

Reviving Growth with Inclusivity: Galvanising Private Capital to Support Governments and Multilateral Institutions

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Building robust internal security and securing our borders are imperative and critical for progress



Working towards the advancement of SDGs is for global public good



The Industry should complement Government's efforts in empowering the women workforce



The Prime Minister has created a milieu for entrepreneurship and a thriving Industry

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The Cover Story explores the highlights of the roundtable on 'Reviving Growth with Inclusivity: Galvanising Private Capital to Support Governments and Multilateral Institutions', wherein speakers expressed their views related to the SDG financing gap, climate finance, the critical role of the private sector and reforms for the Multilateral Development Banks, at a time when the multipolar world is changing the economic and business dynamics

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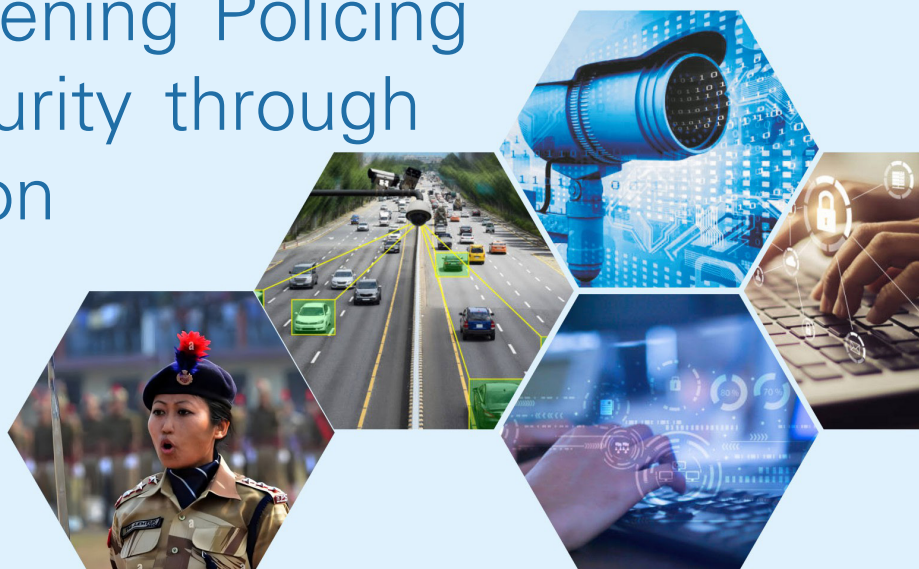
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JOURNAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Strengthening Policing and Security through Innovation



Police Tech 2023 showcased the latest innovations to a discerning audience of professionals, law enforcement agencies and decision-makers and also provided an invaluable opportunity for partnerships, joint ventures and technology transfers

To assess trends and developments in civil security and showcase the latest innovations to a discerning audience of professionals, law enforcement agencies and decision-makers, the 49th edition of the All-India Police Science Congress was held on 7-8 October in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

One of the central components of the Congress was the concurrent exhibition – PoliceTech 2023 – organized in collaboration with CII Northern Region (CII-NR), Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India and Uttarakhand Police. This exhibition served as a testament to the ever-evolving landscape of policing and security, featuring the latest technologies, cutting-edge products and innovative solutions across various domains.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Government of India on 7 October. Shri Gurmeet Singh, Governor of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and several dignitaries from the Uttarakhand Police and BPR&D were also present. The Home Minister was greeted by a robot, which welcomed him and took a selfie to commemorate the occasion.



Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation, Government of India and Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand taking a round of the exhibits on display at PoliceTech 2023 in Dehradun

The Home Minister noted that the Indian Criminal Justice System is at the cusp of a new era. The use of forensic science, the role of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and the introduction of three new laws to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Evidence Act mark a transformative period for the nation. Under

Strengthening of law and order situation in the country, building robust internal security and securing our borders are imperative and critical for progress. Our young police officers will have to work on new issues like the security of the country's critical infrastructure, cyber security audits in states, social media and continuous monitoring of visas.

Amit Shah

Minister of Home Affairs and Cooperation
Government of India



ICJS, the computerisation of 99.9 per cent of police stations has been achieved with seamless connectivity through CCTNS. He acknowledged that progress brings its own set of challenges.

During his visit to the exhibition, Shri Amit Shah, accompanied by Chief Minister Dharam Singh, engaged with numerous exhibitors, gaining insights into the technologies and products on offer. Shri Dharam Singh noted the need for equipping police forces with modern technologies. "The forest spread in Uttarakhand is more than 71 per cent, hence I would suggest that the forest personnel engaged in the protection of forests need to be trained in using modern weapons. To secure border areas, the police need to be equipped with modern technologies, since the state is also exposed to international borders", the Chief Minister said.

Shri Raja Srivastava, Additional Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh lauded the revolutionary impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in anti-corruption investigations. He emphasized the far-reaching changes that modern technology has brought to investigations, enabling timely analysis of data.

Beyond being a showcase of innovation, PoliceTech

2023 provided an invaluable opportunity for partnerships, joint ventures and technology transfers. Attendees had the chance to connect with prominent figures in law enforcement and security agencies from across the country. It also served as an educational opportunity for students from various schools and colleges in Dehradun, nurturing their interest in law enforcement technology.

Over the course of the two-day exhibition, 30 stalls displayed state-of-the-art equipment aimed at enhancing law enforcement capabilities. The event facilitated over 150 B2B and B2G meetings and witnessed substantial business engagements, with more than 250 business queries valued at approximately ₹112 crores. Cutting-edge products, including those for rescue, emergency management, arms and ammunition, forensic and investigation technology, firefighting, communication, traffic management, surveillance and tracking systems, communication, IT and cyber safety were displayed.

One notable highlight of the exhibition was the strong emphasis on promoting 'Make in India.' Leading Indian companies in the police and defence sectors showcased their contributions to bolster the nation's self-reliance in security technology.



Key Highlights

- More than 250 business queries valued at approximately ₹112 crores
- 150 B2B and B2G meetings facilitated
- Cutting-edge solutions in police technologies on display from over 30 leading companies from the security, advanced weapons, technologies and surveillance sector
- Over 1,000 police, armed forces, defence personnel and rescue teams attended the exhibition.

QUOTES



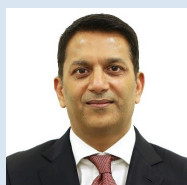
Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

Law and order is extremely important for the development of any society. It plays a special role in creating a fear-free environment in the region.



Raja Srivastava
Additional Director General of Police, Uttar Pradesh

Using modern technology, investigations can be done in a timely manner by analysing data within a short time.



Neeraj Gupta
MD, MKU Limited

While we strive to innovate each day, I witness our Government creating more opportunities for us to collaborate with the world. After all, we are united by a shared purpose: Peace. I extend my sincere gratitude to PoliceTech 2023 for being one of those exceptional events where we witness innovation through collaboration in action, powered by the same spirit we live for!



Puneet Kaura
Chairman, CII Delhi and MD & CEO,
Samtel Avionics Limited

Homeland Security is a critical and sensitive area. It is, therefore, important that we become self-reliant in the subject. PoliceTech 2023 was instrumental in engaging in active dialogue with the Industry to explore and evolve newer technologies and products. Initiatives like these help boost innovation and entrepreneurship and bolster indigenous technology development.



Siddharth Jain
MD, Narendra Explosives Limited

India has the capability to be the exporter in this sector. Events like PoliceTech 2023 emphasise India's role as a catalyst in revolutionising the way we approach public safety, blending tradition with technology.



Sukaran Singh
MD & CEO, Tata Advanced Systems Limited

We are very pleased to be associated with PoliceTech 2023 as it is a unique platform, where our armed forces and Industry stakeholders can participate and exchange views.

Reviving Growth with Inclusivity

The roundtable on 'Reviving Growth with Inclusivity: Galvanising Private Capital to Support Governments and Multilateral Institutions' was held in Marrakech, Morocco to carry forward key recommendations of the B20 India on galvanising private capital to support Governments and multilateral institutions to bridge SDG financing gaps. The deliberations also addressed climate finance, the critical role of the private sector and reforms for the Multilateral Development Banks, at a time when the multi-polar world is changing the economic and business dynamics

India assumed the G20 Presidency amidst mounting geopolitical headwinds and uneven economic conditions brought on by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, broad-based inflation, heightened debt vulnerabilities, financial instability and worsening climate change, among other factors. These conditions, particularly the impact of the pandemic, have widened the annual Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) financing gap in 2020 from an estimated USD 2.5 trillion to USD 3.9 trillion in developing countries. As a result, the challenge of achieving the SDGs by 2030 has become difficult. This calls for innovative solutions to secure the vast resources required for achieving the SDGs, possible through coordinated actions by

Governments, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and other stakeholders across the globe.

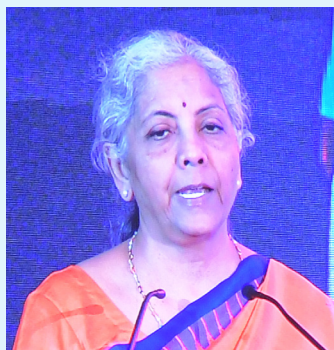
B20 India, for which CII served as the Secretariat through its 7 Task Forces and 2 Action Councils, made 54 recommendations and 172 policy enablers. These were subsequently submitted to the G20 for consideration and adoption. B20 India recommended setting up a Global SDG Acceleration Fund to bring Governments, the private sector and philanthropies together, to bridge the SDG financing gap by leveraging credit enhancement tools and blended finance.

A roundtable on 'Reviving Growth with Inclusivity: Galvanising Private Capital to Support Governments and



(L-R): Donald Kaberuka, Former President, African Development Bank; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India; NK Singh, Co-Convenor, G20 Independent Expert Group on Reforms in Multilateral Development Banks; President, Institute of Economic Growth and Former Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and Hans Peter Lankes, Visiting Senior Fellow, ODI; Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE Grantham Research Institute and Senior Fellow, LSE/Oxford International Growth Centre at the Roundtable on 'Reviving Growth with Inclusivity: Galvanising Private Capital to Support Governments and Multilateral Institutions' in Marrakech, Morocco

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Working towards the advancement of SDGs is for global public good. The financing requirements are immense, which calls for global collaboration amongst stakeholders. Efforts and concrete financing commitments of all – Governments, Multilateral Institutions, Development Finance Institutions and most importantly the private sector are paramount and these will have to complement each other for this shared global priority. I am confident that the MDBs reform process emanating from the G20 deliberations will also provide a unique opportunity for them to maximise investments into developing countries, including increased co-investments with the private sector. Thus, it will help to leverage this unique opportunity to increase its footprint in funding the SDGs and join hands with public institutions to meet the SDG goals by 2030.

Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India

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Multilateral Institutions’ was organized on 14 October in Marrakech, Morocco, on the sidelines of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings and the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

The roundtable was organized to carry forward the key recommendation of the B20 India on galvanising private capital to support Governments and multilateral institutions to bridge SDG financing gaps. It brought together stakeholders from the Government and Industry as well as internationally renowned experts. The speakers expressed their views related to the SDG financing gap, climate finance, the critical role of the private sector and reforms for the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), at a time when the multi-polar world is changing the economic and business dynamics.

Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India; Mr NK Singh, Co-Convener, G20 Independent Expert Group on Reforms in Multilateral Development Banks, President, Institute of Economic Growth and Former Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India; Mr Hans Peter Lankes, Visiting Senior Fellow, ODI, Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE Grantham Research Institute and Senior Fellow, LSE/Oxford International Growth Centre; Mr Donald Kaberuka, Former President, African Development Bank and Managing Partner, South Bridge Group; Mr Karim EL Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Center for New South; Mr Ajit Pai, Partner, EY India; Ms Nezha Hayat, Chairperson and CEO, Moroccan Capital Market Authority; Mr Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India; Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian, ED (India), IMF; Mr Mehdi Tazi, General Vice President, CGEM;



(L-R): Ajit Pai, Partner, EY India; Mehdi Tazi, General Vice President, CGEM; Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge, Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, The World Bank; Krishnamurthy Subramanian, ED (India), IMF; Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India; Nezha Hayat, Chairperson and CEO, Moroccan Capital Market Authority; Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Centre for New South

Ms Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge, Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, The World Bank; Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, shared their perspectives at the roundtable.

Addressing the session on 'Meeting the SDG Financing Gaps: How can Private Capital Support Public Funds', Ms Nirmala Sitharaman said that at present, the engine of growth lies with the emerging market economies. Resources, which are required for the 21st century, are lying untapped in Africa and Latin America. Under the G20 Presidency, India has advocated for the voice of the Global South. The G20 Troika, comprising Indonesia, India and Brazil is in an opportune period, wherein emerging markets shoulder leadership of the G20.

Inclusivity and consensus-building have been the cornerstone of India's G20 Presidency. Acknowledging the challenge of achieving the SDGs by 2030, India, under its Presidency, has sought new instruments for financing sustainable development goals. A fund was also suggested, where G20 countries, in an appropriate proportion of their GDP and the private sector, could come into play. As an example, the Indian funding model of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was advocated that engages the private sector towards societal and environmental concerns as the private sector contributes 2 percent, which is around USD 3.3 billion for CSR activities in India.

Mr R Dinesh said that sustaining growth along with timely achieving the SDGs requires private capital, alongside institutional funding. Towards this, five specific suggestions had been put forth. First, for the private

capital participation, a fund could be created which is at par with India's CSR initiative. Second is putting in infrastructure projects with the risk weighted matrix, which can be published by multilateral institutions. Third, Public-Private Partnership for supporting the utilisation of infrastructure, which is going to be created to make sure SDGs are met along with their visibility of implementation. Finally, supporting the MSMEs in attaining the SDGs and developing digital infrastructure which they would require.

The sessions at the roundtable were in sync with recommendations of the Independent Expert Group (IEG) of G20. The second report of IEG discussed wide measures for better, bigger and bolder MDBs. The MDBs can be used to mobilise private capital by helping de-risk investment opportunities and catalyse the private finance flows by creating an ecosystem. The speakers noted that the reforms in MDBs will provide a unique opportunity for them to maximize investments into developing countries, including increased co-investments with the private sector, which can leverage this unique opportunity to increase its footprint in funding and achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Cognizant of the financing needs including the needs for SDGs, much larger sum of private capital is required than what has been available in the past. Given the shift in the architecture of finance, to better leverage private capital into development, the ThinkTwenty (T20) India has distinguished between the need for volume of finance to increase and the cost of capital. It also advocated for the need to considerably grow the pipeline of investible projects. The session highlighted

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A major recommendation was on financing global economic recovery in a sustainable manner. The progress towards achieving SDGs has been behind schedule and there are huge gaps in SDG financing, which continue to rise over time.

The challenge is to look for innovative solutions to secure the vast resources required for achieving the SDGs. This calls for coordinated actions by Governments, multilateral development banks, the private sector, and other stakeholders across the

globe. The B20 has suggested leveraging private capital, in association with public institutions, would help to bridge the SDG funding gap.

The COVID-19 pandemic widened the annual SDG financing gap in 2020 from an estimated USD 2.5 trillion to USD 3.9 trillion in developing countries.

In today's global scenario, the engine of growth lies with the Emerging Market Economies (EMEs). Resources which are required for the 21st century are lying untapped in Africa and Latin America.



(L-R): Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge, Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, The World Bank; Nezha Hayat, Chairperson and CEO, Moroccan Capital Market Authority; Krishnamurthy Subramanian, ED (India), IMF; Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India; Mehdi Tazi, General Vice President, CGEM and Karim El Aynaoui, Executive President, Policy Centre for New South

the achievement of the inclusion of the African Union in the G20 under India's G20 Presidency. With the emergence of megatrends in demographic changes, India and the rest of South Asia along with Africa will shape the demographic dynamics of the future. Reforms of international financial institutions and efficient demographic management will improve the productivity of the overall global economy.

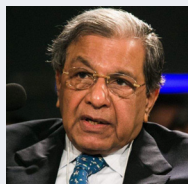
The second session witnessed deliberation on growth revival with inclusivity. As per the global growth forecasts, the OECD region is expected to remain below 3 per cent, while some of the developing economies are likely to grow at a faster pace. During the pandemic, the Indian economy navigated its path through the identification and diagnosis of the crisis on both the supply and demand side, which then led to the actual implementation of economic policy. On the demand side, strategies were conceptualized to maximise the taxpayers' money. On the supply side, private sector firms' production was recognized and accordingly, Production-Linked Incentives (PLI) were initiated.

The judicious mix of supply and demand side measures led to inclusive growth in the Indian economy. Macro fundamentals are evident with the economy exhibiting growth at 7.2 per cent in FY23 and is forecasted to grow at 6.5 per cent in FY24. This is in contrast to the previous global financial crisis, when the Indian economy was part of the fragile five. It was also mentioned that the combination of good structural policies and macro stability, combined with innovation in the financial sector can prove to be a revival vehicle for the post-COVID growth for the different economies worldwide.

Another point of discussion was the Global SDG Acceleration Fund (GSAF), a proposed fund, put forth by one of the Task Forces of the B20. The paradox of burgeoning population growth and ageing population was emphasised upon while attaining the SDGs. The discussion concluded with an emphasis on infrastructure that acts as connectivity between people, markets and the inputs. It is an accelerator to development and creates externalities. Hence, infrastructure domain needs collaboration between the private and the public sector.



QUOTES



We recognise that the financing needs, including that for SDGs, are daunting and require much larger sums of private capital than what has been made

available in the past. As against USD 60 billion, a target of USD 240 billion has been recommended to be financed by the private sector.

NK Singh

Co-Convener, G20 Independent Expert Group on Reforms in Multilateral Development Banks; President, Institute of Economic Growth and Former Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, Government of India



In 2014, we started a massive action called Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) and the balance in these accounts is almost USD 30 billion. It has helped in

terms of financialization and formalization of the economy.

Dinesh Khara

Chairman, State Bank of India



A judicious mix of supply and demand side measures is what has led to inclusive growth in the Indian economy.

Macro fundamentals are very strong, growth at 7.2% this year and expected to be 6.5% compared to the previous global financial crisis when India was part of Fragile Five.

Krishnamurthy Subramanian

ED (India), IMF



Digital tools can be used to make sure that all the infrastructure projects that are being created to meet SDGs are visible to the investors wherever they are.

India has been a forerunner in using digital tools towards this, like in the case of the Gati Shakti programme.

R Dinesh

President, CII and Chairman
TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd



We are looking for a pathway that rebuilds economies, brings health to all, alleviates people at the margins and builds long-term resilience and sustainability

with a special focus on the global south and for that, we require a unique blend of private capital supplemented by public funds.

Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General, CII



An example of sustainability is how the markets can finance SMEs, not only large corporations or big public projects. With a stock exchange, we created

conditions of alternative markets dedicated to SMEs, where we have lighter conditions to the market but also with the balance of investor protection.

Nezha Hayat

Chairperson and CEO
Moroccan Capital Market Authority



We can use MDBs to mobilise private capital by helping to de-risk investment opportunities. We can also use the MDBs to catalyse private finance

by creating an environment in which private capital can be invested.

Hans Peter Lankes

Visiting Senior Fellow, ODI; Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE Grantham Research Institute and Senior Fellow, LSE/Oxford International Growth Centre

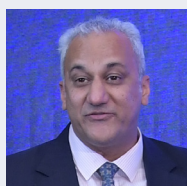


In the midst of shifting spending priorities due to crises like COVID-19 and war in Eastern Europe, there are mega trends of demographic changes. India

and the rest of South Asia, along with Africa will shape the demographic dynamics of the future.

Donald Kaberuka

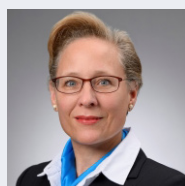
Former President, African Development Bank



Both perceived risk, as well as real risk mitigation, were very high on the agenda in designing the Global SDG Acceleration Fund.

Ajit Pai

Partner, EY India

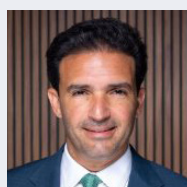


Infrastructure is a critical issue. It is really an accelerator for development, and it is fundamentally something that creates externalities. So, this needs

collaboration between the private sector and the public sector.

Franziska Lieselotte Ohnsorge

Chief Economist for the South Asia Region, The World Bank



There exists a paradox in the SDG development and growth. The parameter of population growth and the rate at which it is ageing should be considered

when we are deciding upon the equation of sustainable growth.

Mehdi Tazi, General Vice President
CGEM



India has one of the largest railway networks in the world and it is a linchpin in India's economic and social growth. It is also one of the largest markets for railway transportation and equipment and is expected to grow exponentially in coming years, driven by growing investments, technological innovation, expansion, modernisation plan for railways by the Government of India and emphasis on the 'Make in India' initiative.

India's rail transportation Industry is slated to manufacture over 5,000 coaches annually for both domestic use and

exports. To serve crores of passengers every year, innovation and technological advances are the focus of railways, providing a substantial opportunity for vendors and suppliers to contribute to this drive.

CII, in association with the Ministry of Railways, Government of India, organized the 15th edition of the International Railway Equipment Exhibition along with the International Rail Conference (IRC), around the theme 'Innovation and Technology: Changing the Future of Railway' on 12-13 October in New Delhi.



Milind Deouskar, Secretary, Railway Board along with other dignitaries inaugurating the 15th edition of the International Railway Equipment Exhibition in New Delhi

Exhibitors at IREE reported an encouraging response from visitors, with a significant surge in business inquiries. This surge is indicative of the Industry's appetite for cutting edge solutions and the potential for collaborative ventures.

The two-day conference of IRC facilitated high-level discussions on emerging scope and opportunities of partnership in the modernisation and expansion drive of the Indian Railways to create a world-class railways system in the country. It focused on the Government's vision for the sector including 'Make in India', policies on logistics and advanced manufacturing, cutting-edge technologies and export potential. It also discussed the opening of new avenues regarding the modern technologies available for the Indian rail transportation sector through networking sessions. The conference witnessed the participation of over 50 speakers, which included policymakers, Government officials, Industry leaders and experts, and was attended by over 400 delegates.

The inaugural session was attended by Shri Milind Deouskar, Secretary, Railway Board; Mr Shantanu Roy, CMD, BEML; Mr Dipankar Ghosh, Chairman, CII Railway Transport & Equipment Division and MD, Knorr-Bremse India; Dr Jonathan Paddison, Member, Board of Directors, Knorr-Bremse Asia Pacific (Holding) Ltd; Mr Rajeev Jyoti, Advisor – Railways, L&T and Mr Gunjan Vakharia, Head, Mobility Business, Siemens Ltd. During the session, the speakers noted that the railway Industry is evolving rapidly and innovation and entrepreneurship are now integral aspects of the sector. Private sector partnerships and collaboration with the rail component Industry have contributed to this positive transformation. The digital landscape is also changing the way of operations for the railways, with the penetration of the internet, extensive use of smartphones and expansion of digital public infrastructure.

Freight transportation, development of commuter trains, maintenance vehicles and metro rail systems are critical for the overall growth of the railway sector. There needs to be focus on safety, innovation and expanding the services to meet the growing aspirations of the vast customer base. Emphasizing upon the uniqueness of Indian railways, Ms Anjali Goyal, Member (Finance), Railway Board said that the Indian Railway has a huge passenger rail system and a huge freight system. She added that going forward,

indigenisation, cost competitiveness and quality are key to the already strong Indian Railways and private sector connection.

During the conference, seven plenary sessions were held, allowing the speakers to engage in discussions that will shape the future of Indian Railways.

- **Railway Infrastructure:** Discussions centred around setting new milestones and emerging opportunities in railway infrastructure, including measures to enhance track safety, speed and modernization of railway stations
- **Make in India:** This session delved into the imperatives for building a competitive railway manufacturing ecosystem in India
- **Journey to Net Zero:** This session highlighted the Indian Railways' ambitious goal to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, well ahead of the global railway sector's target of 2050
- **Digital Transformation:** It explored how digital technologies are revolutionizing railway operations and the integration of digital technologies into various aspects of railway businesses to enhance efficiency, safety and customer experience
- **Business Opportunities in Urban Rail Transit Systems:** Discussions were held on the expanding urban transit systems in India, including metros and rapid rail transit. It also highlighted the business opportunities arising from these projects
- **Mission 3000 - Achieving 3000 million tonnes of Freight:** It focused on the Indian Railways' mission to achieve significant growth in freight transportation by 2027 and the aspects of capacity enhancements, intermodal connectivity and public-private partnerships
- **Towards Safer and Efficient Railway Systems:** Safety measures and technological advancements in areas such as signalling and telecommunication were the focus of this session.



(L-R): Dr Jonathan Paddison, Member, Board of Directors, Knorr-Bremse Asia Pacific (Holding) Ltd (KBAP); Rajeev Jyoti, Advisor – Railways, L&T; Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director, BEML and Milind Deouskar, Secretary, Railway Board

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Indian Railways has unveiled ambitious plans, setting sights on delivering projects worth over ₹1,15,000 crore in the coming years
- Infrastructure has a significant role in India's rapid growth trajectory and national development. There is remarkable acceleration in track laying as 14 kilometres per day
- The unprecedented growth in railway infrastructure is attributed to both internal accruals and external funding from agencies like JICA and the World Bank
- At a time when Indian Railways aims to be world-class, quality at a competitive price is important, which can be achieved by stronger Industry-academia relationship. The launch of the National Logistic Policy and the establishment of Gati Shakti University are facilitating this
- It is important to focus on augmenting track safety, elevating speed and modernizing railway stations to provide passengers with superior amenities
- Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains and Vande Bharat Metros are to be launched soon, as Vande Bharat has been deeply appreciated by all stakeholders and the travel experience has increased the expectation of speed and convenience
- Indian Railways has issued a production plan of 102 Vande Bharat Rakes (35 in 2022-2023 and 67 in 2023-2024) as per Indian Railways design within Indian Railways production units
- A total 75 Vande Bharat rakes are planned as Chair Car version and remaining planned as Sleeper version. Indian Railways has also planned to manufacture 400 Vande Bharat trains (Sleeper version) of three different technologies for which tenders have been floated to select technology partners for manufacturing within Indian railways production units. In addition to the above, 8,000 Vande Bharat coaches have also been proposed under Budget 2023-24
- The estimated total opportunity size for the rail and metro segment including Vande Bharat trains and metro tenders of Mumbai, Chennai and Patna could be upwards of ₹2 lakh crore in next seven years
- Electrification of an extensive 33,000 kilometres of rail network, with an annual budget of around ₹16,600 crore is a testament to India's commitment to sustainable and efficient transportation
- By June 2024, six dedicated freight corridors spanning 2,843 kilometres are slated for completion, further bolstering the country's logistics infrastructure
- Indian Railways is unique as it has a huge passenger rail system and a huge freight system but there needs to be very competitive rates
- Indian Railways is set to increase the share of freight traffic to 45 per cent by 2030, from the current share of 27 per cent. The railways have recently successfully arrested and reversed the trend of falling market share of railways of freight movement, which has been decreasing since the 1950s
- The rapid progress on completion and commissioning of Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) on the important high-density route in near future would shift the advantage of freight transport in favour of rail transport
- Railways has articulated its vision through the speed of execution by the Government, induction of technology, partnership with private sector and the huge capex and gross budgetary of ₹2,40,000 crore, which is indicative of the investment and commitment
- The vision is reflected in initiatives where domestic and multinational players have been given an opportunity to participate, paving way for growth and building an ecosystem for rolling stock and rail-component hub in the country
- Indian Railways' focus on completion and commissioning of dedicated freight corridor for debottlenecking of congested routes; the launch of semi-high-speed trains – the world class Vande Bharat Trains, expansion of railway tracks and upgradation of railway stations
- Industry is proud of Indian Railway's rapid progress on 100 per cent electrification and carbon neutral goal by 2030 and the 'Make in India' initiatives, along with the Government's focus on execution, which has been a game changer, both for Indian Railways and the Industry.

QUOTES



Vande Bharat as an innovation has been deeply appreciated by our customers and with that experience, their expectation has grown. Keeping that in view, we are planning Vande

Bharat Sleepers, Vande Bharat Metro Trains – all of this to meet the throughput, speed and convenience expectations. Indian Railways is on a great journey of expansion.

Milind Deouskar

Secretary, Railway Board



The partnership between Indian Railways and the private sector will unlock innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. The Government's strong execution focus, along

with Indian Railways' plan to commission a dedicated freight corridor, achieve carbon neutral goals by 2030 with 100 per cent electrification, operationalize semi-high-speed trains and advance the Make in India initiative, is a game changer.

Dipankar Ghosh

Chairman, CII Railway Transport and Equipment Division and MD, Knorr-Bremse India



The relationship between Indian Railways and the Industry is very symbiotic. Industry needs indigenous manufacturing, production of quality products at competitive price and to come

up with cutting edge technology. Industry needs to focus on reducing the logistics cost as we need to increase the share of rail bound traffic in the country and these will come only when Industry produces quality products at competitive prices. This will also help the country deal with the challenge of climate change.

Anjali Goyal

Member – Finance, Railway Board



Adoption of renewable energy in railways is vital to achieve net zero by 2030. A construct of the consumer and load profiling will help understand the requirement and demand.

Ghanshyam Prasad

Chairman, Central Electricity Authority



Combination of three elements – vision, urgency and focus – prove the fact that Indian Railways is on mission mode. This is collaborated from the fact that Indian Railways is making all time high CAPEX, budget allocation of ₹2.47 lakh crore

expected to be utilized well before the close of fiscal and upgradation of certain sections of track to semi high speed by Zonal Railways. All these are expected to provide significant number of opportunities for the private sector players.

Rahul Mithal

CMD, RITES



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Paving the Way for a USD 50 billion MedTech Industry by 2030

CII organised the 15th Global CII MedTech dialogue to deliberate on policy and regulatory issues, explore strategies, collaborations and innovations to facilitate growth of the MedTech sector

Advancements in medical technology (MedTech) have brought quality and accountability in the health services delivery. As per Government estimates, the sector is expected to grow at 28 per cent per annum to reach a size of USD 50 billion by 2030.

Currently, the MedTech Industry in India has a market share of 1.5 per cent and is the 4th largest market for medical devices in Asia and among the top 20 markets globally. The Government of India has initiated several schemes and programmes through different departments to encourage the medical devices sector. India is fast earning a reputation of being the destination

for affordable and reliable medical care and emerging as one of the top nations for direct investments in the sector.

Great potential lies with the Industry to explore ways in which advanced medical technology can reach the remotest population of India, thereby solving critical health problems in child and maternal health. Efforts should be made to promote knowledge sharing between Industry and the Government and other key stakeholders. To facilitate this growth, deliberate on policy and regulatory issues, and explore strategies, collaborations and innovations with stakeholders, the



(L-R): Himanshu Baid, Chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum & Managing Director Poly Medicure Ltd; Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization; S Aparna, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers; Dr Naresh Trehan, Chairman, CII National Council on Healthcare and Chairman & Managing Director, Medanta – The Medicity; Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Space; Dr Vinod K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Sanjay Bhutani, Vice Chair, CII National Medical Technology Forum and Managing Director Bausch & Lomb Eyecare at the 15th CII Global Medtech Summit in New Delhi

15th Global CII MedTech dialogue was organized in New Delhi on 6 October with the theme 'Paving the Way for a USD 50 billion MedTech Industry by 2030'. The summit showcased path-breaking innovations that have the potential to address local health needs.

There is scope for huge synergy between the public institutions and private Industry in the MedTech and BioTech sectors, besides the healthcare sector, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Space, Government of India. He said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created the right ecosystem

within the Government that supports and augments innovation. Referring to the huge success of startups, Dr Singh said the Prime Minister has created a milieu for entrepreneurship and a thriving Industry.

Various key technical sessions were held during the summit, during which policymakers, Industry leaders and experts shared their views, to draw the way forward for the MedTech sector.

A detailed consultation is required on the Medical Devices Bill, as it was done in the case of Medical Devices Regulations (MDR) formulation, said Mr Pavan Choudary, CEO, Vygon India Pvt Ltd, while addressing the session on 'Ease of Doing Business'. He also talked

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE INDUSTRY

➤ Promotion of domestic manufacturing to aid Make in India vision:

- The medical devices Industry is very heterogeneous. Like the pharma Industry, the MedTech Industry needs to work on the cohesion of all players including MNCs, MSMEs, startups and large Indian companies
- For the Phased Manufacturing Program (PMP), which is one of the pillars of Aatmanirbhar Bharat's goal, data like domestic manufacturing import values needs to be submitted to the Department of Revenue
- Under the PLI scheme, the Department of Pharmaceuticals is looking for greenfield projects and specific target segments, where India doesn't have domestic manufacturing capacity. There are 300+ notified products, where there is no domestic manufacturing.

➤ Reforms to spur innovations and support development in the MedTech Industry:

- The Government is looking for innovations in technologies like miniaturization, point-of-care devices, wearables, remote patient diagnostics & monitoring, home care devices and novel drug delivery systems
- Call for advertising the scheme, to be out in October 2023 to support testing laboratories. Currently, there is a gap in testing infrastructure, both in the public and private sectors. This scheme will enhance

the capability of the manufacturers by getting their testing certificates from DCGI-notified laboratories.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GOVERNMENT

➤ PLI schemes should be more Industry friendly:

- Certain thresholds should be reduced to increase participation
- The addition of new products and segment portability should be allowed
- Preference in Government procurement, at the state level should be given to companies. Currently, three years of market standing are required to participate in Government tenders.

➤ Export supports:

- RoDTEP per cent to be increased to boost exports (disability of 3-5 per cent)
- There should be a fund for technology upgradation for domestic medical device companies to upgrade the manufacturing ecosystem
- For the MSME sector, there should be reimbursement of overseas high-cost registration expenses for CE/FDA/PMDA/TG approvals
- The MSME sector should get reimbursement of patent fees.



(L-R): Dr Vibhav Garg, Director-Health Economics & Government Affairs, India HUB & ASEAN; Himanshu Baid; Kamlesh Kumar Pant, Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority; Ganesh P Sabat, Chief Executive Officer, Sahajanand Medical Technologies (Pvt) Ltd at the Plenary Session on Pricing and Reimbursements

about the link between investor protection and ease of doing business. Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization noted that support will be provided to all stakeholders to operationalize the rules mentioned in the Medical Devices Bill. Ms Manju Sharma, Additional Chief Executive Officer, GeM said that the Government e Marketplace (GeM) portal started with the concept of setting up efficient systems for clearances. However, multiple compliances require layers of checking before proceeding with the certifications. Mr Sanjay Bhutani, Vice Chair, CII National Medical Technology Forum and MD, Bausch & Lomb Eyecare; Mr Atul Grover, MD - India and South Asia, BD and Mr Shishir Agarwal, MD, Terumo India Pvt Ltd also shared their views at this session.

Dr Vibhav Garg, Director – Health Economics & Government Affairs, India HUB & ASEAN Boston Scientific India, speaking at the session on ‘Pricing and Reimbursement’ pointed out the need for a pricing and reimbursement framework that will define the growth of the MedTech Industry to achieve its vision. Mr Kamlesh Kumar Pant, Chairman, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority explained that for the medical devices sector, pricing regulations follow the market-based model, rather than the cost-based model. He also assured that a committee is already working on drafting the New Medical Devices Pricing Policy. Mr Ganesh P Sabat, CEO, Sahajanand Medical Technologies (Pvt) Ltd shed light on the control of stent pricing undertaken by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under DPCO.

Dr Shravan Subramanyam, Advisor, Healthcare & MedTech Investments, Premji Invest, while addressing

the session on MedTech Manufacturing 2.0, talked about the evolution of Indian MedTech and healthcare scenario over the past decade. Dr Jitender Sharma, MD & Founder CEO, Andhra MedTech Zone said that the MedTech Industry cannot just be propelled by investments but needs to be driven also by science. Mr Himanshu Baid, Chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum and MD, Poly Medicure Ltd emphasized continuous learning from the hospital system to improve the innovation and infrastructure of medical device manufacturing. Mr Rajat Jain, Founder, of Sunfox Technologies and Mr Abhay Kumar Jain, Head – Plant Management, BD were among the other key speakers during the session.

At the Session on ‘Future Trends & Innovation in MedTech - Advancing Clinical Care and Patient Experience Industry’, Mr Chhitiz Kumar, Vice President – Health Systems, Philips said that MedTech is not an Return on Investment-based Industry but is centred on the quality of life. He discussed how the cost of care can be lowered by the adoption of new technologies. Dr Manish Diwan, Head - Strategic Partnership & Entrepreneurship Development and Mission In-Charge – Make in India for Biotech Sector, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) shared the importance of organizations like BIRAC urged the utilization of crowd sourcing of innovation and incubation centres to strengthen innovation in the MedTech ecosystem. Dr Akshay Srivastava, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Medical Devices, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (Ahmedabad) and Mr Manish Deshmukh, Group CMO, Meril also shared their views on the topic. ■

QUOTES



The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), envisaged by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will spur R&D and position India as a global R&D leader in next five years. Anusandhan NRF will combine scientific and technological innovation and the wisdom of humanities and social sciences. It will be majorly funded by the non-government resources. Anusandhan will be, in many ways, better than the United States NRF.

Dr Jitendra Singh

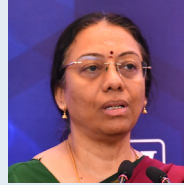
Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Space



India has learnt positive lessons from the pandemic and the MedTech Industry has the potential to drive substantial innovation. There is a need to develop robust quality standards, mutual trust and investment in R&D for the Industry to thrive.

Dr V K Paul

Member (Health), NITI Aayog



The dependency of India on medical device imports has been reduced over the last three years, signifying the growth potential. The MedTech Industry is currently heterogeneous and there is a need for it to become more coordinated and cohesive like the pharma Industry.

S Aparna

Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers



The present gap between the users and the manufacturers of the medical devices sector is still wide. The focus needs to be on delivering quality

by emphasizing on involvement of clinicians in innovation and R&D from the early stage.

Dr Naresh Trehan

Chairman, CII National Council on Healthcare and Chairman & MD, Medanta – The Medicity



INSIGHTS FROM TOP INDUSTRY LEADERS



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30 November 2023 | Hotel Lalit, New Delhi

Confederation of India Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), and Waste to Wealth Mission, Government of India is organizing the 8th edition of International Conference on Waste-to-Worth on 30 November 2023 at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi.

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**For more details you may get in touch with Ms Gargi Sharma
(8826320001/ Gargi.Sharma@cii.in)**



Communiqué

November 2023 | 21

Business Confidence Buoyant Despite Economic Headwinds

Many companies expect higher capacity utilisation down the year. It tallies with the experience of several cement, steel and auto manufacturers, says Chandrajit Banerjee



Optimism in the Indian economy has soared, both internationally and domestically, thanks to strong fundamentals and healthy demand drivers. Domestic demand is expected to gather momentum on account of sustained buoyancy in services, revival in rural demand, the Government's thrust on capex, and healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates.

The Reserve Bank of India's recent forward-looking surveys on consumer and industrial outlook also alluded to the sanguine economic prospects. Labour markets are also recovering well with a fall in unemployment and a rise in the labour force participation rate.

That said, there are some risks on the horizon mainly emanating from uncertainty prevailing in the global scenario due to flaring geopolitical tensions. However, the Indian economy remains well placed to tackle these challenges buttressed by its strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

Adding to the optimism are the findings of the recent Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) 124th Business Outlook Survey for the second quarter of the financial year, which strongly reflect the confidence of Industry.

The CII Business Confidence Index has continued its upward trajectory as it rose to a three-quarter high of 67.1 in the second quarter as compared to 66.1 in the previous quarter, reiterating the on-ground experience of most Industry players.

According to the survey, about 55 per cent of respondents found that an improvement in the ease of doing business along with the Government's thrust on capital spending, especially in infrastructure-related sectors, were the biggest positives for domestic growth in the current fiscal. Indeed, the Government's focus on capital

spending, which rose 48 per cent on an annual basis in April-August, will help to stimulate growth in other sectors of the economy through its multiplier effect.

Respondents also expressed satisfaction on the growth front, with the first quarter real GDP print coming at 7.8 per cent and a sustained positive momentum seen in most high-frequency indicators.

The ongoing festive season cheer is also expected to provide a fillip to domestic demand. Hence, the Indian economy is well placed to achieve the 6.5 per cent growth forecast by the RBI. The results of the survey came in line with this prognosis, with 66 per cent expecting the economy to grow at 6.0-7.0 per cent this fiscal.

It is encouraging to see that the overall domestic demand has started getting support from the rural sector too. About half the survey respondents anticipated an improvement in rural demand in the first half of the fiscal. A strong rural economy is a prerequisite for faster growth as it fuels consumption. Rural consumption must be strong for the economy to consistently register a GDP growth of more than 8 per cent over the medium term. Hence, it is encouraging to see that Industry is expecting rural demand to turn around and some consumer companies are seeing green shoots of recovery with the onset of the festive season.

The improving domestic demand also finds a reflection in corporate indicators. Two-thirds of the respondents expect sales and new orders to increase at a faster clip in the second quarter than in the first. Mirroring this, half the respondents feel that capacity utilisation in their companies would range 75-100 per cent in the second quarter, compared to 48 per cent who experienced similar utilisation levels in the previous



quarter. This bodes well for private investment outlook as high-capacity utilisation fuels fresh investments. These findings are also attested by the on-ground experience of many companies engaged in sectors such as cement, steel and automobiles.

The 124th round of the CII Business Outlook Survey was conducted during September 2023 and saw the participation of around 200 firms of varying sizes and across all Industry sectors and regions of the country. A majority of the respondent firms were from the manufacturing sector and, notably, 54 per cent of all firms belonged to the large and medium size cohort. An index score above 50 indicates positive confidence while a score of less than 50 indicates the contrary.

The rise in retail inflation, which had emerged as a challenge in recent months, is now tempering with the September print decelerating sharply to 5.0 per cent from 6.8 per cent in the previous month. This is in tandem with a downward movement in food prices. A slew of supply-side measures announced by the Government in recent months also contributed towards

taming the inflationary impulses in the economy. Notably, of the key measures imposed, one-third of the survey respondents stated that imposing export duties on commodities will be most beneficial to tame inflationary pressures, followed by open market operations (26 per cent of the respondents).

With the inflation trajectory waning, the likelihood of interest rates remaining unchanged in the near term has brightened – an assessment affirmed by the survey findings which noted that more than half the respondents (58 per cent) anticipated that the RBI would stick with a pause on the repo rate in the second half of the current fiscal. The status quo on interest rates will help let the lagged impact of the 250-basis-point hike in the repo rate to work through the system.

(This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in The Morning Standard on 4 November.)

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Govt Plans 25k GPUs Cluster to Support Indian AI Startups

WEIGHING IN MeitY top brass debates new proposal, which will cost close to ₹8-10k crore

Surbhshi Agarwal
& Annapurna Roy

New Delhi: The Government is considering a proposal to set up a cluster of 25,000 GPUs (graphic processing units) under public-private partnership to be made available to Indian companies working on artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies that require high computing capacity, officials told ET.

KUNAL BAHIL
Editorial Board

By democratising AI infrastructure, we are empowering the

Fine Print
India looks to set up 25,000 GPU cluster; proposal may be ready by Dec

Project may cost between ₹8,000-₹10,000 crore

Access to GPUs critical for AI startups to scale, get funding and also for data sovereignty

Will give access to compute capacity to India's AI startups and tech firms; currently the resource is scarce and expensive

"We will create in the first phase a 25,000 GPU cluster of AI compute capacity," one of the officials said. "It will be done as a PPP and the AI compute capacity will be offered as a service to startups."

perts said. In the absence of GPU availability in India, many in the industry have been opting for access to such clouds located abroad, they said.

Setting up a 25,000 GPU cluster was a top recommendation of one of the seven AI working groups set up by MeitY, a second official said.

"India is a data-rich country as a result of our digital transformation projects," he said, adding that the country also has enough human capital, "but to power this, we need supercomputing power. At least 25,000 GPUs are needed to enable this," he said.

For the context, India's supercomputing power is at the putter 'Atravati', installed at the Centre for Development of AI

Business Line

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Business confidence soared to new heights in July-Sept, CII study reveals

KR Srivats
New Delhi



Chandrajit Banerjee,
Director General, CII

The Confederation of Indian Industry-Business Confidence Index (CII-BCI) reached a noteworthy high of 67.1 in the July-September 2023 quarter, surpassing the reading of 66.1 in the previous quarter.

This substantial increase, compared with the 62.2 recorded in the same period last year, reflects growing optimism within the Indian industry regarding business prospects and economic growth.

ROBUST DEMAND

This surge in the index is attributed to robust domestic demand, ongoing government expenditure, and the improved financial health of corporations and banks. This positive trend persists despite a challenging global environment.

Notably, a significant portion of respondents consistently reported capacity utilisation ranging from 75-100 per cent for the third consecutive quarter.

Commenting on the findings, Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General of CII, emphasised the importance of the upswing and its alignment with industry expectations.

The latest CII-BCI reading reinforces the positive momentum observed in various high-frequency indicators, including GST collections, air and rail passenger traffic, and PMI data during the second and third quarters of the fiscal year. The survey, conducted in September 2023, involved approximately 200 firms

across diverse sectors and regions, with a majority from the manufacturing sector. A notable 54 per cent of the firms fell into the large and medium-size category. Most respondents expected improved profits driven by increased sales and new orders in July-September 2023.

The government's heightened focus on capital spending, particularly in infrastructure, received praise as a significant driver of India's short-term growth. Respondents generally anticipate GDP growth to fall between 6-7 per cent in FY24, in line with the forecast of the RBI and other multilateral agencies.

Regarding interest rates, half the respondents believed that RBI would maintain a pause on repo rate in the second half of 2023-24 to allow the impact of previous rate hikes to take effect.

The survey mirrored a recovery in rural demand, with a cent of respondents expecting improvement in demand in the first half of the current financial year.

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OPERATES TOP EV CHARGING STATION CHARGE-ZONE NIIIF, Macquarie in Talks to Acquire Stake in Tecso Charge Zone

Charge-Zone likely to raise ₹300-350 cr from these investors for a significant minority stake

Rupesh Balarishnan & Lijee Philip

Mumbai: India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIIF) and Australia's Macquarie Group are in talks to acquire a significant minority stake in Tecso Charge Zone, a leading EV charging network in India.

Plug In
Part of Series B round where startup plans to raise about \$110 million

Charge-Zone currently has more than 3,500 charging points

Valuation of the company is around ₹1,500 crore

Charges around 37 cities

10,000 EVs per day

Driving mobility to a sustainable future

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK: Build synergies across various stakeholders, keeping citizens' interests at the heart of all decision-making

The transition to sustainable mobility is a complex task that requires the collaboration of various stakeholders, including governments, private companies, and citizens. It involves not only the development of new technologies and infrastructure but also the creation of a supportive regulatory and financial environment.

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FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

India Inc Playing Firefighter as Stubble Burning Turns Air Toxic

Corporates across sectors ready equipment, funding to curb fires, their impact

Ratna.Bhushan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As stubble burning returns ahead of the winter season, leading to deteriorating air quality across North India, close to a dozen large companies are stepping in to mitigate the fires and their impact on air and soil.

Suresh Narayanan, chairman of packaged foods company Nestle, which has one of its largest dairy manufacturing plants in Punjab's Moga, said: "Our Moga factory will start using briquettes (compressed cow dung) from April 2024 in biomass boilers, reducing 4% of stubble burning in district."

HDFC, PepsiCo, Fidelity International, Royal Enfield, SBI Cards, Cummins, Birla Soft, Indian Oil Corporation and Goodyear are among the others either setting up equipment or funding to mitigate the impact of the stubble burning.

Stubble burning by farmers in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh leads to massive air pollution across North India. It is a traditional tool for preparing soil for the next crop.

What are Cos Doing



- Setting up equipment such as 'biochar kilns' which use smokeless technology
- Using compressed coal in biomass boilers to cut stubble burning
- Conducting sessions for farmers to raise awareness
- Providing farmers with funding to buy additional resources to put crop residue back into the soil as they harvest rice and prepare the next crop
- CII working with 86,000 farmers across more than 430 villages in Punjab and Haryana to address issue

we are actively broadening the project's reach to additional districts and are addressing more Biochar kilns," a PepsiCo India spokesperson said. He said the company is conducting sessions for farmers to raise awareness about the issues related to stubble burning. PepsiCo, too, has a large plant in Punjab.

Stubble burning by farmers in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh leads to massive air pollution across North India. It is a traditional tool for preparing soil for the next crop.

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Higher pension to top EPFO meeting agenda

SHIVA RAJORA
New Delhi, 24 October

The issue of higher pension is expected to be a key agenda item for the biannual meeting of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's (EPFO's) central board of trustees (CBT). The retirement fund body has asked all board members to be present at the 234th CBT meeting, scheduled for next Tuesday.

While the full agenda is not yet known, reinvestment of redemption proceeds from EPFO's investments in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) is another issue likely to be taken up at the CBT meeting, according to sources familiar with the matter.

"The Supreme Court order on higher pensions has seen many delays and extensions and the matter is still underway. The thrust at the upcoming meet will be to draw out a strategy and a clear pathway for a smooth implementation of the same, as a number of pensioners are still facing troubles with the pension por-



The higher pension issue

The Supreme Court on November 4 last year had upheld a 2014 amendment to the employee pension scheme which allowed Employees' Provident Fund Organisation members to opt for higher pension by contributing up to 8.33 per cent of their actual salaries as against 8.33 per cent of pensionable salary cap of ₹15,000 a month towards pension. The court had four months time for the members to opt for the higher pension. The deadline for the members to opt for the higher pension has been extended to 1.8 million members who have opted for the higher pension till now. SHIVA RAJORA



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CII launches Centre for Women Leadership

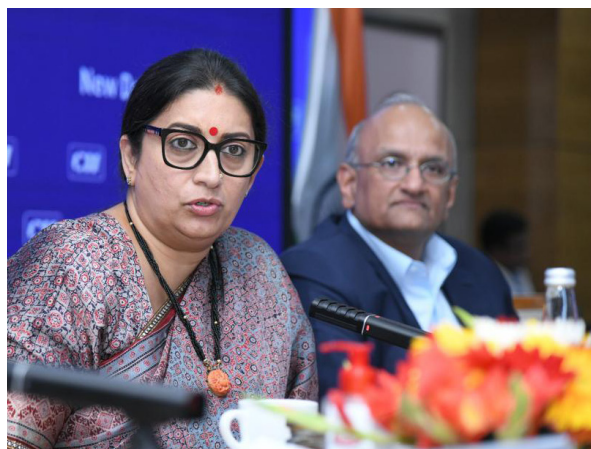
The CII Centre for Women Leadership aims to inspire leadership in thought and action to drive transformation and break barriers to the entry, retention and growth of women, both within the formal and informal sectors

India is home to approximately 663 million women, with about 450 million falling within the working age group of 15-64 years. With significant socio-economic changes, especially access to education, a large number of educated women are far more aspirational than the previous generation.

According to a CII Survey of 700 working women, more than 40% of the respondents aspired to rise to the top of their companies. However, the landscape is not uniform. It is estimated that a large number of women are engaged in the informal sector, adding a different dimension to the challenges of breaking barriers and impeding the growth trajectory of women.

The Government, with initiatives such as Equal Pay for Equal Work, the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP), has been striving to boost up female labour participation. Industry also plays a critical role in creating employment opportunities for women. However, given the potential where opportunities can be created for women, there is a pressing need to create a multi-stakeholder platform that tackles the multi-dimensional challenges women face in the workplace comprehensively.

To address these challenges, CII, under the aegis of the Indian Women Network (IVN), launched the Centre for Women Leadership in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Centre was launched by Smt Smriti Irani, Minister for Women and



Smriti Irani, Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India at the launch of the Centre for Women Leadership in New Delhi. Also seen is R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd

Child Development and Minority Affairs, Government of India, at the CII National Council Meeting, held on 18 October in New Delhi. Smt Smriti Irani said that the Government will be launching 5000 creches in city centres by next week. The Minister was of the view that the Industry should complement Government's efforts in empowering the women workforce. She also highlighted that companies need to offer viable economic opportunities to women.

The Centre aims to inspire leadership in thought and action to drive transformation and break barriers to the entry, retention and growth of women, both within the formal and informal sectors. It will co-create ecosystems



(L-R) Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited; Smriti Irani; Archana Vyas, Director, Program Advocacy and Communications, Growth, Opportunity, and Empowerment; R Dinesh and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

to enable women to achieve their full economic potential with the following as focus areas of work:

- Knowledge creation through research
- Conduct capacity building / training to upskill women and conduct gender audits for organisations
- Promote best practices through gender parity awards
- Create alliances to promote inclusion of women in the economy

This Centre for Women Leadership is a step forward in CII's efforts to engage with Industry on women empowerment. CII also set up the Women Empowerment Committee in 2000 and launched the IWN in 2013 with the vision of it being the largest network of career women. Through its 27 chapters across India, India Women Network has been providing various services to women and Industry to drive inclusion. ■

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For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, Confederation of Indian Industry
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Engaging with the World

AUSTRALIA

Interaction with Australian Leaders on Economic Relations

CII, in coordination with the Australian High Commission in India, hosted the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Australian Parliament on 11 October in New Delhi. A roundtable on India's economic growth story and the burgeoning economic relationship between India and Australia was held, which was attended by eight Australian Members of Parliament and Senators. The interaction also included Indian Industry participants presenting their perspectives on India's economic rise and the way forward to foster better understanding and further deepen the economic ties between the two nations.

Senator the Hon. Sue Lines, President of the Australian Senate had a fruitful and interactive discussion with the Indian side. She emphasised that India and Australia could achieve new heights together and looked hopeful of Australia's productive engagements with India.

Mr Bharat Joshi, CEO of J Curve Ventures Pvt Ltd talked about the key initiatives of CII in the region including the CII Australia Economic Strategy Report, which highlights Australia's Indian Economic Strategy for 2035. This report has identified opportunities across a large range of sectors like mining and resources; technology and services; pharmaceuticals and biotech; healthcare; agri-business; education; power and renewable energy; railways; gems and jewellery; automotive spare parts; infrastructure and tourism.

EAST ASIA

Economic Engagement with East Asia

CII organized an interactive session of senior Industry members with Shri Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on 16 October in New Delhi. The session deliberated on the status of India – East Asia economic engagement and the various steps for strategizing a sustainable and stable economic equation with these economies. The session also discussed the Industry's experience of doing business in this region and how the



(L - R): Gourangalal Das, Joint Secretary (East Asia), MEA, Government of India and Bharat Joshi, Director, Associated Container Terminals Ltd.

Indian Industry should plan their business engagements in the region.

Shri Das said that the core of our engagement with the East Asia region comprising of Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan and Mongolia has been economic and commercial. "The region has been the centre of the 21st century great economic power competition and is very interestingly located, geographically. Further, the core of India's Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific vision is East Asia because much of our relations with major global economies is contingent on how we position ourselves in this area," he said. Shri Das further said that the East Asia region has shown a remarkable degree of diversity in terms of their economic models and mentioned that India is trying to diversify its economy as much as possible.

Other opportunities highlighted by Mr Das were foreign direct investment, as these economies were looking to invest overseas and India should try to get as much FDI as possible, particularly in Hi-Tech sectors and long-term financing for India's infrastructure development.

Mr Bharat Joshi, Co-Chair, CII Japan Committee and Director, Associated Container Terminals Ltd said that India's bilateral relations with the economies of East Asia had steadily expanded and were of immense significance. These economies are technology leaders and have large tech firms and a significant knowledge base, he said adding that there is tremendous opportunity for India to collaborate with these economies. He noted that India has made considerable progress in recent years.



Meeting with representative of Thai Chamber of Commerce & Board of Trade of Thailand during the CII Business Delegation to Thailand

Industry members also shared suggestions on the opportunities for cooperation between India and the economies of this region.

Enhancing Participation in Trade and Connectivity in Asia-Pacific

To assess and evaluate hands-on emerging business and investment opportunities for Indian Industry in Thailand, CII organized a business delegation to Bangkok on 11-12 October. Thailand, being one of the key ASEAN economies, has been attracting an increasing number of Indian companies to establish their business operations in the country. The key sectors of mutual interest include infrastructure, agro, food processing, auto, pharmaceuticals, healthcare services, among others.

During the delegation, a conference on 'Enhancing Participation in Trade and Connectivity in Asia-Pacific' was held with the support of the Embassy of India and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). Some of the key speakers at the conference were Dr Amitendu Palit, Senior Research Fellow and Research Lead, ISAS, NUS Singapore; Dr Rupa Chanda, Director - Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UNESCAP; and Ms Paulomi Tripathi, Deputy Chief of Mission and Deputy PR to UNESCAP, Indian Embassy in Bangkok.

The CII delegation met senior officials and members of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade of Thailand, the Federation of Thai Industries and the Thai Electrical & Mechanical Contractors Association. The delegation also met senior officials from the Eastern Economic Corridor Office and discussed the ongoing efforts of the authority to invite investments into the three eastern regions of Thailand. Special emphasis was laid by the Thai side on inviting Indian manufacturing and pharmaceutical companies to make the corridor their operational base. CII, in collaboration with its Thai institutional partners, is endeavouring to

retain the business momentum generated by the visit for the mutual benefit of both countries.

LAC

Exploring Growth Potential with Guatemala

H.E. Ms Karla Samayoa, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Guatemala held an exclusive interaction with select CII members on 3 November, during her visit to New Delhi. The deliberations focused on identifying key issues and exploring the future potential for the growth of trade and business relations between India and Guatemala. Ms Samayoa emphasized the significance of working jointly to address trade barriers, logistics challenges and other issues. Several strategically important sectors for collaboration were discussed including health, pharmaceutical, renewable energy, digital technology, innovation, among others.

The Vice Minister emphasized her country's commitment to strengthen its competitive position in pharmaceutical sector. Guatemala is keen on welcoming companies that manufacture and export value-added medications, fostering growth in the pharmaceutical Industry. She discussed various incentives and support measures offered by Guatemala in the renewable energy sector. She emphasized the concept of nearshoring, suggesting



Karla Samayoa, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala met CII members in New Delhi

that Guatemala could serve as a production and assembly point for Indian companies. She also invited Indian businesses to collaborate in infrastructure development projects such as railways, expanding existing airports and establishing Business Process Outsourcing Units (BPOs) – particularly for recent graduates.

Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Resident Director, Hinduja Group as the Chair of the meeting, emphasized the scope for greater partnership and collaborative opportunities in several key sectors. These included textiles, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and information technology. He also reiterated the importance of advancing the existing cooperation between the two nations in the near future.

The session was also addressed by H.E. Mr Omar Lisandro Castañeda Solares, Ambassador of Guatemala to India and Ms Michelle Bran Alvarado, Bilateral Foreign Policy Director, Republic of Guatemala. The meeting concluded with a networking session, which provided an opportunity for further exchange and collaboration.

BRAZIL

Interaction with Ambassador of Brazil to India

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII met with H.E. Mr Kenneth H. da Nóbrega, who recently took over as the Ambassador of Brazil to India, on 17 October in New Delhi. During the meeting, deliberations were held on the current economic relations between the two nations, key issues and the enormous potential for collaboration. The meeting highlighted the extensive scope for partnership and collaboration in sectors including agriculture, renewable energy and pharmaceuticals. The ongoing discussion on expanding the preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the MERCOSUR Bloc, which holds the promise



Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nobrega, Ambassador of Brazil to India met Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII in New Delhi

of deeper economic integration and enhanced trade facilitation, was also discussed.

Amb Nobrega stressed upon the need for defence and ethanol cooperation between India and Brazil for collaborative progress in the near future. As India prepares to hand over the G20 Presidency to Brazil, Mr Banerjee emphasized the importance of Brazil continuing to pursue the key priorities introduced during B20 India, particularly those that have traditionally not been at the forefront of business discussions. CII, serving as the B20 Secretariat, diligently orchestrated over 100 policy advocacy initiatives across 20 cities in India. These initiatives not only highlighted critical priorities but also significantly contributed to the recommendations and outcomes of the G20.

It was agreed that there should be greater exchange of business delegation from both sides and explore institutionalisation of a CEO's Dialogue for greater interaction and multifaceted collaborations between businesses of the two nations.

EUROPE

Industry Interacts with UK Parliamentarian



Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament and H.E. Alex Ellis CMG, High Commissioner of the UK to India

CII organized a session with The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Parliament of the United Kingdom on 12 October in New Delhi. The discussions revolved around the importance of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and forging consensus on a mutually beneficial FTA.

Members also discussed internships and training of students in the two countries, the possibility of institutionalising exchanges of Parliamentarians, especially young MPs, expanding cultural ties, facilitating SME connect, and fostering closer cooperation in areas like defence and security, renewable energy and climate change, among others. The session was chaired by Mr Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, CII & Chairman, CII Public Policy Council and Chairman, Hero Enterprise and attended by several CEOs of Indian companies. ■

Empowering Startups



CII Startup Delegation to UAE



CII Startup Delegation led by Kunal Bahl, Chairman, CII National Startup Council and Co-founder & Chairman of AceVector Ltd with A Amarnath, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Under the aegis of the India – GCC Startup Council, CII organized a startup delegation to the UAE from 15-19 October, coinciding with the GITEX Global and Expand North Star event in Dubai. The delegation included National Startup Council members, founders, co-founders of unicorns, and startups which are in the growth-stage, with an objective to enhance market access, facilitate investor connections, and promote talent mobility for technology startups in both India and in the GCC region. India-GCC Startup Council was established by CII to bridge the gap between public and private stakeholders and connect technology startups with investors actively focused on the GCC region.

The delegation participated in a roundtable with Mr A Amarnath, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Abu Dhabi and held a meeting with the Ministry of Economy, Dubai. The delegation also held meetings with the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy; Dubai Economic Development Corporation; Abu Dhabi Global Markets; Gulf Islamic Investments; Dtec Ventures; AUM Ventures, WAMDA Capital; HUB 71; Gulf Business Incubator and DIFC Fintech.

The delegation provided the members ample opportunities to explore potential collaboration and networking opportunities with the Embassy, Government nodal agencies, incubators, investors and venture capitals from UAE for business and market access.

Fostering Innovation, Supporting Startups

Skoda Auto Volkswagen Automobile India has entered into a collaboration with the CII Centre of Excellence

for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups (CII CIES) to foster innovation and support startups in specified areas of interest.

To facilitate this collaboration, CII CIES organized a Demo Day on 5 and 25 October in Hyderabad. Seven startups working toward the organization's interest area were invited to present their ideas/innovations to Skoda Auto Volkswagen Automobile India and the Global team. The primary objective of this event was to pitch the innovative solutions offered by these startups, establish connections with established businesses and create an environment conducive to enabling market access.

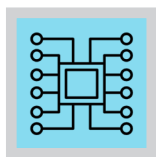
The key highlights included a startup showcase, extensive discussions involving corporate partners and the CII CIES team, engagement between corporate partners and startups, enhanced networking opportunities, the strengthening of the innovation ecosystem and exploration of prospects.

Masterclass for CII VLFM Participants

CII CIES hosted the 16th batch of VLFM Participants on 6 October in Hyderabad for a master class on "why corporates should work with startups on Innovation and R&D". Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, CII CIES and a Co-Founder, Infosys highlighted the ways in which corporates can collaborate with startups to drive innovation within their organizations. He shared insights on the value of manufacturing, its importance in job creation and how it adds to the strategic growth of the country.

A comprehensive session on the opportunities and benefits of partnering with startups for innovation and Research & Development was organized. It covered aspects like open innovation, corporate accelerators, venture capital and mentoring. A presentation on the Indian startup ecosystem was also delivered.

The masterclass provided insights into Telangana's startup ecosystem and the world's largest technology incubator, T-Hub, led by Mr Srinivas Rao Mahankali, CEO, T-Hub. The sessions also shed light on India's largest prototyping centre, T-Works. A tour of T-Hub and T-Works was organized, offering participants a firsthand look at the facilities that foster innovation. ■



Public Health

The One Health Paradigm: Unifying Health for a Sustainable Future



(L-R): Sourav Roy, Chief, CSR, Tata Steels Ltd; Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Hari Menon, Chairman, CII Public Health Council and Director- India Country Office, BMGF at Public Health Summit in New Delhi

In today's ever-evolving world, health challenges have transcended boundaries and ecosystems, necessitating a transdisciplinary approach. Acknowledging the profound interconnectedness between human health, animal health, plant health and the shared environment, a collaborative approach that extends beyond individual segments and national borders has become essential.

In alignment with the Prime Minister's National One Health Mission, CII organized the 4th Public Health Summit on 26 October. The summit, themed 'The One Health Paradigm: Unifying Health for a Sustainable Future', provided a platform for thought leaders and experts to discuss the critical role of One Health in shaping a sustainable and healthier future.

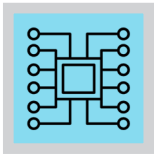
Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog emphasized the importance of collective action. He outlined four pillars to achieve One Health that includes prevention, pandemic preparedness, integrated surveillance and joint responses. Ms Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare spoke about the need to organize the public health system effectively and respond to public health challenges with preparedness. Mr Hari Menon, Chairman, CII Public Health Council and Director, BMGF explained that One Health is a unifying framework that optimizes health for humans, animals, plants and the environment.

Dr Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India highlighted the historical connection between pandemics and animals, underscoring the importance of One Health. Mr Sourav Roy, Chief CSR, Tata Steels Ltd highlighted the essence of the One Health movement as a framework that unifies different aspects.

During the summit, CII launched the vision report on One Health titled "The One Health Paradigm: Unifying Health for a Sustainable Future". The report highlights key aspects of the One Health approach. It calls for policy recommendations that emphasize that the well-being of humans, animals and our ecosystems is profoundly interrelated.

Key action point/recommendations:

- Encourage interdisciplinary research in areas such as zoonotic disease transmission and antimicrobial resistance
- Invest in training programmes for healthcare professionals, veterinarians and relevant stakeholders to enhance their understanding of One Health principles and practices
- Implementation of a comprehensive One Health surveillance system that integrates human, animal and environmental data
- Allocation of sufficient financial resources to support disease surveillance systems
- Enforcement of policies that ensure data transparency and sharing between local, regional and national health authorities. Implement digital data platforms for real-time reporting and data sharing
- Promote sustainable agriculture and food security measures. Invest in climate-smart farming practices, crop diversification and resilient supply chains
- Invest in research and development for vaccine production with a focus on domestic capabilities
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including mobile phones and the internet, are harnessed to deliver targeted health messages and promote healthy behaviours
- Develop comprehensive healthcare packages that incorporate the right balance of traditional, complementary and modern medicine.



Tech, Innovation & IPR

CII Mission on Tech, Innovation & IPR to Sweden

To strengthen the India – Sweden relationship and mark the 75 years of bilateral relations between the two nations, CII organized an Indian Mission to Sweden on 9 - 12 October. The relationship between India and Sweden is driven by common economic interests, mutual commitment and shared democratic values. The mission served as a perfect expression of the commitment to deeper engagement between the overall ecosystem consisting the Government, businesses, academia, research labs, startups and entrepreneurs from India and Sweden.

During the mission, the Embassy of India in Sweden, India Unlimited, Sweden – India Business Council (SIBC) and CII jointly hosted the 10th 'India-Sweden Innovation Day' in Stockholm, focusing on the theme 'Accelerating Green Growth'. The event was attended by over 370 delegates including policymakers, Industry experts, researchers, academicians and startups. Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Government of India called for strengthening India-Sweden collaboration to effectively address pressing global challenges while remaining steadfast in the pursuit of immediate objectives on the path to achieving a net-zero future.

Mission delegates met representatives of various Swedish agencies such as SAAB, Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, Vinnova, Ericsson Studio, AI Sweden, KTH - Royal Institute of Technology - Digital Future Lab, and IVL - Swedish Environment Research Institute. The mission provided an opportunity for Indian stakeholders to understand Swedish technology, innovation, research, and IP system and motivated the Indian Industry to adopt best practices in R&D investments, innovation strategies and IP from Sweden.



Tourism

Tourism as Employment Generator

CII organized the 17th CII Annual Tourism Summit around the theme 'Strengthening Tourism through Economic and Green Opportunities' on 13 October in Mumbai. The summit witnessed active participation from the Central and State Governments and Industry members.

Ms V Vidyavathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India stressed on looking at tourism as a great employment generator. She highlighted that stakeholders need to discuss and chart the roadmap on how to reach this goal in the next 25 years, with intermediate milestones sorted to get there.

Recommendations for the Government

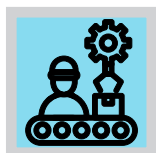
- Industry status to be given to the hospitality sector by all States/ UTs: Industry status will allow the sector to avail benefits like lower electricity and water tariffs, lower property tax, rationalization of license fees and simplified approval process for hotel projects and operations
- Infrastructure status to be delinked from geographical or population criteria: It will help the sector avail long-term funds under the RBI infrastructure lending norm criteria. This will also enhance the quality of accommodation supply and therefore stimulate higher global and domestic travel demand
- Ease of doing tourism business: Mechanisms should be brought in place where licensing is without any delays, relevant laws to continue and obsolete/



(L-R): Kavinder Singh, Chairman, CII Western Region Tourism Sub Committee and MD & CEO, Mahindra Hotels and Resorts; Puneet Chhatwal, Chairman, CII National Committee on Tourism and Hospitality and MD & CEO, IHCL; V Vidyavathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary, Tourism and Managing Director, MP Tourism Board; K Nandakumar, CII Maharashtra State Chair and CMD, Chemtrols India at Inaugural Session of 17th CII Annual Tourism Summit in Mumbai

redundant law may be removed. Auto-renewal of licenses should be discussed with the Industry

- Branding and promotion of Incredible India to the world should be done throughout the year on a continuous basis.



Manufacturing

Chintan Shivir - Unleashing the Power of India's Manufacturing Industry

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India hosted "Chintan Shivir - Unleashing the Power of India's Manufacturing Industry" on 12 October at New Delhi. The event was organized under the Chairmanship of Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India.

The objective was to brainstorm on how to increase manufacturing capacities across various sectors and enhance contribution of the sector in the country's GDP. Industry leaders from top manufacturing companies deliberated on the challenges and solutions aimed to achieve higher manufacturing growth.

CII led the deliberations for six sectors including energy, chemical, capital goods, defence & aerospace, space and food processing. The inputs received from the Industry, would help Government departments align their priorities across short, medium and long-term goals.

Recommendations:

CII shared the following recommendations to catapult growth across key sectors:

Energy

- Industry to collaborate on R&D to set-up an ecosystem that
 - Customises global technologies for India
 - Develops new technologies to keep India ahead
- Industry to work with universities, skilling institutes and sector skills councils to develop the capability ecosystem in India
- There should be strong commitment to invest and accelerate the pace of development
- Comprehensive re-look at the current policies to re-establish India's competitiveness for exports
- Promote development of entire ecosystem, including components

- Re-look at quantum of Production Linked Incentives (PLI) across the ecosystem
- Building blocks – BCD, ALMM, domestic content and PLI are in place but need to be deployed consistently over longer timeframes
- Policies to create demand clarity, example, tender pipeline for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
- G2G 'green energy' partnerships with export destination countries such as Japan
- Green infrastructure fund for financing longer term investments such as green steel.

Chemicals

- Implement the Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochem Ltd (2015), USD 45 billion project by ARAMCO, IOCL, BPCL and HPCL
- Initiate action on new petrochemical crackers by road shows
- Incentivize R&D, new molecule research and commercialization
- Decriminalize law and perception improvement with respect to EoDB, e.g., EC, Land, Government approvals
- A comprehensive effort to reach the top 10 on ESG, health & safety related areas within 5 years.

Capital Goods

- Appoint nodal ministry for capital goods sector and plan for end-to-end policy making and visibility on public spend (like National Infrastructure Pipeline)
- Set up a manufacturing tech mission tasked with
 - Facilitation of tech transfer on import dependent products
 - Promote R&D spend by public and private MSMEs
- Incentives for Make in India
 - Incentivize usage of indigenous plant and machinery under existing PLI
 - Develop and promote competitiveness of domestic manufacturing over imports.

Defence & Aerospace

- Explore all avenues for export, as OEMs, of platforms / final products to friendly nations (including G2G)
- Enhance B2B engagements to become significant and stable supply nodes in global value chains of foreign OEMs to derive long-term sustainability in the eco-system
- Permit duty-free import of niche design, manufacturing and testing assets for a period of 5 years
- Promote and facilitate exports through the following:

- Proactive Government support – G2G for exports
- Set up a dedicated Defence Export Promotion Council
- Provide low-cost funding for defence exports
- Facilitate bid bonds in foreign countries
- Review EXIM bank policy and procedure for defence exports
- Permit duty-free import of inputs required for export of defence products and platforms.

Space

- Demand generation and continuity of orders
 - Central and State Governments should be the anchor customers
 - Private Satellite-Driven Digital India 2.0 for Earth Observation (EO), communication and navigation solutions
 - Create a level playing field, for both PSUs and the Industry
 - Facilitate technology transfer from ISRO to the private sector.
- Export Focus
 - Government to promote exports for ISRO's component/subsystem suppliers
 - Perspective plans, go-to market strategies and specific support interventions.
- Promote localization
 - Support consolidated procurement and working capital i.e. (minimum order quantity > proto requirement)
 - PLI with focus on indigenous design, manufacturing and servicing
 - Space and systems engineering disciplines in engineering colleges
- Policy Support
 - Revised FDI Policy and Space law to be implemented

Food Processing

- Ensure continuity in taking forward the global promotion and use of millets beyond 2023
- Promote and ensure credibility of 'Brand India' and 'Make in India' by committing to the quality and safety of processed food products
- Create awareness about the nutrition value of fruits and vegetables for shifting demand from cereal-based processed foods to horticulture-based processed foods
- Undertake national level campaigns to promote mindset change regarding processed food.

Advanced Manufacturing

CII Industry 4.0 Delegation to Singapore



The CII delegation in Singapore

To explore possibilities of collaboration on Industry 4.0, a CII delegation visited Singapore from 18-20 October with the support of Enterprise Singapore (ESG). The delegation comprised senior Industry members from leading companies. The delegation participated in the Industrial Transformation Asia-Pacific (ITAP 2023) – a Hannover Messe event on Advanced Manufacturing, which provided a strategic platform for Indian manufacturers to engage with technology providers from Singapore for collaboration on Industry 4.0.

The delegation engaged in B2B meetings in exclusive interactions with leading companies in Singapore which helped in networking, exploring opportunities for forging partnerships and exchange of best practices in advanced manufacturing and provided learning opportunities across key manufacturing sectors.

Mining

Role of Minerals in Shaping an Aatmanirbhar Manufacturing Ecosystem

To strengthen the Indian mining sector, CII organized the India Mining Summit with the theme 'Role of Minerals in Shaping an Aatmanirbhar Manufacturing Ecosystem' on 5 October in New Delhi. The summit deliberated on key issues including exploration, ease of doing business, sustainable mining, amongst others.

The speakers noted that the most important aspects for investors are predictability and uniformity in policies. The Government has set the bar high by taking a holistic and practical view of policy reforms. Now is the perfect opportunity to forge a regime where there is uniformity, where ease of doing business is applied to both greenfield and brownfield investments alike, agreed the speakers.

Additionally, the following points were deliberated upon:

- Switching from open-cast mines to underground mines should be done with the use of advanced



(L-R): Gouranga Sen, Group Head, Economic & Policy Analysis, Vedanta Ltd; Dr Hanuma Prasad, Managing Director, Deccan Gold Mines Limited; Sanjay Lohiya, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India; Biplob Chatterjee, CEO and Director (Consulting), Geovale Services and Arun Kalra, Advisor, De Beers India Pvt Ltd at the India Mining Summit in New Delhi

technologies to reduce large-scale deforestation caused by open-cast coal mining

- Proper and systematic auctioning of the mining ores is critical for increasing production
- Royalty and cess should be reduced for underground coal mines
- India should explore East African countries which have unexplored critical mineral blocks and devise a strategy to acquire such blocs at the earliest
- The boundaries of exploration should be redrawn after undertaking 2-3 years of exploration for deep-seated minerals.

Leadership

Developing Leadership in PSEs

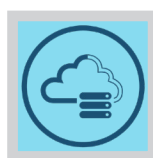
CII, under the aegis of the PSE Council and the CII Suresh Neotia Centre of Excellence for Leadership facilitated a structured leadership development workshop for PSEs on 11 October in New Delhi.

The session positioned Learning and Development (L&D) as a cornerstone of strategic vision and delved into the pivotal role that L&D plays in shaping the strategic direction of PSEs, showcasing how a robust framework serves as the linchpin for organizational growth and sustainability.

The participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted changes sweeping the business ecosystem and received actionable frameworks to adapt, innovate and lead amidst uncertainty. A culture of lifelong learning was explored, emphasizing that learning is not a transactional event, but an integral part of the organizational DNA. The transformational impact of a learning-centric culture on organizational agility and competitiveness was highlighted. The session also focused on creating learning pathways for leadership excellence. Tailored approaches were outlined to nurture leadership capabilities within PSEs.

The emphasis was on developing leaders who are not only adept at managing the present but also envisioning and preparing for the future.

Leveraging technology and innovation for learning acceleration was a key component. The potential of cutting-edge technologies and innovative learning methodologies in revolutionizing L&D practices was illuminated. The catalytic role of collaborative learning in harnessing collective intelligence within PSEs was highlighted.



Digital Transformation

DX Awards & DX Ensemble

The CII Centre for Digital Transformation (CDT) organized the 5th edition of its flagship – the Digital Transformation Best Practices Awards recently in New Delhi. The Awards were presented at the DX Ensemble Conference programme.

The event forged a deeper engagement with the Industry by recognising some of the innovative initiatives being undertaken through digital transformation. The DX Awards Competition received over 381 entries, of which 107 entries were shortlisted and competed for the honours in the 'Innovative' and 'Most Innovative' categories.

Several sessions were held at the DX Ensemble on subjects including 'Digital Strategies for Building Robust Supply Chain and Operational Excellence'; 'Leveraging Digital for Effective Customer Experience and Employee Engagement Strategies'; 'Implementing Digital Strategies for Production Excellence and Smart Manufacturing'. Case studies from companies that have successfully leveraged digital strategies were also shared during the event.

Dr Gulshan Rai, Former National Cybersecurity, Co-ordinator - PMO & Former, Director General, CERT-In said that the next decade promises phenomenal growth hence it is imperative to ensure strategic planning for technology adoption by industries to tackle the arising. Mr Vijay Thadani, Co-Chair, CII CDT and Vice Chairman & MD, NIIT said that digital technologies present a powerful means to address the challenges of the Industry and have the potential to enhance resource efficiency and foster a more sustainable economy. Mr Pranjal Sharma, Economic Analyst and Author and Mr Amit Sinha Roy, Co-Chair, IOT Working Group, CDT and Vice President, Global Head of Strategic Alliances, Tata Communications Ltd also shared their views during the event.

Portfolio for Excellence



Food and Agriculture

Creating Economies of Scale for Smallholder Farmers

To promote inclusivity and sustainability within India's agricultural ecosystem, the CII Food & Agriculture Center of Excellence (CII-FACE) organized the FPO Summit on 18 October in New Delhi. The summit, anchored around the theme 'Creating Economies of Scale for Smallholder Farmers', brought together a diverse array of participants, including Industry leaders, Government officials, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

The summit addressed crucial aspects related to FPOs such as their role in sustainable agriculture, market access, financing, technology adoption, climate resilience, policy support, gender inclusion, livelihood creation, and value chain development.

The summit featured three key technical sessions. The first session explored strengthening the FPO ecosystem and deliberated on topics including management support, financial inclusion, and digital transformation.

The second session focused on the private sector's role in promoting sustainable value chains, while the third session highlighted best practices and lessons learned from FPOs, Government, and developmental institutions.

The deliberations emphasized the importance of farmer collectivisation in India's smallholder economy as a critical step to meet the Industry's demand for consistent high-quality raw materials. It also underscored the potential of the FPO model to boost agricultural incomes, enhance technology adoption, and improve sustainability. The speakers called for a value chain approach with FPOs at the centre to provide comprehensive solutions tailored to their needs. Interesting observations were made by participating FPOs on their business models, practices and experiences post farmer collectivisation.

The first edition of the CII FPO Excellence Awards was held during the event. The awards aim to acknowledge Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) for their outstanding contributions, including self-sustaining business models, increased profitability, value addition and entrepreneurial spirit.

The awards were categorised into four areas: market linkage, women leadership, membership engagement and brand focus. The winners were Sham Valley Apricot



(L-R): Abhishek Shah, Senior Program Lead- Strategic Growth (APAC), Mastercard, Padmanand V, Partner - Public Sector Consulting (PSC), Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; Srinivasan Ramesh, MD & CEO, NABKISAN Finance Limited (NKFL), S Sivakumar, Chairman, CII National Council on Agriculture and Group Head – Agri & IT Business, ITC Ltd, Dr Nirupam Mehrotra, Director, Bankers Institute of Rural Development (BIRD), Saiprasad Somayajula, FPO Business Head, Sammunati Financial Intermediation & Services Private Limited, Ashudeep Garg, Senior Vice President, Absolute, at the session on 'Levers towards Strengthening FPO Ecosystem - Management Support, Financial Inclusion and Digital Transformation' of the FPO Summit held in New Delhi



(L-R): Unmesh Brahme, Director-Markets, IDH; Dr Dinesh Kumar Chauhan, Vice President, Dehaat; Amrendra Mishra, Managing Director, ADM India; Sanjay Sacheti, Chairman CII Task Force on FPO, Country Head – Olam Agro; Karsanji Jadeja, Chairman, Banas FPCL; Kapil Dev, Chief Financial Officer, NCDEX and Abhishek Singh, Manager – Agri Value Chain, Bayer, at the session on 'Encouraging FPO led Sustainable Value Chains – Role of Private Sector'

Producer Cooperative Limited in the 'market linkage' category and Chorad Farmers Producer Company Limited in the 'membership engagement' category. Trishuli FPC and Him Vikas Self Reliant Cooperative were the respective runners-up. The awards received applications from companies across the country and the winners represented the states – Uttarakhand, Ladakh, Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The awards specially recognised Banas Farmers Producer Company Limited for their contributions to Market Linkages, Mahila Umang Producers Company for women leadership, Mayyil Rice Producer Company Limited for their focus on branding and Velliangiri Uzhavan Producer Company Ltd for their commendable efforts in membership engagement.

The Summit also saw an exhibition of the FPOs' products and services in which it was evident how the farmer collectives engage in primary processing, packaging and branding.

Advancing the Indian Poultry Sector

The CII National Conference on Poultry and Poultry Products was organized on 31 October in New Delhi. The conference aimed to bring to light the necessary strategies that support India in expanding its export share in poultry and the interventions needed from

policymakers to remove untidy bottlenecks in exporting poultry products. The conference, themed around 'Feathers of Growth: Advancing the Indian Poultry Sector', brought together diverse participants from Government, Industry, startups and academia to promote an inclusive and sustainable poultry sector.

During the conference, deliberations were held on key growth drivers and enablers to make the Indian poultry Industry more vibrant. Discussions were also held on ways the Industry can contribute towards the well-being of farmers, economic growth and the development of the country.

The key enablers and drivers discussed include:

- India has immense potential for the poultry Industry to progress. Boosting the production of eggs would give enormous opportunities for businesses
- There should be focused investments in consumer awareness programmes to cover aspects like nutritional deterioration in eggs due to travel
- There is scope for branding and packaging of eggs such that it is affordable and accessible to the public
- Accessible, reliable and affordable technologies are required for small and medium farmers. Indigenous and integrated technology can ultimately ensure the advantages, besides enhancing the productivity of poultry products



(L-R): Janardhanan U, CEO, Mayyil Rice Producer Company Limited; Suneeta Kashyap, Managing Director, Mahila Producers Company; Dr. Deepak Chamola, Support of Agroecological Transformation Processes in India (SuATI), Adviser, GLZ; Rajesh Srivastava, Chairman, Prowess Advisor; Tsewang Dorjai, General Secretary, Sham Valley Apricot Producer Cooperative Limited and Dilip Suthar, CEO, Chorad Farmers Producer Company Limited, at the session on 'Best Practices and Lessons Learned'

QUOTES



FPOs are instrumental in boosting the incomes of the smallholders who constitute about 86 per cent of the landholdings in India. FPOs can help farmers in better price realization, reduced input costs, meeting Industry demands for raw materials and boosting farmer incomes through value addition and processing.

Faiz Ahmad Kidwai, Additional Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,
Government of India



FPOs have an important role to play in the food processing Industry as they are the providers for good quality raw materials and can help benefit farmers in terms of better price realization and assured income.

Minhaj Alam, Additional Secretary & CVO,
Ministry of Food Processing Industries,
Government of India



With the right policy focus, the FPO model has the potential to transform agriculture incomes, enhance technology deployment as well as enhance sustainability of Indian agriculture. The need of the hour is to look at a value chain approach with FPOs as the focus so that the end-to-end tie-ups are done and a comprehensive solution is offered to the FPOs.

S Sivakumar, Chairman, CII National Council on
Agriculture and Group Head – Agri & IT Business,
ITC Ltd



Lighthouse FPOs can provide invaluable insights in terms of value chain integration, sustainable operating models and profitability. They can connect with NGOs and upcoming FPOs for catalysing change.

Sanjay Sacheti, Chairman, CII Task Force on FPO
and Country Head, OlamAgri

- The poultry sector provides immense opportunities for processing companies with consumers opting for convenience food with chilled/frozen, Ready to Eat and Ready to Cook products
- Eggs will play a major role in addressing protein deficiency of the nation. There needs to be cohesive work done by the Government of India and Industry, which creates enormous business opportunities for stakeholders
- AMR and disease control in poultry is a challenge and needs to be addressed.

CII also released a report on poultry titled 'Vision 2047 for Indian Poultry Sector' presenting a vision for the poultry sector in India for 2047. According to the report, the vision for 2047 is to establish a globally recognised and sustainable poultry sector that meets domestic demand, expands exports and leads in technological innovation.

Strengthening Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Ecosystem

CII-FACE, in association with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), institutionalised an

initiative, the "State Connect". It provides a platform for stakeholders from various sectors such as SMEs, HORECA, Labs and other food business operators to enhance their understanding of food safety and food regulatory compliance requirements. This year, State Connect sessions were organized in five major states – Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat on 29 September, 13 October, 5 and 6 October, 20 October and 18 October, respectively.

This initiative also brought to the fore each state's contributions to the Eat Right India movement by FSSAI, focused on measures to collaborate on the shared responsibility of 'Save Food Share Food', augmenting efforts on food fortification drive and ensuring compliance on food safety and regulatory requirements.

Along with capacity-building training on food regulatory compliance, sessions were held to provide opportunities for interaction with state food officials, training on good laboratory practices for state food laboratories, and training for enhancement of knowledge of point-of-sale personnel about health supplements and nutraceuticals. Capacity-building programs were also conducted for rice millers on fortification.

KEY OUTCOMES

- Augment the efforts on training and capacity building to uphold hygiene standards
- Adequate timeframe for implementation of regulatory amendments from time to time to enable ease of doing business, especially for SMEs & MSMEs
- For ease of understanding of the online licensing registration process, develop short training videos on YouTube
- A dedicated cell for handling queries of new products/novel products kind of businesses
- Encourage stringent adulteration norms with a dedicated cell for enforcement
- Emphasis on collaborations for mid-day meals under CSR mandates
- Awareness campaigns should be initiated under the banner 'Read Your Labels' in the interest of consumers to educate them on the regulations and mandatory labelling requirements.

Food System Transformation

Recognising that the food processing and agriculture supply chain contribute significantly to economic prosperity, people and planetary health, a paradigm shift for developing the Environment, Social, Nutrition and Governance (ESGN) ecosystem through partnerships with stakeholders in the food and agri sector can be brought about by the benchmarking methodology adapting the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) toolkit.

CII-FACE, as a Knowledge Partner of VISTA Processed Foods Ltd, co-designed and delivered a first-of-its-kind Supplier Development Program for the organization. The programme, held around the theme 'Collaborating to Foster Growth and Innovation', aims to enhance the mutual capabilities of partners to meet and exceed sustainable stakeholder values for now and the future. It was held on 27-28 October, and was attended by more than 80 partners in Navi Mumbai.

The initiative was taken up with the aim of working collaboratively towards developing the capability of the partners on the global transition to Food System Transformation comprising of managing the ESGN aspects with time-bound targets.

Food Testing Laboratory Cluster

CII-FACE, in collaboration with FDA Maharashtra and supported by Cargill India Limited, has launched a first-of-its-kind lab cluster initiative aimed at enhancing Maharashtra's Food Safety Index through capacity building of its food testing laboratories. The cluster approach aims to foster learning among the state food laboratories, encouraging the exchange of insights and improvements to strengthen good laboratory practices and facilitate the design, development and documentation of systems towards achieving ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation.

The three-day Internal Auditor ISO/IEC 17025:2017 training course, one of the key pillars of the implementation roadmap, was organized in Pune from 25-27 October for food analysts representing eight selected state public health laboratories from Maharashtra. The course covered laboratory accreditation from global perspectives, introduction to ISO 17025:2017, audit preparations, internal quality audit, audit performance, reporting, case studies and follow-ups.

The training outcomes of participants were evident from the high scores in their learning/course evaluations and excellent ratings of course content, depth, delivery and clarity. The programme will be followed through with initiating internal audits in the respective laboratories as system design and documentation are on the verge of completion.

PoS Training on Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals

The Resource Centre for Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals (ReCHaN) organized the first in-person 'Point-of-Sale (PoS) Training on Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals' on 20 October in Mumbai.

A pharmacy is a key channel through which consumers purchase health supplements and nutraceutical products. Hence, the objective of the training was to create awareness and share knowledge amongst personnel involved at the point-of-sale of health supplements and nutraceuticals.

The programme aimed to provide adequate and accurate information to consumers to enable them to make informed choices. This interactive in-person training session witnessed meaningful engagement with over 40 pharmacists from Apollo Pharmacy Ltd. This is in continuation to six virtual sessions on the subject for over 1,200 personnel across India.



CFC

Addressing Warranty Failures Due to Corrosion

CII Corrosion Management Division (CII-CMD) under the aegis of the CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC), conducted an exclusive session on 'Addressing Warranty Failures due to Corrosion in Auto & Auto Component Industry' on 29 September via the CII virtual platform. The session focused on addressing key issues of corrosion in the auto and auto component Industry.

Mr Ranit Rana, Associate Vice President (Sales & Distribution), Jindal Stainless Limited talked about the impact and types of corrosion in the automotive Industry by sharing case studies. He emphasized material selection as a key factor in mitigating corrosion and highlighted how stainless steel is an important pillar in mitigating corrosion.

Mr Shabareesh Nair, Director, Technical Marketing (Asia), Tubacex Group shared his views on seamless stainless steel tubular solutions for automotive applications and to mitigate corrosion concerns. He talked about the basics of stainless steel, the effects of alloying elements (Chromium, Nickel, Molybdenum, etc.) on stainless steel and the seamless tube manufacturing process in detail.

Dr Ajay Kumar, Deputy General Manager, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicle shared his perspective on rust issues in automotive components and shared some unique failure modes in terms of material quality, process, design and environment.

CII CMD will access a survey of the industries facing corrosion problems in the automotive Industry and look for future assignments based on the survey in the form of plant audits and solutions.

Maintenance Coatings for Cost Effective Corrosion Management

CII CMD conducted an exclusive session on 'Maintenance Coatings for Cost Effective Corrosion Management' on 19 October via the CII virtual platform. The session focused on maintenance coatings as a critical component of any corrosion management programme.

Mr Sujoy Choudhury, Director (Planning & BD), Indian Oil Corporation Limited highlighted the importance of

the corrosion issue and its impact on GDP loss. He emphasized that it is not only sufficient to understand industrial structures and corrosion environment but to understand corrosion in simple things.

Mr S Ravichandran, National Business Development Manager, Berger Paints India Ltd focused on the use of protective coatings for effective cost management, the importance of addressing corrosion issues using various case studies and the need for a corrosion department in each plant. He spoke about paint solutions for corrosion management and its benefits in terms of reduced production loss, reduced cost of turnarounds, increased reliability, etc.

Mr Rajeeva Deekshit, Head - Technical, Pyro Technologies-Eco Friendly Green Solutions emphasized the use of eco-friendly surface treatment and metal finishing. He focused on conventional degreasing, pickling processes and hazards due to chemicals like sodium hydroxide, phosphates, surfactants, among others. He also talked about replacing hazardous chemicals with aqueous-based solutions containing organic acids, water-wetting agents, etc. for eco-friendly pretreatment solutions. Going forward, CII CMD will engage in assessment, audit services and participation in upcoming activities.

Competitiveness Strategies for MSMEs

To sensitise MSMEs on the key components for enhancing competitiveness and growth, the CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) organized a special programme on 'How Competitive is your Business: MSMEs Learn & Adopt Competitiveness Strategies for Present & Future' on 11 October in Chandigarh. The session drew good participation from industrial areas of Chandigarh, Baddi, Mohali, Derabassi, and others. A technical consultation session was organized as part of the programme, where participants got a unique opportunity to consult technical experts on an individual basis.

The sessions, organized as part of the programme, addressed various important aspects like manufacturing excellence, energy efficiency, international collaborations, technology deployment, amongst others. Among the speakers were senior Industry leaders including Mr Shreekanth Somany, Chairman, CII CFC and CMD, Somany Ceramics Ltd; Mr Zurvan Marolia, Senior Vice President, Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd, Mr Vikram Hans, Past Chairman, CII Chandigarh Council and MD, Multi Overseas India Pvt Ltd; Mr Anil Sagar, Director, Renata Envirocom Pvt Ltd. ■

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Exploring Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnership in Healthcare

CII Eastern Region organized the 17th edition of the CII Healthcare East: Conference on Opportunities for Multilateral Business Partnership in Healthcare for Accessible and Affordable Healthcare in West Bengal in Kolkata on 4 October. Present at the conference were senior Government officials from West Bengal as well as Industry leaders from the sector.

Shri N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal highlighted the imperative to prevent diseases through healthcare systems. He also emphasized upon the need for inclusiveness, access to healthcare, telemedicine and teleconsulting. He called on the private sector to actively participate and partner in these areas. Currently, 65,000 daily telemedicine consultations are regularly done in the remote areas of West Bengal.

The discussions were also focused on the trend of migration of patients out of the state for seeking treatment. Mr Dilip Jose, Co-Chairman, CII National Healthcare Committee and MD & CEO, Manipal Hospitals emphasized upon equipping hospitals in the 2-tier cities to the maximum potential so that they are able to provide optimal treatment to patients within

the region. The speakers noted that the Industry has been upbeat about investing in the region, especially in preventive care and strengthening primary, secondary and tertiary care. It was agreed that the demand-supply gap needs to be closed through investments and beds need to be doubled by 2040, which will require an investment of ₹9 lakh crore.

Dr Nanda Kumar Jairam, Chairman, Medica Group & Advisor Sheares; Mr Chaitanya Sarawate, President & CEO – India & Southeast Asia, GE Healthcare; Mr Adithya Bharadwaj, Vice President, Anicut Capital LLP; Mr Sunil Thakur, Partner, Quadria Capital and Mr Ayanabh DebGupta, Co-Founder & Joint MD, Medica Super Specialty Hospital, were among the other key speakers.

Recognizing Skills through Competitions

To felicitate the winners of the 34th Regional Work Skills Competition and the 22nd National Supervisory Skills Competition, CII held an award ceremony in Kolkata on 4 October. These competitions foster a competitive spirit within the industrial sector and enhance the skillset of the existing workforce. They encourage plant workers and supervisors in the Industry by acknowledging individual merit and exceptional skills in specific trades through well-structured competitive events.



(L-R): Chaitanya Sarawate, President & CEO, India & South East Asia, GE Healthcare; Dr Nandakumar Jairam, Chairman, Medica Group & Advisor Sheares; Rupak Barua, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Healthcare, and Subcommittee & Group CEO, AMRI Hospitals Group; N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region & Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Services; Dilip Jose, Co-Chairman, CII National Healthcare Committee & Managing Director & CEO, Manipal Hospitals; Prashant Sharma, Past Chairman, West Bengal State Council & Managing Director, Charnock Hospital, at CII Healthcare East in Kolkata



Facilitating winners at the Regional Work Skills Competition in Kolkata

As many as 64 teams from 23 different companies vied for the honour in the National Supervisory Skills Competition, including 207 participants nominated by 22 CII member companies.

For the past three decades, CII has been actively organizing the Work Skills Competition, while the Supervisory Skills Competition has been a prominent feature for the past two decades.

Boosting the Food Processing Sector in West Bengal

CII Eastern Region organized the 7th Food Processing Conclave on 17 October in Kolkata. Shri Sobhan Deb Chattopadhyay, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal said that the income of the farmers in the state has tripled, making it the highest growth rate in the country.

As much as 96 per cent of the farmers in the state are small-scale farmers. The Krisak Bandhu Scheme, Bangla Shasya Bima Yojana, and Farmer's Old Age Pension Scheme aim to provide support and sustenance to the farmers. 864 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) should actively bridge the gap between buyers and producers for the benefit of both parties.



(L-R): Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal; Sagar Daryani, Co-Chairman, CII ER Agri & Food Processing Subcommittee & Co-Founder, Wow Momo Foods Pvt Ltd; B Sumant, Chairman, CII ER Agriculture & Food Processing Subcommittee & Executive Director, ITC Limited; Sobhan Deb Chattopadhyay, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal; Arup Roy, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Government of West Bengal, at the food processing conclave in Kolkata

Shri Arup Roy, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Government of West Bengal highlighted the untapped potential of West Bengal's food processing and horticulture sectors for export. He particularly highlighted the substantial growth in maize and potato production within the state. Shri Vivek Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary (Additional Charge), Department of Animal Resource Department, Government of West Bengal pointed out that the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2022-23 has reached 8.4 percent. This growth rate surpasses the national average of 6.95 per cent during the same period, he said, illustrating the state's economic stability.

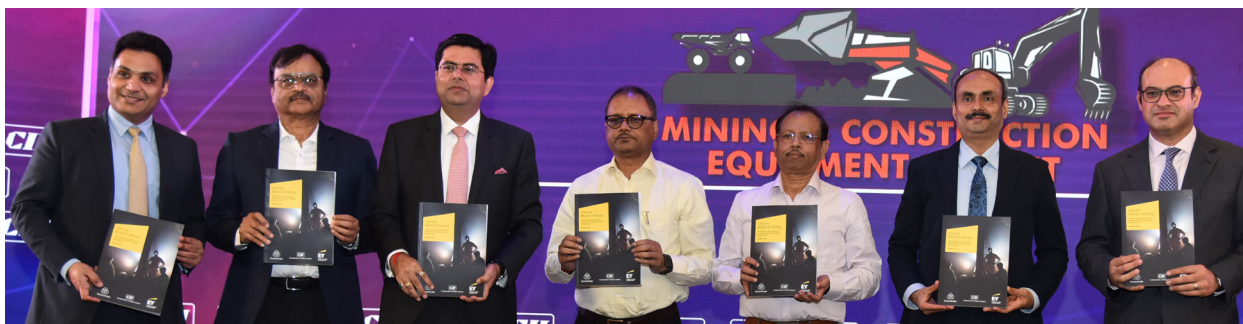
Shri Onkar Singh Meena, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal shared that West Bengal managed to provide sustenance to 8 per cent of the entire population with just 2.7 per cent of India's agricultural land. He further emphasized the approval of 1,600 projects totaling ₹2000 crore under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) and underscored the importance of promoting demand-driven agricultural production through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Mr Nitai Roy, Farm Sector Technical Officer, State Bank of India stressed the capacity building of the FPO.

The conclave saw the participation of ministers, Government officials, CEOs and top executives from prominent food and related sectoral companies, along with think tanks and academia.

Exploring the Roadmap of Growth for the Mining Sector

CII organized the maiden edition of the Mining & Construction Equipment Summit on 19 October in Bhubaneswar, under the aegis of the CII National Committee on Mining and Construction Equipment Division (MCED). The summit highlighted the critical role of the mining sector in Odisha's socio-economic development. The event showcased the collaborative efforts of stakeholders and the sector's global significance in driving India's economic vision. Officials from the Government of India and the Government of Odisha, along with Industry members in mining, construction equipment and infrastructure sectors participated in the summit.

Shri Anurag Jain, Secretary (RT&H), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India said that the ministry



(L-R): Vinayak Vipul, Partner, EY Parthenon, Ernst & Young LLP; Sashi Sekhar Mohanty, Chairman, CII Odisha State Council and CEO & Managing Director, Essar Minmet Ltd.; Vivek Bhatia, Chairman CII MCED and Managing Director & CEO thyssenkrupp Industries India; D K Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha; Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha; Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Odisha, Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Managing Director, Nicco Engineering Service Ltd, at the Mining & Construction Equipment Summit in Bhubaneswar

has created a 'Vision 2047', with the allocation for this Ministry increasing by five times since 2014 from ₹50,000 crore to ₹2,70,000 crore. Logistics cost in India is very high and to bring down these costs, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has made continued efforts in developing the infrastructure. Shri Pradeep Kumar Jena, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha underscored the pivotal role of the mining sector in driving the state's socio-economic development. There is a need to continue the positive trajectory of the mining Industry, as it plays a crucial part in the State's growth and prosperity, he said.

Shri D K Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Steel & Mines, Government of Odisha stressed upon the importance of sustainability and intergenerational equity. He urged the mining stakeholders to adopt efficient infrastructure that promotes eco-friendly mining practices. Shri Hemant Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Odisha noted that Odisha secured second position in the country for attracting investments totaling ₹20.1 lakh crore in FY23 and the third position for attracting bank-assisted investment proposals during the same period.

A report titled 'Utkrisht Bharat in Mining' was also released during the summit. Mr Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and MD, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd and Mr Vivek Bhatia, Chairman, CII MCED and MD & CEO, thyssenkrupp Industries India were among the other key speakers at the summit.

Expanding Horizons to Achieve Growth

CII Chhattisgarh organized an interactive session on 'Expand Horizons Achieve Growth' with Mr Vijay Michihito Batra, a corporate coach, entrepreneur and author on 28 October in Raipur for members. The session aimed at enhancing people management

and organization-building skills for professionals and leaders. It provided a conducive environment for dialogue, knowledge sharing and the creation of opportunities.

Mr Batra taught the participants the tools and methodology for achieving a 'more positive and less negative environment and creating total motivation'. He also shared the path to developing 'Hansei', which stands for 'consistently improving contribution to the stakeholders', including family, colleagues and the society at large. Mr Batra also shared the learnings of his experiences in creating a successful team in business houses and emphasized on becoming a leader, who is a multiplier not a diminisher for his team.

Mr Siddharth Agrawal, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Director, Godawari Power and Ispat Ltd said that embracing innovation, adapting to new realities and fostering collaborations are imperative in our ever-evolving business landscape. The session was attended by a large number of CII members including over 50 industrialists, CXOs and business heads.



(L-R): Vijay Batra, Corporate Coach, Entrepreneur, and Author; Siddharth Agrawal, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Director, Godawari Power and Ispat Ltd; Virendra Goel, Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Director, CG Coal and Power Ltd, at the session on 'Expand Horizons Achieve Growth' in Raipur



NORTH EASTERN REGION

Taking Agarwood Industry to the Next Level of Growth



Prof (Dr) Manik Saha, Chief Minister of Tripura at the 3rd International Buyer Seller Meet of Agarwood Products in Agartala

The 3rd International Buyer Seller Meet of Agarwood Products was held in Agartala on 5-7 October. The event was organised by NTFP Centre of Excellence, Department of Forests, Government of Tripura in association with CII as the Industry partner. Prof (Dr) Manik Saha, Chief Minister of Tripura said that the State Government has taken various plans for expansion and development of the agarwood sector. The sector opened up new possibilities for trade in the state and offers ample scope for setting up agar-based industries in Tripura.

The event witnessed the participation of about 73 buyers from across the country and abroad, including seven GCC and ASEAN countries. About 40 sellers from the state took part in the event. The event also saw participation from seven ministries and several State Government officials.

Shri J K Sinha, Chief Secretary, Tripura said that apart from bamboo and rubber, the agar sector is poised to grow in the next few years. He further elaborated that while the world is going through a recession, Tripura is witnessing one of the highest growth rates in India, which is estimated to be more than 8.5%.

Shri K S Sethi, PCCF, Department of Forests and Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura spoke extensively on the prospects of agar sector in the State. He mentioned that the Tripura Agarwood Policy is the first policy in the agarwood sector in India, wherein a detailed vision of

the State Government is clearly prescribed along with different policy prescriptions to achieve the stated vision.

Shri S P Yadav, CITES Management Authority and Additional Director General of Forests, Government of India gave assurance that all necessary steps to ease the formalities and simplify norms would be taken up by the concerned authorities to help the growth of Tripura's agar sector.

According to Shri Pravin Agarwal, Additional PCCF and Director, NCE, who leads the ambitious Agar related activities in the state, the growing interest in Agar could very well be felt by the increase in number of participants every year who travel for the annual international meet. He said that more than 20 lakh seedlings in the last two years have already been distributed for plantation, while several steps were taken to simplify and ease the restrictions imposed. The Government of India also notified the export quota of 25,000 kg of agarwood chips and 1,500 kg of Agarwood oil under CITES from Tripura.

Shri R K Samal, Additional PCCF, Department of Forests, Government of Tripura and Dr V G Jenner, Additional PCCF, Department of Forests also addressed the participants. Technical sessions that discussed topics including 'Optimizing Profitability from Agarwood Resources', 'Production and Standardization of Agarwood products' and 'Utilization of Agarwood Products for Consumers' were also held.

Key outcomes:

- There is a strong demand to set up a National Agarwood Board in accordance with other commodity boards, to assist the agar sector
- Enhancement of quota for agarwood export to be considered by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, Government of India
- The Ministry is also making a protocol through which permission for export can be automated and approved in 15 days
- More focus on investments on agarwood by inviting investments in skills, inoculation
- Tie-ups with multiple organizations for contribution of agarwood in the State's economy.

Addressing Challenges of the Tourism Industry

The Government of Assam is not only aiming at increasing the number of tourist footprints in the state but also exploring ways of increasing the duration of the stay, said Dr J B Ekka, Principal Secretary, Department

of Tourism, Government of Assam, while interacting with CII on 26 October in Guwahati. Speaking about the different verticals of tourism having potential in Assam including wildlife tourism, tea tourism, rural tourism, adventure tourism, medical tourism, and others. Dr Ekka apprised the members present about the various initiatives being taken by the State Government for promoting tourism in the State including the proposed introduction of Tourism Club in every school and college. An app is also being developed to book all the tourism facilities in the State.

Mr Subrata Sharma, Chairman, CII NE Tourism Sub Committee and MD, Janambhumi Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd spoke about the developmental and positive changes being witnessed in the region, which was once considered to be distant outpost.

The members present discussed various issues pertaining to tourism industries. The Principal Secretary requested CII to submit a recommendation on various issues discussed so that the necessary actions can be taken in this regard.



NORTHERN REGION

Himachal – A Powerhouse of Hydropower

With five perennial rivers flowing through its terrain, Himachal Pradesh has harnessed the power of water to become a power-surplus state and this shows the vast potential of the state for clean and green energy. The state has set an ambitious target to meet 100 per cent of its energy needs through renewable and green sources by 2030. Currently, more than 80 per cent of the state's energy demands are met through hydropower and the upcoming Green Hydrogen Policy

is poised to further boost its position as the power capital of the country.

Aligned with the state's goals, CII Northern Region organized the 4th edition of Power Conclave recently in Shimla with a focus on promoting clean and green energy in Himachal Pradesh. The conclave centred around the theme 'Making Himachal Pradesh the Capital of Green and Clean Energy'. The event brought together key stakeholders, policymakers and Industry leaders to deliberate on strategies and initiatives that can accelerate Himachal Pradesh's transition towards sustainable energy. It indicated the state's commitment for transitioning towards green and clean energy.

Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Himachal Pradesh emphasized the critical need to preserve the Himalayan ecology and environment. He drew attention to the increasing frequency of natural disasters, which poses a significant threat to the region. He stressed that ecological preservation must go hand in hand with the region's development.

Mr Navesh Narula, Vice-Chairman, CII Himachal Pradesh and Director, Tesna Tech Pvt Ltd highlighted the state's significant potential for renewable energy and emphasized the necessity of building confidence between the Government and the Industry.

Energy Conclave

CII Northern region Energy Conclave, organized on 19 October in New Delhi, served as a pivotal platform for Industry professionals, experts and Government representatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities in transitioning to a sustainable energy future.

Shri Dinesh Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India said India is on its journey towards energy transition, which provides hope and resilience on the path towards transition. He mentioned various Government policies like the



Speakers with Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Himachal Pradesh at the 4th Power Conclave in Shimla



The CII report on 'Catalysts of Change: Unravelling the Dynamics of Energy Transition' being released at the Energy Conclave in New Delhi

PLI schemes and VGF Fund to support and enhance manufacturing capacity.

Mr Pinaki Bhattacharya, Co-Chairman, CII NR Committee on Energy and MD & CEO, Ampln Energy Transition said India stands at a critical juncture in determining its energy trajectory, demanding a pressing requirement for a shift and transformation with the support of the State and Central Government. Mr Somesh Kumar, Partner, EY emphasized the urgent need to combat climate change and meet rising energy demands by transitioning to clean energy.

Mr Parag Sharma, Conference Chairman & Chairman, CII Northern Region Committee on Energy and Founder & CEO, O2 Power underscored that India's journey toward energy transition carries the promise of fostering a favourable economic outlook, making the country the most attractive market for renewables. He highlighted India's leadership and resilience in taking significant strides towards the goal of achieving net-zero emissions, with energy transition as a cornerstone component.

A CII report on 'Catalysts of Change: Unravelling the Dynamics of Energy Transition' analysing policy interventions, financing aspects and technology

initiatives was released during the conclave. The conclave, attended by 150 participants, saw speakers from EY, IESA, Shakti Foundation, Hero Future Energies, World Bank, MySun, Avaada Energy, GGGI, Amplus Solar India and others.

Technology for Sustainable Agriculture

CII Northern Region AgrInnovate Summit, held on 6 October in New Delhi, brought together stakeholders from the agriculture sector to deliberate on the theme 'Embracing Technology for Sustainable Agriculture'. The deliberations during the summit are set to reshape the landscape of the agricultural Industry.

Dr P K Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India emphasised the interconnected elements of planet, people and profit as the baseline for any technological advancement and sustainability in agriculture. Dr Singh noted that the shelf life of technology is generally limited, underscoring the need for rapid technological innovation with sustainability as a key criterion.

Mr Mayank Singhal, Chairman, CII NR Committee on Agriculture, Food Processing & Dairy, and Vice Chairman and Managing Director, PI Industries stressed that



Dr P K Singh, Agriculture Commissioner of the Government of India giving his address at the AgrInnovate Summit in New Delhi

as agriculture stands at the threshold of a new era marked by unprecedented and complex challenges, it must evolve towards a future where technology and sustainability are intrinsically linked. Addressing the pressing need to enhance agricultural production to meet the demands of a growing global population, an integrated approach was championed by Mr Debabrata Sarkar, Chairman & Managing Director, MicroAlgae Solutions India. This approach harmonises increased production with environmentally conscious practices.

Mr Giridharan Loganathan, Business Director - Crop Protection & Integrated Business, Corteva Agriscience emphasized the importance of adopting sustainable agricultural practices to feed the world's ever-increasing population and mitigate challenges faced by farmers.

A common theme throughout the summit was the imperative of maximising resource efficiency. The discussions revolved around the role of technology in addressing climate change, the potential of cutting-edge tools, systems and approaches to mitigate the environmental impact of agriculture, and how these advances can promote sustainability and resilience in the sector.

Automotive Industry 4.0

The 7th edition of the CII Northern Region Automotive Industry 4.0 Summit, organized on 4 October in Gurugram, focused on the pivotal role of digitalisation in propelling the Indian automobile sector forward.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Chairman, Automotive Industry 4.0 Summit and Member of Executive Board, Maruti

Suzuki India Limited stressed on the significance of digitalisation in the Industry's growth. He noted that India shines as a bright spot among global manufacturers, and the Industry must harness its strength and agility to establish new production benchmarks. The present geopolitical scenario, according to Mr Gandhi, offers numerous opportunities for automotive manufacturers to explore and establish manufacturing plants in India.

Ms Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Haryana and Executive Chairperson, ANAND Group highlighted the inevitable nature of the emerging disruptive technology-driven phenomenon. She urged Industry players to conduct a detailed analysis to align with the Industry 4.0 paradigm. This analysis should encompass the impact of advanced innovations on the auto Industry in the coming decade, future customer demands, the availability of the right talent within organisations to meet future expectations, and how required investments can be funded. Dr Sudipto Mukherjee Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering IIT, Delhi; Mr Tomohiro Yoshida Director & Head – Factory Automation & Industrial Division Mitsubishi Electric India Pvt Limited and Mr Dilip Sawhney MD, Rockwell Automation India Pvt Limited, were among the other key speakers.

A CII – Roland Berger report titled 'Automotive Industry 4.0' was unveiled during the event, providing insights into the factory for the future and the requirements of Industry 4.0. The summit hosted senior representatives from the Indian automotive Industry. With over 400 participants from the automotive sector, the event served as a platform for meaningful discussions and insights on the digital transformation of the Industry.



Speakers at the inaugural session of the 7th Automotive Industry 4.0 Summit in Gurugram

Healthcare Summit

The 5th edition of the CII Northern Region Healthcare Summit was organized on 11 October in New Delhi, bringing together healthcare Industry leaders, innovators and experts from around the world to drive positive changes in the healthcare sector. The summit featured sessions that addressed crucial topics including 'Innovation Transforming Hospital Operations', 'Reinventing Healthcare with Technology' and 'Building Resilient Health Infrastructure: Challenges and Solutions'.

Dr Dharminder Nagar, Summit Chairman & Chairman, CII Regional Committee on Healthcare and MD, Paras Health emphasized upon the importance of collaborating cutting-edge technology with our ancient methods for making a resilient healthcare system. He also delved into the dire need of leveraging technology to the maximum, for a better and efficient healthcare ecosystem.

Understanding the changing need of the healthcare ecosystem, Dr Upasana Arora, Co-Chairperson, CII Regional Committee on Healthcare and Director, Yashoda Super Specialty Hospitals highlighted that experiential learning is very important for doctors. India is focusing on Medical Value Travel, especially for catering to countries that are not able to provide healthcare on time.

Dr Devendra Khandait, Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation further emphasized on triangulation of multiple health data points for decision-making using interoperability as a principle for the way ahead. With a focus on innovation, technology and infrastructure, the summit served as a platform for networking, learning and sharing best practices in healthcare. Technology and AI-revamped healthcare infrastructure emerged as the key pillars for an efficient healthcare system to serve a population of 130 crores.



SOUTHERN REGION

Strengthening Ayurveda and Health Tourism in Kerala

CII Kerala organized the 5th edition of the Global Ayurveda Summit and the 10th edition of the Kerala Health Tourism in Ernakulam on 26 and 27 October, respectively. These concurrent events aimed to position Kerala as one of the most preferred destinations for medical value tourism. These significant initiatives of CII were supported by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India and the Government of Kerala.

Mr Raila Amolo Odinga, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Kenya spoke about the advantages of ayurveda for holistic healing. He also emphasized the need for wider acceptance and adoption of ayurveda treatment protocols, which will further bolster the development of this sector globally. Mr Vinod Manjila, Vice Chairman, CII Kerala State Council and Chairman, Manjilas Food Tech Pvt Ltd said that the objective of the Global Ayurveda Summit is to mainstream Ayurveda through branding, research, AI and startups, which is a multifaceted approach that involves combining traditional knowledge with modern technology and business strategies.

Mr Aju Jacob, Chairman, CII Kerala State Council and Joint MD, Synthite Industries Pvt Ltd said that Kerala has established itself as a popular destination for healthcare tourism due to its high-quality medical facilities, skilled medical professionals, cost-effective healthcare and tourism and hospitality infrastructure providing a holistic experience.

Mr Senthil Thondaman, Governor, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka said that strengthening business ties between



(L-R): Namit Chugh, Principal, W Health Ventures; Khushboo Aggarwal, Founder, Zyla Health; Abrarali Dalal, CEO and Director, Sahyadri Hospitals; Dr Upasana Arora, Co-Chairperson, CII Regional Committee on Healthcare and Director, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals; Seema Vig, Facility Director, Paras Health; Rajeev Gautam, Corporate Officer - HORIBA Limited, Japan, President, Horiba India Limited, at the Healthcare Summit in New Delhi



Inauguration of the Exhibition at the Global Ayurveda Summit and Kerala Health Tourism 2023

India and Sri Lanka has been a focus of Sri Lanka, especially in the medical tourism sector. Bringing together the strengths of Ayurveda and modern medicine will be a game changer for India and will open up newer avenues for holistic healthcare, he added. H.E. Dr Ahmed Mohammed Obaid Al Saidi, Former Minister of Health, Sultanate of Oman highlighted the need for improving healthcare access globally, with India's strengths in advanced healthcare technologies at affordable prices being key to the country's leadership in the sector.

Global Excellence Mission to Dubai

CII Coimbatore Zone organized a Global Excellence Mission to Dubai, UAE from 1-6 October. Dr K Senthil Ganesh, Chairman, CII Coimbatore Zone and CEO, Transform Tech Pvt Ltd led the mission, which comprised members representing various industries and academic institutions in Coimbatore. The mission explored a wide spectrum of business and investment opportunities across various sectors in Dubai, including trading, manufacturing and higher education. Meetings and interactions were held with organizations in the UAE to discuss potential business and investment prospects.

The mission provided a platform for administrators of higher educational institutions from India to explore best

practices in universities in Dubai. Knowledge exchange, collaboration opportunities and strategies to enhance the quality of education and administrative practices in participating institutions were the key focus areas.

Key meetings were held with His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi and Amb. Dunston Pereira, Chief Executive Officer, Private Office of His Royal Highness Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi in Ras Al Khaimah; Mr Abdulaziz Mohammed Shattaf, Assistant Director-General of the Communication and Business Sector; Dr Paul Prabhakar, President of Tamil Entrepreneurs and Professionals Associates and Mr Suresh Kumar, Chairman, IBPC Dubai.

Unleashing Competitiveness in MSMEs & Manufacturing

CII Madurai organized the 3rd edition of MSME Summit with the theme 'Unleashing Competitiveness in MSMEs & Manufacturing' on October 13 in Madurai. Mr PGS Dinesh Davidson, Chairman, CII Madurai Zone and Assistant Vice President, JK Fenner (India) Limited said that businesses play a crucial role as agents of change in advancing the economy. There is a need to sustain the promising economic growth in India over the long term. Mr Davidson also emphasized that Tamil Nadu



CII delegation at Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone



Dignitaries at the CII Madurai MSME Summit 2023

excels in various aspects and it's vital for businesses to drive change and maintain this positive trajectory.

Mr TVK Mohan, General Manager, Canara Bank - Madurai Circle said that there are approximately 630 lakhs registered MSMEs in the country, contributing to around 30 per cent of India's GDP. This sector offers employment to over 11 crore people and directly contributes to or supports approximately 40-45 per cent of India's exports.

Mr RV Chari, Convenor, MSME Panel at CII Tamil Nadu and MD, GH Induction India (Pvt) Limited urged MSMEs to allocate a minimum of 4 per cent of their revenue for research and development.

Enabling Business Owners & CEOs for the Future

CII Puducherry organized the 2nd edition of CII Puducherry MSME Business Conclave 2023 with the theme 'Enabling Business Owners & CEOs for the Future' on October 26 in Puducherry. The objective of the conclave was to enable business leaders from MSMEs to understand various needs of the current business scenario and to improve their business to compete with global players.

Shri Ashish Madhaorao More, Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Puducherry said that the Government and the Industry must work closely together for the economic development of our country.

The conclave's topics of discussion included technology transformation for MSMEs; business growth story from the successful MSME entrepreneur; new schemes and financial assistance to MSMEs; capital raising for MSMEs through NSE emerge platform; business health check and scalability; sustainable industrial activities - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Carbon Credit for MSMEs and IPR for a better future - new dimensions, challenges and opportunities.

Kerala – CII Consultative Forum

The first meeting of the Government of Kerala – CII Consultative Forum was organized on 11 October in Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting was convened by Dr V Venu, Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala in the presence of key departments and line departments along with senior Industry members from CII led by Mr Aju Jacob, Chairman, CII Kerala State and Joint MD, Synthite Industries Pvt Ltd.

The joint consultative forum deliberated on key issues impacting industrial growth and improving the ease of doing business in the state. The CII delegation presented the recommendations across various key sectors including ayurveda, agri & food processing, MSME & EoDB, IT/ ITeS, tourism, infrastructure and investment promotion for overall growth of the state.

Enabling a Global Ecosystem for Innovations in Disruptive Technologies

India's supply chain ecosystem has shifted from a local focus to a global perspective, said Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Former Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and President, The Aeronautical Society of India at the 7th edition of Defence & Space Conclave on October 5 in Hyderabad. The conclave, organised by CII Telangana, centred around the theme 'Enabling a Global Ecosystem for Innovations in Disruptive Technologies'. He noted that startups are now manufacturing globally competitive products and substantially increasing their exports. Dr Reddy shared how disruptive technologies and innovation are transforming India's defence and aerospace sectors. He said that the growing support for startups from Government and academia is resulting in a globally competitive supply chain.

Dr Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Special Secretary – Invest Telangana, Government of Telangana said that India aims to strengthen indigenous defence production and reach a USD 5 billion export target by 2025. We applaud Telangana for its proactive policies in attracting global players in aerospace and defence, he added. The State Government is addressing talent shortages through initiatives like technical skills training and the establishment of a dedicated aerospace and defence university.

Mr Sai D Prasad, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana and ED, Bharat Biotech International Ltd highlighted India's growing importance in defence and aerospace, crediting a strong talent pool and Government support. Other experts also spoke at the conclave highlighted technological advancements and Government-Industry

collaborations, focusing on specialized technologies like directed energy weapons and quantum tech.

Breaking Barriers and Empowering Gender Neutrality Across All Sectors



Dignitaries at the CII MYSURU POSH Conclave

CII Mysuru organized the POSH Conclave 2023 on the theme 'Breaking Barriers and Empowering Gender Neutrality Across All Sectors' in Mysuru on 13 October. Mr Sam Cherian, Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and MD, Schevaran Laboratories Pvt Ltd said, "We have an ethical obligation to implement POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) and underscored the importance of a secure and supportive workplace environment in promoting productivity."

The event shed light on Infosys's pioneering efforts in implementing the POSH Act. Mr Vinayak Hegde, Vice President & Centre Head, Infosys Mysuru emphasized the significance of such initiatives in the region. Ms Savitha Mallappa, Convenor, CSR, HR/IR & Women Panel, CII Mysuru emphasized the integral role of POSH and gender neutrality in creating a safe and thriving workplace. The event concluded with engaging discussions, sharing of best practices across different industries and insightful case studies to foster gender neutrality and inclusivity.

CEO Session

CII Karur District organized a CEO Session with Mr Sunil Jhunjhunwala, MD, Techno Sportswear Pvt Ltd

on 21 October in Karur. Mr Jhunjhunwala shared his career journey and provided valuable insights into his experiences and achievements. He underscored the paramount significance of branding in the modern business landscape, highlighting how a strong and recognizable brand is instrumental in achieving success and gaining a competitive edge.

Mr Senthil Sankar, Chairman, CII Karur District and MD, Shree Renga Polymers highlighted the significant activities undertaken by CII. He emphasized the pivotal importance of a strong and recognizable brand in today's competitive market. Mr Venkatesan D, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Karur District and MD, Indigo Textiles pointed out that the exchange of ideas and insights enriched the gathering, providing a platform for knowledge sharing and Industry cooperation.

Sustainable City and Infrastructure Growth of Tirupati

CII hosted a roundtable centred around the theme 'Sustainable City and Infrastructure Growth' in Tirupati on 19 October. The primary objective of this session was to unite leaders, experts and stakeholders to formulate a sustainable trajectory for community engagement, social inclusivity and urban development in Tirupati. Ms Priyamanjari Todi, Chairperson, CII Tirupati and Wholtime Director, Electrosteel Castings Ltd underscored the imperative of establishing social infrastructure in proximity to industrial areas around Tirupati. This, she asserted, would foster equitable regional development.

Prof K Satyanarayana, Director, IIT Tirupati said that there should be a collective commitment to envisioning and building cities that serve as models of sustainability, where residents thrive, the environment is protected and prosperity is shared. He urged to create urban environments that are not only sustainable today but also for generations to come.



CEO Session with Mr Sunil Jhunjhunwala, MD, Techno Sportswear Pvt Ltd in Karur

Gender Equal DigitALL Future



Speakers at the Leadership Conclave 2023 - UPLIFT: A Gender Equal DigitALL Future at Hyderabad

CII IWN Telangana organized the 'Leadership Conclave 2023 - UPLIFT: A Gender Equal DigitALL Future' on October 6 in Hyderabad. Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Former Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri and President, The Aeronautical Society of India noted that Government departments are actively advocating for gender equality in all sectors and are observing growth across various dimensions consequently.

Mr Joe Schulz, Vice President and Global Chief Information Officer, Carrier Digital delivered a keynote address. Mr Sai Prasad, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana and ED, Bharat Biotech International Limited called upon CII IWN to focus on supporting women in the informal sector by promoting digitalization. Ms Srividya Reddy, Chairperson, CII IWN Telangana and Vice Chairperson, GNITS Hyderabad noted that digital transformation has the potential to narrow the gender equality divide.

Corporate Greenathon

CII Telangana organized the 4th edition Corporate Greenathon on October 15 in Hyderabad to encourage corporate professionals to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle through a fitness regimen. Over 1,000 professionals participated in the run including CEOs, who ran in the 3k, 5k and 10k categories. The run was flagged off by Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and CMD, CSR Estates (Pvt) Ltd; Dr B Bhaskar Rao, Convenor, CII Telangana Healthcare Panel and CMD, KIMS Hospitals; Ms Rashida Adewala,

President, TiE Hyderabad and Mr V Suresh, Director, NMDC Ltd.

Dr B Bhaskar Rao spoke to the runners and stressed that regular exercise and obtaining a full eight hours of sleep are vital for all. One of the standout aspects of the run was the participation of individuals who had recovered from heart attacks, showcasing their fitness and stamina by taking part in the challenging 10K marathon.

MSME Conclave



Speakers at the MSME Conclave at Erode

CII Erode Zone organized the MSME Conclave 2023 on 5 October in Erode. Mr M Ponnuswami, Co-Chairman, CII - National MSME Council and CMD, Pon Pure Chemical India Private Limited noted the impressive ranking of Tamil Nadu in ease of doing business. He said it is crucial to ensure that Government initiatives such as the BizBuddy portal, FaMe TN, and the GeM portal are fully utilized. He emphasized that the Industry should leverage opportunities including Government initiatives, subsidies, CII's services, opportunities in agriculture and semiconductor and innovative thinking.

Mr T N Thirukumar, Chairman, CII Erode Zone and MD, Jansons Industries Ltd emphasized the role of MSMEs in the local and national economy, aligning with 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local' initiatives of the Government.



Winners and Runners up at the Corporate Greenathon in Hyderabad



WESTERN REGION

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit – A Curtain Raiser

The Government of Gujarat, in partnership with CII, organized an interactive session and curtain raiser for the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 with Shri Bhupendra Bhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat on 11 October in Mumbai. The biennial 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit', conceptualized in 2003 has become an ideal platform for knowledge sharing and forging strategic partnerships.



Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat with dignitaries at the curtain raiser of Vibrant Global Gujarat Summit 2024 in Mumbai

The 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024 is scheduled from 10-12 January 2024 in Gandhinagar based on the central theme 'Gateway to the Future.' The summit will provide a unique opportunity to address shared contemporary challenges and chart the path forward for global sustainable development by augmenting international cooperation and partnerships.

A high-level delegation of the Government of Gujarat, led by Shri Kunvarji Bavaliya, Minister for Water Resources and Water Supply, Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection Affairs, Government of Gujarat also visited Chandigarh on 12 October to interact with Industry and business leaders and to invite them to the summit.

Alternatives Investment Fund Summit

CII Western Region organized the maiden edition of the Alternatives Investment Fund (AIF) Summit 2023 on 12 October in Mumbai under the chairmanship of Mr Sundeep Sikka, Chairman, CII WR Taskforce on Banking & Finance 2023-24 and ED & CEO, Nippon Life India Asset Management. The summit reaffirmed the importance of alternative investments in India's rapidly



Anant Narayan, Whole Time Member, SEBI with dignitaries at the summit in Mumbai

evolving financial landscape. The need for collaboration among stakeholders to ensure a robust regulatory framework, promote investor education and attract both

domestic and foreign capital into the AIF space were the key focus areas of the summit.

Mr Anant Narayan, Whole Time Member, SEBI highlighted that general principles for the code of conduct in AIF investments should be decided by the Industry. He emphasized SEBI's commitment to fostering a conducive regulatory environment for AIFs.

Mr Sikka shared a very positive outlook for the AIF market in India and highlighted that the country's

growth is going to attract more investors given, that HNI and Ultra HNI investors are expected to more than double in the next three years. He also indicated that the AIF Industry is well placed to see robust growth, given that India is becoming an attractive investment destination globally.

Mr Anuj Kumar, MD and CEO, CAMS noted that there is higher transparency and predictability in AIF investments due to the guidelines of the regulator.

CII Buyer Seller Meet

A Buyer-Seller Meet was organized with a focus on auto, auto components, engineering and construction equipment sectors on 6 October in Indore. The one-day meeting featured buyer organization presentations, an exhibition of products manufactured by MSMEs and one-to-one meetings. Organizations representing the auto, defence and PSU sectors from across six cities participated as buyers while over 100 MSMEs participated from 19 cities.

An MSME product exhibition was also held with over 200 people taking part in one-to-one meetings. Mr



Delegates at the Buyer Seller Meet in Indore

Akshat Chordia, Vice Chairman, CII Malwa Zone and CEO, Rini Life Science Pvt Ltd said that buyer-seller meets present immense opportunities for networking and business growth.

CFO Roundtable



Dignitaries at the CFO Roundtable organized in Mumbai

A CFO Roundtable was organized in association with KPMG on 6 October in Mumbai. Distinguished speakers comprising CFOs, CXOs and tax leaders shared views on the economy, business and changes in policy guidelines. With a focus on the implications of the latest Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LoDR) guidelines, the event underlined the importance of

regulatory compliance while encouraging strategic thinking and innovation within the financial sector. Mr Rajendra Chopra, Company Secretary, Cipla Ltd said that the increasing emphasis on regulatory compliance and consumer protection is one of the most significant developments in the finance Industry.

"The main objective behind implementing the new LoDR guidelines is enhanced transparency, strengthening corporate governance, streamlining disclosure requirements, greater trust, security in public markets and reduced information asymmetry," said Mr Karan Marwah, Partner, CFO Advisory and Head, Capital Markets, KPMG in India.

The finance Industry is undergoing a profound transformation driven by a combination of regulatory guidelines and technological advancements, said Mr Robin Banerjee, Chairman, Nucleon Research Pvt Ltd. He asserted that these changes are making financial services more accessible, transparent and secure for consumers.

Interaction with Taipei Computer Association

A roundtable discussion was organized in collaboration with the Taipei Computer Association (TCA), an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Industry association in Taiwan, on 4 October in Mumbai. The International Cooperation Center of TCA works on collaboration and synergy opportunities with countries and organizations beyond Taiwan. Dr Chen Yu Lee, CEO, International Cooperation Center of TCA led the delegation to Mumbai representing companies like Netio Technologies, C.C.P. Contact Probes, and Chin-Hong Battery Charger Csp, among others.

Ideas and potential avenues for collaboration within the tech Industry were discussed on themes like IoT, smart city, mobility, infrastructure, manufacturing and automation. Dr Lee said that the Taiwan tech Industry wants to collaborate and work with Indian companies.



Participants at the interaction in Mumbai

Elevating Business Efficiency through Sales Productivity

A workshop was organized on elevating business efficiency through sales productivity in Bhopal on 6 October. A transformative four-step approach was unveiled to craft precise, results-driven sales strategies, empowering participants to scale their businesses and reach their complete selling potential. Ms Adhishree Anand, Author, Business Productivity Expert and Founder, Live by Design who delved into sales productivity and ways to build a high-performing sales team.

The workshop emphasized on the critical importance of a sales team, maintaining a competitive edge. Participants gained an understanding of how to identify and nurture the skills and attributes that make a sales team truly exceptional. Insights were shared on ways to create a tailored and results-driven approach, ensuring that the sales efforts are both precise and efficient, thereby enabling businesses to target the right markets and customers with a clear and purposeful sales plan.

Tech in Real Estate



Release of the CII - Colliers Report on 'India Data Centres: Entering Quantum Growth Phase' in Mumbai

CII, in association with Colliers, organized the second edition of the CII WR Conference on Tech in Real Estate based on the theme 'Harmonizing Real Estate and Tech: Building the Future Together' on 12 October in Mumbai. The conference highlighted the pivotal role of digital technologies in reshaping the real estate landscape. Speakers emphasized that embracing digital transformation is no longer an option but a necessity for the Industry to remain competitive and efficient. Sustainability emerged as a central theme, with discussions focused on green building practices, energy-efficient solutions and environmentally responsible development.

Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and CMD, Chemtrols Industries Pvt Ltd said that the global real estate sector has witnessed a paradigm shift in its approach to sustainability in recent years, with the growing recognition of the Environmental, Social,

and Governance (ESG) factors. Mr Boman Irani, CMD, Rustomjee Group said that in 2023, it is estimated that the real estate sector will be USD 265.18 billion, with projections suggesting it will reach USD 828.75 billion by 2028, boasting a remarkable CAGR of 25.60 per cent.

The CII - Colliers Report on 'India Data Centres: Entering Quantum Growth Phase' was also released during the conference. The report highlighted that Mumbai continues to remain a relatively mature data centre hub, hosting half of the data centre capacity of the country. Chennai, Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR are already relatively established markets, while Kolkata remains an emerging hub catering to the zonal data requirements of the region. In the next three years, Mumbai is expected to account for about half of the new additions, owing to the presence of submarine cable connectivity, landing stations and internet exchanges. Along with Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad are also likely to witness increased growth, owing to strong support infrastructure and encouraging regulatory framework. While Tier I cities are preferred locations for data centre expansion, Tier II cities are also witnessing steady growth, the report highlighted.

WomeNation: Choose to Challenge Yourself



Anjali Pandey, Chairperson CII WR IWV and COO, Cummins India Pvt Ltd addressing the WomeNation Summit in Mumbai

The 8th Edition of the WomeNation Summit was held on 13 October in Mumbai on the theme 'Choose to Challenge Yourself'. The summit celebrated the progress and success of women breaking conventional barriers, venturing into uncharted spaces and making a footprint in a wide variety of fields like academia, research, entrepreneurship, technology, performing arts, culture, politics and economic growth.

The summit was addressed by Dr Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairperson, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Ms Andrea Kuhn, Consul General, Consulate General of South Africa and Mr Raman Ramanathan, Founder

Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Former Additional Secretary NITI Aayog, among others.

Dr Gorhe spoke about the glass ceiling and the continuous need to keep challenging oneself in whatever one does. Ms Anjali Pandey, Chairperson CII WR IWN and COO, Cummins India Pvt Ltd said that CII Indian Women Nation (IWV) commemorates the remarkable journey of those who boldly shatter traditional boundaries, explore uncharted realms, and excel in academia, research, entrepreneurship, technology, performing arts, culture, politics, economic growth, and corporate endeavours.

MSME Financing & Buyer-Seller Meet

CII Pune organized a seminar on 'MSME Financing' and a Buyer-Seller Meet on 13 October in Pune. Mr Amit Ghaisas, Convenor, CII Pune MSME Panel and MD, Statfield Equipment Pvt Ltd said that MSMEs should work towards strengthening discipline, quality, documentation and delivery to reach global standards. Mr Sudhir Gurtoo, MD, Leadeo India noted that MSMEs in India contribute to 30 per cent of the GDP and are aiming for global standards, supported by digital infrastructure.

The finance session focused on enabling MSMEs/SMEs to benefit from the new financing schemes of financial institutions. Six major companies participated as buyers and held one-on-one meetings with interested MSME/SME sellers. Mr Anshul Sharma, Business Head, Digital & E-Commerce Electronica Finance Ltd also addressed the inaugural session.

Insurance and Risk Management



Dignitaries at the conference on 'Insurance & Risk Management' in Vadodara

CII organized a conference on 'Insurance & Risk Management' in Vadodara on 13 October. The

conference encompassed key trends, regulatory changes and the evolving landscape of the insurance sector. Industry imperatives regarding insurance, a comprehensive overview of the major challenges and opportunities in the insurance Industry, and risk management like fire insurance and Industrial All Risks (IAR) insurance were discussed. Deliberations were held on pricing strategies as changes in these areas are vital for businesses and insurers to understand and adapt.

The session on claims management focused on best practices for managing and protecting insurance claims, ensuring that policyholders receive the coverage that they are entitled to. The session on marine insurance covered the challenges and innovations in this field and the unique risks associated with shipping and logistics. The discussion on liability insurance centred around the evolving landscape of liability insurance, the types of liabilities covered, liabilities related to cybercrime and how to best manage these risks.

Mr T Venugopal, Convener, CII Central Gujarat Zonal Finance Panel and CFO & Director, Netafim Irrigation India Pvt Ltd; Mr Varang Trivedi, Vice Chairman, CII Central Gujarat Zonal Council and CEO, Admark Polycoats Pvt Ltd; Mr Mitanshu Shah, Senior Vice President Finance, Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Mr Rajesh Jain, Co-Convener, CII Central Gujarat Zonal Finance Panel and Director - Finance, RR Kabel Ltd, were among the dignitaries present at the conference.

Bihar Business Connect Mumbai Road Show

The Government of Bihar, in association with CII, organized a roadshow in Mumbai on 16 October for the upcoming 'Bihar Business Connect', scheduled from 13-14 December, with CII as the Industry Partner. The session provided an opportunity to understand the state investment policy and address investment-related queries.

The upcoming summit will bring together policymakers, corporate leaders, business delegations, academia and think tanks from around the globe. Participants will get an opportunity to explore business opportunities and forge partnerships and collaborations. The summit will constitute plenary sessions, parallel conferences, business interactions and valedictory session with B2G meetings being a strong focus area. ■



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For more information contact us @

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