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Fair Times in Bengaluru



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Fair Times in Bengaluru

CII transformed Bengaluru, famous globally as the Silicon Valley of India, into a Business Fairs city, this February. Three major business shows, the 7th Aero India – an international exhibition for Aerospace and Defence, the 18th International Engineering & Technology Fair, IETF 2009 and the 2nd International Hospitality Fair, IHF 2009 were held in the IT City with great success



Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister for Trade & Industry, South Africa inaugurating IETF

A K Antony, Minister of Defence inaugurating 7th edition of Aero India 2009.
B S Yediyurappa, Chief Minister of Karnataka; A K Antony, Minister of Defence, Govt. of India and Air Chief Marshal Fali Home Major, PVSM, AVSM, SC VM



Rajive Kaul, Past President, CII; G Janardhana Reddy, Minister for Tourism & Infrastructure Development, Karnataka, S D N Wadiyar, Maharaja of Mysore, Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII and Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Stic Travels Pvt. Ltd. Releasing the Report on Indian Hospitality Industry Outlook at the Inaugural Session of the 9th Annual Tourism Summit

18th International Engineering & Technology Fair

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organised its 18th **International Engineering & Technology Fair (IETF)** from 23-26 February for the first time in Bengaluru, at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre.

IETF 2009 was inaugurated jointly by Ms Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister of Trade & Industry, South Africa; Mr Akira Ishihara, Managing Director, The Energy Conservation Centre, Japan; Dr Raj Kumar Khatri, Commissioner, Industrial Development, Karnataka and Mr Rajive Kaul, Chairman, CII Apex Council for Trade Fairs.

South Africa was the 'Partner Country' at the fair for the second time. The impressive South Africa International Pavilion showcased the products and services of 70 South African exporters and technology of world class standards including Aerospace, Marine, Defence, Steel, Electro technical, Manufacturing Technologies, Food & Beverages, and Wines. An Investment Opportunities Conference and B2B meetings were also held. A South Africa Trade & Investment Opportunities Conference organized on the occasion was addressed by Ms Thabethe, and Mr Venkataramanappa, Minister of Small Scale Industries and Sericulture, Karnataka.

Japan, which was the 'Guest Country' this time, had been the Partner Country at the previous IETF. The country primarily focused on New and Non - Renewable Sources of Energy with around 50 exhibitors in an exclusive pavilion. A Conference on Energy & Environment 2009 was also organised.

Karnataka, joining IETF 2009 as the 'Partner State', showcased its industrial strengths across varied sectors and featured potential investment opportunities.

Sector-specific concurrent shows focusing on Manufacturing Technologies, Energy & Environment, Robotics & Automation, Safety & Security were held during IETF 2009.

Coinciding with the mega fair, the 2nd **International Hospitality Fair (IHF 2009)** and a two-day **Tourism Summit** were also held during 23-26 February in Bangalore. IHF 2009 was inaugurated by Mr Janardhana Reddy, Minister of Tourism & Infrastructure Development, Karnataka. The Maharaja of Mysore H E Sri Wadiyar also addressed the Summit.

With around 500 exhibitors covering 25,000 sqm, IETF 2009 had representatives from 26 countries. This strong international participation strengthened the existing multi-faceted collaboration, mainly enhancing economic, scientific and technological cooperation

and provided the necessary impetus and inspiration to business sectors.

The IETF is an important initiative bringing businessmen from around the globe on a common platform and bridging the information gap expanding bilateral contacts. The Fair drew around 8000 business visitors, and 1700 general visitors. Around Rs 400 crores business enquiries were generated at IETF 2009.

IETF 2009 was endorsed and supported by several Ministries of the Government of India - Commerce & Industry, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Science & Technology, and the Government of Karnataka.

IETF 2009 AT A GLANCE

Total area covered	: 25,000 sqm
Exhibitors	: 500
Overseas Exhibitors	: 125
Visitors	: 9700
Business Visitors	: 8000
Business Value Generated	: Rs 400 crores
Partner Country	: South Africa
Guest Country	: Japan
Partner State	: Karnataka
Concurrent shows	: Manufacturing, Energy & Environment, Robotics & Automation, Safety and Security
Visitors from	: Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Brazil, China, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, France, Gautemala, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Poland, Peru, Singapore, Spain, South Africa, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and UK





AERO INDIA 2009



B S Yeddyurappa, Chief Minister, Karnataka, A K Antony, Defence Minister, and Air Chief Marshal F H Major PVSM, AVSM, SC VM, watching the air show



B S Yeddyurappa, Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Defence Production, A K Antony, Air Chief Marshal F H Major PVSM, AVSM, SC VM, and Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence walking down after the inauguration

Aero India 2009, the 7th International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition, was organised by the Ministry of Defence in association with CII, from 11 to 15 February in Bengaluru.

The spectacular event was inaugurated by Mr A K Antony, Union Minister of Defence. Mr Yeddyurappa, Chief Minister, Karnataka, Mr Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Defence Production, Mr Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence and Air Chief Marshal Fali Homi Major, PVSM, AVSM, SC VM also participated in the inaugural session.

The show witnessed unprecedented growth compared to the last show in 2007. This year, 592 exhibitors including 303 international participants from 25 countries, showcased their potential in technologies, products, innovations and aircrafts, over a period of three exclusive business days to the industry, government and overseas delegations. The participants included national pavilions, industry pavilions, private companies and public sector companies. The exhibitors from India and overseas

were provided 54 chalets for high profile meetings with various dignitaries.

Aircraft manufacturers, from various countries including India, had 46 aircrafts participating in the static and flying displays in addition to the Indian Air Force aircrafts. The flying display, held twice a day, attracted a lot of public too, which witnessed spectacular flying manoeuvres and daredevil acts by the various aircrafts. The aircrafts included the Cessna, Eurofighter, F16, F18 Hawker Beechcraft, Legacy 600, Super Hornets, MIG 35 etc. in addition to the Hawk, Tejas and Dhruv from India.

Official delegations consisting of Defence Ministers, Air Chiefs, and Ministers of State from over 50 countries were hosted by Aero India 2009 with a first time participation from China.

This edition of Aero India had supporting events to enhance the quality of the event. Well structured B2B meetings with online registration facility, focussing more on specific requirements with one-to-one interactions between industry, government and delegations,

AERO INDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Gross Area	44,000 sqm
Exhibition Halls	Five permanent and six temporary hangars
Exhibitors	592 (303 overseas, 289 domestic)
Countries	25 (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Ukraine, UK, USA)
Official Delegations	49 (Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, France (2), Germany (2), Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovak, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Ukraine, UK, Vietnam and USA)
Country Pavilions	5 - Australia, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Romania
Regional Pavilion	1 - Flanders from Belgium
Static Display	46 aircrafts, excluding IAF
Number of Chalet	54
Business Visitors	50,121
General Visitors	2,50,210
Largest participation:	
Domestic	: Indoors - HAL : Outdoors - DRDO : Chalets - HAL : Static Display - HAL
Overseas	: Indoors - Finmeccanica, Italy : Outdoors - BAE Systems, UK : Chalets - Boeing, USA : Static Display - Eurofighter, Germany : Static Display - USA (country)
Official Pavilion:	Israel
Country Representation:	USA



AK Antony at the DRDO stand

workshops with HR initiative focussing on available manpower in India, and a space pavilion with ISRO as the focus, were the new additions. The presence of young innovators from different technical institutes like IIT Powai, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Centre for Aviation Studies, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies and various engineering colleges, marked another first.

In addition, the Indian Air Force organised an HR workshop which gave exposure on various aspects of the aerospace sector and aviation to students from class III to XII from nearly 200 municipal and corporate schools.

This edition of Aero India also witnessed enhanced infrastructural facilities such as air-conditioned temporary hangars with German infrastructure, a fully equipped media centre catering to 500 plus media on a daily basis, chemical toilets, fully equipped hospitals for any contingencies, air display viewing area, food courts with a variety of cuisines to cater to the requirements of exhibitors and visitors, onsite ATM facilities, Wi-Fi connectivity in all halls, Cable on Wheels, online registration for badges, specially created inaugural area to seat 3000 people, etc.

Keeping the security scenario in mind and the high profile of the participants and displays, the security at Aero India 2009 included usage of RFID (Radio Frequency) badges, CCTV surveillance at all points, fencing, under vehicle scanning, baggage scanners, etc.

In addition to the three business specific days, Aero India 2009 was open to the public for two days, when the static display and exhibition area drew good attendance.

The next edition of Aero India will take place from 9 to 13 February 2011.

US – Japan – India Strategic Dialogue

The Trilateral Meeting in Tokyo underscored the importance of strengthening strategic dialogue and cooperation between the United States, Japan and India

Recognizing the growing importance of India in East Asia and the enormous potential for expanding cooperation on global challenges based on shared values and interests, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) initiated the US-Japan-India trilateral strategic dialogue in June 2006.

Co-chaired by Mr John Hamre, President, CSIS, and Mr Richard Armitage, former Deputy Secretary of State, and directed by Michael Green of CSIS on the American side, with Mr Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman, Central Japan Railway, leading the Japanese team and Mr Tarun Das, Chief Mentor, CII, leading the Indian delegation, the trilateral strategic dialogue has met five times.

The most recent meeting was held in Tokyo between February 27 and March 1. At this meeting business leaders, scholars and policy experts from the three nations focused their discussions on five areas: domestic political developments; the economic crisis; international security challenge; regional architecture; and climate change/energy.

Economic Issues

The participants noted the possibility that the current



Yoshiyuki Kasai, Chairman and Representative Director, Central Japan Railway, Tarun Das, Chief Mentor, CII, and Richard Armitage, President, Armitage International

economic crisis could lead to prolonged difficulties with an “L” shaped recovery rather than the “V” shaped recovery more often seen after recessions, but also acknowledged that previous models for predicting recoveries have frequently proven inaccurate.

Security

The three delegations discussed the challenges and opportunities in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the security environment in East Asia and the possible modalities for increased trilateral security cooperation.

Regional Architecture

The region’s institutional architecture will continue to be fluid and diverse, but the United States, Japan and India should continue coordinating closely to ensure that regional forums continue to consolidate an open economic regionalism and the promotion of universal norms.

Climate Change / Energy

The participants compared national strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and welcomed the United State’s renewed leadership in this area. It was noted that there was wide consciousness of the need to balance economic issues and environmental issues.



Members of the US – Japan – India Trilateral meeting with Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan, in Tokyo



Members of the US – Japan – India Trilateral meeting with Yasukazu Hamada, Defense Minister of Japan

The participants concluded that the challenge in these areas and the perspectives and tools shared by the United States, India and Japan underscored the importance of strengthening trilateral strategic dialogue and cooperation. The co-chairs determined to continue their efforts in this regard and urged the three governments to do the same.



Indian members of the US - Japan - India Trilateral meeting with Indian Ambassador to Japan, H K Singh

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- **International arbitration & international litigation**
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- **US, Japanese, Chinese and Indian law** (through our attorneys or through our co-operation partners);
- **International law:** international private law and international public law; especially EC and WTO Law

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india DESIGN FESTIVAL

DESIGN NEXT Inspiring Transformation

The first-ever India Design Festival focused on how Design can inspire transformation in business and for the bottom of the pyramid

CII, with the National Institute of Design, has been organising an annual CII-NID Design Summit since 2001. The Summit and other collaborative efforts of CII, NID and DIPP also led to the announcement of the National Design Policy. The Design Policy has generated a lot of excitement and movement in the Indian Design community, as well as international interest in Indian Design.

This year, CII and NID joined hands with Designindia and the Pune Design Foundation to scale-up the design activities and Design Summit by holding the first-ever India Design Festival from 7-14 February in Pune. The India Design Festival aims to inspire and transform design into various sectors, to develop sustainable design in country and to gain further innovation momentum.

‘Design Next’ - Inspiring Transformation was the central theme of the India Design Festival this year.

The festival focused on how Design can inspire transformation in business and for the bottom of the pyramid.

The **8th CII-NID Design Summit** was the major attraction of the Festival. Mr. Frank Heemskerck, Minister for Foreign Trade, Netherlands, who inaugurated the Summit said “Design is no longer merely the

plaything of the isolated elite. It has become a valuable instrument for improving the daily lives of millions.” He said the Netherlands is committed to intensify cooperation in trade and design with India, and assured his government’s support to strengthen ties between Dutch and Indian companies.

Mr Christopher Benningner, urban planner and architect in his keynote address pointed out that “Design is the organiser that harmonises thoughtless machines and raw materials into artefacts of functional use and beauty. Design enhances the quality of people’s lives wherever employed wisely.” The challenge before the design community would be to bring the benefits of good design to more and more people, he said.

Mr Prahlad Kakkar, filmmaker and advertising expert described how design can enhance the experience of consumption of any product. Mr Vikram Kirloskar,



Vikram Kirloskar, Chairman, CII National Committee on Design; Christopher Benningner, Christopher Charles Benninger Architects, Naushad Forbes, Deputy Chairman, CII (WR), Satish Gokhale, President, Pune Design Foundation and Prahlad Kakkar, CEO, Genesis Features, inaugurating the India Design Festival in Pune

Chairman, CII National Committee on Design & Vice Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motors Ltd; Dr. Naushad Forbes, Deputy Chairman, CII Western Region and Director, Forbes Marshall Ltd. and Mr Satish Gokhale, President, Pune Design Foundation, also participated in the inaugural.

The major highlight of the Summit was the



Left to Right (Standing): Jos Oberdorf, NPK Design, Netherlands, Rita van Hattum, BNO, Netherlands, Rajesh Kejriwal, Kyoorius Exchange, Sudhir Sharma, Elephant Strategy + Design and Theo Groothuizen, Royal Netherlands Embassy, New Delhi.

Left to Right (Sitting): Peter Kersten, BNO Ambassador, The Netherlands; Frank Heemskerck, Minister for Foreign Trade, The Netherlands; Henri Christiaans, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands; Atul C Kirloskar, CMD, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd. and Dr. Y S Rajan, Principal Adviser, CII

signing of **six MoUs between Indian and Dutch design organisations**. The areas of collaborations include packaging design, interactive design, industrial design, information design and special design (museums, cafes). The collaboration will move ahead next year with exchange of faculty members and thematic courses.

The Festival was marked by an **exclusive CNBC panel discussion**. The effect of the recent downturn on the design industry, the growth of design in India and future of design in India were among the discussion points. This was followed by another panel discussion exclusively for the designers.

The first IDF presented successful design stories of India as well as global industry from eminent scholars, practitioners and academia in the areas of Design and Innovation. The event discussed new challenges and opportunities for the design industry to play a prominent role in business in global scale and also the impact it can have on bottom of the pyramid.

The India Design Festival would also be organized in different cities every year along with local partners.



Design Competition Winners

Festival Highlights

- **On-the-spot design competitions** were held for school and college students. While the school kids had to design a community dustbin through a poster design contest, the college students had to build an ideal traffic booth for city thoroughfares. The Pune Municipal Corporation has agreed to display the prototype of the best-designed dustbin so that it can be developed commercially. Mahindra Composites will manufacture some of the dustbins and build the prototype for the best-designed booth.
- The **Design Showcase** presented the work of more than 30 designers in different disciplines. The session demonstrated how investment in design impacts overall business success with each designer presenting a design case study of a project completed by them in the past one year.
- **Workshops** on Design innovation for SMEs, Opportunities in Automotive Design, Furniture Design, Product Design Strategy, Innovations in Composites, Trends and Design Strategy for India

CII's Design initiatives are driven by the CII National Committee on Design. For more details contact: seema.gupta@cii.in



Sustainable Agriculture through Technologies, Practices & Partnerships

The seminar on ‘Sustainable Agriculture Through Technologies, Practices and Partnerships’, focused on the challenges that the Indian agriculture sector is facing, especially in light of the need to double agriculture output without putting undue stress on the existing land and water resources, and the

confronting sustainable development of agriculture sector ranging from technological options, effective extension, climate change, public private partnerships, etc. With the demand for food products only going to go up, the critical focus should be enhancing agricultural productivity, he said. While use of better quality of



T Nanda Kumar, Secretary, Agriculture & Co-operation, Gokul Patnaik, Chairman, Global Agrisystem Pvt Ltd., Jerry Steiner, Member, Executive Team, Monsanto Company, and Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Chairman, CII National Council on Agriculture & Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises

seed and fertilizer can increase agricultural productivity, we need to look at alternate technologies, better resource utilization in terms of land, water and other natural resources to continue to upscale at the same rate on sustainable basis, he stressed.

Mr Nanda Kumar said the industry demand for revising land-lease agreements with respect to agriculture could be considered provided the emphasis was on

physical environment. Held on 20 February in New Delhi, the seminar was an opportunity to brainstorm on issues related to yield, availability and deployment of agri inputs and technology, up scaling of agricultural extension, effective lab-land linkages, arresting degradation of natural resources and how farming can be made more remunerative and productive.

investing in non-productive and fallow land. He suggested that the private sector could help in improving marketing infrastructure for agriculture produce, which is today a major area of concern.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Nanda Kumar, Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperation, touched upon various issues

Acknowledging that agricultural extension services remained an area of concern for the government, he sought the active participation of the private sector and NGOs to take technological advances in farming and its practices to the grassroots level, through the use



Alok S Dasgupta, Program Manager, Office of Economic Growth, USAID, Dr. Satish Chandra, Director, Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals, P Chengal Reddy, Secretary General, Consortium of Indian Farmers Association, Jiji Thomson, Jt. Secretary, Agriculture, Gokul Patnaik, Prof. A R Sharma, Principal Scientist –Agronomy, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Abhiram Seth, MD, Aqua Agri Processing Pvt Ltd. and Paresh Verma, Director, Shriram Bio Seeds

of small machine which can protect natural resource and reduced drudgery and improved productivity. He called for CII's extensive cooperation in taking this initiative forward.

Delivering the theme address, Mr. Jerry Steiner, Executive Vice President, Sustainability & Corporate Affairs, Monsanto Company said, "Today, one of the pertinent issues for agriculture is increasing food production sustainably, in the face of rising demand, limited natural resources and climate change. A potential solution to meet these challenges is innovative technologies which can enhance yields sustainably, help farmers earn higher income, and thus, improve their socio-economic status. Monsanto has been partnering with India's farmers for over four decades and we will continue our commitment to improve crop productivity and help make India a global leader in agriculture."

Mr Steiner shared several examples of how agricultural technology had helped augment the growth of small and marginal farmers in rural areas. He added that to create an even greater impact on society, it is important that farmers, the private sector, other civil society organizations, and the Government partner together. In this regard, he emphasized the recently launched Project SHARE (Sustainable Harvest - Agriculture, Resources and Environment) - a Sustainable Yield Initiative by Monsanto and NGO ISAP to improve farmer lives in India through access to higher-yielding seeds

and agriculture inputs, training and education on best agronomic practices and better market linkages.

Welcoming the participants, Mr Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Chairman, CII National Council on Agriculture, and Vice-Chairman, Bharti Enterprises, said that the major challenges before the agriculture sector related to increasing productivity while ensuring inclusiveness and sustainability. The need to increase farm yields had gained importance following the growing debate on climate change and alternative energy sources, especially biofuels, while conserving scarce water resources. He also spoke of the need to incentivise private sector involvement in the agriculture sector to ensure the flow of much-needed funds.

He listed five major challenges:

- Increasing agricultural productivity and enhancements of yields per hectare will need to be at the centre of all agricultural strategies to ensure food security
- Agriculture must become a more remunerative economic activity to induce productivity enhancement measures
- Linking small and marginal farmers into mainstream technology deployment and productivity enhancement interventions
- Working out balances which will be sustainable in the long run through alternative source of fuel
- Efficient land use to meet the ever-growing demand for food, fuel and fibre without putting more pressure on our environmental resources.

Schemes for MSMEs

An interaction was organised between Mr. Madhav Lal, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSMEs and the

members of the CII National MSME Council, in New Delhi, on 2 March.

Reiterating the Government's support for the industry in the wake of the present economic slowdown, Mr Lal highlighted the need for the sector to come forward and avail the various schemes of the Ministry of MSME, including the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme (NMCP) schemes, being implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME). The other issues discussed during the interaction, included the simplification of procedures, impact of the economic slowdown, implementation of MSMED Act 2006 and credit rating for MSMEs.



Ramesh Datla, Chairman, CII MSME Council, Madhav Lal, Additional Secretary & Development Commissioner, MSME and Dr Sarita Nagpal, Deputy Director General, CII

Intensify R & D in Security Technology

Security is getting a far more comprehensive connotation than purely a military or law and order construct. Today, civil society is conceiving itself as an equal and complementing matrix of national security, said Mr. Shekhar Dutt, SM, Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India. Speaking at a Technical Seminar on Internal Security, organised by CII in New Delhi on 4 February, he said our policies and strategies need to prepare for the future and not merely address the present. From box-based planning, we need to orient to a transformational mode where activity lines and time lines are well defined, he said.

Mr Dutt wanted industry to intensify R&D with regard to security technology. 'Internal security involves human beings who value their own freedom as much as they value the nation's security. Therefore technology is definitely an important tool; though the essential driver remains the human mind, he said.

In the backdrop of the Mumbai attacks, Ms. Anita Choudhary, Additional Secretary (CS), Ministry of Home Affairs, named terrorism, left wing extremism and insurgency in the North-East India region as the major threats to India's security. We need a domestic manufacturing base for sophisticated security technology, she said, pointing out that the increase in the number of business establishments has increased the need for security. This in turn presents an opportunity for security business establishments to build capacity in the security domain, which includes mobility equipment, communication devices, security equipment, forensic mechanisms, etc.

Highlighting the opportunities in the securities industry, Mr. Ajai Chowdhary, Chairman, CII National Committee on IT, ITES & E-Commerce, and Founder - HCL, Chairman & CEO HCL Infosystems Ltd, wanted India to expand its technological capabilities, and refine the security matrix further by moving ahead of the sensors based setup. The nation has to adopt technologies

like data warehousing and data mining for a better tracking, he said. Mr. Choudhary also pointed out that the Indian Administration has beefed-up the budget of developing security and surveillance capabilities to US\$ 10 billion. Acquisition for radar for 7,500 km long coastline is in operation. The Ministry of Home Affairs declared developing airborne capabilities for National Security Guards (NSG) and modernisation of State Police Forces, he informed.

Mr. S Sen, Principal Advisor, CII, said that based on the feedback from the seminar, CII would come out with a comprehensive long term plan on Internal Security. The task

force will envisage policy advocacy for the security environment; drawing guidelines by bringing out the best practices in the industry; and spread awareness about technology amongst the security framework, he said.



Anita Choudhary,
Additional Secretary (CS),
Ministry of Home Affairs



Ajai Chowdhary, Chairman, CII National Committee on IT, ITES & E-Commerce, and Founder - HCL, Chairman & CEO HCL Infosystems Ltd and Shekhar Dutt, SM, Deputy National Security Advisor, India

Future Wars: Use of EM Weapons Impact & Counter - Measures

CII, in association with the Army Centre for Electromagnetic (ACE) a premier institution of the Indian Army, organised a seminar on 'Future Wars: Use of EM Weapons, Impact and Countermeasures' on 2-3 February in Mhow, Indore. The aim of the seminar was to bring about an awareness of this new dimension of weaponry among a wide cross section of service officers, defence planners and other related personnel from academia, DRDO and industry.

The seminar deliberated upon the course of future wars especially in the subcontinent, the variety of EM weapons available today and their impact on the dimensions of future wars, including an in-depth vulnerability analysis.

India Regional Offsets Conference

Reflecting industry aspirations, the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2008 broadly incorporates measures to improve domestic industrial supply, apart from encouraging FDI and intensifying R & D in the Defence industry. The policy has been revised four times since its inception in 2002. Industry should remain hopeful that shortfalls in the policy will be accordingly reformed, said Mr. Shashikant Sharma, Director General-Acquisition, Ministry of Defence, at the 2nd India Regional Offsets Conference organised by CII in association with The Defence Manufacturing Association (DMA) of UK and Global Offsets and Countertrade Association (GOCA) of USA.

The conference, held in New Delhi on 9 February, drew over 300 participants including 130 international offset professionals, officers from the Indian Government, Ministry of Defence (MoD), Armed Forces and Industry.

Pointing out the need for universality of offset credit transaction, Mr.

Sharma reaffirmed that the Government is considering a more dynamic defence procurement policy structure.

He noted that an offsets partner is now not required to hold licence anymore to associate with the Ministry of Defence. This has increased the scope manifold from 37 to 2,000 industries, which can now consider associating with the offset programmes. He said a monetary cell has been created in the Department of Defence Production for the establishment of a framework to develop in-house credit systems. The Ministry of Defence is also studying the offset policy of global economies to gather provisions for inclusion in India.

The Ministry of Defence envisages spending over US\$ 30 billion for acquisition of military hardware and software during the 11th five year plan. These developments will

intensify new acquisitions, adoption of futuristic projects, upgradation of equipments, support services, and joint venture friendly environment amongst others. The overseas companies will be required to fulfil mandatory offsets obligation to the tune of 30-50 percent of such procurements.

Major General Mrinal Suman (Retd), AVSM, VSM, Project Director, Defence Technical Assessment & Advisory Services, CII, presented an insightful observation on business opportunities in the Indian Defence sector. He said, "India is observing exciting times in defence market with a huge shopping list. An ideal proportion of military

equipment balance is 30-40-30 spread over state-of-the-art technology; mature technology; and obsolete technology, while India's military equipment balance proportion is 15-35-50. Attempting to match up its defence infrastructure to world, India will be spending US\$ 100 billion by 2020."

Rear Admiral Rees Ward, Director General,



Rear Admiral Rees Ward, Director General, The Defence Manufacturers Association of UK, Cary F Viktor, Chairman & CEO, Global Offset & Countertrade Association, Saurabh Kumar, Director (Planning & Coordination), Ministry of Defence, India, David Wolf, Board Member Emeritus, US - India Business Council, Atul C Kirloskar, Chairman, CII National Committee on Defence, & CMD, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd and S Radhakrishnan, Director, Technology Acquisition, DRDO

DMA UK, said DPP 2008 is an initial phase of the policy which will evolve with time. He hoped the conference would help international delegates reach a meaningful dialogue with the Indian Government, and find possible modes for technological transfers.

Mr. Neil Rutter, President, GOCA, wanted the delegates to use this conference as a platform to facilitate B2B interaction. Mr. Atul C Kirloskar, Chairman, CII National Committee on Defence & CMD, Kirloskar Oil Engines Ltd, explained that the agenda of the conference is to help international OEMs learn about defence procedures and offsets industry in India. On the other hand, Indian industry can generate a better understanding on working with OEMs and integrate with the global supply chain, he said.



CII Institute of Quality Your Quality Training Partner

Training Calendar April 2009

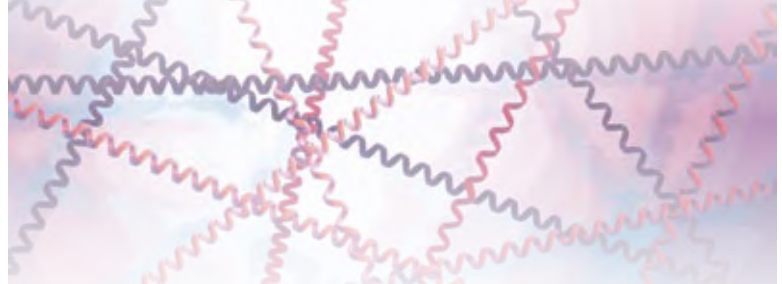
2-3 April, Pondicherry Jishu Hozen Workshop
6-7 April, Mumbai Workshop on Calibrating External Auditing Skills
8-9 April, Bangalore Internal Auditor Training for ISO 22000: FSMS
15-17 April, Delhi Strengthening MR Skills
15-16 April, Gurgaon Complete Manager (six months programme)
16-17 April, Bangalore Achieving Warehouse Competitiveness
16-18 April, Bangalore Competency Mapping & Assessment
17-18 April, Bangalore Customer Relation Management for Healthcare
21 April, Delhi TPM Deployment seminar
21-24 April, Bangalore Workshop on Assessment for Business Excellence
24 April, Hyderabad Quality Maintenance Seminar
27-28 April, Bangalore Producing Zero Defect through Statistical Techniques (SPC + MSA)
23-24 April, Delhi Food Safety and Quality in Packaging and Transportation
29-30 April, Bangalore Programme on Central Excise & Service Tax
24-25 April, Delhi Performance Measurement: Evidence Based Healthcare Management
27-29 April, Bangalore Six Sigma Black Belt Certification Course (Level 1)
28-29 April, Delhi Enhancing Productivity & Quality thru 3M & 5S
28-29 April, Bangalore New Product Development: A Strategic Approach

For further details, please contact:
v.subramanian@ciionline.org



Visit us at : www.cii-iq.in

Telecom Infrastructure Focus - for Rural Reach



The Indian Telecom Industry has been growing at a scorching pace in the past few years. Consequently, consolidation and necessary strengthening of core competencies would be extremely important for companies in this industry to achieve the stated objective of 500 million subscribers by 2011.

Although the tele density among the Indian population has crossed 31%, rural teledensity is only 9.5%. Currently, most of the urban and semi-urban population has been covered for mobile telephony services by about 2 lakh telecom towers but the majority of the rural population still remains uncovered and is deprived of advanced telephony services. As per the Government of India's 11th plan, rural subscriber base shall increase to 200 million. To meet this target, telecom operators need to construct over 1 lakh additional towers in the rural areas.



Prakash Ranjalkar, GTL Infrastructure Ltd, Ajay Bhattacharya, Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund, Department of Telecommunication, India, Anil Sardana, Tata Teleservices Ltd, and Weimin Yao, Huawei Telecommunications

A CII brainstorming workshop on 'Telecom Infrastructure Development Focus – for Rural Reach' on 2 February explored initiatives to help Industry achieve the aggressive objectives of teledensity in rural areas. The workshop also sought to garner industry opinion to make a consolidated representation to the Government in this regard.

Mr Ajay Bhattacharya, Administrator, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund), Department of Telecommunication, India, Mr Anil Sardana, Tata Teleservices Ltd, Mr Prakash Ranjalkar, GTL Infrastructure Ltd, Mr Mahesh Uppal, Com First and Mr Weimin Yao, Huawei Telecommunications, participated in the deliberations. To take the initiative further, a Taskforce on Telecom Infrastructure Development has been created by the CII National Committee on Telecom & Broadband.

In Conversation With Dr. Tim Flannery



Australia India Council, in New Delhi on 3 February. Communique brings you excerpts of his conversation with Dr. S Majumdar, Sr. Counsellor, CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development.

In today's context, is a 'low carbon economy' a wishful dream, or reality?

Thought it is definitely something that holds a lot of promise for the future, it stems from the current reality. There is ample evidence of instances from all over the world of good initiatives that have started yielding positive results.

Can you give some examples of government, industry and community working together?

The leading examples from the recent past would be from President Obama of the USA promising to create half a million jobs from the energy / development policy modelled along the lines of a low carbon economy. An outrage in the community and subsequent pressure led to this development. Public pressure in mid-2006 also led to changes in the government policies in Australia.

In Japan, new initiatives in providing a clean transport options are also creating jobs. So too, in Denmark, where the wind energy sector provides more jobs today than fishing, which has historically been its largest employment-providing sector. I am sure you would have some examples from India as well.

What are the barriers for this to happen?

Primarily, there are four of them today:

- lack of awareness about the various initiatives and developments
- lack of communication between the stakeholders

An internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist,

Prof Tim Flannery has published more than 140 scientific papers, as well as landmark books. He advises various businesses on climate concerns. Prof. Flannery visited India to deliver a Talk on Business Leadership in Climate Change organized by CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development in association with the

- absence of co-ordination between the various agencies, departments and stakeholders
- vested political interests.

How can these barriers be overcome?

Industry and government have to talk to each other and share. They may not - and will not - agree on everything; but continuous dialogue is a must. Only then will goodwill be possible. People want to be - and need to be - heard today, and involved in a fair manner.

Where do the small and medium enterprises go in this path?

SMEs are the key to our future. It doesn't matter whether they belong to India, or Australia, or anywhere else. While we need to encourage them and provide a level playing field, they in turn also have to be accountable and must be responsible for their acts. The 'Polluter Pays' principle is very relevant for them.

How does it help to pay today for tomorrow's comforts? In other words, everybody wants certain comforts today, but hardly anybody is willing to pay more for something that may benefit tomorrow. So how can people be urged to change this trend?

All of us have a responsibility as individuals; we all need to behave responsibly ourselves first before telling others about how to behave or do anything in a different way. Actually, therefore, this amounts to a double responsibility

on us; do the right thing first, and then get others to do it as well. Unless we do the right thing ourselves and set an example for others, we simply do not have the right to tell anything to anybody.

A related question: What lifestyle changes are possible in the developing countries?

Leaders of society need to be role models. They are always in the public eye and are looked up to by many people. Also, business leaders set the tone. Unless they follow a basic minimum set of principles as individuals and as organisations, whatever they may do or say will not be viewed favourably by the masses.

Have market-based instruments really made a difference to the lowering of emission levels?

The instruments or mechanisms like the CDM are all very ambitious in nature, and in their days of infancy. These instruments are but one set of tools in a whole

tool box that is needed or is available to achieve the desired change: whether it is a government policy, or a tax, some incentives, or some rebate, and so on. Whatever the combination, today we do know that the atmospheric levels of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have come down globally, as have the total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the EU. In the words of the maverick business tycoon Richard Branson: "Business opportunities are like buses, there's always another one coming".

A couple of years ago media magnate Rupert Murdoch said "We have got to at least take the insurance that the people who say so [that there is a greenhouse effect] might be right." The conversion of Mr. Murdoch, who is a not infrequent guest of prime ministers and presidents, is a radical shift from his previous skepticism. Even though he was still not entirely certain about it, he once famously said, "the planet deserves the benefit of the doubt."

Inland Waterways and Related Connectivity- A Session at Kochi

The CII Institute of Logistics in collaboration with Cochin Port Trust organized the second edition of the conference on 'Indian Coastal Shipping - The Opportunities towards economical logistics' in Cochin on 20 February. The first edition of the conference last year opened up new vistas on coastal shipping and the opportunities prevailing in this arena, best practices, issues and challenges, and provided a platform to share the expertise and knowledge of the players.

Mr N. Ramachandren, Chairman, Port Trust, Cochin, who inaugurated this edition of the conference, regretted that the tremendous potential for coastal shipping in India had not been fully tapped. Systematic planning is required to promote coastal shipping. There should also be efforts to integrate road transport, inland water transport and coastal shipping to bring about reduction in total cost on the supply chain, he said.

Ports have a key role in facilitating trade. As a critical interface between marine and land based transportation, they are part of international supply chain networks and their effectiveness drives trade competitiveness, Mr Ramachandren said. Even if the Indian economy grows at a moderate 6-7%, freight transport demand is likely to grow significantly over the next few years. But what is



obstructing the development is the lengthy clearance procedure, he felt.

The panelists noted that in spite of the obvious advantages that ports offer over land-based

modes, coastal shipping has not become an integral part of India's transport infrastructure. Our volumes of coastal cargo movement are dismally low compared to other countries, especially the European Union, where the modal share of coastal shipping is more than 40%. A major reason for this, they felt, is that coastal shipping is not receiving the priority it deserves, either from the policy point of view or even from the industry itself.

Mr Johnson Mathew, Chairman and Managing Director, Trans Asia Shipping Services, in his keynote address, gave the breakup of domestic logistics cost in India: Transportation 35%, Handling and warehousing 9%, Inventories 25%, Packaging 11%, Losses 14% others 6%. Over 90% of globally traded goods and commodities are moved by sea, he said, urging the industry to innovate and reduce costs.

Mr S K Shahi, President, All India Barge Owners Association, informed that China operates 40% of its cargo through coastal shipping. Commodore M Jithendran, Chairman and Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard, said that Kerala is the most ideal place in India for coastal shipping.



Manufacturing Mission

Direct & Indirect Taxes



SMEs on Manufacturing Excellence Mission

The competitive pressures on the Manufacturing Industry, in terms of productivity, quality, delivery and safety, call for a strategic and holistic approach integrating 'Innovation' into manufacturing practices. A Manufacturing Excellence Mission of SME members visited Sona Koyo Steering Systems Ltd, Munjal Showa Ltd, Sandhar Group of Industries and Minda Industries Ltd in Manesar on 25-26 February to acquire best practices.

A training programme on 'Direct and Indirect Taxes' on 27 February in Noida, with KPMG as the Knowledge Partner, addressed queries and major concerns about the present tax regime, and their impact on business decisions. The topics covered included Tax Deducted at Source (TDS), Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT), Transfer Pricing, Customs Duty, Service Tax and Central Excise.



Training Programme on Direct & Indirect Taxes at Noida

Corrosion Management Committee

The CII Corrosion Management Committee met on 24 February in Jamshedpur to finalise the priorities and roadmap for the year 2009 for its task forces on 'Surfaces', 'Technology', 'Human Resource' and 'Policy'.

Lean Manufacturing: A Positive Way

Lean manufacturing is a systematic approach for identifying and eliminating waste in operations through continuous improvement by doing everything more efficiently, reducing the cost of operations, and fulfilling the customers' desire for maximum value at the lowest price. A training programme discussed "Becoming Lean - Key to Waste Elimination" on 10 February in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand.



CII-CMC meeting in Jamshedpur

SMED & Poka Yoke

CII - L M Thapar Centre for Competitiveness organised a training programme on 'SMED & Poka Yoke- Key to Quick Changeover & Error Free Production' on 26 February in Chandigarh. Flexible production can come about only through Single Minute Exchange of Dies (SMED) while Poka-yoke is a Japanese term for mistake-proofing.

Energy Efficiency

A 'Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Implementation' on 20 February in Ludhiana discussed effective energy management to reduce thermal and electrical energy consumption, while incorporating energy saving ideas along with self energy auditing techniques.

Business Communication Skills

Communication skills are important in any interaction, particularly in business. A workshop on Communication and Presentation Skills on 28 February in Gurgaon trained junior and middle level managerial staff to structure their thoughts and prepare ideas.

Regional Summit on Education

The CII Institute of Quality, Bangalore along with CII Coimbatore, organised a two day Regional Summit on Quality in Education with the theme 'Managing higher educational institutions: The Quality Way' on 30-31 January.

With higher education environments across the globe nowadays becoming more and more turbulent and dynamic, the issue of quality management is firmly on the agenda of many higher education institutions. There is no universal consensus on how best to manage quality of Higher Education. Most research conducted on this has been undertaken within single national contexts despite the fact that higher education is increasingly viewed as an international business. The time is thus right to rethink current approaches to quality management in Higher education to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is not neglected.

Inaugurating the Summit, Prof. R Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, Anna University Coimbatore, said more industry institute interactions should take place and learning has to be shared mutually. He also shared various initiatives taken up by his university. Mr. C R Swaminathan, Deputy Chairman, CII (SR) said



“only education can give us quality life”. Mr. N Srinivasan, Special Adviser, CII Institute of Quality, reiterated CII's commitment to the education sector through training, counseling and cluster approach.

Prof. Sujatha Ramadorai, Member, National Knowledge Commission & Professor, TIFR, Mumbai, shared her views on 'Management of higher education institutions: challenges & opportunities' while Mr B Venkataraman, Director, National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB), Quality Council of India spoke on 'How institutions can leverage accreditations & certifications', Offshore campus management experiences were shared from BITS Pilani Dubai campus, and NIIT. Experiences from two interesting case studies, from Panruti Municipality and Infosys Technologies Ltd, were also shared with the delegates. The summit culminated with a panel discussion on 'Managing Higher Education Institutions in India: Actions now'.

This Regional Summit, the 5th of its kind, created dynamic learning and networking opportunities for over 100 decision makers such as administrators, management committee members, principals and teachers from higher education institutions, NGOs and corporates across South India.



R Nandagopal, Convenor, Education Panel, CII Coimbatore, C R Swaminathan, Deputy Chairman, CII SR, Prof.R Radhakrishnan, VC, Anna University, Coimbatore, C N Ashok, Chairman, CII Coimbatore, N Srinivasan, Special Advisor, CII Institute of Quality and Ravi Sam, Vice Chairman, CII Coimbatore Zone

Priority for Food Safety & Quality

Stressing the need for Food Safety and Quality, Mr K.Rajeswara Rao, Joint Secretary, Food Processing Industries, said that the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has earmarked Rs 250 crore towards this in the 11th Five Year Plan. He was addressing the MoFPI-CII-QCI Sensitization Programme on Food Safety Systems in Hyderabad on 13 February.

Mr Rao highlighted various initiatives being implemented under the 11th Plan such as schemes for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R&D, strengthening the Codex Cell, setting up and upgrading food labs and promotional activities like exhibitions, seminars, workshops, publications, short



films and documentaries. He emphasized that it was vital to sensitise the masses about protecting themselves against food-borne illnesses. Mr Rao shared that the Central Government, with the help of CII, municipal bodies, NGOs and others, is implementing a novel scheme to improve the safety of Street Food.

Safe farm produce could be rendered unfit for human consumption during transportation, storage, packaging and food preparation if handled unhygienically said Mr Utpal

Sengupta, Chairman, CII, AP Chapter and Vice Chairman Agrotech Foods Ltd.

Cost Reduction and enhancement of production

efficiency by categorically identifying waste, strain and inconsistencies in operations are the key challenges in implementing effective and sustainable Food Safety Systems, said. Dr Indrani Ghose, Lead Faculty. Her presentation took the delegates through the implementation methodology of 3M, 5S, GHP, GMP, ISO 22000. Mr B.K.Karna, Regional Director, Indian Institute of Packaging, and and Mr Arun Methan, Metro Cash and Carry, outlined trends in Food Safety in Packaging and Transportation, and Expectations of Modern Trade from the Food Processing Sector, respectively.



Utpal Sengupta, Chairman, CII-A.P Chapter, Dr Indrani Ghose, Principal Counsellor, CII-IQ, B Venkataraman-Director, QCI and K Rajeswara Rao, Jt Secretary, Food Processing Industries, and

Capability Building to Meet Domestic and Global Demands

The reconstituted CII-IQ Expert Group on Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) had its first meeting on 12 February 2009 at New Delhi with Mr Uttam Chatterjee, Regional Director, Quality, Asia Region, Hindustan Unilever Ltd as the Chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to draw inputs from the experts and understand industry needs better for aligning its activities and initiatives in the area of FSQ



CII-IQ's FSQ Expert Group meeting



CII-Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre, Hyderabad Mission on Sustainable Growth launched in Pune

The Mission on Sustainable Growth (MSG) initiative was launched at the CEO's Meet on MSG organised in Pune on 18 February. Similar CEOs Meets on MSG were earlier organised in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Kochi.

The Mission promotes and champions conservation of natural resources in Indian Industry without compromising on high and accelerated growth. As a first step of this initiative, a CII - Code for Ecologically Sustainable Business Growth has been developed, aiming to involve the top management of companies and seek voluntary commitments towards reducing the consumption of energy, water and other natural resources and promote ecologically sustainable growth in their companies.

Dr Naushad Forbes, Deputy Chairman, CII Western Region & Director, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd described



Dr Naushad Forbes, Deputy Chairman, CII (WR) & Director, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd (centre) with Rajeev Bhide, MD, Beck India Ltd and Deepak Chhabria, Chairman, CII, Pune Zonal Council & MD, Finolex Cables Ltd

the Mission and the Code and invited industry leaders to sign the Code. At the meet, 15 companies signed the CII Code.

To date, 205 companies in India have expressed their commitment to the CII-Code for Ecologically Sustainable Business Growth.

Climate Change & Energy

Mr Creon Butler, Minister & Deputy High Commissioner to India on Economics of Climate Change, British High Commission, addressed an interactive session on Climate Change & Energy on 20 February in Hyderabad.

Mr Butler discussed the economics of climate change, UK's action plan to fight climate change; benefits of low carbon investment; and opportunities for business collaboration with UK government and business groups. He highlighted the scope for future cooperation between UK and India.



Creon Butler, Minister & Deputy High Commissioner to India on Economics of Climate Change, British High Commission (right) with (L-R) Indrajit Pal, Director General, EPTRI, and Ramesh Datla, Chairman, CII MSME Council & MD, ELICO Ltd

Towards Gender Equality

Gender equality is an important indice of an equitable society. In the present globalised environment it is crucial for corporates to consciously address this issue and draw distinct plans to create an environment of confidence and encouragement to enable women to participate in the economy.



Dr Girija Vyas, Chairperson,
National Commission for Women

Corporate houses should adopt gender budgeting as a CSR measure. Gender Budgeting provides a mechanism wherein 30-40% of corporate or ministerial budget is spent towards gender sensitization. However at present the accountability of gender budget spends is missing. Therefore an audit needs to be established to ensure that the correct amount is spent on this crucial cause, said Dr. Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Commission for Women. She was speaking at a National Conference on **Gender Issues: Harnessing Strengths and Reflecting Rights** organised by CII, in partnership with the Rashtiya Mahila Kosh, on 5 March in New Delhi.

Dr. Vyas urged corporate houses to come down heavily on workplace sexual harassment. Sensitising the male population on women issues would lead to better understanding of gender related crimes like molestation, dowry, torture, rape, domestic violence, workplace

harassment, female foeticide, property issues etc, she said.

Dr. Kiran Chadha, Joint Secretary, Women and Child Development, said the Ministry was running campaigns on gender issues like save the girl child, malnutrition in females and domestic violence. She advocated that heinous crimes like gang rape should be considered non-bailable

offences and hit out at the cruel practice of female foeticide.

Mr. Madhur Bajaj, Vice Chairman, Bajaj Auto Ltd, suggested that Bajaj Auto's set ups in 40 villages could be used by CII for holding gender sensitisation programmes.

Mr. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, said that CII is looking at setting up centres in backward districts which will focus on women's skills. He also assured that the points brainstormed at this conference would be taken to the concerned policy set ups by the CII Women Empowerment Committee and CII - CSR wing.

The conference revolved around issues related to women in the work place, entrepreneurship, and rights, and concluded with the formation of a group of volunteers from different areas of specialization to work jointly to sensitise industry and society at large on gender related issues.

Session Highlights

Women and Workplace

It has been observed that women, if given a choice, prefer to work in the service sector, expressing reasons such as work environment, nature of work, etc for such a preference. The Manufacturing sector, which engages around 50 million people in the country, in large cities as well as II tier and III tier cities, needs to be tapped as a potential employer of women. The session discussed the issues, challenges and opportunities for women at workplace and how they can be addressed.

Women & Entrepreneurship

Be it starting a business or in setting up an enterprise, women often face challenges and road blocks that are unique to them. Experience shows that despite the fact that women are well educated and have innovative business ideas, they constantly struggle in becoming full fledged entrepreneurs. Many a time, the need to define a process and build a check system; integrate

the support instruments for holistic understanding of the enterprise, and other related issues, elude them. The session highlighted four key issues which need attention: problem awareness, support instruments, regional networks, education and training.

Inclusiveness: The Way Forward

In the liberalised business environment, there are issues within the prevalent system of education, employment, family economic security, and health that need to be critically evaluated and redesigned to address the gender gap. On the other hand, there is an urgency to draw immediate plans for sensitising and protecting the interest of women from low income groups. The session focused on issues - How women can be made aware of their rights? how can the corporate sector partner in generating awareness in society? What are the policies in the work place to ensure gender equality?

Inclusive Responses to the HIV and AIDS Challenge - Experiences from the Indian IT Sector

The private sector, alongside other stakeholders, can play an important part not only by contributing to the efforts for HIV/AIDS prevention and discrimination, but also for the care, support and treatment of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA).

Given the need to increasingly engage the private sector in India's response to HIV/AIDS, the CII, India Business Trust (IBT) for HIV/AIDS and the World Bank Institute initiated joint capacity development efforts in 2006. The overall objective was to strengthen the role of business organizations and companies from key economic sectors in addressing HIV/AIDS and related issues of stigma and discrimination.

CII, as one of the partners, documented the experiences of companies from the IT sector on HIV/AIDS in a publication titled 'Inclusive Responses to the HIV and AIDS Challenge - Experiences from the Indian IT Sector'. The publication showcases the comparative advantages of IT companies and their unique ability to reach young and vulnerable populations in India to prevent HIV/AIDS and reduce stigma.



The case studies also identify practical ways for individual companies and or IT networks to scale-up the existing HIV/AIDS response models and good practices as part of workplace and social responsible programmes.

The case study document was released on 11 February in Gurgaon by Mr Nikhil Kumar, Member of Parliament and Chairman, Parliamentary Committee on IT. Mr Kumar urged the corporate sector to support the development of livelihood capabilities of people living in poorest parts of the country as they focus on increasing awareness about HIV/AIDS.

The report chronicles the CSR achievements of eight companies: App Labs, Intel Technologies, Mphasis Ltd., Paharpur Business Centre and Software Technology Incubator Park, Satyam Computer Services Ltd, Scope International Pvt. Ltd, Tata Consultancy Services and ZMQ Software systems in tackling the HIV issue-both in the workplace and the community at large.

public health

Each year 8-9 lakh Indians die a completely preventable death because of tobacco related diseases. Apart from active tobacco use, severe harm is also caused by exposure to Second Hand Smoke (SHS). Smoke-free laws (covering smoke free indoor workplaces) enacted by the Government of India are among the most effective ways to eliminate the harms caused by SHS. Smoke-free indoor workplaces is the mandate of the law under The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of

Advertisement and Regulation of Trade And Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 which was enacted to ensure that effective protection is provided to



non-smokers from involuntary exposure to hazardous tobacco smoke.

CII, in collaboration with the PHFI (Public Health Foundation of India), HRIDAY (Health Related information dissemination amongst youth), WEF (World Economic Forum) and UNION (International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease) organised a sensitization workshop on 'Smoke Free Workplaces in Corporate Sector in India' on 10 February in New Delhi. The key objective of this workshop was to build awareness about work-

site wellness with special focus on smoke-free indoor workplaces, and thus positively contribute to health promotion at the work site.



Yi World



Prof C K Prahalad at the Inaugural Session of the National Summit

WAKE UP to India@75

Hyderabad, 14-15 February

The 5th Young Indians National Summit, held at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, brought together 350 delegates including policy makers, business leaders, entrepreneurs, farmers and students, to deliberate on the theme 'Wake UP to India@75: Make your Choice NOW'. The theme is inspired by Prof C K Prahalad, Distinguished University Professor, Paul & Ruth McCracken, The University of Michigan, in his vision for India@75. It builds on the role that the youth need to play to facilitate India's transformation by year 2022.

The key sessions at the Summit included

- Terrorism - A Trigger for a Breakthrough Agenda
- Inclusive Growth & New Business Models
- Students - Demand for a New Class
- Education & Skills – The Foundation for a new Vision
- Renaissance of Arts, Science & Sports in India

- Governance- Participatory Democracy and Moral Leadership
- India's Quest for Global Leadership
- India's Farming- Reviving the seeds of a new revolution

The summit was also a platform for the presentation of research papers on 'Uncovering the Next Practices' that would empower a developed India.

Dental Camp

Chennai, 6 February

Young Indians in association with Saveetha Dental College organized the 8th free Yi Dental Camp since June 2008 at the Akshara schools sponsored by Cognizant Foundation. Free de-worming tablets were also distributed to the children.



Dental camp in Chennai

Yi Net Rendezvous

Kochi, 8 February

The Yi Net Rendezvous was held with the objective of integrating the energies and efforts of the seven Yi Kochi Chapter Nets, with a blend of learning, fun and entertainment.

Environment Campaign

Kochi, February

The EnYironmend initiative is continuing its environment awareness campaign and monitoring system, wherein school students are visiting different parts of their neighborhood to generate awareness.

Yi Net Launch

Coimbatore 14 & 18 February

Yi Nets were launched at the Amrita Shool of Business, and the Bharathiar School of Management & Entrepreneur Development (BSMED), Coimbatore.



Kumara Guru, Chair-Yi Hyderabad Chapter & Assistant Director – Dean's Office, Indian School of Business; Aparna Reddy, Chair -5th Yi National Summit; Malvinder Mohan Singh, Chairman, CEO and Managing Director, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd; Suresh Reddy, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh; Rajan Navani, Immediate Past Chair, Yi & Managing Director, Jetline Group of Companies; Rahul Mirchandani, National Vice Chair, Yi & Executive Director, Aries Agro Ltd; & Jay Galla, National Chair, Yi & Managing Director, Amara Raja Batterie at the valedictory session



Launch of Yi Net at Bharathiar School of Management & Entrepreneur Development



Launch of Yi Net at Amrita School of Business

De-Worming Campaign

Dhanas, Chandigarh, 17 February

Young Indians distributed de-worming tablets to over 100 underprivileged children in Dhanas, in collaboration with Bharat Prakash Foundation. One of the key focus areas of Young Indians under its health



Bhairavi Jani, National Yi Finance Chair, with children at the Bharat Prakash Foundation

initiative is addressing the health needs of individuals/children, predominantly from the underprivileged section.

Tools for Enterprising Democracy

Chandigarh, 17 February

Accentuating the need for using technology and innovation as tools to drive the Indian economy, Ms Bhairavi Jani, National Yi Finance Chair, urged youth to take a lead in changing the polity of Indian democratic system. Over 150 Yi net Students attended the session, which was also address by Ms Anupama Arya, Chairperson, Yi Chandigarh and Ms Navita Mahajan, Youth Affairs Chair, Yi Chandigarh.

Water-Everyone's Business

Indore 20 February

At the seminar on 'Water – Everyone's Business,' Mr Sudhindra Mohan Sharma, who is a consulting hydro-geologist, explained about water conservation through movie slides. Mr Sharma urged Yi members to promote water conservation, and suggested project ideas, implementation, and monitoring of water conservation projects.

Session on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Coimbatore, 24 February

Yi conducted a session on the importance of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It was critical for employees in the workplace to understand and know the technique of CPR. CPR is a part of the basic life support system and is an emergency procedure to be followed during cardiac arrests" explained Dr M J

Farook, Cardiologist, KG Hospital, who followed his theoretical explanation with a step-by-step demonstration of the procedure of CPR on dummies. "The procedure should be practiced at least once in a month so that in case of emergency it can be used effectively", he advised. Dr Mohan Gandhi, Chief Physiotherapist, KG Hospital, made a presentation on first aid procedures for domestic and non domestic accidents.

Artificial Limb Donation

Pollachi, Coimbatore 21 February

Artificial limbs were donated to five disabled people at Pollachi, sponsored by Mr S Chandrasekhar, Chair, Health Focus, Yi Coimbatore Chapter and Partner, N Mahalingam & Co.



Artificial Limb Donation at Pollachi, Coimbatore

CII-The Asia Foundation's Session Future Direction of US Relations with India and the Region

Thought leaders and representatives of business, academia and media from both the US and India came together for a session on 'Future Direction of US Relations with India and the Region' on 29 January in New Delhi. The session was jointly organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the US-based Asia Foundation.

The session highlighted strategic key issues to strengthen US-India relations under the new American Administration. The deliberations of the panel ranged from deepening trade and commerce links, reforming global institutions, collaborating in technology innovations for addressing climate change, education, health, food

security, developing counter-terrorism strategies and ensuring stability in the Asian region.

Ambassador Naresh Chandra, former Indian Ambassador to the United States, while releasing The Asia Foundation's report titled, 'Future Direction of US Relations with India and the Region: Asian and American Views', stated that the recommendations of the report would serve as a useful guide as both the countries work towards rebuilding the regional architecture.

To strengthen US-India relations in the 21st century, Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, Former US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, outlined a seven-point agenda focusing on:

- Strengthening strategic ties
- Realizing economic potential
- Pursuing a broader nuclear dialogue
- Highlighting higher education
- Supporting India's UN bid
- Collaborating in India's neighborhood
- Promoting a cooperative US-India-China triangle

Prof. C. Raja Mohan, Prof. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, observed



Tarun Das, Chief Mentor, CII, John Brandon, Director of International Relations, The Asia Foundation, Prof. C. Raja Mohan, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Amb Karl F. Inderfurth, Former US Asst. Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs; Amb Naresh Chandra, Former Indian Ambassador to the United States and Amb Rajendra Abhyankar, Director, India Programs, The Asia Foundation



T N Ninan, CMD, Business Standard Ltd & Editor, Business Standard; Amb G Parathasarathy, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research; Amb Karl F. Inderfurth, Steven White, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy and Pramit Pal Choudhury, Senior Editor, Hindustan Times

that such close US- India cooperation would have been unthinkable two decades ago when it was believed that Anti-Americanism was part of Indian DNA! These seemingly constant political assumptions saw a complete turnaround with the closure of the nuclear deal and bilateral relations have been on upward track ever since.

Mr Steven White, Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy, recalled the Civil Nuclear Agreement, the Open Skies Agreement, Logistics Support Agreement and the Nehru Fullbright Scholarship Program as successful bilateral agreements.

Ambassador Parathasarathy, Visiting Professor, Centre for Policy Research, suggested resolution of issues in Afghanistan and 'regime change' by way of demilitarisation in Pakistan to bring stability in the entire South Asian region,

Apart from addressing political stability and counter-terrorism, it is crucial for both countries to deepen their trade and commerce links while maintaining a free market economy. Mr. T N Ninan, Chairman and Managing Director, Business Standard Ltd & Editor, Business Standard, evaluated bilateral economic growth. He said that preparing India not only as a services destination but also a major manufacturing base offering both cost efficiencies and quality management, would lead to developing new avenues for growth.

In sustaining economic growth, Mr. Pramit Pal Choudhury, Senior Editor, Hindustan Times, brought the attention to the need and opportunity for promoting higher education as well as collaborative research in addressing environmental issues related to climate change. The panellists also advocated India's membership to more multilateral institutions grappling with these issues.



Brajesh Mishra, Former National Security Adviser to the Government of India

At the luncheon session, Mr Brajesh Mishra, Former National Security Adviser to the Government of India stressed on China's cooperation in fighting the current global financial turmoil while reminding that collaboration with other countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will be equally important too. He mused that US aid of \$12 billion to Pakistan

over the last 10 years to fight extremist groups has failed to show concrete deliverables.

Ambassador SK Lambah, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister pointed to the necessity of the US helping India to usher a second Green Revolution through increased bilateral collaboration in the field of agricultural science and biotechnology. He felt agricultural collaboration between US and India was critical for the future of bilateral ties.

Mr Tarun Das, Chief Mentor, CII, concluded by saying that although more problems rise from more proximity, the energies of both countries must be focussed towards their resolution. Building a relationship is all about building trust and we are slowly moving towards a position of greater trust, he said.



Confederation of Indian Industry

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The latest edition of the **CII Directory of Members 2009** is now available. The Directory contains comprehensive information of over 7000 member organisations - large, medium and small – both from the public and the private sectors, as well as MNCs /associations affiliated to CII, which together form the powerhouse of India's economic growth.

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3rd India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave: Project Partnerships 2009

More than 50 business participants from 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries visited India to explore business opportunities

The Third India-Latin America and Caribbean Conclave: Project Partnerships 2009, brought together more than 50 business participants from 10 Latin American and Caribbean countries to meet with their Indian counterparts and discuss business opportunities on 24-25 February in Bangalore. The Conclave, a part of the long-term project for enhancing India's trade with Latin America and the Caribbean region under the Focus-LAC programme, is supported by the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, and of External Affairs.

The Chief Guest, Mrs Ana Vilma Albanez De Escobar, Vice President of El Salvador, visited India for the second time on the invitation of CII (she participated in Partnership Summit 2008). She participated in the Conclave and had one to one business meetings with business leaders in IT, pharmaceuticals and knowledge-based industries to discuss Joint Ventures and investments in El Salvador.

Though India-LAC trade has grown steadily over the last five years in a highly collaborative framework, the volumes are still very small. Figures suggest that only 2.88% of Indian exports go to the LAC region, and LAC exports account for a mere 1% of Indian imports. To augment trade volumes, India needs to seriously consider both product and geographical diversification in its trade with the LAC region, without diluting its trade ties with its most dominant LAC trade partner, Brazil.

The LAC region has emerged as a highly attractive investment destination for Indian companies, especially because of its geographical proximity to the US. In fact, many countries of this region, more so in Central

America, offer excellent near-shoring opportunities for Indian IT/ITES firms, healthcare companies and other service providers.

The LAC countries are also looking at India as a gateway to the Asian market, where commands a strong presence. Therefore, LAC companies could enter into strategic tie-ups with their Indian counterparts to make a dent in the Asian markets.

This collaborative approach is however not entirely reflected in the visa regime. Many LAC countries are seen to be going slow with granting long-term multiple-entry visas to Indian professionals. This is an area of concern which needs to be addressed soon.

It is seen that Indian industry has a relatively limited presence in the Central American region, mainly due to lack of awareness of the key business opportunities there. The Conclave provided insightful insights into those opportunities. For instance, Indian engineering companies could pursue business opportunities in the regional electricity infrastructure project that connects Mexico and the Central American states.

For India-LAC trade and investments to move to the next level, the governments need to address the long-standing issues concerning logistics and connectivity. The governments, for their part, should look to proactively improve the 'factory to factory' movement of cargo between the two regions. This will mean building the country's ports infrastructure, streamlining the various procedures, reducing the regional imbalances with regard to port handling, and improvement in the land side operations.



Roberto Paranhos Do Rio Branco, President, Brazil India Chambers of Commerce; Patricia Figueroa Rodriguez, Ambassador of El Salvador to India; Ana Vilma Albanez de Escobar, Vice President, El Salvador; and Madhur Bajaj, Chairman, CII-LAC Committee and Vice Chairman, Bajaj Auto Ltd.

Major LAC economies like Brazil could become agriculture offshoring centres for the world, on the lines of India functioning as a global knowledge hub. Brazil has ideal weather patterns, large tracts of arable land and advanced agro-processing technologies to become a global food producer. India could partner Brazil in taking this forward.

Brazil has also set a high watermark in the development and use of bio-fuels, another area where India can establish strong partnerships with the region. Indian bio-fuels technologies are already employed in the LAC region.

Tourism promotion is yet another area where India and the LAC countries could establish strong partnerships. As a case in point, it was suggested that India and Brazil could jointly promote eco-tourism. With India looking to increase its tourism infrastructure including hotels, many investment opportunities will arise for major LAC hospitality companies in this country. Besides, the LAC countries could look to garner a larger share of Indian outbound tourism business.

Business engagements aside, India and the LAC countries could benefit from joint initiatives in areas like education and training, SME promotion, healthcare services, and so on.

An interesting observation was the increasing use of English language by the business participants from the Latin American and Caribbean countries, clearly showing the fact that they are overcoming the language barrier and furthering growth in business.

India & Regional Markets

Views emerging from the discussions:

Mercosur has the necessary resources to provide food and energy security to India. The common market is geographically three times the size of India but its population is only a third of India. Argentina alone is nearly the size of India, but its population just equals the number of people living in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata.

The free port and airport in the capital city Montevideo could act as a logistics



K N Shenoy, Past President, CII and Chairman, Sobis Software India, with Ana Vilma Albanez De Escobar

hub for Indian companies looking to increase their marketing and distribution activities in Mercosur and the rest of LAC region.

The Andean community is keen to do business with India, as are the Central American Countries - the SICA, and the Caribbean Islands.

Credit

Mr Nadeem Panjetam, Head, Lines of Credit (LoCs), EXIM

Bank of India discussed with the participants the various Lines of Credit (LoCs) extended to the LAC countries to promote exports between India and the region.

Exim Bank of India has extended an aggregate \$164 million operative LoC to 14 LAC governments. The Bank has also extended LoCs of \$10 million each to financial institutions in the region, such as:

- Banco de Comercio Exterior de Colombia S.A., Colombia
- Corporacion Andina de Fomento (Andean Development Corporation) covering Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela
- Banco Nacional De Comercio Exterior S.N.C., Mexico
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration, covering Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador and Costa Rica
- Banco Bradesco S.A., Brazil.

The LoCs have been given for varied projects including a railway project in Ecuador, a cricket stadium in Guyana, and transmission lines in Suriname, to name a few.

Beyond Business

The Conclave started on a high note for India after the movie Slumdog Millionaire won 8 Oscars! Mr Madhur Bajaj, Chairman, CII-LAC Committee, invited the Vice President of El Salvador and her delegation to a private viewing of the Oscar winning movie, after a hard day of work at the Conclave.

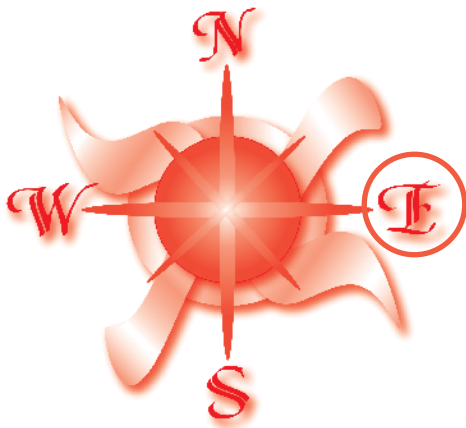
As part of the Dominican Republic delegation, Sandy Gabriel's merengue and Latin jazz band entertained participants of III Conclave of India-Latin America and Caribbean Business.

Focus Areas

- * IT & ITES
- * Agri Business
- * Tourism & Hospitality
- * Connectivity & Transportation
- * Energy, including renewable & biofuels
- * Pharma, Healthcare & Biotech

Participating Countries

Argentina, Brazil,
Columbia, Cuba,
Dominican Republic,
Ecuador, El Salvador,
Guatemala, Mexico,
Uruguay



Look East Policy can help India cope with Global Turmoil

India's Look East Policy could be a useful instrument in mitigating the adverse impacts of the crisis, and could better position India to benefit from the aftermath of the crisis, suggests Mukul G. Asher, Professor of Public Policy, at NUS, Singapore

Robust global economic growth and a benign external economic environment until recently are widely regarded as contributory factors in India registering annual real GDP growth of 8.8 percent between 2003-04 and 2007-08; and in India's total international trade exceeding US\$ 500 billion in 2007-08 (about 50 percent of GDP).

India, however, has not been immune to the current global financial and economic crisis, which arguably signifies an end of financial capitalism. This is reflected in sharp declines in asset valuations (particularly in the stock-markets), high currency volatility, and in higher cost and reduced availability of credit for households and businesses.

India faces diminished growth prospects for at least a year or two. GDP growth is projected to be only between 6.5 to 7.5 percent in 2008 and in 2009. Even this may prove to be optimistic if global recession becomes deeper and lasts longer than currently anticipated.

In responding to the current crisis, India's policy options are constrained by their inaction in undertaking reforms during the recent years of robust growth. In spite of the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act, the fiscal deficit has been permitted to once again

reach unsustainable levels (the combined central and state fiscal deficit is likely to be around 9 percent of GDP in 2007-08). India also has registered large trade and current account deficits, largely financed from foreign capital inflows and remittances. The current crisis is making it more difficult to sustain these twin deficits without high economic and social costs.

In addressing the current economic and social challenges, the main priority should be on domestic economic and governance reforms. India's Look East Policy (LEP), initiated in the early 1990s to revitalize age-old civilizational and economic links with the rest of Asia, could be a useful instrument in mitigating the adverse impacts of the crisis, and could better position India to benefit from the aftermath of the crisis.

The LEP has enabled India to considerably deepen its relations with the 10 ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries, China, Japan, and Korea. More recently, efforts to strengthen economic and political links with Australia are showing promise.

The call by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for greater monetary policy coordination across Asia to address the current global turmoil signifies strong desire for co-operation with the rest of Asia.

The Governor, however, warned against “institutional overload” in pursuing regional co-operation. This call is striking as there has been no serious consideration of Asia-wide response to the current global turmoil by other major countries. In contrast, coordinated actions by G7 countries have been designed to address the immediate aftermath of the crisis.

India has been a low-key but constructive participant as full Dialogue Partner of ASEAN; ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), devoted to security issues; Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM); and East Asia Summit (EAS), launched in Kuala Lumpur in 2005.

The EAS comprises 10 ASEAN members, India, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. It is increasingly regarded as the most appropriate forum for articulating and structuring Asia’s role in reforming global governance and institutions. Even during the current global crisis, the EAS as a group is likely to grow at considerably higher rates than the average growth in the developed countries, and in other regions. Deeper integration with the EAS members therefore could help sustain India’s external sector as an engine of growth.

Three major recent developments augur well for the use of LEP to help cope with the current crisis.

The first is the India-ASEAN PTA (Preferential Trade Agreement), covering merchandise trade, which will be formalized at the India-ASEAN Summit in Bangkok in December 2008. It provides for gradual elimination of tariffs on 80 per cent of tariff lines by 2015, while bringing the rate to 5 per cent on certain sensitive items.

The details of the PTA are not yet available. The actual impact will depend on implementation integrity, and on transaction costs of availing the benefits. Nevertheless, the symbolic significance of the formal PTA should not be underestimated.

India has reportedly been assured by the ASEAN side that it intends to pursue a separate bilateral agreement involving trade in services, movement of natural persons, and investments. The two agreements will provide better balance of the distribution of gains between the two sides.

The wider agreement with ASEAN could also help create a political and economic environment in which the Indian Diaspora acquires capacities to play a greater role in forging India-ASEAN partnership.

The second major development has been affirmation of India-Japan strategic and global partnership during the Indian Prime Minister’s recent visit to Japan. This partnership has economic, strategic, and environmental dimensions. Affirmation by both countries of the EAS as the primary forum for articulating Asia’s views of global affairs is of particular importance to India. The challenge is now for both countries to develop much greater economic and technological substance to their relationship.

The third major development has been the removal of obstacles which enables India to resume civilian nuclear trade and commerce. This could provide an added dimension to India-Southeast Asia; and in smoothening India’s relation with Japan and Australia (a major uranium producer).

India’s expertise in building and operating land-based small-sized nuclear power plants (220 MW and 440 MW heavy water reactors) are better suited to South East Asia’s power grid. India could cooperate with Vietnam and Indonesia in civilian nuclear power.

To realize the full potential of these positive developments, India must develop much greater expertise in geo-economics. Two initiatives merit consideration. First, vastly expand post-graduation education in strategic studies, international relations, and in public policy. Second, consider establishing a well-funded private-sector led think-tank, located outside of New Delhi, for researching, debating, communicating, and influencing foreign policy issues and options. As Indian businesses become more global, such a think-tank should be considered a natural outgrowth.

The current global crisis is far more serious than envisaged earlier. While the primary focus should be on domestic reforms, the recent developments augur well for India’s LEP to play a hopeful role in meeting the current economic challenges.

*This article on Global Financial Turmoil and India’s Look East Policy is an expanded version of the article published in the MINT (October 30, 2008). The author is Professor of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Views are personal. He can be reached at mukul.asher@gmail.com

China

report

China's Foreign Trade (in US\$ billion)

Trade	January 2009 \$ billion	Change
Total trade	141.80	-29.02%
Exports	90.45	-17.50%
Imports	51.43	-43.10%

Source: MOFCOM, PRC

CPI Rises 1%

China's consumer price index (CPI) in January rose only 1% year-on-year, the lowest in 30 months. The other measure of inflation, the producer price index (PPI), dropped 3.3%.

Manufacturing Contracts

China's manufacturing activity contracted for a fourth straight month in January as the global economic downturn continued. But Manufacturing showed improvement for a second consecutive month following a series of government policies to support the weakening economy. PMI of the manufacturing sector rose to 45.3% from 41.2% in December, and a record low of 38.8% in November.

20 million Workers Return

About 20 million of China's migrant workers, about 15% of the 130 million migrant workers, have returned home after losing their jobs.

Fiscal Deficit

China reported a fiscal deficit of 111 billion yuan (\$16.21 billion) in 2008. Fiscal revenue reached 6.13 trillion yuan in 2008, up 19.5% from the previous year.

Severe Drought

According to the Ministry of Agriculture of China, lack of rainfall has led to severe drought in northern China, affecting more than 9.3 million hectares of wheat. Government has allocated 86.7 billion yuan (about \$12.69 billion) from its reserve to drought-hit areas in relief funds.

Overseas Investment

China made \$52.15 billion of direct overseas investment (nearly double that of 2007) in 2008. Non-financial direct investment stands at \$40.65 billion and the other at \$11.5 billion.

Natural Gas Output Jumps

China's oil and natural gas production in 2008 maintained double-digit growth consecutively for the sixth year, with an increase of 13.7%, far surpassing the average annual global growth rate of 4%. China's output of natural gas has jumped to ninth in the world. China's crude oil output rose 2.3% year-on-year, the highest growth in three years.

Software Industry Revenue Grows

China's software industry reported a 29% revenue growth for 2008 from a year earlier. Software export soared 39% in 2008.

Mechanical-Electrical Trade Down

China's trade in mechanical and electrical products totaled \$75.34 billion in January, down 28.4% year-on-year. Exports fell 20.9% and imports slumped 39.3%. Mechanical and electrical products, together with other high-tech products, account for more than half of China's foreign trade.

Textile, Clothing Exports Slow Down

China sold abroad \$185.1 billion worth of textiles and clothing in 2008, a growth of 8.2%. The government has decided to increase the tax rebate rate for textile and garment exports from 14% to 15% to reduce exporters' costs.

Steel Makers' Net Profits Down

The aggregate net profit of 71 medium-sized and large steel producers fell 43% in 2008 to \$12.4 billion.

China, Vietnam Settle Border Issue

China and Vietnam on 23 February marked the final demarcation of their land border at the Youyiguan border

gate in Pingxiang City in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

China-Pakistan FTA

China and Pakistan signed the free trade agreement on service on 21 February during Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's visit to China.

Concern Over Trade Protectionism

The retention of the "Buy American" provision in the recently passed US economic stimulus plan to ensure that stimulus dollars do not head overseas, has attracted deep concern of the Chinese government. China's Ministry of Commerce voiced concern about trade protectionism in some countries, which it did not identify, amid fears that such action would aggravate the economic downturn. China has said that it was against any form of protectionism.

Cash Stimulus for Rio Tinto

China's mining giant Aluminium Corporation of China (Chinalco) announced that it would inject \$19.5 billion in cash into Rio Tinto. The cash injection is regarded as "firepower" for Rio Tinto, against the global economic downturn.

China Mobile Investments in Pakistan

China Mobile Communications Corporation (China Mobile) will invest another \$500 million in Pakistan during the year 2009 to build new network capacity and other infrastructure. The company has so far invested

\$1.66 billion in Pakistan and offered more than 41,700 jobs there. CM Pak Ltd., China Mobile's wholly owned subsidiary in Pakistan, is China Mobile's first overseas venture.

India China - Jiaxing Business Seminar



MoU between CII and the Jiaxing Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation Bureau

The Consulate General of India in association with CII and the Foreign Trade Economic Cooperation Bureau of Jiaxing (Zhejiang Province) organized an India China-Jiaxing Business Seminar on 20 February in Jiaxing. Consul General Riva Ganguly Das led one of the biggest multi-sector Indian business delegations, comprising of senior executives of 25 leading Indian companies from the Eastern China Region. Indian companies including Sundaram Fasteners, Thermax and Elgi (India) Equipments have set up manufacturing units in Jiaxing. A MoU of cooperation for exchange of delegations and promotion of closer business linkages was also concluded between CII and the Jiaxing Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation Bureau.

South East Asia

report

ASEAN / Southeast Asia

- The stock exchanges of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines will form an e-trading link for intra-ASEAN cross-border trading through one single access point. The e-trading link which is expected to go 'live' next year, aims to attract more international funds into ASEAN.
- The signing of the India-Asean trade agreement, scheduled on 27 February in Thailand, has been put on hold. 'Maybe at the Asean summit at the end of April,' said Mr Kamal Nath, Commerce and Industry, India. The IAFTA was originally scheduled to be signed in December 2008 but signing was put off following political instability in Thailand.
- Australia and New Zealand have respectively inked trade pacts with ASEAN in February. They called the

free trade agreement a blow against the prospect of rising protectionism amid the economic slump. "In these present economic conditions, to forge a free trade zone is a very strong affirmation from the countries concerned that their actions do speak louder than their words," said New Zealand's Trade Minister Tim Groser. Australia's annual two-way trade with Southeast Asian countries totals approximately US \$52 billion, while the region's annual two-way trade with New Zealand is about US \$6 billion.

- Finance ministers of Asean member countries plus Japan, China and South Korea have informally agreed to increase a regional emergency liquidity fund called the Chiang Mai Initiative from \$80 billion to \$120 billion to help the region's countries cope with the prevailing financial turmoil.

Cambodia

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has forecast that the kingdom's GDP growth will slow from 5% in 2008 to around 1% in 2009, as its pillar industries such as garments, construction and real estate as well as tourism will be hit by the global downturn. In its latest report, the IMF predicted 4.8% economic growth in this year, adding that foreign direct investment will decline and foreign reserves could fall.

Indonesia

- Indonesia's economy grew 5.2% in Q4 of 2008 from a year earlier, the slowest annual pace since mid-2006. A sharp decline in exports which account for 30% of Indonesia's GDP was the main reason for the slide. The government forecasts economic growth will slump to 4.5% this year from 6.1% in 2008.

- Indonesia's trade minister, Ms Mari Pangestu, said export volumes for non-oil and gas are set to fall 20% to 30% this year as global trade slows, with exports of automotive products and electronics worst hit. Indonesia's exports fell 20.6% in December from a year ago, the biggest drop in 7 years. While Indonesia is less dependent on exports than some others in the region, millions of Indonesians are employed in export-related sectors and the prospect of big job losses is a concern for the government ahead of the 9 April general election and 8 July presidential election.

- Indonesia will infuse a US \$6,047 million stimulus package to help boost its economy, effective from 1 March.

- Bank Indonesia lowered its benchmark overnight rate to 8.25% in early February and has indicated that it would cut further to support growth. Analysts expect measured easing ahead, bringing the rate down to 7.5% by year end.

- A regulation to protect the domestic steel industry requires that steel imports be verified by independent surveyors at the loading ports before being shipped to Indonesia. Further, steel producers and importers will be required to register with the trade ministry, effective 1 April until December 2010. The imports of steel under bilateral pacts will be exempt.

- The Indonesian government wants to make the use of biofuel mandatory from this year to ensure the survival of the fledgling industry, after biofuel became more expensive than crude oil-based fuel. It is also planning to pay a subsidy to biofuel producers to encourage them to stay in business.

- Nava Bharat (Singapore) Pte Ltd (NBS), a subsidiary of diversified Nava Bharat Ventures Ltd, has concluded definitive agreements with a coal mine owner in Indonesia.

Laos

- The Lao economy grew 7.9% in 2007-08, driven primarily by increased foreign investment and exports of mining commodities. Exports reached \$1 billion, but Laos still has a trade deficit of about \$80 million. Predictions indicate that Laos will experience economic growth of 6% to 6.5%.

- The Lao government is expected to waive visa fees for foreigners aged over 65 and younger than 15 years entering the country later this year to boost tourism.

Malaysia

- Southeast Asia's third-largest economy grew 0.1% in Q4, from a year earlier, down from a 4.7% gain in the previous 3 months. Economists had expected a 1.5% increase. Malaysia's manufacturing industry shrank, exports plunged 13.4% and investment declined for the first time since mid- 2002.

- Exports are expected to fall further this year. With external demand collapsing, Malaysia's externally oriented \$181 billion economy has "little chance" of avoiding a recession. Manufacturing industry lost 18,578 jobs last year.

- Bank Negara Malaysia introduced its third key interest rate cut to facilitate the release of funds into the financial system.

- Fitch Ratings lowered Malaysia's local currency rating outlook to negative from stable, while affirming the foreign currency outlook as stable at A-minus.

- International Trade Minister Muhyiddin said the government will relax some of its pro-Malay economic policies as part of a major stimulus package to keep the economy from faltering further. He said the Cabinet had agreed to liberalise foreign investment rules particularly in the services sector.

- Malaysia has banned the hiring of new foreign workers in factories, stores and restaurants fearing more job losses for locals.

Myanmar

- Rising prices for opium in Southeast Asia and the global economic downturn may trigger a surge in the cultivation of the illegal drug in Burma, which until recently was in sharp decline. A United Nations report said that the land under opium climbed to 28,500 hectares last year. [Nearly all the world's opium comes from Afghanistan but military-ruled Burma is the second biggest source, accounting for almost 5% of global production.] In 1999 the country set out to become opium-free by 2014.

Philippines

- The Philippine economy grew a seasonally adjusted 1% in Q4 of 2008 from Q3, higher than forecasts of a 0.7% growth. Full-year growth for 2008 was 4.6%, the lowest since 2002, but above market expectations. The government is targeting 3.7% to 4.7% growth for 2009.
- Philippine exports plunged 40.4% in December, its steepest fall in more than two decades, with more pain expected in the first quarter.
- Growth in the Philippines is set to slow sharply this year with falling global demand and a drop in remittances from Filipinos working abroad, says the IMF. The IMF added that inflation targeting has helped anchor inflation, and urged the authorities to cut interest rates if required. Remittance from Filipinos abroad is likely to slow this year to about 6% from 15% growth in the first 11 months of 2008.
- Philippine annual inflation eased to 7.1% in January, the lowest rate in 10 months, with food and fuel making the most significant impact in its CPI basket. Inflation has steadily decelerated from a near 17-year high of 12.5% in August.

Singapore

- The Singapore economy grew by 1.1% in 2008, compared to 7.8% a year earlier, as a slump in exports and a weakening financial services industry pushed the island deeper into recession. Economists say the growth numbers will continue to be dismal. Non-oil exports fell 35% percent in January from a year earlier, the worst fall since records began in 1977. The government expects GDP to shrink 2% to 5% this year.
- The Singapore Exchange is introducing measures to make it easier and faster for listed companies to raise funds by selling new shares.
- Singapore, Qatar, and Switzerland will partner the World Economic Forum in its new initiative to establish a Global Cooperation System (GCS) that aims to develop an interdisciplinary approach to governance.

Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy will take the lead in bringing together experts and thought leaders from Singapore and Asia to contribute to the exchanges through the year.

- The Bihar government has offered two plots of land to the Singapore Buddhist Lodge to build a Pilgrim Centre for Singaporeans visiting Bodh Gaya.
- Elara Capital (Singapore), a recently set up subsidiary of UK-based Elara Capital, plans to facilitate investments in Indian companies from Singapore and neighbouring regions in infrastructure, healthcare, services and consumer products.
- Bartronics India Ltd's Singapore unit has been awarded a trial order for 48,000 radio frequency identification tags from Singapore's Housing Development Board.
- Singapore Airport Terminal Services (SATS) says the Government of India has approved the proposal of the National Aviation Company of India (NACIL) to establish a 50:50 joint venture with SATS for ground handling in India. SATS and NACIL are already collaborating in two greenfield metro airports in Hyderabad and Bangalore.
- Raffles Education Corporation, the largest private education provider in the Asia Pacific region, will establish the Raffles International College in New Delhi through its joint venture with Educomp Solutions. The college will offer Advanced Diplomas in Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Multimedia Design, Fashion Marketing and Management, Business Management and Tourism and Hospitality Management, and is targeting its first intake in April.
- Singapore's DBS Bank will subscribe for Rs 150 crore of new capital to be raised by its 37.5-owned associate, Cholamandalam DBS Finance (Chola DBS). The Murugappa Group has pledged an equal amount. Subject to regulatory and Chola DBS shareholders' approvals, the capital infusion is expected to be completed by March 2009.



Second India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue participants with co-chairs Ambassador Tommy Koh, Ambassador-At-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, and Ambassador S K Lambah, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister of India

- Singapore Telecommunications Ltd has received the Indian government's permission to offer long-distance phone services.
- Tata Communications announced a \$430 million strategic investment plan in the Asia Pacific region, which will include developing the Tata Communications Exchange, a world-class Internet Data Center in Singapore, to be operational in 2010, as well as the completion of the main segment of the company's \$250 million TGN-Intra Asia Cable System which connects Singapore, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Philippines and Japan.

Thailand

- Thailand's economy grew by just 2.6% last year, down from 4.9% in 2007, due largely to a drop in exports, tourism and production. The economy may contract as much as 1% in 2009 due to sharp drops in exports and tourism falloff with global recession.
- The final quarter of 2009 is expected to be a "turning point" for the Thai economy as effects from the government's \$3.2 billion package of short term measures, set to enter the economy in April, kick in. The government is also designing a second package worth \$52.6 billion to boost investment and create jobs.
- Kingfisher Airlines will schedule daily services from Bangalore to Bangkok starting this March using A321 jetliners. Flights to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur are also reportedly on its schedule for launching in the first quarter.

Vietnam

- Vietnam may soon allow private investments in telecommunications infrastructure. The policy rethink was prompted by studies showing that local private firms were not keen on participating in such undertakings because of the high capital expenditure and lower rates of return compared with other service-based businesses.
- Vietnam plans to increase local-currency bond sales to \$1.3 billion in the first quarter to fund a \$6 billion economic stimulus package announced last December. The government forecast its budget deficit may reach \$5.99 trillion this year.

Australia

- Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd won parliamentary approval for a \$28 billion stimulus plan to prevent the country's first recession in 18 years. The package, equivalent to 1.3% of Australia's GDP this fiscal year is expected to help the economy grow by 1% this financial year and 0.75% in the next.

- The Reserve Bank of Australia further cut the benchmark interest rate in mid-February to 3.25%, the lowest since 1964.

- Australian business capital spending defied expectations of a 3.3% contraction or more, jumping 6.0% in the fourth quarter of 2008 to an inflation adjusted \$16.6 billion. However analysts advise caution as 10 of the country's major trading partners have fallen into the recessionary pit, and businesses are cutting spending plans.

The IMF forecast in January that Australian GDP will shrink 0.2% in 2009.

New Zealand

- New Zealand's economic outlook worsened with the release of government accounts showing operating balance in deficit by \$3.1 billion. The shortfall is expected to persist through the 2009-10 fiscal year. New Zealand sank into recession last year after a drought and the end of a property boom, with the global financial crisis adding more gloom. Government forecasts suggest unemployment could rise from 4.2% to 7.5% by next year.
- New Zealand manufacturing activity contracted for the ninth straight month in January, showing little prospect of early recovery.
- Businesses are hoping that the current level of the New Zealand dollar against its major trading partners will help boost new orders from offshore, as domestic spending has fallen sharply. The Reserve Bank of New Zealand is expected to cut interest rates in March to help cushion the impact of the global downturn.
- India's Commerce & Industry Minister, Mr. Kamal Nath, and his New Zealand counterpart, Mr. Tim Groser, have agreed to begin negotiations for a bilateral free-trade agreement later this year. Minister Nath said "in the current financial year, bilateral trade has already reached \$394 million in the first 7 months at a growth rate of 40%." India's exports to New Zealand include gems and jewellery, medicines, textiles, iron and steel products tyres and parts of aeroplanes/helicopters. New Zealand exports coal, wool, wood, metal waste/scrap, and raw skins/hides to India.

Event

- Second India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue. 9-10 February, New Delhi

Standards Conformance

CII, in collaboration with the US Trade Development Agency (USTDA), American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Bureau of Indian Statistics (BIS) organized the launch of the US India Standards and Conformance Cooperation Program on 20 February. The programme was launched in the US at the USTDA Headquarters in Virginia on 3 March. The initiative is designed to help companies augment Indo-US trade by enhancing



Bhaskar Bhat, Chairman CII National Committee on Gems & Jewellery; Holly Vineyard, ITA, US; Anil Mukim, Jt. Secretary, Commerce, India; Sharad Gupta, Director General, BIS; Yashwant Bhawe, Secretary, Consumer Affairs, India; Joe Bhatia, President & CEO, ANSI; Mark Dunn, Regional Manager for Asia, USTDA; and Girdhar J Gyani, Secretary General, Quality Council of India

cooperation on standards and conformance issues. The programme provides information on conformance procedures, technical regulations, and trade capacity building initiatives, emphasizing regulations and measures that help against consumer exploitation, prevent international disputes and help to increase market access.

The speakers at the New Delhi launch included Ms Holly Vineyard, Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Trade Administration, US Department of Commerce, Mr Joe Bhatia, President and CEO, ANSI, Mr Mark Dunn, Regional Manager, Asia, USTDA; Mr Yashwant Bhawe, Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, and Mr Sharad Gupta, Director General, BIS.

India-USA Plastics Industry Summit

The India-USA Plastics industry Summit jointly organised by CII and PlastIndia, aimed at strategic cooperation, market sharing and trade complementation between the two countries to further growth prospects and augment trade in the plastics sector. The Summit discussed investment opportunities, technology upgradation, joint ventures, policy framework, and legal aspects, etc. The Summit was inaugurated by Mr G K Pillai, Commerce Secretary, India. Mr. Carmine D'Aloisio, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, US Commercial Service, US Embassy; Mr. Kamal Nanavaty,

President, Polymers, Crackers & Chemical Sector, Reliance Industries Ltd; Mr. Neil Pratt, Sr. Director, International Trade and Trade Counsel; The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc and Mr. Arvind Mehta, President, PlastIndia Foundation were among the key speakers.

IPR Summit

CII and USIBC collaborated with George Washington University in organising the 6th annual Intellectual

Property Rights Summit in India. An intellectual property and corporate law delegation from the US participated in the Summit which featured an IP symposium, round-

table discussions, meetings and networking events on 23-24 February, followed by a programme with the Indian Patent Office on Patent Applications, Examinations and Appeals, and a corporate law event with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs. The delegates included Judge Randall Rader, US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Mr Frederick Lawrence, Dean, GWU Law School, Judge Ronald Whyte, Executive Director, American Intellectual Property Law Association, and Mr Dominic Keating, US IP Attaché for India, among others.

AERO India

The participation from the USA was among the largest at Aero India 2009, a mega biennial aero-space and defence air show organized by the Ministry of Defence in association with CII. The US contingent included participation of most of the defence industry majors,



US Exhibitors showcasing defense equipment and technology at Aero India

who showcased aircrafts and sophisticated equipment highlighting the US desire for increased defence cooperation with India. Aero India also featured participation of a strong Executive Defence Delegation of the US India Business Council (USIBC). CII facilitated meetings of this delegation with the Secretary, Defence Production, Joint Secretary, Exports, the Air Chief and Naval Chief, of India.



Global Executive MBA module in session at CII Institute of Quality

As a precursor to Aero India, the 2nd India Regional Offset Conference was held on 9-10 February in New Delhi. The conference was organised by CII in partnership with Global Offsets and Countertrade Association of USA, and supported by USIBC.

Illinois as a Manufacturing Hub

CII, in partnership with the State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity organised interactive sessions, aimed at connecting the Indian industry with economic opportunities in the State of Illinois, in Chandigarh on 19 February, Mumbai on 26 February and New Delhi on 27 February. The discussions



J Bhattacharjee, MD, State of Illinois – India Office, New Delhi, Rajinder Bedi, MD, Office of Trade and Investment, Dept of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois, USA, and Neelabh Bhattacharya, Executive Director, Suzlon Energy Ltd. at the Session in Mumbai

covered agricultural productivity and machinery, food processing and related equipment, biotechnology, plastics and building collaborations towards energy conservation, renewable energy and climate change. Mr. Rajinder Bedi, Managing Director, Office of Trade and Investment, and Mr. Joti Bhattacharjee, Managing Director, Illinois India Office, interacted with participants on potential areas of business collaboration.

Global Executive MBA Module

Georgetown University, USA and ESADE launched the 4th module of the schools' new Global Executive MBA programme in Bangalore from 4-14 February. The programme, conducted in collaboration with CII and the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, is an innovative approach to graduate business education. The course content is matched to locations worldwide in which the topics are best learned. The 2-week module in Bangalore focused on managing knowledge and human capital and featured all-day sessions at the CII Institute of Quality, half-day case study sessions at Cisco, Philips

Innovation Campus, and the Infosys Learning Center in Mysore, and a joint networking session with Advanced Management students at IIM Bangalore. It was a great way for CII to market India to the 32 GEMBA students, who came from 12 countries in three continents.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

On 17 February, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was signed by President Obama. The \$ 787 billion economic stimulus package comprises of 30% spending through tax cuts and 70% domestic spending through grants to states, funding for highway construction, and other infrastructure projects, which are expected to create 3-4 million jobs over the next few years. There is heavy emphasis on alternative energies, health, water, education, and unemployment benefits.

The 'Buy American' clause in ARRA requires that only iron and steel 'produced in America' should be used in infrastructure projects barring a few exceptions. This sentiment has raised concerns and elicited criticism all over the world although America has assured that the protectionist provisions will be applied in a manner consistent with US obligations under international agreements. As Iron and Steel are among India's top exports to USA, Indian exports will likely be adversely affected.

ARRA also prevents US companies availing benefits under the Act from hiring employees on H1-B visas. Industry estimates suggest nearly 100,000 Indians were among the 163,000 that had applied for non-immigrant skilled workers on H1-B visa in FY 09. Indian immigrants in the US may now be on the losing end.

US-India: Bilateral Update

India-US Trade (January-December 2008)

Trade	Value \$ billion
Total trade	44.42
US's exports to India	18.66
India's exports to US	25.76
India's trade surplus	7.1

Mr Richard Holbrooke, US Special Envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, reached New Delhi on 15 February to consult India on problem of terrorism afflicting the region. He met with External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, National Security Adviser M K Narayanan and Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon amongst others.

US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced a one- year stay (effective until 10 February 2010), providing temporary, limited relief from testing and certification requirements for crafters, children's garment manufacturers, toy makers, manufacturers and importers of certain other products intended for children 12 years old and younger.

US Economic Watch

Gross Domestic Product decreased at an annual rate of 3.8% in the fourth quarter of 2008, from the third quarter. In the third quarter, GDP decreased by 0.5 %.

The U.S. international trade deficit, at \$39.9 billion, is on the decline, down from \$41.6 billion in November and \$57.2 billion in October.

The number of jobs slashed by US companies in January 2009 reached 598,000, while the unemployment rate - 4.4 per cent before the credit crisis - jumped to 7.6 per cent, its highest level since 1992. The economy has lost 3.6 million jobs since the recession began in December 2007, and half of this decline has occurred during the last three months.

US Foreign Trade (January-December 2008)

Trade	Value \$ billion
Total trade	3480.1
Exports	1344.5
Imports	2135.6
Trade Deficit	791.2

International

news

Denmark

Indian Danish Water Days Conference



Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for the Environment, Denmark, Prof Saif-ud-Din Soz, Union Minister for Water Resources, India, and Phiroz Adi Vandrevala, Executive Director & Head, Global Corporate Affairs, TCS

CII, jointly with the Trade Council of Denmark, India, The Embassy of Denmark in India and the Water Training Consulting (WTC) organised a conference on 'Indian Danish Water Days' on 20 February in New Delhi.

In his inaugural remarks, Prof. Saif-ud-Din Soz, Minister for Water Resources, India, assured that while the figures relating to per capita water availability in India are alarming (it has come down from 5,100 m³ in 1951 to 1,700 m³ today) there is a silent movement in the country in the field of water management, and farmers are responding to the efforts that have been launched by the government.

He said that India has taken some exemplary steps in recharging ground water and rain harvesting. The Ministry of Water Resources has formed a National Advisory Council on groundwater recharging, which has recommended setting up 5,000 centres in the country where scientists could interact with farmers, and advise them on better irrigation options and seed technology. The Minister welcomed the opportunity to share ideas and experiences with Mr Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for the Environment, Denmark.

Mr Poulsen spoke about Danish success in water management that combined economic growth with environment protection. India, he suggested, needs to link up with business partners for technological cooperation. Danish environmental technological companies, he pointed out, are strong and competent providers of solutions to the demands of India. Substantiating the point, he informed that water consumption in Denmark had come down by 30% over the last 30 years, and groundwater there is of such high quality that one could drink it without any treatment!

Mr Ole Lonsmann Poulsen, Ambassador of Denmark, said that there is no argument against cost of environment protection in the middle and long term. He called for India and Denmark to work together to protect the environment.

The session was followed by presentations from each of the seven top participating Danish companies, and business-to-business meetings with 25 counterpart representatives from Denmark who attended the conference.

Finland

Finland sees Huge Opportunities in India

CII organised an interactive meeting with Dr. Paavo Vayrynen, Minister of Foreign Trade and Development, Finland and the accompanying delegation on 5 February in New Delhi.

Dr Paavo Vayrynen said that amid the global financial crisis, Finland sees huge opportunities in India. The Finnish government is trying to cut cost burdens, improve banking infrastructure and extend capital benefits for commerce. He added that their meeting with Mr. Kamal Nath, Commerce and Industry Minister, India, last year, held the promise of doubling two-way trade in four years. At present Finnish companies employ 30,000 people in India.



Members at the luncheon session with Wolfgang Tiefensee, Federal Minister of Transport, Building & Urban Affairs, Germany

Plenipotentiary Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. said the delegation was exploring investments in the infrastructure. Mr. Sanjay Sethi, Executive Director, Kotak Investment Bank, highlighted the immense opportunities in power and transportation sectors in India.

Mr. Bharat Wakhlu, Resident Director, The Tata Group, recalling the long-standing ties between Germany and India, called for closer collaboration. CII is looking forward to working closely with Germany in the fields of new innovative technologies in Manufacturing, Biotechnology, Renewable Energy, Technology Transfer for the SME sector and Infrastructure development.



Pekka Puustinen, Deputy Director General, Dept of Asia and Americas, MFA, Dr Paavo Väyrynen, Minister for Foreign Trade & Development, Finland, and Tapani Järvinen, Chairman of the Business Delegation, Chairman, Cleantech Finland Business Forum, and President & CEO, Outotec Oyj

Mr. Tapani Jarvinen, Chairman of the Business Delegation, said that to India should have the best of affordable, clean and green technology to become a key destination for manufacturing, and highlighted the Finnish commitment to combine development with climatic concerns.

Germany

Strengthening Ties with Germany

CII hosted a luncheon meeting in honour of Mr Wolfgang Tiefensee, Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Germany, on 6 February in New Delhi.

Welcoming Indian enterprises to invest in Eastern Germany, Mr. Tiefensee, mentioned that German companies would like to engage with Indian counterparts in PPP ventures, specifically in the infrastructure and automotive sector. He said the delegation had signed a contract to create an Indo- German working group between India and Germany for cooperation in the automotive sector.

Mr. Bernd Mutzelburg, Ambassador Extraordinaire and

Iran

International North-South Transport Corridor

CII organised a brainstorming session on the International North – South Transport Corridor (INSTC) to facilitate the ongoing discussions. Mr Sayed Mahdi Nabizadeh, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran was the Guest of Honour, and Mr. Sanjay Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ambassador Designate to Iran, was the Chief Guest at the meeting held on 27 February in New Delhi.

Mr. R N Tripathy, Deputy Secretary, Shipping, India, informed that the agreement on INSTC was signed between the governments of India, Russian Federation and Iran in 2000. The proposed INSTC, he said, would provide a much shorter route between Mumbai and Moscow.

Ambassador Nabizadeh highlighted the importance of INSTC, which would save around 40% in travel time



T C A Raghavan, Joint Secretary (PAI), Ministry of External Affairs, HSayed Mahdi Nabizadeh, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Sanjay Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Ambassador Designate to Iran

and 30% in freight costs. He noted that talks for its progress have been sporadic, with the last meeting held in 2005. He expressed his willingness to help sort out the differences, if any, for an early conclusion of INSTC.

Mr. T C A Raghavan, Joint Secretary (PAI), External Affairs, called for greater engagement to facilitate the implementation of INSTC, while highlighting the enormous gains it offered for the whole region. that would emanate, from an early conclusion of INSTC. Mr. Raghavan felt lack of clarity about the benefits of INSTC was the main reason for the delay in its implementation.

Mr. Sanjay Singh, expressed hope that INSTC would, like the traditional Silk Route, facilitate greater interaction among Asian countries. The participants at the meeting suggested a joint mechanism to facilitate an early conclusion to INSTC.

Members from industry, think tanks, diplomats from Russia and other CIS countries attended the brainstorming.

Business Delegation from Iran



S Sarchami, President, Iran-Qazvin Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines (centre)

CII organised a B2B meeting with a 17 member high level business delegation from the Iran-Qazvin Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, in New Delhi on 27 February. The meeting was attended by more than 25 CII member companies.

The leader of the delegation, Mr S Sarchami, President, Iran-Qazvin Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, highlighted the opportunities and facilities available in Iran's Qazvin Province for Indian companies.

As a follow up to the visit, a CII business delegation will visit Iran in April 2009. To participate in the delegation please contact p.haridas@cii.in

Pakistan

CII meets Pakistan Peace Delegation

A high level 12-member Pakistan Peace Delegation visiting India as part of an Indo-Pak Joint Signature Campaign had a meeting with CII on 3 March in New Delhi. The objective of the delegation was to give a message for peace and cooperation between India and Pakistan, and strongly condemn terrorism and war.

The Leader of the Delegation, Mr Syed Iqbal Haider, Former Attorney General of Pakistan and Former



Karamat Ali, Executive Director, PILER; Syed Iqbal Haider, Co-Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, former Attorney General of Pakistan & former Federal Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Pakistan; B M Kutty, Trade Union Leader, Pakistan; Amd. V B Soni, Chairman, Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (India) Pvt Ltd and S Sen, Principal Adviser, CII

Federal Minister of Law, Justice and Human Rights, Co-Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said that there is need for restoring peace between India and Pakistan; conflict resolution; and demilitarisation and democratisation of Pakistan. The delegates praised India for not terminating rail / road links between the two nations after Mumbai siege, unlike in 2001 when India terminated all trade contacts with Pakistan following a terrorist attack.

Mr. Haider highlighted whenever India and Pakistan try to reach peace consensus, some mishap occurs and terminates the entire exercise. Both nations should not stop taking peace talks, he said, pointing out that Pakistan was vulnerable to terrorism and the Taliban.

Mr. Karamat Ali, Executive Director, Pakistan Institute of Labour Education & Research (PILER), said, SAARC provides an effective platform for conflict resolution, and urged both India and Pakistan to make effective use of it. Peace negotiation can further be augmented by trade interactions. Unfortunately only 5% of possible trade between India and Pakistan takes place. This can be taken to commendable figures, by opening up our borders and instigating confidence in the markets, he said.

Ambassador Mr. V.B. Soni, Chairman, Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (India) Pvt. Ltd. said, Indian products reach Pakistan via Dubai. Therefore market exists but trade arrangement to exploit this potential is unavailable. Pakistan and India must develop institutional framework for trade interaction and involve with each other in fields of Technology, Education, Health, Information Technology, and Environment amongst others, he said.

Mr. S. Sen, Principal Advisor, CII, said that industry can collaborate to develop programmes in key sectors like IT, Agriculture, Pharmaceutical etc. India and Pakistan both need massive programmes for skills development. More people-to-people contact will pave way for strengthening bilateral relations. Thus visa facilitation process should be made simpler and effective, he stressed.

The delegation also had meetings with civil society organisations, trade union and mass movement leaders, media and Industry, during their India visit.



India

Regional round up

east

Bihar

Skill Development Course

Aurangabad, 5 February

A skill development programme on mobile repairing and servicing was inaugurated by Mr. Nikhil Kumar, Member of Parliament, in Aurangabad. The programme, under CII's skill development initiative, will train 30 youth for one month in the first batch. This programme was jointly organized by the CII and the Department of MSME, Bihar.

Release of Bihar@2022 Document

Patna, 25 February

The Bihar Annual Session was addressed by Mr. Satyajit Singh, Chairman, CII Bihar State Council and Mr Sandipan Chakravorty, Chairman, CII Eastern Region. The Bihar vision document – Bihar @ 2022 was released on the occasion.

Chhattisgarh

Chhattisgarh @ 2022

Raipur, 21 February

Mr P Joy Oommen, Chief Secretary, Chhattisgarh, unveiled 'Chhattisgarh @ 2022 - a Vision' prepared by CII under its national level initiative of India@75 with inputs from the Boston Consulting Group. The vision provided in this document reflects the aspirations of the people of the state.

HR in times of Recession

Raipur, 21 February

At the CII Chhattisgarh Annual General Meeting. Mr. S K Jain, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh reviewed the activities for the year. On the occasion, a session on 'Role of HR in times of Recession' was also organised.

Chhattisgarh Youth Festival

Raipur, 24 February

CII Chhattisgarh organised the first-ever state level youth festival in Raipur. The event was inaugurated by Mr Brij Mohan Agrawal, Minister, Tourism & Culture. Dr Raman Singh, Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh, addressed the closing ceremony.

The festival featured a Career Fair where more than 30 companies and institutes participated. A career-

counselling zone, tech fair, cultural competition, elocution contest, etc were also organised.

Jharkhand

MSME Sensitization Programme on IPR

Jamshedpur, 12 February

CII in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, organised a one day sensitization program on Intellectual Property Rights. The programme discussed how to manage invention and its transition, disseminate best practices for catalyzing and commercializing MSMEs, raise the level of awareness and knowledge about IPR issues, and leverage innovative initiatives for inclusive and sustainable growth. The session sought to develop a broad understanding of the need to integrate IP in innovation and strategic business planning of an MSME.

Effective Inventory Management

Jamshedpur, 25 February

Proper inventory control systems and processes reduce storage and transportation costs and manage and use inventory more effectively. A seminar gave the participants an opportunity to understand the principles and practices of 'Effective Inventory Management'.

Orissa

People First

Bhubaneswar, 5 February

A session on 'HR Needs' titled 'People First' had Mrs. Subha Sarma, Director, Employment Mission, Orissa, as the chief guest.

Good Governance, Public Disclosure

Bhubaneswar, 20 February

The session on 'Voluntary Sector Norms for Good Governance, Public Disclosure' provided a platform for Corporate CSR departments and NGOs to exchange ideas for a more accountable, transparent and democratic voluntary sector. The session was held to promote good governance, accountability and transparency in the Voluntary sector.

IT Awards 2009

Bhubaneswar, 20 February

The IT awards reward best practices of IT initiatives in organizations. This year, in the 3rd edition of the



IT Award winners

awards, Balasore Alloys Ltd. & Luminous Infoways were the winners in the Service User and Service Provider category respectively.

West Bengal

Energy Conclave 2009

Kolkata, 3-4 February



Inaugural session of Energy Conclave 2009

The Energy Conclave 2009 brought representatives from the oil, gas, power, generation, transmission, market development and other related sectors together for a meaningful B2B dialogue. The conclave was addressed by Mr Sunil Mitra, Additional Chief Secretary, Power, West Bengal, Mr. P K Sen, Advisor, Coal & Oil, & Director, Coastal Energen Pvt. Ltd, and Mr Malay Kumar De, Chairman and Managing Director, WBSEDCL, beside others.

Tourism East

Kolkata, 6 February

CII Eastern Region, along with the Department of Tourism, West Bengal, organized a conference and exposition "TOURISM EAST 2009: Unveiling a Dream Destination." The event projected Eastern India - West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa, as a unique tourism destination. Mr Manabendra Mukherjee,



Manabendra Mukherjee, Minister, Tourism, West Bengal, inaugurating Tourism East 2009

Minister, Tourism, West Bengal, and Mr. T.V.N. Rao, Managing Director, West Bengal Tourism, Development Corporation Ltd, addressed the inaugural session.

Natural Gas Distribution Networks

Kolkata, 6 February

The Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has notified the regulation for authorization of City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects. PNGRB has now started the processing of EOIs leading to authorization for CGD projects and authorization of existing entities for CGD. To enable entities to bid for CGD networks, CII, in association with PNGRB, organised a roundtable in Kolkata. Mr L Mansingh, Chairman, PNGRB, and other members, participated in the roundtable.

Accelerating Agribusiness

Kolkata, 11 February



Naren De, Minister, Agriculture, West Bengal

CII, in association with the Department of Agriculture, West Bengal, organized its flagship conference "Accelerating Agribusiness: Financial Inclusion through Agriculture Credit" to showcase

the contribution and commitments of the government and government institutions, private sector, financing bodies, SHGs, PSUs and other organizations, to ensure the growth of agriculture sector in the country.

Mr Naren De, Minister, Agriculture, West Bengal, Mr. T. Nand Kumar, Secretary, Agriculture & Cooperation, India, Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, Secretary, Agriculture, West Bengal, and Mr. Rajiva Sinha, Secretary, Food Processing & Horticulture, West Bengal, addressed the conference.

Business Continuity Management

Kolkata, 12 February

Business Continuity Management is a systems approach based on good practices of organizations, irrespective of their size or nature of business. CII Eastern Region organized a seminar on this integrated approach to Business Continuity Planning.

Prospects of Tea Tourism

Siliguri, 17 February

The CII North Bengal Zonal Council organized a roundtable on Tea Tourism. Mr. Gopal Lama, Joint Director, Tourism, West Bengal, Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, Chairman, CII ER and Mr G S Hora, Chairman, CII North Bengal zonal council led the discussions on the prospects and challenges of Tea Tourism in North Bengal.

Environment and Waste Management

Kharagpur, 12 February

The Haldia zonal office organized a workshop on 'Environment and Waste Management – Green Technologies for Sustainable Development and Growth' to spread awareness on environmental issues pertaining mainly to the manufacturing industry.



Workshop on Environment & Waste Management

Fumigation for Exports

Kolkata, 20 February

Fumigation, a process to control insects and animal pests, plays an important role in exports. The seminar on Fumigation & Export Credit Insurance discussed fumigation under ISPM 15 & AQIS standard. It also described the different instruments available on Credit Insurance.

CII Kolkata Marathon 2009

Kolkata, 22 February

CII, along with the Athletics Coaches Association of Bengal organised the 6th Kolkata Marathon. Mr. Gautam Mohan Chakraborty, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, participated in the 6th sixth edition of the Marathon, which

saw the participation of more than 25,000 people.

SME East 2009

Kolkata, 28 February

The 2nd edition of SME East showcased the opportunities, addressed the concerns and guided MSMEs in enhancing their competitiveness to become global players. The seminar mainly focused on compliance required for MSMEs to avail finance from banks. A

CII Study on 'SME Financing – Issues and Perspectives of Eastern Region' was released by Mr Manabendra Mukherjee, Minister, MSME, West Bengal.



Inauguration of CII Kolkata Marathon 2009



Unveiling of the CII Study on 'SME Financing – Issues and Perspectives of Eastern Region'

India

Regional round up

north east

CII Industry Pavilion

28 January–6 February, Agartala, Tripura

The CII North East Council in association with the Ministry for the Development of the North East Region (DoNER) and the Government of Tripura set up a CII Industry Pavilion at the Tripura Industries and Commerce Fair at Agartala. Mr Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister of Tripura was the Chief Guest at the event.

The Industry Pavilion was set up to project the capabilities of Tripura in order to attract business opportunities in the state, build market linkages and also promote bilateral trade from Tripura with neighbouring countries.



Manik Sarkar, Chief Minister of Tripura inaugurating the CII Industry Pavilion at Agartala



CSR Best Practices Meet

Chandigarh, 4 February



Meira Kumar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, releasing the CSR Newsletter on Affirmative Action

Mrs Meira Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, was the chief guest at CII Northern Region's CSR Best Practices Meet, "From Ideas to Action." Ms Kumar released a knowledge report on social issues related to Haryana, Himachal and Punjab. She also released CII Northern Region's Newsletter on CSR 'Endeavour' presenting CII and member companies' initiatives on Affirmative Action.

The CSR Meet deliberated on issues like Gender Discrimination and Sustainable Livelihood Options. It presented a blueprint on how CSR strategies and activities could be successfully carried out, enabling participants take the next steps into actualising their CSR plans.

Conference on Carbon Credits

New Delhi, February 24

The government is upscaling the Bachat Lamp Yojana, the CDM-based compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) scheme, to cover all states and Union Territories following the success of the two pilot schemes in Vishakhapatnam and Yamunanagar in sharply reducing domestic electricity consumption. In line with this theme, CII Northern Region organised a conference on Carbon Credits.

Dr Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, said that the Yojana seeks to utilize the clean development mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. He informed that under this tripartite public-private partnership between the Central Government, the private sector and state electricity distribution companies, high quality CFLs would be distributed at about Rs 15 per piece, with the balance cost being recovered by the private sector partner through certified mission reduction (CER) credits.

Mr. Hari S Bhartia, Chairman, CII Energy Council & Co-Chairman and Managing Director, Jubilant Organosys Ltd, noted that even though CDM projects in India

were largely in the small and medium sector, India had a significant share of the global market in carbon credits. Indian industry was ready to join hands with the Government in reducing carbon emissions, he said.

IPR for MSMEs

Chandigarh, 13 February

Jammu, 16 February

Sensitization programmes, organised in collaboration with Department of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, made MSMEs in Chandigarh and Jammu aware of the role and importance of Intellectual Property in their businesses, and the protection it can provide for their inventions, brands and designs.

Chandigarh

Combating Recession: Role of HR

Chandigarh, 25 February



Conference on 'Combating Recession: Role of HR'

The Conference on 'Combating Recession: Role of HR' emphasised the importance of motivation during recession. It discussed how HR could use motivational tools for optimum utilization of manpower.

Chandigarh IT Cluster

Chandigarh, 26 February

Mr Satyendra Kumar, SVP & Global Head - Quality, Reuse & Tools, Infosys Technologies Ltd, addressing IT Cluster members, strongly maintained that the quality aspect should not be compromised at all. He said that organisations should actively invest in quality right from the beginning.

CII-DIPP IPR Campaign

Chandigarh, 27 February

An awareness session on IPR was organized by CII in collaboration with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) as part of a nation-wide campaign on Intellectual Property Rights.

Haryana

Strategies for Exporters

Gurgaon, 24 February

A workshop on 'Simple ways to reduce transaction cost in Imports and Exports' discussed measures

to save costs in the global economic melt down. The strategies included adopting better technologies, exploring better financing options, implementing total quality management programmes and improving supply chain management. Mr Vijay Mathur, Deputy Secretary General, Apparel Export Promotion Council, and Mr Ashok Kumar, Deputy Director General, Federation of Indian Export Organization, spoke on the factors inviting transaction cost in imports and exports.

Himachal Pradesh

Mission on Energy & Industrial Safety

Baddi, 5-6 February



Study mission in Baddi

A Study Mission visited Vardhman Textiles, Colgate Palmolive (India) Ltd and Hindustan Unilever Ltd in Baddi to pick up tips on 'How to Save Energy.'

Pre-budget Memorandum

Shimla, 10 February

CII Himachal Pradesh State submitted its Pre-budget Memorandum to the government with a main focus on growth through a reform based agenda, recommending a quantum leap in the budgetary allocation to develop adequate infrastructure.

Meeting with Chief Minister

Shimla, 12 February

Mr C S Gupta, Chairman, and Mr Anil Sehgal, Vice Chairman, CII Himachal Pradesh State Council called on Prof Prem Kumar Dhumal, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, and Mr Ishwar Dass Dhiman, Education Minister, HP, to invite them for the CII Himachal Pradesh State Annual Session. Mr Gupta also briefed the Chief Minister about the CII's Pre-budget Memorandum.

Mr Dhiman was apprised about the CII Chetna Career Counselling Centre where 3000 final year students of 7 Government colleges will get career counseling.

Jammu & Kashmir

State Annual Session

Jammu, 23 February

The CII J & K State Council announced the results of the first ever held elections of the Council. Mr Sanjay Puri continues as Chairman, while Mr Vicky Mahajan was elected Vice Chairman, for 2009-10.

Rajasthan

Rajasthan@75

Jaipur, 8 February

The Report on Rajasthan@75 was unveiled by Padma Bhushan Prof C K Prahalad, Paul and Ruth McCracken Distinguished University Professor, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, USA and



Padma Bhushan Prof C K Prahalad and Salil Singhal, Chairman CII (NR) releasing the Report on Rajasthan@75

Mr Salil Singhal, Chairman, CII Northern Region, at a Press Conference. Mr Vikram Golcha, Chairman, Task Force on India@75, Rajasthan briefed the media on the key findings of the report.

CII, along with The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) organised a session on Rajasthan@75. Prof C K Prahalad, who was the keynote speaker, spoke of the endeavour to capture the aspirations of the masses and then work towards unleashing the vast potential of the state of Rajasthan and the nation as a whole.

HR Conclave 2009

Jaipur, 12-13 February

A HR Conclave was aimed at creating linkages between industries and institutes and evolving HR models for businesses in current scenario. Mr Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly and Mr Bharat Singh, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan, were the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour for the programme.

Round Table on Single Window System

Jaipur, 24 February

A round table discussion on Single Window System was chaired by Mr Shanti Dhariwal, Minister for Industry, Rajasthan. Other senior officials from Rajasthan, including Mr C S Rajan, Principal Secretary, – Industries, Mr Subhash C Garg, Commissioner, Bureau of Investment Promotion, Mr Manohar Kant, Commissioner – Industries, and Mr Alok, Managing Director, RIICO Ltd, participated in the session. Mr Rahul Mullick, Director – Advisory Services, KPMG & Mr Anand Dubey, Senior Consultant, KPMG made a presentation on behalf of CII to streamline the Single Window System.

Rajasthan Annual Session

Jaipur, 28 February

CII Rajasthan organized a Session on Developmental Challenges for Rajasthan at its Annual Session. The programme focused on developing a consensual approach towards security and skill development.

Mr K S Bains, Director General of Police, Rajasthan, Mr M L Mehta, Chairman, Rajasthan Knowledge Corporation and Mr Salil Singhal, Chairman, CII (NR) addressed the session.

Uttarakhand

Hospitality & Retail Training

Dehradun, 17 February,

CII Uttarakhand organised an awareness session on Hospitality & Retail Management for SC/ST and BPL students on job-oriented training sessions. Mr Suresh Gupta, Sr Coordinator Business Development & Marketing Linkage division, NIESBUD, spoke about the training being proposed by the Union Ministry of Rural Development, in partnership with CII. Training on Hospitality Management would shortly be commenced by CII.

Vision Uttarakhand 2022 Released

20 February, Dehradun

On the occasion of Uttarakhand Annual Session, Mr Salil Singhal, Chairman, CII (NR) released the Vision Uttarakhand 2022 – 'Towards Robust Growth and Inclusive Growth.' Mr Rakesh Oberoi, newly elected Chairman of CII Uttarakhand, shared some of the aspirations reflected in Vision Uttarakhand 2022.

CII Uttarakhand also presented its 4th Annual Green Award to Mr Kalyan Singh Rawat, the founder of MAITI movement, which aims at emotively connecting women to the ecological preservation of the hills. The movement



Kalyan Singh Rawat receiving the CII Green Award

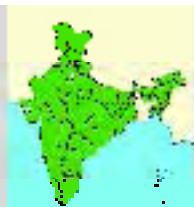
has touched 6,000 villages in Uttarakhand alone, leading to planting of lakhs of trees.

Uttar Pradesh

SME productivity through ICT

Lucknow, February 13

Small & Medium Enterprises are facing both opportunities and challenges in today's era of the knowledge – based economy. A workshop was conducted by Mr Rajiv Thapar, Associate Vice President, HCL Info systems, to help SMEs maximize sales and minimize costs and target the right audience at the right time, using ICT.



India

Regional round up

south

The Breakthrough Imperative

Chennai, 17 February

Mr Mark Gottfredson, Senior Partner, Bain & Company, spoke on the core laws of business to help managers determine how to reach their goals with outstanding results, while speaking about the book "The Breakthrough Imperative - How the Best Managers Get Outstanding Results", which covers case studies of 100 companies.

Impact of Global Meltdown on India

Chennai, 20 February



Session on Impact of Global Meltdown

This session was conducted to help members understand the impact of the current economic situation and how to handle the crisis, while highlighting opportunities for Indian Industries.

Study Mission on Safety Practices

Chennai, 25 February

The Manufacturing Competitiveness Sub-Committee of CII Southern Region, conducted a 38 member mission to WABCO-TVS (India) Ltd & Tube Products of India Ltd, to understand their best safety practices.

University - Industry Consortium

Tirunelveli, 24-26 February

Under the CII - Manonmaniam Sundaranar University MoU to train faculty on soft skills as part of the University-Industry Consortium on Knowledge: Partnership for Employability, the third batch of 23 teachers was trained.

iTalent 2009

Chennai, 27-28 February



Winners at iTalent 2009

The fifth edition of the competition was conducted to identify and showcase the computing and entrepreneurial talent of students from regional and suburban colleges to IT industry. There were value added sessions such as interactions with the HR heads of companies, and a session on eGovernance and Knowledge Management. The winning teams were from Model Engineering College, Cochin, Meenakshi Sundararajan Engineering College, Chennai and BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore.

Andhra Pradesh

Insurance in Infrastructure Projects

Hyderabad, 4 February

The Seminar highlighted the critical role of insurance, its implication and importance in various infrastructure projects. The main focus was on Risk Management challenges being faced by both insurance and infrastructure industry in the post de-tariffing era.

Interactive Session on ESI & PF

Hyderabad, 12 February

The session discussed issues and concerns of the industry relating to PF & ESI with Mr. U H Rao, Regional Director, ESI Corporation and Mr M Vijaya Raj, Regional PF Commissioner.

Andhra Pradesh Annual Day

Hyderabad, 26 February



Dr J Geetha Reddy, Minister for Major Industries, Sugar, Commerce and Export Promotion, Andhra Pradesh

Dr J Geetha Reddy, Minister for Major Industries, Sugar, Commerce and Export Promotion, Andhra Pradesh Chief Guest at the Annual Day, opined that government, industry and educational institutions should join hands to address the critical issue of producing quality manpower for industry and

the service sectors. Mr S Mahalingam, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd, and Prof. Ajit Rangnekar, Acting Dean, Indian School of Business, also spoke.

Incubating Agripreneurship

Guntur, 21 February

The 4th edition of the Incubating Agripreneurship conference focused on agricultural finance for sustainable rural development, micro finance, agri insurance, retail industry - its implications to the farmers, horticulture and food processing, packaging in food processing industry and organic farming and biotechnology in agriculture.

Karnataka

Annual Day 2009

Bangalore, 27 February



Bhaskar Bhat, MD, Titan Industries; Anil Kumble, Former Captain, Indian Test Cricket Team and S Viswanathan, Chairman, CII Karnataka

Speaking on the day's theme 'Walk the Talk: Business Challenges', Mr Viswanathan, Chairman CII Karnataka & MD, John Fowler India (Pvt) Ltd, said that even though a recession can be disruptive and destructive, it could still provide vast opportunities for nimble-footed, innovative companies with cash and great ideas. Mr. Kris Gopalakrishnan, MD & CEO, Infosys Technologies Ltd said that the quality of the industry must be maintained.

The CII Disability Manual for corporates titled 'A Values Route to Business Success: The Why and How of Employing Persons with Disability' was launched by former Indian test captain Anil Kumble on the occasion.

Kerala

CII Kerala Annual Day

Kochi, 28 February

The theme of the Annual Day was Slowdown in the Economy – Impact on Kerala. Mr Chandran Pillai, Member of Parliament and Prof K V Thomas, MLA, addressed the delegates.

Tamil Nadu

Star Trek - A CEO Connect Session

Chennai, 5 February

The Star Trek series showcases and celebrates entrepreneurship. Mr C N Ashok, Director, Autoprint Machinery Manufacturers Pvt Ltd and Mr Bharath KS, Chairman & Managing Director, Aparajitha Corporate Services Pvt Ltd, shared their journey of success in the 3rd edition of the series.

Chennai @ 75

Chennai, 26 February



Chennai Zone Annual Day & Conference on Chennai @75

Mr Raghuttama Rao, Managing Director, ICRA Management Consultancy Services, unveiling the Chennai District Plan sketched out eight main projects for the development of the district - infrastructure and urbanization, business, healthcare, education and skill development, governance and administration, moral leadership, R & D, and art and culture.

The Guest of Honour, Mr Vikram Kapur, Member Secretary, Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority, said the Chennai District Plan must focus on key aspects like shelter, employment generation, affordable housing and development of informal sectors like smaller traders and cottage industries as this sector contributes to over 70% of the revenue. He appreciated CII's efforts in contributing to the development of the city.

Education Summit 2009

Chennai, 13 February

The Summit was organized under the theme "Repositioning India's Educational System" and focused on the reforms needed to improve quality in education; attract better talent to teaching; and reduce procedural hurdles in improving quality. The conference discussed bringing Quality in Education, Finance and Management, and explored the concept of Special Education Zone, a geographical entity which would free from the regulations that control educational institutions and promote access to higher education. and improving the quality of education.

Building a Healthy Tamil Nadu

Chennai, 21 February

"Building a Healthy Tamil Nadu" focused on the threat of Non Communicable and Life Style Diseases in the State, broadly classified into four categories: 1) HOLD (Hypertension, Obesity, Lipid storage disorders and Diabetes) 2) Cardiac Disease 3) Women & Health and 4) Wellness at Workplace: Occupational Health.

Project e-LAWN

Chennai, 25 February

As part of its environmental and sustainability initiatives for Tamil Nadu, CII is working to bring residential neighborhoods into an inclusive programme called the Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative. This Initiative envisages Chennai offering a superior quality of healthy and sustainable living. e-LAWN is an acronym for Energy, Land, Air, Water and Noise level improvements within the community. The aim is to develop models that can be taken across wards to cover the entire city and eventually the state.



Project e-Lawn: Neighbourhood Sustainability Initiative

Puducherry

Puducherry Vision 2025

Puducherry, 3 & 10 February 2009

Discussions were held to collect inputs from various stake holders for Puducherry Vision 2025. The District Collector and other government officials, NGOs and trade and industry representatives participated in the discussion.

Opportunities in Tourism

Puducherry, 12 February

The workshop discussed where Pondicherry Tourism is and can easily be, and explored entrepreneurial opportunities in tourism support services.

Puducherry Vision 2025

Puducherry, 28 February

The Puducherry Vision 2025 Report was released by Mr.V.Vaithilingam, Chief Minister, Puducherry. Mr.E.Valsaraj, Minister for Home and Industry & Commerce, Puducherry and Prof. M. Ramadoss, MP, gave the keynote address.

Zones

Coimbatore

Doing Business with Australia

Coimbatore, 21 February

The session increased awareness of Australian capabilities and found synergies between the two countries for enhancing bilateral trade. Mr Aminur Rahman, Consul General and Trade Commissioner of Australia, spoke of useful collaborations in agribusiness.

Connect Coimbatore 2009

Coimbatore, 27 February

Mr F Pickhard, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solutions India, said that tier-two Indian cities need to improve infrastructure to attract a creative workforce from different countries. If India wants to climb into the international forum for high-end talent, then their special needs must be addressed, he said.

Navigating the Downturn

Coimbatore, 27 February

The programme was conducted for the first time in Unconference format on the topic 'Navigating the downturn and Capitalizing on the crisis'. Mr Kiruba Shankar, CEO, Business Blogging and Head - Wikipedia [India] anchored the session. The three best ideas selected from the discussion were maintaining financial discipline, focusing on the customer's needs and innovative thinking.

Mysore

CII Mysore Annual Day

Mysore, 24 February

As a part of the Annual Day, a panel discussion on 'Big Vision Big Opportunities Destination Mysore' discussed opportunities for Mysore in sectors like Tourism, Education, IT/BT, Food Processing, Knowledge Research, Connectivity, Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Food Processing.

Trichy

Trichy Annual Day

Trichy, 20 February

Mr Senthil Annamalai, Chairman, CII Trichy Zone presented the activities of the past year. Mr C R Swaminathan, Deputy Chairman, CII (SR) spoke on the importance of CII membership, while Mr Gopal Srinivasan, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu, described the India @75 initiative.

Mr J Leo Ananth, Chairman & Managing Director, eQuadriga Software was elected as Chairman, and Mr S Gopinath, General Manager – Planning & Development, BHEL, was elected as the new Vice Chairman of CII Trichy Zone.

IPR Awareness Campaign

Trichy, 18 February



CII-DIPP Nationwide Awareness Campaign on Intellectual Property Rights in Trichy

The nationwide IPR awareness campaign is being conducted to nurture an eco-system in the country to encourage Innovation, inventions and Creation of Intellectual Property.

Building Synergies: The Way Forward

Trichy, 20 February

The session focused on ensuring change through pursuance of short term and long term agendas for sustainable development, leveraging the strength of academic institutions for industrial progress, establishing agro-food industries, devising strategies for boosting medical tourism and nurturing entrepreneurial initiatives.

The Trichy District Development plan was released by Mr C R Swaminathan, Deputy Chairman, CII SR and the first copy was received by Mr C K Ranganathan, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu.

Vizag & Vijayawada

Coping in Difficult Economies

Visakhapatnam, 11 February

The programme was a sensitisation workshop for managers and organisation heads who need to reorganise and rejuvenate their mind, body and soul in these times of economic turbulence. Mr Chandrahas Tenneti, qualified psychologist and experienced HR professional, was the faculty.

Visakhapatnam Annual Session

Visakhapatnam, 20 February

The theme for the Annual Day Session in both cities was "Developing People for Inclusive Growth".



Goa

CII-DIPP Campaign on IPR

Panaji, 26 February



C Mathur, Commissioner, Customs & Central Excise, addressing. Also seen: Prakash Jalan, Vice Chairman, CII Goa, Sanjit Rodrigues, Director, Industries, Trade & Commerce, Goa, and V Natarajan, Assistant Registrar - GI, India

CII, the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, organised a session on Intellectual Property Rights, as part of the series of 14 sessions being held all over the country. The campaign seeks to make the industries aware about the intellectual property system and the protection it can provide for their inventions, brands, and designs.

Gujarat

Workshop on Service Tax

Ahmedabad, 7 February

At a workshop on Service Tax, Mr TNC Rajagopalan, expert on indirect taxation, updated industry on the latest rules and circulars pertaining to service tax.

HR Best Practices

Ahmedabad, 13 February



Naishad Parikh, Past Chairman, CII Gujarat, addressing the Workshop on HR Best Practices

CII, with IBM, organized a workshop on HR best practices and HR alignment for growth and enhancing employee collaboration and managing internal security. The agenda also discussed ICT intervention in HR function and Employee Collaboration.

Mission from Ohio Summit County

Ahmedabad, 12 February

An 11-member delegation from the Economic Development Mission, Ohio Summit County, met CII members to forge trade ties between industries from Gujarat and the State of Ohio, USA. They were specifically looking at sectors like real estate, alternative/ renewable energy, automotive component, plastics and polymers, industrial control and automation and electronics equipment. The visitors also described the business opportunities and incentives available in the Summit County, Ohio.

Opportunities in Healthcare

Ahmedabad, 14 February

A seminar on 'Emerging Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Healthcare Sector' brought forth the abundant opportunities coming up in sectors like diagnostics, life sciences, CRAMS and CRO. A CII-Grant Thornton report on 'Emerging Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Healthcare Sector' was released.

Europe-specific Business Entry Strategy

Ahmedabad, 16 February

Vadodara, 17 February

Mr Prashant Mara, Jurist, Franklin Paris, and Mr Bradley Joslove, Partner and Head - India Desk, Franklin Paris, advised members of CII how to design / re-design their Europe / EU oriented business entry strategy. The interactions discussed the latest European regulations and legislations on setting up business, with specific focus on France.

CII Central Gujarat Annual Day

Vadodara, 23 February

The CII Central Gujarat Annual Day had a session on 'Success through Innovation', to launch the action theme



TNC Rajagopalan, taxation expert and Atul Garg, Chairman, CII Central Gujarat Global Council

of the council for 2009-10. The focus was on building competitiveness by creating long-term knowledge driven assets through innovation.

Gujarat Annual Day

Ahmedabad, 24 February

CII Gujarat organized its Annual Day with a session on 'Corporate Security & Development through Value Addition in the State'. Dr Naushad Forbes, Vice Chairman, CII (WR), laid emphasis on English at various levels of education and higher education for value added growth for Gujarat. Ms Indira Hirway, Director & Professor of Economics, CFDA, suggested emphasis on social



Dr Naushad Forbes, Vice Chairman, CII (WR), addressing the Annual Day session

sectors for sustainable growth. Mr Maheshwar Sahu, Principal Secretary, Industry & Mines, Gujarat, said the ratio of direct to indirect employment in Gujarat is one of the highest in the country, and the State Government is committed to providing an enabling environment along the entire value chain.

The second half of the session focused on corporate security in which Capt. Raghu Raman, CEO, Mahindra Special Services Group, spoke of the risks involved in business operating in the Indian sub-continent. He highlighted the need for a long-term strategy of corporate participation in national security.

LAC Delegation

Ahmedabad, 27 February



K Bajnath, Ambassador of Suriname, addressing

A delegation from Latin America & Caribbean led by Mr Hans Donnenberg Castellanos, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic, Mr K Bajnath, Ambassador of

Suriname, and Mr Virendra Gupta Additional Secretary (ITP) Ministry of External Affairs, India, participated in a seminar on exploring bilateral trade opportunities between India and the LAC countries.

Madhya Pradesh

Course Curriculum

Gwalior, 5 February

A brainstorming session on Curriculum Development was organized by CII in collaboration with Aditya College, Gwalior, to impart necessary soft skills to students from the weaker sections of society.

CII MP Annual Day

Indore, 27 February

The economic slowdown is an opportunity for us to improve our situation, said Mr Kailash Vijayavargiya, Minister, Commerce & Industry, Madhya Pradesh, at a Session on 'Challenges in Economic Slowdown Scenario and Opportunities Ahead' on Annual Day. The Minister asked CII to give alternate solutions for increasing revenue for state government so that burden on

industry in terms of taxation can be reduced.



Kailash Vijayavargiya, Minister, Commerce & Industry, MP, Addressing

Mr Rajesh Verma, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Bhopal, briefed on the various measures being taken by RBI to maintain liquidity. He said Indian financials have shown admirable performance and healthy liquidity in the current situation.

MP Exportech 2009

27 February – 1 March, Indore

The Second MP Exportech 2009, exhibition cum meet, was co-organised by CII with Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Ltd., to showcase indigenously produced goods to overseas buyers. Around 150 companies from drug and pharmaceutical, engineering goods, processed food, ayurvedic and herbal products and textile sectors, participated in the exhibition. Around

75 overseas delegates and 10 diplomats from various countries were also present.

Maharashtra

Best Kaizen Competition

Nashik, 11 February



Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd team at the Best Kaizen Competition

The 4th Best Kaizen Competition - Maharashtra state level, highlighted the need for involvement of the top management in all organizations to adopt the Kaizen movement as a tool for manufacturing excellence in Indian industry. The winners were Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co Ltd, Mumbai, Bosch Ltd, Nashik, and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Nashik.

Visit to Marine Terminal

Mumbai, 14 February

The CII WR Logistic Sub Committee organized a visit to DP World Marine Terminal-Nhava Seva to acquaint members with the process and the working of the ports.

Doing Business with Iran

Mumbai, 16 February



Interaction on Iran

CII organised an exclusive interaction with Mr Sanjay Singh Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ambassador Designate to the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Mumbai. The interaction enabled Mr Singh to understand the activities of these member companies and their strategies in doing business with Iranian enterprises.

Opportunity in Trinidad & Tobago.

Mumbai, 16-18 February

CII, in association with the Ministry of External Affairs, facilitated the visit of Mr Malay Mishra, Joint Secretary, MEA, and Indian High Commissioner Designate to Trinidad & Tobago, to Mumbai. A series of meetings were organised for Mr Mishra with select industry and association leaders. Mr Mishra spoke about the investment opportunities offered by Trinidad and Tobago.

Awareness on Sustainability Awards

Mumbai, 17 February

The CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, supported by ITC Ltd. initiated a series of awareness programmes on Sustainability Awards and Performance Assessment, to assist Indian businesses to evaluate their sustainability performance. Industry has realised that organisations with strong environmental and social credentials get the social licence to operate, carry less risk, achieve greater efficiencies and are better positioned to take advantage of opportunities in a global marketplace.

Good Governance & Public Disclosure

Pune, 18 February

To address the need for greater transparency, accountability and the credibility amongst the NGOs, CII launched a series of interactive session on 'Voluntary Sector Norms for Good Governance & Public Disclosure' in association with Credibility Alliance (CA). CA is a consortium of voluntary organisations committed towards enhancing accountability and transparency in the voluntary sector through good governance.

Mission on Sustainable Growth

Pune, 18 February



Mission on Sustainable Growth CEO's Meet

Towards the goal of sustainability, CII Mission on Sustainable Growth has been developed to 'promote and champion sustainable growth in Indian Industry, without compromising on high and accelerated growth'.

As a first step, companies were invited to sign the CII code for Ecologically Sustainable Business Growth.

Modular Employable Skills Scheme

Ambernath, 21 February

The MES scheme launched by the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment, equips school leavers with employable skills in over 32 sectors and 340 trades through a network of training institutions called Vocational Training Providers (VTPs). Most VTPs in Maharashtra are the ITIs.



Testing a student for practical skills

CII has been appointed as the Assessing Body to test the students for certification. CII has set up a panel of highly accomplished assessors from reputed organisations for assessing the candidates. In February, assessments were undertaken for 36 candidates from 4 VTPs in Mumbai and Nashik.

Business Delegation from Qazvin, Iran

Mumbai, 23 February

A 20 member delegation from Qazvin province, Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by the President of the Qazvin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visited Mumbai. CII organized an interactive session with the delegates followed by a one-to-one business session.

Trade & Investment with South Africa

Mumbai, 27 February

Ms Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister, Trade & Industry, South Africa, visited India with a business delegation from sectors such as pharma, construction, IT, engineering, power, metals, development finance, etc. CII, in association with the Department of Trade & Industry, South Africa, organised a conference on 'South



R Balasubramaniam, President, Tata International Ltd with Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister, Trade & Industry, South Africa

Africa: Trade & Investment Opportunities' to present an update on the opportunities for growth in the South African market, and the advantages that the country offers to companies as the base for their operations.

Current Economic Scenario

Kolhapur, 27 February

The session on 'Impact of Global Financial Crisis on India' deliberated on the measures that companies, especially SMEs, should be taking to reduce the impact in their enterprises.

HR Leadership in the Current Scenario

Pune, 27 February

CII in association with the Sinhgad Business School organised a conclave on HR with the theme 'HR leadership in Current Economic Scenario'. Over 200 participants included HR professionals, institutional heads and academicians, attended the conclave.

CII Pune Annual Day

Pune, 27 February

CII Pune organised its 9th Annual Day with the theme "Managing Business in a Challenging Economic Scenario. 'Dr Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist & President, Aditya Birla Group, and Dr Mukund Rajan Managing Director, Tata Teleservices Maharashtra Ltd., participated in the panel discussion which was moderated by Mr Govindraj Ethiraj Managing Editor, UTVi. The other panelists were Mr Deepak Saluja Vice President & Team Leader, Credit Suisse India, Mr Rajiv Joshi Advocate, Dr Anand Deshpande, Vice Chairman, CII Pune Zone & CEO, Persistent Systems Ltd., and Mr Shyam P Kambeyanda Managing Director – India, Eaton Corporation.