

Advancing Clean Energy Innovation and Manufacturing



INSIDE



Sustainability and inclusivity are at the core of every agenda to ensure a better world for future generations



The growth of the civil aviation sector is imperative for the growth of India



India is set to benefit from an investment pipeline worth nearly USD 250 billion



Initiatives such as the PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy aim to reduce the logistics cost significantly

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The future of the planet largely depends on the actions that we undertake towards sustainability practices, of which the transition towards clean energy is a vital component. Governments across the world are determined to achieve Net Zero targets, for which it is crucial to reduce carbon emissions to attain mid-term carbon neutrality. The 4th edition of the International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy held deliberations around these themes and the cover story presents detailed sectoral perspectives along with highlights from the event

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REGIONAL REVIEW

... AND MORE

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

Edited and published by Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, on behalf of Confederation of Indian Industry from The Mantosh Sondhi Centre, 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003, Tel: 91-11-24629994-7, Email: sharmila.kantha@cii.in, Website: www.cii.in

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Expediting NewSpace in India

With a 2 percent share in the global space business, India demonstrates immense potential to become a hub for space commerce and manufacturing. The International Conference on Space celebrated India's growing prominence as a space power, exemplified by its successful satellite launches and its role in launching satellites for other nations

Indian space sector is poised for exponential growth, with policy reforms, innovation, private sector involvement and international collaboration at the forefront. As the nation continues to explore new horizons in space technology, it is important to address global challenges and advance our understanding of the universe.

The International Conference on Space 2023, themed "Expediting NewSpace in India", held on 14-15 September in Bengaluru was organized by CII, in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) and NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL). The conference brought together a diverse array of stakeholders from the Government, Industry, startups, academia and associations, who deliberated on policy frameworks, regulatory reforms and international collaborations to bolster India's position in the global space sector.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 10 Sessions
- ✓ Addressed by around 80 experts
- ✓ Report on 'NewSpace: India Perspective' released
- ✓ The 1st volume of Indian standards for Space Industry prepared by INSPACe, in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) released
- ✓ MoU exchange between INSPACe and NIIFL to enhance the investment in space sector
- ✓ Australia participated as a Guest Country
- ✓ International speakers from Singapore, Japan, Russia and Australia
- ✓ Over 600 delegates

The conference celebrated India's growing prominence as a space power, exemplified by its successful satellite launches and its role in launching satellites for other nations. With a 2 percent share in the global space business, India demonstrated immense potential to become a hub for space commerce and manufacturing. The recent approval of the Indian Space Policy 2023 was greeted as a pivotal moment, ushering in an era of increased private sector involvement in the space industry. This policy framework set the stage for collaborations between ISRO, IN-SPaCe and private entities, heralding a new era for India's space endeavors. This year, the conference held special significance, coinciding with India's G20 Presidency and CII's role as the B20 Secretariat. This elevated the importance of discussions around space in the global context.



(L-R): Sudheer Kumar N, Director, CBPO, ISRO, HQ; Apparao Mallavarapu, Co-Chair, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, Centum; Sarah Storey, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission; Pawan K Goenka, Chairman, IN-SPaCe; A S Kiran Kumar, Former Chairman, ISRO & Distinguished Indian Scientist and Jayant Patil, Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and Former Whole Time Director, L&T at the International Conference on Space 2023 in Bengaluru

The conference featured 10 panel sessions, each comprising experts from various domains. The sessions addressed a wide spectrum of topics within the space sector, offering valuable insights and perspectives. More than 600 people attended the conference with over 80 speakers who shared their insights.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONFERENCE

The speakers opined that the Indian space sector faces regulatory challenges holding back its potential. These include the lack of a space activities bill, security concerns with private sector participation and spectrum allocation. There are also technological challenges such as access to strategic technologies and cost of space access. High upfront costs and risks associated with space technology development are key financial challenges faced by the sector.

The discussions highlighted that the space policy has defined stakeholders and laid out an implementation framework. But issues remain around conflict of interest, lack of liability framework and regulatory clarity.

The conference aimed to chalk out a roadmap for the growth of the sector. Experts were of the view that the way forward for the space sector includes policy reforms to encourage private sector participation, incentivizing R&D and building strategic space technologies to reduce import dependence. Capacity building, skill development and enabling access to ISRO's technical facilities can support the growth of private space companies. The reform measures could encompass FDI reforms and financing instruments like PLI schemes and tax holidays, among others, agreed the speakers.

They noted that it is important to separate regulator and implementer roles, having a consolidated legal framework, boosting private sector incentives and increasing access to space data.

Boosting downstream space applications in areas like earth observation, satellite imaging and space debris mitigation can be huge growth opportunities.

The discussions highlighted that a clear long-term space vision white paper along with coordinated efforts by all stakeholders are crucial to realize the true potential of the Indian space sector.

It was observed that in order to propel the growth of the space sector, ISRO has invested in R&D and technology development for self-reliance. This approach is ongoing under the new policy regime and collaboration models.

Speakers were of the view that opportunities exist in sub-systems and components and the industry needs to scale up to leverage these opportunities. It was further noted that commercial orientation is important for domestic and export markets.

The speakers suggested that a collaborative approach could be adopted to address challenges faced in critical materials, lack of standards, need for R&D and skilled manpower.

It was discussed that there is a huge untapped market and potential in India for ground observation applications. Many new players are entering the Industry and ISRO is open and willing to engage with the private sector.

The sessions saw extensive deliberations on addressing issues of startups. It was observed that the major challenges for startups include lack of funding, especially for commercial applications and Venture Capital's (VC's) preference for proven technologies, with shorter time frames for generating returns. There is also limited access to market data on the Indian space sector and testing infrastructure. Some speakers were of the view that the incubation system in India focuses more on equity rather than truly supporting startups.

Further it was agreed that startups could focus on developing dual-use technologies that can be deployed in multiple sectors to generate revenue. They could also collaborate with larger companies to access resources and the market as well as leverage Government support and Corporate Social Responsibility funds to help startups during their ideation and prototyping stage.

The speakers discussed that integration of 5G and satellite networks and use of IoT and HTS satellites can enable many new applications and use cases, especially in sectors like transportation, disaster management and healthcare, amongst others.

Discussions at the sessions stated that Indian Space Policy 2023 provides a framework for international collaboration focused on Sustainable Development Goals. ISRO has extensive partnerships across 61

countries and five multinational bodies. Best practices include equal partnerships with advanced and emerging space nations, leveraging diplomatic channels, hosting UN centers in India and academic partnerships.

It was discussed that priorities, going forward, would include establishing regional space forums for India, forging commercial partnerships through joint working groups, creating a decadal plan and leveraging forums like Quad and other multilateral alliances. There is also a need to increase Industry participation in these international platforms.

It was agreed that there is a need for creating strong supply chains and a global tendering system to increase competitiveness and bring down costs. Consolidating demand across countries can help improve negotiating power and access to constrained supplies.

To enable startups and academia partnership, it was recommended that strong collaborations should be forged with universities to send students on satellite programmes and exchange of engineering talent across countries to help startups grow.

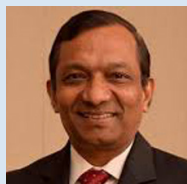
Key areas for collaboration include agriculture, water resources, and nanotechnology. Recommendations include creating international consortiums and funding models to accelerate development in these areas.

The International Conference on Space 2023 served as a platform for meaningful discussions and collaborations that are poised to shape the future of India's space sector.



Release of the Catalogue of Indian Standards for Space Industry

QUOTES



After a successful Chandrayaan - 3 landing, India is now committed to reach its vision of a USD 44 billion space economy by 2033.

Dr Pawan K Goenka

Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe)



The recent success of our lunar mission showcases the importance of preparation and precision in space exploration. It reflects India's growing expertise in this

field.

What we can do from space to make living on earth safe and sustainable requires a more collaborative approach than competitive efforts.

Dr Kiran Kumar

Former Chairman, ISRO and Distinguished Indian Scientist



We are in the midst of a global transformation in technology. Space will continue to influence developments in other sectors and support India's

global ambitions.

Space economy is now a global ecosystem, it is time to build strong complementary partnerships across the world. This two-day conference, with the theme of expediting NewSpace in India, has been a feast of knowledge and experience sharing.

Kamal Bali

Chairman, CII Southern Region and President & MD, Volvo Group



Australia and India are comprehensive strategic partners. The commercial space sectors of both countries are vibrant and innovative. Australia is

proud to support India's space achievements, including the Chandrayaan – 3 mission.

Sarah Story

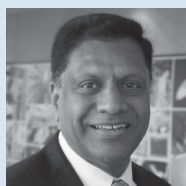
Deputy High Commissioner of the Australian Commission



Startups have played a vital role in advancing space technology. This event is a step towards sharing Indian knowledge with the world for the common man's benefit.

Jayant Patil

Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and Former Whole Time Director, L&T



IN-SPACe represents a significant step in streamlining and regulating space activities. It demonstrates India's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for space exploration.

Apparao Mallavarapu

Co-Chair, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, Centum



All businesses are encouraged to leverage the opportunities emerging from the new initiatives. A surge in space startups, from 101 to 195, is a promising sign

for the space ecosystem.

Sudheer Kumar N

Director, CBPO, ISRO HQ

Advancing Clean Energy Innovation and Manufacturing



The 4th edition of the International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy, held in New Delhi, laid emphasis on the imperatives for sustainable energy transition and India's net zero goals. The cover story provides an in-depth sectoral perspective as well as the highlights from the event

Achieving carbon net zero is a priority for Governments worldwide, for which it is vital to reduce carbon emissions to attain mid-term carbon neutrality. India's aspiration of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 necessitates reducing dependency on imports.

The Government's support to initiatives like Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes helps to bolster self-reliance and creates a thriving manufacturing ecosystem. The objective is to minimize import reliance, strengthen domestic component manufacturing and position India as a preferred global export hub. CII takes proactive measures, including promoting Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) and Basic Custom Duty (BCD) for domestic manufacturing.

To complement green energy projects, traditional power generation companies must innovate in emission reduction. The goal is to ensure "Power for all – affordable & 24x7" by actively engaging stakeholders across the value chain. CII's initiatives encompass the Electricity Amendment Bill, addressing AT&C losses, advancing smart metering and smart grid technologies,

enhancing evacuation infrastructure, and facilitating the green energy transition.

While CII National Committee on Power focuses on these issues, the Renewable Energy (RE) Council, comprising renewable energy developers, generators (solar, wind, small hydro), component manufacturers, financiers, and energy storage companies, collaborates with the Government of India and the State Governments to facilitate the achievement of 500 GW of RE capacity by 2030, aiming to raise the share of renewable energy on the grid to 50 percent. CII partners closely with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy to deliberate on achieving this ambitious goal, advocating for measures such as scrapping e-reverse auctions for wind energy, addressing ISTS charges for RE, promoting open access, and facilitating wheeling & banking of RE. The CII Renewable Energy Council, focusing on solar and wind, plays a pivotal role in shaping the sector.

Green hydrogen, seen as the future's fuel, holds the key to energy independence and achieving net zero emissions by 2070. Challenges like high electrolyzer costs, capital-intensive land, water infrastructure

“



India has ambitious plans to initiate a pilot project for generating 100 gigawatts of hydrogen. The country is set to benefit from an investment pipeline worth nearly USD 250 billion, largely attributable to the growing interest in renewable energy and hydrogen. This substantial investment is poised for further expansion in the future.

R K Singh

Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy,
Government of India

”

and nascent technology pose obstacles. Research and development, along with promoting indigenous technologies, are essential to enhance efficiency. Subsidizing green hydrogen prices to match conventional hydrogen costs through demand aggregation and creating a conducive environment for developers and investors is imperative. CII drives this agenda through initiatives focused on manufacturing electrolyzers, building supply chain infrastructure, creating demand, developing storage and transportation solutions and fostering research and development. The CII Taskforce on Green Hydrogen serves as the high-level apex body spearheading India's green hydrogen economy.

The bioenergy sector also has the potential to play a significant role in meeting the world's growing energy needs, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainability. Various vital initiatives have been undertaken by the Government over the last few years to encourage investment in the energy space. The Government has announced that green growth efforts help reduce the economy's carbon intensity and provide for large-scale green job opportunities.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's announcement on the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) during G20 Leaders' Summit will accelerate sustainable biofuel deployment and support the global energy transition. GBA will spawn international cooperation, especially among agriculturally endowed countries, for furthering the goals of inclusive and green growth. India's net carbon zero goal of 2070 will also receive a fillip. The alliance will also act as a central repository of knowledge and an expert hub. GBA aims to serve as a catalytic platform, fostering global collaboration for the advancement and widespread adoption of biofuels. The GBA has reinforced India's commitment to decarbonisation and just energy transition. Other major programs launched by the Government to support the development of biofuels in India include the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme for boosting Compressed Biogas (CBG) production in India, Viable Gap Funding (VGF) for 2G bioethanol under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana, and grants for research and development in the bioenergy area.

CII National Committee on Bioenergy represents a cross-section of the Industry leaders engaged in the



(L-R): Girish Tanti, Member, CII Renewable Energy Council and Executive Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group; Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited; R K Singh and Rajiv Memani, Vice President, CII and Chair - India Region and Chairman - Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP at the Release of CII - EY Report on "AatmaNirbhar Bharat in RE Manufacturing" and "Dashboard on Energy Transition Investment Monitor" at the 4th International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy, New Delhi



manufacturing of machinery, production of enzymes, ethanol and biodiesel, use of biowaste, and other related businesses. The committee is working towards achieving the Government's vision. As a result, it intends to make decarbonization a priority area in 2023. The committee sees the unfolding of new business opportunities in the bioenergy sector through this alliance. This will also serve, to a large extent, the twin goals of low-carbon energy and reduction in import dependency.

At the same time, the Indian hydrocarbon Industry is meeting India's growing energy demand while preparing for energy transition. As the fifth largest economy in the world, India faces pressures of high energy demand. The country's share in global primary energy consumption is projected to increase two-fold by 2035. The hydrocarbon Industry has been critical in enabling India to meet its energy requirements. India's oil demand is steadily growing each year at 3-4 percent. The country is dependent on imports for about 83 percent of its crude oil requirement and to the extent of about 47 percent in the case of natural gas. India is the third largest consumer and importer of oil. The oil and gas sector is so significant that its impact spills over to other aspects of the economy through its strategic linkages.

The energy sector is undergoing a transition towards clean and sustainable energy. This is aligned with India's goal of net zero emissions by 2070. This transition to clean energy brings forth new opportunities and challenges for hydrocarbons with reference to energy security. For the transition to be enduring and stable, it is imperative that the accessibility and affordability aspects of energy remain intact. In such a situation, having an overarching international framework for dialogue and policy coordination among producers and consumers can play a vital role by providing an energy security framework, which can then be usefully leveraged. Biofuels hold revolutionary potential within this Industry. The Government has come up with path-breaking initiatives like the changes in the Biofuel Policy to bring forward the target for 20 percent ethanol blending with petroleum to 2025-26 from 2030.

It is in this context that the 4th Edition of CII's International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy was held on 14-15 September in New Delhi. Themed 'Global Champions for Advancing Clean Energy Innovation and Manufacturing', the conference saw participation from around 700 domestic and international delegates representing Industry, academia, researchers, technologists and policy makers.

Glimpses of the Exhibition



Session Summaries



Opening Plenary Session

The Opening Plenary Session highlighted key Government initiatives and CII's efforts in driving India's renewable energy and sustainability goals. India's impressive manufacturing capacities in solar modules, solar cells, and wind energy, aided by the ₹24,000 crore PLI scheme, are set to expand by 48 GW in the next three years. The session also highlighted that the



(L-R): Periasamy Kumaran, Additional Secretary (ER & DPA) Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Bhupinder S Bhalla, Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India; Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nóbrega, Ambassador, Embassy of Federative Republic of Brazil and Girish Tanti at the Inauguration of the Exhibition

Government is launching a green hydrogen incentive scheme to propel clean energy production.

Incentive schemes for domestic electrolyzer manufacturing and achieving 80 percent localization

in wind turbine manufacturing underscore India's commitment to self-reliance. The session elaborated on India's ambitious targets including 100 GW module manufacturing capacity by 2026, aiming for 300 GW of solar capacity by 2030 and a 500 GW overall renewable energy target, with 50 percent from non-fossil fuel sources.

Session on Leveraging Offshore Wind

The session on "Leveraging Offshore Wind" emphasized the tremendous potential of India's 7,600 km coastline for offshore wind energy and the critical role of Government initiatives in fostering this untapped market. Early engagement in this sector promises a competitive advantage for Industry players.

To maintain leadership, investments in advanced technologies like LiDAR for precise wind assessment and cutting-edge wind turbine installation vessels are imperative. Establishing a resilient supply chain, especially for offshore wind nacelles and associated equipment, requires both domestic and international collaborations to streamline production and transportation.

Active collaboration with the Government to develop policy incentives is essential for accelerating offshore wind energy adoption. Additionally, learning from global leaders and embracing best practices through international conferences and workshops can expedite India's growth.

Public-private partnerships and skill development programs tailored to the niche offshore wind sector



(L-R): Balram Mehta, Chief Operating Officer, ReNew; Girish Tanti; Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India; RPV Prasad, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Envision India; Dr Arul kumar Shanmugasundaram, Executive Director (Operations), Ayana Renewable Power Private Limited and Dhananjay Kumar, Director, Engie



Sanjiv Puri; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India; Girish Tanti; Jean Carlo Butske, Managing Director, WEG Industries and Parag Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, O2 Power

are key to overcoming challenges and ensuring efficient project execution. Harnessing offshore wind energy is vital for India's sustainable future and with Industry-Government cooperation, it can become a cornerstone of the nation's renewable energy landscape.

Special Ministerial Session with Shri RK Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy

At the 'Special Ministerial Session with Shri RK Singh, Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy' it was highlighted that India's dynamic renewable energy sector, marked by rapid growth, beckons as a lucrative investment destination. Government initiatives have fostered a transparent and inviting environment for global investors. Policies such as Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO) aim to achieve a 43 percent renewable energy consumption target by 2030.

India's pursuit of green hydrogen leadership underscores its commitment to sustainability. Efforts to establish domestic solar and energy storage manufacturing capacities reduce import reliance and enhance competitiveness. Expansions in transmission infrastructure accommodate the sector's burgeoning capacity.

With an estimated USD 250 billion investment pipeline, India's renewable energy sector brims with opportunities. Industry players should prioritize competitiveness, component localization, and green hydrogen exploration. Collaborative efforts with the Government and policy alignment will accelerate manufacturing capacity growth. Favourable policy changes, incentives and a rapidly

expanding transmission infrastructure herald a bright future for the Industry.

Special Ministerial Plenary with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles

At the Special Ministerial Plenary with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, it was highlighted that India's renewable energy ambitions are soaring, with a tenfold increase in solar power capacity, aiming for 100GW from the 2020 baseline of 20GW. This growth is facilitated by transparent auctions and forward-looking renewable energy policies.

India's active involvement in international platforms like the International Solar Alliance and Hydrogen Innovation Centre showcases its dedication to renewable energy. Industry stakeholders must capitalize on these platforms to represent India's interests effectively.

The renewable energy sector presents a vast economic opportunity, potentially contributing USD 500 – USD 600 billion annually to India's GDP. To realize this potential, investments in research and development, skill development, and exploring new markets are imperative.

In the context of India's ambitious goal of a USD 10 trillion economy, renewables can contribute up to 7 percent, aligning with global climate change imperatives. Industry players should align their strategies with this vision to ensure sustainable and profitable growth.

Session on Transition to Green Fuels: India's Roadmap for 2030



(L-R): Girish Tanti; Dr. SSV Ramakumar, Former Director (R&D) and Board Member, Indian Oil Corporation and Vikram Gulati, Executive Vice President & Country Head Toyota Kirloskar Motors

The Government is actively steering India's transition from fossil fuels to green energy sources, notably hydrogen, via policy initiatives. Biofuels, derived from surplus crops like sugarcane, are promoted to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and bolster rural economies. India's commitment to expanding renewable energy capacity in wind and solar power aligns with carbon reduction goals.

A strategic emphasis on green hydrogen positions India as a global leader in this technology. Industries are urged to integrate renewable energy sources into operations to reduce carbon footprints. Second-generation biofuels are a promising means to cut fossil fuel consumption and support rural economies. Hybrid projects combining wind and solar power offer cost-effective and reliable renewable energy solutions.

Industry players should explore green hydrogen's potential and support indigenous manufacturing of renewable energy technologies and components for a sustainable energy future.

Session on Structuring Blended Financing: Project Structure, Financial Models and Challenges & Opportunities

Blended finance instruments offer unique advantages to investors, allowing risk customization, capital loss protection and financial and social returns. Achieving Net

Zero, both nationally and globally, requires widespread participation.

In the context of financing, it's crucial to analyse global market trends, capitalizing on the current favourable winds within a window of two to three years. Anticipate significant transitions in lending practices in the coming years, making it an exciting space.

The future demands first loan guarantees, partial risk guarantees and technical assistance from donor agencies. Embracing blended finance and overcoming challenges, the Government of India seeks to create a robust ecosystem that attracts private capital, reinforces social interventions, promotes innovation and optimizes the impact of grant programs. This approach leads to sustainable and inclusive development, aligning with the nation's goals.

Session on Critical Raw Materials and Indigenization of Technology ACC Batteries & Electrolysers

Amidst various challenges, both the Government and the global community must actively address the need for enabling the exploration and mining rights for people, particularly the youth and startups. This proactive stance is crucial for India, given the critical challenges it faces in sourcing essential minerals required for batteries and electric vehicles (EVs). Currently heavily reliant on imports from countries such as China, South Korea, and Japan for battery cells, India faces increased EV costs. While graphite reserves are ample, shortages of nickel, cobalt and manganese persist. To tackle this issue, private sector involvement in mineral exploration, processing, and refining, in collaboration with the Government, should be incentivized. The Government aims for 30 percent EV penetration by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2070, focusing on a self-sufficient supply chain and collaborations for mineral exploration. Industry players must actively engage in these initiatives and invest in mineral processing to support India's growing battery manufacturing sector, meeting the rising demand for EV batteries.



(L-R): Mukul Modi, Executive Vice President, SBI Capital Markets; Sanmit Ahuja, Sr. Advisor – Finance and Strategic Projects, Green Hydrogen Organisation; Debjani Bhatia, General Manager, IREDA; Parag Sharma and Satish Mandhana, Sr Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, Eversource Capital P Ltd

Key Takeaways



India, the Global Manufacturing Hub for Renewable Energy including Green Hydrogen

Recommendations for Government

- The Government should introduce more innovative and impactful steps to modernize the energy ecosystem, such as the green energy corridor scheme and green hydrogen mission
- It is necessary to prepare for emerging challenges and therefore, it is important to keep changing/ revising some of the policy requirements to make it easier for the ecosystem to develop and grow
- The Government should focus on developing alternatives to the products that are getting imported and that can be used in India to give the best leveled cost of energy.

Leveraging Offshore Wind

Recommendations for Government

- **International Tie-ups:** The Government should collaborate with offshore wind leaders like Denmark and the UK for joint projects, technology transfers, and shared research
- **R&D Push:** It is necessary to amplify investments in offshore wind R&D to cultivate homegrown technologies tailored to India's unique conditions, reducing import reliance
- **Stable Policies:** The Government needs to ensure consistent, clear policies on tariffs, land use, and incentives to boost investor trust and strategic industry planning
- **Bureaucratic Efficiency:** Reform processes for faster and transparent approvals are needed. The Government may consider a dedicated offshore wind agency for swift project rollouts
- **Public Engagement:** The Government may initiate campaigns highlighting offshore wind's ecological and developmental advantages to foster public support and awareness

- **Infrastructure Focus:** Collaborate with the private sector to develop ports and logistics optimized for offshore wind, cutting down lead times and costs.

Key Takeaways for Industry

- **Market Potential:** India's expansive coastline of about 7,600 km coupled with Government initiatives presents a vast untapped market for offshore wind energy. Early involvement can provide a competitive edge for the Industry players
- **Technological Advancement:** Investing in newer technologies, such as LiDAR for accurate wind power assessment and state-of-the-art wind turbine installation vessels, will be crucial to maintain a lead in this sector
- **Supply Chain Resilience:** Building a robust and resilient supply chain, especially for offshore wind nacelles and associated equipment, is imperative. Collaborations, both domestic and international, can help streamline the production and transportation processes
- **Policy Incentives:** It's essential for the Industry to actively engage with the Government to co-develop policy incentives that can further accelerate offshore wind energy's uptake in domestic markets
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Embracing international best practices and learning from global leaders in offshore wind can expedite India's growth in this sector. Organizing and participating in global offshore wind conferences and workshops can facilitate this knowledge transfer
- **Collaborative Approaches:** Public-private partnerships and collaborations can help overcome infrastructural and logistical challenges, ensuring faster project execution and operational efficiency
- **Skill Development:** Given the niche nature of the offshore wind sector, there's a pressing need for skill development and training programs. The Industry should consider collaborating with academic institutions and training centres to build a skilled workforce tailored for this sector.



Distributed Renewable Energy: C&I Sector in Decarbonization and the Role of DISCOMs

Recommendations for Government:

- **New Electricity Act:** The Industry recommends prioritizing the enactment of a new Electricity Act to address challenges and ensure uniformity in energy policies across states
- **Rooftop Solar:** The Government should promote transparency in rooftop solar policies, including net metering and encourage more states to adopt favourable regulations
- **Manufacturing:** Encourage domestic manufacturing in solar panel and renewable energy equipment sectors to reduce reliance on imports
- **Virtual PPAs:** Develop clear and supportive regulations for virtual PPAs to facilitate offsite renewable energy procurement by businesses.

Recommendations for Industry:

- **Anticipate Significant Growth:** With India's expected economic growth and increasing demand for energy, the renewable energy Industry should prepare for significant growth opportunities
- **Focus on Transparency:** Advocating for transparent regulations and policies is essential to create a more conducive environment for Industry growth
- **Investment in Skill Development:** Companies should invest in skill development to meet the growing demand for manufacturing and installation of renewable energy equipment
- **Extend ALMM:** The Industry requests an extension to the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) to allow developers more time to adapt to domestic manufacturing requirements.

One Sun One World One Grid

Recommendations for Government:

- **Strengthen Global Partnerships:** The Government needs to encourage and foster enhanced international partnerships for the supply of Made in India products and services in the renewable energy realm
- **Invest in Infrastructure:** It is important to prioritize and champion investments in green grids to provide a robust infrastructural foundation for future energy requirements
- **Job Creation:** Devise initiatives that progress the energy sector and simultaneously generate millions of quality employment opportunities
- **Regulatory Framework:** Examine different power scenarios, grid codes, and rules across nations to establish a cohesive and efficient system for energy transmission and trade.

Recommendations for Industry:

- **Emphasis on Green Energy:** The Industry needs to recognize the global pivot towards green energy sources, including solar, wind and hydro, and comprehend their intercontinental transmission potential
- **Opportunities in the Supply Chain:** It is crucial to detect gaps and possibilities in the renewable energy components supply chain and strive to bolster them
- **Potential for Made in India:** Realize the vast potential and avenues for the supply of Made in India products and services in the global renewable energy marketplace
- **Investment Potential:** Industry needs to understand the import and potential of crafting roadmaps for investment in the renewable domain for sustained benefits
- **Green Energy Trading:** Businesses need to appreciate the prospective growth of renewable energy trading and its overarching advantages to the Industry and economy.





Special Plenary Session: Transition to Green Fuels: India's Roadmap for 2030

Recommendations for Government

- **Supporting Indigenous Manufacturing:** The Government should support the development of an indigenous manufacturing ecosystem for renewable energy technologies and components to reduce reliance on imports
- **Policy Alignment:** Policies should be designed to encourage the coexistence and complementarity of various green energy pathways, including electric and flex-fuel technologies
- **Green Technology Development:** It is important to invest in research and development to create self-reliant green technology solutions, especially in the field of green hydrogen production
- **Digitalization:** The Government should focus on digitalization efforts to facilitate and optimize the transition to green energy sources.

Key Takeaways for Industry

- **Renewable Energy Integration:** Industries should actively integrate renewable energy sources like wind and solar power into their operations to reduce their carbon footprint
- **Biofuels as a Viable Option:** Biofuels, particularly second-generation biofuels, offer a promising avenue for reducing fossil fuel consumption and supporting rural economies
- **Hybrid Renewable Projects:** Combining wind and solar energy in hybrid projects can provide cost-effective and consistent renewable energy solutions
- **Green Hydrogen Adoption:** Industries should explore the potential of green hydrogen as a clean energy source and consider its integration into their operations
- **Indigenous Manufacturing:** Businesses should aim to develop and support indigenous manufacturing capabilities for renewable energy technologies and components.

Energy Storage System: The backbone of Renewable Energy

Recommendations for Government

- Developing countries are an important market for electricity system storage
- Localised energy storage systems to become increasingly important in the future
- Long-duration storage needs Government support
- Consumers should be encouraged for more flexible electricity use
- The Government has started incentivizing energy storage systems, but its cost remains a challenge
- There is a need for standards and guidelines for battery energy storage projects as well as training and consumer awareness programs to address safety concerns
- There is potential for second-hand use of batteries, thereby making it important to understand the importance of recycling and reuse to minimize environmental impact.

Key Takeaways for Industry

- Understanding the mechanics of energy isn't just for industrial players or policymakers. The key to truly harnessing renewable energy lies in re-educating societies
- Developing energy-efficient battery technologies for stationary storage is crucial for achieving gigawatt-hour scale energy storage efficiency.





Power Sector Reforms: Digitisation of DISCOMs through Smart Meters

Recommendations for Government

International Best Practices:

- The digital transformation of the power sector is not a novel concept. Many countries have already undergone or are in the process of such reforms. Thus, before implementing any strategies, it's crucial for the Government to study and adapt international best practices. This will not only provide insights into successful models but also help in avoiding mistakes made by others
- Particularly, countries that have smoothly integrated smart meters into their grid should be closely looked at. Their implementation strategies, challenges faced, and solutions adopted can offer invaluable lessons.

Data Protection and Privacy:

- As smart meters will collect and transmit real-time data, concerns about personal data privacy will naturally arise. The Government must pre-emptively address these by putting in place robust data protection measures
- Policies should ensure that personal consumption data is not misused or accessed without proper authorization. At the same time, the public should be educated about how their data will be used and the safeguards in place.

Promote Domestic Manufacturing:

- To become truly self-reliant, India must not just install smart meters but also have the capability to manufacture them domestically
- By encouraging domestic manufacturing, the Government can ensure quality control, generate employment, and reduce dependency on imports. Incentives, subsidies, or favourable policies can be introduced to stimulate growth in this sector.

Key Takeaways for Industry

Opportunities Abound:

- The digital transformation of the power sector means a vast market is opening up. Tech companies can develop software solutions, while manufacturers can produce the necessary hardware. Service providers can offer installation, maintenance and data analytics services
- Industry players must stay updated with the latest technologies and consumer demands to capture a significant share of this emerging market.

Shifting Consumer Behavior:

- With real-time data at their fingertips, consumers will be better informed and might alter their consumption patterns. This could mean shifting to off-peak hours, adopting energy-saving measures, or demanding more sustainable energy sources
- The Industry should be proactive in understanding and catering to this evolved consumer base. Tools like predictive analytics can be useful in forecasting consumer behaviour.

The Power of Collaboration:

- The success of these reforms is not solely in the hands of the Government or the Industry. It requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders
- Dialogue between the Government, Industry and consumers should be encouraged. This will help in addressing concerns, sharing expertise, and ensuring that the reforms are holistic and beneficial for all parties involved.





Critical Raw Materials and Indigenization of Technology

Recommendations for Government

- The Government should continue and expand initiatives to explore and secure a sustainable supply of critical minerals, including nickel, cobalt and manganese.
- The Government needs to encourage private sector participation in mineral exploration and processing
- Invest in processing and refining facilities to ensure a reliable supply chain for battery manufacturing
- Implement policies to incentivize the adoption of electric vehicles and promote the growth of the EV Industry
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce dependency on imports for critical minerals and create a self-reliant ecosystem.

Recommendations for Industry

- India's EV Industry faces challenges due to a heavy dependency on imports for battery cells and critical minerals
- The Government's focus on mineral exploration and partnerships with other countries is an opportunity for Industry players to collaborate
- Investment in mineral processing and refining facilities is essential to support the growth of the battery manufacturing sector
- Industry stakeholders should actively engage with Government initiatives and contribute to the development of a self-sufficient supply chain
- There is a significant demand for EV batteries in India and the Industry should prepare to meet this demand with a reliable supply of critical minerals.

Structuring of Blended Financing: Project Structure, Financial Models and Challenges & Opportunities (ACC Batteries & Electrolysers)

Recommendations for Government

- Although blended finance has been gaining traction in India, lack of adequate documentation, research and transparency has led to limited awareness and a homogenous understanding of the topic
- The Government should formulate and implement incentive-based policies that are aimed at encouraging investors to invest into domestic markets or to promote expansion of existing ecosystems
- It is important to develop systems/platforms that can provide long-term updates on the markets
- There is need to increase and accelerate investment for critical national development priorities
- It is important to encourage/facilitate capacity-building and access to expertise and experience
- It is necessary to develop robust institutional coordination with a promising regulatory environment
- In the absence of a common framework and robust grounds for measuring the social impact, the potential for scaling blended finance deals is limited.

Key Takeaways for Industry

- There will be a requirement for the first loan guarantee, partial risk guarantee and technical assistance from the donor agencies
- Financing solutions would require 'blending' with a focus on three key areas to address diverse developmental needs: creating an ecosystem that supports and strengthens social interventions; encouraging investment in high-potential innovations; improving the efficiency and impact of existing grant programmes, ultimately leading to sustainable and inclusive development
- Profit is the incentive for investors to provide capital for new ventures and the incentive for management is to maximize existing value chains
- Traditional mindsets and risk perceptions prevalent in certain sectors or institutions may impede the adoption and acceptance of blended finance.



Circular Economy: Impediments and Impetus

Recommendations for Government

- There needs to be coordination at the state level to ensure effective execution of renewable energy initiatives
- It is important to mobilize public and private capital for financing energy transition projects
- It is necessary to promote public-private partnerships to develop economical solutions in areas where they do not currently exist
- It is important to encourage mainstreaming of MSMEs into the sustainability journey, possibly through anchor – player partnerships
- It is important to develop an ecosystem for end-of-life management of renewable energy equipment.

Recommendations for Industry

- India is positioned as an attractive market for renewable energy investments
- Embrace self-reliance in renewable energy production and supply chains
- Focus on research and development, technology development and capacity building
- Establish local manufacturing clusters with government support to boost domestic production.

R&D in Green Hydrogen Technology: Public Private Partnership and Role of Academia

Recommendations for Government

- India has taken a leapfrog in terms of putting up a regulatory framework and bringing out a policy, but a lot of things are required in the context of supporting this ecosystem

- India needs to really scale up and match its regulations, because there must be an alignment with global standards
- India needs to have global standards and reliable certification schemes for international trade.

Recommendations for Industry

- There is a phenomenal opportunity for both the public sector and private sector to create on-demand hydrogen in India, and a robust market
- Green hydrogen is emerging globally as an energy solution in the journey towards a clean energy transition. Currently, India isn't manufacturing electrolyzers on a large scale. Indian Industry can consider developing new generation electrolyzers
- India has huge prospect to become competitive globally, not only for India, but also for the rest of the world.

Positioning India as Partner in Achieving Global Supply Chain Resilience

Recommendations for Government

- **Emphasis on Local Manufacturing in Renewables:** Across the globe, there's a rising trend to prioritize local manufacturing in the renewable energy sector. This not only promotes self-reliance but also ensures quality control and creates local jobs. India should follow suit and introduce policies that stimulate the growth of domestic manufacturing of renewable energy components
- **Transparent Regulatory Provisions:** For the renewable sector to truly thrive, it requires a clear and predictable regulatory environment. Clear guidelines, simplified approval processes, and well-defined regulations will attract more investors and developers to the sector. It is crucial that these regulatory provisions are not just on paper but are also implemented transparently to foster trust and confidence among stakeholders.



- **Rebate Mechanisms and Support for Green Hydrogen:** Learning from the success of rebate mechanisms in promoting solar module exports, similar incentives should be considered for other renewable sectors, particularly green hydrogen. By providing financial support and incentives for green hydrogen components, the Government can ensure India's prominent role in this future energy source.

Recommendations for Industry

- **India's International Role:** India's participation in platforms like the International Solar Alliance and Hydrogen Innovation Centre is indicative of the country's commitment to renewables. It is vital for Industry stakeholders to leverage these platforms, participate actively, and ensure that India's voice is heard, and its interests represented
- **Renewables Contribution to the GDP:** The renewable sector holds immense potential to boost India's economy. With projections suggesting contributions in the range of USD 500 – USD 600 billion annually to the GDP, Industry players must strategize to harness this potential. This includes R&D investments, skill development and exploring new markets
- **Renewables in India's Future Economy:** As India aims to achieve a USD 10 trillion economy, renewables can play a significant role by potentially contributing up to 7 percent of this figure. This is not just an opportunity, but a necessity given the global climate change challenges. Industry stakeholders must align their strategies with this vision, ensuring sustainable and profitable growth in the coming years.

Global Champions for Advancing Clean Energy, Innovation & Manufacturing

Recommendations for Government

- It is important to encourage domestic manufacturing of critical components like battery management systems for EVs
- It is necessary to consider a standard 5 percent GST rate for the entire renewable energy ecosystem to enhance competitiveness
- It is important to promote shared infrastructure for hydrogen production, including demineralized water facilities
- It is important to launch carbon markets and explore options for carbon pricing mechanisms
- The Government should introduce procurement preferences for green products like steel and cement to support domestic green industries.

Recommendations for Industry

- India's renewable energy sector offers substantial investment opportunities, with an estimated USD 250 billion investment pipeline
- Industry players should focus on competitiveness, localization of components, and exploring opportunities in the green hydrogen sector
- Industry needs to collaborate with the Government and leverage policy support to scale up manufacturing capacities
- The Industry can benefit from favourable policy changes and incentives aimed at boosting renewable energy adoption
- Rapid expansion of transmission infrastructure presents opportunities for Industry's growth.

QUOTES



Sustainability and inclusivity are at the core of every agenda to ensure a better world for future generations. The Clean Energy conference has integrated the G20 One World, One Family, One Future theme as we look at integrating India into the global economy. The astonishing growth of our clean energy sector is a testament to the skill and dedication of our engineering community.

Piyush Goyal

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



India is poised to become a global leader in energy transition. India has attracted about USD 78 billion in investment, including over USD 10

billion in Foreign Direct Investment, reflecting the global confidence in India's vision and capacities.

Bhupinder S Bhalla

Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India



The Government of India is actively pursuing international collaborations. The newly constituted division on New Emerging & Strategic Technologies

(NEST division) in the Ministry of External Affairs looks out for opportunities in emerging technologies.

Periasamy Kumaran

Additional Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



The Government is committed to providing full support in scaling up offshore wind projects, realizing the dual goals of energy sufficiency and

sustainability.

Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale

Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India



In our journey towards a sustainable future, blending various oxygenated fuels offers a pragmatic solution. It not only enhances fuel efficiency but also

curtails emissions. Achieving 10 percent ethanol blending across India is a significant milestone. The Government has raised its targets, advancing the roadmap to 30 percent ethanol blending by 2025.

Dr SSV Ramakumar

Former Director (R&D) and Board Member, Indian Oil Corporation

QUOTES



Electricity forms about 18 percent of our total energy demand and this is estimated to increase to 24 percent by the year 2023. It means that the current 1.6

trillion units of electricity demand will rise to 2.4 trillion units by 2030.

RP Gupta

Chairman & Managing Director, SECI



The key priorities for the Brazilian G20 Presidency will be to bring back to the centre stage of international discussions the concept of sustainable development,

with a focus on economic, social, and environmental growth. Biofuel technology is constantly evolving and Brazil is already exporting second generation ethanol to a number of countries.

Kenneth Felix Haczynski da Nóbrega

Ambassador, Embassy of Federative Republic of Brazil



Cuba, with its strategic location and stable political and social system, offers a unique opportunity for foreign investment. Our focus on sectors like

biopharmaceuticals, agriculture, and renewable energy presents a promising landscape for Indian companies.

Alejandro Simancas Marin

Ambassador, Embassy of Cuba in India



MSMEs constitute a crucial economic component in our nation, serving as significant generators of employment. It is imperative to integrate MSMEs into the sustainability

paradigm. Collaboration with large anchor players within the supply chain is pivotal, aiming to empower MSMEs. Treating them akin to valued partners, like esteemed clients, is vital. For instance, when a major corporation invests in renewable energy sources, extending the same benefits to MSME partners enables a platform for enhancing their competitiveness while concurrently facilitating their transition towards a lower-carbon footprint.

Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited



In the realm of automotive innovation, there exists a spectrum of possibilities. At one end, we have strong hybrid electric vehicles, offering both gasoline and

electric power trains with the flexibility of charging. Taking it a step further, we can transform the gasoline engine into a flex-fuel system, achieving electrification and flexibility simultaneously.

Vikram Gulati

Executive Vice President & Country Head, Toyota Kirloskar Motors



Observing India's progression in renewables has been truly captivating. The entire world is looking at India very positively; platforms are being created for the flourishing of businesses

and the betterment of life. I certainly believe that all the goals that have been set by India for 2030 and beyond will be achieved.

Jean Carlo Butske, Managing Director, Weg Industries

Energy Transition Investment Monitor – A Key Tool to Track RE Projects

As energy transition becomes the most talked about concept in the realm of sustainable and green growth, it is important to have a proper assessment of energy demand, supply and its sources, says Dr Praveer Sinha



The significance of data and the analytics that it enables in today's world cannot be overstated and it spans across all industries. Data collection and analysis are considered as the essential building blocks for driving data-based decision-making, enhancing operational efficiencies and uncovering insights. Harnessing the power of data allows businesses to derive actionable intelligence and the same holds true for the energy sector as well, which is currently undergoing a significant transformation.

As energy transition becomes the most talked about concept in the realm of sustainable and green growth, it is important to have a proper assessment of energy demand, supply and its sources. This is required for efficient resource management and the grid optimisation. The data analytics plays a pivotal role in empowering utilities and the grid operators to forecast energy production, optimise consumption and manage effective and reliable clean energy distribution. Additionally, it empowers consumers by providing insights into their energy consumption patterns, enabling them to make informed decisions for optimising their energy consumption and costs.

Though the importance of predictive data tools can be challenged by one off incidents, like the pandemic or a war, yet planning for transition and investment of millions into a sector require an assessment of the overall picture; how the millions sit among sources of investments, how wide is the geographical spread, the status of execution and completion, and the project trends.

CII and EY have launched a "Dashboard on Energy Transition Investment Monitor" that captures projects in the renewable energy space in India. The dashboard was unveiled by Shri RK Singh, Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India on 15 September during the 4th Edition of International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy, organized by CII and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, in New Delhi.

The Energy Transition Investment Monitor is a collaborative analytics platform that tracks over 900 projects in pipeline across renewable energy services and technology supply chains. Initially, the dashboard carried data available in the public domain, which was then validated by the companies. It will need regular updating based on the status of projects. The objective is to have one stop information place showing projects of all companies.

These investment opportunities have tremendous potential for economic development as well as help lift social and economic indices in the project vicinity. The downstream benefits could also include building an awareness around green energy sources in the local community.

India's overall energy transition is gaining momentum with India possessing the potential to emerge as a global champion for advancing renewable energy innovation and manufacturing. Supply chain resilience for India and rest of the world is crucial in this context, since any disruption in India's renewable energy program has a wider consequence on the move towards carbon neutrality.

Building local manufacturing capacities can help reduce dependence on imports and build supply chain confidence. Most importantly, innovation and manufacturing will help bridge the sustainability-affordability gap for mass adoption of renewable energy technologies. This could contribute towards India's long-term climate action goals and energy security objectives.

Forums like help the International Conference & Exhibition on Clean Energy, helps the stakeholders to come together at a public platform and build consensus on the roadmap for further action. Data portals and dashboards aid a more detailed discourse with independent information as the base.

(This article has been contributed by Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, Conference on Clean Energy and CEO & Managing Director, Tata Power)

India's Historic Opportunity: Leading the Global Renewable Energy Change

India's long-term strategic vision for renewable energy leadership is not just about industrial growth; it is about steering the nation towards a sustainable and prosperous future, says Girish Tanti



In a world increasingly waking up to the urgency of climate change, India stands at the precipice of a historic opportunity. With its vast landmass, abundant resources, and growing economy, India has the potential to not only lead a renewable energy revolution within its borders but also inspire the world.

India is currently experiencing a significant increase in energy demand driven by rapid economic growth that requires a shift away from fossil fuels. However, energy consumption is still dominated by fossil fuels, which continue to increase levels of greenhouse gas emissions. To close the emissions gap, India needs to triple its solar and wind capacity and cross 500 GW in non-fossil fuel energy generation over the next decade, for which the country has earmarked an investment of ₹2.44 trillion, according to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

In 2022, wind and solar accounted for 92 percent of India's electricity generation capacity additions. India's electricity consumption rose nearly 13 percent year-on-year to 126.16 billion units in January 2023, reflecting the pace of growth in energy demand. Globally, the energy transition requires significant investment – USD 9.2 trillion in annual average spending on clean energy assets, which needs to be increased by USD 3.5 trillion more than today, reaching approximately USD 275 trillion between 2021 and 2050, according to McKinsey.

The World Economic Forum, in its overview report *Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023*, praised India for "making progress in all aspects of energy system performance". Also, India's commitment to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and the 'Panchamrit' roadmap, as outlined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at COP 26, is in line with the G20 goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030. This presents an opportunity for India to become a major global supplier of renewable

energy goods, potentially exporting 400-500 GW per year and contributing significantly to the target of a USD 10 trillion economy from the current USD 3.75 trillion. Including services exports, India could add another USD 100 billion to this economic impact.

To boost domestic renewable generation, India needs to address high input costs, secure available land, reduce its 11 percent debt cost (highest in Asia Pacific), and rationalize high interest rates. Learning from China's 60 percent global share of generation through massive financing, interest subsidies, tax holidays and more, India can unleash its renewable energy generation potential. Exploring export finance and global expansion opens up huge opportunities, creating jobs, reducing energy costs, and increasing energy security while moving towards a carbon-neutral economy.

To achieve India's ambitious renewable energy goals and drive a sustainable energy transition, several critical steps need to be taken. First, mature and existing renewable energy sources such as onshore wind and solar power need to be rapidly scaled up to support all aspects of the energy transition. Second, substantial investment in research and development is necessary to advance technologies for offshore wind, green fuels, and hybrid renewable energy parks.

In addition, it is essential to establish a domestic manufacturing ecosystem and supply chain for these resources to ensure long-term value retention in the country. To facilitate this, emulating the successful model of the Indian IT Industry could include creating specialized manufacturing clusters with simplified approvals, designating them as renewable energy/green Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and offering benefits such as interest subsidies, tax incentives, tariffs and exemptions to empower local producers.

Unlocking India's offshore wind potential requires strategic moves, maintaining cost advantages and



urgently building a domestic supply chain for lower energy costs.

Investments in R&D and manufacturing ecosystems, leveraging existing onshore wind infrastructure and exploring innovative auction models can boost growth. Risk mitigation and commitment to long-term development can establish India as a leader in renewable energy, attract global attention, and contribute significantly to the country's energy transformation.

Finally, India's long-term strategic vision for renewable energy leadership is not just about industrial growth; it is about steering the nation towards a sustainable and prosperous future. We realize that this vision is out

of the question; it is a responsibility that can redefine India's role in the global renewable energy landscape. It is a commitment to our planet, our people, and the generations yet to come. India's journey to renewable energy is not just a national mission; it is a global inspiration. It is time for Industry leaders, policymakers, and society as a whole to unite behind this vision and make it a reality for the betterment of our world.

(This article was contributed by Girish Tanti, Member, CII Renewable Energy Council and Executive Vice Chairman, Suzlon Group)

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Renewable Energy Financing in The New World

RBI should create separate category under priority sector lending (PSL) for RE Projects to push banks to lend to the RE sector making way for easy and cheaper capital flow. Presently, PSL is clubbed under the power sector which also includes thermal power projects, says Parag Sharma



Tailwinds are taking India's renewable energy sector to newer heights. We had already touched 172 GW of RE capacity last fiscal. This fiscal, if current estimates are anything to go by, the country is poised to grow by 20 percent over last year's base. The increased pace of commercial and industrial (C&I) offtakes plus the heightened focus on green hydrogen will give further fillip to the sector, taking the capacity additions to greater percentages within the next few years.

Given the high demand, it is crucial for the entire ecosystem to align effectively. This entails establishing a resilient supply chain, a robust grid infrastructure, the development of top-tier storage solutions and building a strong project finance mechanism.

Of the afore-mentioned four foundations, financing is the most complex and challenging. But, giving credit where it is due, 172 GW of renewable capacity would not have been possible without the wholehearted participation of our CPSUs (Central Public Sector Undertakings) and the IPPs (Independent Power Producers) bringing in FDI from the world's best coffers. In February 2022, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy had estimated that India would need an annual investment of ₹1.50 to 2 lakh crore for the renewable energy capacity additions for our long-term commitments of 500 GW by the year 2030. Requirement for solar is pegged at ₹0.78 lakh crore, while wind will require INR 0.55 lakh crore.

While IREDA has played a pivotal role in supporting renewable energy projects through financing, continually innovating financial schemes and solutions over the last three decades to meet the evolving market needs, a host of other banking and nonbanking institutions

including REC, PFC, multilateral development banks, and private players have brought in a plethora of project finance through debt, equity and bond instruments. Here onwards, the thrust has to be stronger and more focused.

What the industry needs now –

- A collective willingness to take the balance sheet financing route for green hydrogen instead of project financing
- Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), by recirculating capital, should enable the growth of the sector
- RBI should create separate category under priority sector lending (PSL) for RE Projects to push banks to lend to the RE sector making way for easy and cheaper capital flow. Presently, PSL is clubbed under the power sector which also includes thermal power projects
- Deepening of local bond markets for refinancing of the operating RE projects allowing recycling lines of banks / FIs for financing fresh green field projects
- Allowing investments by local Provident and Retirement Funds / NPS schemes in RE projects (Debt / Equity)

These strategies will play a pivotal role in sustaining the impressive growth and reaching the long-term commitments of 500 GW by 2030.

(This article was contributed by Mr Parag Sharma, Member, CII Renewable Energy Council and Founder & Chief Executive Officer, O2)

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Moving Towards Inclusive Aerospace GVCs

The discussions at the International Aerospace Conference underpinned a collective commitment to advance the aerospace sector and modernize the aviation Industry in India, driven by a shared vision for progress



(L-R): Amit Dutta, CII Taskforce on Short Haul Air Mobility and Managing Director, Hunch Mobility; Vikram Rai, Chief Executive Officer South Asia, GE Aerospace; Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel, Government of India and Salil Gupte, Chairman, CII National Committee on Aerospace and President, Boeing India at the B20 International Aerospace Conference in Gwalior

India's aerospace Industry has been expanding rapidly in recent years. In view of this, CII organized 'International Aerospace Conference: Moving Towards Inclusive Global Value Chains', under the B20 Taskforce on Inclusive GVCs for Resilient Global Trade and Investment on 1-2 September in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The conference aimed to promote and strengthen trade and investment in the aerospace supply chain to meet the current and future demand, build resilience, production capacities, timely delivery and cost competitiveness.

Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, Government of India, inaugurating the conference, said that the growth of the civil aviation sector is imperative for the growth of India. He said that the global Industry should leverage the opportunities available in the Indian aerospace sector by investing in the country. He emphasized that civil aviation needs to grow as a product and not just a service, and that the Government is committed to expanding the sector. Shri Scindia added that with strategic interventions and collaborative efforts, India's aerospace Industry

will grow from its current valuation of USD 1 billion to USD 10 billion.

Shri Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon, Minister of the Department of Industrial Policy & Investment Promotion, Government of Madhya Pradesh said that the state welcomes the potential industrial investors with its abundant resources, skilled workforce and a highly favorable ecosystem for industrial development.

Articulating India's vast potential within the aerospace Industry, Mr Salil Gupte, Chairman, CII National Committee on Aerospace and Head, Boeing India delved into the impact of global value chains on the market, in reshaping the market landscape, creating a fertile ground for innovation, which in turn played an instrumental role in shaping the world of today. Mr Vikram Rai, Chief Executive Officer (South Asia), GE Aerospace said that India has the ability and capability to grow and has vast potential within the aerospace Industry.

The conference brought together over 35 national and international experts and Industry representatives, who offered their learnings and suggestions to boost



(L - R): Sisira Dash, CTO Air India; Yue Jeen Wong, Senior VP Partnership Management & BD Singapore International Airlines Engineering Co; Anand Bhaskar, CEO Air Works; Bharat Malkani, President, MRO Association of India; Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor Ministry of Civil Aviation; Sharad Agarwal, CEO, Air India Engineering Services Limited; Dinesh Bohra, CEO, GMR Aero Technic and Arun Kashyap, COO SpiceJet Limited

the sector. Over 300 delegates, including CEOs, policymakers, academia, researchers, innovators, diplomats, and investors came together to deliberate on solutions to boost international collaboration and foster knowledge sharing within the aerospace Industry.

The session on 'Global Value Chains in Design & Robust Aerospace Manufacturing' deliberated on the importance of MSMEs and the need to continue improving our supply chain efficiency to compete with global players. India has a massive market and is also a strategic resource and manpower hub for the global economy. This gives India a unique advantage in the global economy and it is one that the country should leverage to its advantage.

The session on 'Integrated Global MRO Services' discussed the need to consistently increase fleet size. It was agreed that there should be optimal use of the existing ecosystem. A draft roadmap should be prepared for Southeast Asian Aerospace & Defense Industry to collaborate with indigenous MRO Industry to build capacity and capability. Shri Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation said that though India has a diverse supply chain, improving efficiency is important to compete with global players.

Speaking during the session on 'Advanced Technologies in Aerospace, Aviation, Air Mobility & Requirement of Diverse Skills', Mr Patrick Buckles from Beta Technologies said that it is India's decade and India's time to shine in the domain of aircraft and in the mobility value chain. Mr Amit Dutta, Chairman, CII Taskforce on Short Haul Air Mobility and MD, Hunch Mobility said that Artificial Intelligence is streamlining operations across sectors. AI can be used to enhance wind forecasting for airlines, which will result in 40 percent relative improvement in accuracy, reducing delays and cancellations.

The panelists at the session on 'Building Scale in Aerospace Manufacturing' focused on scale and capacity in the aerospace Industry through demand aggregation and visibility on market and delved into the interventions required to build scale for viable production and supply lines. The session also discussed labour shortages.

Noting that India is a labour surplus economy, the panelists said that it is an extraordinary moment for companies and workers in India to become a part of this global supply chain and scale big.

The event also featured a Fireside Chat, where Mr Salil Gupte and Ms Tulsi Mirchandaney, Co-Chair, CII National Committee on Civil Aviation and MD, Blue Dart Aviation deliberated on the presence and impact of women in aviation in India, which though growing, still requires gender equality and diversity.



(L - R): Salil Gupte, Chairman CII National Committee on Aerospace & President Boeing India and Tulsi Mirchandaney, Co-chair, CII National Committee on Civil Aviation & MD Bharat Dart

The conference featured presentations by Boeing, HAL, Airbus and Lockheed Martin, which focused on creating value chains for high-quality and reliable components and systems that are crucial for safe and efficient aerospace Industry, primarily to strengthen their vendor base. The presentations highlighted major considerations while selecting suppliers including supplier's value proposition and the ability to manage efficiently and effectively the price fluctuations of raw materials, which impact cost of parts and products offered.

The conference concluded with a collective commitment to advance the aerospace sector and modernize the aviation Industry in India, driven by a shared vision for progress. Summing up the deliberations of all session, Shri Rajvardhan Singh Dattigaon emphasized the need to champion local enterprises and urged them to meet global quality standards.

B20 Powers G20 Declaration: Creates Avenues for Industry

The B20 business huddle contributed to the Delhi Leaders' Declaration by backing small companies and sustainability efforts, says Chandrajit Banerjee



India saw a hugely successful G20 summit, capping an intensive year where it shaped the narrative for the global economic policy-making body. G20 brought the world to India, showcased our economic dynamism and technological prowess, and opened new horizons for sustained growth.

Given the many challenges confronting the global economy and the shifting geopolitical trends, the G20 process was indeed a balancing act undertaken by India in a strategic manner. Over 200 meetings were held to craft a common stance on contentious issues. The events held in 60 cities across the country also brought India together to work in presenting the economy in a positive light. Under B20, the Confederation of Indian Industry, as the secretariat, organized over 100 events which brought businesses together for discussions on pressing global challenges.

India prioritised economic rebalancing to meet the current imperatives of high debt levels, economic stability and emphasis on sustainable development goals. The Prime Minister's travels over the past year to many countries helped in building consensus among all members.

The key takeaway for Industry is that India has strengthened its leadership in the global economic arena. The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration steers the conversation on global response to major challenges towards the needs of the developing economies.

This is reflected in the inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20, redefining the character of the grouping and bringing 1.4 billion people and a GDP of over USD 3 trillion into the global policy-making conversation. Africa has been generally viewed as a source of natural resources, and its economic value addition faces huge gaps. The continent is now

changing, and there is a need for the global business community to engage more deeply with it for investment opportunities, leverage local talent and build local manufacturing facilities.

B20 India had a special action council on Africa which had called for pathways to improve human capital outcomes, support agricultural and industrial transformation, and ensure digital and physical infrastructure. With Africa as a strong voice of the Global South, the development of the continent will catalyse global development.

We also warmly welcome the emphasis on climate finance, digital transformation, small industries and women. Focus on these areas would mean a growing role for Industry. With India leading the way, Indian Industry is likely to play an important role in the emerging policy-making scenario. Under B20, we dived deep into these issues from the business perspective and sent recommendations we agreed on to the G20. Many B20 recommendations were included in the G20 Declaration and created a better climate for business action.

In particular, the issue of countries contributing according to their development status is an important outcome of G20. We believe that this would make the emerging standards and norms more flexible for emerging economies, where smaller businesses find it challenging to meet the requirements due to lack of information and capabilities.

The G20 Declaration recognises the critical role of businesses in driving growth and sustainability and pledges to work with the private sector. It also stresses facilitating foreign direct investment in sustainable business models, developing pipelines of investible projects in less-developed countries, reducing the cost of doing business, and promoting ease of doing business. The setting up of Startup 20 as a new engagement



group under India's presidency gives a fillip to new entrepreneurship.

The priority of developing inclusive, sustainable and resilient global value chains opens up new space for equitable growth. Important points in the Declaration such as the reforms of multilateral banks, skills migration, climate finance, financial inclusion, and digital transformation will catalyse global initiatives and enhance the role of the private sector in growth.

The Global Biofuels Alliance is a major step towards expanding use of biofuels and developing new technologies for its deployment. This will promote energy transition and create new jobs, especially in the agriculture sector which employs a large number of people across the Global South. Given the high volume of agricultural waste in the world, such a market would be able to synergise requirements effectively.

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor is a landmark agreement as it brings together vibrant economies on one platform. The creation of targeted infrastructure along the route will boost investments and support businesses. The proposed linkages are through rail and sea, and also include energy and green hydrogen. India's western ports will be more efficiently connected to West Asian ports, and from there to Europe via ports in France, Italy and Greece. This will lower transportation costs and make Indian

goods more competitive in Europe, which is among India's top export destinations.

With the success of G20, the world is looking at India as a stronger power on the global stage. The bilateral meetings that were held alongside the G20, the launch of the Economic Corridor, inclusion of the African Union, the Global Biofuels Alliance and the G20 document itself have demonstrated that it is a preferred partner of developed and developing countries alike. These factors open up new opportunities for Indian businesses overseas. In particular, we must drive our advantage in geographies such as Africa, Europe, and the US.

There are many areas where India's strengths have been showcased, including digital public infrastructure, renewable energy and green hydrogen. Through the G20 presidency year, the country has been highlighting its fintech, healthcare and green energy industries, and we see partner countries showing great interest in Indian investments in these areas in their regions. This is a huge opportunity for India to drive its engagement in global value chains and shift manufacturing hubs to its shores.

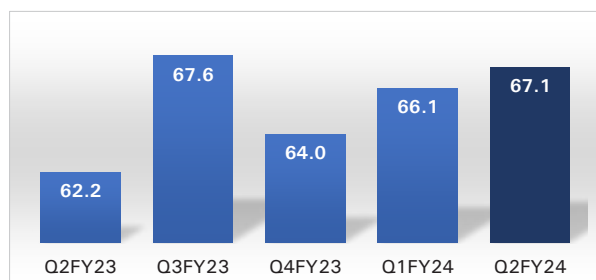
(This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in The New Indian Express on 22 September.)

CII Business Confidence Index Zooms to a Three-quarter High in Q2 FY24

Majority of the respondents (66 per cent) feel that the Indian economy will grow in the range of 6.0-7.0 per cent in FY24, with 36 per cent of them expecting growth to come between 6.0-6.5 per cent, broadly in line with the forecast of RBI and other multilateral agencies

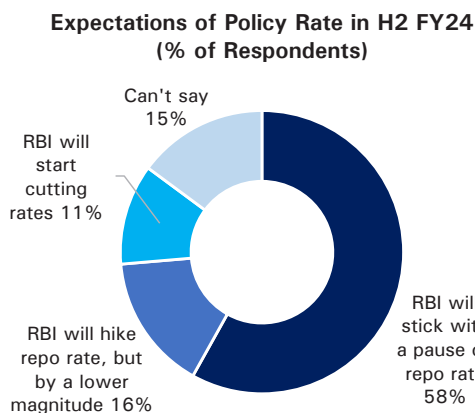
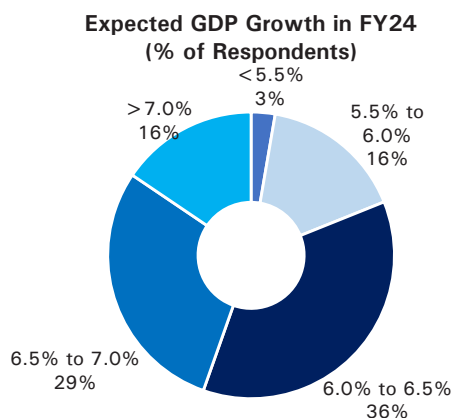
The robust macro fundamentals of the Indian economy despite the global headwinds got mirrored in an uptick of the CII Business Confidence Index (CII-BCI) to a three-quarter high of 67.1 in the Jul-Sep quarter FY24 as compared to a reading of 66.1 in the previous quarter and 62.2 in the same quarter last year. The reading reaffirms the sustained positive momentum seen in host of high frequency indicators such as GST collection, air & rail passenger traffic, PMIs among others in the second quarter. The buoyancy seen in rural demand in the recent period, too, was mirrored by the results of the survey which established that nearly half of the respondents (52 per cent) anticipate an improvement in rural demand in the first half of the current fiscal.

Trajectory of CII Business Confidence Index



Majority of the respondents (66 per cent) feel that the Indian economy will grow in the range of 6.0-7.0 per cent in FY24, with 36 per cent of them expecting growth to come between 6.0-6.5 per cent, broadly in line with the forecast of RBI and other multilateral agencies. The survey results, however, revealed that 54 per cent of the respondents indicated muted global growth and high inflation/input costs as the biggest business concerns in the current fiscal.

On inflation which has emerged as a risk to growth, more than half of the respondents (58 per cent) anticipate that RBI will stick with a pause on the repo rate in the second half of the current fiscal to let the lagged impact of the rate hikes effected so far to work through the system. This implies that the survey respondents expect the current phase of acceleration in inflation to be a transitory one, which will normalize going forward.

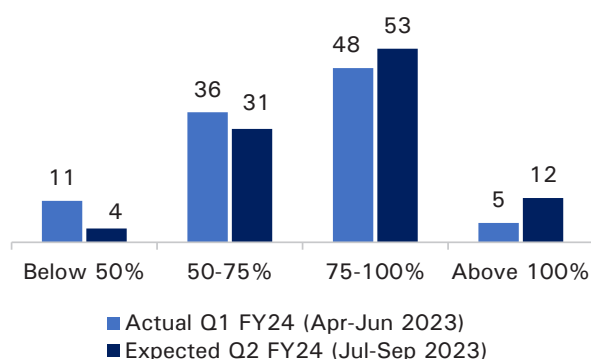


To tame the rising inflationary impulses, the government in the recent months has announced a slew of supply-side measures. Notably, out of the key measures imposed, one-third of the survey respondents noted that imposing export duties on commodities will be the most beneficial to tame inflationary pressures, followed by open market operations (26 per cent of the respondents).

The survey results highlighted that about 55 per cent of the respondents are of the view that improving ease of doing business along with government's thrust on capital spending, especially in infrastructure related sectors will help further crowd-in private investments. This will stimulate growth in other sectors of the economy through its multiplier effect.

Improving domestic demand in the economy has bolstered the sentiments of the companies. Two-third of the respondents expect sales and new orders to increase in 2QFY24 by a higher clip than in the previous quarter. Mirroring this, half of the respondents (53 per cent) feel that capacity utilisation in their company would range between 75-100 per cent during Q2FY24. It is heartening to note that in the last two surveys too, majority of the respondents had expected their capacity utilisation to be in range of 75-100 per cent, which is

**Capacity Utilization
(% of Respondents)**



an encouraging sign as capacity utilisation needs to be maintained between 75-80 per cent to fuel fresh investments in the economy.

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. Majority of the respondent firms were from the manufacturing sector and notably, 54 per cent of overall firms belonged to the large & medium size cohort. ■

A Journal of Confederation of Indian Industry

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For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, **Confederation of Indian Industry**
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'The World is on Fire': A Lecture by Prof Larry Summers

CII, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, organized a lecture titled 'The World is on Fire' on 23 September in New Delhi. The lecture was delivered by eminent economist Prof Larry Summers, Former US Treasury Secretary and President Emeritus, Harvard University.

In his lecture, Prof Summers discussed global transformations witnessed over the past three decades, particularly in Asia and underscored the urgency of collective action to tackle the pressing global challenges.

Prof Summers emphasized the interconnectedness of the modern world and added that the world has become truly globalized in its economy and society. He stressed that the current global society is fundamentally different from any in history, with borders no longer as barriers to the movement of ideas, goods or even microbes. This interconnectedness amplifies the urgency to address critical issues collectively. He highlighted the immediate need to address environmental concerns and geopolitical risks that threaten the world.

The establishment of international financial institutions, including World Bank, regional development banks and domestic development institutions, marked a turning point. Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) can play an important role in addressing the world's challenges. They have immense capacity to make a difference. However, Prof Summers emphasized that they need to undergo significant transformations to effectively address the pressing issues. He proposed triple mandate for MDBs – emphasizing not only on combating global poverty and promoting inclusive prosperity but also on taking the imperative of sustainability. MDBs must take the imperative of sustainability as a central part of their work specifically and global public goods generally, he added. He also advocated for a substantial increase in lending flows to lower and middle-income countries by MDBs. He highlighted that the current lending levels are inadequate to meet the unprecedented challenges

and opportunities the world faces. Tripling lending levels by 2030 should be the target. Additionally, new financial engineering instruments should be explored to augment the lending levels.

He highlighted that these institutions need not just be quantitatively bigger but qualitatively better. Multilateral development banks must modernize their approach to engage with the private sector in a 21st-century manner and collaborate with each other effectively. The promising steps led by India within the G20 for MDBs can be a significant contribution. The journey has begun; let's accelerate our pace towards a sustainable future, he said.

Prof Summers remarked that in face of the global challenges, continuity is insufficient, there is an urgent need for discontinuity and transformation. Profound changes have occurred in the last 15 years, altering our understanding of the climate change problem. The essence of addressing climate change is not merely in making carbon use more expensive due to its negative externalities, but equally crucial is the widespread dissemination of economically competitive renewable energy.

After the lecture, Dr V Anantha Nageswaran, Chief Economic Advisor, Government of India engaged in a wide-ranging conversation with Prof Summers on issues such as the impact of climate change on growth, strategizing the use of critical minerals, among others.

Mr Ajay Seth, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Mr NK Singh, Co-Convener, G20 Independent Expert Group on Reforms in Multilateral Development Banks and President, Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) were among the other speakers during the session. Earlier, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII highlighted that Prof Summers' insights were encapsulated in the recommendations of the independent expert group commissioned by India's G20 Presidency. ■

Societal Interface

Accelerating Disability Inclusion

The 5th annual flagship CII – IBDN National Conference brought together leading experts, practitioners and advocates from the field of disability, innovation and assistive technology to share innovative ideas and deliberate on ways to catalyse action to promote accessibility and inclusion



(L-R): Venkataraman S V, Chairman, CII National Committee on Empowerment of PwDs & IBDN and Managing Director, ANZ; Meera Shenoy, Founder & CEO, Youth4Jobs; Martin Essl, Founder and Chairman, Essl Foundation & Zero Project; Satoshi Sasaki, Officer-in-Charge (India), ILO; Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; Shilpa Kumar, Partner, Omidyar Network India at the CII – IBDN National Conference in New Delhi

With 2 out of every 10 Indian living with some form of disability, India has one of the largest populations of disabled persons, estimated around 26.8 million people. Despite its prevalence, persons with disabilities face several challenges at every stage of life.

To ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities, thereby improving their quality of life, the Government of India passed the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities Act in 2016. The Act sensitised the Government and society towards their needs and rights. The Act recognises 21 categories of disabilities. However, social stigma and lack of accessible infrastructure continue to impede progress.

CII has been working towards creating an inclusive society through its various initiatives. With a special focus on the corporate sector, it launched the India

Business and Disability Network in 2019 to engage, enable and empower, by promoting and facilitating an inclusive, accessible and barrier-free workplace within the corporate sector.

The 5th annual flagship CII – IBDN National Conference was held on 19 - 20 September in New Delhi, in partnership with the Zero Project, a global organisation working towards disability inclusion. The Zero Project India Conference and CII – IBDN National Conference themed 'Global Networks and Innovations for Inclusive Employment in India' brought together leading experts, practitioners and advocates from the field of disability, innovation and assistive technology to share innovative ideas and deliberate on ways to catalyse action to promote accessibility and inclusion.

Speaking at the conference, Shri Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India said employment is very important for persons with disability to enable them to lead a dignified life. He spoke about the launch of the PM Daksh Portal, which is a network for skilling and employment opportunities. He said that they are collaborating with different stakeholders to increase the number of job postings to 25,000 soon. He stressed that technology would be a significant enabler in accelerating disability inclusion.

Mr Venkatraman SV, Chairman, CII National Committee on Empowerment of PwDs & IBDN spoke about how the charity lens needs to be replaced with the 'enabling' lens in the inclusion eco-system. He shared the four elements, which are common to champion companies vis-à-vis D&I: the top management's commitment leading to inclusive policies and strong governance, conscious inclusive recruitment practices, awareness and adaptation to break barriers and forging strong partnerships that bring together complementary resources to create value, inspiring companies to enhance their disability inclusion practices.

An exhibition showcasing the latest assistive technologies for persons with disabilities was also held. Twenty startup companies showcased their innovative solutions to help accelerate inclusion.

The conference featured eight thought-provoking panel discussions on critical topics such as global collaboration on innovative solutions and technology-supported employment in India; innovations addressing rural livelihoods; impact investing in India towards PwD

TECHNOLOGIES SHOWCASED

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- Entrepreneurship assessment tool for PwDs
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- Accessible learning materials for people with special needs
- **Singable** – Mobile app providing live interpretation in ISL to help the deaf and hard of hearing communicate freely with each other at the touch of a button
- Sensory games for children with neurodiversity
- **Head** - wearable device solution that enables hands-free operations of computers and smartphones
- Career discovery, upskilling and employment portal for people with disabilities.

inclusion; leveraging vocational training for job creation and promoting women entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Some of the key suggestions from discussions that emerged were that businesses need to prioritize diversity and adaptability in recruitment, while upscaling programs and diversifying hiring sources to create diverse opportunities for persons with disabilities. At the same time entrepreneurship among people with disabilities should be encouraged, empowering them to create jobs instead of solely seeking employment opportunities. Moreover, technology would play a critical role in promoting disability inclusion in the job market, enabling equal opportunities. Enforcing robust policies and mandates is imperative to guarantee compliance and inclusivity in the workplace, promoting a fair environment for all.

The conference saw participation of around 70 national and international speakers and over 400 delegates. 20 technology and innovative solutions were showcased to set the trajectory for an inclusive world. ■



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Engaging with the World

MIDDLE EAST

CII CEOs Delegation to UAE

CII, with support of Indian Embassy in the UAE, organized a high-level CEOs delegation accompanying Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India to the UAE from 4-6 October. CII delegation was led by Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.

The delegation members called on H.E. Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri, Cabinet Member & UAE Minister of Economy; H.E. Mr Ahmed Al Sayegh, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE and H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE and had fruitful meetings with the multiple stakeholders in Abu Dhabi and Dubai during the three days of the visit.

CII CEOs attended the India – UAE High Level Task Force on Investment (HLTFI) besides meeting the Sovereign Wealth Funds and Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

The members of the delegation participated at India – UAE Business Roundtable organized by the UAE Ministry of Economy and Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Abu Dhabi on 5 October. Mr R Dinesh, while addressing the roundtable, highlighted the investment and business opportunities for the UAE companies in India and encouraged the participants to take advantage of the FTAs signed by both the nations.

It was proposed that the next meeting of India-UAE Business Summit under Investopia would be held on

19th December at Dubai and would have focus sectors meetings including SMEs, real estate, technology, tourism, hospitality, manufacturing, renewable & green energy and startups, among other sectors.

AFRICA

Nigeria India Presidential Roundtable & Business Conference

The economic relations between India and Nigeria have consistently grown over the years. Many Indian companies have established operations, not only to serve the Nigerian market but also to reach markets across Africa. Currently, there are more than 150 Indian companies operating in Africa, with an estimated investment of over USD 20 billion, making it one of the most strategic investment destinations for Indian businesses.

CII, in partnership with the Nigeria India Business Council (NIBC) and the High Commission of Nigeria in India, organized Nigeria-India Presidential Roundtable and Business Conference on 6 September in New Delhi. The event was organized in honour of the visit of H.E. Mr Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to India for the G20 Leaders' Summit 2023. During the roundtable, the success of Indian businesses in Nigeria and the potential for future collaboration was highlighted.

The event included a business roundtable with President Tinubu, which was also attended by senior Industry leaders from India representing different companies. Senior ministers from Nigeria including H.E. Amb. Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Dr Doris



CII CEOs delegation at India – UAE Business Roundtable with Piyush Goyal Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India, among other eminent delegates



Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President, Federal Republic of Nigeria along with eminent delegates at the Nigeria India Presidential Roundtable in New Delhi

Anite, Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment; Mr Olawale A Edun, Minister of Finance & Economy and Dr Bosun Tijani, Minister of Communication & Digital Economy also attended the event.

The event reaffirmed the commitment of the Indian Industry to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries, with a central role in the Global African Economic Integration.

SOUTH AMERICA

CII Delegation to Brazil

CII led a 20-member delegation to Brazil, covering São Paulo and Brasília, coinciding with the visit of Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India on 2-4 October. The visit underscored the commitment of both nations to deepening their economic ties and fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. Mr Thekkepat Raman Kesavan, Group President, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited led the delegation. Members from key sectors including agriculture; aerospace and defence; IT & ITes;

steel manufacturing; pharmaceuticals; agri chemicals; biofuels and renewables; energy transmission and telecom towers solutions and automobiles were part of the delegation.

The Indian delegation engaged in productive discussions with key stakeholders in Brazil on fostering collaboration, exploring opportunities and a deeper understanding of the potential for business alliances and partnerships. Meetings were held with notable organizations including the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP), the Commercial Association of Sao Paulo and the Confederation of Industries of Brazil. A meeting was also held with Brazilian companies that have invested in India. This meeting emphasized the importance for promoting a harmonious investment environment on both sides, taking note of the operational issues being faced by Brazilian companies.

The Commerce Secretary, on 4 October, co-chaired the 6th meeting of the India-Brazil Trade Monitoring Mechanism (TMM) with Ms Tatiana Lacerda Prazeres, Secretary, Foreign Trade, Federative Republic of Brazil,



CII delegation to Brazil

in Brasília. The meeting highlighted the commitment of both nations to closely monitor and enhance their trade relations. On the sidelines of the TMM, the National Industry Confederation (CNI) of Brazil gave a comprehensive presentation on opportunities in Brazil, followed by an interactive session. Discussions revolved around bilateral trade matters and the formulation of a roadmap for its further enhancement.

ASIA

Exploring Ways to Strengthen India – Taiwan Relationship

CII organized an interactive session with Mr Chin-Tsang Ho, Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan and the accompanying Industry delegation on 4 September in New Delhi. The session offered a platform for structured discussion and dialogue on opportunities and synergies between Taiwanese and Indian companies in specific sectors and showcase areas of collaboration for possible joint ventures, technical collaboration and investments.

Mr Chin-Tsang Ho emphasized the importance of the food processing Industry and said that it is one of the most vital sectors of every economy. The technology and machinery for food processing are critical for the development of new products, quality consistency and

production investment, making them crucial for both Taiwanese and Indian economies.

Mr Ashok Saigal, Co-Chairman, CII MSME Council and MD, Frontier Technologies Pvt Ltd said that with India's strong growth path, a proactive and continuous reform agenda, and a rapidly growing market, the country offers a plethora of opportunities. A presentation was made by Mr Janendra Kumar from Invest India, who spoke on the opportunities for business collaboration and strategic partnerships between India and Taiwan in the food processing sector. Mr Rudra Pandey, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co highlighted the sectoral opportunities for Taiwanese investments in India in various sectors including electronics, information technology, renewable energy, automotives and infrastructure. Ms Li-Ju Chen, Chairman, National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Association (NiEA) and Ms Chi-Ling Tsai, Section Chief, SMEA spoke about collaborative opportunities in startup sector between the two economies.

Industry members from both India and Taiwan gave their suggestions on the opportunities for cooperation between the two economies. The 20-member Taiwanese delegation represented sectors including healthcare, food processing & machinery, logistics, startups, among others. The Indian side also consisted of about 22 senior Industry members from these sectors.



(L-R): Ashok Saigal, Co-Chairman, CII MSME Council and Managing Director, Frontier Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; Chin-Tsang Ho, Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration, MOEA, Taiwan; and CHEN Yu-chi Executive Director, Economic Division, TECC, New Delhi



Ashok Saigal with Chin-Tsang Ho

EUROPE

CII, Grant Thornton Bharat launch Britain Meets India Report

The 'Britain Meets India' report, documenting the most recent trends of British investment in India, was jointly launched by CII and Grant Thornton Bharat LLP on 5 October in New Delhi. The report highlighted that more than 635 British firms have been identified in India with a combined revenue of over Rs 4.88 trillion and employing 666,992 persons.

Mr Deepak Shetty, Chairman, CII Infrastructure Council and CEO & MD, JCB India highlighted the strength of the India – UK economic partnership and the potential it holds for the future.

Ms Pallavi Joshi Bakhru, Partner and Lead (India – UK Corridor), Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, while presenting the key highlights of the report, mentioned that 68 percent of the British companies operating in India are MSMEs. Technology has surpassed business services as the top sector of UK companies in India and British investment into India was not from London alone, but also came from other regions of the UK such as the Midlands, Wales and Scotland. British companies contributed GBP 2 billion to the Indian exchequer in 2023, she added.

Ms Christina Scott, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK to India, speaking about the India – UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), said that both sides are negotiating hard to finalise a deal that benefits businesses on both sides, adding to an already robust economic engagement. Ms Gaitri Issar Kumar, Former High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom reiterated the immense potential that both sides can capitalise on, especially the SME sectors.

Furthering Indian Industry's Partnership with Europe

India and Europe have shared a long-standing trade and economic relationship. Today, Europe is one of India's largest trading and investment partners across diversity of sectors. Besides, to further boost economic relations, India is currently negotiating three trade agreements within Europe – with the European Union (EU), European Free Trade association (EFTA – Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) and with the United Kingdom. In line with this, CII has constituted a committee constituting 30 Industry leaders, which looks at furthering Indian Industry's partnership with Europe by engaging with key stakeholders from the Government and the Industry, with the objective of deepening economic relations between the two regions.

The CII Europe Committee, chaired by Mr Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, Sona Comstar, held its first meeting on 19 September. Deliberations centered around the potential engagement that this core group can have in Europe to enhance trade and investments within the region. Shri Balamurugan, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India also addressed the gathering and guided the members on the possibilities and business opportunities for the Industry in Europe.

A dinner reception of European diplomats and committee members was held and addressed by Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Europe West), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.



European Diplomats at a networking reception along with the CII Europe Committee

Sectorscape



Industry Associations

Industry Roadmap for National Growth: Shaping the Future Together

To align the Industry with the Government of India's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', CII ASCON, comprising of senior Industry leaders from several sectors, has been brainstorming on the key enablers for building competitiveness, which is essential to stimulate growth. In this context, CII ASCON organized Industry Associations' Summit in New Delhi around the theme 'Industry Roadmap for National Growth: Shaping the Future Together' on 21 September in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

As part of the summit, sectoral roundtables were organized with the aim to draw up specific strategies to boost domestic production, local value-addition and exports. During the discussions, a wide array of sectors including textiles, chemicals and petrochemicals, auto components, electronics, defence manufacturing, construction equipment, machine tools, renewable energy, food processing, hospitality and tourism, video gaming and information technology were covered. The policy recommendations based on the deliberations were shared with Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, DPIIT during a special session. He said that these recommendations will be taken up with the respective line ministries to support and strengthen the respective sectors.



CII's work on Logistics standards has been acknowledged and included in the reference guide released by the Logistics Division, DPIIT. More than 22.5 million sq.ft of warehousing has been certified through WAREX ratings.

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



To scale agri exports, focus needs to be on a value chain approach. There is a need to have a holistic approach, cutting across various departments and states to realise/maximise the export potential of agri products.

Sanjiv Puri, President-Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd

Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd highlighted the critical role of logistics and various initiatives being taken by the CII Institute of Logistics in improving logistics competitiveness of India. Mr Sanjiv Puri, President-Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Limited shared his perspective on FMCG and agriculture sectors and said that a combination of global demand and India's strong indicators present good opportunity for expanding both commodity and value-added exports.



Sanjiv Puri, President-Designate, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT); R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation Indian Industry at the Industry Associations' Summit in New Delhi



Currently, the auto components Industry is seeing high imports of auto electronics and certain conventional products. Creating electronics parks and extending incentives for traditional

auto parts which have high head room for localization can drive local production for domestic and export demand.

Shradha Suri Marwah

President, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)



Self-reliance in the Defence sector is not merely an economic but a strategic imperative for national security. India should invest in niche capabilities to

manufacture key and critical inputs for military systems – metals, alloys, composite materials, detectors of all types, components. We also need to promote investments in state-of-the-art manufacturing and testing infrastructure.

S P Shukla

President, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM)



Safety is very important in the construction equipment Industry. Licensing of operators should be mandatory for operating all types of construction

equipment, to ensure higher levels of safety, efficiency and quality.

V Vivekanand

President, Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers Association (ICEMA)



The Indian Apparel Industry has significant growth potential. To promote Indian brands overseas as well as at home, we should celebrate Swabhiman Utsav

– a Day Promoting Indian Ethnic Wear (Khadi and Handloom Products) among consumers to create a feeling of Pride for Indian Products.

Rahul Mehta

Past Chairman, Clothing Manufacturers' Association of India (CMAI)



To ensure growth of the chemicals and petrochemicals Industry, we must ensure reliable availability of important feedstocks. We can also create a Task Force

for sustainable & biobased feedstocks, CUC, Green Hydrogen & derivatives.

Rupark Sarswat

National Executive Member, Indian Chemical Council (ICC)



The electronics Industry is still constrained by a high dependence on imported components and sub-assemblies. To strengthen the local component

ecosystem, the Government can introduce a scheme similar to PLI with higher incentives and longer gestation period, with special provisions for MSMEs.

Vinod Sharma

Past President, Electronic Industries Association of India (ELCINA)



There is an urgent need to set up electrical equipment manufacturing zones/clusters to bring in synergies in manufacturing and to reduce import dependency.

Vikram Gandotra

Vice President, Indian Electrical & Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA)



Renewable energy is the next big thing. To promote the sector, Government/ DISCOMs need to accept higher RE tariffs for sustainable growth.

U B Reddy

President, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)



Availability of skilled workforce in terms of Engineering Grads / Diploma holders in machine tool & manufacturing technology sector is a huge challenge.

This impedes expansion, modernization and development of home-grown technologies.

C P Rangachar

Past President, Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association (IMTMA)



Inadequate Testing / Calibrated Accredited laboratories infrastructure creates a technical trade barrier for domestic trade and export of food products.

Strengthening the laboratory accreditation ecosystem will facilitate domestic and global trade.

Deepak Jolly

Chairperson, Ind Food and Beverage Association (IFBA)



India's tech Industry has huge growth potential and we are targeting to achieve USD 500 billion by the end of 2030. Focus on market access, ease of doing

business and startups can take this sector to the next level.

Jagdish Mitra

Member-Executive Council, National Association of Software & Service Companies (NASSCOM)



Our vision for the video gaming sector in India over the coming decade is to pave the way for a transformative digital era, where gaming becomes an integral part

of India's cultural fabric and an economic powerhouse.

Vikas Shah

Vice President, Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS)

Portfolio for Excellence



Food and Agriculture

Food Processing Mission to UAE

CII, under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE), conducted a Food Processing Mission to the UAE on 20-21 September, coinciding with the Future Food Forum in Dubai, the Middle East's annual gathering of Industry leaders from the food Industry. The CII mission reinforced the need for a strong collaboration and a shared responsibility with the UAE, as the way forward for effective food safety and security deployment, inspiring well-being of the consumers.

The delegation from India consisted of senior officials of the Ministry of Food Processing and Industries (MoFPI) and senior Industry representatives from ITC Ltd, Jain Farm Fresh, Synthite Industries, Allanasons and Rasna.

The highlight of the mission was the India Session at the Future Food Forum 2023, organized by the UAE Food and Beverage Business Group under the Dubai Chamber of Commerce. The session witnessed engaging discussion among panellists on driving and leveraging sustainable food value chains between India and UAE. It was attended by over 700 senior food and beverage Industry stakeholders from 40+ countries.

The delegation also called on H.E. Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE and H.E. Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Acting Undersecretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE. They also held meetings with key investors such as Ghassan About Group, IFFCO Allana Group, Lulu Group and the Sharaf Group. It was shared that the prime products with ample export opportunities in the UAE market include the rice, buffalo meat, sheep/goat meat, miscellaneous preparation, fresh onions, pulses, fresh mangoes, alcoholic beverages, cereal preparations, milled products, dairy products, mango pulp, bananas, grapes, amongst others.

Enhancing Food Safety Index

CII-FACE, in association with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and Telangana State Government, organized a State Connect Session on 'Strengthening the Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Ecosystem: Towards Enhancing the State Food Safety Index' on 29 September at Hyderabad. This session was envisaged to create awareness about the Eat Right India initiative by Telangana and to strengthen the food safety and regulatory ecosystem at large.

Mr G Kamala Vardhana Rao, CEO, FSSAI emphasized the importance of leveraging technological advancements to combat counterfeit products for the benefit of public health. He highlighted key initiatives aimed at strengthening the food safety index through partnerships



Food Processing Mission to the UAE with Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, UAE and H.E. Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Acting Undersecretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, UAE



(L-R): Rahul Jalan, President, DSM-Firmenich; Dr Harinder Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K; S Gopalakrishnan, Director General, National Productivity Council and Jagdeep Marhar, Managing Director, R&D-Nestle at the Conclave on "Way Forward to Sustain and Strengthen the Movement of IYM Beyond 2023" in Haryana

and active engagement with all stakeholders. Mr Rao also emphasized upon the importance of training and capacity building to uphold hygiene standards. He announced FSSAI's ambitious goal to train 2.5 million food operators by the coming year.

Ms Hari Chandana Dasari, Commissioner for Food Safety, Telangana stressed on the importance of active involvement in the Eat Right movement by all stakeholders to promote a culture of food quality and safety across the State. She also welcomed the idea of partnering with stakeholders to strengthen the sampling and testing infrastructure of dairy sector. Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana also addressed the session.

Expert-led special training sessions covered topics such as FSSAI's regulatory compliance, labelling & claims, licensing & registration, imports for food businesses and online portal demonstrations. A session on capacity building and consultation regarding rice fortification emphasized its cost-effectiveness and complementary role in increasing the vitamin and mineral content of diets.



S Gopalakrishnan addressing B2B Conclave at ICAMNES-NIFTEM-K

Sustain and Strengthen the IYM Movement

The Government of India is enthusiastic about the International Year of Millets 2023 (IYM 2023), as India is a leading global hub of millets. Several initiatives are being taken and deliberations being held to start a dialogue on this subject, address challenges and strengthen it further. In line with this, CII-FACE supported the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) in organizing a B2B Conclave on the sidelines of the International Conference on Millets for Achieving Nutritional and Economic Security (ICMANES).

The conclave on "Way Forward to Sustain and Strengthen the Movement of IYM Beyond 2023" was organized on 22 September in Kundli, Haryana. This interactive session was organized with Industry, especially startups to understand their perspectives and challenges to sustain the momentum of millet processing beyond 2023. Mr S Gopalakrishnan, Director General, National Productivity Council chaired the session and highlighted the importance of millet-based products towards meeting the health, economic and environmental objectives. Mr Jagdeep Marhar, Managing Director (R&D), Nestle and Mr Rahul Jalan, President (DSM), Firmenich were co-chairs of the session.

The speakers laid emphasis on public-private-startup-partnership model to scale up production and further strength the ecosystem. They noted that the phase 2 of PLI scheme can be a great push at this stage for the sector. Integrated information sharing could be the key to enhance collaboration and reduce redundancy of efforts put in place. Creating demand by responsibly leveraging the existing promotional channels like mid-day meals, patient care meals, and others could fuel the growth of the sector at this initial phase. Innovation around processes and approaches is the key to boost the growth rate.



Speakers at the Conference on Automotive Supply Chain at Pune



Logistics

Automotive Supply Chain - Navigating through a Changing Demand Environment

CII Institute of Logistics organized the 17th edition of the 'Conference on Automotive Supply Chain' with the theme 'Navigating through a Changing Demand Environment' on 15 September in Pune.

The conference addressed three key aspects of modern supply chain management viz. building demand sensing and responsiveness; balancing efficiency and sustainability and embracing advanced technologies. It discussed various aspects of the automotive supply chain, including the lingering challenges caused by global macroeconomic turbulence, transformational strategies to improve responsiveness to dynamic demand patterns, emerging technology trends, encouraging their adoption and emphasizing the need for agility in modern supply chains to thrive in an ever-changing business environment.

Mr Dileeraj Dabhole, Deputy Director, General Foreign Trade, Pune; Mr Kiran Vaidya, Managing Director, Auto Cluster Development and Research Institute & Pimpri Chinchwad Startup Incubation Centre; Mr Avinash Chintawar, Managing Director, Bosch Chassis India Limited; Mr Anshuman Sinha, Partner, Kearney and other speakers shared their insights. The speakers shared their views on improving responsiveness to changing demand patterns and technology adoption, while maintaining focus on sustainability in automotive supply chain. The conference was attended by over 240 thought leaders from the Industry.



CFC

Indo German Manager Training Program - Indian Leg

The participants for the last general batch of the Indo-German Manager Training Program underwent the Indian leg of training on 6-8 September in Gurugram. The program recognizes the significant role of the Small and Medium Enterprises in furthering the trade, investment and technology links and acts to further promote the linkages between the two countries. Till date, over 590 businesspersons have benefitted from this program.

The inaugural session of the program was addressed by Mr B Ramanjaneyulu, Director, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India; Dr Stephan Hesselmann, Economic Counsellor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and Dr Suparna Deo, Advisor, Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The preparatory Indian leg of the training inducts the participants into topics like macro and micro economic factors, foreign trade, cross-cultural communications, international economic relations, quality management, HR management, amongst others. CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) gave insights about importance of building competitiveness in business process quality systems and getting ready to do business with Germany. In addition to Indian subject experts, the sessions were addressed by experts from

German training center as well. The participants will undergo virtual phase of training in October and then would be visiting Germany in November – December.

Study Mission on World Class Manufacturing

Making the manufacturing Industry competitive by enhancing productivity, quality, delivery and safety, calls for a strategic and holistic approach to make the operations world class. This could be achieved through proven quality practices. Against this backdrop, CII-CFC organized a mission on World Class Manufacturing on 20-21 September in Delhi/NCR.

The mission comprised visits to JCB India Ltd (Ballabgarh), Escorts Kubota Ltd (Faridabad), Hero Motocorp Ltd, Uno Minda Ltd (Manesar), Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt Ltd (Tapukara) and Saint Gobain Glass India Limited (Bhiwadi). The Program received good response from the Industry with participation from companies like Ganga Acrowools Limited, Thermax Babcock & Wilcox Energy Solutions Limited, Mankind Pharma Ltd., Jakson Ltd, among others.

Corrosion Due to Manufacturing, Storage & Export/Domestic Consignment

Corrosion is a significant problem in the handling, storage and shipping of products. Rust and corrosion are major problems in the metal processing Industry, especially in multi-stage manufacturing processes with extended storage and shipping periods.

CII Corrosion Management Division (CII-CMD) is looking to raise awareness on corrosion issues related to supply chain. As a first step, an exclusive session on 'Overcoming Challenges Posed by Corrosion during Manufacturing, Storage & Export/Domestic Consignment', was organized on 15 September via virtual platform.

The session focused on addressing key issues of corrosion posed during the supply chain. During the session, Dr GH Thanki, Director and Experienced Principal Consultant at Corrosion Control & Monitoring Consultancy talked about the corrosion issues in dry packaging and ways to overcome it. He focused on mixed protection corrosion prevention to prevent development of both anodic and cathodic sites i.e. using Vapour Phase Corrosion Inhibitor (VCI). He explained the characteristics in terms of diffusion, evaporation rate, vapor pressure, polar chemistry, and environmental

states. Mr Mulla Wasi Anwar, Senior GM (Exports & Corrosion Audit), Suprabha Protective Products Pvt Ltd highlighted the drawbacks of conventional methods of rust prevention and emphasized on VCI (Vapour Phase Corrosion Inhibitor) technique.

Mr Urvesh Vala, Head (Material Engineering & Technology), L&T Energy Hydrocarbon Engineering Ltd talked about overcoming challenges due to corrosion in the execution of Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) projects. He discussed standard requirements for material storage, handling and preservation. Further, CII-CMD will access a survey to industries that are facing corrosion problems due to supply chain and look for the future assignments based on the survey in the forms of the plant audits and solutions.

Advanced Problem-Solving Tools & Techniques Certification Course

CII-CFC organized a four-day 'Advanced Problem-Solving Tools and Techniques Program' virtually on 25- 28 September. Designed to cater to professionals across various industries, this program equipped participants with the essential knowledge and skills necessary for advanced problem-solving and process improvement. Throughout the programme, participants were immersed in an in-depth exploration of advanced problem-solving tools and techniques.

This comprehensive understanding enabled them to identify and tackle complex issues within their respective organizations with precision and efficiency. Moreover, attendees honed their analytical abilities, empowering them to address intricate challenges effectively. One of the program's key objectives was to instill a culture of continuous improvement. Participants learned how to foster innovation and efficiency within their workplaces, setting the stage for lasting positive change.

The programme received good response from Industry with participation from companies like Godrej Appliances, Uno Minda and Snam Alloys Private Limited, among others.

Energy Management and Climate Action

With the objective of competence development, enhancing green job prospects and helping Industry achieve energy efficiency and sustainability goals, CII jointly with School of Energy and Environment, Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology (Deemed to be University), Patiala, Punjab initiated an online post

graduate professional development programme in energy management and climate action. Launch and induction session for the fourth batch was held on 2 September. This programme is thoughtfully crafted to cultivate accomplished leaders in the fields of energy and climate action, aiming to assist organizations in realizing their energy efficiency and sustainability objectives.

In the past three batches, over 200 Industry professionals have successfully completed the programme. The previous groups have seen a diverse participation of professionals across all levels. The programme structure comprises of virtual classroom, live quizzes, assignments and project work. It includes 60-70 online interactive learning sessions, which would be taken by globally renowned experts from Industry and academia, professionals including Managing Directors, CEOs and heads of various business segments.

Initiatives on CII National Mission on War against Corrosion

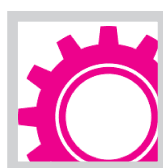
Corrosion causes severe damage and threat to public safety, manufacturing operations, product quality, infrastructure assets, etc. It encompasses both direct expenses and indirect repercussions, affecting profitability, operational efficiency and environmental responsibility. Looking at the magnitude of corrosion in the Industry, CII-CMD has taken several initiatives to achieve various goals and objectives to strengthen the national mission on war against corrosion.

To develop and enhance job prospects in corrosion engineering and management and to create world class leaders in the corrosion domain, CII jointly with Indian Institute of Technology (Ropar) launched the second batch of "CII Online Postgraduate Professional Development Program in Corrosion Management and Technology" on 29 August through CII virtual platform. The program was attended by various stakeholders representing Industry, institutions, academics, PSUs, research organizations, technology providers, and members of CII Corrosion Management Committee (CMC).

CII CMD organized the first Advisory Council Meeting physically in New Delhi on 1 September. Managing Directors, Directors and Chairmen from various research organizations and industries gathered to share their perspectives on the accelerated implementation of the mission.

To align the CII CMD activities with proposed seven task forces for inclusion in their respective agendas and

devising a time-bound action plan to achieve the goals in consultation with the other task force members, an agenda setting meeting was held on 13 September via virtual platform. Members from various sectors attended the meeting under the Chairmanship of Dr U Kamachi Mudali, Chairman - CII-Corrosion Management Council and & Former Chief Executive, Heavy Water Board to understand the roles and responsibilities associated with each task force and the activities being implemented in future.



CME

Role of Supervisors in Enhancing Workplace Productivity

CII Naoraji Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII-CME) conducted a virtual session on the role of supervisors in enhancing workplace productivity, on 26-27 September.

The session was devised to understand the roles and responsibilities of a supervisor to foster excellent performance that supports individual and organizational needs; to establish and communicate performance standards and expectations using behavioural terms; to recognise a feedback framework to give constructive and supportive feedback within a supervisory context. The session also delved upon how to establish work plans that include performance and professional development goals and to understand how to create strategies for effective supervision and performance meetings.

Around 46 participants from 14 companies benefitted through this virtual session.

Incident Reporting & Investigation

CII-CME had organised a two-day online programme on "Incident Reporting and Investigation" on 26-27 September.

The programme was held to identify hazards and system deficiencies leading to an incident and suggesting improvements to strengthen workplace safety.

The programme helped the participants to understand incident causation models; understand the step-by-step technique of incident investigation and prepare reports recommending corrective actions to prevent similar incidents in future.

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

ICT East

West Bengal holds immense potential for investors to consider investing aggressively in the state, said Shri Babul Supriyo, Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Information Technology & Electronics and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal during the 22nd Edition of the CII ICT East held in Kolkata on 26-27 September. In the era of digital transformation, he stressed upon the importance of framing a centralized system to add value to administrative efficiency, which will lead to the harmonious collaboration of private sector and the public sector. The Silicon Valley in Bengal has received land at one-fifth of the land cost from the Government of West Bengal. The Minister emphasized that West Bengal has all the resources needed for businesses to run successfully, primary among them being low cost of living and ease of doing business. The state has the second largest MSME sector, he said.

Shri Rajeev Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal said that digital transformation should be leveraged to create good businesses that uplift the lives of people across society. Shri Debashis Sen, Chairman, New Town Development Authority and NDITA and MD,

HIDCO Ltd said that Kolkata can easily be the AI hub of India owing to a robust education system with institutes such as the Indian Statistical Institute, as mathematics and statistics forms the basis of digital transformation.

CII Bihar Health Tech: Shaping Tomorrow's Healthcare Today

The CII Health Tech Vision Document 2030, launched at the CII Bihar Health Tech 2023 in Patna on 17 September marked a significant stride towards a healthier Bihar. This vision document outlines a clear path for the State to leverage technology and innovation in healthcare, ensuring that quality medical services reach every corner of the region. It highlights the commitment of both public and private sectors to collaborate and transform healthcare in Bihar, ultimately enhancing the well-being of the population.

Shri Samir Kumar Mahaseth, Minister, Department of Industries, Government of Bihar emphasized the importance of the Vision Document, stating that it would serve as a guiding beacon for the state, helping build a robust healthcare infrastructure that caters to the needs of all its citizens.

Key stakeholders who participated included representatives from World Health Organization (WHO),



(L-R): Sanjoy Sen, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region ICTE Taskforce and VP – IT Services, ITC Ltd; Sauvik Banerjee, Global CEO, Products, Technology and Digital Services, Rezolve Limited, UK; Shekhar Sharma, CEO & Managing Director, NTT Global Data Centers & Cloud Infrastructure India Pvt Ltd & NTT Communications India Network Services Pvt Ltd; Rajeev Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal; Babul Supriyo, Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Information Technology & Electronics, and Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal; Dr Dipankar Chakrabarti, Chairman, CII Eastern Region ICTE Taskforce and Executive Director & Data Control Officer, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd; Deepak N G, Managing Director, India, Dassault Systèmes and Sandeep Goel, Managing Director, Strategy & Operations, Moglix at CII ICT East held in Kolkata

Asian Development and Research Institute (ADRI), PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), amongst others.

Banking Colloquium

Approximately 37 people get employed for every crore of investment, Dr Amit Mitra, Principal Chief Advisor to Chief Minister of West Bengal and Finance Department, Government of West Bengal said at the 16th Banking Colloquium in Kolkata on 28 September. He said that ₹4 lakh crore should help create 44 lakh jobs, corresponding to the investments to be made in West Bengal. West Bengal registered a high growth rate last year, making it the fourth largest state in terms of net GDP addition, he stated.

The MSME sector is the backbone of the economy. Bengal focuses on MSME clusters with the number of MSME clusters going up from 49 to 600 since 2011. Self-help groups (SHGs) are another area of focus in terms of financial inclusion, Dr Mitra added.

Dr Mitra appreciated the bankers' support for provisioning student credit cards and agricultural disbursements. Highlighting the example of Cooch Behar having the highest Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, Dr Mitra encouraged banks to amplify their outreach strategically, look at safety especially through the AEP Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems and take a relook making KYC seamless instead of becoming an impediment for banking consumers.

Dr Manoj Pant, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Finance, Government of West Bengal said that the banking sector is facing new opportunities and challenges in the digital age. While technology has made our lives easier, it has also brought new concerns such as security breaches, cyberattacks and AEPS fraud.

We need to find ways to address these challenges to protect the banking system and its customers.

Investment Confirmation of Over ₹1000 crore at North Bengal Health Conclave

Investment confirmation of over ₹1,000 crores having potential for significant employment generation was announced at the North Bengal Health Conclave organized by CII North Bengal in Siliguri on 15 September. Mentioning ₹2,600 crore investment in Swasthya Sathi in the last year involving 17 lakh beneficiaries, Shri NS Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal said that the functioning of the State Government has been excellent in primary healthcare. He said collaboration with private partners is needed to work with similar efficiency in secondary and tertiary healthcare.

Shri Y Ratnakara Rao, Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal highlighted that the public health budget increased from ₹3,584 crore in 2011 to ₹19,471 crore in 2023, hiking robustly by 443 percent. Pointing out West Bengal as the healthcare investment hub, he mentioned about the streamlined online single window portal system, fair pay medicine shops, a Scheme for the Approved Industrial Park (SAIP), and the well-designed public-private partnerships as the major reasons. Medical device manufacturing, pharma warehousing & logistics, medical tourism, MedTech, yoga and naturopathy are the focus sectors in the healthcare Industry of North Bengal, he added.

Shri Tapan Kanti Rudra, Director, Drug Control, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal spoke at length about the laws related



(L-R): Narendra Garg Vice Chairman, CII North Bengal and Director, Beekay Plaza; Yeluchuri Ratnakara Rao, Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Rupak Barua Chairman, Healthcare Panel, WB and Director & Group CEO, AMRI Hospitals; N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Pradip Agarwal Chairman, CII North Bengal and Director, Kaysons Infrastructure Pvt Ltd; Kaushik Bhattacharya, Sr Special Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Ayanabh Deb Gupta, Co-Founder and Jt. Managing Director, Medica Super specialty Hospital; Tapan Kanti Rudra, Drug Control licensing Director, Drug Control, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal and Dr Praveen Reddy, Chairman, Healthcare Panel, North Bengal and Director, Reddy Healthcare Private Limited at North Bengal Health Conclave held in Siliguri

to regulating the manufacture and sale of drugs and reaffirmed the prospects of the pharma and pharma education sector of the state. Shri Kaushik Bhattacharya, Senior Special Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal discussed the pillars of quality assurance, outlining the reduction in the number of patients not treated in recent years.

Stakeholders' Consultation on Enhancing Export-Import



(L-R): Vandana Yadav, Principal Secretary, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprise, Government of West Bengal; Sanjay Budhia, Chairman, CII National Committee on EXIM & Co-Chair International Trade & Logistics Sector Committee, BGBS and Managing Director, Patton International Ltd.

CII Eastern Region organized a stakeholders' consultation on enhancing export-import in Kolkata on 5 September, an initiative aimed to identify issues of major exporters. Representatives from important sectors, logistics companies and MSMEs of the state attended the consultation and utilized the platform to highlight issues to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), officials from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port and Customs officials. Ms Vandana Yadav, Principal Secretary, Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprise, Government of West Bengal outlined the importance of exports in bringing a multiplier effect in the labor market. She discussed features of the upcoming logistics policy and the export promotion policy of the state.

Mr Rathendra Raman, Chairperson, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK) highlighted the 15 percent increase in capacity building in the last year. He also mentioned the robust STS operation of the SMPK, reflecting 11 percent growth last year and embracing the paperless EXIM system to reduce compliances, launching the SATHI application. Mr Hitesh Godara, Commissioner Customs, Kolkata pitched the paperless processing of customs, highlighting Turant Seva Kendra (TSK), Anonymized Escalation Mechanism (AEM) and Authorized Economy Operator. Shri Anand Mohan Mishra, Deputy DGFT, Kolkata talked about the potential

of the newly launched Foreign Trade Policy.

Facilitating Growth of MSMEs in West Bengal



Rajesh Pandey, Principal Secretary, Department of MSME & Textiles, Government of West Bengal addressing the gathering at MSME Conclave 2023

The 10th MSME Conclave organized by CII Eastern Region in Kolkata on 14 September provided MSMEs with an insight into assessing the potential of their products and services globally and enhancing competitiveness. It also helped the MSME to connect and collaborate for business excellence. During the conclave, dedicated sessions were held on key sectors and components like technology, trade and digital commerce, finance, engineering and capital goods, compliance management, amongst others. Shri Rajesh Pandey, Principal Secretary, Department of MSME & Textiles, Government of West Bengal deliberated on the roadmap for growth of the MSME sector in Bengal.

He said that the State's MSME landscape is growing rapidly. The Industry will only flourish when the key stakeholders associated with the sector are able to thrive. This includes the lowest-paid workers, who are often the backbone of the Industry. When these workers are taken care of, they are more productive and motivated, which leads to a more successful Industry overall, he emphasized. He also mentioned that West Bengal has ranked second in terms of women-centric enterprises in the MSME sector. This is a significant achievement, as it shows that the State is taking steps to promote entrepreneurship among women, he said. West Bengal is a major handloom textile hub, Shri Pandey added.

Fostering Tribal Entrepreneurship

Jharkhand's tribal communities represent a vibrant and evolving landscape, showcasing the entrepreneurial spirit and cultural richness of the State's indigenous communities. It not only contributes to economic development but also plays a pivotal role in preserving and celebrating the unique heritage of Jharkhand's tribal population. Against this backdrop, CII Jharkhand organized the Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit on 15



(L-R): Sourav Roy, Convenor, CII Jharkhand CSR, Skill Development & AA Panel & Chief – CSR, Tata Steel Limited; Ujjal Chakraborti, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and Managing Director, JCAPCPL; J K Singh, Secretary, Department of Industry, Government of Jharkhand; Ranjot Singh, Vice Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and Managing Director, Emdet Jamshedpur Pvt Ltd and Basant Tirkey, National General Secretary, Tribal Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry

September in Ranchi. Focused discussions were held on tribal entrepreneurs' participation and engagement in industrial value chain, entrepreneurship away from industrial value chain and education & skilling. An exposition to promote the tribal entrepreneurs was also organized, in which 11 tribal entrepreneurs displayed their products. Five tribal entrepreneurs shared their stories on their entrepreneurial journey with the delegates present.

Shri J K Singh, Secretary, Department of Industry, Government of Jharkhand said that the Jharkhand Government is planning a dedicated Industrial Park for Tribal Entrepreneurs. Jharkhand's textile Industry employs 90 percent women, 75 percent of whom come from the tribal community. With the assistance of the Government of India and the Government of Jharkhand, many policies are in the draft for the tribal communities, which will be helpful in their future development. Mr Basant Tirkey, National General Secretary, Tribal Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that focusing on youth empowerment of tribal communities includes tailored policies and improved implementations. He emphasized upon creating youth-centric policies and called for commitments in closing implementation gaps.

Logistics Sector – a Roadmap for Growth

The Logistics Summit, organized on 22 September in Bhubaneswar, themed 'Mobilizing the Nation' provided a platform for stakeholders to work out a roadmap for unleashing the true potential of business. The discussions at the forum focused on the ongoing changes, including innovation in the logistic business model, block chain, fleet telematics, amongst others. The objective was to understand the influence of these developments on businesses and explore the need for operations excellence, new strategies and a create pool of next-gen leaders to sustain high growth in the present changing logistics landscape.

Ms Usha Padhee, Principal Secretary, Odisha Commerce and Transport Department spoke about the high logistics costs for large, small and medium-sized businesses, which are harming market competitiveness and overall growth. The National Logistics Policy aims to position India among the top 25 countries in the world. Highlighting PM Gati Shakti and Multimodal Logistics, she said that the regulation in the aviation and port sectors has reached a certain level of maturity. However, she stated that the regulation for the railway and road sectors must be improved. Mr Nilabhra Dasgupta, Deputy Chairman, Paradip Port Trust said that PM Gati Shakti and Sagaramala projects are bringing new vitality to our country's port Industry. The Paradip Port is India's largest, most efficient and least expensive port, he added.

Future of Jobs

Addressing the Future of Jobs Summit organized by CII on 28 September in Kolkata, Shri Manish Jain, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal advocated bringing reforms to the existing education system from the very basic level, widening the spectrum of curriculum to create more entrepreneurs in the future. Mentioning that only 2.5 percent of the workforce is skilled, he suggested initiating the workforce to be AI-literate, leveraging the 69 million internet users in the country. Emphasizing that India is going to have the largest working population in the near future, reskilling will be instrumental in the process of transition. Mr Anshul Sonak, Global Director (Digital Readiness Programs and Strategy), Intel informed the audience about the possible changes in the future job landscape. All jobs will be digital and green-skilled to embrace AI. There will be an uprising in the semiconductor economy and a country with a robust semiconductor sector will lead the global economy. These were some of the upcoming trends highlighted by him.

Democratizing AI skills is the need of the time, but it will be a major challenge for the demography with precise inequality. Mr Sonak also talked about the upcoming productivity paradox in society, where more growth comes with the loss of jobs. Disruption of the workforce, in this transition period, can only be confronted with the mantra of "Skill – Re skill – Upskill". He said that learnability, sociability and variability will be the key abilities where trainers, explainers and sustainers are going to be the future job profiles.

The summit was instrumental in identifying the relevant professional skills that will play a pivotal role in the future.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

Tripura - Land Locked to Land Linked



U K Chakma, Secretary, Department of Transport, Government of Tripura; Arif Mohammad, Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India; J K Sinha, Chief Secretary of Tripura and Dr Palin Khundongbam, Co Chairman, CII North East Council at the Seminar on "Connecting Tripura: From land locked to land linked" at Agartala

CII, in collaboration with the School of Logistics, Communication and Waterways, Agartala organized a seminar on 'Tripura-Land Locked to Land Linked' on 2 September in Agartala. Shri JK Sinha, Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura outlined the benefits of the present connectivity of the State and simultaneously brought attention to the requirements of more interstate connectivity. He said that once all states in the Northeast are well connected, the region can be developed economically.

Mr Arif Mohammad, Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh said that both countries can benefit with mutual understanding and promoting regional cooperation. Shri UK Chakma, Secretary, Transport, Government of Tripura in his address focussed on the requirements of logistics in future, in view of the multi modal connectivity of Tripura through Bangladesh. He also highlighted the present status of infrastructure, which has improved in recent times shortening the time and cost for travelling.

Other key speakers during the event included Dr Palin Khundongbam, Co Chairman, CII Northeast Council and CMD, Shija Hospitals and Research Institute Private Limited; Mr Ravi Guzzu, Head, Logistics Sector Skill Council, Chennai; Mr Atanu Basu, Chief, Inland Waterways and Multimodal Logistics, TM International Logistics Limited and Mr Debasish Nandi, Manager, Land Port Authority of India, Agartala.

Technical sessions and panel discussions were held during the event focusing on connectivity and trade

corridor in Tripura. The event was attended by over 100 participants from across the state.

CII Urban Infra Dialogue & EXCON Roadshow

CII organized the Urban Infra Dialogue along with a roadshow on EXCON 2023 on 29 September in Guwahati. The session witnessed the participation of senior officials from the Government along with Industry leaders and stakeholders from the infrastructure and construction equipment sector.

Dr Lakshmanan S, MD, Guwahati Smart City Ltd said that infrastructure, safety and quality services are some of the prerequisites for urban development. He urged all departments to come forward to work cohesively to make Guwahati a developed city. Shri Pabitra Khaund, Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Government of Assam said that a master plan for 20 years is in place and added that 95 solid waste management projects and 90 water management projects are on roll.

Shri Chandan Sarma, Commissioner and Special Secretary, PWD (Roads) and Shri Debajit Bhuyan, Special Secretary, PWD (Roads), Government of Assam apprised regarding the various Government initiatives on road networks for developing high speed road corridors for boosting the transport system and road safety in the state.

At a lively panel discussion Dr Arup Kr Misra, Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Government of Assam and Mr Utpal Baruah, Chief Airport Officer, LGBI Airport deliberated on smart urban planning and initiatives. Mr Kiran Babu, Member, EXCON 2023 Task Force and Vice President, Schwing Stetter (India) Pvt Ltd highlighted the importance and magnitude of EXCON.

Mr Pankaj Goswami, Chairman, CII Assam State Council and Director (Operations), Oil India Limited said that encouraging the adoption of world-class technologies for speedy implementation of infrastructure projects is the current need of the state.

Growing the Market for Food Processing in Northeast

The first edition of 'CII FoodPro Northeast' was inaugurated on 14 September in Guwahati. The theme of the three-day event was 'Growing the Market for Food Processing in Northeast'. Mr Manavendra Pratap Singh, Managing Director, Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited said that events like



(L - R): Cmde Rajiv Ashok, MD, NERAMAC; Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII North-East Council and MD, Amrit Cement Ltd; Manavendra Pratap Singh, MD, Assam Industrial Development Corporation; B Thiagarajan, Chairman, Foodpro North-East 2023 and MD, Blue Star Limited; Bhaskar Phukan, Vice Chairman, CII Assam State Council and MD, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd and Tiranga Borah, Director, Horticulture & Food Processing, Government of Assam at CII Foodpro North-East in Guwahati

FoodPro are helpful in projecting Northeast as the food processing destination. The Government of Assam is creating forward and backward linkages to facilitate investments in food processing, he said. Shri Tiranga Borah, Director, Department of Horticulture and Food Processing, Government of Assam spoke about ensuring a supply chain for the horticulture produces. He also spoke about the State Government's willingness to tie up with Bangladesh for investing in the food sector.

Speaking about NERAMAC's initiatives, Cmde. Rajiv Ashok (retired), MD, NERAMAC mentioned about reopening the pineapple processing unit in Tripura this year. NERAMAC has been working with the various State Governments in the Northeast for GI certification of their produces. Mr B Thiagarajan, Chairman, Food Pro Northeast 2023 and MD, Blue Star Limited said that CII is committed to the development of the Northeast Region and the 'FoodPro Northeast 2023' is a testament to this commitment. Other key speakers included Mr Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII Northeast Council and MD, Amrit Cements Limited and Mr Bhaskar Phukan, Vice Chairman, CII Assam State Council and Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Limited.

The event received overwhelming support from the Industry and key stakeholders. The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) and the Ministry for Development of the North Eastern Region, Government of India and the Government of Assam as the Host State and Governments of Manipur, Tripura, and Nagaland as Partner States. This event also witnessed participation from other Government nodal agencies like Spices Board, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development (NABARD) and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Interaction with Nagaland Additional Commissioner (Taxes)

CII Nagaland organized an interactive session with Shri Wochamo Odyuo, Additional Commissioner – Taxes, Government of Nagaland on 2 September in Dimapur. He offered his perspective on the importance of taxes, through the lens of businesses in Nagaland. Laying special emphasis on Goods and Services Tax (GST), he highlighted how entrepreneurs in Nagaland could leverage the Department to access information regarding taxes. He also encouraged the business community to learn the filing of GST and to contact the Department of Taxes for any sort of assistance required relating to rules and regulations of GST.

CII Nagaland Members and Non-Members' Meet

CII Nagaland hosted a special Members and Non-Members' Meet on 2 September focusing on the membership services offered by CII. Ms Sandhya Satwadi, Executive Director, CII and Brig Ashis Bhattacharyya, Advisor, Northeast and Union Territories, CII joined the session and took the participants through the various services offered by CII to members to catalyse the growth of the Indian Industry.

The Industry in Nagaland has expressed significant interest regarding the opportunities that CII can provide to expand their ventures within and outside India. Ms Sandhya explained the services of MyCII, application process, the network of entrepreneurs across the globe, as well as the services offered by the CII Centres of Excellence.



NORTHERN REGION

Demystifying Trade and Investment

CII Northern Region organized a conference on 'Demystifying Trade and Investment' in Chandigarh on 11 September. The event brought together Industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to deliberate on the pivotal role that standards play in enhancing India's exports and the essential preparations required by the Industry to seamlessly integrate into global supply chains.

Shri Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Government of India shared his views on enhancing ease of doing business. The Minister highlighted that the Government of India has reduced 39,000 compliances. Recently, various Acts have been amended - 183 provisions across 42 Central Acts administered by 19 ministries have been decriminalized. Further, he mentioned that the Centre's initiatives such as the PM Gati Shakti and National Logistics Policy aim to reduce the logistics cost significantly.

Ms Vrindaba Gohil, Commissioner of Customs (Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Chandigarh), Customs Commissionerate - Ludhiana, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India encouraged businesses to leverage the Manufacturing and Other Operations in a Customs Bonded Warehouse (MOOWR) scheme. She also highlighted the benefits of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) scheme, which streamlines customs

procedures and is currently undergoing changes to enhance the efficiency of the supply chain further.

Shri Utpal Kumar Acharya, Joint DGFT - Chandigarh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh shared insights into India's ongoing discussions with Canada for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and highlighted the issuance of Certificate of Origin without any fees by DGFT to facilitate trade and exports.

Discussing Challenges of Industry with Deputy CM, Himachal Pradesh

Representatives from various industries located in Badi, Barotiwala, Nalagarh, Kala Amb, Parwanoo, Ponta Sahib and Una came together to engage in a constructive dialogue with Shri Mukesh Agnihotri, Deputy Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh on 9 September in Chandigarh. The interaction, organized by CII Northern Region, aimed to delve into the pressing challenges confronting the industrial sector in the state.

During this candid exchange, industrial leaders voiced their apprehensions about several critical issues. These concerns encompassed the significant increase in electricity duty, which has risen sharply from 1 percent to 19 percent, posing a substantial threat to the Industry's competitiveness. Additionally, the leaders deliberated on matters such as the imposition of AGT tax in Himachal Pradesh, the intricate nature of rooftop solar taxes and a variety of other tax-related challenges, including water tariffs and taxation on tourist buses. Moreover, they discussed the adverse repercussions of the recent monsoon disaster on the apple crop, which has had a profound impact on the

regional economy, exacerbating the Industry's challenges.

Responding to these concerns, Shri Agnihotri provided reassurance to the Industry. He affirmed that the Government is fully cognizant of the challenges facing the Industry and is actively working to devise solutions. He said that the Government is committed to providing a conducive environment for the Industry to operate in the state. He shared that the Government would change the structure of taxation on buses used by industries for interstate transportation of employees and would take other steps to address the concerns of the industrialists. He further added



Utpal Kumar Acharya, Joint DGFT - Chandigarh, Punjab, HP, J&K, Leh Ladakh; Vrindaba Gohil, Commissioner of Customs (Punjab, HP, Chandigarh), Customs Commissionerate - Ludhiana, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Ministry of Finance; Patrick Hébert, Consul General - Chandigarh, Consulate General of Canada; Som Parkash, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry; Amit Thapar, Chairman, CII Northern Region Task Force on Exports and President, Ganga Acrowools Limited; and Anurag Gupta, Vice Chairman, CII Chandigarh & Dr. Usha Yarns Ltd at the Conference on Demystifying Trade and Investment in Chandigarh

that industrialists have an important contribution to the progress and economic development of the state. The members in turn voiced their optimism that concrete measures will be taken by the Government to mitigate the challenges that they are facing.

CII Sugar Tech

In a significant stride towards sustainable progress in India's sugar sector, CII Northern Region, in partnership with the Uttar Pradesh Sugar Mills Association (UPSMA), organized the 9th edition of CII Sugar Tech 2023 on 4 September in Lucknow. Shri Laxmi Narayan Chaudhury, Minister, Sugarcane Development and Sugar Industry, Government of Uttar Pradesh said that the state is all set to become the top ethanol producer in the country. He informed that the ethanol capacity of Uttar Pradesh has been estimated at 2 billion litres per year, which is almost eight times more than the 240 million litres per year, five years ago. The state's ethanol capacity is expected to further reach 2.25 billion litres per annum in the next few years, he said.

Mr Durga Shanker Mishra, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh maintained that the sugarcane Industry plays a key role in the economic growth of the country. He noted that the State Government is making efforts to integrate sugarcane with an attractive ethanol value chain to provide remunerative prices to farmers and double their income.

Mr Roshan Lal Tamak, Conference Chairman and Executive Director & CEO (sugar business), DCM Shriram Ltd lauded the efforts of the State Government for providing the sugar mills with an enabling and progressing policy infrastructure and reviving the sick sugar mill units in the state. Padma Shri (Dr) Bakshi Ram spoke about crop 238, which has proved to be a gamechanger in the sugar sector in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Akash Goenka, Chairman, CII Uttar Pradesh and Director, Shubham Goldie Masale Pvt. Ltd said that the sugarcane sector plays a significant role in the growth of the state's economy and agricultural produce.

Over 200 delegates from Government, Industry, research intuitions and academia participated at the event. The speakers deliberated on topics including technology, mechanization, water conservation, drip irrigation, research & development for sustainable cultivation, crop 238, bio energy, ethanol, compressed biogas, amongst others.

Corporate Women Leadership Awards

CII Northern Region announced the winners of the first edition of the CII Corporate Women Leadership Awards across 12 distinct award categories. Revealing the winners at the award ceremony held on 5 September in New Delhi, the CII Corporate Women Leadership Awards honoured exceptional women who have left an indelible mark on the business landscape through their unwavering dedication, perseverance and outstanding performance.

The awardees were felicitated by Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd during the Grand Felicitation Ceremony at the event. He underscored the importance of recognizing women leaders in shaping the narrative of progress and development in India. He said that CII's commitment to honouring women leaders is rooted in the understanding that women's contributions are not only transformative for businesses but also integral for shaping the nation's trajectory.

Mrs Rumjhum Chatterjee, Past Chairperson, CII Northern Region and Co-Founder & Managing Trustee, The Infravision Foundation highlighted that women in



The awardees of the CII Corporate Women Leadership Awards with R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd at the Award Ceremony in New Delhi

India have exhibited extraordinary leadership aptitude and qualities, propelling their careers to pinnacles of success despite formidable challenges.

The Steering Committee of the Corporate Women Leadership Awards, in collaboration with the technical partner for the awards, Protiviti Member Firm for India, developed an efficient yet simple assessment methodology to analyse and evaluate the achievements of exemplary women leaders across India, who have proved their mettle and have engendered a long, sustained impact within the corporate sphere.

An enlightening panel discussion on 'Women in the Corporate World' was also organized, wherein speakers deliberated on the 'Changing Economic Landscape & Driving Growth'. The deliberations explored the initiatives that can be pursued by the Indian Industry to include more women in corporate roles, and more importantly, include women in the leadership. The discussion was moderated by Ms Swati Khandelwal, Executive Editor, Zee Business and panellists included Ms Renu Sud Karnad, MD, HDFC Limited; Ms Susan Ferguson, Country Representative, UN Women India; Mr R Dinesh and Ms Rhumjhum Chatterjee.

Technology in Reshaping Businesses and HR

The CII Delhi HR Summit explored technology's disruptive potential in reshaping businesses and HR practices. The event, held on 31 August in Chandigarh, featured an array of thought-provoking sessions that left HR practitioners and academicians equipped with the knowledge and inspiration to thrive in a rapidly evolving business landscape.

Mr Nishit Sood, Chairman, CII Delhi Sub-Committee on HR & IR and Chief Flow Officer, BYLD Group encapsulated the essence of the digital era's impact and shared that the digital era has brought about a fundamental shift in how businesses compete, how they operate and how they interact with their shareholders. Mr Narinder Ahluwalia, Executive Vice President, Covalience India interwove the human element into the AI equation, shedding light on the delicate balance required for the Emotional Quotient.

Mr Sanjay Rai, Vice President - Corporate HR, Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd stressed on three fundamental aspects that need to be considered: qualitative, cost-effective and timely delivery of service. Dr Jaspreet Ahluwalia, CHRO, LSR Infracon Pvt. Ltd said that technology can help achieve sustainable cost advantage to enhance profitability. The summit delved into multiple dimensions including strategic workforce

planning, talent management and the competencies vital for success in the new-age workforce.

Innovative Farmers' Meet



Speakers at the CII Innovative Farmers Meet in Chandigarh

To create awareness and encourage adoption of the latest technologies in the agriculture sector for farmers to compete at a global scale, a call for policy intervention reverberated at the Culmination Ceremony of the CII Innovative Farmers Meet, held on 12 September in Chandigarh.

Shri JP Dalal, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Dairying & Animal Husbandry, Government of Haryana shared that there is a need for policy intervention to encourage diversification from the wheat-paddy cropping cycle into alternate cropping system, horticulture and other allied agriculture activities, along with ensuring robust marketing mechanism and infrastructure development. Shri KAP Sinha, Special Chief Secretary (Agriculture & Farmer Welfare), Government of Punjab echoed the need for a paradigm shift in agricultural innovation. He stressed the importance of Government support in developing requisite infrastructure for all crops, such as cold chain and storage facilities, to make it easier for farmers to manage their produce effectively.

On the role of horticulture as the next growth driver in agriculture, Dr Shailender Kaur, Director, Horticulture, Government of Punjab suggested adopting innovative farming practices such as mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, floriculture, sericulture, etc. along with conventional farming. Further emphasizing collective efforts, Dr Jaswant Singh, Director (Agriculture), Government of Punjab highlighted the initiatives by the Government of Punjab in Agriculture and shared that the state has emphasized adopting the Direct-Seeded Rice (DSR) technique to manage the water situation in the state.

Prior to the Culmination Ceremony, CII Northern Region had organized a series of Innovative Farmers' Meets from 31 July to 12 September at various locations of Haryana and Punjab, attended by more than 10,000 farmers. The Meets provided an enabling platform for the farmers to leverage the experience of experts and create a win-win situation for all stakeholders.



SOUTHERN REGION

Facilitating AI-led Business Transformation



Dignitaries at the Connect Coimbatore Conference

CII Coimbatore organized the 22nd edition of Connect Coimbatore on 7 September in Coimbatore with the overarching theme 'AI-led Business Transformation: From Vision to Reality'. Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu said that Coimbatore's growth rate outpaces some other states, especially in the IT sector.

We are actively implementing the Technology City Project in Coimbatore, which includes a self-sufficient complex with residential, commercial and office spaces, a hospital, a school, hospitality services and entertainment facilities, all equipped with top-tier infrastructure, he said. We are executing this ambitious project through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The conference drew the participation of around 200 Industry stakeholders from the Western Region of Tamil Nadu, facilitating meaningful discussions and collaborations in the field of AI-led business transformation.

IT from Madurai to the Globe

The State Government will significantly enhance data-driven global marketing of Information Technology and IT Enabled Services (ITeS) sector, which will play a crucial role in achieving our goal of making Tamil Nadu a USD 1 trillion economy by 2030, said Dr Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Minister of Information Technology and Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu. The Minister was speaking at the 6th edition of Connect Madurai 2023, a conference cum exposition, organized by CII Tamil Nadu on 29 September in Madurai with the theme 'IT from Madurai to the Globe'. He said that the Government is also committed to scaling up skill development programs, aiming to equip students for employment in emerging technologies such as fintech,

artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and deep tech.

Dr Rajan noted that India's economy is in an S-curve growth phase, with emerging sectors like fintech, AI, cybersecurity and deep tech as new drivers. Tamil Nadu's IT sector can capitalize on this, given its high number of engineering students. However, he stressed the need to triple skill development efforts, citing the potential of State programmes like Nan Mudhalvan.

Dr Sanjay Tyagi, Director, Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) emphasized Madurai's potential as an IT destination, noting its software export capabilities and prospects in electronics manufacturing. He urged for strengthening the city's IT ecosystem. The event was attended by 400 Industry professionals. Over 20 IT companies participated in the exposition during the event.

The Future of Mobility @ 2047



Dignitaries at the CII-SR Automotive Innovation Summit

Innovation is the key for India to capitalize on in this evolving landscape, said Mr Harish Lakshman, Vice Chairman, Rane Group during the 3rd edition of Automotive Innovation Summit organized by CII Southern Region held on 28 September in Chennai. He said that innovation can happen when manufacturers invest and enhance their R&D. The theme of the summit was 'The Future of Mobility @ 2047'. "A key opportunity for India to tap into is connected vehicles. In the US, 91 percent of the vehicles are already connected, whereas it is 51 percent in Asia Pacific. Connectivity is the foundation of autonomous driving. Many OEMs are pushing the envelope on autonomous capabilities with one key aspect being to reduce the number of road accidents," he added.

Dr Tapan Sahoo, Summit Chairman and Executive Director, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd identified five major global trends for the coming decades viz. climate change,

demographic shifts, rapid urbanization, digitalization and India's rising middle class. He also emphasized the importance of addressing multi-modal mobility to enhance environmental sustainability and efficiency in travel.

Mr Pratik Shah of EY Parthenon highlighted India's economic growth and said that India, which is currently the 5th largest economy, aims to be 3rd by 2030 and 2nd by 2040. Per capita income may rise 7-fold by 2040, impacting vehicle buying and urbanization trends, he added.

Book Launch on Architect of Global Leprosy Elimination Program



(LR Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; S Mahalingam, Past Chairman, CII SR and Vice Chairman, S-ILF; Dr Derek Lobo, author of Dr S K Noordeen, Architect of the Global Leprosy Elimination Program at the book launch in Chennai

CII, in partnership with Sasakawa - India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF), organized a Book Launch on Dr S K Noordeen, Architect of the Global Leprosy Elimination Program in Chennai on 20 September. At the launch of the book "Dr S K Noordeen, Architect of the Global Leprosy Elimination Program," author Dr Derek Lobo emphasized the importance of continuing Dr SK Noordeen's legacy to make India a "Zero Leprosy Country" by 2030. He noted that Dr Noordeen's efforts had significantly reduced leprosy worldwide. He highlighted that India accounts for 57 percent of global

leprosy cases, with 121 countries sharing 40 percent. Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd said that it is important that we all have to work together to support those who have been afflicted by leprosy and make sure they get integrated into the mainstream. The growing workforce and the Industry can become the most effective amplifier in terms of creating awareness of leprosy. He also highlighted the role of the Industry in raising awareness and providing livelihood opportunities.

Mr S Mahalingam, Past Chairman, CII SR and Vice Chairman, S-ILF; Mr Gaurab Sen, CEO, S-ILF and Mr NMP Jeyesh, Regional Director, CII Southern Region were among the other speakers during the event.

Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program

The CII Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) hosted a specialized awareness program on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on 15 September in Coimbatore. The primary goal of this initiative was to raise awareness about IPR and its safeguarding within the academia as well as to recognize products and processes eligible for protection.

The session featured presentations by Mr Vikramsinh Yadav from Bayer Crop Science Limited and Mr Samson David from Apollo Tyres Limited. This session was attended by 200 participants, including faculty members, research scholars, and students from the institution.

Employee Life Cycle Management

The CII Erode Zone hosted a one-day Employee Life Cycle Management Workshop on 15 September in Erode. Dr A Narayanan, Chief People Officer, DMW CNC Solutions India Pvt Ltd provided an overview of Employee Life Cycle Management, setting the stage for the day's discussions. Dr Narayanan also shared valuable insights gained from his extensive experience in managing human resources, adding a practical dimension to the workshop's theoretical aspects.



D. Shanmugasundaram, Vice-Chairman, CII Erode Zone & Managing Partner of CD Technotex LLP with Dr. A. Narayanan, Chief People Officer at DMW CNC Solutions India Pvt Ltd and the attendees at the Workshop on Employee Life Cycle Management

Mr D Shanmugasundaram, Vice-Chairman, CII Erode Zone and Managing Partner, CD Technotex LLP underscored the importance of empowering organizations. He stressed that HR practices are rapidly changing and workshops like this one are crucial for keeping participants up to date with the latest trends and strategies in HR management.

Empowering MSMEs through Simplified Finance

CII Mysuru organized a session on 'Empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through Simplified Finance' on 1 September in Mysuru. The session aimed to shed light on vital aspects of elevating the growth trajectory of MSMEs, with focus areas like streamlining financial processes, leveraging Government schemes, ensuring sustainable growth and facilitating access to finance for the sector.

Mr Dinesh T, Joint Director, District Industries Centre, Mysuru briefed the participants about various State Government schemes and initiatives available to support MSMEs. Mr Ketan Gaikwad, MD & CEO, Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL) shared innovative financing solutions and provided insights on the ease of access to finance for MSMEs. Mr Utsav Agarwal, Co-Convenor, MSME Panel CII Mysuru and Director, Borhuka Fabcons Pvt Ltd emphasized the importance of registering on the TReDs platform for all MSMEs.

Road Safety Session

With an objective to transform Mysuru into a tourist-friendly city, CII Mysuru, in collaboration with the Mysuru City Police, conducted a session on 13 September in Mysuru. The event focused on road safety guidelines, work efficiency and promoting respect for the driving

profession among city bus drivers, conductors and coordinators. Mr B Ramesh Banoth, Commissioner of Police, Mysuru emphasized upon the need to adhere to safe and defensive driving by highlighting the value of life.

Dr N Muthukumar, Past Chairman, CII Karnataka and President & COO, Meritor Hvs (India) Ltd focused on work effectiveness to improve service quality and experience for the passengers. Mr Sam Cherian, Chairman, CII Mysuru Zone and Managing Director, Schevaran Laboratories Pvt Ltd- underlined the need to emphasize the importance of respecting the driving profession. These individuals are not just drivers; they are life charioteers, guiding us through our daily journeys on the roads, he added.

Scaling up e-Mobility



Speakers at the Electric Vehicle Conference in Bengaluru

CII Karnataka hosted its annual flagship Electric Vehicle Conference 2023, titled "Scaling up e-Mobility towards 2030 EV Target," on 22 September in Bangalore. Ms Sathyavathi G, MD, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation urged the Industry to step up and provide sustainable, cost-effective solutions, particularly in the realm of EV charging infrastructure. Mr Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council and MD, Kennametal India, emphasized Karnataka's



Participants at the CII Mysuru Road Safety Session

unique strengths, including strong innovation culture, thriving startup ecosystem, entrepreneurial spirit and institutional strengths as well as a diverse industrial base, positioning Karnataka as a dynamic ecosystem capable of fostering sustainable development within the EV Industry.

Mr N Venu, Vice Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council and MD & CEO, Hitachi Energy India Ltd said that India's EV revolution showcases our commitment to driving sustainable development and adopting environmentally friendly mobility solutions. Mr Sudeep S Dalvi, Senior Vice President, Chief Communication Officer & Director, Toyota Kirloskar Motors highlighted the paramount importance of transitioning to a carbon-neutral future without causing social disruption. He also discussed the strategic importance of using multiple technologies to achieve carbon-neutral e-mobility.

Study Mission on Best Manufacturing Practices

Under the aegis of the CII Thrissur Zonal Council, a study mission was conducted on best manufacturing practices to Dew Diamonds. This included an interactive session featuring Mr Aju Jacob, Chairman, CII Kerala and Joint MD, Synthite Industries Ltd on 14 September in Thrissur.

During the interactive session, Mr Paul Thachil, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Thrissur Zonal Council and Managing Partner, Dew Diamonds illuminated the success story of Dew Diamonds and recounted how he initiated the business, providing attendees with an inspirational narrative of his determination and growth in the diamond sector.

Mr Aju Jacob provided an overview of CII's initiatives and discussed the CII Kerala's theme, "Towards a Competitive and Sustainable Kerala at India@100: Growth, Livelihood, Globalisation, Building Trust," which aligns with the national and regional themes.

Packaging Innovations: Shaping the Future, Enhancing Experiences

The 3rd edition of CII TS-PACKCON 2023, a conference on 'Packaging Innovations: Shaping the Future, Enhancing Experiences' was organized on 13 September in Hyderabad. Dr Rajat Kumar, Special Chief Secretary, Department of Environment, Science & Technology, Government of Telangana called upon every citizen to champion sustainability and encourage industries to prioritize direct and sustainable technologies that align with environmental conservation and responsible development.

Ms A Vani Prasad, Director General, EPTRI and Principal Secretary, Government of Telangana urged the packaging Industry to persist in innovating and crafting recyclable packaging materials, while strengthening efforts to promote consumer reuse, thereby encouraging packaging businesses to embrace eco-friendly technology and promote the reuse of packaging materials among end-users.

Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and Chairman & MD, CSR Estates Ltd acknowledged the pivotal role of the packaging Industry in the global economy. He highlighted how the Industry is evolving rapidly due to technological advancements, sustainability efforts and changing consumer preferences.

Mr Chakravarthy AVPS, Chairman, CII TS-Packcon Conference & Global Ambassador of the World Packaging Organisation and CEO & MD, Ecobliss India Pvt Ltd emphasized the profound impact of the packaging Industry across various sectors including pharmaceuticals, food, aerospace and its significant influence on economic growth.

Making MSMEs Future Ready through Digital Transformation



Dignitaries at the CII Telangana MSME Summit

Inaugurating the 6th edition of the Telangana MSME Summit on 27 September in Hyderabad, Mr EV Narasimha Reddy, Vice Chairman & MD, TSIIC stressed the importance of continuous technological advancements and employee training for the success of MSMEs. The theme of the summit was 'Making MSMEs Future Ready through Digital Transformation'.

Mr D Chandra Sekhar, Additional Development Commissioner from the Ministry of MSME, Government of India highlighted the significance of digital initiatives, such as the Direct Benefit Transfer system and UPI portal. Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana and CMD, CSR Estates Ltd reiterated the high representation of MSMEs within CII membership and the two Centers of Excellence in Telangana dedicated to benefiting the MSME sector.



WESTERN REGION

Unlocking Trade Potential through Multimodal Logistics

CII Goa organized the 9th edition of Logistics Conference with the theme 'Unlocking Trade Potential through Multimodal Logistics' on 29 September in Goa. Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa hailed the new Logistics Policy as a game changer for the sector in Goa. He said that it will be the key driver of economic growth for the state by cutting logistics costs and promoting skill development amongst the youth and also help in creating employment opportunities.

The summit brought together different stakeholders from the logistics sector and showcased the state's potential in the sector. It highlighted the state's new logistics policy along with the causative factors of next-gen tech-trends in the logistics sector.

Shri Mauvin Godinho, Minister of Industries, Government of Goa highlighted the decision of allocation of a greater portion of the State's land for logistics purposes in the new policy. Addressing concerns about the Mormugao Port's service outage, Mr Godinho assured his personal intervention in the matter for swift resolution of the issue.

Ms Sumita Dawra, Special Secretary (Logistics Division), DPIIT mentioned that Goa has taken good advantage of the scheme in planning its disaster management and is working closely with authorities at central level for further alignment of the scheme with state policies.

The event also witnessed discussions on enhancing the air cargo potential at Manohar International Airport

by concentrating on high-value cargo, perishable cargo, stakeholder engagement, improving airport logistics and connectivity and optimizing aircraft space.

The deliberations also touched upon potential measures to boost logistics efficiency, including tax incentives, increased autonomy for Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd, streamlined land acquisition procedures, digital inter-departmental communications and the PPP model for major projects and improved cold-chain logistics.

Sustainable Future through ESG, Finance, Digitization and Exports



Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council & Chairman and Managing Director, Chemtrols Industries Ltd.

The 9th MSME Summit and Exhibition was organized in Mumbai on 14 September around the theme 'Sustainable Future with a Focus on ESG, Finance, Digitization and Exports'. Mr Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, CII and Chairman, Hero Enterprise said that for India to grow exponentially, more MSMEs need to mature into large firms in the coming decade. He also mentioned that it is imperative for businesses to recognize their pivotal role in society and understand that their responsibilities extend far beyond their commercial pursuits.



Dignitaries with Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa and Mauvin Godinho, Minister of Industries, Government of Goa at the Logistics Conference in Goa

Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and CMD, Chemtrols Industries Ltd said that MSMEs today are expanding their sphere of influence across the economy, generating a broad range of products and services to fulfil the needs of both domestic and international markets. Mr Sandeep Naolekar, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on MSME and MD, Darling Pumps Pvt Ltd said that the region is home to some of the most dynamic and vibrant companies in the country and has a strong presence of MSMEs.

Industry leaders, experts and MSME heads deliberated on opportunities, challenges and best practices. Discussions on exports, financial resilience and sustainability equipped MSMEs with the knowledge and tools to thrive in an ever-changing business landscape. The exhibition and the Buyer-Seller Meet organized alongside the summit provided MSMEs with an opportunity for networking and business interactions.

Agile HR: Empowering the Future Workforce



Soarabh Pathak, Vice President - People Operations, Maruti Suzuki Ltd addressing the conclave in Indore

CII Malwa Zone organized an HR Conclave with the theme 'Agile HR: Empowering the Future Workforce' in

Indore on 1 September. The conclave brought together human resource professionals who shared perspectives regarding the evolving role of HR executives in shaping the future of organizations. The conclave discussed the needs and goals of employees and businesses related to the changing work environment.

Dr C Jayakumar, Executive Vice President & Head (Corporate Human Resources), Larsen & Toubro Ltd mentioned that successful companies look at disruptions both as an opportunity and threat. When the outside market is as disruptive as it is today, companies must work on their human resource to excel as an organization, he added. Mr Bobby Kuriakose, Director (HR), Forbes Marshall and Mr Soarabh Pathak, Vice President - People Operations, Maruti Suzuki Ltd were among the other key speakers during the conclave.

Study Mission on Safety, Health and Environment

A CII Study Mission on Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) was organized on 21-22 September in Pune to companies including Sandvik Coromant India Pvt Ltd, Tetra Pak India Pvt Ltd, TATA AutoComp GY Batteries Pvt Ltd and Fiat India Automobiles Pvt Ltd.

The study mission facilitated direct learning and sharing of best practices among member companies focusing on building global management systems that will allow effective management of SHE responsibilities, reduce liability, control costs and improve operational efficiency by identifying opportunities for cost savings.

The members gained first-hand information on various aspects of SHE practices, insights regarding the practical aspects of implementing these practices across different sectors.



Participants at Tetra Pak India Pvt Ltd in Pune

Learning Mission: Global Practices in DEI



Members of the delegation

CII Western Region organized a learning mission on global best practices in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) from 3 - 10 September across three Scandinavian countries including Finland, Sweden and Norway. These countries are ranked among the top five globally for strong diversity and inclusivity practices in the workforce.

The learning mission facilitated an understanding of the global best practices in DEI for adoption by the Indian Industry. The mission comprised business meetings, roundtable interactions and Industry visits with senior officials from companies and Government agencies. The mission participants comprised DEI experts and Heads of HR, Diversity and Inclusion from Indian manufacturing companies like Forbes Marshall, Brunch Bites, Ethernet Express Pvt Ltd, Dr Reddys Laboratories Ltd and Welspun Group.

The learning mission commenced with an interaction with Mr Erik af Hällström, Consul General, Consulate of Finland in Mumbai at Finland. In Finland, the participants got an opportunity to interact with officials from Business Finland, Confederation of Finnish Industries EK, Nokia and Aalto University. The participants also interacted with diversity officials from Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and National Coordinator for Women, Peace and Security. In Sweden, participants interacted with Government officials. Interactions were also held at Vinnova, Epiroc and KTH Royal Institute of Technology, where insights

from the various studies and research on gender equality and inclusions were shared. In Norway, the participants interacted with representatives from Equality Check, The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO).

Workshop on Team Building

CII Gujarat organized a workshop on team building on 2 September in Bhavnagar. Ms Neepa Mehta, Former Vice President, Matrix Life Sciences deliberated the basics of effective team playing, building and leading.

The session enabled the participants to create a course of action to become excellent team players through exploring the 5 W's and 1 H (what, who, when, where, why and how) of team building and ensuring functionality of a team. She also provided tips on building and maintaining healthy teams, thereby encouraging them to become change agents for ensuring competent teams in organizations and profit centres.

Export Import Conclave

CII Gujarat organized the 1st Edition of CII Vadodara Export Import Conclave on 15 September in Vadodara. The conclave covered sessions on enhancing competitiveness, managing logistics and finance for companies dealing in overseas businesses.

Mr Mihir Ajit Shah, Partner, Universal Communications delivered a presentation on Foreign Trade Policy, Export Import Incentives & Schemes and ways to deal with EXIM compliances.

The Finance & Insurance session witnessed the participation of Mr T N Suresh, General Manager, Bank of Baroda; Mr Yogesh Chiplonkar, Senior Vice President (Trade Credit & Political Risk), Global Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd; Ms Hirva Mamtara, Deputy General Manager & Regional Head India, Exim Bank; Mr Piyush Dabriwal, Head of Strategic Alliances & Partnerships, Drip Capital. The speakers shared important information regarding financing and insurance facilities for export-import.



Dignitaries at the Export Import Conclave in Vadodara



Confederation of Indian Industry

9th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON IPR

20TH NOVEMBER 2023

CII is organizing the 9th International Conference on Intellectual Property (IP) with the theme of **"Quantum jump in national and global economies -Role of IPR policies and action plans"** 20 Nov 2023. Every year it is organizing in collaboration with Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO), India and other industry and government partner.

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For more details you may get in touch with Mr. Vivek Sharma (vivek.sharma@cii.in; 9315157066) or Ms. Ankita Anupam (ankita.anupam@cii.in; 7411942238)

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Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, on behalf of Confederation of Indian Industry from The Mantosh Sondhi Centre, 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi-110003 Tel: 91-11-24629994-7 Fax: 91-11-24626149 Email: info@cii.in Website: www.cii.in Registration No. 34541/79

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