

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the Christmas morning service at the Cathedral Church of the Redemption in Delhi



Narendra Modi @narendramodi · Dec 25

Attended the Christmas morning service at The Cathedral Church of the Redemption in Delhi. The service reflected the timeless message of love, peace and compassion. May the spirit of Christmas inspire harmony and goodwill in our society.

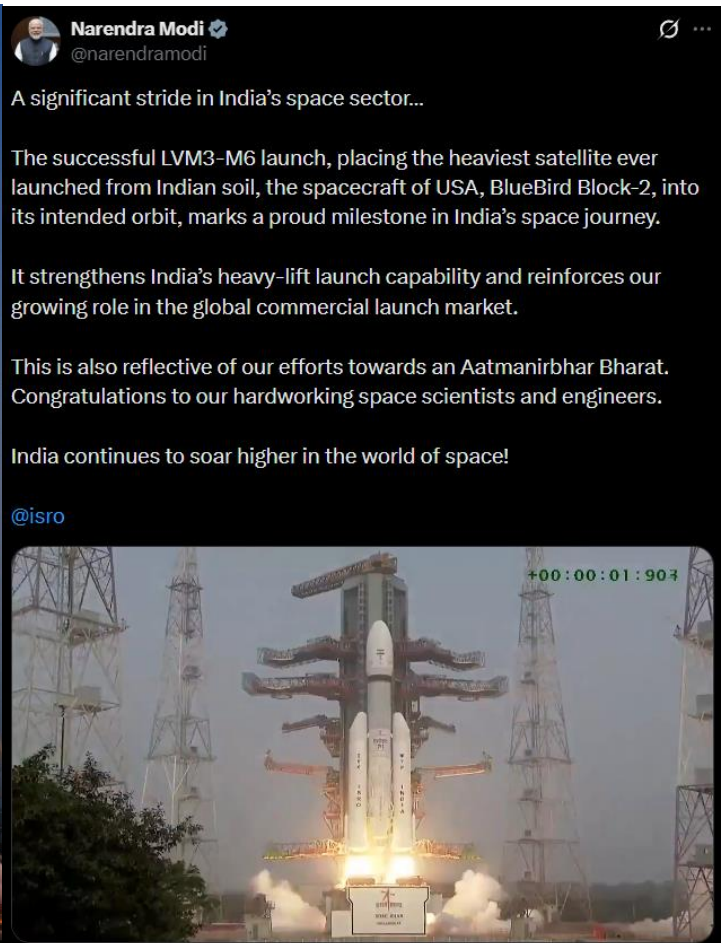


The LVM3-M6 mission has successfully placed the BlueBird Block-2 satellite into its intended orbit

The LVM3-M6 / BlueBird Block-2 Mission is a dedicated commercial mission onboard the LVM3 launch vehicle, which will launch the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite of AST SpaceMobile, USA. This mission marks the 6th operational flight of LVM3.

LVM3, developed by ISRO, is a three-stage launch vehicle comprising two solid strap-on motors (S200), a liquid core stage (L110), and a cryogenic upper stage (C25). It has a lift-off mass of 640 tonnes, a height of 43.5 m, and a payload capability of 4,200 kg to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). In its earlier missions, LVM3 successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions carrying 72 satellites. The previous launch of LVM3 was the LVM3-M5/CMS-03 mission, that was successfully accomplished on November 02, 2025.

In this mission, LVM3-M6 will place the BlueBird Block-2 satellite, into the Low Earth Orbit and is the largest commercial communications satellite to be deployed in Low Earth Orbit. It will also be the heaviest payload to be launched by LVM3 from Indian soil. The satellite is part of a next generation of BlueBird Block-2 communication satellites, designed to provide space-based cellular broadband connectivity directly to standard mobile smartphones.



The 2025 Reforms in Full Swing Under PM Narendra Modi

An infographic titled '2025 The Year of Reforms' with a subtitle 'Labour and Social Welfare Reforms'. It features a worker icon with a gear and a document. The background shows silhouettes of workers. The infographic lists four key reforms:

- Consolidated **29 laws** into **4 codes**
- Will support a growing workforce of **643.3 million**
- Streamlines compliance, modernizes outdated provisions, **promotes ease of doing business** and **safeguards worker's rights**
- Extended benefits to **gig, contract, and low-wage workers**

2025 will be remembered as the year India consciously chose to think bigger, move faster, and reform deeper. Under PM Modi, it became a defining moment when the country shed layers of outdated laws, simplified its tax and regulatory structures, opened new frontiers for industry, and aligned governance with the aspirations of a confident nation. It was a year when India's economic philosophy shifted toward clarity, scale, and global ambition. The impact was felt across rural India, industry, labour markets, and the emerging sectors that will shape the future. The clarion call given by PM Modi for regulatory reforms on 15th August and need to redraft laws for 21st century India was reflected in these reforms. Surpassing every global estimate, the Indian economy showed a staggering 8.2% GDP growth in 2025. It was the result of breathing new life into the economy through landmark reforms, cutting across sectors from taxation to labour reforms, from port modernisation to nuclear energy, from FDI to FTAs along with significant deregulation.

Labour Reforms: Placing Workers at the Core of India's Growth Story

2025 marked the first year when the Labour Codes reshaped India's world of work in a visible and decisive way. By consolidating 29 fragmented laws into four modern codes, India created a labour framework that is clearer for businesses and more secure for workers. With a stronger focus on fair wages, smoother industrial relations, wider social security and safer workplaces, the reforms position the labour market to support a growing workforce of 64.33 crore, encourage higher female participation and sustain lower unemployment levels as the economy expands. Recent labour reforms have expanded social protection across India's workforce. Nearly 10 million gig workers now receive annual social security support of ₹5,000–10,000. Between 50 and 70 million contract workers are being brought under Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' State Insurance coverage, translating into benefits of ₹15,000–25,000 per worker each year. A new national wage floor is set to raise incomes for 150–180 million low-wage workers.

Next-Generation GST Reforms: A Simpler, Fairer, More Transparent System

India's GST system saw its most meaningful simplification in 2025, moving to a clean two-slab structure of 5% and 18% that eased the burden on households, MSMEs, farmers and labour-intensive sectors. The reform aimed to reduce disputes, improve compliance and strengthen digital oversight while keeping sin goods outside the new structure to maintain fiscal balance. The impact was visible in consumer sentiment, with India recording record Diwali sales of ₹6.05 trillion and witnessing its strongest Navratri sales in over a decade. The reforms led to Average GST burden reduction of 5% for consumers with upto 20% reduction in GST burden for some and an additional INR ~1 lakh crore in their pockets. Reduction in life and health insurance also ensured annual savings of 50,000 crores due to reduced premiums leading to better uptake of life and health insurance. SBI Research now projects that even with lower slabs and rationalisation, GST revenues in FY26 are expected to exceed budget estimates. This reinforces the view that a simpler tax regime can be both people-friendly and fiscally strong, positioning India on a path toward a clearer, more predictable and growth-oriented indirect tax framework. Simpler registration procedures have enabled 90% reduction in registration time from 30 to 3 days for small firms.

Income Tax Revolution: Relief for the Middle Class

2025 brought a transformative shift for India's middle class with an income tax framework that finally reflected the realities of modern household budgets. For the first time, individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh a year faced no income tax at all, creating meaningful savings and giving families the financial space to plan, invest and spend with greater confidence. Simultaneously, India replaced the old Income-tax Act of 1961, burdened with 4,000+ amendments and thousands of complexities, with the modern, simplified Income Tax Act, 2025. The new law rationalises exemptions, reduces litigation, improves clarity, and strengthens voluntary compliance. It represents a decisive break from colonial-era drafting and signals India's entry into a new era of transparent, technology-driven tax administration.

2025 The Year of Reforms

Ease of Doing Business



- 100% Foreign Direct Investment in Insurance companies allowed
- Unified securities market laws under a single framework with the Securities Market Code Bill
- Removed separate environment clearances for units in pre-approved industrial parks
- 32 additional industries have been added to White Category of industries from sectors like solar power, bicycle assembly, handloom, scientific instruments to reduce compliance burdens and reduce entry barriers

2025 The Year of Reforms

Nuclear Energy Reforms



- Passed the **SHANTI** (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India) Bill
- Creates foundation for a more efficient, innovative and secure nuclear ecosystem
- Supports long-term objective of achieving 100GW nuclear energy capacity by 2047

Croatia Honoured with the Prime Minister's Yoga Award



At the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine held in New Delhi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi conferred the Prime Minister's Yoga Award upon Yogacharya Jadranko Miklec of Croatia for his outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of Yoga.

The award recognises Yogacharya Miklec's decades-long dedication to spreading the principles and practice of Yoga, fostering physical well-being, mental balance, and inner harmony across communities. His work has played a significant role in strengthening people-to-people ties between India and Croatia, while advancing Yoga's universal message of health and holistic living.

This global recognition reflects Yoga's enduring relevance in today's fast-paced world and highlights Croatia's meaningful contribution to the worldwide Yoga movement.

Ambassador Arun Goel congratulated Yogacharya Jadranko Miklec on Prime Minister's Yoga Award

H.E. Mr. Arun Goel, Ambassador of India to Croatia, met with Mr. Jadranko Miklec, who has recently returned from India, where he was honoured with a prestigious award for his outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of yoga, personally conferred by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi.

The Ambassador congratulated Mr. Miklec on this remarkable achievement. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and insights, discuss plans, and explore opportunities for cooperation in promoting yoga and cultural exchange, including an upcoming collaboration on a yoga session for the diplomatic corps in Croatia.



Ambassador Arun Goel visited the City of Bjelovar



Ambassador Arun Goel visited the City of Bjelovar, where he met with Mayor Dario Hrebak on the 3rd December 2025. The Mayor briefed His Excellency on the city's most significant development projects, including a visit to the construction site of the future Wellovar Geothermal Sports and Recreation Park in Veliko Korenovo. Ambassador Goel also toured Bjelovar's city centre with the Mayor, enjoying the festive Advent atmosphere. The visit included stops at the Student Dormitory and the Digital Innovation Centre, where the Ambassador met with Indian nationals currently working in Bjelovar.



The visit highlighted the friendly relations between India and the City of Bjelovar and included discussions on opportunities for future cooperation.

Ambassador Arun Goel visited the Rudolf Steiner Centar

On 3rd December, 2025 Ambassador Arun Goel visited the Rudolf Steiner Centar, where he was received by Mrs. Dijana Posavec, the Director of the Centre. She provided an insightful overview of the Centre's work, its programmes, and its ongoing initiatives. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views on sustainability, holistic education, and environmentally responsible practices, areas in which India and Croatia share strong and growing interests. Ambassador Goel and Director Posavec discussed possibilities for future cooperation, including knowledge exchange, community programmes, and initiatives inspired by ecological awareness. The Embassy extends its appreciation to the Rudolf Steiner Centre for their warm welcome and looks forward to continued collaboration in promoting sustainable and culturally meaningful partnerships.



Ambassador Arun Goel visited the spiritual and religious complex Podravski Jeruzalem in Čepelovac



Ambassador Arun Goel visited the spiritual and religious complex Podravski Jeruzalem in Čepelovac on the 3rd December, 2025. His host in Podravski Jeruzalem was the parish priest Ivica Gladoić.

The Ambassador particularly stopped at the station depicting India and in front of the painting of Our Lady of Calvary. His Excellency expressed his heartfelt thanks and emphasised that we are welcome at the Embassy of the Republic of India in Zagreb. And this visit testifies that we are all brothers, just as the title and name of our Stations of the Cross say.

His hosts in Podravski Jeruzalem were the parish priest, Ivica Gladoić, and Ana Rabađija as a translator, along with parish associates and councillors Marijana Prevedan, Đurđica Miletić, and Krešo Kovačev.

Please find the media article at the following link: <https://shorturl.at/xEVKq>

Indian Economy on the Transformational Paths

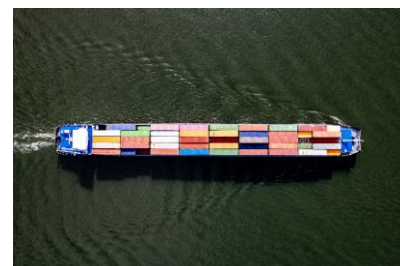
PM Modi to inaugurate India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the mega expo and opening ceremony of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from February 15 to 20. The global gathering is expected to bring together several heads of state, ministers and senior executives from leading technology and multinational companies, with India seeking a consensus declaration as a central outcome. As host, India expects the summit to help build global agreement on critical artificial intelligence issues, with a strong emphasis on inclusion and the democratisation of AI resources. The confirmed participation of both the United States and China is a significant development, given their influence on the global AI agenda. The summit builds on the momentum of previous global initiatives, including the AI summits held at Bletchley Park, Seoul, Paris and Kigali.



India's exports surge on diversification drive as trade deficit narrows sharply

Driven by diversification, innovation, and sustained efforts to advance trade reforms, India has strengthened its position in global markets, with exports setting new benchmarks despite continued global uncertainty. A strong year-on-year rise from November 2024 to November 2025 underscores India's growing reputation as a reliable trading partner. It reflects the resilience of its export ecosystem in a volatile external environment. India's total exports rose from \$64.05 billion in November 2024 to \$73.99 billion in November 2025, registering a robust growth of 15.52%. Imports remained broadly stable at \$80.63 billion, leading to a sharp narrowing of the trade deficit by 61.07%, from \$17.06 billion to \$6.64 billion. The performance was supported by high-value commodities, wider global partnerships and policy reforms aimed at achieving a more balanced and globally integrated trade trajectory.



India and EU push to fast track free trade agreement talks in New Delhi

India and the European Union have agreed to intensify efforts to conclude negotiations on the proposed free trade agreement as soon as possible, according to an official statement. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Maros Sefcovic, the EU's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, reviewed the progress of the talks during meetings in New Delhi on December 8 and 9. The commerce ministry said the two held a dialogue to accelerate the conclusion of the India-EU FTA and deepen the trade partnership. The discussions aimed to provide strategic guidance to the negotiating teams as both sides work to complete the agreement as soon as possible. The meeting took place soon after a week of technical discussions in New Delhi from December 3 to 9, covering key chapters, including Market Access for Goods, Rules of Origin, Services, and Technical Barriers to Trade. The statement said both sides acknowledged consistent progress across various negotiation tracks and agreed to maintain momentum through continued exchanges.



Ambassador Arun Goel received Mr. Zvonimir Troskot, Member of the Croatian Parliament

Before his departure, Ambassador Arun Goel received Mr. Zvonimir Troskot, Member of the Croatian Parliament, on 8 December at the Chancery. MP Troskot visited India from 10–20 December 2025 under the ICCR Distinguished Visitors Programme for 2025–26. The programme promotes deeper understanding, dialogue, and cooperation between India and partner nations. The Embassy of India extends its best wishes for a productive and insightful visit.



Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, DG, ICCR, hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. Zvonimir Troskot, Member of the Croatian Parliament

Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, DG, ICCR, hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. Zvonimir Troskot, Member of the Croatian Parliament, who is visiting India from 10-20 December 2025. The dinner was attended by Amb. Raj Kr. Srivastava, Dean, Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service; Mrs. Alpana Dubey, JS, Southern Europe; Mr. Branimir Farkas, DCM, Embassy of Croatia; & other eminent members from academia.



Embassy of India's AYUSH Cell first-ever participation in the Zagreb Advent Run bringing together over 5,000 runners



We are delighted to share the great success of the Embassy of India's first-ever participation in the Zagreb Advent Run, held on 14 December in front of Hotel Zonar, with the presence of Ambassador Arun Goel and Missions staff. With temperatures around 2°C, the event truly reflected resilience, health, harmony, and festive spirit, bringing together over 5,000 runners and visitors from over 30 countries. As the only partner country at the event, the Embassy of India proudly welcomed guests at its stall, where hot, freshly brewed masala chai provided much-needed warmth and festive cheer. Visitors also learned about India's AYUSH traditions, including Ayurveda and wellness initiatives such as DigestAll Churna, receiving enthusiastic interest from the Croatian community in Zagreb.



This widely announced initiative highlighted the strong friendship between India and Croatia, reaffirming our shared commitment to holistic well-being and people-to-people connections. The positive response and vibrant engagement made this participation truly memorable. The Embassy's AYUSH Cell will continue its activities through December and beyond, building on this momentum following the Hon'ble Prime Minister's visit earlier this year in June. The Embassy extends its appreciation to sponsors, partners, and everyone who joined us in making this event a warm success on a winter day. Watch the Recap of Embassy of India's first-ever participation in the Zagreb Advent Run [here](#).

Embassy of India's first-ever participation in the Osijek Advent

The Association Divinus and the AYUSH Cell of the Embassy of India, Zagreb organised a special Advent experience in the city of Osijek, aimed at promoting warmth, kindness, well-being, and a sense of togetherness within the local community. The event, titled "Śakuntala Mursensis at the House of Good Deeds: Ayurvedic Masala Tea, Vegetarian Treats, and Canine Happiness", was held on 16 December from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Visitors had the opportunity to enjoy traditional Ayurvedic masala tea and vegetarian delicacies, while also contributing to a charitable cause through a donation stand dedicated to animal welfare. Through this initiative, the organizers aimed to make a positive contribution to the Advent atmosphere in Osijek, strengthen cultural exchange, and offer a meaningful and heartwarming holiday experience to the community.



Special mini AI Pub Quiz dedicated exclusively to India, artificial intelligence, and the India AI Impact Summit



The Embassy of India enjoyed engaging with Croatia's tech community at the 22nd edition of the IT Pub Quiz at ZICER - Zagrebački inovacijski centar, where a special mini AI Pub Quiz was held as part of the event, dedicated exclusively to India, artificial intelligence, and the India AI Impact Summit. Participants demonstrated excellent knowledge, strong curiosity, and a genuine interest in learning more about India's growing role in AI, as well as the vision behind the India AI Impact Summit, to be held in New Delhi from 19-20 February 2026.



Addressing the audience, Ambassador Arun Goel highlighted India's vision of innovation guided by ethics, inclusion, and respect for human values, emphasising the global responsibility that comes with AI development. The event brought together young IT professionals, showcasing the shared commitment of India and Croatia to technology rooted in human values, responsibility, and inclusion. We thank the organisers and partners for an inspiring evening and look forward to strengthening cooperation in AI and emerging technologies. Watch the recap video [here](#).

Learn more & apply: <https://impact.indiaai.gov.in>

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

Explore Opportunities Across Diverse Indian States

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026

Date and Venue: 19-22 March 2026, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi

Website: www.bharatelectricitysummit.com

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 is India's premier platform for the power and electricity sector. Held under the patronage of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, the event is scheduled to take place from 19-22 March 2026 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi. Convening global policymakers, CEOs, government leaders, electricity experts, investors, regulators, innovators, suppliers and solution providers — all committed to driving progress across the entire electricity value chain, from generation and transmission to distribution, storage and smart consumption. Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 serves as a premier platform for companies across the entire power and electricity sector to showcase their latest innovations, technologies and solutions directly to global energy leaders, policymakers and investors.



IHGF Delhi Fair (Spring)

Date and Venue: 14-18 February 2026, India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR

Website: www.ihgfdelhifair.in

The upcoming 61st IHGF Delhi Fair (Spring) 2026 will be held from 14 - 18 February 2026 at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR, with a special focus on Furniture category. The Fair will feature a comprehensive and diverse presentation of over 2,000 product lines and 300+ design trends across 16 product categories, catering to international buyers including importers, wholesalers, retail chains, and design professionals. The Fair provides exhibitors of all scales, an opportunity to connect directly with international buyers, understand evolving market trends, and secure export orders tailored to specific buyer and market requirements.



Compiled by
Embassy of India, Zagreb

**If you do not wish to continue to receive our newsletters, you can unsubscribe by replying "unsubscribe" to this email.*



Embassy of India
Veleposlanstvo Indije