

NEWSLETTER

(BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS ON INDIA AND INDIA-BELARUS RELATIONS)



EMBASSY OF INDIA
MINSK



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BHARAT SANDESH

Issue- 11

PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



The President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu received the Chief Guests of the 77th Republic Day Celebrations, H. E. António Costa, President of the European Council and H. E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission at Rashtrapati Bhavan.(January 27, 2026) The President said that India and Europe are connected not only by contemporary interests, but also by shared values such as democracy, pluralism, and an open market economy. These principles guide us in a rapidly changing global environment. She was happy to note that over the past two decades, the India–European Union Strategic Partnership has grown remarkably stronger. She said that this reflects our collective aspiration to shape a stable, balanced, and rules-based international order.

The three leaders expressed confidence that the important agreements concluded during this visit will further deepen the India–EU Strategic Partnership. They agreed that India and the EU are emerging as a force for balance, stability, and optimism and together, we can shape a future that is sustainable, inclusive and humane.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219388®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister hails the Commissioning Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi hailed the commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap marks a significant milestone in India's maritime journey. He remarked that the induction of this advanced vessel is noteworthy for numerous reasons.

The Prime Minister stated that the commissioning adds strength to India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence and maritime capability. He further noted that it boosts the nation's security apparatus, enhancing coastal vigilance and safeguarding India's vast maritime interests. It also Reflects a strong commitment to sustainability, with modern technologies integrated to ensure eco-friendly operations.

Responding to a post by Shri Rajnath Singh on X, Shri Modi wrote:

“The commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pratap is noteworthy for numerous reasons, including the fact that it adds strength to our vision of self-reliance, boosts our security apparatus and reflects a commitment to sustainability, among others.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2211954®=3&lang=1>

Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Mr. Friedrich Merz visits India



At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Mr. Friedrich Merz, paid an official visit to India from 12-13 January 2026. The Chancellor was accompanied by a high-level delegation including 23 leading German CEOs and industry leaders.

This was Chancellor Merz's first official visit to India and his first visit to Asia as Federal Chancellor, reflecting the high priority Germany attaches to India as a key strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific. The visit followed the successful 7th India–Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) held in New Delhi on 25 October 2024, and comes at a high point in the journey of bilateral ties between the two countries, with completion of 25 years of India–Germany Strategic Partnership in 2025, and commemoration of 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2026. Both leaders sincerely appreciated the renewed momentum in bilateral engagement across government, business, civil society and academia that has played an instrumental role in advancing and deepening the Strategic Partnership.

Prime Minister Modi welcomed Chancellor Merz in Ahmedabad. The two Leaders paid floral tribute at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram, and participated in the famous Kite Festival. The two Leaders also addressed India-Germany CEOs Forum. Chancellor Merz will also visit Bangalore with engagements focusing on business and technological collaboration between India and Germany.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2213744®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, Parliament House Complex, New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Modi remarked that in a parliamentary democracy, the role of the Speaker is unique. He highlighted that the Speaker does not get to speak much, but their responsibility lies in listening to others and ensuring that everybody gets a chance to express themselves. He underlined that patience is the most common trait of Speakers, who handle even noisy and over-enthusiastic members with a smile.

Warmly welcoming the guests on this special occasion, Shri Modi expressed honour in having them present. He highlighted that the place where everyone was seated holds immense importance in India's democratic journey. He recalled that in the final years of colonial rule, when India's freedom was certain, the Constituent Assembly met in this very Central Hall to draft the Constitution. The Prime Minister noted that for 75 years after independence, this building served as India's Parliament, where numerous crucial decisions and discussions shaping the nation's future took place. Shri Modi further remarked that India has now dedicated this historic place to democracy by naming it the Samvidhan Sadan. He highlighted that only recently, India celebrated 75 years of the implementation of its Constitution. He emphasized that the presence of all distinguished guests in the Samvidhan Sadan is a very special moment for India's democracy.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2214823®=3&lang=1>

President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visits India



At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, paid an official visit to India on 19 January 2026. This was the fifth visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in the last ten years and his third official visit to India as the President of the UAE. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reviewed the full scope of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. They agreed that the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has continued to strengthen over the past decade.

The two leaders welcomed the visits of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, His Highness Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to India in the last two years, noting that these visits marked generational continuity of the bilateral relationship.

The two leaders endorsed the outcomes of the 13th High-Level Task Force on Investments held in September 2025, and the 16th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting and 5th Strategic Dialogue held in December 2025.

Link for full address:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspxPRID=2216270®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addresses the India-EU Business Forum in New Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the India-European Union Business Forum at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister expressed happiness at participating in the India-European Union (EU) Business Forum. He remarked that the visit of the Presidents of the European Union Council and Commission to India is not an ordinary diplomatic tour but marks the beginning of a new era in India-EU relations.

The Prime Minister emphasized that this alignment is not accidental; as market economies, India and the EU share common values, joint priorities for global stability, and natural connections between their people as open societies. He underlined that on this strong foundation, the partnership is reaching new heights and is being established as one of the most influential partnerships in the world, with clear results visible. Shri Modi noted that in the last ten years, trade has doubled to 180 billion euros, more than 6,000 European companies are operating in India, and investments from the EU in India exceed 120 billion euros. He further remarked that 1,500 Indian companies are present in the EU, with Indian investments there reaching nearly 40 billion euros. The Prime Minister highlighted that today, India and European companies are deeply collaborating in R&D, manufacturing, and services, and business leaders are both the drivers and beneficiaries of this cooperation.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219372®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's remarks at beginning of the Budget Session of 2026

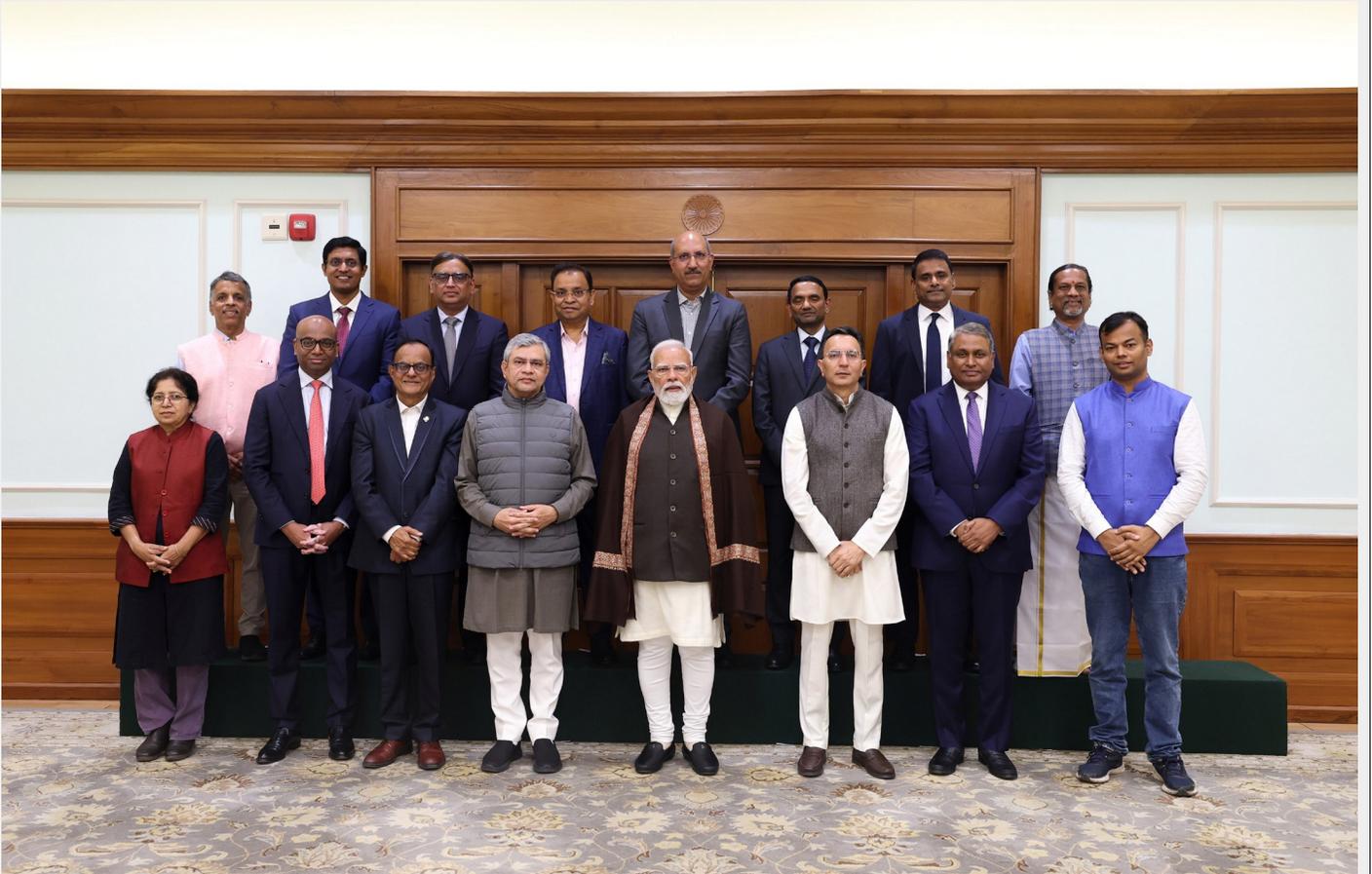


The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the media before the start of the Budget Session of 2026 at the Parliament premises. The Prime Minister remarked that the President's address was an expression of the confidence of 140 crore citizens, an account of their hard work, and a precise reflection of the aspirations of the youth. He highlighted that the President placed before all Members of Parliament several guiding points at the very beginning of the session and of the year 2026. Shri Modi stated that the expectations expressed by the President in simple words, as the Head of State, would certainly have been taken seriously by all MPs, making this session a very important one. He emphasized that this is the Budget Session, marking the completion of the first quarter of the 21st century and the beginning of the second quarter. He underlined that the next 25 years are crucial to achieving the goal of a developed India by 2047, and this budget is the first of the second quarter of the century.

Highlighting that the year has begun on a very positive note, with a confident India emerging as a ray of hope and a center of attraction for the world, Shri Modi remarked that the Free Trade Agreement between India and the European Union at the start of this quarter reflects the bright future of India's youth and the promising directions ahead. He emphasized that this agreement is free trade for an ambitious India, for aspirational youth, and for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. The Prime Minister expressed firm belief that India's manufacturers will seize this opportunity to enhance their capacities.

For more details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219910®=3&lang=1>

PM interacts with CEOs and Experts working in AI Sector



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with CEOs and Experts working in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), at his residence at Lok Kalyan Marg. Aligned with the upcoming IndiaAI Impact Summit in February, the interaction was aimed to foster strategic collaborations, showcase AI innovations, and accelerate India's AI mission goals. During the interaction, the CEOs expressed strong support towards the goal of becoming self-sufficient in AI technology. They also acknowledged the efforts and resources the government is putting to put India as a leader in AI on the global stage.

Prime Minister emphasised the need to embrace new technology in all spheres and use it to contribute to national growth. He also urged the use of indigenous technology across key sectors. While speaking about the upcoming AI Impact Summit, Prime Minister highlighted that all the individuals and companies should leverage the summit to explore new opportunities and leapfrog on the growth path. He also stated that through Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India has demonstrated its technical prowess and the same can be replicated in the field of AI as well. Prime Minister highlighted that India has a unique proposition of scale, diversity and democracy, due to which the world trusts India's digital infrastructure. In line with his vision of 'AI for All', the Prime Minister stated that we need to create an impact with our technology as well as inspire the world. He also urged the CEOs and experts to make India a fertile destination for all global AI efforts.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2220278®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi receives a delegation of Arab Foreign Ministers



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received a delegation of Foreign Ministers of Arab countries, Secretary General of the League of Arab States and Heads of Arab delegations, who are in India for the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

Prime Minister highlighted the deep and historic people-to-people ties between India and the Arab world which have continued to inspire and strengthen our relations over the years.

Prime Minister outlined his vision for the India-Arab partnership in the years ahead and reaffirms India's commitment to further deepen cooperation in trade and investment, energy, technology, healthcare and other priority areas, for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

Prime Minister reiterated India's continued support for the people of Palestine and welcomed ongoing peace efforts, including the Gaza peace plan. He conveyed his appreciation for the important role played by the Arab League in supporting efforts towards regional peace and stability.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2221199®=3&lang=1>

Embassy of India in Minsk celebrates 77th Republic Day of India



On the occasion of India's 77th Republic Day on 26 January 2026, Embassy of India, Minsk hosted two events to celebrate the nation's constitutional heritage. The flag unfurling ceremony was organised in the Chancery premises. Ambassador Ashok Kumar unfurled the national tricolor in the presence of Indian community and friends of India in Belarus and read Hon'ble President of India's address to the nation. As part of the celebration of 150th year anniversary of our National song 'Vande Mataram', each official of the Embassy and I sang Vande Mataram song together. The Mission displayed highlights from the Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, featuring the debut of the Shaktiban drone regiment and the participation of EU leaders Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa as Chief Guests. At the end, some refreshments were served to the guests.

In the evening of 26th January, the Mission hosted a grand reception for senior government officials of Belarus, members of diplomatic corps, business leaders and other important persons in Belarus. Mr. Aleksandr Khajayeu, Minister of Health of the Republic of Belarus was the Chief Guest. Mr. Sergei Lukashevich, First Deputy Foreign Minister was also in attendance. Ambassador Ashok Kumar, in his address, highlighted the momentum of the India-Belarus bilateral relations and India's progress in different fields, significance of 26th January, when the Constitution was enforced and India's Presidency of BRICS. Mission also showcased an exhibition featuring 26 photographs by Mr. Benoy K Behl covering masterpieces of the great art of India as well as World Heritage Monuments and Temples.

Indian Embassy celebrates World Hindi Day 2026



The Embassy of India in Minsk celebrated World Hindi Diwas 2026 on 16th January 2026. Ambassador Ashok Kumar emphasized the significance of the Hindi language in connecting the Indian people and embodying cultural values. Additionally, the Embassy is also offering free Hindi language classes for the people of Belarus. During the event, more than 20 people, including Embassy Officials, actively participated by reciting poems of famous poets in Hindi. The celebration not only promoted the Hindi language but also fostered cultural exchange and understanding.

Embassy of India in Minsk celebrate Uttar Pradesh Diwas



On January 24, 2026, the Mission celebrated Uttar Pradesh Diwas in the Republic of Belarus. Ambassador Mr. Ashok Kumar delivered speech, highlighting on the significance of this day and expressed the role of Uttar Pradesh in India's development in various sectors such as tourism, economy, culture, and heritage. The event also featured a short documentary showcasing the unique attributes of Uttar Pradesh, offering the audience a glimpse into the state's diversity. Additionally, cultural performances in Kathak dances, were organized. An exhibition was organized to display the distinct products of Uttar Pradesh, providing a glimpse of the state's craftsmanship and creativity.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

Pune International Business Summit 2026 (7th edition)

Focused Themes:

Emerging trends in international trade and investment, Strengthening global supply chains and exploring alternatives, Business prospects for SMEs, start-ups, and women-led enterprises, Technology's role in driving international business, Sustainability as a business enabler. **9th Feb and 10th Feb 2026** by the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), Pune

The 6th Edition of the Global Artificial Intelligence Summit & Awards (GAISA 6.0)

The summit will cover key sectors such as Defense, Healthcare, FinTech, Smart Cities, Industrial Automation, Education, and Cyber Security through expert panel discussions, industry roundtables, and networking sessions. **10th and 11th February 2026** at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi by the All India Council for Robotics & Automation (AICRA)

61st Edition of IHGF Delhi Fair (Spring) 2026

With a special focus on Furniture category **from 14-18 February 2026** at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida, Delhi NCR by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

The 8th edition of Advantage Healthcare India (AHCI)

From 23rd-25th February 2026 at the India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida (NCR), Uttar Pradesh by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

The 26th edition of IMC Bharat Calling Conference 2026

February 27, 2026, at Hotel Taj Lands End, Bandra (West), Mumbai, on the theme: "India @2030: Building a Globally Competitive Manufacturing and Export Powerhouse" by IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mumbai, India (IMC-formerly Indian Merchants' Chamber).

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN BELARUS

EDUCATION AND CAREER

23rd International Specialized Exhibition for schoolchildren, applicants, students, university graduates, parents, government representatives, business and the public.

The largest exhibition of educational institutions, educational technologies, and job openings in the Republic of Belarus. This is an Open Day for leading universities and colleges.

The exhibition is attended by universities, colleges, lyceums, postgraduate education institutes, educational centers, foreign language schools, employers, as well as industry manufacturers and suppliers.

Minsk , Pobediteley Ave. , 14, February 12–15, 2026

M/s "Expoforum", Phone: +375 (17) 367 34 30, expo@expoforum.by

Workwear. Occupational Safety and Health in Belarus

February 18-20, 2026, Minsk, Pobediteley Ave., 20 (Falcon Club)

One of the exhibition's key objectives is to showcase PPE, the full range of workwear and footwear, and safety and security systems manufactured abroad, in Belarus, and in the CIS countries, and to assist in finding the right partners. Exhibitors at the "Workwear. Occupational Safety and Health in Belarus" exhibition are provided with ample opportunities to increase sales, find new partners, and assess the potential of the Belarusian market.

Cleaning Days in Belarus

Professional cleaning (machines for dry and wet cleaning of large areas, floor polishers, carpet washing machines, dry and wet vacuum cleaners, steam cleaning equipment, cleaning mats, hand tools for cleaning, professional cleaning and washing agents, protective agents for floor coverings, consumables for cleaning, professional cleaning services, cleaning of curtains and blinds, equipment and products for the care of stone floors)

Industrial cleaning (chemicals and equipment for degreasing machinery, centralized dust removal systems,

smoke exhausters, car washes, auto chemicals and technical detergents, high-pressure devices, equipment for cleaning building facades, garbage collection and removal, municipal cleaning equipment, filters, water purification equipment)

hygiene and sanitation (paper products, dispensaries and consumables, dispensers, equipment for restrooms, disinfection, deratization, liquid soap, hand cream

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