Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal to undertake official visit to Italy from 17–18 November 2026 to strengthen bilateral economic partnership

Shri Piyush Goyal to co-chair the 23rd Session of the India–Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation

Shri Goyal to participate in the India–Italy Business and Innovation Forum in Rome

Around 80 Indian business leaders and startups to participate in the India–Italy Business and Innovation Forum

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Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal is on an official visit to the Italian Republic from 17 to 18 November 2026. The visit aims to further strengthen the India–Italy economic partnership, with particular emphasis on expanding bilateral trade, promoting investment, deepening industrial and technological cooperation, and strengthening business-to-business and startup linkages.

India and Italy share a longstanding relationship rooted in historical, civilisational and people-to-people ties, which has evolved into a multifaceted partnership encompassing political, economic, defence, scientific and cultural cooperation. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India–Italy relations have gained renewed momentum, culminating in the elevation of bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership during the Prime Minister's visit to Italy on 19–20 May 2026. The two countries are implementing the India–Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025–29 and have set a target of increasing annual bilateral trade to €20 billion by 2029.

During the visit, Shri Piyush Goyal will hold a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. He will also co-chair the 23rd Session of the India–Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC) and participate in the India–Italy Business and Innovation

Forum. In addition, the Minister will meet Chief Executive Officers of leading Italian companies and interact with the Indian business delegation. These engagements are expected to provide further impetus to bilateral trade, investment, industrial cooperation and innovation linkages.

The 23rd Session of the India–Italy JCEC will be co-chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal and H.E. Mr Antonio Tajani on 18 November 2026 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome.

The JCEC is the principal institutional mechanism for reviewing and guiding India–Italy economic and commercial cooperation. The 22nd Session, co-chaired by the two Ministers in Brescia in June 2025, prioritised cooperation in Industry 4.0, aerospace, energy transition and sustainable mobility, and agreed to establish Joint Working Groups on automobiles and space. The 23rd Session will provide an opportunity to review progress in bilateral trade and investment relations and discuss measures to further diversify and expand the bilateral trade basket. Discussions will cover automobiles and auto components, industrial machinery, agriculture and food processing, pharmaceuticals and chemicals, renewable energy, aerospace and space, startups and innovation, and connectivity, among other areas of mutual interest.

Italy is India’s fourth-largest trading partner in the European Union. During April–August 2026, India’s exports to Italy grew by 29.9% to USD 3.92 billion over the corresponding period of the previous year. India’s major exports to Italy include iron and steel and metal products, electrical and electronic equipment, chemicals, and textiles and apparel, while its major imports include machinery and electrical equipment, chemicals and metal products.

A high-level Indian business delegation comprising around 80 business leaders and startups from diverse sectors will participate in the India–Italy Business and Innovation Forum in Rome on 18 November 2026. The Forum will feature an interactive session with Italian promotion agencies, namely ICE – Italian Trade Agency, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), SACE and SIMEST, business-to-business meetings, and parallel thematic sessions on Automotive and Automotive Components; Industrial and Agri-food Machinery and Food Processing; Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals; and Renewable Energy and Circular Economy.

Shri Piyush Goyal will interact with the business delegation and address the Plenary Session of the Forum along with H.E. Mr Antonio Tajani.

A dedicated Innovation Forum on Startups and Innovators will also be held as part of the Business and Innovation Forum. India is home to the world’s third-largest startup ecosystem, with over 2.61 lakh startups recognised under the Startup India initiative as of 31 October 2026. The Forum will provide Indian startups with an opportunity to engage with Italian investors, research institutions and industry, and explore partnerships, market access and collaboration in emerging technologies.

During the visit, Shri Piyush Goyal will also hold meetings with Chief Executive Officers of leading Italian companies in sectors such as heavy engineering, aviation services and clean energy to discuss investment and partnership opportunities in India. Following the Forum, members of the Indian business delegation will undertake industrial visits in Italy on 19 November 2026.

The visit reflects India's continued commitment to strengthening its economic engagement with Italy, an important partner in the European Union and a key economy in the Mediterranean region. With the conclusion of negotiations for the India–EU Free Trade Agreement in January 2026, both countries have significant opportunities to expand bilateral trade and investment across sectors, including manufacturing, automobiles, machinery, food processing, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, textiles, renewable energy, aerospace and emerging technologies.

The visit is expected to provide fresh momentum to the India–Italy Special Strategic Partnership, strengthen institutional cooperation and create new opportunities for bilateral trade, investment and industrial collaboration.

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