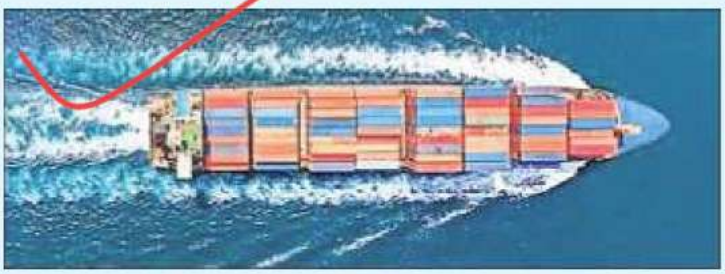
India's exports to Africa clock 44% growth during Apr-Sept; Asia logs 21%

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (IANS)



INDIA'S merchandise exports to Africa registered the highest growth of 44 per cent during April-September 2026-27, followed by Asia at 21 per cent, a Government factsheet showed on Saturday, as exports recorded broad-based growth across major global regions.

The Americas recorded 13 per cent growth, while Europe and CIS and Baltics registered growth of 8 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

Exports to Asia increased from $85.84 billion to $103.84 billion, while exports to Africa surged 44 per cent from $21.87 billion to $31.42 billion.

The Americas registered growth at $66.82 billion, followed by Europe at $51.04 billion and CIS and Baltics at $3.36 billion. Engineering goods, electronic goods and petroleum products remained key export categories.

Strong performance across diverse markets and product groups reflects the expanding reach of India's merchandise exports across global regions.

China and Singapore were the largest markets, with exports reaching $11.39 billion and $11.07 billion, respectively.

Exports to China increased 36 pc, while those to Singapore more than doubled, registering 103 per cent growth, according to official data.

Malaysia and Hong Kong also emerged as significant markets, with exports reaching $5.58 bn and $5.12 billion, respectively. Malaysia registered 83 pc growth, while Hong Kong recorded 37 pc growth.

Other markets included Bangladesh at $5.66 billion, Nepal at $4.37 billion, Japan and Australia at around $4.10 billion each, Sri Lanka at $3.94 billion, South Korea at $3.91 billion, Vietnam at $3.83 billion and Oman at $3.29 billion.

The major export destinations in Africa include South Africa at $5.69 bn, registering 52 pc growth.

In Tanzania and Kenya, exports reached $4.77 bn and $3.63 bn, respectively.

Tanzania recorded 121 pc growth, while exports to Kenya more than doubled, increasing 101 per cent.

Exports to Egypt increased 73 pc to $3.25 bn.

United States accounted for $50.80 billion, registering 11 pc growth and remaining the largest market in the region.

In Brazil, Mexico and Canada, exports reached $4.33 bn, $3.45 bn and $2.67 bn, respectively.

Colombia and Chile also recorded positive growth.

Jaishankar lauds deepening relations with EU, Bulgaria

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Saturday appreciated deepening ties between India and the European Union (EU) as he reviewed bilateral cooperation during his meeting with visiting Bulgarian Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova-Chamova in New Delhi.

"Pleased to meet FM Bulgaria Velislava Petrova-Chamova this afternoon. Reviewed our bilateral cooperation, including in trade, connectivity, investments, technology, security and talent mobility. Appreciated growing P2P linkages and cultural exchanges between our two countries, as well as deepening India-EU ties," the EAM posted on X after the meeting.

"Agreed that the India-EU FTA should be followed through by vigorous exchanges between our businesses. Also exchanged views on the prospects of IMEC and other connectivity initiatives. Appreciated the discussion on the Black Sea situation and the Ukraine conflict," he added.

During the discussions, EAM Jaishankar thanked the Bulgarian government for its support in facilitating the repatriation of Indian seafarers affected by attacks in the Black Sea and providing care to those injured.



EAM S Jaishankar during a meeting with Bulgaria's Minister of Foreign Affairs Velislava Petrova, in New Delhi. (PTI)

In his opening remarks at the meeting, EAM Jaishankar also extended condolences over the loss of life in a recent road accident in Bulgaria and wished the injured a speedy recovery. "And before we speak about our ties, let me first extend our condolences again to the families who lost their loved ones in the tragic road accident a week ago, and wish a speedy recovery to the injured. I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that your Government has extended for the repatriation of our seafarers in the ships that were attacked in the Black Sea and for looking after some of them who had sustained injuries," the EAM stated.

Recalling his visit to Sofia in June this year, EAM Jaishankar said it had helped inject fresh momentum into bilateral relations.

"I recall my own visit to Sofia in June this year, and that visit, I think, was very helpful in giving new energy and impetus to our relationship. So today we have a chance really to assess the progress in our ties and look at areas from trade and investment to defence, education, science and technology, AI, space, tourism, and mobility," he stated.

The External Affairs Minister said that the two sides had finalised a detailed roadmap for cooperation, setting out a clear direction for future engagements between India and Bulgaria.

He also thanked Bulgaria for its support towards strengthening India-European Union (EU) ties, adding that the upcoming free trade agreement would provide fresh momentum to the relationship, particularly in trade, technology and talent.

With Pak minister at SCO, India says its IWT position unchanged



NEW DELHI, Nov 20 (PTI)

INDIA'S position on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) is "very clear" and there has been "absolutely no change" in it, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday, amid a visit by Pakistan Minister Musadik Malik to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue Forum in Delhi.

Malik, who arrived here in the early hours of Friday, attended the opening day of the three-day forum in the evening. The event, being hosted by India at the historic Purana Quila, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India had announced on October 28 that invitations had been extended to all SCO members, including Pakistan, in keeping with established practice. It was perhaps the first time New Delhi had invited a Pakistani minister to attend an event in India since the May 7-10 military hostilities last year following Operation Sindoor. Pakistan had announced on November 14 that its Climate Change Minister Malik would participate in the forum.

At his bi-weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked how New Delhi viewed Malik's participation in the India-hosted forum, given that he does not hold the culture portfolio and had reportedly made comments on the IWT. "As far as IWT is concerned, we have made our position very clear, and that is where it remains. There is absolutely no change," Jaiswal said.

India suspended the treaty in 2025 as one of the punitive measures against Pakistan after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack last year that claimed 26 lives.

Malik's participation in the forum is being seen by some experts as an opportunity in a multilateral framework that may help improve ties between the two neighbours.

Adani Defence fires 4 anti-tank missiles in Pokhran Test Range



NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (PTI)

ADANI Defence & Aerospace, the Adani Group's flagship defence and aerospace company, successfully demonstrated Bagheera AT1, a vehicle-mounted anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system, at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

"The programme validated day and night engagements, a two-missile tandem firing along a single beam against a target representing an armoured vehicle, and an aerial-target engagement at an extended range. It was followed by a static display of the complete system," the company said in a statement.

The No Cost No Commitment (NCNC) demonstration at Pokhran on November 20 was witnessed by senior representatives of the Indian Army, Department of Military Affairs and Ministry of Defence (MoD).

"Bagheera AT1 is the outcome of 18 months of design and development, during which Adani Defence customised the missile system

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'India-Italy bilateral trade projected to potentially exceed EUR 50 bn by 2035'

NEW DELHI, Nov 21 (ANI)

BILATERAL trade between India and Italy could reach and potentially exceed EUR 50 billion by 2035, according to ASSOCHAM.

This anticipated expansion rests on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, wider market access, industrial linkages, and business partnerships.

The findings come from a knowledge report titled "India-Italy: A Timeless Bond, A Transformative Partnership," prepared by the ASSOCHAM Global Research & Strategy Centre. The report was presented to Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, during the India-Italy Business Forum on November 18, 2026, by ASSOCHAM Secretary General Saurabh Sanyal and Chief Economist SP Sharma.Both nations already aim for a bilateral trade target of EUR 20 billion by 2029, a goal reaffirmed during PM Modi's visit to Italy in May 2026

Saurabh Sanyal said that there are significant opportunities for Indian exporters to expand their market share, particularly in automobiles and components, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, electrical machinery, chemicals, textiles and precision instruments.

Commercial engagement between the two economies shows steady upward movement. Bilateral merchandise trade rose from USD 8.8 bn in FY 2016-17 to USD 14.4 bn in FY 2025-26. During this period, India's exports to Italy stood at USD 7.8 bn against imports of approximately USD 6.6 bn, leaving India with a positive trade balance of around USD 1.2 bn.

INS Sahyadri arrives in Vietnam

HANOI, Nov 21 (IANS)

IN A move to boost maritime cooperation between India and Vietnam, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sahyadri arrived at Tien Sa Port in Da Nang city of the Southeast Asian nation for an operational turnaround.

In a post on X on Saturday, the Indian Embassy in Vietnam posted: "The ship was accorded a warm welcome by the Vietnam People's Navy and local authorities. The visit reaffirms our shared commitment to peace, stability and security in the region and in the Indo-Pacific."



INS Sahyadri arrived at Tien Sa Port in Da Nang city on Friday for a three-day goodwill visit aimed at deepening defence ties and strengthening naval cooperation between India and Vietnam, local media reported.

The Indian Navy frigate was accorded a warm welcome by local authorities, the city's armed forces and the Naval Region 3 Command. The Indian Naval ship, with 294 officers and sailors aboard, will remain in Da Nang until November 22 as part of its goodwill visit, Vietnamese newspaper SGGP reported.

As part of the engagements, the Indian Navy delegation will meet the leadership of the Da Nang City People's Committee and the Naval Region 3 Command. The two navies will also participate in sports exchanges involving their officers and personnel.

The crew will additionally explore the city's historical and cultural attractions. The visit is expected to promote greater mutual understanding and trust between the two naval forces.

DANGER TO HUMANS

US, Russia stall UN talks to rein in AI killer robots

■ **By Jamey Keaten**
GENEVA, Nov 21 (AP)

EFFORTS to set firm rules on AI-powered killer robots and drones ran aground on Saturday as UN-backed talks in Geneva produced a softened agreement to extend discussions for two more years.

Scores of countries ended the week-long UN conference on weapons by agreeing to "elaborate" a possible accord on such lethal autonomous weapons systems by 2028. But they didn't commit to binding rules sought by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, many countries, and activists.

The outcome underscored the difficulty of achieving concrete results in diplomacy amid global conflicts and major military powers jockeying for dominance.

Izumi Nakamitsu, the UN high representative for disarmament affairs, hailed a "significant achievement" but acknowledged a "glass half full or half empty" scenario, citing Guterres' hopes for a legally binding deal this year.

Activists accused military powers like Russia and the United States of blocking stronger language.

Stop Killer Robots lamented a "watered-down mandate," and Beatrice Fihn, founder of international law advocacy group Lex International, said the decision amounts to "pushing the can down the road for two more years."

They noted most countries supported work toward a new treaty, and Max Tegmark, a machine learning specialist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and founder of the Future of Life Institute, said: "States have agreed it is sufficient to just talk about the issue, for the 14th year, while these weapons enable atrocities."

Before the meeting, seven countries proposed launching negotiations on a rulebook that could prevent or limit the ability of machines to kill without human control or accountability. That effort fell short.

"Technology is moving faster than diplomacy," said Ambassador Frederico Meyer of Brazil, which joined Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and Panama in proposing such negotiations. "Diplomats are very slow."



"Technology is moving faster than diplomacy," said Ambassador Meyer of Brazil.

After years of talks on the issue, advocacy groups bemoaned obstructionism largely by Russia, which, like other top AI weapons-developing countries such as the United States, wants a freer hand to develop such high-tech weapons.