



18<sup>TH</sup> CII - EXIM BANK CONCLAVE ON

india-africa

GROWTH PARTNERSHIP

Creating Shared Future

## India - Africa: Forging Win-Win Partnerships

INSIDE



Africa occupies an important place in India's foreign policy



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India is ready to share its experience with African partner countries

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CII, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India launched the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in 2005, later renamed as CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership. Over the last 18 editions, the conclave has been a catalyst for Indian companies who want to expand their footprint in Africa. The 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the conclave, held recently, set the ground for many new cross-border partnerships and also conducted a critical evaluation of the existing collaborative arrangements, on the basis of which a new roadmap for future Africa partnerships would be designed. The cover story presents the highlights

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We welcome your feedback and suggestions. Do write to us at [sharmila.kantha@cii.in](mailto:sharmila.kantha@cii.in)

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# Carving the Digital Path for Sustainable Growth of MSMEs

The CII MSME Growth Summit brought together MSMEs, financiers, buyers and sellers to deliberate on the sector's needs and requirements and chart the roadmap for going digital to achieve sustainable growth

**M**SMEs are the backbone of the Indian economy by virtue of their ability to create massive employment opportunities. In line with the United Nation's International SME Day, which laid special emphasis on the relevance of digitalisation of MSMEs, especially in the areas of commerce, finance, and technology, CII organized the CII MSME Growth Summit on 27 June in New Delhi. The summit was built around the theme 'MSMEs Go Digital for Sustainable Growth'.

The summit brought together stakeholders from the MSME sector including Government, financial institutions, startups, technology solution providers, digital commerce platforms and MSMEs. It witnessed eminent leaders, Industry experts, strategic thinkers and young icons from various fields.

The opening session of the summit witnessed an

engaging discussion with Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, CEO, Government e Marketplace (GeM), who shared that there should be greater awareness about GeM at the Centre and the states so that MSMEs can leverage the benefits of the portal. Taking the audience through some key growth statistics of GeM portal, the CEO also shed light on the robust operations and user-friendly interface of the portal.

Digital commerce is an imperative to facilitate mass outreach by MSMEs. At the session on 'Digital Commerce: Eruption to Disruption', Shri T Koshy, CEO, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) provided clarity on the unconventional framework of ONDC, which has the potential to democratise the e-commerce landscape in India by providing a level playing field to all the e-commerce players including local retailers and a win-win opportunity for both buyers and sellers.



(L-R): Dev Kumar, Director, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; Sushil Satpute, Deputy Director General, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IITDelhi; Emma Stanton, Director, South Asia, Mastercard Centre for Inclusive Growth; Ronak Shah, Co-Founder & COO, Online PSB Loans Ltd and Sandeep Agrawal, Director, and Co-founder, Teamlease Regtech at the CII MSME Growth Summit in New Delhi



(L-R): Ashok Saigal, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and Managing Director, Frontier Technologies Pvt Ltd; Prashant Kumar Singh, CEO, GeM; M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and CMD, Pon Pure Chemical India Pvt Ltd

Shri Koshy shared ONDC's future plans of integrating with GeM and leveraging its buyers on the platform.

A special session with Shri S Ramann, Chairman & Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was organized to understand the perspective and vision of the premier institution on lending for small Industry in India. Highlighting the key statistics for growth of lending to reach upto ₹25 lakh crore in the next 3 years, Shri Ramann expressed the positive approach of SIDBI towards green field projects and its plan to roll out GST-based invoice financing system to facilitate working capital requirements and ease of doing business for the MSME sector.

The Government is aiming to indigenise 75% of procurement in defence manufacturing. The Special interaction with Shri T Natarajan, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Government of India was focussed on indigenisation of defence production. Shri Natarajan shed light on various measures taken by the Government such as removal or rationalisation for licensing requirements of many defence products and the SRIJAN Portal that has been developed to facilitate indigenisation of components and sub-systems that go in the making of major products like tanks, vessels, armed vehicles, amongst others.

The session on 'Converging Enablers for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth' saw deliberations on diverse aspects of sustainability for MSMEs, ranging from reducing carbon footprint, adoption of smart manufacturing, corporate philanthropy, cross sector collaborations, automation of compliances and supportive Government policies.



Parikshit Luthra, Chief of Bureau, CNBC TV18 in conversation with T Koshy, CEO, ONDC



Ashok Saigal and Sivasubramanian Ramann, CMD, SIDBI



M Ponnuswami and T Natarajan, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ONDC is in continuous discussion with the Ministry of MSMEs, SIDBI and NABARD to develop support and schemes that will be beneficial for MSMEs
- Going forward, the ONDC network, through its logistics network participants can help small businesses to get international buyers opening up opportunities for MSMEs
- ONDC network can help small enterprises for equal visibility without paying any cost on advertisements
- Under the defence acquisition, there are specific reservations up to ₹100 crore for MSME, subject to periodic revisions
- Under the offset contracts, a multiplier of 1.5 is assigned for discharging the offset contracts through MSMEs. The MSME must be an Indian offset partner
- Government aims to indigenise 75% of procurement in defence manufacturing
- SIDBI has been the primary source of financing green field projects for the MSME sector and shall pursue the same in future as well
- SIDBI will roll out a GST-based invoice financing system to help MSMEs with working capital loans
- Digital credit delivery will pave the way for the credit needs of the MSME sector.

## QUOTES



For India to scale up and meet the goals of 2047, it is important to lay out a digital roadmap and focus on quality.

### **T Natarajan**

Additional Secretary, Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence Government of India



GeM has taken up many revolutionary steps since its inception in 2016 to address three issues specifically, which includes lack of awareness and training, cumbersome registration

process and delayed payments to the SMEs. The online platform for procurement of goods and services for Central and State Government agencies has been facilitating services through Common Service Centres and India Post for onboarding the portal.

### **Prashant Kumar**

CEO, GeM, Government of India



SIDBI, as a major growth partner of India in its journey to become a USD 5 trillion economy, makes every effort to transform the way MSMEs approach credit with a digital-first approach. Direct

lending by SIDBI makes up to 16% of the total borrowing of MSMEs that stands at INR 25 lakh crore. We are hopeful that the lending will grow to another INR 25 lakh crore in next three years.

### **Sivasubramanian Ramann**

Chairman & Managing Director, SIDBI



The Open Network for Digital Commerce has achieved significant success in recent months with more than one lakh sellers and service providers and more than 50 network participants

registering on the platform. The platform is created as a first-ever attempt by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry as an open and interoperable network to foster democratisation and create digitally aware enterprises.

### **T Koshy**

Chief Executive Officer, ONDC



INSIGHTS FROM TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS







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## India - Africa: Forging Win-Win Partnerships

The India Africa bilateral partnership is of special significance and India is amongst the top 5 investors in Africa. Further exploring the partnership, both regions can benefit from various engagements and this can also help address some of the critical issues that the world faces including climate change and poverty alleviation, among others.

CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership hosted global and national leaders, who deliberated upon the imperatives and road ahead for further strengthening the India-Africa relations

India's G20 Presidency has been the cornerstone in bolstering international economic cooperation and furthering a people-centric agenda, aimed at addressing global challenges and facilitating sustainable economic development. The Presidency opens up new avenues for India-Africa partnerships, especially in areas that are of critical importance to the world in the current times.

With cumulative FDI of USD 73.9 billion in the period 1996-2021, India is already among the top five investors in Africa. The growth in bilateral India-Africa trade flow reached USD 98 billion in 2022-23, and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA) agreement in 2021 will pave the way for increased investments by Indian companies in Africa.

The partnership potential between India and Africa is immense. With expanding trade and investment opportunities, both regions can benefit from various engagements. Strengthening the partnership between the two nations can also help address climate change by promoting adoption of renewable energy.

With an aim of strengthening ties between India and Africa, CII, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India launched the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership in 2005, which was later renamed as CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership. Over the last 18

CONCLAVE HIGHLIGHTS	
<b>13</b> Sectoral sessions	<b>3</b> Country sessions
<b>45</b> African countries participated	<b>30</b> Senior ministers from Africa
<b>823</b> Delegates from Africa	<b>22</b> Non-African countries participated



(L-R): S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Advisor-Group Finance & Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Noel Tata, CII Africa Committee and Chairman, TATA International Ltd; Gen (Retd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President, Republic of Zimbabwe; Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India; Vital Kamerhe Lwa Kanyiginyi, Deputy Prime Minister, Democratic Republic of Congo; R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Logistics & Supply Chain, Solutions Ltd and Harsha Bangari, Managing Director, EXIM Bank at the Inaugural Session of the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership in New Delhi

editions, the conclave has been a catalyst for Indian companies who want to expand their footprint in Africa.

The 18<sup>th</sup> CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Growth Partnership, which was held from 14-16 June, set the ground for many new cross-border partnerships and also conducted a critical evaluation of the existing collaborative arrangements on the basis of which a new roadmap for future Africa partnerships would be designed.

During the three-day conclave, sectoral sessions, and three country sessions focused on the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Republic of The Gambia, were conducted. Besides these, the conclave hosted the inaugural session, a special ministerial session on trade and the valedictory session. Besides international participation, there was an overwhelming participation from India.

The conclave had the distinguished participation of H.E. Mr Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice President, Republic of The Gambia; H.E. Gen (Retd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President, Republic of Zimbabwe; and H.E. Mr Vital Kamerhe Lwa Kanyiginyi, Deputy Prime Minister, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Inaugural Session on 'India-Africa: Synergies for One Growth' was addressed by Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India; H.E. Gen (Retd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President, Republic of Zimbabwe; H.E. Mr Vital Kamerhe Lwa Kanyiginyi, Deputy Prime Minister, Democratic Republic of Congo; Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Logistics & Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; Ms Harsha Bangari, Managing Director, India EXIM Bank; Mr Noel Tata, Chair of CII Africa Committee and Chairman, TATA International Ltd; Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee and Advisor-Group Finance



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee; R Dinesh; Hugues Judicael Mbadinga Madiya, Minister of Investment Promotion & PPPs, Gabonese Republic; Simplex Chithyola Banda, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Malawi; Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India; Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia; Dr Tambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning & Development, Kingdom of Eswatini and Noel Tata

& Special Projects, Shapoorji Pallonji Group and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

The session saw engaging discussions on furthering the India – Africa partnership, the areas that require greater focus, amongst other issues.

#### Highlights of discussions:

- The India – Africa development partnership will have a strong focus on digital, green energy, healthcare, food security and water security, in tune with the pressing needs of Africa
- India's success with building digital delivery of public goods, thereby furthering inclusivity, will have great relevance for Africa
- Implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement in 2021 will pave the way for increased investments by Indian companies in Africa
- African countries are encouraged to join the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi
- Africa urged to promote the cultivation and consumption of millets, in line with the UN Year of Millets
- AfCFTA could be utilised to draw investments, develop tourism sector, agriculture, manufacturing, among others
- Indian companies were invited to participate in construction of rail lines and highways, connecting the remotest areas of the African continent
- The Indian banking sector needs to expand its presence in Africa, by strengthening healthcare cooperation, online education and digital partnerships
- The Indian banking sector should also focus on prioritising green energy collaboration, including scaling up LOCs for green projects and sharing knowledge and R&D outputs to deepen the partnership with Africa.

The special session with trade ministers was addressed by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India; H.E. Dr Tambo Gina, Minister of Economic Planning & Development, Kingdom of Eswatini; H.E. Mr Hugues Judicael Mbadinga Madiya, Minister of Investment Promotion & PPPs, Gabonese Republic; H.E. Mr Simplex Chithyola Banda, Minister for Trade and Industry, Republic of Malawi; H.E. Mr

Baboucarr Ousmaila Joof, Minister of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment, Republic of The Gambia; Mr R Dinesh and Mr Noel Tata.

#### Highlights of discussions:

- India and Africa should work together to build more robust, diverse, and resilient supply chains, redefine the parameters of engagement and explore new sectors for cooperation
- Even doubling the volume of trade between India and Africa to USD 200 billion by 2030 would not reflect the actual potential, considering that both regions together have a 3 billion population with very favourable demographics
- There is need to undertake a deep study of trade relations, country by country, and identify the opportunities for growth
- India and Africa could come together to establish inter-connected grids served by clean energy
- India could extend its expertise to Africa in the development of digital public infrastructure
- The Kingdom of Eswatini offers significant investment opportunities in sectors like telecom and power generation
- Gabonese Republic invited the Indian Industry to invest in its renewable energy sector
- Republic of Malawi has initiated key steps to unlock the potential of the SME sector; organize India – Africa conclaves in Africa to promote the participation of SME businesses
- The Trans-Gambia Corridor project is creating new investment opportunities for Indian companies.

#### Strengthening India-Africa partnerships in other crucial areas:

The conclave directed particular focus on growth partnership opportunities in areas like space economy and critical minerals. The session on enabling space sector partnerships underlined that space technology would play an important role in monitoring of healthcare systems, agriculture, weather forecasting and many more.

The deliberations on partnerships in the areas of critical minerals highlighted the imperative of encouraging Indian investments in the downstream activities in Africa, such that the value of processing of critical minerals is captured within Africa. That would also result in India





Special Plenary Session with the Trade Ministers

gaining access to more resilient supply chains of the critical minerals.

Growth partnerships for funding and financing Africa's physical infrastructure was a key component of the deliberations over the three days. The infrastructure requirement ranges from roads and highways, railroads, ports to affordable housing, transportation, digital infrastructure, energy and industrial parks.

In the area of agriculture and food processing, the thought leaders called for expanding food processing industries in Africa and setting up cold storage facilities across the continent to ensure proper storage and preservation of perishable goods.

The session on defence cooperation and partnerships underlined that projects initiated in partnership should focus more on creating local capabilities. For the same, knowledge transfer and defence training along with

joint manufacturing are to be considered as potential solutions.

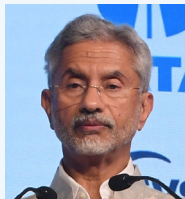
Sectoral sessions at the conclave were held, in which potential partnership areas were explored around the sectors including manufacturing for common markets in Africa, digital transformation of Africa, education and skills development, trilateral partnerships for Africa's economic progress, clean and green technology, healthcare, and water security.

Senior ministers, Government officials, and business leaders from India and Africa put forth key recommendations for reinforcing the bilateral partnerships. The recommendations will serve as critical inputs and direction finders for Indian and African Governments in charting the course of future bilateral partnerships. A CII publication titled 'India Africa Trade: Scaling the \$200 billion peak' was released during the event.



(L-R): S. Kuppaswamy; Gen (Retd) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga; Vital Kamerhe Lwa Kanyiginyi; V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India; Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice President, Republic of The Gambia; Sanjiv Puri, President-Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited and Harsha Bangari

## QUOTES



India and Africa have long-standing trade and economic linkages as they do in a people-to-people context. Our ties are not transactional but represent the solidarity of shared struggle. Africa, therefore, occupies an important place in India's foreign policy.

**Dr S Jaishankar**

Minister of External Affairs, Government of India



The bilateral trade and investment between India and Africa are a testimony of what we have achieved and the potential that the future holds. The future belongs to the youth and this is the century that will help us shape and build the future of the youth of both Africa and India together.

**Piyush Goyal**, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India



Being a demographically young country, India understands the aspiration of the youth and is always ready to share its experience with African partner countries to provide training, education and skill development.

**V Muraleedharan**

Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India



The historic partnership between India and Africa has evolved and has become stronger in recent times, and it is critical that we collaborate to explore new opportunities for growth with Indian expertise.

**Muhammad B.S. Jallow**

Vice President, Republic of The Gambia



The India - Africa Growth Partnership has provided a win-win methodology that Indians and Africans could adopt and deploy to promote socio-economic development for mutual benefit.

**Gen (Retd) C.G.D.N. Chiwenga**

Vice President, Republic of Zimbabwe



Africa's large working-age population, its growing middle class and the significant share of services are all ingredients for value adding trade and investment relationships.

**Vital Kamerhe Lwa Kanyiginyi**

Deputy Prime Minister, Democratic Republic of the Congo

# Trade Facilitation in India – Progress & Way Forward

The Government has been working towards ensuring a facilitative trade environment in India by introducing a plethora of reforms such as Faceless Assessment, Risk Management System (RMS) and Authorized Economic Operator Programme. However, there is a lot more to be done to further reduce dwell time and transaction costs. The CII National Conference on Trade Facilitation discussed the recent reforms and identified areas of improvement



(LR): M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Pon Pure Chemical India Pvt Ltd; Vivek Johri, Chairman, CBIC, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Sanjay Budhia, Chairman, CII National Committee on EXIM and Managing Director, Patton Group and Janardhanan Ramanujalu, Vice President and Regional Head - South Asia and ANZ, SABIC at the National Conference on Trade Facilitation in New Delhi

The Government of India, in the last few years, has undertaken several initiatives to ease trade facilitation, both within as well as across borders, benefitting all stakeholders in the trading ecosystem, including exporters and importers.

The reform initiatives in trade facilitation in India have largely revolved around simplification, modernization, harmonization and automation of processes and procedures. Implementation of reforms as part of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) since February 2017 has greatly contributed to this goal. This is evident from the fact that India's ranking in Trading Across Borders indicators of World Bank's Doing Business Report has

improved substantially, from 146<sup>th</sup> position in 2018 to 68<sup>th</sup> in 2020. While the efforts being made are progressive in nature, momentum needs to be maintained.

In this endeavour, CII organized the National Conference on Trade Facilitation on 16 June in New Delhi that brought together Industry and Government officials for deliberations on actions needed to drive improvement in the trading ecosystem. Across five sessions, the conference deliberated on some of the major regulatory reforms undertaken by the authorities and the impact on the EXIM community. It also held discussions on value addition made by other players such as shipping lines, express operators and custom brokers to the



trading ecosystem, and the areas for augmenting their role further and crucial policy areas requiring redressal. Shri Vivek Johri, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, Government of India said that CBIC is looking at reducing average release time of cargo to one hour by 2047, while focusing on the three most important aspects of trade facilitation, namely, regulatory framework, technology and infrastructure. He added that WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement has provided a significant boost to improving the trading across borders environment in India. Shri Johri informed that 80-100% consignments are already meeting the release time targets envisioned under the action plan. CBIC is also looking at Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for enhancing effectiveness of the AEO Programme and would also be working on self-certification of origin, which is a major expectation from all stakeholders, he added.

Logistics play a crucial role in facilitating seamless trade. The session on 'Driving Trade Facilitation through Logistics' delved into emerging trends in logistics in the context of trade facilitation; increasing logistics efficiency for reducing dwell time and transaction costs; sector specific issues in the logistics sector and the best practices in logistics and supply chain management.

Speaking at the session, Ms Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary (Logistics), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India highlighted that the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti National Master Plan has brought together all the Ministries and Departments, which enables them to assess data layers of all the infrastructure in the country. She said that institution mechanisms are in place to plan the upcoming infrastructure. Ms Dawra highlighted that the National Logistics Policy aims to bring in skilled human resources in the logistics sector and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) is designed to reduce the cost of logistics by providing for a transparent, single-window platform for comprehensive information to all stakeholders. The Special Secretary stressed that going forward, the thrust will be on multimodality along with plug and play infrastructure.

At the session on 'Streamlining and Expediting the Clearances', the speakers deliberated upon issues including clearances of bills of entry and shipping bills; functioning of Partner Government Agencies (PGAs); examination processes; classification issues and effectiveness of facilitation measures such as Advance Ruling, DPD, DPE, PCA and others.

Speaking at the session, Shri Rajiv Talwar, Member (Customs), CBIC noted that the National Time Release Study (NTRS) is one of the most important reforms as a number of other seamless reforms, which have been carried out in Customs, have actually flown from these studies. He said that Customs is developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for standardisation of procedures across ports. Focussing on stakeholder collaboration, Shri Talwar stated that all the stakeholders in the trade facilitation ecosystem, namely, importers & exporters, custom brokers, ports and regulatory agencies have a part to play in reducing dwell time and transaction costs.

Imbibing technology across the ecosystem can expedite trade facilitation. The session on 'Leveraging Technology for Trade Facilitation' discussed the technical glitches in functioning of ICEGATE, SWIFT, e-Sanchit, ECCS, etc; emerging technological developments like RFID, RDE, RPAs, Scanners & QR Code; effectiveness of Indian Customs Electronic Data Interface (EDI) platform and e-interlinkages among the concerned Government agencies.

Ms V Rama Mathew, Member (IT, Taxpayer Services & Technology), CBIC, while speaking at the session, elucidated that the Government is working on developing SWIFT 2.0, that will focus on rationalizing the documentation procedure for PGAs. She mentioned that the next version of ICEGATE is also in the pipeline. Ms Mathew highlighted that the Indian RMS is completely based on Artificial Intelligence Modelling Language (AIML).

The session on making Indian AEO programme more attractive held deliberations on the scope of expansion of benefits of the programme; easing joining / renewal of the programme; participation of MSMEs and the scope for more MRAs.

Addressing the session, Shri Naveen Kumar Jain, Principal Commissioner, AEO, CBIC encouraged the Industry members to participate in the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme. He mentioned that one of the most significant benefits for trade are in the nature of reduction in the bank guarantee, deferred duty payment and faster clearances. Shri Jain noted that MRAs are coming up in big numbers now.

A number of suggestions were made by the Industry for bringing about a dynamic difference in the trading across borders environment. Some of the key recommendations shared were:

- Introduce greater digital coherence between various Government departments involved in trade related procedures to address the gaps and eliminate the need for physical submission of documents
- Ensure adherence to timelines under Faceless Assessment Scheme, improving the functioning of the ICEGATE mechanism and undertake holistic digital integration of the PGAs
- The thrust should be on innovative technologies such as Blockchain Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Process Mining
- Introduce more benefits for enhancing the lucriveness of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme, especially in terms of longer-term validity of licenses
- Undertake capacity building of Supervisory Officers for leveraging on trade facilitation reforms introduced by the Government.

The reform measures introduced by the Government have helped in enhancing the efficiency of custom procedures, promoting transparency, increasing stakeholders' engagement, adoption of international best practices and technological innovation. With a plethora of reforms being regularly implemented and attention also being paid to the effectiveness in delivery of reforms, we look forward to a rapidly improved trade facilitation environment in India.

The Conference also witnessed the launch of the CII Report on 'Trade Facilitation in India: Strategizing Next Generation of Reforms', which aims to create awareness about some key reform measures introduced by the Government in recent years and lays down a set of recommendations for continued improvement based on the feedback collated from stakeholders at pan-India level.

### CII Report on 'Trade Facilitation in India: Strategizing Next Generation of Reforms'

#### Key Suggestions

- There is a need to develop a unified online portal, which makes available all information related to exports and imports, cutting across Ministries and Departments, available in a timely manner
- For the Faceless Assessment Scheme, the officer assessing the Bill of Entry (BoE) should not have access to information on who the importer/exporter and customs broker is, maintaining complete anonymity. Further, strict timelines should be fixed and adhered to for Assessing Officers to clear the BoE
- The Indian RMS process must be made seamless by ensuring that traders with RMS facilitated BoEs should not be unnecessarily subjected to manual inspection of their cargos
- Standardization of Customs procedures across various ports and regions is crucial
- There is a need to strengthen the Post Clearance Audit (PCA) mechanism. Many of the assessment / valuation / verification processes are still being

done after the goods have entered customs jurisdiction at the ports, which are avoidable if robust PCA mechanism is followed

- Currently, only 9 PGAs are interlinked with SWIFT, others must also be brought on-board
- Measures need to be undertaken to strengthen the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme
- To reduce litigation and make refund process smooth when there is no dispute between department and importer, some refunds may be processed without requirement of filing appeal with Commissioner Appeals
- Availability of earlier Tribunal Orders through a searchable database would allow traders to get transparent and uniform understanding of precedence and help them in making informed decisions
- Develop a digitized and effective grievance redressal mechanism, preferably through NSWS for all trade facilitation related issues, including Customs clearances.





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# An India-France Partnership Got Fresh Impetus from Modi's Visit

The Prime Minister's Paris visit delivered concrete outcomes that can pave the way for many economic and business ventures, says Chandrajit Banerjee



The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to France on 13-14 July defined a new era in already-strong bilateral ties between the two countries. The Prime Minister's official visit to France was significant as well as special, as it also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership.

During the visit, the importance of the partnership was highlighted in how it sought to address global challenges, including climate change, clean energy, health, food security, and development, among others. These would also have major outcomes for businesses and the bilateral economic partnership will benefit long into the future.

India and France share long-standing cultural, trade and economic linkages. The India-France strategic partnership, signed in 1998, has gathered significant momentum over time and has today evolved into an even closer multifaceted relationship that spans diverse areas of cooperation, including defence, security, energy, space, education, the environment, trade and people-to-people ties, among many others.

The India-France economic partnership has witnessed steady and robust bilateral trade and investment relations over the years, which have strongly rebounded post the pandemic. Bilateral trade reached a new peak at USD 13.4 billion in 2022-23, with exports from India crossing USD 7 billion. Indian imports are also significant and stood at around USD 5.8 billion during 2022-23. On the investment front, France is India's 11<sup>th</sup> largest foreign investor and recorded a cumulative investment of USD 10.5 billion in India between April 2000 and March 2023.

The ambitious 'Horizon 2047 Roadmap: Charting the future of India-France Strategic Partnership' was

adopted to set the next course of the relationship till 2047, the year India will celebrate the centenary of its independence. The roadmap is founded on three critical pillars of partnership: for security and sovereignty, for the planet, and for people. It embodies several notable initiatives.

First, France has been a key defence partner for India and cooperation in this field has been a mainstay of the India-France partnership. Significant outcomes which will further strengthen defence ties include the setting up of an Indian technical office of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) at the Indian embassy in Paris, expanding cooperation in co-production and co-development of new technologies, and the joint manufacture of key military platforms for friendly third countries. Given India's deep defence engagement with French Industry, spin-off effects will expand our defence manufacturing capabilities and technologies.

Two, the signing of several MoUs for strategic cooperation in space, sustainability and science and technology are set to create progressively advanced collaborations. Noteworthy initiatives were undertaken for jointly addressing economic challenges in outer space, such as the setting up of a bilateral strategic dialogue and the Trishna satellite project to boost cooperation in satellite services.

An MoU between our National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and a French sea research institute IFREMER on collaborative research projects in areas such as the Deep Ocean Mission and exchange of scientific and technical expertise is a welcome move and will bolster bilateral scientific cooperation. This is also likely to translate into business opportunities in times to come.





Three, sustainability is a cornerstone of the India-France partnership and was a prominent focus of discussions. A joint commitment to eliminate single-use plastics product pollution and a ban on single-use plastic products is a notable global precedent and will go a long way to advance the ecological agenda of both sides.

Four, a slew of digital initiatives covering diverse areas including strengthening of digital public infrastructure, AI, cyber security, 5G/6G telecom and digital skills will strengthen digital cooperation. The launch of India's UPI digital payment mechanism in France was a very significant move, and not just a big step forward in the partnership, but also a signal to the world of the UPI platform's potential. The digital partnership will also boost tourism and bilateral trade by fostering greater economic and financial engagement.

Five, the announcement of granting long-term five-year visas to Indian students pursuing higher education in France and our invitation to French universities for opening campuses in India will bolster educational ties and strengthen cultural and people-to-people exchanges. The private sector will have an important role to play in encouraging public-private collaborations in academia and facilitating the creation of courses, while also enhancing capacity, learning and skills and promoting student exchange programmes.

Six, the economic dimension of ties got priority as Prime Minister Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron addressed a group of leading Indian and French CEOs from diverse sectors. Sectors like climate action,

energy transition, green transport and infrastructure, construction technologies, aeronautics, defence, automotive, life sciences, agriculture, financial services, and information and communication technology present opportunities for further collaboration and deepening engagement between businesses.

India's conducive and liberal FDI policy regime along with a series of recent interventions in sectors such as infrastructure, digital payments, startups, IT and renewable energy provide many investment opportunities to French investors.

Finally, joint efforts to strengthen maritime security, the setting up of an Indo-French health campus, finalization of the Indo-Pacific Triangular Development Cooperation Fund for the creation of disaster resilient infrastructure, and promoting startups in the areas of clean and renewable energy will all be critical in securing economic security and a better balance in the region.

The emerging geopolitical world order presents many opportunities as well as challenges. India and France have undertaken consistent efforts towards broadening their partnership to jointly address these. Prime Minister Modi's visit to France delivered many concrete and successful outcomes that should pave the way for economic and business ventures.

(This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in The Mint, on 17 July 2023)



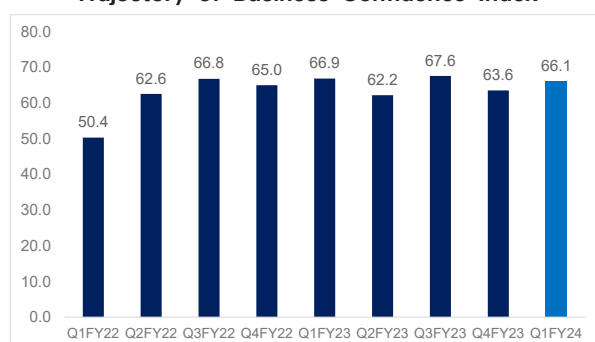
# CII Business Confidence Index rebounds in Q1FY24

The respondents were of the view that the Government's increased focus on capital spending, especially infrastructure, strong domestic demand and robust financial system are the key positives for the Indian economy in the current fiscal

The 123<sup>rd</sup> CII-Business Outlook Survey reflects an improvement in business sentiments in the first quarter of the current fiscal (Q1FY24), with the CII Business Confidence Index (BCI) rising to 66.1 in Q1FY24 from 64.0 in the previous quarter.

The jump in the index reflects the strong macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy despite global uncertainties. The respondents were of the view that the Government's increased focus on capital spending, especially infrastructure, strong domestic demand and robust financial system are the key positives for the Indian economy in the current fiscal.

**Trajectory of Business Confidence Index**



India's economic growth has remained resilient, supported by the healthy performance showcased by its key macroeconomic indicators including the GST revenue collection, passenger vehicle sales, air passenger and railway traffic, among others. The same gets mirrored in the sentiments of the respondents as most of them (63 per cent) expect the Indian economy to grow between 6.0-7.0 per cent in FY24. The survey also showed the respondents see muted global growth (37 per cent) and geopolitical & geoeconomic turbulence (25 per cent) as the top business concerns for the current year.

With the easing of the international commodity prices and supply-chain bottlenecks, the domestic inflation print has been moderating in the recent months. Nearly 4/5th of the respondents (86 per cent) anticipate inflation to fall below the 6.0 per cent mark in the current fiscal, with about 62 per cent of them expecting inflation to come between 5.0-6.0 per cent in FY24, in line with RBI's projection of 5.1 per cent for the current fiscal. Further, almost half of the respondents (53 per cent) anticipate RBI to stick with a pause on the repo rate in the first half of the current fiscal to let the lagged impact of the rate hikes done so far to work through the system.

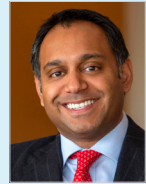
A continued pause in the interest rate cycle by the RBI along with cleaner balance sheets of companies and banks is expected to boost the level of private investment. There have been signs of increase in capacity utilisation of the respondent companies, with more than half (52 per cent) expecting it to range between 75-100 per cent during Q1FY24, as against 45 per cent respondents in the previous quarter.

Consequently, expectations for the sales and count of new orders for the April-June quarter have strengthened with more than half of the respondents anticipating an increase in sales (55 per cent) and count of new orders (57 per cent) in their company in Q1FY24. The respondents remained optimistic about the profit outlook in the said quarter, with 38 per cent of them indicating an increase in profit margins, despite indicating high input costs. About 35 per cent of the respondents anticipate the raw material cost to rise in the first quarter.

The 123<sup>rd</sup> CII-Business Outlook Survey was conducted during May-June 2023, covering about 180 firms of varying sizes.

# Deepening U.S.- India's aerospace and defence relationship

The various U.S.-India engagements and collaboration will foster technological innovation, economic growth and shared prosperity. Aerospace and defence partnership, including co-production and co-development is central to this strategic relationship, says Salil Gupte



**A**s a rapidly progressing India looks forward to a hundred years of its Independence, the partnership between the United States and India in the aerospace and defence sector continues to grow in depth.

U.S.- India bilateral trade and investment partnership exceeded USD 191 billion in 2022, nearly doubling from 2014, and is an engine for global growth. U.S. President Joe Biden termed the U.S.- India relationship among the most consequential in the world and "more dynamic than at any time in history," while highlighting cooperation across areas of aerospace, defence, manufacturing, space exploration, and people-to-people ties. Both countries have made landmark progress to bolster strategic ties.

The U.S.- India Major Defense Partnership has emerged as a pillar of global peace and security. The annual "2+2 ministerial dialogues", bi-lateral and multi-lateral security dialogues and military exercises has ushered in a new era of U.S.- India cooperation.

The signing of multiple groundbreaking agreements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. is testament to the growing U.S.- India partnership. These agreements span across defence technology, defence cooperation, Maintenance, Repair and Operation (MRO), space exploration and other key areas of collaboration.

In a significant development, General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), both close partners of Boeing, signed an MoU for the manufacture of GE F-414 jet engines in India, for HAL's Light Combat Aircraft Mk 2. The manufacturing of F-414 engines in India will enable greater transfer of U.S. jet engine technology than ever before – an important step towards more collaboration on co-development and co-production on defence platforms.

There were announcements pertaining to procurement of U.S. origin aircraft and UAVs as well. Already, the backbone of India's strategic and theatre transport fleet,

its heavy attack and heavy lift helicopter capability, its long-range maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare aircraft capability – is all U.S.-origin. Furthermore, the India-U.S. Defense Acceleration Ecosystem – shortened to INDUS-X, was launched. The U.S. Defense Department and the Indian Ministry of Defence will be working together to expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation among government, businesses and academic institutions.

The two countries will also be working together for creation of logistics, repair and maintenance infrastructure for aircraft and ships in India. This is in-line with India's vision to become an MRO hub in the region. A key example of this – Boeing's announcement of its completion of a C-17 aftermarket support facility for MRO and a new parts logistics center in India to capture future synergies between defence and civil aviation.

There is growing partnership in commercial aviation as well, led by Air India's historic agreement with Boeing to renew its fleet with 220+ aircraft. The South Asia region is projected to expand fleet size by more than 7% annually (the world's fastest rate), with India accounting for more than 90% of the region's passenger traffic. The massive order comes at an opportune time as India becomes one of the world's largest aviation markets. Boeing also announced a USD 100 million investment on infrastructure and programs to train pilots in India, supporting India's need for 31,000 new pilots over the next 20 years.

We are truly at an inflection point. The various U.S.-India engagements and collaboration will foster technological innovation, economic growth, and shared prosperity. Aerospace and defence partnership, including co-production and co-development is central to this strategic relationship.

This article was contributed by Mr Salil Gupte, Chairman, CII National Committee on Aerospace and President, Boeing India

# Engaging with the World

## ASIA

### Strengthening India – Nepal Economic Relations



(L-R): Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President, FNCCI; Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India; Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal; R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII at the India-Nepal Business Summit in New Delhi

CII organized the India-Nepal Business Summit on 1 June in New Delhi to promote Nepal as an investment destination and explore opportunities for business and investment collaboration.

H.E. Mr Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Prime Minister of Nepal said that the private sector is an indispensable partner in development, owing to its ability to bring capital and technology to foster innovation and promote competitiveness. He said that modernizing agriculture, improving connectivity, harnessing hydropower potential, promoting trade and information technology are key for structural transformation in the economy.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India expressed that India and Nepal share a relationship that is not confined to political or geopolitical or economic issues. He said that the two countries have a shared history, a deep cultural affinity and a strong friendship.

H.E. Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador of Nepal to India informed that Nepal is establishing about 16 Special Economic corridors,

which is going to add economic value to Nepal and that the Government is keen to promote the trade and investment between Nepal and India.

Talking about emerging opportunities in Nepal, Mr Chandra Prasad Dhakal, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) stated that Nepal's digital economy is growing and has the huge potential. This includes e-commerce digital payment system and education.

Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd said that this summit marks an important milestone in the expanding economic relations between the two nations.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said at the India-Nepal

Joint Business Forum preceding the summit, major areas of cooperation were identified in the areas of agro-processing and fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, petroleum and petrochemicals, energy, especially hydropower, healthcare, tourism, infrastructure development and connectivity.

### India-Nepal Joint Business Forum

Coinciding with the visit of the Prime Minister of Nepal, the first meeting of India-Nepal Joint Business Forum was organized. Mr Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Co-Chair, India – Nepal Joint Business Forum remarked that the India-Nepal Joint Business Forum is an important milestone for the two countries come together to



Dignitaries at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of India Nepal Joint Business Forum in New Delhi



explore opportunities, discuss challenges and pave the way for a prosperous future. Ms Bhawani Rana, Co-Chair, India – Nepal Joint Business Forum informed the Indian members of the forum that the Government of Nepal is very supportive and eager regarding the outcome of this forum.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Expanding India – Iraq Business Opportunities

An interactive business meeting with a high-level delegation from Iraq, including H.E. Mr Hayan Abdulghani Abdulzahra Al Sawad, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, was organized by CII on 19 June in New Delhi. The meeting was also attended by business leaders and Government officials from India. H.E. Mr Sawad highlighted the importance of the oil sector and informed that new opportunities have been announced for investments for establishing oil refineries in different regions of the country, which could open up opportunities for Indian businesses.

Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV and OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India said that the Iraqi Government has brought about changes in their investment clause, opening up opportunities for the Indian Industry to manufacture in Iraq. Shri Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha and Corporate President, Sun Group said India and Iraq have existing collaborations across a number of important sectors and added that they can further work closely to expand trade and investment.

Mr Qayssar Ahmed Oglah, Deputy Leader of the Iraq delegation, said the Iraqi Government has entered

into collaboration with the private sector, both within and outside the country, on similar lines as that of the WTO and other international trade organizations. He also mentioned that the Government has passed resolutions to protect foreign investment in the country which includes tax exemptions and excise duties, providing guarantee to the investors to transfer funds and protect it with ease.

## US

### iCET – Towards Stronger India – US Partnership



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor, Government of India; Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, United States of America; Eric Garcetti, Ambassador of United States of America to India at the Roundtable on Advancing India – US iCET in New Delhi

CII organized a Roundtable on Advancing India – US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) on 13 June in New Delhi. The roundtable was attended by Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor, Government of India; Mr Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, USA; H.E.

Mr Eric Garcetti, Ambassador of the USA, amongst other officials and Industry leaders.

Shri Doval said that the iCET is going to emerge as one of the important pillars in the India-US bilateral strategic partnership. He said that significant progress has been made in various areas, including Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism, MoU on semi-conductors, public private dialogue on telecom to further open collaboration



Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary (CPV and OIA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India presenting crest to Hayan Abdulghani Abdulzahra Al Sawad, Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq

(L-R): Ramesh Mutha, Managing Director, Mohan Mutha Group; Qayssar Ahmed Oglah, Deputy Leader of the Iraq delegation; Hayan Abdulghani Abdulzahra Al Sawad; Dr Ausaf Sayeed; Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha & Corporate President, Sun Group and Pankaj Tandon, Joint MD & CEO, EPC, Jakson Group meeting the delegation from Iraq in New Delhi

in Open RAN, 5G and 6G, dialogue on biotech and exchanges on AI, along with positive momentum under the defence and space pillars. He noted that this will serve as a platform to address regulatory barriers and issues relating to exports control.

Mr Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, United States of America highlighted that one of the key focuses of the initiative is to remove barriers and strengthen collaboration on both sides to maximize the potential of bilateral cooperation. The US and India are poised to lead in clean energy transformation, shore up and diversify global semiconductor supply chains and supply chains in other critical goods and lead the revolution in Artificial Intelligence, advanced computing, biotech and quantum, he added.

Highlighting the strong India - US foundation, H.E. Mr Eric Garcetti, Ambassador of United States of America to India said that India and the US may be the co-authors for the next phase to meet the challenges that the world faces. For translating the vision of iCET into human terms, he said that there is need to have the technology that connects, protects and heals people.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that the launch of iCET demonstrates the strong commitment of the two nations to strengthening the bilateral relationship. He suggested the establishment of a core group for implementation of iCET under CII that will work with US counterparts.

## UK

### CII Annual CEOs Delegation to the UK

The CII Annual CEOs delegation to the UK was organized from 19-21 June comprising 17 members from key sectors such as financial services, agri-business, digital, tourism and hospitality, chemicals, real estate, startups, automotive and textiles.

As a part of the CEOs delegation's visit, CII, in partnership with the High Commission of India to the United Kingdom and UK India Business Council, organized the CII Annual India – UK Business Conference on 19 June around the theme 'Future Frontiers in the India-UK Economic Partnership', which saw a participation of over 100 delegates.

Lord Dominic Johnson, Minister for Investment, UK said that India is the second largest investor in the UK and his department is willing to increase the profitability of Indian businesses. He highlighted the scope of the research and development between the two countries through the UK's Catapult Network. H.E. Mr Vikram Doraiswami, High Commissioner of India to the UK; Richard Heald OBE, Chair, UK India Business Council; R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII were among the key speakers at the conference.

CII also organized its annual reception on 19 June, which was attended by more than 120 guests. Chief Guest Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State (Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and UN), Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK, underlined the importance of strengthening the UK India trade and investment partnership. H.E. Mr Vikram Doraiswami; Mr R Dinesh and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, were among the other key speakers.

During the course of the visit, the CEOs also met The Rt Hon Nicholas Lyons, Lord Mayor of the City of London; Lord Dominic Johnson, Minister for Investment, UK; senior leadership of the University of Oxford and Chief European Economist for HSBC; Mr Harjinder Kang, HM Trade Commissioner for South Asia and British Deputy High Commissioner for Western India and Ms Kate Thornley, Chief Negotiator, India – UK FTA; Baroness



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Lord Dominic Johnson, Minister for Investment, Department of Business and Trade; R Dinesh, President, CII and Executive Vice Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited and Richard Heald OBE, UKIBC at the CII Annual India-UK Business Conference in London



CII CEOs meeting with Baroness Joanna Penn, Treasury Lords Minister, HM Treasury in London

Joanna Penn, Treasury Lord's Minister, HM Treasury, UK and Mr Nick Thomas-Symonds, Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade, UK.

A roundtable meeting was organised by the Commonwealth Economic and Investment Council (CWEIC) and a meeting with the All Parliamentary Party Group for India (APPG). Other meetings included those with Lord Udney-Lister of Wandsworth, Senior Adviser to the Group Chairman, HSBC Holdings and Ms Margot James, Executive Chair of Warwick Manufacturing Group and the senior ESG team for BP Plc.

## LAC

### Exploring India – Chile Business Opportunities

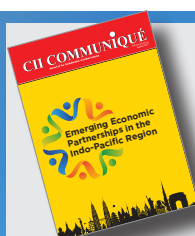
The first meeting of India – Chile Business Council, in collaboration with SOFOFA, a leading business association in Chile, was held on 19 June in New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to highlight the potential for growth in trade between India and Chile and identify business and investment opportunities. H.E.

Mr Juan Rolando Angulo Monsalve, the Ambassador of Chile to India emphasized upon the need for agro cooperation and identified specific areas where partnerships could be forged like water conservation, draft management, plant health, organic agriculture and science and innovation. He suggested that chapters on services and investments to be included in the ongoing trade negotiations between the two economies.

The deliberations also focused on identifying key issues in business and concluded with a networking B2B session between the Industry from both the countries. Mr Rajiv Wahi, Member, CII LAC Committee and International Business Head, Escorts Kubota Ltd; Mr Germán Ilabaca, President, Chilean Chapter, Chile – India Business Council; Mr Ashwin Rodrigues, Secretary, Wine Growers Association of India; Mr Claudio Cilveti, President, Food Exporters Council; Mr Ignacio Fernandez, Director General, ProChile; Mr John Luer, Director, Chilean Meat Association; Mr Ivan Marambio, President, Fruit Exporters Association and Mr Girish Bajaj, Managing Director, Bajaj Processpack Limited were among the key speakers. ■

#### A Journal of Confederation of Indian Industry

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For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, **Confederation of Indian Industry**  
249-F, Sector 18, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurgaon-122 015 (Haryana), India, Tel: 91-124-4014060-67 • Email: sharmila.kantha@cii.in





## Cyber Security

### Cyber Security: Advent of Global Cooperation, Combining Forces to Secure Cyberspace

Under the aegis of the B20 Digital Transformation Taskforce, a conference on 'Cyber Security: Advent of Global Cooperation, Combining Forces to Secure Cyberspace' was organized on 5 June in New Delhi. B20, as an engagement group, has identified and prioritized digital transformation (DX) and cyber security as critical tenets of the digital world. The B20 taskforce on digital transformation has held multiple rounds of discussion to promote a safe, secure and trusted global cyberspace.

Mr Rajesh Gopinathan, Co-Chair, B20 India Taskforce on Digital Transformation and Former CEO and MD, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd; Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Rajesh Pant, National Cyber Security Coordinator, Prime Minister's Office, Government of India; Shri Abhay Thakur, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Sous-Sherpa G-20, Government of India; Pro Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research, and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS); Mr Eelco Van der Enden, Chief Executive, Global Reporting Institute (GRI); Dr Makoto Yokozawa, Co-Chair, B20 India Taskforce on Digital Transformation and Committee for Digital Economy Policy, Businesses, OECD (BAIC), Mr Antony Cook, Corporate Vice President & Deputy General Counsel Customer & Partner Solution, Microsoft, amongst others spoke at the event.

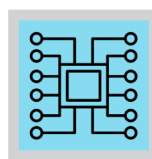
During the deliberations, the speakers opined that under India's leadership, G20 could substantially advance international economic cooperation on responsible state behaviour in cyber space. It was highlighted that India is committed to an open, secure, accessible and stable cyber space environment, which helps in innovation, economic growth, sustainable development, free flow of information and respect for cultural and linguistic diversity. Some of other key discussions that took place at the conference suggests that it is important to focus on



Speakers at the Conference on Cyber Security in New Delhi

interoperability of standards in cyber security, as investors need comparable data to make informed decisions.

Further, it was noted that there is a need to establish a system to collate experiences of cyber attacks and create common infrastructure to bring down cost of compliance.



## Technology

### AI changing IT landscape

CII-CDT organized a session on 'How AI changes the IT Landscape' in collaboration with Nebius. The session, held on 23 June in New Delhi, provided participants with a comprehensive overview of AI's role in the IT Industry. Mr Levon Sarkisyan, Solutions Architect, Nebius delivered a presentation highlighting the latest AI technologies that are driving transformation and how they are impacting different areas of the Industry. The session also covered important aspects such as the boom of AI services and its influence on the IT market, building ML-powered service along with an AI-centric cloud and ML-driven services with infrastructure.



## Print & Packaging

### Conference on Digital Transformation in Print & Packaging

The conference on Digital Transformation in Print & Packaging was organized on 9 June in New Delhi. The conference, led by Mr SN Venkataraman, Conference Chairman and Chief Executive - Packaging & Printing Business, ITC Limited provided participants with a comprehensive overview of the constantly evolving print and packaging Industry.

The conference discussed the challenges faced by the printing and packaging Industry such as sustainability, cost pressures, supply chain disruptions and explored how companies are addressing these challenges through innovative solutions.







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# Portfolio for Excellence



## Food and Agriculture

### Inclusive Improvements and Innovations Towards Food System Transformation



Dr S.B. Barbuddhe, Director ICAR-NRC Meats; Siraj A. Chaudhry, Country Chairman, SATS India; G. Kamala Vardhana Rao, Secretary, Government of India & Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Standards Authority of India; Avinash Kant, President, Jubilant FoodWorks Ltd; Ayush Arora, Co-founder, Sattviko and Ajay Khanna, Chief Marketing Officer, Amway India at the Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Summit held in New Delhi

CII-Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) in partnership with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) organized the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of its annual flagship and hybrid Information sharing program 'Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Summit' on 16 June in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was 'Inclusive Improvements and Innovations Towards Food System Transformation'. The sessions aimed at facilitating actionable discussions and drive positive change in the Industry.

Shri G Kamala Vardhana Rao, Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI & Secretary, Government of India said that the active involvement of Industry is imperative for a holistic improvement towards food systems transformation through sustained innovations. During the leaders' dialogue, Industry leaders expressed that it is necessary to forge strong collaboration between agriculture food value chains, sustainable and carbon neutral supply chains and inclusion of innovations for rapid food analysis techniques that nudge consumers towards inclusive and holistic transformation of food systems.

The summit featured three technical sessions, focussed on challenges and solutions covering precision and AI-based technologies for rapid detection of contaminants

in food and beverages, food safety, quality, innovation, production, regulatory framework of cultured meat, plant-based protein alternatives and macro and micronutrient improvement for effective nutrition. Dr S.B. Barbuddhe, Director, ICAR-NRC and Dr Nimish Shah, Chairman, CII Expert Group on Food Safety & Quality and General Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Hindustan Unilever Limited were among the other key speakers during the summit.

### Greening India's Cold Chain



(L-R): P Ravichandran, Chairman, CII National Committee on Cold Chain & President, Danfoss Industries Private Limited; Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India; B. Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Task Force on Rural Development & Migrant Workforce & Managing Director, Blue Star Limited; Pankaj Mehta, Vice- Chairman, CII National Committee on Cold Chain & Managing Director, Carrier Transicold India & South Asia at the CII Annual National Post-Harvest & Logistics Summit held in New Delhi

The CII Annual National Post-Harvest & Logistics Summit was organized on 23 June in New Delhi, around the theme 'Greening India's Cold Chain'. A key objective of the initiative was to bring to light the necessary strategies that support countries on their journey to reduce carbon and greenhouse gas emission for a net zero future. The summit brought together various stakeholders from the cold chain segment including refrigeration and food processing, along with Government officials, global development bodies, academia, banking and financial institutions, and others from across India and the world. Together, they explored strategies that can lead to transformational shifts, mitigate the impact of climate change and its adverse impact on food and agriculture and foster the development of efficient cold chain.

As the B20 secretariat, CII played a key role to engage stakeholders from the G20 countries to shape the future of cold chain. With the participation of representatives from more than 10 countries, the summit fostered

international cooperation to prioritize and develop long-term solutions for a greener and more climate resilient cold chain ecosystem. The summit featured some key technical sessions focussing on technological interventions and green financing in the cold chain Industry for mitigating emissions across the agriculture value chain, energy efficiency and international collaboration to enhance the efficiency of cold chain.

Key takeaways from the discussions:

- Affordable, actionable technologies in cold chains can play transformative roles in reducing food losses
- Recently developed virtually operable models can help understand the impact of implementation of technological interventions. These models, through validation can enable globally connected resilient food chains for addressing the international goals, as well as become beneficial to low-income countries
- Collaboration between high and low income countries is important to achieve health and food security for transformation in overall cold chain development and regulation, in addition to a seamless academia-Industry interaction
- Accessible high cost- technologies (virtual cold storage, extensive digitization etc) as a service can empower end users with cutting edge innovation without burden
- Sustainability from project design stage till implementation is important to attract investments. Also, public financing can be pivoted to address risks and be bankable so that more banks come in for financing.



**CESD**

## First Annual Report of the India Plastics Pact

The India Plastics Pact's first annual report was launched at a virtual event on 22 June. The report provides an overview of the cumulative plastic packaging placed on the market by the Pact signatories in 2021 and shows where the pact stands with respect to the 2030 targets. The data reporting process of the Pact sets it apart from many other initiatives on plastics in India. Around 5 lakh tonnes of plastic packaging were placed on the market by the Pact's signatories in 2021, of which

92% was primary packaging and 8% secondary and tertiary packaging, according to the annual report. The Pact's annual data reporting process is important as it ensures transparency and accountability, highlights that the Pact is about action and prioritizing of resources. Most importantly, it allows the Secretariat to keep track of signatories' actions.

With respect to the 2030 targets, the achievements in the first year were:

Target @2030	Achievement in the first year
Define a list of unnecessary or problematic plastic packaging and items and take measures to address them through redesign and innovation	391 million items classified as problematic or unnecessary were being sold in the Indian market by signatories
100% of plastic packaging to be reusable, recyclable, or compostable	64% of the plastic packaging being sold in the Indian market by Pact members were recyclable
50% of plastic packaging to be effectively recycled	15% of plastics are recycled in India, according to literature and Government data
25% average recycled content across all plastic packaging	1% of plastic packaging by weight, sold in the Indian market by Pact Members was recycled content

The virtual launch was attended by the signatories and stakeholders from across the plastics value chain. At the event, the Pact's progress with respect to the 2030 targets was presented and signatories spoke about the importance of collaborative action, the Pact's data reporting process and innovative solutions taken to progress to the 2030 targets.



To know more about plastic packaging in Indian market, read the Annual Report at: [https://indiaplasticspact.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/IPP\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2021-22.pdf](https://indiaplasticspact.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/IPP_Annual_Report_2021-22.pdf)



CFC

## Corrosion Prevention in Railway Stations

Corrosion is becoming a concern at railway stations, therefore it is important to address corrosion issues for enhancing public safety and to increase the shelf life of railway infrastructure.

CII Corrosion Management Division (CII CMD) has joined hands with the Rail & Development Authority, Ministry of Railway, Government of India to prevent corrosion in railway stations. As a first step, an exclusive session on 'Corrosion Prevention in Railway Stations' was organized on 9 June via CII digital platform. This session focused on the key issues of corrosion in railway stations and suggested preventive measures. During the session, Shri Vivek B Sood, Executive Director/SD (P&D), Rail and Development Authority, Ministry of Railway, Government of India briefed about the work progress in new Indian railway stations schemes and the estimation of the investment in these stations.

Mr Ranit Rana, Assistant Vice President, Jindal Stainless Steel; Mr S Ravichandran, National Business Development Manager, Berger Paints India Ltd and Mr Yatinder Pal Singh Suri, Co-Chairman, CII-Corrosion Management Committee were among the key speakers. Taking this initiative forward, CII CMD will facilitate a meeting of railway officials led by Shri Vivek B Sood with various solutions and technology providers.

## Building Competitiveness in Manufacturing through Excellence

A core mission of the CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) is to enhance competitiveness of the Industry. Towards this, the centre has partnered with Core Metal Kraits Limited to enhance competitiveness of the company's Derabassi facility by initiating the Manufacturing Excellence Journey.

The kick-off ceremony of project was held on 12 June at the facility in Derabassi. The objective of the project is to improve competitiveness in business by improving quality, productivity, safety, on time in full (OTIF) improvement, cost reduction and increase in employee participation. CII CFC presented overall approach for the excellence execution road map and briefed about the intervention, followed by training on business KPI, best practices, and handholding with management team.

## Towards Energy Efficiency

### Implementation of ISO 50001 Energy Management System

CII-CFC is helping the Industry effectively implement ISO 50001 Energy Management System. ISO 50001 helps addressing key business issues like compliance, cost, perception, reputation and risk management in energy management. Voluntary implementations of ISO 50001, which is unique in nature, can result in substantial energy cost saving on continual basis, even with no or low investment.

This is being done by with gap analysis, EnMS implementation support with capacity building including internal auditor training, benchmarking and preparation for certification audit within a time frame of 3-4 months.

Design, implementation, training and certification of ISO 50001 was carried out at Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd Goindwal Sahib, a leading manufacturer of paints, from January 2022 to June 2023. Under this project, support and training was provided for effective implementation of ISO 50001 at the company. CII CFC has also initiated implementation support in Eastman Cast and Forge Ltd, Ludhiana.

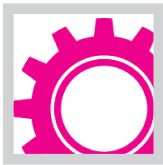
### Energy Efficient System and Decarbonization Strategies

CII organized a two-day online course on 'Energy Efficient System and Decarbonization Strategies' on 12 – 13 June, designed with a focus on optimizing energy use, reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency, with a systematic approach which ultimately leads towards decarbonization. The aim was to help professionals with the knowledge of designing energy efficient systems, to not only help in overall energy cost of operations but also effectively reduce costs of maintenance. The program consisted of thought-provoking discussions on technology led solutions, various issues of energy efficiency, environmental concerns and best practices to make the Industry competitive.

## Pilot project on Sustainable Manufacturing

India is one of the important suppliers of handicrafts to the world market. Despite the availability of a production base and a large number of craftsmen, India has not been able to fully leverage the existing opportunities. Productivity enhancement is one of major challenges with MSME units. CII CFC, in collaboration with Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), organized an awareness seminar on 'Sustainable Manufacturing Practices for Enhanced Productivity' in Jaipur. Assessments were also conducted in Dileep Industries, Ratan Textile, and Hastkala.

The seminar aimed to provide innovative approaches, optimize processes and introduce advanced technologies to enable the organizations to unlock their full potential, drive efficiency and achieve remarkable results in the manufacturing realm. CII-CFC and EPCH plan to take these initiatives forward through cluster approach to enhance productivity.



**CME**

### Proactive Maintenance

CII Naoroji Godrej Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII-CME) organized an online session on 'Proactive Maintenance: Achieving Zero Breakdown & Reducing Maintenance Costs' from 21-23 June. The session was conducted in three modules. Module 1 covered introduction to proactive maintenance and analysis of failures and root cause analysis. Module 2 covered preventive maintenance and total lubrication management, while Module 3 covered condition based – predictive maintenance.

### Emotional Wellness

CII CME organized an online workshop with a focus on helping participants assess their own emotional state, identify the stress triggers and adopt small measures that help in adopting a balanced approach towards life. The workshop, organized on 21 June, was attended by middle-management participants from different companies.

### Workshop on Finance for Non – Finance Executives

An online workshop by CII CME on 'Finance for Non – Finance Executives' was conducted for Apraava Renewable Energies Ltd from 6-7 June. The workshop discussed selected aspects of finance from a non-financial specialist perspective. Specific topics included financial analysis, planning, forecasting, budgeting, cashflow and strategic financing. The importance of finance and interpretation of financial information to help senior managers analyse the financial health of the organization was highlighted. The participants were taught to apply the concepts of accounting and finance to analyse financials and help others to understand them. The participants learned about key accounting and finance terms that are used on daily basis. They learned to examine financial statements by using key ratios and create MIS for senior management. The workshop was attended by managers from Apraava Renewable Energies. ■

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Communiqué

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# Regional Review



## EASTERN REGION

### Meeting with Governor of Bihar



(L-R): Dr Satyajit Kr Singh, Vice Chairman, CII Bihar State Council and Managing Director, Ruban Pataliputra Hospital; Sachin Chandra, Chairman, CII Bihar State Council and Director, Swadha Developers Pvt Ltd and Rajendra Arlekar, Governor of Bihar

CII office bearers called upon Shri Rajendra Arlekar, Governor of Bihar on 25 June to discuss several issues regarding the collaboration between Industry and academia for inclusive industrial growth through research and development. Shri Arlekar expressed his appreciation for CII's Industry-Academia Connect initiative. He acknowledged the importance of bridging the gap between Industry and academia and recognized the need for collaborative efforts to achieve inclusive industrial growth. He emphasized that research and development should be the focal point for both sectors to drive innovation and sustainable economic progress. The meeting proved to be an encouraging platform for constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas.

### Farm2Fork



(L-R): Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Odisha inaugurating the Farm2Fork initiative in Bhubaneswar

Odisha has a rich history and culture of farming and fishing. The State is home to a variety of agricultural

crops and seafood species that have sustained the local population for generations. To extend support and guidance to farmers, CII Odisha organized 'FARM2FORK: Sustainable Agri-Business – Produce Local, Sell Global' on 9 June in Bhubaneswar. Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Odisha called upon the Industry to extend their support and guidance to farmers. The minister emphasized that such assistance would help enhance farmers' income and contribute to the overall prosperity of the state.

The Government called upon CII to collaborate in solving the challenges in logistics, connectivity and commercial utilization. Odisha's unique offerings include organic coffee, superior ginger, diverse turmeric and a variety of seafood, due to its extensive coastline. The Government aims to establish 1,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for collective farming. Ms Sulochana Das, Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) said that the Chief Minister is actively taking all necessary steps, including increasing production through research and development. The State Government is encouraging the participation of women in the millet mission, she added. Shri Prakash Kumar Behera, Principal Commissioner, CGST emphasized the enormous benefits that millets provide for regional food security and their contribution to climate change mitigation efforts.

### Importance of Functional Strategies in Family Businesses

CII FBN Eastern Region organized the 9<sup>th</sup> Family Business Conclave on 'Importance of Functional Strategies in Family Businesses' on 27 June in Kolkata. The discussions primarily revolved around how the business families can use parallel planning process as a tool to integrate and balance family and business thinking and execution, to develop a viable business strategy. The speakers also discussed strategies of building the future together, how to bind the family members and define roles as per the skills and capabilities.

Mr Farhad Forbes, Chairman, FBN International and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Private Limited; Mr Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and





Farhad Forbes, Chairman, FBN International & Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall Private Limited speaking at the Family Business Conclave in Kolkata

Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services Limited; Mr Ritum Jain, Co-Chairman, CII FBN Eastern Regional Chapter and Director, SDPL; Mr Kaushik Mukerjee, Regional Managing Partner - East, Price Waterhouse & Co LLP; Mr Rishi Fogla, Co-Chairman, CII FBN Eastern Regional Chapter and Executive Director, Fogla Corp; Mr Dinesh Chowbey, Partner and Leader Entrepreneurial & Private Business - East, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd and Ms Falguni Shah, Partner and Leader Entrepreneurial and Private Business, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd shared their perspectives at the conclave.

## Practicing Advanced Nursing: Shaping the Future of Healthcare

CII West Bengal organized the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of Nursing Conclave 2023 on 28 June in Kolkata. The theme of the conference was 'Practicing Advanced Nursing: Shaping the Future of Healthcare'. Shri N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal emphasized on the importance of technology, which is rapidly changing the healthcare ecosystem. The Principal Secretary emphasized that the concept of wellness is spreading, leading to a lot of demand in this space. Shri Nigam also told the caregivers and stakeholders that they should

be savvy in accessing AI and other technology tools to bring about a huge change in healthcare.

The conclave focused on catering to the needs of care for all, enhancing technical support to ensure seamless monitoring and combating mental wellness challenges that can make the nurses empowered, and encourage them to continue doing what they do best without any hindrances. This year, more than 400 nurses from well-known hospitals and healthcare institutes across the state attended the conclave.

## Joyee 2023: Recognition of Excellence for Caregivers



Awardee caregivers at the ceremony

Joyee 2023: Recognition of Excellence for Caregivers, an initiative of CII West Bengal and IWN Kolkata chapter, was a concurrent event with the Nursing Conclave. This year, 40 top hospitals' senior management along with their caregiving team were invited to attend the event and the latter received the Industry's appreciation. The recognition was organized to acknowledge the exceptional contribution made by the nurses, for their contribution to the society during the pandemic and post-pandemic times. Joyee 2023 was a step towards felicitating the nursing / caregivers' team from different hospitals, who all work relentlessly 24X7 to combat all sorts of diseases and treat the patients with utmost care.



(L-R): Dr Usha Ukande, President, Nursing Honor Society; Dr Rupali Basu, Managing Director, Woodlands Multispecialty Hospital Kolkata; Rupak Barua, Chairman, Healthcare Subcommittee, ER & Director & Group CEO, AMRI Hospitals; N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Dr Siddhartha Niyogi, Directorate of Health Services & Nursing, Government of West Bengal; Rana Dasgupta, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region Healthcare Subcommittee & Chief Executive Officer (ER), Apollo Multispecialty Hospitals Ltd; and Prashant Sharma, Past Chairman, West Bengal State Council & Managing Director, Charnock Hospital

## Autonomous Maintenance

CII Eastern Region organized an online training on 'Autonomous Maintenance' for engineers, executives, managers from maintenance, production, industrial engineering, facility, quality, planning on 28 June. The objective of this training was to reduce losses and increase productivity and profitability. The training was attended by around 100 engineers and managers from around 45 companies across India. The faculty for the training was Mr Subrata Mitra Majumdar, a Management and Operational Excellence Consultant with around 33 years of regional and global experience.



## NORTH EASTERN REGION

### Facilitating growth of the Industry in Assam



CII Assam State Members interacting with Government officials in Guwahati

CII Assam interacted with key officials of the Industries & Commerce department of the Government of Assam during an interactive session on 5 June in Guwahati. During the interaction with Dr Lakshmanan S, Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam, Shri Oinam Singh, Commissioner, Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam and Shri MP Singh, Managing Director, Assam Industrial Corporation Ltd, members discussed various issues pertaining to the Industry. Dr Lakshmanan spoke about various initiative taken by the State Government for promoting the growth of the Industry. He also spoke about the Government of India's thrust on promoting One District One Product (ODOP).

Shri MP Singh apprised the members about the upcoming Northeast Investment Summit in the State and overall industrial scenario of Assam. Commercial viability of the trade route to Bangladesh, vibrant ASEAN and BBN markets, ease of doing business, potential of bamboo, amongst other areas were also discussed in detail. Shri Oinam Singh urged the Industry to avail the facilities offered by the State Government of Assam in different parks.



## NORTHERN REGION

### Think Green & Embrace Green

On World Environment Day, CII Rajasthan joined hands with the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Government of Rajasthan to organize the 'Think Green & Embrace Green Conference' on future sustainability roadmap. Held on 5 June at Jaipur, the

conference marked a significant milestone as the first-ever Carbon Neutral Conference organized by CII on World Environment Day. With the objective of fostering sustainable development in the region, the event brought together Government officials and Industry experts to discuss and strategize the path to achieving carbon neutrality in Rajasthan.

The conference witnessed the active participation of over 250 delegates from different parts of Rajasthan. The discussions revolved around a comprehensive roadmap encompassing policy and procedural practices, innovations in sustainable manufacturing and production processes, the reduction of carbon footprints, amongst other issues. Mr Abhinav Banthia, Chairman, CII Rajasthan and Chairman, CII Rajasthan & Managing Director, Manu Yantralaya Pvt Ltd; Mr Arun Misra, Vice Chairman, CII Rajasthan and Vice-Chairman, CII Rajasthan & CEO, Zinc Business & Whole Time Director, Hindustan Zinc Ltd; Mr Rajiv Arora, Chairman, Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation Ltd; Mr Naveen Mahajan, Chairperson, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board; Mr Nitin Seth, CEO – New Mobility, Reliance Industries Ltd; Mr P K Tripathi, Regional Director – Western Region, Central Ground Water Board; Mr Yogesh Bedi, Chief Urban Mining & Steel Recycling Business, Tata Steel Ltd; Mr Ishoo Ratna Srivastav, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer – Planning and Environment Management, North Western Railways were among the key speakers.

### Cloud as an Enabler of Digital Transformation

Cloud computing has revolutionised the technology Industry by providing businesses with flexible and scalable computing resources without the need for heavy infrastructure investments. Recognising its transformative potential, CII Northern Region organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of its Cloud Summit on 9 June in New Delhi. This summit served as a platform for Industry experts and thought leaders to explore the full potential of cloud computing, discuss its role in accelerating digital transformation and examine its impact on sustainable growth.

2023 represents a watershed moment for the next generation of cloud computing – a true enabler of transformation, said Mr Sunil Gupta, Conference Chairman and Co-Founder & CEO, Yotta Data Services. Highlighting the importance of forging synergies and creating roadmaps that would turn Digital India into a global inspiration, Mr Gupta emphasized that cloud computing brings resources closer to customers, enabling superior, reliable, and faster service delivery,



(L-R): Raunak Maheshwari, ED, Extreme Infocom; Kapil Chugh, Country Head - Government & Enterprise Business, AdaniConneX; Irina Ghose, COO, Microsoft India; Sunil Gupta, Conference Chairman and Co-Founder & CEO, Yotta Data Services and Ashish Wattal, Country Director, Google Cloud India at the Cloud Summit in New Delhi

while strengthening resiliency through robust business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities. Ms Irina Ghose, COO, Microsoft India; Mr Kapil Chugh, Country Head – Government & Enterprise Business, AdaniConneX; Mr Ashish Wattal, Country Director, Google Cloud India and Mr Raunak Maheshwari, ED, Extreme Infocom were among the key speakers during the summit.

### New-Age Technologies in Diagnostics



(L-R): Sumit Goel, Partner – Healthcare Advisory, PwC; Dr Lata Kapoor, Additional Director - Centre for Bacterial Disease and Drug Resistance, National Centre for Disease Control; Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers; Dr Om P Manchanda, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and MD, Dr Lal PathLabs Ltd; Arpan Malhotra, Co-Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and CFO & Head of Strategy (Labs), Healthians at the Conference on New-Age Technologies in Diagnostics in New Delhi

CII Northern Region organized the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the conference on 'Application of New-Age Technologies in Diagnostics' on 29 June in New Delhi. With the theme 'Convergence of Innovation and Technology,' the conference brought together experts and Industry leaders to explore the crucial role of technology in revolutionising diagnostics and enhancing healthcare accessibility and quality. Dr Atul Mohan Kochhar, CEO, National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) emphasised the significance of technology and frugal innovation in narrowing the disparity between the first and last patients.

Shedding light on the criticality of quality control in diagnostics, Dr Lata Kapoor, Additional Director - Centre

for Bacterial Disease and Drug Resistance at the National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India stressed upon the shared responsibility of both users and manufacturers in maintaining high standards to ensure accurate and reliable diagnostic outcomes. The conference was also an opportunity to discuss how to tackle the pressing issues and drive policy changes. Dr Om Manchanda, Chairman of the CII Regional Committee on Diagnostics

& Technology and Managing Director, Dr Lal PathLabs Limited; Mr Arpan Malhotra, Co-Chairman, CII Regional Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and CFO & Head of Strategy (Labs), Healthians were among the key speakers.

### Addressing Plastic Pollution



Felicitating Sunil Uniyal Gama, Mayor of Dehradun at the Environment Summit in Dehradun

The CII-UCOST 13<sup>th</sup> Environment Summit, held on 21 June in Dehradun, brought together Industry leaders, experts and stakeholders to discuss the pressing issue of plastic pollution and explore sustainable packaging solutions. With insightful discussions and initiatives, the event aimed to raise awareness and promote actionable measures for a cleaner and more sustainable future. Shri Sunil Uniyal Gama, Mayor of Dehradun emphasized the significance of public participation in handling plastic pollution. He highlighted the importance of collective action in combating plastic pollution and stressed on engaging communities and promoting responsible waste management practices.

Shri Anup Malik, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Uttarakhand highlighted that out of the 400 million tons of plastic produced annually, 50% consists of single-use plastic, with only 9% being recyclable, underscoring the need for urgent action. Prof Durgesh Pant, Director-General, Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) highlighted the State's



ecological sensitivity and the need to address the growing problem of plastic waste, which poses risks to wildlife, ecosystems and human health. Mr Bipen Gupta, Chairman, CII Uttarakhand introduced CII's 'Climate Action Charter', which aims to encourage Indian businesses to identify climate change as a material risk and develop resilient strategies. Mr Kanish Jain, Vice Chairman, CII Uttarakhand also addressed the summit. In the run up to the summit, plastic waste collection drives with college students and poster-making competitions for school children were organised during 1-7 June, to observe the World Environment Day. As much as 75 kgs of plastic waste was collected from Kimadi and Rispana and was handed over to Waste Warriors material recovery facility.



## SOUTHERN REGION

### South India@100 – CII's Roadmap

In alignment with CII's national theme, CII Southern Region this year, will focus on key enablers of growth that would propel economic growth of the southern states. This will also set the tone for transitioning South India@75 to South India@100 with the theme 'Transformation through Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Trust & Globalisation' for the year 2023-24. This was stated by Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & Managing Director, Volvo Group India in a media interaction in Chennai on 8 June. The CII Southern Region theme comprises nine tracks which will be the focus areas / theme enablers. These include people & culture rejuvenation, holistic sustainability & Environmental Social Governance (ESG), tech adoption & digital transformation, embracing energy transition, innovation & startup ecosystems, manufacturing excellence, Industry 4.0, international linkages, MSMEs and brand building & sectoral promotion.

Committing to support Tamil Nadu's vision of making the State USD 1 trillion economy by 2030, he said, "we at CII have suggested an action plan to the Government. CII will focus on important areas like renewable energy, media & entertainment, electric vehicles, medical devices, electronics, fintech among others key sectors to support overall growth of the State." CII proposed special economic zones in southern districts of Tamil Nadu and Chennai - Hosur Industrial Corridor to attract new investments with focus on new age industries,

he added.

### Role of Southern States in Driving India's Growth Story



Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, Government of India (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) along with other dignitaries at the CII Southern Regional Council Meeting in Chennai

CII Southern Region organized an interactive session with Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, Government of India coinciding with the CII Southern Regional Council Meeting held in Chennai on 9 June. "The world order is changing. India's growth story should increase from the current 7% to at least 10%, resulting in an overall increase in the per capita income. The compounding rate is so powerful that if we grow at 9%, our per capita income will be USD 20,000 and if it is 10% it would be an astounding USD 30,000. This translates to every Indian becoming very rich, which is definitely possible as other countries like Japan, Taiwan and Korea have done," said Shri Kant while addressing the members of CII Southern Regional Council.

"For this growth to be achieved, I believe every State should be champions. We need 10-12 states to grow at 10% plus to enable other states to also grow. The southern states have to play a key and critical role as they are the best in competition," he said. To further substantiate the role of the southern states, Shri Kant said that the southern states have always stood at the top in every index, be it health, education tourism, nutrition, and others. Every state has to provide an easy environment for doing business to allow the private sector to invest and grow, he added.

### Transcending New Frontiers: Technology, Sustainability, and Governance

CII Telangana organized the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of CFO Conclave with the theme 'Transcending New Frontiers: Technology, Sustainability, and Governance' for the CFOs and corporate professionals in Hyderabad on 16 June. Shri Harish Rao, Minister for Finance, Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana said that CFOs are backbone of any organization and are expected to be well-versed with technology. CFOs need to adopt



Harish Rao, Minister for Finance, Health, Medical & Family Welfare, Government of Telangana addressing the CFO Conclave in Hyderabad

national and international best practices that would strengthen the organizations as well as the economy, he said. The Minister said that the Government has spent more than ₹40,000 crore to build a robust power distribution system which helped the state to provide 24/7 quality uninterrupted power to all consumers.

Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and CMD, CSR Estates Pvt Ltd said that the finance leaders need to embrace technologies, invest in cyber security measures and ensure inclusivity to bridge the digital divide. Mr MV Narasimham, Convenor, CII Telangana Ease of Doing Business Panel and Deputy CFO, Dr Reddy's Laboratories Ltd said that CFOs are expected to lead the digital transformation and support sustainability goals.

### Fostering Growth of the Industry in and around Coimbatore



Dr T R B Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) along with dignitaries at the Special Interactive Session held in Coimbatore

CII Coimbatore organized a special interaction with Dr TRB Rajaa, Minister of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu on 13 June in Coimbatore. Representatives from various sectors of the Industry interacted with the minister and requested for his support towards industrial development in Coimbatore and surrounding region. Coimbatore has

huge presence of MSMEs, which contribute substantially for industrial production and employment creation in the state.

Members also urged the minister to focus on development of southern districts of the State. Tier II and tier III towns like Villupuram, Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Hosur, Tirunelveli, Ramnad and Virudhunagar have immense potential to attract high growth industries as the region is blessed with highly talented low cost labour, they noted. Dr Rajaa said that the State Government is working with a progressive intent to promote equitable and diverse industrial development in Tamil Nadu.

### CII Surface & Coating Expo 2023



Dignitaries at the Inaugural Session of Surface & Coating Expo 2023 in Chennai

Tamil Nadu is expected to increase its contribution of manufacturing to the national GDP from the current 17% to 25% by rolling out several programs and schemes, said Shri Hans Raj Verma, Additional Chief Secretary and Chairman & Managing Director Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation (TIIC). Shri Verma was speaking at the 4th Edition of Surface and Coating Expo 2023 organized by CII Southern Region in Chennai on 29 June. He said that to assist MSMEs' growth in the State, the Government is in the process of rolling out several themes and is laying emphasis on youth, employment, upskilling technology, and sustainability in the manufacturing sector.

Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & Managing Director, Volvo Group India said that the manufacturing sector is expected to grow at a faster pace in the coming decade and key trends indicate the auto sector is greatly shaping the Indian industrial coatings markets. Mr Srivats Ram, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director, Wheels India Ltd and Dr U Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, Surface & Coating Expo 2023 and Vice Chancellor, Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) were among the key speakers at the expo. The Surface and Coating 2023 Expo is India's largest and exclusive event focused on surface engineering, preparation, coatings, finishing, corrosion protection, environmental engineering and

technologies with over 250 exhibitors, 15,000 visitors, 750 delegates, 25 product launches and 130 speakers talking on various technical and engineering practices.

### Credit Availability Through Improved Credit Score



Sujata Ahlawat, Senior VP and Head, Direct to Consumer Business, TransUnion CIBIL speaking at the workshop on 'Credit Availability Through Improved Credit Score' at Kochi

CII Kerala organized a workshop on 'Credit Availability Through Improved Credit Score' on 21 June in Kochi. The workshop focused on maintaining a good credit score over a period and its importance in obtaining timely and requisite funds from banks and financial institutions for meeting working capital and long-term capital needs of MSMEs. Ms Minu Moonjely, Member, CII Kerala and Senior General Manager, Head Credit Underwriting, The South Indian Bank Ltd briefed the participants on MSME lending, Government schemes on funding for MSMEs along with maintaining good credit score to avail bank credits to expand business.

Mr P Vimaljith, Regional Head, Bank of Baroda briefed on how to improve the credit score without any default and timely repayment of the loan for establishing a solid credit history and enhance the financial prospects in the long run. Ms Sujata Ahlawat, Senior VP and Head, Direct to Consumer Business, TransUnion CIBIL briefed on easing the credit availability through improved CIBIL Score and also spoke on how the CIBIL Score is calculated and the benefits of having a healthy CIBIL Rank for MSMEs to avail credit.

### EHS Learning Mission

CII Visakhapatnam organized an EHS learning mission to Pfizer Healthcare India Pvt Ltd on 1 June in Visakhapatnam. The objective of the mission was to learn industrial safety and sustainability best practices and initiatives adopted by Pfizer Healthcare India Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam for building healthy and discrimination free workplaces. Mr Murtaza Mohammed, Senior Manager, EHS, Pfizer Healthcare along with his team made a detailed presentation on best practices of industrial safety and sustainability implemented by Pfizer. He mentioned that building safety culture, management commitment

and leadership, right programs and operational discipline are critical factors of safety implementation. The meeting concluded with facility visit to Pfizer Healthcare India Pvt Ltd and interaction with members.



### WESTERN REGION

#### Korea Delegation's Visit to Madhya Pradesh



Dignitaries at the Korea-India CSR-Economic Co-operation Seminar in Bhopal

Representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Korean International Trade Association (KITA), Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME), Korea Institute for International Economy Policy (KIEP), Korea Tourism Organisation (KTO), and Invest India Korea Plus visited Bhopal as part of a delegation on 22 June. The delegation met Shri Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, Minister of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya, Dr Navneet Mohan Kothari, Managing Director of MPIDC, State Government officials and key industrial members.

In collaboration with CII, KOTRA and MPIDC, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea hosted the 2023 Korea-India CSR-Economic Co-operation Seminar in Bhopal. KOTRA, the commercial section of the Korean Embassy, plans to showcase the features of Madhya Pradesh to Korean companies in India and Korea.

#### Delegation from Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), Egypt

CII Western Region organized a roundtable interaction with H.E. Mr Waleid Gamal Eldien, Chairman, Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), dignitaries from the Egyptian Industry and CII member companies representing sectors including logistics, petrochemicals, startups, sustainability, manufacturing and supply chain sectors on 22 June





Waleid Gamaleldien, Chairman, Suez Canal Economic Zone at the interaction in Mumbai

in Mumbai. The interaction aimed to advocate and encourage Indian investments in SCEZ, a strategic location and a gateway to the African continent and Middle East countries. The session was chaired by Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, Chemtrols Industries Pvt Ltd. The Minister invited the Indian companies to explore collaboration and investments for establishing business units.

A presentation regarding SCEZ, its components, incentives and investment opportunities was made during the session. The development in the region is boosting competitiveness in the Red Sea and Mediterranean countries. Achieving joint co-operation in localisation of iron, steel, petrochemical products and increasing trade exchange between the two countries were the key areas of discussion.

## Changing Face of Infrastructure Project Management



Dignitaries at the Conference on Infrastructure Project Management in Mumbai

The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the CII Western Region conference on 'Infrastructure Project Management' was organized in association with CBRE on the theme 'Changing Face of Project Management: Manager to Advisor' on 28 June in Mumbai. The conference brought together Industry experts to discuss current opportunities and the future prospects of the project management Industry. Mr Gurjot Bhatia, Managing Director, Project Management - India, SE Asia, Middle East and Africa, CBRE highlighted the key role that tall buildings play in improving the urban lifestyle and in alleviating the stress on modern day city infrastructure.

Mr Shaishav Dharia, CEO, Townships and Rental Assets, Lodha Group highlighted the importance of being ESG

ready for real asset developers and implementing ESG practices across every asset class like commercial development or real estate. The CII CBRE report 'Sky is the Limit: Rise of Tall Buildings in India' was also unveiled at the conference. As per the report, Mumbai dominates India's skyline with a notable share

of approximately 77% of the total tall buildings. The tall buildings in the city command premium prices compared to most other cities, making such constructions economically viable.

## Building Workforce for Industry 4.0



Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister, Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Tourism and Woman and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra addressing the conference in Mumbai

The conference on 'Building Workforce for Industry 4.0: The Demand Supply Conundrum', held on 20 June in Mumbai initiated discussions on the future of workforce. It focused on how to develop a skilled workforce aligned to Industry 4.0 on a global scale, with emphasis on G20 countries. Shri Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Tourism and Woman and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra said that young population in rural areas need to be skilled. This will reduce rural-urban migration and bring skilling at the doorstep, he said noting that Industry collaboration and practical learning can transform the workforce.

Dr Ramaswami N, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Skill, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra said that Maharashtra has more than 1,000 ITIs, one of the highest in the country, which trains almost 2.4 lakh individuals annually, making it a potential hub for skill development initiatives. He added that Maharashtra leads in the number of startups in the country. Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII Western Region and CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power Company Ltd and Ms Rekha Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director, Accenture India were among the other key speakers. The summit brought together

Industry leaders, policymakers, B20 Task Force Chairs, Co-Chairs and members from G20 countries, along with international and national domain experts.

### Innovation and Technology in Energy Efficiency



Dignitaries at the Encon Conclave in Nashik

The Encon Conclave held on 21 June in Nashik explored the opportunities available to the Industry to improve energy efficiency and gain a competitive edge. Insights were shared regarding the Indian energy scenario and the numerous energy efficiency improvements and initiatives that could be implemented to strengthen the ecosystem.

The discussions focused on innovations in energy-saving technologies, energy conservation in electric distribution, compressed air, boilers, lighting, non-conventional energy / renewable energy sources and shared updates on the latest innovations in energy-saving technologies.

### Employment through Learn & Earn Scheme



(L-R): Siddharth Sethi, Chairman, CII Malwa Zone; Manu Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh and Akshat Chordia, Vice Chairman, CII Malwa Zone

An interaction was held with Shri Manu Shrivastava, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh to discuss the benefits of Chief Minister's 'Learn and Earn' scheme on 26 June in Indore. The key highlights of the scheme were

discussed including providing employment-oriented skill training and reducing the burden on the Industry by providing 75 per cent of the stipend. The scheme will be applicable for 703 work areas, mainly in engineering, software development, tourism, hospital management, ITI, among others.

### Cyber Security for MSMEs

MSMEs are vulnerable to cyber-attacks due to limited resources and inadequate awareness of best practices. To educate MSMEs about the latest trends, threats, and preventive measures to safeguard their digital assets and business operations, an awareness session on cyber security was organized on 16 June in Indore. Lt Cdr Anudit Sirohi (Retd), National Manager - Cyber and Information Security, Homeland & Cybersecurity Division, Mahindra Defence Systems Limited was the keynote speaker at the session.

The critical need for small businesses to prioritize and strengthen their cyber security measures was highlighted. MSMEs can enhance their resilience against cyber threats by fostering a cyber security culture, adopting best practices, and leveraging collaboration and external support, thereby safeguarding their digital assets.

### Role of Team Work



Participants at the CEO Network Series Session in Vadodara

The first session of the CEO Network Series was organized in Vadodara on 15 June with Mr Tribhuvanprasad Kabra, Chairman, RR Global Group. Mr Kabra highlighted that the success of a CEO and the company depends on the collective efforts and dedication of the team. He emphasized the need to keep the team motivated and to be treated as family, valuing their contributions. Mr Kabra shared his inspiring entrepreneurial journey and emphasized the importance of understanding the objectives as a CEO and formulating plans accordingly to achieve them.

## Study Missions

### Excellence in Sustainability and Manufacturing



Mission Participants at SKF, Pune

A two-day study mission was organized to companies exhibiting leadership in manufacturing and sustainability commitment from 1-2 June in Pune. The participants got an opportunity to visit Tetra Pak, Atlas Copco, Sandvik Coromant and SKF. During the visit, best practices in sustainability and manufacturing were showcased with the integration of sustainability into business models and core business practices.

### Manufacturing Excellence & Industry 4.0



Participants at Vertiv Energy Pvt Ltd, Mumbai

A study mission on manufacturing excellence & Industry 4.0 was organized to Siemens Ltd in Thane and Vertiv Energy Pvt Ltd, Ambarnath from 8-9 June. About 29 participants representing 20 companies participated in the mission. The mission aimed to facilitate learnings for members in terms of the best practices in manufacturing excellence & Industry 4.0 encompassing concepts like Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM) and lean methodologies. ■



Confederation of Indian Industry

## 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of CII Industrial Intellectual Property Awards 2023

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