

Newsletter

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

INDIA RE-ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION COUNCIL



India has been re-elected to the International Civil Aviation Organisation- ICAO Council with one of the highest mandates for the 2025–28 term. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said that India has emerged as a key partner, extending assistance to developing countries and promoting the harmonisation of ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices.

[READ MORE: INDIA RE-ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION COUNCIL](#)

INDIA TO ASSUME PRESTIGIOUS CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF KIMBERLY PROCESS

The Kimberley Process (KP) Plenary has selected India to assume the chairpersonship of the Kimberley Process from 1 January 2026. The Kimberley Process is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry and civil society, aimed at preventing the trade in “conflict diamonds”, rough diamonds used by rebel groups or their allies to finance conflicts that undermine legitimate governments, as defined in United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Kimberley Process currently has 60 participants, with the European Union and its Member States counted as a single participant. Together, KP participants account for over 99% of global rough diamond trade, making it the most comprehensive international mechanism governing this sector.



As a leading global hub for diamond manufacturing and trade, India's leadership comes at a time of shifting geopolitics and growing emphasis on sustainable and responsible sourcing. During its tenure, India will focus on strengthening governance and compliance, advancing digital certification and traceability, enhancing transparency through data-driven monitoring, and building consumer trust in conflict-free diamonds.

[READ MORE: INDIA TO ASSUME PRESTIGIOUS CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF KIMBERLY PROCESS](#)

INDIA TO PROVIDE US\$ 450 MILLION RECONSTRUCTION PACKAGE TO CYCLONE-HIT SRI LANKA



India will provide a US\$ 450 million package to assist in the reconstruction of areas affected by Cyclone Ditwah in Sri Lanka. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar stated that the package comprises a US\$ 350 million concessionary line of credit and US\$ 100 million in grants, aimed at supporting the rebuilding of cyclone-affected regions of the nation. He noted that India's assistance will cover sectors worst affected by this cyclone, including rehabilitation and restoration of road, railway and bridge connectivity, support for the construction of houses fully destroyed and partially damaged.

[READ MORE: INDIA TO PROVIDE US\\$ 450 MILLION RECONSTRUCTION PACKAGE TO SRILANKA](#)

INDIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

India has reaffirmed its commitment to continued humanitarian assistance and healthcare cooperation with a focus on the long-term supply of medicines to Afghanistan. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P. Nadda reiterated this during a bilateral meeting with Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health, Mawlawi Noor Jalal Jalali, who was on a visit to India. A symbolic handover of cancer medicines and vaccines was made, reflecting India's continued support to the medical needs of the Afghan people.



A larger consignment of medicines, vaccines, and a 128-slice CT scanner is being dispatched to Afghanistan to strengthen its healthcare system. Both sides discussed ongoing healthcare-related development projects, the formation of a Joint Working Group on Health, the establishment of cancer treatment facilities in Afghanistan, and sending a team of medical doctors to Afghanistan for capacity-building programs for Afghan doctors.

READ MORE: [INDIA REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN](#)

WHO AND AYUSH MINISTRY HOLD KEY TECHNICAL MEETING IN NEW DELHI TO INTEGRATE AYUSH SYSTEMS INTO GLOBAL HEALTH INTERVENTION STANDARDS



In a major step toward the global integration of traditional healthcare, the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a two-day Technical Project Meeting on Traditional Medicine (TM) intervention code set development in New Delhi. This initiative was fundamentally driven by the landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Donor Agreement signed between the India's Ministry of AYUSH and WHO in May 2025. This agreement serves as the cornerstone for developing a dedicated Traditional Medicine module within the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI), the international global standard for classifying healthcare interventions, with India facilitating both the financial and technical frameworks necessary to bring Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani (ASU) systems into the global healthcare mainstream.

READ MORE: [WHO AND AYUSH MINISTRY HOLD KEY TECHNICAL MEETING IN NEW DELHI](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH ROADMAP WITH DELHI DECLARATION FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

The World Health Organization's (WHO) second Global Traditional Medicine Summit, held in New Delhi, concluded with the Delhi Declaration, a common direction and roadmap for countries around the world to integrate safe, effective, and evidence-based traditional medicine into mainstream health systems. The Delhi Declaration, adopted by the World Health Assembly earlier this year, advances the implementation of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2025-2034 and is supported by existing institutional collaborations, including the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, India.



READ MORE: [GLOBAL HEALTH ROADMAP WITH DELHI DECLARATION FOR TRADITIONAL MEDICINE](#)

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

INDIA - NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



India and New Zealand have successfully concluded the historic, ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Leaders of the two sides agreed that the conclusion of the FTA in a record time of nine months reflects the shared ambition and political will to further deepen ties. The FTA will significantly deepen bilateral economic engagement, enhance market access, promote investment flows, and strengthen strategic cooperation between the two countries.

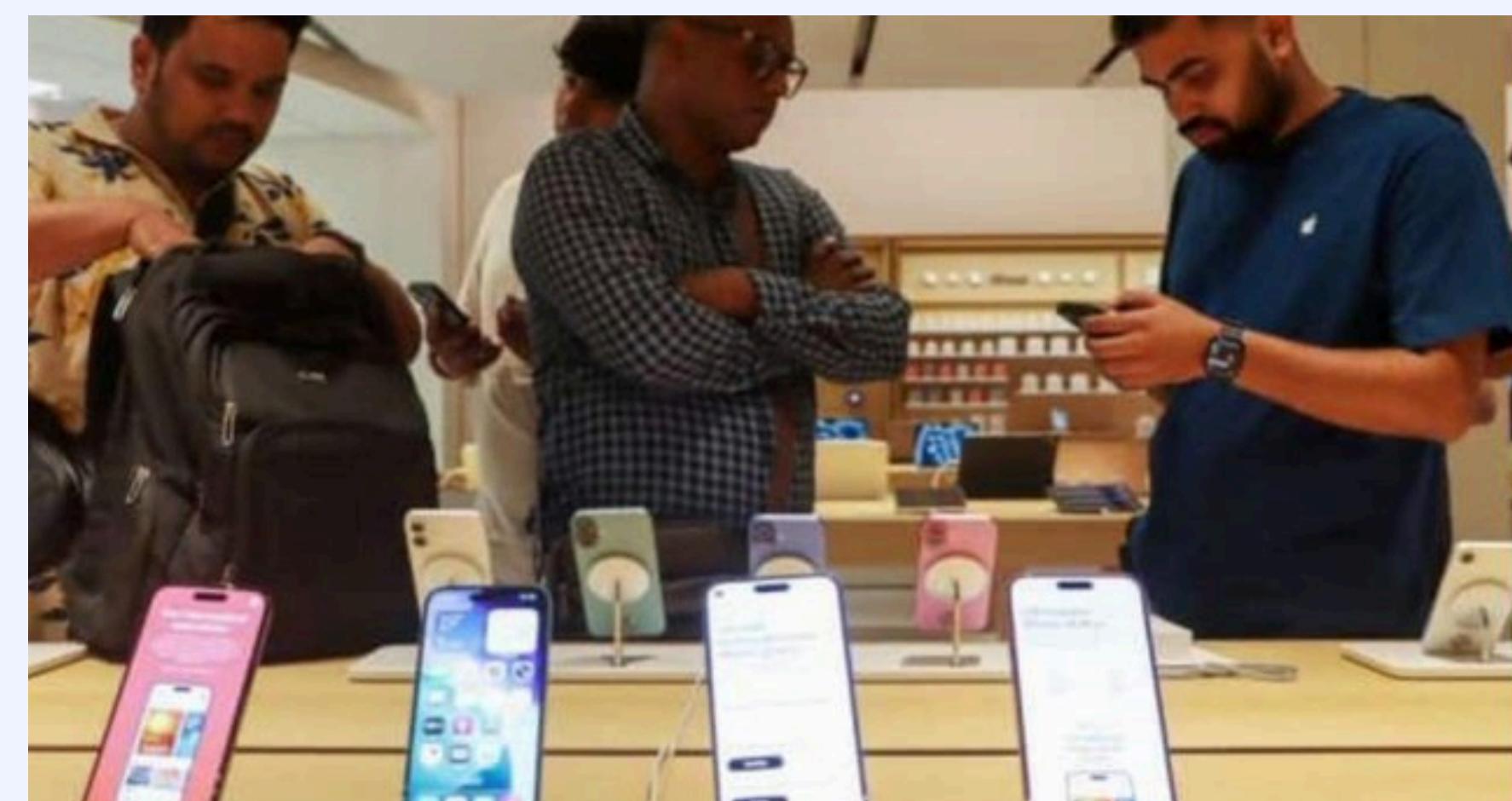
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[READ MORE: INDIA - NEW ZEALAND FREE TRADE AGREEMENT](#)

INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

INDIA'S ELECTRONICS EXPORTS RISE ABOUT 38% IN APRIL-NOV 2025

India's electronics exports rose about 38% (year-on-year) in the April-November period this fiscal (FY26), led by smartphones, according to official figures. The electronics exports reached US\$ 31 billion in eight months this financial year. Apple alone exported iPhones worth nearly US\$ 14 billion more than 45% of the total exports value of electronic items.



[READ MORE: INDIA'S ELECTRONICS EXPORTS RISE ABOUT 38% IN APRIL-NOV 2025](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES SPACEMOBILE'S BLUEBIRD BLOCK-2 COMMUNICATION SATELLITE



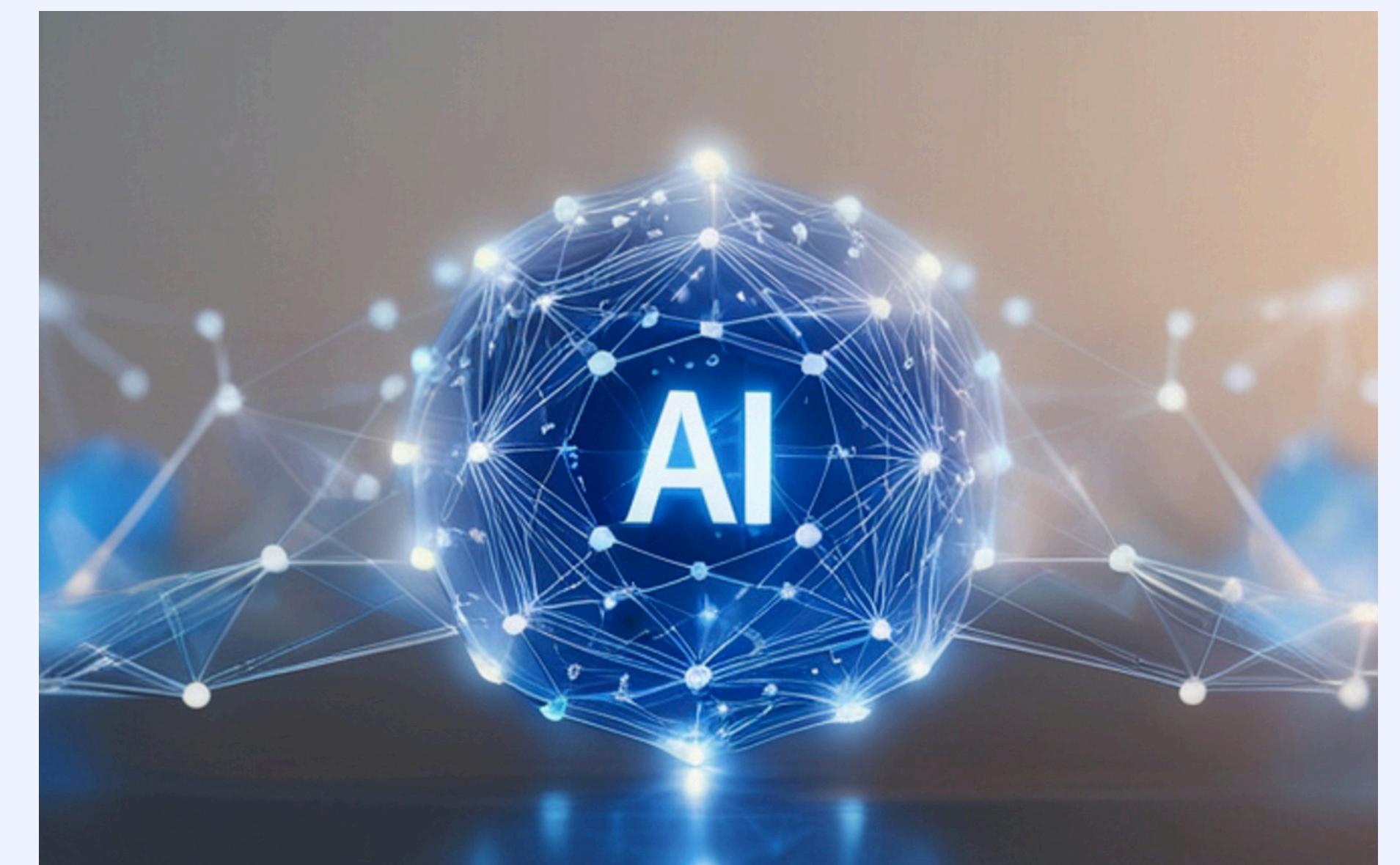
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched a next-generation US communication satellite BlueBird Block-2 onboard its heaviest vehicle LVM3-M6 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launch took place from the Satish Dhawan Space Station. After a flight journey of about 15 minutes, the spacecraft Bluebird Block-2 was separated from the vehicle and it was successfully placed into its intended orbit. Speaking on the occasion, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan has hailed the successful launch of the BlueBird Block-2 communication satellite of US-based AST SpaceMobile, calling it the heaviest satellite ever lifted from Indian soil using an Indian launcher. Mr Narayanan highlighted that the satellite was injected into its intended orbit with precision, marking a significant achievement for ISRO.

The Bluebird Block-2 mission is part of a global LEO (Low Earth Orbit) constellation to provide direct-to-mobile connectivity through satellite. This constellation would enable 4G and 5G voice and video calls, texts, streaming and data for everyone, everywhere at all times.

[READ MORE: ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES SPACEMOBILE'S BLUEBIRD BLOCK-2 COMMUNICATION SATELLITE](#)

INDIA EMERGES AS GLOBAL LEADER IN WORKPLACE AI ADOPTION: EY

India is among the world's highest adopters of artificial intelligence, with 62% of employees regularly using generative AI (GenAI) at work, while 90% of employers and 86% of employees believe AI has a positive impact on productivity, according to a report. The findings are based on the 'EY 2025 Work Reimagined Survey', which shows that 75% of employees and 72% of employers believe GenAI enhances decision-making. Additionally, 82% employees and 92% of employers say AI positively affects the quality of work.



The report places India at the forefront of AI adoption globally, with the country scoring 53 points on the 'AI Advantage' index, a metric developed to measure AI's real-world impact at work by assessing time saved by employees. The global average AI Advantage score stands at 34.

READ MORE: [INDIA EMERGES AS GLOBAL LEADER IN WORKPLACE AI ADOPTION](#)

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