

India@Davos: 4 CMs, over 100 CEOs to attend WEF meet

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

FOUR Chief Ministers, including Devendra Fadnavis of Maharashtra and N Chandrababu Naidu of Andhra Pradesh, will join more than 100 CEOs from India at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting next month.

Several Union Ministers are also expected to attend the five-day annual meeting from January 19-23, 2026, which will host a record number of nearly 3,000 global leaders from close to 130 countries, including around 60 heads of state.

Maharashtra and Andhra

Pradesh Chief Ministers will be joined by A Revanth Reddy of Telangana and Mohan Yadav from Madhya Pradesh. Besides these four States, a few more, including Uttar Pradesh, are expected to have a significant presence in Davos during the WEF Annual Meeting 2026, which will be held under the theme of 'a spirit of dialogue'. The names of Union Ministers scheduled to attend the meeting are expected to be announced soon.

Business leaders from India expected in Davos for the annual congregation of the rich and powerful from across the world include Reliance Industries

Chairman and Managing Director Mukesh Ambani, Tata group's N Chandrasekaran, Bajaj group's Sanjiv Bajaj and Jubilant Bhartia Group's H S Bhartia.

Other Indian corporate leaders expected to be there are Axis Bank's Amitabh Chaudhry, Godrej Industries Group's Nadir Godrej, JSW Group's Sajjan Jindal, Zerodha's Nikhil Kamath, Bharti group's Sunil Bharti Mittal, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, Infosys CEO Salik S Parekh, Wipro's Rishad Premji, Essar CEO Prashant Ruia, Paytm's Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Renew CEO Sumant Sinha.

Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia, as well as several PSU heads, including GAIL's Sandeep Kumar Gupta, SBI's Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, NTPC's Gurdeep Singh and REC's Jitendra Srivastava, will also be there. Global leaders attending the summit include World Bank President Ajay S Banga, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, UNESCO Director General

Khaled el-Enany, WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

From Pakistan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will also be there.

Under the theme 'a spirit of dialogue', the meeting will seek to harness the need for an impartial platform that connects leaders to confront shared challenges and drive the innovations defining the future, according to the WEF.

Navy to commission second MH-60R helicopter squadron on Dec 17

NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

THE Indian Navy will commission its second MH-60R helicopter squadron -- INAS 335 (Ospreys) -- on December 17, boosting its aviation capabilities, officials said on Sunday.

The advanced weapons, sensors and avionics suite make the helicopter a versatile and capable asset for the Navy, offering enhanced capabilities to address conventional as well as asymmetric threats, they said.

Accordingly, the Navy's sec-

ond MH-60R helicopter squadron -- INAS 335 (Ospreys) -- will be commissioned on December 17 at INSHansa, Goa, in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, a Navy spokesman said.

The occasion will mark a "pivotal moment" in the Navy's continued efforts towards modernisation and capability enhancement, he said.

The MH-60R helicopter has been fully integrated with fleet operations and has proven its worth on numerous occasions.

300 products hold huge potential for Indian exporters in Russia: Official

■ New Delhi's imports from Moscow surged from USD 5.94 bn in 2020 to USD 64.24 bn in 2024 which is a more than tenfold jump

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AS MANY as 300 products, including that of engineering goods, pharma, agri, and chemicals, hold huge potential for Indian exporters to push their shipments to Russia as the two countries target USD 100 billion trade by 2030, an official said.

At present, India's exports of

these goods to Russia stood at USD 1.7 billion, as against Russia's USD 37.4 billion in imports. "This stark disparity demonstrates the substantial complementary export space India can target," the official said, adding increasing exports will also help India bridge its trade deficit with Russia, which stood at USD 59 billion.

These high-potential products have been selected by the commerce Ministry by analysing complementary basket of products mapping India's supply vis-a-vis Russia's demand across key sectors, the official added.

The most promising areas mirror India's rising global strengths

are engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and agriculture, all of which correspond to substantial unmet demand in the Russian market. India's share in Russia's import basket remains modest around 2.3 per cent.

New Delhi's imports from Moscow surged from USD 5.94 billion in 2020 to USD 64.24 billion in 2024 which is a more than tenfold jump driven almost entirely by mineral fuels or crude oil increasing from USD 2 billion in 2020 to USD 57 billion in 2024.

Oil accounts for nearly 21 per cent of total India's imports of oil, cementing Russia's role as a key trading partner. Beyond hydro-

carbons, fertilisers and vegetable oils are other imported products. On the exports front, agriculture and allied products reveal particularly strong promise. India currently exports USD 452 million of products (opportunity products) to Russia against their global import demand of USD 3.9 billion.

Meanwhile, engineering goods present one of the widest gaps with India exporting USD 90 million, while Russia imports USD 2.7 billion in this segment, with growing room as Russia diversifies away from China.

Chemicals and plastics show a similar pattern, with India con-

tributing USD 135 million to a demand of USD 2.06 billion.

Further pharmaceuticals remain a strategic corridor, too, as India supplies USD 546 million, but Russia's pharma import bill touches USD 9.7 billion, making generics and APIs (active pharma ingredients) significant growth levers.

Beyond these high-value sectors, India's labour-intensive industries textiles, apparel, leather goods, handicrafts, processed foods and light engineering hold substantial promise given Russia's large consumer base and India's cost competitiveness, the official said.

ISRO lines up 7 launches, including Gaganyaan mission by March 2026



NEW DELHI, Dec 14 (PTI)

ISRO has lined up seven launch missions by March next year, including one to demonstrate home-built electric propulsion systems for satellite and quantum key distribution technologies, and the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan project.

The first of the seven launches is expected to take place next week. India's heaviest rocket LVM3 will place in orbit the Bluebird-6 communication satellite for US-based AST Spacemobile through a commercial agreement with ISRO's NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Union minister Jitendra Singh recently told Parliament.

The human-rated LVM3 will soar into the sky early next year carrying the first uncrewed mission of India's human spaceflight Gaganyaan with a robot

'Vyommata' onboard the crew module. One more uncrewed mission is planned later next year before ISRO sends Indian astronauts into low earth orbit in 2027.

"First uncrewed mission of Gaganyaan to demonstrate end-to-end mission, including aerodynamics characterisation of human-rated launch vehicle, mission operations of Orbital Module, re-entry and recovery of Crew Module," Singh said.

Next year will also see the launch of India's first industry-built Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that will put in orbit Oceansat satellite. The PSLV will have two more passengers - Indo-Mauritius Joint Satellite and LEAP-2 satellite of Dhruva Space. To increase commercial launches of satellites, NSIL had given a contract to a HAL-L&T consortium to manufacture five PSLV rockets, under a technolo-

gy transfer agreement signed in September this year.

An ISRO-built PSLV will put in orbit an earth observation satellite (EOS-N1) for a strategic user and 18 smaller satellites of Indian and international customers.

The GSLV-Mk II rocket is expected to launch the EOS-5 satellite or GISAT-1A, which will be a replacement for GISAT-1 which failed to reach the intended orbit in 2021. The PSLV63 mission of ISRO will put in orbit the TDS-01 satellite to demonstrate technologies such as the high thrust electric propulsion system, the quantum key distribution, and indigenous travelling wave tube amplifier. The high Thrust Electric Propulsion System will enable ISRO to launch all electric satellites in future. This technology will make satellites lighter and reduce the dependence of chemical fuels.

Jaishankar meets European, UK, Egyptian counterparts at UAE summit

DUBAI, Dec 14 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has met with his counterparts from Europe, the UK and Egypt on the sidelines of a high-level international summit in the United Arab Emirates, where leaders and policymakers gathered to discuss key geopolitical and security challenges.

In a social media post on Saturday, Jaishankar said "it was great to be" with Luxembourg's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Xavier Bettel, Poland's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, and Latvia's Foreign Minister Baiba Braze.

The Minister was in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi to attend the three-day Sir Bani Yas Forum 2025, which concluded on Sunday.

Jaishankar also met UK Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy on



EAM S Jaishankar with Belgium Deputy Prime Minister Maxime Prevot on the sidelines of Sir Bani Yas Forum 2025, in Dubai, UAE. (PTI)

the sidelines of the summit.

"Good to see UK DPM @DavidLammy on the sidelines of Sir Bani Yas Forum 2025," he said in another social media post.

In another meeting, the External Affairs Minister said it was "nice to catch up" with Egypt's Foreign Minister Dr Badr

Abdelatty.

He also met Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Maxime Prevot of Belgium.

Following their meeting, EAM Jaishankar, in a post on X, wrote, "Good to meet DPM & FM Maxime Prevot of Belgium on the sidelines of Sir Bani Yas Forum 2025."

Earlier, the EAM met several European ministers and took to X, sharing details of his interactions with them.

"Great to be with European colleagues DPM and FM Xavier Bettel of Luxembourg, DPM and FM Radoslaw Sikorski of Poland and FM Baiba Braze of Latvia," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

He also met Egyptian counterpart Badr Abdelatty at the Sir Bani Yas Forum. Following their interaction, EAM Jaishankar posted, "Nice to catch up with FM Dr Badr Abdelatty of Egypt at Sir Bani Yas Forum."