

# GTTC INSIGHTS



VOLUME 4 ♦ ISSUE No. 01 ♦ JANUARY 2026

**GTTCI signs MoU with Vishwa Hindi Parishad**

**Vishwa Hindi Diwas 2026**



## SPECIAL FEATURES

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- India–EU Free Trade Agreement: A Strategic Reset in Global Commerce
- Japanese Foreign Minister’s Visit to India
- President of Seychelles Visits India: Strengthening a Time-Tested Strategic Partnership
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# FOUNDER PRESIDENT'S NOTE

## Dear Readers,

It is both encouraging and inspiring to reflect on a month defined by dynamic engagements, strategic partnerships, and meaningful global outreach for the Global Trade & Technology Council (India).

During this period, the GTTCI Trade Chamber formalized an important MoU with Vishwa Hindi Parishad, reinforcing our commitment to promoting Hindi as a global language of dialogue and cultural diplomacy. The World Hindi Day Conference & Awards 2026, celebrated at the Embassy of Nepal, further strengthened international cultural ties and highlighted the role of language in fostering unity among nations.

On the economic front, we were privileged to host a distinguished Vietnamese Business Delegation in India, facilitating focused B2B interactions and sector-specific discussions to expand bilateral trade. The subsequent GTTCI Leadership Delegation visit to Vietnam deepened multi-sectoral cooperation across manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, technology, and emerging industries, strengthening long-term investment linkages.

The International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum organized by GTTCI brought together diplomats, policymakers, researchers, and industry leaders to explore integrated frameworks for innovation-driven growth. The participation of esteemed Ambassadors at the Kognivera Polo Cup 2026 further demonstrated how sport and heritage can serve as powerful platforms for diplomatic engagement and global goodwill.

Looking ahead, GTTCI is actively preparing for high-impact global forums such as St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Russia and Tashkent International investment Forum, Uzbekistan. These platforms present significant opportunities to expand strategic dialogues on energy security, digital transformation, infrastructure investment, industrial collaboration, and sustainable development. In parallel, participation in Invest in Ethiopia 2026 will focus on strengthening India–Africa trade corridors, catalysing sector-specific partnerships, and unlocking new, sustainable investment ecosystems across high-growth sectors.

Our vision remains steadfast — to build resilient, future-ready global partnerships that integrate trade, technology, culture, and sustainable growth for shared prosperity.

With warm regards,



**Dr. Gaurav Gupta**  
**Founder President**

*Global Trade & Technology Council (India),  
GTTCI Trade Chamber  
president@gttcindia.com*

“Building  
Resilient  
Partnerships  
for Global  
Prosperity.”



**Dr. Rashmi Saluja**  
Chairperson

*GTTCI Trade Chamber*

*Global Trade & Technology Council (India)*

“Advancing  
Nuclear  
Leadership,  
Strengthening  
Global  
Partnerships.”

# CHAIRPERSON'S NOTE

## **Dear Readers,**

As we advance through 2026, the Global Trade & Technology Council (India) continues to strengthen strategic collaborations that foster global trade, investment, and innovation. Over the past month, GTTCI has actively engaged with international partners through impactful initiatives, including signing an MoU with the Vishwa Hindi Parishad, celebrating World Hindi Day at the Embassy of Nepal, hosting the International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum, and welcoming a Vietnamese business delegation to deepen bilateral trade relations. Additionally, our leadership delegation's visit to Vietnam and the presence of ambassadors at the Kognivera Polo Cup 2026 reflect our commitment to building strong diplomatic and business linkages.

Amidst these dynamic engagements, GTTCI has placed a particular focus on India's nuclear energy leadership, including the expansion of civil nuclear projects, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), and the long-term development of thorium-based energy solutions, where India holds significant strategic potential. These initiatives are being advanced through strategic partnerships with Russia and Telangana, enabling technology transfer, joint development projects, and investment opportunities that strengthen India's energy security and sustainable growth agenda. Collaborations with these partners are also opening avenues in high-tech sectors, advanced research, fuel-cycle innovation, and industrial development, positioning India as a global hub for next-generation nuclear innovation and forward-looking clean energy solutions.

Looking ahead, GTTCI is preparing for major international platforms, including the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), Russia and Tashkent International Investment Forum, Uzbekistan where we aim to strengthen trade, investment, and technological cooperation. Invest in Ethiopia 2026 will further strengthen India-Africa economic partnerships, accelerating industrial growth, advancing innovation, and fostering dynamic multi-sectoral collaboration across key sectors.

GTTCI remains dedicated to creating avenues for knowledge exchange, innovation, and high-impact partnerships that position India at the forefront of global trade and technology. As we move forward, we are committed to connecting nations, promoting sustainable development, and shaping a shared vision for growth worldwide.

**With warm regards,**

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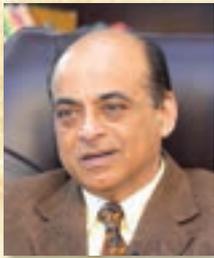


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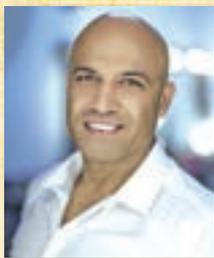
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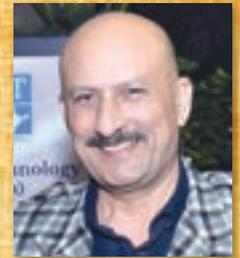
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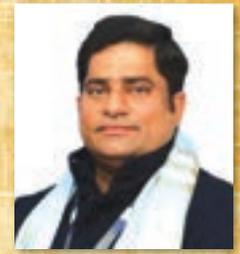
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# India-Uruguay Business Opportunities: Emerging Commercial Synergies in 2026

## Growing Relevance of the Mercosur Market

With India actively expanding trade engagement with the Mercosur bloc, Uruguay is gaining attention as a stable and business-friendly gateway to South America. As discussions progress on broadening the India–Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement, tariff rationalisation and improved market access could create cost advantages for companies on both sides.

## Uruguay as a Regional Hub

Uruguay’s strategic location between Brazil and Argentina, strong logistics infrastructure, and transparent regulatory ecosystem position it as a distribution and services hub. With Mercosur strengthening external trade partnerships — including its recent



agreement with the European Union — companies operating from Uruguay can potentially access diversified global markets with greater efficiency.

## High-Potential Sectors for Private Enterprises

- **Agri-business & Food Processing:** Uruguay’s beef, dairy, wool and timber sectors complement India’s large consumer and processing markets.
- **Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare Products:** India’s competitive generics and medical supplies can find niche demand in Uruguay’s healthcare ecosystem.
- **IT & Digital Services:** Uruguay’s growing tech landscape offers collaboration opportunities for Indian IT firms in fintech, AI and outsourcing.
- **Renewable Energy & Green Solutions:** Uruguay’s renewable energy leadership aligns with India’s clean-tech manufacturing and engineering strengths.

## Way Forward for Businesses

- Establish joint ventures or local partnerships to navigate regulatory frameworks efficiently.
- Use Uruguay as a pilot market before expanding deeper into Mercosur economies.
- Explore supply chain integration in agri-processing, pharmaceuticals and digital services.
- Leverage trade finance, logistics networks and regional warehousing models to optimise costs.

For forward-looking enterprises, India–Uruguay engagement presents a strategic opportunity to build early-mover advantage in a steadily integrating South American market.





# India-Mongolia Business Opportunities: Strategic Growth in 2025-26

## Deepening Strategic Partnership & Economic Engagement

In October 2025, India and Mongolia elevated their bilateral relationship through high-level talks, marking 70 years of diplomatic ties and reaffirming commitment to economic cooperation. Leaders from both nations inked multiple agreements spanning cultural exchange, immigration, geological exploration, and private sector collaboration — signalling broader commercial interest beyond traditional diplomacy.

A highlight has been the India-backed oil refinery in Dornogovi, funded through a USD 1.7 billion Line of Credit — India’s largest overseas project — expected to be completed by 2028. Indian engineering, construction, and services firms are directly involved, creating significant business engagement and on-site economic activity.

The India–Mongolia Business Forum held during the state visit drew 150+ enterprises from both countries, discussing cooperation in trade, investment, logistics, renewable energy, infrastructure, IT, manufacturing, tourism and agriculture. A MoU was also signed between Mongolia’s National



Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry, underlining private sector momentum.

## Emerging Private Sector Opportunities

- Energy & Infrastructure: Participation in the refinery build-out, EPC contracts, ancillary services, and supply chains.
- Mining & Minerals: Mongolia’s mineral wealth (including rare earths, uranium and wool) offers sourcing and joint ventures for Indian companies exploring resource diversification.
- IT/Digital Solutions: MoUs on digital cooperation and e-governance initiatives open space for software, fintech, and digital infrastructure services.

- Services & Tourism: Free e-visas and expanding air connectivity boost travel-linked business services and hospitality demand.

## Way Forward for Businesses

- Form Joint Ventures: Indian EPC, energy, and mining firms should partner with Mongolian counterparts for infrastructure and minerals projects.
- Leverage Digital MoUs: Tech and digital services firms can offer solutions in e-governance, SaaS, and digital education.
- Establish Local Presence: Consider representative offices or distribution centres in Ulaanbaatar for logistics, energy equipment, and consumer goods.
- Explore Agri & Renewable Projects: Capitalise on Mongolia’s openness to agri-tech and clean energy solutions.





# India-Mauritius Economic & Business Relations (2025-2026)

Bilateral engagement between India and Mauritius continues to evolve into a strategic economic partnership, leveraging historical ties and deeper commercial linkages. Recent data shows Indian tourism to Mauritius surged by 35% in 2025, with 75,808 Indian visitors, reflecting strong people-to-people and travel-linked commercial flows that support hospitality and services sectors.

While large government-to-government packages were announced previously, the business imperatives today focus on trade facilitation, financial flows and leveraging Mauritius as a gateway to African markets under regional trade arrangements (e.g., African Union, SADC, COMESA).

Moreover, Mauritius’s role as a financial centre and investment hub for Indian investors remains relevant, especially with steps to settle trade in local currencies. Expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and RuPay services in Mauritius, and the move toward INR-MUR settlement frameworks, positions businesses to reduce FX costs and transaction friction — a key enabler for SME and services trade.

Mauritius has also actively engaged in investment dialogue with Indian states such as Uttar Pradesh, where Mauritian firms are exploring opportunities in renewables, infrastructure, logistics, healthcare, financial services, and technology — indicating growing



private sector interest beyond national capital dialogues.

## Way Forward for Business

- **Leverage Currency Facilitation:** Indian exporters and importers should adopt local currency settlement models to reduce currency risk and cost.
- **Tourism & Experience Economy:** Travel, hospitality and wellness brands can deepen reach into tier II/III Indian markets, capitalising on rising demand seen in 2025.
- **Financial & Investment Services:** Mauritius-based funds and asset managers can co-invest in Indian mid-market opportunities, especially in infrastructure, clean energy and tech.
- **Regional Expansion Platform:** Use Mauritius as a base to access broader African markets via trade alliances (AU, SADC, COMESA) for exports and investment projects.
- **Skill & Tech Collaboration:** Partners in edtech, training, fintech and digital services should explore joint ventures leveraging shared language and regulatory compatibility.

# India-Fiji Investment Landscape: 2026

India and Fiji share deep historical, cultural, and economic ties, with bilateral trade crossing **USD 180 million in 2024–25** and growing cooperation across healthcare, agriculture, IT and services. While trade figures remain modest, recent developments highlight growing **investment potential** in infrastructure, skills, technology and services — laying the groundwork for private sector engagement.

## Private Sector Partnerships & Business Connectivity

In August 2025, the Fiji Commerce and Employers Federation (FCEF) and Confederation of Indian Industry signed a business-to-business MoU, enhancing commercial linkages, tech transfer and collaboration platforms between Indian firms and Fijian enterprises. This institutional connectivity boosts opportunities for joint ventures and investment partnerships across sectors.

## Sectoral Investment Potential

- **Healthcare & Medical Infrastructure:** Construction of a 100-bed super-speciality hospital in Suva — backed by Indian technical agencies — is one of the largest ongoing projects, creating opportunities for Indian healthcare technology, equipment suppliers, and service providers.



- **Agriculture & Agri-Processing:** India is sharing agricultural best practices with Fiji, and sectors like organic farming, supply chain tech and value-added processing present direct investment potential.
- **IT, Digital Services & Skills:** Deepening trade, IT cooperation and farmer support programmes signal openings for Indian IT firms, digital platforms and vocational training partners.
- **Financial & Standards Collaboration:** Partnerships between Fiji Development Bank and National Bank

for Agriculture and Rural Development or BIS and Fiji standards bodies offer investment avenues for financial inclusion and standards compliance services.

## Way Forward for Businesses

- **Establish Local Partnerships:** Form joint ventures or representative offices in Fiji to tap government projects (health, agri-infrastructure) and private sector contracts.
- **Leverage Financial & Standards MoUs:** Use collaboration frameworks with NABARD and BIS to enter finance, risk management and certification services markets.
- **Deploy Technology & Skills Solutions:** Invest in digital agriculture, telemedicine platforms, and IT-enabled services to support Fiji's capacity building goals.
- **Explore Tourism & Hospitality Linkages:** With Fiji's strong travel demand from India, invest in niche hospitality brands, experiential services and travel tech.

With proactive private sector engagement and strategic collaborations, India-Fiji business ties are poised to transition from modest trade to dynamic investment-led growth in the Pacific region.



# India-Suriname Trade and Strategic Relations: A Renewed Momentum

## Strengthening Bilateral Engagement

India and Suriname continue to build on a historically warm partnership rooted in strong cultural ties and a vibrant Indo Surinamese community. In 2025, the focus has shifted to enhancing economic collaboration and diplomatic engagement, unlocking greater trade potential and people-to-people linkages. The recent exchange of greetings between India's External Affairs Minister and Suriname's Foreign Minister on Suriname's 50th Independence Anniversary, celebrated as Srefidensi, underscored mutual respect and a shared vision for deeper cooperation.

## Expanding Trade and Development Cooperation

While bilateral trade remains modest, efforts are underway to diversify cooperation beyond traditional sectors. India's support to Suriname's passion fruit industry and SMEs reflects a



practical development approach, aimed at boosting local industry capacities. Technical cooperation initiatives, including joint working groups and commissions, continue to provide platforms for business engagement and sectoral dialogue.

## Institutional Mechanisms and High-Level Talks

Mechanisms like Joint Commission Meetings and high-level discussions sustain momentum in trade, agriculture, digital cooperation, health, and capacity building. Both sides regularly exchange

views to explore opportunities in emerging sectors through structured diplomatic channels.

## Global Agendas and Shared Priorities

India and Suriname align on global priorities including sustainable development, climate resilience, and South-South cooperation. Their collaboration increasingly extends through regional groupings and multilateral platforms addressing shared economic goals and inclusive growth.

## Looking Ahead

As Suriname steps into a new chapter following its Srefidensi celebrations, India-Suriname relations are set to expand beyond traditional cooperation. Focus on innovation, trade diversification, and sustainable partnerships will guide both nations in pursuing global agendas while strengthening bilateral economic and cultural ties.

# India-Ethiopia Economic Partnership: Forging Stronger Ties

## Bilateral Engagement and Recent Diplomatic Momentum

India and Ethiopia share a longstanding relationship anchored in historical ties, mutual respect, and expanding economic cooperation. In December 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ethiopia as part of a broader Africa outreach highlighted India's renewed commitment to strengthening South South cooperation and deepening engagement with African partners.

## Expanding Trade and Economic Cooperation

Trade relations between India and Ethiopia have steadily grown, with both sides recognizing significant untapped potential. Institutional dialogues, such as Joint Trade Committee meetings, have facilitated detailed reviews of bilateral trade dynamics and identified areas for diversification, including pharmaceuticals, machinery, textiles, agro processing, and infrastructure. Initiatives like digital payments integration and local currency trade settlement are being explored to reduce transactional barriers and foster smoother commercial flows.



Indian investment in Ethiopia has also surged, spanning sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, ICT, and services, generating employment and enhancing local capacities. Ethiopia's economic reforms and investment friendly policies

have made it an attractive destination for Indian enterprises seeking long term growth opportunities.

## Institutional and Strategic Collaboration

Beyond trade, the partnership has broadened into strategic domains including defence and regulatory cooperation. Milestones such as the inaugural Joint Defence Cooperation meeting and high level exchanges on regulatory standards signal a maturing of bilateral ties that extend beyond commerce into shared security and capacity building.

## Shared Global Agendas

India and Ethiopia align on global priorities such as sustainable development, inclusive growth, climate action, and South South cooperation. Their collaboration in international forums underscores their joint commitment to advancing equitable development agendas and strengthening economic resilience.

## Looking Ahead

As India and Ethiopia continue strategic dialogues and promote trade diversification, their partnership is poised to evolve into a comprehensive and mutually beneficial alliance spanning economic, cultural, and geopolitical dimensions.

# India-Myanmar Investment Landscape: 2026



Bilateral trade between India and Myanmar reached about USD 2.15 billion in FY 2024-25, with plans to grow this to USD 5 billion by 2030, reflecting strong commercial momentum and future market potential. Both governments reaffirmed this trade target at the India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee meeting held in January 2026.

## Trade & Market Dynamics

India is Myanmar's fourth-largest trading partner, importing pulses, rubber, seafood and garments while exporting pharmaceuticals, industrial raw materials and machinery. Myanmar's pharmaceutical imports from India increased by nearly 5 %, and Indian firms dominate approximately 60 % of Myanmar's medicine market, providing a foundation for deeper industrial engagement.

Recent discussions also focused on reopening border trade posts at Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zokhawthar to boost cross-border commerce, expand market access for MSMEs, and streamline customs procedures — which would directly support logistics-led investment.



## Infrastructure & Connectivity Projects

Critical connectivity initiatives like the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project remain central to enhancing India-Myanmar trade corridors, linking India's northeast to Myanmar's ports and enabling more efficient cargo movement. The project is now slated for full operation by 2027.

## Sector Investment Potential

- **Agriculture & Agri-processing:** Myanmar's pulses, maize, timber and seafood exports align with India's food processing and supply chain needs; ongoing forums like the South Asia Agri Forum 2026 facilitate collaboration.
- **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing:** Encouraged by rising demand and import growth, Myanmar has invited

Indian investment into its domestic pharma production sector.

- **Textiles & ICT:** Discussions at the January 2026 JTC emphasised textiles, ICT and MSME trade expansion.
- **Logistics & Supply Chain Investment:** Enhanced border trade infrastructure and connectivity corridors provide a runway for logistics hubs.

## Way Forward for Businesses

- **Establish Joint Ventures:** Partner with local firms for manufacturing, distribution and logistics solutions.
- **Leverage Border Trade Posts:** Prepare for reopening of Tamu-Moreh and Rhi-Zokhawthar corridors to reduce costs and transit times.
- **Invest in Value Chains:** Target agri-processing, pharmaceuticals, textiles and ICT ecosystems.
- **Utilise Rupee-Kyat Mechanisms:** Adopt local currency settlement where feasible to reduce FX risk and attract regional trade partners.

With rising trade targets, strong sectoral interest, and improving connectivity, India-Myanmar offers emerging investment avenues for forward-looking enterprises.



## GTTCI Trade Chamber and Vishwa Hindi Parishad Signed an MoU on 5th January 2026

*5th January 2026, Radisson Blu Marina, New Delhi*



The GTTCI Trade Chamber (GTTCI) and Vishwa Hindi Parishad (VHP) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5th January 2026, marking a significant milestone in advancing the promotion and global

outreach of the Hindi language through institutional collaboration.

The MoU establishes a structured framework of cooperation between the two organizations, recognizing language as a vital bridge between

cultures and a catalyst for dialogue, people-to-people engagement, and cultural diplomacy. Through this partnership, both institutions aim to strengthen the relevance and usage of Hindi across national and international platforms.

Speaking on the occasion, **Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson – GTTCI Trade Chamber**, remarked that the collaboration reflects GTTCI's commitment to integrating culture with trade and diplomacy. She emphasized that promoting Hindi globally aligns with India's civilizational ethos and strengthens cultural connectivity alongside economic cooperation.

**Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder Director – GTTCI Trade Chamber**, highlighted that the MoU represents a progressive step toward positioning Hindi as a language of global engagement. He noted that through

conferences, academic interactions, and international outreach, the partnership will create meaningful platforms for dialogue and cultural exchange.

**Dr. Bipin Kumar, National General Secretary, Vishwa Hindi Parishad**, expressed that the association with GTTCI would significantly enhance the global footprint of Hindi. He underlined the importance of collaborative efforts with trade bodies and international institutions to ensure Hindi's growing relevance in contemporary global discourse.

The collaboration envisages joint organization of conferences,

seminars, workshops, cultural events, and celebrations such as World Hindi Day and Hindi Diwas. It also focuses on engagement with foreign missions, educational institutions, cultural bodies, and international organizations, along with publication and dissemination of Hindi-related content through print and digital platforms.

This strategic partnership reaffirms the shared vision of GTTCI Trade Chamber and Vishwa Hindi Parishad to promote Hindi as a medium of cultural diplomacy while strengthening India's soft power worldwide.





# World Hindi Day Conference & Awards 2026 Celebrated at Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi

10th January 2026, Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi



The Vishwa Hindi Parishad (VHP), in association with the Embassy of Nepal and the Global Trade & Technology Council (India) – GTTCI, organised a distinguished World Hindi Day Conference and Awards Ceremony on 10th January 2026 at the Embassy of Nepal, New Delhi, to celebrate Hindi as a cultural bridge and a unifying language across nations.

Before the commencement of the programme, the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Kavinder

Gupta, graciously visited the venue to congratulate the organisers and convey his goodwill and blessings to the Vishwa Hindi Parishad, GTTCI, and the Embassy of Nepal, and also extended his courtesies to H.E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India, in a warm gesture of support for the initiative.

The event brought together eminent leaders, parliamentarians, diplomats, scholars, and members of the global Hindi fraternity to reaffirm the

growing international relevance of Hindi as a language of dialogue, heritage, and people-to-people connect.

Shri Sunil Ambekar, Prachar Pramukh of the RSS, in his address highlighted that Hindi binds people across regions, generations, and cultures, and continues to play a vital role in strengthening India's civilisational ethos.

Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), spoke on Hindi being a uniting force





and the foundation of many languages across the world, emphasizing its global linguistic influence and cultural depth.

The Ambassador of Nepal to India, H.E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, delivered his address in Hindi, warmly welcoming the initiative of VHP and GTTCI and appreciating the efforts to promote Hindi as a medium of cultural and diplomatic engagement.

The Ambassador of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Sardor M. Rustambayev, noted with great interest that over 5,000 words in the Uzbek language are shared with Hindi, reflecting the deep historical and linguistic connections between India and Central Asia.

The Chief Guest, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, former National President of the BJP and former Union Minister for Human Resource Development and Science & Technology, delivered an enlightening address, applauding the initiative and underscoring the cultural and intellectual significance of Hindi in India's national and global identity.

Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Convenor – VHP Delhi, member National Executive Committee – VHP and Chairperson – GTTCI, expressed her gratitude to all dignitaries and participants, and affirmed that VHP and GTTCI remain committed to taking such initiatives to global platforms for the promotion and propagation of the Hindi language.

Dr. Vipin Kumar, General Secretary of VHP, shared insights into the various initiatives and international outreach programs of Vishwa Hindi



Parishad, aimed at strengthening Hindi worldwide.

The occasion was further enriched by the gracious presence of the Ambassador of Guyana, the Deputy Ambassador of Kazakhstan, and a senior diplomat from the Embassy of Egypt, along with Honble Member of



Parliament – Smt Sangeeta Balwant reflecting the truly international character of the celebration.

On the occasion, the VHP Calendar 2026 was formally released, marking another milestone in the organisation's literary and cultural journey.

Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President of GTTCI, extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest by presenting a Crystal Globe, symbolising Hindi as a global language connecting the world.

The highlight of the conference was the release of the World Hindi Song, written by Dr. Bipin Kumar and composed and sung by Dr. Gayatri, which beautifully captured the spirit of Hindi as a universal language of harmony, culture, and shared heritage.

The conference concluded with a renewed collective commitment to advance Hindi as a powerful medium of cultural diplomacy and global connection.





# Vietnamese Business Delegation Visits India to Strengthen Bilateral Trade Engagement

**Business Meeting with Vietnamese delegation hosted by Embassy of Vietnam**

*8th January 2026, Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, New Delhi*



The Global Trade & Technology Council India (GTTCI) facilitated the visit of a Vietnamese business delegation to India, led by Ms. Dang Hoai Thanh, Head of the GTTCI Office in Vietnam, to explore new business opportunities and strengthen trade engagement with Indian enterprises.

The delegation participated in the **International Cultural, Scientific &**

**Economic Exchange Forum**, held in New Delhi, bringing together **30 Vietnamese and 30 Indian companies**. The forum served as a robust platform for structured B2B interactions, sectoral discussions, and knowledge exchange, enabling businesses from both nations to identify collaboration opportunities across trade, technology, manufacturing,

innovation, and services. A key highlight of the visit was a formal meeting hosted by the Embassy of Vietnam on January 8th, 2026, underscoring the importance of institutional and diplomatic support in advancing India–Vietnam economic cooperation. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hai, Ambassador of Vietnam to India, warmly welcomed the delegation and emphasized the growing strategic



partnership between India and Vietnam, highlighting the potential for expanded trade, investment, and innovation collaborations.

Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President, GTTCI, highlighted India's growing relevance as a strategic partner for Vietnamese businesses and reaffirmed GTTCI's commitment to facilitating meaningful international collaborations.

Ms. Dang Hoai Thanh noted the strong interest among Vietnamese companies in the Indian market and expressed confidence that the forum would lead to long-term partnerships.

The successful visit marked a significant step in strengthening India-Vietnam bilateral relations and reflected GTTCI's continued efforts to promote global trade, technology exchange, and cross-border cooperation.



# GTTCI AWARDS CEREMONY



## GTTCI organises International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum in New Delhi

**A Vietnamese Delegation of Global Leaders and Professionals Unite to Advance Trade, Science, and Cultural Cooperation**

*8th January 2026, Hyatt Centric Janakpuri, New Delhi*



The **International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum** was successfully held on January 08th, 2026, at the prestigious **Hyatt Centric, Janakpuri, New Delhi**. The forum brought together global leaders, policymakers, academicians, and industry professionals to engage in meaningful discussions on international trade opportunities while recognizing excellence across diverse fields.

Organised by the **Global Trade & Technology Council India (GTTCI)**, the forum reflected the organisation's ongoing commitment to promoting humanitarian diplomacy, scientific and technological cooperation, and bilateral and multilateral trade engagement. With a strong global membership base, GTTCI continues to serve as a key

networking and facilitation platform, enabling collaboration beyond borders and fostering sustainable international partnerships.

The forum witnessed active participation from a distinguished delegation from **Vietnam**, further strengthening cross-border engagement and cooperation.

Deliberations covered a wide spectrum of global trade prospects, innovation-led growth, healthcare collaboration, scientific advancement, and cultural exchange, underscoring the forum's multidisciplinary and inclusive approach.

The event was led under the guidance of **Dr. Rashmi Saluja**,



**Chairperson – Global Trade & Technology Council India, and Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President – Global Trade & Technology Council India**, whose visionary leadership continues to enhance India's role in global dialogue and cooperation. Their addresses highlighted the importance of knowledge exchange, people-to-people connect, and collaborative growth in an evolving global landscape.

A major highlight of the forum was the **honouring of GTTCI Ambassadors and Goodwill Ambassadors** in Vietnam for their outstanding contributions. **Professor, Academician, Honorary Doctor and Hero of Vietnamese Labor, Mr. Hoang Duc Thao**, was conferred the title of **Ambassador for Service to Science and Technology**. **Professor, Doctor and Distinguished Physician, Dr. Nguyen Tien Dung**, was honoured as **Goodwill Ambassador for the Health and Medicine Sector**, while **Professor, Honorary Doctor and World Record Holder, Mr. Tran Van Muoi**, was recognized as **Goodwill Ambassador in the Cultural Field**.

Special appreciation was extended to **Ms. Dang Hoai Thanh, Head of GTTCI Office in Vietnam**, for her exemplary efforts in coordinating and facilitating the Vietnamese delegation.

The forum also conferred the **GTTCI International Award** upon eminent Indian professionals for excellence in their respective domains. Awardees included Dr. Jagdish Aggarwal, Chairman, Bhimsain's Bengali Sweet House; Ms. Meetu Puri, Treasurer, Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs (COWE India); Ms. Richa Mehta, Model, Actor and Entrepreneur;



Mr. Saurabh Gupta, Director, Laxmi Publications; Mr. Naresh Mangal, Director, Sugul Damani; Major General Dilawar Singh (Retd.), Former National Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan; Mr. Sunil Tayal, Director, STEP Industries Private Limited; Dr. Parmeet Singh Chadha, Global Chairman, WSCC; and Dr. Gaganpreet Kapoor, Director, Art de Dental – Aesthetic Surgery & Laser Clinic.

The forum marked a significant step toward strengthening global cooperation across trade, science, healthcare, and culture.



# GTTCI Leadership Delegation Visits Vietnam to Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Trade & Investment Cooperation

5th–9th February 2026, Hanoi, Vietnam



## High-Level Engagements from 5th–9th February 2026 Advance India–Vietnam Economic Synergies Across Textiles, Automobiles, Hospitality & Infrastructure

The Global Trade & Technology Council (India) successfully undertook a high-level leadership visit

to Vietnam from 5th to 9th February 2026, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening India–Vietnam economic engagement and exploring new avenues for multi-sectoral trade and investment collaboration.

The delegation was led by Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson – GTTCI, and Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President –

GTTCI, whose strategic vision continues to position GTTCI as a dynamic bridge between Indian and international enterprises. Their engagements in Vietnam focused on deepening institutional partnerships, expanding industry linkages, and identifying high-potential sectors for bilateral growth.



### Strategic Visit to Bitexco Group

The delegation commenced its business engagements with a visit to Bitexco Group, a leading Vietnamese conglomerate with significant presence in textiles, fiber production, real estate, and infrastructure. Discussions centered around expanding collaboration in the textile and fiber industry—an area where Vietnam has emerged as a global manufacturing hub and India offers complementary strengths in raw materials, technology, and skilled workforce.

The meeting was notably attended by Mr. Bui Trung Thuong, Head of Trade Office – Embassy of Vietnam, whose presence underscored the institutional importance of strengthening India–Vietnam commercial linkages. The interaction emphasized opportunities for joint ventures, technology exchange, and supply chain integration between Indian and Vietnamese companies to enhance competitiveness in global markets.

The visit was coordinated with active support from Ms. Dang Hoai Thanh, Chief Representative of GTTCI Vietnam, who played a pivotal role in facilitating strategic business engagements and strengthening on-ground institutional connectivity.



### Meeting with VinGroup & VinFast Leadership

A key highlight of the visit was the meeting with Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, MD & CEO – VinGroup Asia Operations and CEO – VinFast Asia, and former Ambassador of Vietnam to India. The discussions focused on the expansion roadmap of Vingroup and VinFast across the Indian market.

Conversations revolved around collaboration in electric vehicles, sustainable mobility, infrastructure development, hospitality, and smart urban solutions. GTTCI extended its



### Participation in Vietnam Glorious Spring Fair 2026

The GTTCI delegation also visited the Vietnam Glorious Spring Fair 2026, a vibrant trade and cultural exhibition celebrating Vietnam’s entrepreneurial spirit alongside the festive spirit of the Lunar New Year. The fair provided a dynamic platform for networking with Vietnamese enterprises across sectors such as handicrafts, consumer goods, textiles, food processing, and lifestyle products.

The delegation engaged with exhibitors and business leaders to explore import-export collaborations, cross-border investments, and brand expansion opportunities in India, reinforcing GTTCI’s commitment to facilitating practical trade outcomes.



support in facilitating strategic partnerships, policy dialogues, and investor connections to accelerate VinGroup and VinFast’s footprint in India, aligning with India’s growing focus on green mobility and infrastructure modernization.



### Business Meeting at GTTCI Vietnam Office

The delegation held a focused business interaction at the GTTCI Vietnam Office located at the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tower, Hanoi. The meeting brought together Vietnamese entrepreneurs and sectoral representatives to discuss trade facilitation, regulatory frameworks, and market-entry strategies.

Dr. Gaurav Gupta emphasized the importance of structured B2B engagement and institutional collaboration, highlighting GTTCI's role in enabling seamless business matchmaking and fostering long-term partnerships between Indian and Vietnamese enterprises.



### Engagements in Hospitality & Infrastructure

In a bid to strengthen cooperation in hospitality and tourism infrastructure, the delegation met with the leadership of Dolce Golden Group, exploring avenues for expansion into the Indian market. The discussions underscored India's growing demand for premium hospitality ventures and potential joint investments in high-growth urban destinations.



Further, GTTCI representatives visited and held detailed discussions with the owner of Snow White Nga Minasi Hotel, part of the Minasi Hotel Group. The dialogue focused on collaboration opportunities in boutique hospitality, tourism promotion, and cultural exchange initiatives between the two countries.



The visit coincided with vibrant celebrations of the Vietnamese New Year, Tết, where the delegation participated in New Year festivities hosted by the Minasi Hotel Group. The celebration symbolized cultural harmony and the strengthening of people-to-people ties alongside business cooperation.



### High-Level Institutional Meetings

The GTTCI leadership also held a productive meeting with **Mr. Bui Trung Nghia, Vice President of VCCI**, focusing on enhancing institutional cooperation, facilitating trade delegations, and supporting MSME integration into global value chains.



The visit concluded with a meeting at the Embassy of India, Hanoi, where discussions centered on advancing bilateral trade, addressing business challenges, and promoting sector-specific collaborations under the India–Vietnam comprehensive strategic partnership framework.



### Vision for the Future

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rashmi Saluja highlighted that Vietnam represents one of the most promising economic partners for India in Southeast Asia, particularly in manufacturing, automobiles, textiles, hospitality, and infrastructure. She reiterated GTTCI's commitment to fostering resilient, innovation-driven partnerships that create sustainable and long-term economic value.

Dr. Gaurav Gupta emphasized that structured trade missions such as this not only strengthen economic diplomacy but also create tangible business outcomes through sustained engagement and trust-building.

The Vietnam visit marks another milestone in GTTCI's global outreach efforts, reinforcing its mission to build robust trade corridors, empower enterprises, and catalyze sustainable economic growth between India and partner nations.



# Ambassadors Visit Kognivera Polo Cup 2026

*1st February 2026, Rambagh Polo Ground, Jaipur,*



The Global Trade & Technology Council (India) (GTTCI) proudly marked the distinguished participation of esteemed Ambassadors and High Commissioners at the Kognivera Polo Cup 2026, where the grand finale and post-match celebratory dinner were held on 1st February 2026 in Jaipur. The prestigious event served as a vibrant platform blending sport, diplomacy, and cultural exchange.

The final match of the tournament reflected exceptional sportsmanship

and international camaraderie, followed by an elegant post-match dinner that fostered dialogue and strengthened diplomatic goodwill. A major highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the World Record Holder Largest Trophy, symbolizing excellence and global unity through sport.

**Dr. Rashmi Saluja, Chairperson – GTTCI,** emphasized the importance of such global sporting platforms in enhancing people-to-people connections and strengthening

diplomatic partnerships beyond traditional trade engagements. She highlighted that sports diplomacy plays a pivotal role in building trust, mutual respect, and long-term international collaboration.

**Dr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder President – GTTCI,** underscored GTTCI's commitment to fostering strategic international engagement through cultural and sporting initiatives, noting that the Kognivera Polo Cup reflects India's growing influence as a hub





for global cooperation, dialogue, and partnership.

During the felicitation ceremony, Mr. Aziz Rustambaev, President of the Uzbekistan Polo Federation, and Mr. Sarvar Djalov, Secretary General of the Uzbekistan Polo Federation, were honoured for their contribution to advancing polo at the international level. Mr. Kamlesh Sharma, CEO & Managing Director of KogniVera, felicitated the distinguished Ambassadors and dignitaries, acknowledging their presence and support in strengthening sporting and diplomatic relations.

The event was graced by prominent members of the diplomatic corps, including:

- H.E. Mr. Vahagn Afyan, Ambassador of the Republic of **Armenia**
- H.E. Mr. Haris Hrlje, Ambassador of **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- H.E. Mr. Jagannath Sami, High Commissioner of **Fiji**
- H.E. Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, High Commissioner of the Republic of **Guyana**
- H.E. Mr. Javier Manuel Paulinich Velarde, Ambassador of **Peru**
- H.E. Mr. Chandradath Singh, High Commissioner of the Republic of **Trinidad and Tobago**

As part of the visit, the distinguished guests experienced Jaipur's rich cultural heritage through a curated sightseeing tour, visiting Jantar Mantar, City Palace, Samode Haveli, Amer Fort, Narayan Niwas Palace, Hawa Mahal, Johri Bazaar, and Birla Mandir. The Ambassadors appreciated the architectural grandeur and vibrant traditions of Rajasthan, describing the experience as memorable and enriching.

GTTC commends the Kognivera Polo Cup 2026 as a remarkable initiative that seamlessly integrated sport, diplomacy, and cultural engagement, reaffirming India's growing role as a global hub for international cooperation and partnership.



# IN THE NEWS

## International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum 2026

8th January 2026

**HUMMERA**  
GTTCI organises International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum in New Delhi

**मार्गोदय**  
GTTCI ने नई दिल्ली में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सांस्कृतिक, वैज्ञानिक और आर्थिक आदान-प्रदान फोरम का आयोजन किया

**Labor Hero Hoang Duc Thao was honored by India as a Global Ambassador for Science and Technology Service.**

The title of Global Ambassador for Science and Technology Service is awarded to outstanding individuals who clearly demonstrate a spirit of dedication, social responsibility, and the ability to transform scientific and technological knowledge into value that serves sustainable development.



**VST Chairman Hoang Duc Thao was honored as 'Ambassador of Service to Science and Technology'.**

With his persistent and positively impactful contributions in the fields of science, technology, innovation, and community service, Hero of Labor Hoang Duc Thao – Chairman of the Vietnam Association of Science and Technology Enterprises (VSTE) and General Director of Vietnam Science and Technology Corporation (VSTAC) – has been honored as "Ambassador of Service to Science and Technology".

On January 8th, Vietnam Hero of Labor Hero, Hero of Labor Hero Hoang Duc Thao – Chairman of the Vietnam Association of Science and Technology Enterprises (VSTE) and General Director of Vietnam Science and Technology Corporation (VSTAC) – is recognized for his persistent and positively impactful contributions in science, technology, innovation, and community service.



**FOCUS NEWS**  
GTTCI organises International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum



The International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum 2026 was held in New Delhi, India, on January 8th, 2026. The forum was organized by GTTCI and featured a series of activities, including a keynote address by the VST Chairman, Hoang Duc Thao, who was honored as the Global Ambassador for Science and Technology Service. The forum also featured a series of panel discussions and presentations on various topics related to science, technology, and economic development.

**स्वतंत्र दिशा पत्र**  
नई दिल्ली में GTTCI का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फोरम: व्यापार विज्ञान और संस्कृति में वैश्विक सहयोग को नई दिशा

**Quân đội nhân dân**  
CHÀO MỪNG ĐẠI HỘI LẦN THỨ XIV CỦA ĐẢNG

**GTTCI**  
GTTCI نے نئی دہلی میں بین الاقوامی ثقافتی، علمی اور اقتصادی تبادلہ فورم کا انعقاد کیا

GTTCI organises International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum in New Delhi

VST Chairman Hoang Duc Thao was honored as 'Ambassador of Service to Science and Technology'

### THE PEN POWER

**GTTCI ORGANISES INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC & ECONOMIC EXCHANGE FORUM IN NEW DELHI**

GTTCI organises International Cultural, Scientific & Economic Exchange Forum in New Delhi

VST Chairman Hoang Duc Thao was honored as 'Ambassador of Service to Science and Technology'



# Delegation Visits Vietnam to Strengthen Multi-Sectoral Trade & Investment Cooperation

4th to 9th Feb 2026



Slipping tea and reminiscing about Tet (Vietnamese New Year) of yesteryear: ANNSHAN's mark at the 2026 Spring Fair.

Remember the ANNSHAN exhibition space at the Spring Fair 2026, where traditional and modern blend in every cup of Vietnamese tea...



ANNSHAN exhibition space at the Spring Fair 2026.



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## जीटीटीसीआईई नेटवर्क प्रतिनिधिमंडल की वियतनाम यात्रा: बहु-क्षेत्रीय व्यापार एवं निवेश सहयोग को सुदृढ़ करने के लिए भारत-वियतनाम आर्थिक साझेदारी को मिला बल



वियतनाम में भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल की यात्रा के दौरान भारत-वियतनाम आर्थिक साझेदारी को मिला बल।

वियतनाम में भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल की यात्रा के दौरान भारत-वियतनाम आर्थिक साझेदारी को मिला बल।

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**Thời đại**

Thứ Năm, 10 tháng 12 năm 2026

News - Politics - Sports - Health - Education - Technology

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**The Global Council for Trade and Technology of India promotes trade and investment cooperation with Vietnamese businesses.**

Under the leadership of the Spring Fair 2026, a delegation from the Global Trade and Technology Council of India (GTTTCI) visited Vietnam from February 4 to 9, 2026, contributing to strengthening business connections, promoting trade and investment, and expanding the scope of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Against the backdrop of the increasingly strengthened and diversified cooperation in strategic partnership between Vietnam and India, GTTTCI's visit is of great significance, creating further impetus to promote bilateral cooperation between the business communities of the two countries.



SCAN QR TO VIEW/DOWNLOAD

**GTTTCI INSIGHTS**

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER OF GLOBAL TRADE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (INDIA)



DIGITAL OUTREACH OF OVER

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# INDIAN DAYS OF JANUARY



# UN DAYS OF JANUARY



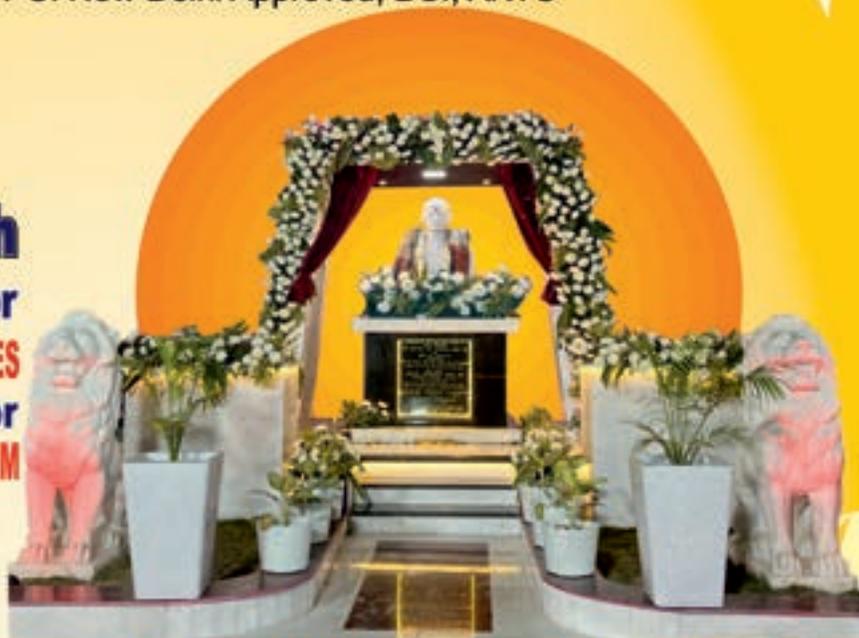
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# 2<sup>nd</sup> INDIA-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

Saturday, 31st January, 2026

New Delhi

GTTC

## 2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting: Strengthening a Strategic Partnership

### Delhi Declaration 2026–28 Charts a Roadmap for Deeper Economic, Security and Cultural Cooperation

The 2nd India–Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in New Delhi, marked an important milestone in advancing ties between India and the Arab world. Co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister and his Arab counterparts, the meeting reaffirmed the growing strategic convergence between the two sides and highlighted their shared commitment to cooperation in trade, energy, technology, security, and cultural exchanges.

Bringing together Foreign Ministers and senior representatives of member states of the Arab League, the dialogue reflected the expanding scope of India–Arab engagement in a changing global environment. A key outcome was the adoption of the Delhi Declaration along with the Executive Programme

for 2026–28, which together provide a structured roadmap for collaboration in the coming years.

### Strategic Importance of India–Arab Relations

India's relationship with the Arab world is rooted in centuries-old civilisational connections, maritime trade routes, and vibrant people-to-people exchanges. Today, the region remains one of India's most significant economic and strategic partners. Bilateral trade continues to grow steadily, with the Arab region serving as a major source of energy supplies while also emerging as a key market for Indian goods, services, and skilled professionals.

At the meeting, India underlined the importance it places on its ties with Arab nations, recognising their central role in global energy markets, connectivity initiatives, and regional stability. Cooperation in trade diversification, energy security, emerging technologies, and digital innovation was identified as central to the evolving partnership.

### Expanding Economic and Technological Engagement

Economic collaboration formed a major pillar of the discussions. Both sides explored ways to enhance investments, encourage private sector partnerships, and strengthen supply chain resilience. As global trade patterns shift, India and Arab countries see potential for deeper cooperation in logistics, infrastructure, manufacturing, food security, and services.

Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), fintech, and digital governance were also emphasised. India shared its experience in building digital public infrastructure and implementing large-scale e-governance initiatives that promote inclusion and efficiency. Capacity building, skilling, and innovation partnerships were highlighted as practical avenues to ensure sustainable and future-oriented growth.



## Counterterrorism and Regional Security

Security cooperation featured prominently in the deliberations. Both sides reiterated their shared concern over terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed a policy of zero tolerance toward extremist violence. Strengthened coordination, intelligence sharing, and global cooperation were viewed as essential in addressing evolving security threats.

Beyond counterterrorism, discussions also touched upon maritime safety and regional stability. Given the strategic importance of the Gulf region and the Indian Ocean for global trade and energy flows, ensuring secure sea lanes and stable supply chains remains a priority for both India and Arab nations.

## Cultural and People-to-People Linkages

The meeting underscored the enduring

cultural bonds connecting India and the Arab world. Millions of Indians live and work across Arab countries, contributing significantly to local economies and strengthening social ties. These people-to-people connections form the backbone of bilateral relations.

Participants emphasised the importance of deepening cultural exchanges, academic collaboration, tourism promotion, and heritage initiatives. Building on historic linkages, both sides committed to enhancing cooperation in education, arts, and community engagement to further solidify mutual understanding.

## High-Level Engagement and Way Forward

Following the ministerial dialogue, the Foreign Ministers and delegations of the Arab League called on Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The interaction reflected the high political priority accorded to India-Arab relations and reinforced

the outcomes of the meeting. Prime Minister Modi reiterated the value of collaborative approaches to address global challenges such as energy transitions, food security, technological transformation, and geopolitical uncertainty.

The Delhi Declaration and Executive Programme for 2026–28 are expected to give renewed momentum to India-Arab engagement. By institutionalising cooperation across economic, security, technological, and cultural domains, the framework aims to convert strategic intent into tangible outcomes.

As global dynamics continue to evolve, India and the Arab world are positioning themselves as dependable partners committed to shared prosperity, stability, and innovation. The 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting not only reaffirmed longstanding ties but also laid the foundation for a forward-looking and comprehensive partnership in the years ahead.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> INDIA-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

Saturday, 31st January, 2026

New Delhi



# India–EU Free Trade Agreement: A Strategic Reset in Global Commerce

A Defining Moment  
for Bilateral Trade,  
Strategic Trust, and  
Economic Resilience



India and the European Union have entered a decisive new phase in their economic relationship with the finalisation of a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), widely described by leaders on both sides as the “Mother of All Deals.” Announced at the India–EU Summit in New Delhi, the agreement reflects not only economic ambition but also a deeper convergence of strategic priorities in an increasingly fragmented global trade environment.

More than a commercial pact, the India–EU FTA signals confidence, mutual trust, and a shared belief in open, rules-based trade at a time when protectionism and supply-chain disruptions are reshaping global markets.

## **A Deal Shaped by Strategy, Not Just Trade**

Senior leadership on both sides underscored that the agreement is rooted in pragmatism. The FTA is designed to create predictability for businesses, strengthen supply chains, and anchor India and Europe more firmly as trusted economic partners. For India, the agreement aligns with its broader vision of becoming a global manufacturing and export hub while integrating more deeply into international value chains. For the European Union, the deal secures stronger access to one of the world’s fastest-growing major economies and reinforces economic engagement beyond traditional transatlantic partnerships.

The agreement is also a clear geopolitical statement: India and the EU are choosing cooperation over fragmentation, engagement over insulation.

## **What the Agreement Delivers in Practice**

The FTA introduces a wide-ranging framework covering goods, services, investment, intellectual property, and regulatory cooperation. Tariff reductions will be phased, ensuring a balanced transition for sensitive sectors while steadily





improving market access on both sides.

Indian exporters are set to gain improved access across key labour-intensive and high-value sectors, including textiles, apparel, leather goods, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, and engineering products. These industries are expected to benefit not only from tariff relief but also from clearer standards and simplified trade procedures.

European companies, in turn, will see enhanced access to India's expanding consumer and industrial markets, particularly in areas such as automobiles, machinery, clean technologies, medical equipment, and premium consumer goods. The services component of the agreement further opens doors in finance, professional services, logistics, and digital trade.

Crucially, the pact also strengthens cooperation on intellectual property protection, sustainability standards, and regulatory transparency—areas of long-term importance for investor confidence.

### Gains with a Consumer Dividend

Beyond trade and industry, the agreement carries tangible implications for consumers. As tariff reductions are implemented, a wider range of imported products is expected to become more competitively priced, expanding choice and affordability. At the same time, Indian manufacturers gain stronger incentives to upgrade quality, efficiency,

and global competitiveness.

The phased approach to implementation ensures that domestic industries are given time to adapt, innovate, and scale, reducing the risk of sudden market shocks while maintaining momentum toward integration.

### Global and Regional Implications

The India–EU FTA is already being viewed as a reference point in global trade diplomacy. It reinforces India's emergence as a preferred economic partner and strengthens Europe's engagement with the Indo-Pacific.

Regionally, the agreement is likely to alter competitive dynamics in sectors such as textiles and apparel, where Indian exports may gain relative advantages in European markets. This shift underscores how major trade agreements increasingly reshape regional supply chains and competitive positioning.

At a broader level, the deal sends a signal that large, diverse economies can still conclude ambitious trade agreements without compromising strategic autonomy or domestic priorities.

### From Agreement to Action

While the political understanding has been reached, the agreement will now move through legal vetting and ratification processes on both sides. Once implemented, it is expected to unfold over a multi-year horizon, with tariff reductions and regulatory cooperation deepening progressively.

Leaders have emphasised that the success of the FTA will depend not just on its text, but on effective execution, continuous dialogue, and responsiveness to evolving global economic conditions.

### A New Chapter in India–EU Relations

The India–EU Free Trade Agreement marks a turning point—one that goes beyond trade figures and tariff schedules. It reflects a shared vision of stability, growth, and partnership in a world navigating uncertainty. As articulated at the summit, when India grows and integrates, global economic resilience is strengthened. The FTA stands as a testament to that belief, opening a new chapter in India–EU relations defined by cooperation, confidence, and long-term strategic alignment.



# Sustainability in Global Trade: The Case of Madagascar

In 2026, the intersection of environmental conservation and global commerce is no longer a niche concern; it is the cornerstone of modern economic policy. As the "green global economy" matures, nations are finding that their access to international markets is increasingly tied to their ecological footprint. Nowhere is this tension—and opportunity—more visible than in Madagascar.

## The Global Shift: Trade Meets Ecology

For decades, global trade was measured primarily by volume and velocity. Today, it is measured by traceability and sustainability. Several key drivers are pushing this alignment:

- **Regulatory Pressure:** Regulations like the EU's Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) now mandate that products entering major markets—such as coffee, cocoa, and timber—must be proven "deforestation-free."
- **Consumer Consciousness:** Global buyers are increasingly willing to pay a premium for "fair trade" and "eco-certified"



products, shifting the demand curve toward sustainable producers.

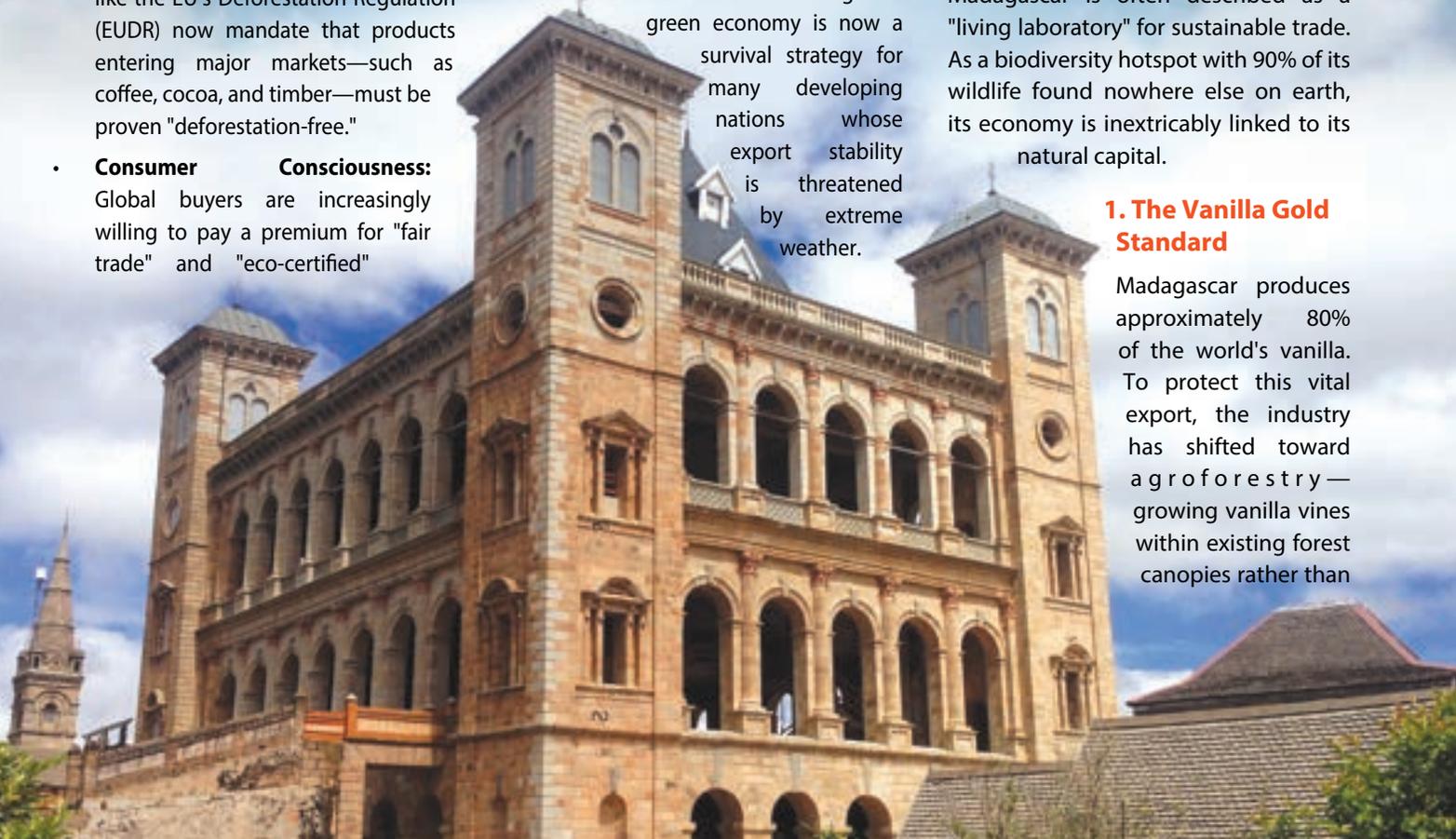
- **Climate Resilience:** Transitioning to a green economy is now a survival strategy for many developing nations whose export stability is threatened by extreme weather.

## Madagascar: A Hotspot for Sustainable Transition

Madagascar is often described as a "living laboratory" for sustainable trade. As a biodiversity hotspot with 90% of its wildlife found nowhere else on earth, its economy is inextricably linked to its natural capital.

### 1. The Vanilla Gold Standard

Madagascar produces approximately 80% of the world's vanilla. To protect this vital export, the industry has shifted toward a groforestry—growing vanilla vines within existing forest canopies rather than



clearing land. This practice preserves biodiversity while ensuring a stable microclimate for the delicate orchids.

## 2. The Blue Economy and Coastal Protection

In July 2025, Madagascar launched a landmark \$7 million initiative to restore 3,000 hectares of mangroves and coastal forests. By integrating sustainable fisheries and aquaculture into this conservation effort, the country is positioning its seafood exports to meet the rigorous environmental standards of the green global economy.

## 3. Mining for the Green Transition

Madagascar is rich in critical minerals (like graphite and nickel) essential for electric vehicle batteries. In 2025, the government lifted a 16-year mining permit suspension, but with a catch: new operations must adhere to a 'Regulatory Modernization Framework' that emphasizes environmental impact assessments and revenue transparency.

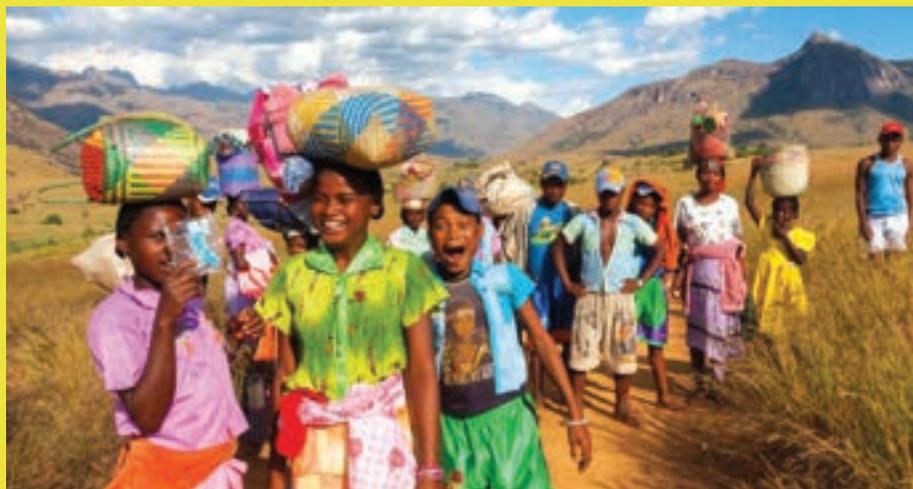
### Challenges on the Path to 2026

While the vision is clear, the path remains steep:

- **Poverty vs. Preservation:** With over 80% of the population living in poverty, the pressure to use "slash-and-burn" (tavy) agriculture for immediate food security remains a primary driver of deforestation.
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** High transport and energy costs make it difficult for small-scale sustainable farmers to compete in the global market.
- **Climate Vulnerability:** Despite its green efforts, Madagascar remains one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate-induced droughts and cyclones, which can wipe out years of progress in a single season.

### The Way Forward: A Collaborative Model

The case of Madagascar demonstrates that sustainability in trade cannot be



achieved by one nation in isolation. It requires:

- **Concessional Finance:** Support from international bodies like the IMF's Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to bridge the gap between conservation and economic growth.
- **Market Access:** Preferential trade agreements for nations that demonstrate verifiable green practices.
- **Technological Transfer:** Implementing digital "paperless trade" and blockchain-based traceability to prove the origin of exports.
- 'Madagascar's environmental problems are directly linked to its economy. Successful conservation requires addressing the livelihoods of the people who depend on the land.'

As we look toward the remainder of 2026, Madagascar stands as a bellwether for the green global economy. If a nation

so rich in biodiversity yet so challenged by poverty can successfully align its trade with environmental preservation, it provides a blueprint for the rest of the developing world.



by **Mr. Tsiory  
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*Counsellor of Embassy of Madagascar,  
New Delhi*

New Delhi — The official three-day visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to India marked a significant milestone in the evolving India–Japan relationship. Taking place at a crucial juncture in regional and global geopolitics, the visit reaffirmed the shared commitment of the two nations to deepen their Special Strategic and Global Partnership, rooted in common democratic values, economic cooperation, and a shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

### Strategic Context of the Visit

Foreign Minister Motegi's visit came amid growing convergence between India and Japan on regional security, economic resilience, and technological innovation. Building on the momentum generated by recent high-level engagements, including the Japan–India Joint Vision for the next decade, the visit aimed to translate strategic intent into actionable cooperation. Both countries view each other as indispensable partners in addressing emerging challenges such as supply chain vulnerabilities, technological disruption, and regional instability.

### Engagement with Prime Minister Narendra Modi

A key highlight of the visit was Foreign Minister Motegi's courtesy call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders exchanged views on the growing depth of bilateral relations and reiterated their commitment to strengthening cooperation across defence, economy, infrastructure, technology, and innovation. Prime Minister Modi emphasized the importance of Japan as a trusted partner in India's development



## Japanese Foreign Minister's Visit to India: Reinforcing a Special Strategic and Global Partnership

journey, particularly in infrastructure development, industrial growth, and human resource capacity building.

The leaders also discussed ways to enhance collaboration ahead of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2027, identifying it as a milestone year to further intensify exchanges across government, business, academia, and civil society.

### 18th India–Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

The visit's core diplomatic engagement was the 18th India–Japan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue, held between Foreign Minister Motegi and India's



External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. The dialogue provided a comprehensive review of bilateral relations and explored avenues for expanding cooperation in strategic, economic, and technological domains.

Both ministers emphasized the importance of economic security and supply chain resilience, particularly in critical sectors such as semiconductors, clean energy, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and information technology. Discussions included strengthening private-sector collaboration and institutional mechanisms to safeguard supply chains against global disruptions.

Technology and innovation emerged as key pillars of future cooperation. The two sides agreed to advance collaboration in artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and emerging technologies through structured dialogue and joint initiatives. Emphasis was placed on talent mobility, research partnerships, and capacity building to harness innovation-driven growth.

### Indo-Pacific and Regional Cooperation

Regional and global issues featured prominently in the discussions. India and Japan reiterated their shared commitment to a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, underscoring respect for international law, freedom of navigation, and peaceful resolution of disputes. Both sides exchanged perspectives on developments in the Indo-Pacific region, South Asia, and global forums, highlighting the importance of coordination within multilateral frameworks, including Quad cooperation.

The dialogue also reinforced the role of India and Japan as responsible stakeholders contributing to regional stability, humanitarian assistance, disaster resilience, and global governance reforms.

### Economic and People-to-People Dimensions

Beyond strategic dialogue, the visit highlighted the strong economic and people-to-people foundations of India-Japan relations. Japan remains a major investor in India, particularly in infrastructure, manufacturing, and industrial corridors. Cooperation in urban development, transport systems, and smart cities continues to deliver tangible benefits to Indian citizens.

In a symbolic gesture reflecting this partnership, Foreign

Minister Motegi visited the Delhi Metro, a flagship project supported by Japanese cooperation. The visit underscored Japan's long-standing role in enhancing India's urban mobility and infrastructure capabilities.

Motegi also paid homage at Raj Ghat, honoring Mahatma Gandhi's legacy and reaffirming the shared values of peace, non-violence, and mutual respect that underpin bilateral ties.

### Looking Ahead

The Japanese Foreign Minister's visit to India reinforced the growing strategic convergence between the two nations at a time of global uncertainty. By advancing cooperation in security, technology, economic



resilience, and people-centric development, the visit laid a strong foundation for future engagement.

As India and Japan prepare to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2027, the outcomes of this visit reflect a shared resolve to elevate the partnership to new heights. With trust, complementarities, and a forward-looking vision, India and Japan are well-positioned to shape a stable, prosperous, and inclusive regional and global order.

# Uzbekistan Hospitality & Tourism

## Redefining Modern Travel in Central Asia

**A** Dynamic Destination  
Blending Heritage, Innovation and Experience

Located at the crossroads of Asia and Europe, Uzbekistan is rapidly positioning itself as one of the most dynamic tourism destinations in Central Asia. While its Silk Road heritage remains a powerful attraction,

modern Uzbekistan is equally defined by smart infrastructure, digital accessibility, experiential travel, and high-quality hospitality services tailored to global travelers.

With streamlined visa policies, improved air connectivity, and a growing hospitality ecosystem, Uzbekistan is transforming from a historical treasure into a contemporary travel hub that balances authenticity with innovation.

### Smart Heritage Tourism: Preserving History with Modern Comfort

The legendary



Silk Road cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva remain the backbone of Uzbekistan's tourism appeal. Architectural masterpieces such as the Registan, the Kalyan Minaret, and the UNESCO-recognised Itchan Kala have been carefully restored using advanced conservation techniques.

Modern tourism strategies now integrate digital ticketing systems, multilingual guided apps, immersive storytelling tours, and curated heritage experiences. Visitors can explore ancient madrassas and mausoleums while benefiting from seamless logistics, professional guides, and upgraded visitor amenities. Cultural tourism is no longer passive sightseeing—it is interactive, educational, and deeply engaging.

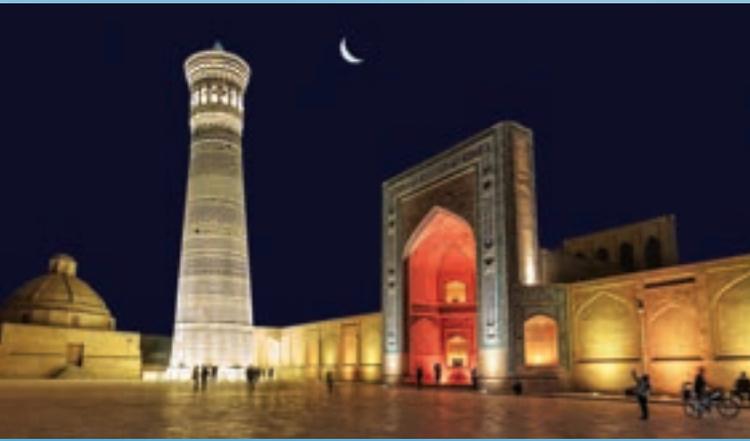
### Contemporary Hospitality: Global Standards with Local Soul

Uzbekistan's hospitality sector has undergone a significant modern transformation. International-standard hotels, boutique heritage stays, eco-lodges, and luxury resorts now complement traditional

caravanserai-inspired accommodations. The capital city, Tashkent, has emerged as a cosmopolitan gateway featuring premium hotels, convention centers, modern shopping districts, and fine-dining establishments.

At the same time, smaller towns maintain intimate guesthouses that offer authentic cultural immersion. Uzbek hospitality continues to reflect deep-rooted traditions of warmth and generosity, now enhanced by professional service standards, hospitality training programs, and global best practices.





Adventure tourism, desert safaris, handicraft workshops, and wellness retreats are expanding the country's tourism portfolio beyond historical sightseeing. These offerings cater to millennials, digital nomads, and experiential travelers seeking immersive journeys.

Uzbekistan's tourism vision emphasizes sustainability, innovation, and diversified offerings—from heritage circuits and MICE tourism to adventure, gastronomy, and wellness sectors. Digital promotion strategies, influencer partnerships, and smart tourism technologies are shaping a contemporary brand identity aligned with global travel trends.

## A Modern Invitation to the World



Uzbekistan today stands as a compelling blend of ancient legacy and modern ambition. It offers travelers not only historical grandeur but also contemporary comfort, sustainable experiences, and cultural vibrancy.

As the country continues investing in innovation, infrastructure, and hospitality excellence, Uzbekistan is redefining itself as a forward-looking tourism destination—inviting the world to experience Central Asia through a modern, immersive, and inspiring lens.

Culinary tourism is also expanding rapidly. Traditional dishes such as plov, shashlik, and samsa are now presented through curated food tours, chef-led experiences, and modern fusion dining concepts—making gastronomy an integral part of the travel journey.

## Sustainable and Experiential Travel

Modern travelers increasingly seek meaningful and sustainable experiences, and Uzbekistan is responding proactively. Eco-tourism initiatives in the Nuratau Mountains and the Kyzylkum Desert offer guided trekking, community-based homestays, and environmentally conscious camping. Rural tourism programs empower local communities while preserving cultural authenticity.

The evolving Aral Sea region has also become part of responsible tourism dialogues, attracting visitors interested in ecological awareness and sustainable development initiatives.

## Cultural Innovation and Creative Economy

Uzbekistan's tourism strategy increasingly integrates creative industries and cultural entrepreneurship. Events such as the Sharq Taronalari Music Festival showcase global artistic exchange while promoting local craftsmanship and music heritage.

Handmade textiles, ceramics, and silk products are now marketed through contemporary design platforms, boutique stores, and online marketplaces, connecting artisans directly to international audiences. Festivals, fashion collaborations, and craft residencies are helping position Uzbekistan as a vibrant cultural economy destination.

## Infrastructure, Connectivity and Future Outlook

Modern tourism growth is strongly supported by infrastructure upgrades. Expansion of international airports, high-speed rail connections between major cities, and digital tourism platforms ensure convenient travel experiences. Public-private partnerships are enhancing service standards, while collaborations with global travel networks are increasing visibility in international markets.





# President of Seychelles Visits India

## Strengthening a Time-Tested Strategic Partnership

The President of the Republic of Seychelles, Dr. Patrick Herminie, paid a significant State Visit to India from February 5 to 10, 2026, marking his first official visit since assuming office and commemorating 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Seychelles. The visit reaffirmed the deep historical, cultural, and strategic ties shared by the two maritime nations and underscored their shared commitment to peace, prosperity, and stability in the Indian Ocean Region.

### High-Level Engagements and Diplomatic Warmth

During the visit, President Herminie held extensive discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and senior Indian leadership. The engagements reflected the strong mutual trust and longstanding friendship between the two countries, rooted in shared

democratic values and people-to-people connections. President Murmu hosted a state banquet at Rashtrapati Bhavan in honour of the visiting leader, highlighting Seychelles' special place in India's neighbourhood outreach and maritime vision.

Both sides acknowledged the close cooperation that has evolved over decades, particularly in development partnership, capacity building, education, healthcare, and maritime security. The visit provided an opportunity to take stock of ongoing collaboration while setting a forward-looking agenda for the future.

### Adoption of the SESEL Joint Vision

A key outcome of the visit was the adoption of the India-Seychelles Joint

Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages (SESEL). This comprehensive framework lays out a roadmap for deeper engagement across multiple sectors, including sustainable development, economic cooperation, maritime security, climate action, digital transformation, and people-to-people ties.

The SESEL vision reflects a shared understanding of emerging global and regional challenges and emphasizes coordinated efforts to promote stability, resilience, and inclusive growth. It





also reinforces India's commitment to supporting Seychelles' development priorities while strengthening regional cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean.

### **USD 175 Million Special Economic Package**

Another major highlight of the State Visit was India's announcement of a USD 175 million Special Economic Package for Seychelles. The package includes a rupee-denominated Line of Credit as well as grant assistance, aimed at supporting priority development projects identified by the Seychellois government.

The financial assistance is expected to support key sectors such as social housing, healthcare, infrastructure, mobility, vocational training, defence cooperation, and maritime security. Additional support includes the refurbishment and supply of patrol vessels, provision of ambulances and utility vehicles, supply of essential commodities, and expanded capacity-building initiatives for Seychellois professionals. These measures reaffirm India's role as a reliable development partner for Seychelles.

### **Maritime Security and Regional Cooperation**

Maritime security remains a cornerstone of India-Seychelles relations. During the visit, both leaders reiterated their commitment to ensuring a free, open, and secure Indian Ocean, guided by international law and respect



for sovereignty. They emphasized cooperation in addressing shared maritime challenges such as piracy, trafficking, illegal fishing, and other transnational threats.

India and Seychelles also agreed to deepen collaboration in maritime surveillance, defence training, and scientific research related to oceanography and climate monitoring. These efforts aim to enhance regional stability while supporting Seychelles' strategic role in the Indian Ocean.

### **Expansion of Sectoral and Cultural Cooperation**

Several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed during the visit, covering a wide range of sectors. These include cooperation in health and pharmacopoeial standards, digital public infrastructure, ocean observation and scientific research, capacity building for civil servants, meteorology, and cultural exchange. The agreements reflect a growing emphasis on technology-driven governance, knowledge sharing, and human resource development.

Cultural diplomacy also featured prominently, with both sides recognizing the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties through

education, cultural exchanges, and tourism cooperation.

### **Looking Ahead**

President Patrick Herminie's State Visit to India marks a milestone in bilateral relations, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two countries. The adoption of the SESEL Joint Vision, the announcement of substantial economic assistance, and the expansion of cooperation across diverse sectors collectively signal a new phase of engagement. As India and Seychelles look ahead, their partnership is poised to play a vital role in promoting sustainable development, maritime security, and regional stability in the Indian Ocean Region. The visit not only celebrated five decades of diplomatic ties but also laid a strong foundation for deeper, future-oriented collaboration based on mutual respect, shared interests, and common aspirations.





# India's Clean Energy Leadership

## Nuclear Power, SMRs and the Path to Energy Sovereignty

### Advancing Thorium Innovation, Strategic Partnership with Russia, and Progressive Policy Reforms

India is steadily emerging as a global leader in clean energy transformation, driven by technological innovation, strategic partnerships, and forward-looking policy reforms. As the nation accelerates its transition toward sustainable power, nuclear energy is playing an increasingly central role in ensuring reliable, low-carbon electricity to support economic growth and industrial expansion. Alongside renewable energy expansion, advancements in Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), thorium-based technology, and progressive legislative initiatives such as the Shanti Bill are strengthening India's position as a future-ready energy powerhouse.

### Nuclear Energy: A Pillar of India's Clean Growth

India's commitment to sustainable development is reflected in its balanced energy strategy, where nuclear power complements solar, wind, and hydro resources. Nuclear energy provides stable, round-the-clock electricity, supporting grid stability and industrial productivity. As India continues to expand its installed capacity, nuclear

power is becoming a critical component of its long-term clean energy roadmap.

A key contributor to India's nuclear progress has been its enduring partnership with Russia. Bilateral cooperation in civil nuclear energy has resulted in world-class reactor projects, advanced engineering collaboration, and consistent technology exchange. This partnership exemplifies how trusted international collaboration can accelerate national development while reinforcing technological capability.

India and Russia share a vision of peaceful nuclear energy use, with ongoing cooperation in reactor construction, fuel supply, and future-oriented research. Such collaboration strengthens India's energy infrastructure and enhances its global standing in advanced nuclear technologies.

### Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): The Next Frontier

India is actively exploring Small Modular Reactors as a transformative addition to its nuclear portfolio. SMRs represent a new generation of compact, efficient, and scalable nuclear technology

designed to meet modern energy demands. Their modular design allows flexible deployment across diverse regions, including industrial corridors and emerging urban clusters.

With India's strong manufacturing base and engineering excellence, the country is well-positioned to participate in the global SMR ecosystem. Development of SMRs aligns with India's vision of technological self-reliance while offering export potential in the future. Collaborative research and innovation partnerships, including those with Russia, further enhance India's readiness to integrate advanced reactor systems into its clean energy framework.

### **Harnessing Thorium: India's Strategic Advantage**

One of India's greatest long-term strengths lies in its abundant thorium reserves. Recognising this potential decades ago, India designed a visionary three-stage nuclear programme aimed at utilising thorium for sustainable power generation.

Thorium-based energy solutions offer immense promise for enhancing fuel security and advancing indigenous technology development. Continued research, innovation, and pilot projects are steadily progressing toward commercialisation. By harnessing

thorium, India is reinforcing its long-term energy sovereignty and positioning itself at the forefront of next-generation nuclear science.

### **Policy Momentum: The Shanti Bill**

India's clean energy expansion is supported by progressive policy initiatives designed to encourage innovation and investment. The proposed Shanti Bill reflects the government's commitment to streamlining regulatory processes, enhancing transparency, and enabling responsible private sector participation in civil nuclear development.

By modernising the legislative framework and fostering collaborative ecosystems, the Shanti Bill is expected to accelerate deployment of advanced nuclear technologies, including SMRs and thorium-based reactors. Strong regulatory clarity and investor confidence will further strengthen India's clean energy landscape.

### **Energy Sovereignty and Strategic Partnerships**

Energy independence is central to India's vision of strategic autonomy and sustainable growth. A diversified energy portfolio anchored in domestic innovation, renewable expansion, and



advanced nuclear technology ensures long-term resilience and economic stability.

Partnerships with trusted nations such as Russia complement India's domestic efforts by providing technical collaboration and shared expertise. This synergy enhances capacity building while reinforcing India's leadership in peaceful nuclear advancement.

### **A Confident Clean Energy Future**

India's clean energy journey reflects ambition, capability, and global collaboration. Through nuclear expansion, SMR development, thorium innovation, and supportive policy reforms, the country is building a robust and future-oriented energy ecosystem.

As India deepens cooperation with partners like Russia and accelerates indigenous technological advancement, it is confidently shaping a secure, sustainable, and energy-sovereign future—positioning itself as a key contributor to the global clean energy transformation.



by **Dr. Rashmi Saluja**  
Chairperson – Global Trade & Technology Council (India)

3-6  
JUNE  
2026

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## // SPIEF IN FIGURES

/ number of participants



participants from



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countries  
worldwide

/ number of business events



business events



> 1,300  
speakers and  
moderators

/ number of agreements signed



agreements signed  
worth a total  
of RUB



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# Sri Lanka Reaffirms Commitment to Responsible AI and Deepens Bilateral Engagements at AI Impact Summit 2026 in India

Participating in the India AI Impact Summit 2026 held in New Delhi from 17 – 20 February at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Anura Kumara Disanayaka reaffirmed Sri Lanka’s commitment to responsible, inclusive and human-centred Artificial Intelligence, while further strengthening bilateral partnerships.

The Summit, convened from 16–20 February, marked the first global gathering of its kind hosted in the Global South. It brought together Heads of State and Government, senior United Nations officials, leaders of international organisations and prominent figures from the global technology sector to deliberate on shaping the future of AI governance under the guiding pillars of People, Planet and Progress.

Addressing the Leaders’ Plenary Session on 19 February, President Disanayaka underscored that Artificial Intelligence must serve humanity – strengthening cultural values, safeguarding rights and ensuring equitable access to opportunity. Highlighting AI infrastructure as the next frontier of economic and cultural cooperation, the President drew attention to the evolving global discourse on ambitions, rights and safeguards related to AI.

Emphasising the often-overlooked cultural dimension of AI, the President stressed that emerging AI systems must preserve linguistic diversity and reflect the shared heritage of nations. He observed that technological advancement should not erode

cultural identities but instead empower communities.

The President proposed enhanced regional cooperation structured around four key pillars: affordable access; centrally governed language datasets; common evaluation mechanisms and security tools; and integrated capacity development.

Sri Lanka joined the AI Impact Summit Declaration, reaffirming its commitment to advancing ethical, transparent and people-centred AI development, and to working collaboratively with international partners to ensure innovation remains inclusive and development-oriented.

On the sidelines of the Summit, President Disanayaka held several high-level bilateral discussions. He met with





HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, where discussions focused on expanding Sri Lanka - UAE cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, AI and other emerging sectors.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan, both leaders reaffirmed longstanding friendly relations and explored strengthened cooperation in culture, education, youth affairs and health.

President Dissanayaka also held discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron, during which both sides discussed cooperation in technology, digital innovation, tourism, investment, and the maritime domain. The President expressed appreciation for France's continued support to Sri Lanka, including through the Paris Club debt restructuring process. France reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Sri Lanka's recovery efforts following Cyclone Ditwah.

In his meeting with Brazilian

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, discussions centred on exploring possible areas for cooperation reflecting on growing South-South engagement. President Lula da Silva invited President Dissanayaka to undertake a visit to Brazil.

The President also met with the Ambassador of the United States to India and the U.S. President's Special Representative for South and Central Asia, Sergio Gor, to review US-Sri Lanka relations and explore avenues for further collaboration.

On 20 February, President Dissanayaka held bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House. The leaders reviewed progress achieved since the President's landmark State Visit to India in December 2024 and Prime Minister Modi's visit to Sri Lanka in April 2025.

Discussions focused on further enhancing cooperation across trade, energy, connectivity, digital collaboration, economic engagement and cultural ties. The President conveyed

appreciation for India's continued humanitarian assistance, including support extended in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah, as well as for the invitation to participate in the historic AI Impact Summit.

The AI Impact Summit 2026 brought together leaders, policymakers and delegates from over 100 countries. Deliberations addressed key thematic areas including Human Capital, Inclusion for Social Empowerment, Safe and Trusted AI, Science, Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency, Democratizing AI Resources, and AI for Economic Development and Social Good.

The Chief Advisor on Digital Economy, Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya; Secretary to the Ministry of Digital Economy, Mr. Waruna Sri Dhanapala; High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India, Mahishini Colonne; and officials of the Sri Lanka High Commission in New Delhi were associated with the President's engagements.





## CELEBRATION OF MASLENITSA: RUSSIAN FOLK FESTIVAL



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# GLOBAL INSIGHTS: *India Perspective*

- **India Retains Position as Fastest-Growing Major Economy in 2026** — Strong domestic demand, manufacturing expansion, and services exports sustain India's global growth leadership.
- **India Strengthens Role as Global Manufacturing Alternative to China** — Multinational firms expand production bases in India to diversify supply chains.
- **Foreign Direct Investment Continues to Flow into India's Strategic Sectors** — Technology, infrastructure, renewable energy, and electronics attract significant global capital.
- **India's Semiconductor Mission Gains Momentum with Global Partnerships** — International companies deepen collaboration in chip manufacturing and design.
- **Global Companies Expand India Operations to Tap Domestic and Export Markets** — India's large consumer base and export competitiveness drive investment decisions.
- **India's Digital Economy Emerges as a Major Contributor to GDP Growth** — Digital payments, fintech, and online services strengthen India's economic resilience.
- **India's Infrastructure Push Enhances Logistics and Trade Efficiency** — Major investments in roads, ports, airports, and freight corridors improve global connectivity.
- **India's Renewable Energy Expansion Attracts International Investment** — Solar, green hydrogen, and clean energy projects position India as a sustainability leader.
- **India's Export Sector Demonstrates Resilience Amid Global Economic Uncertainty** — Services and high-value manufacturing exports continue to expand.
- **Global Supply Chain Realignment Benefits India's Industrial Growth** — Businesses increasingly view India as a reliable production and sourcing destination.
- **India's Startup Ecosystem Continues to Attract Global Venture Capital** — Innovation and technology startups remain key drivers of economic expansion.
- **India Expands Bilateral Trade Agreements with Strategic Global Partners** — Trade negotiations strengthen market access and economic cooperation.
- **India's Financial Markets Gain Greater Global Investor Confidence** — Strong regulatory framework and growth outlook attract institutional investment.
- **India's Banking Sector Demonstrates Strong Stability and Growth** — Improved asset quality and capital adequacy enhance global credibility.
- **India's Middle Class Expansion Drives Consumption-Led Growth** — Rising incomes support demand across consumer goods, services, and housing sectors.
- **India's Role in Global Services Exports Continues to Expand** — IT, business services, and consulting strengthen India's global economic position.
- **India Strengthens Energy Security Through Diversified Global Partnerships** — Strategic sourcing agreements support stable economic development.
- **Global Investors Increase Allocation to Indian Equity and Debt Markets** — India emerges as a preferred destination among emerging markets.
- **India Advances as Global Hub for Electronics Manufacturing** — Mobile phones, electronics, and component production scale up significantly.
- **India's Logistics and Connectivity Improvements Boost Trade Competitiveness** — Infrastructure modernization enhances global supply chain integration.
- **India's Policy Reforms Strengthen Ease of Doing Business Environment** — Regulatory improvements encourage domestic and foreign investment.
- **India's Urban Development Drives Economic Expansion** — Smart cities and urban infrastructure projects create new growth opportunities.
- **India Strengthens Trade Relations with Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia** — Strategic partnerships enhance export potential and economic integration.
- **India's Agriculture Sector Gains Global Export Opportunities** — Food security concerns worldwide increase demand for Indian agricultural exports.
- **India Emerges as Global Leader in Digital Public Infrastructure** — Platforms like digital identity and payments gain international recognition.
- **India's Economic Diplomacy Strengthens Its Global Influence** — Active engagement enhances India's role in shaping global economic policy.
- **India's Capital Markets Support Infrastructure and Industrial Financing** — Domestic and global investors fund long-term national development projects.
- **India's Workforce and Talent Base Attract Global Companies** — Skilled professionals position India as a preferred global talent hub.
- **India's Focus on Innovation Strengthens Long-Term Economic Competitiveness** — Investments in research, technology, and education support sustained growth.
- **India Positioned as Key Driver of Global Economic Growth in the Coming Decade** — Strong fundamentals and strategic policies reinforce India's rising global economic leadership.

# GLOBAL INSIGHTS: *Finance*

- **Global Central Banks Maintain Cautious Monetary Policy Stance** — Inflation moderation prompts selective rate adjustments while prioritizing economic stability.
- **U.S. Federal Reserve Signals Gradual Interest Rate Easing Path** — Policymakers indicate measured rate cuts to balance inflation control and economic growth.
- **European Central Bank Moves Toward Monetary Policy Normalization** — Improving inflation outlook allows cautious easing while monitoring economic risks.
- **India Emerges as One of the Fastest-Growing Major Economies in 2026** — Strong domestic demand and investment flows support sustained financial expansion.
- **Global Stock Markets Reach New Highs Amid Technology and AI Boom** — Investor optimism grows around innovation-led corporate earnings expansion.
- **Oil Prices Stabilize Following Early-Year Volatility** — Energy markets adjust to geopolitical developments and balanced global supply-demand dynamics.
- **Gold Prices Strengthen as Investors Seek Safe-Haven Assets** — Economic uncertainty and geopolitical risks drive demand for precious metals.
- **Digital Currencies Gain Wider Institutional Acceptance Worldwide** — Financial institutions expand adoption of regulated digital asset solutions.
- **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) Pilots Expand Across Major Economies** — Governments accelerate efforts to modernize national payment systems.
- **Global Mergers and Acquisitions Activity Strengthens in Early 2026** — Corporate consolidation increases amid improving economic confidence.
- **Banking Sector Demonstrates Strong Capital Resilience Globally** — Financial institutions maintain stability despite macroeconomic uncertainties.
- **Emerging Markets Attract Increased Foreign Institutional Investment** — Investors seek higher growth opportunities beyond developed economies.
- **Global Bond Markets Stabilize After Period of Yield Volatility** — Improved inflation outlook supports balanced fixed-income investment flows.
- **Private Equity Investment Activity Accelerates Across Key Sectors** — Funds increase allocations toward technology, healthcare, and infrastructure.
- **Fintech Sector Continues Rapid Global Expansion in 2026** — Innovation in payments, lending, and digital banking transforms financial services.
- **Global Financial Regulators Strengthen Oversight of Digital Assets** — Authorities introduce frameworks to ensure transparency and investor protection.
- **Wealth Management Industry Expands Amid Rising Global Affluence** — Increasing high-net-worth population boosts demand for advisory services.
- **Cross-Border Trade Financing Sees Significant Growth Momentum** — Financial institutions expand credit support for international commerce.
- **Sovereign Wealth Funds Increase Strategic Global Investments** — Governments deploy capital to diversify portfolios and secure long-term returns.
- **Green Finance and ESG Investments Continue Strong Upward Trend** — Investors prioritize sustainability-focused financial instruments.
- **Infrastructure Financing Emerges as Key Global Investment Priority** — Governments and investors fund large-scale transport, energy, and logistics projects.
- **Banking Sector Accelerates Digital Transformation Initiatives** — Institutions deploy digital platforms to enhance customer experience and efficiency.
- **Global Currency Markets See Increased Volatility Amid Policy Divergence** — Exchange rates fluctuate as countries adopt varying monetary strategies.
- **Insurance Industry Adopts Technology to Improve Risk Management** — Digital tools enhance underwriting, claims processing, and analytics.
- **Corporate Earnings Show Strong Performance Across Multiple Sectors** — Financial results reflect resilient consumer demand and operational efficiency.
- **Global IPO Market Shows Signs of Revival in Early 2026** — Improved investor confidence encourages companies to pursue public listings.
- **Financial Inclusion Expands Through Digital Banking Initiatives** — Mobile banking and fintech improve access to financial services worldwide.
- **Investment in Emerging Financial Technologies Accelerates** — AI, blockchain, and automation reshape financial industry operations.
- **Multilateral Financial Institutions Increase Support for Developing Economies** — Funding focuses on infrastructure, sustainability, and economic resilience.
- **Global Economic Outlook Remains Positive Despite Geopolitical Risks** — Financial markets demonstrate resilience supported by strong institutional frameworks.



# GLOBAL INSIGHTS: *Tech & Innovation*

- **India Hosts Global AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi** — World leaders and tech CEOs convene to shape inclusive and responsible global AI governance frameworks.
- **Global Push Intensifies Toward International AI Governance Standards** — Nations accelerate discussions to establish shared protocols for safe, transparent, and ethical AI deployment.
- **CES 2026 Highlights AI as the Core of Consumer and Industrial Innovation** — Artificial intelligence dominates next-generation devices, robotics, and connected ecosystem announcements.
- **Samsung Introduces AI-Driven Smart Ecosystem Across Devices** — The company unveils integrated AI companions spanning smartphones, homes, and mobility platforms.
- **Alphabet Strengthens Global Position Through AI-Driven Growth Strategy** — Continued investment in AI models, infrastructure, and enterprise solutions boosts market leadership.
- **Open-Source AI Platforms Gain Rapid Global Adoption** — Developers increasingly rely on open AI models to accelerate innovation and reduce dependency on proprietary systems.
- **AI Expands Rapidly into Industrial and Physical Operations** — Manufacturing, logistics, and infrastructure sectors integrate AI for automation and predictive efficiency.
- **Robotics Deployment Reaches Record Levels Across Industries** — Automation accelerates worldwide as companies adopt robots to improve productivity and operational resilience.
- **Next-Generation AI Chips Drive New Era of High-Performance Computing** — Semiconductor companies launch advanced processors optimized for AI workloads and efficiency.
- **Quantum Computing Moves Closer to Commercial Viability** — Breakthroughs in quantum hardware and error correction signal progress toward real-world applications.
- **AI-Powered Smartphones Become Industry Standard in 2026** — Leading manufacturers integrate advanced generative AI features into flagship and mid-range devices.
- **Smart Cities Expand Use of AI for Urban Planning and Infrastructure** — Governments deploy AI for traffic management, energy optimization, and public safety.
- **Healthcare Sector Accelerates Adoption of AI-Based Diagnostics** — AI tools improve early disease detection, clinical efficiency, and personalized treatments.
- **AI Integration Transforms Global Financial Services Industry** — Banks and fintech firms implement AI for fraud detection, automation, and customer engagement.
- **Extended Reality (XR) Gains Momentum in Enterprise Applications** — Businesses deploy XR technologies for training, design, and remote collaboration.
- **Global Investment in AI Startups Continues to Surge in 2026** — Venture capital funding increases for AI-focused companies across multiple sectors.
- **Autonomous Vehicle Technology Advances Toward Commercial Deployment** — Automakers expand real-world testing of driverless mobility systems.
- **AI-Enabled Cybersecurity Solutions Strengthen Digital Protection** — Organizations deploy AI to detect and respond to cyber threats in real time.
- **Space Technology Innovation Accelerates Satellite and Launch Capabilities** — Private and public players expand satellite networks and space-based services.
- **Digital Payment Innovations Expand Financial Inclusion Globally** — Advanced fintech platforms improve access to secure and seamless financial transactions.
- **Enterprise Adoption of Generative AI Moves Beyond Experimental Stage** — Companies deploy AI solutions to enhance productivity, creativity, and decision-making.
- **AI Enhances Climate Technology and Sustainability Efforts** — Innovation supports energy efficiency, emissions monitoring, and environmental protection.
- **Semiconductor Industry Expands Production to Meet AI Demand** — Global chipmakers increase manufacturing capacity to address growing AI infrastructure needs.
- **Education Sector Integrates AI Tools to Transform Learning Models** — AI enhances personalized education, virtual classrooms, and academic research.
- **Global Telecom Industry Advances Toward AI-Powered Networks** — Telecom providers deploy intelligent systems to optimize connectivity and performance.
- **Edge Computing Gains Importance in Real-Time AI Applications** — Processing data closer to devices improves speed, privacy, and efficiency.
- **AI-Driven Automation Reshapes Global Workforce and Productivity** — Organizations restructure operations to leverage AI-enabled efficiency and innovation.
- **Consumer Electronics Industry Embraces Fully Connected AI Ecosystems** — Seamless integration across devices becomes a defining feature of modern technology.
  - **Global Governments Launch National AI Missions and Innovation Policies** — Countries prioritize AI development as a strategic economic and technological priority.
  - **Tech Industry Focuses on Responsible and Ethical AI Development** — Companies and policymakers emphasize transparency, accountability, and human-centric innovation.





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## **POWERING INDIA'S AI REVOLUTION**

India AI Impact Summit 2026 brings together innovators, investors, policymakers and global technology leaders to accelerate the next wave of intelligent transformation. Focused on ethical, scalable and inclusive AI, the summit drives real-world solutions that empower industries, strengthen economies and shape a future led by innovation.

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