

Igniting the Future of Gaming



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COVER STORY

08 IGS Pune: Igniting the Future of Gaming

In view of India's bustling gaming ecosystem, the India Gaming Show 2024 emerged as a beacon of innovation, collaboration and limitless promise. The event was a melting pot of ideas, goals and breakthroughs. Each exhibit, panel discussion and keynote talk chronicled the trajectory of the game business, revealing a landscape rife with opportunity and promise.

Centred around the theme 'Building a Sustainable Gaming Future', the event witnessed the convergence of over 28,500 visitors, 70 exhibitors and 10 countries. Industry titans and top brands from India and Abroad participated in the event.

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PORTFOLIO FOR EXCELLENCE

REGIONAL REVIEW

... AND MORE

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

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JOURNAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Charting the Future of Indian Entrepreneurship

The CII Unicorn Summit, themed 'Building the Nation: Indian Unicorns' Contribution Unveiled' was held in New Delhi in March 2024. As India continues its journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, the role of unicorns in driving innovation, employment, and economic development cannot be overstated.

Startups play a pivotal role in driving innovation, economic growth and job creation in India's industrial landscape. Unicorns, privately held startup companies with a value of over US\$ 1 billion, serve as beacons of success, inspiring a new generation of entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of innovation. These high-growth startups are instrumental in disrupting traditional sectors, introducing new technologies and fostering entrepreneurial dynamism. Their impact extends beyond creating wealth for founders and investors; they act as catalysts for job creation, attracting top talent and spurring ancillary industries. Their ability to scale rapidly and compete globally showcases India's potential as a hub for technology and innovation. These startups attract significant investment, both domestic

and foreign, injecting vital capital into the economy and fostering a robust startup ecosystem.

Notably, India ranked third in the world in the number of unicorns, after the US and China, with a record 114 unicorns. As India continues its journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse, the role of unicorns in driving innovation, employment, and economic development cannot be overstated.

Shri Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa reminisced about the early days of the startup ecosystem in India and how, together with Mr Kris Gopalakrishnan, the then President of CII, he presented the idea of developing initiatives for startups to the Prime Minister, emphasizing the need for simplifying regulations, which led to the



Row 1: (L-R) Abhiraj Singh Bhal, Chairman, CII Unicorn Forum and CEO & Co-Founder, Urban Company; Gaurav Agarwal, Co-Founder & CTO, Tata 1mg; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Prashant Tandon, Co-Founder & CEO, Tata 1mg; Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa; Smita Deorah, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, LEAD Group; Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Rahul Garg, Co-Chairman, CII Unicorn Forum & Founder & CEO, Moglix; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd and Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd

Row 2: (L-R) Vasant Sridhar, Co-founder, Oxyzo; Saurabh Nigam, Co-Founder & COO, ElasticRun; Akshay Ghulati, Co-Founder & COO, Shiprocket; Vibhav Hathi, Co-founder & COO, Onecard



(L-R): Abhiraj Singh Bhal; Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa and Rahul Garg during a fireside chat at the CII Unicorn Summit

inception of the Startup India movement in 2016. He was speaking at the inaugural session of the CII Unicorn Summit. Reflecting on the progress made over the past decade, as a result of which India now ranks third in the global startup economy, Mr Kant expressed satisfaction but stressed the need to aim for global leadership. He also emphasized the importance of good governance for startups to evolve into sustainable enterprises and called for increased domestic investment to drive the startup movement. He also touched upon the pivotal role of women entrepreneurs in driving innovation and the need for greater gender diversity in the startup ecosystem.

The Summit recognized and applauded the remarkable achievements of Indian Unicorns, particularly their noteworthy contributions to job creation and economic growth. Showcasing their contributions, the summit emphasized the importance of nurturing an environment that supports and accelerates the growth of these high-potential companies, thereby enhancing the nation's standing in the global business landscape.

Mr Sanjeev Bikhchandani, Founder & Executive Vice Chairman, Info Edge emphasized the transformation

in societal attitudes towards entrepreneurship, with a shift towards it becoming a socially acceptable and aspirational career path. He was speaking during a fireside chat with Mr Abhiraj Singh Bhal. The conversation also envisioned the future trajectory of the ecosystem, focusing on global aspirations and the role of emerging technologies like AI.

The fireside chat 'Unicorn 2.0 - Adding the Next Trillion' moderated by Mr Rahul Garg focused on continued support and collaboration to empower startups for the coming years and drive the growth of the ecosystem. During the discussion, Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd shared insights on the inauguration of the TVS Mobility Open Network Platform and its role in supporting microenterprises and employment generation. Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India highlighted the Government's commitment to supporting startups through initiatives like the Startup Ecosystem Registry and emphasized the importance of unicorn mentoring at the early-stage status. Mr Sanjeev Puri, President



(L - R): R Dinesh; Sanjiv; Sanjiv Puri and Abhiraj Singh Bhal during a fireside chat at the CII Unicorn Summit

Felicitation of Unicorn Founders

At the heart of the summit were the illustrious founders of India's most disruptive and transformative startups, who were felicitated for their visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to driving innovation. A total of 15 unicorns were recognized and honoured during the ceremony. The grand felicitation served as a testament to their extraordinary achievements, inspiring countless others to dream big and challenge traditional paradigms.

Unicorn 2.0 Report

During the summit, the Unicorn 2.0 Report, a collaborative effort between CII and McKinsey, was unveiled. The report delves deep into the transformative impact of Indian startups on the nation's economy, shedding light on their contributions to GDP growth, employment generation and societal inclusivity. Noteworthy accomplishments of the past decade include India emerging as the third-largest startup ecosystem globally, contributing significantly to GDP growth and attracting substantial capital investments totalling US\$140 billion. Looking ahead,

the ecosystem can contribute a trillion dollars to the GDP by 2030.

The report also talks about pivotal orbital shifts, that will set the course for the Unicorn 2.0 in the next decade:

- Emergence of Indian startups as global leaders, specially across SaaS and e-commerce
- Surge of innovation-led companies, specially across fields like EV, GenAI, biotech and semiconductor
- Companies setting the bar for governance
- Multiplier effect of startup talent, proliferating across the industry, including senior leadership at MNCs, repeat founders in ecosystem and angel investors
- Broad basing of investor ecosystem with increased avenues of domestic funding.

To achieve these goals, collaborative efforts involving startup founders, investors, and policymakers are crucial. The summit witnessed an unprecedented gathering of Industry leaders, policymakers and entrepreneurs, fostering invaluable networking opportunities and knowledge.



(L-R): Ramdoss Seetharaman, Senior Partner McKinsey & Co; Sanjeev Bikhchandani, Founder and Executive Vice Chairman, Info Edge; Abhiraj Singh Bhal; Amitabh Kant; Rahul Garg; R Dinesh; Sanjiv Puri; Chandrajit Banerjee and Sanjiv unveiling the Unicorn 2.0 Report

Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd emphasized the significance of corporate funding for startups and outlined how collaboration between startups and corporates could drive innovation and scalability.

During the fireside chat on 'Startup to profit to IPO' moderated by Mr Abhiraj Singh Bhal, Mr Bipin Preet Singh, Co-founder, Mobikwik highlighted the evolution of the Indian market over the past decade and expressed optimism about India's fintech potential. Despite facing numerous lows, he credited the survival and success of his company to its focus on serving India's financial

needs and promoting inclusion. Mr Ashish Kumar, Co-Founder & General Partner, Fundamentum discussed the traits that VCs seek in entrepreneurs, emphasizing a long-term commitment to building sustainable businesses, disruption through first principles and the ability to retain talented teams. Mr Alope Bajpai, Founder, Ixigo reflected on the importance of understanding the Indian consumer landscape deeply and building solutions tailored to local needs. The speakers highlighted the benefits of frugal innovation and resilience in navigating challenges and the shift required towards profitability and accurate forecasting while going public.

QUOTES



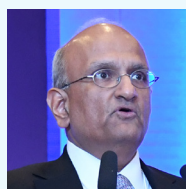
Amitabh Kant
India's G20 Sherpa

If we examine the trajectory, funding has surged by 15x, while the proliferation of incubators has risen by 9x. Remarkable progress indeed. Our ambition must be to transcend from the third spot to reach the top in the startup ecosystem.



Sanjiv
Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Promoting manufacturing startups would be our goal and the upcoming deeptech policy will drive the Unicorn 2.0.



digital infrastructure adoption, future skills development and sustainability readiness.

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

Success of India or the competitiveness of India is built of the small and micro enterprises. As we strive to prepare them for the future, three key areas stand out:



customization.

Sanjiv Puri
President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd

Startups are creating newer business opportunity and helping with the last mile delivery. It also helps to develop newer types of products and mass



network. This will further scale up over the next 10 years.

Bipin Preet Singh
Founder, Mobikwik

The digital infrastructure has exponentially increased the reach of financial products to tier 2 and tier 3 cities with the penetration of smartphones and digital



US. However, this is changing and there's a growing realization on homegrown innovation in manufacturing.

Ashish Kumar
Co-Founder & General Partner, Fundamentum

Many B2B manufacturing companies were overlooked for investment. This oversight stemmed from a tendency to emulate the technology landscape of the



Alope Bajpai
Founder, Ixigo

What public market believes is trust and governance. Startup should think of going public only when the governance is in place.



Confederation of Indian Industry

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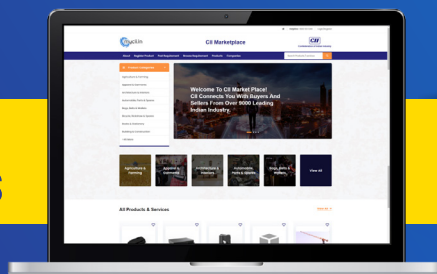


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IGS Pune: Igniting the Future of Gaming

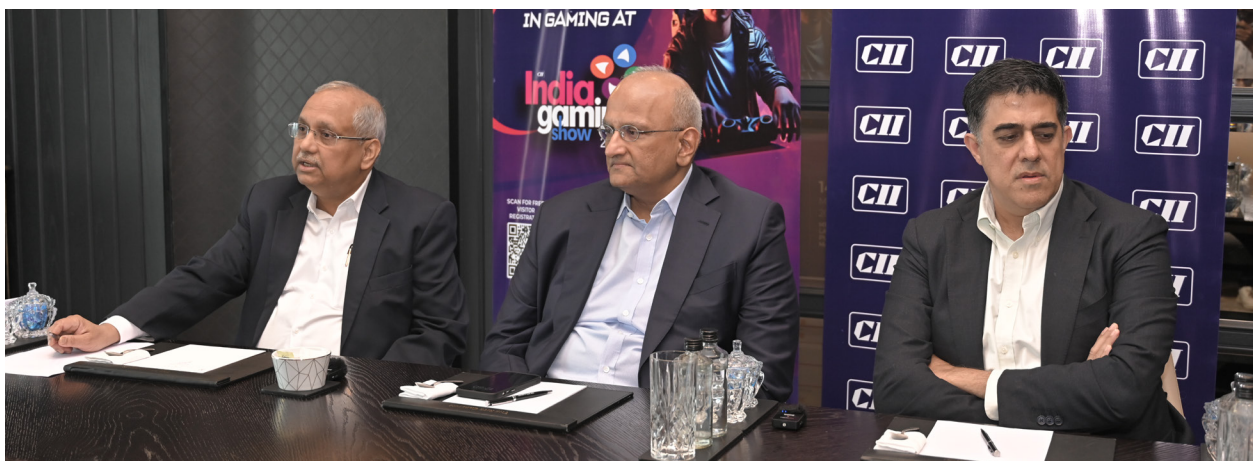
Organized against the backdrop of India's bustling gaming ecosystem, the India Gaming Show 2024 emerged as a beacon of innovation, collaboration and limitless promise. The event was a melting pot of ideas, goals and breakthroughs. Each exhibit, panel discussion and keynote talk chronicled the trajectory of the gaming business, revealing a landscape rife with opportunity and promise

The gaming Industry in India has undergone a monumental evolution in recent years, propelled by technological advancements and innovative initiatives. At the forefront of this transformation stands the Indian Digital Gaming Society (IDGS), catalyzing growth and collaboration within the sector. As the curtains rose on the India Gaming Show (IGS) Pune 2024, Industry leaders, stakeholders and enthusiasts converged to celebrate the Industry's achievements and chart a course towards a vibrant future.

The IGS has evolved as a platform for promoting responsible gaming and fostering collaboration within

India's growing gaming ecosystem. Marking a watershed moment in gaming, the 6th edition of IGS, held in Pune from March 14-16, was jointly organized by CII and IDGS supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Invest India, Startup India, MeitY Startup Hub and Media Entertainment Skill Council, Government of India.

This year's edition witnessed the convergence of over 28,500 visitors, 70 exhibitors and 10 countries. Industry titans and top brands participated in the event. Foreign participation at the show marked a significant milestone, transcending borders and creating a vibrant



(L -R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd and Rajan Navani, President IDGS and Founder & CEO, JetSynthesys at the India Gaming Show in Pune



Dr Naushad Fobes, Co-Chairperson, Forbes Marshall; Chandrajit Banerjee; R Dinesh; and Rajan Navani along with cosplayers at IGS in Pune

ecosystem for collaboration and exchange. Japan and Korea showcased their prowess and expertise in the gaming arena. Notably, Indonesia was honoured as the guest country for the show.

With the theme 'Building a Sustainable Gaming Future', the three-day event unfolded with a plethora of exhibitions and conferences showcasing cutting-edge gaming technologies and trends. Renowned brands such as JetSynthesys, Krafton India, Samsung India, Nodwin Gaming, Sky Esports, TPV Technology, Western Digital, OnePlus and Sony PlayStation captivated attendees with their innovative offerings. There were dedicated pavilions for startups, academia, extended reality and Government participation.

"With the gaming industry in its infancy, there's boundless potential for growth and innovation. The US\$ 180 billion global Industry presents India with unprecedented opportunities for content creation and value addition, contingent upon robust governance mechanisms. India stands poised to lead in developing both global and indigenous gaming content, fostering a thriving ecosystem of creativity and entrepreneurship," said Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited. He said that as India's gaming community continues to burgeon, it presents a plethora of career opportunities across various domains, from game development to content creation.

Mr Dinesh said that the Industry's inclusive nature

IGS Exhibition: A Glimpse into Gaming's Tomorrow

With a staggering 28,500 visitors, 70 exhibitors and representation from 10 countries, the IGS Pune 2024 exhibition was a testament to the Industry's global resonance. Spanning across diverse segments, from cutting-edge technology showcases to immersive gaming experiences, the exhibition provided a comprehensive overview of the gaming landscape's breadth and depth. It also showcased the latest in gaming hardware and innovative software solutions.

welcomes talent from diverse backgrounds, promising avenues for economic empowerment and technological innovation. He noted that the IGS, since its inception, has been serving as a powerful platform for advocating responsible gaming and policy factors to educate the public on the proper and ethical use of gaming technologies. Recent attention from policymakers has underscored the sector's significance, prompting initiatives within CII to establish institutions that prioritize governance and responsibility while ensuring an enjoyable gaming experience for all.

IGS 2024 featured a total of 26 sessions covering a wide range of topics and discussions related to the



India Digital Gaming Society Award Ceremony

gaming Industry including unlocking the economics of eSports to exploring the convergence of Bollywood and gaming; gamification in education, esports economics and regulatory frameworks. The discussions during the sessions provided a holistic view of the dynamic gaming landscape in India and beyond. As the Industry continues to evolve, fueled by innovation and collaboration, the future of gaming in India shines brighter than ever before.

Mr Dinesh said that looking ahead, India's gaming Industry holds immense promise, mirroring the trajectory of the IT revolution that swept the nation decades ago. The burgeoning ecosystem is primed to foster innovation, spur economic growth and position India as a global leader in gaming and eSports. As the Industry evolves, it is imperative to cultivate a responsible gaming culture that prioritizes balance and well-being, he underlined and noted that encouraging youth engagement while advocating for responsible gaming practices will be pivotal in ensuring the Industry's sustainable growth trajectory.



Ribbon cutting ceremony of the India Gaming Show in Pune

The gaming show captivated the audience with a vision of the future where gaming defies limits, propelled by human creativity and advanced technology. It highlighted the transformative impact of real-time ray tracing and generative AI, pushing the boundaries of gaming realism and immersion. Pune, with its lively youth culture, emerged as a thriving hotspot for gamers and industry professionals alike and served as the ideal setting for eSports tournaments. The event highlighted India's potential in the global gaming sector, emphasizing its

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- India can generate up to 1,00,000 jobs annually in eSports and game development
- Pune offers huge potential as a global hub for gaming innovation by fostering indigenous content creation
- CII and IDGS unite stakeholders and advocate for policy initiatives with stress on responsible gaming and innovation
- As the Industry evolves, it is imperative to cultivate a responsible gaming culture that prioritizes balance and well-being
- The introduction of IDGS Technical Awards and extensive conference sessions showcased Industry innovation and excellence
- Increased participation from academia and startups underscores the importance of collaboration and innovation in advancing the gaming Industry



Rajan Navani; Vishal Dhupar, Executive Council Member, IDGS and MD, Asia South NVIDIA and Eddy Wardoyo, Consul General, Republic of Indonesia at IGS

unmatched potential in pushing for economic growth and opportunities for India's millions of skilled youth.

The event demonstrated the commitment of IDGS to encourage collaboration among Industry stakeholders, policymakers and technological experts to promote responsible gaming standards while pushing for diversity. Notably, IDGS has actively promoted increased female involvement in events like IGS 2024, reflecting the reality that 41% of gamers in India now are female. During the event, Industry experts emphasized the importance of a strong governance structure to secure the Industry's long-term growth while encouraging innovation and technological integration for global expansion.

Pioneering Growth and Collaboration in India's Gaming Industry

IDGS has emerged as the linchpin of support for the video gaming Industry and gaming startups, fostering innovation and propelling the Industry onto the global stage. It plays a pivotal role in advocating for Industry advancement by adopting a proactive stance on policy advocacy and providing strategic support. Collaborating closely with Governmental agencies, IDGS ensures that the Industry's voice is heard and its concerns addressed, thereby paving the way for its expansion and maturation.

Central to IDGS's mission is the promotion of innovation and indigenization within the gaming ecosystem.

By engaging with academic and technological institutions, IDGS harnesses India's vast talent pool to drive gaming technology innovation, fostering a culture of creativity and excellence. It also recognizes the importance of global engagement in propelling India's gaming Industry onto the world stage. Through export promotion and educational initiatives, IDGS raises awareness of India's gaming prowess and facilitates international collaboration, positioning the country as a key player in the global gaming arena.

Shaping the Future of Gaming

With seasoned investors and Industry stalwarts at the helm, the discussions at the India Gaming Show delved into the intricate tapestry of gaming investments, unlocking the secrets to nurturing success in gaming ventures. From fostering community engagement to navigating diverse challenges, the panel uncovered key strategies crucial for gaming entrepreneurs seeking

investment.

Amidst the discussions on regulations and investments, the stage also witnessed a vibrant exploration of the economics of eSports in India. With panellists dissecting revenue streams, predicting future trends and exploring partnerships between stakeholders, the session painted a vivid picture of the burgeoning world of eSports, poised for exponential growth. In another session of the event, experts deliberated on the regulatory landscape of online gaming. From recognition and growth to the debate on self-regulatory bodies versus Government oversight, the panel explored the nuances with precision, offering insights into navigating the complex maze of regulations.

And amidst it all, Bollywood stepped onto the stage, bringing with it a touch of glamour and nostalgia. Delving into the evolution of beloved characters like Singham and Chhota Bheem, Industry experts explored their impact on gaming culture and the potential for future collaborations. From successful crossovers to the transformative power of 3D animation, the session offered a glimpse into a future where gaming and Bollywood intertwine seamlessly.

As stakeholders continue to join hands in shaping the future of gaming, the journey towards a vibrant and inclusive gaming ecosystem marches forward, propelled by the unwavering spirit of innovation and collaboration.

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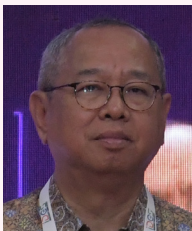
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While the gaming business is still in its early stages, it has enormous potential. The market is expanding rapidly, providing significant prospects for both content development and valuation. With the proper governance in place, India has a unique chance to lead in the production of high-quality games and eSports, not only meeting global demands but also promoting local products on a worldwide scale. It can serve as a platform for stakeholders, ranging from investors to governing authorities, to ensure responsible practices and the participation of small content providers, thereby pushing digital integration more efficiently.

R Dinesh

President, CII and Chairman
TVS Supply Chain Solutions Limited



This is Indonesia's first participation and I believe that our participation in the India Gaming Show 2024 would promote collaboration between the Indonesian and Indian gaming industries. It is a huge opportunity for us to bring to you insights from the heart of Southeast Asia's gaming hub, where creativity meets innovation and where the digital dreams of tomorrow are being crafted today.

Eddy Wardoyo

Consul General
Republic of Indonesia



The India Gaming Show is a testament to the incredible growth and potential of the gaming industry in India. It serves as a platform for industry leaders, gamers and enthusiasts to come together, share ideas and explore the latest innovations.

Sean (Hyunil) Sohn

CEO
KRAFTON India

”

Video Gaming: A Journey of Innovation, Collaboration and Boundless Potential

In the ever-evolving landscape of digital entertainment, India's video gaming Industry stands on the cusp of a transformative renaissance, says Rajan Navani



The India Gaming Show 2024 is not just a showcase of the latest video gaming trends but a celebration of the thriving gaming community in India. We brought together gaming enthusiasts, Industry leaders and innovators to Pune, Maharashtra for an unforgettable experience.

In the ever-evolving landscape of digital entertainment, India's video gaming Industry stands on the cusp of a transformative renaissance. Reflecting on recent Industry developments, it's evident that we're witnessing the dawn of a new era – one characterized by innovation, collaboration and boundless potential.

As someone deeply immersed in the world of video gaming, I can't help but marvel at the seismic shifts taking place. From the proliferation of eSports to the fusion of AI and game design, every facet of the Industry pulsates with energy and creativity. It's a realm where imagination knows no bounds and technological prowess blurs the lines between reality and fantasy.

What truly resonates with me is the spirit of collaboration that permeates the Industry. Watching India's video gaming ecosystem unite with global players fills me with optimism for the future. It's not just about forging partnerships; it's about harnessing collective expertise to propel India onto the global gaming stage.

Yet, beyond the realm of code and pixels lies a deeper truth about video gaming's impact on society. It's a medium that transcends boundaries, bringing people together in ways we never imagined. The friendships forged in virtual worlds are as real and meaningful as any formed in the physical realm, underscoring video gaming's potential as a catalyst for social cohesion and connection.



As we peer into the horizon of India's video gaming future, I see endless possibilities. With a rich pool of talent, burgeoning market potential and a spirit of relentless innovation, India is poised to carve its niche as a global video gaming powerhouse. But more than just Industry dominance, it's about nurturing a culture of creativity, collaboration and inclusivity – a culture where every gamer, regardless of background or expertise, feels empowered to embark on their own digital odyssey.

India's video gaming renaissance is not just a professional pursuit; it's a deeply personal journey – one that fills me with hope, excitement and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of video gaming. As we navigate this uncharted terrain, let us embrace the adventure, cherish the connections we forge and revel in the boundless potential of India's video gaming scene.

This article was contributed by
Mr Rajan Navani, President, IDGS and
Founder & CEO, JetSynthesys

Imagination and Tech Creating Worlds Beyond Wildest Dreams

With more than 400 million online gamers, the second largest in the world, India's gaming community is not just expanding, it's revolutionizing the Industry. The nation's gamers are driving demand, shaping trends and propelling India to the forefront of the global gaming stage, says Vishal Dhupar

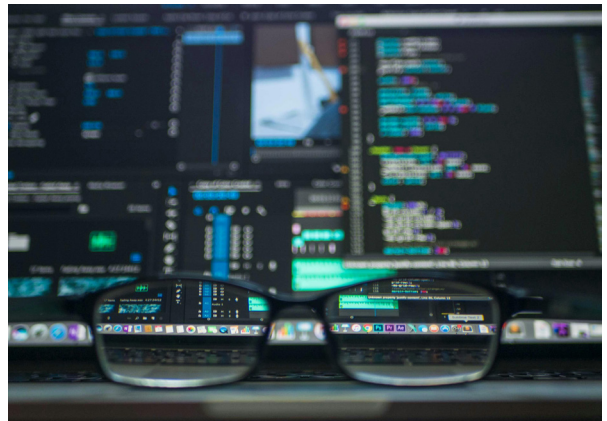


The India Gaming Show 2024 perfectly encapsulated the spirit of Pune's technological prowess. The vibrant energy of India's gaming community was palpable, with the event bringing together gaming enthusiasts, Industry leaders and innovators under one roof. The city's burgeoning IT sector and creative talent pool laid the groundwork for fostering collaboration and showcasing cutting-edge advancements in gaming technology.

As I reflect on the growth of the gaming Industry in India, I can't help but be awestruck by the milestones we've achieved along the way. With more than 400 million online gamers, the second largest in the world, India's gaming community is not just expanding, it's revolutionizing the Industry. The nation's gamers are driving demand, shaping trends and propelling India to the forefront of the global gaming stage. India is a vibrant hub for innovation and growth, setting new benchmarks and capturing the imagination of players and developers alike. The Indian gaming market, projected to double by 2028, is a beacon of opportunity, showcasing the country's pivotal role in the gaming Industry's future.

Technologies such as ray tracing heralded a new era of visual fidelity and immersion, allowing us to experience worlds that are as breathtakingly real as they are fantastical. And with the dawn of hybrid AI, we've unlocked new possibilities for player interaction, blurring the lines between fiction and reality in ways we never thought possible.

But perhaps the most exciting part of this journey is yet to come. As we catch a glimpse of the future – a future where NPCs – non-player AI characters engage in dynamic conversations and respond to our every whim



with spontaneity and wit - I can't help but feel a sense of wonder and anticipation. Today, GenAI is transforming the way we game and the way we build games.

For in the boundless realms of gaming, the possibilities are as limitless as our imagination. As we set sail on this odyssey of innovation, I am filled with a sense of purpose and excitement, knowing that together, we will chart a course towards a brighter, more imaginative future.

The India Gaming Show left us with a profound sense of inspiration. In the world of gaming, every journey is an adventure and every adventure is an opportunity to discover something new about ourselves and the world around us. And so, with a heart full of hope and excitement, I am assured that the upcoming editions of the show will continue its journey into the future of gaming and beyond and emerge as a global winner.

This article was contributed by Mr Vishal Dhupar, Executive Council Member, IDGS and MD, NVIDIA South Asia



Strengthening India–US Partnership in Critical and Emerging Tech

The roundtable on India–US Innovation Handshake delved into sector-specific issues regarding regulatory frameworks and collaborative opportunities, seeking ways in which the two countries can work together to accelerate sustainable and inclusive development



India and the US are experiencing significant advancements in Critical and Emerging Technologies (CETs), a category of advanced technologies with substantial potential impact on their respective nations. These technologies encompass Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, semiconductors, space & defence technologies, biotechnology and advanced materials, as specifically identified by both countries under iCET initiatives. These transformative technologies are reshaping the global landscape, providing avenues for next-generation industrial and economic growth and contributing to national security and influence.

As part of this effort, the second roundtable on the US and India Innovation Handshake was organized

by CII and the US–India Business Council (USIBC), supported by the US Department of Commerce and Startup India on 6 March in New Delhi. The roundtable delved into sector-specific issues regarding regulatory frameworks and collaborative opportunities, seeking ways in which India and the US can work together to accelerate sustainable and inclusive development. Over 55 attendees, comprising startups, Government officials and corporate representatives, were present at the roundtable discussion.

The opening session was addressed by Shri Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Mr Arun Venkataraman, US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets;



(L-R): Gaurav Thareja, Assistant Manager, Startup India; Jonathan Heimer, Minister-Counsellor, US Department of Commerce, US Embassy; Rajiv Memani, Vice President, CII and Chair of the India Region and Chairman of the Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP; Tamarind Murietta, Principal Officer, US Department of Commerce; Arun Venkataraman, US Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets; Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India; Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director, DPIIT; Alexander Slater, MD – India, USIBC; Gaurav Gupta, Deputy Secretary, FT-NAFTA & SMD-Energy Division, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Shivangi Jain, Senior Assistant Vice President and Lead – Global Partnerships, Startup India

QUOTES



India's startup ecosystem is the most dynamic and innovative in the world, ranking third globally. We have improved our position in GII and ease of doing business, demonstrating our

commitment towards fostering entrepreneurship. With over 1.25 lakh recognized startups that have created millions of jobs, India's startup ecosystem is inclusive and diverse, with half of the startups coming from tier-II cities.

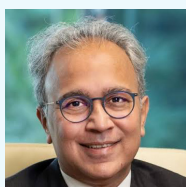
Sanjiv, Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



Development cannot be holistic without inclusivity. The Government of India is not solely prioritizing gender-specific equality but also emphasizing equality

based on regional representation including tier-II, tier-III (cities) and rural within the startup landscape.

Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



CII acknowledges the significance of startups and entrepreneurs in advancing the national agenda for economic growth. The CII National Startup Council and the CII Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups have been deeply engaged in enhancing India's entrepreneurial ecosystem and dedicated to expanding India's global footprint by fostering partnerships with startup ecosystems in the

US and various other countries.

Rajiv Memani, Vice President, CII and Chair - India Region and Chairman - Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP

Mr Rajiv Memani, Vice President of CII and Chair of the India Region and Chairman, - Emerging Markets Committee, Ernst & Young LLP and Mr Alexander Slater, MD – India, USIBC.

Key speakers included Shri Sumeet Kumar Jarangal, Director, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Mr Jonathan Heimer, Minister-Counsellor, US Department of Commerce, US Embassy – New Delhi; Ms Shivangi Jain, Senior Assistant Vice President & Lead – Global Partnerships, Startup India; Ms Tamarind Murietta, Principal Officer, US Department of Commerce; Ms Vrinda Kapoor, CEO, 3rd iTECH; Mr Sahil Chawla, Co-founder & CEO, T Second; Mr Awais Ahmed, Founder & CEO, Pixxel; Mr Drew Schufletowski, Minister Counsellor for Economic Affairs, US Embassy, New Delhi; Ms Divya Sharma, Vice President – ML & Data Analytics, SatSure Analytics; Ms Nandini Singh, Leader of Public Sector and Partner, IBM India & South Asia and Mr Rajat Verma, Founder & CEO, Lohum Cleantech.

Under the framework of the India-US Commercial Dialogue, CII led a delegation of startups in key emerging

technology sectors from India to San Francisco in November last year. There, a roundtable discussion was organized by CII and USIBC, supported by Startup India. The roundtable brought together CEOs from major ICT companies, executives from venture capital firms and founders of startups in the critical and emerging technology space.

The roundtable featured joint addresses by Hon'ble Gina Raimondo, US Secretary of Commerce and Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India. It provided a foundational platform for discussing challenges and opportunities in the deep tech space, including areas such as AI, environmental technologies, semiconductors, biotech and others. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries to address specific regulatory hurdles to cooperation, share information and best practices for startup fundraising and promote innovation and job growth, particularly in critical and emerging technologies.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Create an innovation corridor linking India and the US, with a particular emphasis on fostering collaborative research and easing market access for startups, particularly in AI and emerging technology sectors, as a top priority.
- Encourage investment and funding opportunities between India and the US by enabling access to VC, angel investors and strategic partners, through the establishment of investment funds, development of VC networks and creation of matchmaking platforms connecting investors with promising startups from both regions.
- As we navigate through the ever-evolving technological landscape amidst a highly competitive geopolitical climate, it becomes imperative for us to reevaluate our technological strategies. We must prioritize innovation aimed at addressing varied markets and requirements, incorporating these narratives into our discourse.
- US is majorly interested in manufacturing with Trade Agreements Act (TAA) countries, while India prioritizes its 'Make in India' initiative. The advantage of manufacturing in India and shipping products to the US is found to be more cost-effective and efficient. This strategy should be focused on by both countries.
- We must explore avenues for shared deterrence, extending beyond military capabilities and focusing on collaborative efforts to establish a robust knowledge ecosystem between our two nations.
- There is a need to explore the concept of a knowledge partnership between the US and India, free from licensing requirements in certain domains. Currently, when engaging in technology collaboration with the US, there is a mandatory procedure for obtaining licenses for technologies. We need access to intellectual capital. It is imperative to bring together thinkers from both nations to initiate the development of something entirely novel, unencumbered by licensing constraints. Addressing this notable regulatory void is crucial for advancement. While an informal mechanism exists for such collaborations, the complexity heightens when considering the defence dimension of dual-use technology.
- The second paradigm that intersects both the innovation handshake and iCET is semiconductor manufacturing. Presently, semiconductor manufacturing is primarily focused in the US, Taiwan and Europe, greatly influenced by regulations such as the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and ITA. As India aims to position itself as a semiconductor and manufacturing centre, collaboration with the US becomes vital in charting a course forward. It is essential to establish a framework that allows Indian companies involved in designing military technologies to utilize facilities in these nations for fabrication while ensuring simplified regulatory adherence.
- Easing out export control regulations imposed by the US, particularly in the space sector, despite India's standing, poses a challenge to strategic manufacturing interests in space endeavours that the US could pursue within India.
- Despite the sensitivity and numerous complex regulatory requirements surrounding healthcare innovations, enhancing collaboration between two countries, particularly in pharma and MedTech, necessitates the harmonization of regulatory frameworks and interoperability. Therefore, both nations should prioritize three key elements: (a) aligning regulatory processes (addressing situations where innovations approved in the US necessitate clinical trials in India, leading to prolonged gestation periods); (b) harmonizing Intellectual Property rights; and (c)

standardizing quality in line with WHO-approved standards.

- The lack of female founders not only impedes diversity but also robs the startup ecosystem of unique perspectives and inventive ideas. The Indian Government is committed to fostering financial independence among women and promoting women's entrepreneurship by introducing various initiatives such as Mudra loans for women, seed fund schemes, fund of fund schemes, credit schemes and more to benefit women.
- The Government of India is prioritizing gender-specific equality and emphasizing equality based on regional representation including tier-II, tier-III (cities) and rural within the startup landscape. The Government of India is also focusing on North East, J&K and tribal areas. Like the US, the Government of India will place a greater emphasis on inclusivity and sustainability in the upcoming year.
- Inclusive participation stands as a pivotal factor in the progress of any nation, posing challenges for both India and the US. In 2021, the Biden administration introduced a strategic plan aimed at advancing diversity, equity inclusion and accessibility within the federal workforce to foster a workforce that reflects the entire spectrum of the nation's diversity and promotes equitable employment opportunities. Last year, in 2023, the US Government officially launched the Women in the Sustainable Economy Initiative, aimed at enhancing women's economic empowerment globally and fostering a resilient and sustainable future for all. Consequently, the US also places significant emphasis on inclusivity and sustainability.
- While technology democratization exists, the primary challenge for startups lies in scaling it to different geographical regions. Startups in India not only spearhead innovation and technology but also showcase how these advancements can benefit even the most remote customers or rural areas in the country. There needs to be openness from the US as a partner so that the technology available in India by startups can be extended to reach US markets.
- India has made significant steps in the fields of healthcare and education. Nevertheless, when considering opportunities and participation, there exists a gap between them. This gap between the curriculum and Industry in India needs to be bridged for inclusive development. Collaboration between both countries is imperative to address and fill these gaps.
- Technology mitigates biases and holds a pivotal role in establishing a fair playing field, enabling universal participation regardless of factors such as geography, language, disability and personal communication preferences. Startups of both nations must collaborate in embracing these transformations, fostering long-term inclusivity and equity that benefits everyone.
- Recognizing and addressing discrimination and bias is crucial, necessitating the formulation of appropriate policies. The Government of India has been actively engaged in this endeavour.
- It is crucial for startups to engage with the Government and NGOs and participate in discussions through roundtable meetings and conferences to contribute to inclusive development. Encourage bilateral collaboration in adopting CETs, promoting sustainable inclusivity in the long term
- Advocate for the dual application of technology beyond defence purposes in both nations



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GST: Boost for Businesses

Since its introduction, taxpayer registrations through the GST portal have almost doubled to 1.44 crore. GST revenue has recorded significant growth, increasing from an average of ₹0.90-lakh crore per month in 2017-18 to ₹1.5-lakh crore in 2022-23 says Chandrajit Banerjee



The Goods and Services Tax (GST), the biggest indirect tax transformational reform in India, was implemented on July 1, 2017, after a decade-long consultation process. GST subsumed multiple and complex Central and State taxes, with the aim of simplifying and enhancing the efficiency of the tax system, promoting ease of doing business, and reducing tax incidence under the rubric of One Nation One Tax.

The GST Council played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of GST by monitoring its overall implementation across the country and facilitating consensus-building and decision-making among the Central and State Governments. The Constitution of the GST Council is a unique example of cooperative federalism in India that can be replicated in other areas as well in achieving the goals of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

Successful Adoption

Over the past few years, GST has been adopted successfully across sectors. Its roll-out provided the much-needed fillip to the indirect tax administration as it transformed manual assessments and reduced documentation and processes significantly through digitalisation and faceless compliances. This in turn has led to visibly improved buoyancy in tax revenues and a significant increase in compliance levels.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has been actively introducing various trade facilitation measures since the introduction of GST to simplify compliance procedures and enhance ease of doing business. Extensive outreach programmes and help centres set up by CBIC assisted taxpayers by increasing awareness and understanding GST compliance requirements.

Since its introduction, taxpayer registrations through the GST portal have almost doubled to 1.44 crore. GST revenue has recorded significant growth, increasing from an average of ₹0.90-lakh crore per month in 2017-18 to ₹1.5-lakh crore in 2022-23. It is expected to exceed ₹1.7-lakh crore per month in the current fiscal year.

Technology and data analytics have been leveraged greatly for automating tax compliance. In a short span of time, the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) platform has substantially enhanced functionality and improved user experience. The concept of e-invoicing has been introduced to improve invoice reporting and compliance. These measures have reduced the compliance burden on businesses and improved overall efficiency. The use of technology has facilitated the process of refunds through online platforms, significantly reducing processing times and providing refunds faster to taxpayers.

Further, over 2,310 crore e-invoices and 445 crore e-way bills have been issued by taxpayers through the digital platform. Tax payments of over ₹71-lakh crores have been made through the portal.

The specific initiatives and measures taken so far under GST require to further evolve over time with changing business needs and the rapid pace of technological advancements. Tax management needs to gradually shift focus from administration to good governance, aligning with the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Reducing the existing four tax slabs to three slabs by merging the slabs of 12% and 18% into one of 14% or 15%, maintaining a 5% slab for essential goods and 28% for a few luxury/demerit goods would help in removing ambiguities and tax inversions within a category of products.

Widening the scope and reducing conditions for input tax credits to include all business expenses can bring many benefits and lower costs. Also, consensus is required with the States for introducing centralised registrations and assessments for pan-India service suppliers.

The landmark GST regime has provided a significant boost to Indian businesses and improved competitiveness by eliminating the cascading impact of taxes and encouraging a conducive business environment.

This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published in The Hindu Businessline on 25 March

International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy

Established in 2003, IPHE consists of 23 member countries and the European Union. Its mission is to advance hydrogen and fuel cell technologies worldwide. The biannual IPHE Steering Committee Meetings are vital in fostering international collaboration and coordination among member countries, stakeholders and decision-makers.

Green hydrogen has assumed a frontal role in the transition towards a low-carbon economy. While the Indian Industry is taking steps to develop business models around green hydrogen, the Government is nudging through incentives for strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem. Consultations with global stakeholders for collective learning further aid this process.

In this context, India hosted the 41st Steering Group Meeting of the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE) from 18 to 22 March in New Delhi. CII was the Industry partner for engagements with the grouping, which spanned over five days and included academic outreach, steering committee meetings and Industry outreach.

Established in 2003, IPHE consists of 23 member countries and the European Union. Its mission is to advance hydrogen and fuel cell technologies worldwide. The biannual IPHE Steering Committee meetings are vital in fostering international collaboration and coordination among member countries, stakeholders and decision-makers. IPHE member countries include Australia, Canada, European Union, India, Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Chile, France, Italy, Norway, UAE, Belgium, China, Germany, Japan, South Africa, United Kingdom, Brazil, Costa Rica, Iceland, South Korea, Singapore and the United States.

The first day of the event was organized as an Academic Outreach at IIT Delhi, where the conference highlighted valuable insights into the future of hydrogen and fuel



L-R): Dr Noe Van Hulst, Vice Chairman IPHE, Netherlands; P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER and DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India; Ajay Yadav, Joint Secretary (Hydrogen), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy; Vineet Mittal, Chairman, Taskforce on Green Hydrogen, CII and Chairman, Avaada Group; Prof Naresh Bhatnagar, Dean (R&D), Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi) at the Inaugural Session of the IPHE Industry Outreach in New Delhi



Session on 'Significance of Standards & Certification in the Clean Green Hydrogen Sector'

cell technologies. The inaugural session was addressed by Prof Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor; Shri Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy; Prof Naresh Bhatnagar, Dean (R & D), Indian Institute of Technology (Delhi); Mr Kishor Nair, CEO, Avaada Group; Dr Rebecca Maserumule, Chairperson, IPHE; Shri Ajay Yadav, Joint Secretary (Hydrogen), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Ms Jyoti Mukul, Chief – Energy, CIL.

In his special remarks, Prof Sood spoke about India's commitment to the green hydrogen economy and the R&D roadmap that has been laid down for promoting innovation in the sector. India is working towards a Net Zero Carbon goal by 2070 and the Green Hydrogen Mission is one of the components in it. Prof Bhatnagar highlighted the institution's progress in hydrogen research, evolving from a centre to a department. He highlighted the crucial role of collaboration in tackling pollution.

The IPHE Academic Outreach event also included two insightful panel discussions. The first panel, titled

'Empowering Expertise: Cultivating Skill Development in the Clean/Green Hydrogen Arena', focused on fostering the knowledge and skills essential for success in the clean/green hydrogen sector. It explored strategies for empowering individuals with the requisite knowledge and skills to navigate the evolving energy landscape, with a particular emphasis on preparing the workforce for advancements in green hydrogen technology. Key participants in the session included Mr Joseph Stanford, IPHE (US DOE); Ms Christina Louw, IPHE (South Africa); Prof Naresh Bhatnagar, Dean (R&D), IIT Delhi; Mr Deepak Rai, Vice President & Head Standard & Research, Skill Council for Green Jobs; Mr Siddharth Mayur, Founder, President & CEO, H2e Power and Mr Anuraag Nallapaneni, Senior Program Associate – Hydrogen, WRI India.

The second panel discussion, titled 'Unveiling the Future: Clean/Green Hydrogen Technologies and Its Transformative Applications', delved into the forefront of clean/green hydrogen research and innovation. It explored the transformative potential of clean hydrogen



Session on
'Transforming the
Clean Green Hydrogen
Economy a Reality:
Navigating Financial
Pathways'



Session on 'Empowering Expertise Cultivating Skill Development in the Clean Green Hydrogen Arena'

across various industries, with a focus on equipping individuals with expertise in clean hydrogen technology to expedite the transition towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy ecosystem. Panellists included Dr Michio Hashimoto, IPHE (Japan – NEDO); Mr Joseph Stanford, IPHE (US DOE); Mr Patrice Millet, IPHE (European Commission); Dr SSV Ramakumar, Former Director (R&D), Indian Oil Corporation Limited; Dr Suddhasatwa Basu, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Delhi; Dr Reji Mathai, Director-ARAI and Mr Ranjit Gupta, CEO, Ocior Energy.

The 41st Steering Committee Meeting of IPHE took place on 19-20 March. During the close-door meeting, each member of the committee gave insights into what is being done in their country in the space of green hydrogen and its derivatives.

The Industry Outreach Program was held on the fourth day of the event. It focussed on fostering collaboration and dialogue among key stakeholders to advance the development of clean and green hydrogen technologies. The day-long proceedings saw stakeholders discussing the challenges in the transition towards sustainable energy solutions through collaboration and innovation in green hydrogen. On the sidelines, Industry and global stakeholders got the opportunity to network and share their experiences.

Shri P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER and DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India said that green hydrogen can mark an inflection point in India's energy journey, given the abundant renewable resources and a favourable ecosystem. He was addressing the inaugural event of the Industry Outreach Session of IPHE. Shri Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India said that figuring out strategies to access the latest technologies and improving them is important. Shri Ajay Yadav, Joint Secretary (Hydrogen), Ministry of New & Renewable Energy said that as India transcends from a

USD 3.7 trillion to USD 30 trillion economy, the industrial sector will play a crucial role in energy availability and energy efficiency will be crucial. We have to feed our huge economic growth while simultaneously keeping emissions in check, he added.

The first session on 'The Significance of Standards & Certification in the Clean / Green Hydrogen Sector' centred around the importance of establishing robust standards for green hydrogen that align with international norms while remaining adaptable to India's context. The discussion, led by an esteemed panel consisting of Dr Laurent Antoni, Executive Director, IPHE; Dr Tudor Florea, Co-Lead – H2CM Taskforce (France), IPHE; Dr R Venugopal, Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, PESO; Mr Pulak Prakash, Director - Sales & Strategy for South Asia, Bureau Veritas; Mr A J Patil, Head of Engineering & Green Energy, Larsen & Toubro and Shri Deepak Aggarwal, Scientist-E & Head (CHBO-II), Bureau of Indian Standards delved into the intricacies of developing ongoing standards.

The session on 'Maximizing Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability in the Clean/Green Hydrogen Sector' tackled the challenges presented by unforeseen safety hazards within the green hydrogen sector. Moderated by Mr Nishant Thakkar, Assistant Vice President – Strategy, Welspun Energy, the discussion featured insights from Dr Sunita Satyapal, Vice Chairperson, Department of Energy, United States; Dr Chitra Rajagopal, Director - Center of Excellence at the IIT Delhi; Dr Ashish Lele, Director, National Chemical Laboratory; Mr Asim Prasad, CGM (CSPA & CA), GAIL and Mr Sanjay Sharma, Director (Solar), Solar Energy Corporation of India. The panel emphasized the importance of ensuring the safety and sustainability of present and future green hydrogen technologies as well as implementing adequate emergency measures.

Shri Mahaveer Singhvi, Joint Secretary (New Emerging and Strategic Technologies Division), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India addressed a session on 'International Trade Policies in the Clean/Green

QUOTES



Green Hydrogen is emerging globally as a solution journey towards clean energy transition as it is well placed to contribute more effectively

than other options towards hard-to-abate sectors, long-term energy storage and mobility. Green hydrogen can mark an inflection point in India's energy journey, given the abundant renewable resources and a favourable ecosystem. It has the potential to drastically alter the structure of India's energy supply chain over the next 20 years with a substantial impact on both the economy and geopolitics.

P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER and DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



The IPHE participating countries are impressed by India's Green Hydrogen Mission, its ambitious targets and the policies and regulatory framework

implemented to achieve it. If India achieves these targets, it will put the country at the forefront of global hydrogen development.

Dr Noe Van Hulst, Vice Chairman, IPHE (Netherlands)



Accelerated change demands drastic steps for decarbonisation. Hydrogen emerges as a vital but evolving solution. Collaboration is crucial for

technology advancement.

Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India



Make technologies like solid oxide electrolyzer cell open source to reduce cost of green hydrogen. To make green hydrogen and the green economy a success,

we will need to create a marketplace. Global governments have now recognised that if we have to decarbonize the economy, the only way is green hydrogen.

Vineet Mittal, Chairman, CII Taskforce on Green Hydrogen and Chairman, Avaada Group



Cost differentials and storage methods need to be addressed. Research is important in enhancing efficiency and reducing production costs.

Kishor Nair, CEO, Avaada Group

Hydrogen Market'. It focused on the complexities and way forward towards an initiative where all partnering countries collaborate and create trade policies for a clean/green hydrogen market. Mr Anish Mandal, Partner, Deloitte; Mr Senthil Nathan S, Director, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry; Mr Han Feenstra, Co-lead, H2TR Taskforce, IPHE; Mr Hiren Mehta, Chief Commercial Officer, ACME Group and Mr Prasad Arvind Chaphekar, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy addressed the session. The Industry Outreach of IPHE concluded with a panel discussion on 'Transforming the Clean / Green Hydrogen Economy a Reality: Navigating Financial Pathways'.

This session explored investment strategies, funding mechanisms and economic incentives essential for scaling clean/green hydrogen technologies to shape a sustainable energy future. Panellists included Mr Noe Van Hulst, Vice Chairman, IPHE Netherlands; Mr Joshit Ranjan Sikidar, Director (Finance), Solar Energy Corporation of India; Mr Joss Bracker from IPHE (Germany); Mr Tomohiko Adachi, Vice Chairperson, IPHE (Japan); Mr Mukul Modi, Executive Vice President, SBI Caps; Mr Mohit Bhargava, Former CEO, NTPC Renewable Energy and Ms Japneet Kaur, Senior Investment Specialist, Asian Development Bank. ■



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SOHINI DAS & ABHJIT LELE
(pune), 22 March

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Engaging with the World

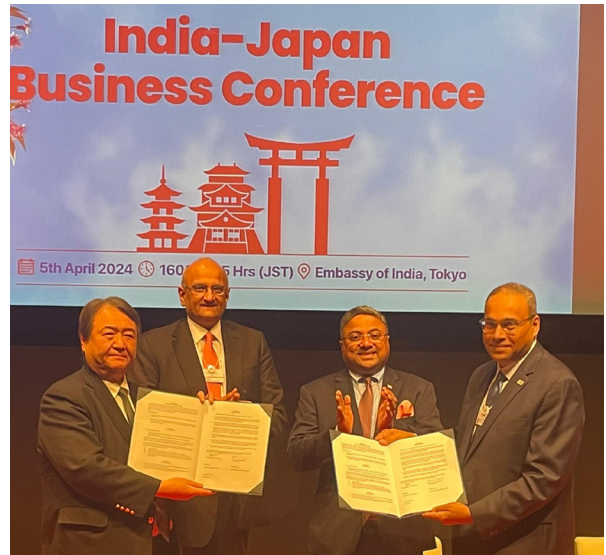
ASIA

CEOs' Delegation to Japan

Formal diplomatic relations between India and Japan were established in 1952 but ties can be traced back to the 6th century. In recent years, this relationship has blossomed into a multifaceted partnership, marked by economic collaboration, strategic alignment and cultural exchanges. India-Japan relations have evolved from being a 'Global Partnership' in 2000, to a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership' in 2014.

Bilateral trade between India and Japan has expanded from USD 17.63 billion in 2018-19 to around USD 22 billion in 2022-23. Indian exports to Japan increased from USD 4.86 billion in 2018-19 to USD 5.46 billion in 2022-23 and Indian imports from Japan increased from USD 12.77 billion to US\$ 16.49 billion during the same period.

To explore new business cooperation opportunities in various sectors, CII organized a CEOs' Delegation to Tokyo (Japan), comprising a select group of senior Industry members on 4-5 April, under the leadership of Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. The delegation aims to explore business opportunities in sectors including technology, e-mobility, advanced manufacturing, automotive, healthcare, infrastructure, clean energy,



Exchange of MoU between CII and Union of Japanese Scientists and Engineers (JUSE) at the India-Japan Business Conference during the CII CEOs' Delegation to Japan

digital transformation and startups.

During the visit, discussions were also held around key areas including sustainability, skill & mobility, digitalization & technology and SMEs, amongst others. It was noted that increasing collaboration between the two nations in the development of SMEs, skill development, clean energy and supply chain resilience initiatives was the need of the hour. Currently, there are around 45,000



CII CEOs' Delegation to Japan led by R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS SCS Ltd met Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan in Tokyo

Indians who are working in Japan. CII's vision is to take this figure to 4,50,000 in the next four years.

CII, in partnership with the Embassy of India (Tokyo) and JETRO, organized the India-Japan Business Conference on 5 April to explore new business cooperation. The conference was attended by senior Industry leaders from both India and Japan. During the conference, CII signed an MoU with the Union of Japanese Scientists and

Engineers (JUSE) to collaborate in quality management in the Indian Industry. Mr R Mukundan, Chairman, CII Institute of Quality and Mr Masato Onodera, MD, JUSE were the signatories of the MoU.

Talking about SMEs, around 1,500 Japanese companies are currently operating in India. CII's vision is to take this figure to 15,000 in the next four years. The focus needs to be not only on large Japanese companies but also on attracting investments from Japanese SMEs, who are keen to invest in India. With more than 60% of its members belonging to SMEs, CII can be the nodal agency from India to take this forward along with its counterpart organizations in Japan.

CII has been at the forefront of Indian Industry's initiatives to deepen ties with businesses in Japan since the 1980s and endeavours to provide vital inputs for policy formulation and functions as the Secretariat from the Indian side for the India-Japan Business Leaders Forum, working in close coordination with Keidanren, the Japanese Secretariat. In 2022, during Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Fumio Kishida's visit to India, the two

sides agreed on a joint statement on 'Partnership for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Post-COVID World'. During the same visit, CII in association with JETRO and Keidanren, organised the India-Japan Economic Forum with the support of DPIIT and METI.

Notably, the CII Institute of Quality has pioneered a strong quality movement in India in partnership with leading Japanese quality institutions. There has been a steady expansion and deepening of the economic relationship between India and Japan, especially in recent years with Japan committed to investing JPY 5 trillion in India by 2027.

As India and Japan continue to deepen their partnership across various domains, their alliance assumes greater significance in shaping the geopolitical landscape of the Indo-Pacific and beyond. By leveraging their respective strengths and shared values, both countries have the potential to foster innovation, promote sustainable development and advance peace and prosperity in the region. ■

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Societal Interface

Recognizing Industry's Climate Actions and Initiatives

As the impacts of climate change escalate, the risks to businesses also correspondingly increase. These not only include direct physical risks to business locations and activities but also those emerging from the transition of the global economy to low-carbon pathways, including changes in technology, markets, regulatory frameworks and stakeholder expectations. Industry's early action on climate change can convert the risks into significant opportunities for value creation.

India has already achieved two targets of the Nationally Determined Contribution well ahead of time. As of October 2023, the cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources is 186.46 MW, which is 43.81% of the total cumulative electric power installed capacity. As per the third national communication submitted by India to the UNFCCC in December 2023, the emission intensity of its GDP has reduced by 33% between 2005 and 2019.

India's accomplishments have been supported by the Industry's proactiveness in adopting and advancing climate actions. To highlight Industry's climate actions and recognize the best practices and initiatives undertaken by the Indian Industry, CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD)

launched the Climate Action Program (CAP) 2.0° for the Indian Industry in 2018. Through this program, CII CESD encourages the inclusion of climate action into the organization's business models and procedures. The Centre, through this intensive program, aims to increase the Industry's capacity and capability by identifying and supporting significant corporate action on climate change.

The fourth edition of CAP 2.0° Awards was held on 8 March in New Delhi. Shri Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India felicitated all the 15 winners of the Climate Action Program. The winners were recognized for their actions in three categories: Resilience, Oriented and Committed. The winner's booklet, launched during the ceremony, captures the best practices and processes of the winning organizations.

Commending the participants for their initiatives, Shri Jagdale said that it is heartening to see a diverse set of industries together on this platform, talking about climate action and what Industry can do to mitigate these risks, talking about the implementation of climate initiatives and taking the hard line with climate-related investments into the corporate strategy.



Winners at the Awards Ceremony

Award Category	Organization	Sector
Resilient	TATA Steel Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Resilient	ReNew Energy Global Plc	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Resilient	JSW Energy Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Resilient	Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, (Corporate Level)	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Resilient	Adani Energy Solutions Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Resilient	Hindustan Zinc Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Oriented	JSW Steel Limited, Dolvi Works	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Oriented	Apraava Energy Private Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Oriented	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Oriented	Delhi International Airport Limited	Infrastructure
Committed	Indian Oil Corporation Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Committed	Adani Green Energy Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Committed	JSW Cement Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Committed	The TATA Power Company Limited	Energy, Mining and Heavy Manufacturing
Committed	Adani Total Gas Limited	Service

Representing the Jury at the award ceremony, Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, World Wide Fund for Nature India said that a very important aspect of the program is feedback reports, which are provided to every applicant. This is an important value addition as it helps companies understand the strengths and areas and thus improve their processes.

Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director General, CII shared that policies led by the Government of India, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the other ministries have given CII Members and Industry the correct direction for leading climate action in their respective organizations.

CAP 2.0

Since 2018, more than 90 companies from the manufacturing, service and MSME sectors have been

associated with the program. This is the only third-party assessed program by CII Certified assessors trained with advanced business maturity models. The Centre has a pool of over 60 trained professionals on climate change who take forward this agenda by assessing the climate resilience of the applicant organizations every year and highlighting the strengths, opportunities and improvement areas.

The assessment is conducted through sector-specific questionnaires, developed to adhere to the requirements of the identified sectors i.e. light manufacturing, heavy manufacturing, infrastructure and services sectors. The entire assessment takes around six months, which includes desk and site visits. The results are then presented to the Jury for their final verdict. At the end of the award cycle, all applicants receive a detailed feedback report.



Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India speaking at the CAP 2.0 Awards in New Delhi



Ravi Singh, Secretary General & CEO, Worldwide Fund for Nature India at the CAP 2.0 Awards in New Delhi

Empowering Startups



Startup Meet - Enabling the Growth of Engineering Startups

The journey of ideation, customer acquisition and scaling for engineering startups presents several challenges, while it is navigable. Factors such as policy changes in India, evolving consumer demands, global opportunities and a maturing startup ecosystem contribute to the growth of engineering startups. The Government has introduced various initiatives to support deep tech startups, including the new space policy, which has opened doors for private sector participation and witnessed the success of numerous space startups. In 2022, the Indian Space Research Organization saw the registration of around 100 space tech startups alone. The rise of electric mobility has also fostered growth in startups within the vehicle and component sectors.

India is not only excelling in software and e-commerce startups but also engineering and hardware-based startups. Reflecting this trend, the CII Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Startups (CII CIES) organized a Startup Meet on 'Enabling the Growth of Engineering Startups' on 6 March in Hyderabad. Dr A R Srinivas from LEOS/ISRO emphasized the endless opportunities for Indian startups in the space sector. Mr Anand Rajagopalan, CEO, T-Works discussed the Government's role in

empowering ideation, scaling up and fostering the growth of the startup ecosystem. He underscored the significance of a public-private policy mode in supporting tech-enabled startups.

The discussions at the event inspired startup founders and offered insights into investment, scaling strategies, ecosystem support, favourable Government policies and networking opportunities with successful founders and investors. Approximately 60 startup founders/co-founders participated in the event.

Nepal Delegation to T-Hub

CII CIES, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Country Office for Nepal, South Asia Leadership in Entrepreneurship (SALE), organized a four-day program for a delegation from Nepal to Hyderabad, India. This gave a diverse opportunity to the delegation from Nepal to comprehend the practical functioning of the startup ecosystem and network with reputed Indian institutes.

The four-day program included seven knowledge sessions covering various aspects of the Indian startup ecosystem, from its current state to its ambitious future. Topics ranged from understanding the intricacies of incubation ecosystems to lean startup methodologies, design thinking methodologies, rapid prototyping and market validation tools crucial for startup development. Providing valuable learning opportunities, CIES organized facility tours to prominent incubation centres, including T-Hub, T-Works and AgHub.



Dr A R Srinivas, LEOS / ISRO delivering the keynote address on Empowering Startups to Innovate for India Space



Anand Rajagopalan, CEO, T-Works addressing the gathering

CII Corporate Market Access Program

Startups operating in the Electronic Vehicle (EV) sector made pitches for investment with corporates at the Corporate Market Access Program on 1 March. Many startups, who made the pitches, are working to address the fast charging of EV batteries. The interaction flowed seamlessly, eliciting favourable responses from corporations, particularly regarding the startup Mojo, which led to further inquiries about its technology.

Sectorscape



Corporate Governance

Corporate Governance Summit

Markets rest on the edifice of trust which is a two-way process and both the Industry and the Regulator should work towards creating and building trust with each other, said Ms Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She was delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session of the 17th Corporate Governance Summit on 2 April in Mumbai. She added that fundamental to building trust is transparency. She said that the regulator is a proxy for the entire investor base and the sole reason for SEBI's existence is capital formation and wherever there is an opportunity to raise capital from the market, the regulator tries to ensure that there is no delay in the process. She mentioned that REITs and InvITs are going to be the vehicles of growth in the future.

Speaking about the role of the Industry Standards Forum in easing and enabling compliance with SEBI regulations, the SEBI Chairperson highlighted that SEBI is committed to the process of co-creation of regulations for ease of compliance and to reduce the cost of compliance by Industry. She, referring to the technology that has been deployed in the market ecosystem, observed that today Indian Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) are at the centerstage receiving global acclaim and leading the world on cutting-edge technology and regulations.

Commending SEBI's role as securities market regulator, Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd highlighted that SEBI stands for solution-oriented empathetic bold and integrity. Speaking about the theme of the summit, 'Building Trust through People, Planet, Profit and Purpose', he mentioned that trust is the glue that binds stakeholders and maintains their faith in the business ecosystem and building an atmosphere of trust improves ease of doing business and helps the growth of business.

Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman, CII Corporate Governance Council and CMD, Bajaj Finserv Ltd observed that SEBI has been proactive, collaborative and facilitative in streamlining regulations for listed companies. He underlined that CII is engaging in regular dialogue with SEBI on several issues about corporate governance and soon CII will come out with recommendations on corporate governance in family businesses. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII observed that increased investors' participation is an extremely encouraging sign for the growth of the capital market in India. He stated that India's transition of doubling the size of the economy would be dependent on the growth capital provided by the market and that is what SEBI is ensuring.

During the Summit, the SEBI Chairperson released the 'CII Corporate Governance Charter for Startups', which states the voluntary recommendations on corporate governance appropriate for startups based on the specific stages of the life cycle of startups. She also launched the CII publication titled 'The DPDP Act & Enterprises in India: Privacy for the Board' prepared in partnership with Deloitte. The publication focuses on the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act's impact on enterprises in India.



(L-R): Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman, CII Corporate Governance Council and CMD, Bajaj Finserv Ltd; Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson, SEBI; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS SCS Ltd and Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII releasing the publication 'The DPDP Act & Enterprises in India: Privacy for the Board' at the Corporate Governance Summit in Mumbai



Education

Progress Review Meeting of SERB – CII Fellows for PM’s Fellowship for Doctoral Research

The 9th Progress Review Meeting of SERB – CII Prime Minister’s Fellowship for Doctoral Research was held on 6 March in Goa. During the meeting, PM Fellows from second, third and fourth years showcased progress on their PhD research work through a poster presentation.

A total of 70 projects, including 27 projects in Engineering, 35 in Life Sciences, six in Chemistry and two in Physics and Earth & Atmospheric Sciences were showcased. During the poster presentations, the fellows highlighted the annual goalposts as per the agreements signed at the beginning of the project besides presenting the progress report.

The Prime Minister’s Fellowship Scheme for Doctoral Research is a public-private partnership between the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) and CII. It aims to encourage young and talented scholars to take up industry-relevant research.



Apex Council members reviewing posters of PM Fellows at the Progress Review Meeting



Human Resource

National HR Excellence Award Confluence



Dr C Jayakumar, Executive Vice President & Head CHRO, Larsen & Toubro Limited delivering the keynote address at the National HR Excellence Award Confluence in Mumbai

“In today’s dynamic landscape, the trajectory of success is shaped by multifaceted factors. While acknowledging internal initiatives, we must recognize the influence of sectoral dynamics. HR faces the challenge of talent retention amidst Industry fluctuations, emphasizing the need for flexible teams and technology adoption. Crafting a future-ready organization demands agility, technological

acumen, emotional resonance, purpose-driven endeavours, unwavering values, innovation and commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Let us navigate this journey with resilience, innovation and a commitment to harnessing the transformative potential of the human spirit,” said Dr C Jayakumar, Executive Vice President & Head Corporate Human Resources, Larsen & Toubro Limited. He was delivering the keynote address at the 14th CII National HR Excellence Award Confluence in Mumbai on 22 March.

The CII National HR Excellence Award serves as a comprehensive framework encompassing all facets of human resource management. Designed to promote excellence in HR practices, the award model facilitates self-assessment, enabling organizations to gauge their current status, identify gaps, and stimulate solutions. The confluence focussed on disseminating knowledge on best practices emanating from the HR

Excellence Award Assessment, where achievers share their perspectives on best practices via case study presentations and the assessment process.

This year, the conference was based on the theme 'Learn from The Achievers' to enable organizations towards creating and sustaining a culture of excellence in HR. The high point of the confluence was the award presentation ceremony for 2023-24, whereby 35 organizations were recognized under different achievement levels. Ten organizations were recognized under 'Strong Commitment to HR Excellence', 18 organizations were recognized under 'Significant Achievement in HR Excellence' and two organizations were recognized under 'Prize for Leadership in HR Excellence'. The esteemed Jury had identified CESC Limited as the role model in HR excellence, awarding them the prestigious Pinnacle Award.



Quality Control

Standardisation in Capital Goods Sector

CII, in partnership with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), organized a virtual interaction on 'Strengthening the Quality Ecosystem and Standardisation in the Capital Goods Sector' on 22 February. During the interaction, deliberations were held on issues related to adoption of national and international standards, pursuance of various steps for the effective implementation of recently notified Quality Control Orders (QCOs), as well as upcoming QCOs and quality infrastructure for the capital goods sector.

Shri H J S Pasricha, Scientist-G and Deputy Director General (Certification & CSMD) and Shri Rajeev Sharma, Scientist-G and Deputy Director General (Standardisation) from BIS addressed the Industry members and shared valuable insights on various issues related to the QCO implementation, promoting indigenization and localization of capital goods and creating a culture of quality and excellence.

The participants emphasized that India has seen immense progress in developing standards and building capacity in most sectors over the last five years. Standards gain importance for the capital goods sector since it manufactures machinery and tools for several sectors to an extent determining the basic manufacturing competitiveness of the country.

The screenshot displays a virtual meeting interface. At the top, three video feeds show participants: Rajeev Sharma (Unverified), H J S PASRICHA, DDC, BIS (GOEST) (Unverified), and Rohit Pathak (Unverified). Below these, a central presentation slide is visible, featuring the logos of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The slide title is "CII – BIS INTERACTION ON STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY ECOSYSTEM AND STANDARDISATION IN THE CAPITAL GOODS SECTOR". The date and time are listed as "Thursday, 22 February 2024 : 1600-1700 Hrs : Virtual Platform". To the right of the slide, a "Participants" list shows 93 attendees, including Saunak Banerjee (Organizer), A K Maharana (Unverified), Abhishek Bhale (Unverified), Abilash Uttam (Organizer), Afrin Shakeel (Organizer), Akash Dubey (Unverified), Aman, MED, BIS (Unverified), and Amit Kumar (Unverified). At the bottom, four more video feeds are shown: NEOGI TECHNOLOGIES & RESEAR..., R R Singh (Unverified), Sunil Desai (Unverified), and Vilas B Tamboli (Unverified).

Interaction with Senior Officials of BIS and Capital Goods Industries

Portfolio for Excellence



CESD

CII ITC Sustainability Awards



Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII & Chairman – Advisory Council, CII ITC CESD and CMD, ITC Ltd speaking during the CII ITC Sustainability Awards in New Delhi

CII ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) organized the 18th CII ITC Sustainability Awards in New Delhi on 19 March. Mr Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII & Chairman – Advisory Council, CII ITC CESD and CMD, ITC Limited recognized the winners for excellence in sustainable business. He highlighted that India has done more than its

part and is the only G20 country on track to achieve National Determined Commitments (NDCs). The Green Credit Program (GCP), unveiled at COP28 by the Prime Minister, aims to incentivize environmentally friendly actions by a wide range of actors including industry, individuals, village councils and city authorities. He expressed that over and above the climate emergency, a lot of regulations have come into play that create trade barriers and impact the competitiveness of corporations. Enterprises have to deal with energy transition as well as accelerate adaptation efforts. Hence, sustainability has to come to the centre of corporate strategy.

Two companies received outstanding accomplishments and five companies received commendation for

significant achievement in corporate excellence. Six companies were recognized for excellence and five companies received commendation for significant achievement in environment management. Four companies received excellence and eight companies were awarded commendation for significant achievement in CSR. Five companies won for excellence in biodiversity. This year, 68 applicants underwent a rigorous evaluation process that included on-site assessment by a peer team of CII-certified sustainability assessors, who spent approximately 1,000 man-hours per application over a period of six months. The final shortlist of winning applicants was validated by a pre-eminent jury comprising leaders from government, civil society, and academia.

India Plastics Pact Launches Annual Report

The India Plastics Pact launched its second Annual Report at the CII Maharashtra State Office on 26 February. Ms Geetanjali Vats, Chair, Advisory Committee, India Plastics Pact, Global Plastics Sustainability, Asia & ANZ Lead, Hindustan Unilever Limited, along with other members of the Pact's Advisory Committee launched the Annual Report. The annual report gives insights into the progress made towards the Pact's targets. This progress is measured through an annual data reporting process.

The report shows that 20% of the plastic packaging covered under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is controlled by the Pact's membership. The report also provides year-on-year progress made towards the 2030 targets. Inferences from data collected through the reporting process guide the Pact's actions and allow



Winners recognized for excellence in sustainable business at the 18th CII ITC Sustainability Awards in New Delhi on 19 March

the Secretariat to prioritize interventions to achieve the 2030 targets. One of the priority areas identified was improving the recyclability of flexible plastic packaging. To support signatories in achieving flexible packaging recyclability, the Secretariat will soon launch a technical project to identify recyclable flexible packaging solutions. Over the last few years, the Pact's signatories and relevant stakeholders across the plastics value chain have taken action to transition to a circular economy for plastic packaging. To acknowledge their solutions and ongoing innovations in this sector, CII will launch the India Plastics Pact Sustainable Packaging Awards. The India Plastics Pact, a voluntary business initiative, unites stakeholders across the plastics value chain to transition to a circular economy for plastic packaging through four ambitious 2030 targets.

CII Climate Action Charter Insights Report

Climate change poses an increasingly significant risk to business operations, necessitating urgent collaborative efforts to minimize these risks and enhance resilience. In response to this imperative, CII has launched the CII Climate Action Charter, along with a specialized toolkit tailored for MSMEs. This toolkit assesses the vulnerability of MSMEs to climate-related risks and assists in estimating Greenhouse Gas emissions. Under this initiative, a comprehensive study was conducted utilizing the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework for the industrial clusters of Coimbatore and Tirupur in Tamil Nadu. This study involved the participation of 25 companies from each cluster, totalling 50 MSMEs. The report for the Coimbatore and Tirupur industrial clusters was officially launched during the CII Tirupur District Annual Meeting on 11 March. Over 140 MSMEs from Tirupur actively participated in the event.

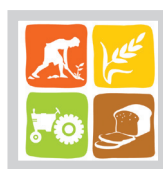
Ms Sangeetha Velkrishna, Immediate Past Chairperson, CII Tirupur said that the European and the US markets are focusing on sustainable manufacturing units nowadays. Sustainability is not just a moral imperative; it's also a business imperative. Mr Pavan Kumar G, Commissioner, Tirupur Municipal Corporation underscored Tirupur's substantial role, contributing 90% of India's cotton knitwear exports and significantly bolstering the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Mr Elango D, Chairman, CII Tirupur; Mr Srivats Ram, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council; Mr Pavan Kumar G, Commissioner, Tirupur Municipal Corporation and Mr Milton Ambrose John, Co-Convenor, Sustainability and Former Chairman, CII Tirupur also attended the event.

Climate Action Awareness in Punjab, Chandigarh

An awareness session was conducted at CII Chandigarh for more than 40 MSMEs from Punjab and Chandigarh on 20 March. Professionals from industries including textiles, automotive components, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agro-based industries, machine tools and agricultural machinery attended the session. Mr Anurag Gupta, Chairman, CII Chandigarh emphasized that due to the expanding global regulatory landscape, such as CBAM regulations, Punjab MSMEs must adhere to ensure uninterrupted exports to regions governed by such measures.

Mr Pritpal Singh, Additional Director and Head, Technology Facilitation Division, Punjab State Council for Science & Technology said that aligning with climate action objectives enables Punjab MSMEs to adhere to current and forthcoming environmental regulations and policies. Mr Vivek Kapoor, Vice Chairman, CII Mohali emphasized the increasing importance of environmental consciousness among consumers and investors. Dr Jasleen Bhatti, Counsellor, CII – ITC CESD emphasized the role of the CII Climate Action Charter initiative in assisting MSMEs, which begins with fundamental capacity building and extends to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to tackle climate challenges and facilitating transitions within value chains.



Food and Agriculture

One Health and Zoonoses

One Health Support Unit (OHSU) conducted training sessions for the A-HELP trainees on 'One Health and Zoonoses-related Aspects' on 13 March. OHSU delivered interactive lectures on topics such as 'One Health' principles, zoonotic diseases, biosafety, biosecurity practices, data collection, surveillance, animal health management, environmental health, community engagement, etc. These A-HELP workers will work as a link between the animal husbandry department and the livestock owners. Therefore, it is very important to introduce them to the concept of 'One Health'.



Interactive session on 'One Health & Zoonoses'

Such sessions will increase the understanding of 'One Health' among the A-HELP trainees and empower them to spread awareness about the same amongst the community.

Dairy Farmers Training on Clean Milk Production and Animal Health

A training session was organized under CII FACE, in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (MPSRLM) and Madhya Pradesh Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MPDAHD) on 27 – 29 February in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. The three-day training program included classroom sessions covering common livestock diseases and their preventive measures, vaccination, deworming practices and insights into animal nutrition. It emphasized the importance of various feeds and their nutrients.

The trainees observed healthy and unhealthy animals, learned clean milk production practices in Gaushalas and how to measure the clinical parameters (temperature and respiration rate) of animals. They also learned about the operational procedures of dairy plants. A document developed by CII FACE on clean milk production in Hindi was distributed amongst the trainees.

This holistic approach aims to empower women farmers with both theoretical knowledge as well as practical skills. The women farmers found the sessions to be enriching, knowledge-enhancing and skill-developing. Their active participation and interactive questions made it a vibrant learning experience.

Safe, Hygienic Tea Production Practices

CII FACE, in collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Tea Board of India and FDA

Tamil Nadu, organized an interactive session with Small Tea Growers (STG) on 14 March in Conoor, Tamil Nadu. The training included information on Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for pesticides and measures to keep harmful chemicals within that range. Wide-ranging discussions were held, which included insights into FSSAI notifications on MRLs for pesticides, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a recommended time gap between pesticide spraying and tea leaf plucking. During the session, the STGs were sensitized about the significance of the safe use of pesticides adhering

to the FSSAI norms on MRLs.

Mr Thiru R Lalvena, Health Secretary and Commissioner, Food Safety, Tamil Nadu pledged support for initiatives aimed at uplifting STGs' practices. Ms Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director, FSSAI underscored the importance of continuous guidance and support for STGs in enhancing good agricultural practices. Mr Muthukumar, Executive Director, Tea Board (South-India Zonal Office) emphasized the criticality of traceability in the tea value chain and stressed the need to bolster support for STGs, who significantly contribute to the country's tea production. Ms Sweetie Behera, Director, FSSAI shared the importance of good agricultural practices on the farm level on the safety of finished products.

Nearly 70 STGs actively participated in the interactive session, followed by a training session focused on raising awareness and ensuring compliance with FSSAI-recommended MRLs in tea. Experts from CII FACE and other Industry partners conducted the training. CII FACE, in collaboration with the Industry, plans to roll out a comprehensive capacity-building initiative in various tea-growing clusters across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal.

Creating Resilient Apple Value Chains

Apple, the main cash crop of Himachal Pradesh, has huge socio-economic importance when it comes to farmer livelihood in the State. Accounting for around 85 per cent of the State's total fruit production, apple trade contributes to over 5% of the State's GDP. To address the challenges faced by apple growers, CII, under its Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) Business Support Unit Program, looked at leveraging the farmer aggregation model for creating resilient apple value

chains. The initiative is supported by CII Foundation and Blue Star.

A rapid assessment of the FPO ecosystem in Rohru (Shimla), Anni (Kullu) and Thunag (Mandi) by CII FACE brought out some interesting insights about the potential role of FPCs in enabling transition to climate resilient apple value chains in Himachal Pradesh. The rapid assessment also highlighted a clear need to strengthen the FPO ecosystem. Based on the exercise, several interventions were undertaken.

One-day on farm training program on apple orchard management was organized in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh. The session, attended by more than 100 farmers, included knowledge sharing on soil management, importance of balanced nutrition, pest and disease management, micro irrigation, provision of government schemes, etc. CII FACE was joined by experts from State Government, Jain Irrigation, Yara Fertilizer, DEHaat and SoilSens in the session.

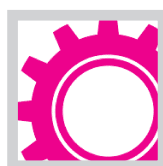
A two-day program on FPO Management was conducted in Shimla to improve the business acumen and management skills of FPOs. The training was conducted by expert faculty from Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow and was attended by Chairman, BoDs and CEOs of eight FPOs in Shimla, Mandi and Kullu districts. The training focused on concept of aggregation, business planning, management functions, compliances and governance.

Certified Course on Product Formulation for Healthier Choices

CII FACE organized the second batch of training on 'Product Formulation for Healthier Choices' on 20 – 22 March at the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) office in New Delhi. This course was convened under the FSSAI Eat Right Movement. The training aimed to sensitize food sector professionals, students from the food technology domain, entrepreneurs and startup aspirants on the

process of food formulation and creating healthier and sustainable products.

The training provided an opportunity to understand the upcoming techniques, regulatory aspects, nutrition profiling and risk analysis in the process of developing healthier food products. The course was conducted by subject matter experts and was very well received by the participants. About 21 food professionals from domestic and international food businesses and academia participated in the training.



CME

Robotic Manufacturing Process Automation in Industry 4.0

CII Naoroji Godrej Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII CME) organized a two-day virtual session on 'Robotic Manufacturing Process Automation in Industry 4.0' on 13-14 March. The session aimed to sensitize Industry professionals on the manufacturing automation process, robotics as a step for automation systems and the benefits of automation systems.

Around 58 professionals from 27 companies participated in the session and learned about the practical implementation of Industry 4.0 concerning robotics and automation. They also learned to identify use cases within their organizations and how to implement it cost-effectively and sustainably.

Buyer-Seller Meet on Industrial Safety

A Buyer-Seller Meet was organized by CII CME on Industrial Safety on 15 March in Mumbai. Over 50 seller



Glimpse of the Buyer-Seller Meet

organizations from across the country interacted with giant Industry buyers including Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd, L&T Hydrocarbon Engineering Limited, Siemens Ltd and Tata Steel. More than 160 impactful meetings were organized between buyers and sellers during the event.

The meet represented a significant opportunity to engage with top OEMs, learn about their requirements in industrial safety (products/services), foster synergy and open doors to a host of business opportunities for seller organizations.

National Manufacturing Excellence Awards

The CII CME instituted the CII Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Manufacturing to recognize and reward manufacturing in India. This is a national-level flagship initiative and is one of the most prestigious and coveted awards for manufacturing excellence. It recognises and rewards excellence in manufacturing to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and implementation of best practices among industries and inculcate a culture and spirit of manufacturing innovation.

The award ceremony for 2024 was organized on 22 March. Manufacturing Excellence Awards were distributed in key segments including technology, Collaboration, Production, Market Dynamics, Sustainability, Policy and Behavioural Aspects. Mr B Thiagarajan, Past Chairman, CII WR and MD, Blue Star Limited and Ms Swati Salgaocar, Chairman, CII WR and President, VM Salgaocar and Brother Pvt Ltd were the key dignitaries at the ceremony.



CFC

CII National EHS Circle Competition

To recognise, encourage and applaud the efforts of organization towards preserving environmental sustainability, ensuring occupational health and safety of employees and society at large, CII CFC organized the 5th CII National EHS Circle Competition 2024 on 27-28 March via virtual platform. During the event, Industry leaders, experts and enthusiasts exchanged knowledge, insights and best practices. The competition drew very good response from companies pan India with companies presenting their best work in different competition categories. Participant companies included

Luminous Power Technologies Private Limited, Plant-4, Bajaj Energy Limited, RSB Transmissions India Limited, Siemens Ltd, etc.

With an abundance of regulatory developments each year and technological advancements, practitioners must stay up to date on changes that affect their job duties and their company's EHS performance. Technology is also transforming the way EHS is managed. It has allowed management to become more finely tuned and efficient and defined the role of corporate culture in boosting EHS performance. Such competitions on best practices on environment sustenance encourages learning and development among different industries.

Exploring Strategic Business Partnership with Germany

The annual partnership in business with Germany has been helping SMEs go global and consistently gaining strength since its inception with the first group of Indian participants in 2009. Till date, over 630 business officials have benefited from this program, underscoring its success in promoting cross-border business relationships and knowledge sharing.

For the initial two batches of 2024, one general and another focussed on Industry 4.0, the Indian preparatory workshop was organized on 6 – 8 March in Gurgaon. The inaugural session was addressed by senior officials from Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany including Mr Jonas Madsen, Attache and Dr Suparna Deo, Advisor, Economic Affairs. The international trainers from training centre, Carl Duisberg Centren (CDC), Germany guided the participants on various aspects of how to do business with Germany. The participants will be travelling to Germany for the final phase in April/ May 2024.

Corrosion Audits and Technical Services

The impact of corrosion on Indian industries is significant, leading to economic losses, decreased productivity, safety hazards and environmental concerns. Raising awareness about corrosion helps industries and policymakers understand the need for investment in preventive measures, leading to improved infrastructure durability, enhanced safety standards and sustainable development. CII has undertaken a national mission on 'War Against Corrosion' to combat corrosion in India.

To make Corrosion Audit compulsory for all Indian industries, CII Corrosion Management Division (CII CMD) is providing corrosion related solutions to Indian industries. CII CMD corrosion expert team visited AM/

NS India (ArcelorMittal and Nippon Steel) in Hazira, Gujarat from 18 March to 20 March. During the visit, the team assessed the various buildings, infrastructures, assets and machines in different units at Hazira. The team interacted with the top management and the team managers of various units to understand the issues and guide them for future precautions and preventive actions to reduce corrosion losses. CII Corrosion expert team comprises Corrosion Management Committee members and corrosion experts.



CDT

BSX Kickoff Meeting with IN-SPACE

A productive dialogue was conducted with Mr Pawan Kumar Goenka, Chairman, Indian National Space Promotion And Authorization Center (IN-SPACE) concerning the Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX) 2024, a significant milestone for the space sector on 20 March. The mega event is poised to delve into the future trajectory of the Indian space sector, its evolution over the next decade and our global positioning within the Industry.

Interaction with IIM Ahmedabad Director on AI Tech

CII organized an interaction with Prof Bharat Bhasker, Director, Indian Institute of Management (Ahmedabad) to discuss a collaboration on Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology. During the meeting, discussions were held on investigating joint research projects that leverage the expertise of both institutions to address pressing challenges in AI, such as ethical AI, AI for social good and AI-driven business innovation. Skill development programs, Industry-academia linkage and entrepreneurship and innovation were also discussed. The partnership between CII and IIM(A) has the potential to create significant value by advancing AI research, fostering talent development and driving socio-economic impact.

Digital Transformation Best Practices Series

CII CDT organizing DX Best Practices Series, an initiative to provide knowledge and guidance to the Industry on



best practices and technologies in digital transformation for various sectors. These sessions include case study presentations by organizations that have won Digital Transformation Awards for Excellence. As part of this initiative, a session was organized on 'Innovations in Supply Chain & Logistics for AI-Driven Driver Behaviour Monitoring for MHE Drivers' on 8 March by Mr Ritesh Srivastava, Head – Central Maintenance, Tata Motors Limited.

The case study depicted the use of AI and its benefits. During the session, it was noted that AI-driven solutions enhance workplace safety, boost productivity and cultivate a culture of ongoing improvement within organizations' operations. The AI solution enables geofencing, live tracking, historical data analysis and customizable reports, empowering informed decision-making and proactive safety measures.

CII Cyber Security Awareness

CII CDT, under the 'Cyber Raksha Kavach' initiative, organized a cyber security training session on 28 March to guide MSMEs on developing and maintaining a strong cyber security posture. The session on 'Managing Cybersecurity: The Human Factor' was conducted by Mr Mohit Kalra, Chief Information Security Officer, ORIX India Group.

During the session, Mr Kalra noted that training and awareness programs are essential to mitigate the risk of human error in cybersecurity incidents. He underlined the need to educate employees on protecting sensitive information. Emphasis was laid on recognizing and avoiding phishing attacks. He also highlighted some of the major cyber security risks and how to mitigate them including avoiding unknown Wi-Fi networks in public places, verifying the legitimacy of requests for sensitive information, etc. ■

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Jharkhand: Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India @100



C P Radhakrishnan, Governor, Jharkhand addressing the session

CII Jharkhand organized its Annual Meeting and a session on 'Jharkhand: Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India@100' on 27 February in Jamshedpur. The delegates engaged in discussions on various key themes including the future of steel, global

supply chain dynamics, the automotive Industry's future in India, sustainable energy, waste management and the challenges and opportunities within the Indian startup ecosystem. Shri C P Radhakrishnan, Governor, Jharkhand underscored the importance of preparing industries to embrace sustainability practices, integrating technology into operations and enhancing manufacturing quality to contribute to the vision of a sustainable India by 2047.

During the Annual Meeting, Mr Ranjot Singh, MD, Emdet Jamshedpur Pvt Ltd was elected as the Chairman of CII Jharkhand State Council for 2024-25 and Mr Ritu Raj Sinha, MD, Tata Steel UISL was elected as the Vice Chairman of CII Jharkhand State Council for 2024-25.

Policy Connect Forum



Vijay Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh speaking at the conference

Coinciding with its Annual Meeting, CII Chhattisgarh organized a conference on 'Policy Connect Forum' on 6 March in Raipur. Distinguished speakers engaged in discussions on vital themes including promising economic prospects for Chhattisgarh and strategies to expedite

its development. Shri Vijay Sharma, Deputy Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh highlighted industries as the foundation of the State's economy. He acknowledged the Industry's concerns about land, electricity, water

and clearances and assured that the Government is committed to addressing these needs and establishing a single window system for faster approvals.

Shri O P Chowdhary, Minister of Finance & Revenue, Government of Chhattisgarh emphasized ten key pillars for driving the State's economic progress. These pillars prioritize fostering private investments in essential industries while also implementing populist initiatives. Shri Lakhan Lal Dewangan, Minister of Commerce & Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh said that the Industrial Policy of Chhattisgarh will contain subsidies and other incentives to attract huge investments.

During the Annual Meeting, Mr Ashish Saraf, President, Manorama Industries Ltd and Mr Sanjay Jain, MD, RSV EXIM Pvt Ltd were elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CII Chhattisgarh State Council for 2024-25 respectively.

Empowering Bihar



Vijay Kumar Sinha, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Bihar speaking at the conference

CII Bihar, in a move to showcase the State's investment potential, organized a session on 'East India Summit: Bihar Session' on 7 March in Patna, alongside its Annual Meeting. The session focused on ways to promote investment in various sectors within

Bihar. Highlighting the State's potential, Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar emphasized the immense opportunity for ethanol production and said that the State has the potential to become a national hub for this sector. Dr Rohit Singh, Director, IIBM emphasized the importance of fostering collaboration between Industry and academia to achieve better governance, prioritize development and ensure rapid growth.

During the Annual Meeting, Dr Satyajit Kumar Singh, Director, Ruban Memorial Hospital and Mr Gaurav Sah, Director, L V Best Pvt Ltd were elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CII Bihar State Council for 2024-25.

West Bengal: Poised to Lead



Dr Shashi Panja, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Industry Commerce & Enterprises and Women, Child Development & Social Welfare, West Bengal speaking during the inaugural session

Coinciding with the CII West Bengal Annual Meeting, CII hosted a conference on 'West Bengal: Poised to Lead' on 29 February in Kolkata. The conference emphasized the importance of image, innovation, infrastructure, investment and inclusivity for the State's growth. Dr Shashi Panja, Minister-in-Charge, Department of

Industry Commerce & Enterprises and Women, Child Development & Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal emphasized the commitment of the State Government to social welfare.

Ms Roshni Sen, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal and CMD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited underscored the State Government's efforts to create a more business-friendly environment and highlighted the significance of 21 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and three food parks, which are expected to play a crucial role in advancing the State's economic growth. Addressing the significance of the recently introduced Export Promotion Policy 2023, Mr Sanjay Budhia, Chairman, CII National Committee on EXIM & Past Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council and MD, Patton International Ltd emphasized its role in boosting the State's exports over the next five years. Sessions on harnessing the potential of infrastructure, logistics & warehousing and fuelling the growth narrative of West Bengal were held during the event. Mr Sandeep Kumar, MD, Tata Steel Downstream Products Limited and Mr Debashis Dutta, Director, BGS Group were elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CII West Bengal State Council for 2024-25 respectively.

Future Ready to be Future Proof

CII Eastern Region organized a conference on 'Future Ready to be Future Proof' coinciding with its Annual Meeting on 9 March in Kolkata. Shri Narayan Swaroop Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal highlighted the significant technological advancements of the past two decades in the country. He emphasized the crucial role of adaptation in this dynamic environment. He emphasized the need for corporations to cultivate a culture of innovation within their organizations.



(L-R): Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, Chairman, CII ER and MD, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS SCS Ltd; Suvendra Kumar Behera, Vice Chairman & MD, RSB Transmission (I) Ltd and Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII

In a fireside chat, Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd underscored the critical need to streamline the ease of doing business, emphasizing the importance of continuous digitalization efforts. He also stressed the importance of fostering the development of the MSME sector in the country. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII emphasized the importance of integrating Indian companies into global value chains to expand their international presence. He identified the potential of expanding education and healthcare services to reach underserved rural areas, suggesting these as promising avenues for CII's future endeavours.

During the Annual Meeting, Mr Suvendra Kumar Behera, Vice Chairman & MD, RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd and Mr Shashwat Goenka, Vice Chairman, RP – Sanjiv Goenka Group were elected as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of CII Eastern Region Council for 2024-25 respectively.

Odisha: Exploring Opportunities on a Faster Growth Track

Coinciding with the CII Odisha Annual Meeting, CII Odisha organized a session on 'Odisha: Exploring Opportunities on a Faster Growth Track' on 5 March in Bhubaneswar. Shri Bhupendra Singh Poonia, MD, IPICOL, Government of Odisha said that in the wake of significant global events, numerous industries are strategically eyeing expansion with a particular focus on coastal regions. Odisha, with its expansive beaches and well-established port network, stands as a prime beneficiary of this trend, presenting a golden opportunity for substantial industrial growth. He emphasized the immense potential, predicting a surge in industrialization within the coastal areas of Odisha in the next two years.

This conference aimed to analyse the potential avenues for accelerating economic growth and development in Odisha focusing on key sectors, policy initiatives and



(L-R): Suresha G, ED, Odisha Asset Operations, Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India Ltd; Shiv Siddhant Narayan Kaul, MD, Nicco Engineering Services Ltd; Sashi Shekar Mohanty, CEO & MD, Essar Minmet Ltd; Bhupendra Singh Poonia, MD, IPICOL; Manikanta Naik, MD, Tata Steel SEZ; Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, Head - Corporate Affairs, Paradeep Phosphates Ltd; Chandra Prakash Bhartia, MD, Jagdamba Polymers Pvt Ltd

investment opportunities. During the Annual Meeting, Dr Pradipta Mohanty, Chairman, SNM Group and Mr Sunil Gupta, COO Aluminium Sector and CEO, Vedanta Aluminium & Power Ltd were elected as the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CII Odisha State Council for 2024-25 respectively.

Members's Meet with CII President Designate



Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII addressing the Members' Meet in Kolkata

CII ER organized a Members' Meet with Mr Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII on 27 March in Kolkata. He said that the Eastern Region boasts a strong foundation for economic growth. It has a well-diversified supply chain, favourable demographics

with a growing consumer market and abundant natural resources. He mentioned that agriculture remains a key strength, but there's immense potential for adding value through processing, storage and marketing initiatives. CII Eastern Region can capitalize on these strengths by promoting the region to businesses and aligning with Government initiatives like the PLI scheme to establish the east as a manufacturing hub. To further enhance the business environment, CII ER can advocate for policy reforms that reduce the cost of doing business and support an open-access policy for better integration into the global value chain.

Mr Suvendra Kumar Behera, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Council (2024-25) and Vice Chairman & MD,

RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd emphasized the need to focus on developing the State's underdeveloped districts. He highlighted facilitating market linkages, vendor development and product development as key initiatives for CII chapters in the region.

Convention on QC Circle Regional Finals



Glimpse of the Regional QC Circle Regional Finals

QC Circles plays an important role in involving a wide cross-section of employees to improve quality within an organization through participation. To spread awareness of the need for Total Quality Management (TQM), CII has been conducting Quality Circle Conventions for the last three decades. These conventions promote QC Circles among members and provide a platform for members to share knowledge about prevalent practices.

The 36th Regional Quality Circle Competition was held in Kolkata on 21-22 March in Kolkata. This year's regional finals saw participation from 32 QC teams from across the region. In the manufacturing sector, the winner was Team Sidhant -Tata Steel Ltd while in the Services sector the winner was Team Telecommand - Integrated Test Range – DRDO.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

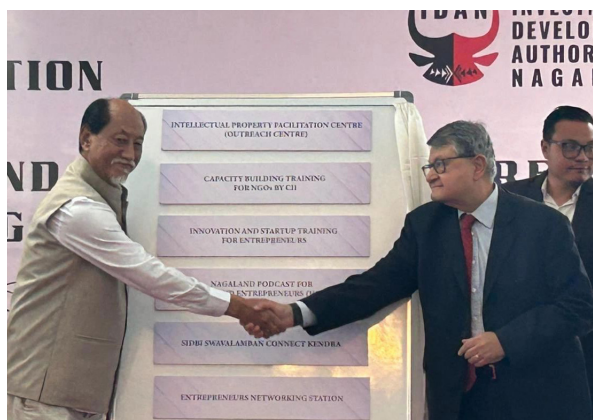
CII Interaction with DPIIT Joint Secretary on UNNATI

The announcement of the much anticipated 'Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrial Scheme 2024' (UNNATI) is likely to boost industrial growth and employment generation in the region. To discuss the benefits of the new industrial policy of the North East, CII held an interaction with Mr Balamurugan D, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India on 18 March via a virtual platform.

Mr Balamurugan mentioned that UNNATI is likely to cut down compliances and lay stress on the timely implementation of projects. The scheme emphasizes the Green Industry, which is vital for the North East. The bifurcation of the Scheme into zones A (for the industrially advanced zone) and B (for the industrially backward zone) will help in the uniform development of the region. He added that DPIIT will travel to all the States and meet Industry to sensitise them to the scheme. The manufacturing and service-linked incentive (MSLI) announced in UNNATI will predominantly encourage investments in tourism and hospitality. The session was attended by several Industry leaders from the North East who also shared their viewpoints. As a follow-up to the session, CII submitted a 26-point dossier to DPIIT seeking clarity on the new scheme.

CII CSR Capacity Building Programme for NGOs, Innovation Centre

CII conducted a CSR Capacity Building Program for NGOs in Dimapur, Nagaland on 13-14 March focusing on regulations, reputation management and raising funds. The program was launched by Shri Nephui Rio, Chief Minister, Government of Nagaland and Shri Suman Kumar Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. It was supported by Boeing, the Investment & Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) and the Government of Nagaland, with Learning Links Foundation as the knowledge partner. During the program, regulatory and fiscal compliance, financial management for NGOs, CSR compliances, FCRA requirements, reporting and documentation, accounts and Income tax, governance and monitoring,



Neiphui Rio, Chief Minister of Nagaland and Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog jointly inaugurated the CII - Boeing Capacity Building Training for NGOs

building effective financial practices, fundraising scenarios in India and creating effective proposals were discussed. Training sessions were taken up by Mr Noshir Homi Dadrawala, CEO, Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy; Ms Sujata Samal, Director-Advisory & Accompaniment Services, CPA Services Private Ltd and Mr Dharani Payeng, State Coordinator, Indo Global Social Service Society. A fireside chat was also organized to share the perspectives of CSR pitching and other aspects of CSR.

Workshop on Synergizing OHS with ESG Goals

A safe and healthy working environment is of paramount importance for overall sustainability. The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) standards and their enforcement can have a huge impact on employees' lives. The emerging standard and framework of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) is pushing organizations to recognize the importance of OHS functions. In this context, CII Assam organized a workshop on 'Synergizing OHS with ESG Goals' on 28 March in Guwahati.



(L-R): Manju Devi, Jt Director, Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam; Gopi More, Vice Chairman, CII Assam Council and MD, Torsa Machines Ltd; Oinam Singh, Commissioner, Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam; Dr S K Dey, Additional Chief Inspector of Factories, Government of Assam and Saikat Basu, CEO, Consultivo during the workshop in Guwahati

The workshop deliberated on how EHS professionals can drive cultural change, expand cross-functional collaboration and bring forth their value creation to drive a better OHS management of the organization, aligning with the overall goals of delivering superior ESG performances. Shri Oinam Singh, Commissioner of Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam inaugurated the workshop in the presence of Joint Director, Industries & Commerce, Government of Assam and Additional Chief Inspector of Factories, Government of Assam. The workshop was conducted by Mr Saikat Basu, CEO, Consultivo.

Enhancing International Trade Through Tripura



Glimpses from the roundtable in Agartala

CII, in collaboration with the School of Logistics, Communication & Waterways, Agartala, hosted a roundtable discussion on 'Opportunities in Enhancing International Trade through Tripura and Issues on Logistics' on 5 March in Agartala. The session served as a platform for key stakeholders from Tripura's business community to deliberate on critical challenges and prospects shaping the State's trade landscape. The roundtable aimed to shed light on avenues for maximizing the State's participation in the global marketplace.

The intricacies of logistical challenges hindering seamless trade operations were discussed. The delegates engaged in insightful exchanges, discussing the issues faced by the business houses in logistics sectors, delving into the intricacies of trade facilitation, infrastructural development, regulatory frameworks, State's Logistics Policy and technological advancements requisite for enhancing Tripura's connectivity with international markets. Reassessing the total land acreage required for logistics parks, enhancing checking facilities in Churaibari, focusing on inventory capacity and developing skilled manpower were the key recommendations formulated during the discussions.



NORTHERN REGION

Growth Summit

Leaders from across industries convened at the Growth Summit to deliberate on India's trajectory towards becoming a global economic powerhouse. Organized on 14 March in Gurugram, the summit ignited discussions essential for propelling India towards becoming a global economic powerhouse. Mr R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd emphasized the imperative for India to integrate seamlessly into the global growth narrative. Highlighting key focus areas such as ease of doing business, digital empowerment and harmonized, equitable growth for MSMEs, he outlined a blueprint for India to emerge as a leader in setting international standards.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the significance of global positioning and competitiveness. He rallied Industry stakeholders to identify avenues where they can catalyse change, collaborating with value chain partners and policymakers to nurture robust ecosystems essential for sustained competitiveness. Building upon this vision, Mr Deepak Jain, Immediate Past Chairman, CII NR and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group stressed the need to scale up operations to augment economic value and achieve exponential growth.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII envisioned Indian states as the next frontier of growth, advocating for a concerted effort towards enhancing ease and cost of doing business. He also stressed the importance of adequate investment and capex to trickle down to states that would enable them to be 'the next growth story in



(L-R): Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd; Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS SCS Ltd; Deepak Jain, Immediate Past Chairman, CII NR and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group and Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Consulting Editor, Business Standard at the Growth Summit in Gurugram

India'. During the event, Mr Madhav Singhania, Deputy MD & CEO, JK Cement Ltd and Mr Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, Sona Comstar were named as Chairman and Deputy Chairman of CII NR for 2024-25 respectively.

MSME Conference



(L-R): Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII UP and Director & CFO, PTC Industries Ltd; Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, Department of MSME & Export Promotion, Uttar Pradesh; Yawer Ali Shah, Convenor, CII MSME Panel and Co-Founder & CEO, AMA Herbal Labs Pvt Ltd and Rajata Mehra, Convenor, CII Policy Advocacy Panel and Director, Rajat Chemicals Industry at the MSME Conference in Lucknow

The MSME Conference, held on 20 March in Lucknow, focused on the crucial role of MSMEs in propelling Uttar Pradesh's growth towards becoming a trillion-dollar economy. During the session, Chief Guest Shri Pranjal Yadav, Secretary, Department of MSME & Export Promotion, Government of Uttar Pradesh affirmed the Government's commitment to attracting investments and providing incentives for MSMEs and SMEs. He highlighted MSMEs' significance as major employment providers and contributors to over half of the nation's export growth. He detailed various schemes and incentives introduced by the Government

of Uttar Pradesh to bolster these sectors, including the impactful ODOP scheme benefiting handicraft traders and enhancing artisans' innovative skills.

Mr Yawer Ali Shah, Convenor, CII MSME Panel and Co-Founder & CEO, AMA Herbal Laboratories Pvt Ltd

praised the transformative impact of ODOP on UP's MSME sector, advocating for the incorporation of incubation centres to nurture entrepreneurs amidst evolving business landscapes. Ms Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII UP and Director & CFO, PTC Industries Ltd emphasized the critical role of MSMEs as the backbone of the economy, citing the State Government's supportive measures such as single-window clearances and infrastructure projects tailored for MSMEs' needs.

Mr Rajata Mehra, Convenor, CII Policy Advocacy Panel and Director, Rajat Chemicals Industry underscored the resilience and adaptability displayed by MSMEs in overcoming challenges, urging continuous evolution and adaptation to modern business dynamics and practices.

Conference on Emerging Technologies in Diagnostics

The CII NR Conference on Emerging Technologies in Diagnostics was held on 5 March in New Delhi to deliberate on innovation and advancement in diagnostics. With a keen focus on pioneering advancements in diagnostic practices, the event served as a platform for Industry professionals, researchers and policymakers to delve into the transformative potential of emerging technologies in reshaping patient care and healthcare delivery.



(L-R): Suhel Bidani, Lead - Digital Platform, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation India; Dr Rana Mehta, Partner & Leader – Healthcare, PwC India; Dr Om P Manchanda, Conference Chairman & Chairman, CII NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and MD, Dr Lal Path Labs Ltd; Pankaj Johri, Director and Head - Operations (Medical), NABL; Arpan Malhotra, Co-Chairman, CII NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and Director & COO, Max Lab Ltd and Bhupinderpal Kaur, Director & Head, CII NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology at the Conference on Emerging Technologies in Diagnostics in New Delhi



(L-R): Deepak Jain, Immediate Past Chairman, CII NR and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group; Sanjeev Jain, Director – Purchase, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt Ltd; Anjali Singh, Immediate Past Chairperson, CII Haryana and Executive Chairperson, Anand Group; Jayant Davar, Past Chairman, CII NR and Co-Chairman & MD, Sandhar Technologies Ltd and Raaja Kanwar, Chairman, CII Haryana and CMD, Apollo International Group at the Indian Automotive Value Chain Summit in Gurugram

The conference, graced by esteemed dignitaries, marked a significant milestone in the quest to revolutionize diagnostic methodologies and enhance patient care across the healthcare landscape. The potential of AI-driven solutions in enhancing diagnostic accuracy, streamlining processes and improving patient outcomes was discussed. The speakers also deliberated on the significance of accreditation in ensuring the quality and reliability of diagnostic services.

Over 100 delegates from various educational and healthcare institutions participated in the summit. Dr Om P Manchanda, Conference Chairman & Chairman, CII NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and MD, Dr Lal Path Labs Ltd; Arpan Malhotra, Co-Chairman, CII NR Committee on Diagnostics & Technology and Director & COO, Max Lab Limited; Pankaj Johri, Director and Head - Operations (Medical), National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories and Mr Suhel Bidani, Lead - Digital Platform, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation India were among the key speakers at the event.

Automotive Value Chain Summit

CII NR hosted the Indian Automotive Value Chain Summit on 1 March in Gurugram, bringing together Industry leaders to discuss the development of the Indian automotive value chain in the global ecosystem. The summit emphasized the crucial nexus of environmental stewardship and technological strides in mobility, promoting sustainability across the automotive supply chain. Key themes discussed at the summit included reducing emissions, waste and ethical sourcing. Digital technologies like AI, IoT and Big Data were seen as pivotal for optimizing resource use. The summit focused on exploring innovative supply chain models, identifying future opportunities, enhancing competitive agility in

the global market and outlining expectations from the Government in support of the automotive sector.

During the summit, Mr Deepak Jain, Immediate Past Chairman, CII NR and Chairman, Lumax-DK Jain Group said that encouraging localization will prove to be a big step towards 'Atmanirbharta' in the Indian auto sector. Fostering strategic partnerships and alliances allows stakeholders to pool resources, share expertise, and drive collective innovation. Ms Anjali Singh, Immediate Past Chairperson, CII Haryana and Executive Chairperson, Anand Group touched upon the imperatives of environmental stewardship and technological advancement in mobility. Mr Raaja Kanwar, Chairman, CII Haryana and CMD, Apollo International Group emphasized that the lessons learnt from disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic have underscored the importance of building robust and adaptable supply chain networks that can withstand unforeseen challenges and uncertainties.



SOUTHERN REGION

The Deccan Conversations, Accelerating Our Growth Story

"India has experienced significant growth in the last three quarters, with an 8.3% increase. The IMF predicts India will contribute 20% of the world's economic expansion in the next decade, with the South being the driving force. By 2047, India aims to be a USD 35 trillion economy and the third-largest stock market globally," said Shri Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, DG, CII; Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President & MD, Volvo Group India; Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa & Former CEO, NITI Aayog and Dr R Nandini, Deputy Chairperson, CII SR and MD, Chandra Textiles Pvt Ltd

and Former CEO, NITI Aayog. He was addressing the Conference on "The Deccan Conversations, Accelerating Our Growth Story" organized by the CII SR on 21 March in Bengaluru. The theme of the conference was 'The idea of Viksit Bharat: What it means to us, and what are the key imperatives & pathways for its realization'. Shri Kant said that India needs to grow on the back of manufacturing, smart urbanization and agriculture. India needs to improve learning outcomes and skills to ensure India provides 30% of the skilled manpower globally by 2047, focus on creating a large number of large companies in India to create an ecosystem for MSMEs and SMEs to thrive and increase its R&D spending from 0.7% to at least 2.5-3% of GDP.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that the G20 Sherpa's innovative steps resonated with CII's empowerment activities and his commitment to empowering all enterprises and innovative initiatives brought multiple positives to the Industry. Shri Kant has inspired CII to take up a new initiative on startups and supported its startup ecosystem engagement under the Startup India Mission led by him driving the ease of doing business initiative.

Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President & MD, Volvo Group India said that in 2024, India, the world's largest democracy, is confident in its ability to shape a future with 1.4 billion people. The Viksit Bharat initiative aims to make India a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, with per capita income reaching USD 18,000 by 2047. The next five to six years leading into 2030 will be crucial in setting the tone and pathways for India's journey towards 2047. Dr R Nandini, Deputy Chairperson, CII SR and MD, Chandra Textiles emphasized the importance of innovation, economic growth, and regional resilience for India's Viksit Bharat by 2047.

New Office Bearers of CII SR for 2024-25

CII SR announced its new CII Leadership Team for the year 2024-25 on 21 March. Dr R Nandini, MD, Chandra Textiles has taken over as the Chairperson

of CII Southern Region for the year 2024-25. She has held various positions within CII in the past, including Deputy Chairperson, Past Chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Council, Education Sub-Committee Chairperson and Chairwoman of CII Indian Women Network. Dr Nandini is also a Director on the Board of Cognizant Foundation, an Independent Director of TIDCO, and a past member of NIT, Tiruchirappalli.

Mr Thomas John Muthoot, CMD, Muthoot Fincorp Ltd took over as the Deputy Chairman of CII Southern Region for 2024-25. He is an active member of CII, having served as Chairman of the Banking & Financial Services Sub-Committee, Tourism Sub-Committee and CII Kerala State Council. He is the Chairman of Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG).

Tamil Nadu – The State of the Future



Dignitaries at the CII Tamil Nadu Annual Session

"Despite facing challenges, we have great ideas and believe innovation comes from necessity. We recognize opportunities in every field and need to invest in the sunrise sector, including green and renewable energy. Tamil Nadu has successfully transitioned to being a top EV player in the country," said Shri T Udhayachandran, Secretary (Finance Department), Government of Tamil Nadu at the Conference on 'Tamil Nadu – The State of the Future', organized as part of the CII Tamil Nadu Annual Meeting on 14 March in Chennai.

He said that the State's economy requires a diverse talent pool for growth, especially in urban areas, where

rural residents seek employment. Skilling, reskilling and upskilling are crucial for the future of the State's urban population. Dr R Nandini, Deputy Chairperson, CII SR highlighted that Tamil Nadu has experienced significant growth and transformation, shifting from traditional sectors like textiles and agriculture to modern industries like IT and automobile manufacturing, making it a leading Indian State. Dr V Kamakoti, Director, Indian Institute of Technology (Madras) emphasized the importance of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu to achieve a USD 1 trillion economy. He urged the Industry to organize regular meetings for improvement discussions between big industry and MSMEs.

CII Kerala Summit on ESG in Business

CII Kerala organized its annual meeting on 7 March in Kochi. The summit, on the theme 'ESG in Business', aimed to promote sustainable and responsible investments in Kerala, focusing on ESG-compliant investments and stakeholder value. It highlighted the importance of environmental, social and governance considerations in a value chain.

Shri Loknath Behera, MD, Kerala Metro Rail Limited highlighted the significance of ESG in fostering a sustainable business model and shared his experience of building the Water Metro, one of the most sustainable initiatives introduced by the Government of Kerala. "Converting challenges into opportunities proved to be a significant hurdle during our efforts on Kerala's most sustainable initiative, the Water Metro. Despite the exhaustive nature of the process, we successfully crafted an impactful and unique sustainable model," he said. Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President and MD, Volvo Group India stressed that the opportunity for organizations to create enduring and sustainable value through ESG integration into operations, noting its importance in today's competitive landscape.

Mr Padmanabhan G Nair, Director, ESG, KPMG discussed the importance of ESG in business and how reporting structures like BRSR and GRI can shape future competencies. Mr Aju Jacob, Chairman, CII Kerala State Council 2023-24 & Joint MD, Synthite Industries emphasized the need for policymakers and stakeholders to assess Kerala's potential for becoming a global leader in sustainable business models.

Inauguration of CII Karur District Office

The inauguration of the CII Karur District Office on 25 March marked a significant moment in the journey towards the development of Karur. Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII SR and MD, Chandra Textiles highlighted



Dignitaries at the Inauguration of the Karur Office

the importance of collaboration. She appreciated the Past Chairpersons for being instrumental in boosting the region's growth. The opening of the new office at Karur, which is the 18th office in South India and 9th in Tamil Nadu, would reinforce CII's membership engagement in tier III towns in Tamil Nadu, she said adding that she looks forward to the inauguration of the Integrated Moringa Park and the Neo Tidal Park.

Mr Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and MD, Wheels India Ltd appreciated Karur's entrepreneurial spirit and proactive approach towards policy changes. He said that the new CII Karur District Office would aim to transform Karur as the growth engine of Tamil Nadu besides ensuring inclusive development, thus highlighting the importance of long-term vision. Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President and MD, Volvo Group India commended the collaborative ethos of Karur's business community. He highlighted the region's potential as a future growth engine and stressed the importance of mentoring the next generation of leaders.

Interaction with Consul General of Korea



Members at the interaction with Chang Nyum Kim, Consul General of Korea

CII Kerala organized an exclusive interaction with Mr Chang Nyum Kim, Consul General of Korea on 15 March in Kochi. Mr Kim shared insights on various strategic initiatives to enhance economic and cultural ties between Kerala and Korea. "India's burgeoning investment landscape and evolving international relations, particularly with ASEAN countries, present

promising opportunities. We are keen on exploring mutual business prospects in sectors such as medical devices, defence and AI, agri & biotechnology and EV," Mr Kim said.

Members also discussed potential collaborations with Korean industries, in particular, startups and educational institutions. Topics included faculty exchange programs and curriculum development to equip students with practical skills for the Industry.

Cyclothon YI Puducherry



CII YI Puducherry Cyclothon 2024

The CII YI Puducherry organized the Cyclothon 2024, themed "Pedal for the Planet," and the World Water Day Awareness Rally on 24 March, commencing from the Outseri Boat House in Puducherry. The event aimed to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting and the conservation of water bodies in the region, aligning with the significance of World Water Day.

The rally route commenced from the Outseri Boat House, passing through checkpoints at Ponlait, Aayikulam, Mettupalayam road, Kanagan Lake, IG Square & Marapalam and concluding at the Art and Craft Village in Murungapakkam. Yi Members actively participated in the rally and each participant received a participation certificate and refreshments after the event in Murungapakkam Art and Craft Village.

MSME CEO Forum

CII Chennai Zone MSME CEO Forum conducted the Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Session for the forum members on 24 March in Chennai. Mr Giriraj Kumar, Lead Manager, Intellectual Property and Information Management, Saint-Gobain Research India addressed the session. The session provided knowledge on intellectual property rights, trademarks and benefits for MSME industries. Participants learned about safeguarding innovations and branding assets and Government schemes supporting MSMEs. This empowered them to navigate the business landscape, capitalize on their intellectual capital and maximize their enterprises' market potential.

The session touched upon critical takeaways for MSMEs, including protecting innovations to preserve competitive advantage and securing trademarks for brand protection. Insights were provided on leveraging intellectual property assets for revenue generation through licensing and other monetization strategies.

Building a Competitive and Sustainable Telangana



Batti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance & Planning and Energy, Telangana addressing

CII Telangana State Annual Meeting 2023-24 and Conference on Building a Competitive and Sustainable Telangana@2047 was held on 2 March in Hyderabad. Shi Batti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance & Planning, Energy, Government of Telangana said that the State Government is fully committed to supporting industries, especially MSMEs. He urged industries to take advantage of the State's Industry-friendly environment. He said that Telangana boasts robust



Participants at the MSME CEO Forum

infrastructure, top-tier universities, an international airport and a comprehensive road network.

Mr C Shekar Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana, and MD, CSR Estates Ltd discussed the company's alignment with Government objectives and its efforts. He also urged the Government to support MSMEs and monetize land surrounding the ring roads for housing and financial benefits. Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President & MD, Volvo Group India; Mr Sai D Prasad, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana and Executive Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd among others were also present.

Competitive and Sustainable Karnataka @100



(L-R): N Venu, Vice Chairman, CII Karnataka and MD & CEO, India & South Asia, Hitachi Energy; Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President & MD, Volvo Group India and Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Chairman, CII Karnataka and MD, Kennametal India at the conference

"The world is shifting at a very fast pace. The future is highly unpredictable. We need to remain on top of our game. We are all present here in the right place at the right time with the right people when it comes to shaping the future of India and Karnataka is ready to transform the future," said Mr Kamal Bali, Chairman, CII SR and President & MD, Volvo Group India at the Conference on 'Towards a Competitive and Sustainable Karnataka @100: Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust' organized as part of CII Karnataka State Annual Meeting on 8 March in Bengaluru.

"For a competent, sustainable Karnataka, apart from software exports contribution to the GDP, the overall development of the State, especially at the grassroots level, is needed to boost economic development," said Mr Vijaykrishnan Venkatesan, Chairman, CII Karnataka and MD, Kennametal India Ltd. Mr N Venu, Vice Chairman, CII Karnataka and MD & CEO, India & South Asia, Hitachi Energy said that India has committed that by 2070, it wants to be net zero. By 2030, India must achieve 50% of its energy requirement through renewables. A fireside chat on 'Inclusiveness and

Leadership for Karnataka @100' was organized, which was followed by a CEOs' panel discussion on 'Building Trust and Resilience for Corporate Excellence'.

Interaction with Deputy Consul General of Finland



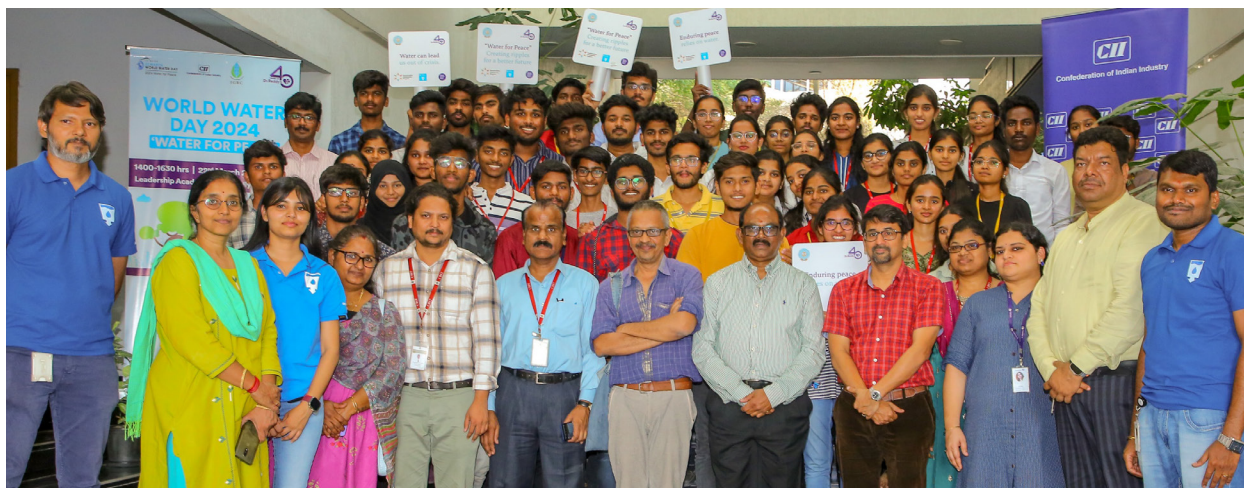
Tuure-Eerik Niemi, Deputy Consul General, Finland during the interaction

CII organized an interaction with Mr Tuure-Eerik Niemi, Deputy Consul General, Finland on 12 March in Kochi. The interaction was attended by representatives from various sectors including agri, AI, food, tourism and healthcare. Participants from the healthcare sector inquired about establishing a full-fledged hospital in Finland, while those from the agri and food sectors shared their focus on innovations in healthcare foods. Discussions also revolved around advancement in sensing and automatic systems, innovation in the tourism and technology sectors, exploring opportunities to streamline the hotel industry to supply the inventory in the airline sector and potential market exploration in Finland.

World Water Day 2024: Water for Peace

To highlight the importance of water conservation, CII Telangana hosted a session titled 'Water for Peace' on World Water Day on 22 March in Hyderabad. Over 250 attendees from various industries and educational institutions, including students and faculty, participated in the session. A quiz competition for civil engineering students and a seminar on 'Water for Peace' at Dr Reddy's Leadership Academy (Bachupally) was also organized.

Students from BV Raju Institute of Technology (Narsapur); VNR Vign Jyothi Institute of Engineering & Technology; Gokaraju Ranga Raju Institute of Engineering & Technology; Vasavi College of Engineering; JNTUH-Institute of Science & Technology; KG Reddy College of Engineering & Technology; Chaitanya Bharti Institute of Technology; Pallavi Engineering College and St Peter's Engineering College participated in the quiz competition,



Participants at the session on 'Water for Peace' in Hyderabad

which focused on water conservation, water technology, etc. Vasavi College of Engineering was declared the winner while JNTUH-Institute of Science & Technology and KG Reddy College of Engineering & Technology were the first and second runner-ups.

Shaping the Future Workforce Landscape

An exclusive session on 'Shaping the Future Workforce Landscape' was organized by CII Karnataka, in collaboration with NTT and the European EFVET delegation comprising representatives members from vocational education organizations from Belgium, Finland, Italy, France and Germany, on 19 March in Bengaluru. The session highlighted the new formats and evolving landscape of vocational education and training in Europe, with experience sharing and several takeaways for all participants.

IP Awake – Awareness Session

CII Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) organized an awareness session titled 'IP Awake' to outline the importance of intellectual property in Industry and academia, besides best practices and enforcement of IPR in India. IPR is a versatile tool that provides encouragement to inventors, innovators and artists to protect their intellectual properties from unauthorized usage and enables the monetization of IP assets.

Mr Samson David, Group Manager – IP, Apollo Tyres said that businesses at this level use their IP only for defensive purposes, which include protecting their innovations and ensuring they do not infringe the IPRs of others. Concerns of members at this level will be the costs of filing fees, enforcement and other legal

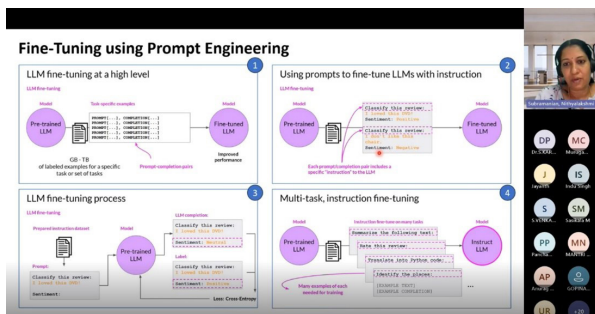
expenses which can be high. The IP system is there to help innovators protect their inventions, designs, brands, artistic works, etc. It provides them with ownership over their work and the rights to exclude competitors from the production, import or sale of infringing goods. IP is about innovations, proactively protecting them and utilising them commercially. We should be motivated to create innovations and technologies which are vital for solving the right problems, he added.

Automotive R&D Trends Conference

The 15th edition of the Automotive R&D Trends Conference was held on 11 March in Chennai. The conference witnessed the confluence of Industry leaders, technology specialists and business executives. The conference discussed crucial topics in the automotive sector and highlighted growth opportunities through research and development efforts. Mr Satyakam Arya, Conference Chairman and CEO, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles Pvt said that India is gearing up for the transformation of mobility. The Indian automotive Industry is undergoing a strategic shift, prioritizing technological advancements and research and development (R&D) in the initial phase. This focus on cutting-edge solutions aims to redefine mobility for the coming decades.

Workshop on Generative AI

CII TNTDPC organized a comprehensive workshop on 'Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)' on 25 March – 5 April over the virtual platform. The workshop prepared business leaders and decision-makers for the opportunities and risks that AI brings, particularly in the context of generative AI. Ms Nithya Subramanian, Head of Data & Analytics, Asia, Middle East & Africa (AMEA),



Nithya Subramanian, Head of Data & Analytics, Asia, Middle East & Africa (AMEA), Kellanova during the workshop

Kellanova said that the future of generative AI hinges on responsible implementation, ensuring that ethical considerations are prioritized in content generation and data synthesis.

She said that the establishment of collaborative frameworks involving Industry, academia and regulatory bodies will play a pivotal role in shaping the ethical landscape of generative AI. The journey towards ethical Generative AI is a dynamic and evolving process, requiring stakeholders to be vigilant in addressing ethical concerns as they emerge.



WESTERN REGION

CII Western Region Annual Meeting

"Globally, investors are looking at India because of its large attractive market and the need to diversify. From the time when India was being marketed, we have come a long way to witness a Credible India. India must focus

on three areas to leapfrog in the next 5 years - big-ticket reforms, competitive federalism and inclusive and equitable growth," said Mr R Dinesh, President CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions. He was speaking at the Conference on 'Credible India Enterprising West' organized as part of the Western Region Annual Regional Meeting on 22 March in Mumbai.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President-Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd said that development should happen on the foundation of growth that is inclusive and sustainable. Only this can help to continue the virtuous cycle of investments. With extreme weather events on the rise, the world or even India cannot be considered as developed unless the impact of such events can be mitigated. There is a need to create a 'National Coalition for Adaptation' to address issues related to water and agriculture. The conference witnessed several Industry and thought leaders deliberating on India's way towards becoming a developed nation and identifying action areas. The 3rd edition of the CII Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Manufacturing and the 18th edition of the CII Western Region SHE Excellence and Innovation Awards were also organized alongside the conference.

Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII WR and CEO & MD, The Tata Power Company Ltd said that the directional roadmap has to be set for the power sector as there is a ₹5 lakh crore interest in energy transition space. Increasing demand for green energy is leading to the emergence of new transition solutions, which will materialise in the next 10-15 years. Sun is the new oil for India. The share of thermal in India's energy mix will reduce to 15-20% going ahead from the current 70-75%. The solar rooftop scheme and digital technology will act as a catalyst in energy transition.



(L-R): Tamanna Inamdar, Executive Editor, NDTV Profit; Swati Salgaocar, Deputy Chairperson, CII WR; Sanjiv Puri, President Designate, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd; R Dinesh, President, CII and Chairman, TVS SCS Ltd; Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, CII WR and CEO & MD, The Tata Power Company Ltd; Stephen Cheung, President, and CEO, LAEDC and WTCLA and Vinay Dube, Founder and CEO, Akasa Air

Ms Swati Salgaocar, Deputy Chairperson, CII WR and President, V M Salgaocar and Brother Pvt Ltd said that inclusiveness has to be viewed holistically with gender balance across the board. For a developed India, we need customised solutions rather than following the prevalent development metrics of developed countries.

Talking about the sustainability aspect of airlines in India, Mr Vinay Dube, Founder and CEO, Akasa Air said that India has one of the largest fleets of modern aircraft and also the largest share of fuel-efficient aircraft. Poised for high growth, India may have 3,500 aircraft by 2047. Mr Stephen Cheung, President, and CEO, LA County Economic Development Corporation and World Trade Center Los Angeles said that India is well positioned to leapfrog to the next stage of growth as it is at the right time and right place with the right mentality and attitude.

Regional Industry Conclave



Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh at the Regional Industry Conclave in Ujjain

The Regional Industry Conclave 2024 was organized on 1-2 March in Ujjain in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. CII was the National Partner of the State Government for the conclave, which showcased the inherently Industry-friendly landscape of the Malwa region and explored opportunities for economic

growth and development. The conclave concluded with investment commitments worth ₹1 lakh crore in the State.

Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh said that the State will strive to double its contribution to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on the back of favourable policies and all-round development. He added that the State's agriculture growth has been growing at a robust pace of over 20% and it is time for manufacturing and Industry to pick up pace.

Buyer-seller meets organized during the conclave fostered valuable connections and catalysed business interactions. To further augment the depth of engagement, the event featured four dedicated sectoral sessions, focusing on key domains crucial for regional development.

These sessions delved into sectors like dairy, food & agriculture, MSME, pharma & medical devices and tourism, ensuring a holistic exploration of the diverse economic landscape. Drawing participants from across the country, the conclave garnered substantial international attention, attracting representatives and delegates from six partner countries. The conclave represented a truly international platform for exchange, collaboration and enabling cross-border investment opportunities.

CII Wire Tech

The maiden three-day CII Wire Tech 2024 exhibition was organized in Mumbai on 4-6 March. The event, supported by the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, witnessed the participation of leading Industry players and innovative wire tech organizations including manufacturers and service providers.

Industry leaders asserted that innovative practices adopted by the Industry have supported import substitution and are contributing towards making India self-reliant. Asserting the critical role of quality in the Industry, Mr KK Thakur, VP, Customer Assurance, Diamond Power Infrastructure Ltd said that the biggest complexity in the Industry today is length vis-à-vis the mass of the metal in wires. The quick delivery of the timeline could result in a compromise on quality. Both customers and suppliers need to be educated that a piece of wire is fundamental whether one is building a house or an infrastructure project. Hence, quality is paramount.

The conference, organized concurrently with the exhibition, focused on growth projections, qualitative parameters and transformation in the wire and cable Industry. It highlighted the role of policies such as



(L-R): Deepal Shah, Co-Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 & Country Manager (India), BRUGG eCONNECT AG, Switzerland; Shreegopal Kabra, Co-Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and MD, RR Kabel Ltd; Sunil Chordia, Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and CMD, Rajratan Global Wire Limited; Anurag Pandey, Co-Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and Executive-in-Charge, Global Wires India, Tata Steel; and Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII MSME Sub-Committee and CMD, Chemtrols Industries Ltd

PM Gati-Shakti and increased budgetary spending on infrastructure. Leaders at the conference averred that the Indian Government's revolutionizing infrastructure programs in roads, railways, mass transport, waterways and logistics could usher a growth curve for the wire and cable market.

Senior Industry leaders including Mr Anurag Pandey, Co-Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and Executive-in-charge, Global Wires India, Tata Steel; Mr Sunil Chordia, Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and CMD, Rajratan Global Wire Limited; Mr Shreegopal Kabra, Co-Chairman, CII Wire Tech 2024 and MD, RR Kabel Ltd and Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII MSME Sub-Committee and CMD, Chemtrols Industries Ltd addressed the audience at the exhibition. B2B and B2G sessions organized as part of the exhibition provided networking and business opportunities for start-ups and MSMEs.

Quality Circle Competition



Rishi Kumar Bagla, Past Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and CMD, BG Li-In Electricals Ltd and Sunil Kirdak, Chairman, CII Marathwada Zone, MD, ToolTech Toolings facilitating the winners

The 36th Quality Circle Competition Regional Finals were organized in Aurangabad on 15 March. The Regional level competition is a part of CII's continuous thrust towards strengthening the quality movement in India. Twenty-one teams from different parts of the Western Region participated in the competition. Mr Rishi Kumar Bagla, Past Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and CMD, BG Li-In Electricals Ltd; Mr Sunil Kirdak, Chairman, CII Marathwada Zone and MD, ToolTech Toolings and Mr Prashant Narwade, Vice Chairman, CII Marathwada Zonal Council and Vice President, Greaves Cotton Ltd, Aurangabad felicitated the winners.

In the MSME category, S B Resheller's Pvt Ltd (Kolhapur) was the winner. Castco (Kolhapur) and Syntegon Technology India Private Limited (Goa) emerged as the first and second runner-ups. VE Powertrain, VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (Pithampur) won in the large-scale category. Vardhaman Fabrics

(Budhni) and Tata Steel Ltd (Khopoli) secured the first and second runner-up positions.

Interaction with Mauritius Economic Development Board



Nirmala Jeetah, Director, Bio Industry & Project Development, She Trades Mauritius Hub at EDB in Mumbai

A targeted healthcare and life sciences investment promotion session was organized in Mumbai on 5 March in collaboration with the Economic Development Board (EDB) of Mauritius. The session discussed the potential opportunities available in Mauritius in the healthcare, life sciences, medical devices and pharmaceutical sectors. An upcoming biotech destination, Mauritius provides a wide range of activities and initiatives in different health-related segments.

Ms Nirmala Jeetah, Director, Bio Industry & Project Development, She Trades Mauritius Hub at the EDB led the mission. She emphasized that Mauritius provides a conducive business environment and has a reliable and expanding logistics platform with modern infrastructure.

Best Practices Study Mission

A best practices study mission was organized to UniTrans Power LLP, Micro-Mech Engineers and KYB-Conmat Pvt Ltd in Gujarat on 9 March. The mission showcased the state-of-art practices followed by the host companies, enabling them to grasp the fundamentals of world-class manufacturing as a process and culture for long-term organizational building.

Known for its design flexibility, UniTrans Power shared its best practices in designing and manufacturing transformers. Micro-Mech Engineers showcased the journey of becoming an SME from a micro-enterprise. KYB-Conmat, which started from a 200 sq ft rented place, currently has become one of the largest manufacturers of concrete construction equipment in the world. All three companies shared best practices regarding inventory management, quality management as well as shop floor management with the participants.



Participants at the session on negotiation skills organized in Rajkot

Session on Negotiation Skills

A session on negotiation skills was organized on 7 March in Rajkot to equip participants with practical tools and strategies for various negotiation scenarios. The session focused on communication skills, active listening, clarity and effective expression during negotiations. Mr Akshay Manjrawala, Owner, MSquare Business Services conducted the session.

The session discussed the importance of strategic thinking, taking into consideration long-term implications and potential outcomes in various negotiation scenarios. It encouraged the pursuit of win-win solutions and explored techniques to create mutually advantageous agreements.

Leadership Connect Session with Siemens Ltd MD & CEO



Sunil Mathur, MD & CEO, Siemens Ltd addressing the session

A Leadership Connect Session was organized with Mr Sunil Mathur, MD & CEO, Siemens Ltd on 4 March in Nashik. The topic of the session was 'Global Growth Opportunities for Nashik Industries and Creating Sustainable Growth & Contribution of the Citizens of Nashik.' Mr Mathur spoke about the current global economic trends prevalent in the Gulf, Europe, the US, China, the South-East Asian countries and summed up the opportunities available for Indian industries. He provided insights on geo-political aspects, emerging technologies and the flow of capital moving globally from Europe to the Middle East and Singapore.

He also emphasized that the Indian Industry already has a huge scope in the domestic market, but exports are imperative to target double-digit growth. Indian Industry has a time window of five to seven years to

upgrade, upskill and modernize the technology to meet global productivity levels. Mr Mathur identified Nashik as an important industrial angle of the Golden Triangle in Maharashtra, with its huge vendor base of electrical as well as automobile components, which can greatly contribute to this growth.

CII WR Startup Buzz Series



The startup buzz series session on 'Mastering Cash Flow for Startup Success' was organized virtually on 14 March. The session revolved around equipping entrepreneurs with the essential knowledge and strategies to effectively manage their company's cash flow. The session highlighted the importance of cash as it is the lifeblood of any business. It is not just about revenue or profits; having enough cash on hand to cover expenses and invest in growth is paramount. Developing accurate cash flow forecasts and planning and predicting the flow of money will help in anticipating cash shortages and surpluses, allowing proactive management.

Mr Robin Banerjee, Chairman, Nucleon Research Pvt Ltd and Mr Suraj Rajan, Co-Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Startups & Entrepreneurship and CEO, Alluvium IOT Solutions Pvt Ltd addressed the session.

Interaction with Brazil Delegation

A roundtable interaction with Mr Duque Estrada, a Representative of the Governor's Office in São Paulo



Dr K Nandakumar, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Maharashtra State Council and CMD, Chemtrols Industries Pvt Ltd; Dr Rajesh Kapoor, Regional Director, CII WR with Duque Estrada, Representative of Governor's office in São Paulo

was organized in Mumbai on 28 March. The topic of the session was 'Global Growth Opportunities for Sao Paulo Industries and Creating Sustainable Growth & Contribution of the Citizens of Sao Paulo.' Mr Estrada spoke about the current global economic trends prevalent in Brazil and summed up the opportunities available for Indian industries.

He provided insights on geo-political aspects, emerging technologies and the flow of capital moving globally from China and India to Brazil. He also emphasized that the Indian Industry has a huge scope in pharmaceutical, IT, energy and engineering/auto sectors.

Challenges Faced by MSMEs

A session on 'Challenges faced by MSMEs' was organized in Aurangabad on 14 March to enhance the financial literacy of MSMEs and enable them to make

informed financial decisions. Insights were shared regarding the latest taxation regulations and compliance requirements affecting MSMEs.

Mr Anshuman Mohapatra, Senior Vice President, Axis Bank Ltd covered the most significant challenge faced by MSMEs in securing adequate and timely financing. Ensuring adherence to GST, labour laws, environmental standards and other statutory obligations was highlighted by Mr Vasant Bhat, Partner Hiregange & Associates LLP and Mr Ameet Patel, Partner, Manohar Choudhary & Associates. The session was moderated by Mr Prashant Deshpande, Past Chairman, CII Marathwada Zonal Council and CEO, Alten India & Founder & MD, Expert Global Solutions.

Pune Study Mission on HR & IR

The CII study mission on showcasing best practices in HR and IR was organized on 20 March in Pune. The program comprised visits to the selected pinnacle and CII award-winning organizations that have made enormous achievements through world-class HR and IR practices. Delegates visited Tata Autocomp Systems Ltd, Forbes Marshall Ltd, Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Limited and Tata Motors Ltd.

Presentations delivered during the visits focused on key practices like evolving people and organization culture, new work paradigms, HR analytics and technology, recruiting, employee experience and engagement, future of work, talent development, community impact, diversity & inclusion, employee performance and productivity management, HR strategy, learning & development and total rewards.



Study mission participants at Tata Autocomp Systems Ltd in Pune



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Material • Food Testing Laboratories • Primary Production, Retail & Wholesale • Joint Application:
Partnership Development • Innovation in Food Safety System and Practices • Street Food & Others

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