

India's Green Future: Engage, Energize, Empower



INSIDE



With strong policies, good infrastructure, and the right skills, India can use the GCC sector to achieve its Viksit Bharat 2047 goals



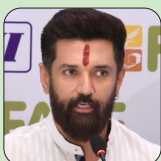
India is advancing on three foundational principles – self-reliance, self-confidence, and self-protection



With Industry support and a unified national effort, the energy sector is poised to flourish



For the North East, with its unique culture and strategic location, CSR offers a chance to bridge gaps and build strength



The food processing Industry will play a pivotal role in realizing the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047



India aims to transform space from a distant dream into a shared horizon of progress



Renewable energy must open markets and help build resilient global supply chains



Advanced digital technologies are pivotal in optimising energy storage performance and enhancing grid stability



उद्योग संवर्धन और आंतरिक व्यापार विभाग
DEPARTMENT FOR
PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND
INTERNAL TRADE



Confederation of Indian Industry



30th CII PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 2025

Technology, Trust and Trade
Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order

14 - 15 November 2025
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



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Growth



Inclusion

KEY ELEMENTS



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The 6th CII International Energy Conference and Exhibition was in sync with the country's efforts to align sustained economic growth with environmental responsibilities. The conference underscored India's determination to shape an energy future that is clean, secure and inclusive. It highlighted the nation's strategic priorities, advancing clean technologies, building resilient domestic manufacturing capabilities, and ensuring energy access for all, while maintaining grid stability and economic competitiveness.



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Harnessing Space for Global Progress: Innovation, Policy, and Growth

At the International Conference on Space, Minister Jitendra Singh highlighted India's remarkable strides in space exploration, celebrating the success of Chandrayaan-3, which made history as the first mission to land near the lunar south pole, cementing India's place among the world's leading spacefaring nations. Engaging discussions followed on bridging gaps in achieving India's space vision, the Industry's role in accelerating the NewSpace economy, and strategies for self-reliance through indigenous capabilities.

The International Conference on Space was held in Bengaluru on 8-9 September, in partnership with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). Built around the theme 'Harnessing Space for Global Progress: Innovation, Policy, and Growth', the event emphasised India's position as a global space leader by fostering innovation, strengthening indigenous capabilities, and promoting international collaboration. This conference, with Denmark as the Guest Country, brought together over 650 delegates, leaders from the Government and Industry, and experts from the global space arena.

Minister Jitendra Singh, through a video message, highlighted recent milestones, referring to the success

of Chandrayaan-3, which placed India among the leading spacefaring nations by becoming the first to land near the lunar south polar region. He also pointed to the achievements of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian to travel to the International Space Station (ISS), and outlined India's upcoming exploration missions to the Moon, Mars and Venus, alongside the human spaceflight program Gaganyaan.

The conference felicitated Group Captains Shubhanshu Shukla and Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, the distinguished pilots and astronauts at ISRO, selected for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight program. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla has returned to Earth after a visit to the ISS. ISRO, IN-SPACe, and NSIL were also honoured for their exemplary role in advancing India's space achievements.

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The 21st century belongs to India, with space as a frontier where India's leadership will shine globally. By leveraging space technologies for sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation, India aims to transform space from a distant dream into a shared horizon of progress. India's space journey is one of perseverance and innovation. Let us dream together, innovate together, and build together, transforming space from a distant frontier into a shared horizon of unity and progress.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (I/C) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, and Department of Space, Government of India

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Engaging discussions followed on bridging gaps in achieving India's space vision, the private sector's role in accelerating the NewSpace economy, and strategies for self-reliance through indigenous capabilities.

The session on 'Bridging the Gaps in Achieving India's Space Vision' highlighted bottlenecks around regulatory clarity, private capital, R&D, infrastructure, and skilled talent, while charting strategies for reforms, deep-tech innovation, streamlined procurement, risk coverage, and stronger public-private models. Mr M Ganesh Pillai, Scientific Secretary, ISRO, stressed that India's space programme, guided by the vision of space for development and humanity, is entering a transformative phase with ambitious milestones such as an Indian Space Station by 2035 and a crewed lunar landing by 2040. He also emphasised that with private sector participation, global partnerships, and skill development, India aims to expand its share of the USD 1 trillion global space economy while fostering innovation and sustainability across the ecosystem.

The session on 'Role of the Private Sector in Expediting the New Space Economy' highlighted how businesses

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 85 Speakers from ISRO, INSPACe, NSIL, Defence Space Agency, the Ministry of Defence, and the Indian Industry
- More than 650 delegates
- Denmark as Guest Country
- Participation by the USA, Russia, UAE, Malaysia, and Singapore
- Release of CII Space Industry Directory, Volume 1
- Release of Report on "Propelling India into a New Era of Space and Innovation"
- Exclusive India-Denmark Dialogue on Building a Celestial Bridge between India & Denmark

are driving innovation, R&D, commercialisation, investment, and infrastructure across the space value chain, while effective public-private partnerships are



(L-R): Rohan Ganapathy, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CEO & CTO, Bellatrix Aerospace; Peter Winther-Schmidt, Consul General & Head of Trade and Innovation, Embassy of Denmark, India; Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Distinguished Pilot & Indian Astronaut; Group Captain, Shubhanshu Shukla, Distinguished Pilot & Astronaut; Dr V Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, Space Commission; Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, AVSM VM., Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, HQ Training Command, Indian Air Force; M Mohan, Distinguished Scientist and CMD, NSIL, DoS; Rajeev Jyoti, Distinguished Scientist & Director, IN-SPACE Technical, DoS and Apparao Mallavarapu, Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, Centum Electronics Ltd at the International Conference on Space in Bengaluru



Felicitation of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla



Felicitation of Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair

bridging vision with execution. AVM Dhananjay Khot (Retd), Director, IN-SPACE, envisaged a stronger role for the Indian Industry in innovation, scaling, credibility, and global competitiveness.

The session on 'Towards Self-Reliance: Strengthening Indigenous Capabilities in the Space Sector' focused on scaling up critical technologies, reducing import dependence, and creating a robust value chain. Dr A Rajarajan, Director, VSSC, ISRO, stressed that with technology transfers, public-private consortia, FDI liberalisation, and bold innovation, India aims to scale up, reduce imports, and position itself as a global space leader by the next decade.

The session on 'Next-Gen Satellite Communication: Enabling 5G/6G, IoT, EmTech and National Resilience' focused on five key areas, including the role of satellites in connectivity and resilience, secure high-speed communication, emerging applications across sectors, critical infrastructure investments, and policy reforms to build a globally competitive satellite communications ecosystem. Dr M Sankaran, Director, URSC, ISRO, highlighted the need to view communication assets, especially satellite communication assets, not only as commercial but also as strategic assets, while also focusing on the role of satellite communication in supporting secure, high-throughput, and low-latency connectivity.

The session on 'Exploring New Markets through Earth Observation and Satellite Data' highlighted EO's evolving capabilities, strategies to convert data into business value, and the importance of global best practices, data accessibility, and infrastructure.

The session on 'Empowering Innovation: Role of Startups in Shaping Space Ecosystem' highlighted the space startup ecosystem, emerging funding and support frameworks, the role of incubators and investors, and strategies to overcome challenges and foster sustainable growth.

Moderated by Mr Ganesh Mohan, Deputy Director, INSPACE, Department of Space, Government of India, the session on 'Leveraging International Collaboration for Sustainable Exploration and Innovation' highlighted how global partnerships drive sustainable space exploration, innovation, and next-generation technology development.

Chaired by Dr Anupam Sharma, Distinguished Scientist & Director, DSP (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Government of India, the session on 'Enhanced Focus on the Complementary Dimension of the Space-Defence Relationship' highlighted how integrating space technologies can transform national defence, advance operations, foster civilian-military collaboration, and build technical capacity among defence personnel.

The session on 'Shaping the Future: Building Talent and a Skilled Workforce for India's Emerging Space Economy' focused on skill demands, bridging gaps through Academia-Industry-Government alignment, innovative training models, private sector support for STEM and space careers, and upskilling professionals for the evolving space economy.

Shri A S Kiran Kumar, Former ISRO Chairman, reflected on India's journey from Aryabhata to Chandrayaan-3, emphasising space technology's transformative role and future opportunities in lunar, Mars, and commercial satellite missions.

KEY OUTCOMES:

- **Expanding India's Space Economy** – India aims to raise its global space market share to USD 44 billion by 2033 through reforms, global partnerships, and scaled manufacturing
- **Boosting Private Sector Participation** – Policy reforms and investments are enabling startups and SMEs to drive innovation, cost efficiency, and competitiveness in launches, satellites, and applications
- **Space-Defence Integration** – Satellites for communication, navigation, and surveillance are increasingly vital for security, demanding resilient constellations and dual-use technologies
- **Multi-Orbit, Multi-Platform Approach** – Combining GEO, MEO, and LEO with robotics, propulsion, and in-orbit servicing offers flexibility, redundancy, and adaptability
- **Dual-Use Technology Synergies** – Robotics, propulsion, and quantum communication serve both civil and defence needs, requiring innovation with safeguards against misuse
- **Strengthening Academic & Talent Base** – IIST, IITs, and others are building a skilled workforce through mission-based learning, research, and global collaborations
- **Global Partnerships** – Collaborative missions in payloads, interoperability, and exploration reinforce India's role as a reliable space partner
- **Addressing Policy & Infrastructure Gaps** – Regulatory clarity, IP protection, testing access, and industrial support remain critical bottlenecks
- **Skilling for New Frontiers** – Beyond rockets and satellites, India must prepare talent for cislunar operations, propulsion, AI, space law, and emerging domains.

QUOTES



By 2040, India's space program will stand on par with the most advanced spacefaring nations of the world. The announcements mark a pivotal moment in India's space journey, reflecting

the country's determination to establish itself as a trusted global partner in space exploration.

Dr V Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, Space Commission



India's commercial space ecosystem is evolving rapidly. At NSIL, we are enabling greater private participation, scaling indigenous capabilities, and working to enhance

India's share in the global space economy. Policy reforms, strong public-private partnerships, and international collaborations will be the key drivers of this growth in the coming years.

M Mohan, Chairman and Managing Director, NSIL



Space is becoming a vital operational domain for the Indian Air Force. Satellite-enabled data now drives our target tracking, ISR, and post-strike assessments. We aim to expand

satellite constellations from 12 to 78 by 2031, with a dedicated naval constellation by 2027, and through Mission DefSpace, we are strengthening ties with startups, academia, and Industry.

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, AVSM, VM, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, HQ Training Command, Indian Air Force



With a long-term vision, India aims to establish its own space station and achieve a lunar landing by 2040, supported by a pool of 40-50 trained astronauts.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Distinguished Pilot and Indian Astronaut



Space stands as the 'master domain', connecting land, air, sea, cyber, and AI. In this context, astronauts can be seen as 'data hubs', much like AI platforms, enabling critical

decision-making.

Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Distinguished Pilot and Indian Astronaut



India's space sector has transformed from being Government-led to an innovation-driven ecosystem powered by satellite-based services. The growing

participation of private players is accelerating progress in communication, navigation, and Earth observation. These advancements are not only enhancing India's digital infrastructure but also contributing significantly to national growth and our broader vision of technological self-reliance.

Apparao Mallavarapu, Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, Centum Electronics Ltd



India and Denmark's cooperation in space is growing stronger. Our shared commitment to sustainability and innovation is driving collaboration

in Earth observation, climate resilience, and urban development. Denmark's expertise in AI, machine learning, and climate monitoring aligns closely with India's priorities in agriculture, urban planning, and disaster management, creating a foundation for meaningful joint initiatives.

Peter Winther-Schmidt, Consulate General & Head of Mission from Denmark



India's space economy today is centered on governance, development, and resilience through satellite-enabled solutions. From agriculture and disaster management to communication

and infrastructure monitoring, space technologies are driving real-time decision-making and efficient service delivery. Initiatives like Bhuvan, GAGAN, and RISAT exemplify how indigenous capabilities are transforming operational applications across sectors.

Rohan Ganapathy, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CEO & CTO, Bellatrix Aerospace





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India's Green Future: Engage, Energize, Empower

The 6th CII International Energy Conference and Exhibition was in sync with the country's efforts to align sustained economic growth with environmental responsibilities. As one of the world's largest and fastest growing energy markets, India's energy transition holds immense significance, not just domestically but globally.

The conference underscored India's determination to shape an energy future that is clean, secure and inclusive. It highlighted the nation's strategic priorities, advancing clean technologies, building resilient domestic manufacturing capabilities, and ensuring energy access for all, while maintaining grid stability and economic competitiveness.

By addressing structural barriers and leveraging global partnerships, India is positioning itself as a leader in the global energy transition, driving innovation, attracting investment, and championing sustainability. The event reaffirmed that India's pathway to net-zero is not only a climate imperative, but also a cornerstone for long-term prosperity and energy security.





India's energy sector is undergoing a transformative shift, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. Initiatives like the successful installation of 20 lakh Surya Ghar units and the upcoming implementation of 60 GW capacity reflect a strong push towards clean energy. Public Sector Undertakings have been directed to actively participate in renewable energy engagements, reinforcing the commitment to national growth. With Industry support and a unified national effort, the energy sector is poised to flourish as a key pillar of India's development journey towards 2047

Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New & Renewable Energy and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India

The 6th International Energy Conference and Exhibition held on 22-23 September, in New Delhi, convened key stakeholders from Government, Industry and academia under the theme 'Engage, Energize, Empower.' The event showcased India's transformative journey towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 underscoring the country's pivotal role in global climate action and sustainable development.

Over two days, dynamic discussions and exhibitions highlighted India's strategic focus on clean energy technologies, including offshore wind, green hydrogen, hydrogen valleys, battery energy storage, and electric mobility. The conference emphasized the need to strengthen domestic manufacturing capabilities to reduce import reliance and create resilient, indigenous ecosystems for renewable energy infrastructure.

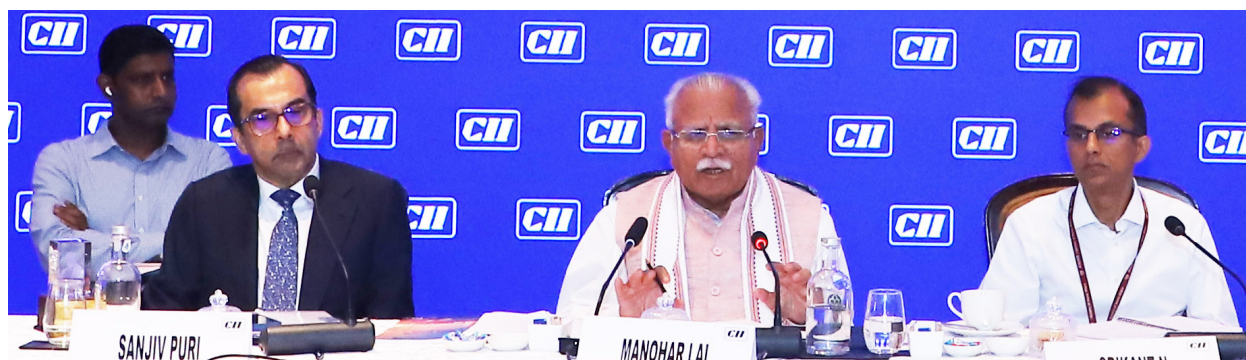
Key challenges, such as financing, infrastructure gaps, and policy constraints, were addressed, alongside the critical need for balancing renewable energy growth with low-emission thermal energy to ensure grid stability and energy security. The event also explored the impact of international climate policies, trade dynamics, and

emerging technology markets on India's evolving energy strategy.

Charting India's Path to Net-Zero

India has set a bold climate target of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, an ambition that calls for a complete transformation of its energy systems. Shri Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New & Renewable Energy and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India said "India's clean energy journey over the past decade reflects both remarkable progress and an ambitious vision for the future. Key challenges such as PPAs, regulatory bottlenecks, and the need for practical, solution-driven approaches have been addressed, with a strong emphasis on ensuring smoother transitions. Initiatives like the installation of 1 crore rooftop solar units highlight India's scale and commitment, underscoring the nation's determination to accelerate the clean energy transition and strengthen energy self-reliance."

The conference served as a strategic platform to align national development goals with environmental imperatives, with focused sessions on renewable



(L-R): Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India and Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India at the International Energy Conference and Exhibition in New Delhi

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Renewable energy must open markets and help build resilient global supply chains. India's manufacturing sector will be the best in the world. The country is focussed on speed, standards and supply chains, so that 'Make in India' reaches the world market fastest, maintains world class quality and self-reliance in supply chain.

Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India



Advanced digital technologies such as AI, machine learning, and analytics are pivotal in optimising energy storage performance and enhancing grid stability. Embracing circular economy principles, including battery recycling and second-life applications, is essential for sustainable and cost-effective solutions. With accelerating electric mobility and expanding transmission infrastructure, integrating cybersecurity and cost management remains critical. India's energy storage strategy demands coordinated efforts across Government, Industry, and research sectors to enable a resilient, sustainable, and net-zero energy transition.

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

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capacity targets, policy frameworks, and India's roadmap toward 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based power by 2030. It highlighted the urgency and scale of the transition required to shape a carbon-resilient future.

Showcasing the Future of Energy

A roundtable discussion of Industry leaders with Shri Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India reflected India's ongoing power sector transformation, driven by the Government's efforts to make the sector more transparent, resilient and future-ready. Participants noted that the increasing integration of renewables,

introduction of electricity derivatives, and the launch of digital platforms are aligning India's power ecosystem with global standards while addressing domestic priorities of reliability, efficiency, and sustainability. The session served as an important opportunity to chart the way forward for continued engagement between Industry and Government toward a cleaner, smarter, and more reliable power sector.

One of the key highlights of the event was the exclusive B2B meeting platform, which enabled 255 curated meetings connecting CEOs, CXOs, entrepreneurs, startup founders, diplomats, and



(L-R): Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII National Committee on Power and MD, Tata Power; Dr Muaviyath Mohamed, Minister of State for Environment and Tourism, Government of Maldives; Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New & Renewable Energy and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India; Sanjiv Puri; Girish Tanti, Chairman, CII National Committee on Renewable Energy, CII Council on RE Manufacturing and Vice Chairman, Suzlon and Somesh Kumar, Partner & Leader (Power & Utilities) GPS, Ernst & Young



(L-R): Bhanu Mehrotra, Principal Investment officer, IFC; Manu Srivastava, Additional Chief Secretary, New & Renewable Energy Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Dr Muaviyath Mohamed, Minister of State for Environment and Tourism, Government of Maldives; Rakesh Shukla, Minister of New & Renewable Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Amanbir Singh Bains, MD, MPUVNL and Zorica Crisoli, Project Director, GLZ

Government representatives. These interactions fostered collaboration, innovation, and strategic partnerships across the energy value chain.

Complementing these business dialogues, 25 exhibitors showcased cutting-edge technologies, solutions, and innovations shaping the future of India's energy transition.

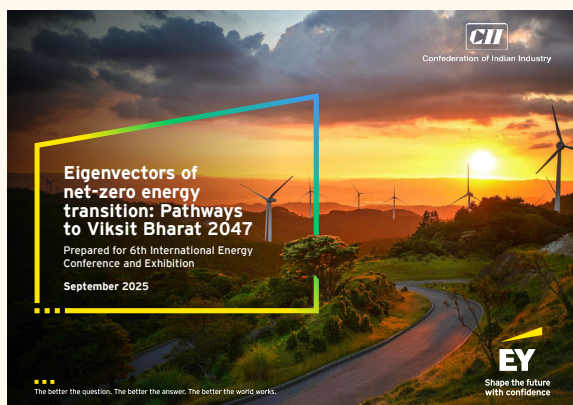
Powering Dialogue and Innovation

A key highlight was the launch of the CII-EY report, 'Eigenvectors of Net Zero Energy Transition: Pathways to Viksit Bharat 2047', which positioned India's net-zero ambition as a multidimensional challenge, requiring a fine balance between energy security, affordability, sustainability, and global competitiveness. With India projected to reach a GDP of USD 30 trillion and a population of 1.5 billion by 2047, the report underscored the scale of transformation needed. Notably, India has already surpassed a key milestone achieving 50% non-fossil fuel power capacity in 2025, five years ahead of schedule. However, the report stresses that India's primary energy supply must triple by 2047, and non-

fossil capacity must grow forty-fold to ensure two-third of demand is met through clean sources.

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, launched an Industry Paper on India's Transmission Sector. The paper spotlighted the foundational role of transmission infrastructure in integrating renewable energy. It identified key challenges such as Right of Way (RoW), land acquisition, and regulatory bottlenecks, while calling for accelerated investment, streamlined clearances, and increased private sector participation to build a future-ready grid capable of supporting 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.

Further driving the innovation agenda, a report 'Manufacturing for India and the World', was launched by Shri Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & IT, Government of India. The report provided an in-depth look at India's clean energy manufacturing landscape. Covering sectors, like solar, wind, green hydrogen electrolyzers, battery storage, and transmission equipment, the report highlighted India's growing role as a global clean energy hub.





(L-R): Rahul Kumar, Managing Director, NBPDCCL & BSPTCL; Deepak Amitabh, President, Adani Group; Jitendra Srivastava, Chairman & Managing Director – REC Ltd; Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority; Kundan Kumar, MD, BIADA and Investment Commissioner, Government of Bihar; Manoj Kumar Singh, Secretary – Power, Government of Bihar and CMD, BSPHCL; Deepak Kumar Nayak, Vice President & Head (Renewables) India, L&T and Anil Rawal, MD & CEO - IntelliSmart Infrastructure

It underscored how international policy shifts, rising sustainability expectations, and climate-aligned capital are shaping India's competitive edge. With investor confidence rising and domestic Industry aligning with global sustainability frameworks, the report emphasized India's balanced approach, prioritizing domestic self-reliance while actively engaging in global markets.

Together, these initiatives showcased the depth of insight and collaboration at the conference, reinforcing innovation as the engine driving India's clean energy transition.

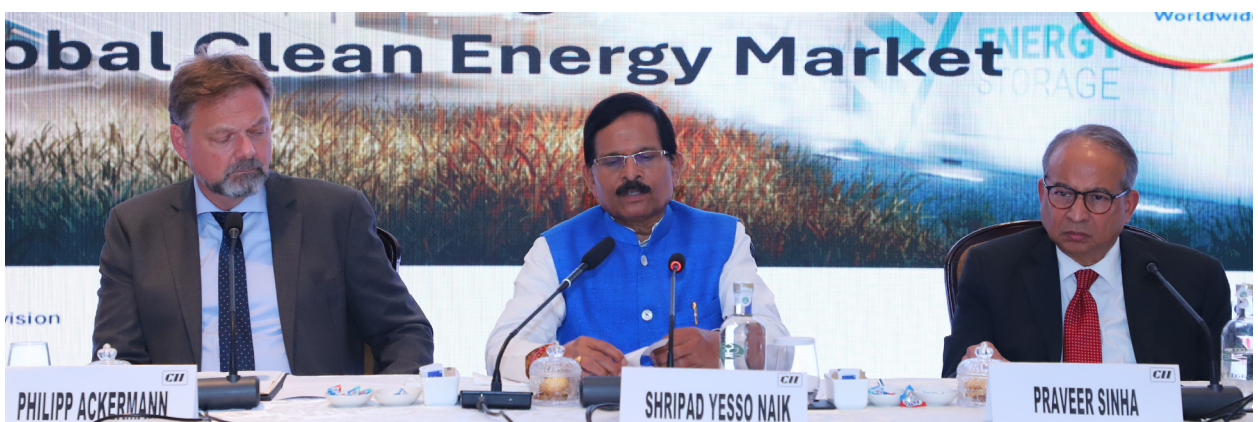
Driving Clean Energy Investments

Deliberations on Driving Clean Energy Investments underscored the importance of robust financing frameworks to accelerate India's clean energy transition across sectors such as solar, wind, green hydrogen, and energy storage. Participants emphasized the role of innovative instruments, including blended finance

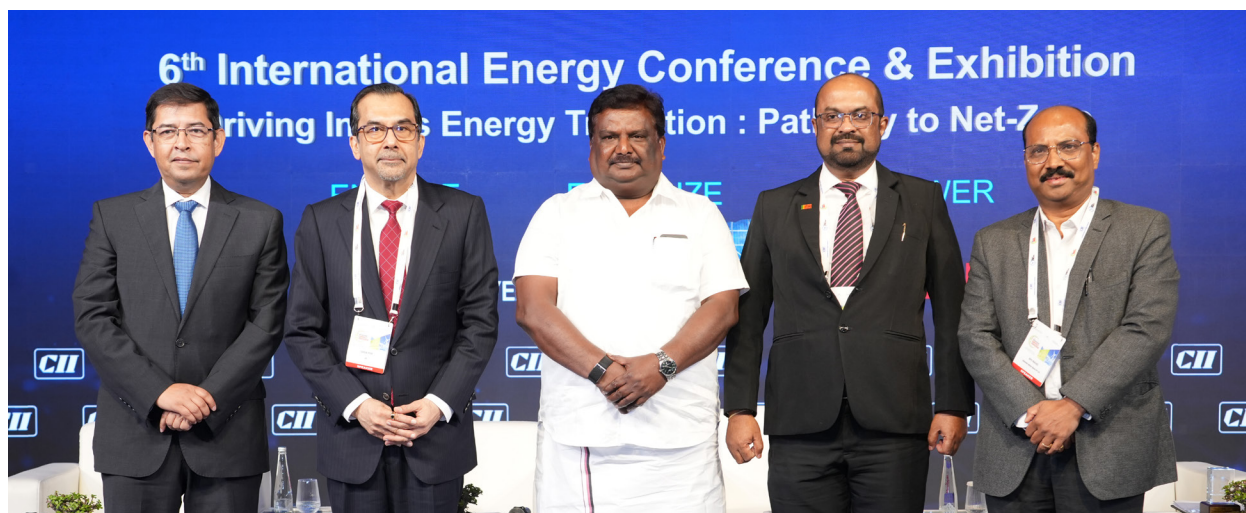
and public-private partnerships, in mobilizing private capital and mitigating investment risks. The discussions called for transparent and stable regulatory frameworks, bankable Power Purchase Agreements, and targeted incentives to enhance investor confidence. The conference also highlighted the significance of global partnerships and technology collaboration in advancing domestic manufacturing and grid modernization, reaffirming India's leadership in driving sustainable energy investments.

Building a Collaborative Energy Ecosystem

It was emphasized that achieving a sustainable and secure energy future requires a deeply collaborative approach across Governments, Industry, and international stakeholders. Speakers emphasized that regional cooperation, technology sharing, and joint investments are pivotal to building an integrated clean energy network in South Asia. With initiatives such as cross-border grid



(L-R): Dr Philipp Ackermann, Ambassador of Germany to India; Shripad Yesso Naik; Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII National Committee on Power and MD, Tata Power



(L-R): Sujoy Ghosh, Vice President and Country Managing Director-India, First Solar; Sanjiv Puri; S S Sivasankar, Minister of Transport and Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu; Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy, Government of Sri Lanka; RPV Prasad, Managing Director, Envision Energy India

connectivity, collaborative R&D in storage and green hydrogen, and harmonized policy frameworks, India and its partner nations are laying the foundation for a resilient energy ecosystem. Eng. Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy, Government of Sri Lanka, noted, "Drawing from India's best practices, Sri Lanka is committed to accelerating its clean energy transition through cross-border collaboration and technology exchange."

Shri S S, Minister for Transport and Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu, added, "Our MoU with Sri Lanka on renewable power transmission sets a benchmark for cross-border energy cooperation as we expand offshore wind, rooftop solar, and pumped storage."

State leadership also emerged as a key pillar of this collaborative ecosystem. Shri Arvind Kumar Sharma, Minister of Energy & Urban Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, highlighted, "Uttar Pradesh has transitioned from being energy-deficient to a rapidly growing renewable energy hub, driven by strong government commitment and diverse energy sources like solar and wind... This growth is evident in improved energy access, per capita consumption, and a diversified energy mix."

Shri Rakesh Shukla, Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Government of Madhya Pradesh, emphasized, "Madhya Pradesh is progressing in every area of the energy sector with a strong focus on solar and hydro energy. The journey ahead calls for collective collaboration to ensure a sustainable energy future."

Shri Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, noted, "Karnataka has emerged as a leader in renewable energy with an installed capacity of 36 GW, of which 67% comes from solar, wind, and other renewable sources. To address the operational challenges of high renewable penetration, Karnataka is investing in grid stability through 3.5 GW of battery storage and 2 GW of pumped storage, complemented by flexible thermal power."

The Germany Country Session brought to the fore renewable energy technology manufacturing capabilities and business opportunities specifically in solar, wind, and storage, as well as skilling and capacity development that are a priority for both India and Germany. The Australia Country Session showcased the progress made under the Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) and explored opportunities to expand the scope of collaboration between the two nations going forward. Together, these international and subnational efforts reflect India's commitment to building a truly collaborative energy ecosystem one that enhances energy access and affordability, strengthens supply chains, accelerates innovation, and positions the region as a global leader in clean and inclusive energy growth.

Themes Shaping the Transition

The Conference was structured around five key themes, each reflecting a critical pillar of India's evolving energy strategy. The theme 'Collaborations for a Greener Future' emphasized global and regional cooperation, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing

models to accelerate clean energy adoption in a rapidly transforming global market.

'Innovation for Sustainable Energy Systems' explored the role of next-generation technologies such as AI, advanced nuclear solutions, and sustainable fuels like bioenergy and hydrogen in shaping resilient and efficient energy systems.

The theme 'Manufacturing for India and the World' focused on enhancing domestic manufacturing capabilities across solar, wind, green hydrogen, and transmission infrastructure, positioning India as a global hub for clean energy technologies.

Under 'Enlarging the Energy Basket for Quality Access', the conference highlighted the need to scale up renewable sources such as offshore and hybrid solar projects, while ensuring grid reliability through thermal balancing and energy storage solutions.

Finally, 'Enabling a People-Centric Transition' addressed the human dimension of the energy shift, focusing on community engagement, equity, and upskilling the workforce to meet the demands of advanced energy systems. Together, these themes reflected a comprehensive approach to energy transition in India.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- India's journey towards 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030 and net-zero by 2070 continues to inspire global confidence. With over 250 GW already achieved and record-low renewable tariffs, the country is setting benchmarks in clean energy growth, supported by strong state and central leadership
- With an estimated USD 1.5 trillion needed by 2030, speakers emphasized blended finance and PPPs as important. Lowering India's cost of capital through credit guarantees and policy stability can unlock billions in private investment
- The India–Sri Lanka undersea grid initiative, Germany's focus on renewable energy manufacturing, and Australia's Renewable Energy Partnership underscore how technology sharing, workforce skilling, and cross-border power integration are shaping a unified regional clean energy market
- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka showcased their leadership, from feeder solarization and record ₹2.70/unit solar-storage tenders to grid-stabilizing storage projects and EV infrastructure, illustrating that India's transition is being driven from the ground up
- The India Energy Stack (IES) is being architected as the backbone of energy digitalization. Alongside the 350-million smart meter rollout, these initiatives will enable real-time visibility, data-driven decision-making, and consumer participation in the power market
- Artificial Intelligence and digital twins are enabling predictive maintenance, advanced forecasting, and efficiency gains across wind and solar operations
- From local strength to global reach supported by PLI schemes, GST reforms, and policy consistency, India is scaling domestic manufacturing of solar modules, wind turbines, batteries and electrolyzers. Strengthening MSMEs and aligning with international standards are key to building export-oriented clean energy supply chains.
- Clean energy empowering rural and inclusive growth programmes such as PM-KUSUM and Madhya Pradesh's decentralized solarization are redefining rural energy access by linking renewable power to livelihoods, agro-processing, and small-scale entrepreneurship, creating lasting social and economic impact
- Finance institutions are expanding their renewable portfolios through green bonds and sustainability-linked finance, while investors call for predictable tariffs, strong payment security, and robust governance frameworks to sustain capital inflows
- The high-level roundtable interactions, 255 B2B meetings, and 25 exhibitions showcased the convergence of Government, Industry, and international stakeholders. The platform successfully fostered partnerships, technology exchange, and investment pathways that are shaping the future of India's clean energy ecosystem.

QUOTES



Sri Lanka recognizes the deep rooted historical and strategic ties with India, especially in the renewable energy domain. Sri Lanka is committed to accelerating its clean energy

transition through cross-border collaboration and technology exchange. With ambitious targets of achieving 70% renewable energy in its power mix, by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, the country is investing in solar PV, wind energy and battery storage systems to create a reliable, sustainable energy ecosystem. Support from global partners like the World Bank further strengthens its roadmap.

Kumara Jayakody, Minister of Energy, Government of Sri Lanka



Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the largest centre for renewable energy not only in India but in the world. We are rapidly heading towards meeting net-zero emissions.

Today, Madhya Pradesh is emerging as one of India's fastest-growing investment hubs.

Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh



Uttar Pradesh has transitioned from being energy-deficient to a rapidly growing renewable energy hub, driven by strong Government commitment and diverse energy sources

like solar and wind. The state has significantly expanded its renewable capacity, supported by research agencies and international certifications, gaining global credibility. UP's institutional readiness and robust partnerships have helped accelerate clean energy adoption. This growth is evident in improved energy access, per capita consumption, and a diversified energy mix.

AK Sharma, Minister of Energy & Urban Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh



Representing a small island nation vulnerable to climate change and energy security challenges, the unique geographical dispersion of over 1200 islands spanning nearly

900 km poses significant obstacles to achieving a unified and reliable power supply. With rapid urban growth and increasing energy demand concentrated in the capital, the country remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels for electricity generation. However, recent commitments to increase renewable energy to 39% of the electricity mix, up from just 3-4% primarily from solar, demonstrate a strong and optimistic shift toward sustainable energy solutions despite inherent logistical complexities.

Muaviyath Mohamed, Minister of State, Environment and Tourism, Government of Maldives



Tamil Nadu has firmly established itself as a national leader in clean energy, with over 20 GW of installed renewable capacity, driven by wind, solar, and innovative

hybrid systems. As the first Indian state to implement wind banking and adopt repowering policies, Tamil Nadu continues to scale its green portfolio through rooftop solar, offshore wind, and pumped storage projects. Its strategic MoU with Sri Lanka on renewable power transmission sets a benchmark for cross-border energy cooperation. With policies and pumped storage initiatives underway, Tamil Nadu is shaping the future of South Asia's renewable energy grid.

S.S. Sivasankar, Minister for Transport and Electricity, Government of Tamil Nadu



Expanding India's nuclear capacity requires addressing key challenges such as boosting private sector involvement, updating regulations for effective risk

management, and shortening project timelines that currently extend up to 30 years. Critical focus areas include strategic site selection, vendor ecosystem growth, and reducing reliance on foreign technology to enhance energy security. With increasing renewable penetration, adapting regulatory frameworks will be crucial to ensure flexible and reliable nuclear power integration into the evolving energy grid.

Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority



India's renewable energy progress is being powered by the proactive efforts of states. Uttar Pradesh has encouraged domestic manufacturing, Madhya

Pradesh set benchmarks with the REWA solar project and record-low tariffs in Morena, Karnataka has enabled deemed conversion of renewable energy projects, Rajasthan is empowering farmers through land use reforms and PM-KUSUM, while Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan are leading in rooftop solar adoption. These state-driven achievements, supported by central policies like PLIs and transparent bidding, are collectively moving the nation towards its ambitious renewable energy goals.

Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India



The transmission sector plays a pivotal role in India's decarbonization and renewable energy integration, requiring substantial expansion of critical mineral supplies such

as aluminium, copper, chromium, steel, zinc, silver, and silicon. With India targeting 500 GW of renewable capacity, an estimated 300,000 circuit kilometres of transmission lines must be developed by 2030. However, current domestic production of key materials falls significantly short of demand, underscoring an urgent need to scale up mining, refining, and manufacturing capacities to support the country's energy transition ambitions.

Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary, New, Emerging & Strategic Technologies (NEST), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



Building resilient and diversified critical mineral supply chains is central to both the European Union and India's efforts to drive their clean energy transitions. Despite differing

geographies, both regions face similar challenges, limited domestic availability of essential minerals, growing demand for green technologies, and rising geopolitical risks that threaten supply stability. In response, the EU is advancing legislation like the Critical Raw Materials Act and implementing strategies such as RE Power EU to boost domestic production, reduce dependency, and promote circular economy practices, including recycling and resource efficiency, to secure long-term mineral and energy security.

Dr Bartosz Przywara, Energy, Climate & Environment Counsellor at Delegation of the European Union to India



Australia is taking a strategic shift in its approach to critical minerals, recognizing the importance of securing supply chains not only for its own industries but also for trusted

partners like India. Moving beyond a purely free-market model, Australia is developing a national critical minerals reserve and introducing policies to retain value onshore, especially in lithium production. Collaborative efforts with India are underway to co-develop supply chains, with Australia focusing on upstream processing and India on downstream value addition. These partnerships aim to create a resilient, vertically integrated supply chain capable of supporting both nations' clean energy goals.

Sanjiva de Silva, Counsellor (Energy, Resources and Climate Change), Australian High Commission



The world today faces multidimensional challenges which I call TURN – Turbulence, Uncertainty, Rapid change which requires a new way of thinking and

Novel strategies. We are seeing manifestation of geopolitics, climate change, transformative change in technologies that is creating its own set of challenges across the world. In this context, India's position and focus on energy security, Atmanibharta and sustainability are no longer options, they are imperatives. It is encouraging that India is making rapid progress in this space.

Sanjiv Puri, Immediate Past President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC



Driven by rapid advancements in wind and solar energy, India is positioning itself as a global hub for clean energy manufacturing and supply. Wind alone is expected

to create 2.5 lakh jobs annually, while solar PV capacity continues to scale, supported by increasing domestic content, 64% in wind and 25% in solar. With targets to supply 10% of the global renewable energy demand by 2030 and 20% by 2047, India is set to play a pivotal role in the global transition. Meeting these goals will require accelerated transmission development, timely project execution, stable demand, inclusive technology deployment, and a strong focus on skill development.

Girish Tanti, Chairman, CII National Committee on Renewable Energy and CII RE Manufacturing Council and Vice Chairman, Suzlon



India's rapid strides in renewables, with record-low solar bids and 34 GW of new capacity added last year, including 29 GW from renewables and 24 GW from

solar. Progress was credited to MNRE, State Governments, and Industry collaboration. Looking beyond the 500 GW target by 2030, discussions stressed resolving land, power evacuation, and PPA challenges, while strengthening manufacturing, self-sufficient in wind but requiring major solar expansion, to meet 40–50 GW annual additions and secure long-term energy independence.

Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII National Committee on Power and MD, Tata Power



India is poised to become the global leader in certified green building footprints, expected to surpass 14.52 billion sq. ft. within three months, resulting in annual savings of 64.3 billion units of energy, 198 million litres of water, and significant carbon emission reductions. With major investments across 14 sectors supported by PLI schemes, ongoing reforms such as GST rate reductions, and a strong push for sustainability through green mobility and infrastructure, the policy environment continues to evolve in favour of Industry, innovation, and responsible growth.

B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Managing Director, Bluestar



The clean energy transition is an industrial and strategic opportunity to rebuild supply chains, boost domestic manufacturing, and drive long term economic resilience. From

solar modules and wind turbines to electrolyzers and batteries, large scale manufacturing is now a national priority. We must aim to go beyond serving domestic needs to becoming a trusted supplier to the world. Success will depend not just on capacity, but on ecosystems that enable MSMEs, align with global standards, and position the country not as a low-cost assembler, but as a high-value, ESG-compliant manufacturing leader.

Sameer Gupta, Co-Chairman, CII RE Manufacturing Council and CMD, Jakson Group

GLIMPSES



North East CSR Connect: Uniting to Connect, Collaborate, and Drive Change

The CII North East CSR Connect aimed to deepen understanding of state-specific challenges and opportunities, ensuring CSR investments are strategically aligned and locally relevant. It was built to ensure efficient matching of CSR funds with impactful projects, driving measurable results. Beyond funding, the aim was to foster sustainable partnerships that enhance community resilience, promote inclusive development, and create shared value in the North East.



North East India is a region of rich natural resources, vibrant cultural heritage, and resilient communities, yet it faces some persistent challenges. In this landscape, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plays a crucial role in bridging development gaps and enabling inclusive growth.

The majority of CSR spend come from PSUs, with private players gradually expanding their presence

through strategic, multi-sectoral interventions. Building on the momentum of its first edition, the CII North East CSR Connect held on 17 September in New Delhi, aimed to catalyse stronger partnerships between the Government, corporates, NGOs, and civil society, to drive high-impact, region-specific interventions through meaningful dialogue and collective action.



(L - R): Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII North East Council and Managing Director, Amrit Cement Ltd; Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General and CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs; Hekani Jakhalu, Advisor, Industry & Commerce, Government of Nagaland; Pu Lalngthinglova Hmar, Minister of State for Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Sports & Youth Services, Tourism, Excise & Narcotics, Government of Mizoram and R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemical Ltd releasing the report "CSR Investment in Northeast India: Understanding Barriers and Way Forward" at the CII North East CSR Connect in New Delhi

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For the North East, with its unique culture and strategic location, CSR offers a chance to bridge gaps and build strengths. First, infrastructure and basic services, where corporates can support healthcare, sanitation, education and digital connectivity. Second, livelihoods and skills, sports promotion, entrepreneurship programmes which can prepare youth for the future while preventing migration. And third, environment and sustainability, protecting diversity, bio and other, promoting green industries can make the North East a model of sustainable growth

Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India

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The objective was to deepen the understanding of state-specific challenges and opportunities across the region, ensuring that CSR investments are contextually relevant and strategically aligned. By enabling the efficient matching of CSR funds with high-impact, locally grounded projects, the platform intended to drive measurable outcomes on the ground. Beyond funding, the initiative aspired to build long-term, sustainable partnerships that strengthen community resilience, support inclusive development, and create a shared value ecosystem for the North East.

The inaugural session set the stage for meaningful dialogue on strengthening CSR engagement in the region. Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia, Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, through a video message, highlighted CSR as a powerful catalyst for bridging developmental gaps and building regional strengths. He identified three priority areas including infrastructure & basic services, livelihoods & skills, and environment & sustainability, emphasizing the role of CSR in positioning

the North East as a model for inclusive and sustainable growth.

Shri Lalnghinglova Hmar, Minister of State for Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Sports and Youth Services, Tourism, Excise & Narcotics, Government of Mizoram underscored sports development as a major CSR opportunity to nurture youth talent, build confidence, and create pathways for livelihoods. He also introduced Mizoram's upcoming AI-based CSR matchmaking platform, designed to connect corporates with investable projects, verify legal partners, and provide real-time progress dashboards, making CSR initiatives smarter, more transparent, and impactful.

Ms Hekani Jakhalu, Advisor, Industry & Commerce, Government of Nagaland highlighted the potential of CSR to drive skill development, entrepreneurship, and livelihood creation in the North East. She emphasized that these efforts are crucial to ensuring that the region remains aligned with India's broader development vision under Viksit Bharat 2047.



(L-R): N E Sridhar, Chief Sustainability Officer, Titan Company Ltd; Dr Leena Deshpande, Associate VP HR & CSR Head, Bharat Forge Ltd; Ashok Gupta, CEO, Dalmia Bharat Foundation; Dr Nidhi Pundhir, Vice President – Global CSR, HCL Foundation; Anoop Gupta, Executive Director CSR, GAIL India Ltd and Rizwana Naqvi, Head HR-ER, ONGC Assam Asset



(L-R): Changsang, NCS, Under Secretary to Government of Nagaland, Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland; Henry C Lalrawnkima, MCS, Secretary, Mizoram State Sports Council, Government of Mizoram; Dr Brahminet Kaur, Special Resident Commissioner and Special Secretary (Planning & Coordination), Government of Tripura; Saloni Verma, Executive Director, Meghalaya Basin Management Authority, Government of Meghalaya; M Ravikumar, Principal Director, MSME Department of Commerce & Industries, Government of Sikkim and Banita Tumungpi, DGM (Technical), Assam Industrial Development Corporation

Shri Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs proposed the creation of dedicated CSR Authorities in each state to enhance coordination, ensure transparency, and align CSR projects with local priorities effectively.

Mr R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd positioned the CSR Connect as a transformative 4–6 year platform, channelling CSR funds toward critical sectors such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and livelihoods through state-specific programmes across all eight North Eastern states.

Mr Pradeep Bagla, Chairman of CII North East Council, and Managing Director, Amrit Cement Ltd highlighted that CSR is not merely a statutory obligation but a strategic opportunity for corporates to partner with Governments and communities in building inclusive growth models.

The session also marked the release of the report 'CSR Investment in North East India: Understanding Barriers and Way Forward', offering data-driven insights to guide CSR planning and scaling in the region. An exhibition by

NGOs and corporate foundations showcased tangible success stories and innovative projects, providing practical examples of effective engagement models and demonstrating the transformative potential of CSR across the North East.

The Session on 'Corporate Best Practices: Driving Scalable CSR in the North East' highlighted the transformative impact of long-term, locally rooted CSR initiatives in the North East. Interventions by corporates addressing substance abuse among school children and integrated village development in Nagaland demonstrated how sustained engagement can build trust and deliver measurable outcomes. Women-centric skilling emerged as a major priority, with the Indian Industry training two-thirds of its participants as women, strengthening local economies and empowering communities. Sustainability and green innovation were also emphasized, exemplified by bamboo plantations for green energy. Companies underlined the critical need for structured support to NGOs, from registration to compliance, to enhance project quality and accountability. The session also highlighted that technology exposure for youth through new-age labs helps bridge regional gaps and connects local talent to national and international job markets.

Integrated development models were highlighted as highly effective, with companies showcasing programmes that combine healthcare, livelihoods, disaster management, and cultural preservation. Healthcare needs remain urgent, addressed through initiatives like multispecialty hospitals and mobile medical units.

Leading PSUs stressed the importance of policy flexibility to enable impactful, region-specific interventions. Collaborations with NABARD, SIDBI, NGOs, and



A glimpse of the exhibition

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Digital tools, including CSR matchmaking platforms, AI-based tracking, and robust baseline data, are crucial for identifying opportunities, monitoring progress, and enhancing project effectiveness
- Investing in skill development, entrepreneurship, women-led enterprises, and sports infrastructure can drive sustainable socio-economic outcomes, especially in underserved and tribal regions
- CSR initiatives should prioritize green technologies, renewable energy, environmental conservation, and social inclusion for long-term community benefits
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships between Government, corporates, NGOs, and communities, along with capacity building of local NGOs and officials, ensure better project design, compliance, and sustainability
- Focus on long-term engagement rather than one-off projects to ensure sustained impact
- Prioritize measurement and evaluation to track outcomes and demonstrate tangible impact
- Encourage corporates to invest in under-served districts rather than concentrating only in urban or accessible areas.

Government stakeholders was recognized as key to expanding the reach and efficiency of CSR programmes. The session concluded that momentum is shifting from isolated projects to long-term commitments, with corporates, NGOs, and Government aligning for sustained, high-impact engagement in the North East. The session on 'State Perspectives: Priority Needs & Investment Areas' highlighted both the challenges and opportunities for CSR investment in the region. Speakers emphasized that data remains the biggest gap, with strengthened baseline and impact measurements crucial for attracting and sustaining CSR engagement. Currently, less than 1 per cent of India's CSR funds reach the North East (barring Assam), underscoring the untapped potential for companies seeking to expand their social impact. State Governments are responding with enabling frameworks, including dedicated CSR cells, matchmaking platforms, and facilitation support, making it easier for corporates to plan and implement impactful projects.

Individual North Eastern states shared their unique opportunities and initiatives. Tripura's strong literacy levels, robust infrastructure, and energy capacity position it as investment-ready, particularly in education, renewable energy, tribal livelihoods, and sports. Meghalaya's young population and rich cultural heritage make it ideal for projects in education, skilling, green technology, sports, and de-addiction. Mizoram is leveraging technology and partnerships with organizations such as UNDP to overcome historical investment gaps, positioning itself as a hub for sports and skill development. Sikkim has demonstrated the potential for scaling impact through

successful CSR collaborations with global corporates, while Nagaland's EDGE Model and IDAN framework provide structured pathways for corporates to co-create measurable projects. Assam is emerging as a leader with its state CSR Authority, illustrating how governance frameworks and a clear sectoral focus can attract significant investment. Across the region, handloom, handicraft, renewable energy, healthcare, and education remain top cross-cutting opportunities. Overall, the session underscored a clear shift from ad-hoc CSR initiatives to strategic, long-term engagement, with states positioning themselves as active partners rather than passive recipients, signalling a new era of collaboration in the North East.

NGO Capacity Building Workshop

A capacity building programme aimed at strengthening the skills of local NGOs and Government officials was also organized on the sidelines of the CSR Connect. The programme covered key areas including compliance and regulations, providing participants with practical guidance on CSR legal frameworks and checklists to ensure proper adherence. It also focused on proposal building and storytelling, helping participants craft impactful proposals and present them effectively to potential funders. Additionally, the programme addressed strategies for accessing funding and forging sustainable partnerships with corporates and Government agencies. By equipping participants with practical knowledge and tools, the initiative enhanced project quality, compliance, and engagement, thereby strengthening the overall CSR ecosystem in the North East.

QUOTES



The State Government is in the final stages of launching a CSR matchmaking platform called Mizoram CSR Connect, an AI-based interactive digital tool that will connect companies with investable projects, verified legal partners, and real-time progress dashboards. This platform is designed to make CSR in Mizoram not just easier, but smarter, more transparent, and more impactful.

Pu Lalnghinglova Hmar, Minister of State for Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship; Sports and Youth Services, Tourism, Excise & Narcotics Government of Mizoram



North East is living in one of its best times, and this is because of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's special attention on the region. He is making sure that North East

is not left behind and the country as a whole marches towards a Viksit Bharat 2047.

Hekani Jakhalu, Advisor, Industry & Commerce, Government of Nagaland



The entire North East region is vibrant, being connected with the youth and most of them are in startups. This is the reason why community sentiment and community

structure are so important. The idea of CSR was not as a deficit financing. The idea of CSR was to work together, use the company's efficiency, their governance system, their technology and leverage it. The idea was that these ₹30,000 crores should be able to give us benefit for one factor.

Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Director General and CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs



We are trying to find solutions and CII North East CSR Connect is one such project, one such programme which we want to continue for at least next 6 to 10 years till it

stabilizes and it is more focused. The programme, once stabilized, will bring a connection for each state where all the seven sisters will have specific programmes. The vision is for the whole of North East, to then see the impact created and push forward at specific state level.

R Mukundan, President Designate, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd



North East region is not just a collection of individual stories. It is a region with vast untapped potential waiting to be unlocked. The North East CSR Connect initiative is not

just about Corporate Social Responsibility. It is about creating a new narrative for the region. It's about harnessing the collective power of Government, Industry and civil society to drive sustainable development, investments and inclusive growth.

Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII Northeast Council and Managing Director, Amrit Cements Ltd

Treat Employment as National Priority

An Integrated National Employment Policy is of urgent need. This should consolidate existing schemes and align diverse initiatives. It must be developed in coordination with states, key ministries, and Industry

India is the most populous and one of the youngest countries in the world. CII estimates suggest that over the next 25 years, India will add around 133 million people to its working-age population (15–64 years), which is close to 18 per cent of the total incremental global workforce. However, India has a short window to leverage this demographic dividend, as the worker population is expected to peak around 2043.

Employment generation is critical for equity and inclusion. Quality jobs at scale can lift millions out of poverty, reduce regional and social disparities, and ensure a more even distribution of growth benefits. Generating jobs is also vital for growth and resilience. In a consumption-driven economy like India's, broadening consumption through good quality jobs both accelerates and stabilises growth.

Focus on Long-term Job Creation

Employment must therefore be treated as a national priority. This requires consistent growth policies that encourage steady investment and long-term job creation, rather than fragmented or short-term approaches. Despite Central and State Governments initiatives, from skill development to social security, India still lacks a unified national framework that comprehensively addresses employment and livelihoods.

Sectors to Zero in on

Job creation requires interventions on both demand and supply sides of the labour market. Demand is driven by economic and sectoral growth, while supply is influenced by skills, mobility, and societal norms. Without bridging these gaps, policy impact will remain limited. A particular concern is the employability of graduates. College curricula need focused reviews to make graduates job ready, supplemented with skilling programmes aligned to Industry and emerging sectors.

To address these challenges, an Integrated National Employment Policy is of urgent need. This should consolidate existing schemes and align diverse initiatives. It must be developed in coordination with states, key ministries, and Industry. Governance could be overseen by an Empowered Group of Secretaries, with implementation led by District Planning Committees that understand local challenges.

The policy must define time-bound goals, identify high-employment-potential sectors, and align trade, industrial, education, and labour policies to maximise job creation. It should also tackle labour market frictions, regional disparities, and barriers faced by women and marginalised groups, while ensuring that skilling incorporates technologies such as AI and robotics.

Another challenge is the mismatch between the availability of people and jobs, often across different states. The Centre and States must work together on migration policies and support systems that promote mobility constructively, without letting politics become a barrier. Building "One India" for employment mobility will be critical.

Timely implementation of the four Labour Codes must also be prioritised and clear transition guidelines and advisory support for businesses will be essential.

Job creation efforts must focus on labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, tourism, agro-processing, real estate, and healthcare. The MSME sector, which already employs over 25 crore people, requires a comprehensive support strategy covering access to finance, technology, skilling, and markets to generate "growth with jobs." To address urban job distress, an Urban Employment Guarantee Programme could be piloted in select cities.

A major opportunity lies in the expanding gig economy, which employs between 80 lakh and 1.8 crore workers today and could grow to 9 crore by 2030. With participation spreading into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, it





holds enormous potential for both job creation and formalisation. A National Policy for the Gig Economy can help unlock this potential.

The policy should promote sector growth while ensuring worker protection through skilling, finance, and social security. A centralised registry could enable seamless onboarding, preserve work histories, and reduce entry barriers. Fair contracts, safety standards, and grievance redressal must also be ensured. With the right institutional and regulatory support, the gig economy can become a cornerstone of India's inclusive workforce.

Beyond numbers, improving job quality through better wages, safer conditions, and social security is vital. Affordable housing near industrial hubs can improve mobility and quality of life. Regionally balanced employment can be promoted through targeted interventions in 100 most underdeveloped districts, rural internships for graduates, and remote work and BPOs in towns.

Enhancing female labour force participation should be another priority. This requires incentives under the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, formalisation of Anganwadi and Accredited Social Health Activist roles, investment in childcare and eldercare, and campaigns to address societal norms restricting women's work.

Need for Employment Data

Finally, high-quality, real-time employment data is critical. A dedicated Task Force could strengthen methodologies, expand coverage to the informal and rural workforce, and reduce the lag between data collection and publication.

With coordinated reforms, targeted investments, and an inclusive national employment strategy, India can fundamentally transform its employment landscape. Doing so is not only essential to unlocking its demographic dividend, but also central to achieving equitable, resilient, and sustained growth.

These employment-focused measures also tie in with the broader reform agenda that CII has laid out in its recent Report on Policies for a Competitive India. Employment generation, as emphasised in this article, is an integral part of that wider vision of building a competitive India and achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.

This is a joint article by Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, Past President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in the Hindu on 6 October

30th CII Partnership Summit: Building Bridges of Trust, Technology, and Trade

India's growing global stature adds special significance to this year's Summit. Following its successful G20 Presidency and leadership in South-South cooperation, India has emerged as a trusted bridge between the Global North and South. The country's message of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" continues to resonate across international platforms, reinforcing its role as a champion of multilateralism and inclusive development, says R Dinesh.



CII is set to celebrate a major milestone with the 30th edition of its Partnership Summit, scheduled from 14-15 November in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Over the past three decades, this Summit has evolved from a pioneering national initiative into a globally respected platform for economic dialogue, geopolitical engagement, and strategic collaboration.

Since its inception in 1995, the Partnership Summit has been central to CII's mission of fostering international cooperation through trade, investment, and innovation. It has hosted dignitaries from over 100 countries, including Presidents and Prime Ministers from India, Singapore, Canada, the UK, Italy, Malaysia, and Poland. Alongside these leaders, global business executives, policymakers, and scholars have convened to exchange ideas and forge partnerships that transcend borders. This legacy of high-level engagement has made the Summit a catalyst for transformative thinking and cross-border collaboration.

This year's edition is being organised on an unprecedented scale, reflecting both the ambition and urgency of the times. With over 2000 delegates, including 30+ overseas ministers, 100+ global speakers, and multiple international business delegations, the Summit will serve as a dynamic forum for shaping the future of global cooperation. Senior ministers from the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh will also address the gathering, underscoring

the importance of regional leadership in driving national and global progress.

This year's theme, "Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order," captures the essence of the forces reshaping the global landscape. The Summit will feature sessions on a wide array of topics, including supply chain resilience, trade facilitation, AI governance, energy transition, circular economy, digital innovation, and sustainability-led growth. Each dialogue is designed to produce actionable outcomes, from MoUs and investment commitments to new strategic alliances that drive tangible progress.

India's growing global stature adds special significance to this year's Summit. Following its successful G20 Presidency and leadership in South-South cooperation, India has emerged as a trusted bridge between the Global North and South. The country's message of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" continues to resonate across international platforms, reinforcing its role as a champion of multilateralism and inclusive development.

India is the fastest-growing major economy. Its young and skilled workforce, robust industrial base, and rapid digital transformation offer vast opportunities for global collaboration.

Several transformative Government initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, Skill India, PM GatiShakti, and



the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, are driving India's rapid evolution into a leading hub for manufacturing and innovation. These programs have laid the foundation for robust industrial growth, enhanced digital infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.

India's achievements in the digital space are remarkable, with world-leading fintech adoption, innovative platforms like UPI and India Stack, and pioneering digital public infrastructure driving inclusion and global recognition. The India Stack has dramatically improved governance and public service delivery. Its success has inspired adoption of similar platforms in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, and Bangladesh. Collectively, these advancements highlight India's emergence as a global model for scalable, inclusive technological progress.

The choice of Visakhapatnam as the host city is both symbolic and strategic. Known for its progressive policies, world-class infrastructure, and commitment to sustainable development, Andhra Pradesh exemplifies excellence. By spotlighting Visakhapatnam, CII reinforces the idea that local innovation can drive global impact and that regional hubs can play a pivotal role in shaping international discourse.

The global economy is undergoing a profound transformation. Rising protectionism, technological disruption, and shifting geopolitical alliances present new challenges, but also unprecedented opportunities for collaboration. In this context, India stands out as a voice for open trade, multilateral cooperation, and collective progress.

At its core, the CII Partnership Summit is built on a simple yet powerful idea: partnerships create progress. As CII commemorates three decades of this visionary initiative, the 2025 Summit reaffirms India's position as a trusted global partner, a hub of innovation, and a catalyst for sustainable growth. It is not just a celebration of the past, it is a bold step toward building bridges for the world of tomorrow.

This article has been contributed by Mr R Dinesh, Executive Chairman, CII International Council & Past President, CII and Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.

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Trade pact with US by Nov or so: Goyal

BS REPORTER & AGENCIES
New Delhi, 2 September

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday expressed hope that India would conclude the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US by the fall or November this year.

He said "a little bit" of geopolitical issues overtook the trade matters in the negotiations for the pact between the two countries. "I do hope that things will get back on track soon and we will conclude a bilateral trade agreement by the fall, November or so, as was discussed by our two as leaders in Mumbai," Goyal said at the Annual Global Investor Conference 2025 in Mumbai.

In his virtual address, he said there was an excitement across the world to expand trading and business relations with India.

"WE HAVE HAD A LITTLE BIT OF GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES OVERTAKING TRADE MATTERS IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US"

Piyush Goyal
Union Minister of
Commerce & Industry

India and the US continue to engage with each other for a trade deal. "We are in dialogue with the US for a bilateral trade agreement," Goyal said.

The US administration imposed a 25 per cent reciprocal tariff from August 7, followed by an additional 25 per cent from August

25 was postponed over the imposition of the extra 25 per cent tariff. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Monday expressed confidence that both countries would resolve their trade frictions, even as he criticised the Russian purchase of discounted Russian oil. "I think at the end of the day,

Other deals

At the CII event, Goyal said India's supply chains are resilient, and the nation is not at the "mercy of any other country choosing to switch on or switch off the tap." This, he said, is making India a more resilient and self-reliant, while building the confidence of young India to take on global challenges.

India has signed free-trade agreements (FTAs) with Australia, the UAE, Mauritius, the UK, and the four-nation European bloc EFTA, the minister said.

He said the FTA talks with the EU are at an advanced stage. Currently, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal is in Brussels to push the proposed pact. Following his visit, negotiators from both sides will meet for the next round of talks starting September 8. Thereafter, Maros Sefcovic, commissioner of the European Commission for

'India-China ties gradually moving towards normalcy'

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday said India-China relations are gradually moving towards normalcy, noting that as border issues get resolved, easing of tensions is a natural consequence. "This was an SCO summit, where all the SCO members participated. We had a problem in Galwan, due to which we had a blip in the relationship. As the border gets resolved, I think the situation getting back to

Hindustan Times

Tue, 23 Sep 2025; daily - HINDUSTAN TIMES - DELHI;
Size: 220.69 sq. cm.; Circulation: 68418; Page: 26

GST 2.0 to trim grocery bills, small car prices

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The GST next-gen reforms, which kicked in from Monday, will lead to a saving of 13% in the household bills for groceries and daily essentials, while a small car buyer could save around ₹70,000.

According to government estimates, stationary, clothing, footwear and medicines purchases would bring a saving in the range of 7-12%, while the savings would go up to 18% in the case of individual health and life insurance policies, which have been exempt from GST effective Monday.

As many as 375 items, including groceries, agri-equipments, clothing, medicines and automobiles, got cheaper as the GST reform kicked in 'next-gen' reform kicked in from Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has termed the reform as 'GST Bachat Utsav'.

The government has estimated that there would be a saving of ₹40,000 on the purchase of a tractor up to ₹500 cc. GST rate has been cut to 5% on tractors from the earlier 12-18%.

In case of bikes/scooters up to 350 cc, purchase, savings will be ₹8,000, while in TV (above 32 inches), there would be savings of ₹3,500. Air conditioner purchase would result in



GST reduction will help households save 13% on groceries and daily essentials.

GST CUT TO SAVE ₹1.5 LAKH CR FOR GREEN ENERGY INVESTORS: JOSHI

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: GST reduction on renewable energy will save up to ₹1.5 lakh crore for investors till 2030, Union Minister Pralim Joshi said on Monday.

The comments from the Union New & Renewable Energy Minister assume significance as Monday is the first day of implementation of the Goods and Services Tax reduction.

In a bonanza to consumers, the GST Council, comprising the Centre and states, decided to reduce tax rates on goods and services from September 22 — the first day of Navratri. The GST cut will give a significant boost to India's ambitious target of having 50% of renewable energy by 2030. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the CII 6th National Energy Conference, Joshi said, "I think Prime Minister Narendra Modi for cutting 18% to 5%, especially on renewable equipment, is a boon for the nation."

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Fri, 05 Sep-25; Economic Times - Mumbai; Size: 124 sq.cm.; Circulation: 220500; Page: 6

A GST 'Budget' for Aspiring Citizens



THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, 22 Sep 2025; daily - Economic Times - Mumbai;
Size: 58.01 sq. cm.; Circulation: 220500; Page: 7



Rajiv Memani

Gol has delivered a transformative economic reform. From the PM's 'hint' on August 15 to the unanimous approval of GST rate rationalisation and structural reforms on Wednesday night, the Union and state governments have shown great resolve in delivering the promise of accelerating India's competitiveness and inclusive economic growth.

The reforms are anchored around rate rationalisation, resolution of

the hands of the average citizen will drive GDP growth least 0.5%.

The revenue impact, and ensuring high growth, should offset each 2025, paving the way for the in 2026.

Coming ahead of this demand boost comes in propelling consumption. Higher manufacturing increased private capex virtuous cycle, as also a generation.

The simplified dual-rate 5% and 18% will enable and accessibility. The fit seen most items migrated 5% from 12% and 18%, essentials affordable. In

CII Pushes States to Become GCC Hubs

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Confederation of Indian Industry on Sunday called upon states to set up a dedicated facilitation cell and single-window clearance system for global capability centres (GCCs), as well as invest in dedicated digital infrastructure and provide them with direct fiscal support to scale up operations.

India is home to more than 1.700 GCCs, employing around 1.9 million

1,700 Total GCCs in India, employing around 1.9 million

people. The revenue contribution of GCCs in India to their multinational parents is projected to touch \$100 billion by 2030 from \$64.6 billion in FY24. Most of these facilities are based in big cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and the Delhi-National Capital Region and the CII guidelines seek to help states expand the sector beyond the metros.

The Model State GCC Policy released by the CII offers a ready framework, helping states design their own strategies, attract GCC growth beyond the metros, and generate large-scale, high-quality jobs," said CII director-general Chandrabir Banerjee.

For states to become successful GCC destinations on the global map,

the framework suggests outlining success across physical readiness, digital backbone, city infrastructure and overall liveability. The document mentions the need for a trained and skilled workforce and nudges them to become GCC magnets and state industry-academia integration and 'native capabilities'.

The framework highlights talent concentration in a few states as a challenge and suggests "financial incentives for GCCs to establish small, agile satellite offices in tier-2 and tier-3 cities."

BusinessLine

Fri, 12 Sep 2025; daily - Business Line - Hyderabad;
Size: 241.8 sq. cm.; Circulation: 27100; Page: 3

Packaged food players pledge to pass on GST reform benefits to consumers

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
New Delhi

Leading packaged food industry players have pledged to pass on the benefits of the reduction in GST in a meeting held with Food Processing Minister Chirag Paswan, under the aegis of CII. The GST rate on a wide range of products has been reduced to 5 per cent. The industry has also requested the government that it should be



Minister for Food

STATES AT THE CENTRE OF REFORMS

INDIA'S journey towards becoming a globally competitive, and sustainable state will be shaped by its strength and dynamism of its states. By embracing coordinated, data-driven, and out-of-the-box reforms, states can unlock unprecedented growth opportunities.

States hold unique influence over business regulation, land management, labour markets, energy, and sustainability. These are vital for industrial expansion, job creation, productivity enhancement and inclusive development. Aligning national strategies with robust state-led initiatives is, therefore, essential.

A template already exists. The successful rollout of Centre-state coordination demonstrated how Centre-state Committee through the Empowered State Committee of State Finance Ministers and the GST Council can create effective, carefully crafted, consensus-based reforms that benefit the entire nation. The model should be extended to build consensus on land, labour, power, agriculture, environment, and fiscal sustainability.

Creating an enabling business environment is a fundamental step for encouraging private investment. States should streamline all approvals through a single-window system, with



SANJIV BAJAJ
Former President, CII



CHANDRABIR BANERJEE
Director General, CII

should be centralised via an enhanced Shram Suvidha portal offering single-window approvals. Energy is an important factor input, and its costs and availability are key determinants of competitiveness. Foster private sector participation in distribution and transmission efficiency. States dramatically improve efficiency. States adopting reforms such as tariff-based competitive bidding and discom privatisation should be rewarded with limits or rates like enhanced borrowing limits or long-term, interest-free capital loans. Rationalising and eventually phasing out open access charges will also be critical in making the electricity sector more competitive and affordable.



inspiration from international best practices such as Brazil's decade-long forecasts and also work towards prioritising expenditure to bring down overall fiscal deficits and debt levels. Unlocking the opportunity. On presents an opportunity. On the lines of the National Monetisation Pipeline, the central government could support the intervention through a dedicated monetisation cell within the finance ministry or NITI Aayog to provide technical support for states to undertake infrastructure and developmental projects. Agriculture, the backbone of States with lower irrigation levels, could draw up their own plans. To reap the demographic dividend, the Centre and states must work together to provide quality education and jobs for the youth.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Thu, 04 Sep 2025; daily - Times Of India - Delhi;
Size: 65.16 sq. cm.; Circulation: 594773; Page: 22

With GST rate cuts, govt expects lower prices to reach consumers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The govt expects businesses to pass on the benefit of lower goods and services tax (GST) to consumers and the states and Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs will engage with industry on the issue.

...last time, industry had passed on the benefits of rate cuts and you would have seen that a lot of industry have come out and committed... transmitting this benefit... we will engage with industry and ensure that benefits are given to the consumers," revenue secretary Arvind Shrivastava said at a presser.

There are indications

a smooth, timely rollout that lifts demand and supports jobs," industry body CII said in a statement within minutes of the announcement.

When GST was introduced in 2017, the govt had placed an anti-profit provision, which teetering industry to pass on pushed industry to pass on

The good news is that the piled-up inventory will be cleared faster as goods will become more affordable due to the reduction in rates

the benefits. While the anti-profit agency has been disbanded, the provi-

were registered in the initial years of GST, with alleged profiteering of Rs 4,362 crore.

He said that CBIC will issue guidance on transition for goods that have already been sourced and are lying with dealers & distributors.

A govt official said goods that are in stock and will see reduction in GST will have to be sold at the new tax rate after Sept 22, but businesses will be able to get credit for it.

Since the announcement of the reduction on Aug 15,

CII Proposes Steps to Boost GCC Ecosystem

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The Confederation of Indian Industry has called for establishing a National Global Capability Centres (GCC) Council through exclusive legislation to develop next-generation Digital Economic Zones, helping unleash the true potential of GCCs that have lately been at the vanguard of creating technology jobs at the country's top outsourcing hubs.

ship, the apex industry body said, as part of its 'Suggested Framework for a National GCC Policy'. "The suggested framework provides a structured national vision to support the continued expansion and ecosystem."



India's GCC ecosystem," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

Highlighting the role of the GCC council, the framework states that the council should have representation from

dia's GCC agenda, reviewing the baseline and the economic impact created by the GCCs and approving major reforms and cross-sectoral initiatives. The development of next-gen DEZs to facilitate the creation of world-class plug-and-play infrastructure for GCC ecosystem envisages India's GCC ecosystem growing from 1,800 to 5,000 by 2030, creating 20-25 million jobs and contributing \$470-\$600 billion to India's GDP in 2030, charting a pathway that focuses on

Hindustan Times

Thu, 18 Sep 2025; daily - HINDUSTAN TIMES;
Size: 277.86 sq. cm.; Circulation: 625000; Page: 14

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, 02 Sep 2025; daily - Economic Times - Mumbai;
Size: 92.41 sq. cm.; Circulation: 220500; Page: 14

GST Cut, Reforms to Help Even Out Tariff Impact: CII



In GST, what the govt has done is far beyond what we were expecting... It's a very significant relief provided

RAJIV MEMANI
CII President

Anaemia key health challenge in India: NITI Aayog member

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

Anaemia in women is emerging as one of the major health challenges, warned NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul on Wednesday.

At the 6th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Public Health Summit, Paul called for a renewed focus on delivering health services at the district and community level.

"Anaemia is often the least talked about but 50-52% women have anaemia. Thus, there is a need for change in their food habits," he said. He acknowledged India's progress in respect to maternal

Relaxations in Press Note 3 can be made with adequate precautions: CII Prez

Kirtika Suneja

New Delhi: A reduction in goods and services tax, reforms and lower interest rates will help balance out the impact of the 50% American tariffs on India's economy, Confederation of Indian Industry president Rajiv Memani said. In fact, the proposed GST reductions alone should be more than offset any impact from the tariffs, he said.

Memani's statements come amid US imposing 50% tariffs on New Delhi effective August 27, which will impact around \$48.2 billion of India's goods exports to the US, as well in the backdrop of the country posting a five-quarter-high GDP growth rate of 7.8% for the April-June period. The goods industry is looking at a

NEXT-GEN REFORMS

Memani categorised the reforms required in four buckets: ease of doing business; GST; factor reforms (involving land, labour, capital and energy) to make India more competitive; and sectoral unlocks in electronics, metals, mining, power and manufacturing.

"In GST, what the government has done is far beyond what we expected. It's a very significant

The 56th meeting of the GST Council on September 3, 2025 will be remembered as a defining milestone in India's tax history. These reforms go far beyond tax rates and structures. They represent a decisive shift towards a simpler, fairer, and growth-oriented system that is aligned with the aspirations of a Viksit Bharat 2047.

A long-standing demand of both industry and consumers has been simplification of the multiple GST slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%). The move to a GST slab (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%), with just two rates, transparent "Simple Tax", with just two rates, 18% as the Standard Rate and 5% as the Merit Rate, along with a 40% demerit rate for a select few goods - is transformational.

This bold step reduces compliance burdens, enhances predictability for business, and makes the tax regime more citizen-friendly. It clearly signals the government's commitment to align Indian taxation with the best global practices.

Relief for a range of income groups

The reforms directly touch the daily lives in Indian households. Common items such as soap, toothpaste, a bicycle, and kitchenware are now in the 5% bracket. Essentials such as Ultra-High Temperature milk, paneer, chapati and packaged foods, noodles, and instant

Visakhapatnam set to house one of India's largest data centres

Srinivasa Rao Apparasu
srinivasa.rao@hindustantimes.com

HYDERABAD: The coastal city of Visakhapatnam will soon host one of India's largest data centres with a planned capacity of one gigawatt and an initial investment of \$6 billion, Andhra Pradesh Information Technology (IT) minister Nara Lokesh announced on Wednesday.

Addressing the Andhra Pradesh Business Forum Roadshow organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in London, Lokesh said crucial digital infrastructure technology (IT) minister Nara Lokesh announced on Wednesday.

Personally took representatives of the IT giant to the site, showcased the land, and pitched Visakhapatnam as a future hub for digital infrastructure. This initiative marks a major step in strengthening Andhra Pradesh's position as a global technology and investment destination.

Lokesh, who is also son of chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu, said.

The data centre will be supported by an infrastructure of cable landing stations and



The data centre will be aiming to serve Google Cloud, Search, YouTube, and Android users with low-latency services.

ter-driven growth across multiple sectors. He showcased ecosystems being developed in automotive (anchored by Kia), drones, renewable energy, electronics, compressed biogas (CBG), aquaculture, steel, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals.

"Andhra Pradesh is building ecosystems with attention to detail, ensuring industries not only survive but thrive," he said, only survive but thrive," he said, only survive but thrive," he said,

The minister also outlined the government's long-term road-

manufacturing, finance, energy, and technology. Among the participants were representatives from Ericsson, Cyient, Evantia Global, AI OpenSec, Bank of America, and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The minister also held a series of high-level bilateral engagements with leading global companies, including the Hinduja Group, Rolls-Royce, Apollo Tyres, ArcelorMittal, and Coventry University.

Positioning Andhra Pradesh as India's fastest-growing state and one of the most compelling destinations for international investment, Lokesh said in just 15 months since the formation of the TDP-led NDA government, the TDP-led state had secured investments worth over \$114 billion (Rs 10 lakh crore), with land already allotted and projects underway.

He emphasised that Andhra Pradesh's greatest advantage lies in its unmatched speed of doing business, underpinned by fast approvals, transparent land allotment, and proactive facilitation by the state government.

The minister also outlined the government's long-term road-

Lokesh highlighted that the state is uniquely positioned to lead India's green industrial revolution, being the only state with solar, wind, and pumped storage resources to support 100% renewable energy-based infrastructure.

Invites BlackBuck to Vizag

Meanwhile, taking to social media, Lokesh invited online trucking platform BlackBuck to relocate its operations to Visakhapatnam after its co-founder complained of 'worsening infrastructure and commute in Bengaluru'.

BlackBuck co-founder CEO Rajesh Yabaji on Tuesday said the company has decided to move out of its current Bengaluru office to Bengaluru Outer Ring Road (ORR) corridor and road infrastructure issues.

"ORR (Bengaluru) has our office - home for years but it's now very difficult to continue here. We decided to move out," he said in a post on X.

Responding to Lokesh said on X: "Hi

GST 2.0 is a landmark in India's tax journey

Fri, 05 Sep 2025; daily - Hindu - Hyderabad;
Size: 121.82 sq. cm.; Circulation: 169634; Page: 10

Chandrajit Banerjee
is Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

households. Farmers stand to benefit from major reductions. Tractors, farm machinery, and other vital implements now attract only 5% GST, while fertilisers and inputs such as sulphuric acid and urea have moved from 18% to 5%. By correcting earlier inverted duty structures, these reforms lower cultivation costs and improve farm productivity.

Labour-intensive sectors such as handicrafts, marble, granite, and leather goods now enjoy reduced GST rates, which will stimulate demand and secure employment. By making traditional industries more competitive, the reforms safeguard livelihoods while opening new growth avenues.

Changes in critical sectors

A particularly significant achievement is the correction of inverted duty structures in critical sectors. For instance, the GST reduction on chain. This move is expected to boost competitiveness, exports, job creation, and domestic value addition across textiles and apparel.

Cement, a cornerstone for housing and infrastructure, has shifted from 28% to 18% GST. This will drive multiplier effects across construction and infrastructure, while cuts for renewable energy devices and automotive components will fuel India's green growth

institutional advance. For tax-payers, this is a faster dispute resolution, more consistent and enhanced trust in the system. Other provisions, including provisional refunds for reforms, including provisional refunds for inverted duty structures, risk-based compliance checks, and harmonisation of valuation further reduce uncertainty and compliance burden. Together, these measures reinforce India's position as one of the world's easiest countries for doing business.

Over the past eight months, the CII has strongly advocated simplification into a structure, a correction of anomalies, a focus on essentials, support for labour sectors, and faster operationalisation. It is heartening that so many of these have been adopted.

The Council's decisions reflect both responsiveness and a deep sense of partnership with industry. This is a proud moment for stakeholders who have constructively shaped these reforms.

Almost immediate benefits

Equally noteworthy is the careful sequencing of reforms. Revenue stability, sequencing ensures revenue stability immediately from lower rates. The safeguards fiscal health while still allowing investment.

These announcements are not just adjustments. They are a people's

Engaging with the World

Partnership Summit - Curtain Raiser

The Partnership Summit 2025 Curtain Raiser was held on 30 September in New Delhi, bringing together dignitaries, diplomats, ambassadors, high commissioners, Industry leaders, and policymakers for an exclusive preview of one of the year's most influential global platforms for economic collaboration. The Curtain Raiser set the stage for the upcoming summit, which will convene stakeholders across sectors to forge strategic partnerships, accelerate growth, and drive innovation for a sustainable future.

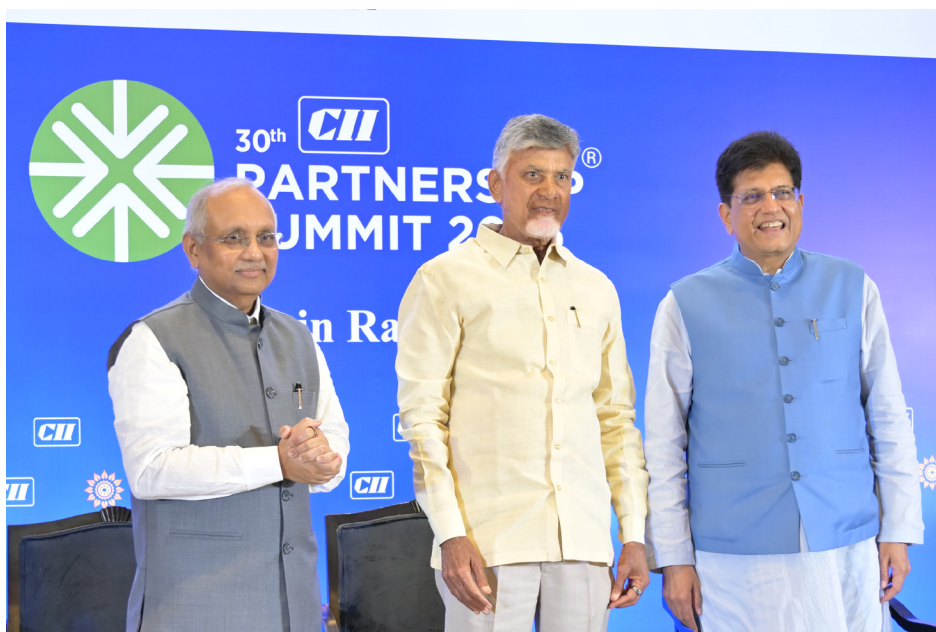
Shri Piyush Goyal, Chairman of the Summit, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Government of India and Shri N Chandrababu Naidu, Co-Chairman and Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, jointly presided over the Curtain Raiser.

Highlighting India's economic momentum, Shri Goyal described the nation as the world's fastest-growing economy, powered by a young, aspirational population. Minister Goyal highlighted that India is advancing on three foundational principles – Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance), Aatmavishwas (self-confidence), and Aatmaraksha (self-protection). The nation is building robust capabilities, resilient supply chains, and dynamic

value chains, while engaging globally from a position of strength and responsibility.

Speaking at the Curtain Raiser, Shri N Chandrababu Naidu emphasised Andhra Pradesh's strategic role in hosting the Summit for the seventh time. "The Partnership Summit has been a powerful platform for state-level promotion, investment outreach, and global engagement," he said. He also highlighted the "Swarna Andhra @ 2047" vision, supported by 21 sector-specific policy documents spanning IT, food processing, clean energy, electronics manufacturing, and more. The vision is anchored in 10 guiding principles, including zero poverty, deep tech integration, water security, global logistics, and Agri-Tech empowerment.

The 30th Partnership Summit, themed "Technology, Trust, and Trade: Navigating the New Geoeconomic Order," is being organized by the CII in association with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, along with the Government of Andhra Pradesh as the Host State. The Summit will take place on 14–15 November 2025 in Visakhapatnam.



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh & Co-Chair of the Partnership Summit; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Trade, Government of India & Chair, Partnership Summit at the Curtain Raiser in New Delhi

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Meeting with H.E. Mr Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore

CII organized an interaction between members of the CII Core Group and H.E. Mr Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore. The engagement served as an important platform to deliberate on ways to deepen the India–Singapore partnership, enhance economic cooperation, and explore emerging opportunities for businesses across both nations.

The discussion centred around the evolving global economic environment, regional connectivity, and strengthening business linkages between India and Singapore. Both sides emphasised the significance of leveraging the mutual trust and strategic alignment developed over six decades of partnership to drive new areas of collaboration. The dialogue highlighted how India and Singapore can work together to navigate current geopolitical shifts and harness opportunities in innovation-led and sustainable growth sectors.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong reaffirmed Singapore's strong confidence in India's growth story, underpinned by consistent reforms, a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, and a robust performance across key sectors. He noted that Singapore has been India's largest foreign investor for seven consecutive years and remains India's top trading partner within ASEAN. These close economic ties are further reinforced by the active participation of Indian enterprises represented through the CII network in Singapore.

Discussions of the Prime Minister with Indian Industry leaders focused on expanding cooperation in future-oriented sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, green energy, and semiconductors.

He emphasised that enhanced collaboration in these areas will not only create new opportunities for both economies but also contribute to the overall dynamism and growth of Asia.

Established in 1993, the CII Core Group on Singapore comprises senior Indian Industry leaders dedicated to strengthening bilateral economic engagement and undertakes annual missions and strategic dialogues to identify trends, exchange insights, and promote investment partnerships that advance the shared economic objectives of India and Singapore.

UAE

CII CEOs Delegation to UAE

India and the United Arab Emirates share a centuries-old relationship rooted in cultural affinity and economic cooperation. This partnership has evolved into a robust strategic economic engagement, anchored by the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed in 2022. Building on this momentum, CII mounted a high-level CEOs delegation to the UAE from 18-19 September, coinciding with the 13th meeting of the India-UAE High Level Task Force on Investments (HLTFI) in Abu Dhabi.

The delegation was led by Mr Rajiv Memani, President, CII and Chairman & CEO, EY India, Co-Chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, and H.H. Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Managing Director, ADIA. Discussions centred on boosting non-oil and non-gems and jewellery trade to USD 100 billion by 2030, reviewing CEPA, enabling trade in local currencies, strengthening collaboration in startups and future technologies,



Members of the CII Core Group on Singapore with Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore, in New Delhi



Rajiv Memani, President, CII and Chairman & CEO, EY India, interacting with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, on the sidelines of the Business Roundtable

advancing the Bharat Mart project at Jebel Ali Free Zone, and establishing a dedicated India Investment Fund.

The delegation also held strategic meetings with senior UAE officials and Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs), including H.E. Rashed Abdulkarim Al Blooshi, CEO, ADGM Registration Authority; H.E. Badr Al Olama, Director General, Abu Dhabi Investment Office; H.E. Omar Al Suwaidi, Undersecretary, Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology (MOIAT); Mr Saed Arar, Executive Director, Real Estate & Infrastructure Investments, Mubadala. Key themes included the launch of an India-focused investment fund and enhanced collaboration in Greentech, cleantech, food security, and advanced technologies such as AI, robotics, and healthcare.

The delegation also met with H.E. Mohammad Lootah, President & CEO, Dubai Chambers, to explore opportunities for Indian businesses to leverage the UAE as a hub for exports to Africa. They also engaged with Mr Abdulla bin Damithan, CEO & Managing Director, DP World, where discussions focused on co-developing green ports, advancing maritime skilling, and strengthening logistics infrastructure.

The visit concluded with a roundtable hosted by the UAE-India Business Council, co-chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal and Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Foreign Trade. The discussions highlighted cooperation in renewable energy, climate action, tourism, and SME-driven sectors.

The CII CEOs Delegation reaffirmed the UAE's role as a strategic gateway for Indian businesses.

UK

Andhra Pradesh Global Roadshow for CII Partnership Summit

On 16 September, the CII-UK organised the Andhra Pradesh Global Roadshow and CII Partnership Summit event in London, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board. The event drew over 225 participants from British and Indian companies and featured a fireside chat with Shri Nara Lokesh, Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Real-Time Governance, and Human Resources Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, who outlined the state's investment vision and invited Industry, academia, and collaborators to visit Andhra Pradesh and join the CII Partnership Summit in November.

Key attendees included Mr Sujit Ghosh, Deputy High Commissioner of India to the UK; Ms Nidhi Mani Tripathi, Minister (Economic), High Commission of India to the UK; Mr Abhishikth Kishore, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, APIIC and Director of Industries, and CII UK IBF members Mr Harshul Asnani, President and Head of Europe, Tech Mahindra (who moderated the fireside chat with the Minister), and Mr John Renard, President EMEA, Cyient.

The event also saw the launch of the CII report 'Indian Roots, British Soil', which highlights the scale of Indian companies' investments, employment generation, R&D spending, and sectoral presence in the UK, while underscoring the significance of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in boosting bilateral trade, innovation, and long-term economic cooperation.

ASEAN

Enhancing India – ASEAN relations

CII, in partnership with the Indian Mission to ASEAN, organized an interactive session of CII India Business Forum members with Mr Srinivas Gotru, Ambassador of India to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 23 September.

The session aimed at highlighting activities of member companies engaging with Indonesia and more countries in ASEAN and to understand opportunities for cooperation in trade, investment, and projects in the region.

Addressing the interactive session, Mr Srinivas Gotru, Ambassador of India to ASEAN highlighted the regular connect between the Governments of ASEAN and India and the various initiatives being taken within ASEAN through vision documents on connectivity, including infrastructure, digital economic framework, and community. The plans give the broad policy direction on what they want to develop.

“The ongoing change in global order and tariffs being imposed, necessitate the need for countries to diversify their trade partners. Businesses need to rethink their strategies for sustainability”, said Mr Rajesh Sethuraman, Chairman CII India Business Forum of Indonesia and CEO Asean, Godrej Consumer Products, Indonesia.

Green energy, digital economy, agriculture were highlighted as the focus areas of ASEAN where Indian Industry could contribute.

AFRICA

Business Delegation to Algeria and Libya

CII organized a business delegation to Algeria and Libya from 3-9 September, on the sidelines of the 4th Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025), with an aim to foster economic cooperation, explore business and economic opportunities, and strengthen bilateral relations.

The bilateral trade between India and Algeria in 2024-25 stands at USD 1.71 billion, with Indian exports amounting to USD 947.04 million & imports into India standing at USD 760.06 million.

In Algeria, the delegation participated in business matchmaking and B2B Forum organized by the Indian Embassy, with over 200 local companies, holding 100+ B2B meetings that generated interest in joint ventures and partnerships. At the Intra-Africa Trade Fair, delegates connected with 1000 exhibitors, banks, and multilateral institutions.

A roundtable with the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry further opened pathways for regional summits and capacity-building initiatives, strengthening ties in sectors such as infrastructure, engineering, healthcare, automotive, and textiles.

The bilateral trade between India and Libya has been experiencing positive growth in recent years. The two-way trade touched USD 874.25 million in 2024-25. India's exports to Libya reached USD 650.39 million last year.

In Libya, engagements with key ministries and business leaders highlighted concrete opportunities in power, infrastructure, healthcare, tourism, and textiles. The General Electricity Company invited Indian expertise for power and desalination projects, while the Ministries of Health, Tourism, and Economy & Trade encouraged Indian participation in pharmaceuticals, hospital infrastructure, construction, transport, and automotive ventures. These meetings reinforced Libya's intent to partner with Indian companies in its rebuilding efforts and opened doors for direct project collaboration.

There are immense opportunities in both countries to leverage strengths and complementarities across sectors, such as agriculture, pharmaceutical, textile, infrastructure, energy, health, education, ICT, manufacturing and services, and to explore new avenues for collaboration in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, biotechnology, defence and space.

USA

CII - USIBC Roundtable on Strengthening Iowa-India Agricultural and Economic Ties

CII hosted a high-level roundtable with Kim Reynolds, Governor of Iowa, and the Iowa delegation in partnership with the U.S. – India Business Council on 9 September in New Delhi.

Members highlighted opportunities in agri-tech, biotech, food processing, and clean energy. India's scale and demand, combined with Iowa's expertise and innovation, create significant potential to strengthen farmer incomes, empower women in agriculture, and build resilient supply chains.

This roundtable builds on the CII-IEDA MoU signed last year, and CII looks forward to working closely with partners to advance this initiative, strengthen bilateral agricultural cooperation, and contribute towards the shared vision of achieving USD 500 billion in U.S.-India trade by 2030.

Exclusive Roundtable with Mr Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey

CII hosted the Mr Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey accompanied by a delegation on 19 September in New Delhi, an event organised in partnership with Choose New Jersey and US India Business Council.

The discussion came at a critical time amid global disruptions, with Indian Industry exploring opportunities in onshoring, manufacturing, food, and clean energy. Programmes like NJ Base provide soft-landing support, helping Indian companies expand their footprint in the U.S. market.

Exclusive Close-Door Roundtable with U.S. Congressional Delegation

A U.S. Congressional delegation visited India to reaffirm the strength of the U.S.–India partnership, highlighting collaboration across trade, technology, energy, and talent. Discussions emphasised opportunities in clean energy, AI, critical minerals, and innovation, alongside concerns over tariffs, supply chains, and immigration. With India's growing economic dynamism and the U.S. Congress' support, both sides underscored the importance of deepening engagement to navigate global uncertainty and shape a resilient, forward-looking partnership.

EAST ASIA

Fostering Synergies between India and Taiwan

CII organized an Interactive Session with Dr GJ Lee, Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan, and the accompanying Delegation on 12 September in New Delhi. The session served as a structured platform to foster dialogue and explore potential synergies between Taiwanese and Indian

enterprises across key sectors. It aimed to identify opportunities for collaboration in joint ventures, technical partnerships, and mutual investments, promoting deeper economic engagement between the two economies.

The 20-member delegation represented Taiwanese companies representing sectors such as automotive, electronics, e-mobility, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, among others. The delegation also comprised senior officials from Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), Taiwan, and Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA). The Indian side constituted about 35 senior Industry members representing the said sectors.

Dr Mumin Chen, Representative Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre (TECC) emphasized that a strong economic partnership between India and Taiwan would be mutually beneficial. For Taiwan, India offers a large and expanding market, abundant human resources, and a supportive policy environment for investment. Conversely, Taiwan offers India strengths in technological innovation and precision manufacturing.

Dr GJ Lee emphasised the strategic importance of the sectors including, automotive, e-mobility, electronics, and semiconductors. He highlighted these sectors as critical pillars for future industrial cooperation between Taiwan and India, given their potential to drive innovation and support the transition toward sustainable and technology-driven economies. He also emphasized the complementary strengths of both economies in these domains, Taiwan's advanced manufacturing and R&D capabilities, combined with India's large market base and growing innovation ecosystem.



Members with Dr GJ Lee, Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan



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Communiqué

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Sectorscape



Global Capability Centres

Emerging Global Capabilities of India



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; R Dinesh, Past President, CII and Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd; Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India; N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; Gunjan Samtani, Chair, CII Task Force on GCCs and Romal Shetty, Co-Chair, CII Task Force on GCCs and Chief Executive Officer, Deloitte South Asia at the GCC Business Summit in Visakhapatnam

CII organized the GCC Business Summit, themed 'The State Perspective', on 17 September at Visakhapatnam. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance, Government of India, shared the Government's vision on how GCCs can efficiently and smoothly drive innovation, research, and employment generation, thereby impacting the overall economic growth of our country. She emphasised that India already hosts almost half of all the GCCs and many others worldwide and stressed that with strong policies, good infrastructure, and the right skills, India can use this sector to reach its Viksit Bharat 2047 goals. She also welcomed the release of the CII Model State GCC Policy Framework as a roadmap for state-level GCC development. She highlighted three pillars for this growth:

- Heavy investment in infrastructure: It has doubled as a share of national income since 2014. This investment led to big changes in transport, such as new rail, metro, and highways, along with digital changes like the rollout of 5G networks.
- Skill Development: The Government has launched a program worth ₹2 lakh crore to provide skills to over 4 crore young people and has started various initiatives in this direction, including the PM Internship and RDI Innovation Fund to help GCCs recruit and employ talented youth.
- Improved Governance for business: Make the existing rules & regulations easier, offering competitive taxes, and encouraging State Governments to create their own GCC-friendly environments.



(L-R): Keerthi Kumar, Partner, Deloitte India; Tarun Aahi, Vice President, Head of GCC Operations, Jindal Steel Ltd and Director, Jindal GCC; Vishal Kumar, President and Regional Head- APAC, MEA and India ITC Infotech; Chandandeep Kaur Regional Head, Global Subsidiaries, India and South Asia, Standard Chartered Bank; Kiran Babu Cherukuri, Global GCC Practice Leader, HCL Tech and Devashish Sharma, Founding Member and CEO, Taggd

Shri N Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, highlighted several plans, such as a new Google Data Centre in Vizag, building a greenfield smart city in Amravati, investing in green hydrogen & logistics, and preparing the State to meet all the modern infrastructure needed for the purpose. He promised that every GCC venture would get fast-paced support for basic requirements, including land, power, skills, and digital needs.

Industry leaders noted that it will be important to spread GCCs to smaller cities and towns while encouraging proactive State action. This would support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, with an aim of establishing 5,000 GCCs by 2030, contributing over USD 500 billion to national income, and creating 25 million jobs.



Public Health

Prioritizing People, Partnership, and Innovation

CII organized the 6th Public Health Summit, themed “India’s Public Health Imperatives: Prioritizing People, Partnerships, and Innovations,” on 17 September in New Delhi. Smt Smriti Irani, Founder and Chairperson, The Alliance for Global Good: Gender Equity & Equality and Advisor, Women’s Collective Forum, said “the last

mile is only as strong as the last clinic. We must plug gaps in emergency obstetric care, blood availability, and critical transport. Strengthening LaQshya-like quality initiatives and scaling high-impact protocols in district hospitals will save lives.”

Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, said “India’s health-tech focus must go beyond innovation creation to integrate primary prevention, early detection, and system-level continuity of care.” Building on this, a special ‘Innovation Spotlight’ session was curated to showcase low-cost, high-impact health-tech solutions with the potential to become public health game-changers through impact, scalability, sustainability, and policy alignment.

Innovators presented their public health solutions to policymakers, Industry leaders, and investors to showcase their innovation as a problem solver, including:

- SAVEMOM, world’s first AIoT-based 1000-day maternal and childcare platform. Combining wearable devices and AI-driven decision support to enable continuous monitoring, early high-risk pregnancy detection, and personalized maternal and infant care. Through this, high-risk pregnancies can be identified as early as the second trimester
- ‘From Hospital to Home: Care Companion Program (CCP) for Family Caregiver Training’, trains healthcare staff to engage families of patients through in-hospital training sessions, followed by continued digital engagement
- ‘Moto Aarogyam’, a community-centric health intervention designed for remote and tribal areas with disrupted health services. A domain-adapted



(L-R): Rajat Jain, Managing Director, Sunfox Technologies; Arun Agarwal, Founder & CEO, Janitri Innovations; Manoj Singh, Associate Director – TB, William J. Clinton Foundation; Sandeep Kumar, Founder & CEO, DigiSwasthya; Bhagyada Jamsandekar, Lead- Program Design, Content and Training, Foundation for Mother & Child Health (FMCH); Dr Sunil Chandy, Chief Medical Officer, ITC; Anjan Bose, Lead Mentor, Healthcare/HealthTech Vertical India Accelerator and Former President, Philips Healthcare & Consumer Lifestyle-India/South Asia; Dr Reena Nakra, Principal Director, Lab Management and Technology Excellence, Dr Lal Path Labs; Dr Seema Murthy, Executive Director and India Country Head, Noora Health; Devesh Varma, Head, Ola Foundation; Amit Bhatnagar, Managing Director, SwasthManthan Meditech Pvt Ltd and Senthil Kumar Murugesan, Co-Founder & CEO JioVio Healthcare at the CII Public Health Summit in New Delhi

LLM that guides frontline workers, the initiative blends mobility and technology to improve access

- 'Janitiri' a wearable, wireless device developed for monitoring foetal and maternal health during labour. Designed for low-resource settings, the system provides real-time alerts to detect complications early and improve outcomes across the first 1000 days of motherhood and child health
- Spandan, an AI-powered portable ECG device that enables quick, affordable heart screening for remote and underserved communities. Designed for last-mile use, it empowers doctors with cost-effective emergency tools for easy monitoring of patients at high risk.
- NuTree, a decision-tree and data collection app developed to guide frontline workers in providing need-based health and nutrition counselling during a child's first 1000 days, allowing them to focus on care and connection, while the app manages the knowledge delivery
- Dr La-Bike, a solar-powered mobile lab on a bicycle, provides affordable doorstep diagnostics in areas where conventional labs are inaccessible. Its lightweight design and mobility allows trained health workers to reach communities with minimal infrastructure
- DigiSwasthya, a health-tech social venture with a phygital telemedicine model to deliver quality healthcare for underserved rural populations. By combining physical health centres, digital teleconsultations, and smart diagnostics, it bridges the gap between remote communities and urban specialists by addressing challenges of delayed diagnosis and high out-of-pocket costs
- Express Health Camps, pioneering TB Active Case Finding (ACF) initiative in India, harnesses AI-enabled, ultraportable chest X-ray technology, and offers a scalable, sustainable model for early TB detection.

Takeaways:

Experts emphasised the need for innovators to adopt a 3-5 year scenario planning approach to effectively navigate future uncertainties. India already possesses a robust innovation ecosystem, supported by mechanisms that facilitate the integration of innovation, both within programmatic frameworks and through enabling policies and institutional collaborations.

Understanding how the public health system assesses innovations for integration and scale-up is essential. Evaluation considers factors such as peer-reviewed

evidence, practitioner feedback, user data, cost-effectiveness, HTAs, and identification of enablers and barriers. Innovators should engage regularly with relevant National Health Programme divisions and collaborate with state health departments to conduct pilots and screening camps for real-world validation.

There must be rigorous clinical validation to build scientific credibility and increase adoption among clinicians and public health practitioners of such innovations, which helps widen the market.



Digital

Building India's Artificial Intelligence Landscape

CII in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), IndiaAI Mission, and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), organized the Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit & National AI Awards on 4th September in New Delhi. This event served as a precursor to MeitY's upcoming India-AI Impact Summit 2026, bringing together distinguished leaders from Government, Industry, and academia to discuss the transformative potential of AI for India and the world.

H.E. Juan Angulo, Ambassador of Chile, addressed a session on "Diplomacy in the Age of AI: International Perspectives and Future Trends," emphasizing that AI is transforming every sector, including diplomacy, and underscoring the importance of ensuring its benefits are universally accessible. Other panelists highlighted the need for global cooperation to promote equitable access, particularly for developing nations with limited resources.

Shri Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary and CEO, IndiaAI Mission, MeitY, outlined India's strategic initiatives, emphasizing the importance of developing responsible and ethical AI frameworks, combating misinformation, and embedding AI culture across organizations.

Shri Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI, cited that India's AI ecosystem is thriving with access to world-class data, top educational institutions, and affordable computing power. This infrastructure is enabling innovators to build AI solutions that address real, pressing challenges in healthcare, finance, and beyond. He highlighted that the goal of AI is to improve lives,



(L- R): Sandeep Gupta, Grand Jury – CII AI Awards and Managing Director, Protiviti; Puneet Chandok, Chairman, CII National AI Forum and President, Microsoft India & South Asia; Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary and CEO, IndiaAI Mission, MeitY; Rajan Navani Chairman, CII AI Awards and Managing Director, Jetline Group and Prateek Garg, Chairman, CII Regional Committee on Startups and Founder & Managing Director, Progressive Infotech launching the 'Vision AI: Trends and Strategic Insights' at Global AI Summit & National AI Awards in New Delhi

enhance inclusion, and solve the country's most urgent problems.

Mr Puneet Chandok, Chairman, CII National AI Forum and President, Microsoft India and South Asia, emphasized India's ambition to establish a future-ready AI ecosystem, highlighting the importance of human-centric, responsible AI development.

Mr Rajan Navani, Chairman, CII AI Awards and Managing Director, Jetline Group, highlighted India's unique strength in converging diverse technologies to create personalized experiences and global AI solutions.

Mr Prateek Garg, Chairman, CII Regional Committee (NR) on Startups & Founder and Managing Director, Progressive Infotech highlighted initiatives like AIKosh and the India AI Consortium, aimed at empowering startups and researchers with resources, including subsidized GPU access and curated datasets.

The deliberations at the Summit revolved around critical themes shaping the future of smart manufacturing with AI, preparing the workforce for the AI era, and discussions on AI governance to address regulatory and ethical challenges. Sessions also explored diplomacy in the age of AI with international perspectives, the role of AI as a catalyst for healthcare innovation, as well as advancements in natural language processing.

The proceedings culminated in CII AI Awards, where 54 Awards were given to organizations under different categories, which included, "Excellence in Best AI Solution Showcase", "Excellence in Best Industry AI Application", and "Excellence in best use of AI Industry-Academia collaboration".

This was followed by the release of a report titled "Vision AI: Trends and Strategic Insights," by CII and Protiviti, which offers a sector-wide perspective on AI adoption and governance.



Mining

Securing Critical Minerals: Shaping an AatmaNirbhar Bharat

CII organized the India Mining Summit on 18 September in New Delhi, which focused on securing critical minerals to drive India's self-reliance (AatmaNirbhar Bharat) mission, net-zero transitions, and economic growth. It brought together Government officials, Industry leaders, academics, and experts.

Discussions across plenary sessions highlighted the strategic importance of critical minerals for India's clean energy and manufacturing sectors, with calls for policy incentives, streamlined regulations, and investments in underground mining and processing technologies.

Speakers stressed upon public-private partnerships, global benchmarking, and R&D in exploration, recycling, and recovery from tailings. The inaugural session underscored the role of mining in sustainability and self-reliance, while sessions on technology, ease of doing business, and urban mining explored innovations like AI-driven exploration, digital solutions, and circular economy models to reduce import burdens and enhance environmental resilience.

Dr Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog mentioned that 90 per cent of rare earths are controlled by one country, and several countries dominate critical minerals & manufacturing. There is need to diversify supply and demand. India is emerging as a new supply chain hub.

Sessions addressed the role of ease of mining, technology, and urban mining in India's heavy import dependence on critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earths, emphasizing the need for domestic



(L-R): Thomas M Cherian, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Mining and Managing Director, Essel Mining & Industries Ltd; Swati Salgaocar, Co-Chairperson, CII National Committee on Mining and Managing Director, V M Salgaocar & Brother Pvt Ltd and Dr Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog at the CII India Mining Summit in New Delhi

production, international collaborations, and sustainable practices to mitigate economic and geopolitical risks.

Key Takeaways

- **Policy Reforms for Critical Minerals:** Implement special regimes with incentives, stable taxation, and streamlined clearances to attract junior miners and boost exploration success ratios for deep-seated minerals
- **International and Domestic Collaborations:** Foster Industry-Government partnerships, global R&D exchanges, and overseas asset acquisitions to diversify supply chains and secure resources amid geopolitical concentrations
- **Technology Integration in Processing:** Leverage digital innovations and AI for efficient mineral recovery, processing, and refining to maximize yields and minimize environmental impacts
- **Urban Mining and Recycling Focus:** Promote recovery from tailings and by-products through regulated models, incentives, and R&D to complement fresh mining and build a circular economy
- **Sustainability and Community Engagement:** Prioritize waste management, water efficiency, and community protection in mining operations to align growth with net-zero goals and Viksit Bharat vision.



Law and Compliance

Shaping Technologies and Global Trends in India's Competition Law

CII organized a roundtable on Emerging Technologies and Global Trends in Competition Law on 22 September in Bengaluru, which highlighted emerging technologies and global trends in antitrust, addressing potential anti-competitive conduct in emerging markets, competition law, Artificial Intelligence regulation, effects analysis, and balancing innovation incentives with market contestability. Members from Industry, academia, corporates, PE/VC investors, and law firms participated in the roundtable.

Smt Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson, Competition Commission of India (CCI), stated that in the wake of multiple choices provided in the digital age, it needs to be ensured that these choices are presented to consumers in a fair, transparent, and contestable manner. She emphasized that all organizations and market players must also get fair opportunities to grow and innovate.

Mr Rabindra Srikantan, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council and Managing Director, ASM Technologies Ltd, stated that the need of the hour is to strike the right balance between regulating emerging technologies and AI to ensure fair competition and fostering innovation in a rapidly evolving digital economy. He stated that in emerging Indian markets, a nuanced approach may be adopted in developing a regulatory framework, given the unique challenges as per the current economic stage.

Mr Ram Kumar Poornachandran, Senior Partner, AZB & Partners, commended CCI for regulating traditional Industries, and stated that noteworthy regulations in emerging digital sectors have been witnessed. He observed that in the context of digital Industries, regulators worldwide are navigating novel and evolving challenges and are still refining their approaches.



(L-R): Ram Kumar Poornachandran, Senior Partner, AZB & Partners; Ravneet Kaur, Chairperson, CCI; Rabindra Srikantan, Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council and Managing Director, ASM Technologies Ltd; Inder Pal Singh Bindra, Secretary, CCI; Dr K D Singh, Director (Law), Advocacy Division and Secretariat, CCI at Roundtable on Emerging Technologies and Global Trends in Competition Law in Bengaluru

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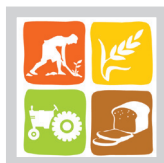
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Portfolio for Excellence



Food and Agriculture

Future Roadmap for Expansion of the Indian Food Processing Industry

CII, in partnership with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), organised an interaction focused on the Next Generation GST Reforms – Enabling Investments, Employment & Growth on 30 September in Patna. Shri Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, elaborated Prime Minister's vision - Yahi Samay hai, Sahi Samay hai, and said that "Going forward it is important to expand the food processing Industry in Bihar, by leveraging the increased demand, generated by the reduced GST rates in the food processing Industries, and map it with farmers income and livelihood, in Bihar."

Mr B Kartikey, Secretary, Industries, Government of Bihar, mentioned that the employment potential of the food processing Industry can only be harnessed with the increased demand and investments in the sector.

Mr Piruz Khambatta, Chairman, CII National Committee on Taxation and CMD, Rasna Group, highlighted the importance of harnessing the country's youth power

while leveraging opportunities in the food processing sector. He added that the food and agro-processing sector is a major beneficiary in the rationalization of GST rates, and the Industry has passed on the benefit of rate reduction to the consumers.

The event also witnessed the release of the Take Home Ration (THR) recipe booklet for Bihar, which is part of a larger effort to make nutrition accessible and affordable for children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in the state. It provides simple, culturally relevant, and innovative recipes that empower families to prepare wholesome meals and snacks at home using fortified THR premixes supplied through Anganwadi Centres.

Deliberations reinforced Bihar as the food bowl of our country and its emergence as a leader in the production of fruits and vegetables, and a variety of crops such as foxnut (makhana), mango, litchi, guava, among others.

Next Generation GST Reforms for Food Processing

CII organized a CEOs Roundtable on Next Generation GST Reforms for the Food Processing sector on 11 September in New Delhi. Shri Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food and Processing Industries, Government of India, said, "GST reforms embody the vision of reform, perform, transform. The food processing Industry must now channel these benefits to both consumers



(L-R): Chirag Paswan, Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India at the Interactive session on Next Gen GST Reforms in New Delhi. Also seen are AP Das Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries; Piruz Khambatta, Chairman, CII National Committee on Taxation and Chairman & Managing Director, Rasna International and Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd

and farmers by improving quality and formalizing the unorganized sector. With this, the sector will play a pivotal role in realizing the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.”

Shri AP Das Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, said “GST is the single largest comprehensive tax reform India has seen, and its impact on the food processing Industry is poised to be transformative. This will drive consumption, attract investments, and formalize the sector. With food processing growing at just 12%, India has the potential to grow the food processing sector fourfold, unlocking a bright future for the Industry and farmers.”

Mr Piruz Khambatta, Chairman, CII National Committee on Taxation and Chairman & Managing Director, Rasna International, outlined that, consumers are demanding transparency and efficiency, and GST is central to that aspiration. The Industry has taken a pledge and launched the GST Bachat Grahak Tak campaign to transfer the benefits of reduced GST rates to consumers. This is a step towards making GST truly a people-centric reform, he added.

Mr Suresh Chitturi, Chairman, CII Committee on Animal Agriculture & Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Srinivasa Farms, highlighted that GST reforms are a welcome step for the livestock sector, bringing much-needed relief with rationalized GST rates on poultry products. These measures not only support farmers and Industry but also encourage greater domestic market access.



CME

Occupational Health and Safety: Driving India towards a Viksit Bharat 2047

The CII Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CME) organized the 10th National Conference on Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) themed “OHS Excellence: Navigating Indian Industry towards Viksit Bharat 2047,” on 25 September in Mumbai. It brought together over 150 OHS leaders, Industry experts, and safety professionals to deliberate on how India can shape

a safer, more responsible, and globally competitive Industrial ecosystem.

Since the Government’s Make-in-India initiative completed 11 years, the conference spotlighted how OHS is not merely a compliance requirement but a strategic enabler of sustainable manufacturing, enhancing productivity, reliability, and long-term competitiveness.

Mr Anil G Verma, Chairman, CII National Task Force on Industrial Safety & ED and CEO, Godrej Enterprise Group, emphasized the pivotal role of leadership in embedding safety into core organizational values, highlighting inclusivity, productivity, sustainability, and equity as the guiding pillars of India’s OHS framework.

Mr Sanjay Khanna, Director (Refineries) with Additional Charge of CMD, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., stressed that safe operations are the foundation of organizational reliability and noted that reliability is the ultimate differentiator for India as a trusted global partner.

The delegates also launched the State-Wise Workplace Accident Reporting Guideline, developed by the CII National Task Force on Industrial Safety, which will streamline accident reporting across states, driving greater standardization, transparency, and accountability.

It was accompanied by important panel sessions conveying the important opinion of Industry leaders on topics like “Visionary Leadership for Safe, Sustainable Growth – Perspectives on OHS and Viksit Bharat at 2047”, “Design Thinking Principles to Create Safe Workplaces”, “Governance, Culture & Digital Transformation.”



CEL

Reshaping the Future of Micro-Entrepreneurs in India

Business Transformation Workshop

CII Center of Excellence on Employment & Livelihood (CEL), in collaboration with the CII Foundation organised a Business Transformation Workshop from 9-10 September in Chennai that invited around 30 micro-



Participants at the 2 days Business Workshop for Entrepreneurs in Chennai

entrepreneurs from diverse sectors. It provided practical, hands-on learning across key business functions, covering areas like financial management, marketing communication, team optimization, inventory control, and AI integration.

Business Excellence Workshop

CII CEL, in collaboration with the Association of Lady Entrepreneurs of India (ALEAP), and with support from Volvo Trust Group, organized a Business Excellence Workshop on 12-13 September in Visakhapatnam. It brought together over 70 entrepreneurs, with nearly 90% being women, highlighting their increasing role in driving entrepreneurial growth. The sessions offered comprehensive 360° business learning, covering financial

management, marketing, AI integration, communication, team management, and digital strategies.

Launch of the Entrepreneurs Development Forum

CII CEL inaugurated the Entrepreneurs Development Forum in Chennai, Coimbatore, and Madurai, which is envisioned as a dedicated platform to connect micro-entrepreneurs with mentorship opportunities, business networks, and continuous learning resources through an integrated Learning Management System (LMS). By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing, the forum aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem and accelerate business growth.

The first meeting was held in Chennai on 11 September, in the presence of Mr RV Chari, Convenor, MSME Panel, CII Tamil Nadu State Council and Managing Director, GH



Participants at the 2 days Business Workshop for Entrepreneurs in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Induction India Pvt Ltd., who also launched the “Billion Tool” android application for the micro-entrepreneurs..

It was inaugurated in Madurai on 25 September by Mr Ashwin Desai, Chairman, CII Madurai Zone and Managing Director, A&T Video Networks Pvt Ltd He said, “Every entrepreneur is a nation builder, and we want micro businesses to become sustainable engines of India’s economic resilience,” while highlighting insights from his entrepreneurial journey.

It was launched in Coimbatore on 25 September, which marked that with the right support, India’s micro entrepreneurs will not only scale their businesses, but also their confidence and leadership.

Interaction with Nagaland Delegation

CII CEL organized an interaction with the Nagaland Government Delegation for the Micro-Entrepreneurs Excellence Project on 18 September in Nagaland. It presented its flagship Micro-Entrepreneurs Business Excellence initiative to Mr Kvulo Lorin, Chairman, Nagaland Industrial Development Corporation; Mr Thomas Thailu, OSD, Department of Planning and Transformation, Government of Nagaland; Ms Meripeni, Under Secretary & Project Lead, Nagaland Skill & Entrepreneurship Development Mission; Mr I Changsang, NCS, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland; and Mr Temjenmoa Jamir, CSR Manager, Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland.



CIES

Fostering Growth of Technology and Hardware Startups

CII’s Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Startups (CII-CIES) organised the 5th episode of Pitch 360, a monthly platform where affiliated startups pitch their innovations to corporates, investors, and Industry leaders. This edition, held on 3 September, spotlighted hardware and deep tech startups, showcasing breakthrough solutions that drive efficiency, scalability, and Industry impact.

- Focused on renewable energy, a startup developed a 0.4-micron nano coating for solar panels that

enhances light trapping, self-cleaning, and reduces reflection, while improving efficiency and panel life

- A startup pitched deep-tech solution enabler for predictive maintenance to prevent industrial production losses and ensure worker safety
- A global smart luggage brand with anti-theft wallets, fingerprint lockable laptop bags, and the viral auto-follow, rideable suitcase with Next-Gen voice and map features
- An IoT-driven startup showcased smart, automation-based solutions
- A startup that works on clean mobility showcased rare-earth-free, high-efficiency motors and controllers, pioneering switched reluctance technology for sustainable appliances, EVs, HVAC, and industrial automation.

Advancing India’s Innovation Ecosystem

CII hosted the Unicorn Forum’s Founder’s Huddle on 19 September in Noida, bringing together startup founders, investors, corporate leaders, and senior representatives from academia for a discussion on advancing India’s innovation ecosystem.

It highlighted the impact of the Government’s recent ease-of-doing-business initiatives, which have strengthened the foundation for entrepreneurship and innovation in the country. At the same time, Members emphasized the importance of continued policy support to sustain momentum and enable Indian startups to compete at a global scale.

Deliberations highlighted indicative areas like simplifying and accelerating intellectual property and patent processes to protect and scale innovative solutions; facilitating global market access and international expansion to help Indian startups compete on a worldwide stage; harmonizing sectoral regulations across state and central levels to reduce operational friction; and addressing policy gaps that impact the scalability and global competitiveness of digital-first businesses for targeted policy action to support growth-stage startups.

It underlined that advancing reforms will be critical to creating an enabling policy environment, which will enable unicorn startups to scale rapidly and position India as a leading global hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. ■



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Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Banking for Viksit Bharat

The 18th edition of Banking Colloquium was held in Kolkata on 10 September under the theme 'Banking for Viksit Bharat: Building Trust, Fueling a Resilient Future'. The event focused on the need for deeper trust in financial systems, faster digital integration, and broader access to finance for MSMEs and underserved regions.

The discussions moved beyond surface-level reforms to the underlying shifts required in infrastructure and institutional mindset. Digital transformation was highlighted not as a checklist item but as an ongoing process that demands a balance between legacy systems and emerging technologies. With the scale of digital transactions growing rapidly, the urgency to build resilient IT frameworks and prepare the workforce to navigate both old and new systems came through strongly. Cybersecurity, data protection, and digital literacy were identified as critical enablers for sustaining customer confidence and ensuring last-mile inclusion.

During the conclave, three knowledge reports were released: CII Report titled 'Inclusive Banking in the East: Unlocking the Potential of Women-led Enterprises'; CII-Deloitte Report titled 'Financing Eastern India's Growth Engines'; and CII-Sumedha Fiscal Services

Report titled 'Driving Transformation in Indian Banking – Resilient, Tech-Driven, Sustainable, and Inclusive'.

Safety Symposium & Exposition

The 19th edition of the Safety Symposium & Exposition on 11-12 September in Kolkata deliberated upon innovations in Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) that can help reshape safety and wellness landscapes in organisations. A compendium of Good Practices on OHS 2025 was released during the symposium.



Avanindra Singh, Secretary, Department of Labour, Government of West Bengal handing over the trophy to the winning team of ITC Ltd, India Tobacco Division, Kidderpore at the Safety Symposium & Exposition in Kolkata



(L-R): Bibek Agarwala, Co-Chairman, Economic Affairs & Taxation Subcommittee and Executive Director & Chief Financial Officer, Eveready Industries India Ltd; Hardik Mukesh Seth, Director – Banking, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Rama Mohan Rao Amara, Managing Director of International Banking, Global Markets & Technology, State Bank of India; Bijay Murmura, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Director, Sumedha Fiscal Services Ltd; Ratan Kumar Kesh, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer, Bandhan Bank at the Banking Colloquium in Kolkata



(L-R): Pankaj Kumar, Chief Executive Officer, IndianOil Petronas Pvt Ltd; Rajiv Mangal, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Safety Subcommittee and Vice President, Safety, Health & Sustainability, Tata Steel Ltd; Avanindra Singh, Secretary, Department of Labour, Government of West Bengal; Abhijit A Nanoti, Chairman, CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council and Managing Director, Jamshedpur Continuous Annealing Processing Company Pvt Ltd

Eminent speakers across various sessions shared their insights on the leadership role in implementing innovation in HSE, mental health in the digital ecosystem, reinventing mining methods for sustainability, innovative PPE for better user friendliness, and modern engineering for safer logistics. The session was attended by more than 350 safety and senior professionals from various companies.

The Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) Excellence Awards were presented to the winners, recognising outstanding contributions towards safety management. As many as 101 companies participated and were assessed onsite.

TechNext India: Innovating India, Transforming Today

The 24th edition of ICT East was held in Kolkata on 24 September, with the theme 'TechNext India: Innovating India, Transforming Today', reflecting the dual imperative of building future-ready technologies

while accelerating inclusive digital transformation in the present. Conceptualised as more than a conventional conference, this year's conference was positioned as an immersive technology platform that combined dialogue, demonstration, and co-creation.

The initiative brought together Industry leaders, startups, and academia, creating an ecosystem of collaboration and knowledge sharing. Discussions explored the evolving landscape of digital transformation, the role of emerging technologies, and strategies to strengthen India's position as a global technology hub.

The deliberations highlighted the opportunities emerging from rapid digital adoption as well as the risks associated with cybersecurity, compliance, and workforce preparedness. India's digital economy outlook, the growing contribution of Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and the significance of Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as hubs for digital talent formed key highlights of the programme.



(L-R): Sanjeev Chauhan, Vice President – Cloud Engineering, Oracle; Swapna Bapat, Managing Director – India & SAARC, Palo Alto Networks; Prosenjit Sengupta, Chairman, CII ER ICTE Sub-Committee and Group CDIO, ITC Ltd; Krishan Ghei, Vice President & Business Head, Tata Communications; Manojit Sengupta, Co- Chairman, CII ER, ICTE Sub-Committee & Delivery Centre Head, TCS at ICT East in Kolkata



(L-R): Akanksha Chaturvedi, Co-Chairperson, CSR subcommittee, CII ER and Head-Corporate Strategy, Offline Marketing and CRM, Gainwell Commoslaes Pvt Ltd; Prashant Hota, President, Group Head CSR & Education and Head-Odisha – Corporate Communications, Jindal Steel Ltd; Sunil Gupta, Chairman, CII Odisha State Council and President, Advocacy & Business Development Vedanta Ltd; Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister Department of Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Government of Odisha; Anu Garg, Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Planning & Convergence, Government of Odisha; G Suresha Vice Chairman, CII Odisha State Council and Executive Director, AM/NS India at the CII Odisha CSR Conclave in Bhubaneswar

Driver for Sustainable & Inclusive Growth

CII Odisha, under the overarching theme 'Driver for Sustainable & Inclusive Growth', organised the CII Odisha CSR Conclave on 24 September in Bhubaneswar. The conclave served as a collaborative platform bringing together business leaders, policymakers, development partners, and civil society representatives to deliberate on strengthening the role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Odisha's socio-economic transformation.

Shri Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Industries, Skill Development & Technical Education, Government of Odisha, emphasised the need for corporates to align their CSR initiatives with the State Government's development agenda. He proposed a cluster-based CSR approach in industrial hubs such as Kalinga Nagar, Jharsuguda, and Keonjhar to reinforce education, healthcare, infrastructure, and community development.

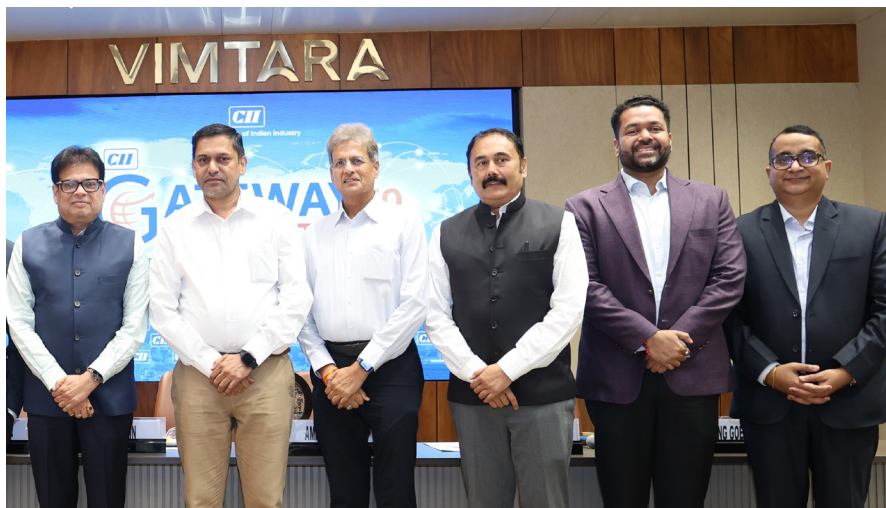
Smt Anu Garg, Development Commissioner and Additional Chief Secretary, Planning & Convergence,

Government of Odisha, outlined the state's ambition to raise its contribution to national GDP from 2.8–2.9 per cent at present to 4 per cent by 2036 and 5 per cent by 2047. This growth must be inclusive, skill-based, and supported by industries absorbing trained youth through ITIs and other skilling avenues, she said.

CSR Compendium Volume XII developed by CII Odisha, in collaboration with the CII Eastern Region CSR Sub-Committee, was released during the event. The compendium documents how companies are aligning CSR programmes with long-term business risks such as climate change, environmental degradation, pollution, community relations, and social inclusion, while also showcasing inspiring best practices from across industries.

Gateway to Global Trade

An interaction on 'Gateway to Global Trade: Export Incentives & ICD Development' explored Chhattisgarh's emerging role as a competitive trade and investment hub. The discussions underlined the need for Inland



(L-R): Ramesh Agrawal, Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Chairman & Managing Director, GR Sponge & Power Ltd.; Amit Choudhary, Joint Commissioner, Central Excise and GST, Raipur; Manish Gupta, Past Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Director, BSBK Group of Companies; Sanjay Jain, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Managing Director, RSV Exim Pvt Ltd; Bajrang Goel, Vice Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council and Director, Shri Bajrang Power & Ispat Ltd and Vimal Pruthi, Partner – India Global Trade & Customs (Indirect Tax), EY at the interaction on 'Gateway to Global Trade: Export Incentives & ICD Development' in Raipur

Container Depot development, reducing transaction costs, and improving logistics efficiency.

The discussions, held in Raipur on 6 September and attended by over 140 delegates, including Industry leaders, policymakers, and experts, highlighted Chhattisgarh's emerging role as a competitive trade and investment hub.

Shri Amit Choudhary, Joint Commissioner, Central Excise & GST, shared key insights during the session. Mr Sanjay Jain, Chairman, CII Chhattisgarh State Council, emphasised the state's export potential and global market alignment. Recommendations focused on prioritising ICD development, trade facilitation platforms, SME capacity-building, and diversified market strategies, reaffirming CII's commitment to strengthening Chhattisgarh's global trade ecosystem.

East Tech Symposium

CII, in association with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) & HQ Eastern Command of the Indian Army, organised the 4th edition of the East Tech Symposium on 19-21 September in Ranchi. The event brought together the Armed Forces, MSMEs, startups, and academia under the theme 'Atmanirbharta Se Samprabhuta' (From Self-Reliance to Sovereignty).

The initiative was inaugurated by Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Governor of Jharkhand. Shri Sanjay Seth, Raksha Rajya Mantri; Shri Hemant Soren, Chief Minister of Jharkhand; General Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of Defence Staff; Lt Gen Ram Chander Tiwari, UYSM, AVSM, SM, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Command and Mr Rajinder Singh Bhatia, President, SIDM were among the key speakers at the event.

The symposium featured comprehensive exhibitions from more than 175 companies, facilitated over 300 B2G meetings, and attracted more than 400 Industry delegates alongside over 1,500 visitors including Indian Army officers, academia, students, NCC cadets, and police personnel, creating a robust platform for strengthening India's defence ecosystem and operational readiness of the Eastern Command.

The symposium identified the need to establish dedicated defence clusters and test facilities in Jharkhand to create ecosystem synergies and support product validation processes. Key recommendations include increasing investment in R&D capabilities, developing military-oriented technical expertise within the country, and creating more opportunities for direct interaction between end-users and manufacturers. It was suggested to establish defence industrial corridors in Eastern India, leveraging Jharkhand's strategic location and existing heavy engineering infrastructure.

GST 2.0: Key Changes and Industry Implications

CII Jharkhand organised a session on 'GST 2.0 – Key Changes & Industry Implications' on 22 September in Jamshedpur, bringing together experts, policymakers, and Industry leaders to deliberate on the evolving GST framework. The discussions focused on operational continuity, compliance requirements, and strategies to ensure a smooth transition for businesses.

Mr Jayesh Taunk, Mentor, CII Jharkhand & Managing Director, Jayesh Taunk & Co highlighted GST 2.0 as a milestone reform aimed at simplifying compliance, enhancing transparency, and supporting MSMEs. Mr Vikash Mittal, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Economic Affairs, Finance & Taxation Panel and Chief Legal Counsel, Tata Steel Ltd emphasised the new two-rate structure



(L - R): Jayesh Taunk, Mentor, CII Jharkhand and Managing Director, Jayesh Taunk & Co; Sanjay Kulkarni, President, Fleetguard Filters Pvt Ltd; Vikash Mittal, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Economic Affairs, Finance & Taxation Panel and Chief Legal Counsel, Tata Steel Ltd and Arun A Gaur, Co-Convenor, Economic Affairs, Finance & Taxation Panel, & Director Bhoomatey Homes Pvt Ltd at the GST 2.0 – Key Changes & Industry Implications in Jamshedpur

– 5 per cent and 18 per cent – with 40 per cent on demerit goods, noting its potential to reduce inflation and boost key sectors.

Mr Sanjay Kulkarni, President, Fleetguard Filters, underscored GST 2.0's role in rationalising tax slabs and supporting Aatmanirbhar Bharat. Mr Arun A Gaur, Co-Convenor, CII Panel, described GST 2.0 as a blueprint for the next decade of economic growth, fostering competitiveness and strengthening Industry-Government collaboration.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

Interaction with US Consul General in Kolkata

Members of CII Tripura interacted with H.E. Kathy Giles-Diaz, US Consul General, Kolkata, during her visit to Agartala on 11 September to explore potential opportunities for collaboration between the United States and Tripura. Some of the key areas discussed included logistics, energy security, agro & plantation crops, and human capital development, among others.

Tripura's strategic location as the gateway to Southeast Asia offers immense potential for enhancing connectivity and trade. Opportunities exist for infrastructure development, cross-border logistics, and investments in warehousing and cold chain facilities. The state's natural gas reserves and emphasis on renewable energy open avenues for cooperation in clean energy technologies and sustainable practices. Discussions explored the scope for knowledge sharing and investment in energy efficiency solutions.

The rich agricultural base in the state, including pineapple, bamboo, rubber, tea, and agarwood, provides a strong foundation for agri-business partnerships. Value addition, food processing, and export-oriented strategies were identified as priority areas for collaboration. Building a skilled workforce to meet emerging global opportunities was identified as a key area of cooperation. Potential exists for joint programmes in education, vocational training, and capacity building.

From Forest to Fortune: Streamlining the Bamboo Business Path

CII Tripura's landmark conference titled 'From Forest to Fortune: Streamlining the Bamboo Business Path'

in Agartala commemorated World Bamboo Day on 18 September. The programme served as a key platform to deliberate on strategies for transforming bamboo from a natural resource into a driver of livelihood, Industry, and sustainable development in Tripura and the North East.

Shri Animesh Debbarma, Minister, Departments of Forest, Science, Technology, Environment and GA (P&S), Government of Tripura, underscored the importance of strengthening the bamboo value chain, improving market access, and fostering entrepreneurship in bamboo-based industries. He highlighted that bamboo, as a renewable and versatile resource, has the potential to serve as a growth engine for rural communities while contributing to the State's green economy.

Shri Harshakumar, Director, M&E, Tripura JICA Project, Department of Forests, Government of Tripura and Shri Ajit Sukladas, Director, Department of Handloom, Handicrafts & Sericulture, Government of Tripura, shared their perspectives on ongoing initiatives and opportunities for bamboo in crafts, industries, and rural employment.

Mr Rabin Bose, Co-Chair, CII Tripura State Council and Vice President, Mutha Industries, highlighted CII's role in promoting bamboo as a strategic resource for the North East. A knowledge report titled 'Facilitating Ease of Doing Business in the Bamboo Sector in North East India: Removal of Compliance Burden' was released, which provides a set of actionable recommendations to reform policies, reduce compliance hurdles, and support the growth of bamboo-based enterprises.

Several technical sessions featured expert deliberations from academia, Industry, and financial institutions. Discussions centred around investment opportunities, market linkages, financing options, and innovative business models that can accelerate the bamboo sector's growth.

Interaction with Investment Development Authority of Nagaland

CII held an interaction with the Investment Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN), Government of Nagaland, on 18 September in New Delhi to explore partnership and collaboration. Under IDAN, the Government of Nagaland has created a vertical focused on skilling of workforce in the State. The discussion focused on opportunities for collaboration in skilling, MSME, and digitisation through the CII Centres of Excellence.



NORTHERN REGION

Rejuvenating Yamuna & Delhi – A CSR Dialogue: an Interaction with Delhi LG, CM

A CII delegation participated in a dialogue on 'Rejuvenating Yamuna & Delhi – A CSR Dialogue' with Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Ms Rekha Gupta, Chief Minister of Delhi, on 8 September in the National Capital. The dialogue focused on the urgent need to restore the Yamuna River and transform Delhi into a cleaner, more sustainable city.

Discussions emphasised the role of innovative technologies, sustainable practices, and corporate commitment in driving large-scale ecological transformation. The CII delegation included Mr Sunil Kant Munjal, Past President, CII and Chairman, Hero Enterprise; Ms Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Northern Region and Executive Chairperson, ANAND Group India; Mr Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairperson, CII Northern Region and MD & CEO, Samtel Avionics; Mr Deepak Jain, Past Chairman, CII Northern Region and CMD, Lumax Industries; Mr Anshuman Magazine, Past Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman & CEO, CBRE; and Ms Tarana Sawhney, Chairperson, CII Taskforce for Art & Culture.

It was noted that restoring the Yamuna requires close collaboration among the Government, Industry, and civil society. New technologies and sustainable solutions are essential to address pollution and waste management in urban rivers.

Delhi Real Estate Summit

Every session at the CII Delhi Real Estate Summit explored opportunities to accelerate the National

Capital's transformation into a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive hub. The summit, held on 15 September in New Delhi, featured thematic sessions covering various aspects, including policy reforms for Delhi's real estate ecosystem, the transformative role of technology and PropTech, innovative financing models, land development, and sustainable real estate practices.

Shri Anand Kumar, Chairman, Delhi Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA), noted that while Delhi has ample land, growth has been limited due to policy gaps. He stressed that the forthcoming Master Plan Delhi 2041 must prioritise the redevelopment of old housing societies, regularisation of colonies, and streamlined land-use policies.

The event also marked the launch of a report titled 'Delhi 2041: Shaping the Future of Real Estate', aimed at building an inclusive, resilient, and globally competitive sustainable capital city.

Rebuilding a Resilient Himachal Pradesh

Under the theme 'Rebuilding a Resilient Himachal Pradesh: From Recovery to Enduring Prosperity,' the Economic Summit in Shimla on 19 September explored ways to establish the State as a premier investment destination. Shri Harshvardhan Chauhan, Minister for Industries, Labour, and Employment, Government of Himachal Pradesh, reaffirmed the Government's commitment to fostering a robust industrial ecosystem through proactive reforms and Industry-Government collaboration.

During the discussion, speakers highlighted crucial issues, including high logistics costs, complex land transfer procedures, compliance burdens, and delays in securing critical No Objection Certificates (NOCs). Enhanced infrastructure, including better roads, rail, and air connectivity, was identified as a cornerstone for



(L-R): Vineet Kanwar, Co-Convenor, CII Delhi Panel on Real Estate & Urban Development and Group Executive Director, DLF Ltd; Amar Sarin, MD & CEO, TARC Ltd; Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO, India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE; Anand Kumar, Chairman, RERA; Harsh Vardhan Bansal, Vice Chairman CII Delhi and Co-Founder, Unity Group; Kaustubh Prasad, Convenor, CII Delhi Panel on Real Estate, Infra & UD and Managing Director, Sudyog Infraprojects Pvt Ltd at the CII Delhi Real Estate Summit in New Delhi



Harshvardhan Chauhan, Minister for Industries, Labour and Employment, Government of Himachal Pradesh with dignitaries at the Economic Summit in Shimla

boosting tourism and supporting industrial expansion. Adopting digital single-window systems, streamlining compliance processes, and strengthening industrial infrastructure to attract investment and sustain economic growth emerged as key suggestions.

Industry-Government Collaboration in J&K: Interaction with Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister

In a significant step towards deepening Industry-Government collaboration, the leadership of CII Northern Region held strategic interactions with Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir and Mr Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir, on 27 September in Srinagar. The delegation, led by Ms Anjali Singh, Chairperson, CII Northern Region and Executive Chairperson, ANAND Group India and Mr Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairperson, CII Northern Region and MD & CEO, Samtel Avionics. The engagements reaffirmed a shared commitment to positioning the Union Territory as a vibrant hub for investment, innovation, and inclusive growth.

During the interaction with the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha highlighted peace, stability, and inclusive development as foundational pillars for Jammu & Kashmir's economic transformation. He welcomed CII's continued partnership with the Union Territory Government to translate vision into action through tangible and inclusive outcomes.

The need for collective responsibility in advancing industrialisation and empowering MSMEs was emphasised. The national vision of Viksit Bharat was underlined, recognising Jammu & Kashmir's vital role in India's journey towards becoming a self-reliant and developed nation. Emphasis was laid on innovation and future-readiness, aligned with CII's vision for creating a competitive and knowledge-driven economy.

During the interaction with the Chief Minister, Mr Omar Abdullah offered insights into addressing the gap between perception and reality concerning peace and

security in the region, reinforcing that Jammu & Kashmir is a safe and promising destination for investment. The Government is focused on streamlining procedures to ease the way of doing business and attract investors, he added.

CII proposed setting up Model Career Centres (MCCs), one each in Jammu and Kashmir, to enhance employability and strengthen the skill ecosystem. Support was sought for CII's participation in the Joint Task Force for Industrial Development, enabling structured engagement and long-term collaboration between the Industry and the Government.

Conference on Industrial Transformation

Drawing a dynamic cross-section of leaders from Industry, Government, and defence, the Conference on Industrial Transformation focused on the theme, 'Building Aatmanirbhar and Globally Competitive Manufacturing Ecosystems for India@2047.' The conference, held on 30 September in New Delhi, witnessed compelling discussions on digital transformation, supply chain resilience, skilling & talent development, and sustainable practices all recognised as foundational steps to shape the next phase of India's industrial growth story.

Dr Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh, Deputy Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, highlighted the policy frameworks and regulatory push driving India's industrial growth. He emphasised the Government's focus on enabling innovation, fostering scale, and supporting MSMEs as the backbone of the manufacturing ecosystem.

Mr Puneet Kaura, Deputy Chairperson, CII Northern Region and Managing Director & CEO, Samtel Avionics emphasised a broader perspective on transformation. Industrial transformation is not only about scale but about resilience, sustainability, and technology infusion to achieve India's long-term vision of competitiveness, he added.



SOUTHERN REGION

CFO Excellence Awards and Leadership Session

The 4th edition of the CII CFO Excellence Awards and Leadership Session on 12 September in Hyderabad celebrated exemplary financial leadership and strategic excellence across industries. The flagship initiative recognised CFOs driving innovation, sustainability, and growth, while fostering peer-to-peer learning and thought leadership within the finance community.

Shri Batti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Finance & Planning, Energy, Government of Telangana, highlighted CFOs' critical role in shaping strategy, driving innovation, and adopting AI for sustainable business growth. Sessions addressed AI-led finance transformation, capital structuring, M&A, and emerging trends shaping the future of finance leadership.

The ceremony honoured top-performing CFOs, including Mr Sanjeev Churiwala, CFO, TATA Power Company Limited, Ms Aparna Iyer, CFO, Wipro Limited, and sectoral and thematic award winners across 17 categories, reinforcing CFOs' role as strategic business partners.

CII Puducherry IndEx

Shri Thiru N Rangasamy, Chief Minister of Puducherry, inaugurated CII Puducherry IndEx, an industrial exhibition held from 17 to 19 September in Puducherry, highlighting the Union Territory's dynamic manufacturing

sector and opportunities for MSMEs. Shri Thiru K Lakshminarayanan, Minister for Public Works, Tourism and IT, Government of Puducherry, released the show directory and underscored the imminent Ease of Doing Business Bill, poised to transform Puducherry's business ecosystem.

Featuring over 70 companies across sectors, including auto components, pharmaceuticals, plastics, chemicals, renewable energy, aerospace, and IT solutions, IndEx showcased a dedicated MSME Pavilion, Live Experience Zone, and conference sessions on vendor development and innovation.

MSME Business Delegation to South Korea

An MSME Business Delegation to South Korea was led by CII Southern Region, from 7 to 12 September, aimed to foster partnerships in manufacturing, aerospace, IT, electronics, and renewable energy. The delegation engaged with Indian Embassy officials and Korean Industry leaders to explore strategic collaborations and bilateral trade opportunities.

The programme included a meeting at the Indian Embassy in Seoul with Mr Nishi Kant Singh, Deputy Chief of Mission, and discussions at Bae, Kim & Lee LLC on India-focused business strategies. Industrial visits showcased Korea's technological excellence at the KIA 360 Studio, Guri Waste Management Centre, Samsung Innovation Museum, and Lotte R&D Centre. Delegates also participated in the K-Battery Show and Supply Chain Management Fair, underscoring Korea's innovation and identifying opportunities for Indian SMEs in technology exchange, joint ventures, and supply chain collaboration.



(L-R): Sachin Tayal, Managing Director, Protiviti India Member Firm; Dr BVR Mohan Reddy, Past Chairman, CII Southern Region and Chairman, Cyient Ltd; Batti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Finance & Planning, Energy, Government of Telangana; R Sivaprasad Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana State and Managing Director, Rachamalla Forging Pvt Ltd at the CII CFO Excellence Awards and Leadership Session in Hyderabad

Learning Mission to Germany and Austria

A Best Practices Learning Mission visited Germany and Austria from 22-26 September to explore industry best practices across sectors and gain insights into operational excellence and sustainable growth strategies. The delegation included 27 CXOs from across India focused on industrial innovation, collaboration, and knowledge exchange.

The delegation commenced with an interactive meeting on 22 September with Mr Shatrughna Sinha, Consul General of India in Munich, who highlighted the importance of fostering Indo-German collaborations and leveraging cross-border investment opportunities.

The mission concluded with a dinner hosted by Mr Gunther Lehner, Chairman, Alpha Company Advisory Board, attended by Ms Mag Christina Marent, Head of Foreign Trade Vorarlberg, and Mr Simon Kampl, Managing Director, Vorarlberg Industrial Association, facilitating meaningful interactions and strengthening India-Austria industrial linkages.

Young HR Managers Competition

The 9th edition of the CII-SR Young HR Managers Competition, organised by the CII-SR Taskforce on People Skill 2025-26, was held on 26 September. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from 20 finalists across Southern India, providing a dynamic platform for emerging HR professionals to present innovative HR solutions and best practices addressing real-world challenges in human resource management.

The first prize was awarded to Walkaholic from Sri Kauvery Medical Care, followed by AR Buddy from Amara Raja Group, and EPIC Quest from TVS Credit

Services, securing the second and third positions, respectively. Special recognition was conferred on Empowering People through Pods & Playbooks by Athulya Assisted Living Pvt Ltd and Technology Leadership Program by Ashok Leyland Ltd.

AquaSouth Summit

The 2nd edition of the CII AquaSouth Summit, held on 5 September in Chennai, brought together more than 160 participants from Industry, Government, academia, and civil society to address the growing challenge of water scarcity. Sessions at the event highlighted water as both an economic and survival imperative, urging industries to adopt stewardship, circularity, and water neutrality.

Government-Industry collaboration and sector-specific case studies, including beverage and textile clusters, showcased successful water reuse, recycling, and efficiency initiatives. The summit concluded with a strong call for collective, urgent action to ensure long-term water security as a cornerstone of sustainable growth and climate resilience.

MSME Procurement Summit

CII Southern Region organised the 4th edition of the CII-SR MSME Procurement Summit on 18 September in Chennai, fostering dialogue among policymakers, Industry leaders, and MSME stakeholders to enhance procurement opportunities and drive inclusive growth. The event, attended by 10 major PSUs and several large corporates, featured plenary sessions, buyer-seller meetings, and sectoral discussions.

Dr Atul Anand, Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, emphasised the state's supportive policies, the MSME sector's role



(L-R): Vagish Dixit, Co-Chairman, CII-SR Task Force on Sustainability, ESG & Climate Action and Managing Director, Alpha India Ltd; Rajiv Mittal, Chairman & Managing Director, VA Tech Wabag Ltd; Angelo George, CEO, Bisleri International Pvt Ltd; P Ravichandran, Deputy Chairman, CII-SR & Chairman, CII Mission on Water AND President – Danfoss India, Danfoss Industries Pvt Ltd; Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Chairman, CII-SR Task Force on Sustainability, ESG & Climate Action & Managing Director, Kennametal India Ltd and Usha Subramaniam, Country President – India, Grundfos Pumps Ltd at the CII AquaSouth Summit in Chennai

as a major job creator, and the importance of technology adoption and market diversification.

Regional Defence MSME Conclave

The Regional Defence MSME Conclave was held on 9 September in Salem, organised by the Department of Defence Production in collaboration with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), CII, and AWEIL. The event brought together MSMEs, policymakers, armed forces, DPSUs, and academia to explore opportunities in defence manufacturing and strengthen the MSME ecosystem.

Sessions highlighted indigenisation, local sourcing, financing, and procurement through GeM, and technical textiles in defence applications. B2G and B2B meetings facilitated direct engagement between MSMEs and key stakeholders. The conclave reinforced Tamil Nadu's role in building a self-reliant defence industrial base and resilient supply chains for national security.

The Future of HR with AI

CII Kerala organised its flagship HR Conclave on 19 September under the theme 'Smart Tech with Human Touch – The Future of HR with AI', bringing together CHROs, CXOs, business leaders, and HR professionals to explore the evolving intersection of technology and human capital.

Focused discussions covered AI integration, leadership and workplace culture, ethics, skilling, and reimagining HR. The conclave reinforced that technology must remain anchored in human values and empathy to drive sustainable organisational impact.

National Higher Education Conclave

CII Coimbatore organised the 9th edition of the National Higher Education Conclave with the theme 'Global Futures: Internationalisation and Industrialisation of Higher Education' on 11 September in Coimbatore.

The conclave brought together over 400 participants including academicians, policymakers, Industry leaders, and education experts to deliberate on the future of higher education in India. It reaffirmed the need for global collaboration, research-led education, and skill-based learning to position India as a hub for knowledge, innovation, and employable talent.

ESG Leadership

CII Karnataka organised the third edition of the ESG Summit on 24 September under the theme 'ESG Leadership 2030: Nurturing Sustainable Ecosystems and Responsible Businesses of Tomorrow' in Bengaluru, focusing on climate transition, sustainable finance, circular economy models, supply chain resilience, and technology-enabled ESG reporting.

White Papers were launched on 'Climate Transition Risks & Opportunities for Indian Industry' and 'Natural Resource Efficiency: Water, Energy & Waste as ESG Value Drivers as a Roadmap for Sustainable Industrial Development'.

The ESG Recognition Ceremony showcased leading practices by Paradeep Phosphates, Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts, Kennametal, and Syngene International Ltd, reinforcing Karnataka's role as a hub for responsible, future-ready business ecosystems.



(L-R): N Venu, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council and MD & CEO, India and South Asia, Hitachi Energy and MD, Hitachi India; Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Past Chairman, CII Karnataka State and Managing Director, Kennametal India Ltd; Rabindra Srikantan, Chairman, CII Karnataka State and Managing Director, ASM Technologies and Pavitra Shankar, Convenor, CII Karnataka ES Panel and Managing Director, Brigade Group in Bengaluru



(L-R): Dhanraj Tirumala, CII Telangana MSME Panel, Founder & CEO, CGI Simulations Pvt Ltd; S Radhakrishnan, Chief General Manager, State Bank of India – LHO, Hyderabad; Nikhil Chakravarthi, Director – Industries, Government of Telangana; R Sivaprasad Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana & Managing Director, Rachamalla Forgings Pvt Ltd and Dr Chandan Chowdhury, Executive Director, Munjal Institute for Global Manufacturing and Punj Lloyd Institute of Infrastructure Management & Practice Professor, Indian School of Business at the HR Conclave in Bengaluru

Karnataka HR Conclave

CII Karnataka organised the maiden edition of the HR Conclave under the theme 'Shaping India's Future Workforce: Harnessing Generative AI for Inclusive, Sustainable, and Human-Centric Growth' on 22 September in Bengaluru. The conclave featured sessions on generative AI for MSME-led economic transformation, cost of AI vs labour, responsible and ethical AI transformation, and well-being at work amid AI disruption.

Discussions highlighted productivity enhancement, workforce restructuring, ethical responsibilities, and social equity in the AI-driven business environment.

MSME Summit

CII Telangana organised the 8th edition of the MSME Summit under the theme 'Future-Ready MSMEs: Technology, Talent and Transformation' on 17 September. The summit featured key insights from Mr Nikhil Chakravarthi, Director – Industries, Government of Telangana, who emphasised digital adoption, innovation, and Government support through initiatives such as T-Hub, T-Works, TASK, and the MSME Policy 2024.

Sessions reinforced the role of MSMEs as the backbone of economic growth and showcased strategies for leveraging finance, innovation, and collaboration to enable sector-wide transformation and future readiness.

CII Telangana – PharmiCON

ICON, in collaboration with CII Telangana, hosted 'PharmiCON: Navigating the Road Ahead for US-Based Manufacturing' on 18 September, convening Industry leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders to deliberate India's positioning in US pharmaceutical manufacturing.

A key highlight was the launch of the joint white paper titled 'Changing Landscape: Indian Pharma's Move Towards US-Based Manufacturing', which presents

an analysis of the US policy impacts on biologics, injectables, and next-generation therapeutics.



WESTERN REGION

IT Conclave

CII Vidarbha Zone hosted the 3rd edition of IT Conclave at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Nagpur on 27 September. The conclave brought together leading voices from Industry, academia, and technology to deliberate on the theme 'Scaling Innovation: AI-Enabled Productivity, Future Job Roles & Governance'.

Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in his video address, congratulated CII Vidarbha Zone for successfully hosting the third edition of the conclave. Mr Ajay Sancheti, Former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, shared his insights on the opportunities and challenges in positioning Vidarbha as a strong player in India's digital economy.

Mr Shree Jamdar, Chairman, CII Vidarbha Zone & Partner, Kinetic Gears, emphasised the role of Vidarbha as a rising hub for IT innovation. Dr Bhimaraya Metri, Director, IIM Nagpur, spoke on the importance of Academia-Industry collaboration in shaping the future of AI adoption.

Conference on ESG & Corporate Governance

Senior Industry leaders exchanged insights and best practices at the CII WR Conference on ESG and Corporate Governance in Mumbai on 25 September. The event explored the evolving ESG landscape across the country and deliberated on the strategic integration of



(L-R): Apurva Rathod, Co-Chairperson, CII Western Region Subcommittee on EoDB & Responsible Business, Company Secretary and Chief Sustainability Officer, L&T Financial Services Ltd; Shailesh Haribhakti, Chairman, Shailesh Haribhakti & Associates; Rishi Kumar Bagla, Chairman, CII Western Region Council and Chairman & Managing Director, BG Electricals and Electronics India Ltd; Robin Banerjee, Chairman, CII Western Region Subcommittee on EoDB & Responsible Business, Chairman, Nucleon Research Pvt Ltd Conference on ESG and Corporate Governance in Mumbai

sustainability into business, turning CSR into measurable impact, and how strong governance and purpose-led boards drive long-term value.

The conference reaffirmed ESG as a core enabler of India's growth agenda and not just a compliance requirement, urging companies to integrate environmental, social, and governance principles into strategy, operations, and board oversight. It produced actionable policy suggestions around ESG reporting, assurance, and capacity building to bridge gaps in readiness.

It catalysed consensus among Industry, regulators, and civil society that India needs context-sensitive ESG frameworks and to align ESG efforts with the 'Make in India' and 'Viksit Bharat' vision. Experts also discussed the critical role of auditors and accountants in ensuring transparency and presented Industry-led decarbonisation strategies while unpacking the opportunities and challenges in green financing.

WomeNation Summit

The 10th WomeNation Summit, themed 'A Decade of Change', was held on 19 September in Mumbai. The summit brought together leaders from Industry, Government, and diplomacy for a day of thought-provoking dialogue and reflection. Ms Ranjana Maitra, Chairperson, CII WR IWV and Country Head – International Relations & Strategic Partnerships, University of New Haven, delivered the welcome address, followed by a special address by Mr Vir S Advani, Deputy Chairman, CII WR and Chairman and MD, Blue Star Ltd.

"Ten years ago, conversations around gender balance in Industry were more aspirational than actionable. Today, progress is being measured. But the journey is far from over. The next decade must be India's decade, powered by innovation, inclusion, and more women entering our workplaces, factory floors, campuses, and communities.



Participants at the WomeNation Summit in Mumbai

Let us commit to building a future where equality is not an aspiration but a lived reality across every sector of our economy,” Mr Advani said.

A commemorative video, ‘Voices from the Past’, highlighted the journey of IVWN and the inspiring stories from CII Woman Exemplars.

Global Trade Scenario Conclave

The 6th edition of the Global Trade Scenario was held in Mumbai on 18 September on the theme ‘Navigating Shifts, Defining the Future’. Mr Vir S Advani, Deputy Chairman, CII Western Region and CMD, Blue Star Ltd, was the conference chairman.

Shri Rajiv Jalota, Advisor, Indian Ports Association, mentioned that 80 per cent of world trade by volume moves by sea and the global maritime trade is expected to grow by 2.4 per cent each year until 2029. He said that India is also working on diversifying trade routes through initiatives like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the International North-South Transport Corridor, aiming to shorten transit times and reduce risks. The competitive edge in the maritime Industry is changing, and International Maritime Organisations (IMOs) are pushing for decarbonisation with measures like carbon pricing and fuel standards. He emphasised that ports need to become energy and data hubs with scalable shore power and green bunkering. Shri Niteen Borwankar, CEO, SEZ, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, said, “Reducing logistics costs hinges on strong collaboration, world-class infrastructure,

and enabling policies. When industries and ports work seamlessly together, efficiency transforms from an aspiration into a natural outcome, driving competitiveness and growth. He highlighted that three verticals, including infrastructure, logistics, and digitalisation, will drive India's growth story.”

Mr Cheong emphasised that India and Singapore are enhancing cooperation in digitalisation, sustainability, connectivity, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology. He praised India's autonomous foreign policy and said that in order to face the geopolitical shifts, the two countries need to forge future pathways. He further added that in an increasingly interconnected world, India's role in global trade is more important than ever. With its large internal market, green resources, and digital prowess, India is positioned to drive the future of global trade and economic integration.

Sustainable Shipbuilding

The CII National Conference on Sustainable Shipbuilding was held in Goa on 15 September. The summit was set on the theme ‘India Shipbuilding Roadmap towards Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047’. It brought together Industry leaders, policymakers, and global stakeholders to chart a visionary roadmap for India's shipbuilding sector.

The conference focused on India's commitment to sustainable, innovative, and globally competitive shipbuilding, highlighting key themes such as green technologies, advanced skills, and AI-driven design in maritime manufacturing, while emphasising the sector's growing contribution to Goa's economic development.



(L-R): Anurag Agarwal, Co-Chairman, CII WR Subcommittee on International Trade and Investment & CEO Global Exports & New Business (EHV & Conductor) Polycab India Ltd; Rajiv Jalota, Advisor, Indian Ports Association; Ming Foong Cheong, Consul General, Consulate General of Singapore; Vir S Advani, Deputy Chairman, CII Western Region and Chairman & MD, Blue Star Ltd; Niteen Borwankar, CEO, SEZ, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Sunil Chordia, Past Chairman, CII Western Region and Chairman & Managing Director, Rajratan Group at the CII National Conference on Sustainable Shipbuilding in Goa

Shri Mauvin Godinho, Minister for Transport, Industries, Trade & Commerce, Panchayati Raj, Protocol & Hospitality, and Legislative Affairs, Government of Goa, emphasised Goa's proud maritime legacy and the need for close collaboration between Government, Industry, and stakeholders to strengthen the State's leadership in shipbuilding. He encouraged the Industry to focus on green shipbuilding, AI integration, skill development, and innovative design thinking to meet the demands of the future. He noted that the shipbuilding sector is a key driver of Goa's economy, providing employment opportunities, promoting ancillary industries, and attracting investment in advanced manufacturing technologies.

"Strengthening Goa's shipbuilding ecosystem will not only enhance the State's maritime capabilities but also contribute significantly to local economic growth, exports, and global competitiveness," he said. The CII Shipbuilding Vision 2037 Report was also launched during the conference.

Hospital Tech

The 8th edition of CII Hospital Tech Summit was held recently in Mumbai on the theme 'Healthcare Roadmap for Viksit Bharat'. Shri Prakash Abitkar, Minister of Public Health and Family Welfare, Government of Maharashtra, said that healthcare is the foundation of Viksit Bharat and Maharashtra is committed to becoming a healthcare hub by strengthening public health infrastructure, expanding medical education, and fostering innovation. He noted that the Government alone cannot achieve this, and added that public-private partnerships, digital health, and technology-driven solutions must ensure that quality care reaches every citizen, in every corner of India.

A CII-EY joint report titled 'Unleashing Digital Momentum to Shape the Future of Healthcare' was released at the conference. The report highlighted automation in patient experience, improved clinical outcomes, and data-driven decision-making as key areas of focus, while noting challenges such as legacy systems, workforce readiness, and patient-centric delivery.

Shri Vishwajit P Rane, Minister of Public Health, Urban Development, Town and Country Planning, Women and Child Development and Forest, Government of Goa, said that Goa is proud to lead with major healthcare innovations from AI-driven TB screening to life-saving ambulance services and free medicines for the underprivileged.

"The State's mission is focused on accessible, quality healthcare for every citizen. By working with sector experts and fostering partnerships across Industry, startups, and research institutions, Goa is building one of India's most inclusive and forward-looking healthcare ecosystems," Shri Rane added.

Padma Shri Dr Ramakant Deshpande, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Healthcare 2025-26 and Chairman, Asian Cancer Institute (ACI), Cumballa Hill Hospital, said that the digital revolution in healthcare is more than just an upgrade; it is our path to universal health coverage. With rapid advances in digital capabilities, a growing healthcare infrastructure, and the will to embrace innovation, India has a historic opportunity to lead.

Mr Joy Chakraborty, Chairman, CII Hospital Tech 2025 and COO, P D Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Centre, said that India's healthcare has made remarkable progress over the last two decades, powered by private investment, digital health, telemedicine, and now AI.



Dignitaries launching the report on 'Unleashing Digital Momentum to Shape the Future of Healthcare' at Hospital Tech Summit in Mumbai



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