

 Federal Ministry
Economy, Energy
and Tourism
Republic of Austria

Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, IAS
Metropolitan Commissioner
Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)
Mumbai, India

Mumbai, 13 April 2026

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

for Strategic Collaboration between the Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism of the Republic of Austria and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority MMRDA in Tunnelling Technology, Skills Development, Economic Cooperation and Tourism

Dear Dr Mukherjee ,

It is a matter of great honour and privilege for me, on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism of the Republic of Austria, to engage with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), one of India's foremost institutions driving transformative urban infrastructure and economic development.

Austria, with its globally recognized leadership in advanced tunnelling technologies, alpine infrastructure engineering, vocational excellence, and sustainable tourism, sees strong synergy with the ambitious infrastructure and urban mobility agenda of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

In this context, I am pleased to express our Letter of Intent to collaborate with MMRDA in the following priority areas:

1. Skill Development in Tunnelling and Underground Infrastructure
 - Establishment of joint centres of excellence in tunnelling technology and underground construction

- Development of industry-aligned training programs for engineers, technicians, and skilled workforce
 - Exchange of expertise in TBM operations, geotechnical engineering, safety systems, and digital tunnelling technologies
 - Collaboration with leading Austrian universities and institutions, including specialized mining and tunnelling institutes
2. Technology Transfer and Innovation in Tunnelling
- Sharing Austrian expertise in complex urban tunnelling, mountain tunnelling, and resilient underground infrastructure
 - Introduction of advanced methodologies such as NATM (New Austrian Tunnelling Method) and digital monitoring systems
 - Joint research and pilot projects in urban mobility, climate-resilient infrastructure, and underground logistics networks
3. Academic and Institutional Collaboration
- Partnerships between Austrian universities and Indian institutions for joint research, faculty exchange, and dual programs
 - Promotion of student exchange, scholarships, and applied research collaborations
 - Capacity building for public sector agencies through structured training and knowledge transfer
4. Economic Cooperation and Industrial Partnerships
- Facilitation of Austrian industry participation in MMRDA infrastructure projects, particularly in metro projects, tunnelling, mobility, traffic management and urban systems
 - Promotion of joint ventures, investments, and technology partnerships
 - Engagement with Austrian economic institutions and chambers to strengthen bilateral trade and investment flows
5. Tourism Development
- Exchange of best practices in sustainable tourism, mountain tourism, and heritage-based urban tourism
 - Promotion of tourism linkages between Austria and Maharashtra, including urban tourism, cultural circuits, and conference tourism
 - Development of collaborative initiatives in hospitality training and tourism infrastructure

6. Framework for Future Cooperation

This Letter of Intent aims to serve as a foundation for developing a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the concerned Austrian institutions and MMRDA, with clearly defined implementation mechanisms, timelines, and institutional frameworks.

Austria firmly believes that this collaboration has the potential to evolve into a long-term strategic partnership, contributing to:

- Enhanced infrastructure excellence in Mumbai Metropolitan Region
- Skill development and employment generation
- Strengthened India–Austria bilateral relations
- Promotion of sustainable and innovation-driven urban development

We look forward to working closely with MMRDA to translate this intent into concrete initiatives of mutual benefit.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer
Federal Minister
Federal Ministry for Economy, Energy and Tourism
Republic of Austria