

Newsletter

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA: DEAL FACILITATES 100% DUTY-FREE ACCESS FOR ALL INDIAN EXPORTS AND US\$ 20 BILLION INVESTMENT BY NEW ZEALAND



India and New Zealand signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement on 27 April 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, granting 100% duty-free access for all 8,284 Indian export tariff lines from day one. New Zealand has committed to facilitating US\$ 20 billion in investments into India over the next 15 years, focused on infrastructure, manufacturing, startups and emerging technologies, while 57% of New Zealand's exports to India will become tariff-free from day one with further reductions phased in over time. Sensitive sectors such as dairy, animal products and key agricultural products have been excluded to safeguard Indian farmers and rural economies. The deal was concluded in just nine months, making it one of India's fastest-negotiated FTAs with a developed economy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon described the inking as a landmark moment in the bilateral partnership, with PM Modi saying the agreement reflects deep trust and shared values and will benefit farmers, youth, women, MSMEs, artisans, startups, students and innovators. PM Luxon called it a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" that will boost jobs, raise wages and open the door to one of the world's most dynamic economies. The agreement is expected to come into force by the end of 2026.

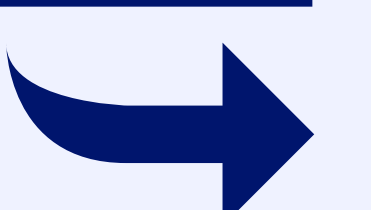
READ MORE: [INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA](#)

FIRST CULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING UNDER INDIA'S BRICS PRESIDENCY 2026 CONCLUDES



The first Culture Working Group meeting under India's BRICS Presidency 2026 concluded on 30 April in New Delhi. Chaired by Secretary of the Ministry of Culture Vivek Aggarwal, the meeting saw participation from BRICS countries virtually, with the Indian delegation represented by Member Secretary of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, and other officials. The Ministry of Culture said India's BRICS Presidency emphasises cultural and people-to-people exchanges as well as strategic cooperation, and noted ongoing efforts to promote shared heritage and cultural collaboration among member nations. The theme of India's BRICS Presidency 2026 is "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."

READ MORE: [FIRST CULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING UNDER INDIA'S BRICS PRESIDENCY 2026](#)



JAMMU DIRECTLY LINKED WITH KASHMIR VIA PASSENGER TRAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME

India's Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on 30 April 2026 flagged off the extended Srinagar-Jammu Vande Bharat Express service from Jammu Tawi Railway Station, with regular operations beginning from 02 May 2026. The train, which previously ran between Srinagar and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, will now operate up to Jammu Tawi with 20 coaches instead of eight, significantly enhancing capacity, connectivity and comfort. Passengers can now travel between Jammu and Srinagar in under five hours.



[READ MORE: JAMMU DIRECTLY LINKED WITH KASHMIR VIA PASSENGER TRAIN FOR THE FIRST TIME](#)

INDIA'S OIL AND IOC MAKES NEW OIL AND GAS DISCOVERY IN LIBYA

Oil India Limited (OIL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has successfully made new oil and gas discovery in the Ghadames Basin, Libya. The discovery was made in Contract Area 95/96, where the well was drilled to a final depth of 8,440 feet and achieved production of 13 million cubic feet of gas and 327 barrels of condensate per day from the Awynat Wanin and Awyn Kaza formations. The Indian consortium with OIL and IOCL operated alongside Algerian firm SIPEX as the operator. India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the discovery reflects the growing global footprint of Indian energy companies and India's commitment to strengthening national energy security through overseas asset acquisition.

[READ MORE: INDIA'S OIL AND IOC MAKES NEW OIL AND GAS DISCOVERY IN LIBYA](#)

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

INVEST INDIA FACILITATES INVESTMENTS WORTH OVER US\$ 6.1 BILLION DURING FY 2025-26: DPIIT



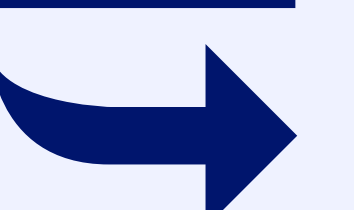
Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), facilitated 60 projects worth over US\$ 6.1 billion during financial year 2025-26. These investments span 14 states - including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Assam and Bihar - and are estimated to generate over 31,000 jobs. Approximately 42% of the total investment value came from European nations, while the United States, Japan, South Korea and Australia were the other major source countries. DPIIT said the momentum reflects policy clarity, institutional commitment and the trust global investors place in India's regulatory environment. Madhya Pradesh emerged as the leading state in job creation, followed by Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Maharashtra.

[READ MORE: INVEST INDIA FACILITATES INVESTMENTS WORTH OVER US\\$ 6.1 BILLION DURING FY 2025-26](#)

INDIA AIMS FOR US\$ 2 TRILLION IN TOTAL EXPORTS BY 2030-31

India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that India is targeting US\$ 2 trillion in total exports by 2030-31, comprising US\$ 1 trillion each from merchandise and services exports. Chairing a high-level review meeting on 29 April 2026, the Minister noted that India's total exports reached a record US\$ 860.09 billion in FY 2025-26, registering 4.22% year-on-year growth. The Department of Commerce has developed a structured Export Monitoring Framework that breaks the national target into sector-wise actions across engineering goods, textiles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and services. The strategy rests on three pillars: clearly defined and time-bound actionable points, inter-departmental coordination, and an IT-enabled monitoring platform. The Minister also reviewed the MSME-focused Export Promotion Mission, ten components of which have already been operationalised.

[READ MORE: INDIA AIMS FOR US\\$ 2 TRILLION IN TOTAL EXPORTS BY 2030-31](#)



NITI AAYOG RELEASES REPORT "DPI @2047: STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO ENABLE NON-LINEAR INCLUSIVE SOCIOECONOMIC GROWTH"

NITI Aayog, the premier policy think tank of the Government of India released a report "Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) @2047 - A Strategic Roadmap to Enable Non-Linear Inclusive Socio-economic Growth" in New Delhi on 27 April 2026. Developed by the NITI Frontier Tech Hub in partnership with EkStep Foundation and Deloitte, the roadmap outlines a two-phase strategy: DPI 2.0 (2025-2035) focused on livelihood-led growth at scale, followed by DPI 3.0 (2035-2047) aimed at broad-based prosperity and a per capita income of US\$ 18,000. As per the report, the focus has shifted from GDP to productivity. NITI described the document as a call to reorient India's scientific enterprise towards mission-driven, DPI-aligned R&D. The roadmap identifies eight sectoral transformations across MSMEs, agriculture, education and health.

READ MORE: [STRATEGIC ROADMAP TO ENABLE NON-LINEAR INCLUSIVE SOCIOECONOMIC GROWTH](#)

GLOBAL CONSUMER COMPANIES STAY BULLISH ON INDIA

Major global consumer companies posted strong double-digit growth in India during the March 2026 quarter, even as performance in other regions remained subdued. Mondelez International recorded sharp expansion in chocolates and biscuits, with CEO Dirk Van de Put expressing strong confidence in the Indian market. Reckitt achieved double-digit growth in its Germ Protection, Intimate Wellness and Household Care segments, while Coca-Cola's global volume growth was supported significantly by India through its focus on affordability and rural reach. The performance underscores India's emergence as a key growth engine for global FMCG players amid urban premiumisation, recovering rural consumption and expanding e-commerce and modern retail channels.

READ MORE: [GLOBAL CONSUMER COMPANIES STAY BULLISH ON INDIA](#)

INDUSTRY & SECTORAL INSIGHTS

INDIA PLANS TO ADD 62 NEW VESSELS IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO BOOST SHIPPING



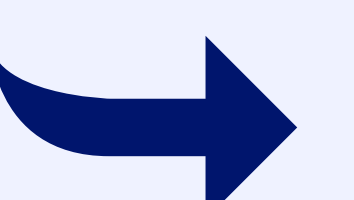
India's Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal announced that India is advancing a roadmap to add 62 vessels in financial year 2026-27, backed by an investment of over US\$ 5.4 billion, to create an additional 2.85 million gross tonnage capacity. Chairing a high-level inter-ministerial review meeting on 29 April 2026 amid developments in the Strait of Hormuz region, Mr Sonowal called for urgent expansion across container vessels, LPG and crude carriers, dredging vessels and green tugs. He also reviewed progress on a proposed joint venture between the Shipping Corporation of India and oil PSUs to acquire 59 vessels, and directed officials to prepare a comprehensive white paper outlining gaps, targets and a time-bound roadmap for the maritime sector.

READ MORE: [INDIA PLANS TO ADD 62 NEW VESSELS IN CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR TO BOOST SHIPPING](#)

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA WILL OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEM AND JEWELLERY SECTOR: GJEPC

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) of India welcomed the India-New Zealand FTA, saying the pact will significantly boost India's gem and jewellery exports through zero-duty access. GJEPC said India's current gem and jewellery exports to New Zealand stand at around US \$16.61 million and are expected to grow to nearly US\$ 50 million over the next three years. The agreement provides a clear duty advantage over key competitors such as China and Thailand, and is expected to benefit segments including gold, silver, platinum, studded, contemporary and fashion jewellery. The FTA is also anticipated to support employment generation across major manufacturing hubs such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and West Bengal, and to leverage the Indian diaspora in New Zealand for retail expansion.

READ MORE: [NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GEM AND JEWELLERY SECTOR](#)



INDIA EXPANDS CRUDE OIL SOURCING NETWORK FROM 27 TO 41 COUNTRIES

India's Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said India has expanded its crude oil sourcing base to 41 countries from 27 earlier, as part of efforts to strengthen energy security during the global energy crisis. Speaking at the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference on 2 May 2026, the Minister said the government had absorbed price shocks at the fiscal level rather than passing them on to consumers. India also began procuring LPG from the US, Norway and Algeria in addition to the Middle East, and increased domestic LPG production by 60%, from 36,000 MT to 54,000 MT per day. Mr Puri added that "Operation Urja Suraksha" served as a coordinated response across companies, ministries, state governments and international suppliers.



READ MORE: [INDIA EXPANDS CRUDE OIL SOURCING NETWORK FROM 27 TO 41 COUNTRIES](#)

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY

INDIA'S EV MARKET RACES AHEAD, SALES UP NEARLY 70% IN JAN-APR

India's passenger electric vehicle sales rose 69.5% year-on-year to 79,063 units during January-April 2026, according to retail data. Monthly volumes remained elevated, with March recording around 23,097 units and April only marginally lower at 22,677 units, indicating sustained demand beyond the typical financial year-end spike. Tata Motors continued to lead the EV segment with cumulative sales of 31,604 units (up 65.2% YoY), while Mahindra & Mahindra emerged as the fastest-growing major player, with sales surging 170.4% to 18,153 units. Maruti Suzuki, on a smaller base, scaled up from 221 units in January to over 1,200 in April. The trend indicates a structural shift in consumer preference, supported by improving product availability and a widening consumer base.

READ MORE: [INDIA'S EV MARKET RACES AHEAD, SALES UP NEARLY 70% IN JAN-APR](#)

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR GOOGLE CLOUD INDIA AI HUB IN VISAKHAPATNAM



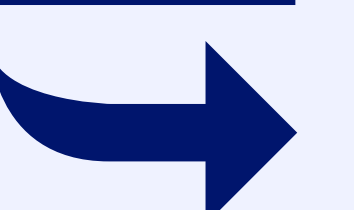
The foundation stone of the Google Cloud India AI Hub was laid in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 28 April 2026. Part of the Adani-Google-Airtel data centre project, the initiative represents an investment of around US\$ 15 billion, among the largest foreign direct investments in India's history. The AI data centre will have a planned capacity of 1 gigawatt and will be developed across nearly 600 acres. The state government has outlined a long-term vision to develop a multi-gigawatt digital ecosystem with a total capacity of 6.5 GW, while the project is expected to generate thousands of jobs in AI, cloud operations, cybersecurity and data science. Visakhapatnam's coastal location also makes it suitable for an international submarine cable landing station.

READ MORE: [FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR GOOGLE CLOUD INDIA AI HUB IN VISAKHAPATNAM](#)

INDIAN SPACE START-UP GALAXEYE LAUNCHES MISSION DRISHTI ON SPACEX FALCON 9

Bengaluru-based startup GalaxEye Space successfully launched its flagship satellite Mission Drishti aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from California on 3 May 2026, marking a major milestone for India's private space sector. Weighing 190 kilograms, Mission Drishti is the largest Earth observation satellite ever built by a private Indian company and the world's first OptoSAR satellite, combining optical sensors with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to capture detailed Earth imagery even in cloudy weather. Incubated at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and founded by five students and alumni, GalaxEye has partnered with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), to distribute imagery for adverse weather, agriculture and border monitoring applications.

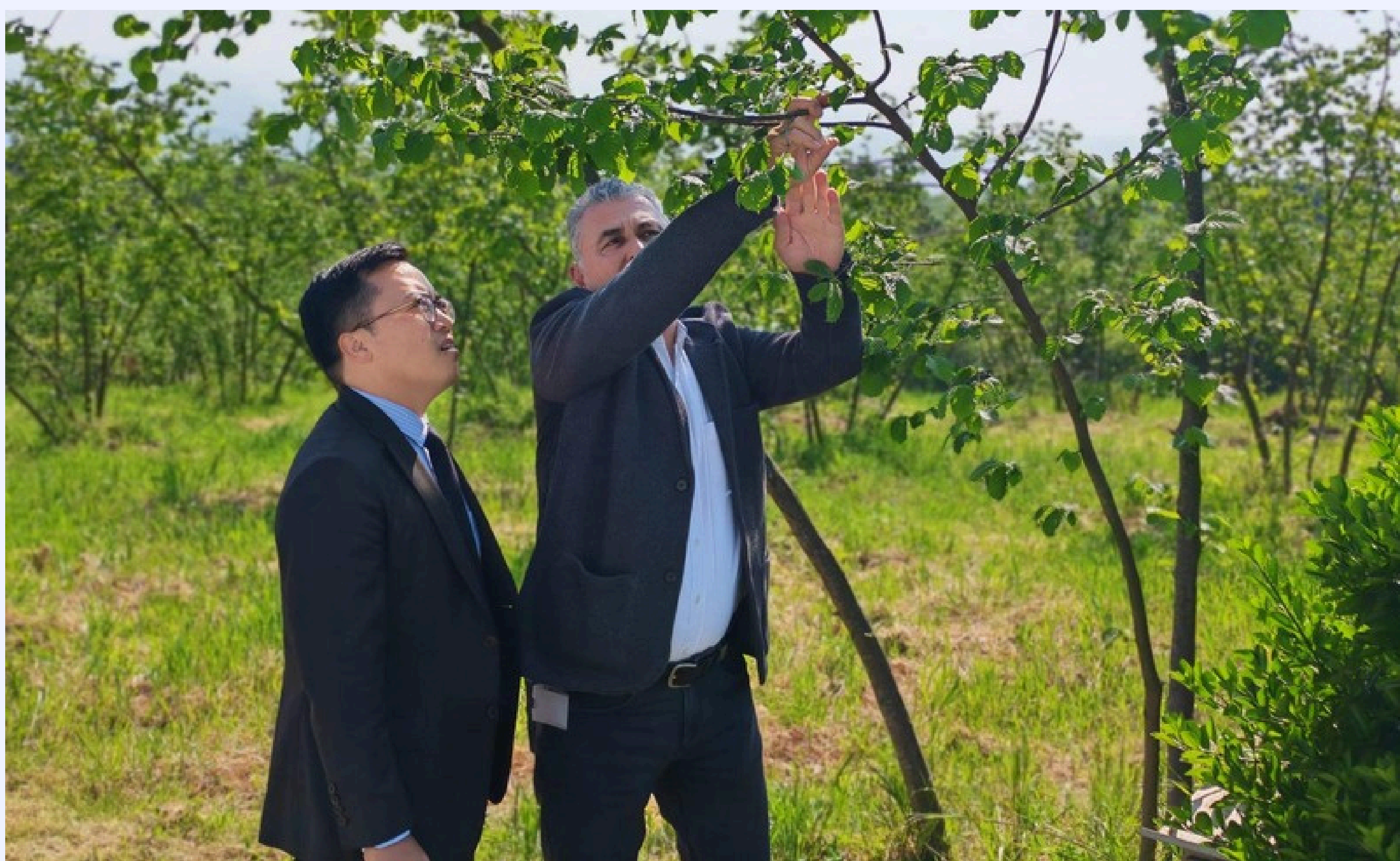
READ MORE: [INDIAN SPACE START-UP GALAXEYE LAUNCHES MISSION DRISHTI ON SPACEX FALCON 9](#)



EMBASSY & CONSULATE UPDATES



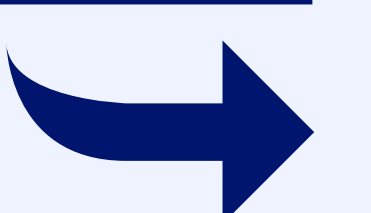
Ambassador of India to Türkiye Muktesh K. Pardeshi participated in the 11th Heads of Mission Conference held in New Delhi on 28-30 April.



Consul General visited the Balsu facilities in Sakarya to learn about the production process of Hazelnuts. Türkiye is a major hazelnut producer and exports to many countries, including India.



Consul General visited Gedik Holding facility in Sakarya, and was briefed on their manufacturing operations. Led ably by Chairperson Hulya Gedik, Gedik Holding is a key company in the welding and casting ecosystem of Türkiye - with operations in multiple countries. Gedik Holding is also an investor in India and has recently begun operations.





The Consul General met with Prof. Dr. Bilge Donuk, General Manager of Spor Istanbul, to discuss various areas of collaboration, including preparations for the upcoming International Yoga Day celebrations to be held in Istanbul.



The Foreign Affairs team of Beyoğlu Municipality visited the Consulate General on 28 April 2026 and met with the Consul General to discuss collaborations with India on yoga, film festivals, and more to be held in Beyoğlu in 2026.

भारत का दूतावास
Embassy of India
Türkiye

Yoga
PHOTO CONTEST
ON THE OCCASION OF
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2026

Photography entries are invited for this year's Yoga photo contest

THEMES

- Advance yoga poses
- Yoga at unique or iconic historical location in Türkiye

ELIGIBILITY

- Open for all age groups & nationalities

CRITERIA

- Best entries will be decided on photo quality as well as yoga postures.

5 MAIN AWARDS + More prizes to be won

Please send your entries to the following email address before 31st May 2026 : Cul.ankara@mea.gov.in

Post your yoga moments and tag us!
Use hashtag #YogaInTürkiye

Embassy of India in Ankara launched the Yoga Photo Contest to promote Yoga awareness ahead of the International Day of Yoga 2026.

THANK YOU FOR READING

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