



Confederation of Indian Industry

# CIIChronicles @DAVOS24

THURSDAY, 18 JANUARY 2024



# CREDIBLE INDIA

Confederation of Indian Industry  
@DAVOS2024



**Mr R Dinesh**  
President  
Confederation of Indian Industry

## Building a Sustainable India

It was a great privilege to be part of the launch of the “Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality”, at the CII India Reception. We look forward to playing a proactive role in the action on gender and women leadership and collaborating across the world.

In continuation of the India growth story at the World Economic Forum Davos 2024, CII in partnership with AB Inbev hosted a session on ‘PPP for Livelihood and Sustainable Ecosystem’ discussing how private partnerships, government, and communities can collaborate on water recycling, waste management, and plastic reduction, for a sustainable ecosystem in the future.

India has come a long way in the global position it commands today; Davos 2024 has given us an opportunity to highlight the growth story and takeaways on how we can build on this momentum in a sustainable manner.



**Mr Chandrajit Banerjee**  
Director General  
Confederation of Indian Industry

## Making Space for Women

As the discussions at Davos started to wane, CII was glad to cap the events with a special initiative guided by Minister Ms Smriti Irani, the “Alliance for Global Good - Gender Equity and Equality”. The initiative is proposed to take up women leadership to a global scale and India Inc is excited about participating in it.

Our last day at Davos was fueled by conversations on the power of women. Driving women leadership has taken centerstage at the WeLead Lounge in World Economic Forum 2024.

CII breakfast session in partnership with AB InBev on ‘PPP for Livelihood and Sustainable Ecosystem’ was an opportunity to hear diverse thoughts.

The much-anticipated CII India Reception provided a welcome respite for guests after a busy day. It was a privilege to host Indian and international delegates and reinforce the India growth story.



India announces the establishment of “Alliance for Global Good-Gender Equity and Equality” Reaffirming & Actualizing India’s Commitment to Gender Equality and Equity, Inspired by the Goals of its G20 Presidency

DAILY SPOTLIGHT

# CII-AB InBev Session on PPP for Livelihood and Sustainability Ecosystem



(L-R): Mr Arnold Puech, President, World Farmers' Organisation, Mr R Dinesh, President, CII, Mr MB Patil, Minister for Heavy and Medium Industries, Govt of Karnataka, India, Mr John Blood, Global Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer and Company Secretary, AB InBev

The CII-ABInBev Breakfast session on 'PPP for Livelihood and Sustainable Ecosystem' at Davos highlighted the role and joint responsibility of public and private players to ensure sustainable development. Mr M B Patil, Minister for Heavy and Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka, India in his keynote address emphasized the collective responsibility of the governments and businesses in ensuring a beautiful and liveable planet for future generations.

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**Mr MB Patil**  
Minister for Heavy and Medium Industries  
Government of Karnataka, India

Untreated sewage water affects the land and farming. Apart from larger initiatives, there are small initiatives that can help for treating the water and making energy from the sludge.

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**Mr John Blood**  
Global Chief Legal & Corporate Affairs Officer  
and Company Secretary, AB InBev

Beer is a golden liquid and represents thousands of farmers. It has an economic impact across the value chain. Brewing is local and 1 in 10 workers globally are in the industry.

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**Mr R Dinesh**  
President  
Confederation of Indian Industry

There are many good examples of public private partnerships in India, such as Digital Public Infrastructure, GatiShakti, among others. Allocation of 2% of corporate profits for CSR has worked well. We need to make sure that sustainability is included in various livelihood businesses.

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**Mr Arnold Puech**  
President  
World Farmers' Organisation

According to leaders from the farming community, the biggest worry is the lack of an efficient multilateral approach. If we want to transform the food system to be more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive, we need to first transform the way we work together.

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# Women in the Workforce: The Economic Case



L-R : Ms Maha Al Qattan, Group Chief Sustainability Officer, DP World; Ms Abanti Shankaranarayanan, Chief, Group Public Affairs Officer, Mahindra Group; Mr Allen Blue, Co-Founder, LinkedIn; Ms Archana Vyas, Director, Policy & Communications, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

CII in partnership with the Ministry Women & Child Development and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation hosted the session on “Women in Workforce: The Economic Case” at WeLead Lounge during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos 2024. The panel explored the potential gains of unlocking the “gender dividend”, aiming to identify strategies that could expedite the inclusive participation of women in the workforce, bringing to light the intersections of policy frameworks, skill development in the evolving sectors of technology, energy and agriculture.

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**Ms Abanti Shankaranarayanan**  
Chief Group Public Affairs Officer  
Mahindra Group

On the demand side, we make products using technology and automation features that are geared to being easily used by women, such as women farmers using our light and compact tractors. On the supply side as well, we are enabling and empowering about 1 million women to join the formal workforce.

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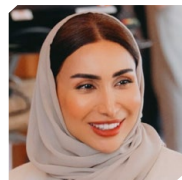


**Mr Allen Blue**  
Co-Founder  
LinkedIn

49 per cent of the entry level workforce is women, whereas women make only 38 per cent at the mid-level, signifying to larger gender gaps among job roles. Today, people even if don't have a fancy degree are able to occupy higher positions showing a huge improvement. Hiring should not happen based on degrees but it should be based on skills.

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**Ms Maha Al Qattan**  
Group Chief Sustainability Officer  
DP World

Only 20-30 per cent jobs are accessible and available to women. 80 per cent jobs are extremely demanding, using heavy machineries. Technology helps transforming these manpower jobs to brain power jobs which is more inclusive and accessible to all gender.

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# Women and AI: Two Powerful Forces Changing the World



(L-R) Mr Mark Turrell, Founder unDavos, Author, Ms Tarja Stephens, Co-Founder, Mission Impact Academy, Ms Stuti Jalan, Founder and Curator, Women Inspiring Network, Mr Faramarz Farhoodi, President and Chairman, AI Nexus Healthcare Inc, Ms Rashmi Joshi, Founder & CEO, Asha AI, Investor, Advisor

The session on “Women and AI: Two Powerful Forces Changing the World” explored AI’s impact on gender dynamics. The discussion focused on diverse facets, including AI for gender-inclusive workplaces, empowering women through skills-based education, investing in women-led AI ventures, addressing the AI skills gap and establishing regulatory frameworks for ethical AI. The panel featured experts like Ms Tarja Stephens, Co-Founder, Mission Impact Academy; Ms Spandana Ayachitam, Founder of Quantumfai, Mr Faramarz Farhoodi, President and Chairman of AI Nexus Healthcare Inc; Ms Rashmi Joshi, Founder & CEO Of Asha AI; and Mr Mark Turrell, Founder Of unDavos.

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**Mr Mark Turrell**  
Founder  
unDavos, Author

What is interesting about AI is that it is very democratized. It is extremely accessible, and can even be used on our phones. What’s also happening is that the knowledge about how to use it well, is not well distributed.

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**Mr Faramarz Farhoodi**  
President and Chairman  
AI Nexus Healthcare Inc

There is significant underrepresentation in treatments and clinical procedures when it comes to women. Understanding women’s special needs as well as calibrating services related to women is important. This is where AI can make a significant difference – by levelling the playing field to ensure that the protocols for disease detection and diagnosis account for gender differences and conditional contexts, so that correct analysis can be done.

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**Ms Tarja Stephens**  
Co-Founder  
Mission Impact Academy

When we saw incredible amount of women really wanting to learn new initiatives, AI, that made us think how we can encourage more women to come into the AI field and make careers and how we can create better hiring practices. Many women don’t even know who other women who are building AI skills, role models etc. With those challenges, the Mission Impact Academy started its work Now a thousand women from 70 different countries are learning here.

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# Fireside Chat: Investing in Women



L-R: Subhashini Chandran, Vice President, Social Impact, Asia Pacific, Mastercard and Ajaita Shah, Founder & CEO, Frontier Markets

The WeLead Lounge at Davos today featured a fireside chat titled 'Investing in Women,' engaging Ms. Subhashini Chandran, Vice President of Social Impact, Asia Pacific at Mastercard, and Ms. Ajaita Shah, Founder & CEO of Frontier Markets. The dialogue centered on the pivotal role of catalytic philanthropy in integrating gender into private sector frameworks. The discussion emphasized the significance of both public-private partnerships and private-private collaborations in fostering financial inclusion and well-being.



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For us, it is big business opportunity that is also driving Impact in the area of investing in women. 'She Leads Bharat' initiative has the five year vision to have one million digitized rural women entrepreneur and 100 million rural households and voices which is going to be a beautiful opportunity, because now we are being invited by governments to essentially leverage their networks and support groups. 80 million women as the potential candidates are to become She Leads.

**Ms Ajaita Shah**  
Founder & CEO, Frontier Markets

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## VOICES FROM DAVOS

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I am incredibly happy with the response that the Tamil Nadu Government has got in Davos. Amazing footfall from all over the world, exciting dialogues, lot of business interests from Europeans, USA, Middle east, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and others in the manufacturing powerhouse of India which is Tamil Nadu. I am thankful to CII for all the support. We are going to be continuously present in WEF.



**Dr TRB Rajaa**  
Minister for Industries  
Investment Promotions and  
Commerce, Government of  
Tamil Nadu, India

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This time CII has made separate arrangements for members to have business meetings. This year's participation is also more than the previous year. The focus is more this year on IT and AI. Businesses having focused intervention in these areas have specifically joined the forum from different countries. With the theme on Rebuilding Trust, I am hopeful that this will be a successful year for WEF as well as Indian business spectrum.



**Mr Yusuf Ali**  
Chairman, Lulu Group

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"Amazing experience in WEF. I moved to the forum to find something interesting for my startup on electric motors. I not only found support from government side but also met with two potential partners and investors."



**Mr Dominic Vergine**  
CEO and Founder  
Monumo

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"It is a super productive week for us as some wonderful things happened. Many corporates who are strategic partners of the forum have learnt about our interventions quickly. We brought a roundtable together with UNSGSA. Four to five National Bank Governors from Global South and also two dozen financial service providers with banks from around the world including USA joined us."



**Ms Subhasini Chandran**  
Vice President Social Impact  
Asia Pacific, Mastercard

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It is heartening to see about 100 strong delegation from India, represented by government from the centre and states, ministers, private companies. The theme of Davos on Building Trust with a focus on AI and digital is going to be very interesting for all. Looking at the world economy today and the local and global challenges, India is expected to be a front runner in the economic growth in next few years.



**Mr Jayant Acharya**  
Jt MD & CEO, JSW Steel

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We are investing in tech-led innovation to promote gender equitable climate action. We are firm believers that the solution of climate change lies in ready adoption of solutions. Delighted that we have found support with the Government of India. I couldn't be more proud to see India so prominently in WEF, with so many government and business leaders, actively making the economic case for promoting gender equity.



**Ms Seema Chaturvedi**  
Founder & Managing Partner  
Achieving Women Equity  
(AWE) Funds

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# CII India Reception



# CII India Reception







## Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India strategizes for the next 25 years to India@100, Indian industry must scale the competitiveness ladder to drive growth. It must also internalize the tenets of sustainability and climate action and accelerate its globalisation journey for leadership in a changing world. The role played by Indian industry will be central to the country's progress and success as a nation. CII, with the Theme for 2023-24 as 'Towards a Competitive and Sustainable India@100: Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust' has prioritized 6 action themes that will catalyze the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

With 65 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 350 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

## Confederation of Indian Industry

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