

## Prime Minister pays tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Statue of Unity in Kevadia

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the 'Statue of Unity' in Kevadia. The Prime Minister said that the Statue of Unity is a monumental tribute to Sardar Patel and his vision of India's unity and strength. He added that standing tall as the world's tallest statue, it is a symbol of national pride and the nation's collective resolve to fulfil Sardar Patel's dreams.

The Prime Minister wrote on X;

"Paid homage to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the 'Statue of Unity' in Kevadia.

SoU is a monumental tribute to Sardar Patel and his vision towards India's unity and strength. Standing tall as the world's tallest statue, it is a symbol of national pride and collective resolve to fulfil Sardar Patel's dreams."



## Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai



Global Fintech Fest में पीएम मोदी, 9 अक्टूबर 2025



Maritime Leaders Conclave में पीएम मोदी, 29 अक्टूबर 2025

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Global Fintech Fest 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra today. Extending a warm welcome to all attendees in Mumbai, Shri Modi described Mumbai as the City of Energy, the City of Enterprise, and the City of Endless Possibilities. He specially welcomed his friend, Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Keir Starmer, and expressed gratitude for his presence at the Global Fintech Festival, acknowledging the time he took to attend the event.

Recalling that five years ago, when the Global Fintech Festival was launched, the world was battling a global pandemic, the Prime Minister highlighted that today, the festival has evolved into a global platform for financial innovation and cooperation. He noted that this year, the United Kingdom is participating as a partner country, and emphasized that the partnership between two major democracies will further strengthen the global financial landscape. Shri Modi remarked on the vibrant atmosphere, energy, and dynamism at the venue, calling it remarkable. He stated that this reflects global trust in India's economy and growth. The Prime Minister congratulated Shri Kris Gopalakrishnan, all organizers, and participants for the successful conduct of the event.



## 156th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

On Thursday, 2 October 2025, the Embassy of India in Zagreb organized a floral tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi bust, Park Bundek, Zagreb, to honor the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. The event was graced by distinguished guests from Croatia, members of the Diplomatic Corps, university professors, and Friends of India. In his address, Ambassador Arun Goel reflected on the transformative journeys of both Croatia and India, emphasizing the threads of progress and resilience that connect the two nations. Floral tributes were respectfully offered by the Ambassador, members of the Diplomatic Corps, Embassy officials, and other guests.



Prof. Ivan Andrijanić, Chair of Indology at the University of Zagreb, also shared insights on Gandhian philosophy and its global significance. Additional observations on the life and legacy of the Mahatma were given by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vivek Puri, President of the Hindu Religious Society of Croatia and Ivan Miškulin, Faculty of Medicine, University of Osijek. The event celebrated Gandhi's vision of peace, non-violence, and grassroots progress, reminding all of the timeless values that continue to inspire both nations.







# INDIA-EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)

TRADE & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENT (TEPA) COMES INTO FORCE



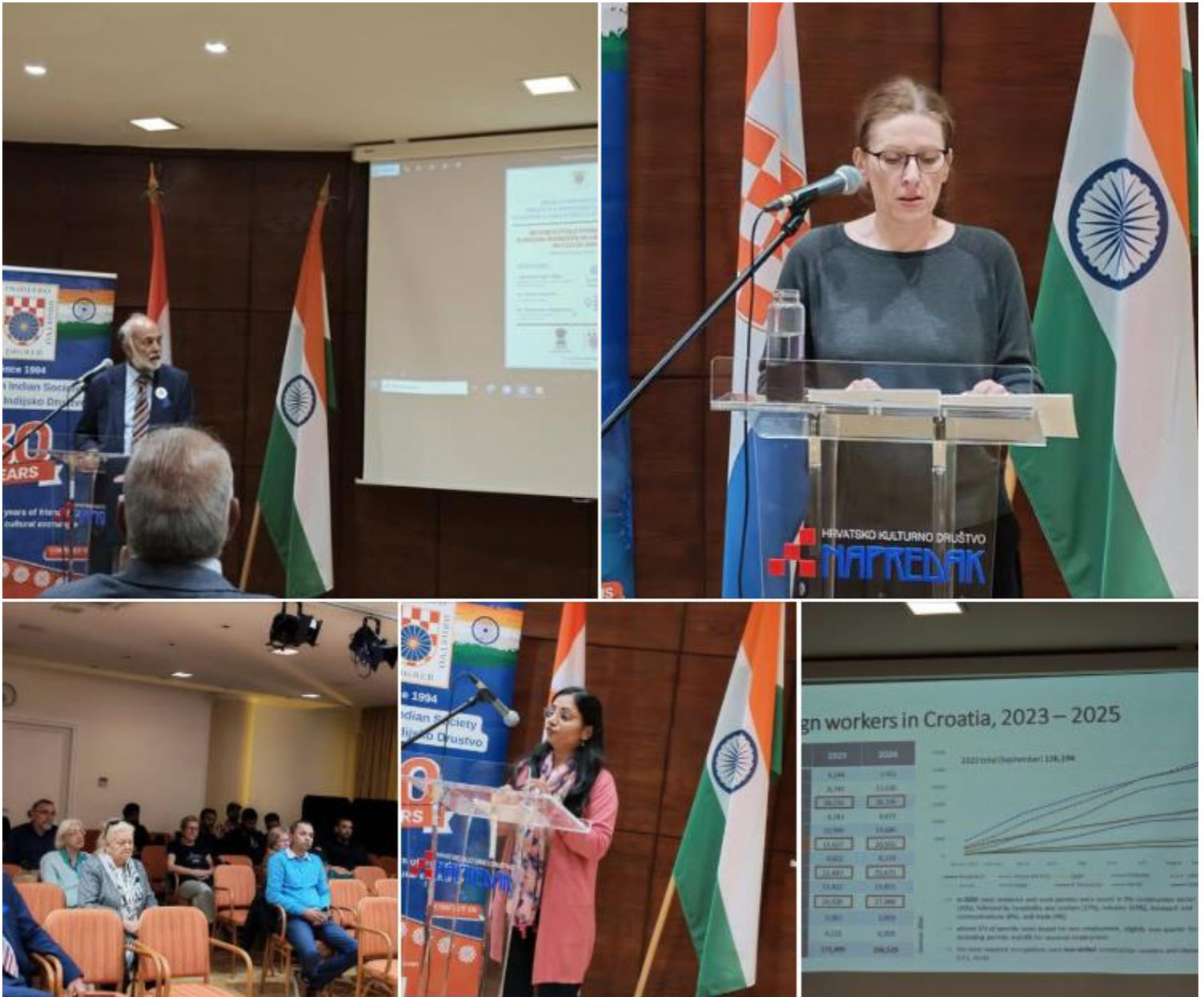
**Big Opportunities in**



**Services exports to flourish**

## Integration Experiences of Foreign Workers in Croatia: India in Focus

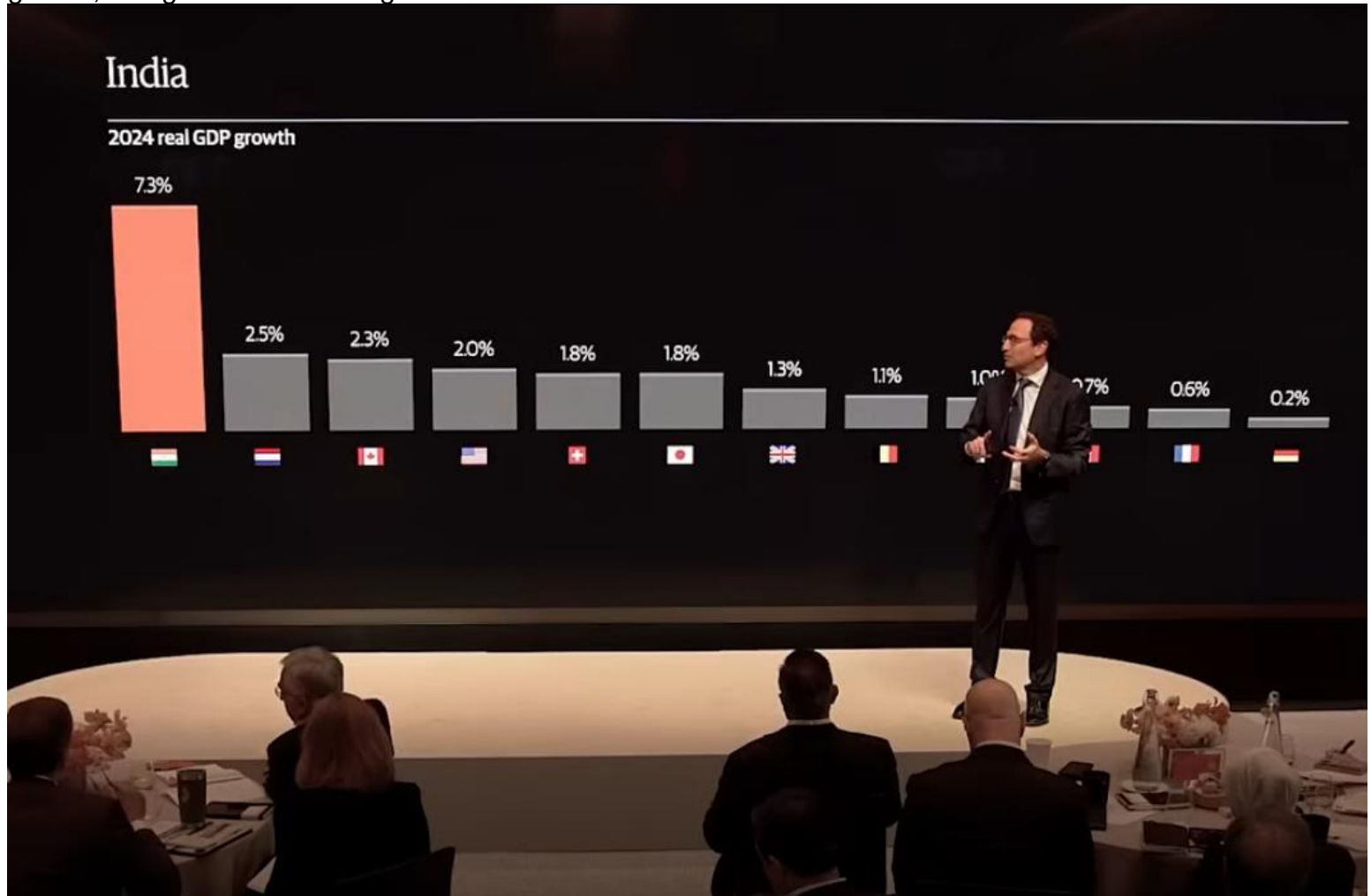
On Wednesday, 22nd October, a lecture and open discussion on the integration of Indian foreign workers in Croatia was held at HKD Napredak, organised by the Croatian Indian Society. The event started with opening remarks by the Society's president, Joginder Singh Nijjar. At the discussion, Pallavi Kararha, Head of Chancery, Embassy of India, Zagreb, spoke about the cultural similarities, differences, and how to bridge the gap, along with the challenges faced by many Indian workers in Croatia. Dr. Margareta Gregurović from the Institute for Migration Research presented data on the number of Indian workers, the sectors in which they are employed, and the administrative problems and challenges they encounter. Slide images revealed that over 20,000 Indian citizens have been working in Croatia in 2024, alongside 35,000 Nepali nationals. However, this only includes those whose work permits have been issued; a significant number of workers are still in the administrative process and are not yet included in official statistics.





# India Rising: The New Global Investment Powerhouse

Watch Jonathan D. Gray, President & COO Blackstone, share his insights on India's rapid economic rise. He highlights the massive investments in infrastructure—physical, legal, and capital markets—that are driving growth, along with a flourishing middle class.



## Key factors:

### **Strong Economic Growth:**

India is one of the fastest-growing major economies, driven by manufacturing, digital services.

### **Digital Transformation:**

Rapid adoption of technologies like AI, fintech, and 5G, along with initiatives like Digital India, has made India a global tech hub.

### **Young Workforce:**

With over 65% of its population under the age of 35, India boasts a massive, skilled labour force that fuels innovation and productivity.

### **Global Manufacturing & Supply Chain Role:**

Programs like Make in India have turned India into a key manufacturing and export hub.

## Ambassador's visit Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

On 28 October, Ambassador Arun Goel met with the Domagoj Tončinić, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, and Prof. Ivan Andrijanić, Chair of Indology, for a fruitful discussion on the future outlook of academic collaboration between India and Croatia. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cultural and educational exchanges, particularly in the field of Indology, where a Sanskrit and Hindi Chair is already established.



## 4th edition of the Pratibha Sangam Competition



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) - the cultural arm of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been actively promoting Indian culture abroad through its Cultural Centers functioning abroad and the Indian diaspora.

In recognition of the unique and deep association of foreign citizens with India and Indian culture, ICCR is anchoring the 4th edition of the Pratibha Sangam Competition 2025 – a global competition for performers across the world in the categories of Classical Indian Music and Dances. This competition will be judged by an eminent jury drawn from amongst the leading exponents of these performing arts in India.

Winners of this Competition would be invited to India for live performances at events to be organised in India, where a certificate will be awarded to the winners. Prize money is given to winners through concerned Indian Mission/Post.

**Who can participate?**

The competition is open to all foreign nationals/PIOs/OCI card holders, regardless of race, creed, or sex. This Competition is not open for NRIs.

Participants shall be of a minimum age of 18 years and maximum age of 50 years. Prizes will be given in two age categories:-

- 18 – 30 years
- 31—50 years

Previous Winners of this competition may re-apply only after a cooling off period of 3 years.

**Confidentiality**

The announcements will reveal only the identities of the winners of the competition, with information such as name, age, gender, category of award and the country. ICCR reserves the right to use participant's videos for future promotional activities.





## AYUSH NEWS

Highlights

### Ministry of Ayush to co-host 2nd Global Summit on Traditional Medicine with WHO

BioSpectrum

#### Ministry of Ayush to co-host 2nd Global Summit on Traditional Medicine with WHO

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India has signed an agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) to co-host the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine on the theme "Restoring balance for people and planet: The science and practice of well-being". The Summit will be held in New Delhi from 17th to 19th December 2025.



The agreement signing took place in the presence of Union Minister of State for Ayush (IC), Prataprao Jadhav, and Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, during the 2nd Summit Planning Group Meeting convened to monitor activities and progress for the upcoming Summit. The Global Summit will serve as an important international platform bringing together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to advance

the role of traditional medicine in global health and sustainable development. The Ministry of Ayush, in partnership with WHO, has reaffirmed its commitment to fostering evidence-based traditional medicine practices that contribute to human and planetary well-being.



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## Indian Economy on the Transformational Paths

### **Google, Adani and Airtel join forces to build India's largest AI data centre in Vizag**

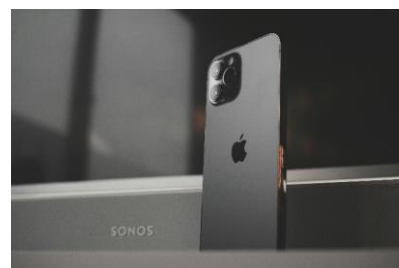
Andhra Pradesh aims to host 6 GW of data-centre capacity by 2029, reinforcing its position as a key AI and digital infrastructure hub. Adani Enterprises Ltd., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Bharti Airtel Ltd. have joined hands to establish India's largest artificial intelligence data centre in Visakhapatnam, marking a milestone in the country's emerging AI infrastructure. The initiative is part of Google's \$15-billion push into India's AI ecosystem, representing its biggest single investment in the country to date. The investment comes amid a wave of AI and cloud infrastructure expansion in India. Amazon Web Services (AWS) has pledged \$12.7 billion over five years to build new cloud infrastructure and support more than 100,000 full-time jobs annually. OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, is exploring partnerships to develop a 1 GW data centre in India after registering as a local entity. Meanwhile, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced plans for a \$6.5-billion AI data centre and a dedicated AI subsidiary, underscoring a wider shift among Indian IT giants towards high-capacity AI computing.

### **RBI says India's growth outlook remains resilient despite global economic headwinds**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said that the ongoing flux in the global economy poses significant challenges to the global macroeconomic outlook, adding that India is not entirely insulated from these developments. However, it emphasised that the domestic economy remains resilient, supported by low inflation, solid corporate earnings, and a robust banking system. In its latest monthly bulletin, the central bank noted that these factors are helping sustain the economy's momentum despite global volatility. Earlier this month, the RBI raised its forecast for India's GDP growth to 6.8 per cent for the current financial year. It said that domestic growth drivers remain strong even amid external uncertainties. On the external front, the RBI addressed the impact of trade tensions with the United States. It acknowledged that India faces punitive tariffs on exports to the U.S., following President Donald Trump's insistence that these would remain unless India reduces its imports of Russian oil. Despite these tariffs, the central bank maintained that the overall impact on India's growth remains limited. It said that merchandise trade continues to show resilience, although exports to the U.S. saw a notable decline in September as the higher tariffs took effect.

### **Apple records highest-ever quarterly iPhone shipments in India**

Apple Inc. achieved its highest-ever quarterly smartphone shipments in India, delivering 4.9 million iPhones during the July–September quarter of 2025, according to data from research firm Omdia. The milestone represents a 47% increase compared with the same period last year, marking Apple's strongest performance in the Indian market to date. The surge was attributed to robust festive season demand and the launch of the iPhone 17 series on 9 September. India now contributes 9% of Apple's global iPhone shipments, the largest share in the company's history, underscoring the country's rising importance in its global growth strategy.





### **Ambassador Arun Goel visited Medvedgrad Fortress,**

Ambassador Arun Goel visited Medvedgrad Fortress, one of Croatia's most iconic cultural landmarks, on 4 October 2025. During the visit, the Ambassador learned about the fortress's rich medieval history, met with local representatives, and enjoyed breathtaking views over Zagreb. We thank our gracious hosts for their warm welcome and for sharing the story of Medvedgrad, a symbol of Croatia's heritage and resilience.





## Strengthening the friendship between India & the people of Osijek

The First Gymnasium Osijek, as part of a thematic activity under the ongoing cultural initiative of the Embassy of India in Zagreb, received a collection of Indian literary classics presented by the Embassy. This initiative builds upon the existing cooperation between the Embassy and the First Gymnasium Osijek, further strengthening the partnership established through the longstanding friendship between India and the people of Osijek.





## Strengthening the friendship between India & the people of Pula

As part of a thematic activity under the ongoing cultural initiative of the Embassy of India in Zagreb, the Elementary School Monte Zaro in Pula, which also took part in the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 celebrations, received a collection of Indian literary classics presented by the Embassy through the kind facilitation of Friends of India. This initiative builds upon the existing collaboration between the Embassy and the Elementary School Monte Zaro, further strengthening the partnership established through the longstanding friendship between India and the people of Pula.



## Unlock Professional Training Opportunities in India via ITEC – Open to Applicants from Croatia!



Are you looking to expand your professional skills, gain international exposure and engage in high-quality training? The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) offers exactly that — and participants from Croatia are encouraged to apply.

### Key points:

- ITEC is a flagship capacity-building initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (India), offering fully-funded training & scholarship opportunities in a variety of fields.
- Over its history, ITEC has delivered more than 2,500 courses, trained over 225,000 professionals from 160+ countries.
- Various modes are available: in-person training in India, online e-ITEC, short-term executive programmes, and even on-site expert assignments abroad.
- For 2025-26, a course calendar and institute-wise planner are already available.
- Applications are open: Croatian professionals (in government, private sector, academia, NGOs) are welcome to apply via the official portal.

### Why apply?

- Gain unique exposure to India's governance, technology, development models and culture.
- Develop new professional networks and enhance your CV with an international dimension.
- Fully-funded or heavily subsidised training means high value at low cost.

Visit [www.itecgoi.in](http://www.itecgoi.in) → “Apply Now” to check eligibility, browse available courses and submit your application.



## Glimpses of Day of India held on 8<sup>th</sup> October in Bjelovar

As part of the Groups of Thematic Activities for the Special Period (September 15 – October 2), a special evening was held on October 8, showcasing Indian culture, and heritage. The event brought together friends of India in Croatia and the Indian diaspora in the City of Bjelovar, fostering meaningful connections and mutual understanding. We sincerely thank the Mayor of Bjelovar Mr. Dario Hrebak and Mr. Anwar Rajput and his team for the delicious Indian delicacies, sari workshop, and henna artistry, and Bikash Meche for the inspiring live music. The event was organized with the support of the local Indian diaspora, the City of Bjelovar, and the organizers of the Bjelovar Art Movie Festival, reflecting a shared commitment to cultural dialogue and inclusivity.



# Discover India: Upcoming Trade Fairs, Conferences & Business Events 2026

*Explore Opportunities Across Diverse Indian States*

## **PLASTIWORLD 2026**

**Date and Venue:** 23-25 March 2026, Jio World Convention Center Mumbai

**Website:** [www.plastiworld.org](http://www.plastiworld.org)

The All India Plastics Manufacturers Association (AIPMA) is organizing the 2nd Edition of Plastiworld Show, an exclusive export-oriented plastics product showcase, scheduled from March 23-25, 2026, at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai. With the growing need for alternatives to traditional manufacturing powerhouses, Plastiworld will display India's potential as a dynamic, reliable, and sustainable option for the global sourcing of plastic finished products. The 2026 edition of Plastiworld is set to bring together about 225+ exhibitors, who are largely Manufacturers/Exporter registered companies, showcasing a wide range of products, including Household, kitchenware & tableware, Sports & Leisure, toys, Stationery & Writing Instruments, Corporate gifts, packaging, medical items, etc. segments.



## **India Electronics Expo 2026**

**Date and Venue:** 23-25 March 2026, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

**Website:** [www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com](http://www.indiaelectronicsexpo.com)

Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) is organizing the 11th edition of the India Electronics Expo (INDELXPO), scheduled to be held from March 23-25, 2026 in New Delhi, India. This flagship event will once again spotlight India's growing capabilities in electronics manufacturing, innovation, and technology for a global audience. Building on the success of previous editions—including the 10th edition in 2025, which welcomed over 600 international buyers from 80+ countries—INDELXPO has emerged as a premier platform for connecting Indian electronics manufacturers with global buyers, distributors, and decision-makers. The expo offers overseas buyers a unique opportunity to explore high-quality, competitively priced products and cutting-edge solutions across the electronics value chain.



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