

Malabar Gold & Diamonds expands presence in Australia; Anil Kapoor inaugurates 2nd showroom at Melbourne

Manama

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the 5th largest jewellery retailer globally with over 410 showrooms across 14 countries has strengthened their presence in Australia with the launch of their second showroom in the country at Melbourne.

The new showroom was inaugurated by acclaimed Bollywood actor and brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Mr. Anil Kapoor in the presence of Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Mayankutty C, Senior Director of Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Nishad A.K, Malabar Group Executive Director; Mr. K.P Veerankutty, Malabar Group Executive Director; Mr. Faisal A.K, Head of Manufacturing at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Ameer CMC, Director of Finance & Admin at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Shaji Kakkodi, Malabar Group Chief Digital Officer; other senior management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, customers and well-wishers.

"The expansion of our Australia operations with the launch of our second showroom in Melbourne is indeed a historic milestone for Malabar Gold & Diamonds. By strengthening our presence in the country, we are reiterating our commitment to becoming the most preferred jewellery shopping destination in Australia. As the first Indian international jewellery retailer in Melbourne, our presence is sure to transform the city's jewellery and retail landscape.



Our first showroom in Sydney, which was launched in 2023, was an immense success and we are confident that jewellery lovers in Melbourne will also welcome us with open arms. With the Melbourne showroom being our 409th global outlet, we are one step closer to our goal of being the world's no 1 jewellery retailer". Commented Malabar Group Chairman M.P Ahammad.

Located at Westfield Fountain gate, the new showroom has been designed to be a complete luxury destinations, offering jewellery lovers an unmatched selection of over 20,000 designs in gold, diamonds, and precious gem jewellery. Customers can explore more than 25 exclusive collections from Malabar

Gold & Diamonds' vast design portfolio, alongside specialized services such as bespoke jewellery design and exclusive bridal creations tailored to individual preferences.

"The launch of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' 2nd showroom in Australia is a proud moment for the brand. The response to our showroom and the inauguration has been phenomenal, where thousands gathered to celebrate with Bollywood legend Anil Kapoor.

His presence turned the evening into a truly entertaining spectacle, and his words of endorsement, reflecting his long-standing association with Malabar, added immense pride to the occasion. The overwhelming reception of both

our showrooms reaffirms the universal appeal of our design portfolio, service excellence and responsible operations, reinforcing our confidence in the long-term potential of this region", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group

Every purchase at Malabar Gold & Diamonds is safeguarded by the "Malabar Promise" — a commitment to uncompromising quality and service excellence. This includes 100% value on diamond and gold exchange, guaranteed buyback, hallmarked jewellery, lifetime maintenance, and the exclusive use of tested and certified natural diamonds.

"Australia is a cornerstone of our Asia-Pacific expansion, and

the launch of our Melbourne showroom marks a significant step in strengthening our presence in the region. As the cultural capital of Australia, Melbourne is a cosmopolitan hub with a vibrant, diverse community that truly values the artistry of fine jewellery. We are delighted to introduce the famed craftsmanship of Indian jewellery to this discerning audience. As the leading champions of the 'Make in India; Market to the World' initiative, we remain committed to showcasing India's rich legacy of artistry on the global stage. With upcoming launches planned in Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, and another showroom in Melbourne, our rapid expansion reflects the deep trust and confidence our

customers have placed in us. We are determined to make Malabar Gold & Diamonds the most preferred jewellery destination across Australia and beyond", commented Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

As part of the group's Hunger Free World initiative, over 70,000 meals are distributed daily across 170 locations, including 3 schools in the African country of Zambia.

In India alone, the group has established 716 micro learning centres, enrolling more than 32,000 underprivileged children, many of whom transition into formal schooling. Additionally, Malabar Group has awarded more than 115,000 scholarships to female students, supporting their academic journey and empowering the next generation of women leaders.

The company also runs the "Grandma Home" project, providing accommodation for needy and destitute women. With several such initiatives already in place, the company's long-term goal is to ensure its global success benefits local communities wherever it operates.

WTO hikes 2025 trade growth outlook but tariffs to bite in 2026

WTO raised its forecast for trade volume growth in 2025 to 2.4%

● **Slashed 2026 outlook from 1.8% to 0.5%**

● **The WTO's global GDP growth projection is 2.7% this year and 2.6% in 2026**

● **Services export growth is now expected to slow**

Geneva, Switzerland

AI-related goods and a surge in exports to the United States to beat President Donald Trump's tariff hikes boosted global merchandise trade growth this year, the World Trade Organization said Tuesday.

However, the picture is bleaker for 2026, the WTO warned,

as the impact of those tariffs kicks in.

The WTO raised its forecast for trade volume growth in 2025 to 2.4% -- up from 0.9% in August -- and slashed its 2026 outlook from 1.8% to 0.5%.

"Global merchandise trade outpaced expectations in the first half of 2025, driven by increased spending on AI-related products, a surge in North American imports ahead of tariff hikes, and strong trade among the rest of the world," the WTO said, as it published its updated global trade outlook.

World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala



In an unusual move, the global trade body has revised its estimates several times this year due to uncertainties surrounding the new tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

Since returning to office in January, Trump has slapped several waves of new tariffs on imports entering the United States.

His administration has imposed a basic tariff of 10% on all countries since April, with much higher rates for some economies.

Measured reaction to tariffs "Countries' measured response to tariff changes in general, the growth potential of AI, as well as increased trade among the rest of the world -- particularly among emerging economies -- helped ease trade setbacks in 2025," WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said.

The WTO said artificial intelligence-related goods -- including semiconductors, servers, and telecommunications equipment -- drove nearly half of the overall trade expansion in the first six months of the year, rising 20% year-on-year in value terms.

Over those six months, "42% of global trade growth came from AI-related goods -- far out of proportion to their 15% share in

world trade", Okonjo-Iweala told a press conference.

But the former Nigerian finance minister said trade resilience this year should not fool countries into "complacency".

"Today's disruptions to the global trade system are a call to action for nations to reimagine trade and together lay a stronger foundation that delivers greater prosperity for people everywhere," she said.

She noted that apart from a few countries, most WTO members have not imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on the United States "like it was in the 1930s" during the Great Depression, praising them for sticking to WTO rules.

'So much uncertainty' The report predicted that all regions will record weaker import performance in 2026 as higher tariff rates and heightened trade policy uncertainty bite.

Okonjo-Iweala said that look-

ing ahead to 2026, "the fact is there is so much uncertainty it is hard to be conclusive".

The WTO's global GDP growth projection is 2.7% this year and 2.6% in 2026.

Services export growth is now expected to slow from 6.8% last year to 4.6 in 2025, and further down to 4.4% next year.

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