1,750 exhibitors, 50 nations to take part in Bharat Mobility

THE GLOBAL EXHIBITION TO BRING TOGETHER THE ENTIRE AUTO VALUE CHAIN

New Delhi

MORE than 1,750 exhibitors and over 50 countries are set to participate in the Bharat Mobility Global Expo to be held here from February 4-9, 2027, which will provide a platform to the auto industry to showcase new product launches and forge strategic partnerships.

Industry sources said the US, China, Japan, Mexico, Sri Lanka, Germany, Italy, Spain and Taiwan are among the over 50 nations taking part in the mega show. At least 44 automakers are participating in The Motor Show 2027 under the aegis of the Bharat Mobility Global Expo and will showcase Vehicle Technologies with respect to multiple power trains, the organisers said at an event here.

The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2027 is being organised under the theme "Smarter Mobility For A Better Tomorrow" and will bring together the entire automotive value chain across two venues in the national capital at Bharat Mandapam from February 4-9 and Yashobhoomi from February 4-7. It is among the world's biggest mobility shows, with a 2.5 lakh square feet exhibition space across the two venues and over 10 lakh visitors expected to attend. Vinod Aggarwal, former President SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers), one of the event's organisers, said 44 Vehicle Manufacturers would be taking 79,000 sq mtrs of space at The Motor Show 2027 exhibition and showcasing Vehicle Technologies with respect to multiple powertrains.



"The participating vehicle manufacturers represent a diverse mix of leading Indian automotive companies and global automotive brands operating in India. These manufacturers would be showcasing Innovative products across vehicle categories encompassing different types of Powertrains ranging from Electric to CNG / LNG to Biofuels like Ethanol, Flex Fuel vehicles, and also Hydrogen

-- Vinod Aggarwal, Former president SIAM

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Only 11% South Asian firms fully prepared to counter water-related supply chain risks

NEW DELHI: Only 11 per cent of organisations in South Asia consider themselves fully or very prepared for water-related supply chain risks, highlighting significant vulnerabilities as extreme weather events increasingly disrupt business operations, a report said on Wednesday.

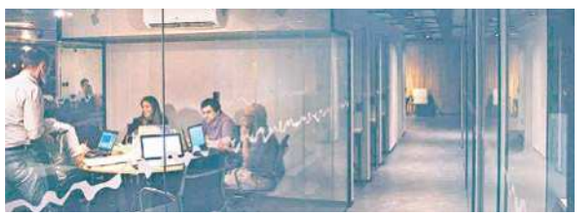
The report from Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) said climate-related disruptions are placing growing pressure on supply chains as extreme weather can disrupt production, transport and access to critical resources.

However, organisations are slow to strengthen resilience despite risks that may begin with weather, natural resources, suppliers or working conditions ultimately affecting production, costs, cash flow and business continuity. Nearly 48 per cent respondents identified stronger business continuity and disruption-response planning as the priority to improve preparedness for water-related risks.

Indian startups build for India, but not for the World

CORPORATES AND GOVT HAVE INVESTED TO LITTLE IN R&D

Kumud Das
Mumbai



INDIAN startup founders are good at building for a hard home market. Very few design for global buyers from the first day, so architecture, compliance, and pricing get rebuilt later at high cost.

Part of the problem sits above startups. India's large corporates and the government have put too little money into R&D, so the foundations that global products stand on, from deep tech to core platforms, rarely get built here. Startups end up building on borrowed ones.

Talking to Bizz Buzz, Kamal Kishore Kumawat, Co-Founder & CTO, Edgistify says, "Capital needs patience too. A product meant for the world needs five to seven years of funding, and our ecosystem still rewards eighteen months of GMV growth. Cross-border execution is the last gap." Running fulfilment for growing brands, we see good products stall on export paperwork, international returns, and payment reconciliation. A small brand should ship to Dubai as easily as to Pune. Until then, many Indian products will stay Indian by default.

Nemesisa Ujjain, VP – Innovation & Head, The Circle: Founders Club says, "India has proven it can innovate, with startups solving real problems at scale across fintech, healthtech, agritech, and SaaS, and many other industries. The harder challenge is turning that innovation into globally competitive products. For that, three things must change." First, we need to move from building for the Indian market alone to designing for global standards from day one, with a stronger focus on product quality, compliance, and user experience. Second, patient capital matters. Founders need longer funding runways and investors willing to back deep-tech and product-led companies, not just quick growth. Third, the ecosystem must invest in talent, research collaboration, and closer industry-academia ties, so that startups can build original IP rather than adapt existing solutions.

India's startup story is no longer about potential. With the right policy support, mentorship, and global market access, our founders can build products that the world adopts, not just products that India uses.

Centre tightens export policy on battery waste to boost recycling

New Delhi



THE government has prohibited the export of waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric accumulators, including lithium-ion battery black mass, with immediate effect.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Commerce Ministry, said in a notification that it had amended the export policy for the product.

"The export policy of Waste and scrap of primary cells, primary batteries and electric accumulators; spent primary cells, spent primary batteries and spent electric accumulators - Unsorted and not containing lead cadmium or mercury (Lithium-Ion Battery Black Mass) under ITC (HS) Code 85491400 is amended from Fre to Prohibited with immediate effect, until further orders," the DGFT notification read. It said that the amendment was made under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992. The transitional arrangements "under Para 1.05 of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023" will apply to the notification.

The government seeks to strengthen domestic battery recycling capacity and secure supplies of critical minerals.

Last week, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a capex support scheme to promote critical mineral processing with a financial outlay of Rs 2,814 crore over a period of five years.

The 'Capex Support Scheme to Promote Critical Mineral Processing' aims to develop domestic processing capabilities in India to support value addition within the country, reduce import dependence, and develop the value chain.

The scheme period is from FY 2026-27 to 2030-31. Under the scheme, capital subsidy of 30 per cent of eligible investment will be provided for setting up four critical mineral processing plants, comprising two lithium processing plants (with a minimum capacity of 30 kt each) and two nickel processing plants (with a minimum capacity of 50 kt each).

Nadda calls for stronger regional health cooperation at BIMSTEC meet

Colombo



UNION Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda on Wednesday reaffirmed India's readiness to share its expertise and best practices in healthcare with BIMSTEC member nations. Addressing the inaugural BIMSTEC Health Ministers' Meeting in Sri Lanka's Colombo, Nadda highlighted India's progress towards Universal Health Coverage through Ayushman Bharat, strengthened public health infrastructure, and digital healthcare initiatives.

"Union Health Minister Shri JP Nadda addressed the inaugural BIMSTEC Health Ministers' Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, highlighting India's progress towards Universal Health Coverage through Ayushman Bharat, strengthened public health infrastructure and digital healthcare initiatives," the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said in a post on X.

"Emphasising regional solidarity, the Minister called for enhanced cooperation in health security, pandemic preparedness, One Health and traditional medicine, while reaffirming India's readiness to share its expertise and best practices with BIMSTEC member nations," it added.

During the meeting, Nadda highlighted India's commitment to hosting the BIMSTEC Centre of Excellence in Traditional Medicine in Gujarat's Jamnagar to promote joint research, capacity building and knowledge exchange.

"Guided by PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji's vision of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', India remains committed to building a healthier, more inclusive and resilient BIMSTEC region," he said, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

New regulatory framework to boost allied, healthcare professions

New Delhi



THE government on Wednesday proposed a comprehensive regulatory framework for provisional registration of eligible allied and healthcare professionals, with clearly defined pathways for skill upgradation, competency assessment and transition to regular registration.

The proposed framework by the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), under the Health Ministry, aims to bring greater uniformity, transparency and accountability to professional registration while creating structured opportunities for eligible practitioners to enhance their qualifications and competencies in accordance with prescribed standards. A key feature of the proposed regulations is the establishment of a transparent and standardised mechanism for provisional registration of eligible allied and healthcare professionals, in accordance with the provisions of the NCAHP Act, 2021.

Globe warms up close to levels expected under 1.5°C

New Delhi

BY the end of 2025, warming in all regions of the world reached 90 to 94 per cent of the levels expected in a 1.5 degrees Celsius hotter world, new research reveals.

Published in the journal Nature Climate Change, the research provides the most comprehensive assessment of regional warming across global land areas since pre-industrial times, and new insights into how warming is unfolding across varied parts of the world.

"Our results reveal that current warming is already indistinguishable from that of a 1.5 C world even on regional scale, highlighting the shared urgency of adaptation across all regions," said author Tong Li from the University of Victoria's Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium in Canada.



The Paris Agreement, adopted by nearly 200 countries in 2015, aims to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change. The study comes as world leaders, policymakers and researchers gather for the United Nations climate change conference, or COP31, in Antalya, Türkiye, beginning Monday.

"Many of the climate risks associated with 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming are no longer a future concern; they are already being experienced around the world," Francis Zwiers, a statistician and scientist emeritus at the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, said.

"Very importantly, we're providing information that policy-makers and decision-makers in the individual regions will be able to use to quantify the extent to which their regions are being affected," Zwiers said.

The study found that human influence on the climate had led to a global land average temperature that was already 1.9 degrees Celsius above its pre-industrial level.

Land areas warm faster than oceans, particularly at high northern latitudes.



THE POLITICA
Nothing political about it

Spain's general strike in 14 yrs brings clashing social, political desires to fore

Two main unions calling for strike, UGT and CCOO, report widespread participation

Joseph Wilson

MILLIONS of Spain's workers are striking Wednesday to demand that the government remedy the nation's housing crisis less than three weeks before a national election that could catapult the far right to power.

Spain's first general strike in 14 years is expected to cause delays to the widely used public transport system and lead to the slowdown or shuttering of businesses, factories and shops across the eurozone's fourth largest economy.

Minor incidents were reported in the first hours, including roadblocks — some of them with burning tires — in Barcelona, the second-largest city in the country, and scuffles between picketers and police near the country's main wholesale market on the outskirts of the capital, Madrid. Striking workers set off fireworks on the stroke of midnight as they gathered in public squares in Barcelona.

The two main unions calling for the strike, UGT and CCOO, reported widespread participation in the early hours "with significant work stoppages in strategic sectors" — 90 per cent in the automotive and port sectors, 85 per cent in the meat industry, 82 per cent in waste collection, and 75 per cent in the energy sector — according to a statement posted on social media.

Between workers, activists, politicians and ordinary Spaniards, the groups have very different interests in Wednesday's walkout.

Workers and activists want more government action on housing

The average rent in Spain has almost doubled in the last 10 years, eating into household budgets and angering voters.

Public anger over housing reached a boiling point following the nationally televised eviction of an 87-year-old woman from her home in Madrid last month. The subsequent death of Maricarmen, as the woman became known, caused even more indignation and solidified her as a symbol of Spaniards who feel they pay too much on rent and can't even dream of homeownership.

Housing activists leveraged the uproar over Maricarmen's eviction to call for the general strike. They soon won the backing of Spain's two main unions, UGT and CCOO.

The housing activists want several measures, including the elimination of tourist apartments, a crackdown on real estate speculation and protection for renters in the form of automatic renewals of leases.

The UGT and CCOO unions are demanding more government intervention in the housing market and a new minimum wage agreement through talks with the business owners' association.

The strike's official slogan is "Salaries. Housing. Prices."

Spain's left hopes to put focus back on housing

The nationwide protests over the eviction of Maricarmen propelled Spain's government to push through emergency measures to limit evictions and help tenants, but right-wing parties in the Parliament refused to ratify them on the grounds they would provoke a flight of properties from the rental market.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez responded by doubling down politically and called the election on Oct. 5, hoping to earn four more years in power for his left-wing coalition.

But then came a brutal high-speed train collision — Spain's second deadly rail disaster of the year. That collision, which killed 69 people, has dominated Spanish news and created a drag on Sánchez's campaign just when he had hoped to build momentum.



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The strike, says analyst Oriol Bartomeus, is an opportunity for Sánchez's Socialists and the other parties on the Left that he will need to remain in power.

"The Socialists need for the strike to be a success and for there not to be any violence so that the election campaign can swing back to being about housing, back in the framework of Maricarmen," Bartomeus, a professor of political science at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, told The Associated Press.

On Thursday, the government will again try to have a reduced interim Parliament ratify the two housing decrees that the full lower chamber rejected last month.

Sánchez posted a long video on social media this week, in which he lauded the prior social policies like the 40-hour work week and national health insurance that were the fruit of the workers' movement and the right to strike.

"It wasn't easy, but they changed Spain," Sánchez said, while warning that right-wing parties would bring austerity and underfunded social services.

Verónica Martínez, spokesperson for Sumar, the junior member of the government, separately said "the Left needs the workers of this country to mobilize. Rights are first won on the streets and then later in the institution."

The right could yet benefit from the strike if it turns ugly

The traditional conservative Popular Party and the far-right Vox are against any government intervention in the housing market other than incentivizing construction of new homes. They also both argue that the unions are playing politics and trying to help Sánchez stay in office, with months of polling showing voters leaning toward the Right.

"This strike is not a general strike; it is an electoral strike," Popular Party spokesperson Miguel Tellado said Tuesday. "It is not against the government in power, but rather against the government to be."

But the right-wing parties, which already have joined forces to govern in some Spanish regions, could benefit from the strike if it descends into street violence, according to Bartomeus.

Strikes can result in hardcore union members pressuring shops and offices into closing. Spain, like other European countries, often has peaceful public protests that radical groups take advantage of to clash with police and destroy property.

"The Popular Party and Vox both want the strike to be a flop and to end in scenes of burning dumpsters and shattered shop windows," Bartomeus said. "That way the next morning they can say, This is chaos and we are coming to establish order.'"

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