

CII COMMUNIQUÉ

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Building India's Tomorrow: Technology, Globalisation, Sustainability and Inclusiveness



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We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Do write to us at sharmila.kantha@cii.in

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JOURNAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Destination Uttarakhand - Peace to Prosperity



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged industrialists and businessmen to explore possibilities of engaging with women's self-help groups and Farmer Producer Organisations, which would take local products to the global stage

The Prime Minister of India has envisioned an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and set a target of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. In response to this clarion call of the Prime Minister, Uttarakhand has initiated the ambitious project of 'Sashakt Uttarakhand@25'.

Against this backdrop, the Government of Uttarakhand organized the Uttarakhand Global Investors' Summit (UKGIS) on 8-9 December in Dehradun, with CII as the National Exclusive Industry Partner. The event hosted strategic conferences, panel discussions, round-table deliberations, presentations, roadshows and business meetings in various parts of India and abroad. It brought together leading investors from across the world, senior Government officials and local business communities for interactions on the investment environment and opportunities in Uttarakhand.

Inaugurating the two-day summit, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India urged industrialists



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching Government of Uttarakhand's brand 'House of Himalaya' with Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at UKGIS in Dehradun

and investors to focus on the potential of the state. Referring to the investors present on the occasion, the Prime Minister reflected on the need to perform a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

The present is an unprecedented time for India, for its companies and investors. India is going to become the third-largest economy in the world in the next few years due to the combination of a stable Government, a supportive policy system, a mentality of reform and transformation and confidence in development. This is India's time.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



(SWOT) analysis for the nation. He highlighted that the results of the analysis results will indicate an abundance of aspirations, hope, self-confidence, innovation and opportunities in the country.

The Prime Minister remarked that the ambitious PLI campaigns display a resolution of creating an ecosystem for critical sectors. He emphasized the need for strengthening local supply chains and MSMEs by new investments. India stands in a league of its own when compared to the other large economies of the world. He noted that every state in India, including Uttarakhand, is reaping the benefits of this strength.

Congratulating the Uttarakhand Government for launching the 'House of Himalaya' brand, the Prime Minister mentioned that it is a brilliant attempt to establish the local products of the state in foreign markets, which will strengthen the 'vocal for local' campaign. The Prime Minister also urged industrialists and businessmen to explore possibilities of engaging with women's self-help groups and farmer producer organisations (FPOs), which would take local products to the global stage.

Calling it the beginning of infinite possibilities for a 'New Uttarakhand', Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Government of India said that the state had signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth over ₹3.5 lakh crore, almost double the ₹2 lakh crore target, as part of its Global Investors' Summit. The Home Minister said that India has rapidly progressed over the past decade and was poised to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025. More than 13 crore people in the country have risen above the poverty line, the per capita income has doubled and unicorn startups have multiplied, he said.

Leading up to the summit, the Government conducted four international and five domestic roadshows in



Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking a walk-through of the exhibition

London, Birmingham, Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Since September, several agreements and MoUs have been signed during these events, achieving the set investment target. The signed MoUs encompass various sectors, including tourism and hospitality, AYUSH wellness, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, food processing, real estate and infrastructure, pumped storage, green and renewable energy and the automobile sector. These agreements represent the diverse interests of investors engaging with the State Government.

Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand informed that MoUs worth over ₹3 lakh crore have been signed with various firms ahead of the summit and investments worth ₹44,000 crore have been realised. These MoUs were signed mainly for investment in Electric Vehicles (EVs), real estate, health care, higher education, tourism, film, AYUSH and energy sectors.

Dr S S Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand said that investors' enthusiasm towards



(L-R): Bipen Gupta, Chairman, CII Uttarakhand and Director, GB Springs Pvt Ltd; Kavinder Singh, MD & CEO, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Ltd; Sr SS Sandhu, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand; Pushkar Singh Dhami; Radha S Raturi, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand; Anand Bardhan, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand; Deepak Jain, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group and Vadiraj Kulkarni, CEO Paper & Pulp, ITC Ltd at the UKGIS Curtain Raiser Ceremony in New Delhi

Uttarakhand was continuously increasing as the state had formed 30 new policies in the last six months. A land bank of 6,000 acres of Government land was also prepared, besides providing electricity to industries at affordable rates. Connectivity with NCR is also being made easier.

The summit saw the participation of Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited; Mr Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Limited; Mr Pranav Adani, MD (Agro, Oil & Gas) and Director, Adani Group; Mr Sajjan Jindal, CMD,

JSW Steel; Baba Ramdev, Founder, Patanjali; and Mr Kalyan Chakrabarti, CEO, Emaar India, amongst others.

Mr R Dinesh expressed the keenness of industrialists to contribute to Uttarakhand's growth story and said that the state has enormous potential in the manufacturing of tyres, auto components and services in the logistics and auto sector, amongst others.

Mr Sanjiv Puri said that a slew of purposeful policy initiatives in the last few years has placed India favourably in a world faced with multi-dimensional challenges.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Uttarakhand inked substantial investment agreements totalling ₹26,575 crore during roadshows held in Delhi and Mumbai. Another roadshow in Mumbai resulted in the signing of MoUs worth ₹30,200 crore, further bolstering investment prospects
- Investments amounting to ₹12,500 crore were secured during roadshows in Britain and the UAE
- Significant investment proposal agreements were sealed including ₹10,150 crore in Chennai, ₹4,600 crore in Bengaluru and ₹24,000 crore in Ahmedabad amounting to ₹47,250 crore
- The State Government's strategic 'regional conclave' approach in Haridwar, Nainital, and Rudrapur spurred investment initiatives in these districts
- In addition to larger-scale events, the Government's 'District Label Mini Conclave' across all nine districts aimed to encourage both small and large entrepreneurs to invest in Uttarakhand
- Beyond fostering crucial partnerships, the summit served as a dynamic platform for exhibitors, private enterprises and public organizations to showcase cutting-edge technologies, innovations and future trends
- During the summit, 10 sectoral sessions facilitated in-depth discussions on Industry challenges and opportunities. The sectors around which the sessions were held include - AYUSH & Herbs; Education; Cooperatives, Food Processing, Horticulture & Agriculture; Forest & Allied Sectors; Healthcare; Infrastructure; Manufacturing; Real Estate; Startups; and Tourism & Civil Aviation.

QUOTES



This is the beginning of exploring the infinite possibilities of the new Uttarakhand. This will become a strong example in front of the entire world as to how Uttarakhand can be connected with the Industry in an eco-friendly manner.

Amit Shah

Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation
Government of India

Taking inspiration from the Prime Minister's 'Vibrant Gujarat' initiative, we have organized this investors summit around the theme of 'Destination Uttarakhand-Peace to Prosperity'. We will endeavour to organize this summit every two years. The main objective of organizing such summits is the overall development of the state, with a balance between the ecology and the economy, and a focus on developing green economy and employment.

Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand



I am happy to commit that CII, with the State Government, will be establishing 10 model career centres, where we will be providing counselling and support for more than 1,00,000 people, creating jobs and livelihoods. Uttarakhand will be the first state where we will set up a Speciality Multi Skill Development Centre, which will be of international standards covering hospitality, health care and advanced manufacturing sectors. We will pave the way for more than 10,000 people to be trained for global standards and make them available for employment, not only in India but anywhere in the world.

R Dinesh

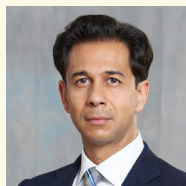
President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited



India is indeed the fastest-growing economy in the world and because of all the policy interventions and the potential, this is seen as India's decade. Some even call it India's century. India is now seen as a hub for global manufacturing, for services, and exports, besides the immense opportunity in the growing consumer market within India. All these policy interventions are indeed immensely inspiring and encouraging for us in the business community and inspire us to do even more towards the economic progress of the nation.

Sanjiv Puri

President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Limited

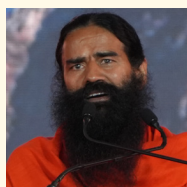


CII has been instrumental in promoting Industry in Uttarakhand. The collaborative efforts of the state and Industry, working together in tandem, have

yielded exceptional results for the industrial landscape of Uttarakhand.

Deepak Jain

Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group



Uttarakhand has seen the development of tourism, health, education, agriculture, connectivity and infrastructure sectors under the leadership of

the Prime Minister. I appeal to the investors to strengthen the Prime Minister's resolve to make India a global economic powerhouse and accomplish the goal of 'Viksit' Bharat.

Baba Ramdev

Founder, Patanjali



Uttarakhand has become one the most attractive destinations for private sector investment because of the State's approach to its growth and development

in recent times with an unbeatable combination of single-point clearances, competitive land prices, affordable power and efficient distribution, highly skilled manpower and proximity to the national capital and a very stable law and order environment.

Pranav Adani

MD (Agro, Oil & Gas) and Director, Adani Enterprises



A positive change has come in the global outlook towards India, especially in the last 5-10 years. I truly appreciate the policy reforms like GST and the

FinTech revolution that are creating new opportunities for businesses to flourish.

Kalyan Chakrabarti

CEO, Emaar India



INSIGHTS FROM TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS



Building India's Tomorrow: Technology, Globalisation, Sustainability and Inclusiveness



The 12th edition of EXCON saw a gathering of construction equipment manufacturers from domestic and international markets, buyers, senior representatives from the Government and participation from all key stakeholders. The cover story explores the highlights of the exhibition and presents a detailed coverage of perspectives shared by speakers at the sessions

Infrastructure sector is a key driver for the Indian economy. The sector is highly responsible for propelling India's economic growth and overall development and enjoys intense focus from the Government for creating conducive policies to ensure time-bound creation of world class infrastructure in the country.

The Government of India has given a mega push to infrastructure across sectors including roads, power, coal, civil aviation, railways, smart cities, dams and waterways by announcing multiple new projects, which will generate new opportunities for the construction Industry.

In this background, CII organized the 12th edition of 'EXCON - Global Exhibition and Conferences on Construction Equipment, Machinery & Technology' on 12-16 December in Bengaluru, Karnataka. EXCON is the delivery vehicle of CII for the infrastructure development of the country with a focus on innovation and technology for the Construction Equipment (CE) and machinery sector. Through these years, the event has been providing an excellent platform for both Indian and overseas



(L-R): Vivekanand Vanmeeghanathan, President, Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA); Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII at EXCON held in Bengaluru

companies to display their innovation in terms of technology, product offerings and state-of-the-art of machinery.

“



The construction sector in India currently ranks as the world's third-largest. Yet, by fostering collaborative endeavors among stakeholders and corporations and through substantial Government support, we have the potential to propel it to the top spot within the next five years. I have confidence that the construction equipment Industry here can achieve the goal.

Nitin Gadkari

Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India

”

The first edition of EXCON was launched in year 2000 at a time when the construction Industry was at its nascent stage. Since then, EXCON has grown to become one of the leading exhibitions in the world for the sector. EXCON has retained the position of “South Asia’s Largest Event for Construction Equipment” for the last 6 editions.

Inaugurating the mega event, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Government of India said that the construction sector will have a significant contribution to the Prime Minister's vision to make India a carbon neutral economy. To achieve this goal, the Government is embarking on major infrastructure and industrial projects that implement sustainable fuels.

Construction and mining operations consume 400 crore liters of diesel, which is quite detrimental to the environment and the economy. By embracing alternative fuels such as ethanol, methanol and hydrogen, the construction and mining sectors can effectively reduce emissions, said the Minister. Precast concrete emerges as a commendable substitute for traditional concrete. We advocate for Industry collaboration to bolster

the capabilities of construction through the use of sustainable materials and alternative fuels, he added.

The Minister further highlighted substantial business prospects for the construction Industry within the state, emphasizing significant opportunities arising from expansive infrastructure development initiatives. These encompass extensive projects encompassing roads, flyovers, industrial infrastructure and power.

The event this year focused on ‘Building India’s Tomorrow – Technology, Globalisation, Sustainability and Inclusiveness’. Special pavilions on Artificial Intelligence, academia, finance and sustainability were organized during the event, along with discussions on key topics including IoT, automation, components & parts, procurement for defence and paramilitary, among others. EXCON also laid special emphasis on women’s participation in the Industry.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that private players in the construction sector should focus on automation, adoption of advanced technologies, global best practices, use of alternative fuels and innovations in utilizing waste materials as raw materials for

construction projects to enhance sustainability and efficiency. This approach aims to reduce both the cost of construction and the rate of pollution.

Recongnising Women in Infrastructure

To recognize and promote gender inclusivity in the construction Industry, the ‘Women Building India - Equal Opportunity Awards’ was also organized as part of EXCON. The awards ceremony brought



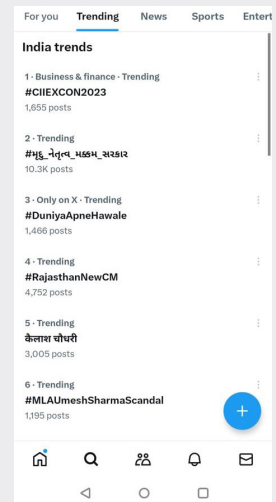
(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee; Nitin Gadkari and Vivekanand Vanmeeghanathan

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The largest construction equipment exhibition in South Asia
- Five days of international exhibition
- 1,021 exhibitors including 100 international exhibitors
- 32,00,000 square feet of exhibition display area
- 1,435 B2B meetings held
- 6 country pavilions – China, France, Germany, Italy, Turkey and United Kingdom
- Participation from 15 Countries (Austria, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America)
- Special pavilions on AI, IOT & automation, academia, finance and sustainability
- EXCON recorded of footfall of over 80,000 visitors
- #CIIEXCON2023 trended Number 1 on X platform



Aerial view of EXCON



together Industry leaders, experts and guests to address the imperative of empowering women in the sector. Mr R Dinesh, President, CII & Chairman, EXCON 2023 and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd said that it's important to redefine success beyond numbers and ensure that the collective growth has kept focus on gender diversity, breaking barriers and fostering an economy where women flourish as leaders.

Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & Managing Director, Volvo India said that the awards celebrate the strides made by women in real estate and construction, acknowledging their potential to address the skills gap and contribute to the Industry's advancement.

Mr V G Sakthi Kumar, Managing Director, Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd was recognized as the Committed Leader, embodying unwavering dedication to fostering gender diversity.

Cummins India, earned acclaim for fostering an Inclusive Workplace, a testament to their commitment to diversity and equal opportunities. Additionally, JCB's innovative special initiative for the shopfloor garnered acknowledgment, showcasing their pioneering efforts in creating a more inclusive and dynamic work environment. These awards not only commend exemplary achievements but also serve as beacons inspiring further progress toward a more diverse and equitable construction Industry.

Mr Arvind K Garg, Chairman, Taskforce on Women in Infrastructure, CII EXCON and Senior Vice-President & Head, Construction & Mining Machinery, Larsen & Toubro Limited and Ms Rumjhum Chatterjee, Jury Member, CII EXCON 2023: Women Building India – Equal Opportunity Awards & Chairperson, CII National Committee on Women Empowerment and Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, The Infra Vision Foundation also shared their perspectives on the importance of gender



(L-R): Rumjhum Chatterjee, Jury Member, CII EXCON 2023 and Chairperson, CII National Committee on Women Empowerment and Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, The Infra Vision Foundation; Arvind K Garg, Chairman of the Taskforce on Women in Infrastructure, CII EXCON, and Senior Vice-President & Head, Construction & Mining Machinery, Larsen & Toubro Limited; Aditi Ravetkar, HR Director - Corporate Functions, Cummins India; R Dinesh, President, CII & Chairman, EXCON 2023 and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & Managing Director, Volvo India and Sandeep Singh, Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd

inclusivity in the sector. The award marks a significant step towards fostering an inclusive and equitable environment within the construction Industry.

Aatmanirbharta in Construction Equipment Sector

A conference was organized to deliberate on ways to fully unlock the potential of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and help the Construction Equipment (CE) Industry leverage India's manufacturing prowess. The conference, 'Towards Making Indian CE Industry Aatmanirbhar & Global Manufacturing Hub' focused on enhancing ease of doing businesses in India and position the Industry as an attractive investment destination.

Shri Sanjeet Singh, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog said that while India ranks among the top seven global FDI destinations, there is a crucial need to learn from the service sector's success and position the nation as a prominent FDI destination in manufacturing. The construction equipment Industry is a major growth driver, and NITI Aayog's strategic focus on infrastructure development aligns with the need for bankable projects to attract investments, with an added emphasis on sustainability, he added.

Bengaluru supplies 50 per cent of machinery and hosts 40 per cent of research and development activities in Karnataka. Karnataka's imminent fillip in the construction sector is propelled by state-of-the-art infrastructure and a strategic location. Speaking about Karnataka's instrumental growth in the sector, Ms Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director, Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka mentioned that the state has emerged as an economic powerhouse, recording a remarkable growth rate of 12 per cent over the past decade. Bengaluru stands as one of the few cities globally to attract significant FDI, with a reputation for excellent manufacturing capabilities, she said.

Mr Sandeep Singh, Chairman, EXCON Task Force on Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd underscored the need for India to touch USD 30 trillion by 2040, emphasizing sustainable growth and world-class infrastructure. Karnataka's performance, particularly its emphasis on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), positions it as a pivotal player in attracting investments to fuel India's economic ascent, he said.



(L-R): Sandeep Singh, Chairman, EXCON Task Force on Aatmanirbhar Bharat; Gunjan Krishna, Commissioner for Industrial Development & Director, Industries & Commerce, Government of Karnataka and Sanjeet Singh, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog



(L-R): Sitaram Ganeshan, President, Wipro Hydraulics; Srivats Ram, Vice Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director, Wheels India; Rajesh Bhandari, Senior Managing Director of Gates India; Nilanjan Das, Vice President and Head of Supply Chain Management, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery and Puneet Chandhok, Vice President, Purchase, JCB India

Components – for Global CE Markets

During a roundtable on 'Components – for Global CE Markets', the speakers deliberated on how India's infrastructure sector is playing a pivotal role in helping the nation realize its goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy.

The construction equipment Industry will serve as a crucial catalyst in this transformative journey. Mr Srivats Ram, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director, Wheels India said that a notable contrast exists in the raw material costs for manufacturing construction equipment between India and other countries. The Government is actively addressing logistics costs through initiatives like Gati Shakti. Being the fifth-largest auto manufacturer, India predominantly sources components locally, and there is a strong likelihood of replicating this success in the construction sector.

Mr Rajesh Bhandari, Senior MD, Gates India said that while the country exports less than one-fifth of China's scale, our progress reflects a steady journey marked by an expected 8 per cent increase in equipment manufacturing. He further mentioned that the accumulation of components forms the equipment, underscoring the significance of quality in every stage of this process. Mr Sitaram Ganeshan, President, Wipro Hydraulics India said that the Indian equipment suppliers Industry upholds stringent standards for procuring high-quality equipment, making it favourable for OEMs. While

the workforce primarily engages in the final assembly stage, the essence lies in manufacturing technologies. To facilitate this, the Government's role should extend in providing land and streamlining regulatory processes.

CEOs Perspectives on 'Infrastructure Growth Story – Driving Sustained Demand'

A CEO Roundtable on the theme 'Infrastructure Growth Story – Driving Sustained Demand' convened prominent Industry leaders for an in-depth conversation addressing the challenges and opportunities within India's construction equipment sector. The discussions centered around the crucial role played by the Indian CE Industry in the nation's infrastructure development.

The discussions covered a wide spectrum of subjects, highlighting sustainable development, a dedication to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, and the obstacles encountered by the Industry. The participants recognized the importance of private-sector funding to supplement Government initiatives in infrastructure advancement. Noteworthy points encompassed the sector's emphasis on digitalization, minimal Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and the vital collaboration between Industry and academia to tackle skill shortages in the operation of construction equipment.

Mr Jaswinder Singh Bakshi, Chairman, Taskforce on User Industry CEOs at EXCON 2023 and Vice President,



(L-R): V G Sakthikumar, Managing Director, Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd; Paromita Chatterjee, Television journalist and News Anchor, CNBC; Sandeep Singh, Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd; Vivekanand Vanmeeghanathan; Jaswinder Singh Bakshi, Chairman – Taskforce on User Industry - EXCON 2023 and Vice President, ICEMA and Sr. Vice President & Head – CE, CV & Equipment Finance Tata Capital Financial Services Limited (TCFSL); Ramu Ravuri, Managing Director and Sree Raja Rajeswari Constructions(India) Pvt Ltd

ICEMA and Senior Vice President & Head – CE, CV & Equipment Finance, Tata Capital Financial Services Limited (TCFSL) said that the Government's focus on infrastructure is evident in increasing budget outlays, with flagship initiatives driving steady growth. Optimism is high due to a significant pipeline of projects, indicating sustained and growing demand for the next five years, he added. A spiritual session was organized on 14 December, addressed by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, who emphasized on the essence of yoga and encouraging individuals to establish themselves in the infinite nature of their being. The session was attended by over 150 CEOs from the CE and Infrastructure sector.

Building Career in Construction Equipment

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of the construction equipment Industry, effective knowledge transfer plays a pivotal role in enhancing productivity, ensuring safety and fostering innovation. A half-day seminar was organized to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities associated with the construction equipment sector, exploring cutting-edge strategies, emerging technologies and best practices. Mr S Manjunath, Chairman, Task Force on Academia at EXCON and Director Sales & SAARC, Doosan India spoke on exploring knowledge and building careers for the future of the CE Industry.

Participants gained valuable insights into optimizing information flow, skill acquisition and expertise dissemination to propel the Industry forward in an era of rapid technological advancements. The session aimed to bring together academics, Industry professionals and experts to foster a collaborative discussion on the 'Future Trends of the Construction Equipment Industry'.

The session was curated to bridge the gap between Industry and academia and address the issues of talent pool in the construction equipment Industry. The speakers noted the need to create awareness amongst institutions on opportunities in the sector, leverage the R&D capability of institutions to drive breakthrough innovation in technology that shapes future infrastructure and build skillsets for present and future needs. They also underlined the importance of Industry to foster partnership with institutions and related stakeholders to focus more on quality and sustainability and create brand value around CE sector.

CEOs Interaction with BRO and Armed Forces

During the session on 'Exploring Opportunities in Defence & Border Roads Projects', CEOs interacted with officials from the Border Roads Organization (BRO) and Armed Forces. The BRO shed light on its extensive contributions to infrastructure development and outlined future initiatives.

Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, Director General, BRO said that by means of engaging with Industry partners, the BRO effectively conveyed its precise requirements for a model bridge, emphasizing the necessity for increased width, two lanes and enhanced support for larger spans with a higher load classification. In response to these clearly defined needs, the Industry has successfully delivered a model of the bridge that aligns with these specifications. The triumph of this collaborative endeavor underscores the indispensable role played by state-of-the-art construction equipment technologies in meeting the evolving requirements of organizations like the BRO. Advanced engineering and construction equipment, characterized by their adaptability and precision, not only facilitated the realization of the organization's specific demands but also significantly enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the infrastructure development process.

Lt Gen Arvind Walia, Engineer-in-Chief, Military Engineering Services, Ministry of Defence said that with a focus on defence infrastructure and an allocation of almost 3.3 per cent of our GDP, approximately USD 125 billion, we are poised to contribute to the nation's growth and technological prowess. Today, we stand at the forefront of progress, ready to meet the evolving demands of a rapidly growing economy on the path to a USD 5 trillion GDP, he added.



(L-R):Anand Sundaresan, Managing Director, Ammann India; Lt. Gen Arvind Walia, Engineer-In Chief, Military Engineering Services, Ministry of Defence, Government of India; Lt General Raghu Srinivasan, Director General of the Border Roads Organisation and Sandeep Singh, Managing Director, Tata Hitachi Construction Machinery Company Pvt Ltd

EXCON Glimpses

DIGNITARIES



INTERNATIONAL PAVILION



QUOTES



The construction equipment Industry witnessed a historic milestone last year, surpassing the 1 lakh sales volume mark for the first time. In the coming years, fuelled by healthy momentum from infrastructure development, the Industry aims to achieve a 20 per cent increase in sales. It positions India as an attractive destination.

Sanjeet Singh, Senior Advisor, NITI Aayog



Gender parity needs to be driven at the leadership level. Companies not only need to become inclusive in hiring and recruitment, but also in impacting the ecosystem by taking steps in gender responsive procurement and creating inclusive supply and value chains.

R Dinesh, President, CII & Chairman, EXCON 2023 and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd



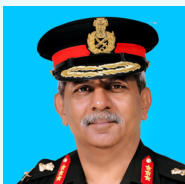
The CII EXCON 2023 has placed a special focus on 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. India is currently exporting construction equipment to more than 140 countries, which is a great achievement.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII



With confidence, we anticipate that in the coming years, the Industry will strive to become not only the most sustainable but also the world's topmost innovator.

Vivekanand Vanmeeganathan, President, Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA)



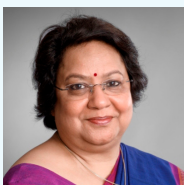
We have successfully collaborated with Industry partners for a model bridge meeting specific needs with increased width, two lanes and stronger support for larger spans and higher loads. This achievement underscored the vital role of modern construction equipment's in fulfilling evolving infrastructure demands efficiently and precisely.

Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan, Director General, Border Roads Organisation



Joining hands with Industry leaders marks a significant milestone in the tech-driven evolution of the construction Industry. As we navigate the surge in technological innovations, construction equipment plays a crucial role in reshaping the world we live in.

Lt Gen Arvind Walia, Engineer-In-Chief, Military Engineering Services, Ministry of Defence



Enhancing the participation of women in the construction Industry is a goal that we have to work on with single-minded focus. All stakeholders must work together to make that happen. The role of organizational policies and practices that enable women to build a successful and sustainable career in the construction sector will be a key enabler in this endeavour.

Rumjhum Chatterjee, Chairperson, CII National Committee on Women Empowerment and Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, The Infra Vision Foundation



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII Launches CII MARKET PLACE

Connecting Buyers & Sellers Worldwide

(Exclusive for CII Members)

KEY OFFERINGS



Showcase Products
& Services



Network with
Buyers & Sellers



Get Business Lead

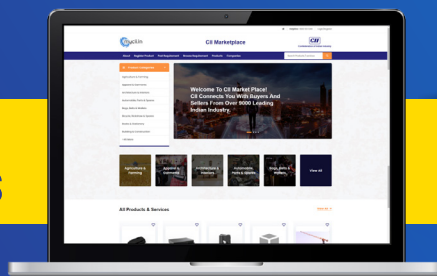


Advertising
Opportunity

- Explore Products & Services of **9000+** CII Member Companies
- **1000+** companies Already Registered

- Over **5000** Products & Services Registered
- **2.5 Lakh** Companies have access to CII Market Place

**REGISTER TODAY &
GET THE BUSINESS LEADS**



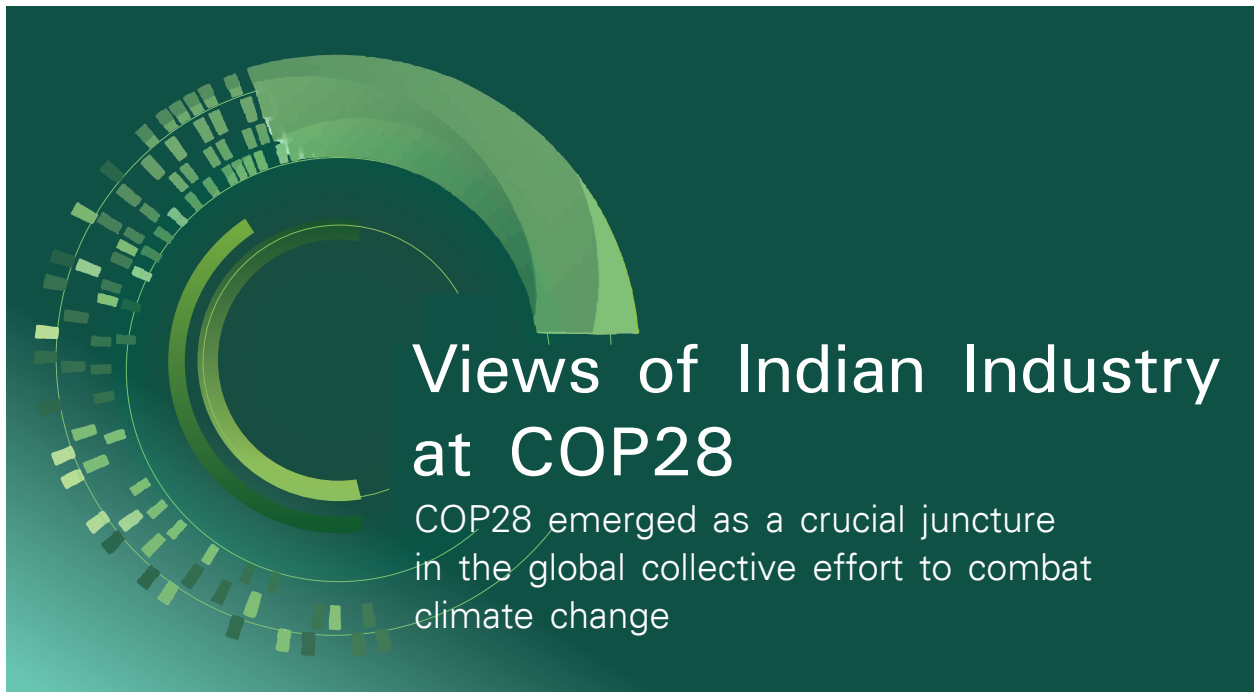
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CII played a pivotal role in representing the Indian Industry at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). The international conference, hosted in the UAE from 30 November – 12 December, emerged as a crucial juncture in the global collective effort to combat climate change.

One of the significant developments at COP28 was the conclusion of the first-ever global stocktake. This process served as a stark reminder of the collective shortfall in meeting the ambitious targets set by the Paris Agreement, specifically the 1.5°C target. The urgency of the situation was underscored, highlighting the critical need for immediate and ambitious climate action.

CII's involvement at COP28 was marked by a dedicated delegation of business leaders and a focused engagement strategy across various sessions. CII has

been an active participant in COP events over the years.

The delegation of business leaders who participated, represented the interests and perspectives of the Indian Industry. They participated in various sessions addressing a spectrum of issues that are critical to the global climate agenda. Discussions ranged from accelerating energy transitions and enhancing climate finance to just transition, market mechanisms, resilience and adaptation, and the pivotal role of businesses in climate action leadership.

Market mechanisms play an essential role in achieving net zero. The discussions showcased examples such as the use of green hydrogen, illustrating the need for a common set of standards to establish an effective market mechanism.

The emphasis on collaboration and innovation emerged as key components in ushering in an era of greener,



(L-R): Peeyush Mohit, Co-Founder and COO, O2 Power; Satish Mandhana, Senior Managing Director, Eversource; Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry; Jayant Sinha, Member of Indian Parliament; Jamshyd Godrej, Chairman, CII Climate Change Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited; Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, Director General and Special Representative of COP28 at the CII & COP28 Business Roundtable in Mumbai

cleaner energy solutions. Recognizing the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) which form the backbone of the Indian economy, CII dedicated sessions to underline their crucial role. Particularly within the automotive supply chain, discussions focused on the prerequisites for ensuring a just, efficient and equitable transition. These deliberations shed light on the nuanced challenges and opportunities within the auto Industry. Building upon the G20 report on Developing Resilient Renewable Energy Supply Chains for Global Clean Energy Transition, commissioned by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, CII highlighted India's significant role in establishing resilient renewable energy supply chains, securing India's renewable energy initiatives and supporting the broader global clean energy transition.

CII also launched a report on 'Industry's Priorities for COP28, Dubai: Indian Industry Perspective' during a roundtable on 'Decentralized Renewable Energy for SDG7: Powering livelihoods with clean energy' on 4 December, which was organized by CII, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and International Solar Alliance. The report provides a comprehensive exploration of critical areas and anticipated actions at COP28, offering valuable insights from an Indian Industry perspective.

The CII business delegation at COP28 comprised several signatories to the Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA), who actively participated in the high-level launch of an initiative led by Dr Sultan al Jaber and Mark Carney. The event brought together stakeholders from diverse entities, including the World Steel Association, Mission Possible Partnership, Energy Transition Commission, Global Cement and Concrete Association and business leaders from various companies.

As a precursor, to the ITA at COP28, on 8 November, a business roundtable was held by CII and COP28 Presidency, which was chaired by Mr Jamshyd N Godrej, Past President, CII & Chairman, CII Climate Change Council and CMD, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. The roundtable brought together the Industry leaders to strategize impactful global climate action. Senior members of the COP28 team, led by H.E. Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, Director General and Special Representative of COP28 attended the session. The interaction with businesses outlined plans to utilize COP28 as a platform for engaging with the corporate sector. The discussion covered various initiatives, including the Global GDA, the Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA) and the Charter for Oil and Gas Decarbonization (COGD). The consultation was followed by a commitment made by about 25 prominent Indian

QUOTES



The focus has been on electrifying the economy as much as possible. As far as India is concerned, efforts have been made towards greening the grid and that will continue. Out of the 50 GW trajectory that we have laid for the current year and the next four years from now, about 31 GW operations have already been issued and the rest are already planned for issuance. So, on the supply side, India has gone ahead. The pace now needs to be shown in execution.

Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India



The key to attracting foreign investments is identifying risks. These risks differ from country to country, and also within the same country, these risks may vary over time. If we can focus on identifying the risks accurately rather than focus on tariffs, we will be successful in drawing in the necessary investments required for clean technology adoption. India has done this pretty well for the renewables sector and over a period of time managed to accurately identify risks and bring in the investments.

Rajiv Ranjan Mishra, Managing Director - India, Apraava Energy Pvt Ltd



India's determined plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2070 is a guide for other developing countries. With strong policy frameworks, unwavering commitment by the Government and active involvement of the private and commercial sectors, India leads the Global South.

Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group

enterprises to participate in the ITA actively.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, CII actively contributed to the formulation of the National Inventory of Greenhouse Gases related to the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) sector. This collaborative effort was part of India's Third National Communications (NATCOM) to the UNFCCC.

Industry – Academia Partnership Vital to Accelerate R&D, Innovation

The competitiveness of a nation is dependent on the intellectual property it creates and holds. It leads to commercialization of research, economic growth, Industry-ready talent development and building competitiveness, says Vipin Sondhi



Industry-Academia partnership for research and innovation is now more critical than ever. The often quoted figure of national spend on R&D being 0.7 per cent of GDP is low in comparison to that of the developed world, which is 2.5 per cent. So, for a Viksit Bharat by 2047, we need to endeavour to reach the 2.5 per cent goal by 2030, and at least sustain it at that level. Of this, Industry contribution must grow from 37 per cent to 60 per cent.

I believe this goal will give a fillip to the national ambition of enhancing the contribution of the manufacturing sector, from the current 13 per cent of GDP to a minimum of 20 per cent of GDP. The two together – research & innovation and manufacturing – can feed off one another and have the ability to create a virtuous cycle.

On one hand, India's academic institutions for higher learning have been able to establish a reputation for academic rigour by producing brilliant young professionals. And on the other, India's industries have shown remarkable capability and resilience, thereby developing immense practical expertise. However, when it comes to collectively synergizing to address problems innovatively or be at the forefront of creating cutting-edge products, we fall short of our potential.

Industry Academia Collaboration

At the core of the Industry – Academia partnership, lies the continual flow of knowledge. Academic institutions are ideally the centres for research from where the output transfers to Industry through a robust mechanism, especially when it comes to bridging the infamous valley of death – i.e. between the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4 and 7.

This is why Industry – Academia collaboration is vital. It benefits both the Industry and academia, but more importantly the society at large and the nation as a whole. The competitiveness of a nation is dependent on the intellectual property it creates and holds. It leads to commercialization of research, economic growth, Industry-ready talent development and building competitiveness.

Commercialization of Research

Industry – Academia collaborations offer tremendous opportunities to higher education institutes / universities to commercialize their research through joint patent filing, licensing agreements, establishment of startup companies and most importantly, by ensuring improvement of research quality. Collaborations then foster innovation, development of new and advanced technologies, job creation leading to rapid economic growth of the country.

Industry Ready Talent Development

One of the critical benefits of Industry – Academia partnerships is that it fosters talent development. This enables fostering of a better talent pipeline, enabling a culture of excellence and preparing the next generation of professionals to take up Industry challenges.

Building Competitiveness

These collaborations also enhance competitiveness (at national and global level) and stature, by creating an ecosystem conducive for innovation. India is ranked 40th out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). We must target to become the top 25, the top 10 and then the top 5 over time.



Challenges

Conflict of Purpose

Of course, there are many challenges on the road to Industry – Academia collaborations. Academia prioritizes fundamental research, whereas Industry focuses on applied research for process improvement and often short-term profits, creating a significant conflict of purpose. Publishing papers is one of the prerogatives critical in academic research, whereas it is not so in industrial research.

Cultural Mismatch

Similarly, researchers in institutions of higher learning, while examining company-provided data, may identify a need for increased academic rigor and theoretical depth. An organization, on the other hand, may prioritize practical outcomes focusing on real-world solutions.

IPR Conflicts

The most significant concern is the conflict between a university's emphasis on protecting the right to publish and the Industry's need to safeguard patents and proprietary information.

Skill Gap

The skill gap is one of the biggest challenges. Often we have jobs and people, but we are not able to match one with the other, because of the lack of harmony between the skills our graduates possess and those demanded by the market.

Resource incongruity

The Indian Industry, even today, allocates a smaller portion of their budgets to partnerships with academia, unlike developed countries. In India, the Government is responsible for nearly 60 per cent of the R&D expenditure. It is high time the Industry increases its share in R&D investments.

Road Ahead

CII has recognized the need for addressing this critical need by establishing a Forum for Industry – Academia Partnership on R&D and Innovation. The objective is to enable Industry and academia to come into conversation on a common platform.

It plans to identify over the next six months, best practices emanating out of successful case studies of innovations that have resulted from collaborations between Industry and academia across six identified tracks.

Key Industry leaders from diverse sectors and visionary academicians from eminent institutions, are members of the Forum. Once the benchmarks are established along with the best practices, challenges, the road ahead, and a policy document for discussion with the Government, the Forum will endeavour to build on the successes and learnings from the failures, to scale up the process of research and innovation.

This article was contributed by Mr Vipin Sondhi, Chairman, CII National Forum on Industry Academia Partnership on R&D and Innovation

B20 India Paves Way for Inclusive Global Economy

B20 India chair N Chandrasekaran announced the establishment of a global institute that would advise enterprises and ensure a continuity of priorities. The institute would aim to foster innovation and promote sustainability, says Chandrajit Banerjee



The Business 20 (B20) group has risen to prominence as a global business platform that plays a crucial role in shaping policies. Within the G20, the B20 stands out as one of the most influential engagement groups, facilitating meaningful dialogues between the international business community, G20 decision-makers, and Governments.

B20's inception goes back to 2010, when it was first constituted under the South Korean G20 presidency, from when the Confederation of Indian Industry has had the opportunity to participate and represent Indian businesses. Since then, B20 has been providing a stage for business leaders from G20 economies to discuss issues of global economic and trade governance, ideate on solutions to pressing economic challenges, and provide policy recommendations for G20 governments to consider. Over the years, as we continue to represent Indian businesses in the B20, we have been witnessing the group gain in strength and visibility.

The current geopolitical uncertainties have posed significant challenges to the nascent, post-pandemic economic recovery. India took over the G20 presidency at a time global businesses were going through turbulence caused by the pandemic, disruptions to global value chains, and extreme climate events. These called for a revitalised corporate impetus.

The G20 India theme, 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', underscored the importance of resilient business systems and practices in the face of uncertainties. B20 India, hosted by the CII as the B20 India secretariat, seized the opportunity to focus on amplifying the voices of developing countries. B20 India's core principles, guided through the overarching theme of RAISE—responsible, accelerated, innovative, sustainable

and equitable businesses—guided the deliberations throughout the course of B20 India for fostering a strong, resilient, and equitable global economy.

Through the B20 India platform, we worked towards redefining the global economic environment and forming clear, precise, timely, and necessary recommendations to address shared concerns. Under the leadership of N Chandrasekaran, chair of B20 India, a diverse team of business leaders and experts collaborated through seven task forces and two action councils. With the participation of a wide range of businesses representing 35+ countries and participation from more than 25 sectors, B20 India strengthened international cooperation and evolved concrete partnerships over the year of India's presidency. Cumulatively, this inclusive approach involved approximately 1,500 members from all G20 members and invitee countries, along with numerous stakeholders globally. The year-long process received invaluable support from the international advisory caucus.

B20 India's impact extended beyond formal deliberations, with over 110 policy advocacy and outreach initiatives gathering more than 20,000 delegates to disseminate key messages. The B20 task forces and action councils dedicated meticulous efforts to develop actionable recommendations across various themes, leading to ground-breaking ideas and solutions. These diligent efforts have yielded results as showcased in nine policy reports. As a result, B20 India formulated 54 recommendations and 172 policy enablers through its task forces and action councils, nearly 80 percent of which have been considered and adopted by the G20.

Notable accomplishments included the study of accelerating services trade and enhancing technology



in trade, the rollout of digital public infrastructure, and the promotion of digital trust through harmonising cybersecurity standards. Recommendations also addressed the sustainability and climate change imperative, focusing on net-zero transition, common ESG reporting standards, and harmonised international carbon markets.

Looking ahead, B20 India outlined three key initiatives for the coming years including the establishment of a B20 Global Institute, which would provide knowledge, research and policy advocacy to global enterprises, ensuring a continuation of priorities. The institute, led by businesses, will focus on building resilient global value chains, leveraging digital innovations and AI for social good, fostering innovation, sustainability, energy transition, and promoting ESG principles and inclusion. It will collaborate with businesses globally to drive new opportunities.

Another outcome was accelerating financial support for decarbonisation efforts in the Global South, aligning with India's focus during its G20 presidency. This initiative aims to develop strategies and address financing for hard-to-abate sectors to advance decarbonisation.

B20 India also recommended the establishment of a Global SDG Acceleration Fund or GSAF, a global multi-donor fund facilitating private sector participation in funding progress towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing economies. GSAF aims to bridge the SDG financing gap by bringing together governments, the private sector, and philanthropies, leveraging credit enhancement tools and blended finance.

Through these efforts, B20 India represented a collective aspiration for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive global economy. Building on the work of previous B20 deliberations, it set a new agenda for a transformative future. We believe that the commitment, collaboration, and visionary thinking of stakeholders involved in B20 India have paved the way for a brighter and more equitable future for the world.

(This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in the New Indian Express on 5 January)

UTTARAKHAND INVESTORS' SUMMIT

India will be among top 3 economies, says Modi

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said India will definitely be listed among the top three economies of the world during his third term, as he made a strong pitch for the return of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre in the Lok Sabha elections next year.

"In my third term as Prime Minister of the country, India will definitely be listed among the top three countries of the world," Modi said during his inaugural address at the two-day Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit being held at Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. "A stable government, a supportive policy system, a mindset to reform to transform and self-confidence to become developed... All this has happened for the first time. So, I am telling you this is the right time. This is the time of Bharat. I appeal to you to walk with Uttarakhand, develop yourself and help in developing



Narendra Modi

the state," he said, as he called on investors to set up their businesses in the state. According to state government officials, over 1,000 investors and delegates are attending the event that is centered on the theme 'Peace to Prosperity'. The summit, the officials said, will be a platform for business delegations, corporate leaders, academia, innovators and government leadership from across the globe to collectively explore business opportunities and partnerships in the state. Modi said that India's "special development has happened in the last few years". "There was a population of the country that was deprived of everything,

Now, due to the government's schemes, more than 13 crore people have come out of poverty in just five years," he said. He said businessmen are conducting a SWOT Analysis to identify their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. "But as a nation, if we find generations have self-motivation, we can do it," he said.

PM Modi asks businesses to invest in Uttarakhand



Dehradun: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked businesses to invest in Uttarakhand and partner in its development journey. After inaugurating a two-day Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit here, he appealed to investors from all over the world.

UTTARAKHAND INVESTORS' SUMMIT

India to be \$5tn economy by end of '25, excel in every field by '47: Shah

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: India will become a \$5 trillion economy by the end of 2025 and will excel in every field by 2047, Union home minister



Amit Shah

the world," he said. "By 2047, PM Modi has set the target to make India the No.1 country in all the sectors across the world. Today, the whole world is looking towards India," he added, asserting that the country will "become a \$5 trillion economy by the end of 2025".

Hailing the signing of over ₹3.5 lakh crore memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the global investors' summit, the Union home minister said: "This is not only the celebration of Destination Uttarakhand, but also the beginning of many new

ernment and administration of Uttarakhand under the leadership of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. This is the beginning of exploring the infinite possibilities of new Uttarakhand. This will set a great example for the entire world as to how Uttarakhand can be connected with the industry in an eco-friendly manner." Addressing the event, Dhami appreciated Shah and the Centre for continuous support.

"Be it ease of doing business, single window clearance, simplifying difficult rules, efforts to control the budget, today Uttarakhand is trying to live up to all the parameters. By adopting the Prime Minister's basic mantra of Reform, Perform and Transform, the state government has tried to implement simple and transparent policies for many sectors, so that our industrialists do not have to face any kind of problems. In this investor Summit, Uttarakhand has received

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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India Can be Global Leader in Construction Equipment Making by 2028, Says Gadkari

Our Bureau

Bengaluru: Union Road transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari said India could be the global leader in construction equipment manufacturing in the next five years. Speaking at the inauguration of South Asia's largest construction equipment trade fair Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Excon in Bengaluru, he said India's construction sector will have a significant contribution to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make the country a carbon neutral economy. Union Road transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday.



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari at the release of a book in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

the construction and mining sectors can effectively reduce emis-

use of sustainable materials and alternative fuels," he said. Excon 2023 saw over a thousand exhibitors, including more than 100 from overseas. The exhibition also attracted participation from 15 countries including 5 country pavilions from France, Germany, Italy, Turkey and UK.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of CII said India's construction equipment industry was currently exporting to over 140 countries.

"To enhance sustainability and efficiency, private players in the construction sector should focus on automation, the adoption of advanced technologies, global best practices, and the use of alternative fuels, and innovations in utilizing waste materials as raw materials for construction," he said.

AT FICCI'S 96TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will Address EU's Carbon Tax, Retaliate if Required: Goyal

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said India will address the issue of the European Union's plan to impose a carbon tax on certain imported goods and that the country would "retaliate" if required. Under the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), non-EU steel producers are required to report direct and indirect emissions. The monitoring of such products began on October 1. "We will address the problem of CBAM with confidence. We will find solutions. We will see how we can convert CBAM to our advantage. If it comes in," Goyal said at FICCI's 96th annual general meeting and annual convention. "Of course I will retaliate, you need not worry about it. India to



The Statesman

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Q2 manufacturing marvel was fuelled by India Inc's record profits lifted by easing commodity input costs

KR Srivastava
New Delhi

The robust 13.9 per cent growth in manufacturing sector output in July-September — which lifted the overall Q2 GDP growth to a blistering 7.6 per cent — can largely be explained by the surge in nominal profits of listed manufacturing companies, say industry insiders and economy watchers. Profitability and margin boosts for manufacturing companies came on the back of a fall in commodity input costs, despite inflationary headwinds.



ON A HIGH. For the first time in more than two years, manufacturing sector growth in the July-September quarter exceeded services sector growth.

to a base period. For the first time in more than two years, manufacturing sector growth in the July-September quarter exceeded services sector growth, official data released

the manufacturing front has not come as a surprise to industry insiders and captains of industry. "We were expecting this kind of print as it was corroborated by the strong profit performance of Corporate India

pected to be sustained in the third quarter as well, given the festive season demand playing off, this representative added. This will have a positive impact on overall GDP for Q3 as well. After a robust start in Q1 with a 30 per cent growth in bottomline, in Q2, also, India Inc reported a year-on-year increase of 31 per cent. This was mainly contributed by sectors such as banks, auto, capital goods, cement, electronics, power generation, realty, and FMCG.

'HEARTENING' Subaltern Panda said that the contribution of the manufacturing sector to Q2 GDP is heartening. "It is an outcome of the foundation of the founda-

besides the overall uptick in economic activity," he said. Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said, "A slew of interventions announced by the government, including the PLI scheme, improving the cost of doing business, and provision of a facilitative environment for the logistics sector through the National Logistics Policy, the National Logistics Policy, among others, have buttressed the strong growth posted by the manufacturing sector."

He highlighted that a strong capex push, primarily led by the government, is supporting investment, and it augurs well for stimulating demand in other sectors through its multiplier impact on growth. Banerjee expects domestic demand drivers to continue to support India's GDP growth in the remaining

Need to shift from linear economy to circular economy, says Puri

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 1 DECEMBER

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has emphasized the need for understanding and exchange of best practices in various dimensions of waste management.

In his video address at the 8th International Conference on Waste to Wealth, Puri said, "It is imperative that we shift from a linear economy to the circular economy and inculcate a sense of 'bhagiat' among industry, technology partners, waste management companies and international

cular Economy as it envisions a future where national resources are recognized as finite and our national prosperity is based on zero waste within the circular economy."

The National Circular Economy Framework (NCEF) unveiled by Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, NCEF serves as a concise roadmap for India's transition to a circular economy, emphasizing collaboration, awareness, and targeted actions for a sustainable and prosperous future. Addressing the inaugural session of the summit, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood said

waste management. "Recycling Plastic waste, electronic waste, and faecal sludge are potential opportunity areas. India should review its waste management challenges, not merely as problems but as opportunities, as it will open the door to transformative advancements in the sector," he said. On the occasion, Masood Mallick, Chair, CII Masood Mallick, Chair, CII Masood Mallick, Chair, CII Force on Waste to Wealth 2023 and CEO, ReSustain ability mentioned that waste is no longer just an environmental issue but has significant economic resource security and outcomes of the G20 deliberations is the realisation that nations must be one of the strategies for building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future. Mallick said

Our Bureau

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NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
Finance Minister

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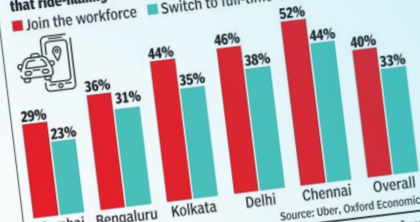
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Page : 23

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Access to mobility could increase female workforce by over 6% by 2028 in India's top five cities and with a ride-hailing boost to women, over half a million more women will join the workforce in these cities, a report showed on Thursday.

"We estimate that greater access to ride-hailing services, which make transport more inclusive for women, could boost the number of women in the workforces of Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai by between 3.7% and 6.5% by 2028, over and above the natural growth in the size of the population," said a report by Oxford Economics commissioned by Uber. The report on ride hailing's — A

Share of working women riders who agreed or strongly agreed that ride-hailing enabled them to...
 ...to full-time work



The study draws from a selected across five major cities — Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai — revealed insights into how ride-hailing has enabled women to overcome barriers to workforce entry.

strike a balance between work and family, prioritise safety, and access a broader range of career opportunities.

Four out of 10 working women riders noted that ride-hailing played a crucial role in facilitating their entry into the workforce, while half of them emphasised its importance in achieving a work-family balance. Safety emerged as a top priority, with 75% of women citing it as a primary reason for using ride-hailing services. One in three working women riders acknowledged that ride-hailing expanded their access to a wide pool of suitable work opportunities, thereby broadening their career prospects. Of the three working women, one agreed that ride-hailing led them to switch from time to full-time work.

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Thu, 07 Dec-23; Business Line - Delhi; Size : 11

BULLISH OUTLOOK. Riding on both public and private optimism, the U.S. stock market has been on a tear since the start of the year. The S&P 500 index has risen more than 10% in the first three months of the year, and is up more than 20% since the start of 1997. The market's performance has been particularly strong in the technology sector, which has seen a number of major companies, including Microsoft, Intel, and Sun Microsystems, post record earnings and stock prices. The market's performance has also been helped by a strong economy, with GDP growth of 4.5% in the first quarter of 1997. The market's performance is a reflection of the optimism of investors, who are confident that the economy will continue to grow and that the market will continue to rise.

with his optimistic view pegged at 6.7 per cent.

"Now, we are revising to 6.8 per cent. In fact for next fiscal (2024-25), we are now projecting a GDP growth of 7 per cent. So far we didn't have a number for next fiscal. However, since we now have visibility, we are saying it," Dinesh added.

ON INVESTMENTS
CII President expressed confidence that investments — both private and public investments — will further go up in the second half of this year. He said that public and private investments will work in a "virtuous circle" in this fiscal and already in the next fiscal year, as they have been encouraged on the investment side in the equal measure.

He said that a significant majority of CII members

A significant majority of CII members are now saying that the second half is going to be better than H1 — for investments, growth and export growth.

R DINESH
CII President

"For three quarters, almost all sectors are talking of 75-90 per cent capacity utilisation. With these facts

There has been a focus on generation

Sat, 27

on infrastructure changes the industry globally. We will continue to see FDI flows show up as we keep the cost of doing business low and not look at FDI from 3-6 months. Just as we see in 12-18 months should look at the new MNCs setting up centres and sustaining here," says Dinesh.

India's big ask from government will be continuity in economic infrastructure cost spending, making sure the fiscal deficit is within the sustainable generation happens, Dinesh said.

On infrastructure, GST has brought in the economy, the macroeconomic and geopolitical tailwinds. The unique populating has enhanced the attractiveness of the investment as "destination."

"The narrative and investment strategy for global venture capitalists is no longer looking at the cost of doing it. It is to look at the cost of doing it for a specific focus either for domestic or for export markets," he says.

JOB CREATION

Dinesh stresses that the government should look to further incentive industry in employment creation in

manufacturing sector in the country.

"Direct tax rebate already there from first time employment perspective. More needs to be done to create employment and development. In a providing more incentive for job creation by increasing will be Crowding private investment to fit the private sector," said.

MONETARY POLICY

ASKED about CII's expectations on ongoing policy review (rums Dec 6-8), Dinesh said, don't want them to raise policy rates, want them to "ease".

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Going Global

HOW WILL IT HELP?

- Enhanced employability and mobility for candidates
- EMPLOYERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO INDUSTRY-RELEVANT SKILLED WORKFORCE
- Creation of a talent pool skilled for global requirements



Microsoft, IBM, HCL Tech, CII on board; talks on with Google, Meta, Cisco

Yogima Seth

New Delhi: The government has initiated a plan to recognise skill certifications awarded by top institutions. The plan is being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



Confederation of Indian Industry

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Cricket for Corporate Professionals

The C3L brought together professionals from various industries, combining the thrill of cricket with the corporate spirit



Engaging in sports offers a holistic approach by means of which corporate professionals can maintain physical and mental well-being. Beyond stress reduction and enhanced cognitive function, participation in sports fosters teamwork, social connections and emotional regulation. The discipline and time management required in sports activities translate into valuable skills for the corporate world. Encouraging a sports-oriented lifestyle also cultivates a positive and balanced corporate culture, fostering more satisfied, productive and resilient professionals.

In view of this, CII Delhi Cricket Corporate League (C3L) recently concluded its week-long extravaganza at the Jamia Millia Islamia Cricket Ground, New Delhi from 27 November - 3 December. The unique sporting event brought together professionals from various industries,

combining the thrill of cricket with the corporate spirit.

The corporate world has witnessed a paradigm shift in recent years, with an increasing emphasis on employee health and well-being. Recognizing the significance of a healthy workforce, the C3L was conceptualized to provide a platform for professionals to engage in physical activities, particularly cricket, which has gained immense popularity in the corporate sector. The tournament aimed to bring together individuals from diverse industries, fostering a sense of camaraderie and promoting a culture of fitness. The tournament also aimed at creating networking opportunities and promoting a healthy work-life balance.

The C3L garnered significant attention and participation, with 12 enthusiastic teams from various industries



Glimpse of the cricket match

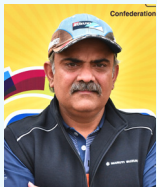
ving for the coveted trophy. The event witnessed 19 matches being played over one week with Maruti Suzuki Masters beating Unicharm Lions in the final to lift the C3L trophy.

The tournament saw participation of over 200 participants, with many CEOs turning up to cheer their teams. It was telecast on YouTube for friends, family and colleagues to watch and cheer. Many participating companies also streamed their respective matches in offices.

The success of this tournament has set a precedent for future editions and similar initiatives, fostering a culture where physical fitness is not only encouraged but celebrated in the corporate sphere.

The tournament highlighted the versatility of professionals, showcasing their skills beyond the boardroom and creating a dynamic platform for a holistic exchange of ideas, ultimately contributing to the development of a positive and vibrant corporate culture.

QUOTES



The Cricket Corporate League goes beyond the boundaries of the field. It promotes a healthy lifestyle and creates an environment where professionals can connect on a personal level, transcending the usual corporate interactions.

Vidhur Kaushik, Captain, Maruti Suzuki Masters



Being part of the C3L was an exhilarating experience. It not only allowed me to showcase my cricketing skills but also provided a platform to build relationships with professionals from diverse industries.

Pankaj Mishra, Captain, Unicharm Lions



CII's Corporate Cricket League bowls over the traditional notions of corporate engagement. This league isn't just about cricket; it's a dynamic force driving fitness and mental well-being in the corporate

world. Step up to the crease for a healthier, more resilient workplace.

Madhav Singhania

Deputy Chairman, CII Northern Region and Deputy MD & CEO, JK Cement Limited



CII's Corporate Cricket League is rewriting the rules of corporate engagement. More than just a sporting spectacle, it is a platform that encourages fitness, teamwork and mental resilience among the corporate

players. Hit those fitness goals while hitting those boundaries!

Puneet Kaura

Chairman, CII Delhi State Council and MD & CEO, Samtel Avionics Limited



'Work hard, play hard' is a mantra for today's organisations for having a good work-life balance. I would like to compliment CII for organizing the CII Corporate Cricket Tournament. The event was

organized in an extremely professional manner and provided a great opportunity for corporates to showcase their talent in the field of cricket too.

CV Raman, CTO, Maruti Suzuki India Limited



CII's Corporate Cricket League is a great initiative to promote good health, team building and competitiveness amongst Industry. The outbreak of COVID-19 has taught each one of us the importance of health

and I believe C3L is playing an important role in emphasizing the need for good health amongst colleagues in the Industry.

Harsh Vardhan Bansal, Chairman, CII Delhi Sub Committee on Infrastructure, Real Estate & Urban Development and Chairman, Unity Group

Engaging with the World

MIDDLE EAST

India-UAE: Partnership in Manufacturing

CII organised a high-level CEOs delegation, led by Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited to the UAE from 18-19 December. The delegation had strategic meetings in Dubai with key stakeholders, wherein it explored avenues for collaboration in technology, tourism, and the new economy, highlighting the mutual benefits of deeper cooperation. Notable interactions were held reinforcing the commitment to strengthen bilateral ties between India and the UAE.

Alongside the CII CEOs Delegation, two sectoral delegations focused on the SME and manufacturing sectors also visited Abu Dhabi and Ras al Khaimah, respectively, and had meetings with key stakeholders from the UAE.

The manufacturing delegation, led by Mr Ravi Raghavan, MD, Bharat Fritz Werner Ltd., focused on discussions around fostering business collaborations and providing a strategic direction to the Indian Industry's engagements in the UAE.

Possibilities of collaboration in key sectors including heavy engineering, construction and critical equipment, machine tools, food processing and agri, automotive - buses and commercial vehicles, metal-based industries, rubber and related products, speciality chemicals, were discussed.

The delegation visited the RAK Chamber of Commerce, RAK Economic Zone (RAKEZ), Al Marjan Island, Falcon Technologies Limited and Elite Extrusion LLC on 18 December. The members also attended 'Investopia - Global Talks: Accelerating UAE-India Investment' in Dubai on 19 December.



(L - R): The members of the CII CEOs Delegation with H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Cabinet member and UAE Minister of Economy on the sidelines of the Investopia in Dubai

LAC

Interaction with Suriname Foreign Affairs Minister

CII, in partnership with Suriname Investment and Trade Agency (SITA), hosted a B2G interaction between prominent leaders of Indian Industry and H.E. Mr Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Suriname on 5 December in New Delhi.

Mr Rajiv Wahi, Member, CII National Committee on Latin America and the Caribbean reiterated that Suriname and India have long-standing cultural ties dating back to 1873, when the first batch of Indian workers arrived on the shores of Suriname. This shared history and culture are the primary drivers of respect and trust among the populace of the two countries, which holds the key to increased cooperation in diplomatic and economic arenas.

H.E. Mr S Balachandran, Ambassador of India to Suriname noted that there is an increase in high-profile exchanges between the two countries, and added that this goes on to show the reignited mutual interest between the two countries.

H.E. Mr Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of Suriname to India discussed the latest updates regarding Suriname's energy and natural resources sector. Suriname is quickly making a reputation for itself as a prominent source of offshore petroleum extraction with the first discovery in 2020.

H.E. Mr Albert Ramdin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Suriname invited investments by Indian energy companies in exploring opportunities in

petroleum production, refining and mining. The country is looking to expand its mining sector in the western region to explore bauxite and gold.

Suriname is also focusing on infrastructure development with projects like a greenfield airport and a hydroelectrical plant. A conglomerate between Suriname, Guyana and Brazil, aided by Indian Industry, could collaborate in mining, supply chains, potable water, food security and forestry sectors.

Societal Interface

Climate Change Resilience: Crop Residue Management

The challenge of crop residue burning is complex and requires a multi-stakeholder approach with Government, Industry, farmer community and other stakeholders joining hands to tackle the issue



The winter skies in many parts of India's northwest are a grey haze due to air pollution. Air quality in the region deteriorates to hazardous levels in several pockets, especially around the October-November period, making it imperative for effective air pollution management. In November, for instance, the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the severe category for long periods in Delhi-NCR, often plummeting to the 'very severe' category.

A combination of factors leads to this intense pollution, but post-harvest crop residue burning in the states of Punjab and Haryana is a significant aggravator. According to an estimate, burning one tonne of paddy straw releases 3 kg particulate matter, 60 kg CO, 1460 kg CO₂, 199 kg ash and 2 kg SO₂.

Farmers resort to burning crop residue after harvesting the paddy due to several reasons: a lack of awareness

about the ill effects of stubble burning, access to viable and economical alternatives and the short window period between harvesting one crop and sowing the next. This annual escalation of stubble burning poses a significant threat not only to the quality of air but also to the quality of soil, which worsens over time, decreasing farm yield and farmer incomes over the long term. A challenge of this magnitude and complexity requires a multi-stakeholder approach with Government, Industry, farmer community and other stakeholders joining hands to tackle the issue.

The Role of Indian Industry in Addressing Stubble Burning

Indian Industry can play a critical role in both short-term as well as long-term solutions for efficient crop residue management, complementing the efforts of the

Government. Its contribution can be multi-dimensional, ranging from technological innovations vis-à-vis new tools/technologies, facilitating the transfer of technology to utilising rice straw as a raw material in keeping with the principles of a circular economy.

As India's leading Industry association, CII launched a crop residue management project under its 'Cleaner Air Better Life' initiative in 2018. The project is led on the ground by the CII Foundation and implemented using a multi-stakeholder approach with farmers, Government, and corporations. It aims to make zero crop residue burning a farmer movement, facilitating Industry and community partnership in climate change mitigation efforts.

The CII Foundation-led crop residue management project was launched as a pilot project in 19 villages in Punjab in 2018. The success of the CII Foundation pilot project showcased the potential of Industry-led initiatives in curbing stubble burning, affirming the existence of viable solutions. Since then, the project coverage has been expanded over the years using a 360-degree approach to address every facet of the challenge. A gamut of activities are undertaken such as awareness building, supporting farmers with appropriate machinery and training, and handholding to facilitate the adoption of the machinery.

The project adopts a 70:30 approach, where 70 per cent of crop residue/biomass is recycled in-situ (in the farms themselves), and about 30 per cent is managed through ex-situ measures, involving mechanized collection of

biomasses out of the farms and supply for industrial usages, and straw value addition. In-situ recycling of straw replenishes the soil, making it richer with organic matter and carbon, whereas ex-situ opens new avenues for increasing farmer incomes.

In 2023, the project had been implemented across 12 districts in Punjab and Haryana covering 432 villages and 4.97 lakh acres and 88,000 farmers. Overall, there is an 86 per cent reduction in incidents of burning in the 432 villages. The project is supported by the Government, Punjab and Haryana agricultural universities and corporates. The CII Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) undertakes research and advisory to enhance investment in the sector and shape policy.

Recognizing the role of the Indian Industry in addressing the crop residue management challenge, the Government modified its crop residue management policy in 2023 to improve the rice straw supply chain focusing on building partnerships among farmer groups and industries. It will facilitate these joint projects with seed funds up to 65 per cent of the project cost.

Moving Forward

Recognized with prestigious awards such as the UNDP SDG Action Award and the Global Development Network, CII Foundation's Crop Residue Management (CRM) initiative is successfully promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating a zero-stubble-burning movement. The success of the Crop Residue Management Initiative underscores the potential for

Industry-led collaborations to address pressing environmental issues. Continuing and expanding such efforts will be crucial in achieving broader sustainability goals and ensuring the well-being of both farmers and the environment.

This collaborative model could serve as an inspiration for similar initiatives in other regions grappling with comparable challenges, fostering a positive impact on a global scale. The way forward involves sustained commitment, increased corporate engagement and continued collaboration with diverse stakeholders to drive positive change in agricultural practices and environmental outcomes. The goal is to reach 1,000 villages by 2025.

Watch the coverage of the project on Doordarshan News here - <https://bit.ly/48cDScD>

INTERVENTION STRATEGY



Empowering Startups



India – Australia Startup Exchange

A delegation of startups to Australia was organized from 4-8 December to provide Indian startups, who are at the growth stage, an opportunity to showcase their strengths. The visit also helped the companies to understand the international markets for their business growth and get introduced to cutting-edge startups from Australia.

The delegation members gained market understanding, enhanced network, strategic alliances and knowledge exchange. As part of the visit, the delegation visited Melbourne and Sydney and engaged in interactive sessions with the Industry, held B2B meetings and visited companies/clusters. The activities also included meetings with investors and networking sessions.

Technology for Waste Management

The management of waste has evolved significantly over time. In the past, waste management primarily focused on disposal methods like landfills or open burning. However, current waste management practices emphasize the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling.

In view of this, a CII - Cisco Masterclass Series on 'Waste Not, Want Not' was organized on 5 December. During a panel discussion, Ms Sruthi Kannan, Head - Cisco for Startups deliberated on the practices and approaches from the past to the present. The panel was attended by Mr Y Rajshekar, Head - Engineering Environment, Tata Steels; Ms Shoba Raghavan, Director & Chief Operating Officer, Saahas Zero waste; and Mr Vinod Karumampoyil, Director, Digital Transformation Office.

The session underscored technology innovation, decentralized treatment and bioconversion as critical elements for a circular waste management approach. The panellists also deliberated on how startups entering this sector and leveraging

technology can address environmental concerns while building scalable business models. The speakers recommended technological investments to improve recyclable materials, Government policy frameworks and promoting sustainable practices through awards and recognitions.

Innovation through Incubation for Inclusive Growth

A session was organized on 'Innovation through Incubation for Inclusive Growth' on 18 December. The session highlighted ways to scale incubator ecosystem in India by promoting best practice models and building capacity and capability of incubators through targeted interventions.

The CII Incubator Forum was also launched during the event. The forum will support the emergence of new-age businesses, attract global investments, harness opportunities of the stakeholders, create a future-ready talent pool with the right skills and will be instrumental in rolling out a dynamic and forward-looking policy regime.

Mr Kunal Bahl, Chairman, CII National Startup Council and Co-Founder & Chairman AceVector Group and



Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Titan Capital shared his perspectives and journey of startups to becoming a unicorn.

Mr Ashish Garde, CII Partner for ICONN Program and Director, Marathwada Accelerator for Growth & Incubation Council (MAGIC), shared his perspectives with the gathering on the Revenue Streams for Incubators, with a special focus on not-for-profit incubators.

Mr Raghuttama Rao, Chairman, CII Sub-Committee on Academia Collaboration and CEO, Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, IIT Madras talked about the important role of Industry incubator collaboration and how the startup sector along with scientific and disruptive technology can benefit the society.

Over 150 participants attended the session including investors and professionals from incubators, startups, corporates and academia.

CII Unicorn Forum – Delhi Meet

CII firmly believes that unicorns are engines of growth and drivers of innovation. To foster collaboration, sharing insights, and addressing common challenges unique to these high-impact companies, CII has constituted the CII Unicorn Forum. The Delhi Meet of the CII Unicorn Forum was organized on 21 December in Gurugram.



The event was steered by Mr Abhiraj Bhal, Chairman, CII Unicorn Forum and Co-Founder & CEO, Urban Company and Mr Rahul Garg, Co-Chair, CII Unicorn Forum and CEO & Founder Moglix. The gathering saw equal representation from Venture Capitals and Unicorn founders, which fostered insightful conversations and exchange of ideas.

This forum is a supportive community where unicorns can thrive, learn and contribute to the overall success of the ecosystem. The vision is to nurture and expand the unicorn ecosystem, with the goal of enabling India to become the 'Unicorn Capital' of the world by 2035. To materialize this vision, CII is preparing a comprehensive report that would be a narrative that paints a vivid picture of India's entrepreneurial spirit, resilience and innovative prowess. McKinsey is the knowledge partner for this initiative. In shaping this significant Industry narrative, CII has started seeking diverse perspectives from founders, investors and Industry stakeholders through discussions and events. So far seven interactive sessions have been conducted with unicorn founders from various sectors including healthcare, fintech, logistics, and e-commerce, among others.

Driving Business Growth with Digital Manufacturing Business Suite

Success of every manufacturing or trading unit depends on meticulous planning, effective day to day monitoring of procurement, production, sales and finance divisions and keeping close watch on market trends. In today's world, it is important to build a connected organization, which leverages information at each stage and eliminates common challenges faced by the Industry. In this context, a session on 'Driving Business Growth with Digital Manufacturing Business Suite' was organized on 21 December virtually.

Mr Vishal Dode, Consultant & Sales Manager, TCS iON addressed the solution that consolidates multiple applications to provide a comprehensive view of the business, enabling improved processes and better outcomes. Participants had an interactive discussion and got to know how they can get a holistic view of their geographically spread business processes for informed decision making with Digital Manufacturing Business Suite.

Sectorscape



Young Indians

Yi Take Pride

CII's youth wing, Young Indians (Yi), hosted its landmark 20th National Summit, 'Take Pride 2023' on 21-22 December, in Chennai.

Built around the theme - "I am" resonating unity amidst diversity, the summit showcased Young Indians' resolute commitment to fostering a transformative environment.



(L-R): Tarang Khurana, National Vice Chairman (Designate), CII Young Indians (Yi) and Director, Icon Solar-en Power Technologies Pvt Ltd; Vishal Kumar Agarwalla, National Vice Chairman, Yi and Director - Company Development, CTC (INDIA) Pvt Ltd; Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Dilip Krishna, National Chairman, CII Yi and Chief Executive Officer, Carpe Diem at Yi Take Pride in Chennai

This event celebrated the collective identity of Young Indians and sparked a vibrant dialogue focusing on youth leadership, nation-building, and thought leadership – the integral pillars shaping India's future. More than 850 Yi members from across India attended the conference.



(L-R): Vishal Kumar Agarwalla; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Dilip Krishna and Mr Praveen Agarwal, Chair- Take Pride, CII Yi and Managing Director, Meraqee Pvt Ltd

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, highlighted how the global perception for India has changed over the course of time. India stands as an interoperable partner, ready to collaborate across borders and domains, he asserted.

Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr TRB Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu, Ms Huma Qureshi, Indian Actress & Author, and Mr Jamling Tenzing Norgay, Mountaineer, among others were the speakers who shared their perspectives at the event.

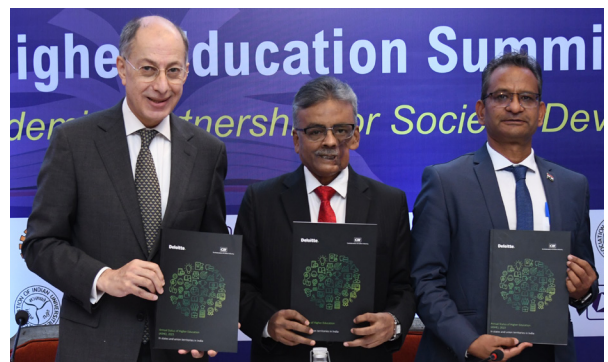


Education

Leveraging Industry – Academia Partnerships for Societal Development

CII, in association with AICTE and AIU, organized the 13th edition of CII National Higher Education Summit around the theme "Leveraging Industry – Academia Partnerships for Societal Development" on 16 December in New Delhi.

During the summit, the 11th edition of CII – Deloitte Report on Annual Status of Higher Education was released by Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Secretary, Science & Engineering Research Board. He highlighted that in India, funding is not translated to universities in the



Dr Naushad Forbes, Past President, CII & Chairman, CII National Higher Education Committee & Co Chairman, Forbes Marshall; Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Secretary, Science & Engineering Research Board and Dr Kamlesh Vyas, Partner, Deloitte at the CII National Higher Education Summit in New Delhi

tier II and III, as impactful and translational research output and patent filing is low. He called for new research culture and curiosity to find solutions. As a way forward, he emphasized action towards strengthening research in these universities and improving the quality of researchers in the country.

Experts from both public and private sector Institutes and CXOs from the biotech, construction, technology and manufacturing sectors participated in the discussions. The speakers explored the impacts of Industry – academia partnership on labour intensive sectors, R&D, economic development and improvement in World QS University Rankings.



Design

Design from Handicraft to Spacecraft

CII, in collaboration with the Office of the World Design Organization (WDO) and NITI Aayog, Government of India, organized the 23rd India Design Summit and Awards around the theme 'Design from Handicraft to Spacecraft' on 14 December in New Delhi.

The event encapsulated the evolution and diversity of design and celebrates the transformative journey from traditional craftsmanship to cutting-edge space exploration. It served as a testament to the dynamic and inclusive nature of design in India, recognizing excellence across various spheres and reinforcing the nation's commitment to innovation and creativity.

Shri S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India underscored the important role of design and creativity

for the nation. He highlighted the significance of system design as the key to connecting people with digital, terming this transformation as 'Digital by Design'. Ms Mugdha Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India asserted that design, as a multifaceted discipline, transcends boundaries and is integral to the creative economy.

Prof Pradyumna Vyas, Senior Advisor, CII and President-Elect – World Design Organization (WDO) & Former Director, National Institute of Design (NID) & Former Member Secretary, India Design Council (IDC) framed the narrative for ensuing discussions and highlighted the cultural foundation of design.

Dr Udayant Malhoutra, Chairman, CII National Committee on Design Innovation (2023-24) and CEO & MD, Dynamatic Technologies Ltd affirmed that design serves as the linchpin for innovation, societal connectivity and sustainable progress in the dynamic landscape of the interconnected world.

CII-BCG report on 'Designing the Future: Leveraging Global Perspectives to Elevate India's National Design Policy', the CII – NIDMP report on 'Design Education Imperatives in India' and the CII Design Excellence Awards Compendium were also released during the event.

Awards

On the sidelines, the 13th edition of the CII Design Excellence Awards and the 3rd edition of the CII Young Designer Awards was also organised. The awards celebrate organizations that epitomize innovation within the Indian Industry and recognize young professionals who embody the future of design leadership respectively.

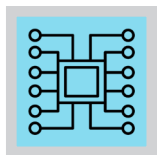
The awards were felicitated by Dr Udayant Malhoutra, Prof Pradyumna Vyas, and Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India.



Releasing of CII-BCG report on 'Designing the Future: Leveraging Global Perspectives to Elevate India's National Design Policy' during the inaugural session at the India Design Summit in New Delhi

The awards recognized outstanding companies across large and MSME segments for their excellence in innovation, alongside acknowledging innovative institutions. It received participation of over 150 entries across six categories: Communication, Product, Mobility, Service, Spatial and Design for Social Impact. Six winners were honoured in the main categories, along with 13 winners in sub-categories.

The CII Young Designer Awards 2023 not only acknowledges excellence but also provides opportunities for cross-learning and networking with key Industry players in the domain.



Technology

Future Readiness through New Tech Titans

CII, in collaboration with the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) and NITI Aayog, Government of India, organized the Technology Conclave and Innovation Awards 2023 on 15 December in New Delhi. The theme of the event was 'Future Readiness through New Tech Titans'. The event saw thought-provoking presentations, insights from Industry leaders and the highly anticipated revelation of cutting-edge innovations.

Sessions on key themes including 'Charting India's Path into Top 25 Global Innovation Economies through R&D Amplification'; 'Pioneering Paths: Women Reshaping the Future of STEM'; 'Global Top 10 Technology Trends Driving the Next Decade'; and 'Harnessing Technological Innovations for Circular Economy' were organized. The themes aligned with the objectives of the CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation and Research. Representatives from the Industry, academia, research institutes, startups and Government shared their in-depth perspectives.

The summit was inaugurated by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Government of India. The other dignitaries present at the session were - Dr Brajesh Pandey, Executive Director, Indian National Science Academy (INSA); Dr Naushad Forbes, Chairman, CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Research and Co-Chairperson,

Forbes Marshall; Mr Alok Nanda, Co-Chair, CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Research and CTO, GE Aerospace India and CEO, GE India Technology Centre, GE Global Research; Mr Harish Krishnan, MD & Chief Policy Officer, Cisco India & SAARC; Mr Baba N Kalyani, Co-Chair, B20 Task Force on Technology, Innovation and R&D and CMD, Bharat Forge Ltd and Mr Sunil Chordia, Co-chair, CII National Committee on Technology, Innovation & Research and CMD, Rajratan Group.

The other key dignitaries who represented the Government at the summit were - Dr Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the PSA to the Government of India; Dr Neeraj Sinha, Senior Adviser, S&T, NITI Aayog, Government of India; Dr Pradeep Srivastava, Executive Director, Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, Government of India and Dr Nisha Mendiratta, Executive Director, Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF).

The conclave was attended by over 300 delegates from Government, academia, research institutions, labs, Industry, startups and media. Two compendiums on Women in STEM were released during the event.

A whitepaper on 'Landscape of Sustainable Technologies and Startups in India' was also released. The paper identifies startups working on sustainable technologies to address some of the societal challenges and environmental issues.

CII Industrial Innovation Awards

CII hosted the 10th edition of the CII Industrial Innovation Awards, on the sidelines of the Technology Conclave. The awards recognized 50 innovative companies across large and MSME segments for innovation excellence and five innovation research institutions.

Dr Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India said that innovation and research are the cornerstone of progress for any nation. Innovation not only boosts economic growth but also allows organizations to stay relevant in the competitive market.

Tata Chemicals won the grand award for being the most innovative company of the year 2023 and IIT Roorkee won the most innovative institute of the year 2023. A special award was conferred to Forbes Marshall for fostering innovation through Industry-academia collaboration.

An award compendium, comprising the success stories of winners from both Industry and research institutions,

was also released during the award ceremony. The award was instituted in 2014 to identify and celebrate innovative Indian enterprises across Industry segments and sectors. The award gives an opportunity to companies to shine and be known nationally and internationally for their innovative products and services.

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence

As the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), India hosted the GPAI Summit on 12-14 December in New Delhi. During the three-day summit, CII organized two important sessions viz. 'Application of AI in Priority Sectors' and 'Productization and Scaling Up of AI Solutions'.

Experts from India and abroad deliberated on the challenges and opportunities in the adoption of AI by industries to enhance competitiveness, explore the market potential of AI and promote its uptake across sectors.

A fireside chat was also held during the event with Mr Rajan Navani, CEO, JetSynthesys; Ms Sindhu Gangadharan, President & Chief Product Officer, Industries & CX/CRM, SAP; Mr Anil Nanduri, Vice President, GM Worldwide Consumption, Data Center AI Solutions, Intel, which explored the untapped potential of generative AI, unravelling strategies to drive innovation and promote education.

AI Adoption in Corporates – Perspectives by CEOs

In the dynamic landscape of modern business, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a pivotal force, poised

to redefine the future of enterprises. A CEO Roundtable on AI Adoption was hosted on 20 December in New Delhi to explore the evolving trends of AI solutions and their integration into businesses. The roundtable, attended by over 40 Industry leaders, deliberated on AI adoption, best practices and success stories to enhance efficiency, customer experience and innovation.

Shri Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India and President & CEO, NeGD, and MD & CEO, Digital India Corporation highlighted the profound influence of AI on our lives and businesses, underscoring the importance of processing vast volumes of data, a fundamental shift in operational paradigms.

Mr Rajiv Memani, Vice President, CII and Chairman – India Region and Chairman, Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP highlighted CII's proactive engagement in global AI discussions, specifically through the presentation of recommendations at the B20 summit. Within these recommendations, CII placed an emphasis on innovation, data governance and privacy, skills development, regulatory compliance, and sustainability, among others, he said.

Mr Punit Renjen, Deputy Chairman, SAP Supervisory Board; Mr Thomas Saueressig, Executive Board Member, SAP; and Mr Tarun Sawhney, Co-Chairman, CII Task Force on Bioenergy & Vice Chairman & MD, Triveni Engineering & Industries Limited also addressed the session.



(L-R): Rajiv Memani, Vice President, CII & Chairman – India Region and Chairman, Emerging Markets Committee Ernst & Young LLP; Punit Renjen, Deputy Chairman, SAP Supervisory Board; Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary, President & CEO, NeGD, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and MD & CEO, Digital India Corporation; Tarun Sawhney, Co-Chairman, CII Task Force on Bio-Energy & Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Engineering & Industries Limited; Thomas Saueressig, Executive Board Member, SAP at the CEOs Roundtable on AI in New Delhi

Portfolio for Excellence



SNCEL

Future Forward Marketing



(L-R): Ravi Santhanam, Group Head and CMO, HDFC Bank; Anindita Veluri, Director - Marketing, Adobe India and Vivek Bhargava, Founder, Profitwheel at the Marketing Leadership Summit in Mumbai

Artificial Intelligence, big data, the internet and the expansion of networks are revolutionizing marketing while challenging traditional business tenets. Adding to the complexities are socioeconomic drivers of diversity and inclusion, coupled with major shifts in culture and consumer perceptions.

In an endeavour to address and navigate these key megatrends, CII organized the 7th Marketing Leadership Summit on 5 December in Mumbai around the theme 'Future Forward Marketing'. The summit featured over 20 renowned national marketing practitioners and domain experts and witnessed a gathering of over 250 members from the Indian Industry and marketing fraternity.

The event featured deliberations on important topics including the regulatory perspective and the future of marketing; the evolving role of CMOs; Artificial Intelligence, the future forward MarTech stack; the future of consumer and marketing in a flatter vs the disaggregated world.

Experts deliberated on numerous long-term trends that are reshaping marketing and forcing executives

QUOTES



Marketing will go to an altogether different level due to the extent of customization made possible, powered by AI!

Kedar Lele, Executive Director, Customer Development, Unilever



Technology has disrupted the marketing Industry and will play a vital role going forward.

Prabhat Kumar, Vice President - Flat Products, Marketing & Sales, TATA Steel



Consumers must be at the front and centre of the core future strategy of any business.

Srivatsan Sridhar, Co-Founder & CEO, Skydo

to radically adapt to technological, socioeconomic and geopolitical developments that will shape the business for years to come.

The CII – Deloitte Report on 'Trailblazers of Tomorrow: Unveiling the New CMO Paradigm' was also unveiled during the summit. The report is based on the surveyed inputs of over 75 CMOs and senior marketing functionaries representing leading national brands. It explored what the future holds for CMOs and how they can position themselves as strategic differentiators in the boardroom.

Re-igniting Growth

The behaviour and attitude of consumers are changing rapidly. The distribution landscape is getting complex and newer capabilities are fundamentally disrupting business models. Executives realize that a fusion of past learnings and agility, in the context of changing consumer and market, will be imperative going forward.

In view of this, CII organized the National FMCG Summit on 11 December in Mumbai, around the theme 'Re-igniting Growth'. During the summit, a congregation

of top business leaders deliberated on the different aspects of a rapidly changing business environment, the challenges ahead and strategies to reignite growth.

A CEOs' fireside chat featuring Industry stalwarts was organized to deliberate on how demand in India has remained steady thus far, against the backdrop of an uncertain global business environment. The speakers noted that winning in this reality requires innovation in both offerings and operating models.

A presentation by BCG was delivered, which highlighted multiple changes that have happened in the consumer landscape over the 2010s and 2020s. A high-impact CEOs panel examined the growth trajectory in India's FMCG sector and how economic fluctuations, changing consumer purchase behaviours and competitive market dynamics are posing new challenges.



(L-R): Saugata Gupta, Managing Director and CEO, Marico India; Prabha Narasimhan, Managing Director, Colgate Palmolive India; Mohit Malhotra, CEO, Dabur India; Deepak Subramanian, Executive Director – Home Care, Hindustan Unilever; Aseem Kaushik, Country Managing Director, L'Oreal India and Mangalam Maloo, Associate Editor and Senior Anchor, CNBC-TV18 at the National FMCG Summit in Mumbai

QUOTES



While companies have been driving towards efficiency and productivity, the new normal requires businesses to build resilience and agility. This truth needs to permeate across all elements of the organization for long-term success.

Bharat Puri, Chairman, CII National Committee on FMCG and MD, Pidilite Industries



In a rapidly changing world, where every parameter of the equation is changing, organizations need to be flexible in terms of being able to transform. So agility and adaptability today, have become far more important characteristics than competence.

Suresh Narayanan, CMD, Nestle India



The basics of any business are the five elements of innovation, distribution, partnerships, analytics and sustainability.

Varun Berry, Executive Vice-Chairman and MD, Britannia Industries



Food and Agriculture

Celebrating Codex @60

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO), has been a driving force in developing international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice to promote fair trade and protect consumer health.

During the 46th Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) meeting at FAO Headquarters in Rome, India was unanimously elected as a member representing the Asian region in the Executive Committee of the CAC. The meeting also witnessed acknowledgement and support from member countries to India's initiative for establishing group standards for millets.

To commemorate the impactful milestones of India's Journey at CODEX, CII's Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE), in association with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) 'Celebrated 60 years of Codex and India's Journey' on 8 December.

Mr G Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI stressed on the need for a more collaborative action on food safety and emphasized that the collaboration between India and Codex has made a profound impact on the national and international regulatory framework. Mr Rao, along with other eminent speakers, also released a book "Codex @60: India's Glorious Journey".



(L-R): Dr Jasvir Singh, Scientific Advisor- CII Task Force on Food regulatory Affairs; S Dave, Former Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission; G Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India; Aditya Bagri, Member CII National Committee on Food Processing and Dr Harinder Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K

Dr Steve Wearne, Chairperson, Codex Alimentarius Commission said that the growing collaboration across the multilateral system will offer numerous benefits, including enhanced food safety, strengthened partnerships, effective risk communication, regulatory harmonization and the ability to address complex global challenges.

The session presented an opportunity to raise awareness about food safety at a national level and highlight the notable achievements Codex has made over the past 60 years. As part of raising awareness, an inter college quiz competition was organized that witnessed enthusiastic participation from different colleges and universities.

Educating Farmers on Animal Health

A training programme for dairy farmers from six Cluster Level Federations in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh was organized from 19-21 December. The training was conducted on animal health, concepts of animal nutrition, importance of farm biosafety & biosecurity practices and clean milk production. This training, organized under the Dairy Investment Accelerator Program of CII FACE, was supported by MP State Rural Livelihood Mission.

The training was a mix of classroom and practical exposure of animal health examination, dairy farm practices and mechanism of dairy plant processing. The participants, who comprised of women farmers, were taught how to take care of the animals, common diseases, vaccinations and healthy diet for the milch animals. Additionally, the clean and reliable practices to be followed in milking the animals were also discussed in detail.

Dairy Investment Accelerator is an initiative by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, implemented by CII to promote and facilitate investments in the Indian dairy sector. It is supported by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



CFC

National Kaizen Circle Competition: Boosting Competitiveness

To help Indian Industry create a culture of continuous improvement, CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) organized the 7th edition of the National Kaizen Circle Competition in virtual mode on 19-21 December. Around 110 participants showcased their organizational achievements in the three-day programme, during which 35 awards were distributed in the process, services and manufacturing sectors. This competition also helped in the cross-dissemination of best practices for a wide knowledge bank across organizations.

Kaizen is a Japanese term that means "continuous improvement" and it is a philosophy that encourages companies to make small, incremental improvements in their processes and products over time. During the event, participants learned effective Kaizen methodologies to enhance operational efficiency and strategies that drive competitiveness in industries.

The participants also learned how to leverage virtual platforms for networking, learning and collaboration. They understood the importance of embracing innovation and adaptability as crucial factors for growth in the Industry and witnessed best practices.

HR Excellence for Sustainable Work Eco-system

To deliberate on the changing role of HR and recognize the best practices in the field, CII-CFC organized the 7th edition of CII National HR Circle Competition on 13-14 December in Gurugram. The theme of the event was 'Navigating the Future, HR Excellence for Sustainable Work Eco-system'.

Mr Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, Regional Committee on Skills, CII Northern Region and Chief of Strategy & HR, XLRI stressed on the important role the HR fraternity plays in managing and developing the most important asset in a company, i.e. human capital. He encouraged all to focus on skilling employees to better align them with upcoming technologies.

Participants were taught how to create an environment where all employees feel more included, heard and



Winners of the CII National HR Circle Competition in Gurugram

valued. Prioritizing psychological interventions, forming initiatives tailored to individual needs, encouraging cross-department collaboration and developing structured employee feedback mechanisms were key learnings from the event.

There is great impact of comprehensive talent development initiatives, including mentorship programmes and regular training on fostering a culture of continuous learning and skill enhancement. Importance of staying current with evolving communication technologies to foster transparency and information flow was also highlighted.

CII National Corrosion Management Practices Competition & Awards

CII-CFC organized the first CII National Corrosion Management Practices Competition & Awards 2023 on 18-19 December in Chandigarh in hybrid mode. The competition saw the participation of 61 teams from 41 enterprises, representing 10 different sectors. Companies from 17 States participated in both in-person and online mode. The teams made presentations on how they are working towards corrosion mitigation, through different processes, be it by using IoT, through storage, paints & coating, and by using cathodic & anodic process, among others.

Companies were assessed by an eminent Jury panel and competed for laurels in nine verticals on corrosion management. The participants learned about the

importance of proactive corrosion prevention measures and the need to encourage MSMEs to adopt advanced corrosion-resistant technologies.

The significance of adhering to relevant corrosion-related regulations and standards, the need for knowledge-sharing platforms to disseminate successful corrosion prevention strategies among MSMEs and the critical role of selecting appropriate materials to mitigate corrosion risks were highlighted.

Corrosion Management in Architecture, Building & Construction

Under the aegis of the Corrosion Management Division, an exclusive session on 'Corrosion Management in Architecture, Building & Construction' was conducted on 14 December via CII virtual platform, with a focus on Life Cycle Costing analysis for stainless steel. It extends life of assets, reduces maintenance and repair costs, improves sustainability and reduces environmental impact.

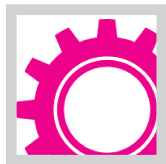
Dr S R Karade, Chief Scientist & Head, Advanced Concrete, Steel & Composites, ASCS Group, CSIR highlighted the issue of corrosion and its impact on GDP, especially impact on infrastructure sector. He talked about the importance of corrosion management strategies in terms of preventive measures, inspection and maintenance. He highlighted several benefits of stainless steel including heat resistance, durability, high strength, recyclable and sustainable and how it plays a major role in circular economy.



Winners of the CII National Corrosion Management Practices Competition & Awards 2023 in Chandigarh

Mr Manoj Bhutani, Deputy General Manager-Sales, Jindal Stainless Limited talked about types of corrosion issues in infrastructure and discussed various case studies where stainless steel is used to counter corrosion.

Mr Dhrurvish Shah, India Representative, Vector Corrosion Technology (Canada) talked about recent developments in infrastructure, issues due to corrosion in various structures, predictive approach for corrosion management, galvanic cathodic protection system, anode performance, concrete preservation and sustainability.



CME

ANVESH: India's Premier Manufacturing Quiz

CII Naoroji Godrej Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII-CME) organized the 4th edition of ANVESH, India's Premier Manufacturing Quiz, recently in Mumbai. ANVESH is an important initiative that seeks to educate and inspire the future generation of manufacturing professionals in India. It not only offers knowledge but also provides a platform for organizations to engage and develop young talents in the world of manufacturing.

The initiative was led by Mr B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII - ANVESH and MD, Blue Star Limited. Mr Robin

Banerjee, Chairman, Nucleon Research Pvt Ltd addressed the youth at this quiz and emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping India's future.

More than 100 teams of young and zealous enthusiasts from the manufacturing sector and academic institutions participated in the quiz.

Buyer-Seller Meet for Defence & Automotive Sector

CII CME organized a Buyer-Seller Meet for the defence and automotive sector on 20 December in Mumbai. Recognizing the significance of these sectors towards realising India's self-reliance vision, the meet aimed to fortify the 'Make in India' initiative and advance indigenization efforts. The core objective of the meeting was to encourage meaningful discussions and potential collaborations to yield mutually advantageous outcomes for both buyers and sellers.

Seller organizations had a platform to directly engage with prospective customers, showcase products, generate leads and enhance their business prospects. MSMEs were also encouraged to participate in the meeting.

For buyer organizations, including Industry giants, the meet provided a platform to evaluate quality suppliers, meet a diverse range of sellers, negotiate and gain valuable market insights.

With over 50 seller organizations from across the country interacting with OEMs, the participants represented a spectrum of automotive and defence component manufacturers offering a diverse range of products. The event facilitated direct meetings between the procurement teams of OEMs and seller organizations.



Winners of ANVESH – the manufacturing quiz with B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII - Anvesh and MD, Blue Star Ltd in Mumbai

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Purvodaya Perspectives

The Ministry of External Affairs, in collaboration with CII and The Energy Forum, hosted a two-day international conference “Purvodaya Perspectives” on 2-3 December in Bhubaneswar. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India.

Shri Pradhan urged the dignitaries to devise a roadmap that paves the way for a more prosperous and developed India. He also underscored the importance of enhancing connectivity in the Eastern region of India and spoke about the root linkages that connect the banks of the river Ganga in Uttarakhand to those in Kolkata. He highlighted the importance of improving connectivity in areas like Ganga Sagar, Kalingapatnam, and the North-Eastern parts of India. He also unveiled a book titled ‘India’s Energy Transition: A Road Map Across the Sector’. Several MoUs were also signed between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Sector Skill Councils and CII during the event.

Shri V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India; Mr Mustafizur Rahman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh; Mr Saurabh Kumar, Secretary - East (MEA), Government of India; Padma Vibhushan Dr Anil Kakodkar and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, were among the other key speakers.

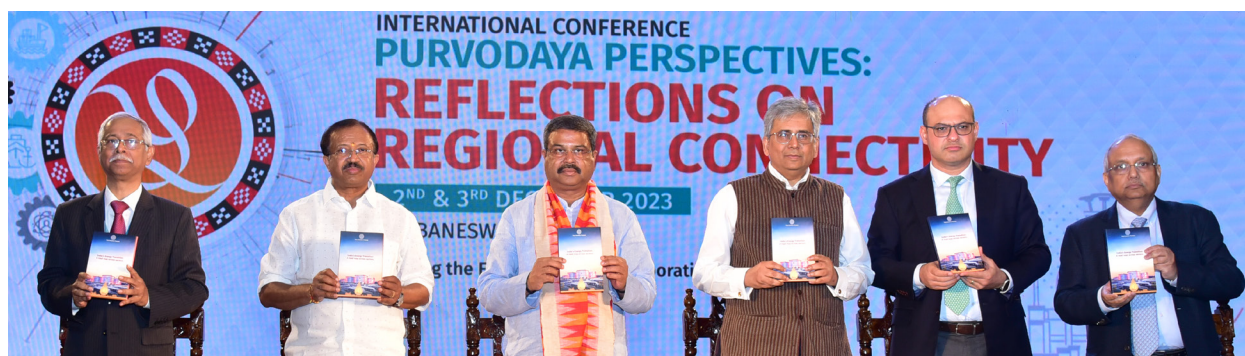
Strengthening the Business Ecosystem in North Bengal

CII, in collaboration with the MSME & Textile department, Government of West Bengal, hosted the North Bengal Business Meet with the support of the district administrations from eight districts in North Bengal. Shri H.K. Dwivedi, Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal presided over the business meeting and highlighted key initiatives undertaken by the State Government.

The meeting was also attended by senior Government officials representing various departments including North Bengal Development, Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Animal Resources Development, Fire & Emergency Services, Labour, Information Technology & Electronics, Technical Education & Training, Tourism, MSME & Textiles, Public Health Engineering, Agriculture, Health, Industry, Commerce & Enterprises and L&LR.

Key highlights from the business meet:

- The State Government has allocated a 100-acre piece of land to the Airport Authority for the expansion of the Bagdogra International Airport
- Projects worth approximately ₹24,000 crores are set to be implemented in the next 2-3 years across various sectors such as MSME, agriculture, housing, and tourism, among others



(L-R): Mustafizur Rahman, High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission; V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India; Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister for Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India; Dr Anil Kakodkar Padma Vibhushan; Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd; Saurabh Kumar, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII at Purvodaya Perspectives in Bhubaneswar

Within the agricultural sector, 296 projects amounting to ₹386 crores have been sanctioned and disbursed under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund in North Bengal. The collective employment potential for these initiatives is estimated at around 50,000 direct employment opportunities and several lakhs of indirect employment opportunities.

The gathering saw the participation of over 500 entrepreneurs hailing from eight districts in North Bengal, namely, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, and Malda.

Building Brands – Insights by Experts

CII organized the 22nd edition of CII Brand Conclave in Kolkata on 21 December. The masterclass with Mr Martin Roll, a best-selling author, INSEAD distinguished fellow, Harvard board advisor and global marketing thought leader, was the centerpiece of this year's event. He emphasized the value of branding as a service that is closely tied to societal legacy, mythology and cultural heritage. He urged the attendees to embrace audacity and inventiveness in building worldwide brands. More than 200 people attend his masterclass, including CEOs, CMOs and senior executives from India's top companies.

Ms Sucharita Basu, Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council and Managing Partner, AQUILAW discussed the importance of two most important elements in building brand i.e. inclusivity and sustainability. She emphasized on the strategic utilization of digital advantages in the marketing domain.

Mr Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Limited stressed that the steward of a brand transcends generations.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

CII Northeast Banking and FinTech Conclave

Shri Devajit Khound, Senior Economic Adviser, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region, Government of India urged Industry leaders to invest in the North-East region. He was speaking at the CII North-East Banking and FinTech Conclave 2023 organized by CII on 19 December in New Delhi. Highlighting the positive developments in the North-East region, including an increasing number of bank accounts, growing Aadhar penetration, improving mobile connectivity and rising digital payments, Shri Khound asserted that there is no reason for the North-East to remain financially excluded. He added that the Ministry is actively working towards boosting financial literacy in the region. The North-Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) is expanding financial services into the unreached areas of the North-East through the business correspondence model.

Mr C S Ghosh, Past Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Managing Director & CEO, Bandhan Bank said that accessible, secure and responsible digital public



(L-R): Devajit Khound, Senior Economic Adviser, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India delivering the Inaugural address at the CII Northeast Banking and Fintech Conclave in presence of Dr Palin Khundongbam, Co Chairman-CII North East Council and Managing Director, Shija Hospitals and Research Centre; C S Ghosh, Managing Director, Bandhan Bank; Pradeep Bagla, Chairman- CII North East Council and Managing Director, Amrit Cements Limited and Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar, Managing Director, IIFCL

infrastructure is important to scale financial inclusion. He also emphasised on factors that will accelerate the development of the North East. These include tourism development, focus on MSMEs, development of logistics supply chains and financial and digital literacy for the overall development of the region.

Mr Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar, Managing Director, India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) noted that the key obstacles to FinTech expansion in the North-East are lack of identity promotion, poor telecom connectivity and a general lack of awareness. Despite these challenges, he expressed optimism that these obstacles can be turned into opportunities.

In an exclusive fireside chat, Mr Rajnish Kumar, Former Chairman, State Bank of India and Chairman, Mastercard mentioned that the North-East will progress only when the per capita income improves through exclusive use of technology, connectivity and first-class infrastructure.

Interaction with the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN)

CII Nagaland facilitated a meeting with Shri Abu Metha, Advisor to Chief Minister and Chairman IDAN, in Kohima on 11 December. Discussion focused on strategies and roadmaking for Investment and Development in Nagaland. CII pushed for initiatives such as a joint consultative forum, where Industry and Government expedite decision in regards to industrial growth. With a strong focus and outlook towards Industry, the Government of Nagaland aims to work closely with CII to catalyse the industrial ecosystem of Nagaland.



NORTHERN REGION

Accelerating the Future of Travel

Anticipating a twofold increase in railway freight traffic by 2027, driven by the swift and unencumbered flow of goods, the Government of India is actively prioritising capacity enhancement. Addressing the pivotal role of innovation and progress in the railway sector, CII Northern Region (NR), in collaboration with The Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), organized the 1st edition of the Smart Rail Summit with the theme 'High-Speed Rails: Accelerating the Future of Travel' on 5 December in Lucknow.



(L-R): Abhishek Saraff, Chairman, CII Smart Rail Summit 2023 & MD, Avadh Rail Infra Ltd; Dr Anirudh Gautam, Principal Executive Director Resource & Testing, RDSO; Amit Srivastava, ED-Research, RDSO, Lucknow; and Ranit Rana, AVP – Sales & Distribution, Jindal Stainless Ltd at the Smart Rail Summit 2023 in Lucknow

During the summit, deliberations were held on critical topics including emerging technologies, promoting sustainability, facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange. Talking about the importance of boosting local manufacturing, Mr Anirudh Gautam, Principal Executive Director – Resource and Testing, RDSO said that the country must replace the imported technologies and products with indigenous ones and enhance the export to reduce the adverse trade balance of India. For this, the Indian Industry must be at par with global levels in design and manufacturing of technology products related to railways.

Mr Abhishek Saraff, Conference Chairperson and Managing Director, Avadh Rail Infra Ltd said that the summit served as a forum for deliberation and exchange of ideas about the modernisation, safety and technological advancement of railway.

The summit witnessed the participation of stakeholders from pertinent verticals including rail operators and authorities, technology providers, Government agencies, investors, engineers and planners, academics and researchers and sustainable transportation advocates. Detailed discussions were also held on smart coaches, smart locomotives, smart yards, automated train examination systems (ATES) and new technology signalling systems.

Establishing a Green Hydrogen Environment

In line with the Green Hydrogen Mission launched by the Government of India, CII-NR organized the Green Hydrogen Summit on 7 December in New Delhi. The summit brought together Industry experts and stakeholders who deliberated on facilitating the plan for a hydrogen-based ecosystem in the country. The mega

event featured expert panel discussions and technical deliberations, pivoting around establishing a green hydrogen environment. The summit also explored the latest trends, technologies and strategies shaping the green hydrogen landscape in India and around the world.

Mr Mohit Bhargava, CEO, NTPC Green Energy Ltd; Mr Ravi Pandit, Group Chairman, KPIT Technologies & K&P Group; Mr Anuj Khanna, MD, Trimaster Pvt Ltd; Mr Varun Puri, MD, Green Power International; Mr Akhil Mehrotra, MD & CEO, Pipeline Infrastructure Ltd; Mr Bhaskar Bose, Head of Manufacturing, Jakson Green Pvt Ltd; Mr Shrikant Mishra, Process Engineer, Technip Energies India Ltd; and Mr Manoj Pandey, MD, Statcon Energiaa, were among the key speakers during the summit.

The conference focused on several key topics aimed at addressing the pressing issues within the energy sector. One pivotal discussion revolved around making the transition towards a green market, emphasizing the imperative shift towards environmentally sustainable practices. Another significant area of discussion centred around infrastructure being the backbone of the hydrogen ecosystem, stressing upon the crucial role of infrastructure in harnessing the potential of hydrogen as a clean energy source.

The session on 'Industry Transformed: Embracing Hydrogen's Potential' delved into the transformative impact of integrating hydrogen technologies into various industries. Strategies for effectively navigating the complex landscapes of hydrogen energy ecosystems to ensure a sustainable and environmentally conscious future were discussed during the session on 'Navigating Hydrogen Energy Ecosystems: An Assessment for a Sustainable Future'.

BFSI - the Next Milestone of Growth, Disruption and Innovation

Key players from the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance sector converged to deliberate on the future of India's financial landscape at the 10th CII Banking & Finance Summit, organized by CII-NR on 12 December in New Delhi.

Shri Radha Shyam Ratho, Executive Director, Reserve

Bank of India said that the macroeconomic parameters and developments indicate that India remains a bright spot in an otherwise grim world economic scenario. Therefore, internationalisation of the Indian Rupee is the natural step forward. According to Mr Ratho, beyond mitigating exchange rate risks for our exporters and importers, this move can deepen our financial markets, allowing domestic firms to transact in their own currency internationally. Access to global financial markets at lower costs, a robust financial sector and reduced dependence on foreign exchange reserves collectively contribute to increased capital formation, fostering growth and mitigating external vulnerabilities.

The conference, themed 'BFSI at the Next Milestone of Growth, Disruption and Innovation', dissected the Industry's ongoing evolution and charted a course for its imminent future. It set the stage for discussions centring around the transformative journey of the BFSI sector, underscored by economic liberalisation, technological advancements, regulatory reforms and shifting consumer behaviours.

Mr Bipin Preet Singh, Co-founder & CEO, MobiKwik said that India's BFSI sector has grown leaps and bounds within the past 20-30 years, with technological advancements and the rise of FinTech playing a crucial role within the ecosystem. This evolution is complemented by a regulatory framework that can keep pace with these advancements. He further highlighted that an essential development is India's unique digital public infrastructure, where innovation is not held by one large public player.



(L-R): Bharat Madan, Co-Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Economic Affairs & Taxation and WTD & CFO, Escorts Kubota Ltd; Bipin Preet Singh, Summit Chairman and Co-Founder & CEO, MobiKwik; Radha Shyam Ratho, ED, RBI; Vishesh C Chandio, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Economic Affairs & Taxation and CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; and Shantanu Pendsey, Chief GM, SBI at the 10th Banking & Finance Summit in New Delhi



SOUTHERN REGION

Future of Cross Border Logistics & Supply Chain



(L-R): Srikanth A M, Country Head - India, VS&B Containers Group; Ramkumar Govindarajan, Founder and CEO, WIZ Logtec India Pvt Ltd; Sam Cherian, Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and MD, Schevaran Laboratories and Santosh Gundapi, Convenor Manufacturing, Technology, MSME & TQM Panel and MD & CEO, AT & S India Pvt Ltd at the Session on Cross-border Logistics and Supply chain in Mysuru

CII Mysuru Zone organized a Session on Cross-border Logistics and supply chain, around the theme 'Unlocking Growth Opportunities' on 21 December in Mysuru. During the event, deliberations were held on strategic urban development, cargo efficiency and sustainable economic growth, with a focus on the importance of logistics and supply chain in Mysuru's growth.

Mr Sam Cherian, Chairman, CII Mysuru and Director, Schevaran Laboratories Pvt Ltd said that as we navigate through dynamic global scenarios, this initiative is a testament to our commitment to sustainable economic growth and urban development that will shape the future of logistics and supply chain management in the region. Mr Ramkumar Govindarajan, CEO, WIZ Logtec India Private Limited highlighted the session's importance in the era of globalization.

Mr Srikanth A M, Country Head - India, VS&B Containers Group, mentioned that Karnataka's cargo potential and the strategic focus on industrial growth present immense opportunities. Stakeholders must collaborate and address infrastructure challenges to unlock the full potential of the transportation and logistics sector.

Towards Sustainable, Resilient, Net Zero Supply Chains

CII Karnataka CPO Forum organized the annual flagship event, CII Karnataka SupplyCon 2023, around the theme 'Towards Sustainable, Resilient, Net Zero Supply Chains through Technology Interventions' in Bengaluru on 19 December. The conference focused on key aspects



(L-R): Jaydeep Sagare, Convenor, CII Chief Procurement Officer's Forum & Director and Head of India Purchasing, Volvo Construction Equipment; Kiran Kumar Gangapur, Partner PWC India; Dr N Muthukumar, Past Chairman, CII Karnataka and President & COO, Meritor Hvs (India) Ltd; Jayaram Raipura, Chief Executive Officer, Karnataka Maritime Board and Senthilnathan, Co-Convenor, CII Chief Procurement Officer's Forum and Vice President – Technical, Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts Ltd at SupplyCon 2023 in Bengaluru

of the logistics and warehousing ecosystem, exploring sustainable concepts aligned with the circular economy and the transformative power of technology.

Dr N Muthukumar, Past Chairman, CII Karnataka and President & COO, Meritor Hvs (India) Ltd emphasized the dynamic global competitiveness landscape and the need for India to strategically align its procurement practices for sustained growth. With an enabling policy framework, the Industry needs to step up its efforts on innovation and improving efficiencies in internal processes to improve margins.

Mr Jayaram Raipura, CEO, Karnataka Maritime Board highlighted the need to optimize port efficiency and called for an increase from the current 65 per cent to 95 per cent capacity. He emphasized a transformative approach in logistics, particularly in Mangalore and Karwar ports, which are being upgraded to support the state's industrial competitiveness. Mr Jaydeep Sagare, Convenor, CII Chief Procurement Officer's Forum and Director & Head of India Purchasing, Volvo Construction Equipment emphasized the importance of embracing sustainable and technology-oriented practices such as warehouse automation, data analytics and forecasting.

Roadmap for Kerala's Agri Growth

CII Kerala organized the Agri & Food Conclave in collaboration with Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCO) on 1 December in Kumarakom, Kerala. The objective of the conclave was to create a roadmap for the growth of the agriculture sector in Kerala by engaging with all stakeholders.

Mr APM Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary - Industries, Government of Kerala highlighted the need for reforms in the plantation sector to foster its growth. Dr B Ashok, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala said that there is immense

scope for investment in land, water and energy. The Department of Agriculture will be rolling out Initial Public Offering (IPO) for KABCO.

Prof Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Director, Indian Institute of Plantation Management spoke about the export fluctuation trends in the agri and food sector and the potential for more agri exports in Kerala. Dr Geemon Korah, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Kerala and Executive Director & CEO, Mane Kancor Ingredients Pvt Ltd said that the Industry needs to come up with a 5-10 year vision document for the plantation sector.

Professionalizing Family Business

The 3rd edition of the Kerala Family Business Conclave, organized by CII Kerala on 8 December in Thrissur, focused on the theme 'Progress through Perpetuity: Professionalizing Family Business'. The event delved into various facets of family businesses including governance, succession planning, leadership transitions, growth, trust, values, education, alignment and adaptability. Mr Shankar Vanavarayar, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council and Executive Director, ABT Industries Ltd said that it is crucial to professionalize oneself, the family, and the business. Family businesses can now collaborate with other organizations to create value-added benefits for the larger ecosystem.

Mr K Paul Thomas, Past Chairman, CII Kerala State Council and Founder, MD & CEO, ESAF Small Finance Bank said that ESAF initially started to support the Industry ecosystem, especially small and medium businesses. Building a successful ecosystem is crucial for the success and sustainability of family businesses. Mr Vinod Manjila, Vice Chairman, CII Kerala State Council and Chairman, Manjilas Food Tech Pvt Ltd encouraged businesses to adopt a transparent yet agile model.

Mr M R Rajeshkumar, Convenor, CII Kerala Family Business Panel and Lead Partner, Gateways Global LLP underscored the conclave's objective, which was to provide a platform for insights and knowledge, focusing on adopting professional management practices.

Regulatory Compliance & Managing Risks in International Trade

CII Southern Region organized a workshop on 'Regulatory Compliance and Managing Risks in International Trade' on 21 December in Chennai. The objective of the workshop was to disseminate in-depth knowledge to CII members on regulatory compliance and address potential risks faced in dealing with international trade. The workshop covered various topics including regulatory compliance under FTP, regulatory compliance under customs law, essential elements for post-clearance audit by Customs, and Do's and Don'ts for exporters and importers.

Mr Sudhakar Kasture, Director, Helpline Impex Pvt Ltd; Partner, Generation Next Business Consulting; Mentor, EXIM Institute said that as per the scope of audit under the PCA regime, not only transaction level details but more importantly the trader's commercial systems are also to be evaluated for compliance.

The workshop provided an opportunity for interactive learning and open discussions on specific issues related to their work area. Various practical examples on technical subjects, day-to-day procedures under FTP and Customs law including valuation and process of assessment, and examination of goods under Customs Act, amongst other topics were explained. The participants also gained real-time valuable knowledge on Do's and Don'ts for exporters/importers while managing risks in international trade.

Manufacturing Excellence Mission to Industries

CII Coimbatore Zone organized a two-day Manufacturing Excellence Mission to Industries on 20-21 December in Coimbatore. On the first day of the mission, delegates visited LMW Ltd - Machine Tool Division and Makino India Private Limited. These companies showcased their operations, offering insights into exemplary best practices. On the second day, the delegates visited Elgi Equipments Ltd and Titan Company Ltd, further broadening their exposure to diverse manufacturing environments.



Visit to Makino India Pvt Ltd

The delegates engaged in insightful discussions with Mr K Soundhar Rajhan, Chief Strategy Officer, LMW Ltd. The mission provided a platform for delegates to delve into the best practices implemented by the host companies. It focused on the exchange of ideas and collaborative learning within the Industry. The mission included members from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

TNTDPC's IPR Awareness Initiative

IP-led economic development is the future and Tamil Nadu is taking important strides in this direction. IP Awake, a special outreach program by Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC), has embarked on a journey of creating awareness amongst academic stakeholders about the benefits of IPR.

IPR protection amongst academia becomes especially important as they are the primary node for innovations and novelties. This community must be strengthened through awareness and capability building.

The 7th meeting of CII TNTDPC's IP Forum deliberated on patent validation, patent evaluation, draft rules proposed by the Indian Patent Office and legal prosecution of intellectual property. The deliberations in the meeting delved deep into the complex world of Intellectual Property Rights and their evolving applications. The discussion also covered important steps and initiatives in Tamil Nadu for progressing as a knowledge economy.

TNTDPC has organized six special sessions across Tamil Nadu till December 2023, including in Tier II and Tier III districts, to highlight the importance of IP-led economic development.

Fostering Innovation & Entrepreneurship through Industry - Academia Collaboration

CII Telangana Edu Summit 2023 was organized around the theme 'Fostering Innovation & Entrepreneurship through Industry Collaborations' on 7 December in Hyderabad. Prof TG Sitharam, Chairman, AICTE said that Telangana has made significant strides in the education sector. India holds the position of the world's third-largest education system, signifying its potential for global leadership. Highlighting the success of 100 unicorns with valuations at USD 500 billion globally, Prof Sitharam presented them as proof of India's potential.

Ms Karuna Vakati, Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Telangana said that the Government of Telangana is set to implement an Industry-centric curriculum in Banking, Financial Services and Insurance

across 25 degree and 25 engineering colleges. This initiative is designed to benefit 10,000 students this year and is projected to extend to 20,000 students next year. Additionally, she highlighted the inclusion of computer science as a subject in mechanical engineering and polytechnic courses to enhance student learning.

Prof R Limbadri, Chairman of Telangana State Council of Higher Education highlighted the State's impressive Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 39.1, surpassing India's 27.3. Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and MD, CSR Estates Pvt Ltd stressed the importance of academia-Industry collaboration for innovation and value creation.

ATA-CII Hyderabad Business Seminar



N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Irrigation & CAD, Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Telangana along with the dignitaries at ATA

CII Telangana, in collaboration with American Telugu Association (ATA), hosted the Hyderabad Business Seminar on 21 December at T-Hub in Hyderabad. Ms Jennifer Larson, Consul General, Hyderabad, US Embassy said that the ties that bind our two nations go beyond mere trade figures. The vibrant presence of 163 Indian-owned companies in the US attests to the depth and dynamism of this relationship. The Indian diaspora in the US is a potent force for collaboration and innovation, bringing strength and pride to both nations.

Mr N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister for Irrigation & CAD, Food & Civil Supplies, Government of Telangana said that the Government is committed to being pro-Industry, creating a fertile ground for business growth. Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and MD, CSR Estates Pvt Ltd stressed on strengthening US-Telugu trade ties, emphasizing shared democratic values and potential mutual benefits. Collaborating with ATA, he urged joint initiatives to develop Tier II and III Telangana towns, improve the education system and engage Industry experts.

Defence & Aerospace: Opportunities for Andhra Pradesh

CII Andhra Pradesh organized a session on 'Defence & Aerospace: Opportunities for Andhra Pradesh' on 21 December in Visakhapatnam. Dr G Satheesh



(L-R): J Srinivasa Raju, Chairman, SIDM Andhra Pradesh; Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Former Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri & President, The Aeronautical Society of India and G S Shiv Kumar, Past Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh & CEO, Maple Software Pvt Ltd at the session on 'Defence & Aerospace: Opportunities for Andhra Pradesh' in Visakhapatnam

Reddy, Former Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and President, The Aeronautical Society of India said that Visakhapatnam will soon transform into a bustling defence, maritime and aerospace hub. The centrepiece of this grand vision is the proposed Defense and Maritime Industrial Park near Visakhapatnam.

Dr N Yuvaraj, Secretary – Industries & Commerce, Government of Andhra Pradesh assured the Industry that the Government will collaborate with relevant departments to identify suitable land for the ambitious project. This initiative marks a significant stride toward positioning Andhra Pradesh as a key player in the country's defence and aerospace sectors.

Achieving Excellence in Industrial Safety



(L-R): Roshini Aparanji Korati, Joint Development Commissioner of Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; D Chandrasekhar Varma, Director of Factories, Government of Andhra Pradesh; DVS Narayana Raju, Convenor, CSR, Environment & Water Panel, CII Andhra Pradesh & MD, Deccan Fine Chemicals (India) Pvt Ltd and Dr V Murali Krishna, Vice Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh and MD, Vizag Hospitals & Cancer Research(P) Ltd at the Conference on Industrial Safety in Visakhapatnam

CII Andhra Pradesh organized a Conference on Industrial Safety around the theme 'Establishing a Culture of Safety Excellence' in Visakhapatnam on 22 December. The event brought together thought leaders, Industry experts and Government officials to address critical issues impacting many workplaces.

Ms Roshini Aparanji Korati, Joint Development Commissioner of Visakhapatnam Special Economic Zone, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government

of India underlined the need to cultivate habits of responsibility and accountability to achieve safety excellence. She further advocated for a three-pronged approach: Prioritizing safety as a core value, establishing open communication channels, and implementing stringent standard operating procedures and comprehensive training. Mr D Chandrasekhar Varma, Director of Factories, Government of Andhra Pradesh shared insights on recent guidelines on the prevention of fires and explosions in chemical process industries.



WESTERN REGION

Pre-Vibrant Seminar on ExportEXCElerate



Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat at the ExportEXCElerate seminar in Ahmedabad

As a precursor to the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the ExportEXCElerate seminar was organized on 5 December in Ahmedabad by the Industries Commissionerate, Government of Gujarat, with CII as the national partner. The event brought together key stakeholders, including national and global Industry players, Government officials and thought leaders, to deliberate, envision and set in motion the strategic journey for Gujarat's export prowess aligned with the ambitious goals of Viksit Bharat@2047.

Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat said that along with the developmental revolution, the export revolution will play a pivotal role in realizing the Prime Minister's vision for Viksit Bharat@2047. The Chief Minister also mentioned that the State Government



(L-R): Raj Kumar, Chief Secretary, Government of Gujarat; Balvantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries, MSME, Cottage, Khadi, and Rural Industries, Civil Aviation, Labour and Employment, Government of Gujarat; Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister, Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India; Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat; Kanubhai Desai, Minister of Energy & Petrochemicals, Finance, Government of Gujarat; Mansukh Vasava, MP, Bharuch; Mukesh Puri, MD, GSFC at FutureChem Gujarat in Bharuch

has allocated ₹43 crore under the Market Development Assistance Scheme to support units in exporting their products. Over the past two decades, the number of MSMEs in the state has surged from 3 lakh to 8 lakh 66 thousand, reflecting significant progress in both production and exports, he added.

The inaugural session focused on charting a course for India's export success, which explored pivotal strategies to drive India's success in exports. The event featured a plenary session on digital trade, which explored technological advancements that can facilitate seamless and boundary-free trade.

Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries, Government of Gujarat; Mr Piruz Khambatta, Group Chairman, Rasna International; Mr Zarir Langrana, Executive Director & President, Global Business Chemicals, Tata Chemicals Ltd; Mr Sanjeet Singh, Senior Advisor, Trade and Commerce, NITI Aayog and Mr Darshan Shah, Chairman, CII Gujarat State Council and MD, Hitachi Hi-Rel Power Electronics Pvt Ltd, were the other key speakers.

Shaping Tomorrow's Chemical & Petrochemical Industries

A pre-summit on FutureChem Gujarat was organized in Bharuch, Gujarat with the theme 'Shaping Tomorrow's Chemical & Petrochemical Industries' on 23 December. Shri Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat noted that the pre-vibrant summit aims to inspire and strengthen the chemical industry. He highlighted that this sector accounts for approximately 75 per cent of the nation's production of dyes and intermediates. The Chief Minister said that Gujarat commands a 33 per cent share in the nation's total exports, with chemicals and petrochemicals alone contributing around 60 per cent. This includes derivatives, plastics and polymer manufacturing, dyes & pigment clusters and downstream companies.

At the pre-summit, MoUs totalling more than ₹67,000 crores were signed. Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers,

Government of India; Shri Kanubhai Desai, Minister of Energy and Petrochemicals, Government of Gujarat; Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries, Government of Gujarat along with other key Government officials attended the event.

NexGen Mobility

CII Western Region organized the NextGen Mobility Show in Pune on 15-16 December. The show covered four broad areas encompassing electrifying mobility, clean tech for fuel of future mobility, vehicle design and urban mobility. It brought together senior industry leaders, innovators, policymakers and enthusiasts to explore and shape the future of smart and sustainable mobility in India. The expo was spread across an area of 4,000 sqm and featured 100+ exhibitors representing domestic and international brands.

The show saw the participation of over 3,000 focused business visitors from the industry and government. There were 30 key speakers and four sectoral conferences with over 400 delegates. Over 20 B2B and B2G meetings were organized at the expo, which is expected to create opportunities for business collaborations and joint ventures in the region.

Mr Arvind Goel, Chairman, CII WR Taskforce on Future



(L-R): Dr Sudhir Mehta, Past Chairman, CII Western Region & Chairman & Managing Director, Pinnacle Industries Limited and Founder & Chairman EKA Mobility; Dr Sanjay G Kolte, Chief Executive Officer, Pune Smart City Development Corporation Ltd; Arvind Goel, Chairman, CII WR Taskforce on Future Mobility & Chairman, Tata AutoComp Systems Ltd and Dr Arup Basu, Co-Chairman, CII WR Subcommittee on Manufacturing & Managing Director, Greaves Cotton

Mobility and Chairman, Tata AutoComp Systems said that as the auto Industry constitutes more than 40 per cent of the manufacturing sector, the major transition that is happening will bring huge opportunities for the Industry. Localisation and export of components will have far more importance for electric vehicles in future.

Dr Sanjay G Kolte, CEO, Pune Smart City Development Corporation Ltd and CMD, Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd said that Pune is embarking on a new journey for future mobility. As a smart city, efforts are being made to create reliable, safer, smarter, affordable and holistic mobility. Currently, 67 per cent of the city's bus fleet is on CNG, 23 per cent is electric and only 10 per cent is on diesel, which will be phased out in coming years.

Dr Arup Basu, Co-chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Manufacturing & MD, Greaves Cotton; Dr Sudhir Mehta, Past Chairman, CII WR and CMD, Pinnacle Industries Ltd and Founder & Chairman, EKA Mobility were among the other key speakers.

State-of-the-art solutions including e-powertrain products, e-drivetrain, engine cooling solutions, battery thermal management system, electronic solutions and precision-crafted suspensions tailored for future-ready vehicles were unveiled at the show.

Creating Future Leaders

The 6th edition of the Leadership Conclave was organized in Indore with the theme 'Towards a Competitive & Sustainable India@100' on 1 December. The conclave explored the opportunities and challenges faced by Industry leaders and how they overcame the same to build resilient organizations.

Key topics including leadership role in driving economic growth and development, importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in creating a sustainable future, the need for a more inclusive and equitable society and challenges and opportunities facing future leaders were discussed during the event.

Mr R Dinesh, President CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd said that the single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. Visionary and result-oriented leaders aid in the development of a robust economy. This is especially critical as India aspires to become an economic superpower.

Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII WR and MD & CEO, Tata Power Company Ltd said that the essence of leadership is to have a vision to see the opportunities, a passion to pursue them and a purpose to serve the greater good of the people involved. A successful leader will inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more.

Ms Swati Salgaocar, Deputy Chairperson, CII WR and President, VM Salgaocar and Brother Pvt Ltd; Mr Sudhanshu Mani, Former General Manager, Indian Railways and Creator of the Vande Bharat Express; Dr Rumki Majumdar, Director and Economist, Deloitte India; Mr Prakash Sankaran, MD & CEO, Invoicemart and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII also shared their insights at the conclave.

Evolving People Culture

The 15th edition of CII HR IR Conclave was organized on 20 December around the theme 'Evolving People Culture' in Pune. The conclave witnessed the gathering of human resource professionals with discussions



(L-R): Nipun Grover, Principal Partner, Ultimate Kronos Group; Sudipta Marjit, Convenor, CII Pune HR, ER & Industry-Academia Panel & Group Head HR, Business Excellence, and Office of Strategy Management, Tata Autocomp Systems Ltd; Bharat Agarwal, President, Vishwakarma University; J P Shroff, Chairman, Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), Pune Chapter and Owner Director, Shroff Group; Shujaul Rehman, Chairman, CII Pune Zonal Council and Chief Executive Officer, Garware Technical Fibers Ltd; Major Poonam Khot (Retd), Co-Convenor, CII Pune HR, ER & Industry-Academia Panel and Senior Manager, Employee Relations, Infosys Ltd

around thought leadership, expertise for the leaders and unparalleled learning for all.

The platinum award winning HR practices of CII HR Ideathon were the key highlights during the day long conference. The Industry captains deliberated on HR Strategies for total growth. Fireside chat evolved around innovations in total rewards and managing global talent. The power-packed leadership table talk grew on technology-focused leadership to drive organizational transformation.

The flagship initiative brought together leaders from Industry, academia and international organizations. The event offered opportunities to engage, network and share insights on best practices in skill development and insightful discussions were held on aligning all skill training initiatives with the market and Industry demands. The conclave witnessed participation from over 250 Industry stalwarts and HR leaders.

Sustainable Energy Management and Net Zero Transition

CII Goa, along with CII-Godrej Green Business Centre, organized the CII Certified Professional Course on 'Sustainable Energy Management and Net Zero Transition' on 14-15 December in Goa. The session was attended by Industry members from Goa and neighbouring states.

Faculty from CII Green Building Center provided participants the knowledge and skills to effectively manage energy consumption and reduce costs in their respective industries, thus contributing to a more sustainable future.

The course covered the policy and regulatory framework for energy efficiency in India, the energy efficiency improvement opportunities and latest technologies in

utilities including pumps, compressors, boiler, furnaces, steam systems, electrical systems, electrical distribution, motors and drives.

Subjects including renewable energy for net zero transition, green house gas & climate change approach to GHG emission, inventorization, accounting & mitigation strategies, green hydrogen, digitalization & IoT and innovative technologies in energy efficiency available for the Industry were also covered.

Finance for MSMEs

To educate MSMEs about the optimal financial options available for business, a session was organized for MSMEs in Vadodara on 15 December. The session, held under the Finance and Economic Affairs Panel, focused on debt & equity financing and fund raising opportunities for MSMEs. A panel discussion was also organized on 'Finance for MSMEs'. Over 85 participants gained perspective on the various financial options available for MSMEs.

Mr Satya Sheel Srivastava, Vice President, Axis Bank Ltd; Mr Chetan Vyas, Senior Manager, NSE Emerge Platform; Mr Alok Shah, Partner, CNK & Associate LLP; Ms Deepti Sharma, Partner, Fincare India consulting LLP and Dr Tushar Patel, MD, Aatmaj Healthcare Ltd were among the key speakers at the session.

Interaction with Members of European Parliament

An interaction was organized with the 12-member delegation of Members of the European Parliament on 20 December in Mumbai. The interaction was chaired by Mr Vineet Mittal, Chairman, CII Hydrogen Mission & Co Chairman, CII Renewable Energy Council and Chairman, Avaada Group. The objective of this visit was to meet and interact with Indian Government officials to strengthen the EU – India Parliamentary Cooperation.



(L - R): Dr Tushar Patel, Managing Director, Aatmaj Healthcare Ltd; Deepti Sharma, Partner, Fincare India Consulting LLP; Alok Shah, Partner, CNK & Associate LLP; Varang Trivedi, Vice Chairman, CII Central Gujarat Zone & Chief Executive Officer, Admark Polycoats Pvt Ltd; Satya Sheel Srivastava, Vice President, Axis Bank Ltd; T Venugopal, Convener, CII Central Gujarat Zonal Finance Panel & Chief Finance Officer & Director, Netafim Irrigation India Pvt Ltd and Chetan Vyas, Senior Manager, National Stock Exchange at the session on Finance for MSMEs in Vadodara



Morten Løkkegaard, Chair, Delegation for relations with India & Vice-Chair, Renew Europe Group, Denmark; Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and Managing Director, Chemtrols Industries Pvt Ltd; and Vineet Mittal, Chairman, CII Hydrogen Mission & Co Chairman, CII Renewable Energy Council and Chairman, Avaada Group with dignitaries during Interaction with Members of European Parliament

The interaction focussed on growth of the Indian economy, Free Trade Agreement and digital growth in India. Views were shared regarding Indian visa and diversity. The delegation expressed that the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) measures undertaken by the Government of India are showing results on the ground.

SHE and SME: Inclusive Future

CII Vidarbha Zone, in association with the US Consulate General, Mumbai, organized a session on 'SHE and SME: Inclusive Future' Speaker Series on 14 December in Nagpur. Experts from India and the United States shared their experiences and global best practices on gender inclusive work policies. The workshop focused on how to address the gender gaps through internal policies that can attract and retain female staff.

Mr Mike Hankey, US Consul General, Mumbai mentioned that advancing economic empowerment and inclusion of women is a top priority for the US Mission in India. The US Consulate General, Mumbai is committed to help transform the landscape and level the playing field for women in the workforce.

Dr Kishore Malviya, Chairman, CII Vidarbha Zonal Council and Director, SMS Envocare Ltd; Ms Kavita Kaushik, Quality Champion, Director - Quality & Six Sigma, Cummins India; Mr Rahul Dixit, Convenor, CII Maharashtra MSME Panel and Director, Dicksons Engineering Company; Ms Swarnalatha Mauli, Head - HR, HCL Technologies Ltd; Ms Vineeta Mittal, Director - People & Culture, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP and Dr Shivaji S Dhawad, Chief Operating Officer, InFED were among the other key speakers.

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