



INDIA NEWSLETTER  
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## New Delhi World Book Fair to Celebrate Women Writings & 60 Years of National Book Trust (January 7, 2017)



New Delhi World Book Fair had “Manushi” as the Theme of this year, which focused on writings on and by women; and exhibited the rich tradition of women writings from ancient times till present. New Delhi World Book Fair was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The Fair was being organized in collaboration with India Trade Promotion Organisation. Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Human Resource Development inaugurated the Theme Pavilion on 10<sup>th</sup> January. H.E. Mr Tomasz Kozlowski, Hon’ble Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to India was the special guest on the occasion. National Book Trust celebrated 60 years of its foundation and it showcased its journey in promoting books and reading at a special exhibit ‘This is no looking back!’ The exhibit displayed the varied activities that NBT has undertaken in promoting books including book fairs being organized by the Trust across India, participation of NBT in international book fairs, publishing programme among others. New Delhi World Book Fair is a platform for displaying our rich treasure of knowledge through books. India Trade Promotion Organisation has made special efforts to make book fair more visitor friendly.

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**PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS 2017****January 09, 2017.**

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD ) is celebrated on 9 January every year to mark the contribution of Overseas Indian community in the development of India. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa, led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. PBD conventions is being held every year since 2003. PBD 2017 was held from 7-9 January 2017 at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, Karnataka. These conventions provide a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields. During the event, individuals of exceptional merit are honoured with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to appreciate their role in India's growth. The event also provides a forum for discussing key issues concerning the Indian Diaspora.

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## Embassy of India, Prague celebrated Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017



Embassy of India, Prague celebrated Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 at the premises of Embassy of India, Prague on January 9, 2017. It was well attended by the Indian community in the Czech Republic. H.E Mr Krishan Kumar, Ambassador of India and Mr Sumit Malhotra , Chairman of Bharath Sangh addressed the gatherings. Prime Minister's address during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 at the Bengaluru was screened to the audience. The celebrations ended with the screening of the documentary on PBD 2017.

## VIBRANT GUJARAT SUMMIT 2017

10-13 January, 2017



The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was organized from 10-13 January, 2017 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, the focus of which was sustainable economic and social development. The central theme of VGS-17 was “Connecting India to the world”, to provide a platform for the global leaders to have a dialogue for betterment of global economy. It brought together Heads of the States and Governments, Ministers, Leaders from the Corporate world, Policy Makers, Heads of International Institutions from around the world to further the cause of development and promote cooperation. The partner countries included Japan, Canada, USA, UK, Netherlands, Australia, Denmark, France, Poland, Sweden, Singapore and UAE.

The highlight of the event was the address by the Prime Minister at the inaugural session of the Vibrant Gujarat conclave. The PM used the occasion to highlight not only the significant achievements and areas of reforms of the Government but also to send out a strong and clear message that India is and will continue to be a favoured destination for investment, given the multi sectoral approach to governance and reforms that the Government has embarked upon. He acknowledged the increasing presence of partner countries in the event which numbered 12 this year and was further embellished by the presence of HOSs/HOGs of Portugal, Kenya, Rwanda, Serbia and Deputy Prime Ministers of Poland and Russia, along with business and political leaders from over 100 countries.

The focus areas for the VGS 2017 were Aerospace & Defence, Agro & Food Processing, Biotechnology, Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Electronic System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM), Engineering, Environment, Gems & Jewellery, Healthcare, Innovation and R&D, IT-Ites, Mega Projects, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Pharmaceuticals, Ports, & Maritime sector, Renewable Energy, Road Transport, Skill Development, Textile, Tourism and Urban Development.

The Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show organized alongside the Summit provided an opportunity for the companies to showcase their latest technology, product and services and disseminate knowledge about latest developments across sectors. The Summit also hosted country and State Seminars to foster interaction between stakeholders through B2B and B2G meetings, thus helping them in finding potential partners to explore opportunities of collaboration and partnership.

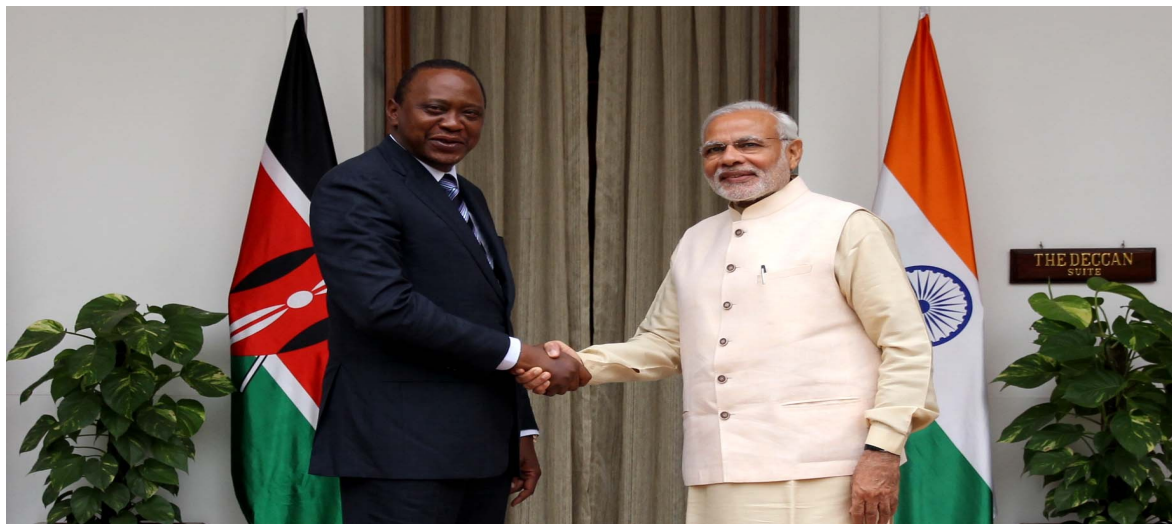


A significant feature of the VGS-17 was the emphasis on new sectors for collaboration to enhance India's domestic capabilities. Defence manufacturing was an important area. This was underlined with the presence of the Defence Minister at the valedictory event. The approach of the State is to provide opportunities to enterprises in the areas of defence production and manufacturing. Under the policy of IDDM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) products this area has received approval of manufacturing of products worth almost Rs. 96,000 crores for companies manufacturing in India. The Gujarat Government plans to corner some of those investments in its territory. Integrating into that sector are the aerospace and aerospace sector with Airbus expressing interest to set up ancillary production units in the State. This was underlined with the presence of the French Foreign Minister along with a big business delegation of almost 60 French companies. France's Airbus Group signed an MoU to develop an aerospace cluster including a helicopter manufacturing plant in Dholera special investment region.

In terms of statistics, almost 50 MoUs were signed which were worth over Rs. 4,000 crores while 133 MoUs were for investment in the range of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 4,000 crores. In total, over Rs. 30 lakh crores was promised in the event. These MoUs were in the areas of defence and aerospace, mining, manufacturing, chemical, steel, urban infrastructure, petro-chemical and petroleum products, renewable energy, automotive, electronics and information technology and hardware.

## **State visit of President of Kenya to India (January 10-12, 2017)**

**January 11, 2017**



President of Kenya His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta paid a State Visit to India from 10-12 January 2017 on an invitation extended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two leaders held official talks on 11 January in New Delhi. This was the First State visit from Kenya to India, since 1981. Earlier, President Kenyatta attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 on 10 January. President Kenyatta was accompanied by several Ministers, senior officials and a high level business delegation. President Kenyatta held meetings with the President and Vice President. He was expected to attend a business forum in Delhi on January 12th forenoon. Prime Minister Modi in his meeting with President Kenyatta today expressed gratitude for his leadership and friendship, since the first State visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Kenya in July 2016. Both leaders underscored the historical ties and praised the strength of the re-invigorated India-Kenya partnership, which serves to increase stability, prosperity, and security in the Indian Ocean region and in the Asia-Pacific. Prime Minister Modi and President Kenyatta reflected on the significant progress they have achieved in strengthening the bilateral relationship through resumption of high level exchanges. Discussions were held on key elements of bilateral relationship including increasing cooperation in defence and maritime security, enhancing trade and investment relationship and counter-terrorism. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment as Africa's development partner including Kenya. Key sectors discussed were maritime security and surveillance, counter-terrorism, disrupting terrorist networks, counter-narcotics and human trafficking, agriculture, health, supporting Kenya's development through Lines of Credit, digital and cash-less economy, e-Governance, procurement of pulses, sports, renewable energy especially International Solar Alliance, blue economy, comprehensive convention on terrorism and reforms of international institutions including the United Nations.

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## **Second Edition of Raisina Dialogue, New Delhi (January 17-19, 2017)**

### **January 14, 2017**

Following the successful organization of Raisina Dialogue in March 2016, Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation was organizing the 2nd Edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi from 17-19 January, 2017. The Theme of the Dialogue, this year, was "The New Normal:

Multilateralism with Multi-Polarity". The Dialogue was India's flagship geo-political conference to be held annually and within a short span has emerged as a much awaited global conference in the international calendar. The Dialogue featured an Inaugural Panel with the participation of Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri Prakash Sharan Mahat, Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia and Mr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister of Bangladesh. There was also a number of Ministerial and Keynote addresses planned during the Dialogue on 18 – 19 January, 2017. A major highlight of the event was a one-to-one Conversation on the concluding day, between Minister of State for External Affairs Shri M.J. Akbar and Mr. Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan. The 2nd Edition of the Dialogue has met with greater enthusiasm from across the world. While the first edition involved about 40 countries with 120 foreign participants, the 2nd edition involved about 65 countries and more than 250 foreign participants. Many of these participated in a number of Panels, including some concurrent ones, organized across a range of sub-themes and included political leaders, diplomats, senior Generals and Admirals, strategic experts and thinkers.

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**State visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day 2017  
(24-26 January, 2017)**





His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of United Arab Emirates was visiting India as the Chief Guest for the 2017-Republic Day celebrations from 24-26 January 2017. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Ministers, senior officials and captains of industry. During the visit, the visiting dignitary called on Rashtrapatiiji Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and held discussions with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest. This was the second visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India since February 2016. Following the landmark visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to UAE in August 2015, the two countries have agreed to elevate the mutually beneficial relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership. India and UAE enjoy warm, close and multi-faceted relations underpinned by cultural, religious and economic linkages. The two countries have been amongst each other's top trading partners with a well-balanced bilateral trade of about US\$ 50 billion in 2015-16. UAE is among the top investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments. It contributes significantly to India's energy security and is the fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2015-16. About 2.6 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in UAE. Their positive and well-appreciated contribution in the development of their host country has been an important anchor of our excellent bilateral engagement.

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## **Celebrating 25 years of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership January 28, 2017**

The year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. It was on 28 January 1992 at the 4th ASEAN Summit in Singapore that a decision to establish a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership between ASEAN and India was made. Since then, the relationship has progressed from strength to strength, with the two sides becoming full dialogue partners in 1996, Summit partners in 2002 and Strategic Partners in

2012. To mark this historic occasion, congratulatory messages were exchanged between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Philippines and ASEAN Chair for 2017. Congratulatory messages were also exchanged between Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs and H.E. Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General. A series of events have been planned through the year to reflect the commemorative year's theme of "Shared Values, Common Destiny," which aptly reflects the close cultural and civilizational links that India and South East Asia have enjoyed over two millennia. Elucidating the same, EAM in her message stated that the celebrations would span the political, economic, cultural and people-to-people domains and would include a special Commemorative Summit and a Commemorative Foreign Ministers' Meeting in India. In addition, a Youth Summit, a Business Summit, CEOs Forum, Regional Indian Diaspora Meet, car rally, sailing expedition, conferences, public competitions and cultural festivals are also planned in India as well as ASEAN countries. ASEAN and India are both contributors to regional growth and stability. PM's message clearly articulated that India would stand shoulder-to-shoulder with ASEAN in the pursuit of a rules-based regional architecture which is open, inclusive, balanced and equitable. EAM also highlighted India's desire to continue to work closely with ASEAN in regional and international fora, especially as the 21st century economic and security architecture was taking shape in the Asia-Pacific.

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## **India Russia high level consultations on counter terrorism issues, New Delhi**

**(January 31, 2017)**



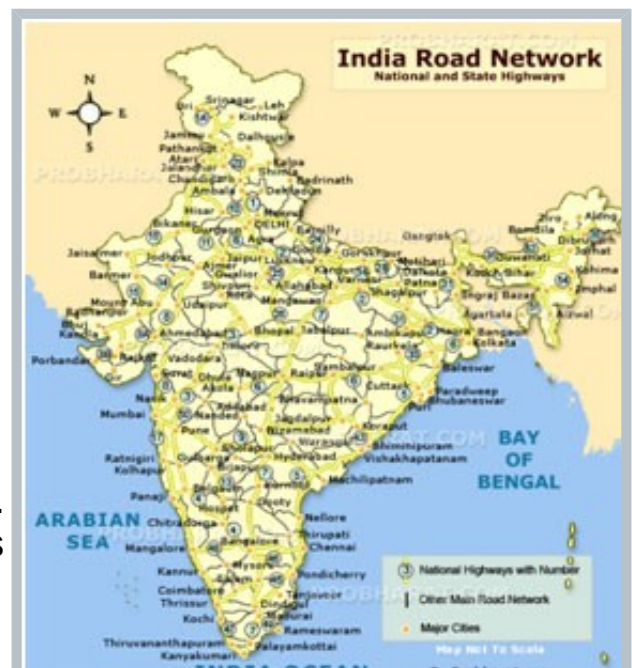
India and Russia, as special and privileged strategic partners, held high-level consultations on counter terrorism issues in New Delhi on January 31, 2017. A composite Indian delegation was led by Mrs. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs while the Russian delegation was headed by H.E. Mr. Oleg V. Syromolotov, Deputy Foreign Minister. Both sides shared views and assessment on the threats posed by the scourge of terrorism, including state-sponsored, cross border terrorism faced by India. They also shared concerns regarding the emergence of Af-Pak region as the epicentre of terrorism. They discussed successful experiences in curbing terrorism and countering radicalisation. Both sides agreed that the UNSC 1267 Sanctions List processes for blacklisting various terrorist individuals and entities must be stringently complied with. Prospects for deepening engagement on counter-terrorism under the UN, BRICS and SCO mechanisms were also emphasized. Both sides agreed to a joint action plan which seeks to focus on enhancing capacity building, frequent expert-level meetings, sharing of insights, exchange of best practices in countering radicalization and curbing terrorism.

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## From Proximity to Prosperity: Connectivity as a Resource for Development in a Globalised Economy

Our globalised and inter-connected world today revolves around connectivity in the broadest sense of that term. It includes physical infrastructure in terms of roads, railroads, waterways and sea ports that enable the carriage of goods, services, peoples and ideas both within and across national borders. In our digital age, there are also virtual highways that enable the efficient movement of physical goods and services. They additionally serve as transmission channels for provision of services and the exchange of ideas which create value. But putting in place physical or digital infrastructure is not enough. We need accompanying software including policy, regulatory and procedural regimes to facilitate quick movement within the country as well as across national frontiers. Connectivity enables proximity and proximity is an asset which generates prosperity. Within national boundaries, connectivity is indispensable to the creation of a national market. Nations which are connected with each other in this larger sense are then able to participate in the regional and global value chains which are the hall-mark of modern global economy. If connectivity is missing or is inefficient, then the comparative advantage a country may have in producing certain goods and services would be reduced or even wiped out because of higher transaction costs.

There is no doubt that India has made significant progress in recent years in linking different parts of the vast country through a more extensive and efficient transport infrastructure. For example, total length of roads in the country increased from 4 lakh kilometres in 1951 to over 4.6 million kilometres in 2013. This is the second largest road network in the world. However the quality of the roads is extremely varied with national highways constituting less than one-third of the total. Furthermore, cargo traffic on the highways is held up at a number of octroi stations at inter-state crossing points. A cargo truck travelling from Mumbai to Kolkata has to negotiate 36 checkpoints along the route. In the U.S., there is only one barrier to cross in the journey from San Francisco to New York. While rail freight in



our country is subject to fewer interruptions and volume wise cheaper, the rail network has grown much less than road transport and feeder services have not kept pace. The proposed high speed freight corridor which will run across the country from Mumbai to Delhi and then east to Kolkata is likely to bring about a major and significant improvement in rail transportation within the country. Water borne transportation has fallen into disuse in our country though it is being revived. There is a World Bank assisted project to establish modern river transport in the Brahmaputra basin which would also reconnect Bangladesh and India.

In this context one should note the communication revolution which the mobile telephone has brought about in India. There are now over 900 million mobile subscribers in the country and this number continues to grow each year. They also constitute a platform for connectivity, creating new markets, connecting producers to consumers more efficiently and enabling vast amounts of data to flow seamlessly across communities. This can and is having a multiplier effect on economic activity through the closer proximity it creates.



*Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor*

Moving on to our sub-continental neighbourhood, it remains true that our countries are even less connected with each other today than in 1947. Several major transport arteries, including rail, road and water transport, were all interrupted after the partition of India in 1947. Even though some cross-border transport linkages are being re-established with both Bangladesh and Pakistan, they are not generating the benefits they should because of cumbersome customs, immigration and security procedures at border crossing points. Cargo movement is also held up due to lack of accompanying banking, testing and inspection facilities. These issues are now being addressed through an ambitious Indian plan to set up a network of Integrated Checkpoints (ICP) on borders with neighbouring countries. These ICPs which are being set up by the newly constituted Land Port Authority of India (LPAI), will incorporate, at one location, immigration,





customs, security, warehousing, phyto-sanitary testing facilities as also banking and exchange facilities. There would be adequate parking, boarding and lodging and health facilities for the welfare of traders, truckers and other categories of travellers. One such ICP has already been set up at Attari on the India-Pakistan border. Several others are in various stages of implementation on India's borders with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The ICP at the Tamu-Moreh border point on the India-Myanmar border is already under construction. The back-end linkages in terms of modern highways and, where necessary railway connections are also being put in place with these countries mainly through Indian funding. Of special note in this regard are the proposed Trilateral Highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand and the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport project linking the Myanmar port of Sittwe with Mizoram in our North-East and with Kolkata across the Bay of Bengal. Several highways across the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders are being upgraded and new rail links are planned. These transport links will bring closer the vision of a South Asia where there is a free flow of goods, peoples and ideas transcending political boundaries.

Leaders of South Asia have declared the decade of 2010-2020 as the Decade of Connectivity in the region. That in itself is a major step forward because it represents a political consensus on the importance of connectivity for shared prosperity. Two landmark agreements have been negotiated and are ready for adoption. One is the Motor Vehicles agreement and the other is a Railways agreement. When implemented, these agreements will go a long way in enabling the smooth movement of goods and peoples across national boundaries.

India has also given priority to its connectivity with ASEAN countries. The India-Myanmar transport projects are important because Myanmar is India's gateway to South-East Asia. ASEAN has its own connectivity plan and India is working to align its own transport infrastructure development plans with ASEAN. These include cross-border rail and road connectivity, maritime, air and digital connectivity. These must be accompanied by better logistics and efficient border clearances. Only then would it be possible for India to



participate in the regional and global value chains which are already highly developed in ASEAN and Asia-Pacific in general.

Ultimately what is required is a mind-set change in India. We must start looking at national boundaries not as impenetrable walls behind which we must protect ourselves from hostile influences beyond, but rather as "connectors", bringing India closer to its neighbours and through them, the region and world . Cross- border links then become transmission belts for the free flow of development impulses. Transport corridors thus become economic corridors. Through much of its history, India was a flourishing civilisation, leveraging its geographical location at the cross-roads of the ancient caravan routes connecting to Central Asia. Thanks to its peninsular character , lying astride the Indian Ocean, India was also at the centre of the monsoon-driven ocean routes both to the East and the West. India flourished because it was a connected nation. India's future lies in learning the lessons from its own cosmopolitan past.

*(Shyam Saran is an Indian career diplomat. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1970 and rose to become the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India)*



## ITPO's Fairs in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi During February, 2017 to March 31, 2017

Sl. No	Name of the Event	Dates	Products	Contact Information
1	Tex Styles India, Delhi	Feb-21-24, 2017	Textiles items like cotton, yarns, fabrics & home textiles	Ms. Hema Maity, DGM Tel: 23371819 Mob: 997124016 <a href="mailto:hemamaity@itpo.gov.in">hemamaity@itpo.gov.in</a> Mr. Jayanta Das, GM
2	Aahar - The International Food & Hospitality Fair, New Delhi	07-11; March 2017	Food, processed food, beverages, hotel & restaurant equipment & supplies etc	Mr. DK Nangia, DGM Tel: 23378464 Mob: 9999022456 <a href="mailto:dknangia@itpo.gov.in">dknangia@itpo.gov.in</a> Mrs. Deepa Sharma, Mgr Tel: 23378464 Mob: 9818705393 <a href="mailto:deepasharma@itpo.gov.in">deepasharma@itpo.gov.in</a> Mr. J Gunasekaran, GM

## ITPO's Fairs at Other Centres

### During February 2017 to March 31, 2017

Sl. No.	Name of the Event	Dates	Products	Contact Information	Fair officer
1	India International Leather Fair, Kolkata	23-25, Feb, 2017	Leather goods, components, materials & accessories, machinery chemicals etc.	Ms. Rumela Roy, Mgr. Tel: 91-33-22822904/22825 820 Mob: 919874649720 <a href="mailto:itpocal@cal3.vsnl.net.in">itpocal@cal3.vsnl.net.in</a>	Mr. Jayanta Das, GM

#### **More information available at:**

[www.indiatradefair.com](http://www.indiatradefair.com)

[www.cii.in/CII\\_Events.aspx](http://www.cii.in/CII_Events.aspx)

[www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp](http://www.ficci.com/ficci-exhibitions.asp)

[www.assochem.org/events/index.php](http://www.assochem.org/events/index.php)

[www.fieo.org/view\\_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0](http://www.fieo.org/view_detail.php?lang=0&id=0,22&evetype=0)

[www.biztradeshows.com/india/](http://www.biztradeshows.com/india/)

## Useful Links

**The National Portal of India** <http://india.gov.in>

**The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India** <http://mea.gov.in/>

**India Public Diplomacy** [www.indiandiplomacy.in](http://www.indiandiplomacy.in)

**Invest India** [www.investindia.gov.in](http://www.investindia.gov.in)

**India In Business** <http://indiainbusiness.nic.in>

**Incredible India** [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)

**India Brand Equity Foundation** [www.ibef.org](http://www.ibef.org)

**India Trade Promotion Organization** [www.indiatradefair.com](http://www.indiatradefair.com)

**EXIM Bank** <http://eximbankindia.com>

**The Confederation of Indian Industry** [www.cii.in](http://www.cii.in)

**Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry** [www.ficci.com](http://www.ficci.com)

**Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India** [www.assochem.org](http://www.assochem.org)

**The Federation of Indian Export Organizations** [www.fieo.org](http://www.fieo.org)