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EU-INDIA BUSINESS INSIGHTS

December 2025

Your Gateway to EU-India Trade & Investment





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From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

It gives me great pleasure to address you as we bid farewell to 2025 and usher in the New Year - 2026.

December 2025 has been a month of purposeful engagement and steady progress for the Chamber. Across sectors and regions, our interactions have reflected a shared commitment to building practical cooperation and long-term partnerships between the European Union and India.

We began the month with a focused BFSI engagement on 4th December 2025, bringing together leaders from banking, financial services, and insurance. The discussions centred on regulatory developments, financial innovation, and new avenues for EU-India collaboration, underlining the importance of resilient financial systems and continuous dialogue in a fast-changing global environment.

Our regional outreach continued with the Bengaluru Outreach Programme on 18 December 2025. This engagement allowed us to connect directly with members and industry leaders in Karnataka, reaffirming Bengaluru's role as a key hub for technology, innovation, and international business, while strengthening the Chamber's footprint in South India.

Industry engagement remained a strong focus through our participation in the PharmaTech Exhibition in Bengaluru from 19 to 21 December 2025. Over three days, we interacted with stakeholders across the pharmaceutical and life sciences ecosystem, exploring opportunities in advanced manufacturing, research collaboration, regulatory alignment, and sustainable healthcare.

This edition also highlights our expanding sectoral focus. A dedicated section on Shipping and Logistics examines the sector's vital role in supporting trade, strengthening supply chains, and improving connectivity between Europe and India. Our Experts' Corner continues to offer informed, practical perspectives from industry specialists, helping members navigate sectoral and policy developments. Alongside these, you will find our regular features—Legal Lexicon, sector updates, and country-specific trade insights—enriched by contributions from our Sector Committees. Together, these sections aim to inform, encourage dialogue, and support cross-border business engagement.

Before signing off, I would like to assure you that the Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India will continue to focus on facilitating collaboration, promoting investment linkages and serving as a trusted bridge between EU and Indian businesses and institutions in the year ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and wishing you a Happy, Healthy and Productive New Year.

Warm regards,

Rajeev Sharma
President

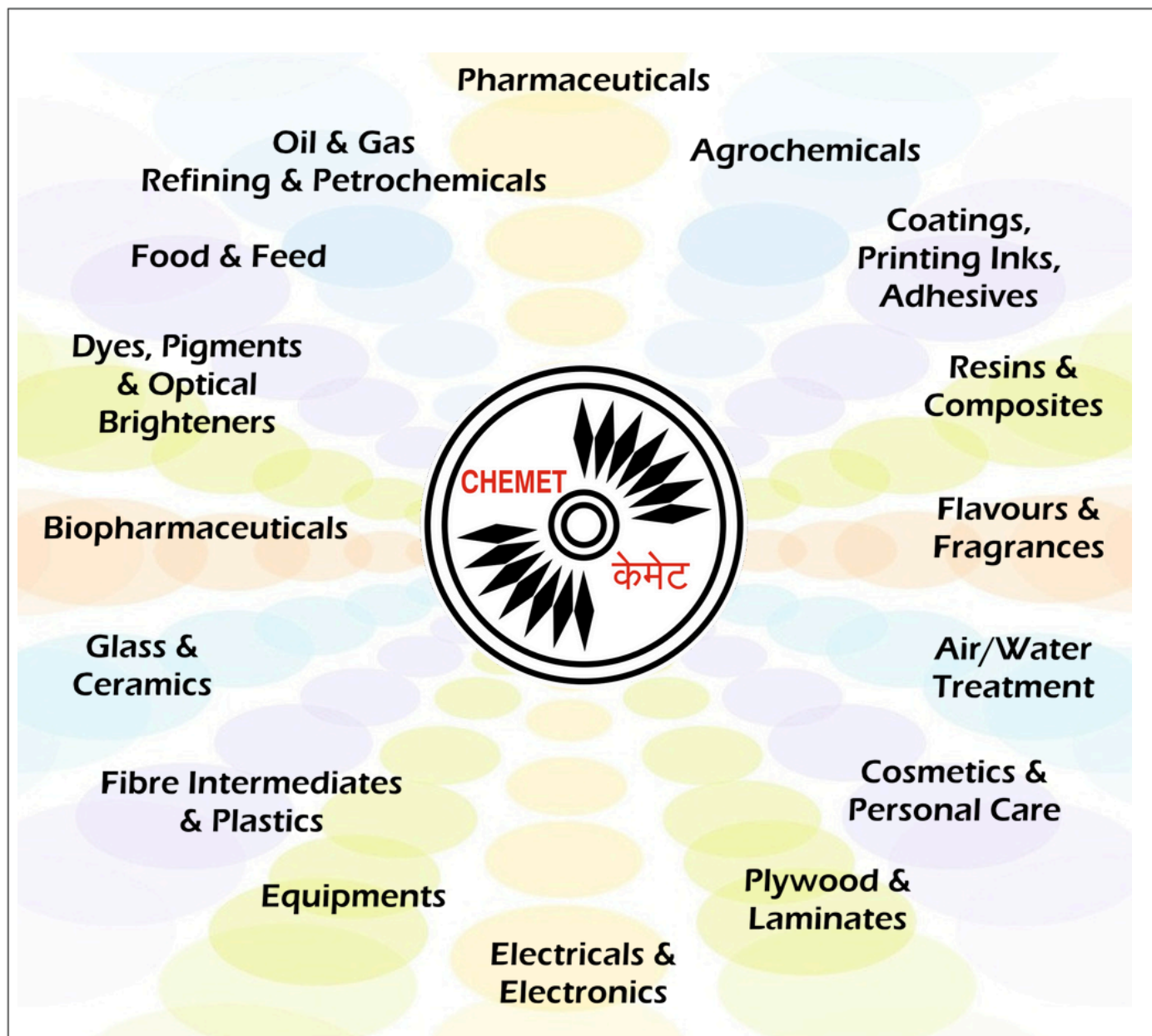


Mr. Rajeev Sharma
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EU-INDIA NEWS

India-EU discuss core chapter of trade deal as deadline inches close

Source- <https://indianexpress.com/>

With only weeks remaining to conclude negotiations by the end of the year, India and the European Union have stepped up efforts to finalise their free trade agreement (FTA). EU negotiators were in India from December 3 to 9, 2025, holding technical discussions across key chapters including market access for goods and services, rules of origin, technical barriers to trade, and trade and sustainable development.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry said that Union Minister Piyush Goyal met Maroš Šefčovič, the European Union's Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, on December 8–9, 2025. These discussions aimed to provide strategic direction to the negotiating teams as both sides work towards an early conclusion of the FTA. The ministerial talks followed intensive technical negotiations held in New Delhi during the EU delegation's visit.

Prior to this, high-level discussions took place on December 7, 2025, between India's Commerce Secretary and the Director-General of Trade of the European Commission. The renewed momentum in talks comes as the European Union is becoming an increasingly important market for Indian exports, particularly amid the impact of higher tariffs imposed by the United States.

Trade data points to strong growth in India's exports to several European countries. Spain has emerged as a key trading partner, with Indian merchandise exports rising by \$3.81 billion, a growth of 40.74 per cent during April–October 2025. Germany also recorded steady growth, with Indian exports increasing by 7.32 per cent during the same period compared to the previous year.

BJP MP Vivek Thakur, who briefed the media on India's export performance, attributed this positive trend to government initiatives aimed at strengthening export competitiveness. He noted that the rejection rate of Indian exported products by importing countries declined by 12.5 per cent in June 2025 compared to June 2024, reflecting improved quality standards and compliance.

Thakur also highlighted that schemes such as the Zero Duty Export Capital Goods scheme and the Market Access Initiative have supported robust exports of engineering goods between April and October. Overall, India's merchandise exports to countries including Spain, the UAE, China, Hong Kong, the United States, Germany, South Korea, Brazil, and Belgium have shown strong growth.

Joint Press Release on the 11th India - EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations & the 6th India-EU Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in Brussels

The European Union and India held the 11th India-EU Foreign Policy and Security Consultations and the 6th Strategic Partnership Review Meeting in Brussels on 18 and 19 November, respectively. The meetings reviewed the full scope of bilateral relations and assessed the implementation of the India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025, which is nearing completion this year.

Both sides welcomed the strong momentum in EU-India relations, highlighting key recent developments such as the landmark College of Commissioners' visit to India in February, the first EU-India Strategic Dialogue held in Brussels in June between HRVP Kaja Kallas and External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the EU's adoption of the Joint Communication on the Strategic Agenda on India in September.

Discussions covered a broad range of issues including economic security, resilient supply chains, trade and investment, the Global Gateway, the India-EU Connectivity Partnership, and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Cooperation in innovation, science and technology, as well as opportunities to deepen people-to-people ties through education and research, were also discussed.

Both sides reaffirmed their ambition to conclude negotiations on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year and to accelerate talks on the Investment Protection Agreement and the Agreement on Geographical Indications. They stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation and continued dialogue on economic issues, including supply chain diversification.

Progress under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was welcomed, with both sides looking forward to the next TTC Ministerial Meeting in Brussels in 2026.

On global and regional issues, the EU and India discussed enhanced cooperation in the multilateral system, humanitarian assistance, and disaster resilience, including through the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. They noted India's upcoming BRICS Chairship in 2026 and reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and violent extremism in all forms, including cross-border terrorism. Both sides also looked forward to the next India-EU Human Rights Dialogue.

The consultations emphasized shared commitments to regional and global security, a free, open, inclusive Indo-Pacific, and a rules-based international order. The EU and India underscored the need for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine in line with international law and reiterated support for peace efforts in Gaza.

The meetings also reaffirmed the intention to deepen cooperation in security and defence, including maritime security, cyber, space, counterterrorism, defence industry, and non-proliferation. Preparations for a new Joint EU-India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda were discussed, with plans to endorse it at the next India-EU Summit in New Delhi.

Source- <https://www.mea.gov.in/>



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LEGAL LEXICON

Strategic Gateway for European Businesses into India's Digital Growth Story

“Maharashtra’s 2023 IT-ITES Policy positions the state as one of India’s most advanced destinations for technology investment and digital innovation. The policy offers EU businesses a strategic gateway to enter or expand within India’s booming USD 1 trillion digital economy through incentives, cost efficiencies, world-class infrastructure, and strong regulatory clarity. With dedicated support for AI, fintech, Industry 4.0, GCCs, AVGC, and R&D collaboration, the policy aligns closely with Europe’s technological strengths. A clear registration and compliance framework ensures predictable access to incentives and supports EU due-diligence and sustainability reporting. For European companies, Maharashtra now represents a prime opportunity to build scalable, innovation-driven, and future-ready digital operations in India.”

Maharashtra—India’s financial and industrial powerhouse—has introduced its 2023 IT & IT-enabled Services Policy, marking a major step in accelerating the state’s digital transformation. Building upon earlier iterations introduced in 1998, 2003, 2009, and 2015, the new policy positions Maharashtra as a powerful hub for global technology investment, innovation, and digital service delivery.

For businesses across the European Union, the policy opens an important window to deepen commercial, technological, and R&D cooperation with one of India’s most advanced, globally integrated states.

This article highlights the key advantages, investment pathways, and regulatory requirements for European companies considering expansion into Maharashtra’s fast-growing IT-ITES ecosystem.

1. Why Maharashtra Matters for European Businesses?

a. Strong Entry into India’s Digital and Industrial Markets

Maharashtra remains India’s largest economic contributor, home to major financial institutions, industrial clusters, global companies, and a highly skilled workforce. The IT-ITES Policy 2023 strengthens this base by encouraging investment in:

- AI, machine learning, and automation
- Fintech and financial GCC operations
- Semiconductor design and electronics
- AVGC and digital content creation
- Cloud and data infrastructure
- Cybersecurity and IT consulting

European businesses can leverage this policy to establish or expand operations in sectors where the EU already holds deep expertise, thereby gaining rapid integration into India’s growing techno-industrial ecosystem.

b. Competitive and Cost Incentives

The policy offers attractive fiscal and non-fiscal benefits, including:

- Exemptions from stamp duty and electricity duty
- Capital subsidies for IT parks and units, especially in emerging cities
- Additional incentives for women-led enterprises
- Priority approvals and facilitation through a robust single-window clearance system
- Plug-and-play infrastructure in newly planned IT clusters

These advantages make Maharashtra a cost-efficient yet high-quality destination for EU enterprises that want to build scalable operations without the high overheads of traditional European markets.



c. Opportunities for Co-Innovation and R&D Partnerships

The policy supports the creation of Centres of Excellence, Industry 4.0 innovation zones, GCC hubs, and specialized AVGC clusters. For EU technology leaders, this presents:

- Access to collaborative R&D environments
- Opportunities to co-develop technologies with Indian
- The ability to leverage Maharashtra's talent pool, particularly in engineering and digital design

European companies can combine their technological expertise with India's innovation-driven workforce, creating win-win outcomes for both regions.

d. Market Access to India's Expanding Digital Consumer Base

India's digital economy is projected to cross USD 1 trillion in the coming years. Maharashtra, as an early adopter of financial and digital innovation, forms a significant share of this value. EU businesses can use the state as a launchpad to pilot products, test market compatibility, and scale across India.

2. How European Companies Can Access Policy Benefits

Under the Maharashtra IT-ITES Policy, 2023, a company must obtain formal IT/ITES Unit registration because the Policy legally recognises only Indian-incorporated entities registered with the Directorate of Industries (DI) as eligible IT/ITES Units.

Registration is mandatory to secure the State-issued Letter of Intent (LOI), which requires proof of incorporation, operational IT/ITES activity, turnover classification, and statutory compliances. This registration not only determines eligibility for the Policy's fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, such as stamp duty exemption, SGST incentives, electricity duty waivers, and access to notified IT Parks, but also provides entities a formal compliance pathway grounded in the State's executive powers under Article 162 of the Constitution of India and aligned with statutory frameworks including the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966, the Information Technology Act, 2000, and MSME facilitation mechanisms under the MSMED Act, 2006.

DI registration ensures that incentives become legally enforceable entitlements, strengthens their standing in dealing with State authorities,

supports due-diligence and cross-border reporting requirements (including under the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive), and offers documentary proof of government recognition essential for investment structuring and regulatory compliances in India.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Registration to IT-ITES Unit

- Annual turnover of IT Software/IT Enabled products shall always exceed 75% of the total annual turnover of the Unit.
- Employment of local persons in Supervisory category shall not be less than 50%, while in other categories including Supervisory Category shall not be less than 80%
- Unit should have Udyog Aadhar / IEM.

a. IT Registration Certificate

1. Provisional Registration Certificate will be granted after scrutiny of application for 3 Months.
2. Final Registration Certificate will be issued for 3 years.

Validity: 3 years from the date of issue a Registration Certificate

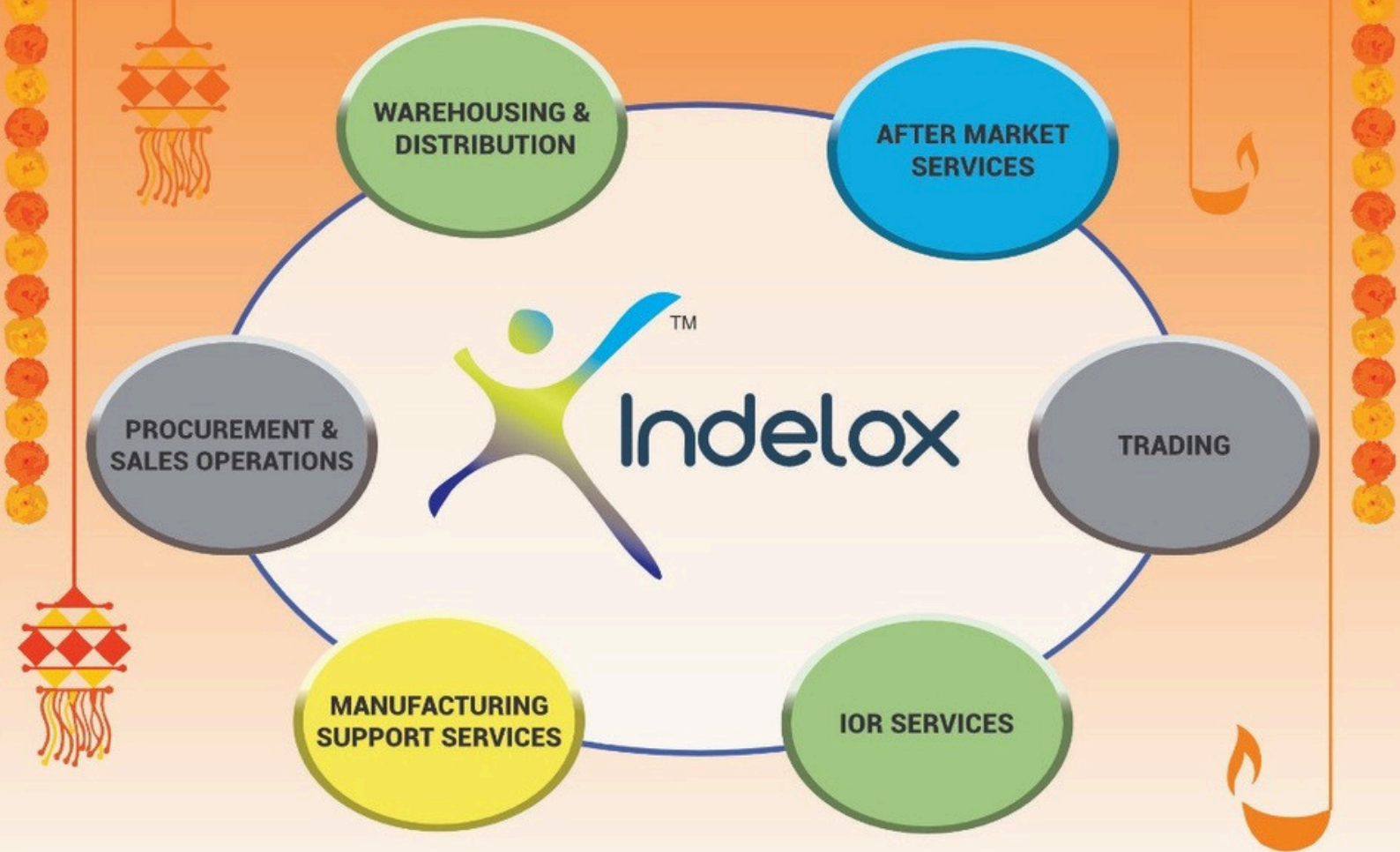
b. Compliances under IT-ITES Registration

- Annual Declaration: Unit has to submit annually employment of local person in prescribed format (ELP-1) along with Turnover Certificate for 100% of IT-ITES Turnover duly certified by an independent chartered Accountant in prescribed format.
- Amendment in Registration Certificate: Any changes in Business Location, Investment, Constitution, IT/ITES Services, etc. If any.

Conclusion

Maharashtra's IT-ITES Policy 2023 is more than a state initiative, it represents a strategic turning point in India's digital growth. The policy offers an unprecedented opportunity to expand economic engagement, strengthen technological partnerships, and build sustainable value chains. With the right strategies, businesses can navigate, engage with, and benefit from Maharashtra's forward-looking digital vision.

Krrishan Singhania
Co- Chair
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COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT



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Monthly Economic & Commercial Reports

India-Bulgaria Strategic Trade & Innovation Review : Embassy Insights

Overview

The Embassy of India in Bulgaria's November 2025 report positions Bulgaria as an emerging EU gateway for Indian industry, supported by a strong public procurement pipeline and expanding diplomatic and commercial engagement. More than 30 tenders exceeding USD 5 million span energy infrastructure, water and sewage, IT hardware, healthcare, and defence. These opportunities align with Bulgaria's digitalisation drive and renewable energy target of 27% by 2030. Limited but steady EU harmonisation continues in North Macedonia, with long-term potential in technology hubs.

Bilateral Trade Trends

Bulgaria's trade environment is closely aligned with EU customs and regulatory systems. From January 2026, EU Combined Nomenclature (CN) revisions will introduce 27 new tariff codes and over 100 TARIC entries covering clean-tech products such as lithium compounds, solar PV components, hydrogen fuel cells, wind turbine parts, and artificial graphite. Indian exporters are advised to recalibrate HS classifications in advance to maintain compliance and optimise duty outcomes. Additional changes include revised Binding Tariff Information procedures through the EBTI portal and the July 2026 withdrawal of the €150 de minimis exemption for small parcels.

Non-tariff measures are expanding, notably the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), expected to extend to car parts, appliances, construction materials, and machinery. Dual-use controls now cover quantum technologies, advanced semiconductors, and high-end manufacturing equipment. No India-specific trade barriers or complaints were reported.

Investment Landscape

Public procurement remains the most significant entry point for Indian companies. Flagship tenders include €127 million for national tolling systems, €79 million for Trakia motorway tunnels, €63 million in natural gas infrastructure, €49 million for cranes at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant, and €38 million for healthcare equipment. Water and sewage projects in Stara Zagora, Gabrovo, Targovishte, and Veliko Tarnovo range between €30–45 million. Additional opportunities arise in hydroelectric plant renovations (€24 million), smart metering (€18 million), residential energy upgrades (€24 million), and IT hardware procurement (€26 million).

The Invest Bulgaria Agency promotes IT/BPO through BASSCOM, renewable energy, construction, agri-processing, and tourism, though no major bilateral FDI announcements were recorded during the period.

Business Collaborations

Thirteen business visas facilitated tangible cooperation across sectors. Pharmaceutical engagements linked Macleods with Ecopharm; ceramics exports connected Flavour Granito with Izida and Dekor; nuclear collaboration involved NPCIL-HRID engineers supporting non-destructive testing; and aviation interactions included Airbus and Bulgarian partners. A landmark India-Bulgaria Defence Sector Conference on 7 November brought together defence ministries and industry associations to explore co-production and joint manufacturing, including prospects linked to F-16 components and C-27J avionics.



Sustainability and Business Opportunities

Energy and sustainability projects offer strong alignment with India's clean-tech capabilities. Opportunities include hydroelectric upgrades at Batak, Peshtera, and Aleko, smart metering by EVN Zapad, and large-scale water and wastewater treatment projects. The 2026 CN clean-tech codes directly support Indian exports in hydrogen, solar, and advanced materials, while digital tenders in IT hardware, e-health, cybersecurity, and broadband open pathways through BASSCOM and the ICT Cluster.

Outlook and Conclusion

With zero reported trade barriers, hundreds of millions of euros in active tenders, and deepening defence, AI, and innovation diplomacy, Bulgaria presents a compelling platform for Indian engagement in the EU-Balkans region. Mastery of CBAM, customs, and technical standards—combined with targeted tender participation and B2B partnerships—can unlock substantial long-term value, embedding India firmly in Southeast Europe's growth and digital transition.

Source: MECR Report - Bulgaria

India-Cyprus Strategic Economic Partnership: Analysis Report

Overview

Cyprus recorded a notable trade deficit with India during January–August 2025, importing €62.2 million against exports of €23.3 million, within a total global trade volume exceeding €12.6 billion. Indian exports—led by organic chemicals, machinery, cereals, pharmaceuticals, and aluminium products—reflect Cyprus’s growing reliance on cost-effective, high-quality industrial inputs. The High Commission of India’s November 2025 Economic and Commercial Report highlights a transition from routine trade exchanges toward deeper strategic engagement encompassing space technology, green energy, fintech, and innovation. This shift aligns with Cyprus’s broader effort to diversify its economy beyond tourism and energy dependence, while leveraging India’s scale, technology, and manufacturing strengths.

Bilateral Trade Trends

Indian exports to Cyprus are dominated by organic chemicals (€20.2 million, 32.54% share), followed by machinery and parts (HS84, €3.33 million, +74.44%), pharmaceuticals (€3 million), cereals (+37.88%), fish products (+37.64%), and aluminium articles, which recorded a sharp rise (+865.19%). These trends indicate structural growth in value-added and essential sectors. Cyprus’s exports to India remain concentrated in copper (€7.3 million, +22.55%), aluminium, iron and steel articles, and pulp materials, with mixed growth performance. At the global level, Cyprus’s import basket is heavily skewed toward mineral fuels (€2.51 billion), vehicles (€716 million), and ships (€376 million), where India’s market share remains negligible.

This mismatch highlights substantial untapped potential for Indian exporters in energy-related equipment, automobiles, and maritime manufacturing. Notably, no trade defense measures, SPS barriers, or regulatory complaints were reported, and over 70 trade queries were handled during the period, reflecting a stable and facilitative trade environment.

Investment Landscape

No bilateral foreign direct investment was recorded in the reporting period, underscoring an early-stage investment pipeline. However, active engagement by Invest Cyprus and CIPA promoted opportunities in IT services, fund management, renewables, and tourism infrastructure. High-profile projects such as Limassol Marina, Ayia Napa Marina, and Aphrodite Springs Resort present opportunities for Indian participation in infrastructure development, wellness tourism, and sustainable construction. Ongoing public tenders in IT (€9.43 million), engineering (€820,000), and power cables (€16.2 million) align closely with Indian technical capabilities.

Sustainability and Business Opportunities

Cyprus’s heavy reliance on oil (over 85%) and EU decarbonisation commitments create strong demand for renewable energy, green hydrogen, and energy storage solutions. Engagements with Frederick University and IMEC align India’s Green Hydrogen Mission with Cyprus’s decarbonisation roadmap. Environmental and energy-related tenders, including engineering and power infrastructure, provide entry points for Indian renewable technology providers. Space-enabled climate monitoring, water management, and smart city solutions further expand sustainability-linked business opportunities.



Unique Areas of Focus

Space cooperation has emerged as a key differentiator. The Pixxel–CSEO agreement on hyperspectral imaging, combined with India’s cost-effective satellite launch capabilities, positions India as a preferred partner for Cyprus’s marine, wildfire, and agricultural monitoring needs. Additional niche areas include AI governance dialogues in health and energy, fintech collaboration via GIFT City linkages, and wellness tourism through Ayurveda and yoga offerings. These focus areas move the partnership beyond commodities toward high-value technology and knowledge-based collaboration.

Outlook and Conclusion

With no reported trade frictions and growing cooperation across space, sustainability, fintech, and innovation, Cyprus offers India a strategic EU platform. Targeted B2B engagement, tender participation, and institutional partnerships can convert the current trade imbalance into a resilient, innovation-led bilateral relationship aligned with India–EU strategic objectives.

Source: MECR Report - Cyprus

India-Estonia Trade Nexus: Embassy of India, Tallinn

Source: MECR Report - Estonia

Estonia's November 2025 economic and commercial report from the Embassy of India in Tallinn captures a resilient bilateral trade dynamic, with imports from India reaching €6.31 million in October amid a stable global trade backdrop of €2,046 million imports. As an economist dissecting this document, key patterns emerge in high-value Indian exports like machinery and chemicals, coupled with Estonia's digital prowess and green energy push, though no market access alerts or complaints signal a frictionless EU-aligned environment.

Overview

India-Estonia bilateral trade recorded steady momentum in October 2025, with Estonia importing €6.31 million from India, compared to €5.66 million in exports to India. Indian exports were led by industrial inputs such as crushing machinery (€1.56 million, HS 847420), inorganic chemical bases (€1.23 million, HS 282590), stainless steel products, and cotton, highlighting India's competitiveness in machinery, chemicals, and metals. Estonia's exports to India focused on wood pulp (€569,000), electrical apparatus (€459,000), and aluminium scrap (€454,000), reflecting resource-based complementarities. No preferential trade agreement is in place, and total bilateral trade remains modest at just over €12 million, indicating scope for expansion.

During the period, the Embassy of India in Tallinn handled over 30 trade-related queries covering spices, rice, pharmaceuticals, tea, ceramics, and agri-products, and provided importer details to Indian exporters. High-level engagements were held with Estonian ministries responsible for digital governance, climate, agriculture, and regional affairs. Diaspora outreach through the Indian Association highlighted opportunities in IT, cybersecurity, renewables, and logistics, positioning Estonia as a Nordic-Baltic gateway despite social challenges such as rising relative poverty (19.4%).

Bilateral Trade Dynamics

India's exports to Estonia are concentrated in machinery, chemicals, steel, cotton, and industrial intermediates, while Estonia exports primarily raw materials and recyclables. No tariff changes, non-tariff measures, standards alerts, or trade defence actions were reported, ensuring continued EU-harmonised market access. No complaints were received from buyers or suppliers during the reporting period.

Significant untapped potential exists in sectors such as gold (€46 million import gap), petroleum products (€41 million), and automobiles, where Indian exports remain negligible. Estonia's expanding role as a logistics and digital hub further enhances its relevance as an entry point into Nordic and Baltic markets.

Investment Scenario

No specific bilateral investments or divestments were recorded during the month. However, Estonia continues to attract foreign investors due to its business-friendly tax regime, advanced digital governance, and high concentration of engineers and scientists. Labour shortages persist in construction and IT sectors, creating demand for skilled professionals. EU budget inflows projected at nearly €10 billion for 2028–34 are expected to strengthen infrastructure, digitalisation, and cohesion projects, offering medium-term opportunities for Indian technology and services companies.

Business Engagements

The Embassy facilitated Indian exports by responding to trade enquiries and organising an Indian diaspora business meet on 22 November, bringing together professionals from IT, cybersecurity, and renewable energy sectors. Sector-specific working groups were initiated to support business matchmaking.



Trade

The Ambassador engaged with the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs on AI governance following the AI Impact Summit, and with climate and agriculture ministries to explore sectoral cooperation. Labour mobility continued, with 201 short-term Indian work permits issued during the period.

Sustainability and Business Opportunities

Renewable energy remains a key focus area. Solar generation increased by 33% and wind output by 21% in 2025. Projects such as Enefit's €100 million hydrogen-ready gas plant in Narva and Grens' fast-response power units support Estonia's energy security. Logistics infrastructure is expanding, including a €24 million LEED Gold-certified DHL cargo terminal at Tallinn Airport. Estonia's startup ecosystem reported €1.17 billion in turnover, reinforcing opportunities in technology-driven collaboration.

Outlook

Bilateral trade relations remain stable, supported by active Embassy facilitation, policy dialogue, and diaspora engagement. Untapped opportunities in precious metals, energy products, automobiles, and advanced technologies, combined with EU funding and Estonia's digital leadership, provide scope for scaling up trade and investment through targeted B2B engagement and sector-focused initiatives.

India-Slovakia Economic Dynamics: Embassy of India, Bratislava

The May 2025 monthly economic and commercial report from the Embassy of India in Bratislava highlights Slovakia's seamless alignment with EU trade frameworks amid stable market access and burgeoning technology sectors. As an economist reviewing this document, the period reveals a mature bilateral landscape characterized by regulatory harmony, active trade facilitation, and Indian equity stakes in Slovak innovation, though opportunities remain untapped due to limited direct engagements.

Overview

Slovakia's integration into the EU's Common Customs Tariff (CCT) and regulatory ecosystem dominated the May 2025 landscape, with no national deviations in tariffs, non-tariff measures, standards, or trade defenses reported by the Embassy. Products require CE marking for market entry, aligning fully with EU directives, while public procurement tenders exceed USD 5 million thresholds via platforms like uvo.gov.sk and TED.europa.eu. Consular data shows 24 business visas issued alongside tourist visas, reflecting steady commercial interest despite no major trade promotion events or stakeholder feedback that month; the Embassy handled 62 trade queries from Indian exporters and disseminated info on events like SGCCI Yarn Expo and UPITS. A Slovak travel advisory on May 15 cautioned against Jammu & Kashmir due to security risks post-ceasefire, underscoring geopolitical sensitivities in India-Slovakia ties. This quiet month signals a baseline of compliance-driven stability, ripe for proactive Indian market penetration in high-tech niches.

Market Access and Bilateral Trade

Slovakia adheres strictly to EU norms across tariffs, SPS/TBT measures (via RAPEX), technical standards (CE compliance), and trade remedies, imposing no unique barriers on Indian goods.

No trade issues, complaints, or representations arose, with zero feedback from Indian firms or visitors. The Embassy's query handling (62 cases) facilitated buyer lists, supporting frictionless bilateral flows within the EU-India framework.

Investments

No outbound investment opportunities or divestments surfaced in May 2025, maintaining a neutral FDI landscape. Slovakia's EU membership streamlines investment via harmonized regulations, though no specific alerts on services, visas, or licensing barriers emerged beyond standard EU protocols. Indian investors benefit from established equity plays, as seen in battery tech collaborations.

Unique Areas of Focus

May 2025 spotlighted Slovakia's high-tech innovation surge, with Chirana Medical expanding medical portfolios, InoBat pioneering European UAV batteries via Indian co-investment, and Vision Systems clinching awards for AI-driven PCB inspection applicable across industries. Daily Local Market Intelligence (DLMI) tracked these via press (May 2, 20, 30), underscoring defense, healthcare, and automation as pivot points amid EU green transitions. Embassy's trade query volume (62) and event dissemination reflect proactive facilitation despite no on-ground activities, positioning India in Slovakia's R&D ecosystem. The travel advisory highlights security diplomacy, while procurement platforms signal digital transparency for exporters. These elements portray Slovakia as an EU gateway for Indian tech firms eyeing advanced manufacturing.

Cultural and Environmental Dimensions

Business visas (24) and query handling indirectly bolster cultural exchanges through professional networks, though no tourism



promotions or events occurred. Environmentally, tenders for electric buses and UAV batteries advance decarbonization, with InoBat's innovation reducing reliance on Asian imports via European (Indian-backed) production. PCB inspection tech enhances waste reduction in electronics/pharma, supporting circular economy goals; the advisory tempers tourism flows but preserves people-to-people ties in safer regions. Overall, economic collaborations embed sustainability, fostering long-term environmental stewardship in bilateral relations.

Outlook and Conclusion

Slovakia's May 2025 stability within EU parameters forecasts sustained openness for Indian exporters, with procurement (EUR 36+ Mn tenders) and innovations offering immediate entry points. Indian stakes like Amara Raja's in InoBat exemplify scalable models, urging deeper ToT in batteries, medtech, and AI inspection amid Europe's reindustrialization. Challenges remain minimal—nil complaints, barriers—but untapped potential in trade events demands Embassy-led BSMs. Looking ahead, leveraging TED portals and DLMI for real-time intel positions India advantageously; resolving advisories could boost tourism-business synergies. This period affirms resilient ties, projecting mutual gains through tech synergies and green procurement into 2025's latter half.

Source: [MECR Report - Slovakia](#)

AI IN INDUSTRY & EDUCATION

EMPOWERING INDUSTRIES, STUDENTS & FACULTY

WITH **AI**



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AI IN INDUSTRY



AI CONSULTING

STRATEGIC AI ROADMAP
& AI INTEGRATION
FOR ORGANIZATIONS



AI LITERACY

FOUNDATIONAL AI
KNOWLEDGE &
AWARENESS PROGRAMS



AI ADOPTION & DEPLOYMENT

END-TO-END
IMPLEMENTATION
OF AI SOLUTIONS

DRIVING
AI TRANSFORMATION
ACROSS
INDUSTRY &
ACADEMIA

AI IN ACADEMIA



NEXT-GEN AI PROFESSIONALS / AI FOR STUDENTS

- AI-READY STUDENTS
- JOB & INNOVATION PATHWAYS
- GENERALIST & SPECIALIST TRACKS



AI FOR FACULTY / FDP

- AI-ENABLED TEACHING
- MODERN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN



AI PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- DELIVER COMMERCIAL AI PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF INSTITUTIONS
- IMPLEMENT AI CURRICULUM AND DELIVERY ALIGNED WITH INDUSTRY REQUIREMENTS



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INDIA'S SHIPBUILDING DATA SNAPSHOT

An overview of infrastructure growth, trade capacity
& maritime innovation

WHERE INDIA STANDS TODAY????

Global position:

India accounts for less than 1% of global shipbuilding and is largely focused on small and medium vessels (typically under 20,000 DWT). (Breakwave Advisors)

• Types of vessels built:

1. Offshore support vessels
2. Small cargo ships
3. Passenger ferries
4. Tugs and coastal/inland vessels
5. Strong defence portfolio: frigates, corvettes, OPVs, aircraft carrier, landing platforms (The Times of India)

• Key shipyards:

1. Cochin Shipyard
2. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
3. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
4. Hindustan Shipyard
5. Goa Shipyard
6. Select private yards

Takeaway: Strategic shift underway

India is trying to move from defence-led, small-ship construction to commercial and export-oriented shipbuilding.

GOVERNMENT STRATEGY & POLICY FRAMEWORK

INDIA'S MARITIME POLICY PUSH

Broad Targets for Sagarmala & Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

4 million GRT shipbuilding capacity
Position India among the top 5 global
shipbuilding nations by 2047

Comprehensive Shipbuilding Package (Cabinet, Sept 2025) Total outlay: ₹69,725 crore

Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme
Extended till 31 March 2036
Corpus: ₹24,736 crore

Maritime Development / Investment Fund
₹20,000 crore for long-term maritime financing

Shipbuilding Development Scheme
₹19,989 crore
Target capacity: 4.5 million GT

KEY CHALLENGES

Despite strong policy intent, structural gaps remain:

- Very low global market share compared to China, South Korea, Japan
- Limited experience in:
 1. Large container ships
 2. LNG/LPG carriers
 3. VLCCs at scale
- Cost and productivity gaps versus East Asian shipbuilding hubs
- Dependence on imported engines and critical systems

TAKEAWAY:

**CLEAR GOVT. INTENT TO DELIVER
A STEP-CHANGE BY 2030–2047**

- Large financial incentives and long-term vision documents in place
- CMA CGM–Cochin Shipyard deal is an early proof point for global confidence
- Near-term opportunity lies in:
 1. Green ships
 2. Feeder vessels
 3. Coastal and regional trade fleets

Sagarmala 2.0 — Key Focus Areas

- Shipbuilding and ship-repair clusters
- Ship recycling
- Port modernisation and coastal economic zones
- Investment leverage target: ₹12 lakh crore over the next decade

Takeaway: Atmanirbhar Bharat in maritime
India envisions financial incentives, cluster-based development and easier access to capital for the Shipbuilding industry.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (LAST 6–12 MONTHS)

Landmark Commercial Order — Cochin Shipyard

CMA CGM order at CSL:

- First international order from a global container line
- Six LNG-fueled feeder container vessels (~1,700 TEU each)
- Order value: ~US\$300 million (Marine Insight)

Why it matters

- Validates Indian yards' ability to build high-spec, green vessels
- Opens the door for export-oriented commercial shipbuilding

Defence Shipbuilding Momentum

- Ongoing induction of advanced naval platforms (Nilgiri-class frigates, ASW shallow water craft, etc.)
- Sustains high-end capabilities in:
 1. Combat systems integration
 2. Stealth design
 3. Complex project management

These capabilities can increasingly spill over into commercial shipbuilding.

Financing & Policy Pipeline

Emerging initiatives include:

1. Maritime Development Fund for long-tenor finance
2. Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy 2.0
3. Integrated shipbuilding clusters near major ports

Objectives

1. Reduce capital risk for yards and shipowners
2. Attract foreign orders
3. Create coastal employment and technology depth

PORT DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



WHERE INDIA STANDS TODAY?

- India has a 7,500 km coastline and sits on major global trade routes
- Ports handle over 90% of India's trade by volume
- Modern ports reduce logistics costs and support export competitiveness

KEY PROJECTS & INVESTMENTS

- **JNPT:** India's largest container terminal inaugurated. It is replete with advanced equipment and rails for high throughput.
- **New specialised projects:** For example, a dedicated Lakshadweep jetty at Old Mangalore Port is expected to enhance regional connectivity and cargo flows due to new cargo and passenger berths plus cruise lounge, godown and dredging (~₹65 crore) to handle Lakshadweep traffic more efficiently.
- **Vadhavan Port (Maharashtra):** ₹53,000 crore investment by Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd
- **Pipavav Port:** Maersk APM Terminals exploring \$2 billion expansion
- **HUDCO:** MoUs worth ₹1 lakh crore for port and coastal financing
- **Existing major ports:** like Deendayal (Kandla), Paradip, V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin) are being upgraded as deep-draft ports able to handle Panamax/Capesize vessels, adding significant capacity.
- Multiple Industrial & logistics parks, coastal economic zones are being planned/implemented around ports to anchor manufacturing and reduce logistics costs.
- **PPP Projects:** The Ministry has identified 50+ PPP projects worth over ₹60,000 crore, exceeding earlier NMP targets, to modernise terminals, mechanise cargo handling and build new berths/jetties.

STRUCTURAL REFORMS & TRENDS

- Transition to Landlord Port Model by 2047. Under this model, the port authority owns assets while private operators manage services — boosting efficiency and investment.
- Strong push on hinterland connectivity via rail, road, and inland waterways remains a priority to reduce logistics costs and turnaround times. However, challenges - like land acquisition and coordination delays - still need to be addressed.

NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

SAGARMALA PROGRAMME

- Launched in 2015 for port-led growth
- Focus areas:
 1. Port modernisation and new ports
 2. Rail, road, and inland waterway connectivity
 3. Coastal economic zones
 4. Coastal community development

SAGARMALA 2.0

- Planned investment: ₹12 lakh crore
- Greater emphasis on:
 1. Shipbuilding and repair
 2. Green ports
 3. Sustainable logistics

Indian Ports Bill, 2025 - A new legislative framework passed by Parliament towards:

- Modernising port governance
- Simplifying procedures
- Encouraging private investment



CAPACITY EXPANSION & PERFORMANCE

- 270+ Sagarmala projects completed worth significant investment, expanding cargo handling capacity by hundreds of millions of tonnes per annum. Projects include mechanisation, deepening berths, new terminals, and multimodal freight facilities.
- Major ports improving productivity and turnaround times. For example, Visakhapatnam Port: Handled 60 million MT in just 249 days (FY 2025-26) — a record pace.
- Under Sagarmala & related reforms, turnaround time at major ports has fallen from about 82 hours (FY17) to ~62 hours (FY21), reflecting better operational efficiency.
- Non-major (state/private) ports' share of cargo traffic has risen to around 45% of total cargo in FY22, indicating strong growth in private and state-level port development.

Long-term goal

- India aims to scale total port handling capacity from ~2,700 MMT to ~10,000 MMT by 2047, underlining a long-term growth strategy.

EMERGING TRENDS & STRATEGIC IMPACTS

There is a growing focus on:

- Green ports - Latest investments include greener technologies and digital systems for tracking, automation, and environmental compliance.
 1. There is a focus on shore power, renewable energy, LNG/hydrogen fuel, and emission reduction targets. For example, hydrogen fuel-cell inland vessel being introduced at Varanasi (inland waterways) as a pilot under green-transport initiatives, showing spill-over of maritime decarbonisation on river systems.
 2. There is also a wider adoption of port community systems, single-window clearance, RFID, and digitised gate/yard operations to cut dwell times.
 3. Logistics and Competitiveness - Modernised ports and connectivity infrastructure are key to lowering freight costs and improving reliability for global trade.
 4. Regional Economic Growth - Ports act as anchors for coastal economic zones, manufacturing clusters, and export-oriented facilities, creating jobs and boosting regional development. For example, South India (Krishnapatnam, Kattupalli, Ennore, etc.) is highlighted as a leading region in port infrastructure, driven by private investment and industrial growth.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR SHIPPING & LOGISTICS PLAYERS

- Larger vessels, faster turnaround, more competition
- New trans-shipment hubs (Vadhavan, Galathea Bay) may reshape routing with potential changes in India-bound/India-origin routing of containers in the medium term.
- More predictable regulation under Indian Ports Bill
- Rising importance of green compliance and digital integration
- More deep-draft and mechanised berths enabling larger vessels on Indian calls, better productivity and lower port stay.
- Rise of private/state ports & PPP terminals with more competition on tariffs and services (attracting specific cargo segments like containers, coal, LNG, autos).
- Regulatory shift via Indian Ports Bill 2025 will result in more standardised rules and potentially smoother approvals, with stronger Centre-State coordination.
- Green & digital requirements will put positive pressure on shipping lines and terminals to comply with environmental norms and data-sharing/digitisation standards.

TAKEAWAY: INDIA'S MARITIME ECOSYSTEM (PORTS + SHIPPING) IS MOVING FROM CAPACITY BUILDING TO CAPABILITY BUILDING.

For European shipping, logistics, and maritime technology players, this represents a medium- to long-term opportunity — anchored in policy clarity, scale, and a growing appetite for global partnerships.

Mr. Shabbir Fidahussain Rangwala
Chairman
Shipping & Logistics Committee
EU Chambers

Decoding India's Regulatory Landscape: Clarity, Complexities & Competitive Advantages from an India–Eu Perspective

Kiran Nanda, Research Consultant

As the world's fastest-growing large economy, with GDP growth projected at around 6.5–7% in FY2025–26, India has become a critical partner for the European Union—not only in trade, but across technology, climate action, supply-chain resilience, and financial systems. India–EU trade in goods and services already exceeds USD 200 billion (about EUR 170 billion at 1USD/ 0.85 EUR as on 29 Dec 2025), the Free Trade Agreement is nearing completion, and cooperation under the Trade and Technology Council is gaining momentum.

For European businesses, opportunity is closely tied to regulation. Market entry, manufacturing, data flows, digital services, and sustainability strategies are increasingly shaped by regulatory clarity. As global supply chains diversify, India's regulatory direction is central to Europe's goals of resilience, green growth, and trusted partnerships.

This transformation aligns with India's long-term vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, where regulation is evolving from a control mechanism into an enabler of innovation, inclusion, and global competitiveness—designed not just for today's needs, but for future demands.

India stands at the intersection of scale, growth, and strategic relevance. Over the past decade, India's regulatory philosophy has undergone a visible shift—from licence-based control to digital-first and risk-based governance. This transformation has been driven by the creation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), which has re-engineered how regulation is implemented rather than merely rewritten. In fact, NPCI plans to launch a new subsidiary—NPCI Tech Solutions—to scale core digital infrastructure beyond UPI, including e-KYC Setu and CBDC-related systems, reinforcing India's DPI leadership with global relevance.

At the core of India's DPI model lies the JAM trinity—'Jan Dhan bank accounts', 'Aadhaar digital identity', and 'Mobile connectivity'—supported by platforms such as DigiLocker, GST Network (GSTN), and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Together, these systems have reduced discretion, increased traceability and enabled real-time compliance across sectors.

For businesses, this has translated into faster registrations, paperless filings, automated tax reconciliation and reduced transaction costs. Currently, regulation is increasingly embedded in Codes, Workflows and Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) rather than physical interfaces.

What the EU Sees as India's Strengths

From a European perspective, India's regulatory strengths lie less in uniformity and more in capability. First, India's digital compliance infrastructure dramatically lowers friction. GST

filings, customs clearances, payments, and identity verification operate on interoperable platforms at population scale—something few large economies have achieved.

Second, India offers a single, large market of over 1.4 billion consumers with progressively improving harmonisation across states. While state-level variations persist, national frameworks for taxation, insolvency, logistics and financial services are reducing fragmentation.

Third, India has shown increasing willingness to align with global norms—whether in ESG disclosures, cybersecurity standards, financial transparency or competition policy. For the EU, whose regulatory model prioritises trust, consumer protection and sustainability, this trajectory is particularly relevant.

In many ways, India's current regulatory agility complements Europe's regulatory depth. Where the EU excels in mature, principle-driven frameworks, India brings speed, scale and innovation.

Key Areas of Regulatory Complexity

Despite progress, India's regulatory landscape is not without complexities. One persistent challenge is the overlap between central and state regulations—especially in land, labour enforcement, utilities and local compliances. Even the onus of ensuring Ease of Doing business is now a priority at the state level as a means of enhancing competitiveness. For EU companies operating across multiple states, navigating these layers requires strong local understanding.

Second, regulation in the digital economy often evolves faster than legislation. Areas such as artificial intelligence, platform governance and cross-border data flows are still shaped through guidelines, advisories and sectoral rules rather than consolidated statutes.

Third, India's regulatory ecosystem is inherently multi-nodal. Sectoral regulators—the RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, TRAI, MeitY, etc.—operate independently, each with distinct mandates. While this allows domain-specific oversight, it can create a "mosaic effect" for firms operating across finance, technology and data-driven services.

For EU businesses, this complexity represents both a learning curve and an opportunity. As India's regulatory landscape is evolving to meet the needs of the future, those enterprises that invest regulatory intelligence could gain first-mover advantages in rapidly scaling markets.

High-Impact Reforms with Global Implications

Several recent reforms have reshaped India's regulatory environment with direct relevance for global partners. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023, establishes a consent-based data regime focused on individual rights, data fiduciaries and cross-border transfers to 'trusted jurisdictions'. While distinct from the EU's GDPR[1], the Act signals convergence on

principles such as purpose limitation, accountability and data security.

Amendments to India's Competition Act (2023–24) introduced deal-value thresholds, strengthening oversight of digital markets and large technology acquisitions—an area of particular interest to both European firms and regulators.

Labour reforms, through the consolidation of 29 laws into four Labour Codes, aim to simplify compliance while striking a balance between worker protection and enterprise flexibility. Although state-level implementation remains uneven, the direction of reform is clear.

The EU's GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) is a comprehensive law, effective since May 2018 that strengthens data privacy rights for individuals in the European Union and sets strict rules for organizations worldwide that handle EU residents' personal data, requiring transparency, consent, and security, with hefty fines for non-compliance.

India has also made major strides in logistics and governance digitisation—e-way bills, paperless customs, faceless tax administration and time-bound insolvency processes under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)—all of which materially affect cross-border trade and investments.

Regulatory Areas Most Relevant to India–EU Collaboration

Certain regulatory domains stand out as especially relevant for India–EU cooperation.

In ESG and climate regulation, India's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework now applies to over 1,000 listed companies, while initiatives such as India's Green Credit Programme (2023) align

incentives toward environmental outcomes. These efforts intersect closely with EU taxonomy and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) requirements.

Under Financial Regulation, India's UPI, Account Aggregator framework, and the IFSC at GIFT City offer prototypes for interoperable finance, cross-border payments and EU fintech participation in India-linked markets.

In the case of cyber-security and emerging technologies, India is building frameworks around semiconductors, digital public goods and AI governance—areas already under dialogue within the EU-India TTC.

Supply-chain regulations, including bonded manufacturing, customs modernisation, and trusted-trader programmes, further strengthen India's attractiveness as a diversification hub for European companies.

Competitive Advantages Emerging from India's Regulatory Model

India's regulatory model is beginning to generate distinct competitive advantages. Digital-first compliance reduces cost and time, particularly for SMEs and start-ups. API-based systems enable scale without proportional increases in administrative burden.

In fintech, India has achieved an unusual combination: low compliance costs alongside high consumer trust, evidenced by UPI's processing of over 18 billion transactions a month.

Regulatory sandboxing—used extensively by RBI, SEBI, and IRDAI—allows innovation under supervision, accelerating learning cycles in a safe space. Combined with a young, globally connected workforce and growing alignment with international norms, India is increasingly positioned as a laboratory for regulatory innovation.



Conclusion: Why EU-India Regulatory Cooperation Matters

In a fragmented global economy, regulation has become the new currency of trust. For Europe, partnering with India can go beyond market access by shaping interoperable, resilient and sustainable value chains. For India, engaging with EU standards can accelerate credibility, investments and global integration.

India's regulatory clarity—anchored in digital infrastructure and reform momentum—combined with Europe's institutional depth and mature leadership creates a powerful foundation for the future of regulation. As India advances toward Viksit Bharat 2047, regulatory cooperation with the EU will play a defining role in translating growth into long-term competitiveness.

This introductory overview sets the stage for a deeper exploration. Next articles in this series will examine how ESG regulation, financial frameworks, cyberspace governance and healthcare/pharma cooperation are evolving—and what they mean for EU businesses navigating India's opportunity landscape.

INDIA-EU KEY UPDATES

Policy, Diplomacy & Geo-Strategy

India-EU FTA gathers pace ahead of Jan 2026 Summit
Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is set to visit Brussels as both sides intensify efforts to conclude the India-EU FTA before the January 2026 Summit, with regulatory alignment and market access high on the agenda.

India-Netherlands defence dialogue deepens
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Dutch Foreign Minister David van Weel to discuss security cooperation, including co-development and co-production of defence equipment—highlighting expanding India-EU defence ties.



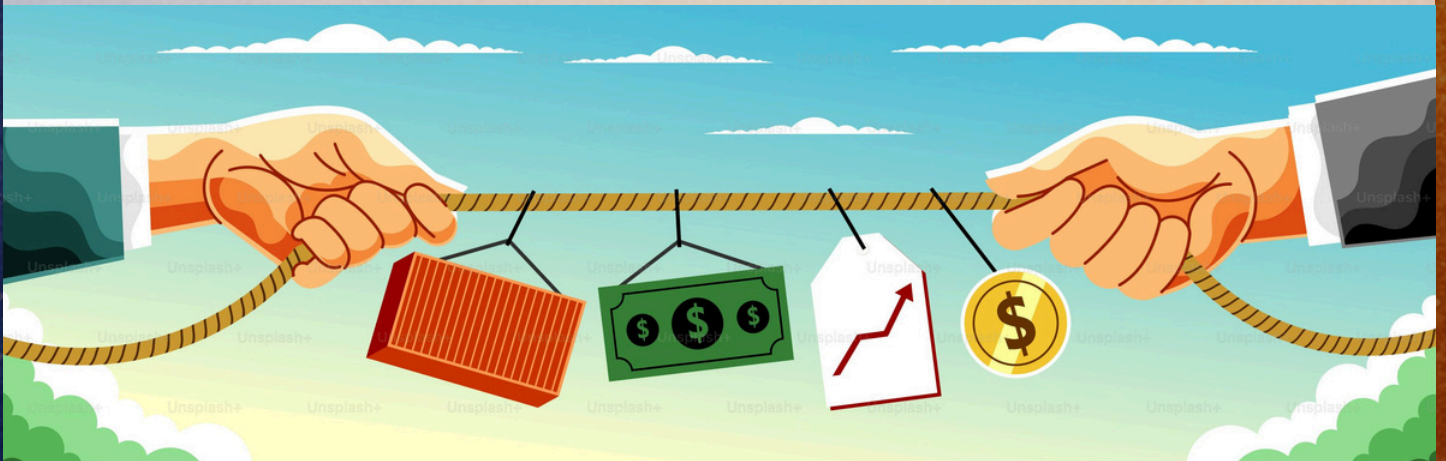
Trade, Supply Chains & Industry

India moves WTO against EU safeguard measures
India has approached the WTO challenging EU safeguard duties, signalling growing sensitivity around trade remedies as FTA talks advance.

India engaged with US, EU to conclude trade agreements
India is actively discussing trade agreements with major partners — including the United States and the European Union — alongside ongoing talks with New Zealand, as part of a broad strategy to deepen market access and diversify global trade linkages.

India-EU FTA seen as strategic instrument beyond trade
The upcoming India-EU Free Trade Agreement could institutionalise defence and military cooperation as a central pillar of bilateral ties — linking industrial collaboration, technology transfer, and strategic autonomy with economic interdependence, especially as both partners seek to diversify away from China-centric supply chains and strengthen joint capability development.

European EV write-offs fuel export wins for Indian firms
European electric-vehicle suppliers are struggling amid falling demand and cost pressures, creating opportunities for Indian auto component manufacturers to increase exports and gain market share in Europe's automotive ecosystem.



INDIA-EU KEY UPDATES



Technology, Digital & Infrastructure

NPCI sets up tech arm to expand digital infrastructure beyond payments

NPCI plans to launch a new subsidiary—NPCI Tech Solutions—to scale core digital infrastructure beyond UPI, including e-KYC Setu and CBDC-related systems, reinforcing India's DPI leadership with global relevance.

India's national power grid boosts data centre attractiveness

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted that India's integrated national power grid—unlike Europe or the US—makes it a preferred destination for large data centres, including EU investments.



Business, Investment & Corporate Developments

Tata Steel's Dutch arm faces pollution-related lawsuit

Tata Steel's Netherlands unit is facing a €1.4-billion lawsuit over environmental claims, highlighting regulatory and ESG risks faced by Indian firms operating in Europe.

Nelco conducts satellite trials with Eutelsat OneWeb

Tata Group firm Nelco has completed satellite communication trials with Eutelsat OneWeb, signalling growing India-EU collaboration in space-based connectivity and digital infrastructure.



Labour, Mobility & Talent

Spain launches low-cost Digital Nomad Visa for Indians

Many Indian professionals who work remotely have long looked at places like Bali or Thailand as work-from-anywhere hubs. Now, a European country is joining that list. Spain has rolled out a new Digital Nomad Visa, and it is giving well-paid Indian professionals a legal way to live and work in Europe for several years.



CHAMBER'S ACTIVITIES



BFSI Panel Discussion - Delhi

The Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India, under the aegis of its BFSI Committee and in collaboration with the British Business Group Delhi, organised a high-level BFSI Panel Discussion in New Delhi on 4th December 2025. The event brought together senior leaders from banking, financial services, fintech, insurance, consulting, and policy domains to deliberate on the evolving financial relationship between India and Europe.

Panelists: Mr. Hitesh Parashar, Chief Business Officer, Credila Financial Services Ltd., Mr. Tarun Singhal, Co-Chairman, BFSI Committee, EU Chambers, Board Member, British Business Group, Delhi, Group CEO, Rural Shores, Mr. Prashant Gupta, CEO, Caerus 3 Advisors; Ms. Shilpa Arora, Co-founder & COO, Insurance Samadhan; Mr. Sunil Kumar, Industry Advisor &

Head Financial Crime Compliance, BFSI Risk & Compliance – CRO Initiatives, TATA Consultancy Services, Mr. Anuj K. Agarwal, Head of Financial Inclusion, ICICI Bank Ltd.; Mr. Dharmender Jhamb, Partner & Head Fintech, Grant Thornton. Dr Pooja Paswan, Associate Professor, Assistant Dean of Student Welfare, Jamia Millia Islamia moderated the session.

The discussion was anchored around the theme: “The Great Financial Convergence & Inclusion: India, Europe, and the Path to Viksit Bharat.”

Set against the backdrop of advancing India-EU economic engagement and the anticipated conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, the programme aimed to explore how financial convergence, digital innovation, and inclusive finance can jointly support India’s long-term development vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.



Outreach Programme - Bengaluru

The Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India organised an Outreach Programme and Panel Discussion in Bengaluru on 18th December 2025 at Radisson Blu, Atria, themed “Unlocking EU-India Opportunities: Insights, Best Practices & Experience Sharing.”

The programme brought together EU businesses, Indian industry leaders, policymakers, and chamber members to strengthen engagement with the southern Indian business ecosystem. The event opened with networking and welcome remarks by Dr. Renu Shome, highlighting the Council’s mandate and the importance of regional outreach. An interactive members’ session addressed regulatory, investment, digitalisation, and sustainability issues,

followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. D. N. Murthy., Dean (Marketing), Welingkar Institute. Panelists from diverse sectors shared practical insights on collaboration, policy stability, and innovation. Mr. Guruprasad Mudlapur, President, Bosch Group in India & Managing Director, Bosch Limited; Mr. Amit Anand, Director – Legal (India Region), Adobe; Dr. Jacob T. Verghese, Chairman, STEAG Energy Services (India) Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Raghu C. Rajappa, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland; Mr. Sriraman Bhashyam, Managing Director, Seva Switchgear Pvt. Ltd.

The programme concluded with networking, reinforcing the Council’s commitment to deeper EU-India cooperation.

CHAMBER'S ACTIVITIES



Pharmatech Expo- Bengaluru

The Council of EU Chamber of Commerce participated in Pharmatech Exhibition 2025, held at the International Exhibition Centre Bengaluru for 19th, 20th and 21st December 2025, engaging with stakeholders across the pharmaceutical and healthcare technology ecosystem. Over three dynamic days, the Chamber showcased its role in fostering EU-India collaboration, highlighting opportunities for trade, investment, innovation, and regulatory dialogue within the life sciences sector.

The Chamber's presence enabled meaningful interactions with pharmaceutical manufacturers, technology providers, startups, and service companies, facilitating discussions on advanced manufacturing, quality standards, sustainability, and digital transformation. The exhibition provided a valuable platform to strengthen industry connections, understand emerging market trends, and promote the Chamber's initiatives supporting cross-border partnerships. Participation at Pharmatech 2025 reinforced the Chamber's commitment to supporting industry growth, encouraging knowledge exchange, and enhancing cooperation between European and Indian stakeholders in the rapidly evolving pharma and med-tech landscape.



MEMBER'S CORNER

For sharing any information or relevant inputs, kindly contact the undersigned:

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8104657233

sgoffice@euindiachamber.com

Company- Elenktes Audit Aggregtaors

Sector- Services (e.g. Legal, Financial, Consulting, IT, etc.)

Opportunity / Collaboration:

Potential avenues of collaboration with the Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India are proposed to be explored to support EU companies—particularly MSMEs—in strengthening their compliance posture, improving cost efficiency, and enhancing competitiveness in international markets. It is also sought to understand how such a collaboration could be structured under the Council's guidance to achieve maximum ecosystem-level impact, with a focus on facilitating B2B connections and international market access.

Comapny- QRC Assurance and Solutions Pvt. Ltd

Sector- Services (e.g. Legal, Financial, Consulting, IT, etc.) & Cyber Security Audit Services

Opportunity / Collaboration:

Partners and distributors are being sought for the provision of our services and products.

Innovation / Milestone:

A GRC automation platform named Assist has been developed, and expansion of its services into the EU market is being pursued. Global security certifications are being provided through this platform.

Comapny- Vachi Ventures LLP

Sector- Services (e.g. Legal, Financial, Consulting, IT, etc.)

Opportunity / Collaboration:

Collaboration is maintained with European companies building teams in India without setting up a local entity, with support provided for recruitment, payroll, compliance, HR operations, and day-to-day coordination. Partnerships are sought with EU-based consultancies, chambers, and advisors, with a focus on referral-based collaboration and co-serving clients seeking a compliant India setup.

Innovation / Milestone:

A structured India entry and team-building model has been developed for global companies seeking clarity, control, and risk-free operations in India. Support extends beyond Employer of Record to include recruitment, entity setup, compliance, and ongoing coordination, enabling a phased transition to a fully structured local presence and reflecting growth driven by trust-based, repeat engagements across key international markets.

Company- Business Growth Consulting

Sector- Services (e.g. Legal, Financial, Consulting, IT, etc.)

Opportunity / Collaboration:

Industrial sourcing excellence in India is enabled through this gateway.

Innovation / Milestone:

This note is written to introduce a trusted partner for specialized sourcing solutions in India. With extensive experience in OEM sales and global supply chains, end-to-end support is provided to overseas companies in identifying reliable Indian suppliers, conducting evaluations and negotiations, and ensuring competitive, compliant sourcing, with an openness to discuss specific sourcing needs in India.

PHOTO GALLERY



5th EU India Education Summit, Chennai



Outreach Programme, Chennai



5th EU India Education Summit, Chennai- Panel 2



5th EU India Education Summit, Chennai- Panel 1



Outreach Programme, Bengaluru



BFSI Panel Discussion, Delhi



Pharmatech expo, Bengaluru



Third Chair & Co-Chair Meeting



Spanish Ambassador to India



Pharmatech Exhibition, Bengaluru



DG with Nejc Perhavec
Secretary
Ministry of Economy, Tourism and
Sport, Slovenia



DG with Nadir Godrej & Ruzan Khambatta



DG with Sr. Vice President & President of FKCCI



DG with MD of iNDEXTb



DG with Dr. Irmela Von Schenck
Financial Counsellor
Deutsche Bundesbank in India



DG with Piruz Khambatta



DG with German Consul
General, Mr. Christoph Hallier



Meeting with the Executive
Director, Dr. Alarmel Mangai,
IAS, Guidance, Tamil Nadu



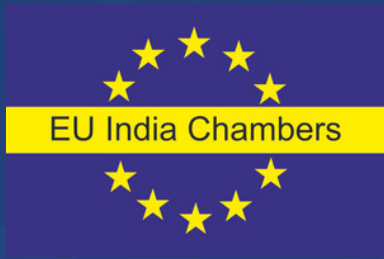
Polish Ambassador to India & Honorary Consul



Slovenia Ambassador to India



DG with Chief Protocol Officer GOM



The Council of EU Chambers of Commerce in India

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