



Confederation of Indian Industry

India Austria

Potential Collaborations on Emerging Opportunities



JULY 2024

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INTRODUCTION



Diplomatic relations between India and Austria were established in 1949. In 2024, the two countries are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations.

The two countries enjoy warm and friendly relations dating back to the 16th century. The teaching of Sanskrit at Vienna University started in 1845 and a high point was reached in 1880 with the foundation of an independent chair for Indology. This is now known as the Institute for South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies at University of Vienna.

Austria, one of the wealthiest countries in the European Union, serves as a central link for India in its relations with Europe, particularly with Central and Eastern European countries.

Economic and commercial cooperation between India and Austria is a significant aspect of their bilateral relationship.

Both nations have prioritised bilateral economic relations through definitive measures.

Economy of Austria

Austria, located in Central Europe, has a population of around 9 million. The country's capital Vienna is its largest city followed by Graz.

**GDP of US\$ 541 billion
in 2022**

**Ranks fifth in the EU in terms of
GDP per capita and accounts
for 2.8% of EU's total GDP**

**Services dominated economy,
with services accounting for
more than 70% of GDP**

**Key industries in Austria include
agriculture and forestry; construction,
mechanical and steel engineering;
wood, pulp and paper; chemicals, and
tourism, among others**



INDIAN ECONOMY

RESILIENT, DYNAMIC AND DIVERSIFIED

US\$ 3.7 trillion economy, 5th largest economy; expected to become the 3rd largest economy in 2027 - IMF

GDP growth rate of 8.2% during 2023-24

India to remain the fastest growing major economy in 2024 - IMF

Highest ever exports at US\$ 777 billion in 2023-24

Median age of 29 years

Foreign exchange reserves at ~US\$ 653.71 billion

Committed fiscal prudence

Hefty increase in government spending on infrastructure; capex target at INR 11.11 trillion (US\$ 134 billion) in 2024-25, amounting to 3.4% of GDP

The Indian economy is one of the fastest-growing and most dynamic in the world. It has a population of over 1.4 billion people, a large and diverse market, and a rich cultural heritage.

Share of private consumption in GDP at current prices is more than 60%

Gross investment around 34% of GDP in 2023-24

A young and skilled workforce

India has the second-largest labor force in the world, with more than half of its population under the age of 25. India also has a strong education system, producing millions of graduates every year in various fields such as engineering, science, medicine, and management.

Largest working age population at 995 million in 2025

A resilient and diversified economy

India has a well-balanced economy, with a mix of agriculture, industry, and services.

Largest producer of milk, pulses, spices, and cotton

2nd largest producer of wheat, rice, fruits, and vegetables

India also has a strong industrial base, with sectors such as textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and information technology.

Rapid growth in manufacturing of basic metals, vehicles, transport equipment, and pharmaceuticals in 2023-24

India's services sector is the fastest-growing in the world.

Largest exporter of IT services

Largest producer of generic drugs in the world, pharmaceutical exports surged by 9.6% in 2023-24.



A huge domestic market

India has a large and growing consumer market, with a rising middle class and increasing disposable income. India has more than 1.2 billion mobile phone users, almost 820 million internet users, and more than 300 million online shoppers.

Rural market of more than 900 million people

A global player

India is an active and influential player in the global arena, with strong diplomatic and strategic ties with many countries. India is also a nuclear power and has one of the world's largest space programmes and achievements such as launching satellites, sending missions to the moon and Mars, and developing indigenous rockets and missiles.

Successful landing of Chandrayaan 3 on the Moon. India became the first country to land on the south pole of the moon.

These are some of the positives of the Indian economy that make it an exciting and promising place to be in. Recently conducted General Elections in 2024 ensures policy continuity among foreign investors in economic management.

BY 2047*

Expected to grow
to US\$ 32 trillion
GDP by 2047

Manufacturing
to grow to
US\$ 6.2 trillion

Exports of goods and
services to grow to
US\$ 8 trillion

*CII calculations



INDIA'S RECENT ECONOMIC POLICIES

SETTING A NEW GROWTH FOUNDATION



Corporate tax rate reduced to 15% for new units, 22% for existing units, among the lowest in world

Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) for 300+ reforms for state governments

India Industrial Land Bank for land availability

Disinvestment of government-owned enterprises

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code introduced

100% FDI under automatic route for most sectors

National Single Window System for central and state government approvals

Introduction of IndiaAI Mission, with an allocation of over INR 103 billion, to catalyze India's AI ecosystem

Stable interest rates

Sovereign Green Bonds

The Government's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative is a comprehensive set of reforms that aims to boost the domestic economy's productive potential and make it more resilient to shocks.

Retail inflation has moderated within the central bank's target band of 2-6% in recent months, thus further strengthening domestic macroeconomic stability.



INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING THE FRAMEWORK



Transport and logistics on the fast track

NEW POLICIES

Gati Shakti – GIS based technology platform for multimodal connectivity

National Logistics Policy

National Infrastructure Pipeline with around 9792 projects

National Asset Monetisation Pipeline of about US\$ 70 billion over 4 years

National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)

High growth in public expenditure on infrastructure in 3 consecutive budgets

ROADS

2nd largest road network spanning a total of 6.7 million km

60% increase in national highways in 9 years

Total length of national highways - 146,145 km as on January 2024

Sale of passenger vehicles in 2023-24 increased by 8.4% to 4.22 million, a new peak

FASTag for toll payments

Till March 2022, 25,904 km of rural road has been constructed using plastic waste

100% FDI (automatic route) in road and highway sectors

AVIATION

Air traffic touched a new peak of 471k passengers daily

154 million domestic air passengers in 2023-24

India to become the third largest aviation market in the world by 2024

Number of airplanes is expected to grow to 1,100 by 2027

Doubling of airports from 74 in 2014 to 148 in 2023

Fall in GST rate of MRO services from 18% to 5%

100% FDI in MRO services

PORTS

818 million tonnes of cargo handled in 2023-24 in major ports. Cargo traffic handled by all key ports stood at 677.22 million tonnes during 2023-24 (April-Jan)

23,240 vessels handled in 2023-24

Maritime India Vision 2030 identifies 150+ initiatives across various maritime sub-sectors

Automation underway at major ports

National Logistics Portal-Marine and Sagar-Setu app

Gearing up for handling green hydrogen. Aim to convert coastal and inland waterways shipping to renewable energy in the next five years



MANUFACTURING

ADVANCING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Poised to reach
US\$ 1 trillion by
2025-26

Production Linked
Incentive (PLI) schemes
for 14 sectors

Semiconductor mission
with an outlay of
US\$10 billion

Promotional policies
for Micro, Small and
Medium Enterprises

11 industrial corridors with 32 projects
underway to develop industrial cities
with plug-and-play infrastructure

3rd largest shopper base
globally with 140 million
online consumers

The Indian manufacturing industry is diversifying into higher value-added production of goods such as auto components, specialty chemicals, engineering goods and electronics.



STANDARD



INNOVATION

NEW HORIZONS FOR GROWTH

Global Innovation Index – Ranked
40th in 2023 from 81 in 2018

180 innovation centres set up by
Fortune 500 companies

3rd largest startup centre with over
140,000 startups, 110 unicorns

90k patents filed, over 100,000
patents granted in 2023-24

India's talent resources of millions of new graduates in engineering, computer science and management each year with high technical skills offer immense opportunities for innovation initiatives.



INDIA DIGITAL STACK

India is on the verge of a digital revolution, thanks to its ambitious and visionary India Stack initiative. India Stack is a set of open APIs that enable developers, businesses, and citizens to access various digital services and platforms in a seamless and secure manner.

India Stack aims to create a digital infrastructure that can support the delivery of various public and private services, such as identity verification, payments, e-signatures, data sharing, consent management, and more.

India Stack is not just a technological innovation, but also a social and economic one. It empowers millions of Indians to access digital services that were previously inaccessible or costly. It enables the government to provide better governance and transparency, and to reduce corruption and fraud. It also fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, as it lowers the barriers to entry and creates new opportunities for value creation.

India Stack is a game-changer for India's digital economy, as it is transforming various sectors and industries, such as banking, education, healthcare, agriculture, e-commerce, and more. India Stack is enabling financial inclusion, digital literacy, telemedicine, smart farming, online retail, and more. India Stack can also help India achieve its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as poverty eradication, gender equality, health and well-being, quality education, and more.

India Stack is a unique and inspiring example of how technology can be leveraged for social good. It is a testament to India's spirit of innovation and collaboration.

It is a vision that can inspire other countries and regions to adopt similar digital solutions for their own development and growth. India Stack is not just a stack of APIs, but a stack of possibilities.



BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS

KEY AUSTRIA – INDIA AGREEMENTS

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (1999)

Bilateral Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investments (1999)

Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology (2007)

MoU for cooperation in the field of Agriculture (2010)

MoU on technology cooperation in the fields of Shipping and Ports (2012)

Protocol amending the India-Austria Convention for Avoidance of Double Taxation (2017)

MoU on Technology Cooperation in Road Infrastructure Sector (2020)

MoU on Comprehensive Migration and Mobility Partnership Agreement (2023)

MoU on Cultural Cooperation for the years 2022-26 (2023)

India-Austria Trade: 2019-20 to 2023-24, US\$ million



Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Trade between India and Austria doubled from US\$ 1.08 billion in 2019-20 to around US\$ 2.06 billion in 2023-24, recording a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 17.36%.

Indian exports to Austria increased from around US\$ 456 million in 2019-20 to US\$ 1,136 million in 2023-24.

During the five-year period between 2019-20 and 2023-24, Indian exports to Austria registered a CAGR of around 25.63%.

On the other hand, Indian imports from Austria have also grown in recent years, increasing from US\$ 630 million in 2019-20 to US\$ 922 million in 2023-24, recording a CAGR of around 10%.

India's trade balance with Austria was recorded at approximately (-) US\$ 174 million during 2019-20. India recorded a trade surplus of US\$ 214 million with Austria during 2023-24.

India's Top Exports to Austria in 2023-24, US\$ million

HS Code	Commodity	Exported Value
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts.	732
87	Vehicles other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories thereof.	82
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.	65
29	Organic chemicals	44
64	Footwear, gaiters and the like; parts of such articles.	38
86	Railway or tramway locomotives, rolling-stock and parts thereof; railway or tramway track fixtures and fittings and parts thereof; mechanical	21
40	Rubber and articles thereof.	16
90	Optical, photographic cinematographic measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical inst. And apparatus parts and accessories thereof;	15
62	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted.	15
70	Glass and glassware.	13

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The top Indian export item to Austria during 2023-24 was electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85) with an export value of around US\$ 732 million, followed by vehicles other than railway or tramway (HS 87) with an export value of US\$ 82 million. Machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84), organic chemicals (HS 29) and footwear, gaiters, etc. (HS 64) were the other top exports during the same period.

India's Top Imports from Austria in 2023-24, US\$ million

HS Code	Commodity	Imported Value
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof.	274
85	Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts.	131
90	Optical, photographic cinematographic measuring, checking precision, medical or surgical inst. And apparatus parts and accessories thereof;	78
55	Man-made staple fibres.	63
29	Organic chemicals	48
30	Pharmaceutical products	35
48	Paper and paperboard; articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard.	29
39	Plastic and articles thereof.	22
81	Other base metals; cermets; articles thereof.	22
72	Iron and steel	21

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Machinery and mechanical appliances (HS 84) was the top Indian import from Austria during 2023-24 and recorded an import value of US\$ 274 million. Electrical machinery and equipment (HS 85), optical, photographic cinematographic instrument (HS 90), man-made staple fibres (HS 55), and organic chemicals (HS 29) were among other top Indian imported items from Austria.

Investments

Cumulative FDI from Austria to India amounted to US\$ 663 million between the period April 2000 and March 2024

Top Austrian companies have a presence in India

Austrian Companies in India

With a progressive FDI policy regime and a business-friendly environment, India has established itself as one of the most preferred investment destinations globally. Austrian companies in India are mainly concentrated in automobile, green technologies, railway infrastructure, metal and steel, and energy production sectors.

Major Austrian Projects in India

Austrian Development Bank Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank has supported National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG's) Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) projects

Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank has also supported India's renewable energy sector through investments in Odisha

Startup India and Advantage Austria jointly launched the 21st India-Austria Startup Bridge that connects Indian startups with Austrian startups and their respective markets

Select Austrian Investments in India

Plasser	Doppelmayr	Muenzer	Zimmer
Boehringer Ingelheim	Voestalpine	AT&S	Getzner
	Andritz	Swarovski	

As there are significant opportunities present across sectors in India, Austria can significantly benefit by stepping up its investments to India.

OPPORTUNITIES IN INDIA



SKILL DEVELOPMENT & MOBILITY

With India entering the demographic window of opportunity, around 1.1 billion people will be in working age group by 2047.

With one of the youngest populations globally and high competitive advantage of youth, India will remain the largest provider of human resources in the world.

India has the requisite talent & skill base to cater to domestic and global needs.

The India-Austria agreement on migration and mobility sets a new agenda for worker movement between the two countries.

Cooperation areas

Greater exchanges & information sharing on skill requirements

Collaboration on digital apprenticeships

Joint partnerships in creating training infrastructure

Partnerships on skills & language training programmes

Short-term mobility to Austria

Streamlining visa processes for movement of professionals



DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE

India is the 2nd largest armed force in the world, with a defence market sector of the size of US\$ 11.3 bn

India is the fourth largest military spender in the world

Defence exports stood at US\$ 2.53 billion in 2022-23

Defence exports rose 240% over five years in 2022-23 and India now exports to over 85 countries

Government of India aims to achieve a turnover of US\$ 25 billion including export of US\$ 5 billion in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025

Cooperation areas

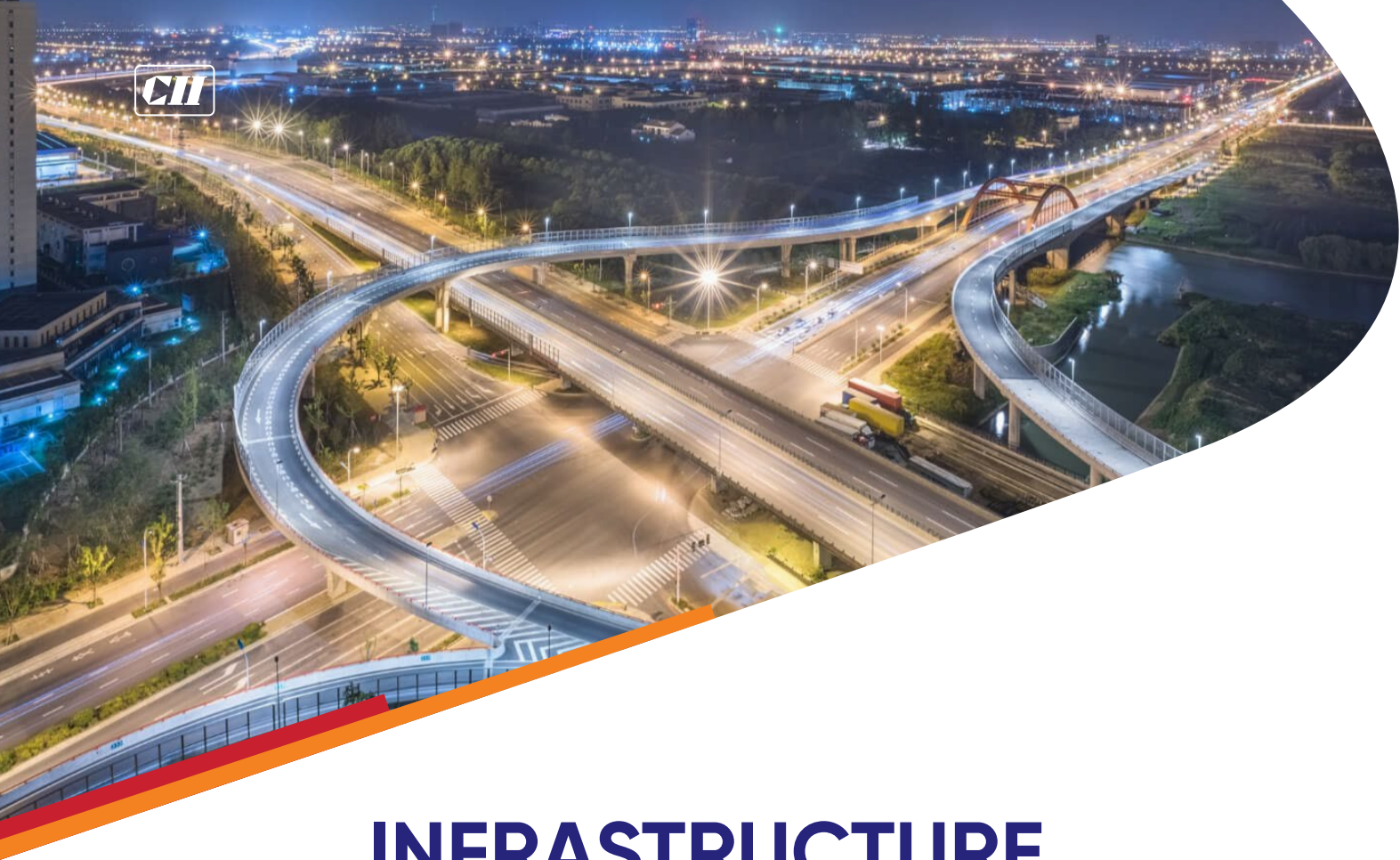
Training & capacity building programmes for enhancing skills & interoperability of armed forces

Cooperation in cyberdefence and information warfare

Sharing intelligence & best practices in counter-terrorism for promoting security and stability

High-quality defense equipment, 3D printing and other advanced manufacturing techniques for defense applications

Defence systems and technologies with advanced digital innovations and a focus on big data, artificial intelligence and cyber security



INFRASTRUCTURE

National Infrastructure
Pipeline project count
stands at 9,142 covering 34
sub-sectors

India plans to spend
US\$ 1.4 trillion on
infrastructure through NIP in
the next five years

FDI in Construction (Development) and Construction (Infrastructure) activity sectors stood at US\$ 26.54 billion and US\$ 33.52 billion respectively, between April 2000–December 2023.

Cooperation areas

Smart Cities	Sustainable infrastructure	Transport and logistics
Smart construction machinery	Industrial townships	High-altitude connectivity



RENEWABLE ENERGY

3rd largest solar power generator in 2023

Best performance in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) in 2024 among G20 countries, with an overall rank of 7 globally

LiFE being promoted for adoption of environment-conscious lifestyle

Target of 500 GW by 2030

1000+ GW potential

5 million tonnes of green hydrogen aim by 2030

World's largest RE park in Gujarat with generation capacity of 30 GW

Cooperation areas

Solar PVs

Wind energy in mountain regions

Biomass energy

Energy storage

Smart grids

Skill development

Energy management systems

Green bonds

Hydro-electric power plants



MANUFACTURING

AUTOMOBILE AND SMART MOBILITY

3rd largest automobile market in the world

Largest 2 and 3-wheeler market in the world

Automobile sector received a cumulative equity FDI inflow of around US\$ 36.27 billion between April 2000 to March 2024

India on track to become the largest EV market by 2030, with a total investment opportunity of more than US\$ 200 billion

Cooperation Areas

Auto components

Batteries

EVs

Parts for EVs

India's policies

Target to achieve 30% electrification of vehicles by 2030

Major boost in Government budget for EVs

Support for Battery Energy Storage systems through viability gap funding

15% import duty for 8000 EV cars imports

Charging stations to be set up



PHARMACEUTICALS

Largest manufacturer and exporter of generic medicines, serving over 200 countries

Largest vaccine producer in the world

Exports 20% of the global generic medicines

Expected to reach US\$ 65 billion by 2024, and US\$ 130 billion by 2030

Cooperation areas

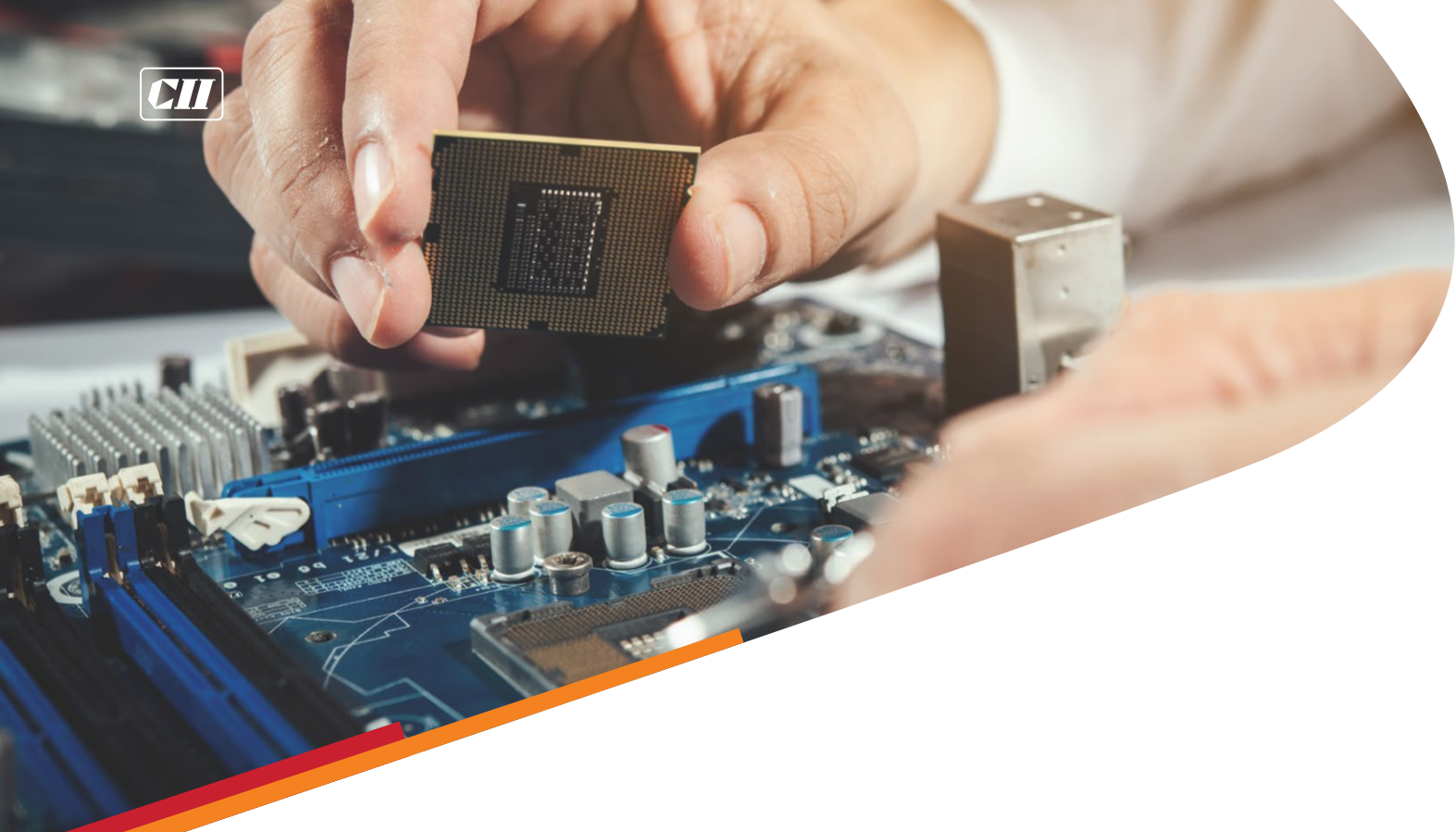
Production of generic medicines

Vaccine Production

R&D

Developing robust cold chain logistics solutions

Production of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), ensuring a steady supply chain



ELECTRONICS

Valued at US\$ 155 billion;
aims to reach US\$ 300
billion by 2026

2nd largest mobile
manufacturer and smart
phone market in the world

Wide range of
products

Cooperation areas

Manufacturing
for exports

R&D

Semiconductor
fabrication

Skill development
& training

Smart Manufacturing and
Automation Solutions



SERVICES

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A corpus of US\$ 12 billion proposed for the research and innovation ecosystem. Research output grew by 54% in 2017-22.

Cooperation areas

Infrastructure support

Joint research projects

Faculty training and exchange programs

Student exchanges

IT AND BPM

India is the global export hub for software services, with the IT and software exports expected to cross US\$ 200 billion in 2024. The Indian IT & business service market is expected to grow by US\$ 20 billion by 2025 while India's software industry is projected to reach US\$ 1 trillion by 2030.

India has the largest market share in global services sourcing industry, third largest and fastest growing hub for technology startups and No.1 in digital skills readiness.

Cooperation areas

IT and BPM sector

Software development

Cloud computing

Data analytics

Artificial intelligence

Cybersecurity

Digital marketing



TOURISM

India is one of the most diverse and attractive tourism destinations in the world, with a rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, wildlife and adventure.

India received over 9.23 million foreign tourists in 2023, generating US\$ 28.07 billion in foreign exchange earnings.

Cooperation areas

Hotel development

Travel services

Destination management

Heritage conservation

Trekking and mountain tourism

Shopping tourism

RETAIL AND E-COMMERCE

India is Asia's 3rd largest retail market and 4th largest globally and is projected to reach US\$ 2 trillion by 2032.

Indian E-commerce industry is expected to witness a fivefold growth to reach US\$ 300 billion by 2030.

India is set to become second largest e-commerce market by 2034.

Cooperation areas

Knowledge sharing

Market entry support

Technology collaboration

Cross border E-commerce

Retail partnerships

Cultural exchange

GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTRES (GCC)

It is estimated that India's domestic GCC market could reach US\$ 110 billion by 2030. As of 2022, there are 1580 GCCs in India with 1.66 million employees. In the first half of 2023, 18 GCCs were established in tier-1 cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru.

Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai have become key Global Capability Centre hubs with Bengaluru and Hyderabad together leading the GCC leasing activity at a cumulative share of 60% from 2020 to 2023.

Opening global capability centres in India is easier due to lower wages, real estate costs and low rental costs. India is expected to have 1900 GCCs by 2025.

Office rentals in India are among the lowest in Asia.

The Government offers tax incentives for setting up global capability centres in special economic zones.

Cooperation areas

Product Development
and Innovation hubs

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning,
and Natural Language Processing

Cybersecurity

OPPORTUNITIES IN AUSTRIA



ICT

The Information & Communication Technology (ICT) sector offers several investment opportunities in high-end, value added services and highly competitive top talent of a global reach.

The Austrian ICT Market is an expansive sector with more than 290,000 ICT professionals in the country. Enterprises are classified into small and medium enterprises and large enterprises. Industry verticals encompass outsourcing, BFSI, IT consulting, and industry solutions.

More than €76 billion of turnover in Electronic Based Systems sector

29,437 companies in ICT sector

11,150 R&D employees in the ICT sector

Austria is among the top 3 European ICT research locations with initiatives such as Digital Austria, Silicon Austria Labs, etc.

Joint R&D in Austrian centres of competence

Cooperation areas

Data Centers

Telecom Security

Mobile Marketing & Advertising

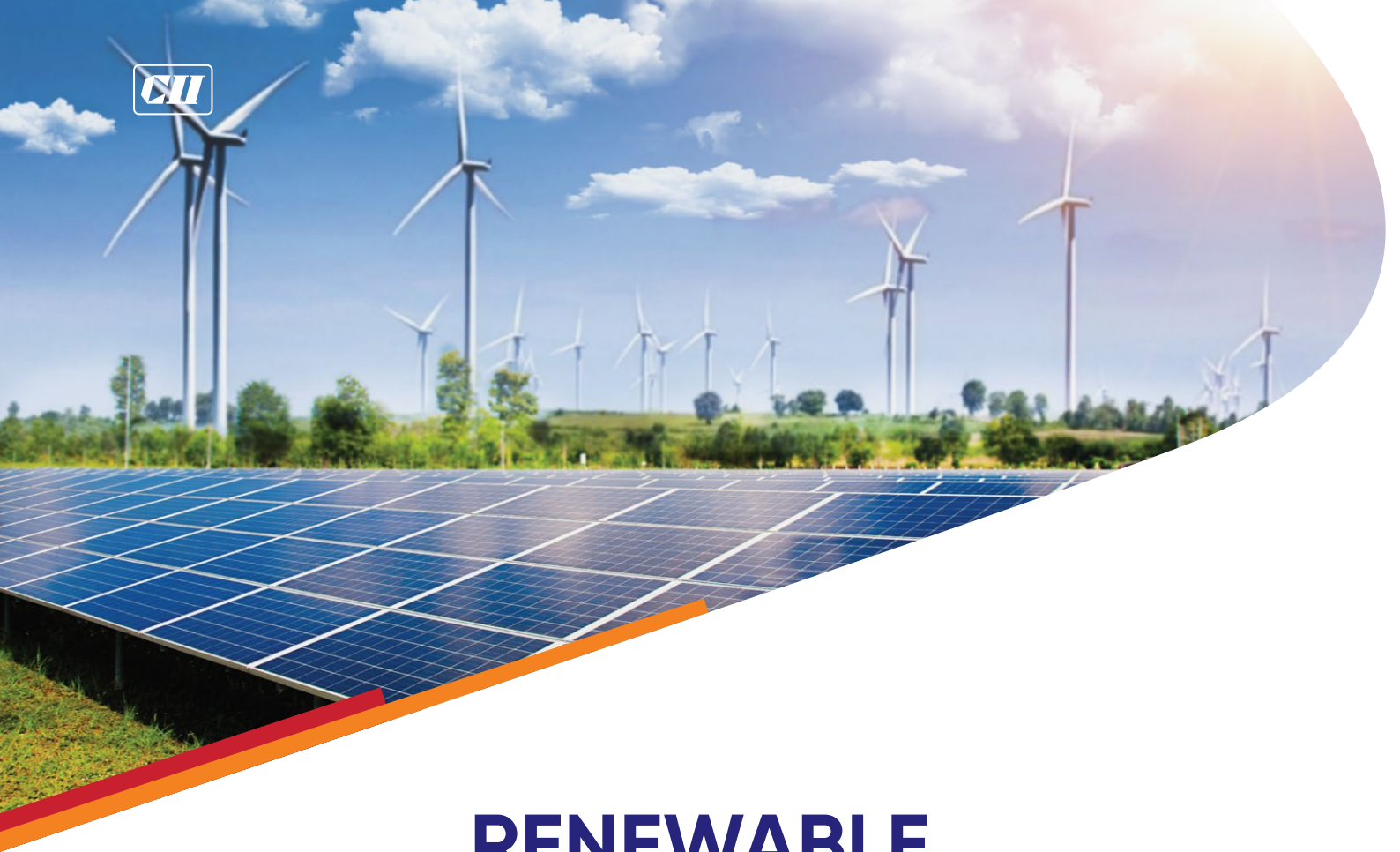
Software Development

Information Security Services

Smart Cities

Digital Health Technologies

Innovation and Research activities



RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

Nearly 87% of electricity generation in Austria comes from renewable energy, with an expectation of renewable energy to account for 100% of the country's electricity generation mix by 2030. Presently, most renewable energy comes from hydro power, which accounts for around 54-67% of energy, followed by cogeneration and wind at 17.2% and 11.2% respectively.

Austria ranks first in the EU in share of renewable energies in electricity generation

Hydro power plants produce more than 60% of Austria's power. Around 100 large hydro power stations and thousands of small hydro plants ensure stable supplies in Austria

Developed underground sun conversion to produce natural gas through microbiological processes in a natural way

Cooperation areas

Hydropower

Energy conservation in buildings and industries, energy efficient appliances

Development of Solar Energy including Solar PV cells

Clean Energy, including Green Hydrogen

Greater and cleaner use of LNG

Wind Energy

Emerging fuels including Biofuels, CBG



TOURISM

Estimated number of international visitors to Austria in 2023 was 45.2 million

Austrian conference industry recorded 3,599 international events in 2022

12 UNESCO world heritage sites

Unique advantages of history, culture, cuisine, climate, etc.

Tourism contributes 13.1% to Austrian GDP

Cooperation areas

MoU on cultural cooperation between 2022 and 2026 signed in 2023

Restaurants and lodges

Development of specialized tourist products and facilities for Indian travelers

Winter tourism



LIFE SCIENCES AND PHARMACEUTICALS

Austria is a leading contributor in innovation in the Life Sciences sector, globally. Austria has one of the largest pharmaceutical industries in Europe.

India is known for being globally competitive in the healthcare market for its generic pharma products and can help in reducing the country's healthcare costs. Two sides can benefit from closer cooperation in the pharma and medical devices sectors. Austrian exports of pharmaceuticals amounted to US\$ 14.29 billion in 2023.

Cooperation areas

R&D and academic partnerships in pharma sector

Research & Innovation in biotechnology

Bioinformatics

Stem Cell research

AGRI-FOOD

Austria has a strong presence in the global food market with over 154,000 agricultural and forestry enterprises and around €16.16 billion of agricultural exports in 2022.

More than a quarter of agricultural land in Austria was cultivated organically

17.2% of Austrian crops were grown organically in 2021

Cooperation areas

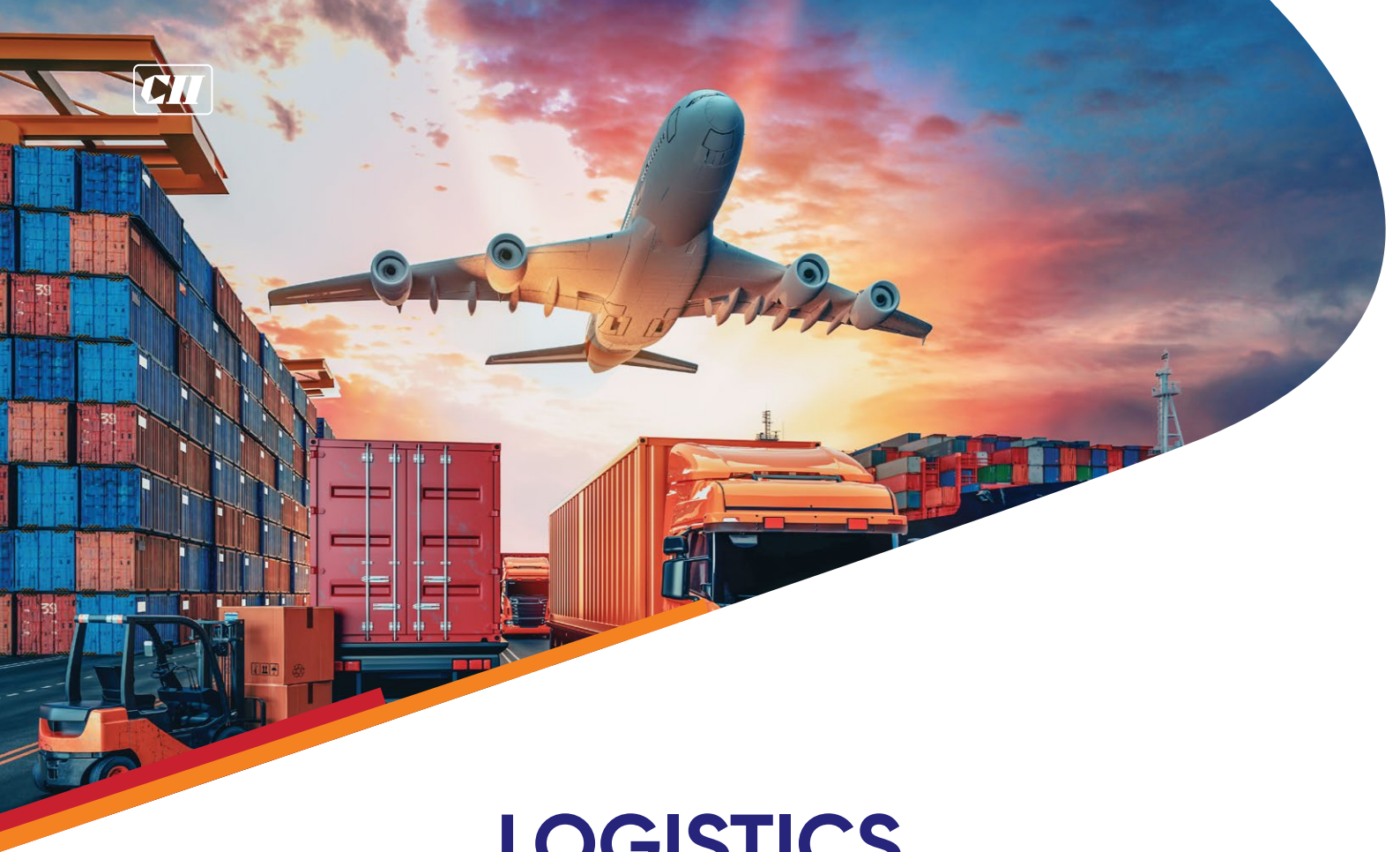
Food Processing, food safety, forestry

Participation in the growth and consolidation of smaller, organic producers with strong export potential

Bilateral investments and development of India-Austria agricultural supply chains

Joint development of agricultural machinery

Organic farming



LOGISTICS

Austria has a robust, developed logistics industry with over 11,000 companies, 160,000 employees, and a turnover of €34 billion. Given its location, Austria relies heavily on its rail network with over 30% of all goods in Austria transported over rail.

Austria’s goals of expanding sustainable logistics solutions, implementing digital solutions to optimise transport flows, and developing dedicated logistics centres could serve as potential areas of collaboration with India.

Cooperation areas

Developing multimodal transportation networks that integrate road, rail, air, and sea routes

Investments in training, skill development and knowledge exchange programmes in areas of logistics management, warehousing and transportation

Developing dedicated trade corridors

Joint efforts to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices such as alternative fuels, energy efficient transportation modes and waste reduction strategies

Joint investments in logistics infrastructure

STARTUPS

Austria has a robust startup presence with a supportive infrastructure, strong government initiatives, and a collaborative community. The Austrian government offers various funding opportunities and grants for startups, including the Austria Wirtschaftsservice (AWS) that provides financial support through loans, guarantees, and equity investments. Austria also offers a supportive regulatory environment with streamlined processes for company registration and business operations.

Programs such as Speedinvest, Pioneers Ventures, and INiTS support early-stage startups with funding, mentorship, and networking opportunities. Cities like Vienna, Graz, and Linz have established innovation hubs and technology parks that provide infrastructure and resources for startups.

Finally, India and Austria jointly launched the India-Austria Startup Bridge in February 2024 to increase cooperation between Indian and Austrian startups.

Potential Areas of Collaboration

Establish joint innovation hubs or co-working spaces in both countries to serve as incubation centers for startups from India and Austria

Provide bilateral grants, subsidies, and financial incentives to startups that work on collaborative projects or have operations in both countries

Facilitate joint research and development projects, allowing startups to collaborate on cutting-edge technologies and innovative solutions

Develop joint educational programs and courses focused on entrepreneurship, innovation, and startup management



AUTOMOBILE

Austria has a robust automotive industry with more than 900 companies in the sector. Austria's automotive industry had a production value of €28.5 billion and 200,000 employees, as well as an export quota of 85% in 2022. Additionally, over €7.8 billion of investments have been made into Austria's automotive industry over the last 25 years.

Potential Areas of Collaboration

Establish joint development units for production of combustion engines, cylinders, and automotive components like fasteners

Facilitate partnerships between Indian and Austrian companies on sustainable mobility and rechargeable batteries

Invest in joint research and development centres on autonomous driving and safety modular systems

PAPER/PACKAGING

The Austrian paper/packaging industry is one of the largest in the world with an export percentage over 88% and an employment force of 18,750. Over 85% of materials used in the industry are made of recyclable materials. Austria's paper industry has over 23 companies with 7,700 staff and a production of 4.6 million metric tons as on 2023.

Potential Areas of Collaboration

Facilitate joint ventures between Indian & Austrian companies in the corrugated cardboard sector.

Establish joint research & development centers on sustainable sourcing and manufacturing of paper products

Develop partnerships between companies in the flexible packaging space

CII ENGAGEMENT WITH AUSTRIA

CII initiated the CII Europe Council in 2024-25 (earlier known as CII Europe Committee) which focuses on European Countries including Austria and engages various stakeholders from both sides to enhance engagement. As part of the Council, CII has undertaken the following activities involving Austria in the recent past:

CII in association with Advantage Austria organized a business session at the Austria India Business Forum on the theme "Infrastructure & Digitalization" in November 2023 in New Delhi.

In October 2023, CII in association with Advantage Austria organized a business session at the "Austria – India Business Forum" based on the theme "Smart Cities and Green Cities".

CII mounted a business delegation to Austria and Slovakia accompanying Secretary Commerce, Mr Sunil Barthwal in Vienna and Bratislava on sidelines of the 16th Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting between India and Austria in Vienna between 12-14 June 2023.

A high-level delegation from Austria, led by Dr. Hannes Androsch, former Deputy Prime Minister of Austria, and President of the Austrian Council for Research & Technology Development (ACRTD), visited India from 29 January-2 February 2018. CII organized an interactive session of select members with the delegation on 30 January 2018 at Austrian Embassy in New Delhi.

CII hosted a luncheon interaction with H.E. Bernadette Marianne Gierlinger, Vice-Minister for Foreign Economic Policy and European Integration, Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, Austria with accompanying delegation on 19 July 2017 in New Delhi.

NOTES

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Confederation of Indian Industry

CII INDIA ADVISORY SERVICES

Why India



World's
fifth-largest
economy



Fastest-growing
large economy



Large
consumer
base



Vibrant
manufacturing &
services sectors

Why CII

Largest industry association in India

Industry connect with **9000+** members

65 offices in all regions of India

8 offices overseas

Works on **policy advocacy** for a conducive investment climate

Supports enterprises in business development & competitiveness

CII India Advisory Services



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Contact: Bhavna Seth Ranjan at bhavna.ranjan@cii.in



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 365,000 enterprises from 294 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.

Through its dedicated Centres of Excellence and Industry competitiveness initiatives, promotion of innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships for sustainability, CII plays a transformative part in shaping the future of the nation. Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

For 2024-25, CII has identified "Globally Competitive India: Partnerships for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth" as its Theme, prioritizing 5 key pillars. During the year, it would align its initiatives and activities to facilitate strategic actions for driving India's global competitiveness and growth through a robust and resilient Indian industry.

With 70 offices, including 12 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 about 300 counterpart organizations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

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