

BHARAT NEWS BY FII

Monthly Newsletter For Global Audience



India AI Impact Summit 2026: A Landmark Global AI Gathering in New Delhi (16–20 February 2026)



INDIA THAI Voices of Vision:
FII and ITCC Sign Historic MOU!



Strengthening Industry–Academia Ties: FII and SGT
University Sign Landmark MOU



Pharmacy To The World 2.0: FII Meets Thailand's GPO!



Indian Dream Global Action

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BHARAT NEWS BY FII (JAN-FEB 2026)

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Every Thursday

18:00 PM (IST)

Talk with an Expert show

MR. SANJEEV ARORA

DR. DRAVYA JAIN

FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
1st January, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Roadmap for SEZ 2.0: Creating Robust Manufacturing Ecosystem to Propel Economic Growth (Uncut Full Episode)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speakers: Mr. Hinder Mehta, Chairman, Free Trade Zones Committee & International Affairs Committee, FII; Dr. I. & Singhji, Former Zonal Development Commissioner, Noida SEZ and TALTA SEZ

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
8th January, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Understanding Show Cause Notices in the Context of Foreign Asset Reporting - II

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: CA Yatinder Khemka, Chairperson - Banking & Finance Committee - FII

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
15th January, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Roadmap for SEZ 2.0: Creating Robust Manufacturing Ecosystem to Propel Economic Growth (Uncut Full Episode)

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speakers: Mr. Hinder Mehta, Chairman, Free Trade Zones Committee & International Affairs Committee, FII; Dr. I. & Singhji, Former Zonal Development Commissioner, Noida SEZ and TALTA SEZ

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
22nd January, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Think Smart, Grow Strong : Strategy Essentials for MSMEs

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: Dr. Sanjay Nagi, Global Business Consultant & Trainer

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
29th January, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Why Customer Satisfaction Matters for MSMEs ?

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: Dr. Sanjay Nagi, Global Business Consultant & Trainer

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
05th February, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

How Do You Draft a Strong WIL That Protects Your Wishes and Your Wealth?

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: CA. Yatinder Khemka, Chairman, Banking & Finance Committee, FII

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
12th February, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Budget Insights 2026 : Key Takeaways for MSME Growth

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: CA. Yatinder Khemka, Chairman, Banking & Finance Committee, FII

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY
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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
19th February, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Budget Insights 2026 : Key Takeaways for MSME Growth

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: CA. Yatinder Khemka, Chairman, Banking & Finance Committee, FII

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Program Conceptualization

TALK WITH AN EXPERT
EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:00PM
26th February, 2026
This show is hosted by: GENERAL LIVE QR

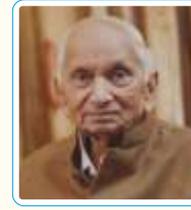
Dr. Deepak Jain, President- FII

Why Strategy is considered as the Backbone of MSMEs ?

Hosts: Mr. Sanjiv Arora, Chairperson, Media & IT Committee, FII; Dr. Dravya Jain, Advisor, FII

Speaker: Dr. Sanjay Nagi, Global Business Consultant & Trainer

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Padma Bhushan
L. Sh. Darshan Lal Jain



Padma Vibhushan
L. Smt. Sushma Swaraj

OUR INSPIRATIONS



From the Desk of

Dr. Deepak Jain

President, Federation of Indian Industry



The Union Budget 2026 signals a bold reorientation for India's industrial and MSME ecosystem. By prioritizing equity-based financing, the government has moved beyond debt-heavy support, allocating ₹10,000 crore for the SME Growth Fund and an additional ₹2,000 crore infusion. This empowers MSMEs to strengthen balance sheets, attract private capital, and scale sustainably.

On the industrial front, initiatives such as Biopharma Shakti (₹10,000 crore), Semiconductor Mission 2.0, expanded electronics manufacturing incentives, and revival of 200 legacy clusters reflect India's ambition to become a global innovation hub. The creation of rare earth corridors further secures supply chains for advanced manufacturing.

For the Federation of Indian Industry, this budget is more than fiscal arithmetic—it is a strategic industrial policy statement. MSMEs that embrace equity partnerships, digital enablement, and sectoral specialization will thrive, positioning India to transition from a cost-driven economy to a value-driven powerhouse.

दुनिया के 175 देशों के स्वास्थ्य की घड़कन बना भारत

स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में देश केवल आत्मनिर्भर ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता की भूमिका में भी, पहुंचा रहा है जरूरी दबाव

दुर्गा शर्मा - नया दिल्ली
 स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में देश केवल आत्मनिर्भर ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता की भूमिका में भी, पहुंचा रहा है जरूरी दबाव। यह वाक्य अतीव सत्य है। भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में जो विकास हुआ है, वह दुनिया के किसी भी देश के लिए असाध्य है।



वर्षों के प्रयत्न यमों जलम
 स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में देश केवल आत्मनिर्भर ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता की भूमिका में भी, पहुंचा रहा है जरूरी दबाव। यह वाक्य अतीव सत्य है। भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में जो विकास हुआ है, वह दुनिया के किसी भी देश के लिए असाध्य है।

इन मुद्दों पर देशों की प्रतिक्रिया
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62 देशों का नेतृत्व करने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन की गतिविधियों का करेंगे प्रचार प्रसार

वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट

वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट
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Himachal's Dr. Ranesh Rana Entrusted with Global Media Responsibility of FII Across 62 Countries

Appointment reflects recognition of contribution to industry, media, and social development

Himachal Mediators, Health
 The media responsibility of all over the world's largest industrial population, the Federation of Indian Industries (FII), has been entrusted to Dr. Ranesh Rana, a young and dynamic professional from Himachal Pradesh. Dr. Rana has been entrusted with the responsibility of representing the Federation of Indian Industries (FII) across 62 countries.



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December Drug Alert Raises Questions Over Effectiveness of Risk-Based Inspections

Inspections Should Improve Systems, Not Create Fear, Says Dr. Chiranjeev Thakur

Dr. Chiranjeev Thakur
 The December Drug Alert has raised questions over the effectiveness of risk-based inspections. Dr. Chiranjeev Thakur, a leading expert in the field, has pointed out that while the alert is a necessary step, it should not create fear among manufacturers. Instead, it should focus on improving the inspection systems.



फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज ने मुख्यमंत्री को शिक्षा पर वीथीकरण/फिक्सेड टैक्स: पूरा निःशुल्क/सर्वोच्च लाइसेंस के अद्युतन का नवीनीकरण के लिए फायर प्रूफ योजनाओं का अनावरण करार जने पर उल्लास जताया है

फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज ने मुख्यमंत्री को शिक्षा पर वीथीकरण/फिक्सेड टैक्स: पूरा निःशुल्क/सर्वोच्च लाइसेंस के अद्युतन का नवीनीकरण के लिए फायर प्रूफ योजनाओं का अनावरण करार जने पर उल्लास जताया है। फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज (एफआईआई) ने पूरा निःशुल्क/सर्वोच्च लाइसेंस और उद्योग प्रवर्धन को फायर प्रूफ योजनाओं का अनावरण करार जने पर उल्लास जताया है। फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज (एफआईआई) ने पूरा निःशुल्क/सर्वोच्च लाइसेंस और उद्योग प्रवर्धन को फायर प्रूफ योजनाओं का अनावरण करार जने पर उल्लास जताया है।

FII President Welcomes Union Budget as a Catalyst for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

Budget reflects resilience, vision and long-term economic planning

Dr. Ranesh Rana
 The Union Budget 2023-24 is a catalyst for inclusive and sustainable growth. It reflects the government's resilience, vision, and long-term economic planning. The budget is a testament to the government's commitment to the welfare of the people.



वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट

वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट
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केयू सिधत सरस्वती केन्द्र की पुस्तक द सरस्वती नदी माया का मुख्यमंत्री ने किया विमोचन

धरातल पर पवित्र सरस्वती नदी लाने वाले भगीरथ है दर्शन लाल जैन : नायब सैनी

भगीरथ है दर्शन लाल जैन : नायब सैनी
 The book 'The Saraswati River' by Dr. K. S. Singh is a masterpiece. It tells the story of the sage Bhagirath who brought the sacred Saraswati river to the earth. The book is a must-read for everyone who is interested in the history and culture of India.



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62 देशों का नेतृत्व करने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन की गतिविधियों का करेंगे प्रचार प्रसार

वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट

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वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट
 स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में देश केवल आत्मनिर्भर ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता की भूमिका में भी, पहुंचा रहा है जरूरी दबाव। यह वाक्य अतीव सत्य है। भारत के स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में जो विकास हुआ है, वह दुनिया के किसी भी देश के लिए असाध्य है।

केंद्रीय वजट से साइबर सिटी के विकास को और तेजी से लगे पंख

वैश्विक स्तर पर भारत की प्रतिस्पर्धी बनाएगा वजट

केंद्रीय वजट से साइबर सिटी के विकास को और तेजी से लगे पंख
 The Union Budget 2023-24 has provided a significant boost to the development of Cyber City. The government's commitment to digital infrastructure is a key focus of the budget. This will help India to become a global leader in the digital economy.



एफआईआई का प्रतिनिधिमंडल थाईलैंड रवाना

बढ़ती (सोलन)। फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन इंडस्ट्रीज (एफआईआई) का एक दल थाईलैंड के लिए रवाना हुआ है। इस दल में हिमाचल प्रदेश सहित देश के विभिन्न राज्यों के वीथीकरण से युक्त उद्योग शामिल हैं। फेडरेशन के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष राजेश सिंह ठाकुर और अन्य सदस्य विभिन्न क्षेत्रों आपत-निर्पात को संभालना पर विस्तृत चर्चा करेंगे।



India and EU Sign Historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

India and the European Union have signed a historic Free Trade Agreement, marking a major step in strengthening bilateral economic

relations. The agreement aims to boost trade, investment, and technology collaboration by reducing tariffs and improving market access across goods and services. Key sectors such as manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, automobiles, green energy, and digital services are expected to benefit significantly.



Infrastructure and Logistics Projects Gain Momentum

India's infrastructure and logistics sector gained significant momentum, strengthening supply chains and improving regional connectivity.

Increased public and private investments in highways, rail corridors, ports, airports, and multimodal logistics parks enhanced the efficiency of goods movement and reduced transportation costs. These developments supported faster delivery timelines, improved last-mile connectivity, and boosted trade competitiveness.



Food Processing Investments Gain Momentum

India's food processing sector witnessed a major boost with over ₹1.02 lakh crore worth of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

signed, signaling strong investor confidence. These investments are expected to enhance processing capacity, reduce post-harvest losses, and strengthen value addition across agri-produce. The initiative will also generate significant employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas, while supporting farmers through better market linkages.



Exports of Pharmaceuticals and Engineering Goods Show Improvement

India's exports of pharmaceuticals and engineering goods recorded an improvement, supported by rising global

demand and sustained trade outreach efforts. Strong performance in generic medicines, active pharmaceutical ingredients, and medical devices boosted pharma exports, while engineering goods benefited from increased demand for machinery, auto components, and industrial equipment.



Startup Funding Momentum in January

Indian startups raised approximately \$930 million in January, reflecting a steady revival in the funding ecosystem. Early-stage startups attracted strong investor

interest, highlighting confidence in innovation-driven and scalable business models. Sectors such as fintech, healthtech, AI, climate-tech, and SaaS witnessed notable deal activity. The funding momentum indicates a positive outlook for entrepreneurship, innovation, and long-term growth in India's startup landscape.



GST Collections Cross ₹1.90 Lakh Crore in January

India's GST collections crossed ₹1.90 lakh crore in January, reflecting strong economic activity, robust consumption, and improved tax compliance.

Higher revenues were supported by steady domestic demand, better enforcement measures, and increased formalisation of the economy. The healthy GST inflows indicate resilience in key sectors and provide the government with greater fiscal space to support growth-oriented spending and development initiatives.



PLI Schemes Attract Fresh Investment Commitments

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes continued to gain traction, attracting fresh investment commitments across key sectors including electronics, EV components, solar manufacturing, and semiconductors. The incentives encouraged both domestic and global companies to expand manufacturing capacities in India, strengthen supply chains, and reduce import dependence.



MSME Credit and Bank Lending Growth Create New Opportunities

Growth in MSME credit and bank lending opened significant opportunities for enterprise expansion and capacity building. Improved access to finance

enabled small and medium businesses to invest in technology upgrades, increase production capacity, and strengthen working capital. Supportive policy measures, credit guarantee schemes, and digital lending platforms further boosted funding availability.



Defence Manufacturing Opportunities Expand

Defence manufacturing opportunities increased with higher indigenisation targets and greater private sector participation. Policy support and procurement reforms encouraged

domestic companies to develop advanced defence technologies, components, and platforms. Increased collaboration between public sector units, private industry, and startups strengthened the defence ecosystem,



Skill Development and Vocational Training Partnerships Gain Momentum

Skill development and vocational training partnerships increased, creating new opportunities in workforce development and industry-led skilling programs. Collaboration between industry, training institutions, and government agencies focused on aligning skills with emerging sector demands such as manufacturing, technology, healthcare, and logistics.



Smart City and Urban Infrastructure Projects Advance

Smart city and urban infrastructure projects continued to progress, generating new opportunities in water management, waste processing, and urban technology solutions. Investments in smart utilities, digital governance, sustainable mobility, and resilient infrastructure are improving service delivery and urban living standards.



Textile and Apparel Manufacturing Sees Renewed Interest

Textile and apparel manufacturing received fresh investor interest, supported by rising export demand and favorable policy measures.

Incentives aimed at boosting production, improving infrastructure, and enhancing competitiveness encouraged capacity expansion and modernization across the sector. The renewed momentum is expected to strengthen India's position in global textile value chains, generate employment, and support sustainable growth in the apparel and textile industry.

POLITICAL NEWS



India rapidly advancing towards becoming 3rd-largest economy: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India was currently witnessing an era of unprecedented certainty and political stability, a time when the world is experiencing great uncertainty, and appealed to investors to take advantage of various opportunities in the country. "Amid great global uncertainty, we are witnessing an era of unprecedented certainty in India."



Focus on Economic Diplomacy

India intensified its economic diplomacy efforts during the period, with high-level bilateral and multilateral engagements aimed at strengthening trade relations, enhancing investment flows, and deepening strategic partnerships with key global economies. These initiatives underscored India's commitment to expanding its global economic footprint and supporting long-term growth and competitiveness.



Focus on Digital Governance Initiatives

The government continued to advance digital governance initiatives, reviewing progress on digital public infrastructure, e-governance platforms, and technology-enabled citizen services. Emphasis was placed on improving transparency, efficiency, and ease of access, with digital solutions playing a key role in enhancing public service delivery and administrative effectiveness.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



Technology and AI-Driven Business Expansion

Businesses across global markets accelerated the adoption of artificial intelligence, automation, and digital technologies to enhance productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness. Increased investments in AI-enabled solutions supported innovation across sectors such as manufacturing, finance, healthcare, and logistics, highlighting technology's growing role in driving business expansion and long-term growth.



Energy and Clean Technology Investments Rise

Global investments in energy and clean technologies increased, driven by a growing focus on renewable power, energy storage, green hydrogen, and decarbonisation initiatives. Governments and private players accelerated funding for solar, wind, and clean mobility projects to strengthen energy security and meet climate commitments.



Tourism and Global Mobility Improve

International tourism and global mobility showed continued improvement, supported by enhanced connectivity, streamlined travel procedures, and growing confidence among travellers. Countries focused on facilitating cross-border movement to boost tourism, business travel, and people-to-people exchanges, contributing to recovery in the global travel and hospitality sector.

BANKING AND FINANCE



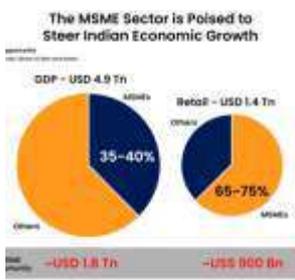
Focus on Financial Stability and Risk Management
Banks and financial institutions placed strong emphasis on financial stability by enhancing risk

management frameworks, improving credit appraisal systems, and closely monitoring asset quality. Regulators continued to stress prudent lending practices, adequate capital buffers, and liquidity management to safeguard the banking system against market volatility.



Focus on Green and Sustainable Finance
Banks and financial institutions increasingly focused on green and sustainable finance, aligning capital allocation

with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives. Greater emphasis was placed on financing renewable energy projects, clean mobility, energy-efficient infrastructure, and climate-resilient initiatives.



Banking Sector Shows Improved Credit Growth

The banking sector recorded improved credit growth, supported by rising demand from MSMEs, infrastructure projects, and

the retail segment. Increased lending activity reflected stronger business confidence and gradual recovery across key sectors of the economy. Banks focused on expanding loan portfolios while maintaining prudent risk management practices and asset quality.

INDUSTRY



Infrastructure Spending Boosts Allied Industries

Continued government and private sector investment in infrastructure projects supported growth across allied industries such as cement, steel, construction materials, and engineering services. Large-scale developments in roads, railways, logistics parks, and urban infrastructure generated sustained demand for industrial inputs and services.



India-EU FTA: CBAM Rules Strain Indian Steel MSMEs

Despite the historic India-EU Free Trade Agreement being concluded on January 27, 2026, Indian steel micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are facing immediate challenges due to the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).



PLI and improving demand to favour electronics MSMEs: SME Tracker

Consumption of electronics in India is expected to increase 11-13 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to ₹17-18 trillion this year, riding on government initiatives to boost demand and broader policy moves such as rationalisation of goods and services tax rates and revision of income tax slabs. Mobile phones, consumer electronics and industrial electronics together account for 55-60 per cent of total electronic sales in India.

AGRICULTURE



Energy Sector Has \$500 Billion Investment Potential: PM Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted that India's energy sector offers investment opportunities worth USD 500 billion, inviting global investors to participate in the country's energy transformation. Speaking at India Energy Week 2026 in Goa, he said India's energy infrastructure, including oil and gas exploration, refining capacity, LNG value chains, and downstream petrochemical activities, presents vast opportunities for capital infusion and long-term growth.



Kerala govt to hand over paddy procurement to cooperative societies

The Kerala government has decided to entrust paddy procurement to cooperative societies, shifting to a farmer-centric, two-tier system aimed at ensuring quicker payments and reducing delays. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan here, a release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on Monday.



Govt conducting pilots with Agristack to link land, fertiliser use, crops

The government is conducting pilots to use technological platforms, such as Agristack, to connect land, fertiliser usage, and crops to fix the quantum of crop nutrients ideally required, Union Agriculture Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra said. Mishra's remarks put the debate around price control aside for now.

START-UP



Indian Startup Funding Hits ~\$930M in January

Indian startups raised around \$930 million during January, indicating sustained investor interest across early- and growth-stage companies. Funding activity remained broad-based, with strong participation in technology, fintech, healthtech, and consumer-focused ventures. Investors continued to emphasise capital efficiency and scalable business models, reflecting a disciplined approach to funding.



Startup India Sops to Boost Deep Tech

The Startup India initiative expanded support for deep tech startups, introducing new fiscal and regulatory incentives aimed at accelerating innovation, research, and commercialisation. The updated sops include enhanced funding access, tax benefits, and streamlined compliance measures, designed to strengthen deeptech capabilities in areas such as AI, semiconductor design, advanced materials, and biotech.



Startup IPO Tracker Shows Strong Pipeline

India's startup ecosystem is witnessing a robust pipeline of companies preparing for initial public offerings (IPOs), signalling growing maturity and investor confidence. Several startups across tech, consumer, and fintech sectors are progressing toward public listings, reflecting stronger financial performance and tightened governance standards.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT



International Skill Exchange Program Announced

India announced new international skill exchange programs through partnerships with select

countries, aimed at facilitating cross-border workforce mobility and mutual recognition of skills and certifications. The initiative focuses on high-demand sectors such as healthcare, construction, IT, and advanced manufacturing.



Women in Tech Skilling Drives Gained Momentum

Industry and government initiatives continued to push women's participation in technology and STEM

fields through focused skilling programmes and workforce readiness efforts. Reports show that women's participation in STEM upskilling has been steadily rising, driven by increased access to digital learning pathways and demand for future-focused skills like AI and data analytics.



New National Skills Mission Initiatives Launched

The CSIR Integrated Skill Initiative, a flagship component of India's broader National Skill India Mission, was implemented

to bridge the gap between scientific research and industry-aligned skills. It focuses on equipping workers with practical competencies sought by modern industries, strengthening India's skilled workforce.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



India-EU Trade Deal to Back Innovation Hubs, Startups, and Emerging Tech

The historic India-EU Free Trade Agreement is expected to support the

growth of innovation hubs, startups, and emerging technology sectors in India. By reducing trade barriers and providing greater market access, the deal encourages cross-border collaborations, investment in research and development, and technology transfer.



Uttar Pradesh Govt to Scale Up AI Blueprint with Network of 65 Labs

The Uttar Pradesh government announced plans to expand its Artificial Intelligence (AI) blueprint

by establishing a network of 65 AI labs across the state. These labs will focus on research, skill development, and innovation in AI, machine learning, and data analytics, aiming to support both academic institutions and industry needs.



Govt Should Consider National Database for AI Incidents: White Paper

A recent white paper has recommended that the Indian government establish a national

database to track AI-related incidents across sectors. The proposed database would collect and analyse cases of AI failures, biases, cybersecurity breaches, and unintended outcomes, helping regulators, researchers, and companies identify risks and implement preventive measures.

AUTO TECHNOLOGY



PM E-DRIVE scheme delivers 1.13 million electric vehicles in its first year

PM E-DRIVE scheme delivered 1.13 million electric vehicles in its first year, significantly boosting

EV adoption even with subsidies roughly half of those offered under the earlier FAME II programme. This surge, highlighted by independent studies, suggests India's electric mobility market is maturing rapidly.



Ashok Leyland launches high-efficiency P15 and H4 engines at EXCON 2025

Hinduja Group flagship Ashok Leyland has unveiled a next-generation series of compact engines at

EXCON 2025, offering higher performance and enhanced efficiency, a top official said on Tuesday. The new engine range P15 (49 and 55 HP) and H4 Unipack (55 and 74 HP) is manufactured at the company's facilities and aligned with global quality standards.



Auto components, telecom parts drive India exports to Mexico

Mexico on Thursday slapped a tariff of up to 50 per cent on all imports from India starting January, a

move that could further weaken India's exports already hit by the US' 50 per cent Customs duties. The measures are seen as an attempt to protect Mexico's domestic industry.

CSR



Toyota Kirloskar Motor Partners with Nagaland Government for Strategic CSR

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) signed an MoU with the Government of

Nagaland to implement strategic CSR initiatives in healthcare, education, and community development. Programs include upgrading hospitals, improving school facilities, and promoting hygiene and nutrition, benefiting over 440,000 people.



Themis Portfolio Management Puts CSR at Core of Business Strategy

Themis Portfolio Management reaffirmed its commitment to strategic corporate social

responsibility, embedding CSR into its business identity with targeted initiatives that strengthen local communities. The company was honoured for its long-term support of volunteerism and contributed to social causes such as education, infrastructure rehabilitation after fires, and support for children's and elderly homes—with active employee participation highlighting its people-centric approach.



New Research: Businesses Prioritize Environment for Employee Volunteering

A study by the Royal Voluntary Service shows that environment and

conservation have become the top focus for employee volunteering among UK businesses, with 39 % of companies directing staff time toward environmental causes like habitat protection and clean-ups — slightly ahead of health and social care.

DEFENCE NEWS



India, Namibia agree to deepen cooperation in defence, critical minerals

India and Namibia held the fifth round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) and agreed to deepen collaboration in key sectors, including health, Digital Public

Infrastructure (DPI), agriculture, defence, and critical minerals. According to a release by the Ministry of External Affairs, the meeting was held on January 19 and January 20 and was co-chaired by Janesh Kain, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa), Ministry of External Affairs and Ambassador Charles Josob, Acting Head of Department for Bilateral Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of International Relations and Trade, Namibia.



₹1.8 trn defence contracts signed by Q3 FY26, modernisation gains pace

Contracts worth ₹1.82 trillion have been signed over the nine months ending in December to acquire weapons and equipment for the armed

forces, the government said on Thursday. During this period, approximately ₹1.2 trillion — or 80% of the ₹1.49 trillion capital acquisition (modernisation) budget for FY26 — had already been utilised.



PM Modi: India to Boost Defence, Security, and Innovation Partnership with Malaysia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a plan to strengthen defence, security, and technological

innovation partnerships between India and Malaysia. The initiative aims to enhance joint defence exercises, technology transfers, cybersecurity collaboration, and defence R&D, fostering strategic ties in the Indo-Pacific region. Both countries emphasized cooperation in advanced manufacturing, naval and aerospace systems, and defence innovation, creating opportunities for Indian defence companies and startups.

ENERGY AND POWER



India's Energy Sector Offers \$500 Billion Investment Potential

India's energy sector presents an estimated \$500 billion investment opportunity, driven by the

country's rapid transition towards renewable energy, green hydrogen, power transmission, and energy storage. The government is prioritising large-scale solar and wind projects, grid modernisation, battery manufacturing, and clean fuel initiatives to meet rising demand and climate goals.



Energy Storage and Battery Manufacturing Attract Investment

India's energy storage and battery manufacturing sector witnessed growing investor interest, driven by the rapid expansion of

renewable energy and electric mobility. Investments increased in lithium-ion batteries, advanced cell manufacturing, and large-scale energy storage systems to support grid stability and EV adoption.



Solar Manufacturing Capacity Strengthened under PLI

India significantly strengthened its solar manufacturing capacity under the Production

Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, attracting fresh investments across the solar value chain. New and expanded facilities for solar cells, modules, wafers, and ingots are being developed to boost domestic production and reduce reliance on imports.

INITIATIVES BY GOVT



Defence Manufacturing & Indigenisation Drive
India's Defence Manufacturing and Indigenisation Drive continued to gain strong momentum, reinforcing the nation's commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat in the

defence sector. The Government intensified efforts to boost domestic production of defence equipment, reduce import dependence, and strengthen the indigenous defence industrial ecosystem.



Bihar Launches 909 Bridges Under Gramin Setu Scheme
The Bihar government has launched construction of 909 rural bridges under the Chief Minister Gramin Setu Scheme to significantly

enhance connectivity across all 38 districts. The initiative aims to link villages to markets, schools, healthcare facilities, and government services, transforming rural accessibility and supporting economic activity.



NITI Aayog – NIIT Foundation Digital Literacy Partnership
NITI Aayog entered into a strategic partnership with the NIIT Foundation to expand digital literacy and financial inclusion

programs across aspirational districts and rural communities. The collaboration focuses on delivering targeted training in basic and advanced digital skills, financial management, and digital payments, aiming to increase participation in the digital economy and improve employability.

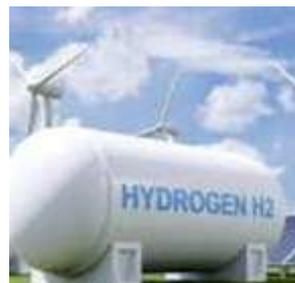
INVEST INDIA



Boost to Electronics & Semiconductor Ecosystem

India's electronics and semiconductor ecosystem received a significant boost with sustained policy support and targeted investment

facilitation. Government initiatives, including PLI schemes, semiconductor mission incentives, and infrastructure development, encouraged global and domestic companies to expand manufacturing and R&D operations in India.



Renewable Energy & Green Hydrogen Focus

India intensified its focus on renewable energy and green hydrogen, reinforcing its commitment to a sustainable and low-

carbon future. Policy support and investment facilitation encouraged expansion in solar and wind power capacity, along with large-scale green hydrogen production, storage, and export projects.



Strong Investment Facilitation Across Sectors

India witnessed strong momentum in investment facilitation across key sectors, supported by proactive government

engagement and policy reforms. Focus areas included manufacturing, electronics, EVs, renewable energy, infrastructure, defence, and startups. Streamlined approvals, PLI incentives, and coordinated support from central and state agencies helped accelerate project execution and investor confidence.

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS



Shri Anshuman Gaur Appointed Ambassador of India to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Government of India has appointed Shri Anshuman Gaur, a senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 2001 batch, as the next Ambassador of India to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He will serve as India's principal diplomatic representative in Sarajevo, strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.



Ms. Muanpui Saiawi Appointed High Commissioner of India to New Zealand

The Government of India has appointed Ms. Muanpui Saiawi, a senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, as the next High Commissioner of India to New Zealand. With extensive diplomatic experience across key global assignments, Ms. Saiawi brings strong expertise in political, economic, and cultural diplomacy.



Shri Amit Kumar Mishra Appointed Ambassador of India to Georgia

The Government of India has appointed Shri Amit Kumar Mishra as the next Ambassador of India to Georgia. He is a senior Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer with extensive diplomatic experience. In his new role, Shri Mishra will represent India's interests in bilateral political, economic, and cultural engagements. The appointment underscores India's commitment to strengthening ties with Georgia and the wider Caucasus region.

MEA



Visit of Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

On 21 January 2026, Ambassador Sibi George, Secretary (West) in India's Ministry of External Affairs, led an official visit to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, where he held substantive talks with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and senior officials to review the full spectrum of bilateral relations and explore avenues for deeper cooperation.



Foreign Secretary Meets Vice Minister of the Communist Party of China

India's Foreign Secretary, Vikram Misri, met with Ms. Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), in New Delhi on 14 January 2026, marking one of the first high-level engagements between the two sides this year. The meeting focused on stabilising and advancing India–China bilateral relations, with discussions centred on strengthening business and people-centric exchanges, and exploring ways to create the right environment for improved ties.



PM Modi Receives Telephone Call from the President of Brazil

On 22 January 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a telephone call from His Excellency Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil. During the conversation, both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the India–Brazil Strategic Partnership across multiple areas including trade, investment, technology, energy, agriculture, defence, and people-to-people ties.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President, Federation of Indian Industry, Attends Community Health Camp



Dr. Deepak Jain, President of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), attended the Free Eye and Health Check-up Camp at Charmwood, Surajkund Road, as the Guest of Honor on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti. Organized by the International Jain Forum in collaboration with Banarsi Das Chandiwala Institute, the camp provided vital eye screenings, cataract surgery registrations, and orthopedic consultations to hundreds of residents. Dr. Jain appreciated the noble initiative sponsored by Smt. Veena Jain and Shri Virendra Pal Jain in the loving memory of their son, Late Rishi Raman Jain, terming it a true example of service to society. He also extended birthday greetings to Shri N.K. Jain and wished him a long and healthy life. Dr. Jain thanked Ms. Mamata Jain for the opportunity to be part of the initiative and lauded the dedication of doctors, volunteers, and organizers. The special bhandaara organized on the occasion further reflected the spirit of compassion and community service.

Dr. Deepak Jain, President, FII, Participates in Haryana Pre-Budget Consultation



Dr. Deepak Jain, President of the Federation of Indian Industry (FII), participated as a Sectoral Expert in the Haryana Pre-Budget Consultation Workshop held at Gurugram University. The workshop was chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana and focused on aligning policy priorities with Haryana Vision @2047. Dr. Jain contributed expert inputs in the areas of Education, Skilling, and Employability, emphasizing human resource development as a key driver of inclusive growth. He shared actionable recommendations aimed at strengthening future-ready education systems and enhancing workforce employability.

The deliberations reflected a collaborative and structured approach toward building a 'Viksit Haryana'. The consultation is expected to play a significant role in shaping the Haryana State Budget for 2026–27.



Dr Deepak Jain, President -FII had the pleasure to participate in the Advisory Board Meeting of Indra Gandhi University, Rewari.

Meeting of the Advisory Board for the Center for Skill Enhancement and Professional Development (SEPD) was held on February 10, 2026. Dr Aseem Miglani VC chaired the meeting and was ably assisted by Prof Ritu Bajaj.

The meeting was convened to discuss Future-Ready Skilling and Recommending new short-term certificate courses aligned with NEP 2020 and industry demands.

IGU is dedicated to bridging the gap between education and employability.

Strengthening Industry–Academia Ties: FII and SGT University Sign Landmark MOU



Strengthening Industry–Academia Ties: FII and SGT University Sign Landmark MOU



Today was more than just a discussion on the Union Budget; it marked the beginning of a long-term strategic alliance.

Federation of Indian Industry (FII) and SGT University officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during the Union Budget Conclave 2026, aimed at bridging the gap between academic learning and industrial application and creating a strong pipeline of industry-ready talent aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Following the signing ceremony, an elite panel of experts shared valuable insights on Smart Manufacturing, Startup Ecosystems, Banking & Finance, and International Trade, enriching the dialogue with practical perspectives and future-focused strategies.

The event was attended by a huge gathering of students and faculty members, whose enthusiastic participation reflected the strong academic engagement and relevance of the conclave.

Special thanks are extended to Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Former Member of Parliament and Member, Executive Council – Constitution Club of India, for his esteemed presence, guidance, and encouragement on this important occasion. The event was presided over by Dr. Deepak Jain, whose visionary leadership played a pivotal role in shaping this meaningful collaboration.

From the FII side, the distinguished dignitaries present included CA S. K. Jain, Executive Director, Indraprastha Gas Limited (Retd.); Shri Hitender Mehta, FCS, FCA, LLB, Chairman, International Affairs Committee – FII; Dr. Shailendra Vyas, Genetic Scientist and Chairperson, Startup & Skill Development Committee – FII; Shri Uditendu Verma, General Secretary – FII and Solution Architect in Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0; CA Yatinder Khemka, Chairperson, Banking & Finance Committee – FII; and CA Vinod K. Bapna, Executive Director & CEO, Caparo Maruti Limited and President, FII Haryana Chapter.

Representing the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, Shri Manoj Sharma, Senior Assistant Director, Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), marked the presence of the MCA at the conclave.

From the SGT University side, the occasion was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Bhalla, Principal, SGT College of Pharmacy, SGT University, Gurugram; Dr. Subodh Kumar, Registrar, SGT University; Dr. Nikhil Monga, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Management; Ms. Hemlata Sharma, Director, International Affairs and Alliances; and Dr. Niyati Chaudhary, Associate Professor and Head of Department (H.O.D).

Strategic MoU Signed to Advance Robotics, AI & Future Skills in India



Federation of Indian Industry (FII) is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ALYSS Edusolutions Pvt. Ltd., a leading EdTech organization engaged in education, robotics, artificial intelligence, and skill development. This strategic partnership marks an important milestone in strengthening India's innovation-led, technology-driven education and skill ecosystem.

The MoU is focused on establishing a long-term framework for collaboration aimed at promoting Robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), STEM education, and Industry 4.0-aligned skill development programmes across schools, higher education institutions, and professional training platforms. The partnership is aligned with national priorities such as Skill India, Digital India, and Make in India, ensuring relevance, scalability, and long-term impact.

A key pillar of this collaboration is the introduction of structured Robotics and AI education programmes for schools, covering Grades 3 to 12 across CBSE, ICSE, and State Boards. The initiative will support the establishment of Robotics and AI laboratories, development of multi-year curricula, teacher training programmes, student certification, innovation challenges, and exposure to emerging domains such as generative AI, agentic AI, and AI-driven robotics. The objective is to democratize access to future-ready skills and nurture problem-solving, design thinking, and innovation at an early stage.

The MoU also emphasizes the development of Skill India-aligned, job-oriented training programmes in robotics, automation, and Industry 4.0 technologies. These programmes will cater to students, diploma holders, graduates, and working professionals, with strong industry linkage, hands-on training, internships, apprenticeships, and placement facilitation. Special focus will be given to high-impact sectors such as healthcare, defence, automotive, space, and advanced manufacturing.

Another significant area of cooperation under this MoU is the promotion of indigenous design and manufacturing of educational robotics solutions, in alignment with the Make in India initiative. The partnership aims to support research, innovation, prototyping, and commercialization of domestically developed robotics kits, AI modules, and automation systems, while encouraging collaboration with leading academic and research institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Deepak Jain, President – Federation of Indian Industry (FII), highlighted the importance of industry-academia collaboration in building a future-ready workforce and strengthening India's global competitiveness. Dr. Rama Mohan, Founder – ALYSS Edusolutions Pvt. Ltd., reaffirmed the commitment to delivering high-quality, industry-relevant education and skill development solutions. This MoU reflects a shared vision to empower India's youth with advanced technological skills, foster innovation, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's journey towards self-reliance and sustainable economic growth.

DG- FII participates in Expert Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2026



Federation of Indian Industry (FII) was pleased to participate in the Expert Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2026, which was organized by the School of Management and UniBiz Club, IILM University Gurugram. The discussion focused on the theme “Growth, Inclusion, and Innovation – Was India Getting the Balance Right?”

The session provided timely and meaningful insights into the Union Budget 2026 and highlighted its impact on industry, startups, financial services, innovation ecosystems, and inclusive economic growth. The interaction enabled students to connect economic policy with real-world industry perspectives and national development priorities.

The panel was expertly moderated by Mr. Jaideep Ghosh, Former Partner & COO, KPMG India, who steered the discussion with clarity and strategic depth. The distinguished panel included Ms. Perna Joshi, Indian Economic Service, Government of India; Ms. Timsi Menon, Vice President & Regional Manager, SBI Life Insurance; and Dr. Shailendra Vyas, Director General-FII. Each panelist shared valuable insights drawn from policy-making, financial services, and industry leadership.

The event also featured an engaging Student Quiz Competition and encouraged active participation and knowledge sharing among students.

On behalf of FII, we appreciated this impactful platform that strengthened industry–academia collaboration and promoted informed dialogue on India’s economic direction. FII continued to support initiatives that empowered future leaders with practical understanding and policy awareness.

Bridging Academia and Industry: SGT University Students Explore BioNEST-UDSC



Students of SGT University recently participated in an Industry–Academia Exchange Programme with BioNEST-UDSC at the University of Delhi, South Campus, offering them a valuable glimpse into the world of biotechnology innovation and incubation.

During the visit, they toured the state-of-the-art BioNEST facility, exploring advanced labs and research spaces designed to support biotech startups and translational research.

The programme helped students understand the role of bio-incubators in nurturing early-stage technologies and bridging the gap between classroom concepts and industry expectations.

Faculty and incubator experts explained various entrepreneurial opportunities and shared insights on how to develop practical skills relevant to today’s biotech ecosystem.

Interactive discussions encouraged students to think beyond academics and explore real-world applications in research, innovation, and startup culture.

Overall, the visit enriched students’ perspectives, motivating them to pursue innovation, industry engagement, and skill development for future careers.

From Strategic Dialogue to National Pride: Celebrating Bharat in Thailand !





The FII Business delegation to Thailand comprised distinguished leaders from the FII, including Dr. Deepak Jain, President; Smt. Sunita Jain, Director; Sh. Hitender Mehta, Chairman, International Affairs Committee-FII and Sh. Uditendu Verma, General Secretary. Members from Healthcare, Infra, Jewellery and Plastic Industry segments from all over India in the 22 member delegation. Sh Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman FII Thailand Chapter and his Team were the perfect hosts.

On 19th January our day began with a highly productive meeting at the Embassy of India, Bangkok. While the discussions remained focused on the future of Indo-Thai Business synergy and strengthening our "Act East" objectives, the warmth and receptivity of the mission were truly encouraging for our delegation members.

A landmark day for the FII delegation in Thailand as we honored the spirit of our Republic! On 20th January, the energy then shifted to the magnificent Ritz-Carlton Bangkok, where we joined the Embassy's grand Republic Day Reception. Amidst the glittering skyline of Bangkok, the evening was a spectacular showcase of India's rising global stature.

India in Thailand (Embassy of India, Bangkok) hosted a reception this evening to celebrate the 77th Republic Day of India with more than 1200 guests joining this special occasion. H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, and H.E. Mr. Srettha Thavisin, the former Prime Minister of Thailand, was present as a special guest. Several other dignitaries including Members of Parliament, senior officials of the Royal Thai Government, members of the diplomatic corps, academia, business leaders and distinguished members of the Indian community were also present at the event. Renowned Thai singer Khun Ann Mitchai enthralled the audience with soulful renditions of the Thai Royal Anthem and the Indian National Anthem.

The room was filled with diplomats, industrial leaders, and the vibrant Indian diaspora, all united under the Tricolor. The Ritz-Carlton Hotel was a fitting venue for a nation celebrating its journey toward becoming a global powerhouse.

President Dr. Deepak Jain remarked: "To celebrate our Republic amongst such distinguished friends of India is a reminder that our industrial mission is backed by deep cultural and diplomatic roots."

INDIA THAI Voices of Vision: FII and ITCC Sign Historic MOU!







The FII 22 Member strong delegation was led by Dr. Deepak Jain, President, Smt. Sunita Jain, Director-FII, Sh. Hitender Mehta, Chairman, Int. Affairs Committee, Sh. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman, FII Thailand Chapter, Sh. Uditendu Verma, General Secretary-FII and Sh. Ranesh Rana, Media Advisor-FII.

A truly monumental day in Bangkok! Our joint meeting with the India-Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) culminated in the signing of a landmark MOU that officially turns "Act East" into "Act Together."

In the presidential address, Dr. Deepak Jain introduced the "Joint Working Group" concept—a commitment that FII and ITCC will act as the ultimate support system for businesses crossing borders. "No entrepreneur should feel like a stranger in a partner nation," was the heartbeat of this message.

We were deeply honored by the insights of H.E. Kiat Sitttheeamorn, who reminded us that "Certainty is the new Currency." His call to move from simple deals to collective policy advocacy on customs and visas has given our mission a clear and powerful roadmap.

Key Outcomes:

Establishment of a Joint Working Group of FII and ITCC

The Bridge-Head: Direct support for market entry.

EEC Gateway: Using Thailand as a hub for Indian goods into ASEAN.

We also had the opportunity to hear from the ITCC leadership Sh. Susheel Dhanuka, President, Sh. Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman, FII Thailand Chapter and wonderful fielding by Sh. Hitender Mehta in the rapid fire round.

Pharmacy To The World 2.0: FII Meets Thailand's GPO!



Pharmacy To The World 2.0 : FII Meets Thailand's GPO!



A landmark day for healthcare innovation! The FII delegation has just concluded an inspiring session with the Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) of Thailand.

We are moving "Beyond Borders" to redefine how our nations heal!

Key Highlights:

Co-Innovation : We are shifting from a buyer-seller model to a Co-Manufacturing powerhouse! Indian firms will now look at Thailand as a hub for the ASEAN market.

API Synergy: Leveraging India's strength in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients to support Thailand's national drug security.

Digital Excellence : Learning from GPO's advanced Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) for paperless, high-precision production.

The Herbal Corridor : Exploring incredible synergies in Medical Cannabis, high-tech supplements, and dermatological products.

President Dr. Deepak Jain noted: "By merging Indian volume with Thai digital

Factory-Ready! FII & FTI Unite for a New Industrial Chapter!



Factory-Ready! FII & FTI Unite for a New Industrial Chapter!



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Members from Healthcare, Infra, Jewellery and Plastic Industry segments from all over India in the 22 member delegation. Sh Rajendra Khimesra, Chairman FII Thailand Chapter and his Team warmly supported the delegation.

The FII delegation wrapped up an incredible session with the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) in Bangkok! If the BOI gave us the “incentives,” the FTI has given us the “keys to the factory floor.”

Our President, Dr. Deepak Jain, led a diverse team spanning Healthcare, Manufacturing, Tech, and Logistics. The goal: Establishing real manufacturing bases within Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)!

The synergy between FII’s grassroots reach and FTI’s industrial mastery is the real engine of this mission. The “Make in India” spirit is finding a powerful new home in Thailand.

Seeking Blessings and Serenity at the Thai Jain Association, Bangkok!



Amidst our high-level industrial and diplomatic mission in Thailand, the FII delegation took a moment to experience deep spiritual tranquility at the Thai Jain Association in Bangkok. It was a humbling and revitalizing experience to witness such a beautiful sanctuary of Jain values and traditions thriving in the heart of Thailand.

We were deeply touched by the warmth and hospitality extended to us during our visit. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the SH Devansh Sanghvi (President) and the entire managing committee for their gracious welcome and for providing us with the opportunity to offer our prayers for the success of our mission and the prosperity of our nations.

A special and sincere thank you to Khimesra Ji for his exceptional coordination and for being such a pillar of support for our group. His dedication to the community and his efforts in ensuring our visit was seamless and spiritually fulfilling made this experience truly memorable.

Seeing the "Smiles" and the strength of our cultural roots flourishing thousands of miles away from home reinforces our commitment to building bridges between our two nations. May the teachings of Ahimsa and Anekantavada continue to guide our journey toward a collaborative and peaceful future.

Visit to Hindu Samaj Shri Dev Mandir, Bangkok



With the divine grace of Bhagwan Lakshmi Narayan, the Federation of Indian Industry (FII) delegation had the privilege of visiting the sacred Hindu Samaj Shri Dev Mandir during its high-level industrial and diplomatic mission in Bangkok, Thailand.

The 22-member strong FII delegation, representing various states of India, was led by Dr. Deepak Jain. Amidst a busy schedule of industry interactions and bilateral engagements, the delegation took time to seek divine blessings and experience spiritual serenity at the temple.

Standing in the divine presence of Bhagwan Lakshmi Narayan and experiencing the peaceful and sacred atmosphere of the temple brought a sense of spiritual calm and inspiration to the entire delegation. The delegation expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Hindu Samaj Committee Bangkok and the temple management for their warm welcome, gracious hospitality, and for providing the opportunity to offer prayers for the success of the mission and for the prosperity and strengthening of relations between India and Thailand.

Witnessing the vibrant presence of Indian culture and traditions thriving far from home was truly inspiring. Such moments reinforce the deep cultural and spiritual bonds that connect communities across borders and strengthen the spirit of friendship between the two nations. May the blessings of Bhagwan Lakshmi Narayan continue to guide our collective journey toward progress, harmony, and prosperity

Visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of The United Arab Emirates to India (19 January, 2026)



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, paid an official visit to India on 19 January 2026. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi.

The leaders held comprehensive discussions to further strengthen the India–UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. They reviewed progress under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and explored ways to deepen cooperation in trade, investment, energy, renewable energy, green hydrogen, defence, technology, and infrastructure. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global developments and emphasized the importance of people-to-people ties. The visit reaffirmed the growing strategic and economic convergence between India and the UAE



Davos, the high-altitude town in the Swiss Alps of the Graubünden region, is globally recognized as a premier winter destination and as the host city of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting. Each year, it transforms into a global center for dialogue, innovation, and strategic decision-making that shapes the future of the world economy and society.

In January 2026, Davos hosted the 56th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting under the theme “A Spirit of Dialogue.” Held from 19–23 January 2026, the meeting brought together an influential gathering of global stakeholders, including more than 60 heads of state, over 400 political leaders, and 830+ CEOs, along with experts from academia, international organizations, and civil society. The forum addressed the growing challenges of accelerating global complexity, economic and geopolitical fragmentation, and the urgent need for innovation-driven and inclusive solutions.

Key discussions focused on building prosperity within planetary boundaries, identifying new sources of sustainable economic growth, navigating the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, and advancing environmental responsibility. A strong emphasis was placed on restoring trust through dialogue and cooperation in an increasingly polarized world. High-profile interventions by global leaders, including French President Emmanuel Macron, highlighted the shifting global order and the rising influence of middle powers.

Beyond its role as a global meeting point, Davos remains one of Switzerland’s most attractive alpine destinations. Renowned for world-class winter sports and vibrant summer activities, the town offers an inspiring setting that reinforces the spirit of collaboration and long-term global resilience fostered by the World Economic Forum.

State Visit of the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission to India (25–27 January 2026)



State Visit of the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission to India (25–27 January 2026)



The **President of the European Council** and the **President of the European Commission** paid a **State Visit to India from 25 to 27 January 2026**, marking a significant milestone in India–EU relations.

The visit underscored the growing depth of the **India–EU Strategic Partnership**.

High-level meetings were held with Indian leadership to review cooperation across key sectors.

Discussions focused on **trade, investment, technology, climate action, digital transformation, and connectivity**.

Both sides reaffirmed commitment to advancing negotiations on the **India–EU Free Trade Agreement**.

Cooperation in **green energy, sustainable development, and global supply chains** was emphasized.

The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global geopolitical developments.

The visit reinforced shared democratic values and a rules-based international order.

Overall, the engagement strengthened economic, political, and strategic ties between India and the European Union.



The **Beating Retreat Ceremony 2026** was held with solemn grandeur at **Vijay Chowk, New Delhi**, marking the formal conclusion of the **77th Republic Day** celebrations.

The ceremony was attended by the **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu**, along with distinguished guests **H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council**, and **H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission**.

Massed bands of the **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces** performed soul-stirring patriotic tunes. The traditional retreat symbolised discipline, honour, and the rich heritage of the Armed Forces.

The illuminated Raisina Hills provided a majestic backdrop to the ceremony.

The event concluded with the lowering of flags, reflecting pride, unity, and national tradition.





India Displays its Power at the Republic Day Parade 2026, H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, as the Chief Guests.

India showcased its strength, unity, and growing global stature at the Republic Day Parade 2026, held with grandeur at Kartavya Path, New Delhi. The parade marked the celebration of India's 77th Republic Day and reflected the nation's journey of democratic resilience, technological advancement, and strategic confidence. The occasion was graced by H.E. Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and H.E. Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, as the Chief Guests, highlighting the deepening India–European Union Strategic Partnership.

The parade featured impressive marching contingents from the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, and Central Armed Police Forces, symbolising discipline, professionalism, and national security preparedness. A key highlight was the display of indigenously developed defence equipment, underlining India's progress towards Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing. The vibrant tableaux presented by various states and Union Territories showcased India's cultural diversity, developmental achievements, and social initiatives.

The Indian Air Force flypast enthralled spectators with precision formations, demonstrating air power, coordination, and technological excellence. This year's celebrations carried added significance with the theme “150 Years of Vande Mataram”, paying tribute to the iconic song that inspired generations during India's freedom struggle and continues to unite the nation.

Overall, the Republic Day Parade 2026 stood as a powerful expression of India's sovereignty, unity, innovation, and global engagement, reinforcing its position as a confident nation ready to play a leading role on the world stage.

India Crowned Champions at the Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026



India emerged victorious at the Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026, delivering a remarkable performance to lift the prestigious title and reaffirm its dominance in world youth cricket. The triumph highlights the depth of India's cricketing talent and the strength of its grassroots development system.

The India Under-19 cricket team displayed consistency, discipline, and resilience throughout the tournament, overcoming strong competition from leading cricketing nations. The team's balanced performances across batting, bowling, and fielding proved decisive in their championship campaign.

India's victory once again underlines the country's reputation as a global powerhouse in nurturing young cricketing talent. Several players showcased exceptional skill and composure on the world stage, reinforcing the Under-19 World Cup's role as a launchpad for future international stars.

This title win adds another glorious chapter to India's rich legacy in Under-19 cricket and serves as an inspiration for aspiring cricketers across the nation.

India AI Impact Summit 2026: A Landmark Global AI Gathering in New Delhi (16–20 February 2026)



India successfully hosted the India AI Impact Summit 2026 from 16–20 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, marking a historic milestone as the first major global AI summit hosted by a Global South nation. The summit reinforced India’s growing leadership in shaping the future of responsible, inclusive, and human-centric artificial intelligence.

The summit witnessed participation from over 100 countries, bringing together 20+ Heads of State and Government, 60+ Ministers and Vice Ministers, senior policymakers, global technology leaders, researchers, startups, and representatives from multilateral organisations. The diverse participation from developed and developing economies highlighted the truly global character of the event.

Key outcomes of the summit included the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact, endorsed by 86–91 countries and international organisations, outlining shared principles for ethical, safe, and inclusive AI development. The summit also featured high-level CEO roundtables, global innovation showcases, and the India AI Impact Expo with 300+ exhibitors from 30+ countries.

Inaugurated by Narendra Modi, the summit emphasized the vision of “Human-Centric AI for Global Good.” The India AI Impact Summit 2026 has positioned India as a key global voice in AI governance and international cooperation.

BEYOND BORDERS: GATEWAY TO GROWTH: INDIA-THAILAND COOPERATION IN TRADE, STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AND EMERGING INDUSTRIES



Dr. Deepak Jain
President
Federation of Indian Industry

Excerpts from the speech by Dr. Jain delivered on 19th Jan at ITCC Bangkok.

India and Thailand share one of Asia's most enduring and culturally rich partnerships. Rooted in more than 2,500 years of historical connection through religion, language, and shared civilizational values, the relationship today is evolving into a dynamic economic and strategic partnership. With the elevation of bilateral ties to a **Strategic Partnership in April 2025**, both nations are now focusing on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

The theme “Beyond Borders: Gateway to Growth” perfectly captures the spirit of the India–Thailand partnership at a time when the global economic landscape is undergoing rapid transformation. In an era marked by geopolitical uncertainties and shifting supply chains, countries are increasingly seeking trusted partners and resilient economic corridors. In this environment, India and Thailand have a unique opportunity to deepen collaboration and unlock mutual economic growth.

FII: Strengthening Industry Collaboration

The Federation of Indian Industry (FII) has been actively working to strengthen India's industrial ecosystem and international partnerships. Founded in 2013 and formally registered in 2015, FII has grown into one of India's fastest-growing chambers of commerce. The organization operates across multiple sectors including MSMEs, agriculture, services, and the Indian diaspora.

Today, FII has a presence in **62 countries and 22 Indian states**, supported by **25 sectoral committees**. Through its extensive global outreach and its newsletter that reaches the Indian diaspora across **150 countries**, FII plays an important role in connecting businesses, facilitating partnerships, and promoting India's economic interests worldwide.

Beyond traditional chamber activities, FII is engaged in initiatives related to **skill development, women empowerment, water resource management, education, and sports development**. The organization is also exploring research into India's ancient knowledge systems and Vedic heritage, reflecting a broader vision that combines economic progress with cultural and intellectual engagement.



A Deep Cultural Foundation

The relationship between India and Thailand is built on deep historical and cultural foundations. Buddhism, which originated in India, remains the principal religion in Thailand. Every year, thousands

of Thai pilgrims travel to sacred sites in India such as Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar.

Cultural links are also visible in shared traditions, rituals, and epics. Hindu deities such as **Ganesha, Vishnu, Shiva, and Brahma** are widely revered in Thailand. The Thai monarchy traces its symbolic lineage to Vishnu, and the kings of the Chakri dynasty traditionally carry the title “Rama.”

The Ramayana, one of India's most celebrated epics, lives on in Thailand as the **Ramakien**, forming a major part of Thai classical dance, theatre, and temple art. Linguistically too, the Thai language carries strong influences from Sanskrit and Pali, particularly in religious and administrative vocabulary. These cultural ties have created a strong foundation of mutual understanding and goodwill that continues to guide modern cooperation.



Thailand: A Gateway to ASEAN

For Indian companies looking to expand into Southeast Asia, Thailand offers a highly strategic entry point. With its advanced infrastructure, strong industrial base, and central location in the region, Thailand serves as a natural gateway to the ASEAN market of nearly 660 million consumers.

One of the major advantages is Thailand's integration into regional trade frameworks such as the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**. Manufacturing or adding value in Thailand allows companies to access ASEAN markets more efficiently while reducing trade barriers.

Another important initiative is Thailand's **Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)**, one of the region's most advanced industrial ecosystems. For Indian companies in sectors such as automotive, electronics, engineering, and advanced manufacturing, the EEC provides ready access to integrated supply chains, world-class infrastructure, and global logistics networks.

Connectivity between the two nations is also improving rapidly. Projects such as the **India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway** and the development of the **Ranong Port on the Andaman coast** will significantly enhance trade and logistics connectivity. These developments are expected to reduce travel and transport time while opening new avenues for cross-border commerce.

India: A Growth Engine for Thai Businesses

While Thailand serves as India's gateway to ASEAN, India itself represents a vast opportunity for Thai businesses. As one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and now the **fourth-largest economy globally**, India offers scale, innovation, and a rapidly expanding middle-class consumer base.

Thai companies have significant opportunities in sectors where they already possess strong expertise, including **food products, hospitality, lifestyle brands, healthcare, and tourism services**.

The digital bridge between the two countries is also strengthening economic integration. The linkage between **India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** and Thailand's **Prompt Pay** system has made cross-border transactions faster and more convenient, benefiting businesses, tourists, and small enterprises.

Furthermore, India's **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes in sectors such as food processing, textiles, electronics, and manufacturing present attractive opportunities for Thai investors. By combining Thailand's processing capabilities with India's raw material resources and large domestic market, businesses can create globally competitive production networks.

Key Sectors for Collaboration

Several sectors stand out as promising areas for deeper India–Thailand cooperation. Manufacturing and agro-processing represent natural synergies, where India's scale and resource availability complement Thailand's expertise in processing, technology, and regional market access.

Key sectors include, Food processing, Textiles and garments, Plastics and petrochemicals, Gems and Jewellery, Electronics and electrical components and Automotive parts and engineering products.

Joint ventures, co-manufacturing initiatives, and integrated supply chains in these sectors can significantly enhance bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

Digital trade and services are also emerging as important areas of collaboration. Enhanced digital connectivity is enabling MSMEs, entrepreneurs, and service providers in both countries to engage more effectively in cross-border business activities.



Building a Resilient Regional Partnership

The India–Thailand partnership is increasingly moving beyond traditional trade relationships

toward building resilient regional production networks. With growing emphasis on supply chain diversification and regional integration, the Bay of Bengal region is emerging as an important economic corridor linking South Asia and Southeast Asia. Thailand views India as a key gateway to large markets and a long-term growth partner, while India sees Thailand as a strategic bridge to ASEAN and the broader Indo-Pacific region. Strengthening cooperation in **infrastructure, logistics, renewable energy, digital trade, and emerging technologies** will further accelerate this partnership.

A Shared Vision for the Future

The momentum in India–Thailand relations reflects a growing recognition that economic cooperation must be driven not only by government initiatives but also by strong private sector engagement. Institutions such as the Federation of Indian Industry (FII) and the India–Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) are playing an important role in facilitating dialogue, encouraging partnerships, and translating opportunities into real investments.

The message is clear: the India–Thailand partnership is no longer defined merely by potential, but by performance. With shared history, complementary strengths, and a common vision for regional growth, both countries are well positioned to shape a stable, prosperous, and integrated economic future for the Indo-Pacific region.

In this context, the idea of “**Beyond Borders**” is more than just a theme. It represents the evolving reality of India–Thailand relations—one that is built on trust, strengthened through collaboration, and driven by a shared commitment to growth and prosperity.

The opinion expressed by the author/ writer do not imply endorsement by FII.

BELONGING BEFORE BELONGINGS : A NEEDONOMICS BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL HARMONY



Prof. M.M. Goel

Former Vice-Chancellor superannuated
from Kurukshetra University,
Kurukshetra

Needonomics School of Thought (NST) places sense of belonging at the very heart of human well-being and social harmony. In an era dominated by competition, individualism, and transactional relationships, humanity is witnessing growing isolation despite material abundance. NST offers a corrective civilizational insight: belonging must precede belongings.

Belonging is not an emotional luxury or social ornament; it is a basic human and civilizational need. No individual can live, grow, or flourish in isolation. When belonging rises above mere association and matures into brotherhood and sisterhood, relationships cease to be instruments of use and become sources of strength, trust, dignity, and lasting happiness. This transition—from association to affection—is a defining feature of the Needonomics way of life.

Shared Destination and Natural Bonding

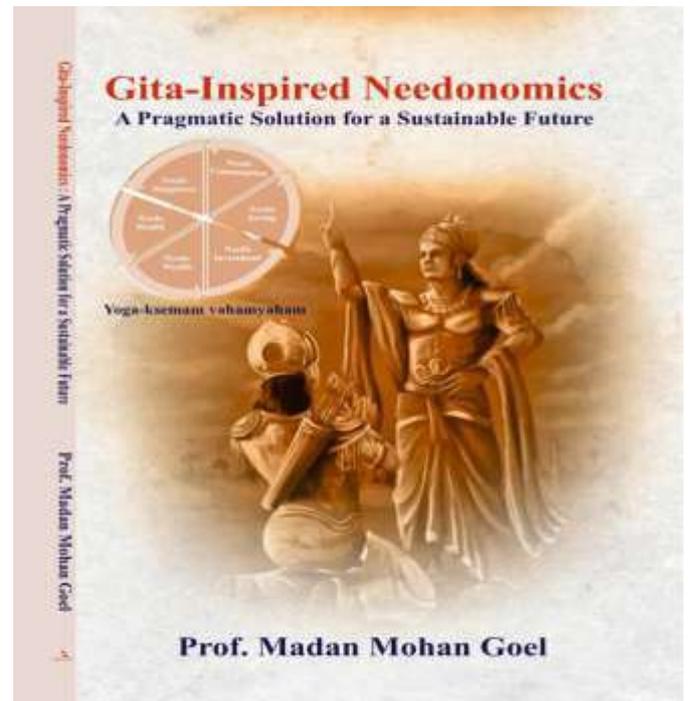
NST emphasizes that when two or more individuals move toward a shared destination—moral, professional, spiritual, or societal—a natural bond emerges. Common purpose aligns intentions, synchronizes efforts, and minimizes friction. Such bonding is not accidental or forced; it is value-driven and purpose-oriented.

In the Needonomics framework, association without shared direction remains shallow, while shared direction without belonging remains fragile. True belonging emerges when individuals consciously walk together, not merely coexist. This shared journey converts parallel paths into a collective movement.

Honesty and Frequency Matching: The Science of Human Connection

NST uses the metaphor of frequency matching to explain deep human connection. When individuals are honest with one another—intellectually, emotionally, and ethically—their frequencies align. This alignment reflects emotional resonance, moral consistency, and intellectual harmony.

Honesty acts as a tuning mechanism. It removes pretence, dissolves suspicion, and allows individuals to connect beyond superficial cooperation. In contrast, dishonesty creates noise, mistrust, and emotional distance, even in formally well-structured relationships. Needonomics therefore treats honesty not merely as a virtue, but as a functional necessity for sustainable belonging.



Faith and Love: The Glue of Lifelong Relationships

According to NST, relationships sustained only by convenience, power, or gain are inherently fragile. They survive as long as interests coincide and collapse when circumstances change. In contrast, relationships anchored in faith and love endure uncertainty, disagreement, and adversity.

Faith nurtures trust and reduces fear. It allows individuals to rely on one another without constant verification or control. Love introduces empathy, care, patience, and the willingness to forgive. Together, faith and love transform relationships from contractual arrangements into lifelong companionships.

When faith and love coexist, belonging becomes a source of emotional security, inner peace, and shared joy—central components of happiness as defined by Needonomics, which values quality of life over quantity of possessions.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood : Beyond Blood Relations

NST expands the traditional understanding of brotherhood and sisterhood beyond blood relations. In the Needonomics worldview, these are value-based bonds, rooted in shared humanity rather than shared lineage.

When individuals see one another as brothers and sisters in the human family, exploitation gives way to cooperation, rivalry transforms into mutual upliftment, and indifference is replaced by responsibility. This sense of belonging naturally discourages excess, ego, and domination—three forces that destabilize families, institutions, and societies.

Instead, it nurtures dignity, respect, restraint, and shared accountability, perfectly aligning with NST's mandate of need-based living and ethical conduct.

Implications for Professional Relationships

In professional environments, Needonomics-inspired belonging transforms workplaces from competitive arenas into collaborative ecosystems. When colleagues perceive each other as co-travellers in a shared mission rather than as rivals, productivity rises organically.

**Trust reduces monitoring and control costs.
Honesty improves decision-making.**

Empathy strengthens teamwork. Workplaces move from being sites of stress to spaces of contribution and growth.

Leadership under NST is not command-driven but relationship-centered. Leaders who cultivate brotherhood and sisterhood inspire loyalty, innovation, and moral courage. Such organizations achieve not only targets and profits, but also human fulfillment and institutional sustainability.

Implications for Personal and Social Life

In personal life, a strong sense of belonging nurtures emotional stability and resilience. Families, communities, and societies grounded in NST principles experience fewer conflicts and deeper cohesion. Individuals feel seen, valued, and supported, reducing loneliness, alienation, and anxiety—defining challenges of modern life.

At the societal level, belonging as brotherhood and sisterhood becomes the foundation for social harmony, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. It reinforces a central Needonomics insight: my progress is incomplete without your well-being.

Conclusion: Belonging as a Conscious Life Practice

Needonomics School of Thought (NST) mandates the cultivation of belonging—not as an emotional indulgence, but as a conscious and disciplined way of life. When individuals walk together toward shared destinations with honesty, faith, and love, relationships transcend transactions and become transformative. By placing belonging before belongings, and by nurturing brotherhood and sisterhood in personal, professional, and societal spheres, Needonomics offers a practical blueprint for happiness, harmony, and humane development. In belonging, we do not lose our individuality.

Rather, we discover our highest potential together.

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FROM ACTIVITY TO ADVANTAGE: THE HIDDEN DIVIDE IN INNOVATION STRATEGY



Dr. Anjali Jain

Joint Director, Research Projects-FII
Founder, Yugdrishta

Innovation has become one of the most widely used terms in contemporary leadership conversations. It appears regularly in policy frameworks, board discussions, annual reports, and public addresses. Across governments and corporations, innovation is widely recognised as both a strategic priority and a symbol of progress. Yet, alongside this growing emphasis, a quiet tension has emerged. While investment in innovation continues to increase, truly transformative outcomes, those that reshape competitiveness, governance, or societal impact, remain relatively limited. What this suggests is not a lack of effort or intent, but a growing need to better translate innovation activity into lasting advantage.

In many organisations, innovation has gradually evolved from a strategic capability into a visible set of activities. Innovation labs are established, pilot programs are launched, partnerships are announced, and new technologies are explored. These efforts often reflect genuine ambition and forward thinking. At the same time, they do not always result in meaningful shifts in strategic direction or institutional performance. In such cases, innovation risks becoming more about demonstrating progress than enabling it, a phenomenon sometimes described as **performative innovation**.

It is important to note that this pattern rarely stems from a lack of capability. On the contrary, it is often the outcome of operating in complex and demanding environments. Leaders face expectations from investors, citizens, employees, and peers, all of whom seek evidence of momentum and preparedness for the future. Under such

conditions, visible action can understandably take precedence. Movement offers reassurance, even when long-term direction is still being clarified. Over time, however, this approach can place unintended strain on organisations. Innovation initiatives require not only financial investment, but also leadership attention, institutional capacity, and organisational trust. When pilots remain isolated, technologies are not fully integrated, or experiments continue without resolution, fatigue can set in. Innovation may begin to feel costly and disconnected from outcomes, rather than enabling and empowering.



A more enduring form of innovation strength emerges when organisations focus less on the number of initiatives they pursue and more on the quality of decisions they make. Decision-led innovation shapes the future by creating meaningful differentiation through changes in cost structures, value chains, regulatory positioning, or core capabilities. Its early signals are often subtle. Investment patterns evolve. Risk is approached with greater clarity. Strategic choices become more focused and deliberate.

One of the clearest differences between activity-led and decision-led approaches lies in how organisations respond when initiatives fall short of expectations. In activity-led systems, experimentation is encouraged, but stopping rules are not always well defined. Projects may continue longer than their strategic relevance warrants, supported by the intention to learn. Decision-led organisations, by

contrast, view timely closure as a sign of discipline. They recognise that ending an initiative early can preserve resources and sharpen future choices.

Another distinction lies in how problems are framed. Activity-led innovation often moves quickly toward solutions, sometimes before challenges are fully understood. Advanced technologies may be applied to issues that require deeper diagnosis. Decision-led innovation places greater emphasis on understanding context, assumptions, constraints, and long-term implications. When the problem is clearly articulated, solutions tend to become more practical, scalable, and effective.



Innovation efforts that do not influence capital allocation, portfolio priorities, policy direction, or long-term commitments often remain peripheral. Organisations that build sustained advantage tend to focus less on what they can experiment with and more on what they must decide earlier than others. In FMCG, innovation operates under unique constraints: thin margins, massive scale, high sustainability scrutiny, and deeply ingrained consumer habits. When innovation decisions are taken primarily to signal modernity whether through premiumisation, digital layering, or sustainability narratives without early clarity on scale economics and behavioural change, the impact shows up quickly in KPIs.

In governance systems, innovation initiatives that prioritise visibility without sufficient institutional integration can unintentionally create fragmentation. Pilot programs may expand without becoming part of core

systems. Digital platforms may be introduced without corresponding changes to administrative processes. Regulatory experiments may remain disconnected from formal legislation. In such cases, citizens experience activity, but not necessarily improvement. Policy-led innovation benefits from a different sequencing. Institutional readiness must precede large-scale technological deployment. Decision frameworks need to be established before digitisation accelerates. Long-term governance implications should guide innovation choices, rather than short-term visibility.

Across sectors, organisations that consistently benefit from innovation tend to share a common discipline: they invest significant effort in thinking before building. This shift from activity-led innovation to decision-led advantage has become increasingly important in a world defined by complexity rather than scarcity. What ultimately distinguishes resilient leaders and institutions is their ability to navigate uncertainty with clarity. This includes recognising meaningful signals, prioritising long-term value over short-term attention, and making deliberate trade-offs.

At Yugdrishta, this capability is described as pre-innovation decision intelligence, the practice of shaping choices before designing solutions. It is a quiet discipline, often operating away from visibility, yet significant in its impact. Organisations that cultivate it tend to remain composed during disruption, selective amid abundance, and clear-headed amid noise. While visible innovation may attract attention, it is thoughtful decision-making that ultimately shapes markets, policies, and institutions. In a time defined by speed and spectacle, the most enduring form of leadership may be the ability to pause, reflect, and choose well.

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THE RENAISSANCE OF INDIAN WISDOM : UNDERSTANDING THE IKS INITIATIVE



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In an era defined by rapid technological leaps and a global search for sustainable living, India is looking backward to move forward. The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) initiative, established as a dedicated division within the Ministry of Education in October 2020, represents more than just an academic shift; it is a cultural homecoming. Headquartered at the AICTE in New Delhi, the IKS division is tasked with a monumental mission: to bridge the gap between ancient Bharatiya wisdom and the complexities of the 21st century.

The Roots of a Global Heritage

For millennia, India was the world's laboratory for philosophy, mathematics, linguistics, and medicine. From the surgical precision of the Sushruta Samhita to the linguistic logic of Panini's grammar, knowledge was seen as a holistic pursuit—one that balanced material advancement with spiritual well-being. However, centuries of colonial education largely erased these systems from the mainstream, replacing them with a Western-centric curriculum.

The origin of the modern IKS movement lies in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. It recognizes that for India to become a "Vishwa Guru" (Global Teacher) once again, it must first reclaim its intellectual identity. The IKS division was born to ensure that this vast repository of knowledge is no longer treated as "mythology" or "folklore," but as a rigorous, evidence-based system of science and ethics.

The Heart of the Mission: Objectives and Philosophy

The IKS initiative is built on three pillars: Paramparā (continuity of lineage), Dṛṣṭi (perspective), and Prayojana (application). Its primary objective is not to replace modern science, but to enrich it. By integrating traditional knowledge into schools and colleges, the government aims to foster a generation of "rooted innovators"—students who can apply ancient sustainable agricultural techniques to modern food security, or Vedic mathematical shortcuts to contemporary coding.

The division seeks to "decolonize the Indian mind," encouraging researchers to look beyond translated Western interpretations and engage directly with original texts and local community practitioners.

Empowering Change: Government Funding and Support

The transformation of IKS from a concept to a reality is backed by significant financial investment. In recent years, the Ministry of Education has nearly doubled its budgetary allocations for IKS-related projects.



Currently, for the 2026–2027 cycle, the government has opened several funding avenues:

Competitive Research Grants : Research projects that intersect traditional knowledge with modern science (such as ancient metallurgy or cognitive science) can receive between ₹20 Lakhs and ₹25 Lakhs over two years.

Institutional Hubs: Universities can apply to become IKS Centres, receiving seed funding of ₹5 Lakhs annually to catalyze regional research.

Talent Cultivation: Through the BGSamvahan Karyakram, youth between 16 and 30 are provided with stipends and internships to study IKS in their mother tongues, ensuring the language of the heart remains the language of learning.

2026: The Latest Frontier

As we move into 2026, the IKS division has moved beyond basic awareness into deep implementation. One of the most exciting recent initiatives is the IKS-AI Labs, where researchers are using Artificial Intelligence to digitize, translate, and analyze millions of palm-leaf manuscripts that have remained unread for centuries.

Additionally, the Bharatiya Khel program is now active in schools across the country, reviving 75 traditional Indian games that promote physical fitness and strategic thinking. Furthermore, the Dhara Series, a collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, continues to host monthly seminars that bring together traditional scholars (Pandits) and modern scientists to debate everything from quantum physics to Ayurveda

The Road Ahead: Strategy and Implementation

The roadmap for IKS is ambitious and long-term. By the end of 2026, the University Grants Commission (UGC) aims to have completed the training of over

1.5 million faculty members through the "Malaviya Mission" to teach IKS modules effectively. The goal is clear: at least 5% of all credits in higher education should eventually come from IKS-related courses.

To ensure this knowledge reaches the grassroots, the Project FIT (Finance, Information, and Technology) strategy is being deployed. This involves creating high-quality textbooks in all 22 scheduled Indian languages, ensuring that a student in a rural village has the same access to these resources as a student in a metropolitan city.

A Vision for 2047

The IKS programme is not a project of nostalgia; it is a project of survival and leadership. As the world faces climate change and mental health crises, the holistic, nature-centric approach of Indian Knowledge Systems offers a "middle path."

By the time India celebrates its centenary of independence in 2047, the government envisions a nation where every engineer, doctor, and artist is as familiar with Indian contributions to their field as they are with Western ones. The ultimate implementation strategy is to make IKS invisible—meaning it becomes so naturally integrated into our daily education and life that it is no longer a "special program," but the very soul of the Indian experience.

For those looking to join this movement, the Official IKS Portal remains the gateway for grants, internships, and the latest research opportunities in this growing field.

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THE RADIANCE OF STRUGGLE : A WOMAN'S TRUE BEAUTY BEYOND ADORNMENT



Sh. Uditendu Verma
General Secretary - FII

For centuries, society has measured a woman's beauty through the narrow lens of physical appearance — her attire, ornaments, makeup, and outward elegance. This perception, however, only touches the surface and overlooks the far deeper essence of what truly makes a woman beautiful.

The time has come to redefine this age-old belief.

True beauty does not lie merely in adornment; it resides in the quiet strength of a woman who rises every day to face life's challenges with courage and dignity. A woman who continues to walk forward despite hardships possesses a radiance that no cosmetic product can replicate. The glow born out of perseverance, dedication, and determination shines far brighter than any ornament crafted by human hands.

When a woman struggles with purpose, her very existence becomes a symbol of strength. Her presence inspires, her journey teaches, and her resilience becomes a beacon for others.

- **A New Definition of Beauty: The Beauty of Struggle**

The beauty of a struggling woman is not fragile — it is forged in the fires of life's experiences. It is built upon three powerful foundations: **confidence, resilience, and courage**. Unlike superficial beauty that fades with time, this beauty grows stronger and more graceful with every challenge she overcomes.

The lines on her forehead are not signs of worry; they are the marks of countless battles she refused to abandon.

The spark in her eyes carries the flame of hope and the determination to achieve her dreams.

The roughness of her hands narrates the story of hard work, responsibility, and independence. And the calm smile on her face reflects an unshakable optimism that refuses to surrender to adversity.

This beauty cannot be purchased, imitated, or decorated — it is earned through effort, sacrifice, and perseverance.

- **The True Adornment of a Woman**

In the discourse of **Nari Vimarsh**, we must emphasize a powerful truth : the finest makeup a woman can wear is **the golden glow of her achievements**, and the most precious jewelry she can possess is **self-confidence and self-reliance**.

A society that recognizes this truth does not merely advocate for women's rights; it becomes a catalyst for transformation.



Those who support women's empowerment are not just observers of change — they are torchbearers who awaken women to their inherent strength and limitless potential.

- **Redefining a Woman's Identity**

The modern era demands that we reshape the image of womanhood. A woman must be recognized not only through traditional roles but also through her **merit, intellect, leadership, and contribution to society**.

Respect for a woman should not depend on circumstances but on the strength of her character and her ability to shape her own destiny.

Whether within the home or beyond it, a woman deserves recognition for her competence, vision, and dedication.

- **Honoring the Power of Struggle**

Across villages, towns, and cities, countless women quietly fight battles that the world rarely notices. Many of them rise above poverty, illiteracy, and social discrimination to build their own identities.

Their journeys are not just personal victories; they are powerful stories of courage that can inspire millions.

When such women are given a platform, their stories become guiding lights for society. They remind us that determination and integrity can transform even the harshest circumstances into opportunities for growth.

• **The Path of Self-Reliance**

Economic independence is one of the most powerful instruments of empowerment.

When a woman stands on her own feet, she gains not only financial stability but also dignity, confidence, and decision-making power.

Self-reliance allows a woman to become a creator of opportunities rather than a silent observer of life. It enables her to contribute meaningfully to her family, community, and nation.



In truth, **self-reliance becomes the most graceful ornament a woman can wear.**

• **Inspiring the Next Generation**

Perhaps the most important responsibility before us is to shape how the next generation perceives beauty and success.

Young girls must grow up believing that beauty is not determined by appearance but by **character, knowledge, competence, and purpose.**

Education, professional excellence, and meaningful social contribution must become the new symbols of admiration. When girls learn to value their intellect and potential, they grow into women who shape the future rather than merely adapt to it.

• **The Power of a Woman's Journey**

Let us pledge to stand beside every woman who struggles against darkness to create light in her own life and in the lives of others.

The woman who works tirelessly to fulfill her dreams, who

breaks rigid social barriers, and who dares to carve her own path does far more than transform her personal destiny.

She writes a **new chapter for humanity.**

Her sweat is not ordinary — it is the sacred dew of determination, more precious than pearls and more radiant than gold.

• **The Three Eternal Pillars of a Woman's True Beauty**

A woman's true beauty rests upon three timeless pillars that nurture her intellectual, emotional, and social strength:

Motherhood — nurturing values and shaping future generations

Leadership — guiding society with courage and wisdom

Accomplishment — creating impact through action and achievement Every woman can draw inspiration from timeless examples:

In motherhood, the nurturing spirit of **Jijabai**. In leadership, the courage of **Rani Durgavati**. In accomplishment, the visionary governance of **Ahilyabai Holkar**.

These ideals remind us that a woman's strength has always been a cornerstone of civilization.

• **The Eternal Beauty of Struggle**

Adornment may capture attention for a moment, but struggle creates a legacy that endures forever.

The beauty born from perseverance, dedication, and righteous action leaves an imprint not only on history but also on the hearts of generations.

Therefore, let us move beyond the illusion of external adornment.

Let us celebrate the woman who dares to struggle, to build, to nurture, and to lead. Because when a woman walks the path of struggle, she does not walk alone — she carries the dreams of countless others with her. And in that journey lies her most powerful, unforgettable beauty.

Leave behind the illusion of external adornment,

Do not be swayed by victory or defeat.

True labor and dedication will surely bring triumph,

Just keep faith in duty and rightful action.

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“FII, under the leadership of Sh. Deepak Jain has done a commendable job in connecting India and UK together through new business opportunities.”

Baroness S. Verma, Member, House of Lords, UK



“FII is working in synergy with the changing defence front and revival of water resources.”

Maj. General G.D. Bakshi, War Veteran, India



“I have great faith in the Federation of Indian Industry to keep working towards bringing the two Nations – India and New Zealand together.”

Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi, Ex-MP, New Zealand



“FII is working towards building stronger ties between India and Nepal”

Ms. Sujata Koirala, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal



“Indian Industry is entering new dynamics in terms of innovation, technology, upgradation and FII is actively doing great work to protect these interests and build an international platform for Indian businesses.”

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FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY



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22 INDIAN STATES

25 SECTORAL COMMITTEES

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- Canada
- Brazil
- Mexico

AUSTRALIA OCEANIA

- Fiji
- Australia
- New Zealand

MIDDLE EAST

- Kuwait
- Israel
- UAE

EUROPE AND UK

- UK
- Sweden
- Germany
- France
- Norway
- Netherlands
- Russia
- Georgia
- Azerbaijan
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan
- Armenia
- Ukraine
- Belarus
- Moldova

Bulgaria

- Albania
- Greece
- Romania
- Serbia
- North Macedonia
- Poland
- Ireland
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REST OF ASIA

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- China
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- Vietnam
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West Bengal	Mr. Shubhendu Paul	President, West Bengal Chapter	West Bengal

FII – DOMESTIC NETWORK CHARTER

As a member of FII, you become empowered as you gain access to a world of opportunities.

Govt. Policies

1. Opportunity to contribute to Govt. policy initiatives
2. Opportunity to contribute to pre – budget planning
3. Be up to date about govt. schemes to gain maximum advantage for business interests

Networking

1. Networking opportunities with Indian Sectoral Experts across different verticals
2. Networking with Global Leaders, counterparts in all continents
3. Opportunity to connect with 5000 industry members all over India
4. Platform to meet global business and political leaders
5. Opportunity to participate in seminars, conferences and B2B meetings

Events & Other Deliverables

1. WhatsApp Group Inclusion facilitating networking with business contacts in FII Chapters
2. Complimentary subscription to monthly Newsletter (audience in 150 countries) highlighting business opportunities in India and abroad
3. Opportunity to establish visibility of your business via ads in FII Newsletter
4. Support regarding Finance, upgradations, investment opportunities, healthcare, sports etc
5. Weekly Awareness programme “Talk with an Expert” inviting experts/departmental heads to discuss policies, new laws, startups, MSMEs, Legal, Financial Issues, Corporates etc
6. General body meeting with all FII members
7. Participation in development activities like webinars, symposiums, workshops, seminars, buyer seller activities and other activities related to industry.

Professional Help from FII

1. Dedicated Committees for
 - MSME
 - Defence
 - Water Resources
 - Goods & Service Tax
 - CSR
 - International Affairs & Free Trade Zones
 - Human Resource Development
 - Agriculture
 - Banking & Finance
 - Corporate Insolvency & Restructuring
 - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 - Disaster Risk Reduction
 - Fintech
 - Goods & Services Tax (GST)
 - Health
 - Media & IT
 - Startup & Skill Development
 - Social Communication & Outreach
 - Road Safety & Traffic Awareness
 - Entrepreneurial Skill Development
 - Women Empowerment
 - Support Children with Special Needs
 - Sports & Recreation
2. Credit Counselling, Advice on GST & Taxes, Advice on loans, Recovery of Delayed/ Stuck Payments, Advice on Subsidies & Grants
3. We provide help in revival of sick units with experts on every domain
4. Support for business development through participation in Exhibitions within/outside India and plan for visit to International Trade Fairs
5. Empower Indian Businesses in their global outreach for business expansion
6. Opportunity to take part in FII Overseas Business Delegations



FEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES...BUILDING NATION!!

FII-INTERNATIONAL NETWORK CHARTER

- Promoting an environment of strong business relationships of India with growing Economies
- Assisting Indian businesses to expand in 42 Nations where FII has its Country Chapters
- Help from FII Investment Desk, which ensures safety and security of investment in foreign land
- Our strengthened relations with International Consulates helps easing of setting up business internationally
- We support our members in case of any dispute arises in overseas projects and the implementation.
- Support from Experts in documentation and various approvals for overseas expansion
- Support for international exhibitions, stalls in all continents
- Networking opportunities for overseas B2B, B2G

- Take advantage of FII Partnerships with International Associations
- Opportunity to participate in International Business Delegations
- Assistance to Overseas Business for setting up operations in India

- Strengthening Indian Diaspora, Businesses and Professionals
- Promoting brotherhood and Business Networking among Indian Diaspora
- Creating Awareness for Indian Diaspora to Business Opportunities in India
- International Conferences on side-lines of Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas to facilitate networking across eminent businesspersons
- Celebration of Indian & International Holidays in synergy to recognize and promote International Brotherhood

FII PARTNERS

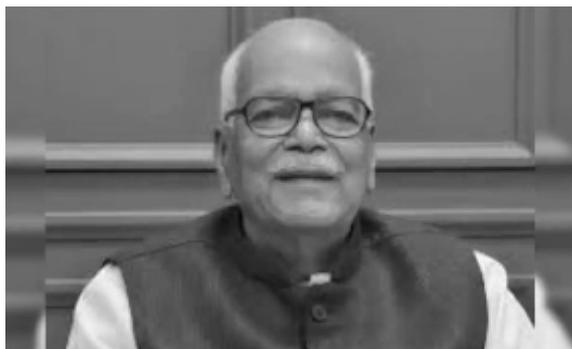




Shri Inderjit Singh Bindra
1941-2025

Former BCCI President Shri Inderjit Singh Bindra Passes Away The nation mourns the sad demise of Shri Inderjit Singh Bindra, former President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), who passed away today. His passing marks the end of an era in Indian cricket administration. Shri Bindra was a visionary administrator who played a pivotal role in strengthening the institutional framework of Indian cricket. His tenure was marked by integrity, foresight, and a deep commitment to the growth of the sport at both national and grassroots levels. He was widely respected for his leadership, strategic acumen, and dedication to the values of sportsmanship. Beyond cricket administration, Shri

Inderjit Singh Bindra was known for his contribution to public life and his efforts to promote sports as a tool for national development and youth engagement. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire cricketing fraternity.

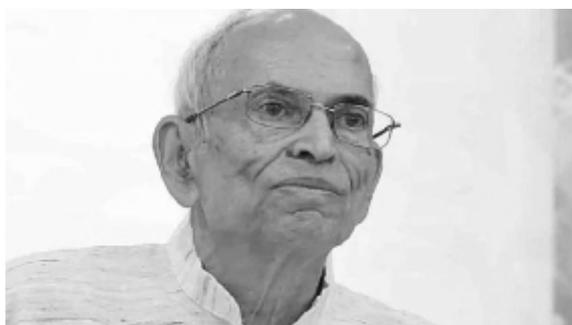


Shri Kabindra Purkayastha
1931-2025

Former Union Minister Shri Kabindra Purkayastha Passes Away at 94

The nation mourns the passing of Shri Kabindra Purkayastha, former Union Minister, who breathed his last at the age of 94 years. His demise is a great loss to public life and Indian politics. Shri Kabindra Purkayastha was a seasoned statesman and an able administrator who served the country with dedication and integrity. During his long and distinguished political career, he made significant contributions to governance and public service, and was known for his deep understanding of parliamentary traditions and

commitment to democratic values. As a Union Minister, he played an important role in policy-making and worked tirelessly for the welfare of the people, especially in strengthening national unity and development initiatives.



Dr. Madhav Gadgil
1942-2025

Renowned Ecologist and Environmental Scientist Dr. Madhav Gadgil Passes Away

Dr. Madhav Gadgil, one of India's most respected ecologists and environmental scientists, passed away in December 2025. Widely known as a "people's scientist," he made pioneering contributions to biodiversity conservation and ecological research. He played a key role in shaping India's environmental policies and was closely associated with grassroots conservation efforts. Dr. Gadgil chaired the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, whose work significantly

influenced environmental discourse in the country. He was admired for combining scientific rigor with community participation. His legacy continues to inspire environmentalists, researchers, and policymakers across India.

DAYS TO REMEMBER IN JAN, FEB 2026

1 January	 Cuba	Revolution Day
26 January	 Australia	Australia Day
26 January	 India	Republic Day
4 February	 Sri Lanka	Independence Day
11 February	 Iran	Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution
15 February	 Serbia	National Day
16 February	 Lithuania	Independence Day
24 February	 Estonia	Independence Day

DAYS TO REMEMBER IN JAN, FEB 2026



