

NEWSLETTER

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



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UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA



H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations called on H.E. President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan (February 20, 2026). Secretary General Guterres appreciated India's leadership role in convening the successful AI Impact Summit, and its longstanding collaboration with the United Nations in various fields. The President noted that at a time of global uncertainties, multilateralism is facing major challenges, including a widening trust deficit. She added that the existing outdated framework of the UN Security Council must be reformed to reflect contemporary geo-political realities, and the Global South must have a greater say in decision-making. She emphasized that urgent reform of the UN Security Council is the key to maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of the UN.

The President noted that while the 'UN-80' initiative offers a good platform for reforms, it is important that developmental priorities of the Global South are protected in any restructuring exercise. The President extended her good wishes for the rest of Mr Guterres' tenure as UN Secretary General, and reiterated India's full support towards multilateralism.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2230825®=3&lang=1>

PRESIDENT OF INDIA WITNESSES THE ‘VAYU SHAKTI–2026’ EXERCISE AT THE POKHRAN FIRING RANGE



H.E., the President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed the ‘Vayu Shakti–2026’ exercise at the Pokhran Firing Range, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (February 27, 2026). Vayu Shakti followed a structured operational storyline, simulating a live, integrated combat theatre. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh. The Vayu Shakti-2026 displayed the courage, dedication and professional excellence of the Indian Air Force. This exercise was conducted with the primary objective of demonstrating the capability to carry out swift and precise strikes in simulated wartime scenarios. Various fighter jets, transport aircraft, and attack helicopters accurately engaged designated targets in this exercise.

The thundering roar of aircraft and precision bombing in the desert presented a vivid display of the Indian Air Force’s modern combat strength and operational readiness. Advanced fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force, including Rafale, Sukhoi Su-30MKI, HAL Tejas and Mirage 2000, carried out precision strikes using air-to-ground guided bombs and missiles, accurately targeting enemy bunkers, runways, and command centres. Boeing Apache and Boeing Chinook helicopters also performed low-altitude rocket and gun firing drills, casualty evacuation operations, and transportation of equipment to difficult battlefield terrains.

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA WITNESSES INTERNATIONAL FLEET REVIEW AT VISAKHAPATNAM



The President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu witnessed the International Fleet Review at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (February 18, 2026). Navies of more than 70 countries are participating in the International Fleet Review, 2026. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the International Fleet Review reflects unity, trust and respect among nations for maritime traditions. Ships with different flags and sailors from different countries exhibit the spirit of togetherness. She highlighted that this spirit of togetherness is well captured in the theme of this review: United Through Oceans. It is a positive message to the global community that commitment and resolve of this collective naval strength can overcome all challenges.

The President said that India's approach to international relations including the maritime domain is guided by our ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'the world is one family'. This approach reflects the wisdom that global security and growth, sustainability and stability are built through partnerships. This spirit of partnership is the bedrock of an enduring global order. Therefore, India believes that a sound maritime order is based on collective responsibility and cooperative action among like-minded partners. She stated that this Fleet Review also takes forward India's vision of MAHASAGAR which stands for Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.

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PRESIDENT OF INDIA HOSTS PRESIDENT OF SEYCHELLES



H.E. the President of India Smt Droupadi Murmu received the President of the Republic of Seychelles Dr Patrick Herminie at Rashtrapati Bhavan (February 9, 2026). Welcoming President Herminie on his first State visit to India, the President said that India’s relationship with Seychelles is based on mutual trust and respect, and shared belief in democracy and pluralism. The waves of the Indian Ocean and the deep cultural links between our peoples bind us together. The President said that this year, Seychelles is celebrating 50 years of its independence and we are also commemorating the 50th anniversary of India–Seychelles diplomatic relations. Therefore, this visit is taking place at a very special time.

The President said that Seychelles occupies an important place in India’s MAHASAGAR Vision, which aims to further strengthen cooperation based on the pillars of trade for development, capacity building for sustainable development and mutual security for a shared future. She emphasised that under this vision, India remains ever ready to meet Seychelles’ developmental and security needs. The President expressed confidence that the Special Economic Package announced during this visit will infuse new momentum into India-Seychelles cooperation in several priority sectors of Seychelles, such as health, infrastructure, education, defence, and capacity building. She said that the “India–Seychelles Joint Vision for Sustainability, Economic Growth and Security through Enhanced Linkages” will provide a strong foundation for our cooperation in the years ahead.

Link for full article:<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2225635®=3&lang=1>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi's remarks on Union Budget 2026



Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi remarked that this year's budget is historic and reflects the empowered spirit of the nation's women. He highlighted that Union Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, as a woman finance minister, has set a new record by presenting the country's budget for the ninth consecutive time. The Prime Minister stated that this budget is a highway of immense opportunities, one that fulfills the dreams of the present and strengthens the foundation of India's bright future. He emphasized that the budget serves as the basis for India's high flight towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.

PM Modi noted that the reform express on which India is riding will gain new energy and new momentum through this budget. He underlined that the path-breaking reforms undertaken provide the aspiring, courageous, and talented youth of India with an open sky to soar. He further remarked that the budget realizes the vision of trust-based governance and a human-centric economic framework. The Prime Minister stressed that this is a unique budget, focused on reducing fiscal deficit and controlling inflation, while simultaneously ensuring high capital expenditure and high growth. The Prime Minister stated that India's role as a trusted democratic partner and trusted quality supplier is continuously expanding. He underlined that the recent major trade deals India has undertaken are aimed at ensuring maximum benefit for the country's youth and for small and medium enterprises, with significant steps taken in this budget to advance that direction.

Link for full address: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2221586®=3&lang=1>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi visited Malaysia



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was received by the Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Perdana Putra complex and accorded a ceremonial welcome on 08th February. Thereafter, the Leaders met in restricted and delegation-level formats at Seri Perdana, the official residence of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

The leaders held wide-ranging discussions and agreed to further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established between the two countries in 2024. They recalled the age-old India-Malaysia ties which underpin the partnership and the close people-to-people bonds. The leaders reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including priority sectors such as trade, investment, defence, security, maritime, clean energy, infrastructure, start-ups, agriculture, education, health, Ayurveda, tourism and cultural linkages. They also discussed enhancing cooperation in emerging areas such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence. The leaders appreciated the steady progress in digital cooperation between the two countries through the bilateral Digital Council and welcomed the agreement between UPI and Pay-net to enhance fintech collaboration.

Prime Minister Modi called for strengthening youth linkages through parliamentary and university exchanges. In this context, he welcomed the ongoing cooperation between Nalanda University in India and Universiti Malaya, and IIT Madras and Advanced Semiconductor Academy of Malaysia. He noted that the opening of India India's first Consulate in Malaysia would strengthen commercial and people-to-people ties.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2225062®=3&lang=1>

Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addresses ET Now Global Business Summit 2026



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi addressed the ET Now Global Business Summit 2026 in New Delhi on 13th February 2026. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister extended greetings to all present at the Global Business Summit and remarked on the theme, - 'A Decade of Disruption, A Century of Change'. He highlighted that the past decade of the 21st century has witnessed unprecedented disruptions, including the global pandemic, tension and wars in different regions, and supply chain breakdowns that shook global balance. He emphasized that crises reveal the true strength of a nation and expressed pride that despite these disruptions, India's decade has been marked by remarkable development, outstanding delivery, and the strengthening of democracy. Shri Modi recalled that when the last decade began, India was the eleventh largest economy, and amidst turmoil there were fears of decline, but today India is rapidly advancing to become the world's third largest economy. Underlining that India will be a major foundation for the Century of Change, Shri Modi noted that India currently contributes more than sixteen percent to global growth and expressed confidence that this contribution will continue to rise year after year. He affirmed that India will drive global growth and emerge as the new engine of the world economy.

For more details: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2227862®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister Welcomes Global Leaders to AI Impact Summit in Delhi



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today welcomed the world leaders, captains of industry, innovators, policymakers, researchers, and technology enthusiasts from across the globe to the AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The Summit, themed “Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya — Welfare for All, Happiness for All”, reflects India’s commitment to harnessing Artificial Intelligence for human-centric progress and inclusive development.

The Prime Minister highlighted the transformative role of AI across diverse sectors including healthcare, education, agriculture, governance, and enterprise. He expressed confidence that the deliberations at the Summit will enrich global discourse on innovation, collaboration, and responsible use of AI, shaping a future that is progressive, innovative, and opportunity-driven.

Prime Minister Modi underscored India’s leadership in the global AI transformation, powered by the strength of its 1.4 billion people, robust digital public infrastructure, vibrant startup ecosystem, and cutting-edge research. He emphasized that India’s strides in AI reflect both ambition and responsibility, positioning the nation at the forefront of technological advancement.

Link for full article <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2228526®=3&lang=1>

H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron, President of France visits India



At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the French Republic H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron paid an official visit to India from 17 to 19 February 2026 and participated in the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026. During the visit, the two leaders held bilateral talks and jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on 17 February. This is President Macron's 4th visit to India and it follows Prime Minister Modi's visit to France in February 2025.

On this occasion, both leaders agreed to elevate relations to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" to guide bilateral cooperation in the coming decades. The upgrading of relations reflects the growing ambitions and vision shared by the two leaders on India-France relationship, to act as a force for global good that can help build not only prosperity and resilience in their economies and advance their countries' security, but also work collectively towards addressing challenges in an increasingly uncertain global environment and, thus, help build a stable rules-based international order. Both countries celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership in 2023, on the occasion of which they adopted the Horizon 2047 Roadmap to set the course for the bilateral relationship up to 2047, the centenary year of India's independence, the centenary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and 50 years of Strategic Partnership. The leaders established an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue for regularly reviewing the progress of bilateral cooperation and implementation of the elevated partnership, and the Horizon 2047, in particular, in the areas of economic security, global issues and people to people exchanges.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2229412®=3&lang=1>

Prime Minister addresses Israeli Parliament - Knesset



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed a Special Plenary of the Knesset in Jerusalem. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to address the Israeli parliament. Upon his arrival at the Knesset, Prime Minister was received by the Speaker of the Knesset, H.E. Amir Ohana and accorded a ceremonial welcome. The Prime Minister of Israel, H.E. Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu; Leader of Opposition, H.E. Mr. Yair Lapid; and Speaker Ohana spoke in the Plenary ahead of Prime Minister's address, expressing strong bipartisan support for India-Israel ties.

Prime Minister began his address by thanking the Speaker for the special honour. Highlighting the strong bonds of friendship between India and Israel, Prime Minister noted that the two peoples share both ancient civilizational ties and a robust contemporary partnership based on technology, innovation, defence, security and strategic convergences. He stated that the vibrant people-to-people ties based on cooperation in agriculture, rural development, water management, sustainability and enterprise have imparted a dynamic outlook to the relationship. Underlining the historical connections and two-way movement of people between the two countries, Prime Minister stated that the Indian community in Israel and the Jewish diaspora in India have made significant contribution to progress in both countries.

Recalling the uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism of the two countries, Prime Minister offered condolences for the October 7 terror attack and noted that there can be no justification for such brutality. He offered India's support to all efforts that contribute to durable peace and stability in the region. In this context, he highlighted India's firm support for the Gaza Peace Initiative endorsed by the UN Security Council. Noting the ongoing collaboration between India and Israel in the plurilateral arena, he called for deeper interaction between the two countries in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor [IMEC] and the I2U2 frameworks.

Link for full article: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2232916®=3&lang=1>

Indian Embassy organizes an interactive session for ITEC alumni



The Embassy of India in Minsk organised a luncheon interactive session with the ITEC Alumni to share their experiences during their training in India and the how the course is helping them in their career. Ambassador Ashok Kumar addressed the participants and about 15 ITEC alumni attended the interactive session and shared their experiences.

UPDATE ON ITEC COURSES

The following three ITEC courses are being conducted in Russian language. The courses have been especially curated to cater to the needs of the Russian-speaking population. The course at S.No 3 will be conducted though AI based interpretation and hence is also open for English speaking participants also.

(1) Audit and Internal Control for Financial Discipline (in Russian) (09-Mar-2026 to 20-Mar-2026)

(2) DEVELOPING WOMEN LEADERSHIP - WOMEN ONLY (ITERATION - II) IN RUSSIAN (16-Mar-2026 to 20-Mar-2026)

(3) IS AUDIT AND USE OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN AUDIT (AI BASED INTERPRETATION IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE) (09-Mar-2026 to 20-Mar-2026)"

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN INDIA

Bharat Electricity Summit

Ministry of Power, Government of India is organizing an international exhibition and conference titled **“Bharat Electricity Summit” which will be held from 19 to 22nd March 2026 at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi.** The Summit will bring together global leaders to shape a sustainable energy future and offer States/UTs an international platform to attract investments, boost exports, and highlight the State's power sector strengths. Spread in an area of over 50,000 sqm, the event will attract 500+ exhibitors and more than 25,000+ industry professionals from India and abroad.

SANJEEVANI 2026

The SANJEEVANI 2026 – An International Event on Healthcare and Wellness, organized by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, will serve as a landmark event by bringing together the entire healthcare ecosystem under one roof. The Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) is the lead organization to showcase India's healthcare services to the global stakeholder. The third edition of SANJEEVANI, which will be held under the banner of SANJEEVANI 2026 – An International Event on Healthcare and Wellness. This prestigious event is scheduled for **26th– 28th March 2026 | Chennai, Tamil Nadu.**

International Buyer Seller Meeting (RBSM)

FIEO jointly with Govt. of Andhra Pradesh is organising an International Buyer Seller Meeting (RBSM) **at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh on 26th to 28th March, 2026.** The scheduled RBSM will show case top quality products manufactured by MSME sector in Andhra Pradesh, India. The Focus Product Sectors in this program are: 1. FOOD PROCESSING 2. TEXTILES

The 11th edition of the India Electronics Expo (INDELXPO)

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.

India's electronics sector is undergoing rapid transformation, driven by rising domestic demand, global supply chain diversification, and robust policy support. The Government of India has launched several strategic initiatives—including the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS) and the Electronics Components and Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)—to strengthen the ecosystem and position India as a trusted global hub for electronics design and manufacturing.

INDIASOFT 2026

The 26th edition of INDIASOFT 2026, India's premier international IT exhibition and conference, scheduled **from 23–25 March 2026 in New Delhi, alongside the India Electronics Show.** Together, these twin events form one of the largest platforms for showcasing global innovations in the IT and Electronics sectors. Over 1,500 Indian exhibitors will present cutting-edge software, services, and electronic solutions to more than 700 international buyers, investors and industry leaders from around 70 countries.

A Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) during the Plastiworld

FIEO in association the All-India Plastics Manufacturers Association (AIPMA) is organising a Reverse Buyer Seller Meet (RBSM) during the Plastiworld India **from 23 - 25 March 2026 at JIO World Convention Centre, Mumbai.** The show aims to create a focused sourcing platform to connect buyers and sellers across multiple segments from India and abroad.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS EVENTS IN BELARUS

AUTOMATION. ELECTRONICS ELECTROTECHNICAL LIGHTING

Minsk, Pobediteley Avenue, 20, Falcon Club From March 17 to 19, 2026, leading companies will present the latest solutions for industrial modernization. The event will serve as a central platform for showcasing cutting-edge technologies, sharing experiences, and establishing business contacts in the fields of industrial automation, electronics, and electrical engineering.

The "**AUTOMATION. ELECTRONICS-2026**" exhibition traditionally attracts the attention of specialists working on the development of smart manufacturing. The exhibition focuses on automation equipment, electronic components, process equipment, industrial controllers, robotics, manipulators, and laser technology. MinskExpo JSC st. Timiryazeva, 65, Minsk, 220035 tel . +375-17 367-90-84 Email: expo@minskexpo.com

DRIVE EXPO

Minsk, Pobediteley Ave., 20/2, Football arena Exhibition of technical and extreme sports Motor vehicle fleet Tuning and accessories Repair and maintenance Safe movement

Unicon & Game Expo Minsk Indie Hub Cross-stand quest Fan stands Stands of paraphernalia and accessories

Contest cosplay ART lane Craft lane Lectures and Master Classes

March 21-22, 2026, Exhibition Unitary Enterprise " Expoforum " Pritytskogo St., 91, office 432, 220140, Minsk Phone: +375 (17) 367 34 30 expo@expoforum.by

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