant document.

To have and develop relationships at the central level is very nice. But we also have to encompass the inter-regional dimension which harbors lots of opportunities for more people-to-people contacts and interactions between the businesses. It is very important, since it gives the opportunity to get to know each other better at an individual level. It may be various platforms of person-to-person interactions such as fora, expos, b2b-meetings, MICE-events, and mutual visits. For this reason, I would like to invite our Indian partners to visit Belarus in person and to understand better the country, its people and its potential for various collaborations. We must admit that for now, there are no more efficient forms than this one. Even advanced forms of communication, such as video calls, do not provide this level of efficiency.

I believe that the India-Belarus business forum recently held in Mumbai at the premises of World Trade Centre has become a good example and provided excellent opportunities.

Apart from this, I must mention that this year alone we have organized few business events in Belarus: the visit of the Mumbai-based companies (February), the Belarus-India Pharma Business Forum (March), Belarus- India Seafood Business Forum (May), and many others.

We must admit that human contacts are the basis not only for diplomacy but also for trade.

As both countries continue to explore avenues for deeper economic and institutional cooper-

ation, can you share few insights on the proposed 12th India–Belarus Inter-Governmental Commission, and which priority areas are expected to guide the discussions?

Indian-Belarusian Intergovernmental Commission on cooperation in the field of trade, economy, science, technology and culture is quite an efficient instrument to promote affairs between Belarus and India in many aspects, as is reflected in the Commission's name. In our bilateral history, the Commission has been convened 11 times. The most recent meeting took place in New Delhi in November 2022. Now both sides are preparing for the 12th meeting of the Commission. Before it takes place, I believe, it is too early to give any insights.

The priorities of the Commission have always been the same, i.e. to discuss and promote trade, economy, science, technology and culture. This commission is not only intended to promote business verticals but also to contribute to the cultural affairs.

Due to the high development of Indian cinema, cuisine, dances and yoga – all of which are popular in Belarus – these pillars bring additional value, more comprehension and ambience to the overall Commission's activity. All the aspects of the Commission's activity are valuable, interconnected and important in an equal degree.

Belarus has world class higher education and sciences, which provide the same level of technologies as demanded in international markets. Belarus and India are complementary economies. India is strong because of its population and a big

> **"The EAEU represents a combined GDP of about $6.5 trillion and a market of approximately 183 million people, making it a critical aspect of India's trade diversification strategy."**

market with a fast-growing economy. Belarus is good in advanced technologies. Both of us can achieve a lot together.

Belarus became a BRICS partner state in 2024. How can this new status open fresh opportunities for India–Belarus cooperation in trade, investment, technology and multilateral economic engagement?

Yes, Belarus became a BRICS partner state in 2024, and India was the country that contributed to securing this status, underlining our role in global affairs, the development of our national economy and the potential of Belarus to contribute to the BRICS achievements and goals, and to bring our share to the union's overall added value.

Now the BRICS is a credible international organisation covering huge figures of trade and providing endless opportunities in various spheres. It's a powerful instrument to boost the relations between its members and partner countries.

Although BRICS is mostly oriented towards other parts of the world rather than the West, it also provides an opportunity for European countries to join the union. This showcases the friendly character of the organisation.

As I mentioned above, people-to-people contacts are extremely important. BRICS provides a platform for this, as well as for regular gatherings and discussions in all spheres of interest. Belarus, being a market and economy of 9.2 million people, receives great opportunities by staying among big and friendly countries like India. This is the uniqueness and beauty of BRICS.

I am convinced that can Belarus not only open fresh opportunities with India and other countries but that others can also profit from cooperation with Belarus.

Belarus has expressed interest in moving from product exports to joint ventures and localized manufacturing in India. How can Belarusian companies participate in the 'Make in India' programme?

Belarus and India are boosting their bilateral trade. Nowadays, contemporary international economic relations demonstrate the advanced forms of cooperation such as joint ventures and localisation of manufacturing.

It is evident that pure psychology comes into play. At the early stages, businesses must size each other up. They may not be ready to make advanced steps forward at the beginning of the process. They would need some time. During this period, import-export operations are vital. This is a good means to better understand each other and build trust with each other. Again, I believe that trust is the basis not only for diplomacy, but also for trade.

I think the participation of Belarusian companies in the 'Make in India' programme is one of the most promising ways to promote bilateral economic relations with India. Belarusian technologies and competencies may prove to be very useful and necessary. And then the regular process follows: finding a partner, advisory etc.

How important is the proposed Free Trade Agreement between the Eurasian Economic Union and India for strengthening India–Belarus trade, and what benefits can businesses on both sides expect from it?

We have been witnessing that India has been steadily concluding the Free Trade Agreements with many countries as well as regions and unions. It's a good way to promote mutual trade.

India and the EAEU, comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation, signed the Terms of Reference to launch negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement in Moscow in August 2025. In November 2025 the first round of draft FTA negotiations took place in New Delhi.

The proposed FTA is expected to expand market access for both sides, support diversification into new sectors and geographies, enhance competitiveness against non-market economies, and deliver significant benefits to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

The EAEU represents a combined GDP of about $6.5 trillion and a market of approximately 183 million people, making it a critical aspect of India's trade diversification strategy.

The FTA is vital for both India and the EAEU as it gives expanded opportunities for the mutual growth. I believe that in order for India to achieve the Viksit Bharat 2047 goals and future economy growth, there should be more trade and interaction with foreign partners, especially with, friendly ones whose interest is not only to take from India and self-develop but also to give to India and develop together. Thus, it's a win-win instrument for mutual growth.

I am convinced that with the FTA the Belarus-India trade will become more stable, dynamic, open, diverse and deeper. To have the FTA agreed and signed it will take all of us some time and a lot of efforts and endeavours. With this, I want to wish us good luck, patience and mutual understanding!

Beyond trade, India and Belarus share growing ties in education, cinema, yoga, and regional cooperation. How can these people-to-people connections support stronger business and diplomatic relations?

The fields of education, cinema, yoga, and regional cooperation can and must contribute to the overall perception of each other and to our cooperation. These spheres, again, create understanding and trust which ultimately become the basis for deeper and wider economic relations.

Some examples; Around one thousand young Indian people study at Belarusian universities. India's Bollywood is very popular in Belarus. Yoga is practised in each and every corner of Belarus. It is heartening to note that every year Belarus hosts groups of Indian children from orphanages and elsewhere for recreation and entertainment at the cost of Belarusian Government.

This knowledge about India and Belarus gives us a better image of our countries and its business opportunities and lays a solid basis for a flourishing economy and diplomacy. We want to enhance all the verticals of social life to increase the overall development of relations.

How do you see India–Belarus bilateral trade evolving over the next five years, particularly in terms of diversifying trade beyond traditional sectors and identifying new areas of cooperation?

Objectively speaking, our countries are moving in the right way.

During years to come, we will enhance our cooperation in multiple spheres. We will increase our trade and diversify forms of economic cooperation. The business will become deeper. We will promote mutual travel and facilitate it in the best possible manner.

More students will be receiving their education in Belarus and India; more tourists will be travelling to our countries. The airlines will make the flights more frequent. The technologies that will be in use may resemble those we once read about in our childhood in fantasy literature and may even be more advanced.

We must remember that we are friendly countries and friendly people. We have right goals, values and thinking. And it gives me a lot of optimism to think that together we can and we will achieve a lot!

■

India–ASEAN Digital Economy Cooperation: Advancing Regional Digital Transformation

Introduction

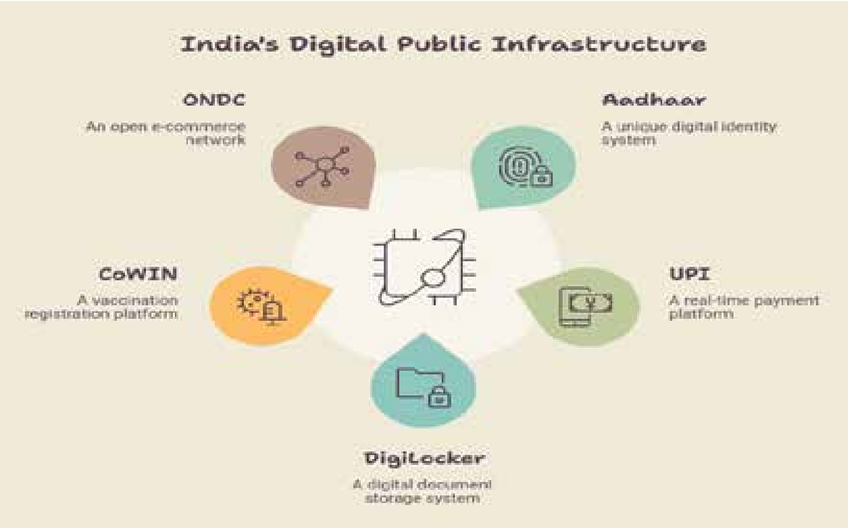
Over the past decade, the nature of economic integration between India and ASEAN has undergone a profound transformation. While trade in goods, investment flows and physical connectivity remain important pillars of the relationship, digital technologies are increasingly becoming the principal drivers of economic growth, innovation and competitiveness. The emergence of e-commerce, digital payments, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, fintech and digital public infrastructure has fundamentally altered how businesses operate, how governments deliver services and how citizens participate in the economy.

For ASEAN and India, digital cooperation represents far more than technological collaboration. It is becoming an instrument for strengthening regional resilience, improving productivity, fostering financial inclusion and creating new opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). As both sides seek to position themselves within an increasingly digital global economy, closer cooperation in digital governance, infrastructure, standards and innovation ecosystems is emerging as a strategic imperative.

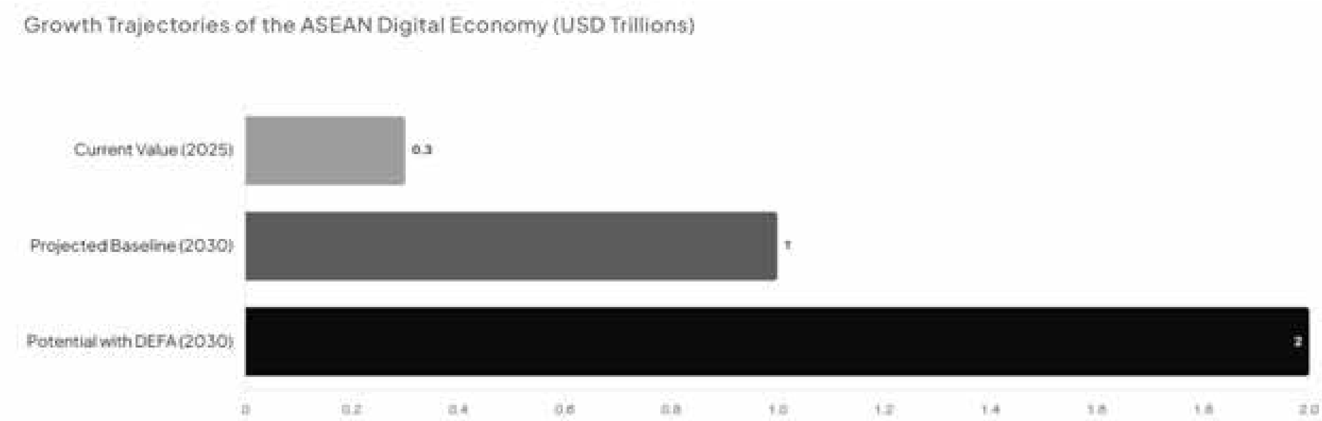
As geopolitical shifts, supply chain restructuring and technological disruption reshape global commerce, digital cooperation offers India and ASEAN a powerful platform to deepen economic integration and build a more connected regional economy.

he ASEAN–India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation adopted in October 2024 reflects this growing recognition and provides an institutional framework for expanding cooperation in the years ahead.

ASEAN is among the world's fastest-growing digital markets. With a population exceeding 680 million, rising internet penetration, expanding digital consumption and a vibrant startup ecosystem, the region has become a major



The Growing Digital Opportunity



Source: ASEAN Secretariat, World Economic Forum, DEFA Study Estimates.

driver of global digital growth. Estimates suggest that ASEAN's digital economy, currently valued at approximately US$300 billion, could reach US$1 trillion by 2030. Successful implementation of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) could potentially double that figure to US$2 trillion by 2030, making ASEAN one of the world's most significant digital economic blocs.

India, meanwhile, has emerged as a global leader in digital innovation through its Digital Public Infrastructure ecosystem comprising Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, CoWIN and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). These platforms have demonstrated how technology can deliver services at population scale while promoting inclusion and reducing transaction costs. ASEAN countries increasingly view India's experience as a useful model for accelerating their own digital transformation journeys.

The convergence of ASEAN's rapidly expanding d
igital market and India's digital capabilities creates a strong foundation for long-term cooperation.

Digital Public Infrastructure: The Foundation of Cooperation

One of the most promising dimensions of ASEAN–India cooperation is the potential use of Digital Public Infrastructure as a mechanism for regional integration. Historically, economic integration has depended heavily on physical infrastructure such as roads, ports, airports and telecommunications networks. While these remain important, digital infrastructure is increasingly becoming an equally critical enabler of economic activity.

The ASEAN–India Joint Statement identifies DPI cooperation as a priority area and encourages collaboration in developing, implementing and governing digital public infrastructure systems.

The significance of DPI cooperation extends beyond technical collaboration. It represents an opportunity to establish common digital foundations across South and Southeast Asia, facilitating greater mobility of people, businesses and services. These digital foundations may include digital identity frameworks, paperless trade documentation, digital customs processes, e-invoicing systems and trusted data-sharing mechanisms, all of which can support deeper regional economic integration.

FinTech, Digital Trade and Cross-Border Digital Payments
Financial technology has emerged as one of the most practical and commercially relevant areas of ASEAN–India digital cooperation.

Digital payment interoperability can substantially reduce transaction costs for tourism, remittances, e-commerce and MSME trade. India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has already demonstrated how instant payment systems can increase financial inclusion while enhancing economic efficiency ASEAN has emerged as a global leader in payment interoperability. Cross-border payment linkages such as PayNow–PromptPay (Singapore–Thailand) and PayNow–DuitNow (Singapore–Malaysia) demonstrate the region's commitment to seamless digital transactions. Integrating India's UPI ecosystem with these networks could significantly strengthen regional digital commerce and financial connectivity.

Recent initiatives involving India–Singapore UPI–PayNow linkage and growing interest in real-time payment integration reflect the broader trend toward regional financial connectivity. Such developments support ASEAN's goal of

Potential Area of DPI Cooperation Strategic Benefit	
Digital Identity Systems	Improved inclusion and service delivery
Digital Payments	Seamless crossborder transactions
Healthcare Platforms	Better health access and records management
Education Technology	Expanded access to learning
Agriculture Solutions	Improved farmer productivity and market access
Climate & Sustainability Platforms	Enhanced resilience and monitoring

fostering seamless digital trade while creating new opportunities for businesses operating across borders.

Area of Cooperation	Potential Impact
CrossBorder Payments	Lower transaction costs
MSME Digital Trade	Expanded market access
Tourism Payments	Greater convenience for travellers
Remittances	Faster and cheaper transfers
Digital Financial Services	Increased financial inclusion

The long-term vision is the creation of a digitally integrated economic space where businesses and consumers can transact across borders with minimal friction.

Artificial Intelligence

India and ASEAN have identified Artificial Intelligence as an important area of digital cooperation. The partnership focuses on building AI-related knowledge, skills, infrastructure, risk management frameworks and policies to enable responsible use of AI across sectors such as healthcare, agriculture, education, logistics and public services.

A key priority is improving access to AI resources, including computing capacity, datasets and foundational models. This can help democratize AI for social good and support wider adoption of AI solutions across developing economies.

Both sides also recognize that AI is changing job markets rapidly. Therefore, cooperation in AI education, vocational training, upskilling and reskilling will be essential to prepare the workforce for future employment opportunities. ASEAN's Responsible AI Roadmap 2025–2030 and Expanded Guide on AI Governance and Ethics for Generative AI, together with India's IndiaAI Mission, reflect a shared focus on AI infrastructure, skills development, responsible governance and innovation. These initiatives can support greater India–ASEAN collaboration in building an inclusive and trusted AI ecosystem.

Cybersecurity

As digital economies become increasingly interconnected, cybersecurity has emerged as a critical enabler of digital trade, investment and innovation. The growing adoption of digital payments, e-commerce, cloud computing and digital public services has increased exposure to cyber risks, making cyber resilience an important economic as well as security priority.

India and ASEAN have been strengthening cooperation through policy dialogues, capacity-building programmes and exchanges on cyber threat assessments, national cyber policies and emerging challenges in cyberspace. A significant milestone was the launch of the **First ASEAN–India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue** in Singapore in October 2024, which established a regular mechanism for cooperation on cyber resilience, cyber diplomacy and digital security. The dialogue focused on cyber threats, national cybersecurity strategies, capacity building and developments in international cyber governance.

Recent developments further strengthen this cooperation. At the 6th ASEAN–India Digital Ministers' Meeting, ASEAN and India approved the **ASEAN–India Digital Work Plan 2026,** providing a structured roadmap for digital collaboration. India highlighted its readiness to share indigenous, cost-effective digital and telecom solutions with ASEAN partners. It also presented the **Sanchar Saathi** initiative for telecom user protection and fraud prevention, offering to share best practices with ASEAN countries to strengthen digital trust, cyber safety and protection against online and telecom-related fraud.

Capacity Building and Digital Skills Development

Developing digital skills and human capital is central to realizing the full potential of the digital economy. India and ASEAN have therefore prioritized capacity-building initiatives through training programmes, workshops, knowledge-sharing platforms and institutional partnerships aimed at strengthening digital capabilities across the region.

Capacity-building cooperation has gained further momentum with the launch of the **ASEAN–India Fund for Digital Future,** which is expected to support projects related to digital transformation, skill development, knowledge exchange and technology adoption across ASEAN. Combined with India's ongoing training programmes and Centres of Excellence in CLMV countries, the initiative can help build a stronger digital talent pool and support the adoption of emerging technologies across the region.

As the digital economy continues to expand, demand for skills in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, data analytics and digital commerce is expected to grow significantly. Strengthening these capabilities, particularly among MSMEs, startups and young professionals, will be critical to ensuring that businesses across the region can effectively participate in and benefit from the opportunities created by digital transformation.

Conclusion

The future of India–ASEAN digital cooperation will extend beyond strengthening existing digital linkages and could evolve toward the creation of new regional digital institutions, innovation ecosystems and technology partnerships.

As both sides seek to enhance their position in the global digital economy, cooperation will increasingly need to focus on areas that generate long-term strategic value rather than incremental improvements in connectivity alone.

One potential avenue is the establishment of India–ASEAN digital innovation corridors that connect technology hubs, startup ecosystems, research institutions and investors across the region. Such corridors could facilitate the co-development of digital products and services tailored to the needs of emerging economies, while creating opportunities for startups and technology firms to scale across larger regional markets. Similarly, joint technology accelerators could help commercialize new technologies and support collaborative research.

The partnership could also expand into emerging areas that are likely to shape future economic competitiveness. Cooperation in semiconductor design, digital infrastructure financing, trusted supply chains for critical technologies, data center development and digital manufacturing ecosystems could strengthen regional technological capabilities and reduce dependence on external technology providers. Joint initiatives in these sectors would not only support economic growth but also enhance technological resilience.

Another promising possibility lies in developing regional digital solutions for common challenges. India and ASEAN could collaborate on creating AI-enabled platforms for climate forecasting, disaster response, healthcare delivery and agricultural productivity. Such solutions could serve as scalable models for other developing regions while generating new opportunities for technology enterprises and innovators.

In the longer term, India and ASEAN could work towards positioning the region as a leading hub for affordable, inclusive and development-oriented digital solutions. By combining market scale, technological expertise and innovation capacity, both sides can contribute to shaping global conversations on digital governance, emerging technologies and inclusive digital development.

The true potential of the partnership will therefore lie not only in accelerating digital transformation within the region, but also in jointly creating solutions, standards and technologies that can influence the future evolution of the global digital economy.

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India and Egypt: Advancing Trade, Investment and Regional Cooperation

H.E. Ms. Dahlia Mohamed Nazih Tawakol
Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai

> “Bilateral trade between the two countries has expanded by more than five times over the last decade, and currently stands at around $6 billion.”

How do you assess the current state of India–Egypt economic relations, especially after the elevation of bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership in 2023?

Egypt and India have been engaged in longstanding historical bilateral relations. The last few years have witnessed remarkable progress, particularly since the Strategic Partnership Agreement was signed in June 2023. This Agreement has elevated the bilateral relations between the two countries into a new tier, transforming traditional historical ties into a dynamic, multi-faceted partnership, particularly in the areas of trade and investment.

It is worth mentioning that the first round of the Egypt-India Strategic Dialogue co-chaired by Egyptian Foreign Minister H.E. Dr. Badr Abdelatty and Indian External Affairs Minister H.E. Mr. S. Jaishankar, held in New Delhi in October 2025, marked a major milestone in the bilateral relations between the two countries. This first round offered a great opportunity to review and expand on the Strategic Partnership established in 2023 as well as to address ways and means of strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, fintech, pharma, start-ups and innovation.

Undoubtedly, there are many more opportunities for bilateral economic cooperation that have come up and need to be explored. Therefore, it is of great importance to work together for enhancing the bilateral trade and investment relations, especially as both countries share a vision of a multipolar world in which countries of the Global South play a stronger role in global affairs, particularly within BRICS, where both Egypt and India are active members.

India and Egypt have set a bilateral trade target of USD 12 billion. What key steps are needed from both sides to achieve this target in the coming years?

Egypt has been one of India’s most important trading partners in Africa. Bilateral trade between the two countries has expanded by more than five times over the last decade, and currently stands at around $6 billion. During the first round of the Egypt-India Strategic Dialogue held in October 2025, both sides shared the commitment of boosting bilateral trade to a massive $12 billion in the coming years.

To this end, it is crucial that Indian exports benefit from Egypt’s broad network of free trade agreements and its strategic geographic location which make it a regional export hub for Indian companies targeting African, Arab, and European markets. Moreover, advancing the ongoing technical negotiations and discussions to activate a local currency trade mechanism between the Egyptian Pound and the Indian Rupee will contribute to easing pressures on foreign currencies and facilitating trade flows between the two countries.

Moreover, it is of great importance to activate joint mechanisms to enhance bilateral trade between the two coun-

> **"Since 2022, Egypt has launched the "Golden License", which is a comprehensive approval on the set up, operation and management of a project."**

tries. Accordingly, there are ongoing discussions to prepare for the eighth session of the Egyptian-Indian Joint Committee and efforts to establish a joint chamber of commerce aimed at expanding trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. An additional key factor in this regard is to foster direct B2B engagements through participation in trade exhibitions in both countries to establish direct partnerships, joint ventures, and technology transfers.

How can India and Egypt strengthen cooperation in food security, agriculture, healthcare and affordable medicines to support inclusive growth in both countries?

The strategic partnership between Egypt and India encompasses a broad and diverse range of economic sectors. However, some sectors such as agriculture and pharma hold particular importance due to their direct impact on the daily lives, well-being and prosperity of the people of both countries.

Driven by food security concerns, the bilateral partnership focuses on joint investments in agro-processing, seed sciences, alternative crop adaptation, and optimization of agricultural supply chains. Both countries are working together remarkably to expand agribusiness cooperation in areas such as onion production, coconut cultivation, fertiliser manufacturing, and the use of agricultural by-products to improve soil and conserve water. As both countries aim to double bilateral trade to $12 billion, there is a need to enhance knowledge-sharing among agricultural research centres to boost productivity and innovation, and to identify new opportunities for collaboration in agricultural innovation and agro-financing, as well as to foster B2B engagements through participation in agro-exhibitions.

As for the pharma sector, there are lots of opportunities for a growing partnership that can contribute to economic growth in both countries. On its part, Egypt has a large and growing population with increasing healthcare demands. Egypt also operates the largest pharmaceutical manufacturing base in the MENA region. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the pharmaceutical sector in Egypt receives customs exemptions on machinery and expedited registration processes, especially for active pharmaceutical ingredients.

On the other hand, for Indian API exporters, Egypt represents one of the most strategically significant market opportunities in the next decade, especially as the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) is actively working to position Egypt as a regional pharmaceutical hub. This makes Egypt a multiplier market for Indian API exports.

In order to achieve growth and innovation in the pharma industry, both countries should enhance cooperation and knowledge exchange in the areas of pharmaceutical manufacturing, raw materials, technology transfer and investment promotion.

From Egypt's perspective, how can Indian businesses leverage Egypt's strategic location as a gateway to Africa, the Middle East and Europe, especially given Egypt's progress in infrastructure, logistics, ports and industrial zones? What opportunities do you see for Indian companies in infrastructure, manufacturing and industrial development?

Egypt's strategic location at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe, is one of its key economic strengths. Egypt is not only one of the largest consumer markets in the Middle East, but also benefits from a wide network of free trade agreements with over 100 countries, providing investors with expanded access to international markets and supporting both industrial and regional integration.

There are lots of opportunities for Indian businesses in Egypt, especially in the "Economic Zone of the Suez Canal" (SCZone), which offers extensive investment incentives and various tax and customs exemptions. To further attract Indian investments, particularly in the SCZone, the Egyptian Government is considering the allocation of a piece of land dedicated to Indian industries.

By establishing a presence in the SCZone, Indian companies will be well positioned to benefit from the Zone's strategic location as one of the main logistics hubs in the region, enabling access to African and European markets and creating a mutually beneficial, win-win outcome for both Egypt and India.

Moreover, it is important to mention that Egypt has made a quantum leap in infrastructure development over the past few years and has witnessed significant growth in the digital economy, a development that has been enhancing the country's capacity to adapt to global transformations.

In order to create a more conducive business environment and to attract a larger share of FDI, the Egyptian government has been taking decisive economic reform measures, including a flexible exchange rate system; enhancing the role of the private sector in economic growth; simplifying business regulations; reducing bureaucratic measures; and offering tax incentives, customs exemptions, and investment guarantees to investors. Furthermore, since 2022, Egypt has launched the "Golden License", which is a comprehensive approval on the set up, operation and management of a project.

Renewable energy and green transition are emerging priority areas globally. What opportunities exist for India–Egypt collaboration in renewable energy, green hydrogen and sustainable industrial development?

Energy is one of the most promising economic sectors in Egypt, which possesses all the requirements and advantages to serve as a regional energy hub. Egypt is committed to build wind farms, solar power plants and to increase its hydroelectric capacity, under its national energy strategy which aims for renewables to account for 42 % of electricity generation by 2030 and 65 % by 2040. Egypt is not just producing energy but is positioning itself as a global hub for green hydrogen.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian Government enacted a law in 2024 offering incentives for green hydrogen production. In this context, there are enormous opportunities for Indian companies, especially within SCZone, which is being developed as a green industrial corridor, with tax incentives, renewable infrastructure and direct connection access to the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean routes.

As Egypt's position as a hub for green hydrogen and clean energy production directly aligns with India's industrial growth and supply-chain security, both sides were keen, during the first round of the Egypt- India Strategic Dialogue held in October 2025, to explore cooperation opportunities in green transition-related industries, including the manufacturing of solar panels, and wind turbines used in green hydrogen production.

There is no doubt that by investing in the renewable energy sector in Egypt, India can meet the crucial needs required by its manufacturing ecosystem and establish a manufacturing hub at the crossroads of Europe and Africa. For Egypt, the capital and technology along with the industrial skills, which come with the partnership with India can accelerate the country's transformation towards a value-added and green manufacturing hub.

> **"Egypt and India are moving towards strengthening the "strategic partnership" to encompass deeper economic and industrial integration in several sectors, particularly pharmaceutical, healthcare, agriculture, ICT, digital infrastructure, renewable energy and tourism."**

Over the next five years, how do you envision India–Egypt economic cooperation becoming more strategic, investment-driven and innovation-led?

Future relations between Egypt and India are moving towards strengthening the "strategic partnership" to encompass deeper economic and industrial integration in several sectors, particularly pharmaceutical, healthcare, agriculture, ICT, digital infrastructure, renewable energy and tourism.

These relations are anchored on the economic growth aspirations of both countries, bolstered by India's extensive manufacturing expertise, namely in automotives, pharmaceuticals, Artificial Intelligence, ICT and the shipping industry as well as the various investment opportunities in Egypt, particularly in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone), where the Egyptian Government is aggressively courting Indian companies to set up manufacturing sites by offering tax exemptions and strategic access to African and European markets. Indian investments currently exceed $4.5 billion, and Egypt welcomes further expansion.

Additionally, as there is a shared commitment between both countries to boost bilateral trade to a massive $12 billion, the strategic partnership is expected to deepen through intensive cooperation on enhancing connectivity, especially through sustainable trade corridors.

In this regard, the Suez Canal, with its strategic location between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, plays a vital role as an ideal foundation for sustainable maritime innovations and green hydrogen transport, as well as for ensuring global trade resilience and sustainability.

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WTC Mumbai Leads WTPF Assembly Discussions at Geneva

In Picture: Ms. Priya Pansare at World Trade Point Federation in Geneva, Switzerland along with fellow international delegates at the event

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, represented World Trade Center Mumbai at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the **World Trade Point Federation** in Geneva, Switzerland.

The forum on **"Innovative Approaches for the Integration of SMEs into Global Markets"** brought together international trade leaders, institutions, and stakeholders to discuss collaboration, connectivity, and new pathways for global market integration.

During the General Assembly Elections of the World Trade Point Federation (WTPF), **Ms. Priya Pansare was elected as Vice-President of the Federation**, marking an important recognition of WTC Mumbai's growing role in international trade facilitation.

A key decision taken during the Assembly was to rename the World Trade Point Federation as the **World E-Trade** Center, reflecting the increasing relevance of digital trade, electronic platforms, technology-enabled trade facilitation and new-age business connectivity in global commerce.

WTC Mumbai also proposed the establishment of an **Asia Pacific Desk** at MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai to serve as a regional coordination and facilitation platform for WTPF-related activities. It was further proposed that WTPF centres may operate from WTC Mumbai, leveraging its institutional infrastructure, trade networks and business facilitation capabilities to strengthen international outreach and collaboration.

In continuation of these discussions, WTC Mumbai offered to host the **WTPF General Assembly 2026,** which would provide Mumbai an opportunity to welcome global trade leaders, Trade Point representatives and international stakeholders, while further strengthening the city's position as a hub for international trade dialogue and cooperation.

Launch Of Geneva Global South Club

In Picture: (L-R): H.E. Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the World Trade Organization, Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, represented World Trade Center Mumbai, Dr. Axel Mazolo, Founder and Executive Director, Geneva AI Governance Institute (GAIGI) during the session

Branching out from the main programme, the Geneva **Global South Club** was formally launched as an initiative envisioned by **Dr. Axel Mazolo, Founder and Executive Director, Geneva AI Governance Institute (GAIGI),** with the objective of promoting collective growth and cooperation among nations of the Global South. The gathering brought together representatives from more than 10 countries which included nearly 40 ambassadors, permanent representatives, diplomats, policy experts and international stakeholders, providing an impactful platform for productive dialogue. Besides there were representatives of UNCTAD, WTO, ITC, WIPO and ILO. The deliberations were further enriched by the participation of **H.E. Professor Muhammadou M.O. Kah, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the World Trade Organization**, who shared valuable perspectives on the future of Global South partnerships and the importance of strengthening linkages among developing economies.

During the deliberations, Ms. Priya Pansare addressed the gathering as a guest speaker on **"India's Perspective on South-South Cooperation,"** presenting India's approach as one rooted in inclusivity, digital transformation, entrepreneurship, skilling and sustainability, while underscoring India's development journey as an example of how scalable innovation, digital public infrastructure and collaborative development models can empower emerging and developing economies.

Ms. Pansare observed that the **Global South represents fast-growing economies** as well as new ideas, innovation, resilience and leadership, with platforms such as the Geneva Global South Club playing an important role in strengthening diplomatic, economic, technological and cultural relationships among developing nations and enabling the Global South to play a more influential role in global decision-making.

She further underlined the need to create **practical frameworks** for partnership across priority areas such as trade, technology, AI governance, MSME development, women empowerment, sustainability and youth skilling, with such focused and outcome-oriented collaboration helping the Global South move beyond participation and emerge as a key driver of the future global economy.

WTC Mumbai's Strategic High-Level Engagements in Geneva

In Picture (L-R): Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, World Trade Center Mumbai with H.E. Senthil Pandian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO

Ms. Priya Pansare participated in a meeting with the **International Trade Centre (ITC) in Geneva,** which works towards connecting small businesses in developing countries with international markets. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss areas of mutual interest in trade promotion, capacity building and enterprise development.

During her engagement with ITC, Ms. Pansare met **Mr. Escipion Joaquin Oliveira Gomez, Director, Division of Country Programmes, International Trade Centre,** to explore possible areas of collaboration aimed at strengthening enterprise competitiveness and supporting MSMEs in accessing global markets.

Ms. Pansare met **H.E. Senthil Pandian, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the WTO**, and **Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.** During these meetings, discussions were held on WTC Mumbai preparing a report on the impact of the India–EFTA Free Trade Agreement on Indian MSMEs, covering opportunities, challenges and required policy support, as well as on WTC Mumbai's engagement with the WTO Public Forum. These interactions aligned with WTC Mumbai's ongoing role in research, policy dialogue and trade facilitation.

Ms. Pansare further met **Mr. David Simmons, Counsellor, Division for Asia and the Pacific, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO),** to discuss on cooperation in areas such as intellectual property awareness, innovation and MSME support.

WTC Mumbai and PHDCCI Align to Strengthen Legal Frameworks for Infrastructure Development

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), was invited as a distinguished speaker at the Conference on Dispute Resolution & Arbitration Norms for the Construction and Infrastructure Sectors.

The rapid acceleration of India's domestic infrastructure demands a seamless integration of industrial vision, regulatory modernity, and robust dispute resolution mechanisms to help the nation navigate the complexities of large-scale project execution. The Conference on Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Norms for Construction and Infrastructure Sectors, scheduled for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the World Trade Centre in Cuffe Parade, Mumbai, Maharashtra, stands as a premier gathering of policymakers, legal experts, arbitrators, and corporate stakeholders. Organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), this flagship event is dedicated to bolstering India's role as a resilient hub for sustainable infrastructure development. The conference brings together key representatives from State and Central Government functionaries, infrastructure developers, financial institutions, contractors, and academia to deliberate on evolving legal frameworks. Associated closely with this landmark summit as the venue partner, the World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai plays a vital role in aligning the conference's high-level deliberations with its own historical mission of economic promotion and industrial research. Established in 1970 as the pioneer World Trade Center in India, WTC Mumbai was founded on the visionary principles of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. Visvesvaraya to promote international commerce and industrial development. By championing industry-ready infrastructure, business matchmaking, and professional networks, the Center's support of the PHDCCI conference reflects its ongoing commitment to providing Indian businesses with credible, institutional platforms to expand their operational resilience.

This strategic collaboration is further underscored by the macroeconomic realities of India's current developmental trajectory. India has firmly established itself as a resilient engine of growth, emerging as the world's fourth-largest economy with a GDP exceeding USD 4 trillion. A significant portion of this growth is fueled by unprecedented, large-scale infrastructure projects spanning national highways, railways, airports, ports, urban infrastructure, and energy networks.

However, these massive investments involve highly complex contractual relationships between government authorities, private developers, financial institutions, and specialized consultants. Because these multi-year projects operate within volatile economic environments, disputes frequently arise regarding project delays, material cost escalation, divergent contractual interpretations, payment bottlenecks, and variation claims. The theme of the conference, "Strengthening Arbitration and ADR Mechanisms for Sustainable

Infrastructure Development," directly addresses these pain points. By bringing together diverse industry participants, both WTC Mumbai and PHDCCI emphasize that strategic agility, efficient dispute resolution, and robust institutional frameworks are essential to maintain project momentum and safeguard public-private investments amidst operational disruptions.

A central pillar of the conference agenda is the operational management of engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts, with a sharp focus on limitation periods, notice requirements, and claim preservation. In the high-stakes construction landscape, failure to comply with strict contractual timelines for filing notices frequently results in the forfeiture of legitimate claims. Legal experts at the conference will analyse how proper documentation and timely claim preservation protect contractors and public agencies alike. Parallelly, the deliberations will confront the rising financial impact of arbitration awards on public agencies. As substantial capital becomes locked up in protracted legal battles, the financial sustainability of public sector undertakings (PSUs) faces critical pressure.

This challenge has driven massive policy shifts within the Indian administration, notably a visible decline in utilizing arbitration for high-value government disputes. The conference will dissect this transition, focusing on the systemic shift from traditional arbitration toward mediation and conciliation within Government and PSU contracts. By embracing alternative dispute resolution (ADR) paths, the legal ecosystem aims to foster collaborative settlements rather than adversarial gridlocks, ensuring that capital is diverted back into active asset creation rather than legal reserves.

The regulatory and procedural environment plays an equally vital role in enabling project resilience, a theme explored through dedicated sessions on interim relief and emergency arbitration in infrastructure disputes. When contractual friction threatens to stall a critical asset, parties require rapid, binding interventions. Emergency arbitration offers an agile mechanism to secure interim measures before a formal tribunal is fully constituted, preserving the status quo of projects and mitigating financial haemorrhaging. This procedural adaptability is crucial for developers navigating modern geopolitical and supply-chain instabilities. Geopolitical frictions and sudden trade disruptions directly impact material costs and project timelines, making contract stability harder to maintain. Speakers will share best practices for balancing contractual obligations with external economic shocks, highlighting how robust risk management can protect thin project margins from volatile global realities.

Operational and technical precision remains another critical focus of the summit, particularly regarding the role of expert evidence and specialized programming in delay analysis. Resolving complex construction disputes requires moving beyond subjective arguments to objective, data-driven methodologies. Sessions led by forensic planners and engineering experts will address prolongation claims using advanced delay analysis techniques, establishing clear accountability for project disruptions. To accelerate this transition, the conference will explore the transformative integration of technology, specifically examining "The Digital Twin of Disputes" through Artificial Intelligence and automation. By utilizing digital twins virtual replicas of physical infrastructure assets—and AI-driven log tracking, parties can reconstruct project timelines with absolute fidelity, eliminating manual errors and reducing evidentiary ambiguities.

WTC Mumbai actively supports this technical and digital transition through its world-class infrastructure and commitment to industrial research, ensuring that domestic enterprises have access to cutting-edge tools that reduce transactional friction and enhance global competitiveness.

The closing sessions of the conference are designed to foster long-term structural reforms and collaborative public-private partnerships across the infrastructure sector. To facilitate widespread participation and enrich the quality of deliberations, the organizers have established an inclusive delegate framework, offering an early-bird discount rate prior to June 10, 2026, alongside customized financial concessions for group registrations. As India continues its ambitious journey toward a USD 5 trillion economy and massive infrastructure modernization, the alignment between technical industrial bodies like PHDCCI and premier trade promotion centers like WTC Mumbai becomes increasingly vital. Under the shared objective of sustainable nation-building, their continuous efforts to refine dispute resolution mechanisms, optimize contractual compliance, and support legal-tech innovations ensure that Indian infrastructure enterprises are well-positioned to drive stable, inclusive, and uninterrupted economic growth in an evolving global landscape.

The meeting was held on June 24, 2026

Promote Safety from Punitive to Progressive: Industry Leaders Urged to Build Safer Workplaces

In the Image (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Dr Lalit Gabhane , Director General, NSC India; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai .

World Trade Centre Mumbai signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Safety Council, India (NSCI) on 10 April 2026 at WTC Mumbai, establishing a strategic partnership aimed at fostering occupational safety, health, and environmental compliance across industrial sectors to elevate international trade standards. As a premier platform for global trade facilitation, the agreement brings together institutional trade infrastructure and national safety governance to create a robust framework for knowledge sharing, industrial safety audits, and compliance-driven capacity building for enterprises aiming for global markets.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director - Trade & Investment Promotion, MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai, and Dr. Lalit R. Gabhane, Director - General, National Safety Council, India (NSCI), formalized the alliance, emphasizing the critical intersection between occupational safety standards and the global trade ecosystem. It was highlighted that as Indian industries continue to expand their manufacturing capabilities, institutional synergy regarding safety compliance remains foundational to sustaining business momentum and ensuring human capital protection. The dialogue noted that with rising industrial goals and strict international regulatory frameworks, the ability to maintain world-class safety practices is paramount for enterprises seeking to compete on the global stage.

Highlighting the symbiotic relationship between workplace safety excellence and enterprise competitiveness, the partnership will focus on key domains including industrial safety training, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance, hazard management in advanced manufacturing, and safety standard certifications for MSMEs. The dialogue underscored that access to specialized safety guidance and robust risk-mitigation frameworks is a primary catalyst for the manufacturing, logistics, and export sectors, stressing that sustainable, high-safety operations are essential for enterprises to integrate seamlessly into global value chains. The signatories further noted that structured partnerships between trade bodies and safety authorities bolster investor confidence, reduce operational risks, and provide regulatory stability for businesses expanding their industrial footprint.

The discussions surrounding the MoU emphasized that the future of industrial infrastructure must focus on inclusive growth, sustainable development, and leveraging safety technology to safeguard workplaces while optimizing productivity. Financial, corporate, and industrial institutions are encouraged to partner with trade facilitation centers like WTC Mumbai and expert bodies like NSCI to create an ecosystem that supports not just domestic expansion, but a safe, standard-compliant environment for cross-border investments. It was stressed that closer collaboration between safety regulators, trade bodies, industry leaders, and government stakeholders is vital to navigating the complexities of the modern global economy, including supply-chain resilience and responsible, investment-led growth.

WTC Mumbai utilized this milestone to reinforce its role as a bridge between Indian industrial safety professionals and international trade networks, engaging with corporate executives to discuss upcoming opportunities in safe industrial investments and trade facilitation. The signing of this MoU reflects WTC Mumbai's continued commitment to facilitating meaningful dialogue, strategic partnerships, and global business engagement through credible, high-impact platforms.

The Programme was held on April 10, 2026

Culture and Commerce Converge at WTC Mumbai with Portuguese Musical Evening

In the Image (L to R): Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; H.E. Maria Manuela de Macedo Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa; Luísa Sobral, Portuguese singer and song writer; Capt. Somesh Batra, Honorary Consul of Portugal and Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai.

In a significant initiative to promote cultural diplomacy alongside trade engagement, World Trade Center Mumbai hosted a special live musical evening featuring internationally acclaimed Portuguese singer-songwriter Luísa Sobral. The evening highlighted WTC Mumbai's continued efforts to integrate culture with commerce, recognizing the growing importance of creative industries in strengthening international relations and economic collaboration.

Speaking on the occasion, **H.E. Maria Manuela de Macedo Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa,** said, "Mumbai's vibrant cultural landscape reflects its unique ability to bring diverse traditions together. India and Portugal share growing cultural and economic ties, and there remains immense scope to further strengthen this relationship across multiple sectors. Such initiatives play a vital role in deepening bilateral engagement, fostering people-to-people connections, and creating new opportunities for collaboration in both cultural and economic spheres."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India's music industry is undergoing a rapid transformation driven by digital platforms and evolving consumer preferences. Online streaming ecosystems have enabled artists to access global audiences, with international streams of Indian artists increasing by over 2,000% between 2019 and 2023." "The industry, currently valued at around ₹6,000 crore, is projected to grow to nearly ₹7,800 crore by 2026, reflects strong momentum. We believe that culture is a powerful enabler of economic engagement. When nurtured effectively, cultural exchange not only strengthens people-to-people ties but also opens new avenues for trade, collaboration, and creative industries across borders." added Dr. Kalantri

In the Image: Luísa Sobral, Portuguese artist, performing at the event

Capt. Somesh Batra, Honorary Consul of Portugal and Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai, said, "India and Portugal share a long-standing and evolving relationship, spanning decades of diplomatic engagement and centuries of historical connection. Today, this relationship is entering a new phase where cultural exchange is becoming an important pillar alongside trade. Initiatives like these cultural engagements help build stronger bridges, ultimately contributing to enhanced trade and economic cooperation. Music transcends boundaries, it connects people, fosters understanding, and creates opportunities across sectors including education, tourism, and the creative economy."

The evening's highlight was a live performance by **Luísa Sobral,** whose soulful compositions offered the audience a rich glimpse into Portugal's musical heritage, creating an immersive cultural experience.

Delivering the vote of thanks, **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai,** underscored the rising importance of performing arts and cultural industries in the global economy and emphasized that culture-driven initiatives are increasingly contributing to economic growth, tourism, and international engagement, and reaffirmed WTC Mumbai's commitment to promoting such meaningful exchanges. The event concluded on a high note, reinforcing WTC Mumbai's role as a dynamic platform that not only facilitates trade and investment but also strengthens global partnerships through cultural dialogue and collaboration.

The event was held on April 7, 2026

Brussels Emerges as Strategic EU Gateway for Indian Businesses

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Mr. Bart Vandeputte, Trade & Investment Commissioner, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance, Accounts and Admin, WTC Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Ms. Dhanashree Gawankar, Trade & Investment Officer, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI)

World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), organized an insightful session on "Doing Business with Brussels" at WTC Mumbai, aimed at strengthening trade and investment ties between India and the Brussels-Capital Region. The session brought together industry stakeholders, exporters, importers, MSME's to explore emerging opportunities for collaboration and growth across sectors such as trade, logistics, technology, and sustainable development.

Mr. Bart Vandeputte, Trade & Investment Commissioner, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai, said, "Brussels offers a strategic gateway to Europe, with access to over 440 million affluent consumers and among the largest import markets globally at the heart of global trade. With nearly 75% of Europe's GDP located within a 1,000-kilometre radius, companies establishing a presence in Brussels are effectively positioning themselves at the heart of the European economy." "Belgium's strengths in logistics anchored by the Port of Antwerp, along with its robust R&D ecosystem and

In the Image: Mr. Bart Vandeputte, Trade & Investment Commissioner, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai addressing at the event

investor-friendly policies, make it an ideal destination for global expansion. With no restrictions on foreign ownership, a fast-track business setup process, and strong incentives for innovation, Brussels presents significant opportunities for Indian companies, particularly in sectors such as life sciences, digital technologies, green transition, and advanced manufacturing." added Mr. Bart.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), said, "India–Belgium trade has demonstrated steady growth, reaching approximately USD 12.91 billion in FY 2025, with Indian exports alone accounting for over USD 6.3 billion across nearly 3,000 products.

While Belgium has traditionally been associated with the diamond trade, today the partnership spans a far wider spectrum including engineering goods, chemicals, petroleum products, and advanced manufacturing. Belgium, along with the Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU), continues to be a key gateway for Indian businesses into the European Union."

"The Port of Antwerp stands out as one of Europe's most strategic logistics hubs, reflecting Belgium's strength in trade facilitation and global connectivity. With cumulative FDI inflows of around USD 4 billion into India over the past 25 years, the relationship has strong institutional depth. Going forward, there is immense potential to collaborate in emerging sectors such as semiconductors, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and circular economy initiatives. As India moves towards becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and beyond, partnerships with innovation-driven economies like Belgium will play a crucial role in accelerating this growth trajectory." added Dr. Kalantri

Dhanashree Gawankar, Trade & Investment Officer, Consulate General of Belgium in Mumbai, said, "Brussels offers a practical and cost-effective gateway for Indian companies looking to expand into Europe, especially when compared to cities like Paris, London, and Amsterdam. What makes it particularly attractive is the ease of setting up a business with no restrictions on foreign ownership, simple processes, and relatively low initial costs. Beyond this, companies also benefit from strong on-ground support in the form of funding, incubation, and market access, making it easier to establish, grow, and eventually scale across the European Union."

Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), emphasized, "Strengthening international business linkages is essential to support Indian enterprises in expanding globally.

Regions like Brussels offer Indian businesses a strategic foothold in Europe, enabling them to gain a competitive advantage while accessing wider EU markets, advanced technologies, and new trade opportunities."

Proposing the vote of thanks, **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai,** highlighted, "the growing importance of Europe as a key trade and investment destination for Indian businesses.

The regions such as Brussels offer strategic access to the wider European Union market, enabling companies to expand their global footprint, leverage integrated supply chains, and tap into high-value, innovation-driven sectors.

She reiterated WTC Mumbai's commitment to facilitating such international partnerships and creating platforms that enable Indian enterprises to effectively access and engage with the EU market."

The session concluded with an engaging and interactive Q&A, reflecting strong interest among Indian businesses to explore opportunities in the European market and deepen trade linkages with the region.

The event was held on April 10, 2026

WTC Mumbai Honors Legacies of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Sir Keshub Mahindra

In the Image: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (4th from left) ; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai (5th from left); Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance & Accounts, WTC Mumbai (4th from right); and Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai (2nd from right) along with oth-

World Trade Center Mumbai recently organized a solemn event to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and to pay rich tribute to the legendary industrialist Sir Keshub Mahindra on his death anniversary. The commemorative event brought together leaders and industry professionals to reflect on their shared vision of inclusive growth, ethical leadership, and sustainable nation building. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, AIAI, stated that the Indian Constitution serves as a permanent guiding framework for the nation, reminding us that while we value our fundamental rights, we must also uphold our civic duties. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar's vision of equality guides India toward a Viksit Bharat by prioritizing women's empowerment, education, and equal opportunity. Concurrently, Dr. Kalantri honored the profound legacy of Sir Keshub Mahindra, a pioneer of Indian industry whose ethical capitalism, business acumen, and deep commitment to corporate social responsibility transformed the economic landscape while championing community welfare.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, added that the enduring legacies of both Dr. Ambedkar and Sir Keshub Mahindra inspire the creation of platforms promoting equal opportunity and meaningful participation, which guide efforts toward inclusive growth and stronger corporate institutions. Ultimately, the occasion served as a powerful reminder of Dr. Ambedkar's vision of empowerment through institutional strength and social justice, alongside Sir Keshub's ideals of philanthropic leadership and sustainable development.

The programme concluded with WTC Mumbai reaffirming its shared commitment to carrying forward these monumental legacies through inclusive, ethical, and sustainable economic progress for a stronger India.

The programme was held on April 14, 2026

WTC Mumbai Pays Tribute to Its Founder Bharat Ratna Dr. M. Visvesvaraya on his 64th Death Anniversary

In the Image: Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (4th from left); Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai (5th from left); Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance & Accounts, WTC Mumbai (4th from right); and Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai (3rd from right), Capt. Ramesh Gulati, Member of the Council of Management, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai (2nd from right) along with others at the commemorative ceremony of Bharat Ratna Dr. M.

World Trade Center Mumbai today solemnly observed the 64th death anniversary of M. Visvesvaraya, one of India's greatest engineers, nation-builders, and visionary thinkers, whose ideas were far ahead of his time including early concepts for urban infrastructure such as metro systems and whose ideals continue to inspire generations.

Remembering his enduring legacy, **Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai** and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Sir M. Visvesvaraya envisioned the establishment of a world-class international trade center in India's commercial capital. Today, WTC Mumbai stands as a premier institution and a living embodiment of that foresight, continuing to serve the global trade and business community through research, training, trade promotion, and world-class commercial facilities, while fostering prosperity through trade and global business connectivity."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, said, "Sir M. Visvesvaraya's legacy reminds us of the importance of innovation, discipline, and long-term planning in shaping resilient institutions. His vision continues to inspire our efforts in strengthening global trade linkages and fostering meaningful business collaboration. We are also grateful to the Government for commemorating Bharat Ratna Dr. M. Visvesvaraya's contributions through Engineers' Day."

The programme was attended by diplomats, members of the business community, and colleagues of WTC Mumbai, and concluded with a reaffirmation of WTC Mumbai's commitment to uphold the ideals of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, while continuing to advance trade, foster innovation, and strengthen India's presence in the global economy.

The programme was held on April 14, 2026

Consular Community Drives Global Dialogue and Partnerships at WTC Mumbai

In the picture (L to R): Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, HCCD Mumbai and Vice Dean, CCAM; Sven Östberg, Incoming Dean of CCAM and Consul General of Sweden; Shri. Jaykumar Rawal, Hon'ble Minister of Protocol and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra at the diplomatic evening.

The Consular Corps Association of Mumbai (CCAM), in collaboration with the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique (HCCD), hosted a diplomatic evening at World Trade Center Mumbai, with Shri Jaykumar Rawal, Hon'ble Minister of Protocol and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event brought together members of the diplomatic community, government representatives, and international partners to strengthen dialogue and collaboration.

Shri. Jaykumar Rawal, Hon'ble Minister of Protocol and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra, appreciated the spirit of the consular community and remarked, "The Consular Corps plays an important role in strengthening international relations, promoting trade not just through policy, but through people-to-people connections. The Government of Maharashtra remains committed to working closely with the diplomatic community to encourage greater collaboration and global partnerships," adding that he extended his best wishes to the new leadership of CCAM while acknowledging the valuable contributions of the outgoing team.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, HCCD Mumbai and Vice Dean, CCAM, reflected on the unique role played by the consular community and said, "The Consular Corps is not just about representation; it is about building bridges. Whether it is trade, dialogue, or cultural exchange, we are constantly working to bring countries closer. Mumbai, in that sense, has truly evolved into a vibrant hub for global engagement."

"There is a strong association between CCAM and HCCD, noting that both institutions have consistently worked together to promote trade, support delegations, and deepen international ties in Maharashtra" added Dr. Kalantri.

Sven Östberg, Incoming Dean of CCAM and Consul General of Sweden, said, "In today's interconnected world, diplomacy has become more collaborative than ever. It is no longer limited to formal engagements; it is about building partnerships, exchanging ideas, and finding common ground across cultures and economies. Platforms like CCAM play a vital role in bringing this community together. I look forward to working closely with all members to further strengthen these connections and create new avenues for cooperation and growth."

The evening also marked a moment of appreciation for Mr. Martin Maier, Outgoing Dean of CCAM, recognizing his efforts in bringing the consular community together and strengthening engagement across sectors.

The event witnessed strong participation from the consular community, serving as a meaningful platform for dialogue, reflection, and renewed commitment towards strengthening international partnerships, further reinforcing Mumbai's position as a key center for global engagement.

The event was held on April 15, 2026

India Post Releases Commemorative Postal Cover for MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai Recognizing Its Contribution to Global Trade for Over Five Decades

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai has achieved the distinction of a Special Postal Cover issued by India Post in recognition of its contribution to trade and industry development in the country. WTC Mumbai organized a special event to mark this achievement, celebrating over five decades of its role in India's global trade journey. Over the decades, the institution has played a vital role in connecting Indian businesses with global markets, facilitating trade, and fostering economic partnerships."

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Shri. Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI).

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, said "We take immense pride in reflecting on the journey of WTC Mumbai, founded on the visionary ideals of Bharat Ratna M. Visvesvaraya, who believed in nation-building through planning, innovation, and enterprise. WTC Mumbai was established with a vision to position Mumbai, the commercial capital of India as a global hub for trade and commerce. We also recall with pride that the land for the Center was allotted under the leadership of Morarji Desai, who later inaugurated the facility during his tenure as Prime Minister, marking a significant moment in our institutional history. Our foundation rests on the belief in bringing prosperity through trade. Over the years, this has enabled us to continuously adapt to changing global dynamics while staying committed to supporting the growth of businesses especially MSMEs and contributing meaningfully to the nation's economic progress." In the Keynote Address **Shri. Amitabh Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle,** acknowledged the significant role played by WTC Mumbai in strengthening India's trade ecosystem. He said "Institutions like WTC Mumbai creates meaningful platforms for business interaction, which remain indispensable for fostering trade and collaboration. He highlighted the evolving role of India Post as a logistics enabler, underlining its expanding infrastructure and growing partnerships that support trade and commerce across the country." The occasion was further commemorated with the release of a Special Postal Cover, officially stamped to mark the milestone and recognize WTC Mumbai's contribution to trade and industry development over five decades. Special covers issued by India Post serve as a lasting record of significant milestones, and this release symbolized recognition of WTC Mumbai's sustained efforts in promoting trade and investment."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, said, "WTC Mumbai has witnessed significant growth in recent years, particularly in areas such as sustainability, innovation, and business facilitation. We are grateful to the Department of Posts for their support and collaboration in bringing out the Special Postal Cover, making this milestone truly memorable. We reaffirm our commitment to building impactful platforms for global collaboration and trade advancement" As WTC Mumbai looks ahead, it continues to build on its strong foundation, driven by a vision of inclusive growth, global connectivity, and sustained economic progress.

The event was held on April 15, 2026

Trinidad & Tobago Emerges as Strategic Hub for India–Caribbean Trade

In the Image (L to R): Mahindra Ramdeen, CEO, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Emil Ramkissoon, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Hemanshoo Aggarwal, Export Director, AS International.

The World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with the All India Association of Industries, hosted an Interactive Meeting with a high level business delegation from Trinidad & Tobago, highlighting how the bilateral strengths can be scaled to unlock wider opportunities across India and Caribbean markets.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, emphasized that Trinidad & Tobago serves as a strategic gateway to the Caribbean region. He stated, "We are at home on both sides, and this shared comfort must translate into stronger trade linkages. Trinidad & Tobago's strengths can be scaled across Caribbean economies, creating a multiplier effect for Indian enterprises. At the same time, Trinidad & Tobago plays a vital role as a key LNG and petrochemical exporter in the Caribbean, with strong potential to contribute to India's energy diversification and strengthen the resilience of the bilateral trade relationship"

"The bilateral trade between India and Trinidad & Tobago, currently estimated at around USD 340 million has evolved significantly over the past decade, particularly in manufacturing and industrial collaboration. India's exports include pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, machinery, and plastics, while imports are led by mineral fuels, petrochemicals, and metals, underlining a complementary trade structure." Added **Dr. Kalantri.**

Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emphasized that, "the importance of institutional cooperation, stronger industry linkages, and sustained engagement to deepen trade between India and the Caribbean region, noting that such
delegations play a crucial role in enhancing collaboration and expressing confidence in greater engagement in the coming times."

Mr. Emil Ramkissoon, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, said, "Trinidad & Tobago may be a small nation, but we are a hub for business in the Caribbean. Any company looking to access the region can work through us. This visit reflects our intent to build long-term partnerships with India,

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Mahindra Ramdeen, CEO, TTMA; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Emil Ramkissoon, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, during the signing of the MoU between the organizations.

both for sourcing and market expansion."

Mahindra Ramdeen, CEO, TTMA, said "We punch beyond our weight. With a population of around 1.4 million, we compete with global players by focusing on niche sectors. The scale we see is not limited to our country but extends across the Caribbean ecosystem, where partnerships with India can grow simultaneously."

Hemanshoo Aggarwal, Export Director, AS International, highlighted the practical potential of the region, citing examples of Indian companies expanding into Trinidad & Tobago and further into Caribbean markets such as Jamaica."

The event witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between World Trade Center Mumbai, All India Association of Industries, and Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association to promote trade cooperation, facilitate business exchanges, and encourage joint ventures.

The delegation represented strong opportunities across sectors such as manufacturing, chemicals, energy, food processing, logistics, education, cosmetics, musical instruments and construction, while also emphasizing the need to strengthen trade facilitation and improve information dissemination to fully unlock the potential of bilateral engagement.

While proposing the Vote of Thanks, **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai,** highlighted that India has witnessed tremendous growth over the past decade and is poised for even greater expansion in the coming decade. She said, "the strong inflow of FDI, the vision of Viksit Bharat, and the remarkable economic progress of Maharashtra, emphasizing that these developments are creating significant opportunities for enhanced trade and investment."

The event reaffirmed WTC Mumbai's continued commitment to promoting international trade, fostering global partnerships, and supporting Indian businesses in accessing scalable opportunities across regions such as the Caribbean.

The event was held on April 23, 2026

WTC Mumbai, AIAI, and Government Convergence to Drive MSME Skilling, Workforce Transformation, and Digital Growth

In the Picture (L to R): Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Shri Shailesh Bhagat, Hon. Assistant Commissioner, District Skill Development, Mumbai Suburban; Mr. Hardik Somani, Co-Founder, Sapio Analytics; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries;

World Trade Centre Mumbai and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI) established a powerful industry-government convergence on April 30, 2026, at WTC Mumbai, aimed at strengthening collaboration in skill development, employer engagement, and workforce planning. A major highlight of the session was the signing of strategic Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) between the MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, the All India Association of Industries, the Government of Maharashtra, and Sapio Analytics.

This formalized alliance establishes a robust, future-ready framework designed to bridge the gap between traditional education and shifting employment demands, creating customized skilling pathways for youth, homemakers, and aspiring entrepreneurs across the region.

Shri Shailesh Bhagat, Hon. Assistant Commissioner, District Skill Development, Mumbai Suburban, served as a central focal point of this collaborative initiative. Emphasizing the critical role of government and trade body synergy, the dialogue highlighted how targeted state-level workforce planning acts as a primary catalyst for the manufacturing and export sectors. By focusing on smart governance analytics, localized employer engagement, and policy impact assessment, the strategic framework aims to study real market demand and build an adaptable ecosystem that translates raw opportunity into inclusive economic progress, making the ease of doing business a lived reality for local enterprises.

In tandem with workforce transformation, the integrated partnership brings together international trade infrastructure and modern data intelligence to foster trade technology adoption, data-driven economic research, and advanced market insights for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Leadership noted that with complex global trade dynamics and rising industrial goals, providing efficient data analytics, AI-driven trade advisory, and digital market intelligence is paramount for domestic enterprises seeking to compete on the international stage.

Access to reliable digital networks and predictive data remains foundational to sustaining trade momentum, bolstering investor confidence, reducing risks in market entry, and allowing manufacturing sectors to integrate more deeply into global value chains.

The discussions surrounding the milestones emphasized that the future of trade facilitation must focus on technological exchange, digital inclusivity, and leveraging deep analytical frameworks to bridge the gap between domestic businesses and international markets. Financial, industrial, and technology institutions are strongly encouraged to partner with trade facilitation centers like WTC Mumbai to support the seamless flow of cross-border investments through tech-enabled transparency. In his closing remarks, Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, reiterated that in a world shaped by geopolitical uncertainty, supply disruptions, and rising costs, India must think big and invest heavily in innovation, infrastructure, and future-ready skills to support local job creators.

The event was held on April 30, 2026

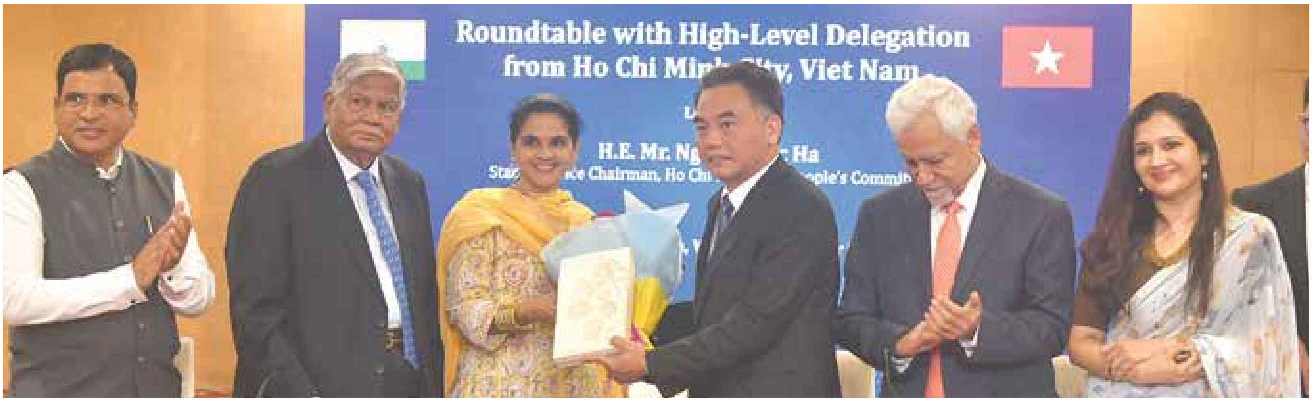
WTC Mumbai and AIAI Host Ho Chi Minh City Delegation to Advance Innovation, Sustainability, and Bilateral Trade

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), organized a high-level Roundtable Meeting with a prominent delegation from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on May 7, 2026. The roundtable served as a strategic platform to reinforce bilateral cooperation between India and Vietnam across new and modern sectors, including innovation, digital transformation, urban infrastructure, sustainability, tourism, logistics, and smart city development. The gathering concluded with a strong shared commitment from both sides to transform institutional dialogue into actionable partnerships, building a future-oriented economic relationship driven by technological exchange, infrastructure development, and close people-to-people cooperation.

Shri Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra and MLA, Ramtek Constituency, warmly welcomed the delegation, inviting Vietnamese enterprises to invest, establish operations, and grow within the state. Minister Jaiswal emphasized that Maharashtra is fully committed to elevating this partnership by developing dedicated infrastructure, specialized IT parks, and advanced data center ecosystems specifically tailored for Vietnamese companies. Highlighting the state's unmatched infrastructure network comprising railways, airports, highways, and seamless logistics connectivity, he noted that emerging fields like green hydrogen, electronics, bamboo-based industries, and steel manufacturing—with Gadchiroli rapidly emerging as a future steel hub—will contribute significantly to the vision of a Viksit Maharashtra and the state's aspiration of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy by 2027.

Representing the visiting delegation, Mr. Nguyen Loc Ha, Standing Vice Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee, stated that Ho Chi Minh City actively seeks to develop a long-term ecosystem for Indian investments, particularly in research and development centers, digital technology projects, smart urban development models, and green energy initiatives.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, highlighted the immense multi-faceted potential of this partnership, noting that bilateral trade between the two nations has successfully crossed USD 16 billion in FY 2025–26. Dr. Kalantri stated there is a clear roadmap to achieve a USD 30 billion trade target by 2030 through deep cooperation in data centers, artificial intelligence, textiles, and pharmaceuticals, while creatively proposing the establishment of Vietnam's first "Coffee Diplomacy Center" at WTC Mumbai as a symbol of ongoing cultural and business engagement.



In the image: Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, felicitating Mr. Nguyen Loc Ha, Standing Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee. Also seen are Shri. Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra & Member of Legislative Assembly, Ramtek Constituency (1st from left); Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (2nd from left); Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai(2nd from right) ; and Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai(1st from right) during the high-level roundtable with the Vietnam delegation at World Trade

In the image: Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, felicitating Shri. Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra & Member of Legislative Assembly, Ramtek Constituency. Also seen are Mr. Nguyen Loc Ha, Standing Vice Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee (1st from right) and Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (2nd from right), during the high-level roundtable at World Trade Center Mumbai during the high-level roundtable with the Vietnam delegation at World Trade Center Mumbai.

Focusing on localized urban and municipal opportunities, Ms. Shashi Bala, Chief, Business Development, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), pointed out that Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City can collaborate substantially on heritage tourism and UNESCO Creative City initiatives, leveraging Mumbai's position as India's financial and entertainment capital to drive the creative economy. In his concluding vote of thanks, Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, reiterated the powerful structural complementarities between the two economies, where India's robust services sector perfectly complements Vietnam's notable manufacturing strengths. As premier regional economic drivers, both Mumbai and Ho Chi Minh City are uniquely positioned to deepen long-term collaboration across megacity governance, smart transportation, waste management, logistics infrastructure, and disaster prevention.

The event was held on May 7, 2026

Egypt: A Strategic Gateway to Africa, the Mediterranean & Middle East

In the Image (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Dina Albahey, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Egypt in Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; H.E. Mrs. Dahlia Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Tawakol, Consul General of Egypt in Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Dalia Hafez, Office Manager of EgyptAir in Mumbai at the event.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries in association with The Consulate General of Egypt in Mumbai, organized an interactive session on "Doing Business with Egypt" at WTC Mumbai. The programme brought together industry representatives, exporters, investors, entrepreneurs, and trade stakeholders to explore emerging business and investment opportunities between India and Egypt.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and Egypt share a strong strategic partnership and enjoy steadily growing economic relations, with bilateral trade around USD 5 billion and a shared vision to cross USD 12 billion by 2030. Egypt offers significant opportunities in sectors such as logistics, manufacturing, tourism, natural resources, and connectivity through the Suez Canal, which continues to play a crucial role in global cargo movement, trade efficiency, and international competitiveness."

"Tourism is a major economic activity that promotes cultural understanding, networking, and long-term business relationships. Egypt is globally admired for its heritage, pyramids, Nile cruises, festivals, and hospitality, and serves as a strategic gateway not only to African markets, but also to the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. Greater exchanges between businesses and citizens of both countries will further deepen economic cooperation, investment, and mutual growth," added Dr. Kalantri.

Delivering the keynote address, **H.E. Mrs. Dahlia Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Tawakol, Consul General of Egypt in Mumbai,** emphasized that, "Egypt and India share longstanding historical bilateral relations. The Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in June 2023, and the first round of the Egypt-India Strategic Dialogue held in October 2025 have strengthened cooperation in digital public infrastructure, fintech, startups, and artificial intelligence. Both countries are committed to scaling bilateral trade to USD 12 billion in the coming years."

"Egypt is focused on creating a more conducive business and investment environment while actively supporting small and medium enterprises. The country offers significant opportunities across renewable energy and green hydrogen, tourism and hospitality, agriculture and agribusiness, IT services and business process outsourcing, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, logistics and transportation. Egypt has established more than 95 industrial free zones to facilitate investments, industrial expansion, and export-oriented growth." Added Mrs. Dahlia.

Ms. Dina Albahey, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Egypt in Mumbai, stated, "The visa procedures are simple and the requirements are straightforward. Egypt offers single-entry, multiple-entry, and five-year visas for eligible applicants. Investors can qualify as shareholders or partners contributing to company capital, supported by recommendations from GAFI."

Spotlighting the growing air connectivity between the two nations, **Ms. Dalia Hafez, Office Manager of EgyptAir in Mumbai** said, "This year marks the 94th anniversary of EgyptAir. We offer enhanced air connectivity between India and Egypt and continue to strengthen travel and business linkages between the two countries through our services."

Delivering the vote of thanks, **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai,** said, "India and Egypt share significant scope for expanding bilateral trade and investment cooperation. Such interactive engagements play an important role in strengthening trade dialogue and fostering deeper business partnerships. World Trade Center Mumbai remains committed to facilitating greater economic cooperation and creating new avenues for bilateral trade and investment." The session concluded on an optimistic and forward-looking note, reflecting the growing strategic alignment between India and Egypt and the strong potential for expanding bilateral engagement. The presentations, interactive discussions, and networking interactions reaffirmed the commitment of both nations to strengthening economic cooperation, deepening business partnerships, and fostering enduring people-to-people ties for a mutually beneficial future.

The event was held on May 7, 2026

Immense Potential for Bilateral Growth in Real Estate, Technology and Renewable Energy, Says Mr. Tung

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, General Director, Invest Global; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, during the signing of the MoU.

World Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries organized an interactive meeting with the International Investment, Trade and Tourism Alliance - Invest Global to strengthen India–Vietnam economic cooperation and explore emerging opportunities across trade, investment, tourism, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, real estate, logistics and smart urban development. The meeting brought together business leaders and stakeholders from both countries to discuss new avenues for bilateral collaboration and long-term strategic partnerships.

Mr. Phan Quang Tung, Vice Chairman, Invest Global, said, "there are growing opportunities for India–Vietnam cooperation across electric mobility, renewable energy, AI data centres, logistics, tourism, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, blue economy, real estate and infrastructure development. He noted that Vietnamese companies are actively looking to expand their presence in India while also exploring new opportunities through strategic investments, manufacturing partnerships and technology collaborations across emerging sectors."

"The country is witnessing growing demand for AI and hyperscale data centres, particularly in emerging financial and technology hubs such as Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam is targeting around 5,000 MW of AI and data centre capacity in the coming years, creating major investment opportunities in digital infrastructure, renewable energy and energy storage systems. We also invite Indian investors and EPC companies to participate in Vietnam's deep-sea ports, offshore wind energy, logistics infrastructure and smart industrial projects, which offer strong potential for long-term bilateral collaboration." Said Mr. Tung.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "It is encouraging to witness the second Vietnam business delegation at WTC Mumbai within two days, reflecting the growing momentum in India–Vietnam economic relations and the expansion of cooperation beyond traditional sectors into AI, digital infrastructure, renewable energy, logistics, innovation and smart urban development. Vietnam's progress in developing free trade zones and advanced financial ecosystems offers valuable opportunities for deeper bilateral collaboration."

"India–Vietnam bilateral trade has already crossed nearly USD 16 billion, with both countries working towards a target of USD 30 billion by 2030. Commercial hubs such as Ho Chi Minh City and Mumbai share strong economic and cultural similarities, creating immense scope for trade, tourism and investment partnerships. We are also exploring the establishment of a Coffee Diplomacy Center at WTC Mumbai to further strengthen cultural and business engagement between the two countries." Said, Dr. Kalantri.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, General Director, Invest Global, said, "Vingroup is actively exploring large-scale investments in India across electric mobility, energy, and real estate, with investment proposals running over billions of dollars. Vietnamese EV and electric two-wheeler manufacturers are also keen to manufacture and promote electric vehicles and mobility solutions in India through local partnerships and production facilities."

A key highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between World Trade Center Mumbai, All India Association of Industries and Invest Global to strengthen cooperation across trade, investment, innovation, logistics, renewable energy, digital infrastructure, tourism and smart infrastructure development. The MoU is expected to further deepen India–Vietnam economic engagement and create new avenues for bilateral business collaboration and strategic partnerships.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, said, "This MoU opens up new avenues for deeper collaboration between India and Vietnam beyond traditional sectors, as the scope of bilateral engagement is rapidly evolving in line with today's global economic and technological dynamics. There is immense potential for collaboration where both countries can jointly share expertise, investments and growth opportunities across emerging sectors. We also look forward to leading a business delegation from WTC Mumbai to Vietnam soon to explore new opportunities for trade, investment and strategic partnerships." The session concluded with meaningful deliberations on strengthening India–Vietnam economic cooperation and exploring new avenues for collaboration across emerging sectors, reaffirming the shared commitment of both sides towards deeper trade, investment and strategic partnerships.

The event was held on May 8, 2026

Ecuador Offers Immense Opportunities in Renewable Energy, Pharma and Infrastructure, says H.E. Anita Shukla

World Trade Center, Mumbai and All India Association of Industries organized a high-level business roundtable with H.E. Anita Shukla to explore new avenues for bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation between India and Ecuador. The meeting brought together exporters, importers, industry leaders, MSMEs and representatives from diverse sectors to discuss emerging opportunities for collaboration between the two countries.

Delivering the special address, **H.E. Anita Shukla, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Ecuador,** said, "Ecuador offers a favourable business climate supported by its adoption of US Dollar as its national currency, which ensures stability, transparency and greater ease of doing business for international investors. There are immense opportunities for Indian companies in sectors such as mining, petrochemicals, infrastructure, agriculture, food processing, renewable energy, healthcare, aviation, fintech, sustainability, and digitization. The government is also in the process of establishing free trade zones to further enhance the country's attractiveness as an investment destination."

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Ketan Shukla, Retd. IFS Officer; H.E. Anita Shukla, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Ecuador; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Mr. Anand Pandit, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ecuador in Mumbai and acclaimed film producer; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries.

"Under the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) Programme of the Government of India, professionals and government representatives from Ecuador are receiving capacity-building and specialized training from India. We look forward to welcoming more business delegations from India to explore the growing trade and investment opportunities in Ecuador," said **H.E. Anita.**

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI) said, "There is immense scope to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties between India and Ecuador across both traditional and emerging sectors. Current bilateral trade between the two countries is driven by crude oil, shrimp and agricultural products, along with pharmaceuticals, engineering goods and automobiles, while significant potential exists to expand cooperation in green energy, agri-tech, artificial intelligence, sustainability, food processing and digital innovation. The ongoing negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) can further enhance market access, reduce trade barriers and create new opportunities for businesses on both sides."

Mr. Anand Pandit, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Ecuador in Mumbai and acclaimed film producer, shared that, "Ecuador remains a completely untapped market both ways and there is enormous scope for enhancing commercial and investment partnerships between businesses of both countries."

Dr. Ketan Shukla, Retd. IFS Officer said, "Ecuador is a hub for tourism and is one of the most stable countries in South America. Around 60 percent of goods imported from Ecuador remain petrochemical products. Businesses operating from Ecuador can also access the wider South American market."

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, stated, "Latin American countries are becoming increasingly important to the global economy and there is significant potential for India to deepen trade, investment and technology partnerships with the region."

The session concluded with a productive networking, reaffirming the strong resolve of India and Ecuador to deepen bilateral economic engagement and unlock new partnerships.

The event was held on May 8, 2026

Maharashtra Offers Immense Opportunities in Industrial Clusters, Steel, Mining, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing," says Shri Ashish Jaiswal

In the picture (L to R): Mr. Ivan Y. Fetisov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries felicitating Shri Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra and MLA, Ramtek Constituency; and Mr. Mamed Akhmedov, Head of Representative Office of the Russian Export Center in India at the event.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries organized a Business Mission on Industrial Solutions and Sustainable Development Technologies in collaboration with the Russian Export Center and the Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in India at World Trade Center Mumbai. The programme brought together Russian and Indian industry leaders, government officials, technology providers and business communities to explore opportunities for bilateral trade, technology partnerships and industrial collaboration.

Shri Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra and MLA, Ramtek Constituency, said, "Maharashtra is moving forward towards the goal of becoming a one trillion-dollar economy with accelerated industrial growth, world-class infrastructure, a strong manufacturing ecosystem and a future-ready skilled workforce under the vision of Viksit Maharashtra 2047. Maharashtra offers immense potential for Russian businesses as long-term partners in this journey of growth. We see significant opportunities to jointly develop technology and industrial clusters with Russian companies in Maharashtra, particularly in green energy, hydrogen and clean technologies."

"Gadchiroli is emerging as a new engine of growth with strong mineral resources and improving connectivity, offering significant opportunities in steel, mining, heavy engineering and manufacturing. By combining Russian strengths with Maharashtra's industrial capabilities, we can create futuristic manufacturing hubs and expand bilateral economic cooperation," added **Mr. Jaiswal**

Mr. Ivan Y. Fetisov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai, said, "Russia and India share a special, stable and predictable relationship. India has pursued a balanced foreign policy, which creates confidence and predictability for expanding bilateral trade ties. We are confident that this business delegation's visit to India will lead to successful partnerships and productive business engagements between Russian and Indian companies."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center

Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Russia has always been India's trusted partner in trade, business and diplomacy. Bilateral trade between India and Russia has crossed USD 68.7 billion, reflecting the growing strength and strategic importance of economic cooperation between the two countries. There is immense potential to diversify beyond traditional trade and strengthen collaboration in sectors such as mining, steel, capital goods, manufacturing and technology in Maharashtra, India's premier industrial state."

"As India progresses towards becoming a USD 5 trillion economy and advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 with the aspiration of building an over USD 30 trillion economy, there is immense scope for deeper cooperation with Russia in technology transfer, joint ventures, investments and advanced manufacturing. Russia's support during the recent energy crisis reflected the strength of this longstanding partnership. Both countries can work together to strengthen industrial partnerships, expand technology-led collaboration and achieve the shared target of USD 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030," said **Dr. Kalantri**

Mr. Andrey O. Sobolev, Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in India said, "For more than 70 years, the Trade Representation of the Russian Federation in India has supported the development of industrial and technological collaboration. Russia and India are entering a new stage of economic partnership focused on sustainable development solutions and resilient supply chains. Significant opportunities exist in advancing partnerships in manufacturing, energy, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and IT."

Mr. Mamed Akhmedov, Head of Representative Office of the Russian Export Center in India, said, "We promote 'Made in Russia' brands both in Russia and across global markets. Russian companies meet the highest standards of innovation, quality and reliability. Since 2018, our Mumbai office has been actively fostering bilateral trade and has successfully implemented hundreds of projects between Russian and Indian businesses. In 2025 alone, over 1,200 Russian companies utilized our support for engagement with India, leading to signed contracts worth nearly USD 1.4 billion."

The programme featured dedicated presentations by leading Russian companies showcasing advanced industrial solutions and sustainable development technologies across a wide spectrum of sectors. The session was followed by extensive B2B interactions, enabling Indian and Russian businesses to explore new opportunities for trade partnerships, investments, technology transfer and long-term industrial collaboration across strategically important sectors.

The event was held on May 13, 2026

Sri Lanka Sees Strong Potential to Expand Economic Cooperation with India Across Logistics, Technology, Tourism and Infrastructure, says H.E. Priyanga Wickramasinghe

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai in association with All India Association of Industries organized an interactive meeting with the visiting delegation from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, and economic cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. The meeting brought together business leaders, MSMEs, exporters, industry representatives, and stakeholders from diverse sectors to explore new opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

H.E. Priyanga Wickramasinghe, Consul General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, said, "We are witnessing growing interest among Sri Lankan businesses to expand partnerships and engagement with Indian industry across diverse sectors. We are accompanied today by representatives from 17 leading Sri Lankan enterprises, reflecting the strong interest in strengthening business collaboration with Indian industry across sectors such as logistics, tourism, renewable energy, infrastructure, technology, and manufacturing. Sri Lanka continues to serve as an important logistics and commercial gateway in the region, and we are placing renewed emphasis on strengthening connectivity and economic cooperation with India."

"India remains one of Sri Lanka's largest trading partners, with bilateral trade continuing to grow steadi-

In the picture (L to R): Mr. Ivan Y. Fetisov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries felicitating Shri Ashish Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State, Government of Maharashtra and MLA, Ramtek Constituency; and Mr. Mamed Akhmedov, Head of Representative Office of the Russian Export Center in India at the event.

ly under the India–Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. Tourism and connectivity are playing an important role in strengthening ties between our two countries, with India emerging as the leading source of tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka. We look forward to greater participation from Indian businesses at the Sri Lanka Economic and Investment Summit in October 2026, as there is immense potential to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation." Said **Ms. Priyanga**

Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and Sri Lanka share deep-rooted historical, cultural, and economic ties, and there is tremendous potential to further strengthen bilateral cooperation across sectors such as trade, logistics, tourism, technology, renewable energy, manufacturing, and services. With bilateral trade between the two countries at around USD 6 billion, the economic partnership between our two countries continues to grow stronger."

"There is immense scope for Indian and Sri Lankan businesses to collaborate through trade, investment, joint ventures, technology partnerships, and MSME cooperation. We also see strong opportunities in areas such as maritime connectivity, regional supply chains, tourism, and sustainable development, which can further deepen economic engagement and long-term partnership between our two countries." added **Ms. Sangeeta.**

Mr. Krishan Balendra, Chairman, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and CEO, John Keells Holdings PLC, said, "Sri Lanka today is on a strong recovery and reform trajectory, with improved macroeconomic stability and a growing investor-friendly environment. Sri Lanka's strategic location and proximity to India position it as a natural partner in regional trade, logistics, tourism, and supply chains. The Port of Colombo has evolved into one of South Asia's leading transshipment hubs, handling over 8 million containers last year, with a significant share linked to Indian cargo movement. This presents strong opportunities for collaboration in ports, logistics, infrastructure, tourism, and related support services."

"This is the first time that the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai are engaging in this format, and we see it as a very important milestone. We look forward to building a strong, structured, and forward-looking partnership between our institutions to deepen business linkages and create tangible outcomes for both our economies," added Mr. Krishan.

The interactive meeting concluded with productive discussions and networking among Indian and Sri Lankan businesses, reinforcing the shared commitment of both countries to strengthen bilateral trade, investment, connectivity, tourism, and long-term economic cooperation.

The event was held on May 14, 2026

Digital Finance Must Grow with Trust and Cyber Awareness, Says Adv. Ashish Shelar

"Commonwealth Digital Financiers Network forum at WTC Mumbai highlights digital banking, fintech innovation and global financial collaboration"

In the Image (L to R): Hon. Niranjan Deva Aditya, President, Commonwealth Union; Dr. Anshul Gupta, Director, Realis Finance; Adv. Ashish Shelar, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics, Information Technology, Cultural affairs and Artificial Intelligence Department, Government of Maharashtra; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries at the event.

World Trade Center Mumbai hosted the Commonwealth Digital Financiers Network forum, organised by the Commonwealth Union in partnership with the World Trade Center Mumbai. The event brought together digital bankers, banking leaders, fintech innovators, financiers, policymakers and strategic stakeholders to deliberate on the future of finance, digital banking and global financial cooperation.

Adv. Ashish Shelar, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics, Information Technology, Cultural affairs and Artificial Intelligence Department, Government of Maharashtra, said "India's remarkable progress in digital financial transactions, especially through UPI, and said that the country's digital finance journey has become a model for the world. He observed that banking has moved from physical branches, queues and token-based systems to instant technology-enabled transactions.

"India's digital finance journey has created remarkable trust in transactions platforms such as UPI have become a case study for the world and noted that every innovation brings new opportunities as well as new challenges. Referring to cybercrime, digital fraud and emerging threats such as "digital arrest" scams, he stressed the need to build stronger public awareness and digital safeguards.

"As digital finance grows, cyber awareness must grow with it. We must protect citizens from digital fraud and new forms of cybercrime." The platforms such as the Commonwealth Digital Financiers Network can help identify opportunities, address challenges and provide advancement for India, Commonwealth countries and the wider global financial ecosystem. "This forum can offer valuable guidance for Bharat, Commonwealth nations and the global digital finance ecosystem" added, Adv. Shelar.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Digital finance is becoming an important pillar of global trade, cross-border business and inclusive economic growth. India's fintech and digital payment ecosystem has strengthened access, speed and transparency in financial transactions. At the same time, it has created new responsibilities in cybersecurity, trust and regulatory cooperation." "Digital finance will play a major role in shaping the future of trade and investment. India's experience can guide many countries in building secure, inclusive and trusted financial ecosystems." Said Dr. Kalantri.

Hon. Niranjan Deva Aditya, Chairman, Commonwealth Union, said, "Strong digital communities must be built across Commonwealth nations. Cyberspace is reshaping how people, businesses and institutions connect beyond geographical boundaries, and platforms such as the Commonwealth Digital Financiers Network can bring digital bankers, payment providers and financial institutions together for meaningful cross-border cooperation." "Cyberspace is creating new communities beyond geography. The Commonwealth must use this opportunity to build trusted digital networks that connect businesses, financial institutions and innovators across nations for meaningful cooperation." Said Mr. Niranjan. The forum marked the soft launch of the Commonwealth Digital Financiers Network, a platform envisioned to bring together digital bankers, fintech leaders, payment providers, financial institutions and innovators across Commonwealth nations and MENA and the event concluded with an open discussion and Q&A, where participants exchanged views on digital banking, fintech innovation, cybersecurity, international financial cooperation and the future of trusted digital transactions.

The event was held on May 22, 2026

Promote Safety from Punitive to Progressive: Industry Leaders Urged to Build Safer Workplaces

In the picture (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Dr. Lalit R. Gabhane, Director General, National Safety Council, India; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.

MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI), in association with National Safety Council, India organised a knowledge Session on "Leadership Role to Engage, Educate and Empower to Foster a Culture of Safety in Industries". The session focused on creating a proactive safety culture in Indian workplaces.

The keynote address was delivered by **Dr. Lalit R. Gabhane, Director General, National Safety Council, India,** who said, "The National Safety Month 2026 theme, 'Engage, Educate and Empower to Enhance Safety Performance', must become the foundation of every workplace safety culture. With more than 1,000 workers losing their lives every hour due to occupational causes, industries must move beyond compliance and focus on awareness, training, prevention and empowering every employee to act responsibly."

"Safety leadership refers to the ability of leaders at all levels of an organisation, whether top management, supervisors, team leaders, engineers, HR professionals or even informal leaders, to influence, inspire and guide people towards maintaining a safe and healthy work environment," said **Dr. Gabhane.**

Dr. Gabhane said, "Unsafe behaviour accounts for nearly 88% of industrial accidents, unsafe conditions contribute 10%, and other causes 2%. Safety-focused leadership can reduce incidents by up to 71% and improve productivity by 21%. For Viksit Bharat, every Indian workplace must become safe, productive and globally competitive." He also highlighted the NSCI Safety Awards across Manufacturing, Construction, MSME, Service and Women in Safety, recognising organisations and professionals for excellence in workplace safety.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), said, "Safety is the prime need of every enterprise, industry, business establishment and even housing society. Safety norms are the need of the hour. This is one of the greatest preventable human crises of our time. In India, MSMEs as well as large industries are increasingly following safety practices, but we need to create need-based safety models that are practical, affordable and easy to implement. We must create awareness and a conducive atmosphere where people willingly follow safety standards. The approach must move from punitive to progressive, where safety is seen not merely as compliance, but as a shared responsibility and culture."

The session was followed by an interactive Q&A and concluded with a vote of thanks by **Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai.** In her remarks, she emphasized that safety must be treated as a priority for industrial progress and productivity, adding that safer workplaces are essential to building a resilient and developed Viksit Bharat.

The event was held on May 22, 2026

WTC Mumbai Marks World Environment Day with Tree Plantation Drive and Hosts Textile Upcycling Initiative

In the Image: Dignitaries during the Tree Plantation Drive at World Trade Center Mumbai on World Environment Day.

World Environment Day, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai reinforced its commitment to sustainability by organizing a Tree Plantation Drive and hosting the launch of Mumbai's Mega Post-Consumer Textile Waste Collection and Upcycling Initiative. Together, these initiatives highlighted the importance of collective action in promoting environmental conservation, resource efficiency and circular economy practices. The Tree Plantation Drive was conducted as a symbolic yet meaningful step towards creating a greener and more sustainable environment. The programme was graced by the presence of Ms. Vrunda Desai, Textile Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra; Smt. Roop Rashi, Chief Executive Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of MSME, Government of India; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI); Dr. Megha Phansalkar, Founder, Tisser; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade Promotion & Investment, World Trade Center Mumbai; and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai. Their participation reflected a shared commitment to environmental responsibility, sustainable development and collective action for a cleaner and greener future.

In the Image: Dignitaries and stakeholders at the launch of the Mega Used Clothes Upcyclon initiative hosted at WTC Mumbai.

The day also witnessed the launch of Mumbai's Mega Post-Consumer Textile Waste Collection and Upcycling Initiative, hosted at World Trade Center Mumbai. The 'Mega Used Clothes Upcyclon', a consumer awareness, used-clothing collection and upcycling programme, was unveiled through a collaboration between the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), ReFiber, Oterri, Tisser, World Trade Center Mumbai and Lions International. The initiative aims to promote circularity in India's textile sector by encouraging collaboration among government, industry, sustainability experts and civil society to address textile waste.
The programme received a special video message from Shri Sanjay Savkare, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Government of Maharashtra, who extended his best wishes and highlighted the importance of collaborative action in addressing environmental challenges while creating sustainable livelihoods.

Ms. Vrunda Desai, Textile Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, said, "India generates nearly 70 lakh tonnes of textile waste annually, with more than 70 percent being recovered and recycled. We need to create a model where ecological, social and economic benefits are achieved together through responsible waste management, innovation and value creation."
Mr. Santosh Kataria, Chairman, Sustainability Committee, Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), said, "We must transition from a linear economy to a circular economy. The success of such initiatives should be measured not only by the volume of waste collected, but also by the livelihoods created and communities empowered through sustainable enterprise and upcycling."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Approximately 92 million tonnes of textile waste are generated globally every year, yet only a small proportion is effectively reused. There is a need to transform waste into wealth through innovation, fibre regeneration, recycling technologies and stronger collaboration among industry, government and civil society."

Dr. Pankaj Kumar, National Project Coordinator, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), said, "Circular economy principles are increasingly becoming central to economic development strategies, with green jobs, renewable energy, responsible production and inclusive growth playing an important role in building a sustainable future." Mr. Manoj Wanvari, COO, ReFiber and OterRi, said, "This initiative marks the beginning of a collective movement towards a circular future. Sustainability is no longer a choice, but a necessity. The future of the textile industry lies in circularity, resource efficiency and responsible consumption."

The programme featured panel discussions on building a zero-waste textile future, focusing on textile recycling, upcycling, circular fibres, MSME-led models, traceability and consumer awareness. Participants also explored ways to accelerate circularity by integrating waste into value chains, promoting reuse and repair, designing recyclable products, leveraging artificial intelligence to reduce sampling waste and strengthening collaboration among government, industry and communities.

The event concluded with a call for collective action to accelerate India's transition towards a circular textile economy. Through the Tree Plantation Drive and by hosting the textile waste collection and upcycling initiative, WTC Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable development, green livelihoods and a cleaner, more resilient future.

The event was held on June 5, 2026

India's Blue Circular Economy Offers Major Opportunities for Growth, Investment and Employment

In the Picture (L to R): Mr. Erik af Hällström, Consul General of Finland in Mumbai, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, Mr. Ashish Kumar Singh, Former Additional Chief Secretary, Transport and Ports, Government of Maharashtra; Mr. Rajiv Jalota, Advisor, Indian Ports Association and Former Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai at the Round Table on Blue Circular Economy.

World Trade Center Mumbai, in association with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and the All India Association of Industries (AIAI), organized a high-level Roundtable on **"Blue Circular Economy: Innovation, Investment and Sustainable Growth."** The event brought together policymakers, diplomats, industry experts, academics and sustainability practitioners to deliberate on strategies for harnessing ocean resources sustainably while promoting economic growth and environmental stewardship. Diplomats from Finland, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Norway, Australia and Ireland attended the discussion.

Mr. Erik af Hällström, Consul General of Finland in Mumbai, stated, "Climate change, marine pollution and resource depletion are global challenges that require comprehensive international cooperation. Finland aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and become the world's first fossil-free economy. Circular economy goes beyond recycling; it is a business model that addresses root causes while creating new economic opportunities."

Mr. Ashish Kumar Singh, Former Additional Chief Secretary, Transport and Ports, Government of Maharashtra and Distinguished Fellow, ORF, observed, "India loses nearly ₹61,000 crore annually due to post-harvest fisheries losses, while fish waste generation exceeds 2 million tonnes. Circular economy becomes a powerful economic strategy when waste is converted into valuable products such as fish oil, collagen, gelatin and nutraceuticals. The future ocean economy will belong to those who waste the least, regenerate the fastest and govern the wisest."

Mr. Rajiv Jalota, Advisor, Indian Ports Association and Former Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority, said, "India's marine exports are projected to reach USD 30 billion by 2030, while port capacity is expected to expand from 2,600 million metric tonnes to 10,000 million metric tonnes by 2047. Indian ports are at the intersection of shipping, waste logistics and coastal communities. To translate sustainability goals into measurable outcomes, we need common infrastructure, green shipping corridors, alternate fuel bunkering and circularity-focused facilities."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center

Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “India has a coastline of over 7,500 kilometres, while Maharashtra alone accounts for nearly 878 kilometres. Nearly 95% of India’s trade volume moves through maritime routes, yet blue economy sectors contribute only about 4% to GDP, highlighting the enormous opportunity before us. To unlock this potential, the blue circular economy must be supported by a clear taxonomy that defines sustainable activities and enables investment, innovation and measurable outcomes. Water transport remains one of the most cost-effective and environmentally sustainable modes of transportation. Timely and collective action can help preserve our oceans, reduce pollution and create a cleaner, healthier marine ecosystem for future generations.”

Mr. Jaibal Naduvath, Vice President, Observer Research Foundation, said, “ORF has been actively contributing to global policy dialogue, with a growing focus on the Blue Economy. As the world increasingly recognizes the strategic importance of oceans, the Blue Economy presents significant opportunities to promote sustainable growth, strengthen maritime competitiveness and foster regional and international cooperation.”

Other speakers emphasized that MSMEs need easier access to finance, shared infrastructure and stronger market linkages to adopt circular economy practices at scale. They further noted the importance of involving coastal communities, improving marine resource tracking and channelising CSR support towards coastal ecosystem protection and sustainable livelihoods.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, proposed the vote of thanks and said, “The blue circular economy offers immense potential to promote sustainable growth, innovation and responsible use of marine resources. WTC Mumbai is also pleased to highlight the WTCA–UNIDO Global Blue Economy Call, which focuses on blue renewable energy, sustainable food systems, maritime transport, coastal tourism and ocean health.” The roundtable concluded with a consensus that the blue circular economy presents a significant opportunity to align economic growth with environmental sustainability, strengthen coastal livelihoods and support India’s long-term vision of sustainable and resilient development. WTC Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to fostering policy dialogue, industry collaboration and global partnerships to advance sustainable ocean-based growth.

The event was held on June 10, 2026

India–Belarusian Business Forum Highlights New Opportunities in Trade, Technology and Investment Cooperation

The India–Belarusian Business Forum was held at World Trade Center Mumbai, bringing together government officials, diplomats, industry leaders, bankers and business representatives to explore opportunities for strengthening bilateral trade, investment, technology transfer and industrial cooperation between India and Belarus.”

Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai, said, “India and Belarus share a longstanding friendship, with diplomatic relations established in 1992. Over the years, our cooperation has expanded beyond trade to include culture, education, healthcare, technology and people-to-people exchanges. Belarus views India as an important strategic partner, and we believe this forum will create meaningful opportunities for businesses from both countries to explore partnerships, investments and long-term cooperation.”

Speaking on **Maharashtra’s investment potential, Mr. Avinash Netaji Solwat, Under Secretary, FDI, Diaspora, International Outreach Department, Government of Maharashtra,** said, “Maharashtra remains one of India’s leading investment destinations and is open to collaborations across manufacturing, technology, infrastructure, agriculture and innovation-led sectors. Under the leadership and vision of Hon’ble Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, the state is committed to attracting foreign investment. Belarus has strong expertise in agricultural equipment and heavy machinery, and given Maharashtra’s vast industrial, agricultural and manufacturing base, there is significant scope for collaboration across these areas.”

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, “India and Belarus enjoy cordial and longstanding bilateral relations spanning trade, invest-

In the Image : Mr. Aleksei Amarin, General partner of the forum, JSC Savings bank Belarusbank, Executive Director; Mr. Atul Kumar Goel, Chief Executive, Indian Banks' Association; Mrs. Tatiana Alekseyeva, Deputy Director General, Mogilev Branch of Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, AIAI; Mr. Aliaksandr Matsukou, Consul General of the Republic of Belarus in Mumbai and Mr. Avinash Netaji Solwat, Under Secretary, FDI, Diaspora, International Outreach Department, Government of Maharashtra, mark the launch of the Representative Office of Belarusbank in the Republic of India during the India–Belarusian Business Forum held at World Trade Center Mumbai.

ment, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, education and cultural cooperation. Bilateral trade stood at approximately USD 106.6 million in FY 2024–25. There is strong potential to expand trade in pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, chemicals, textiles and machinery, while leveraging Belarus' strengths in heavy engineering, mining equipment, agricultural machinery and automobiles."

"Collaboration in manufacturing, joint ventures and technology transfer can support Maharashtra's vision of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy and India's aspiration of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy. Stronger industry-to-industry partnerships can unlock new avenues for bilateral trade and investment between India and Belarus." added Dr. Kalantri.

Mr. Atul Kumar Goel, Chief Executive, Indian Banks' Association, said, "India's banking and financial ecosystem is rapidly evolving, supported by digital payment infrastructure such as UPI. Local currency settlement mechanisms can play an important role in facilitating international trade, reducing transaction costs and supporting smoother cross-border transactions. Reliable banking channels, trade finance instruments and settlement mechanisms are essential to enhance business confidence between India and Belarus." "FCNR(B) deposits have become increasingly attractive following recent Reserve Bank of India measures aimed at encouraging foreign currency inflows and strengthening India's external sector. Innovative financial solutions and efficient banking mechanisms will be crucial in supporting future business engagement between the two countries," added Mr.Goel.

Mrs. Tatiana Alekseyeva, Deputy Director General, Mogilev Branch of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "Belarus has a strong industrial base and a strategic location as a gateway to the Eurasian Economic Union market. We see significant opportunities for Indian companies in manufacturing, industrial technologies, agriculture, machinery and innovation-driven sectors. Indian businesses can explore Belarus as a gateway to the wider Eurasian market. Enhanced business engagement, trade partnerships and joint initiatives will contribute to greater trade and investment flows between India and Belarus,"

The forum also featured focused panel discussions covering key aspects of India–Belarus economic cooperation, including new business opportunities for Indian companies in Belarus, reliable banking and settlement mechanisms, contract and partner verification, logistics solutions, and India's potential as a trade, technology and investment partner for Belarusian businesses. The launch of the Representative Office of Belarusbank in the Republic of India was also marked during the forum.

The event concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen bilateral economic engagement, facilitate business partnerships and create new avenues of cooperation that can contribute to sustainable growth and stronger India–Belarus relations in the years ahead.

The event was held on June 17, 2026

India and Brazil Possess Immense Potential in Mineral Resources, Agribusiness and Technology Partnership, says H.E. Mr. José Mauro, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai

In the Picture (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai; Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Parag Mehta, Council Member, World Trade Center Mumbai.

World Trade Center Mumbai hosted H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, for an interactive meeting aimed at identifying new avenues of economic engagement between India and Brazil. The discussions focused on promoting sector-specific partnerships and creating stronger institutional linkages to support industry collaboration between the two countries.

H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, said, "There is significant scope for both countries to expand cooperation across trade, investment and sectoral development Agribusiness, technology are among Brazil's key strengths, and there is considerable potential for collaboration in this sector. Brazil's rich mineral resources, including rare earths and other critical minerals, offer significant opportunities for Indian companies to explore partnerships across sectors. There is also scope to further strengthen government-to-business partnerships and diversify India–Brazil engagement beyond traditional sectors into new and emerging areas.

The Consul General expressed interest in further strengthening trade engagement with World Trade Center Mumbai and observed that institutional partnerships can play an important role in connecting businesses and promoting practical cooperation.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "Brazil is India's largest trading partner in the Latin American and Caribbean region, with bilateral merchandise trade standing at USD 12.19 billion in FY 2024–25. With both countries aiming to increase bilateral trade to USD 20 billion by 2030, there is strong potential to deepen cooperation in areas such as technology, artificial intelligence, sugar, ethanol, fertilizers, petrochemicals, natural resources and agribusiness.

"Brazil's strengths complement India's capabilities in manufacturing, services, technology and entrepreneurship. Indian companies have already invested in Brazil, and this relationship can be taken forward through focused business engagement, structured business exchanges, joint ventures and market access partnerships," added Dr. Kalantri.

The meeting was also attended by **Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, World Trade Center** Mumbai; **Mr. Parag Mehta, Council Member, World Trade Center Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and In-**

vestment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; and **Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance and Accounts, World Trade Center Mumbai.**

The meeting concluded with both sides emphasizing the need to create practical platforms for interaction between industry leaders, policymakers and business communities. World Trade Center Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to promoting stronger India–Brazil business ties and facilitating meaningful engagement between enterprises from Maharashtra and Brazil.

The event was held on June 22, 2026

7-Member U.S. Legislative Delegation Visits WTC Mumbai to Strengthen India–U.S. Trade and Investment Ties

In the Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; and Sen. Wayne Harper, President Pro Tempore of the Utah Senate, USA, felicitating Dr. Kalantri.

World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries hosted a high-level legislative delegation from the United States of America, to discuss opportunities for strengthening trade, investment, innovation and sectoral partnerships between India and the United States.

The delegation was led by Sen. Wayne Harper, President Pro Tempore of the Utah Senate, and included Ms. Kristin Kahalooa, Mr. Dan Saddler, Mr. Ron Winterton, Mr. Chase Blasi, Mr. Bryan Thomas and Mr. Chris Lee.

Sen. Wayne Harper, President Pro Tempore, Utah Senate, USA said, "The United States and India, as the world's oldest and largest democracies, share strong values and immense scope for expanding economic cooperation. We see significant opportunities to expand cooperation with India in high-growth sectors such as artificial intelligence, emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and higher education. If the proposed India–U.S. trade agreement is concluded in the near term, it will create immense scope for expanding trade, investment and business collaboration between the two countries."

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, said, "India and the United States share a strong and expanding economic partnership, with bilateral trade in goods and services exceeding USD 230 billion. This reflects the depth and resilience of the relationship between the two countries. As both nations work towards expanding bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030, stronger state-level partnerships, business exchanges, investment promotion and sector-focused collaboration will be important to achieving this ambitious target."

"The United States' strengths in innovation, technology, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, life sciences and entrepreneurship complement India's capabilities in IT services, pharmaceuticals, engineering, manufacturing and start-ups. Stronger business linkages between India and the United States can be built through trade delegations, B2B meetings, institutional partnerships and sector-focused collaborations," added Dr. Kalantri. World Trade Center Mumbai reaffirmed its commitment to promoting stronger India–U.S. economic engagement and supporting new opportunities for trade, investment, technology collaboration and innovation-led partnerships between the two countries

The event was held on June 23, 2026

Wellness in Action Through the Spirit of Yoga

In The Image (L to R): Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai (2nd from left); Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance & Accounts, WTC Mumbai (2nd from right) along with other participants

World Trade Center Mumbai celebrated International Yoga Day by bringing together its employees to embrace the timeless practice of yoga and reaffirm its commitment to health, wellness and holistic well-being. The observance served as a reminder that physical fitness, mental clarity and emotional balance are essential for personal growth as well as professional excellence.

The Yoga Day session encouraged participants to experience the benefits of mindful movement, controlled breathing and meditation, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle amid the demands of a fast-paced professional environment. The programme provided an opportunity for employees to pause from their daily routines, reconnect with themselves and cultivate a sense of inner calm and resilience.

Yoga, an invaluable gift of India's ancient heritage to the world, continues to inspire millions by promoting harmony between the body, mind and spirit. Its growing global acceptance reflects its universal relevance in addressing the challenges of modern lifestyles, including stress management, improved concentration, emotional well-being and overall physical fitness. The celebration at WTC Mumbai recognised these values while encouraging employees to incorporate simple wellness practices into their daily lives.

The observance also reflected WTC Mumbai's belief that organisational success is closely linked to the well-being of its people. A healthy workplace not only enhances productivity and creativity but also fosters stronger teamwork, positive relationships and a culture of mutual care and respect. By promoting wellness initiatives such as Yoga Day, WTC Mumbai continues to create an environment where employees can thrive both personally and professionally.

As WTC Mumbai continues its journey of promoting international trade and economic development, it remains equally committed to nurturing a workplace that values balance, mindfulness and sustainable well-being. The celebration of International Yoga Day served as a meaningful reminder that investing in physical and mental wellness is fundamental to building resilient individuals, stronger organisations and a more productive future

The event was held on June 19, 2026

56 Years of Connecting India to Global Opportunities

In the Image (L to R): Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance & Accounts, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Priya Pansare, Director, Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Capt Somesh Batra, Vice-Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Sharad Upasani,Vice-Chairman,WTC Mumbai; and Capt. Ramesh Gulati, Member of the Council of Management, MVIRDC WTC Mumbai

As World Trade Center Mumbai marks its 56th Foundation Day, it reflects on a remarkable journey of promoting international trade, facilitating investment, empowering enterprises and building meaningful global partnerships. For more than five decades, WTC Mumbai has served as a trusted platform connecting Indian businesses with opportunities across the world.

Since its inception, WTC Mumbai has played an important role in strengthening India's trade and investment ecosystem through exhibitions, conferences, business delegations, policy dialogues, training programmes and international networking initiatives. It has consistently brought together industry leaders, diplomats, policymakers, entrepreneurs, MSMEs, academia and trade promotion organisations to create new avenues for collaboration and growth.

Over the years, WTC Mumbai has evolved beyond being a landmark business destination. It has emerged as a knowledge-driven institution that supports enterprises through research, market insights, capacity building and global business facilitation. Its initiatives have helped businesses understand emerging trade trends, access new markets, strengthen competitiveness and build partnerships across sectors and geographies.
WTC Mumbai's contribution has been especially significant in supporting MSMEs, exporters, startups and professionals through focused programmes on trade promotion, export readiness, global supply chains,

sustainability, digital transformation and skill development. By enabling dialogue and collaboration, the institution continues to contribute to India's economic growth and global engagement.

As it completes 56 years, WTC Mumbai renews its commitment to connecting opportunities, enabling enterprise and advancing India's position in the global economy. With a strong legacy and a forward-looking vision, it continues to serve as a bridge between Indian business and the world.

The event was held on June 26, 2026

Participation at the WTCA Global Business Forum 2026 Philadelphia, USA

Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Admin & Finance,WTC Mumbai and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director - Trade Promotion attended the forum, engaging with the global WTC network and contributing to meaningful exchanges on trade and business.

The international trade landscape in 2026 faces a complex matrix of challenges, ranging from shifting supply chains to lingering geopolitical frictions in the Middle East and volatile macroeconomic indicators. In this environment, global commerce requires stable, interconnected anchors to maintain resilience. Navigating these challenges, World Trade Center (WTC) Mumbai successfully expanded its international footprint and solidified its position within the global trade ecosystem during its high-profile participation at the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Global Business Forum 2026. Held from April 18 to 22, 2026, in the historic city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, the forum was hosted and organized by the World Trade Center Greater Philadelphia. This high-level assembly served as a vital convergence point for global policymakers, institutional investors, trade diplomats, and corporate leaders, all gathering over five days to deliberate on the emerging frontiers of international investment, technological innovation, and sustainable economic development.

Despite prevailing global uncertainties, the delegation from WTC Mumbai which also actively represented its strategic associate centers in Jaipur and Goa engaged deeply in these critical international deliberations. This successful diplomatic and commercial mission was executed under the foundational guidance and active support of Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Mumbai and Director on the WTCA Board. The delegation's efforts not only secured vital bilateral economic pacts but also significantly elevated the institutional prestige of the entire Indian WTC network on the global stage. WTC Mumbai's influence within the overarching WTCA architecture was highly visible during the forum's formal governance and administrative sessions. Representing the center at the highest level of institutional decision-making, **Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director of Finance, Accounts & Administration for WTC Mumbai, attended the WTCA Board of Directors** meeting. Operating as an authorized proxy for Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Mr. Kotre contributed directly to the strategic oversight, policy formulation, and long-term fiscal planning of the global association.

Simultaneously, the center prioritized operational innovation by deploying **Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director of Trade Promotion,** to participate in the specialized WTCA Universal Trade Services (UTS) Programme. This pilot UTS initiative, carefully modeled after highly successful trade service frameworks implemented in Toronto, is designed to revolutionize how individual member centers operate. By introducing standardized, high-value trade consultation models, the UTS pilot aims to generate new, diversified revenue streams for member centers while helping localized companies seamlessly expand their footprint into highly competitive international markets. The forum also served as a stage for celebrating operational excellence within the Indian network. In a dedicated ceremony, the WTCA recognized the rigorous standards maintained by India's expanding regional trade infrastructure. WTC Jaipur and WTC Goa received formal global accreditation awards, a testament to their strict compliance with the WTCA's quality, service, and infrastructure benchmarks. These honors were presented by WTCA Board Chair Mr. John Drew, with Mr. Kotre and Mr. Desouza accepting the prestigious accolades on behalf of WTC Jaipur and WTC Goa, respectively. A primary milestone achieved during the global forum was the formal signing of a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WTC Mumbai and WTC Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, on April 21, 2026. Executed by Mr. Santosh Kotre and Mr. Rodolfo Guimarães, Chief Executive Officer of WTC Ribeirão Preto, the agreement establishes a strategic trade bridge directly connecting two of the most powerful regional economies in the developing world, namely the State of Maharashtra in India and the State of São Paulo in Brazil. Aimed at fostering deep economic cooperation and reducing market-entry friction between India and Latin America, this partnership introduces a robust framework for structured B2B matchmaking, institutional knowledge sharing, and bilateral foreign direct investment.

The collaborative frameworks established by the MoU will primarily target high-growth, deeply synergistic industrial sectors that can yield immediate mutual benefits. In the realm of agribusiness and tech-driven agriculture, the alliance seeks to integrate Indian software capabilities with Brazilian large-scale farming efficiency to improve crop yields and supply chain resilience. In biotechnology and life sciences, the focus will be on facilitating joint research, development, and technology transfers in pharmaceuticals, biosimilars, and sustainable bio-inputs. Furthermore, the agreement emphasizes commercial advanced manufacturing to optimize manufacturing value chains, align component sourcing, and establish collaborative industrial corridors. By focusing on these specific sectors, the partnership provides localized small, medium, and large enterprises with the high-capacity digital networks, market intelligence, and institutional backing necessary to successfully integrate into complex global value chains. Throughout the five-day forum, the WTC Mumbai delegation engaged extensively in high-impact plenary sessions designed to address immediate macroeconomic realities. At the Global Café on Trade and Tariffs, delegates analyzed the cascading impacts of shifting trade regimes, regional trade agreements, and modern tariff structures on cross-border supply chains. The Indian delegation advocated for tech-enabled transparency and simplified customs procedures to mitigate the rising costs of international shipping and logistics. A major focus of the forum's sustainability agenda was the dedicated panel exploring the UNIDO-WTCA Blue Economy Global Call 2026. This collaborative initiative between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the WTCA highlights sustainable industrial development within marine and coastal economic sectors. WTC Mumbai aligned itself with these global benchmarks, exploring how coastal states like Maharashtra and Goa can leverage sustainable aquaculture, marine biotechnology, clean port energy systems, and eco-friendly maritime tourism to drive economic growth without compromising marine ecosystems.

The delegation also participated in a comprehensive Real Estate Summit held within the forum's framework. This summit examined the evolving architecture of urban commercial centers, detailing the role of public-private partnerships, special economic zones, free trade zones, and specialized innovation districts. The discussions centered on how modern WTC facilities can act as both physical and digital anchors for smart urban development, drawing in knowledge economies and upgrading regional logistics infrastructure to meet 21st-century demands. The forum concluded on April 22, 2026, with a series of strategic economic and cultural tours organized by the hosts, showcasing Philadelphia's advanced port infrastructure and its highly sophisticated university-industry innovation ecosystems. The WTC Mumbai delegates evaluated the operational frameworks of Philadelphia's maritime logistics hubs, identifying best practices in automated cargo handling, intermodal transport connectivity, and digital freight tracking that could be adapted to enhance port operations back in India.

Additionally, the exploration of the region's university-backed research parks provided a valuable model for how WTC Mumbai can continue to bridge the gap between academic research, venture capital, and commercial industrial application at home. Ultimately, the milestone engagements achieved by WTC Mumbai at the WTCA Global Business Forum 2026 in Philadelphia delivered tangible, far-reaching results. By securing international agreements like the Brazil MoU, participating in pivotal governance updates, and acquiring global accreditations for its regional associates, WTC Mumbai successfully generated fresh business opportunities and bolstered investor confidence in the Indian market. This active participation reinforces WTC Mumbai's ongoing commitment to driving tech-enabled transparency, reducing market barriers, and leading cross-border trade facilitation on the global stage.

The programme was held on April 18-22, 2026

WTC Mumbai and GTR India 2026 Align to Propel India's Role in Global Trade

World Trade Center Mumbai was pleased to associate with GTR India 2026 as an Industry Partner for this prestigious global trade and export finance forum. The event brought together distinguished industry leaders, policymakers, financial institutions, exporters, and international trade experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities, evolving trade dynamics, and the future of global commerce. We value the meaningful engagements, insightful discussions, and collaborative exchanges that contributed to the success of this important platform for the trade and investment ecosystem

The rapid evolution of the international trade landscape requires a seamless integration of industrial vision, financial innovation, and robust institutional support to help emerging economies navigate global complexities. The GTR India 2026 conference, held on May 20, 2026, in the Grand Ballroom of the JW Marriott Mumbai Sahar, stood as a premier gathering of trade, export, and supply chain finance professionals, dedicated to strengthening India's role in global trade and exports. Organised by Global Trade Review, the flagship one-day event brought together over 700 delegates, representing nearly 300 companies and featuring over 50 expert speakers from the banking, corporate, fintech, and risk management sectors. Associated closely with this landmark summit as an Institutional Partner, the World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai played a vital role in aligning the conference's high-level deliberations with its own historical mission of trade facilitation and industrial development.

Established in 1970 as a pioneer World Trade Center in India, WTC Mumbai was founded on the visionary principles of Bharat Ratna Dr. M. Visvesvaraya to promote the nation's international commerce and industrial research. By championing trade education, B2B matchmaking, and global networking across more than 90 countries through the World Trade Centers Association network, the Center's support of GTR India 2026 reflects its ongoing commitment to providing Indian businesses with credible international platforms to expand their horizons.

This strategic association is further underscored by the macroeconomic insights championed by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of the World Trade Centre Mumbai and President of the All-India Association of Industries. Speaking at prestigious international forums, including the InvestPro India 2025 conference held at The St. Regis, Mumbai, Dr. Kalantri highlighted that the global economy has surpassed USD 100 trillion, while global merchandise trade has crossed USD 25 trillion, illustrating both the vast scale of opportunity and the structural complexities shaping international commerce.

Within this global framework, India has firmly established itself as a resilient engine of growth, emerging as the world's fourth-largest economy with a GDP exceeding USD 4 trillion. This remarkable trajectory, driven by robust domestic demand, expanding manufacturing capacity, digital adoption, and supportive policy initiatives, served as the fundamental backdrop for the opening plenary of GTR India 2026.

The conference's key theme, navigating geostrategic volatility and geopolitical friction, directly mirrored Dr. Kalantri's observation that modern global trade is increasingly governed by supply-chain diversification, regional partnerships, and investment-led growth, rather than cost-efficiency alone. By bringing a geostrategic and domestic lens to trade analysis, both WTC Mumbai and GTR India emphasized that strategic agility and institutional collaboration are essential to maintain stable trade flows amidst global disruptions.

A central pillar of India's export momentum and a core focus for WTC Mumbai is the empowerment of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, which Dr. Kalantri identified as the backbone of the nation's economic integration. MSMEs encompass over 60 million enterprises across India, contributing nearly 30% of the national GDP and accounting for close to 50% of its total exports.

In a proactive move to address the export challenges faced by these small businesses, WTC Mumbai signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with India Post in August 2025. This strategic collaboration leverages India Post's extensive domestic and international networkwhich spans over 70 countries and reaches the remotest parts of Maharashtra and the wider nationto provide MSMEs and rural entrepreneurs with enhanced global market access, streamlined logistics, and export facilitation services. This landmark initiative perfectly aligns with the critical discussions at GTR India 2026 regarding MSME credit gaps and alternative working capital solutions.

During these sessions, experts from leading financial institutions, such as Saurabh Bhansali of DBS Bank India and Chandrakant Salunkhe of the SME Chamber of India, discussed the need to bridge capital deficits through off-balance sheet finance, factoring, receivables discounting, and the wider adoption of platforms like Tred's. By shifting credit evaluation from traditional balance sheet metrics to cash flow and invoice-based lending, the financial ecosystem can unlock vital liquidity for MSMEs, ensuring they remain resilient against tariff fluctuations and supply chain bottlenecks.

The regulatory environment plays a crucial role in enabling this trade resilience, a theme explored during a high-profile fireside chat at GTR India 2026 featuring Dr. Aditya Gaiha, Chief General Manager in-charge of the Foreign Exchange Department at the Reserve Bank of India, in conversation with Bharavi Cheerla of Bank of America. The regulatory dialogue focused on how proactive measures by the central bank are actively facilitating the ease of both current and capital account transactions. By deploying mechanisms to lower transaction costs, permitting foreign currency accounts, and expanding rupee-denominated lending, the Reserve Bank of India aims to keep the regulatory framework nimble and responsive to emerging international opportunities. WTC Mumbai's ongoing advocacy for policy reforms, trade facilitation, and closer coordination between industry, investors, and regulatory bodies strongly reinforces these efforts. Such regulatory adaptability is vital for exporters navigating the currency market's sudden shifts, where managing foreign exchange volatility remains a significant challenge for small and medium-sized enterprises. Panelists at the conference, including Amit Baraskar of Thomas Cook and Megha Kaushik of Patanjali Foods, shared best practices for optimizing hedging strategies through currency swaps, forwards, and futures, emphasizing that robust risk management is essential to safeguard narrow profit margins from volatile cash conversion cycles.

Operational and logistical resilience was another critical focus of the conference, with dedicated sessions addressing supply chain optimization and commodity trade stresses. Under the leadership of experts like Sumit Khaneja of Axis Bank and Neeraj Jindal of HDFC Bank, discussions centered on the practical tools required by Indian suppliers to manage delayed payments, renegotiated contracts, and inventory buildups caused by regional conflicts and tariff uncertainties. In the commodity space, representatives from Torq Commodities and Olam Agri highlighted how price volatility and extended shipping times have strained traditional working capital cycles, creating a growing demand for structured trade finance, warehouse receipt financing, and inventory-backed collateral.

WTC Mumbai's physical and operational assets, including its state-of-the-art exhibition facilities, business centers, and trade research wings, serve as key infrastructure to mitigate these challenges. By hosting international trade missions and leading business delegations to critical global markets, WTC Mumbai provides domestic enterprises with direct access to alternative buyers and diverse procurement networks, translating theoretical supply chain diversification into practical, business-advancing connections.

The rapid digitization of trade finance and the integration of emerging technologies were highlighted as vital drivers for future export competitiveness. GTR India 2026 addressed the systemic barriers to widespread

Artificial Intelligence adoption, noting that while AI promises to streamline processes and eliminate manual errors, legacy infrastructure, high implementation costs, and fragmented data systems remain significant obstacles for both banks and corporates. Industry leaders, including Amisha Shah of Reliance Jio and Akshay Shah of Great Kapital, stressed the importance of modernizing bank APIs and enabling interoperability across trade datasets to bridge the digital divide. Parallelly, the conference explored the modernization of cross-border payments, detailing the internationalization of the Unified Payments Interface through bilateral linkages in the Global South, real-time forex settlements in GIFT City, and the potential of central bank digital currencies, such as the digital rupee, integrated with smart contracts. WTC Mumbai actively champions this digital transition through its educational division, the World Trade Institute, which offers specialized training programs in export documentation, logistics, foreign exchange management, and digital trade tools. By equipping the next generation of entrepreneurs with these critical, future-ready skills, WTC Mumbai helps ensure that Indian businesses can leverage cutting-edge technology to reduce transactional friction and enhance global competitiveness.

The closing sessions of the conference focused on long-term trade strategies, structural reforms, and social sustainability, starting with an essential dialogue on boosting female representation within Indian financial and corporate institutions. Moderated by Mona Pathak of Standard Chartered and featuring key insights from trade leaders like Dimple Chitnis of YES Bank and Malika Juneja of Citi, the panel went beyond symbolic initiatives to address the root-and-branch structural reforms, mentorship pathways, and organizational support required to elevate more women into C-suite and decision-making roles.

The summit concluded with a forward-looking analysis of India's trade trajectory in a multipolar world, examining how the nation's multi-alignment foreign policy, recent Free Trade Agreements, and strategic partnerships across the Global South and Africa are shaping new export opportunities. As India continues its journey toward a USD 5 trillion economy and a target of USD 1 trillion in merchandise exports, the close alignment between trade finance platforms like GTR India and premier trade promotion organizations like WTC Mumbai becomes increasingly vital. Under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Vijay Kalantri, WTC Mumbai's continuous efforts to foster public-private partnerships, support MSME growth, and facilitate cross-border trade dialogues ensure that Indian enterprises are well-positioned to drive stable, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth in an evolving global landscape.

The programme was held on May 20, 2026

WTC Mumbai Partners with Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave 2026 to Drive Dialogue on Logistics, Urban Development, and Global Trade Connectivity by Hindu Newspaper

World Trade Centre Mumbai was pleased to associate with The Hindu Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave 2026 as a partner for this prestigious event held on 22 May 2026 in Mumbai. As a premier platform for recognizing excellence in infrastructure and urban development, the event brought together key policymakers, industry leaders, and infrastructure experts to deliberate on Maharashtra's infrastructure transformation, urban expansion, and maritime growth.

Representatives from the World Trade Centre Mumbai engaged with key stakeholders, including Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. During the event, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), felicitated Hon. Eknath Shinde, and representatives shared industry insights on the critical intersection between infrastructure development and the global trade ecosystem. It was emphasized that as Maharashtra continues to solidify its position as an economic powerhouse, the resilience and innovation of its infrastructure ranging from smart city initiatives to world-class port development remain foundational to sustaining the state's momentum. The discussion noted that with the state's ambitious growth trajectory and rising industrial goals, the ability to provide efficient

World Trade Center Mumbai was proud to associate as an Associate Sponsor for the Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave hosted by The Hindu. A key highlight of the conclave was the felicitation of Shri Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, in recognition of his contribution towards infrastructure development and public service.

logistics, energy, and transportation is paramount for businesses seeking to compete on the international stage.

Highlighting the symbiotic relationship between infrastructure and enterprise, it was noted that access to robust physical and digital connectivity is a primary catalyst for the manufacturing and export sectors. The dialogue underscored the critical role of modern infrastructure in facilitating trade and stressed that sustainable, high-capacity solutions are essential for enterprises to integrate more deeply into global value chains.

The participants further lauded the collaborative efforts between the government and private entities, such as the Adani Group, which have bolstered investor confidence and operational stability across the board.

The discussions further emphasized that the future of Maharashtra's infrastructure must focus on inclusive growth, supporting sustainable development, and leveraging technology to bridge the gap between domestic businesses and global markets. Financial and industrial institutions were encouraged to continue partnering with trade facilitation centers like WTC Mumbai to create an ecosystem that supports not just domestic expansion, but the seamless flow of cross-border investments and trade.

It was stressed that closer collaboration between the state government, financial institutions, industry, and trade bodies is vital to navigating the complexities of the modern global economy, including supply-chain diversification and investment-led growth, to foster an environment of long-term sustainable development.

WTC Mumbai also utilized the event to reinforce its role as a bridge between the Indian infrastructure community and international trade partners, engaging with senior executives and delegates to discuss upcoming opportunities in trade facilitation and industrial investment. The association with The Hindu Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave 2026 reflects WTC Mumbai's continued commitment to facilitating meaningful dialogue, strategic partnerships, and global business engagement through credible, high-impact platforms.

The event was held on May 22, 2026

WTC Mumbai Partners with FE India's Best Banks Awards 2026 to Drive Dialogue on Digital Agility and Global Trade

WTC Mumbai was proud to be the Associate Partner for the Financial Express India's Best Banks Awards 2026, a prestigious platform celebrating excellence, innovation, and leadership in India's banking and financial services sector. The event was graced by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, who shared valuable insights on India's economic growth, trade opportunities, and the country's expanding role in global markets.

World Trade Centre Mumbai was pleased to associate with the FE India's Best Banks Awards 2026 as a knowledge Partner for this prestigious event held on 7 June 2026 in Mumbai. As a premier platform for recognizing excellence in the financial sector, the event brought together key policymakers, banking stalwarts, corporate leaders, and financial experts to deliberate on the future of banking, digital transformation, and the evolving credit landscape in India.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of the World Trade Centre Mumbai and President of the All-India Association of Industries (AIAI), shared Industry Insights and Perspectives on the critical intersection between the banking sector and the global trade ecosystem. He emphasized that as India continues to solidify its position as a global economic powerhouse now firmly established among the world's fastest-growing major economies the resilience and innovation of its banking institutions remain foundational to sustaining this momentum. He noted that with India's robust GDP trajectory and rising industrial ambitions, the financial sector's ability to provide efficient credit, trade finance, and digital agility is paramount for businesses seeking to compete on the international stage.

Highlighting the symbiotic relationship between capital and enterprise, he noted that access to robust financial services is a primary catalyst for the manufacturing, high-tech equipment, and export sectors. He underscored the critical role of MSMEs which contribute nearly 30% of India's GDP and account for close to 50% of exports and stressed that innovative, digital-first banking solutions are essential for these enterprises to integrate more deeply into global value chains. He further lauded the banking sector for its significant strides in digital adoption, regulatory compliance, and governance, which have bolstered investor confidence and operational stability across the board.

Dr. Kalantri further emphasized that the future of banking must focus on inclusive growth, supporting sustainable financing, and leveraging technology to bridge the gap between domestic businesses and global markets. He encouraged financial institutions to continue partnering with trade facilitation centers like WTC Mumbai to create an ecosystem that supports not just domestic expansion, but the seamless flow of cross-border investments and trade. He stressed that closer collaboration between financial institutions, industry, and trade bodies is vital to navigating the complexities of the modern global economy, including supply-chain diversification and investment-led growth, to foster an environment of long-term sustainable development.

WTC Mumbai also utilized the event to reinforce its role as a bridge between the Indian financial community and international trade partners, engaging with senior banking executives and delegates to discuss upcoming opportunities in trade finance, green banking, and industrial investment. The association with the FE India's Best Banks Awards 2026 reflects WTC Mumbai's continued commitment to facilitating meaningful dialogue, strategic partnerships, and global business engagement through credible, high-impact platforms.

The event was held on June 7, 2026

Port Wings

Consular Community Drives Global Dialogue and Partnerships at WTC Mumbai

Mumbai

Port Wings News Network

The Consular Corps Association of Mumbai (CCAM), in collaboration with the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique (HCCD), hosted a diplomatic evening at World Trade Center Mumbai, with Jaykumar Rawal, Minister of Protocol and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event brought together members of the diplomatic community, government representatives, and international partners to strengthen dialogue and collaboration.

Jaykumar Rawal appreciated the spirit of the consular community and remarked, "The Consular Corps plays an important role in strengthening international relations, promoting trade not just through policy, but through people-to-people connections. The Government of Maharashtra remains committed to working closely with the diplomatic community to encourage greater collaboration and global partnerships," adding that he extended his best wishes to the new leadership of CCAM while acknowledging the valuable contributions of the outgoing team.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, HCCD Mumbai and Vice Dean, CCAM, reflected on the unique role played by the consular community and said, "The Consular Corps is not just about representation; it is about between CCAM and HCCD, noting that both institutions have consistently worked together to promote trade, support delegations, and deepen international ties in Maharashtra" added Dr. Kalantri.

Sven Östberg, Incoming Dean of CCAM and Consul General of Sweden, said, "In today's interconnected world, diplomacy has become more collaborative than ever. It is no longer limited to formal engagements; it is about building partnerships, exchanging ideas, and finding common ground across cultures and economies. Platforms like CCAM play a vital role in bringing this community together. I look forward to working closely with all members to further strengthen these connections and create new avenues for cooperation and growth."

The evening also marked a moment of appreciation for Mr. Martin Maier, Outgoing Dean of CCAM, recognizing his efforts in bringing the consular community together and strengthening engagement across sectors.

The event witnessed strong

दैनिक यशोभूमि

नया तेवर, नया कलेवर

टैरिफ रिफंड से भारतीय निर्यातकों को मिलेगा लाभ

यशोभूमि/प्रतिनिधि

मुंबई। अमेरिका द्वारा टैरिफ वापसी के लिए संरचित दावा प्रणाली लागू करने के हालिया निर्णय का विश्व व्यापार केंद्र मुंबई ने स्वागत किया है और इसे वैश्विक व्यापार के लिए बड़ी राहत बताया है। संस्था के अनुसार, इस फैसले से विशेष रूप से भारतीय निर्यातकों और लघु-मध्यम उद्योगों को सीधा लाभ मिलेगा। विश्व व्यापार केंद्र मुंबई के अध्यक्ष और अखिल भारतीय उद्योग संघ के अध्यक्ष डॉ. विजय कलंत्री ने कहा कि टैरिफ वापसी का यह कदम वैश्विक और भारतीय निर्यातकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण राहत लेकर आया है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका भारत का प्रमुख व्यापारिक साझेदार बना हुआ है और ऐसे में यह निर्णय निर्यातकों की कार्यशील पूंजी को बहाल करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा। डॉ. कलंत्री ने कहा कि यह कदम व्यापार जगत के लिए राहत भरी सांस जैसा है, जिससे अंतरराष्ट्रीय वाणिज्य को नई गति मिलेगी। उन्होंने यह भी उम्मीद जताई कि टैरिफ वापसी का लाभ सीधे निर्यातकों तक पहुंचे और केवल आयातकों तक सीमित न रहे। इस व्यवस्था के तहत लगभग 160 अरब डॉलर के व्यापार प्रवाह और करीब 3 लाख 30 हजार अमेरिकी आयातकों को शामिल किया गया है।

दैनिक यशोभूमि

भारत के साथ आर्थिक सहयोग बढ़ाने की अपार संभावनाएं

यशोभूमि

मुंबई। शनिवार, 23 मई 2026

दंड नहीं, जागरूकता से बढ़ेगी औद्योगिक सुरक्षा

सुरक्षा है आवासीय संस्था की आवश्यकता

ASIA PRIME NEWS

Trinidad & Tobago Emerges as Strategic Hub for India–Caribbean Trade

Asia Prime News · 7 days ago

Mumbai, April 23, 2026: The World Trade Center Mumbai, in collaboration with the All India Association of Industries, hosted an Interactive Meeting with a high level business delegation from Trinidad & Tobago, highlighting how the bilateral strengths can be scaled to unlock wider opportunities across India and Caribbean markets.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, emphasized that Trinidad & Tobago serves as a strategic gateway to the Caribbean region. He stated, "We are at home on both sides, and this shared comfort must translate into stronger trade linkages. Trinidad & Tobago's strengths can be scaled across Caribbean economies, creating a multiplier effect for Indian enterprises. At the same time, Trinidad & Tobago plays a vital role as a key LNG and petrochemical exporter in the Caribbean, with strong potential to contribute to India's energy diversification and strengthen the resilience of the bilateral trade relationship."

NBT नवभारत टाइम्स

मुंबई महानगर 2

आर्ट कॉन्फ्लुएंस: ताज गैलरी में 33 आर्टिस्ट्स का कला संगम

देश-विदेश के कलाकारों की भागीदारी, कला प्रेमियों की उमड़ी भीड़

देश-विदेश के डिप्लोमेट, और अधिकारी भी रहे मौजूद

इन हस्तियों का भी रहा समावेश

दैनिक यशोभूमि

डब्ल्यूटीसी मुंबई पर विशेष डाक आवरण जारी

पांच दशक के योगदान को मिली राष्ट्रीय मान्यता

मोरारजी देसाई ने किया था उद्घाटन

दैनिक यशोभूमि

भारत-इक्वाडोर के बीच व्यापारिक सहयोग बढ़ाने पर जोर

भारतीय कंपनियों के लिए है अनुकूल वातावरण

व्यापारिक संबंधों की अपार संभावनाएं

लोकशाही

epaper.lokshahilive.com
JALGAON - 04 May 2026 - Page 4

एमएसएमई सहभाग आणि मनुष्यबळ विकास विषयावर डब्ल्यूटीसीत चर्चासत्र

एमव्हीआयआरडीसी वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबईने, ऑल इंडिया असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज (एआयएआय) च्या सहयोगाने आणि महाराष्ट्र सरकार व सीपीओ असोसिएशन यांच्या सहकार्याने, डब्ल्यूटीसी मुंबई येथे एमएसएमई सहभाग आणि मनुष्यबळ विकास या विषयावर एक नियोक्ता सत्र आयोजित केले. बदलत्या कौशल्य गरजांना व्यावहारिक परिणामांमध्ये रूपांतरित करणे, शिक्षण आणि रोजगारक्षमता यांमधील दरी कमी करणे, आणि मोजता येण्याजोगे परिणाम घडवून आणण्याच्या मार्गांवर प्रोत्साहन देणे यावर लक्ष केंद्रित करण्यात आले. वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबईचे अध्यक्ष आणि ऑल इंडिया असोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीजचे अध्यक्ष, डॉ. विजय कलंत्री यांनी यावर जोर दिला की कौशल्य विकास हा व्यावहारिक, उद्योग-संलग्न आणि परिणाम-केंद्रित असला पाहिजे. ते म्हणाले, "एमएसएमई हे भारताच्या सर्वात चैतन्यशील आर्थिक इंजिनांपैकी एक आहेत, जे भारताच्या जीडीपीमध्ये जवळपास ३०%, निर्यातीमध्ये ४५% आणि रोजगारात ६०% पेक्षा जास्त योगदान देतात. देशभरात त्यांचे ७ कोटींहून अधिक उद्योग आहेत. कौशल्य विकास, अभ्यासक्रम, स्टार्टअप्स आणि इनक्यूबेशन यांनी एकत्रितपणे वाटचाल केली पाहिजे आणि धोरणे व्यावहारिक, अंमलबजावणीयोग्य व उद्योगांच्या गरजांशी सुसंगत असली पाहिजेत." असे डॉ. कलंत्री म्हणाले.

यशोभूमि

मुंबई । शनिवार, 23 मई 2026

दंड नहीं, जागरूकता से बढ़ेगी औद्योगिक सुरक्षा

यशोभूमि/प्रतिनिधि

मुंबई। एमवीआईआरडीसी वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई और ऑल इंडिया एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज ने राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद, भारत के सहयोग से 'उद्योगों में सुरक्षा संस्कृति को बढ़ावा देने में नेतृत्व की भूमिका' विषय पर ज्ञान सत्र का

सुरक्षा को दंडात्मक नहीं, प्रगतिशील संस्कृति बनाएं

उद्योग जगत से किया आह्वान

आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम में उद्योगों में सक्रिय और जागरूक सुरक्षा संस्कृति विकसित करने पर जोर

सुरक्षा है आवासीय संस्था की आवश्यकता

वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर मुंबई के अध्यक्ष तथा ऑल इंडिया एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडस्ट्रीज के अध्यक्ष डॉ. विजय कलंत्री ने कहा कि सुरक्षा प्रत्येक उद्योग, व्यापारिक प्रतिष्ठान और आवासीय संस्था की प्राथमिक आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि सुरक्षा को दंडात्मक दृष्टिकोण से हटाकर प्रगतिशील और साझा जिम्मेदारी की संस्कृति के

की थीम 'सुरक्षा प्रदर्शन बढ़ाने के लिए सहभागिता, शिक्षा और सशक्तीकरण' को हर कार्यस्थल की मूल संस्कृति बनाना होगा।

उन्होंने कहा कि व्यावसायिक कारणों से हर घंटे एक हजार से अधिक श्रमिकों की मृत्यु हो रही है, इसलिए उद्योगों को केवल नियमों के पालन तक सीमित न रहकर जागरूकता, प्रशिक्षण और रोकथाम पर ध्यान देना चाहिए। डॉ. गभाणे ने कहा कि लगभग 88 प्रतिशत औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाएं असुरक्षित व्यवहार के कारण होती हैं, जबकि 10 प्रतिशत असुरक्षित परिस्थितियों और 2 प्रतिशत अन्य कारणों से होती हैं। उन्होंने बताया

दैनिक

यशोभूमि

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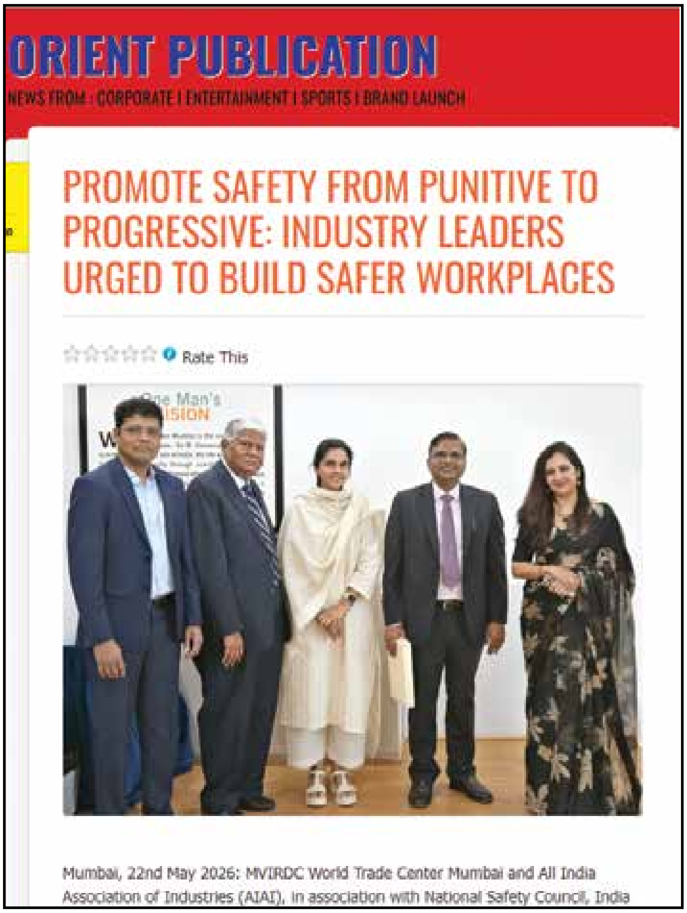

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PROMOTE SAFETY FROM PUNITIVE TO PROGRESSIVE: INDUSTRY LEADERS URGED TO BUILD SAFER WORKPLACES

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Mumbai, 22nd May 2026: MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and All India Association of Industries (AIAI), in association with National Safety Council, India

DAILYNEWS

SEARCH

INDIA AND BRAZIL POSSESS IMMENSE POTENTIAL IN MINERAL RESOURCES, AGRIBUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP, SAYS H.E. MR. JOSÉ MAURO, CONSUL GENERAL OF BRAZIL IN MUMBAI

by Pranita Kurani

Mumbai, June 22, 2026: World Trade Center Mumbai hosted H.E. Mr. José Mauro da Fonseca Costa Couto, Consul General of Brazil in Mumbai, for an interactive meeting aimed at identifying new avenues of economic engagement between India and Brazil. The discussions focused on promoting sector-specific partnerships and creating stronger institutional linkages to support industry collaboration between the two countries.

Workshop on ONDC Registration & NSIC Schemes for MSMEs & Women Entrepreneurs

From Left to Right – Shri Kamal Lochan Nayak, Dy. General Manager, NSIC Bhubaneswar, Shri S.K Shah, Chief Manager, NSIC, Bhubaneswar, And Sr. Rina Routray, Advisor, WTC Bhubaneswar and Chairperson Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, Odisha.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar successfully organized a workshop on "ONDC Registration & NSIC Schemes for MSMESs & Women Entrepreneurs" under the Export Facilitation Centre (EFC) of WTC Bhubaneswar in association with National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC). The Export Facilitation Centre (EFC) is supported by the MSMES Department, and the Government of Odisha. The workshop witnessed active participation from WTC members, women entrepreneurs, and stakeholders from various MSMESs.

The primary objective of the workshop was to build awareness and capacity among entrepreneurs particularly women entrepreneurs by enabling participants to understand the process and benefits of ONDC registration. Educating them about various schemes offered by NSIC, including financial assistance, marketing support, and skill development initiatives.

Providing a platform for direct interaction with experts from NSIC, ONDC, and the Directorate of Export Promotion & Marketing (DEPM).

Encouraging entrepreneurship growth, business expansion, and digital adoption in Odisha.

The workshop commenced with the registration of participants, followed by a series of addresses and technical sessions.

The session began with a warm welcome to all dignitaries and participants, setting the tone for the workshop.

Opening Remarks by **Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor, WTC Bhubaneswar and Chairman, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan,** highlighted the importance of empowering women entrepreneurs through digital platforms and institutional support.

Shri Kamal Lochan Nayak, DGM, NSIC Bhubaneswar, shared insights on NSIC's role in supporting MSMESs.

This session also focused on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), providing participants with a step-by-step understanding of the registration process, benefits of joining the network, and how it enables market access beyond traditional e-commerce platforms.

The participants received detailed insights into various NSIC schemes, including financial assistance, marketing support, raw material assistance, and capacity-building programs aimed at strengthening MSMESs and women-led enterprises.

An engaging Q&A session allowed participants to interact directly with experts, clarify doubts, and seek guidance on ONDC onboarding and availing NSIC benefits. The interaction reflected strong interest among participants in adopting digital commerce and government schemes.

The workshop concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Smt. Jyoshna Das, Convener, Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar & Managing Director, Bibavari

Fashions Pvt. Ltd., expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and organizers for their valuable contributions.

The event ended with a Hi-Tea & Networking Session, providing an opportunity for participants to build connections and explore collaboration opportunities.

The Workshop was held on April 17, 2026

Interactive Meeting with Laura E Williams

Utkal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an interactive evening on the eve of 250th Anniversary of United States of America by inviting Ms. Laura E. Williams, Consul General of USA, Hyderabad. WTC Bhubaneswar received an invitation from UCCI and had the privilege to meet and interact with the Consul General. The interaction was highly engaging and insightful,

The Meeting held on the evening of April 22, 2026 at Hotel Trident, Bhubaneswar.

Awareness Session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

From Left to Right: Assistant Director from DEPM, Shri Aurovinda Panda, Director LEX Protector and Smt. Jyoshna Dash, Convener Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar.

The Awareness Session on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), organized by World Trade Center Bhubaneswar under the Export Facilitation Centre, was held at Bhubaneswar. The programme witnessed active participation from members, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders of the MSMES ecosystem.

The session was highly interactive and engaging, with participants demonstrating keen interest in understanding the fundamentals of Intellectual Property Rights. The deliberations effectively simplified key concepts of IPR, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and geographical indications, thereby enhancing awareness and practical understanding among attendees. The interactive nature of the session encouraged meaningful discussions, queries, and knowledge exchange, leaving participants well-informed and appreciative of the learning experience.

A special highlight of the programme was the launch and serving of millet-based snacks by one of the esteemed WTC members under the brand MIO. This initiative not only added a unique dimension to the event but also aligned with the broader vision of promoting sustainable and nutritious food practices, while supporting local entrepreneurship.

The session concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks delivered by Smt. Jyoshna Das, Convener, WTC Women Forum, who expressed sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers, participants, and organizing team for their valuable contributions in making the programme a success.

Overall, the session served as a meaningful platform for knowledge dissemination, fostering awareness on IPR, and reinforcing its significance in driving innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth.

The Session held on the evening of April 24, 2026 at Hotel Trident, Bhubaneswar.

AI Adoption Key to Enhancing MSME Competitiveness and Global Trade

From Left to Right: Shri Aurovindo Panda, Director, LEX Protector and Co-Convener Start-up, Innovation and Technology (SIT) Forum of WTC Bhubaneswar, Speaker Shri Ashwini Kumar Rath, Managing Director, BATOI Systems and Convener Start-up, Innovation and Technology (SIT) Forum of WTC Bhubaneswar and Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor WTC Bhubaneswar & Chairperson Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan in Odisha.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar organized a workshop on **"AI for Growth: Empowering MSMEs, Start-ups & Global Trade"** on 2nd May 2026 at the IDCO Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar. The programme brought together MSMEs, start-ups, exporters, entrepreneurs and WTC members to explore how Artificial Intelligence is transforming business operations and creating new opportunities for growth, innovation and international market access.

The workshop featured a welcome address, opening remarks by the Advisor/Convener, an address by the Director, DEPM, and a special address by **Shri Ashwini Kumar Rath, Convener, WTC SIT Forum and Managing Director, BATOI Systems, Bhubaneswar.** The speakers highlighted the growing importance of AI as a strategic business tool capable of enhancing efficiency, improving customer experiences, strengthening competitiveness and enabling data-driven decision-making.

The technical sessions provided participants with practical insights into AI applications across business functions, including process automation, predictive analytics, market intelligence, supply chain management and trade facilitation. Particular emphasis was placed on how MSMEs and start-ups can leverage AI solutions to optimize costs, improve productivity and scale operations in an increasingly digital economy.

The programme also encouraged dialogue on the opportunities and challenges associated with AI adoption, including skill development, technology accessibility and responsible implementation. The workshop concluded with an interactive Q&A session followed by networking, providing participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and explore collaborations for integrating AI-driven solutions into their business strategies.

The programme was held on the of May 2,2026 Bhubaneswar.

Awareness Session on GeM Marketplace Registration and Onboarding Process

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar organized a webinar on "Awareness Session on GeM Marketplace Registration – Onboarding Process" on 8th May 2026 for WTC Bhubaneswar members, MSMEs, start-ups and entrepreneurs. The session focused on creating awareness about the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), a transformative initiative of the Government of India aimed at enhancing transparency, efficiency and inclusivity in public procurement.

The webinar highlighted how GeM provides a unified digital platform for businesses to supply goods and services directly to government buyers across the country. It also emphasized the significant opportunities available for MSMEs, women entrepreneurs and start-ups to expand their market reach and secure sustainable business opportunities through the platform.

The programme included a welcome address by the Regional Director, WTC, opening remarks by the Advisor/Convener, WTC Bhubaneswar, and an interaction with guest speaker **Sri Anurag Awasthi, Chief Manager, GeM Marketplace, Government of India.** The session featured a presentation on the GeM registration process, followed by a live demonstration of registration.

The webinar aimed to bridge the knowledge gap by providing practical insights, expert guidance and strategic understanding required to successfully engage with the GeM platform. It concluded with an interaction and Q&A session, followed by closing remarks and vote of thanks.

The webinar was held on the of May 8,2026 Bhubaneswar.

WTC Bhubaneswar Briefs Hon’ble Governor on Key Activities

From Left to Right: A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, His Excellency Shri Hari Babu Khambampati Governor of Odisha, Mr Sagar Mohapatra, Manager Trade Promotion, WTC Bhubaneswar.

WTC Team Interacting with His Excellency Shri Hari Babu Khambampati Governor of Odisha,

WTC Bhubaneswar had the privilege to meet His Excellency Shri Hari Babu, Governor of Odisha, on 12th May 2026 at Lok Bhawan, Bhubaneswar. The interactive meeting aimed to present and acknowledge the significant activities undertaken by WTC Bhubaneswar since its inception in 2014. The meeting highlighted WTC Bhubaneswar’s continued efforts in promoting trade, entrepreneurship, MSME development, investment facilitation, industry engagement and international business linkages. It also provided an opportunity to share the Centre’s role in supporting Odisha’s economic growth through various programmes, stakeholder interactions and capacity-building initiatives.

The Meeting was held on the of May 12, 2026 Bhubaneswar

WTC Bhubaneswar Engages with Hon’ble Industries Minister on Odisha’s Growth Opportunities

An interactive meeting was held with **Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon’ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha.** During the meeting, the Regional Director of WTC Bhubaneswar briefed the Hon’ble Minister on the objectives, activities and initiatives of the World Trade Center in promoting trade, investment, entrepreneurship and international business linkages.
The discussions focused on opportunities to strengthen trade and industry in Odisha, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, enhance skill development, and support MSMEs and start-ups. The meeting also explored avenues for collaboration in promoting investment, capacity building and industry engagement to further Odisha’s economic growth and competitiveness.

The Meeting was held on the of May 13, 2026 Bhubaneswar

From Left to Right: Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon’ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar and A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, World Trade Centre, Bhubaneswar

WTC Bhubaneswar Meets Start-Up Odisha CEO to Explore Global Linkages

From Left to Right: A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, Chief Executive Officer, Start-Up Odisha, Ms Soloni, Programme Manager.

An interactive meeting was held with **Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, I.A.S., Chief Executive Officer, Start-Up Odisha, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar.** Discussions focused on the startup and innovation sector, development opportunities and the role of WTC Bhubaneswar in supporting enterprise growth.

The meeting also explored how WTC can bridge the gap by connecting Odisha's startups with international agencies, global networks, knowledge partners and business opportunities.

The Meeting was held on the of May 14, 2026 Bhubaneswar

Strengthening Skills and Financial Access for MSMEs and Entrepreneurs

From Right to Left: A. Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Shri Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra, Chief Executive Officer, World Skill Centre, Smt Jyoshna Das, Convener Women's Forum WTC Bhubaneswar and MD Bhivabari Fashions Pvt Ltd., Shri Dinesh Bhanja, Vice-President, RBL Bank Limited, Shri Sudhir Paul, Vice-President RBL Bank Ltd.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar organized an interactive session with World Skill Centre and RBL Bank on 15th May 2026 at the IDCO Conference Hall, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar. The programme brought together WTC Bhubaneswar members, MSMEs, start-ups, exporters and entrepreneurs.

The discussion with World Skill Centre focused on advanced skill development initiatives, industry-oriented training programmes, employability enhancement activities, global skill standards and institutional support for youth, entrepreneurs and industries. It also enabled MSMEs and women-led enterprises to understand the opportunities offered by the Centre in Bhubaneswar.

The RBL Bank session encouraged meaningful engagement between the banking sector and the business community, highlighting financial solutions and banking services for MSMEs and women-led enterprises. Participants were briefed on trade and forex solutions, international banking support and business banking facilities.

The programme featured a welcome address, opening remarks by the Advisor/Convener, address by the Director, DEPM, address by the CEO, World Skill Centre, and remarks by the speaker from RBL Bank. It concluded with an interactive Q&A session, vote of thanks, hi-tea and networking.

The session was held on the of May 15, 2026 Bhu-

WAVE Women's Forum Discusses Culture, Skilling and Member Engagement

WAVE Women Forum Members Meet, Left to Right on the chair: A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Dr.Rina Routray, Advisor WAVE Women's Forum, Chairperson Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan Odisha, and Smr Jyoshna Das, Convener WAVE Women's Forum, WTC Bhubaneswar and Managing Director Bivabari Fashions Pvt.Ltd.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar organized the WTC Women's Forum Meet – WAVE: Women as Vibrant Entrepreneurs on 22nd May 2026 at the IDCO Conference Hall, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar. The meeting brought together WTC-WAVE Women's Forum members under the theme "Connect, Collaborate & Conquer."

The forum discussed the observance of Raja Parba, Odisha's state festival celebrating womanhood, femininity and the fertility of Mother Earth. Members deliberated on the cultural significance of the festival and planning arrangements, including traditional customs such as swing rituals, attire, folk songs and culinary practices.

The meeting also reviewed the proposed visit to the World Skill Centre aimed at giving members first-hand exposure to advanced training infrastructure, global skill standards and Odisha's vision for skilling, workforce development and industrial growth. The visit was also discussed as an opportunity for institutional collaboration, knowledge exchange and capacity building.

Members further discussed plans for the International Day of Yoga programme, including a morning yoga session with certified instructors. The forum also provided an open platform for members to share suggestions, feedback and requests to strengthen future initiatives, events and collaborations of WTC Bhubaneswar's Women's Forum.

The Event was held on the of May 22, 2026 Bhubaneswar

Startup Odisha Highlights Opportunities for Entrepreneurs

Interactive Session with Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, I.A.S., CEO Start-Up Odisha, Government of Odisha, Members of WTC Bhubaneswar and delegates represented different forums.

World Trade Center Bhubaneswar organized an interactive session with Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, I.A.S., Chief Executive Officer, Start-Up Odisha, Government of Odisha, on 29th May 2026 at the IDCO Conference Hall, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar. The session was organized for WTC members. The objective of the session was to sensitise and acquaint members with the initiatives and transformative interventions undertaken by Startup Odisha in fostering innovation, promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the startup ecosystem across the State of Odisha.

The programme began with a welcome address followed by opening remarks by Shri Ashwini Kumar Rath, Convener, Start-Up, Innovation and Technology Forum (SIT), and Managing Director, BATOI Systems. This was followed by the keynote address by Shri Smruti Ranjan Pradhan, I.A.S., who highlighted the role of Startup Odisha in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in the state. The interaction provided WTC members an opportunity to understand the emerging startup landscape in Odisha and the institutional support available for entrepreneurs. It also encouraged dialogue on innovation-led growth and the scope for greater participation of businesses in the startup ecosystem.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion and Q&A, followed by vote of thanks, felicitation and networking high-tea.

The Event was held on the of May 29, 2026 Bhubaneswar

Seminar on
Navigating Global Trade, Challenges & ECGC Risk Cover

From left: Ms A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar; Shri Rajendra Padhi, Commercial Director, B-One Solutions & Convener, International Trade Think-Tank, WTC Bhubaneswar, and Shri Pappu Ranjan Sahoo, Branch Manager, ECGC, Bhubaneswar.

World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar has organised a seminar on "Navigating Global Trade, Challenges & ECGC Risk Cover" to enhance the understanding of international trade among MSMEs, exporters, start-ups, and WTC members.

Objective of the Seminar

The seminar on "Navigating Global Trade, Challenges & ECGC Risk Cover" aims to create awareness and build practical understanding among MSMEs, exporters, and start-ups about the evolving dynamics of international trade and the key challenges involved in cross-border transactions.

The session helps participants understand common barriers in global trade, including market entry complexities, regulatory compliance, documentation requirements, logistics issues, and most importantly, risks related to delayed or non-payment by overseas buyers.

A major focus was on the role of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) in protecting exporters against commercial and political risks. Participants gained insights into how ECGC schemes can safeguard export receivables, improve access to export finance, and enable businesses—especially MSMEs and start-ups—to trade with confidence in new and unfamiliar markets.
By the end of the seminar, participants were better equipped to identify risks, adopt mitigation strategies, and make informed decisions while expanding into global markets, thereby enhancing their export readiness and long-term growth potential.

The Event was held on June 7, 2026

Exposure Visit of WTC Bhubaneswar Members to World Skill Centre (WSC), Bhubaneswar

From Left – Shri Subhanga Kishore Das, Principal, World Skill Centre, Bhubaneswar and Ms. A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar.

World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar organised an exposure visit for its members to the World Skill Centre (WSC), Bhubaneswar on 5 June 2026 to familiarise industry members with Odisha's world-class skill development ecosystem and explore opportunities for collaboration between industry and skilled talent. The visit also marked the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WTC Bhubaneswar and World Skill Centre to strengthen cooperation in skill development, industry engagement and global trade facilitation.

The delegation was warmly received by the leadership and faculty of WSC, who provided a comprehensive overview of the institution, its vision, infrastructure and internationally benchmarked training ecosystem. Established by the Government of Odisha under the Skill Development and Technical Education Department through the Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), the World Skill Centre has emerged as a premier advanced skill development institution, developed with technical support from Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Education Services (ITEES). The Centre aims to prepare globally competent professionals through industry-oriented, technology-driven and hands-on training programmes.

During the visit, members toured the state-of-the-art laboratories, smart classrooms, simulation facilities and specialised training centres across various disciplines. They were introduced to advanced programmes offered in engineering and service sectors, including Mechatronics, Precision Engineering, Vertical Transportation, Mechanical & Electrical Services, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Electrical Technology, Digital Animation, Beauty & Wellness, Hospitality & Hotel Operations, and Logistics & Supply Chain Management. The WSC team also explained its practical learning methodology, industry-integrated curriculum, international standards of training, and strong focus on employability through internships, industry exposure and placement support.

The members gained valuable insights into the student admission and registration process, eligibility criteria, career guidance mechanisms, placement support, and scholarship facilities. Emphasis was laid on the Centre's initiatives to encourage greater participation of women through programmes such as Beauty & Wellness and Hospitality, while also promoting equal opportunities for women in advanced engineering disciplines. WSC highlighted its commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment that enables women to pursue high-value careers in emerging sectors and entrepreneurship.

A major highlight of the programme was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between

World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar and World Skill Centre. The MoU establishes a framework for long-term collaboration to integrate skill development initiatives with global trade opportunities, enhance employability through international exposure and industry engagement, promote Odisha as a hub for globally competent skilled talent, and facilitate knowledge exchange and capacity building aligned with international standards. The partnership will also focus on international industry linkages, internships and apprenticeship opportunities, export-oriented skill development, participation in trade events, and collaborative seminars, workshops and capacity-building programmes.

The exposure visit provided WTC members with a first-hand understanding of the world-class infrastructure and innovative training ecosystem developed by the Government of Odisha. It also highlighted the critical role of industry-academia collaboration in developing a globally competitive workforce capable of supporting international trade and investment. The newly signed MoU is expected to create meaningful opportunities for students, entrepreneurs, MSMEs and industry stakeholders by connecting Odisha's skilled talent with national and global markets, thereby contributing to sustainable economic growth and strengthening the state's position as a centre of excellence for skill development and global business.

The Event was held on June 7, 2026

WTC Bhubaneswar Celebrates Raja Parba with Traditional Fervour

From Left to Right: Smt. Surabhi Das, MD, The Jalsa Convention, Bhubaneswar and Senior Member, WTC Women's Forum; Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor, WTC Women's Forum and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan; Smr Jyoshna Das, Managing Director, Bivabari Fashions Pvt.Ltd., Bhubaneswar and Convener, WTC Women's Forum; and Ms. A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar.

To celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Odisha and foster camaraderie among its members, World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar organized Raja Parba Celebrations on 12 June 2026 at The Jalsa Convention, Kalinga Nagar, Bhubaneswar. The event brought together WTC members and their families for an evening filled with tradition, cultural pride, entertainment and fellowship.

Raja Parba, one of Odisha's most cherished festivals, is celebrated over three days and symbolises womanhood, motherhood, fertility, and the rejuvenation of Mother Earth. Rooted in centuries-old Odia tradition, the festival marks the annual menstrual cycle of Bhudevi (Mother Earth), during which agricultural activities are paused as a mark of respect for nature. It is a time when women adorn themselves in traditional attire, relish festive delicacies, enjoy swings, sing folk songs, and participate in cultural activities that reflect the state's vibrant heritage.

Reflecting the true spirit of the festival, the venue was transformed into a colourful celebration of Odia culture with a beautifully decorated stage, traditional backdrop, festive lighting and music, creating an atmosphere of warmth and festivity. Women members arrived elegantly dressed in traditional attire, adding colour and grace to the celebrations.

The programme commenced with a welcome address, followed by a series of engaging recreational activities specially curated for the members. Popular games such as Tambola, Musical Chairs, Dum-Te-Raas, and the Glass Fun Game witnessed enthusiastic participation, filling the evening with laughter and excitement. A Lottery Gift Draw added an element of surprise and delight, while members also showcased their talent through dance performances and spontaneous cultural participation.

To enhance the festive experience, special arrangements were made exclusively for women, including Mehendi (Henna), Altaa application, and Gajara (floral adornment), reflecting the traditional customs associated with Raja Parba. These activities beautifully celebrated the essence of femininity and the cultural identity of Odisha.

The culinary experience was another highlight of the celebration, featuring an array of traditional Odia favourites including Aloo Dum, Dahi Bara, Golgappa, traditional sweets, and Pan, allowing members to savour the authentic flavours associated with the festival.

The Raja Parba celebration served as more than just a cultural gathering; it provided an excellent platform for members to interact, strengthen professional relationships, and celebrate Odisha's timeless traditions in a warm and festive environment. The event reflected WTC Bhubaneswar's commitment to promoting not only international trade and business networking but also the preservation and appreciation of Odisha's rich cultural heritage.

The celebration concluded on a joyful note, leaving members with cherished memories and reinforcing the values of togetherness, tradition, and community spirit that define both Raja Parba and the WTC Bhubaneswar family.

The Event was held on June 12, 2026

International Yoga Day Celebration – 2026

From Right to Left of the Middle –Vice-Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Bhubaneswar, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Ms. A Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Ms. Ishara Patro, Yoga Instructor and participants from WTC and BVB, Bhubaneswar

To commemorate the International Day of Yoga 2026, World Trade Centre (WTC) Bhubaneswar, in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, organised a Yoga Session on 21st June 2026 at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan campus, Bhubaneswar. The programme was conducted with the objective of promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and holistic health while reinforcing the universal values of harmony and healthy living envisioned through the global observance of International Yoga Day.

The event brought together members of World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar and students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, creating an atmosphere of wellness, discipline, and community participation. The yoga session was led by Ms. Ishara Patra, an experienced Yoga Instructor and Trainer from Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan, Bhubaneswar.

The yoga session started at 7.30 am with a series of yoga postures, breathing techniques, and meditation practices designed to improve physical health, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being until 8.30 am. Participants actively engaged in the guided exercises and gained a deeper appreciation of yoga as a holistic approach to maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

The programme also served as a platform to strengthen collaboration among educational institutions, professional organisations, and wellness practitioners in promoting preventive healthcare and healthy living practices. The enthusiastic participation of WTC members and students reflected the growing awareness of the importance of integrating yoga into everyday life.

The Event was held on June 21, 2026

International MSME Day

From Left to Right – Shri Subhash Chhetri, State Director, Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Bhubaneswar, Ms. Varsha Rana, Head, World Trade Institute, Mumbai, Shri Monaranjan Bisoi GM-DIC, Jagatsinghpur, Dr Rine Routray, Advisor WTC Women's Forum and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, Odisha, Shri P K Mohapatra, Unit head, IFFCO Paradip, Shri Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, Shri Manoj Mohan Sinha, Zonal General Manager-NSIC, Bhubaneswar, Shri S. K. Shaha, Chief Manager-NSIC, Shri Kamal Lochan Nayak, Dy. General Manager-NSIC, Shri Sanjib Kumar Naik, Sr.Dy. MM, Paradip Port, Shri Surjit Kumar Mohapatra, Chief Manager, NSIC, Shri Bijay Kumar parida, DGM Admin & Personnal, IFFCO, Paradip, and Ms. A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar,

International MSME Day Celebrated at Paradip; MSME TEAM Initiative Promoted to Accelerate Digital Trade and Market Access, Paradip, 27 June 2026

The International MSME Day 2026 was celebrated jointly by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in association with the World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar at the IFFCO Community Hall, Paradip.

The programme witnessed the participation of many MSME entrepreneurs, industry representatives, bankers, women entrepreneurs, government officials and other stakeholders from across the region.

Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The programme commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the National Anthem. Dr. Rina Routray, Advisor, Women's Forum, World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, Odisha, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the importance of empowering MSMEs through digital transformation and enhanced market access under the MSME TEAM Initiative.

Delivering the keynote address, Shri Manoj Mohan Sinha, Zonal General Manager, NSIC, highlighted the Government of India's sustained efforts to strengthen the MSME ecosystem through digital interventions, technology adoption and market-oriented initiatives.

A comprehensive presentation on the MSME TEAM Initiative was delivered by Shri Kamal Lochan Nayak, Deputy General Manager, NSIC, who elaborated on the benefits of the scheme. He explained that the initiative enables eligible MSMEs to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) through free onboarding support, digital catalogue creation, account management assistance, logistics facilitation, packaging support and enhanced access to national markets.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, stated that the MSME sector makes a significant contribution to India's Gross Domestic Product, exports and employment generation. He appreciated the MSME TEAM Initiative as a progressive and transformative intervention that would empower MSMEs to embrace digital commerce and expand their market reach.

He observed that the transformation of MSMEs has become imperative in an era increasingly driven by dig-

Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, facilitating Ms. A.Rajyalaxmi, Regional Director, WTC Bhubaneswar, Extreme left – Dr Rine Routray, Advisor WTC Women's Forum and Chairperson, Mahila Atmanirbhar Abhiyan, Odisha.

italisation, logistics integration, artificial intelligence, online marketplaces and e-commerce. Referring to the MSME TEAM (Trade Enablement & Marketing) Initiative under the World Bank-supported RAMP Scheme, he stated that the initiative is enabling small businesses, particularly those in rural and semi-urban areas, to access markets across India through digital platforms.

By providing free onboarding, digital catalogue creation, account management support, logistics facilitation, packaging assistance, digital capacity building and nationwide market access, the initiative is paving the way for sustainable business growth. He further remarked that women-led enterprises stand to benefit immensely from digital marketplaces, enabling them to achieve greater financial independence and economic empowerment.

Highlighting the immense industrial potential of Paradip, the Hon'ble Minister said that the region's strategic port, industrial infrastructure, efficient transport network and vibrant maritime economy offer tremendous opportunities for MSMEs. He noted that sectors such as fabrication, packaging, repair and maintenance, marine products, food processing, logistics and engineering services hold significant potential for MSME-led growth.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri P. K. Mohapatra, Unit Head, IFFCO Paradip, highlighted the immense business opportunities available for local enterprises. He informed that IFFCO is presently associated with nearly 2,400 MSME vendors, of which only about 200 vendors are from Odisha. He urged entrepreneurs from the State to strengthen their capabilities, enhance product quality and actively participate in industrial supply chains to increase Odisha's representation.

The programme also witnessed the participation of women entrepreneurs from Pandua Village, who are engaged in the production of eco-friendly coir products. Their presence reflected the growing contribution of rural women entrepreneurs towards sustainable livelihoods and value-added manufacturing in the MSME sector.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Head, World Trade Institute, Mumbai, observed that International MSME Day is a significant occasion for the industrial community. She remarked that the contribution of MSMEs to India's economic growth is remarkable and appreciated the efforts being made to strengthen the sector through initiatives such as MSME TEAM.

The programme concluded with an interactive session, during which entrepreneurs sought clarifications on digital onboarding, ONDC integration, Government support mechanisms and emerging market opportunities. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Shri Sujit Kumar Shaha, Deputy General Manager (Designated), NSIC, who expressed

Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, facilitating Ms. Varsha Rana, Head, World Trade Institute, Mumbai

his gratitude to all the dignitaries, participants and partner organisations for their valuable support in making the programme a grand success.

The Event was held on June 27, 2026

IHS Solar – Looking forward to Promoting Solar and Renewable Energy in Goa

From Left to Right:- Ms Sonia Rocha, Manager, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr Conrad Coelho, CEO, HIS Envirotek and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

As Goa continues its journey towards sustainable development and energy security, the adoption of solar and renewable energy solutions has emerged as a key priority. In this context, IHS Solar looks forward to playing an important role in supporting the state's transition towards clean and green energy.

Solar energy offers Goa a unique opportunity to harness its abundant sunshine, reduce dependence on conventional power sources, lower electricity costs, and contribute to environmental conservation. Through the installation of rooftop solar systems, commercial solar plants, and energy-efficient renewable energy solutions, IHS Solar is helping households, businesses, institutions, and industries embrace sustainable energy practices.

The company has been actively involved in creating awareness about the benefits of solar power, including reduced electricity bills, lower carbon emissions, energy independence, and long-term financial savings. By leveraging modern photovoltaic technologies and providing end-to-end project implementation services, IHS Solar enables consumers to adopt renewable energy solutions with confidence and ease.

Goa has witnessed increasing interest in solar energy across residential dwellings. Goa's renewable energy ecosystem continues to benefit from supportive subsidies that encourage wider adoption of solar power.
IHS Solar's efforts align with national initiatives such as the Government of India's renewable energy targets and the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which aim to accelerate rooftop solar deployment and promote clean energy access for all citizens. Through quality installations, technical expertise, and customer-focused service, the company contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of communities while supporting economic and environmental sustainability.

Looking ahead, renewable energy is expected to play an increasingly significant role in Goa's development strategy. By continuing to promote solar energy adoption, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship, IHS Solar can contribute meaningfully to the creation of a cleaner, greener, and more energy-resilient Goa.

In conclusion, IHS Solar's commitment to renewable energy reflects a broader vision of sustainable development. Through its initiatives and projects, the company can help build awareness, expand access to clean energy, and support Goa's transition towards a low-carbon and environmentally responsible future.

The event was held on April 6, 2026

Interactive meeting to promote artistic hand-woven Zari

From Left to Right:- Ms Sonia Rocha, Manager, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, Ms Harsha Pednekar, Proprietor, Aari Art World and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

Zari and Aari are design works that are hand woven into different clothing material like sarees, blouses, dresses, jackets etc and is greatly appreciated for the liveliness it adds to the garments making them more attractive and eye catching. WTC Goa organized a very interactive meeting with Mrs. Harsha Pednekar, Proprietor, Aari Art World, who is a certified artisan in the field. This meeting sought to understand and chalk out a way forward to enable local Goan artisans to reach this highly attractive art form to the shores of international markets and also enhance livelihood and create more employment opportunities for local Goan artisans operating in this sector.

The meeting was held on April 8, 2026

Goan Packaging Company now offers solutions that are robust and environmentally friendly

A unique challenge was brought to World Trade Center Goa by EXIM Global Ventures, a Goa-based enterprise founded by Mr. Amit Gaitonde and Ms. Supriya Gaitonde, which manufactures designer and custom-made candles for international markets and given the delicate nature of these handcrafted products, to ensure their safe transportation and delivery to overseas buyers which is critical to maintaining product quality and customer satisfaction. As a best effort practice WTC Goa recently facilitated discussions on innovative and sustainable packaging solutions for fragile export products.

To explore suitable solutions, Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, held discussions with Mr. Ajay Gramopadhye, Owner of The Sustainable Green Company, a pioneering enterprise that transforms waste materials into high-quality and environmentally responsible packaging products. The meeting focused on identifying packaging solutions that offer both product protection and sustainability while meeting the requirements of international shipping, Mr Amit Gaitonde and Mrs Supriya Gaitonde were also part of this meeting.

The Sustainable Green Company showcased its innovative approach to converting waste resources into

From Left to Right:-Amit Gaitonde, Suprita Gaitonde, Founder, EXIM Global Ventures; Mr. Ajay Gramopadhye, Owner, The Sustainable Green Company and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

durable and eco-friendly packaging materials capable of protecting fragile products during transit. Such solutions not only reduce the risk of damage but also align with the growing global demand for sustainable packaging and environmentally conscious supply chains.

The meeting highlighted the importance of innovation, sustainability, and collaboration in enhancing the export competitiveness of Goan enterprises. By connecting exporters with providers of specialized packaging solutions, WTC Goa continues to support businesses in overcoming market access challenges and strengthening their presence in international markets and underscored the potential for greater collaboration between manufacturers, exporters, and sustainable packaging providers, contributing to both export growth and environmental responsibility.

The meeting was held on April 9, 2026

WTC Goa participates in the Universal Trade Services (UTS) Training Programme in USA.

Picture shows the training program in Progress

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, participated in the Universal Trade Services (UTS) Training Programme, a strategic initiative launched by the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) as part of the WTCA Board's special initiatives aimed at strengthening the trade services capabilities of member World Trade Centers and was organized from 18th to 19th April at the Marriott Downtown Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

The pilot programme was designed to equip WTCA members with practical tools and methodologies to expand their business footprint into new international markets, enhance engagement with local and national governments, and create sustainable revenue-generating opportunities. The initiative seeks to strengthen the value proposition of World Trade Centers by enabling them to deliver a broader range of trade and investment facilitation services to their business communities.

The programme was developed and delivered by Trexl, a Canada-based company led by Ms. Gwenaele Montagner, CEO along with Ms. Kelly Coubrough, Manager. The training drew extensively from the highly successful trade services model established by World Trade Center Toronto, which is widely recognized for its effectiveness in supporting international business growth and market expansion.

Participation in this programme has provided WTC Goa with valuable insights, best practices, and practical frameworks that can be adapted to further strengthen its trade promotion activities and enhance services offered to exporters, investors, and businesses seeking international market opportunities.

The meeting was held on April 18-19, 2026

WTC Goa participated at 56th WTCA Global Business Forum 2026

Picture shows the Group Photo of all delegates attending the GBF

WTC Goa participated at the 56th WTCA Global Business Forum (GBF) 2026, hosted by World Trade Center Greater Philadelphia, which was held from 20–22 April 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. The premier annual gathering of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) brought together World Trade Center businesses, policymakers, investors, trade promotion organizations, economic development agencies, and business leaders from across the globe.

The three-day forum provided an important platform for discussing emerging trends in international trade, investment, innovation, and economic development. Through keynote addresses, panel discussions, networking sessions, and business matchmaking meetings, participants explored opportunities for strengthening global partnerships and expanding international business collaboration.

A significant highlight for WTC Goa was its recognition by the WTCA as an Accredited Member, with specialization in Trade Development and Business & Member Services. The accreditation certificate was presented by WTCA Board Chair, John E. Drew, to Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa. This recognition reflects WTC Goa's commitment to delivering high-quality trade promotion services and supporting businesses in accessing international markets.

Further strengthening its global engagement, WTC Goa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Trade Center Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. The agreement aims to promote bilateral trade, investment, business cooperation, and knowledge exchange between Goa/India and Brazil, while facilitating trade missions, business matchmaking, and sector-specific collaborations.

The forum reinforced the WTCA's mission of connecting businesses globally through its extensive network of World Trade Centers and served as a catalyst for creating new trade, investment, and partnership opportunities. The event concluded with renewed commitments among participants to foster international commerce and strengthen economic ties across regions.

The porgramme was held on April 20-22, 2026

Meeting to discuss opportunities for Goan Export and Import leads

A meeting was held between Mr. B. S. Uttam Kumar, Director of Uttams Rawmat Private Limited, and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, to discuss opportunities for promoting exports to various international markets and to explore potential avenues for trade expansion. The discussion focused on the growing demand for pig iron products in global markets and the support that can be provided through trade promotion initiatives.
During the meeting, Mr. Uttam Kumar provided an

From Left to Right:- Mr. B.S UttamKumar, Director, Uttams Rawmat Private Limited and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

overview of the company's product portfolio, highlighting its capability to supply various grades of pig iron, including Foundry Grade Pig Iron, Basic Grade Pig Iron, and Special Grade Pig Iron. The participants discussed the export potential of these products to different countries and examined opportunities for expanding the company's international customer base. Emphasis was placed on identifying suitable markets, strengthening trade relationships, and leveraging international business networks to increase export volumes.

The discussion also covered the company's requirement for importing Sorel Grade Pig Iron through Goa. Mr. Uttam Kumar expressed interest in establishing reliable sourcing channels for this product to meet specific business requirements. In response, Mr. Cyril Desouza outlined the support mechanisms available through World Trade Center Goa and facilitated a business connection that could assist in sourcing and importing Sorel Grade Pig Iron. He also reiterated the organization's commitment to supporting businesses through market linkages, trade facilitation, and international networking opportunities.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties acknowledging the potential for enhanced cooperation in the field of international trade. The interaction provided valuable insights into export promotion opportunities for Uttams Rawmat Private Limited and established a pathway for further engagement regarding the import of Sorel Grade Pig Iron. The support extended by World Trade Center Goa is expected to contribute to the company's efforts to expand its global trade activities and strengthen its presence in international markets.

The meeting was held on May 13, 2026

MAHAPRIET plans to invest Rs 500 Crore in the Goa Economy

From Left to Right:- Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr Bipin Shrimali, Managing Director of MAHAPREIT; Mr. Gautam Kharangate, Director & CEO, Rashtra TV; Amol Arondekar Arondekar, WTC Goa Member

On 15th May 2026, with the blessings and guidance of our respected Chairman Dr. Vijay Kalantri, World Trade Center Mumbai, we had the valuable opportunity to meet with Mr. Bipin Shrimali, Managing Director of MAHAPRIET, in Mumbai. The meeting was highly constructive and focused on exploring avenues of collaboration for sustainable and transformative development initiatives.

World Trade Center Goa, along with Mr. Amol Arondekar and Mr. Gautam Kharangate, is looking forward to collaborating closely with MAHAPRIET for the execution of projects valued at over INR 500 crores in key sectors such as renewable energy, sewage treatment, and housing infrastructure.

This proposed collaboration is envisioned to significantly benefit the State of Goa by attracting meaningful investments, generating employment opportunities, and contributing towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The initiative is expected to create a positive long-term impact on infrastructure development and environmental sustainability in the region.
World Trade Center Goa remains committed to fostering strategic partnerships that support progress and bring sustainable economic benefits to the state of Goa

The meeting was held on May 15, 2026

Can Goa develop as a Logistics Gateway for South-West India?

From Left to Right:- Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Joshua Pereira , Branch Manager , Athena Global Logistics and Mr. Jeffrin Rodrigues, Vice President-Liner & KAM, Berrio Lines

Recognizing the growing importance of logistics and supply chain management in facilitating trade and economic development, World Trade Center Goa recently initiated discussions with key industry stakeholders to explore the potential of positioning Goa as a strategic logistics gateway for South-West India.

As part of this initiative, Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, met with Mr. Jeffrin Rodrigues, Vice President – Liner & Key Account Management, Berrio Lines, and Mr. Joshua Peteira, Branch Manager, Athena Global Logistics, to assess the strengths, opportunities, and challenges facing the logistics sector in Goa.

The discussions highlighted Goa's unique advantages, including an extensive road network, two international airports, a natural harbour, a well-established rail network, and the availability of Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) services from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Balli. In addition, the State possesses warehousing infrastructure that can be further augmented to support growing cargo volumes and integrated logistics operations.

The participants emphasized the need for a comprehensive industry study to better understand the logistics ecosystem in Goa, identify infrastructure gaps, evaluate cargo potential, and formulate a roadmap for developing the State into a regional logistics hub. Such a study would also examine opportunities in multimodal transportation, warehousing, cold chain logistics, container movement, coastal shipping, and value-added logistics services.

The meeting concluded with a shared view that Goa possesses significant untapped potential to emerge as an efficient logistics and distribution centre serving not only the State but also neighbouring regions of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and the wider South-West Indian market. Strengthening the logistics sector could enhance trade competitiveness, attract investment, generate employment, and contribute significantly to Goa's long-term economic growth.

WTC Goa will continue engaging with industry leaders, policymakers, and infrastructure stakeholders to support initiatives that strengthen the State's logistics capabilities and facilitate greater integration with domestic and international supply chains.

The meeting was held on May 23, 2026

Export Potential of Gifting Products from Goa

Goa is increasingly emerging as a source of high-quality gifting products that combine creativity, craftsmanship, and personalization. The State's vibrant tourism industry, rich cultural heritage, and growing community of artisans and entrepreneurs have contributed to the development of a diverse gifting sector that caters to both domestic and international markets.

WTC Goa noted that among the enterprises contributing to this sector is The Gift House Goa, founded and managed by Ms. Vanessa Almeida, which specializes in personalized gifts, customized hampers, wedding favours, corporate gifts, and handcrafted keepsakes. The company has established a reputation for creating bespoke gifting solutions for destination weddings, corporate events, and special occasions and arranged a

From Left to Right:- Vanessa Almeida, Founder and Owner, The Gift House Goa and Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

meeting to gauge the export potential of Gifting Products from Goa.

The meeting brought out the fact that Goan gifting products have a considerable export potential, particularly in markets such as the United States, where demand for handcrafted, sustainable, personalized, and culturally inspired products continues to grow. Products such as customized gift hampers, eco-friendly souvenirs, artisanal crafts, home décor items, personalized stationery, festive gifts, and wedding favours can find a niche among consumers seeking unique and authentic products.

The United States remains one of the world's largest markets for specialty gifts and handcrafted products, offering significant opportunities for Goan entrepreneurs. By leveraging e-commerce platforms, participation in international trade fairs, and support from export promotion agencies, Goa's gifting industry can expand its global footprint and contribute to the State's export growth.

WTC Goa can play a vital role in helping with appropriate market access support and export facilitation and transform Goa's gifting sector to become a recognized contributor to India's exports of lifestyle and handcrafted products.

The meeting was held on May 27, 2026

Exploring Export Opportunities for GI-Tagged Goan Caju Feni

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote exports of unique Goan products to international markets, World Trade Center Goa held a meeting with representatives of Madam Rosa Distillery, a renowned producer of premium GI-tagged Goan Caju Feni at the World Trade Center Goa on 8th June 2026

The meeting was attended by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, who met with Mr. Cedric Vaz, Partner at Madam Rosa, and Mr. Jocel de Souza, Business Associate, to explore the export potential of this iconic Goan spirit in international markets. Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, was also present during the discussions.

The deliberations focused on the growing global demand for authentic craft spirits and the opportunities available for promoting Goa's Geographical Indication (GI) tagged Caju Feni as a premium heritage product. The participants discussed strategies for market development, branding, regulatory requirements, and potential export destinations where consumers are increasingly seeking unique and artisanal alcoholic beverages. Mr. Vaz highlighted the rich heritage and traditional distillation methods that distinguish Goan Caju Feni from other spirits, while also sharing Madam Rosa's commit-

From Left to Right:- Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr Jocel De souza, Associate of Mr. Ceric Vaz and Mr Cedric Vaz, Partner, Madam Rosa and Ms. Sonai Rocha, Manager, Trade Promotion, WTC Goa ment to quality, authenticity, and innovation. WTC Goa expressed its willingness to support initiatives aimed at identifying international buyers, facilitating trade connections, and creating awareness about the unique characteristics of GI-tagged Caju Feni.

The meeting underscored the significant potential of Goan Caju Feni to establish a stronger presence in global markets while contributing to the promotion of Goa's cultural heritage, rural livelihoods, and export growth.

The meeting was held on June 8, 2026

High-level Delegation From MVIRDC Led by Dr. Vijay Kalantri Visits Goa

From Left to Right:- Ms Sonia Rocha, Manager, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Captain Somesh Batra, Chairman, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar; Mr. Sharad Upasani, IAS; Retired, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman , World Trade Center Mumba and President, All India Association of Industries and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director Finance & Admin , World Trade Center Mumbai.

With the objective of strengthening institutional relations, promoting trade and investment opportunities, and enhancing cooperation between key stakeholders in Goa, a high-level delegation led by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), visited Goa from 12th to 14th June 2026.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman , World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries ; Ms. Maria Isabel de Carvalho Mendonca Raimundo, Consul General of Portugal in Goa, India; Mr. Sharad Upasani, IAS; Retired, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Auduth Timblo, Chairman , Fomento Group and Captain Somesh Batra, Chairman, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar.

The distinguished delegation comprised:

- Dr. Vijay Kalantri – Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries
- Captain Somesh Batra – Chairman, World Trade Center Bhubaneswar
- Mr. Shatad Upasani – Chairman, World Trade Center Goa
- Mr. Santosh Kotre – Director, Finance, Accounts & Administration, World Trade Center Mumbai

During their visit, the delegation engaged with several eminent dignitaries, policymakers, and business leaders in Goa, discussing avenues for economic cooperation, investment promotion, tourism development, international partnerships, and sustainable growth initiatives.

Meetings with Distinguished Dignitaries

The delegation had the privilege of meeting and interacting with the following esteemed personalities:

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman , World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Carlos Alvares Ferreira, Member of Goa Legislative Assembly; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director Finance & Admin , World Trade Center Mumbai

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman , World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries; Mr. Rohan Khaute, Member of Goa Legislative Assembly; Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director Finance & Admin , World Trade Center Mumbai; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa.

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mrs. Mohini Kalantri; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman , World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries ; Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India

Mrs. Sanzia De souza; Mr. Joshua De Souza, Deputy Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly; H.E. Mr. Joao Ribeiro de Almeida, Ambassador of Portugal in New Delhi; Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries

- Hon'ble Shri Shripad Naik, Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy & Power, Government of India
- Hon'ble Shri Joshua D'Souza, Deputy Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly
- Hon'ble Shri Rohan Khaunte, Minister for Tourism, Government of Goa
- Advocate Carlos Ferreira, Member of the Goa Legislative Assembly
- His Excellency Mr. João Ribeiro de Almeida, Ambassador of Portugal to India
- Ms. Manuela Franco, Consul General of Portugal in Goa

The discussions focused on strengthening international trade and investment linkages, enhancing Goa's global visibility, promoting tourism and cultural exchanges, and exploring collaborative initiatives that could benefit the state's economic development.

Participation in Portugal Day Celebrations

A significant highlight of the visit was the delegation's participation in the grand **Portugal Day Celebrations,** hosted by the Consulate General of Portugal in Goa at **Cidade de Goa.** The event brought together diplomats, government representatives, business leaders, and members of the Indo-Portuguese community, providing an excellent platform for networking and strengthening bilateral relations between India and Portugal.

The delegation interacted with several distinguished guests during the celebrations and reaffirmed the commitment of the World Trade Center network towards fostering stronger economic, trade, and cultural ties between the two nations.

Interaction with Business Leadership

The delegation also met with **Mr. Avdut Timblo**, one of Goa's most respected industrialists and business leaders, with significant interests in the mining and healthcare sectors. Discussions centered on Goa's investment climate, emerging business opportunities, industrial development, and avenues for collaboration with the World Trade Center ecosystem.

Visit to World Trade Center Goa

The delegation visited WTC Goa and offered valuable advice and suggestions to officials and staff of WTC Goa. The delegation in turn were appraised of the Trade Promotion events conducted by the center as well as the major forthcoming events planned to be organized by Center upto December 2026.

The delegation visited Goa from 12th to 14th June, 2026

WTC Goa Promotes WTC Mumbai's Webinar on Certificate course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure

Mr. S. R. Binju delivering a lecture and sharing practical insights with participants of the Certificate Course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure organized by World Trade Institute, WTC Goa.

WTC Goa was happy to promote and assist World Trade Center Mumbai in successfully organizing an online Certificate Course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure. The webinar which was held on the 22nd June 2026, aimed at equipping exporters, importers, logistics professionals, trade executives, and aspiring entrepreneurs with practical knowledge of export-import documentation and compliance.

With 30 enrolments, the session covered export shipment procedures, EDI documentation, key trade documents, payment methods, and best practices for accurate pre-and post-shipment documentation, helping participants streamline international trade operations. The webinar drew a good response from Goa with a contribution of 6 enrolments. Mr. Utkarsh Prabhuborkar, one of the delegate exporter participants from Goa remarked that he was very happy to attend the online session as he found the webinar to be very useful since the faculty explained the complex Incoterms in simple language.

WTC Goa takes this opportunity to congratulate WTC Mumbai on the successfully organizing the webinar and looks forward to be an integral part of promoting such pragmatic initiatives in future.

The webinar was held on June 22, 2026

WTC Goa Highlights Export Opportunities for PM Vishwakarma Artisans

The PM Vishwakarma Scheme, an initiative of the Government of India, is a transformative programme designed to provide holistic support to traditional artisans and craftspeople. The scheme offers skill development training, financial assistance, product quality enhancement, and support in accessing wider markets for artisan products.

As part of its efforts to empower artisans, the MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Goa, organised a one-day Awareness Programme on Branding and Marketing on 24 June 2026. World Trade Center Goa was invited to deliver a session on expanding global market access for artisans, which was addressed by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa.
In his presentation, Mr. Desouza guided participants through the various registrations, licenses, and compliance requirements necessary for commencing export activities. He also highlighted several export-oriented sectors covered under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and identified key international markets with strong demand for these products. These included:

- Carpentry and Woodcraft: USA, Germany, UK, UAE, and Australia
- Goldsmithing and Jewellery: USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Europe
- Tailoring and Garment Making: USA, Canada, UK, France, and Japan
- Sculpting and Stone Carving: USA, Europe, and Southeast Asia
- Pottery and Ceramics: USA and Australia
- Basket, Mat and Coir Weaving: Europe, Japan, and USA

Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa delivering his address

View of the delegates present for the session

- Traditional Toys and Dolls: USA, Europe, and the Middle East
- Leather and Footwear Products: Europe, UAE, and USA

Mr. Desouza further elaborated on the diverse export opportunities available to artisans trained under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. These include custom wooden furniture and décor, gold and silver jewellery, tailored resort wear and beach fashion, coconut shell and coir-based products, heritage handicrafts, and sustainable packaging materials.

Concluding his address, Mr. Desouza emphasized the important and catalytic role that WTC Goa can play in facilitating international market access for artisans. Through the extensive network of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), comprising more than 300 World Trade Centers across over 100 countries, WTC Goa is well positioned to connect local artisans with global opportunities and highlighted the key areas in which WTC Goa can support PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, including:
Providing training on export documentation, procedures, and compliance requirements.

Connecting artisans with international buyers through the WTCA global network.

Facilitating participation in international trade fairs, exhibitions, and B2B meetings.

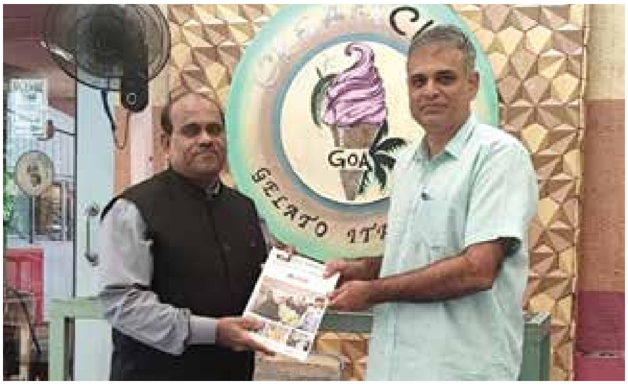
Promoting Goa's GI-tagged, heritage, and traditional products in international markets.

Offering comprehensive export assistance through the Export Facilitation Desk jointly operated by WTC Goa, Laghu Udyog Bharati, and Global Chamber Goa.

The session was highly appreciated by the participants, who gained valuable insights into the export potential of traditional crafts and the pathways available to transform local skills into globally competitive enterprises.

The session was held on June 24,2026

WTC Goa explores strategic collaboration with TTAG to promote Goa on the Global Stage



From L-R : Mr Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, Mr Jack Sukhija, President, TTAG.

WTC Goa, represented by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, recently held a productive meeting with Mr. Jack Sukhija, President of the Travel and Tourism Association of Goa (TTAG). The meeting was held on 25th June 2026.

TTAG is Goa's apex tourism body representing over 1,000 stakeholders from across the travel and tourism ecosystem, including hoteliers, travel agents, tour operators, airlines, and allied service providers. As Goa is home to several leading global hospitality and tourism brands, the discussions focused on strengthening the state's international positioning through strategic collaboration.

The meeting centered on three key areas of mutual interest:

1) Exploring the possibility of hosting the 2029 or The 2030 WTCA Global Business Forum (GBF) in Goa.
2) Organizing a joint WTC Goa–TTAG Global Tourism Summit to showcase emerging opportunities in tourism, trade, and investment.
3) Promoting Goa as a premier MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) destination for international business events.

Both organizations recognized that WTC Goa has much to offer through the global World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network comprising close to one million businesses worldwide. Goa can position itself as an attractive destination where business and leisure converge, creating new opportunities for, Tourism, Trade, Investment and Economic Growth.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing their commitment to building upon this initial engagement and developing a comprehensive roadmap to foster long-term cooperation and ensure the success of future joint initiatives.

The meeting was held on June 25, 2026

WTC Goa Commemorates World MSME Day 2026 with Expert Panel on Workplace Design and Sustainability

To mark World MSME Day 2026, the World Trade Center Goa organised an insightful panel discussion highlighting the importance of workplace design, environmental sustainability, and innovation in enhancing the growth and competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The interactive session was moderated by Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director – Trade Promotion, WTC Goa, who guided an engaging exchange of ideas among the distinguished panellists.

Speaking on the role of workplace design in business success, Mr. Brendan Fernandes, Proprietor, Chisel Wood Interiors, emphasised that although quality interior solutions require investment, the scale of expenditure should align with the aspirations and budget of each enterprise. He noted that a thoughtfully designed and aesthetically appealing workplace enhances a company's professional image while improving operational efficiency and employee productivity.

Mr. Fernandes highlighted the importance of efficient office planning, including organised storage systems, compact filing solutions, functional pantry layouts, employee leisure spaces, and adherence to Standard Op-

Left to Right: Ms. Sonia Rocha, Manager- Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa, Mr. Bharat Kamat, Partner, Lume Global; Brendan Fernandes, Proprietor, Chisel wood Interiors; Dr. Jennifer Lewis e Kamat, Chairperson, Indian Concrete Institute, Goa Chapter; Mr. Gavin Dsouza, Director, Lila Digital and Environmental Solutions Pvt Ltd; Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director-Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa

erating Procedures (SOPs). He observed that space-efficient designs contribute significantly to productivity and advised businesses to carefully evaluate the long-term maintenance requirements of eco-friendly materials before implementation. He also stressed the need for flexible office layouts that can accommodate future expansion through modular workspaces and adequate electrical infrastructure. Additionally, he encouraged organisations to foster employee engagement through activities such as annual sports events to strengthen teamwork and workplace culture.

Addressing the theme of environmental sustainability, Mr. Gavin D'Souza, Director, Lila Digital and Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd., spoke about the growing influence of artificial intelligence while observing that skilled trades requiring manual expertise, such as plumbing and other technical services, will continue to depend on human skills. He encouraged MSMEs to integrate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles into their business strategies and referred to initiatives such as the BSE Environment Index that promote responsible and sustainable business practices.

Mr. D'Souza further underscored the importance of maintaining high standards of workplace safety and investing in environmental infrastructure such as Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) to ensure effective waste management, environmental compliance, and sustainable operations.

Delivering her insights on healthy and sustainable workspaces, Dr. Jennifer Lewis e Kamat, Chairperson, Indian Concrete Institute – Goa Chapter, explained how certain materials commonly used in interiors, including fibres and adhesives, can affect indoor air quality and influence employee health and productivity. She emphasised the need for improved ventilation, adequate oxygen circulation, and the adoption of environmentally responsible building materials.

Dr. Kamat also encouraged MSMEs to embrace sustainable practices by using recycled materials, implementing waste recycling initiatives within their facilities, and exploring opportunities that could contribute towards carbon credit mechanisms. She concluded by stating that true sustainability begins with a change in mindset, urging businesses and individuals alike to become active participants in building a greener and more sustainable future.

The programme concluded with a consensus that the long-term success of MSMEs depends not only on financial investment and technological advancement but also on creating workplaces that prioritise employee well-being, operational efficiency, and environmental responsibility. Through initiatives such as this, WTC Goa continues to promote knowledge sharing and encourage MSMEs to adopt sustainable and innovative practices that enhance their competitiveness in both domestic and global markets.

The meeting was held on June 26, 2026

Mr. Sharad Upasani, Chairman WTC Goa, congratulating Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director, Trade Promotion, WTC Goa on WTC Goa being awarded the WTCA Accreditation Certification as an accredited member with Specializations in Trade Development and Business & Member Services, in the August presence of Mr. Somesh Batra, Chairman WTC Bhubaneswar, Mr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman WTC Mumbai and President - All India Association of Industries and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director, Finance , Accounts and Admin, WTC Mumbai.

Seen in the picture:Captain Somesh Batra, Honorary Consul of Portugal in Mumbai and Chairman WTC Bhubaneswar, addressing the distinguished Guests at the Portugal Day Celebrations.

From L to R: Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director- Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. Pradip A.P. Da Costa, President, GSIA; Mr. Martin Joseph Thypodath, CMD, Freedom Group of Companies; Mr. Ramos Barreto, Founder, Zaad Organics; Mr. Greig Fernandes, Proprietor, Global Eximdx.

From L to R: Mr. Cyril Desouza, Regional Director- Trade Promotion, World Trade Center Goa; Mr. John Fernandes, Consultant, CII; Mr. Wilson Rodrigues, CEO, RODRICKS; Mr. Martin Joseph Thypodath, CMD, Freedom Group of Companies

Exploring Global Growth Opportunities Through Research and Analysis

Left to right (4th from left) Dr. Mohit with Distinguished guests during the Interactive Session

The exploration of global growth opportunities has become increasingly important in a world driven by innovation, technological advancement, and economic interdependence. Research and analysis serve as fundamental instruments for understanding emerging trends, identifying potential markets, evaluating risks, and developing sustainable strategies for progress. In this context, Dr. Preetam Singh Gaur, President of IJIRG, India (International Journal of Innovative Research & Growth), emphasized the role of research-driven insights in discovering new avenues for economic and organizational growth across international boundaries.

Complementing this perspective, the Chief guest Prof. (Dr.) Mohit Sharma, SMS Medical, Government of Rajasthan, highlighted the significance of scientific research and analytical thinking in advancing healthcare, public policy, and societal development. Together, they advocated a knowledge-based approach that integrates innovation, evidence-based decision-making, and interdisciplinary collaboration to address contemporary challenges and unlock opportunities for sustainable global development.

Mr. Sharma continued by saying, “Research and analysis are the backbone of progress in every discipline, particularly in healthcare, science, and public policy. In an age characterized by information abundance, the true challenge lies not merely in collecting data but in interpreting it accurately and transforming it into meaningful knowledge. Effective analysis enables researchers and decision-makers to identify patterns, evaluate outcomes, and formulate solutions that address real-world problems. From the perspective of medical science and public health, research plays a critical role in improving healthcare delivery, advancing treatment methodologies, and enhancing patient outcomes. Evidence-based practices, supported by rigorous analysis, ensure that policies and interventions are both effective and sustainable. Beyond healthcare, analytical thinking contributes significantly to economic planning, technological innovation, and social development by providing objective insights for strategic decision-making.”

Mr. Sharma also deliberated, “In a globally connected environment, interdisciplinary research and international collaboration have become essential for addressing complex challenges. Whether the issue concerns public health, environmental sustainability, technological advancement, or economic development, robust research methodologies help generate reliable evidence that guides future action. Therefore, fostering a culture of scientific inquiry, critical thinking, and continuous learning is vital for achieving sustainable growth and societal advancement. As researchers and professionals, we must remain committed to excellence in inves-

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal felicitating Prof. (Dr.) Mohit Sharma and esteemed participants to the program.

tigation and analysis. By embracing innovation, maintaining scientific rigor, and encouraging collaborative research, we can contribute meaningfully to knowledge creation and support the development of solutions that benefit communities at local, national, and global levels."

Dr. Preetam Singh Gaur, President, IJIRG, India (International Journal of Innovative Research & Growth, as the guest of honor to the program, explained, "In today's rapidly changing world, growth is no longer confined by geographical boundaries. We live in an era where knowledge, innovation, technology, and collaboration have become the driving forces of global development. As researchers, academicians, policymakers, and business leaders, we must recognize that growth opportunities exist across every sector and region, but identifying and utilizing these opportunities requires a strong foundation of research and analytical thinking. Research enables us to understand emerging trends, changing consumer behavior, technological advancements, and economic transformations. It provides the evidence needed to make informed decisions and develop sustainable strategies. Through systematic analysis, we can identify new markets, assess risks, evaluate investments, and discover innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. In a competitive global environment, decisions based on assumptions are increasingly risky; decisions based on research are more likely to create lasting success.

Dr. Gaur also said, "The digital revolution has opened unprecedented opportunities in fields such as artificial intelligence, healthcare, renewable energy, education, biotechnology, and e-commerce. At the same time, developing economies are emerging as important centers of innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment. Organizations that continuously invest in knowledge creation and data-driven analysis are better positioned to adapt to change and achieve long-term growth."

Together, both speakers emphasize that the future of global growth depends upon the integration of research, innovation, analytical capability, and international cooperation. Through evidence-based decision-making and a commitment to continuous learning, societies can unlock new opportunities, address emerging challenges, and build a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

On the occasion, Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed his sincere gratitude to both distinguished speakers for sharing their valuable insights and thought-provoking perspectives. He appreciated their contributions in highlighting the crucial role of research, innovation, and analytical excellence in identifying global growth opportunities and fostering sustainable economic and social progress.

The Porgramme was held on April 4, 2026

From idea to impact-powered by incubation!

Rajasthan's incubation ecosystem supports sector-specific startups in IT, deep-tech, handicrafts, and social enterprises, led by iStart Rajasthan and centres like Startup Oasis. It offers low-cost incubation across cities, though stronger industry linkages and private investment are needed for scaling.

To understand the incubation scenario in India, WTC Jaipur organized an interaction with Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari, CEO of AIC-BAMU Foundation, Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari said: "I observe that in 2026 the global startup ecosystem has undergone a fundamental transformation, shifting away from the earlier 'growth at all costs' paradigm toward a more disciplined model

In the picture, Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari is sharing his thoughts on the incubation ecosystem.

centered on precision, sustainability, and deep technological innovation. In this evolving landscape, startup success is no longer driven solely by rapid scaling but by technical depth, capital efficiency, and long-term market relevance. Accordingly, I view incubation centres as critical 'foundational engines' that de-risk early-stage ventures and build strong, scalable foundations. From my perspective, modern incubators extend far beyond physical infrastructure, offering structured mentorship, access to expert networks, and strategic guidance that enable startups to refine ideas, achieve product–market fit, and unlock funding and partnership opportunities. They also equip entrepreneurs with capabilities in business strategy, financial planning, regulatory compliance, and legal frameworks. Ultimately, incubation centres function as both a safety net and a springboard, enabling resilient, high-impact ventures that drive employment, technological advancement, and sustainable economic growth."

Mr. Tiwari shared that academic and institution-led incubators are increasingly vital in strengthening the innovation ecosystem by bridging the gap between research and commercialization. He noted that institutions such as AIC BAMU Foundation, supported by NITI Aayog, demonstrate how academia can catalyze entrepreneurship by providing access to advanced infrastructure, including high-performance computing, IoT laboratories, and AR/VR environments. This enables startups to experiment, prototype, and refine complex technologies without heavy capital investment, thereby lowering the barriers to entry for deep-tech innovation. Mr. Tiwari continued by saying that aligning incubation efforts with national priorities is essential for building a globally competitive startup ecosystem. He highlighted that sectors such as Information and Communication Technology, Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, and electric vehicles are critical not only for economic growth but also for achieving technological self-reliance. In this context, incubators serve as key platforms for nurturing innovations such as battery management systems, smart charging infrastructure, and specialized chip design, enabling startups to iterate rapidly and contribute meaningfully to national development goals. He further emphasized that decentralization is a defining trend, with Tier-II and Tier-III cities emerging as vibrant hubs of entrepreneurial activity. He pointed out that this shift is driven by supportive government policies, expanding incubator networks, and the availability of skilled local talent. Consequently, regional institutions are gaining prominence as important drivers of innovation, capable of addressing local challenges while attracting national and global investment and fostering a more inclusive entrepreneurial landscape.

He pointed out that expanding incubation outreach in regional centres is a strategic priority. He suggested that initiatives such as MSME Idea Hackathons can generate awareness, identify promising ideas, and encourage participation from aspiring entrepreneurs. These platforms not only act as entry points into the startup ecosystem but also help create a structured pipeline of problem statements and innovative solutions aligned with regional and industry needs.

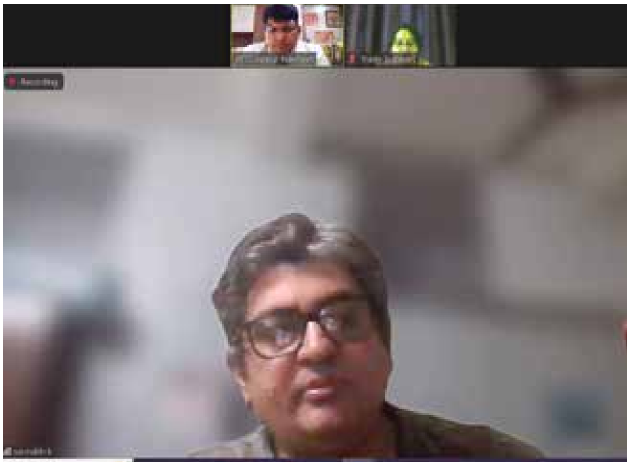
He underscored the importance of engaging grassroots communities, including Kirana store owners and small-scale sellers, within the innovation ecosystem. He noted that their inclusion can unlock significant entrepreneurial potential while ensuring that innovations remain practical, scalable, and grounded in real-world challenges, thereby promoting inclusive growth.

Mr. Tiwari concluded that incubation centres have evolved into strategic enablers that provide both support and acceleration to startups. Through infrastructure, mentorship, funding access, and ecosystem-building initiatives, they are facilitating the development of resilient ventures that contribute to employment generation, technological advancement, and long-term economic stability, creating a self-sustaining cycle of innovation.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari for the insightful session, sincerely appreciating the valuable guidance and perspectives shared.

The Session was held on April 18, 2026

Local Roots Global Routes


In the picture, Mr. Saurabh Chaubey is sharing his observations from his vast industry and academic experience.

India's startup wave is no longer metro-bound—emerging cities are the innovation hotspots. Powered by strong academia-industry collaboration and real founder stories, this shift is inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs, making startups feel achievable, relatable, and truly impactful.

In order to understand the evolving dynamics of India's startup ecosystem, the World Trade Center Jaipur organized an interaction with Mr. Saurabh Chaubey, Principal Consultant (EY), Chief Minister's Office, Chhattisgarh.

Mr. Saurabh Chaubey said, "India's startup ecosystem is expanding far beyond metropolitan cities, and this is truly exciting! Emerging cities are rapidly transforming into vibrant hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship! It is the collective strength of local communities, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders that is driving this change. When we bring together chambers of commerce, universities, and entrepreneurs through structured interactions, we effectively bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Moreover, when founders openly share their journeys-their successes as well as their challenges-it inspires students and aspiring entrepreneurs, making the idea of building a startup more relatable, achievable, and impactful!

Mr. Chaubey continued by saying, "Despite this encouraging growth, several gaps continue to limit the full potential of startups, particularly in non-metro regions. Many early-stage entrepreneurs struggle with a lack of clarity around key aspects such as funding, customer acquisition, and market validation. While multiple funding avenues exist through government schemes and private networks, navigating application processes and meeting compliance requirements often becomes complex and time-consuming. To overcome these challenges, startups require continuous mentorship, exposure to real-world business environments, and structured guidance from experienced stakeholders to transform ideas into scalable and sustainable business models."

He shared, "local businesspersons and industrialists in the startup ecosystem possess deep insights into market needs, operational challenges, and technological gaps. By creating structured connections between startups and industries, entrepreneurs can gain access to clearly defined, real-world problem statements that are both practical and impactful. Encouraging one-on-one interactions between startups and manufacturers can significantly improve execution efficiency and accelerate innovation. Additionally, developing a centralized repository of problem statements can serve as a strategic tool, guiding entrepreneurs to focus on relevant challenges while minimizing duplication of ideas."

He further emphasized, "Limited access to global markets remains a critical barrier for startups emerging from smaller cities. Innovation is growing at the grassroots level, but many startups lack the exposure, networks, and knowledge required to scale internationally. In this context, institutions like the World Trade Center Jaipur play a transformative role by acting as a bridge between local startups and global opportunities. Such platforms enable entrepreneurs to explore international markets, establish trade linkages, and connect with global investors, partners, and customers. They also help startups understand international standards, regulatory frameworks, and competitive dynamics, which are essential for global expansion."

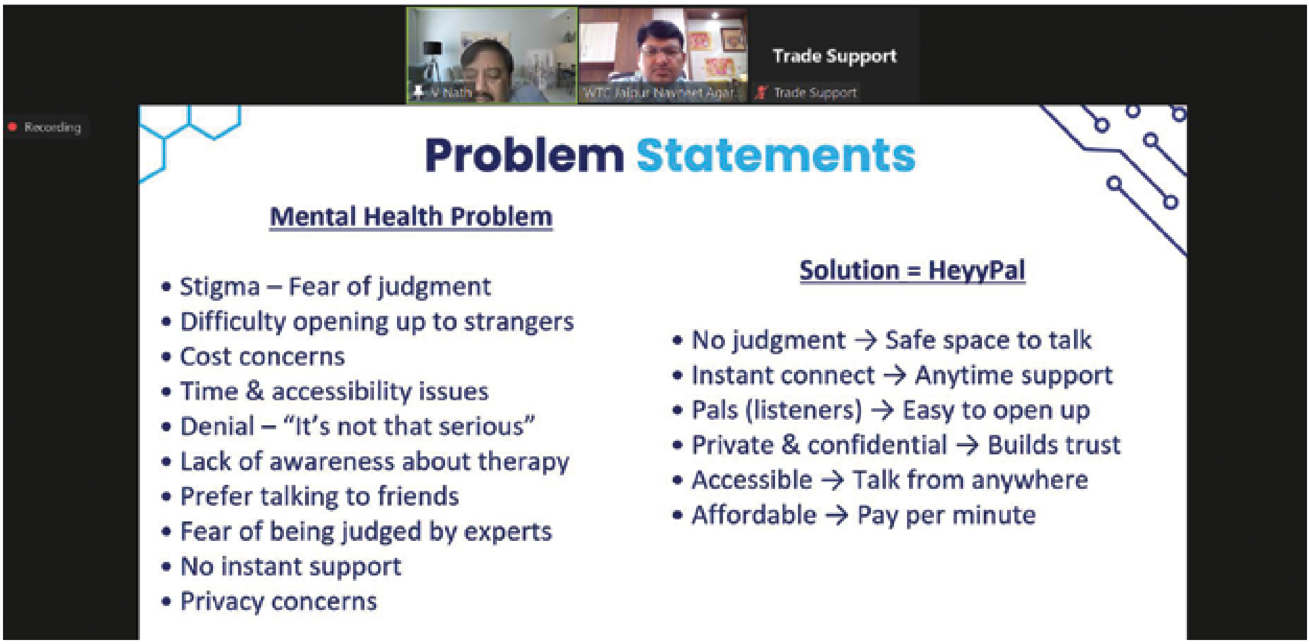
He added, "Such institutions also foster collaboration among government bodies, industry leaders, and academic institutions, thereby creating a cohesive and supportive ecosystem. By serving as facilitators rather than controllers, they encourage innovation to grow organically through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and cross-border partnerships. This approach ensures that startups are not only supported but also empowered to experiment, adapt, and evolve in a dynamic environment."

Mr. Chaubey concluded by stating, "Building a well-integrated ecosystem that combines local relevance, strong industry linkages, and global connectivity is essential for the long-term success of startups in India. Such an ecosystem can nurture innovation, strengthen entrepreneurial capabilities, and create a globally competitive startup landscape. Ultimately, this integrated approach contributes meaningfully to economic development, job creation, and the overall growth of the nation."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Saurabh Chaubey for the insightful and engaging meeting session, appreciating the valuable discussions and perspectives shared.

The Virtual meeting was held on April 19, 2026

Turning the Tide on Mental Health



To understand the silent mental health crisis affecting the world, WTC Jaipur organized an interactive session with Mr. Vishwalok Nath, Founder and FCO (Friendly Chief Officer), HeyyPal.

Explaining the motivation behind initiating a mental health startup, Mr. Vishwalok Nath said: Global mental health is in crisis, with over one billion people affected, according to the World Health Organization. One in six people feels lonely, especially Gen Z. Over a million discuss suicide weekly with OpenAI. In India, 150 million people need urgent mental health support.

As an introduction to HeyyPal, Mr. Vishwalok Nath, the media and digital industry veteran, added:
HeyyPal is India's fast-emerging mental wellness and expert-connect platform, built to make emotional support and professional guidance instantly accessible, private, and stigma-free. HeyyPal connects users in real time with verified psychologists, psychiatrists, therapists, compassionate listeners ("Pals"), and other trusted experts through a privacy-first, on-demand conversation model.

Designed for a generation that seeks immediate support without judgment, HeyyPal addresses one of India's most underserved needs—accessible mental health conversations. The platform's per-minute consultation model ensures affordability while maintaining quality and verified expert interactions.

The startup recently gained major industry recognition after being shortlisted in the Shark Tank India semifinals, validating its innovative approach and strong market potential in the rapidly growing mental wellness space.

Further strengthening its growth journey, HeyyPal secured strategic investment from Abu Dhabi-based investor Umesh Bhatt at a valuation of ₹20 crore. The funding marks a significant milestone for the company and highlights rising investor confidence in technology-led mental wellness solutions.

The investment will help accelerate platform expansion, expert onboarding, and user acquisition across India and global markets.

With mental health awareness increasing and users seeking trusted, discreet, and immediate support systems, HeyyPal is positioning itself as more than just an app—it is building a movement around emotional wellbeing, human connection, and accessible expert guidance.

At its core, HeyyPal believes in one simple truth: everyone needs someone to talk to, and help should be available the moment they need it.

Giving insight into the challenges that entrepreneurs face, Mr. Vishwalok Nath went on to say, as entrepreneurs, we encounter a wide range of challenges throughout our startup journey, particularly in the early stages. One of our biggest hurdles is securing adequate funding, as access to investors is highly competitive and requires us to present scalable and sustainable business models.

Even when opportunities exist through government schemes or private networks, navigating application processes and meeting compliance requirements can be complex and time-consuming. Regulatory frameworks and documentation often add to these difficulties, especially when we are still learning to operate within formal systems.

We also face challenges due to limited experience and a lack of proper guidance. While we may start with innovative ideas, we often lack exposure to business strategy, financial planning, and market analysis. Without the right mentorship, this can lead to delays, ineffective decisions, and difficulty adapting to changing market conditions. Continuous learning and structured guidance, therefore, become essential for us to refine our approach and avoid common mistakes.

Market competition further intensifies our journey. We must not only innovate but also clearly communicate our value proposition to stand out. This requires a strong understanding of customer needs, effective branding, and consistent engagement, while building trust and credibility over time.

In addition, building and retaining the right team is a major challenge. With limited financial resources, attracting skilled professionals is not easy. Managing resources efficiently while balancing growth and sustainability adds another layer of responsibility.

We also operate in uncertain and rapidly changing environments, where external factors like market shifts and technological changes can impact our progress. This pushes us to stay flexible, continuously evaluate our strategies, and pivot when necessary, while keeping our long-term goals in focus.

Despite these challenges, we remain driven by resilience, adaptability, and determination. With the support of mentorship, networking, and collaborative ecosystems, we continue to learn, grow, and refine our ventures. Ultimately, our journey, though demanding, empowers us to build sustainable businesses that create meaningful impact and contribute positively to society.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director WTC Jaipur, thanked Mr. Vishwalok Nath for the insightful meeting session.

The Virtual interactive session was held on April 20, 2026

Funding the Future: Where Startup Potential Meets the Right Capital

In the picture, Ms. Abha Mishra, Co-Founder of AY Ventures, is deliberating.

Early-stage funding is often the toughest hurdle for startups, especially during MVP and validation. It's not just about raising capital—it's about being ready for it. That's where the right guidance makes all the difference, helping startups refine their story, build credibility, and connect with the right investors.

To understand the funding scenario in India, WTC Jaipur organized an interaction with Ms. Abha Mishra, Co-Founder, AY Ventures-a fund raising entity based out of Gurgaon.

Ms. Abha said, "As someone deeply engaged with the startup ecosystem, I have consistently observed that one of the biggest challenges entrepreneurs face is accessing the right kind of funding at the right time. Startups, especially in their early stages, require financial support during crucial phases such as Minimum Viable Product (MVP) development and proof of concept. However, this is also the stage where most investors hesitate, primarily due to the absence of traction, limited market validation, and the perceived risks associated with new ventures."

She continued to say, "At AY Ventures, our goal is to bridge this gap by not only connecting startups with investors but also by preparing them to become investment-ready. Over time, we have worked with more than 80 companies, supporting them through their fundraising journeys.

This includes working with both pre-revenue startups and those that have already begun generating revenue. We believe that fundraising is not just about access to capital—it is about presenting a compelling, structured, and credible story to investors."

Ms. Abha shared, "In my experience, startups can broadly be categorized based on their stage and requirements. College-level or first-time founders often lack the experience and direction needed to navigate the ecosystem.They require not just funding but also mentorship and guidance. On the other hand, startups that have already achieved some level of traction need capital to scale and expand. There is also a segment of startups with established teams and initial funding that primarily seek strategic mentoring to move to their next stage of growth."

She emphasized, "The investment landscape itself has evolved significantly. Incubators, accelerators, and angel investors are generally more open to supporting early-stage startups, with funding ranges typically between ₹3 lakh and ₹50 lakh. However, venture capitalists and family offices tend to be more cautious and usually look for startups that have demonstrated consistent traction. In many cases, a steady revenue stream of around ₹5–10 lakh per month becomes an important benchmark for attracting such investors."

She added, "Another encouraging trend I have noticed is the rise of startups from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. These regions are increasingly producing innovative ventures, particularly in areas like artificial intelligence and problem-solving technologies. At the same time, traditional sectors such as textiles and handicrafts are also gaining investor attention, especially when they demonstrate scalability and strong revenue potential."

She highlighted, "I also believe that the definition of a startup is expanding. Today, even traditional businesses-such as Chartered Accountant firms or small manufacturing units-can position themselves as startups if they integrate technology or build scalable models. This shift reflects the growing inclusivity and dynamism of the ecosystem."

Ms. Abha concluded by saying, "At AY Ventures, we follow a structured approach to support startups. We begin by understanding key aspects of the business, including customer base, revenue, and market presence. We then guide founders on how to effectively pitch to investors, often through online platforms. After careful evaluation and discussions, we identify startups that are ready for fundraising and connect them with the right investors. Our engagement with startups typically spans two to three years, ensuring continuous support throughout their growth journey. Ultimately, I believe that with the right preparation, clarity of vision, and consistent effort, startups can overcome early-stage challenges and successfully secure funding. The ecosystem today offers immense opportunities—it is about being ready to seize them."

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director WTC Jaipur, thanked Ms. Abha for the insightful meeting session.

The Virtual interactive session was held on April 28, 2026

ET Energy Conclave: Revisiting Rajasthan's Sustainable and Affordable Energy Model

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, WTC Jaipur, with Ambassador of Serbia to India, H.E. Mr. Siniša Pavić.

World Trade Center Jaipur continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to fostering international trade relations and strengthening vital global partnerships through its active, strategic engagement with diplomatic missions and prominent international stakeholders. In a significant step toward expanding these global networks, a high-level bilateral interaction was recently convened at the prestigious ET Energy Conclave. During this key industry event, Mr. Navneet Agrawal, representing the Trade Promotion Division of World Trade Center Jaipur, formally met with the Honorable Ambassador of Serbia to India. This interaction provided an elite, collaborative platform to explore practical, long-term avenues for enhancing economic cooperation, cultivating mutual corporate investments, and identifying specific areas of shared interest between the rapidly growing business ecosystems of India and Serbia.

The ET Energy Conclave serves as a premier industrial platform that brings together central and state policymakers, senior government officials, international diplomats, and corporate leaders to deliberate on the future of energy infrastructure, grid resilience, and sustainable development. Because energy transition and global security are inherently tied to international supply chains, the forum acts as a vital networking hub. It bridges the gap between high-level policy ambition and real-world execution, allowing global stakeholders and trade development bodies to negotiate cross-border investments, technology sharing, and bilateral economic partnerships necessary to scale infrastructure for sustainable industrial growth.

During the conclave, it was an honor for team WTC Jaipur to interact with the Ambassador of Serbia to India, H.E. Mr. Siniša Pavić. H.E. Mr. Pavić was pleased to hear of the various state-level Trade Promotion initiatives World Trade Center Jaipur has taken to facilitate trade and commerce in Rajasthan over the last decade. It was also an opportune moment to interact with the founders of multiple startups and government officials and learn about the upcoming investment opportunities in the Energy Sector in Rajasthan.

The Honorable Ambassador of Serbia expressed great pleasure and enthusiasm upon learning about the diverse array of activities, trade facilitation frameworks, and impactful regional initiatives currently being undertaken by World Trade Center Jaipur. These extensive operations are driven under the visionary leadership of Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of WTC Jaipur. The Ambassador highly appreciated the consistent, structured efforts being made by the organization to successfully connect regional enterprises, facilitate seamless international trade channels, and create meaningful, scalable opportunities for businesses across various industrial sectors.

On this momentous occasion, Dr. Kalantri extended his best regards and highest compliments to His Excellency, acknowledging the highly commendable and impactful work the Ambassador has carried out within India and across the broader Asia-Pacific region. The leadership specifically highlighted the critical, ongoing role played by the Serbian diplomatic mission in actively promoting economic cooperation, enriching cultural exchange, and fostering a dynamic environment for cross-border business engagement between the two sovereign nations.

The interaction at the ET Energy Conclave served as an excellent catalyst to discuss future institutional collaboration, with both sides focusing heavily on moving past standard diplomatic goodwill and establishing hard economic links. The strategic dialogue centered around key operational pillars, including trade promotion, capital investment facilitation, technical and technology exchange, and advanced business networking. Both sides strongly emphasized the critical importance of creating much stronger institutional linkages between regional commerce departments, private enterprises, and the diplomatic mission. Furthermore, they underscored the need to encourage greater, active participation of businesses from both India and Serbia in upcoming international trade exhibitions, targeted buyer-seller meets, and high-level global investment forums.

Moving forward, this successful interaction at the conclave has substantially reinforced the relationship between World Trade Center Jaipur and the Embassy of the Republic of Serbia, effectively paving the way for a formalized roadmap of future collaborations aimed at driving sustainable economic growth. WTC Jaipur proudly reaffirmed its enduring commitment to supporting international trade and continuing to serve as a vital, strategic bridge that links regional businesses, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), government institutions, and global markets. Such high-profile interactions reflect WTC Jaipur's ongoing, proactive efforts to expand its global outreach and build deeply meaningful partnerships with international stakeholders. By leveraging Serbia's geographic position as a prominent gateway to Southeast and Central European markets, WTC Jaipur successfully creates lucrative new pathways for the domestic business community, ultimately promoting cross-border trade, securing supply chain resilience, and accelerating international investment.

The Programme was held on May 15, 2026

Pushkar Export Opportunity Meet 2026

World Trade Center Jaipur, in association with the Garment Exporters Association of Pushkar and Laghu Udyog Bharti, Pushkar Division, organized the Pushkar Export Opportunity Meet on 16 May 2026 at Sahadev Bagh Resorts & Hotels, Pushkar. The initiative was aimed at creating awareness about export opportunities among local manufacturers, cultivators, artisans, and entrepreneurs while fostering dialogue on connecting Pushkar's products and industries with international markets.

The event was graced by Mr. Vaibhav Raj Singh Kushwaha, President, Laghu Udyog Bharti, Pushkar Division, and Director, Vijayanagar Fort Hospitality Private Limited, as the Chief Guest. The program was attended by Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, along with manufacturers, cultivators, exporters, media representatives, and stakeholders from various business sectors across Pushkar and the surrounding region.

The meet provided a valuable platform for interaction with local cultivators and manufacturers to better understand their capabilities, challenges, and export potential. Discussions focused on sectors that form the economic backbone of Pushkar, including garments, handicrafts, home décor products, agricultural produce, rose-based products, wellness products, and

In the pic: Exporters fraternity from Pushkar, Rajasthan, at the program.

tourism-linked offerings. Participants shared insights on production capacities, market trends, quality standards, branding requirements, and the support needed to access larger domestic and international markets.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vaibhav Raj Singh Kushwaha emphasized the importance of creating greater opportunities for local enterprises and producers to participate in international trade. He highlighted that Pushkar is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, entrepreneurial spirit, vibrant tourism ecosystem, and unique products that possess strong appeal in global markets. He encouraged manufacturers and cultivators to focus on product quality, innovation, packaging, and value addition to meet international standards and enhance their competitiveness.

Mr. Kushwaha further stated that export-oriented growth can play a transformative role in the region's economic development by generating employment, increasing incomes, and creating new avenues for business expansion. He stressed the need for collective efforts by industry associations, trade bodies, and entrepreneurs to position Pushkar as a recognized source of quality products for international buyers. He also encouraged participants to actively explore export opportunities and leverage available trade promotion initiatives to expand their market reach.

During the session, Mr. Navneet Agarwal highlighted the immense export potential of manufacturers and entrepreneurs from Pushkar and nearby regions. He stated that World Trade Center Jaipur serves as a gateway for local businesses to access international markets through the extensive global World Trade Center network. He emphasized that manufacturers can benefit from WTC Jaipur's trade promotion initiatives, including buyer-seller meets, international exhibitions, business delegations, trade missions, and networking platforms that connect enterprises with global buyers and investors.

Mr. Agarwal also informed participants about upcoming initiatives such as the World Trade Expo and the Global Economic Summit, which will provide valuable opportunities for enterprises to gain international exposure, establish strategic partnerships, and explore new export avenues. He encouraged local businesses to actively engage with WTC Jaipur to strengthen their export readiness and expand their global presence.

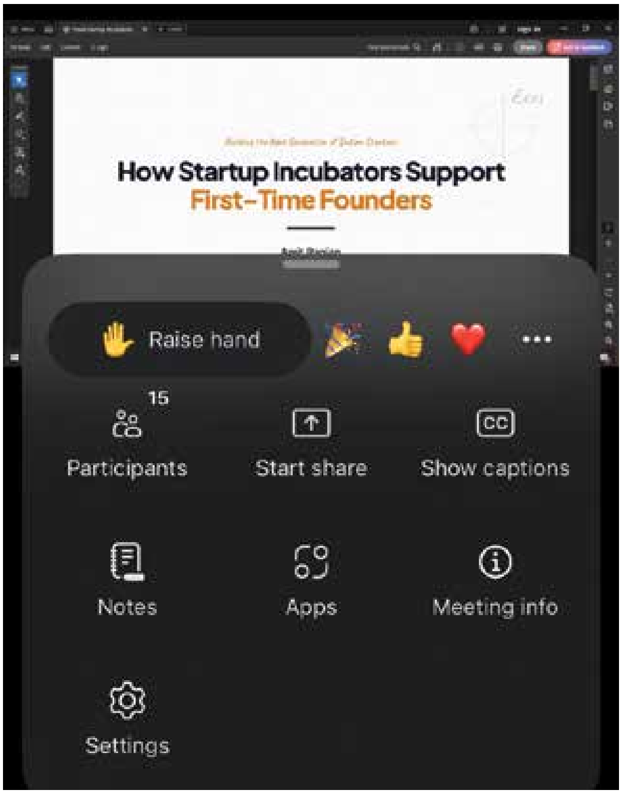
A key highlight of the program was the participation of representatives from print and electronic media, who interacted with WTC Jaipur officials regarding their trade promotion strategy and its potential impact on regional industries. During the discussion, media representatives sought insights into how WTC Jaipur's global network and business facilitation services could support industrial growth and export development across Pushkar and the wider Ajmer region.

Responding to these queries, Mr. Agarwal explained that sectors such as marble and granite, minerals, metals, handicrafts, hospitality, and tourism possess significant potential for international business expansion. He noted that participation in international exhibitions, buyer-seller meets, business delegations, and networking forums can help enterprises gain greater market visibility, establish strategic partnerships, attract investment opportunities, and access new export destinations. The discussion also highlighted the role of the hospitality and tourism sector in promoting regional economic development, leveraging Pushkar's unique cultural identity and global tourism appeal.

The event concluded with an engaging exchange of ideas among stakeholders, manufacturers, cultivators, media representatives, and trade promotion officials. The Pushkar Export Opportunity Meet successfully created awareness about international trade opportunities and reinforced the potential of Pushkar's manufacturing, agricultural, mineral-based, and tourism-linked sectors to contribute to export growth. The program also strengthened collaboration between local industry stakeholders and World Trade Center Jaipur, paving the way for future initiatives aimed at promoting exports, attracting investment, and enhancing the global competitiveness of businesses from the region.

The Programme was held on May 16, 2026

How Startup Incubators Support First-Time Founders



In the picture, Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari is interacting with participants of the webinar.

Launching a startup is exciting, but first-time founders often face challenges such as limited resources, funding constraints, and a lack of guidance. Startup incubators bridge these gaps by offering mentorship, networks, infrastructure, and access to funding opportunities.

This seminar was conducted to help aspiring entrepreneurs understand how incubators can accelerate their startup journey, reduce early-stage risks, and turn innovative ideas into successful ventures.

As the speaker for the session, Mr. Amit Ranjan Tiwari said, I believe startup incubators play a crucial role in supporting first-time founders by providing mentorship, business guidance, and access to essential resources. Many entrepreneurs have innovative ideas, but often lack the experience, industry exposure, and ecosystem support needed to transform those ideas into successful ventures.''

He added 'In my view, one of the greatest advantages of incubation is the opportunity to build a strong network. Beyond helping startups validate their business concepts and develop MVPs, incubators connect founders with mentors, industry experts, potential customers, and strategic partners. These relationships often prove invaluable, opening doors to collaborations, market opportunities, and investor connections that can significantly accelerate growth.''

He expressed 'I also feel that incubators serve as catalysts for startup success by facilitating access to funding opportunities, investor networks, and capacity-building programs. I encourage aspiring entrepreneurs to actively engage with incubation centres, leverage the support available, and build meaningful professional relationships that can strengthen their entrepreneurial journey.''

He said 'As someone who has closely observed the startup ecosystem, I strongly believe that startup incubators play a transformative role in helping first-time founders navigate the complexities of entrepreneurship. While many aspiring entrepreneurs possess innovative ideas and the passion to build something meaningful, they often face challenges such as limited resources, lack of industry knowledge, uncertainty about market needs, and difficulty accessing the right networks. Incubators help bridge these gaps by providing a structured support system that enables founders to focus on building and refining their ventures.''

He added 'One of the most significant benefits of incubation, in my opinion, is access to mentorship and guidance. First-time founders frequently encounter unfamiliar situations related to product development, business strategy, customer acquisition, legal compliance, and financial planning. Through incubators, entrepreneurs gain access to experienced mentors who can share practical insights, provide constructive feedback, and help them avoid common mistakes. This guidance can save valuable time and resources while enabling startups to make informed decisions at critical stages of their journey.''

Giving further insights, he said 'Another aspect that I consider extremely valuable is the power of networking. In the startup world, opportunities often arise through the right connections. Incubators create an environment where founders can interact with fellow entrepreneurs, industry experts, investors, corporate leaders, and potential customers. Such interactions not only facilitate knowledge sharing but also open doors to partnerships, pilot projects, collaborations, and market access opportunities. A strong professional network can often be as important as funding, as it helps founders gain visibility, credibility, and access to opportunities that may otherwise be difficult to reach.''

He continued by saying ''I also believe that incubators play a critical role in improving startup readiness for investment. They help entrepreneurs validate their ideas, develop minimum viable products (MVPs), refine business models, and prepare compelling investor pitches. By connecting startups with angel investors, venture capitalists, and government funding programs, incubators increase the likelihood of securing the financial support needed for growth.''

He emphasized, "ultimately, startup incubators serve as catalysts for innovation and entrepreneurship. They provide not just resources and infrastructure, but also confidence, direction, and a supportive ecosystem that empowers founders to transform ideas into sustainable businesses. For any first-time entrepreneur, engaging with an incubator can significantly enhance the chances of building a successful and scalable venture.''

The session concluded with an engaging interaction between the speaker and participants. Around 15 participants attended the session and actively participated in the discussion. Several queries were raised regarding startup funding, investor expectations, eligibility for incubation support, and the various funding avenues available to early-stage ventures. The interactive exchange reflected the participants' keen interest in entrepreneurship and provided valuable clarity on the support mechanisms available to startups through incubators and the broader startup ecosystem.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, complimented the speaker for his kind acceptance to join the seminar as a guest speaker and for responding to participant questions.

The Webinar was held on May 19, 2026

Celebrating World Environment Day 2026 with the Rajasthan Forest Department: Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future

World Trade Center Jaipur successfully organized a Tree Plantation Drive at Smriti Van, Jaipur, on the occasion of World Environment Day 2026. The event was conducted with the objective of promoting environmental awareness, encouraging sustainable practices, and contributing towards a greener and healthier future. The initiative reflected the organization's commitment to environmental conservation and its dedication to supporting global efforts for sustainable development.

The program was graced by Mr. V. Ketan Kumar, I.F.S., Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Rajasthan Forest Department, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. His presence added significance to the occasion and inspired participants to actively contribute towards environmental protection and conservation.
The event commenced with a warm welcome of the Chief Guest by Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur. As a gesture of appreciation and respect, Mr. Agrawal felicitated the Chief Guest and expressed gratitude for his valuable presence and continued efforts towards environmental sustainability. In his welcome address, he highlighted the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges and emphasized the role of organizations and individuals in creating a sustainable future.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. V. Ketan Kumar spoke about the growing environmental concerns facing society today, including climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. He emphasized the importance of tree planting as an effective measure to restore ecological balance and improve environmental health. He encouraged participants to adopt environmentally responsible practices in their daily lives and contribute actively

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal welcoming Mr. V. Ketan Kumar, I.F.S., Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) to the plantation site

towards preserving natural resources for future generations.

Following the inaugural session, the participants enthusiastically took part in the tree plantation activity at Smriti Van. Saplings of various native species were planted across designated areas, contributing to the enhancement of green cover in the region. The activity witnessed active participation from members, stakeholders, guests, and representatives associated with World Trade Center Jaipur. The collective effort demonstrated a shared commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

The plantation drive served not only as an environmental initiative but also as an educational and awareness-building activity. Participants were informed about the ecological benefits of trees, including carbon sequestration, improvement of air quality, conservation of biodiversity, and mitigation of climate change impacts. The event provided an opportunity for attendees to engage directly with nature and understand the long-term significance of afforestation efforts.

World Environment Day serves as a global platform to encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment. Through this initiative, World Trade Center Jaipur reaffirmed its commitment to supporting environmental causes and fostering a culture of sustainability within the community.

The event highlighted the importance of partnerships between government institutions, organizations, and citizens in achieving environmental goals and creating lasting positive impact.

The successful completion of the Tree Plantation Drive at Smriti Van stands as a testament to the collective determination of all participants to contribute towards a greener planet. Every sapling planted during the event symbolizes hope, responsibility, and a commitment to future generations. The initiative will leave a lasting environmental impact and serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving and nurturing our natural resources.

World Trade Center Jaipur extends its sincere gratitude to the Chief Guest, participants, and all stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event. The organization remains committed to undertaking similar initiatives in the future and continuing its efforts towards environmental sustainability and community engagement.

The Programme was held on June 5, 2026

2026 WTCA Day Special - Destination India: Connecting Global Opportunities with Rajasthan's Growth Story

In the pic: Left to Right: Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai, moderating the session along with panelists.

World Trade Day serves as an important occasion to recognize the contribution of international trade in fostering economic growth, business connectivity, and global collaboration. The event brought together members of the World Trade Center fraternity from across India to discuss opportunities for strengthening trade promotion initiatives and supporting businesses through the WTCA network.

WTC Jaipur, as an honored invitee, became part of an insightful panel discussion moderated by Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade and Investment Promotion, World Trade Center Mumbai. During the discussion, Ms. Pansare highlighted the significant contribution World Trade Centers can make in promoting global trade and how diverse sectors can be supported through collaborative efforts. Ms. Pansare, speaking about Rajasthan, acknowledged the pivotal role played by WTC Jaipur in bridging the gap between manufacturers, service providers, and international buyers and the global trading fraternity, thereby creating significant opportunities for businesses to expand into international markets.
Earlier during the inaugural session, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, and Board Director, World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), shared valuable insights on India's economic growth trajectory. Through various trade and economic statistics, he highlighted how India is poised to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He emphasized the importance of strengthening trade ecosystems, supporting exports, and enhancing global competitiveness to achieve this national vision.

Representing Rajasthan, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, shared how WTC Jaipur is actively supporting multiple sectors across the state, including marble and granite, gems and Jewellery, textiles and garments, tourism, hospitality, IT-enabled services, startups, and young entrepreneurs. He highlighted that WTC Jaipur is leveraging the strength of the WTCA's global network—one of the world's largest and most influential business networks—to create international opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs from Rajasthan.

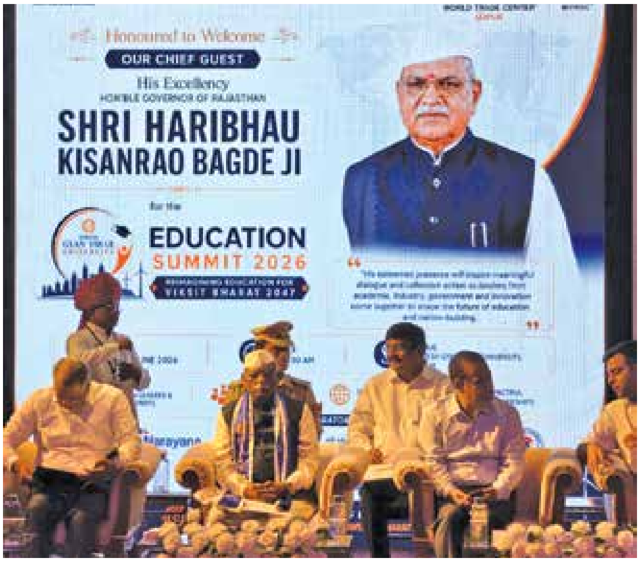
Mr. Agarwal also duly recognized the continuous support, guidance, and mentorship received from World Trade Center Mumbai, which has been instrumental in strengthening WTC Jaipur's efforts to support Rajasthan's artisan community, startup ecosystem, and emerging entrepreneurs. Through collaborative initiatives and global outreach programs, WTC Jaipur continues to facilitate international business connections and promote Rajasthan's industries on the global stage.

The event witnessed participation from fellow World Trade Centers across India, including World Trade Center Jaipur, World Trade Center Shamshabad, World Trade Center Bengaluru, World Trade Center AMTZ, World Trade Center Navi Mumbai, and World Trade Center Nhava Sheva. The collective participation reflected the shared commitment of the WTC network towards fostering trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable economic development across the country.

The program concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening trade linkages, supporting businesses, and leveraging the global WTCA network to create new opportunities for economic growth and international collaboration.

The Programme was held on June 9, 2026

10 years of Trade Promotion and Interactions with Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan



In the pic: (Center) Hon'ble Governor Shri Haribhau Bagde, Chief Guest, Education Summit 2026

On successful completion of ten years of promoting international trade, investment, entrepreneurship, and economic development in the State, Team World Trade Center, Jaipur, sought the blessings of the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde.

During the Education Summit 2026, Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, WTC Jaipur, had the privilege of interacting with Hon'ble Governor Shri Haribhau Bagde and an opportunity to brief him on WTC Jaipur's decade-long journey and its significant contributions towards strengthening Rajasthan's trade and investment ecosystem. He highlighted the Centre's initiatives in promoting exports, facilitating investments, supporting MSMEs and startups, organizing trade promotion programmes, and connecting Rajasthan's businesses with global opportunities through the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) network.

Mr. Agrawal also recalled the Hon'ble Governor's earlier interaction with Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, and conveyed Dr. Vijay Kalantri's warm greetings and best wishes. He expressed gratitude for the Hon'ble Governor's encouragement and sought his continued guidance and blessings as WTC Jaipur embarks on a new decade of fostering international trade, investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Rajasthan.

While inaugurating the education summit 2026, Hon'ble Governor Shri Haribhau Bagde delivered an inspiring address emphasizing that education extends beyond academic qualifications and plays a vital role in building character, values, and a lifelong commitment to learning. He encouraged students and young professionals to become responsible citizens who contribute meaningfully to society and the nation's progress.

The Hon'ble Governor beautifully blended India's rich educational philosophy with the demands of the modern world. While stressing the importance of preserving the country's cultural and intellectual heritage, he urged the youth to embrace innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, and global opportunities. He emphasized that true education nurtures ethical leadership, critical thinking, adaptability, and a spirit of service—qualities essential for building a progressive and self-reliant India.

Drawing from his vast experience in public life, the cooperative movement, and his distinguished tenure as the Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Governor shared valuable insights on leadership, governance, and nation-building. He encouraged the youth to uphold democratic values, discipline, integrity, and a strong commitment to public service while striving for excellence in every sphere of life.

The interaction concluded with Mr. Navneet Agrawal expressing sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Governor Shri Haribhau Bagde for his encouragement, valuable guidance, and best wishes for WTC Jaipur's continued mission of advancing Rajasthan's global trade and investment ecosystem.

The Programme was held on June 16, 2026

Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation, and Sustainability (BRICS) MSME Agra Summit 2026

India hosted the inaugural **First BRICS MSME** Forum and the **Third SME Working Group Meeting in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, on June 19, 2026**. The summit focused on empowering micro and small enterprises under the overarching Indian BRICS Chairship theme of "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability **(BRICS).**" The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, Government of India.

As a privilege, Team World Trade Center Jaipur was invited to participate in the BRICS Summit 2026. The event served as an important platform for consultation and dialogue ahead of the upcoming BRICS Summit, bringing together key stakeholders from government, industry, trade bodies, and the MSME ecosystem.

The preparatory meeting focused on strengthening economic cooperation among BRICS member countries and identifying opportunities for enhanced collaboration in trade, investment, innovation, and sustainable development. Participants discussed the evolving global economic landscape and the role of BRICS nations in fostering resilient and inclusive growth. Emphasis was placed on developing frameworks that encourage stronger business partnerships, facilitate cross-border trade, and create a supportive environment for enterprises of all sizes.

A significant part of the discussions centered on the contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to economic development and international trade. Recognizing MSMEs as key drivers of employment generation, innovation, and entrepreneurship, participants explored strategies to improve their access to global markets and integrate them more effectively into international value chains. Deliberations also highlighted the need for policy measures that can help MSMEs adopt emerging technologies, enhance competitiveness, and navigate the challenges of a rapidly changing business environment.

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, with Mr. Bharat Khera, IAS, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, interacting with Delegates to the Summit.

Innovation emerged as a major theme throughout the meeting. Speakers emphasized the importance of fostering innovation-led growth through research, technology adoption, digital transformation, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The discussions underscored the need for collaboration among governments, industry stakeholders, academic institutions, and innovation ecosystems to accelerate technological advancement and support sustainable industrial development. Participants also highlighted the role of innovation in addressing global challenges, improving productivity, and creating new opportunities for businesses across sectors.

Sustainability and resilience were equally important areas of focus. Delegates examined ways to promote environmentally responsible business practices, encourage resource efficiency, and strengthen the resilience of enterprises against economic and geopolitical uncertainties. The dialogue reinforced the importance of aligning economic growth with sustainability objectives and creating business models that support long-term prosperity while addressing environmental and social considerations.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for networking and exchange of perspectives among policymakers, industry leaders, trade promotion organizations, and business representatives. Such interactions are essential for building partnerships, sharing best practices, and identifying areas for future cooperation among BRICS nations. The collaborative approach reflected the shared commitment of member countries to strengthening economic ties and fostering a more interconnected and resilient global economy.

Participation in this important preparatory meeting reflects the continued commitment of World Trade Center Jaipur to promoting international trade, investment, and business cooperation. By engaging in high-level policy discussions and contributing to initiatives that support MSME growth and global connectivity, the organization continues to play a vital role in advancing opportunities for businesses in Rajasthan and beyond. The insights gained from the meeting are expected to contribute to future efforts aimed at enhancing international engagement, supporting entrepreneurship, and fostering sustainable economic development within the broader BRICS framework.

Mr. Navneet Agarwal, Regional Director, World Trade Center, conveyed his gratitude to the Ministry of MSME Officials for inviting World Trade Center Jaipur to be part of the prestigious summit.

The Programme was held on June 19, 2026

EXIM Bank: “Empowering Indian Businesses. Enabling Global Trade.”

In the pic: Mr. Navneet Agarwal, with Mr. Tarun Sharma, Deputy Managing Director, EXIM Bank.

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) is the country’s premier export finance institution, established to promote and facilitate India’s international trade. It provides financial assistance, advisory services, and strategic support to exporters, importers, MSMEs, and Indian companies expanding into global markets, thereby strengthening India’s global trade competitiveness.

As part of its continued efforts to strengthen institutional partnerships for the benefit of the export community, **World Trade Center Jaipur** met with senior officials of **EXIM Bank** from its **Mumbai Headquarters** and **New Delhi** Office. The discussions focused on expanding collaboration to support manufacturers and exporters, MSMEs, startups, and businesses across Rajasthan.

During the engagement, **Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur,** held a meeting with **Mr. Tarun Sharma, Deputy Managing Director, EXIM Bank,** to explore avenues for enhancing Rajasthan’s export ecosystem. The meeting emphasized building stronger linkages between WTC Jaipur, EXIM Bank, and various State and Central Government bodies to facilitate trade promotion, export finance, capacity building, and international market access.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Tarun Sharma** reaffirmed EXIM Bank's unwavering commitment to work closely with **World Trade Center Jaipur** and relevant government agencies in Rajasthan. He stated that the Bank would continue to act in the best interests of the trade fraternity, supporting initiatives that promote exports, strengthen institutional cooperation, and contribute to the sustainable growth of India's international trade. Mr. Sharma also discussed the possibilities of organizing events collaboratively with World Trade Center Jaipur in Bhilwara, Udaipur, and other industrious towns in Rajasthan.

The interaction concluded with a shared commitment to fostering long-term collaboration through knowledge-sharing initiatives, trade facilitation programmes, and strategic partnerships aimed at enhancing the global competitiveness of businesses from Rajasthan. Mr. Agarwal thanked EXIM Bank officials, who together remembered late Shri Yaduvendra Mathur, Former managing director of EXIM Bank, for his notable contribution to fostering trade and Commerce from Rajasthan.

The Programme was held on June 25, 2026

World Trade Day & International MSME Day 2026 Celebration

In the pic (left to right): Mr. Tarun Bhatnagar, Mr. Girish Sharma, Mr. Navneet Agarwal, and Mr. Mr. Prateek Chaturvedi

World Trade Center Jaipur commemorated **World Trade Day 2026** and **International MSME Day 2026** with an insightful session highlighting the indispensable role of global trade and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in driving economic growth, innovation, employment generation, and sustainable development. **International MSME Day**, observed annually on 27 June, recognizes the immense contribution of MSMEs towards employment generation, industrial development, exports, and strengthening local economies across the world.

Addressing the gathering, eminent speakers emphasized that **World Trade Day** serves as a reminder of the importance of international trade in fostering economic cooperation, market access, investment, and inclusive growth. The programme brought together MSME representatives, exporters, manufacturers, industry associations, and officials from various organizations to deliberate on the opportunities and challenges for MSMEs in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Mr. Girish Sharma, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, highlighted the pivotal role of the Ministry of MSME in strengthening

India's MSME sector through a wide range of initiatives focused on access to finance, technology upgradation, skill development, market access, digital transformation, quality certification, and entrepreneurship promotion. With special emphasis on Rajasthan, he spoke about the Ministry's continued efforts to support the state's vibrant MSME ecosystem, particularly in sectors such as handicrafts, textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering, agro-processing, and manufacturing. He elaborated on various schemes and programmes available to MSMEs, including credit facilitation, cluster development, capacity building, procurement support, and export promotion initiatives, encouraging entrepreneurs to take advantage of these opportunities to enhance their competitiveness and achieve sustainable growth. He also stressed that a strong and globally competitive MSME sector is essential for realizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and increasing India's participation in international trade.

Mr. Tarun Bhatnagar, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, during his presentation, shared one very important scheme, the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, and said, "The PM Vishwakarma Yojana is an initiative launched by the Government of India to empower traditional artisans and craftspeople. It offers holistic support through collateral-free credit, skill training, modern toolkits, marketing assistance, and even training in AI tools to help them scale their businesses globally. The scheme aims to provide holistic and end-to-end support to artisans and craftspeople through access to collateral-free credit, skill training, modern tools, incentives for digital transactions, and market linkage support."

As a special guest to the program, Mr. Prateek Chaturvedi, Manager, National Small Industries Corporation of India (NSIC), EXPAINED, "National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) is an ISO 9001:2015 certified Government of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). NSIC has been working to promote, aid, and foster the growth of micro, small, and medium enterprises in the country. NSIC operates through a countrywide network of offices and Technical Centres in the Country. In addition, NSIC has also set up a Training cum Incubation Centre managed by professional manpower."

Continuing, Mr. Chaturvedi said, "NSIC identifies Marketing as one of the most important tools for business development. It is critical for the growth and survival of MSMEs in today's intensely competitive market. NSIC acts as a facilitator and has devised a number of schemes to support enterprises in their marketing efforts, both in domestic and foreign markets. One such scheme is Consortia and Tender Marketing, where Small Enterprises, in their individual capacity, face problems in procuring and executing large orders, which denies them a level playing field vis-à-vis large enterprises. NSIC forms consortia of Micro and Small units manufacturing the same product, thereby pooling their capacity. NSIC applies the tenders on behalf of single MSEs/ Consortia of MSEs for securing orders for them. These orders are then distributed amongst MSEs in tune with their production capacity. Another Scheme is the Single Point Registration for Government Purchase, where NSIC enlists Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) under the Single Point Registration scheme (SPRS) for participation in Government Purchases. The units enlisted under the Single Point Registration Scheme of NSIC are eligible to get the benefits under the Public Procurement Policy for Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs)."

The session witnessed active participation from MSMEs, exporters, manufacturers, and members of industry associations, followed by an engaging discussion on government support mechanisms, export promotion, and market expansion opportunities.

Mr. Navneet Agrawal, Regional Director, World Trade Center Jaipur, expressed his sincere gratitude to the distinguished officials from the Ministry of MSME and NSIC, and Apex Group for sharing their valuable insights with the participants. He highlighted WTC Jaipur's commitment to strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Rajasthan by connecting local enterprises with global markets, facilitating international trade opportunities, organizing knowledge-sharing programmes, and fostering collaborations with government departments, industry bodies, and trade promotion organizations. He emphasized that WTC Jaipur has been actively working with MSMEs across Rajasthan to enhance their export readiness and create international business opportunities through trade delegations, buyer-seller meets, seminars, and networking platforms.

The celebration reaffirmed World Trade Center Jaipur's commitment to promoting international trade and empowering MSMEs to achieve sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

The Programme was held on June 27, 2026

Bridging the Gap: Global Climate Policy Meets Grassroots Reality

Varsha Rana, Chief of the World Trade Institute (WTI), welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of connecting global climate policy with grassroots action to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

Pooja Godfrey, Director at The Climate Academy, Brussels, shared insights on carbon markets and climate justice, highlighting the need for equitable climate finance and community-centered sustainability initiatives.

World Earth Day, the World Trade Institute (WTI), in collaboration with The Climate Academy, Brussels, convened a thought-provoking session titled "Carbon Markets & Climate Justice: Who Really Benefits?" The event brought together more than 70 professionals, students, academics, and industry representatives to examine one of the most pressing questions in contemporary climate discourse: how can climate finance and carbon markets deliver equitable outcomes for communities on the ground?

The discussion highlighted the growing intersection between global climate policy and local development realities. While carbon markets continue to expand as a mechanism for driving emissions reductions, participants explored the importance of ensuring that their benefits are shared inclusively, particularly among vulnerable and grassroots communities that are often most affected by climate change.

A key highlight of the session was the address by Dr. Manjula Bharathy, whose extensive work with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) and the Kudumbashree network provided valuable insights into integrating sustainability with social equity. Her perspectives underscored the need for climate action frameworks that not only achieve environmental objectives but also strengthen livelihoods, community resilience, and inclusive economic development.

The event also benefited from the contributions of Pooja Godfrey, Manjunath Prabh, and Matthew Pye of The Climate Academy, Brussels, whose global expertise enriched the dialogue and offered participants an international perspective on emerging climate governance and finance mechanisms.

As climate challenges increasingly transcend national borders, initiatives such as this serve as important platforms for connecting policy, academia, industry, and civil society. The World Trade Institute remains committed to fostering informed dialogue and collaborative action that bridges the gap between global climate ambitions and grassroots realities, ensuring that economic progress, environmental stewardship, and social justice advance together.

The webinar was held on April 22, 2026

Transforming MSMEs through Education, Knowledge and Innovation

Honorable Board Member Mr. Upasani alongside the C-DAC team and a full classroom of engaged participants exploring AI workflows.

Proud participants celebrating the successful completion of the workshop with the WTI team and their certification of achievement.

As digital technologies continue to reshape global business, the ability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt emerging technologies has become critical for enhancing competitiveness, productivity and market access. Recognizing this imperative, the World Trade Institute (WTI) organized a workshop on "Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in MSMEs" on April 25, 2026, at WTC Mumbai.

The workshop aimed to equip MSME entrepreneurs, business leaders and professionals with practical insights into the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its applications across business functions. The programme highlighted how AI can support MSMEs in improving operational efficiency, enhancing customer engagement, optimizing decision-making processes and identifying new growth opportunities.

The event was graced by Mr. Sharad Upasani, Board Member, WTC Mumbai, whose presence underscored the growing importance of technology adoption and innovation in strengthening the MSME ecosystem. The programme brought together the educational expertise of WTI and the technical knowledge of the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), creating a unique platform for industry-oriented learning and knowledge exchange.

Experts from C-DAC delivered insightful sessions that demystified AI concepts and translated complex technologies into practical business solutions. Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, participants gained a clearer understanding of how AI tools can be effectively integrated into their business operations, regardless of enterprise size.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from MSME leaders and entrepreneurs, reflecting the increasing interest among businesses in leveraging digital technologies to remain competitive in a rapidly evolving marketplace. The interactive nature of the programme enabled participants to engage directly with experts, address implementation challenges and explore opportunities for technology adoption.

The successful workshop reinforced WTI's commitment to fostering innovation-driven growth through capacity building, industry engagement and knowledge dissemination. By facilitating access to emerging technologies and expert guidance, WTI continues to support MSMEs in their digital transformation journey and contribute to building a future-ready business ecosystem.

As technology increasingly becomes a key driver of economic growth, initiatives such as these will play an important role in empowering MSMEs to embrace innovation, improve resilience and strengthen their participation in both domestic and global markets.

The webinar was held on April 25, 2026

WTC Mumbai and Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute Forge Academic Partnership

Representatives of WTC Mumbai and the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute during the formalization of the Memorandum of Understanding. Pictured- Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief, World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Ms. Claire Gomez-Miller, FCCA, CIA, CRMA, CA; and Dr. Mahindra Ramesh Ramdeen, Chief Executive Officer, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association.

World Trade Center Mumbai has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute (CCGI), marking an important step toward strengthening international academic collaboration and professional capacity building between India and the Caribbean region.

The partnership aims to promote knowledge exchange, executive education, professional development programmes, and collaborative initiatives that address the evolving needs of businesses operating in an increasingly interconnected global economy. By combining expertise from both institutions, the collaboration seeks to create high-quality learning opportunities that equip professionals with the skills and knowledge required to navigate complex global business environments.

The MoU reflects a shared commitment to advancing excellence in governance, leadership, international trade, risk management, and business sustainability. Through joint programmes, webinars, training sessions, and educational initiatives, the partnership will facilitate greater engagement between industry experts, academic institutions, business leaders, and policymakers from both regions.

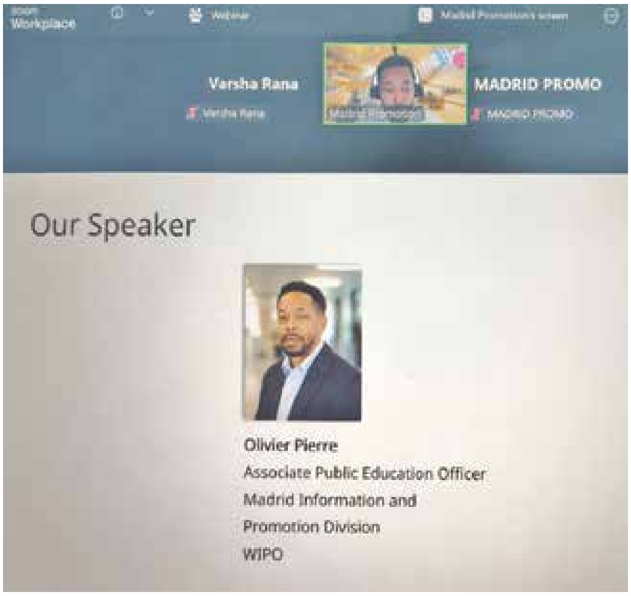
A key driver of this initiative has been the leadership of Claire Gomez-Miller, whose efforts have been instrumental in establishing a framework for meaningful cooperation between the two organizations. The partnership underscores the growing importance of international collaboration in enhancing professional competencies and fostering a culture of continuous learning.

The formalization of the agreement was further strengthened by the presence and support of Dr. Mahindra Ramesh Ramdeen, Chief Executive Officer of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association. His participation highlighted the significance of industry-academia cooperation in developing globally relevant educational programmes and strengthening trade and business linkages between India and the Caribbean.

Through this initiative, WTC Mumbai continues to reinforce its commitment to fostering global partnerships, promoting knowledge exchange, and supporting the development of future-ready professionals capable of succeeding in the international marketplace.

The programme was held on April 27, 2026

Strengthening Intellectual Property Awareness through Global Knowledge Exchange



Mr. Olivier Pierre-Louis, WIPO, Geneva, addressing participants and sharing insights on international intellectual property standards and protection strategies.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, welcoming participants to the WTI–WIPO webinar on intellectual property and global business competitiveness.

The World Trade Institute (WTI), Mumbai, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, successfully organized a webinar aimed at enhancing awareness and understanding of intellectual property (IP) rights among MSMEs, entrepreneurs, students and business professionals.

The programme focused on the growing importance of intellectual property in today's innovation-driven global economy. As businesses increasingly compete through ideas, technology, branding and innovation, protecting intellectual assets has become essential for sustaining competitiveness and expanding into international markets. The webinar provided participants with valuable insights into the role of intellectual property in fostering innovation, business growth and long-term value creation.

The session was led by Mr. Olivier Pierre-Louis from WIPO, who shared global perspectives on intellectual property protection, international standards and best practices. Drawing upon WIPO's extensive expertise, he highlighted how businesses can effectively safeguard their innovations, trademarks, copyrights and other intellectual assets while navigating increasingly complex global markets.

Participants gained practical knowledge on the strategic importance of intellectual property management and its role in supporting entrepreneurship, innovation and international trade. The interactive discussions enabled attendees to better understand how strong IP frameworks can help businesses enhance market credibility, attract investment and create sustainable competitive advantages.

The webinar forms part of WTI's ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between industry requirements and global knowledge. By partnering with leading international organizations such as WIPO, WTI continues to provide high-quality learning opportunities that equip professionals with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in a rapidly evolving business environment.

The successful programme reaffirmed WTI's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and global competitiveness through knowledge sharing and capacity-building initiatives. Such collaborations play a vital role in empowering Indian MSMEs, startups and future business leaders to leverage intellectual property as a strategic business asset and participate more effectively in the global economy.

The webinar was held on April 29, 2026

World Trade Institute Partners with Emeritus to Bring Global Executive Education to Professionals

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; and Ms. Bhavika Khar, Director, Emeritus, during the MoU signing ceremony between WTC Mumbai and Emeritus.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Bhavika Khar, Director, Emeritus, signing the MoU to expand access to global executive education and professional development programmes.

The World Trade Institute (WTI) at WTC Mumbai has entered into a strategic partnership with Emeritus to provide world-class executive education opportunities to its members, trade professionals, entrepreneurs and corporate leaders. The collaboration aims to bridge global academic excellence with industry requirements and equip professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive business environment.

Through this partnership, WTC Mumbai's network will gain access to a range of executive education and certificate programmes offered by leading international institutions, including the University of Cambridge, Wharton and other globally recognized universities. These programmes are designed to help professionals strengthen their leadership capabilities, business acumen and strategic decision-making skills.
Emeritus partners with more than 80 top-tier universities worldwide to deliver high-quality and industry-relevant learning experiences. By leveraging innovative and flexible learning formats, the organization has made global education accessible to professionals seeking to enhance their expertise while balancing their professional commitments.

The collaboration aligns with WTI's mission of promoting lifelong learning and professional development within the business community. As industries undergo rapid transformation driven by technological innovation, digitalization and changing market dynamics, continuous upskilling has become essential for maintaining competitiveness and fostering sustainable growth.

By combining Emeritus' global educational resources with WTC Mumbai's extensive industry network, the partnership will create valuable opportunities for professionals to access international best practices and cutting-edge knowledge. The initiative reinforces WTI's commitment to empowering business leaders with future-ready skills and supporting the development of a globally competitive workforce.

The Programme was held on May 19, 2026

World Trade Institute and Climate Academy Partner to Advance Sustainable Trade and Climate Education

Ms.Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Ms. Pooja Godfrey, Programme Director, Climate Academy and Mr. Manjunath T. during the MoU signing ceremony between WTI and Climate Academy.

The World Trade Institute (WTI) at WTC Mumbai has entered into a strategic partnership with Climate Academy, Brussels, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing climate-focused professional education and capacity building. The collaboration seeks to help businesses, exporters and professionals better understand the growing impact of sustainability regulations on international trade and business operations.

As global markets increasingly adopt climate-related regulations and sustainability standards, organizations are facing new challenges in maintaining competitiveness and market access. The partnership will provide a platform for knowledge sharing and executive education, enabling participants to develop a deeper understanding of climate policy, green compliance and sustainable business practices.

A key focus of the collaboration will be the development of specialized training programmes on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) compliance, green trade strategies, carbon accounting, supply chain decarbonization and the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). These programmes will help businesses prepare for emerging regulatory requirements while identifying new opportunities in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

By combining Climate Academy's expertise in climate policy and sustainability with WTI's extensive industry and trade ecosystem, the initiative will provide participants with access to international best practices, practical insights and globally relevant learning opportunities. The programmes will be designed to address the needs of exporters, MSMEs, corporate executives and trade professionals operating in an increasingly sustainability-driven marketplace.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Pooja Godfrey, Programme Director, Climate Academy, signing the MoU to promote climate education, sustainable trade and green business practices.

The partnership reflects WTI's continued commitment to equipping businesses with future-ready knowledge and skills. Through collaborations with leading international institutions, WTI aims to support Indian enterprises in navigating evolving global trade dynamics while promoting sustainable growth, climate resilience and long-term competitiveness.

The Programme was held on May 19, 2026

World Trade Institute Conducts Certificate Programme on International Buyer Acquisition and Trade Execution

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, with Dr. Omkar Mali,Founder & Managing Director, Udyami Maharashtra and participants of the Certificate Programme on International Buyer Acquisition and Trade Execution.

Participants actively engaging in an interactive learning session during the Certificate Programme on International Buyer Acquisition and Trade Execution at World Trade Institute, WTC Mumbai.

Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, WTC Mumbai, felicitating Dr. Omkar Mali, Founder & Managing Director, Udyami Maharashtra, in the presence of Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre.

The World Trade Institute (WTI) at WTC Mumbai successfully organized a Certificate Programme on International Buyer Acquisition and Trade Execution, bringing together more than 100 entrepreneurs, corporate executives, exporters and management students. The programme was designed to provide participants with practical knowledge and strategies for expanding their presence in international markets and strengthening their export capabilities.

The session was conducted by Dr. Omkar Mali, an experienced international trade expert, who shared valuable insights on identifying overseas business opportunities, acquiring international buyers and managing export transactions effectively. The programme focused on practical aspects of global business development and provided participants with a structured approach to navigating international trade markets.

Through interactive discussions and real-world case studies, participants gained a deeper understanding of buyer acquisition strategies, trade execution processes, risk mitigation and relationship management in international business. The programme emphasized the importance of market intelligence, effective communication and strategic planning in building sustainable export growth.

The enthusiastic participation and engagement throughout the programme reflected the growing interest among businesses and aspiring professionals in developing expertise in international trade. Participants had the opportunity to interact directly with the expert speaker, discuss business challenges and gain actionable insights that could be applied to their respective organizations and ventures.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates to participants, recognizing their successful completion of the course. The initiative reinforces WTI's commitment to enhancing export readiness, strengthening business competitiveness and equipping professionals with industry-relevant skills required to succeed in the global marketplace.

The Programme was held on May 30, 2026

Strengthening India–Canada Collaboration in Trade and Education

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; and Ms. Vanessa Pukal, Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai, during discussions on strengthening India–Canada trade and educational cooperation.

Representatives of the World Trade Institute (WTI) and WTC Mumbai recently held a productive meeting with Ms. Vanessa Pukal, Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai, to explore opportunities for enhancing bilateral cooperation in trade, education and institutional partnerships.

The discussions focused on identifying new avenues for trade promotion and strengthening economic engagement between India and Canada. Both sides exchanged views on emerging opportunities for business collaboration and the role of institutional partnerships in facilitating greater commercial interaction between enterprises from the two countries.

A significant part of the dialogue centered on advancing educational cooperation through academic collaborations, knowledge exchange initiatives and capacity-building programmes. The participants explored possibilities for developing partnerships between educational institutions and creating platforms that promote international learning and professional development.

The meeting also highlighted the potential for student exchange programmes and collaborative initiatives that would provide students and young professionals with greater exposure to global perspectives, cross-cultural experiences and international best practices. Such initiatives can contribute significantly to building a globally competent workforce capable of addressing the demands of an interconnected economy.

The interaction reaffirmed the shared commitment of both organizations to strengthening India–Canada relations through meaningful collaboration in trade, education and skill development. By fostering partnerships that combine academic excellence with industry engagement, WTI continues to support international cooperation and create new opportunities for business growth and knowledge exchange.

The Meeting was held on June 3, 2026

WTC Mumbai Participates in The Economic Times Future Skills Conference 2026

Varsha Rana, Chief - World Trade Institute & Skill Center, World Trade Center Mumbai at the 7th Edition of The Economic Times Future Skills Conference 2026

Varsha Rana, Chief - World Trade Institute & Skill Center, World Trade Center Mumbai, attended the 7th Edition of The Economic Times Future Skills Conference 2026, a leading platform that brought together industry experts, educators, and thought leaders to discuss the evolving landscape of learning and workforce development. The conference focused on emerging trends, changing industry expectations, and the competencies required to prepare talent for an increasingly dynamic and technology-driven global economy.

Centered around the theme "Learning at the Edge," the conference featured insightful discussions on the future of education, lifelong learning, and the growing importance of adaptability in a rapidly changing world. Speakers highlighted how technological advancements are transforming industries and workplaces, while emphasizing that continuous learning and human-centric skills remain critical to long-term professional success. The deliberations underscored the need for educational institutions and industry stakeholders to work together in creating pathways that equip learners with relevant knowledge and future-ready capabilities.

A key highlight of the conference was an interaction between Ms. Rana and Alessandro Giuliani, Managing Director of SDA Bocconi Asia Center and President of the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI). The discussion explored common areas of interest between the institutions and focused on opportunities for collaboration in education and skill development. Both sides exchanged perspectives on the evolving needs of learners and professionals, as well as the importance of building platforms that facilitate knowledge exchange and international engagement.

The interaction reflected the growing significance of partnerships between globally recognized academic institutions and organizations committed to workforce development. Such engagements help foster the exchange of ideas, encourage innovation in learning approaches, and create opportunities for collaboration that can benefit students, professionals, and industry alike. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both parties identifying strong synergies and expressing interest in exploring potential academic collaborations and skilling initiatives through future discussions.

The Meeting was held on June 10, 2026

WTI and CCGI Organize Webinar on Corporate Governance and Global Business Risk Management

Ms. Kamla Rampersad-de Silva, CEO, Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute, addressing the webinar on strategic governance and compliance, hosted by World Trade Institute, WTC Mumbai.

The World Trade Institute (WTI) of WTC Mumbai, in collaboration with the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute (CCGI), successfully organized an interactive webinar on the importance of corporate governance, statutory compliance and risk management in today's increasingly complex global business environment. The programme brought together more than 80 MSME owners, entrepreneurs, corporate executives, directors and trade professionals from India and abroad.

The webinar highlighted the critical role of strong corporate governance frameworks in ensuring sustainable business growth, enhancing stakeholder confidence and supporting successful expansion into international markets. As businesses face evolving regulatory requirements and increasing scrutiny from investors, customers and regulators, governance has emerged as a key factor in building resilient and competitive enterprises.

Experts emphasized that corporate governance is not merely a compliance requirement but a strategic business tool that helps organizations manage risks, improve decision-making and strengthen long-term performance. The discussions focused on practical approaches to governance, transparency, accountability and regulatory compliance that can help businesses navigate an increasingly interconnected global marketplace.

Participants gained valuable insights into identifying and mitigating cross-border commercial and regulatory risks, protecting businesses from financial and operational disruptions, and safeguarding corporate reputation in international markets. The session also explored emerging governance trends and the growing importance of ethical business practices in maintaining investor confidence and organizational credibility.

The webinar reinforced the shared commitment of WTI and CCGI to promoting knowledge exchange and professional development in the areas of governance, risk management and business excellence. Through such initiatives, WTI continues to equip businesses and professionals with the knowledge and capabilities required to achieve sustainable growth and compete effectively in the global economy.

The meeting was held on June 13, 2026

WTI Mumbai and Yangpoo Bring Global Leadership Learning to Professionals

World Trade Institute (WTI), Mumbai recently hosted an exclusive and insightful leadership session in collaboration with its global education partner, Yangpoo – the official partner of Harvard Business School Online. The session brought together aspiring professionals, students, and industry participants for an engaging discussion on the evolving demands of leadership in today's dynamic global business environment. **Designed to inspire and empower participants, the event highlighted the importance of continuous learning, adaptability, and strategic thinking in navigating an increasingly complex professional landscape.**

Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Finance & Administration, WTC Mumbai; Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre; Mr. Tanay R. Desai, Manager – Strategy & Business Operations, Yangpoo University Partners; and Ms. Pranali Pandey, University Partnership Manager, Yangpoo University Partners, during the leadership session on global education and professional development.

The discussion focused on the evolving nature of leadership and the importance of strategic decision-making in an increasingly uncertain world. Participants were introduced to the "Harvard Edge" - a globally recognized approach to leadership and problem-solving that emphasizes **analytical thinking, adaptability, and informed decision-making.**

A key highlight of the session was an introduction to the Harvard Business School Online learning experience, where participants explored how real-world case studies can strengthen strategic thinking and prepare professionals to address complex business challenges. The session also provided guidance on identifying the skills and competencies required to achieve long-term professional growth.

Moreover, participants had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from Harvard Business School Online, gaining valuable insights into its learning experience and the role of globally recognized educational frameworks in professional development. The interactive format encouraged meaningful dialogue, enabling attendees to better understand how structured learning and practical application can contribute to long-term career growth and leadership excellence.

The event reflected WTI Mumbai's continued commitment to fostering knowledge exchange and creating platforms that connect academia, industry, and global institutions. By facilitating conversations around leadership and professional development, WTI aims to empower individuals with the tools and perspectives required to succeed in an increasingly interconnected business world. **A heartfelt thank you to the team at Yangpoo University Partners, Pranali Pandey, Tanay Desai, and all the enthusiastic participants for making this session a memorable and resounding success.**

Mr. Tanay R. Desai and Ms. Pranali Pandey from Yangpoo University Partners delivering a presentation to participants during the leadership session hosted by World Trade Institute, WTC Mumbai.

The session was held on June 20, 2026

A Milestone in Trade Education: 73rd Foreign Trade Batch Graduates

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, Prof. Virendra S. Gupte, and students of the 73rd Post Graduate Batch of the Foreign Trade Programme on successful completion of the course at WTI, WTC Mumbai.

Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, addressing participants and sharing guidance with students on the successful completion of the 73rd Post Graduate Foreign Trade Programme.

On 20th June 2026, we proudly celebrated the successful completion of the 73rd Post Graduate Batch of our Foreign Trade Program, which commenced on 21st March 2026. This milestone represents not only the completion of another batch but also the continuation of a long-standing commitment to developing skilled professionals for India's growing international trade sector. Over the past three months, participants from diverse industries came together with a shared objective: to gain practical knowledge and strategic insights into the world of global commerce. Their dedication, active participation, and eagerness to learn made this batch another successful chapter in our journey of shaping future trade leaders.

In today's rapidly evolving global business landscape, international trade demands far more than theoretical understanding. Businesses must navigate changing regulations, shifting geopolitical realities, supply chain disruptions, emerging markets, and increasingly competitive international environments. Recognizing these challenges, the program was designed to provide participants with practical, industry-oriented knowledge covering export-import operations, international documentation, trade finance, customs procedures, global logistics, foreign exchange management, and international marketing. Through interactive classroom sessions, real-world case studies, and expert-led discussions, participants gained valuable exposure to the operational and strategic aspects of conducting business across borders, equipping them with the confidence to make informed decisions in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

Beyond academics, the program created a collaborative learning environment where professionals from different sectors could exchange experiences, discuss challenges, and build meaningful professional relationships. These interactions enriched the learning process by bringing together diverse perspectives and practical industry insights. The classroom became a platform not only for knowledge sharing but also for networking, collaboration, and professional growth. As India continues to strengthen its position as a major global trading nation, the demand for professionals who understand international markets and trade dynamics is growing at an unprecedented pace. Programs such as these play a vital role in preparing individuals to contribute effectively to India's export growth, business expansion, and global competitiveness.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants of the 73rd Batch on successfully completing the program and taking another significant step in their professional journey.

The session was held on June 20, 2026

Certificate Course in Export Import Documentation & Procedure

Caption: Ms. Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Centre, addressing participants of the Certificate Course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure.

The World Trade Center Mumbai organized a Certificate Course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure on 22 June 2026 with the objective of enhancing participants' understanding of the documentation processes that form the foundation of international trade. The programme brought together exporters, importers, logistics and supply chain professionals, freight forwarders, customs practitioners, entrepreneurs, and students interested in pursuing careers in global commerce. As international trade continues to expand and become increasingly regulated, the importance of maintaining accurate and compliant documentation has become more critical than ever. The course was designed to provide participants with practical insights into the procedures, regulations, and documentation requirements that govern cross-border trade transactions, enabling them to navigate the complexities of international business with greater confidence and efficiency.

The programme highlighted the fact that documentation plays a vital role at every stage of an international transaction, beginning with the receipt of an enquiry from a prospective overseas buyer and continuing through order confirmation, shipment, customs clearance, and final payment realization. Unlike domestic trade, international trade involves multiple stakeholders, including exporters, importers, banks, shipping lines, freight forwarders, insurance companies, customs authorities, and regulatory agencies across different countries. Consequently, documentation serves as the primary medium through which information is communicated and verified among these parties. Participants were introduced to the significance of regulatory and commercial documents and gained an understanding of how proper documentation facilitates the safe and timely movement of cargo, transfer of title to goods, customs compliance, and the smooth processing of payments. Emphasis was laid on the delays, financial losses, compliance issues, and operational disruptions that may occur with inaccurate documentation.

Mr. S. R. Binju delivering a lecture and sharing practical insights with participants of the Certificate Course on Export Import Documentation & Procedure organized by World Trade Institute, WTC Mumbai.

A comprehensive overview of export shipment procedures was presented, covering pre-shipment, shipment, and post-shipment activities. Participants were guided through the sequence of documents required at each stage and were familiarized with Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) procedures that have transformed the way trade documentation is prepared, submitted, and processed. The course also examined various payment mechanisms commonly used in international trade, including Advance Payment, Documents against Payment (D/P), and Letters of Credit (L/C). Detailed explanations were provided on how each payment method operates, the associated documentation requirements, and the precautions exporters and importers should take to safeguard their commercial interests. Through practical examples and industry-oriented discussions, participants developed a clearer understanding of the relationship between documentation, logistics, banking procedures, and trade compliance, helping them appreciate the interconnected nature of global trade operations.

A key focus of the programme was the preparation of error-free documentation, as even minor inaccuracies can result in shipment delays, customs objections, payment discrepancies, or additional costs. Participants were provided with detailed checklists for both pre-shipment and post-shipment documentation and were guided through the essential elements that must be verified before documents are submitted to banks, shipping agencies, or regulatory authorities. The faculty shared practical tips and best practices for reducing documentation errors and improving operational efficiency. The interactive nature of the session enabled participants to clarify their doubts and gain hands-on knowledge that can be directly applied in their professional roles. By equipping attendees with a thorough understanding of export-import documentation procedures and compliance requirements, the programme contributed to strengthening their capabilities in managing international trade transactions and supporting the growth of globally competitive business operations.

The webinar was held on June 22, 2026

World Trade Center Mumbai Hosts Alessandro Giuliani for Discussions on Trade Promotion and Educational Collaboration

Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Center with Alessandro Giuliani, Managing Director of SDA Bocconi Asia Center and President of the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI)

World Trade Center Mumbai had the pleasure of welcoming Alessandro Giuliani, Managing Director of SDA Bocconi Asia Center and President of the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IICCI), for a meeting with Priya Pansare, Director – Trade Promotions, and Varsha Rana, Chief – World Trade Institute & Skill Center. The interaction followed an earlier meeting between Mr. Giuliani and Ms. Rana at the Economic Times Future Skills Conference 2026, where opportunities for collaboration were initially explored. The discussions focused on areas of mutual interest in trade promotion and education. In his capacity as President of IICCI, Mr. Giuliani shared perspectives on strengthening engagement between institutions through trade promotion activities and business delegations that facilitate greater interaction between stakeholders from India and Italy. The meeting also explored education fairs and other avenues for connecting institutions, businesses, and aspiring professionals. Such interactions play an important role in fostering dialogue between organizations that contribute to international trade and education. As global economies become increasingly interconnected, partnerships between trade bodies, educational institutions, and industry organizations help create platforms for knowledge exchange, professional networking, and cross-border collaboration. These engagements enable institutions to identify common objectives and explore opportunities that support international business and academic engagement.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides expressing interest in continuing discussions and exploring potential areas of collaboration. The interaction reflected a shared commitment to building meaningful connections that strengthen international cooperation and create value for the broader trade and education ecosystem.

The meeting was held on June 23, 2026

World Trade Institute-World Trade Center Mumbai Organises Certificate Course on Mastering Digital Marketing, Branding & Business Automation

Participants actively engaged during the course on Mastering Digital Marketing, Branding & Business Automation, organised by World Trade Institute, WTC Mumbai, in collaboration with C-DAC.

World Trade Center Mumbai, through the World Trade Institute, successfully organised a Certificate Course on Mastering Digital Marketing, Branding & Business Automation in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). The programme brought together entrepreneurs, MSMEs, startup founders, students and young professionals for an interactive learning experience focused on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in marketing, branding and business operations. Designed to address the evolving needs of today's digital economy, the course highlighted how AI-driven technologies are enabling organisations to improve efficiency, strengthen customer engagement and build scalable business models.

The programme provided participants with practical exposure to a range of AI-powered tools and applications that are reshaping the marketing landscape. Sessions covered AI-enabled branding and visual identity creation, content planning and generation, social media marketing strategies, audience targeting and Meta advertising. Through live demonstrations and case-based discussions, participants also explored business automation techniques, including AI-assisted customer engagement, lead nurturing and workflow automation, equipping them with actionable insights that can be readily applied in professional and entrepreneurial settings.

For entrepreneurs and MSMEs, the course demonstrated how AI can help optimise resources, automate repetitive tasks and enhance marketing effectiveness without the need for large teams. Students and young professionals, meanwhile, gained valuable exposure to emerging technologies and industry practices that are increasingly sought after across sectors. The interactive format encouraged participants to engage with experts, exchange ideas and better understand the practical implications of AI in today's competitive business environment.

As Artificial Intelligence continues to reshape the global business landscape, initiatives such as this reflect World Trade Center Mumbai's commitment to promoting innovation, digital adoption and industry-oriented learning. Through knowledge-sharing platforms and strategic collaborations, the World Trade Institute strives to equip entrepreneurs, businesses and aspiring professionals with practical skills that enhance competitiveness, encourage innovation and prepare them for the evolving demands of the digital economy.

The meeting was held on June 27, 2026

Exhibitions

SBI Credit Card (April 23, 2026)

Kids World (April 25-26, 2026)

Starburst Communication (April 30, 2026)

Kiaami (May 6, 2026)

E Vitara Car (May 11, 2026)

Thomas Cook (May 14 , 2026)

Hyundai Verna (May 19 , 2026)

Health Check up (May 27, 2026)

Sharekhan (June 3, 2026)

Daawat Biryani Rice (June 4-5, 2026)

Ultraviolette Bike (June 4-5, 2026)

HSBC Credit Card (June 8 , 2026)

Global Chess Tournament (June 10-18 , 2026)

Highlights

World Trade Center Mumbai hosted a special High Tea in honour of H.E. Mr. Kogi Yagi, Consul General of Japan, on the occasion of his farewell. The evening was marked by warm interactions, appreciation for his contributions, and reflections on the strong and enduring India-Japan partnership.

World Trade Center Mumbai participated in the Employer Roundtable on India's First Skill Census, supporting efforts to advance skill development, employment generation, and stronger public-private collaboration. The delegation also interacted with Hon'ble Shri Ashish Shelar, Cabinet Minister for Information Technology and Cultural Affairs, Government of Maharashtra.

World Trade Center Mumbai welcomed Mr. Todd Miller, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), for a constructive interaction focused on strengthening India-Australia trade and investment relations.

World Trade Center Mumbai welcomed Ashish Nandkishore Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, Planning, Agriculture, Assistance & Rehabilitation, and Law & Justice, Government of Maharashtra, highlighting continued collaboration between policy leadership and industry.

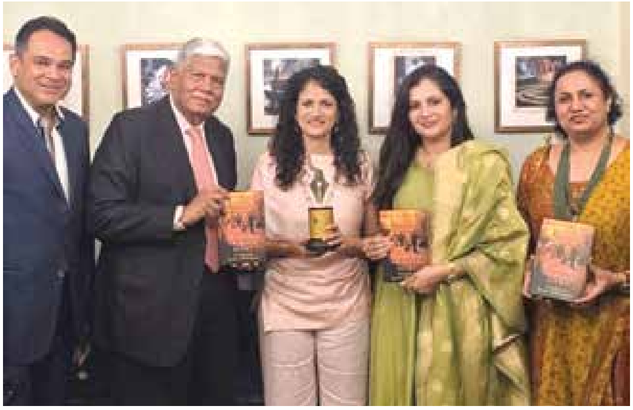
World Trade Center Mumbai welcomed Ms. Dahlia Mohamed Nazih Mohamed Tawakol, Consul General, Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt, for a meaningful exchange on strengthening ties and collaboration.

World Trade Center Mumbai was pleased to be part of the WTCA Global Business Forum (GBF), hosted by World Trade Center Greater Philadelphia.

Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Admin & Finance,WTC Mumbai attended the forum, engaging with the global WTC network and contributing to meaningful exchanges on trade and business.

WTC Mumbai team attended a special screening of Factory Girl, hosted by the Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Mumbai. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Dahlia Tawakol, Consul General of Egypt, for the kind invitation

The World Trade Center Mumbai team met Madhuri Misal, Hon'ble Minister of State for Urban Development, Government of Maharashtra, reflecting continued engagement between industry and governance.



The event brought together artists, curators, and distinguished guests, showcasing diverse creative expressions and fostering meaningful conversations around art, culture, and collaboration. It was an enriching experience celebrating talent, perspective, and the power of artistic storytelling.

The event brought together artists, curators, and distinguished guests, showcasing diverse creative expressions and fostering meaningful conversations around art, culture, and collaboration. It was an enriching experience celebrating talent, perspective, and the power of artistic storytelling.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, World Trade Center Mumbai, met Dr. Seema Srivastava, Executive Director, India International Textile Machinery Exhibition Society, for a meaningful discussion on collaboration and industry engagement.

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, WTC Mumbai, and Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director, All India Association of Industries, attended the 30th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, reflecting shared democratic values and global engagement.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, attended the Kazakhstan Ambassador's Reception hosted by Mahindra Sanghi, Honorary Consul of Kazakhstan, marking an evening of diplomatic engagement.

The World Trade Center Mumbai team attended the exhibition "Lens & Legacy: Bollywood in Focus" at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Mumbai

World Trade Center Mumbai was pleased to associate with GTR India 2026 as an Industry Partner for this prestigious global trade and export finance forum. The event brought together distinguished industry leaders, policymakers, financial institutions, exporters, and international trade experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities, evolving trade dynamics, and the future of global commerce. We value the meaningful engagements, insightful discussions, and collaborative exchanges that contributed to the success of this important platform for the trade and investment ecosystem

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President AIAI, and Santosh Kotre, Director - Admin and Finance, WTC Mumbai attended the celebration of Norwegian Constitution Day

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman - MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai and President - All India Association of Industries, participated in a discussion on Doing Business with Dubai with H.E. Abdulla Husein Al Marzooqi, Consul General of the UAE in Mumbai and Mr. Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman and CEO, DMCC

Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, represented World Trade Center Mumbai at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the World Trade Point Federation in Geneva, Switzerland

The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, and graced by distinguished guests including Shri Ashish Shelar, Hon'ble Minister of IT & Culture, Government of Maharashtra, and Smt. Hema Malini, Hon'ble Member of Parliament.
We congratulate Ms. Nidhi Choudhari, Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, and her team on the successful curation of this landmark cultural initiative.

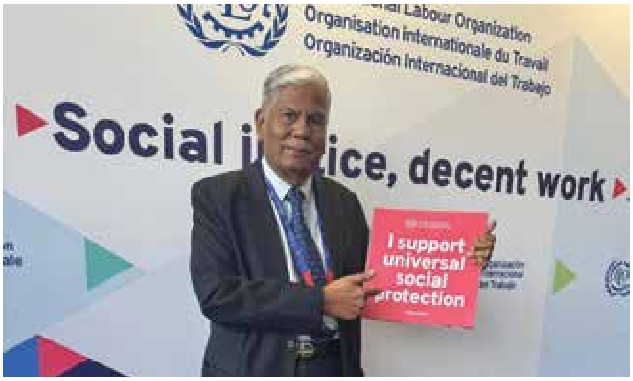
Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai of meeting the President of Cyprus during their international engagement, discussing opportunities for enhanced cooperation, trade relations, investment, and global collaboration.

Priya Pansare, Director - Trade and Investment Promotions and Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director - AIAI had the honour of meeting the President of Cyprus during their international engagement, discussing opportunities for enhanced cooperation, trade relations, investment, and global collaboration.

World Trade Center Mumbai was proud to associate as an Associate Sponsor for the Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave hosted by The Hindu. A key highlight of the conclave was the felicitation of Shri Eknath Shinde, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, by Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, All India Association of Industries, in recognition of his contribution towards infrastructure development and public service.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President, All India Association of Industries & Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai, along with Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director – AIAI, Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, WTC Mumbai, and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – Admin & Finance, WTC Mumbai, attended the Argentine National Day Reception hosted by Mr. Daniel Quer Confalonieri, Consul General and Director of the Promotion Centre of Argentina.

All India Association of Industries (AIAI) warmly welcomes Ms. SATO Hitomi, the newly appointed Consul-General of Japan in Mumbai. Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President, AIAI & Chairman, WTC Mumbai; Mrs. Mohini Kalantri; Ms. Sangeeta Jain, Senior Director – AIAI; and Mr. Santosh Kotre, Director – WTC Mumbai Admin & Finance, extended their warm greetings and best wishes on the occasion.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, AIAI, at the International Labour Organization (ILO), contributing to global discussions on inclusive growth, decent work, and sustainable economic development.

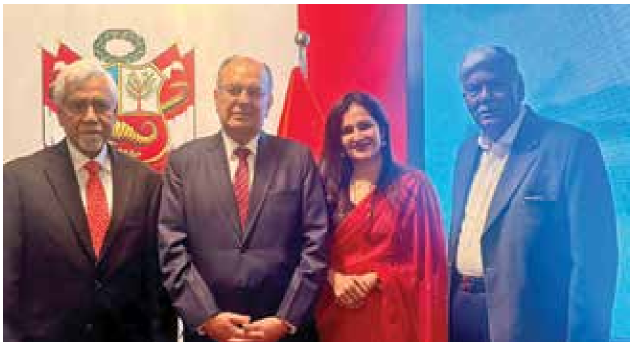
Heartiest congratulations to Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotion, MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai, for receiving the Women Power in International Business Award at the 11th Annual Women Power Summit & Awards 2026.

WTC Mumbai was pleased to welcome Dr. Srikanta K. Panigrahi, Director General of the Indian Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), New Delhi, to WTC Mumbai

The event was graced by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, who shared valuable insights on India's economic growth, trade opportunities, and the country's expanding role in global markets.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, World Trade Center Mumbai and President, AIAI, met Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister) of India, for a meaningful exchange on national development, economic growth, and India's rising prominence in the global arena.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President of the All India Association of Industries and Chairman of World Trade Center Mumbai, along with Mrs. Mohini V. Kalantri, had the privilege of meeting Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India.



Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai, Ms. Priya Pansare, Director – Trade & Investment Promotions, WTC Mumbai, and Capt. Somesh Batra, Vice Chairman, WTC Mumbai attended the National Day Reception of Peru, celebrating the strong and growing ties between India and Peru.

Dr. Vijay Kalantri, President of the All India Association of Industries and Chairman of the World Trade Center Mumbai, attended the celebration of the National Day of Portugal , which commemorates the legacy of Luís de Camões and celebrates the Portuguese diaspora across the world. During the occasion, he had the privilege of meeting Rohan A. Khaunte, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, and Printing & Stationery, Government of Goa; João Ribeiro de Almeida, Ambassador of Portugal to India; and Manuela Franco

The evening highlighted the strong and growing ties between India and Israel, with insightful remarks by Mr. Yaniv Revach, Consul General of Israel to Midwest India, who spoke about the enduring friendship, strategic partnership, and expanding cooperation between the two nations.

On the occasion of MSME Day, Dr. Vijay Kalantri, Chairman, WTC Mumbai & President, All India Association of Industries (AIAI), participated as a distinguished panelist at the ICAI ScaleUp India Summit 2026 for Startups & MSMEs.

An Awareness Programme on the MSME TEAM (Trade Enablement & Marketing) Initiative, jointly organised by the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in association with the World Trade Centre Bhubaneswar on International MSME Day 27th June 2026 at Paradip, Odisha.

We are delighted to share that we received an award on behalf of our Chairman Dr Vijay Kalantri for Distinguished Leadership Award

We are delighted to share that the WTC Mumbai team was recognized at the Exhibition Excellence Awards 2026 (EEA 2026)

Celebrating WTCA Day at WTC Pune alongside fellow World Trade Centers and members of the global trade community.

WTC Mumbai was pleased to be represented at the prestigious HR Leadership Conclave 2026, hosted by Adamas University at the MCA Club, BKC.

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11th GLOBAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Reimagining Global Trade: Driving Growth through Technology, Innovation, Skilling, Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Sustainability and Women Empowerment - Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

Date: To be Announced | Expo Center, WTC Mumbai

India is accelerating its leadership in emerging technologies, empowering a future-ready workforce through innovation, sustainability and skilling

The event aims to bring together industry leaders, innovators and policymakers to shape the future of Technology, Manufacturing and Infrastructure

10000+	**80+**	**2000+**	**100+**	**200+**	**75+**
Visitors	Expert Speakers	Indian & Foreign Delegates	Exhibitors	Global Business Leaders	Countries

RSVP

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