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Partnerships for Progress: Road Ahead Through Collaboration

INSIDE



At a time when there is so much volatility and uncertainty, India can certainly be a stabilising factor



India offers speed and scale to the world and has proven its resilience



The circular economy, focusing on recycling, reducing waste and reusing, is key to a sustainable future



The strides made by PSEs in innovation, technology adoption and sustainable practices are commendable



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

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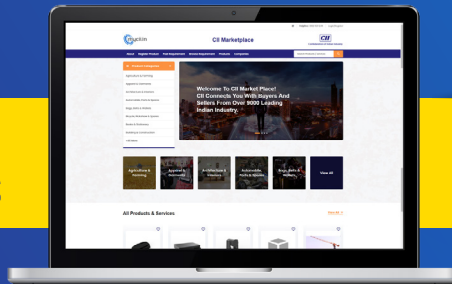


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Deepening Indian Industry's Footprint in the UK



Members of the CII Delegation to UK with The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, Prime Minister, UK

To engage with key stakeholders and strengthen bilateral economic ties, CII organized a high-level Industry delegation to the United Kingdom on 18 December, led by Mr Sunil Bharti Mittal, Past President, CII and Founder and Chairman, Bharti Enterprises. The delegation interacted with The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

Key high-level engagements took place with The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer; The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP, Secretary of State, Department for Business and Trade, UK; The Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, and other senior Government

representatives.

The delegation, which included senior business leaders from across India, held discussions on reviving negotiations for the India-UK Free Trade Agreement and resolving taxation and ease of doing business issues. The delegation members also explored collaboration in key sectors including energy, climate, pharmaceuticals, technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), security, skilling and academia linkages.

The visit underscored the longstanding economic relationship between India and the UK, which continues to thrive. The total bilateral trade between the two nations reached £39 billion in 2023, marking a 4.8 per cent increase from the previous year.



Glimpses of interactions



Partnerships for Progress: Road Ahead Through Collaboration

The sessions at the CII Partnership Summit touched upon globally pertinent topics for both India and its partners, helped elevate India's commercial relationships with the world and provided a key gateway for Indian businesses to access global markets

The 29th edition of the CII Partnership Summit, organized by CII, in partnership with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, was held on 2-3 December in New Delhi around the theme 'Partnerships for Progress'.

Global Leaders Coming Together

The summit was chaired by Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of

India, who addressed the inaugural session, alongside the 11 visiting ministers including H.E. Mr Tayeb Zitouni, Minister of Internal Trade and National Market Regulation, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria; H.E. Ms Patricia de Lille, Minister of Tourism, Republic of South Africa; H.E. Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Sayed, Minister of State of Foreign Trade Affairs, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, State of Qatar; H.E. Mr Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry & Commerce, The Kingdom of Bahrain; H.E. Mr Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji, Minister of Industry, Commerce, and Employment,



Global leaders with Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd. and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII at the CII Partnership Summit in New Delhi

“



The case for international partnerships is strengthened by the state of the global economy currently. At a time when there is so much volatility and uncertainty, India can certainly be a stabilising factor. We can add as well to the engines of growth and make our due contributions to the progress of technology.

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India



When we look at the shared future, the responsibilities towards sustainability, better supply chains and stable policies must be approached with a recognition of common but differentiated responsibilities. While we are all part of the solution, we must work together and everyone must be assigned responsibility based on their contribution to the problem in the first place.

Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce & Industry, Government of India

”

Royal Government of Bhutan; H.E. Dr Serigne Gueye Diop, Minister of Commerce and Trade, Republic of Senegal; H.E. Mr Adolfo Urso, Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italian Republic; H.E. Mr Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Government of Nepal; H.E. Dr Rithi Pich, Secretary of State (Deputy Minister), Ministry of Commerce, Kingdom of Cambodia and H.E. Mr Minn Minn, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and CMD, ITC Ltd and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII also addressed the session.

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Mr Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa also shared insights during special sessions on 'India and the World: Partnerships for Progress' and 'Development Through South-South Collaboration' respectively. The sessions at the event touched upon globally pertinent topics for both India and its partners, helped elevate India's commercial relationships with the world and provided a key gateway for Indian businesses to access global markets.

Pitching India as a reliable global partner, Minister Goyal said India offers speed and scale to the world and has proven its resilience. The Minister alluded to SATELLITE and SPACE while highlighting his vision for global growth and partnerships.

SATELLITE, he explained, denotes S-Shared future, stability, spirituality, sustainability, supply chains;

HIGHLIGHTS

- 800 delegates, including 400 international participants from 61 countries
- 11 international ministers from Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cambodia, Israel, Italy, Myanmar, Nepal, Qatar, Senegal and South Africa
- Insights by 30 global Industry leaders
- 500 B2B and B2G meetings held
- 11 technical sessions and 7 sectoral tracks

A-Artificial Intelligence, Automation; T-Technology to transform lives and livelihoods; E-Empowerment of people and processes; L- Liquidity as a financial strength; L- Lifestyle for the environment; I-Inclusivity, innovation, investment and initiatives; T-Trade in goods and services, tourism and E-Energy.

SPACE denotes: S-Synergy between countries, P-Trusted and productive partnerships, prosperity; A-Alignment, Action; C-Common good; E-Engagement.

During the session, Commerce, Trade and Industry Ministers from 11 nations discussed potential partnerships and explored multi-regional cooperation. They highlighted highway projects at the African coastline, startup ecosystems, connectivity and

strengthening commitment to multilateral, regional and bilateral trade. Discussions explored business opportunities in trade, agriculture and tourism to streamline the path of sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness.

India and the World: Partnerships for Progress



(L-R): Rajiv Memani, President Designate, CII and Chairman & CEO - EY India and Chair, EY Growth Markets Council; Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, and Chandrajit Banerjee

Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India highlighted that the transformation of the current economic landscape requires deeper collaboration across the globe. The Minister focused on the need for trusted and reliable partnerships amidst challenges such as the US-China friction and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. India's relations with the US have grown deeper and will continue to strengthen with time. The Minister highlighted India's logistical and infrastructural capabilities while also discussing initiatives such as Gati Shakti that allow businesses to operate smoothly.

"An economy like India that has risen to the 5th position globally and advancing further needs more significant partnerships. Our stakes in the world are more, the responsibilities are greater and indeed the expectations too are higher," he added. Augmenting strong domestic capabilities is crucial to boost capacities and innovation with enhanced skills, making India a more attractive partner in the world. Speaking on Free Trade Agreements (FTA), he stressed on proceeding with caution to safeguard the interest of small producers from unfair external competition.

Development Through South-South Collaboration

Shri) Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa highlighted that countries in the Global South spend more on interest

payments than they do on healthcare and education. For countries in the Global South to grow, there is a need to invest more in the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) strategy as DPI is globally interoperable and open source with secured data storage with the Government. Technology is pivotal for the Global South to grow and emphasized that future growth would come from emerging markets. There is a need to redesign financial institutions to serve the needs of the Global South.

The session explored strategies for regional cooperation through intra-regional trade, investment, travel and tourism and highlighted the five F's for partnership in food, fuel, fertilizers, freight and the future. Developing nations must come together to strengthen their negotiating power in trade and climate finance. Panellists discussed that through national and global integration, inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities can be created to fight global economic and trade uncertainties. Cooperation on the transfer of technology and promoting local manufacturing were also discussed.

Collaborative Climate Solutions: Bridging Clean Technology and Finance

Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India highlighted storage as a pivotal element in India's energy transition agenda. While the country is looking to augment significant capacity in the next seven years, the financing requirement of INR 30 trillion remains a significant challenge. He emphasized the need for bank financing in the renewable energy sector including subsidies, incentives, green bonds and infrastructure investment trusts, among others.

Prof Tetsuya Watanabe, President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia underlined the need for an interlinked strategy connecting finance, technology, infrastructure and supply chain. Investing in AI and the IoT will play a crucial role in reducing energy consumption and boosting efficiency, ultimately contributing to a low-carbon future.

The session explored the need to amplify the funding mechanisms for energy demand through sources such as private sector finance, Government-led organizations or multilateral institutions, state funding for transmission, private equity houses and philanthropic funds. However, to facilitate private sector finance, there is a need to ensure the commercial viability



(L-R): Niro Somasekeran, Head of Resources, Energy & Infrastructure International & Corporate Finance South & Southeast Asia, ANZ, Singapore; Prof Tetsuya Watanabe, President, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Indonesia; Sanjiv Puri; Prashant Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and Jan Teichmann, Senior Vice President and President-APAC, Fluence Energy, USA

of such projects. Speakers noted that developed economies should ensure access to technologies for developing countries.

Technology Leadership for a Connected Future - Collaborative R&D in Critical Technologies & Emerging Sectors for Global Growth

This session emphasized the need for an IP-driven regime as panellists believed that Research and Development are imperative for exponential growth. Ms Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog said that technology is India's biggest ally as the country is entering an era of superintelligence, AI, gene-engineering, renewable energy and quantum technology. Technology, especially robotics, on the one hand, assists humanity in automating dangerous tasks but on the other hand, offers challenges in adapting the workforce to fully leverage the strength of technology.

The session further explored technological relationships between India and the UK and how existing technologies in the UK have been brought back to India. In addition to the UK, panellists also discussed that India has a great opportunity to position itself as an alternative to the US and Europe, especially in terms of technology.

Another important aspect of technology discussed at the session was the need to have standards that promote technology in addition to a global certification mechanism to enhance market confidence. With the integration of technology, especially in manufacturing, India will become a first-time manufacturer of many items.

Harmonising Global and National ESG Frameworks

Mr Sanjiv Puri noted that there is a lack of cognizance on the development of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards in the Global South as



(L-R): DáNiel Nel, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Corp, South Africa; Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India Pvt Ltd; Cyril Perducat, Chief Technology Officer, Rockwell Automation Inc.; B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics & Durables and Managing Director, Blue Star Limited; Ms Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog; Richard Heald, OBE, Chair, UK India Business Council; Simon Lemin, Chief Executive Officer, TÜV SÜD, South Asia



(L-R): R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Tata Chemicals Ltd; John Boulton, Director of Policy, ICAEW, UK; Sanjiv Puri; Dr Kalpana Seethepalli, Director of ESG – Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa, Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore; Leon Mol, Chairman of Board of Directors, amfori, Belgium; Ananda Bhounik, Managing Director & Chief Analytical Officer, India Ratings & Research - A Fitch Group

these originated in the West. The session further emphasized the easy interpretation of such standards, fostering a harmonised system that is inclusive of all important stakeholders in the economy.

Speakers noted the need to make ESG standards commercially viable, highlighting that with proper implementation companies can make more money. Discussions focused on the need to identify the correct KPI to highlight the progress of ESG while underscoring the need for sectoral specificity. The session summarized that sustainable growth in the future can emerge from the principles of ESG standards. To achieve this, balanced and equitable regulations are necessary to encourage broader participation. Moreover, embracing an ESG-focused approach not only offers a sustainability perspective on the economy but also provides a business perspective, helping companies prepare for climate change requirements and driving sustainable growth.

New Direction of India's FTA Strategy

FTAs need to have a comprehensive view of the commercial significance they have for the country, speakers highlighted at the session. There is a need for a broader look at FTAs, considering goods, services and investment together. While the sectoral view is pivotal, the interconnectedness of trade, sustainability and security is also important. There should be a free flow of skilled personnel with the need for investments

in skilled personnel across the globe especially with the integration of AI in trade.

India can initiate low-ambition FTAs and over time graduate to deeper agreements. FTA should include technology transfers and incentivize foreign companies to liberalise input markets. Speakers noted that there should be a review clause to evaluate agreements after a time. Complete benefits from FTAs can be absorbed through regulatory harmonisation with inter-departmental and inter-agency coordination. Nations should look beyond FTAs and focus on critical matters such as political risk insurance. The panellists noted that focusing on more agreements in Asia will provide a balanced outlook for FTAs.

Shaping Strategic Alliances: The Role of Geoeconomics

The highlight of the session was the address by Dr Khaled Fahad Alalawi, Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Development, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Kingdom of Bahrain. He evinced the special bond between India and Bahrain while also emphasizing Bahrain's strategic position at the crossroads of global trade. Bahrain is ready to build transformative partnerships for sustainable and more inclusive growth.

The session explored the intense competition between China and the US while promoting deeper technology cooperation between India with the US. India's engagement with the US in the form of iCET, QUAD



(L-R): Arjun Goswami, Director- Public Policy, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas; Priyanka Kishore, Founder and Principal Economist, Asia Decoded, Singapore; Vir Advani, Chairman, CII Trade Policy Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd; L Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Janardhanan Ramanujalu, Vice President, Regional Head, Rest of Asia (Excl.GC), SABIC, India; Dr James Nedumpara, Head and Professor, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), IIFT, India

and Mineral Security Partnership were discussed during the session. Speakers highlighted India-US relations and discussed the need to take the EU-India relationship forward. It also highlighted that recent black swan events, such as the COVID pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict, and Israel-Hamas strife, have profoundly impacted geoeconomics, transforming the global perspective on international affairs.

Creating Resilient Global Value Chains

India has emerged as a massive market for various products, including jet planes, smartphones and laptops, offering opportunities to establish world-class manufacturing plants, leverage economies of scale and attract foreign investments. India's young population, geopolitical advantage and strong software capabilities

make it an attractive destination for global supply chain restructuring.

The session highlighted India's young demographic dividend, geopolitical advantage, strategic partnerships, and the country's strong software and design capabilities. Speakers emphasized the need for strengthening economic partnerships with India by accelerating FTA negotiations with the EU and the UK. Panellists also noted that ammonia and hydrogen are two critical sectors that create robust global value chains. It was noted that greater women's participation in trade and entrepreneurship in the South Asian region is the need of the hour. The session called for inclusive strategies to promote resilience and greater involvement of women in global trade and GVCs.



(L-R): Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, India Head, Eurasia Group; Dr Tanvi Madan, Senior Fellow, Center for Asia Policy Studies, Brookings Institution; Raj Chengappa, Group Editorial Director (Publishing), India Today Group; Amb Arun Singh, Former Ambassador of India to US, Israel and France; Charlotte Flindt Pedersen, Executive Director, Danish Foreign Policy Society

QUOTES



Algeria has strategic and positive partnerships on highway projects. The projects improve the strategic connection through the African coastline. We have significant iron and zinc deposits of over

54 million tonnes.

Tayeb Zitouni, Minister of Internal Trade & National Market Regulation, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria



Bahrain is committed to playing its historic role in building connections, nurturing partnerships and enabling trade that benefits all parties. Therefore, the theme of this summit aligns very well with

Bahrain's vision, as partnerships are essential to achieving the economic integration needed to address today's challenges, especially in manufacturing and trade.

Abdulla bin Adel Fakhro, Minister of Industry & Commerce, The Kingdom of Bahrain



India's role as Bhutan's closest partner is not only a pillar of support but also an inspiration. The trust, collaboration and shared values between our two countries make India an enabler of Bhutan's aspirations.

Beyond itself, India enables opportunities and facilitates connections and engagements for us. It is this spirit of collaboration and mutual growth that excites the two countries.

Lyonpo Namgyal Dorji, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Employment, Royal Government of Bhutan



Israel's cyber security companies hold 25 per cent of all global cyber business. We are also global leaders in desert tech and climate change tech, leading wastewater treatments and leaders in

drip water irrigation, offering wide solutions for deserts and drought-stricken regions. Technology and innovation companies are focused on creating healthier, higher yields and creating new sources of food.

MK Nir Barkat, Minister of Economy & Industry, State of Israel



We want to create synergies between India and Italy. Italy is one of the strongholds of the European economy with over 500 million consumers. We have some of the best universities in the world. Our

partnership can be a win-win model for the west and east of the world.

Adolfo Urso, Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Italian Republic



I invite businesses and investors from around the globe to invest in the highly potential sectors of Nepal and partner with us by bringing in new technology, capital and expertise to materialise our

shared goals of economic growth, prosperity and inclusive growth.

Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce & Supplies, Government of Nepal



Industry plays a huge role in economic development by driving innovation, creating jobs and embracing technological advancements. Industries must adopt the new age of automation, like AI but they

must also invest in re-skilling and upskilling the employed workforce.

Dr Serigne Gueye Diop, Minister of Commerce & Trade, Republic of Senegal



Cambodia is rich in young workforce with great potential and is an important catalyst in the international economy. Cambodia has also modernized its physical infrastructure, including international airports,

deep-sea ports, railways, waterways and roadways. The Government of Cambodia supports the growth of businesses and investments and always considers the private sector as the backbone of economic and social growth.

Dr Rithi Pich, Secretary of State (Deputy Minister), Ministry of Commerce, Kingdom of Cambodia



Qatar has positioned itself as a strong avenue for economic diversification with our development strategy with metro and highway projects with industries. Logistics, IT and digital transformation in

the public and private sectors are our focus.

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Al Sayed, Minister of State of Foreign Trade Affairs, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, State of Qatar



The solar capacity in the country was almost about 2GW in 2014, today we stand at 92GW. In our aim to achieve 500GW, Solar plants play a major role and it is expected to be 290GW by 2030. There are also some new

things visible to us in the renewable energy sector, green hydrogen being one.

Prashant Kumar Singh, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India



As India emerges as an essential source of FDI for South Africa, it continues to actively contribute to our investment drive. This summit seeks to cement existing partnerships and establish new economic ties and prosperity for all our nations.

Patricia de Lille, Minister of Tourism, Republic of South Africa



As neighbouring countries and key trading partners, we stand as a testament to the power of strategic partnerships in advancing regional stability and mutual growth. Our economies possess complementary

strengths: Myanmar with its rich agricultural assets and India with its technological innovation and manufacturing expertise. By fostering cooperation in these sectors, we can generate substantial economic benefits for our people.

Minn Minn, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Republic of the Union of Myanmar



If growth is going to come from the Global South, the need is for financial institutions, which were designed in the post-World War II period to be redesigned for the Global South.

Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa



In times when global multilateral institutions are unable to fulfil their roles effectively, regional organizations like BIMSTEC provide vital platforms for forging South-South cooperation. Additionally, in situations where

bilateral development partnerships face challenges, particularly in our neighbourhood, regional organizations like BIMSTEC provide a way forward to remain engaged.

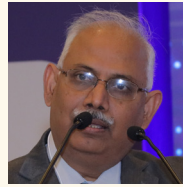
Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)



India's approach to development partnerships is human-centric and demand-driven. India has also undertaken numerous projects in the fields of healthcare, education, community

development, capacity building, agriculture, HADR and digital public infrastructure.

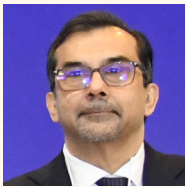
Periasamy Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



While tariff barriers are quantifiable and measurable, the challenge that we are facing is from non-tariff barriers. With new dimensions getting added to trade, which are sustainability and security-

induced, all trade-related sustainability measures are bringing in regulatory and economic uncertainty. These new regulations will dictate our future trajectory and it is important to address these.

L Satya Srinivas, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



Despite global challenges India is on a resilient growth trajectory, expected to record an impressive 7 percent growth rate. Reforms led by the Prime Minister through initiatives like Make in India,

GST, Production Linked Incentive and Digital India have propelled competitiveness and inclusive growth in the nation. India's focus has been on innovation, inclusivity and sustainability.

Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd



India has taken significant strides in combating climate change by committing to initiatives like PLI schemes, rooftop solar programs, and state-level incentives.

Technologies such as green hydrogen and carbon capture must become competitive to achieve impactful results.

Rajiv Memani, President Designate, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Chairman & CEO, EY India



Even as we attempt to harmonise the global and national standards, it is becoming increasingly clear that there is a need for sectoral specificity. Principles of ESG have become the cornerstone

of what we call as sustainable long-term growth.

R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tata Chemicals Ltd, India



The objective of the Partnership Summit is to address different dimensions affecting growth. The Summit over 1 ½ days covered issues such as resilient supply chains, sustainability, research

& development, building green technologies, strategizing growth for the next decade, gender equality, the role of Artificial Intelligence and establishing trade linkages & bilateral investments.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

Harvesting Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture

CII AgroTech India has consistently set the benchmark for agro-technology fairs, connecting the farming community with innovations and global expertise. Rebranded as CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat this year, the event took a broader view, focusing on how agriculture in India can be made more resilient and future-ready by adopting modern practices and sustainable solutions. Having witnessed 15 successful editions in Chandigarh, this year the event shifted its focus to Uttar Pradesh



Agriculture has long been the backbone of India's economy, essential for food security and a critical foundation for the key sectors. While India's economic landscape is often highlighted for its manufacturing and services sectors, agriculture remains a vital pillar without which other sectors cannot thrive. Today, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in agriculture, with immense potential to harness modern technologies and redefine our relationship with the land to achieve resilience and sustainability.

At present, the Indian agriculture sector provides livelihood support to about 42.3 per cent of the population and has a share of 18.2 per cent in the country's GDP. The Indian agrarian economy is estimated to be between USD 300 billion – USD 500 billion. However, only 1-2 per cent of India's agri value chain is touched by agri tech. It is therefore no surprise that investors see this as an opportunity. Over the last three years, agri-tech

startups have collectively raised more than USD 1 billion in investment. These companies are making significant strides across different levels of the agricultural value chain, pioneering innovations that are revolutionizing Indian farms into smart, tech-driven enterprises. As the sector faces pressing challenges, these startups are seizing the opportunity to drive meaningful disruption, implementing solutions that enhance efficiency, sustainability and overall productivity in agriculture.

The CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat, held from 15 to 18 November in Lucknow, provided a platform for farming communities and Industry, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, to interact and learn about modern agricultural techniques and practices. It also boosted the startup ecosystem by showcasing the latest technological revolution in the agri ecosystem.

This year's theme, 'Harvesting Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture,' reflected CII's focus on promoting



(L-R): Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII-NR and MD & CEO, JK Cement Ltd; Monika Garg, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh; Maria Louisa Gerards, Ambassador, Kingdom of the Netherlands to India; Dinesh Pratap Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Government of Uttar Pradesh; Jan-Kees Goet, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature, Kingdom of Netherlands; Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh; Keshav Prasad Maurya, Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Food Processing, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Agricultural Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & MD, ITC Ltd and Tarun Sawhney, Chairman, CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat 2024, and Vice Chairman & MD, Triveni Engineering Ltd during the MoU signing at the Inaugural Session of CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat 2024 in Lucknow

sustainable practices while embracing modernization to propel the Indian agricultural sector forward. The event presented an invaluable opportunity to explore the latest innovations in agrotechnology, playing a pivotal role in

shaping the future of agriculture in India. Structured B2B (Business-to-Business) and B2G (Business-to-Government) meetings provided exhibitors, buyers and Government officials with an opportunity to network,

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partner Country: The Netherlands
- Countries Represented: England, Italy, Somalia, Spain, Uganda, Zimbabwe
- Partner Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Ministry of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- Partner State Government: Government of Uttar Pradesh
- Exhibition covering 20,000 square km (gross)
- Visitors and Participants:
 - More than 400 Business Visitors
 - More than 100,000 Farmers from across India (200+ Progressive Farmers)
 - More than 3000+ FPOs (Farmer Producer Organizations)
- Key Segments Covered:
 - Farm Machinery and Implements: Showcasing the latest in agricultural mechanization
 - Livestock Management and Dairy Technology: Featuring technologies to boost dairy production and animal husbandry practices
 - Irrigation and Water Management: Focusing on solutions for efficient water use in agriculture
 - Food Tech and Processing: Emphasizing value-added processing technologies
- Major Zones and Pavilions:
 - Innovation and Technology Zone: Cutting-edge technologies, including AI-driven solutions, digital agriculture tools and precision farming equipment demonstrated.
 - Sustainability Zone (Powered by HCL Foundation): Eco-friendly farming tools, organic inputs and sustainable water management practices featured.
 - Model Village: A fully equipped model village to exhibit holistic rural development practices, including integrated farming, village-level innovations and cooperative farming setups.
 - Agricultural Wellness Zone: Resources to support farmer health and wellness, including mental health programs and access to financial literacy sessions.
 - Special Focus on Agro Tourism: A tour to a sugar plant in Hardoi provided visitors with first-hand experience of the agro-industrial setup in Uttar Pradesh.

foster collaboration and explore investment prospects. The calendar of the four-day event was marked with many conferences that revolved around sustainability, dairy, water and natural resource management, among others and eight Kisan Gosthi.

During the inaugural session, an MoU was signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and

the Netherlands to further strengthen agricultural cooperation, knowledge sharing and the adoption of advanced farming techniques.

This year, CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat 2024 also included Country Sessions, a roundtable of CEOs, concurrent exhibition shows, thematic international conferences, and training sessions.

SESSIONS



(L-R): Dr Hendrik Jan Roest, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; H E Marisa Gerards, Ambassador, Kingdom of the Netherlands to India; Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Jan Kees Goet, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at the Country Session with The Netherlands

Country Session with The Netherlands

The session spotlighted shared aspirations and collaborative opportunities between India and the Kingdom of Netherlands to transform agriculture through innovation, sustainability, and future-ready practices. The session highlighted the pivotal role of critical minerals in

addressing India's growing demand, supply shortages, and import dependence, while emphasizing the need for a specialized policy regime. Discussions highlighted the unique characteristics of critical minerals compared to bulk minerals, including exploration challenges, contiguous mining, and the importance of incentivizing domestic players. India's geological potential and exploration requirements for critical minerals were spotlighted, alongside international best practices that can guide the country in developing this essential sector.

CEOs Roundtable with Policymakers on the Future of Farming

The CEOs Roundtable delivered a compelling vision for India's agricultural future. Esteemed speakers highlighted cutting-edge technologies like AI, IoT, and blockchain, alongside sustainable practices to boost productivity and resilience. Insights on crop diversification, dairy processing, and reducing aflatoxin prevalence illustrated practical steps to enhance incomes and global competitiveness. The session called for integrated efforts to shape a sustainable, innovative, and economically robust agricultural ecosystem.



(L-R): B L Meena, Additional Chief Secretary Horticulture & Food Processing, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Jan Kees Goet, Hon'ble Vice Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Tarun Sawhney, Chairman, CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat 2024, and Vice Chairman & MD, Triveni Engineering Ltd and Ravinder, Principal Secretary – Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh at the CEOs Roundtable on Future of Farming



(L-R): Sameer Sinha, Chief Executive Officer, Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd; Vivek Verma, Managing Director, Spray Engineering Devices Ltd; Dr Rasappa Vishwanathan, Director, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research; Kumar Vineet, MD, UP Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation Ltd; Roshan Lal Tamak, Conference Chairman and Executive Director & CEO – Sugar Business, DCM Shriram Ltd; VK Shukla, Additional Cane Commissioner, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Dr RG Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus, Dhanuka Agritech Ltd at CII SugarTech 2024

CII SugarTech 2024

The 10th edition of CII SugarTech 2024 highlighted transformative strategies for the sugar sector. Leaders emphasized Uttar Pradesh's potential to lead in sustainable agriculture, aligning with India's Amrit Kaal vision. Discussions ranged from bioenergy integration, AgTech advancements, and resource optimization to fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Industry experts stressed the role of innovation and sustainability in driving growth. The event reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing productivity, promoting bioenergy, and shaping a resilient future for sugarcane-based industries.

Conference on Enhancing Food Processing for Value Addition and Boosting Export Potential

The conference showcased the transformative potential of advanced food processing technologies in driving sustainable growth and global competitiveness. Leaders highlighted Uttar Pradesh's strides in the sector, supported by the UP Food Processing Policy 2023,

which has spurred infrastructure development through food parks and processing units. They emphasized the need for innovation that aligns with global sustainability goals. Discussions focused on adopting cutting-edge technologies, leveraging policy incentives, and creating robust value chains to meet export standards.

Conference on Accelerating Electric Tractor Adoption

Themed 'Positioning Uttar Pradesh as a Global Manufacturing Hub', the event brought policymakers, Industry leaders and innovators together to explore energy-efficient solutions for agriculture. Speakers emphasized Government incentives and awareness campaigns to drive adoption among farmers and highlighted supportive policies and schemes like PM Kusum Yojana to reduce costs and boost efficiency. The conference showcased Uttar Pradesh's potential as a leader in electric tractor manufacturing and adoption, reinforcing the role of innovation and proactive policies in shaping a sustainable agricultural future.



(L-R): Chandana K, Sr Program Associate, Electric Mobility, WRI India; Amod Kumar, Founder & CEO, Sukoon Solutions Pvt Ltd; Prashant Dubey, DGM, Faculty - BIRD, NABARD; Jitendra Singh Tomar, Director, Department of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Anuraddha Kshatriya, GM - Investment Promotion, Invest UP; Syed Farman Imam, AGM- Lucknow, SIDBI; Pankaj Goyal, Founder & CEO, AutoNxt Automation Pvt Ltd and Varun Chaturvedi, Founder & CEO, Volttic Chargers Pvt Ltd at the conference on Accelerating Electric Tractor Adoption



(L-R): Suchit Dekivadia, Co-Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Water and CEO, NetXeroC Pvt Ltd; Dr Rajesh Kumar Prajapati, Special Secretary, Department of Irrigation & Water Resources, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Baldev Singh Aulakh, State Minister, Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Agricultural Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Bhavdeep Sardana, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Water and Sr VP & CEO, Sukhjit Starch & Chemicals Ltd (The); Sandeep Kumar, Engineer-in-Chief, Design & Planning, Irrigation & Water Resource Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Sharad Chandak, CGM (Lucknow Circle), State Bank of India at the conference on Water & Irrigation Management

Conference on Water & Irrigation Management

The Conference on Water & Irrigation Management focused on 'Bridging the Gaps: Technology, Partnerships, and Collaboration', underscoring the critical importance of sustainable water practices. Key discussions revolved around judicious water use, recycling wastewater and adopting micro-irrigation systems. Speakers highlighted millet cultivation and irrigation planning as water-efficient strategies and emphasized watershed development and empowering women in conservation efforts. Industry leaders advocated for advanced technologies and robust policy initiatives like PM Krishi Sichi Yojana to address India's water challenges. The event concluded with a united commitment to sustainable water management, reinforcing its vital role in shaping a resilient agricultural future.

Conference on Sustainable Agriculture for a Resilient Future

The conference emphasized the transformative potential of Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). Key discussions highlighted the integration of drone-assisted precision farming to optimize resources, crop diversification to mitigate climate risks and strategic water conservation through hedge planting. Leaders underscored the importance of financial access, market linkages and agri-allied enterprises like animal husbandry and fishery to strengthen rural livelihoods. The conference called for collaborative efforts among stakeholders to empower farmers, reduce emissions and build agricultural resilience, aligning with the vision of a sustainable and robust agricultural economy.

Conference on Shaping the Future of Animal Agriculture in India

The deliberations focused on the key enablers that are needed to strengthen the dairy and poultry sector and suggested actions needed to make it sustainable and economically viable. The conference had roundtable sessions focused on poultry and dairy titled 'Indian Poultry Industry: Enhancing Global Competitiveness' and 'Indian Dairy Industry: Optimizing Opportunities for the Future'. The sessions brought together national and international Industry leaders, policymakers, technology innovators and dairy and poultry farmers to deliberate on the roadmap for the future of animal agriculture in India.

KISAN GOSTHIS (FARMER SESSIONS)

Dedicated sessions for farmers were organised in interactive formats to address their most pressing concerns:

- Farming to Entrepreneurship: Skill Development for Financial Independence
- Facilitating Easy Access to Credit and Insurance for Farmers
- Strengthening FPO Governance and Management
- Preventing Stubble Burning
- Commercial Dairy Farming
- Mechanization for Small & Marginal Farmers: Setting up Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)
- Natural Farming
- Agro-Forestry: Alternative to Wheat and Paddy Cultivation

QUOTES



Our focus should be on advancing the agricultural sector with enhanced technology. Given the diverse agro-climatic zones within the country, each state brings unique experiences, and regions have shown remarkable progress—even under challenging circumstances worldwide. By sharing best practices, we can learn much from one another.

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh



What India is achieving in agriculture is commendable, and I believe what we see is what we believe. Collaboration with India opens up tremendous opportunities in dairy, horticulture and animal husbandry, paving the way for a sustainable agricultural future.

Jan-Kees Goet, Vice Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security & Nature, Kingdom of Netherlands



The Uttar Pradesh Government has introduced advanced irrigation technology and developed an extensive canal network, significantly enhancing crop yields and fostering a more prosperous

agricultural sector for our farmers. The B2B MoU will forge a stronger partnership between the Netherlands and India, driving forward innovation and excellence in the agricultural sector.

Surya Pratap Shahi, Cabinet Minister of Agriculture, Agricultural Education & Agricultural Research, Government of Uttar Pradesh



Uttar Pradesh, with its rich agricultural heritage and vast potential, is ready to embrace the future of farming. We aim to modernize their practices, and boost the agricultural economy, creating a resilient

and sustainable future for one of India's most vibrant farming landscapes.

Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh



Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector is rooted in tradition, yet ripe for transformation. It is our mission to advance Uttar Pradesh's agricultural sector by integrating innovation with our deep-rooted practices. With

vast resources, diverse crop potential, and a strong farming community, our focus is on fostering sustainable practices that can elevate productivity while preserving our land and resources.

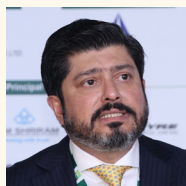
Monika Garg, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh



With the support of central and UP Government's policies, we are seeing efficient solutions that help farmers overcome challenges. The Uttar Pradesh Food Processing Industry Policy has strengthened

the modern technology ecosystem, benefiting agriculture and food processing in the state.

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



The theme of this year's edition - 'Harvesting Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture' - resonates profoundly with the aspirations of millions of farmers, entrepreneurs, and Industry leaders alike. It calls

for creating an agricultural ecosystem that is both resilient and inclusive, one that leverages technology to address the varied needs of smallholder farmers, large agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Tarun Sawhney, Chairman, CII AgroTech India – Krishi Bharat 2024 and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Engineering Ltd



Our collective goal is to focus on increasing efficiencies, fostering innovation in agricultural produce trade, incorporating quality standards into the trade process, and optimizing production costs to

meet market demand.

Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Managing Director & CEO, JK Cement Ltd



We aim to create impactful platforms that empower the agricultural community by fostering innovation and collaboration.

Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and CFO & Director, PTC Industries Ltd

A Journal of Confederation of Indian Industry

CII COMMUNIQUÉ



The Facts

- Monthly Newsletter of top management of 9,000+ companies
- Shared with Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, Government Secretaries, Thought Leaders, Diplomats and other decision makers

Digital Magazine

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- Business News
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Double spread	36.7 cm (width) x 23 cm (height)	1,50,000

For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, **Confederation of Indian Industry** 249-F, Sector 18, Udyog Vihar, Phase IV, Gurgaon-122 015 (Haryana), India, Tel: 91-124-4014060-67 • Email: sharmila.kantha@cii.in

Tax Action in the Union Budget for 2025-26 Could Set the Course for Viksit Bharat

The Government could take major steps towards its worthy goal of a tax regime that is simple, predictable and comprehensive, says Chandrajit Banerjee



Balancing fiscal prudence with the need to provide a growth impetus has been a hallmark of our government over past Union budgets. Tax buoyancy has improved, while taxation has been simplified and ease of paying taxes enhanced. With a keen eye on resilience, the 2024-25 budget laid the groundwork for a more robust economy, one that is prepared to withstand varied headwinds on its way towards the national vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' or developed India.

Within the overarching ambit of 'fiscal realism' lies a fine balancing act of the government's expenditure with revenue. While garnering more resources for growth, I am sure the government would further strengthen the taxation regime to enhance simplicity and certainty, offering the country a more competitive regime that further improves the ease of paying taxes. The budget for 2024-25 did a fine job on these. With an overall objective to plan for India@100, it announced various targeted measures on the taxation side (both direct and indirect) to increasingly align revenues with its long-term goal of a developed nation.

Particularly praiseworthy is the government's proposal to undertake a comprehensive review of the Income Tax Act of 1961 within the context of reviewing the entire direct and indirect taxation regime. In addition, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggests that the government consider setting up an expert committee with Industry participation.

Along with simplification, addressing the high level of litigation on taxation is critical to foster greater ease of paying taxes in the country. The forthcoming budget for 2025-26 may make further progress on this aspect. Currently, there is a huge number of appeals filed before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals). To

address this, the government may announce steps to reduce the pendency of disputed cases by disposing high pitched assessments and high-tax-demand cases on a priority basis. To provide further relief to taxpayers from delays in refunds, TDS credit, etc, the government may consider an enhanced interface with the Central Processing Centre that would make it even more efficient and responsive.

The Finance Act, 2023, had provisions to promote timely payments to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including amounts payable to such enterprises within the ambit of Section 43B of the Act. While this amendment was intended to promote timely payments to MSMEs, it probably needs a relook. We find that a large number of companies in the private sector prefer to make purchases from non-MSME units to avoid disallowance under that section. The government may consider replacing it with a scheme incentivizing those who make timely payments to MSMEs.

On the indirect taxation side, the 2024-25 budget clearly captured the government's sustained endeavour to simplify and rationalize the GST and customs duty structure, with targeted adjustments for sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals and certain precious metals. These efforts may be built upon further in next year's budget.

On the customs front, the budget could focus on further improving trade facilitation, which would foster domestic manufacturing. A strategic roadmap for the rationalization of import tariffs to make India's manufacturing sector globally competitive would help Indian manufacturing. CII proposes a three-tiered tariff structure, with the lowest or nil duty rates for raw materials, followed by intermediate and finished goods. This phased approach will allow domestic manufacturers time to adapt, while



enhancing competitiveness. Further, a one-time tax dispute settlement scheme under customs may also be considered for MSMEs.

The Government may also consider further reforms in indirect taxation through GST 2.0, with a transition to a three-rate structure that features rate moderation as well. Centralized assessments and audits could be introduced for large taxpaying units with a pan-India presence. The scope of input tax credit may be expanded to cover all business expenses. Also, petroleum products should be covered under GST to enable the seamless flow of input tax credits. This will reduce the impact of a tax cascade on the manufacturing sector.

By further simplifying GST and bringing everything under its input-tax-credit chain, GST 2.0 reforms are likely to boost compliance and increase Government revenues. Admittedly, tax simplification while fostering greater competitiveness is one side of the coin. The other is broadening the tax base for higher resource mobilization. Let statistics put this imperative in the right context: it is estimated that of the 75.5 million individuals who filed income tax returns for assessment year 2023-24, 63% paid zero tax and just 5% of filers paid 73.5% of the overall tax payable, underscoring the need to broaden India's income tax base.

Steps that could be considered include a greater transition from cash to digital transactions, which would create an information trail that can be used to correctly assess the income of individuals and businesses, thereby helping the tax department in detecting evasion. Towards this end, the government could consider incentivizing cooperative banks to issue Virtual Payment Address (VPA) or UPI facilities to their customers, incentivizing business correspondents to onboard customers for UPI, announcing measures to strengthen trust in digital transactions, and mandating the adoption and prioritization of digital transactions by large merchants like governments, utilities and companies in the sectors of transport, telecom and e-commerce, among others.

In the last many budgets, the Government has established beyond any doubt that it is aiming for the creation of a tax ecosystem that is simple, predictable and competitive. We are certain that the budget of 2025-26 would be another major step in that direction.

This article was written by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII and was first published on 26th November in Mint

India's med-tech industry exports reach \$ 20 bn by 2030: CII

The sector needs more govt incentives and further EoDB to accelerate overseas shipments

Advantage India

- India poised to take advantage has software, hardware and low-cost of labour compared to China
India potential to grow the industry to the next level, taking advantage of the new strategy

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S medical technology industry is expected to touch exports of up to \$ 20 billion by 2030...

Our imports are far exceeding our exports. Our imports are almost \$8 billion and our exports are close to \$4 bn, Himanshu Baid, CII Chairman, National Medical Technology Forum



acts, while export incentives to 'reimburse hidden costs' need to be provided to manufacturers, CII Chairman National Medical Technology Forum Himanshu Baid told reporters here.

body CII said on Friday. The production linked incentive (PLI) scheme...



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Govt initiatives helping attract foreign investors in India: CII

New Delhi: Government initiatives such as Make in India are helping attract foreign investors to set up bases in India, industry chamber CII has said.



commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, CII director general Chandrajit Banerjee said that the government's increased investments in infrastructure are making the domestic industry more competitive.

Business Line

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Sat, 30 Nov-24; Business Line - Hyderabad; Size : 443 sq.cm.; Circulation:27100; Page : 2

JCB India eyes double-digit growth in FY25 on rural demand and infra boost

bl interview

Rural markets continue to be a strong driver for the construction equipment sector. H2 of FY25 (October-March) is expected to be better in terms of infra projects driving demand, says Deepak Shetty, CEO and MD, JCB India Ltd.

On the sidelines of a CII event, Shetty spoke about the H2FY25 outlook, rural and urban markets, and the economic outlook.

talks about stress in the urban sector, we have seen growth in the rural market. More than 65 per cent of our machines are sold in rural areas.

Whether there will be restrictions or not, it's too early to talk about it. But I think as an industry we have always benefited from Trump coming to power.



DEEPAK SHETTY MD & CEO, JCB India
(much) more funds will be released to complete the financial cycle. This will certainly help in sprucing up demand.

particular trend you notice? We have 2,30,000 machines across India, which communicate with us on the internet-of-things. They help us get data from rural markers and from across the country. We also apply data analytics.

And that is a positive for us. Have geopolitical tensions impacted exports? We export to over 130 countries. There have been challenges in the European market, particularly in Germany and France.

We have grown by almost 300 per cent in the last three-four years. But exports could have been better. If the wars come to an end, (it) will be a great opportunity for us to export more.

The Chinese economy has not picked up. It is concerning, especially when dumping is a reality? This is a concern. Last year, we filed a case on the wheel-loading shovels. The DGTTR saw merit in our application and appropriate actions have been

machines in rural India. There are various projects of the Centre. We are also seeing State governments investing in rural road projects. On top of it, we have change in emission norms for BS

Urban slowdown may be true for FMCG and other sectors but we've not seen a big slowdown in urban parts. Now, this could be for our sector. But it (slowdown) is not urban markets) is not a

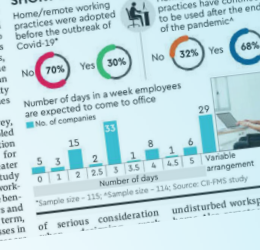
We are also expecting some recoveries in the European markets next year (calendar year 2025) onwards. I think Europe has hit the bottom. And as the economy recovers, there will be focus on rebuilding. A lot of our resources were sucked away by the war, and

AGGRAVATES EMPLOYEE STRESS Remote working saves costs but dents teamwork: Study

MANU KAUSHIK New Delhi, November 18

REMOTE WORKING HAS led to savings of more than 25% in office rentals and costs in office rentals and costs according to a survey by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Faculty of Management Studies (FMS).

SHORT-TERM BOON, LONG-TERM BANE



teamwork and that it can hinder the development and sustenance of organisational culture. The study highlights the positive impact of hybrid work on the macro-environment. Given that global warming and environmental damage are now a key concern of everyone, remote working may help reduce the carbon footprint and promote the achievement of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. It also may help to promote more balanced geographical development in addition to alleviating pressures of various kind

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led, 20 Nov-24; Daily Guardian; Size : 223 sq.cm.; Circulation:-; Page : 7

India eyes nuclear fuel, coal transition

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

India should secure supply chains for nuclear fuel and develop indigenous technologies to ensure that nuclear power plays a larger role in our diversified energy mix, said Periasamy Kumaran, Special Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, at the CII Energy Security Conference in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Kumaran further stated that phasing out of coal while managing the social impact on communities that heavily rely on coal will remain a critical challenge as the India targets the three



Dr Govil, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, shared details of partnerships with the University of

Engaging with the World

ASEAN



Interaction between leaders of the Indian Industry and Ministers from Singapore

Interaction with Singapore Lawmakers

CII organized a roundtable session with Mr K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs & Minister for Law, Singapore and Mr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade & Industry, Singapore on 8 November in Mumbai to deliberate on ways to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

Discussions were centred around new areas of collaboration identified under the 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' and the India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable including digitalization, skill development, sustainability, healthcare & medicine, advanced manufacturing and connectivity. This provides an ambitious roadmap for further enhancement of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The elevation of the relationship to a 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' underscores the importance that both countries accord to each other. The four MoUs signed during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit further solidify the foundation of this next phase. The MoUs were focused on semiconductors, digital technologies, healthcare and skilling. These will create several opportunities for businesses in both countries and elevate cooperation to the next level.

LAC

Collaboration with Pollera Pantalón, Argentina

Fostering an important partnership for collaboration, CII has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

with Pollera Pantalón, Argentina, aimed at unlocking the potential of entrepreneurial talent, empowering women entrepreneurs and promoting the cross-border exchange of business knowledge. This collaboration aims to strengthen trade and business relations between India and Argentina while expanding opportunities for educational and academic exchanges, ultimately fostering long-term, sustainable growth.

The MoU was signed by Ms Fabiana Ricagno, Chairman, Pollera Pantalón and CII. As part of the MoU, CII organized presentations from various sectors to the Argentine delegation to provide insights into India's expertise in key areas. These presentations were focused on critical sectors, including skill development, healthcare, education and business collaborations through CII FACE.

The skill development session highlighted India's initiatives aimed at equipping individuals with the necessary skills for success in the global market, emphasizing the importance of workforce transformation and entrepreneurship. The healthcare session showcased India's advancements in medical research, healthcare infrastructure and affordable healthcare solutions, presenting an opportunity for knowledge-sharing and collaboration between India and Argentina.

A dedicated education presentation focused on India's education system, highlighting areas for collaboration, including academic exchanges, joint research and knowledge transfer between the two nations. These sessions provided the Argentine delegation

with a better understanding of the business environment in India and the opportunities available for cross-border partnerships.

Exploring Strategic Cooperation with Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

CII hosted an interactive session with H.E. Gabriel Vieira de Souza, Vice Governor of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil in New Delhi on 8 November. The session provided a platform to deepen bilateral ties and explore strategic areas of cooperation between India and the state of Rio Grande do Sul. During the session, both India and Rio Grande do Sul expressed a strong interest in building a reliable, long-term partnership, fostering an environment conducive to sustainable investment and mutual growth.

Vice Governor de Souza emphasized the longstanding synergies between Brazil and India, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and mutual development goals. He highlighted Rio Grande do Sul's strategic geographical position and its role as a key economic hub in Brazil, which offers tremendous opportunities for bilateral collaboration.

The Vice Governor outlined priority areas for cooperation, including green hydrogen, agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, education, security and technology. He presented the State's Hydrogen Chain Development Plan, a strategic initiative aimed at boosting Brazil's renewable energy sector and positioning green hydrogen as a critical area of future investment.

Mr Evaldo da Silva, Director of Trade Promotion & Investments and International Affairs at the Secretariat of Economic Development and Foreign Trade for the State of Rio Grande do Sul, emphasized Brazil's eagerness to forge strategic, long-term partnerships. He pointed out several high-potential areas for collaboration, particularly in agriculture, healthcare, defence, and sustainable infrastructure development, which align with Brazil's focus on strengthening its economic and technological landscape.

Mr Vikas Khitha, Vice President, L&T Precision Engineering & Systems, highlighted the significance of high-level visits in advancing diplomatic relations and fostering multi-sector cooperation. He underlined



the immense potential for collaboration between India and Rio Grande do Sul in critical sectors, including pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, defence technology, agri-tech, IT and infrastructure development.

OCEANIA

Strengthening India-Australia Trade Partnership

The Australia-India CEO Forum was convened virtually recently, with Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and The Hon. Don Farrell, Minister for Trade and Tourism of Australia.

Participants provided comprehensive updates on the recommendations from five joint working groups established after the previous year's meeting in Mumbai. These groups are focused on the areas including higher education and skills; infrastructure, finance and investment; energy, Net Zero, critical minerals and resources; digital economy and agritech.

During the recent 19th Australia-India Joint Ministerial Commission held in Adelaide, the Forum reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing bilateral trade and advancing a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). Additionally, it endorsed a Free Trade Agreement between India and Australia.

Looking ahead, the Business Council of Australia (BCA) plans to lead a delegation to India in early 2025 to explore finance and investment opportunities. The Australia-India CEO Forum is dedicated to achieving significant economic outcomes beneficial to both nations. ■

Sectorscape



Manufacturing

CII PSE Summit



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman, CII PSE Council and Chairman and CEO, ONGC; Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India and Vartika Shukla, Co-Chair, CII PSE Council and CMD, Engineers India Ltd at the PSE Summit in New Delhi

As India accelerates towards becoming a developed nation by 2047, it creates an opportune time for the Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) to march towards global leadership and meet the demands to attain scale, become globally competitive and emerge as champions, creating a vibrant ecosystem. Aligning with this vision, CII hosted the 12th edition of the PSE Summit, focusing on 'Viksit Bharat: Transforming PSEs into engines of Sustainable Growth' in New Delhi on 14 November.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India, said that PSEs are reaching new heights in their efforts and commended the strides made by PSEs in innovation, technology adoption and sustainable practices. He projected India's economic growth potential at over USD 20 trillion within the next two decades, stressing that achieving this milestone will require a greater commitment from the private sector. He highlighted that the net worth of PSEs has increased from INR 9.5 trillion in 2014 to INR 9.5 trillion in 2023, an increase of 82 per cent in nine years.

"Integrating technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) will allow PSEs to keep pace with Industry 4.0," said Shri Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman, CII PSE Council and Chairman and CEO, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation on the need for newer technologies in PSEs.

Ms Vartika Shukla, Co-Chair, CII PSE Council and CMD, Engineers India Ltd, underscored the role of innovation and infrastructure development within PSEs in positioning India as a global leader. She stressed the importance of transparency and governance, advocating for excellence and accountability as PSEs strive to meet their objectives and contribute to India's sustainable growth trajectory.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII, emphasized the transformative synergy between India's public and private sectors in addressing critical areas such as energy security, sustainability and social impact. He noted that these collaborative efforts serve as a foundation for building resilience and sustainable development.



Waste Management

International Conference on Waste to Worth



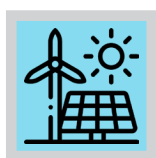
Masood Mallick, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies, CEO and MDA, Re Sustainability and Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment Forest & Climate Change, Government of India releasing the National Circular Economy Framework Edition 2 at the International Conference on Waste-to-Worth in New Delhi

CII, in collaboration with the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Waste to Wealth Mission, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs and Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, organized the 9th edition of

the International Conference on Waste-to-Worth around the theme 'Enabling Partnerships for Growth thru Sustainable Environs' on 30 November in New Delhi. Industry leaders, technology providers, investors and waste management companies, both domestic and international, deliberated on techno-business solutions towards keeping the environment clean in a sustainable manner and encouraging the adoption of 4R practices. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India noted that as we face global concerns such as energy consumption, biodiversity preservation and desertification, it is essential that we re-evaluate how we use Earth's resources. The circular economy, focusing on recycling, reducing waste and reusing, is key to a sustainable future.

The second edition of the National Circular Economy Framework (NCEF) was unveiled by the Minister along with the Mr Masood Mallick, Chairman, CII National Committee on Waste to Worth Technologies and CEO & MD, Re Sustainability. The framework focuses on the key milestone targets, the scale and the timeline for sixteen sectors that align with the eleven focus areas identified by NITI Aayog. NCEF outlines actionable steps and collaborative opportunities for stakeholders to drive sector-specific circular economy initiatives. It provides a valuable reference for stakeholders and policymakers, enabling them to promote circular economy practices that benefit both the economy and the environment.

A whitepaper on key issues related to waste to worth sector was released, which will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, Industry leaders, researchers and other stakeholders in advancing sustainable waste management practices in India.



Renewable Energy

India's Outlook on Clean Energy Storage: A Roadmap to Net Zero

Energy storage is central to India's renewable energy expansion, with a 2030 target of 70 GW capacity requiring approximately INR 14 lakh crore in investment. Initiatives such as Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO), Energy Storage Obligation (ESO), Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for 4 GWh of battery storage and Pumped Storage Project (PSP) guidelines are in place to drive



Vikram Handa, Chairman, CII Initiative on Clean Energy Storage System and MD, Epsilon Advance Materials and Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power at the Workshop on 'India's Outlook on Clean Energy Storage – Roadmap to Net-Zero' in New Delhi

progress. However, challenges remain, including reliance on critical minerals and extended PSP timelines.

To chart pathways toward net-zero emissions, CII hosted a workshop on 'India's Outlook on Clean Energy Storage – Roadmap to Net-Zero' in New Delhi on 20 November. Shri Srikant Nagulapalli, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power, Government of India, said that states should not levy any free power requirement on PSPs. This contrasts with the normal practice of allocating a percentage of the generated electricity to the home state at no cost. This is part of a host of conducive policy measures that the Government has taken to promote the growth of the energy storage sector as the country incorporates more renewable energy capacity. Energy storage plays a crucial role as it helps the infirm renewable power convert into a round-the-clock option when combined with storage. He also mentioned that the Government is moving from financial analysis to economic analysis for PSPs.

Mr Vikram Handa, Chairman, CII Initiative on Clean Energy Storage System and MD, Epsilon Advance Materials, highlighted that flexibility, efficiency, low operating cost and no-waste are some of the factors that will drive a 12-fold growth in the energy storage market by 2030. Significant costs of capital and investments, and the issue of raw material vulnerability are among the key challenges that stall the progression of the supply chain, he noted.

During the event, CII released a comprehensive analysis for 'India's Outlook on Clean Energy Storage: A Roadmap to Net Zero'. The analysis, prepared in partnership with 6Wresearch, focused on the current state, challenges and prospects of energy storage systems in India's renewable energy landscape, providing insights and recommendations for stakeholders and ways to optimise

the mix of pumped hydro and battery storage systems. The analysis also focused on the much-needed circular economy for batteries to extract reusable elements and dispose of batteries safely into the environment. The event was attended by policymakers, Industry leaders and experts.



Space

Boosting India’s Capability in Satellite Manufacturing

To identify emerging opportunities and address critical challenges within India’s satellite manufacturing ecosystem, CII, through its National Committee on Space, organized a roundtable discussion on ‘Boosting India’s Capability in Satellite Manufacturing: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Opportunities’ on 26 November in Bengaluru.

The session was chaired by Mr Apparao Mallavarapu, Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and Chairman & Managing Director, Centum Group who highlighted the pivotal role of Government support, technological innovation and private sector participation in positioning India as a global hub for small and nanosatellite manufacturing.

Dr D Radhakrishnan, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, NSIL shared that in

recent years, India has witnessed significant growth in satellite manufacturing, with numerous companies emerging in the sector. He highlighted how Indian startups, initially focused on nanosatellites, are now progressing toward building microsattellites. He emphasized that microsattellite capability should serve as the baseline for future development.

Shri R V Nadagowda, Deputy Director, Integration and Checkout Area at U R Rao Satellite Centre, offered insights on ‘Opportunities in Satellite Manufacturing’. Similarly, Shri R V Kaushik, Deputy Director – Satellite, IN-SPACe Technical Directorate, shared his perspectives on ‘Opportunities in Satellite Payload’. Contributions from Mr Laxmesh, Vice-President, L&T and Mr Keyur Gandhi, Director – Space Regulatory & Commercialization, Dhruva Space spoke on addressing the ‘Challenges in Satellite Manufacturing’.

Mr Rohan Ganapathy, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and Co-Founder & CEO, Bellatrix Aerospace, said that the deliberation during the event will not only unlock the potential of our satellite manufacturing sector but also catalysed India's journey toward becoming a global space power.

The discussions culminated in an interactive session, encouraging Industry and startups to collaborate to identify key challenges and propose actionable solutions for the satellite sector. The roundtable witnessed an enthusiastic response from over 42 experts across Industry, startups and Government organizations.

Currently, 60 per cent of satellite realization budgets are allocated to Industry, mainly for subsystem development, while testing involvement is limited to



(L-R): Rohan M Ganapathy Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and Co-founder & CEO, Bellatrix Aerospace; B H Laxmesh, VP & Head of Aerospace Business, L&T Precision Engineering and Systems; R V Nadagowda Deputy Director- (Integration and Checkout Area), U R Rao Satellite Centre; Dr D Radhakrishnan Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, NSIL; Apparao Mallavarapu, Chairman, CII National Committee on Space and CMD, Centum Group; R V Kaushik, Deputy Director Satellite IN-SPACE Technical Directorate and Keyur Gandhi, Director – Space Regulatory & Commercialization, Dhruva Space at the Roundtable on ‘Boosting India’s Capability in Satellite Manufacturing: Navigating Challenges and Unlocking Opportunities’ in Bengaluru

manpower support. ISRO plans to expand Industry roles to include end-to-end Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT), with infrastructure and readiness guidelines developed for full-spectrum capabilities. Additionally, ISRO seeks Industry partnerships for Integrated Avionics Packages and cutting-edge technologies for missions like asteroid mining, planetary exploration and the Venus mission. Hence, ISRO should create a long-term vision for privatizing the space sector, similar to NASA's 50-year plan, the speakers discussed.

With 60-80 per cent dependence on imported payload components, India must focus on indigenization and emerging technologies like LEO PNT systems, miniaturized atomic clocks and phased array antennas. Key areas include precise navigation, geospatial intelligence, communication payloads and SAR technology. To scale operations and reduce costs, increased Industry participation is essential, ensuring India's competitiveness in the global space market.

State Governments should drive demand for space-based data and technology, fostering growth in satellite applications, manufacturing and launch vehicles. INSPACe is working toward collaborating with State governments to develop exclusive space manufacturing clusters to enhance infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities.

Policies encouraging collaboration among academia, Industry and startups can drive innovation in the space sector. Startups' innovations should be integrated into the manufacturing ecosystem through partnerships with MSMEs and large corporations. Industry bodies like CII can facilitate such collaborations while safeguarding IP rights.



Media & Entertainment

CII Announces Big Picture Summit

CII hosted a networking evening at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024 in Goa on 24 November. This event, which brought together Industry leaders and celebrities on a common platform, served as a curtain-raiser for the CII Big Picture Summit 2025. An insightful panel discussion was held on 'Indian Content Takes Flight'.



(L-R): Shekhar Kapur, Eminent Filmmaker & Festival Director, IFFI and Nikunj Garg, Senior Managing Editor, NDTV at the Networking Evening in Goa

As CII's flagship event for the media and entertainment sector, the Big Picture Summit has successfully completed 11 editions, encompassing diverse segments such as TV, radio, broadcast, print, film, digital media, animation, visual effects, gaming, comics, advertising, and events.

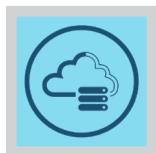
The evening was hosted by Ms Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson of CII Western Region and President of VM Salgaocar & Brother Pvt Ltd, and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII. Mr Banerjee reflected on CII's longstanding partnership with the M&E sector, underscoring its pivotal role in showcasing Indian cinema globally.

During a fireside chat with NDTV at the event, Mr Shekhar Kapur, Eminent Filmmaker and Festival Director, IFFI, emphasized the need for funding and bold marketing strategies to elevate Indian cinema globally. He advocated embracing new technologies like AI to drive future success, particularly in filmmaking and the broader economy. He stressed the importance of courage, risk-taking and creative freedom while warning that corporatisation limits innovation in filmmaking.

Mr Nikhil Advani, Director, Producer and Screenwriter stressed the importance of broadening Indian cinema's global appeal by focusing on universal themes. Mr Boman Irani, Actor and Director, emphasized the critical role of storytelling in global recognition. Ms Anna Saura, a Producer from Spain, spotlighted the first India-Spain co-production, aimed at creating local stories with universal themes. This initiative strengthens cultural ties and enhances Indian cinema's global presence.

Mr Rajan Navani, Chairman & MD, Jetline Group and JetSynthesys, highlighted India's potential in interactive content, particularly gaming and esports. He discussed the rapid growth of gamers in India and the rise of innovative projects like simulated cricket.

Mr Biren Ghose, Chairman, CII National Subcommittee on AVGC-XR and MD – Asia Pacific & Global Excom Member, Technicolor Group stressed that CII is happy to be a part of the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT), which is being established in Mumbai to focus on skilling issue in the Industry.



Digital Technologies

AI for Enterprises: The Road Ahead



Speakers at the session on 'AI for Enterprises: The Road Ahead'

CII, under the aegis of the Centre for Digital Transformation (CII CDT) organized a session on 'AI for Enterprises: The Road Ahead' on 8 November to shed light on the convergence of business and technology and emphasise the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in driving inclusive growth and sustainability. Engaging discussions explored the dynamic AI landscape, showcasing its transformative impact across various sectors.

Mr Christian Klein, CEO, SAP, highlighted the pivotal role that generative AI is playing and mentioned the significant usage of the integration of generative AI into financial management to enable faster predictions, streamline book closures and enhance compliance.

Mr Rajeev Memani, President-Designate, CII and Chairman and CEO - EY India and Chair – EY Growth Markets Council, highlighted India's unique digital ecosystem. He said that India has one of the lowest costs of data usage globally and one of the highest rates of data consumption on a per capita basis. Both the quality and affordability of data are exceptional. Moreover, the digital infrastructure and access layer

established by the Government have enabled the delivery of outstanding digital services.

Mr Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Co-Chair, CII National AI Forum and MD, NICCO Engineering Services Ltd, underscored the significance of collaborative efforts. He noted that AI could boost economic growth in India by USD 957 billion by 2035, representing an increase of 15 to 20 per cent in the total GDP.

Key Takeaways:

- Banks and financial institutions are utilizing generative AI to enhance customer interactions, streamline compliance processes and make faster, data-driven decisions
- Pharmaceutical companies are optimizing interactions between sales representatives and healthcare professionals, leveraging AI to analyse prescription data and market trends for better recommendations
- The Government of India is integrating AI into digital service platforms including Umang App to improve user experience and drive the adoption of digital services
- Supply chains are becoming more resilient, sustainable and efficient through the adoption of AI, enabling businesses to navigate geopolitical challenges effectively
- There is a growing need for building AI skills and capacity among MSMEs through initiatives like AI immersion weeks.

AI Impact on Services Trade

To explore and unleash the transformative potential of AI across various sectors, a roundtable on 'AI Impact on Services Trade and Vice Versa' was organized by the CII Digital and the Trade Policy Department on 14 November via a virtual platform. Industry leaders in AI participated in the interaction to share insights.

Mr Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Co-Chair, CII National AI Forum and MD, NICCO Engineering Services Ltd highlighted that the primary objective of AI technology, which can be considered a revolutionary force, is transforming professional lives, engagements and participation in commercial activities, particularly in the services sector, which represents about 65 per cent of India's economy.

During the discussion, it was noted that AI technologies are reshaping service delivery models by enhancing efficiency, personalizing customer experiences and enabling data-driven decision-making. Speakers noted that AI can streamline operations, reduce costs and foster innovation within service industries, while

also addressing potential disruptions, including job displacement and regulatory considerations.

Key Takeaways:

- Policymakers should establish clear regulatory frameworks that balance the need for innovation with concerns about data protection, privacy and worker rights
- Successful integration of AI into services trade requires collaboration between various sectors, including tech companies, service providers and regulatory bodies
- AI has the potential to add USD 13 trillion to the global economy by 2030, with 70 per cent of companies adopting AI technologies
- There is a need for harmonized regulations, skilling initiatives and collaboration between academia, Industry and Government to leverage AI's benefits
- The use of AI can foster increased competition and innovation in the services trade, leading to better products and services for consumers.

Digital Transformation Best Practices Awards

CII CDT organized the 6th edition of its flagship programme - the Digital Transformation Best Practices Awards, on 27 November in New Delhi with the theme 'Inspiring Journey of Digital Transformation & Advancements'. The event forged a deeper engagement with Industry by recognizing some of the most innovative digital transformation initiatives being undertaken. The awards recognize excellence in Digital Transformation (DX) in India and facilitate the sharing of information on best practices and technologies.

A significant highlight of the program was the release of the 'Compendium of Best Practices in Digital Transformation', which will serve as a vital resource for the Industry, encapsulating the exemplary best practices that have emerged as benchmarks in the realm of digital transformation.

The DX Ensemble Program, organized along with the DX Awards, included plenary sessions on key topics including Leveraging Technology for Robust Supply Chain Management and Optimized Operations, Implementing Digital Strategies for Production Excellence & Smart Manufacturing and Utilizing Digital technology to Build Stronger Customer Relationships and Foster Employee Satisfaction.

Key Takeaways:

- It is imperative to invest in training and development of the workforce to equip employees with the necessary skills to leverage new technologies effectively
- Real-time data analytics can significantly enhance visibility across the supply chain, enabling organizations to make informed decisions promptly
- Manufacturers using advanced analytics in production reported up to 30 per cent less machine downtime, 20 per cent productivity gains (sometimes even higher), and notable cost savings
- Challenges like high initial costs, workforce gaps and resistance to change can hinder progress. A clear roadmap, stakeholder alignment and phased implementation are crucial
- Transparent communication with customers is key towards enhancing customer experience. Sharing how their data is used will foster stronger relationships with customers
- A balance of customer-centric digital strategies and employee-focused technologies leads to stronger relationships and improved service.

Participating companies that successfully leveraged digital strategies shared some inspiring case studies that helped drive efficiency, enhance customer experiences and achieve business growth.



Higher Education

CII Awards for Excellence in Women in STEM

To celebrate the efforts of organizations promoting women in STEM, CII recognized the top 34 companies across large and MSME segments for their excellence, along with 18 academic and research institutions, at an awards ceremony on 19 November in New Delhi. The CII Awards for Excellence in Women in STEM recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of women in these fields.

Speakers at the ceremony stressed having diverse teams in organizations to drive innovation, creativity and problem-solving, making gender equity not just ethical but essential for progress. Initiatives like Manthan and



(L-R): Vishnu Som, Senior Executive Editor, NDTV Network; Dr Naushad Forbes, Chairman, CII National Higher Education Council, Past President, CII and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall; Dr S K Barnwal, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; Prof Somak Raychaudhury, Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University; Prof Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor, Ahmedabad University; Prof Rudra Pratap, Vice Chancellor, Plaksha University and Prof Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi, Dean, School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences, Krea University at the National Higher Education Summit in New Delhi

mentorship programs were recognized for supporting women researchers.

Dr V K Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Government of India; Professor Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser Government of India; Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Adviser & Distinguished Visiting Professor, IIT Roorkee & Former Secretary, Science and Engineering Research Board and Senior Adviser, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India; Dr Brajesh Pandey, Executive Director, Indian National Science Academy and Ms Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Chairperson, CII Awards on Excellence for Women in STEM and Chairperson, Sustainability and Co-Founder, ReNew were among the key dignitaries at the event.

A compendium of best practices from organizations excelling in Women in STEM was also released during the ceremony.

National Higher Education Summit

As the nation aspires to become a global knowledge hub by 2047, India's higher education system needs transformational change. To deliberate on these needs, CII convened policymakers, academics, and Industry leaders at the 14th edition of the National Higher Education Summit in New Delhi on 18 November, under the theme 'Preparing the Future Workforce for India@100.'

Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India highlighted the ambitious goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He noted that achieving a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 50 per cent by 2035 — adding 4.5 crore students will require a monumental collective effort. Key strategies outlined during the discussion included leveraging digital platforms including SWAYAM, enhancing faculty capacity

through development programs and fostering inclusivity for underprivileged and rural students.

Prof T G Sitharam, Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education, stressed that India's journey in higher education, from a GER of 1 per cent in 1947 to 28.3 per cent today, is truly remarkable. However, to fully leverage the demographic dividend, it is essential to focus on inclusivity, innovation, and technology adoption. He emphasized the importance of Industry-academia collaborations and innovative practices such as distance education to prepare students for the evolving global landscape.

Dr Naushad Forbes, Chairman, CII National Higher Education Council and Co-Chairman, Forbes Marshall, advocated for a shift from prescriptive regulations to outcomes-based education, integrating cross-disciplinary learning, and strengthening Industry-academia linkages to ensure equitable access to quality education for India's young and dynamic population.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CII and the Association of Indian Universities to foster Industry-university linkages through entrepreneurship workshops, curriculum updates and faculty development programmes.

The summit also witnessed the release of two significant reports including the 12th edition of the CII-Deloitte Report on the Annual Status of Higher Education (ASHE) 2024 and Work from Home: Benefits and Costs. ASHE 2024 offered a comprehensive analysis of the higher education landscape across states and union territories, drawing insights from data in the All-India Survey of Higher Education. The study on work from home, jointly prepared by CII and the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, examined the implications of remote work. ■



Empowering Startups



CII Startup Delegation to Silicon Valley

The CII Centre of Excellence for Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Startups (CII CIES) organized a mission to Silicon Valley, California, USA, from 12 to 15 November to empower Indian startups by immersing them in one of the world's most dynamic and influential startup ecosystems. The delegation comprised 10 startups and aligned its visit with the Evolve 2024 Global Innovation Summit on AI and Deep Tech Convergence, a premier technology and innovation conference held in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The delegation visited the Plug and Play Tech Center in Sunnyvale, CA. Plug and Play connects early-stage startups with corporations, investors and Industry leaders, offering resources, mentorship and networking opportunities. With over 60 offices worldwide and partnerships with more than 800 corporations, the Center serves as a hub for collaboration between established companies and emerging ventures. The delegates also explored the co-working spaces and event facilities provided by the Center.

Later, the group visited the Japan Innovation Campus (JIC), established by the Japanese Government to enhance Japanese startups' access to Silicon Valley's ecosystem. The delegates learned about JIC's operating model, intake processes and modes of engagement. A highlight of this visit was a pitching session by three Japanese startups – TieSet, Therawin, and Kailas Robotics – all of which had ties to India through their products, markets or talent. The delegation interacted with the founders and toured JIC's workspace, gaining valuable insights into cross-border innovation and collaboration.

The Evolve 2024 Global Innovation Summit brought together Industry leaders, investors and startups to discuss emerging trends in AI, deep tech, sustainability, quantum computing and their applications in mobility, fintech and supply chains. Keynote speeches were

delivered by Mr John Chambers, Former Executive Chairman and CEO, Cisco Systems and Mr Jay Chaudhry, CEO, Zscaler.

Mr Varun Sharma, Founder & COO, Metaphy Labs, a member of the delegation, delivered the keynote address on 'Responsible AI & the Future of Search', showcasing India's thought leadership in AI innovation.

A panel discussion on 'India – The New Frontier' featured Mr R Dinesh, Immediate Past President, CII & Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions; Mr Rajan Navani, Co-Founder and Chairman, Board of Evolve Silicon Valley Foundation and Founder & CEO, Jet Synthesis and Mr John Mulhall, MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals North America. The panel highlighted India's rapid economic growth, its potential as the third-largest economy and opportunities for deeper collaboration with Silicon Valley's technology ecosystem.

The delegation participated in a tour of the Stanford University campus on 15 November, followed by participation in the Crossroads of Innovation, an exclusive gathering organized in partnership with FalconX, a leading technology accelerator based in Milpitas, CA. The event featured pitch sessions where the CII delegation members presented their startups to influential Industry leaders. FalconX's Global Immersion Program provided insights into B2B market strategies, mentorship, and partnership networks essential for success in the US.

Investing in Startups for Family Offices

The Indian startup ecosystem has emerged as a global leader, drawing significant investments from domestic and international stakeholders. Recognizing the potential of these high-growth ventures, family offices in India are increasingly investing in startups as a strategic approach to diversify their portfolios, achieve substantial returns, and contribute to the nation's economic progress.

To bridge the gap between family offices and startups, the CII CIES hosted a two-part Masterclass Series for Family Offices on 'Why Investing in Startups Should Be a Part of Your Portfolio'. The sessions were held in Pune and Coimbatore on 13 and 25 November respectively. These masterclasses sought to educate



(L-R): Naveen Unni, Managing Partner, TVS Capital Funds Pvt Ltd; T C Meenakshisundaram, Founder & Vice Chairman, Chiratae Ventures; Shankar Vanavarayar, Executive Director, ABT Industries Ltd; Hemalatha Annamalai, Co-Founder and Chairperson, Green Collar Agritech Solutions Pvt Ltd & Founder and Former CEO, Ampere Electric Vehicles Pvt Ltd

and inspire family offices to explore opportunities in startup investments.

Participants gained valuable insights into the current state and future potential of the Indian startup ecosystem. The masterclasses emphasized the financial benefits and diversification opportunities of investing in startups while addressing the legal and regulatory considerations for informed decision-making.

Attendees explored various investment strategies, including direct investments, venture capital funds, and accelerator programs, while benefiting from a platform that facilitated networking with Industry experts, fellow investors and promising startups. The sessions witnessed participation from over 40 family offices, as well as high-net-worth individuals and ultra-high-net-worth individuals.

Masterclass for Startups: Structuring the Pitch Deck

CII CIES hosted an engaging Masterclass for Startups with the theme 'Crafting a Compelling Story & Structuring the Pitch Deck' on 8 November in Hyderabad. With over 50 startup founders in attendance, the session aimed to empower entrepreneurs with the tools and insights to present their ventures effectively to investors, CXOs and strategic partners. This session provided startups with actionable frameworks to craft pitches that inspire confidence and foster collaboration. The masterclass featured distinguished speakers who shared practical advice and deep expertise. Ms Madhurima Agarwal, MD, Microsoft for Startups India, led the session on 'Building the Narrative'. She emphasized crafting a compelling startup story that



(L-R): Ajay Pitre, Managing Partner, Pitre Business Ventures LLP; Mandeep Julka, VP - Investments, Chiratae Ventures; Anshul Bhide, Executive Director and AI/ML Practice Head, Calsoft Inc.

resonates with audiences by highlighting the value proposition, as well as defining clear vision and mission statements that align with the startup's core values.

Mr Sunil David, Digital Technology Consultant and Former Regional Director, IoT (India and ASEAN), AT&T, delved into business model innovation. He provided strategies for adapting to dynamic market needs and mastering the B2B go-to-market model, focusing on customer acquisition and scaling effectively.

Mr Zaran Bhagwagar, Vice President, Biome, offered insights into funding as a metric of success and discussed how venture capitalists evaluate startups and shared practical tips for planning and managing the fundraising process. Mr Ankit Harjai, Chief Investment Officer, Mounttech Growth Fund Kavachh, outlined key components that align with the priorities of VCs and CXOs, highlighting growth potential, financials and strategies to create an impactful pitch. ■

Portfolio for Excellence



CESD

COP29: Engaging in Dialogues for Global Climate Actions

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November charted a course for global climate action. The conference focused on enhancing ambition and enabling action, presenting an opportunity for Indian Industry to advocate for a balanced approach integrating mitigation and adaptation.

The CII business delegation, comprising C-suite executives from leading organizations played a pivotal role in the conference. Key focus areas included fostering global partnerships, advocating for streamlined climate finance mechanisms and sharing insights from Indian businesses' sustainable development journey.

CII held two high-impact sessions and participated in ten sessions, facilitating meaningful dialogues and collaboration among Industry leaders, policymakers and international partners. The delegation engaged with esteemed partners including the International Solar Alliance and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

In a discussion with CII's business delegation, Mr Sridharan Madhusudhanan, the Ambassador of India to Azerbaijan emphasized the need for large-scale renewable energy projects in Azerbaijan and highlighted the vast trade and investment potential for Indian businesses.

Key Outcomes:

- **Article 6.2:** With the Internationally Tradeable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under cooperative approaches, countries would now have clear guidelines for carbon credit trades, supported by technical reviews for transparency and integrity
- **Article 6.4:** Projects can register under Article 6.4, once methodologies and registries are approved, with exemptions on adaptation proceeds considered for

Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- **NCQG:** A new target of USD 300 billion annually by 2035 has been set for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG). The funds are to be sourced from public, private, bilateral, multilateral and alternative channels.

As the global climate agenda evolves, CII remains committed to guiding Indian businesses in aligning with emerging frameworks and opportunities to lead the way in sustainable growth.

Driving Meaningful Progress in Safeguarding Natural Ecosystems

The 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity concluded on 2 November after two weeks of deliberations in Cali, Colombia. The conference yielded significant advancements in biodiversity protection, reaffirming the power of multilateralism through collaborative dialogue.

CII's India Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) represented Indian Industry's perspectives at COP16. IBBI has also been designated as the responsible agency for Target 15 of India's updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), which calls for business action to address biodiversity risks and opportunities.

Dr Praveer Sinha, Chairman, IBBI and CEO & MD, Tata Power Company Ltd emphasized that these targets are achievable if we work together. "Businesses need to play a pivotal role in reversing nature loss, as their operations, supply chains and consumers are closely linked with biodiversity and ecosystem services," he added.

The IBBI session on 'Ecosystem Restoration and Species Conservation: Business Perspectives for Nature-related Risk Management' brought together global and Indian stakeholders to discuss scalable approaches to restoring habitats and conserving critical species. The session showcased practical examples of business-led initiatives, including investments in ecosystem restoration and commitments to sustainability.

Key Highlights:

Cali Fund: An agreement was reached on a new global mechanism to share benefits from the use of digital genetic information, with at least half of the funding supporting indigenous peoples and local communities

Strengthening the role of indigenous peoples and local communities: Parties adopted a new program of work to ensure the meaningful contribution of indigenous people and local communities towards the conservation of biodiversity

Progress in addressing synthetic biology considerations: COP16 introduced a new thematic action plan to help address the capacity-building, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing needs of parties, indigenous people and local communities in the field of synthetic biology.

Circular Economy - Building the Foundations

The circular economy approach encompasses the entire product life cycle, from raw material extraction to end-of-life measures. However, circular economy is often misunderstood as merely recycling or waste management. While recycling is one aspect, the Indian Industry must broaden its focus to identify barriers, explore opportunities and implement solutions across the value chain to effectively adopt circular economy principles.

To promote this critical area, the CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) hosted the inaugural CII Circular Economy Conference on 20 November in New Delhi around the theme 'Building the Foundations'. The conference highlighted the Government's proactive measures, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Guidelines, presenting a significant opportunity for Indian Industry to adopt circular economy practices.

Shri Amit Verma, Director - Green Transition, Environment and Climate Change, Economics and Finance, NITI Aayog reaffirmed the Government's commitment to prioritizing this transition and emphasized creating India-specific circularity measurement frameworks. Industry representatives, including Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd and Mr Sudhanshu Vats, MD Designate, Pidilite Industries Ltd shared insights on the Indian Industry's crucial role in driving the circular economy transition.

Various sessions at the conference explored key drivers of the circular economy, frameworks for measuring progress and global standards including EU REACH, ISO and RecyClass.



Green Building

Advancing Net Zero in Buildings and Built Environment

CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) hosted the 22nd edition of its annual flagship event 'IGBC Green Building Congress 2024' from 14 to 16 November in Bengaluru around the theme 'Advancing Net Zero in Buildings and Built Environment'. The event received an overwhelming response from the building and construction Industry stakeholders with a commitment to achieving net zero carbon emissions and accelerating sustainable development in the built environment.

Supported by the World Green Building Council and 18 Green Building Councils worldwide, the event provided a global platform for dialogue and collaboration on net zero strategies.

Key Highlights:

- Participation of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- Government of Karnataka as the Partner State
- L&T's Chennai Technology Centre-4 became IGBC's first Net Zero Carbon Certified building
- Over 140 national and international speakers
- Over 750 B2B meetings
- Over 2750 delegates
- 130 exhibitors
- 6850 visitors

Shri Eshwar Khandre, Minister of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka noted that the state's commitment to sustainability is on full display with over 1100 building projects adopting green practices, setting a strong example for environmentally responsible urban development. Hosting the Green Building Congress further reinforces this commitment, adding momentum to our drive for net zero emissions and resilient, green infrastructure, he added.

Mr B Thiagarajan, National Chairman, IGBC and MD, Blue Star Ltd said that with an ambitious goal of greening 2 billion sq ft each year, IGBC's efforts could yield substantial annual savings, including 104 billion units of energy, 320 billion litres of water and a reduction of 83.2 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions. These sustainability efforts are bolstered by a focus on green investment, which incentivizes sustainable practices, accelerates green job creation and aims to lower costs in green construction.

The event hosted the IGBC Green Your School Competition, with over 400 schools across India participating, and the IGBC Green Design Competition, encouraging architects and designers to transform neglected urban spaces into vibrant public areas.

Recognizing leadership in sustainability, IGBC felicitated organizations and individuals with the IGBC Green Champion Awards, IGBC Performance Challenge Awards and IGBC Fellowships.

The expo showcased 1000 green building products and technologies, offering visitors hands-on experience with sustainable solutions for homes, offices and commercial spaces. With over 12.8 billion sq. ft. of registered green building footprint and more than 150 projects achieving net zero status, IGBC is spearheading India's journey towards sustainability. The event emphasized IGBC's mission for all greenfield projects to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2030 and all greenfield and brownfield projects to reach the net zero objective by 2050.



CEL

Addressing the Skill Gaps in Microentrepreneurial Community

Project 'Puthiya Payanam, Valarchiyai Noki' is an initiative of the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII CEL) to address the skill gaps in India's microentrepreneurial community. In the first phase of this project, CII CEL helped more than 300 entrepreneurs across eight districts in Tamil Nadu including Chennai, Coimbatore, Erode, Madurai, Tirupur, Salem, Trichy and Karur from 18 October to 22 November.

The project, titled 'Puthiya Payanam, Valarchiyai Noki', loosely translates to 'A new journey towards growth'. CII CEL designed it to make the case for greater Industry participation in helping bridge these gaps. It works with small groups of microentrepreneurs at a time and uses immersive training modules designed by professionals to build core skills among the participants.

Through this capacity-building project, CII CEL worked with the Industry across Tamil Nadu and along with the Government of Tamil Nadu, including departments such as EDII TN, Startup TN and TN Rise in reaching this special programme to target beneficiaries. TVS Mobility supports project Puthiya Payanam in Tamil Nadu.

"Progressive initiatives by both the Government and the Industry are fostering an enabling environment



Dr TRB Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu launching the CII Tamil Nadu Micro Entrepreneurs Forum

for MSMEs. The microenterprises specifically require targeted support for protecting the future of India and its economic growth. CEL will align in strengthening this segment by increasing private sector participation in a major way, said Mr R Dinesh, Chairman, CII CEL and Immediate Past President, CII and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain, Solutions Ltd.

Financial literacy is an oft-stated skill gap, with microentrepreneurs relying on external help for advice. The programme modules like Balance Sheet Analysis and Cash Flow Management simplify concepts and build the skills of the participants to independently analyse financial health and build creditworthiness.

This comes as microenterprises in India grapple with the basics including financial literacy, business operations, sales and marketing, hiring, and even a long-term vision for growth. As a result, despite having the potential to scale up, they run hard to stay in the same place.

The programme was well received by all the entrepreneurs. The participants will be enrolled into CII Micro Entrepreneurs Forum, where entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to work closely with business leaders and mentors offered by CII.



Food and Agriculture

Best Practices in Food & Agri Sector

In its endeavour to make India's agri-food sector globally competitive through enhanced operational excellence, quality and safety of food products and services, CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE)



The jury panel for 6th CII FACE Food Safety & Quality Kaizen Competition 2024

organized the 6th Food Safety & Quality Kaizen Seminar and Competition on 22 November in New Delhi. The programme offered a unique platform to showcase the continuing effort, highlight best practices and promote cross-learning in the Indian food sector.

Thirty industries across the nation, representing small, micro, medium and large categories were shortlisted for participation in this competition after the pre-jury round held on 24-29 October. The eminent jury panel included Dr Ramanand N Shukla, Senior Director, Quality Council of India; Dr Prabhat K Nema, Department of Food Engg & Dean, NIFTEM, Kundli; Ms Smita Murthy, India representative, FSSC and Mr Anand Prakash, CEO & Co-Founder, Farm Full Potential.

In the final round, companies based on their overall performance were selected for the awards and winners were categorized under Gold, Silver and Bronze, from different scales of businesses including small & micro; medium and large.

Bronze trophies and certificates of appreciation were awarded to other large, medium, micro and small Industries.

Dr Ramanand N Shukla, Chair of the Jury, said that creating smaller impacts through leveraging technology and training everyone on problem-solving are highlights of KAIZEN. Therefore, Kaizen is an ideal forum which

provides a strong cross-learning opportunity for each industry, he added.

Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Agri & Food Value Chain

As part of AgroTech India - Krishi Bharat, CII FACE organized a roundtable on 'Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Agri & Food Value Chains' on 15 November in Lucknow.

The roundtable gathered leading AgTech entrepreneurs, policy experts, Industry professionals, accelerators & incubators, as well as academia to discuss the transformative role of technology in creating sustainable agricultural and food value chains.

A significant highlight of the event was the launch of AgTech Innovations for Viable Enterprise (AgTIVE 2.0), a publication developed by CII and NABCONS. The report showcases leading-edge innovations from Indian AgTech startups and offers a roadmap for scaling sustainable agricultural solutions.

The roundtable discussion focused on four key themes viz. resource use efficiency, IoT & automation, supply chain management and carbon smart farming. The discussions aimed to identify the emerging use cases, challenges faced in deployment/scale-up, need for solution integrators and Government interventions needed.

Farming needs to be more remunerative, regenerative and resilient and towards the same technology has a key role to play, said Mr S Sivakumar, Chairman, CII National Council on Agriculture and Group Head – Agri & IT Businesses, ITC Ltd.

Uttar Pradesh has a vibrant AgTech startup ecosystem and the Government of Uttar Pradesh is focusing on fostering innovation that supports farmers while driving efficiency across the AgTech ecosystem, said Ravi Ranjan, Managing Director, UP Electronics Corporation Ltd.



(L-R): Rajesh Srivastava, Chairman, Prowess Advisors; Jinesh Shah, Lead, CII Task Force on AgTech & Managing Partner, Omnivore; S Sivakumar, Chairman, CII National Council on Agriculture and Group Head, Agri & IT Business, ITC Ltd; Ravi Ranjan, Managing Director, U.P. Electronics Corporation Ltd; Umesh Kumar Rathod, Chief Operating Officer, NABCONS (NABARD Consultancy Services) at the Roundtable on 'Leveraging Technology for Sustainable Agri & Food Value Chains' in Lucknow



CME

VLFM Learning Convention, Graduation Ceremony

The CII Visionary Leaders for Manufacturing (VLFM) Learning Convention and Graduation Ceremony was held around the theme ‘Shaping India’s Growth Agenda @100’ on 19 November in Mumbai. The event brought together Industry leaders, experts and innovators to shape the future of Indian manufacturing. The convention focused on innovation, sustainability and inclusivity as key pillars to advance India’s manufacturing sector.

Mr Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman CII CME and Chairman & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd emphasized the need for digital adoption in manufacturing, driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the VLFM programme's role in transforming Indian manufacturing to boost GDP and global competitiveness. Manufacturing is deeply connected to culture, with India’s heritage and ingenuity, serving as a strong foundation for growth, he said.

A panel discussion on ‘Shaping India’s Growth Agenda @100’ was moderated by Mr B Thiagarajan, MD, Blue Star Ltd. Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII, MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals advocated for sector-specific industrial clusters with robust supply chains and logistics.

Mr Yagi Koji, Consul General of Japan mentioned that a well-trained leader plays a crucial role in navigating the ever-evolving manufacturing landscape, driving sustainability and fostering innovation. During the event,



(L-R): B Thiagarajan, MD Blue Star Ltd; Jamshyd N Godrej, Chairman CII-CME, CMD Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co. Ltd; R Mukundan, Vice President CII, MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General CII

Batch 15 and Partial Batch 16 participants celebrated their graduation ceremony.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII noted that a strong focus on R&D is extremely crucial for the manufacturing sector, especially driven by effective academia-Industry collaborations.

The CII VLFM Success Story Book 2024 ‘Transformative Journey of Visionary Leaders Creating Breakthrough Success’ was launched, showcasing the transformative journeys of participants from the VLFM programme, celebrating their significant contributions to India’s manufacturing excellence. The book featured 34 transformative case studies from alumni showcasing operational efficiency, cost savings and quality improvements.

Established in 2006 under a bilateral initiative between India and Japan, the VLFM programme equips senior managers with the skills to bridge shop floor operations and strategic leadership. The initiative fosters entrepreneurial spirit, continuous improvement



VLFM Graduation Ceremony celebrating the achievements of Batch 15 and Partial Batch 16 VLFM graduates

and innovation, addressing India's need for leadership excellence in manufacturing.



CFC

Maintenance Expert Certification Course

CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII CFC) organized the Maintenance Expert Certification Course via a virtual platform on 18-19 November. The course aimed to equip participants with best-in-class methodologies, tools and techniques to enhance maintenance effectiveness and efficiency within their organizations.

The event professionals from diverse industries, demonstrating the growing focus on advancing maintenance practices across sectors. It also provided a platform to share knowledge, experiences and success stories in maintenance excellence.

Case studies were shared by members that showcased innovative approaches to spare part management. It demonstrated how companies are implementing systematic spare parts management strategy to improve availability, optimize inventory and reduce downtime, thereby achieving significant cost savings and operational excellence.

The interactive sessions and practical insights shared during the course were well-received by participants, reinforcing the importance of structured maintenance practices in enhancing organizational competitiveness.

Corrosion Mitigation in Marine and Offshore Environments

As part of the Dr Baldev Raj Memorial Lecture Series, CII Corrosion Management Division (CMD) organized a webinar on 'Corrosion Challenges and Mitigation Strategies in Marine and Offshore Environments: Implications for Diverse Industries' on 26 November.

Dr Maushmi from the Institute of Engineering and Ocean Technology, ONGC, an expert in Corrosion Failure Analysis in Oil & Gas; Mr Sudhir Kaushal Tiwari, Advanced Polymer Coatings Inc. and specialist in Marine Corrosion and Coatings and Mr Deepak Kumar from Jindal Stainless Ltd, who is an expert in Corrosion-Resistant Materials shared their insights on the critical aspects of corrosion challenges in marine and offshore environments.

Corrosion in marine and offshore environments poses significant challenges due to the harsh conditions of saltwater, humidity and temperature fluctuations. These factors accelerate material degradation, impacting industries such as oil & gas, shipping and marine energy. Effective mitigation is critical to ensure asset longevity, operational safety and cost efficiency.

Key strategies include advanced coatings, cathodic protection systems and the use of corrosion-resistant materials. Monitoring techniques including sensor-based systems and predictive maintenance play a pivotal role. Innovations in smart coatings, nanotechnology and sustainable practices continue to shape the future of corrosion management, offering the Indian Industry resilient and eco-friendly solutions.

The webinar was attended by more than 150 delegates, who learned about the challenges, proven strategies and emerging technologies to address corrosion, with insights applicable across diverse industrial contexts.

Partnerships for Corrosion Management and Mitigation

CII members, led by Dr U Kamachi Mudali, Chairman, CII Corrosion Management Division and Vice Chancellor, Homi Bhabha National Institute met with a delegation from the Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP), USA led by Mr Alan Thomas, CEO, AMPP, USA on 22 November in Chennai to work out avenues for the partnership for furthering the agenda of corrosion management and mitigation.

AMPP is the largest global community for corrosion and coatings expertise. They work towards corrosion management and mitigation through capacity building of Industry professionals through initiatives such as education, credentialing, accreditation, innovation and standardization.

The meeting deliberated on a roadmap for future identified research on corrosion management and mitigation, coatings & surface protection, education, training & capacity building, standards, knowledge sharing, technical conferences, and consulting audits as areas for collaboration. To achieve the objectives, it was decided to open new chapters to form a task force and team to execute the planned initiatives.

This partnership has the potential to bring significant advancements in corrosion management, benefiting all industrial sectors like marine, offshore, chemicals, construction, manufacturing and infrastructure development. By combining CII's regional expertise with AMPP's global insights, the initiative can contribute to safer, more efficient and sustainable practices. ■

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Leveraging Emerging Technologies, Achieving Social Good

CII Eastern Region organized the 23rd edition of the ICT East on 7 November in Kolkata around the theme 'Leveraging Emerging Technologies, Achieving Social Good'. The objective of the programme was to promote collaboration between technology providers and users, enabling organizations to better comprehend market trends, adjust to regulatory developments, and discover growth opportunities.

Shri Babul Supriyo, Minister, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal emphasized that the state is aspiring to be the next IT hub in India, by facilitating the environment for technological companies. The State Government is coming up with policies on the Global Capability Centre (GCC) and semiconductors in coming months, which will position West Bengal as the next IT destination of India.

Shri Rajeev Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal, stressed that technology should be focused on solving problems and creating value for the citizens.

The technical sessions facilitated meaningful dialogue, promoted partnerships and offered actionable strategies to drive progress in the ICT sector. It provided

participants with the tools and insights needed to adapt to the changing landscape and capitalize on the potential of ICT to shape the future of business and governance. It was outlined at the sessions that the integration of sustainability and emerging technologies will allow businesses to adopt sustainable practices that enhance resource efficiency and minimize ecological footprints.

Accelerating Eastern India's Low-Carbon Transformation

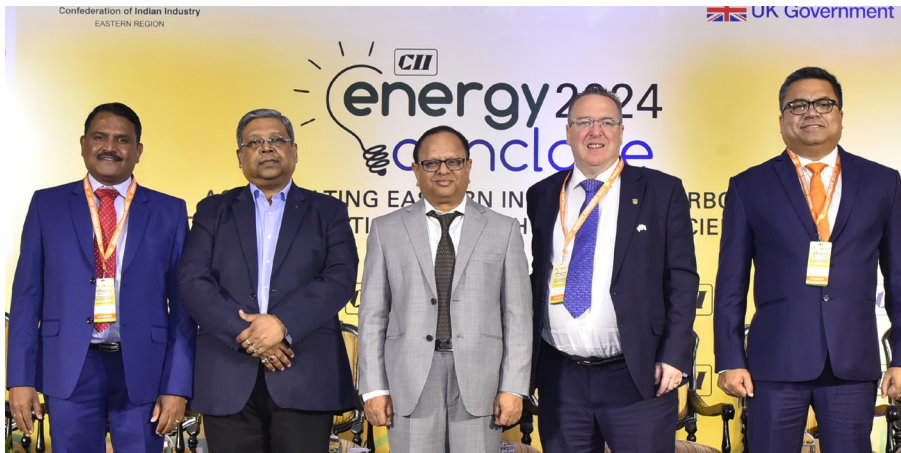
CII Eastern Region organized the Energy Conclave on 20 November in Kolkata with the theme 'Accelerating Eastern India's Low-Carbon Transformation Through Energy Efficiency'. The conclave highlighted the critical challenges faced by Eastern India's power sector, including rising energy demand, ageing infrastructure and the impacts of climate change. The conclave aimed to promote strategies for accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon economy in Eastern India.

Md. Ghulam Rabbani, Minister-in-Charge of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal emphasized the State Government's commitment to energy transition and boosting renewable energy potential.

Over 30 business heads, sectoral experts and thought leaders shared their insights during the event, during



(L-R): Sajid Hussain, Assistant Vice President & Head of Operations, CTS; Manojit Sengupta, CO-Chair ICTE Sub-Committee and Delivery Centre Head, TCS; Babul Supriyo, Minister in Charge, Department of Information Technology & Electronics, Government of West Bengal; Prosenjit Sengupta, Chairman CII ER ICTE Sub-Committee & Group CDIO, ITC Ltd and Madan Mohan Chakraborty, Managing Director, Iskraemeco at ICT East in Kolkata



John Mathai, Member Secretary – Damodar Valley Corporation; Barun Kumar Ray, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal; Md. Ghulam Rabbani, Minister-in-Charge, Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal; Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner (East and Northeast), Kolkata and Ivan Saha, Chairman, CII Energy Subcommittee and CEO, Vikram Solar Ltd at the Energy Conclave in Kolkata

which three key reports were released. Over 200 Industry leaders and energy heads participated at the event. Technical sessions on sustainable solutions for conventional energy, energy transition, futuristic technologies and energy conservation were conducted. ENCON Awards were presented to celebrate the best practices in energy conservation by manufacturing companies.

During the technical sessions, key challenges were identified, and a consensus was reached on the need for a resilient and sustainable power system, along with a commitment by companies to adopt renewable energy solutions. The recommendations made during the deliberations, aimed to ensure that Eastern India not only meets its energy needs but also achieves a sustainable and low-carbon growth trajectory, contributing to both regional and national objectives.

Insurance for Stronger India by 2047

CII Eastern Region organized the 10th edition of the InsureInd on 21 November in Kolkata, themed 'Inclusive Protection: Insurance for Stronger India by 2047'. It aimed to explore the pivotal role of insurance coverage in equipping businesses with financial protection and liability management. Important insights were shared during the session by key speakers including Ms Mandakini Balodhi, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India; Ms Jasleen Kohli, MD & CEO, Go Digit Insurance; Mr Rajiv Gupta, President, PB Fintech Ltd and industry leaders.

During the deliberations, it was highlighted that in India, insurance penetration has come down to 4 per cent from last year's 4.2 per cent. Particularly, the rural and semi-urban areas remain largely underserved. However, it is significantly below the global average of 7 per cent. Microinsurance needs to evolve to become a product of

the underprivileged. Low-cost simple products catering to the needs of the marginalised groups including daily wage earners, small farmers and gig workers need to be developed.

It was also highlighted that insurance solutions need to be integrated with welfare schemes to ensure seamless access. The promotion of women-centred insurance schemes and gender-specific products need to be considered as well. Simplification and increasing the variety of insurance products, coupled with a plethora of distribution channels will help in building the trust of customers.

Speakers opined that increased use of technology, open agent architecture structures and lesser and regulated turnaround times for claim settlement will further strengthen the trust factor. Jandhan-Aadhar-Mobile (JAM) Trinity must be utilized to promote insurance, simplify products and make claims and renewal processes more customer-friendly. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), although disruptive, will enhance the insurance sector through improved underwriting, detection of frauds and predictive analytics for better risk management, highlighted the speakers.

Driving Innovation for Sustainable Growth

CII Eastern Region organized the 9th edition of the Innovation Conference on 21 November in Kolkata. The central theme of the event was 'Driving Innovation Forward for Sustainable Growth'. The objective of the conference was to bring together startups, entrepreneurs, corporates, investors, incubators, accelerators, and the Government on a single platform to emphasize their pivotal role in fostering innovation, thereby driving economic growth.

The deliberations focused on the role of startups in the circular economy where startups are increasingly



(L-R) Amitesh Sinha, Vice President & Head, Corporate Venture Capital & Vedanta Spax Initiatives, Vedanta Ltd; Dr Dipankar Chakrabarti, Founder, CtoE Consultancy Services & BDSCUBE Tech; Dr Rajesh Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Jayant Awasthi, Vice President, ITC Ltd and Sarajit Jha, Chief - Business Transformation & Digital Solutions, Tata Steel Ltd at the Innovation Conference in Kolkata

recognized as a powerful engine for every innovation process. It was noted that support is needed for this transition. Several funding agencies and banks shared their expectations of startups. Various schemes were discussed, as startup financing is crucial for realizing entrepreneurial dreams and strategic financial navigation for ultimate success.

Mr Sanjay Kumar Das, Additional Secretary, Department of IT & Electronics and Managing Director, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited (WEBEL), focused on the solutions provided by the startups.

Dr Amitava Das, Vice President, Global Foundries Ltd spoke about skill development. Around 13 corporates collaborated with 80 startups and 165 strategic B2B meetings were held during the event. Mentoring sessions were also organized to inspire students and young professionals to transform their ideas into business ventures. Around 12 such groups were mentored during the conference.

Evolving Healthcare Landscape of East

CII West Bengal organized the 18th edition of Healthcare East, around the theme 'Evolving Healthcare Landscape of East: Explore the Potentiality' on 19 November in Kolkata. The conference brought together diverse stakeholders and healthcare institutions to explore the vast potential within the Industry, promoting sustainable growth and transforming the East into a centre for progressive healthcare.

Shri NS Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, said that the State Government is committed to providing quality, accessible and affordable healthcare. During the deliberation, the expansion of telemedicine was discussed for rural areas, emphasizing its potential to bridge gaps in service delivery. Highlighting the

success of the Swasthya Sathi Scheme, he advocated the need for enhancing healthcare inclusivity, particularly in Tier 2 cities of West Bengal.

The conference offered valuable opportunity for dialogue among various multilateral organizations and professionals across both public and private sectors.

Education East

CII Eastern Region organized the 3rd edition of Education East Summit, around the theme 'Navigating the Future: Preparing for What's Next' on 8-9 November in Kolkata. The summit discussed an educational framework that is innovative, adaptable and closely aligned with the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century and beyond. The summit served as a vibrant and forward-looking conference designed to bridge the gap between education and Industry. It brought together a diverse group of educational leaders, including school heads, university chancellors, vice-chancellors, pro-vice-chancellors, deans, faculty members, researchers, and Industry professionals, such as EdTech innovators, entrepreneurs and technology trailblazers.

Shri Binod Kumar, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education outlined that in 2024-25, West Bengal has allocated INR 38,241 crore for school education, establishing a benchmark among states by directing significant funds of social expenditure towards the education sector. He emphasized that inclusivity, accessibility and excellence are the cornerstone of an effective education system.

Dr Mamta Rani Agarwal, Additional Secretary, AIU, former Adviser, AICTE and former Joint Secretary, UGC highlighted sustainable and inclusive education is essential for enhancing the future well-being of both communities and nations.

During the sessions, it was outlined that AI in schools has helped make education accessible even in rural



Krishna Kumar Kharia, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Family Business Panel and Director, Multitech Components Pvt Ltd; Koushik Modi, Co-Chair Yi Jamshepur Chapter and Managing Director, Modi Homez Pvt Ltd; Ranjot Singh, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and Managing Director, Emdet Jamshepur Pvt Ltd; Killol Kamani, Past Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council, Mentor - CII Jharkhand Family Business Panel & Managing Director, Sparx Technologies Pvt Ltd

areas through distance learning. With appropriate use of technology in the school classrooms, it will be possible to offer personalized, interactive and scalable education support to all students. To ensure students acquire the most current skills, speakers pointed out that Industry needs to engage in trainings. To align with upcoming job requirements, it is essential to integrate both logical and creative thinking to enhance skills. The teachers need to prepare the competencies for the foundation stage, preparatory stage, middle stage, secondary stage and higher secondary stage. It is necessary for them to map those competencies with the assessment task to understand and check the students' performance on those competencies.

Empowering Family Businesses

CII Jharkhand organized a session on 'Empowering Family Businesses' around the theme 'Strategies for Resilience, Growth, and Sustainable Success' on 14 November in Jamshedpur. Eminent business leaders highlighted the importance of innovation and strategic collaboration in shaping the future of family enterprises. The discussion emphasized the need for family businesses to adapt to rapid changes in the business environment, incorporating updated skill sets to remain competitive in a global market.

The session addressed the unique challenges faced by different generations within family businesses and explored strategies to navigate these complexities. The session brought together about 55 participants, including CEOs and MDs of family-owned businesses. The session focused on the importance of integrating modern technologies and data-driven decision-making to empower family businesses and ensure their long-term sustainability.

It also highlighted the need for the next generation of

leaders to embrace professionalism, new technologies and fresh thought processes while preserving the values and legacy of their businesses. The session underscored the collective potential of family businesses to contribute to India's evolving economy, with participants actively engaging in discussions to further this vision.

From Council Updates to IMS: GST Decoded

CII Jharkhand organized a virtual session on 'GST Decoded: From Council Updates to Invoice Management System' on 12 November to help businesses navigate the complexities of GST compliance by providing clarity on the latest GST Council updates, explaining the benefits and procedures of the Amnesty Scheme and demonstrating effective invoice management systems. The objective of the session was to equip Industry participants with essential knowledge and practical understanding of recent GST developments and systems. The session served as a strategic platform for Industry stakeholders to understand the implications of recent GST reforms and digital transformation initiatives in tax administration.

Mr Arun Prakash, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Economic Affairs, Finance & Taxation Panel and Senior General Manager (Finance), Tata Cummins Pvt Ltd highlighted the significant global shifts of 2024, including electoral changes, market volatility and their impact on business transactions. Experts from leading organizations shared insights on digital transformation in tax administration, demystifying complex GST regulations. By offering practical tools and strategic perspectives, the event empowered Industry stakeholders to navigate the evolving tax landscape more effectively. Participants learned about key regulatory changes, including amendments to tax credit rules and provisions that reduce litigation risks.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

Making Assam's Power Supply Efficient - Recommendations

A delegation of CII, led by Mr Abhijit Barooah, Past Chairman, CII North East Council, met the Kumar Sanjay Krishna, Chairperson, Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) on 20 November and submitted various recommendations in Guwahati.

During the meeting, CII complimented the AERC and the Department of Power, Government of Assam for making the state's power supply system more efficient.

Recommendations tabled includes:

- Enhance the net metering limit, currently capped at 1 MW: Increasing this limit will encourage industries to install larger renewable energy systems, such as solar plants at their sites. This aligns with the Government of India's vision for sustainable development, achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 and supports the objectives outlined in the Assam Solar Policy 2017
- Modify the current net metering mechanism: Instead of adjusting net metering against the billing amount, CII suggests allowing adjustments based on billable units. This change would streamline the billing process and make net metering more practical and beneficial for consumers, further incentivizing renewable energy adoption
- Allow open access to common dedicated feeder: Currently, the Assam Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (APDCL) allows open access to industries that have dedicated feeder from the substation to their unit. In some cases, a dedicated industrial feeder is shared by two or more units. CII requested AERC to allow open access to such common dedicated feeder, which is shared by two or more bulk consumers
- Allow power banking facility: To encourage bulk consumers to set up solar plants in their sites, AERC may allow these consumers to have a power banking facility so that the injected units to APDCL Grid can be set off basis the time of delivery.

The AERC Chairperson took note of the recommendations and assured consideration.

Mr R Mukundan's Interaction with CII Members

CII Assam organized a Members Meet with Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director &

CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd in Guwahati on 30 November.

Mr R Mukundan, briefed about the current Indian economy and how CII is involved in the resurgence of Indian economy through its advocacy efforts, competitiveness enhancing initiatives, promotion of adoption of technology and innovation, and partnerships for sustainability.

The Vice President apprised the members about the wide range of services offered by CII to its members, ranging from business development to opportunities to network with prominent Indian and foreign companies, to facilitating the process of framing conducive economic and industrial policies, through close linkages with the Government, supporting members to increase efficiency and competitiveness. He encouraged members present take advantage of the MyCII web portal, especially curated for members.

He briefed about different Centres of Excellence of CII and urged the members to leverage the resources offered by these CoEs.

Earlier Mr Bhaskar Phukan, Chairman CII Assam State Council & Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd in his welcome address briefed the activities of CII in the Northeastern region in general and the initiatives taken in Assam in particular. He also briefed about the membership strength of CII, Yi and IWN in the Northeast.

A lively open house discussion was followed wherein the members present actively participated and many issues were mooted.



NORTHERN REGION

InnoRail India

CII Northern Region, in collaboration with the Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), hosted the 6th edition of InnoRail on 28-30 November in Lucknow. Initiated in 2014, InnoRail has emerged as a leading platform for showcasing innovations, technology and collaborative ideation in the railway sector, aligning with India's vision of modernising its rail transportation systems.

The three-day event featured a dynamic mix of discussions, exhibitions, and roundtables. This year's edition was the largest so far, bringing together over 175 companies from across the globe to discuss transformative strategies and advancements for the

modernisation of Indian Railways. The exhibition highlighted advancements in AI, IoT, renewable energy and smart maintenance systems, aimed at enhancing the efficiency, safety and sustainability of the railway ecosystem.

Senior officials from RDSO and Industry leaders deliberated on prospects, exploring strategies to accelerate growth and development within Indian Railways. Shri Uday Borwanker, Director General, RDSO emphasized the critical role of platforms like InnoRail in fostering innovation and technological intervention in the Indian railway ecosystem. He emphasized the adoption of preventive maintenance techniques, leveraging AI in railway systems, and prioritising energy-efficient and environmentally friendly practices to align with the broader goals of 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Mr B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Trade Fairs Council and MD, Blue Star Ltd noted how the event aligns with Indian Railways' aspirations to enhance safety, efficiency and sustainability through technologies like AI, IoT, and renewable energy. Mr Mangal Dev, Conference Chairman – InnoRail 2024 and Head, Hitachi Rail India & South Asia, & Director Hitachi India Pvt Ltd shed light on India's climate commitments, including reducing carbon emissions intensity by 33 per cent as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He underscored the pivotal role of Indian Railways in this effort through strategies like increasing freight share to 45 per cent by 2030, establishing dedicated freight corridors and adopting renewable energy sources.

Mr Abhishek Saraff, Co-Chairman, InnoRail 2024 and MD, Avadh Rail Infra Ltd highlighted the promising

opportunities presented by India's growing economy. He stressed that future growth requires a carefully planned approach, with Indian Railways leading the charge towards innovation.

Future of India's Green Energy Transition

India's rapid economic expansion, coupled with its ambitious electrification goals, is driving a surge in energy demand, particularly in electricity-intensive sectors like transportation and Industry. In view of this, CII Northern Region hosted the Energy Conclave on 27 November in New Delhi under the theme 'Leading the Future of India's Green Energy Transition' to address the challenges of this transition while highlighting opportunities for innovation, investment, and collaboration.

The event brought together over 200 participants, including Industry leaders, policymakers and energy experts, who deliberated on renewable energy deployment, the green molecule market and innovative financing mechanisms, among others. The conclave provided a comprehensive platform to discuss strategic interventions for achieving India's energy ambitions. The CII-GT Bharat Report, which outlined actionable strategies to achieve India's target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030, was launched during the event.

Mr Parag Sharma, Chairman, CII Northern Region Committee on Energy and Founder & CEO, O2 Power Ltd shed light on the progress and challenges in renewable energy. He highlighted the rapid growth in solar and wind energy capacity, however, also noted bottlenecks such as unsigned Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) and the delay in infrastructure projects like the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) network.



(L-R): Amit Kumar, Partner and Energy & Renewables Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; Parag Sharma, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Energy and Founder & CEO, O2 Power Ltd; Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy; Rajnath Ram, Advisor Energy Sector, NITI Aayog; and Vivek Sharma, Senior Vice President - Energy Strategy Group, Adani Group at the Energy Conclave in New Delhi

Shri Sudeep Jain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India pointed out that the sector is poised to contribute INR 30 lakh crores to the economy, while creating 40 lakh jobs by the end of the decade. He also noted the critical role of green hydrogen, with a production target of 5 million tonnes by 2030.

Addressing sector-specific challenges, Mr Vivek Sharma, Senior Vice President - Energy Strategy Group, Adani Group, emphasized the need for clear market mechanisms for PPAs and called for scaling nuclear energy capacity to 100 GW by 2047. Similarly, Shri Rajnath Ram, Energy Sector Advisor, NITI Aayog, stressed the importance of adopting low-carbon pathways and advocated for a dedicated Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS) mission.

The event also featured insights from Mr Amit Kumar, Partner and Energy & Renewables Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP, who outlined India's energy transition roadmap. He emphasized the importance of sustainable investments and resilient infrastructure in achieving the country's ambitious goals.

Crafting the Skylines of Tomorrow

India's real estate sector, driven by rapid urbanisation, economic growth and increasing demand for housing and commercial spaces, is poised for transformative progress. Government initiatives, such as affordable housing schemes and the Smart Cities Mission, have provided critical momentum. However, challenges persist in the form of regulatory hurdles, land acquisition complexities and the urgent need to align development with sustainability.

Against this backdrop, CII Northern Region hosted the 20th edition of the CII Realty 2024, its flagship real estate event, on 21 November in New Delhi. The event explored the future of India's real estate sector

under the theme 'Leading the Charge: Crafting the Skylines of Tomorrow.' The conference brought together policymakers, Industry leaders and experts to deliberate on the innovations and sustainable practices that will shape the sector's future.

Distinguished speakers shared their unique insights on how the sector can harness its vast potential while aligning with India's broader developmental goals.

Ms D Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India highlighted the need for a holistic approach to real estate development, focusing on creating energy-efficient, sustainable spaces that add value to life, while addressing environmental concerns. Mr Anil Saraf, Chairman, CII NR Committee on Real Estate and CMD, ASF Group stressed the economic significance of the real estate sector, noting its substantial contribution to GDP and employment, as well as its role in driving growth in ancillary industries.

Industry leaders emphasized the critical importance of sustainability, innovation and collaboration. Mr Ashwinder R Singh, Co-Chairman, CII NR Committee on Real Estate and Vice Chairman & CEO, BCD Group pointed out that the future of Indian real estate lies in balancing innovation with sustainability, advocating for a triple-bottom-line approach that integrates economic, environmental, and social responsibility.

Mr Kalyan Chakrabarti, Conference Chairman and CEO, EMAAR India emphasized the relevance of this year's theme, underscoring the importance of leading from the front while addressing stakeholder needs and societal challenges.

The event also saw the release of a joint CBRE-CII report, presenting an optimistic picture of the sector's growth. According to the report, between January and September 2024, India recorded USD 8.9 billion in equity capital inflows – a staggering 46 per cent year-on-year growth.



(L-R): Ram Chandnani, MD, Advisory & Transactions Services, CBRE India; Ashwinder R Singh, Co-Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Real Estate and Vice Chairman & CEO, BCD Group; Kalyan Chakrabarti, Conference Co-Chairman and CEO, EMAAR India; D Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India; Anil Saraf, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Real Estate and CMD, ASF Group; Prashant AN, Regional Director, CII-NR at the Realty conference in New Delhi

Digital & Cashless Economy

India's fintech sector, fuelled by rapid technological adoption, a young demographic and expanding digital infrastructure, is primed for further growth. Government initiatives, such as the Digital India campaign, and platforms like UPI and the Account Aggregator framework, have positioned India as a global leader in digital payments. However, challenges remain, including ensuring financial inclusion, enhancing cybersecurity, and meeting the evolving needs of small businesses.

The CII Digital & Cashless Economy Conference was held on 29 October in New Delhi, under the theme 'Fintech for Growth: Empowering India's Digital Economy. It brought together policymakers, fintech leaders and innovators to discuss the future trajectory of the sector.

The event, inaugurated by Shri Praveen Khandelwal, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha set the stage for a dynamic exchange on India's fintech evolution, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges the sector faces. He emphasized the transformative role of digital payments in expanding access to financial services and driving inclusive growth.

Shri Narendra G Nath, Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, stressed the importance of cybersecurity in India's digital payments ecosystem, noting that robust security measures are essential to building trust and ensuring the resilience of the cashless economy. Ms Richa Mukherjee, Conference Chairperson and Senior Director-Public Policy & Corporate Affairs, PayU India, highlighted the importance of a strong digital infrastructure and regulatory frameworks in enabling growth.

The event also saw the release of the CII-The Fintech Meetup Whitepaper titled 'A Decade of Change in India's Fintech Ecosystem,' which charted the evolution of the sector over the past ten years.

Industry leaders, including Mr Sridhar Narayan, Chief Business Officer, Perfios, and Mr Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri, MD & CEO, National E-Governance Services Ltd, discussed the critical role of innovation in driving India's digital finance ecosystem forward.

The conference highlighted that India's fintech sector is not only transforming financial transactions but also empowering Small and Medium-sized Businesses (SMBs), by providing affordable credit solutions and improving payment infrastructure. As the fintech ecosystem matures, the integration of emerging technologies, such as blockchain and Artificial Intelligence, will be key to shaping a sustainable and inclusive future.



Southern Regional Council Meeting



Dr Duddila Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana at the Southern Regional Council Meeting in Hyderabad

Dr Duddila Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT, Industries & Commerce and Legislative Affairs, Government of Telangana addressed Industry leaders during the 5th CII Southern Regional Council Meeting on 22 November in Hyderabad. Highlighting Telangana's ambitious goal of achieving a USD 1 trillion economy by 2047, he outlined the state's transformative economic strategies and commitment to becoming the 'Skill Capital' of India. The Minister emphasized the establishment of the Telangana Young India Skills University, an Industry-driven, state-supported institution set to align education with Industry needs.

Focusing on environmental and heritage preservation, he discussed rejuvenating the Musi River through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model and hinted at an upcoming Tourism Policy, emphasizing medical tourism. The Minister highlighted Telangana's advancements in aerospace and defence, positioning the state as a hub for this sector, while encouraging MSME participation.

Roundtable With Ambassador of India to Germany

CII Southern Region organized an exclusive business roundtable with Mr Ajit Gupte, Ambassador of India to Germany on 8 November at Chennai. The Ambassador spoke about the bilateral relationship between India and Germany and ways to harness opportunities and new modes of partnership to strengthen ties.

Mr Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and MD, Wheels India Pvt Ltd emphasized the business environment of Tamil Nadu and Mr Satyakam Arya, Past Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and MD & CEO, Daimler



Ajit Gupte, Ambassador of India to Germany with dignitaries at the interaction in Chennai

India Commercial Vehicles Ltd spoke about the scope for collaborations in sectors specific to aviation, railways and automobile. He also emphasized the need to bridge the export-import gap. The meeting also witnessed participation from leading companies from Tamil Nadu doing business in Germany.

CII Edu-Tech Expo

CII Southern Region organized the maiden edition of CII Edu-Tech Expo, held alongside the 8th edition of the National Higher Education Conclave (NHEC), in Coimbatore. This pioneering event showcased the latest advancements, trends and innovations in the EdTech sector. It provided a platform for educators, EdTech professionals, policymakers, Industry leaders, investors and stakeholders to explore transformative solutions shaping the future of education and skill development.

“Recognizing challenges in higher education, the Government of Tamil Nadu is committed to making it more accessible and technology-driven. Transformative initiatives like scholarships for first-generation graduates and the Pudhumai Penn scheme are shaping a future-ready generation,” Dr K Gopal, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.

Dr Nandini Rangaswamy, Chairperson, CII Southern Region and CII Edu-Tech Expo 2024 and Managing Director, Chandra Textiles highlighted Coimbatore’s contribution to skill development and innovation. The event featured 65 exhibitors, representatives from 300 institutions, 30 speakers, 360 delegates, 10 workshops, 7 live experience zones and 5 supporting associations.

Strengthening the FPO–AgTech Interface in Mango Value Chains

CII’s Food and Agriculture Center of Excellence (FACE) hosted a stakeholder consultation on ‘Strengthening

the FPO–AgTech Interface in Mango Value Chains’ in Tirupati on 8 November. The event explored how agricultural technologies can be harnessed to enhance mango farming and ensure the sustainable development of the mango value chain in Andhra Pradesh.

The consultation served as a platform for engaging key stakeholders, including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), agri-tech experts and representatives from the Department of Horticulture, NABARD, and other relevant organizations. Discussions focused on addressing the challenges faced by mango farmers, particularly in adopting climate-smart technologies and improving post-harvest management practices.

The inaugural session featured key speakers including Dr C B Harinatha Reddy, Additional Director of the Department of Horticulture, Government of Andhra Pradesh and Mr Puushpit Garg, Chairman, CII Tirupati Zone and Director, Pushpit Steels Pvt Ltd. During the consultation, insights from a survey conducted by CII-FACE on mango value chains were shared, shedding light on current practices and areas for improvement.

Healthcare - Overcoming Challenges and Unlocking Potential



Thiru Ma Subramanian, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu addressing the TN Medclave in Chennai

The 4th edition of CII TN Medclave 2024 was organized around the theme ‘Healthcare 360: Overcoming Challenges and Unlocking Potential’ in Chennai on 16 November. Shri Thiru Ma Subramanian, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu highlighted the success of the ‘Makkal Thedi Maruthavam’ scheme and announced, “We have surpassed the 1 crore beneficiaries mark, and in another ten days, we will reach 2 crores.”

The Minister presented the CII Lifetime Achievement Honours to Ahana Hospitals (Madurai), Prashanth Hospitals and VS Hospitals (Chennai). Additionally, 15 hospitals were recognized for excellence in areas such as environmental sustainability, digital innovation, patient care, nursing, workplace inclusivity, medical tourism and community well-being.

Dr A Arun Thamburaj, Mission Director, National Health Mission–Tamil Nadu, discussed the state’s commitment to accessible healthcare, emphasizing initiatives like the Tamil Nadu Health Foundation, which mobilizes CSR efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure.

Transforming Manufacturing for the Next Evolution

CII Telangana organized the 20th edition of Man’Exe 2024 on 8 November around the theme ‘Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0: Transforming Manufacturing for the Next Evolution’. The conference focused on the future of manufacturing, with prominent Industry leaders sharing their insights.

Shri Dudilla Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT, E&C, Industry & Commerce, Government of Telangana, emphasized the state’s commitment to promoting the manufacturing sector. He highlighted collaborations, including Tata Group, to convert ITIs into Advanced Training Centres and plans to create mini-industrial parks for women across the state.

Dr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, ITEC, Government of Telangana, spoke about the state’s MSME policy, which has been developed with input from entrepreneurs and the progress of Young India Skills University, aimed at addressing the state’s skilled workforce needs. The event also celebrated the Telangana State Industry Awards, where 30 awardees were honoured for their exceptional contributions.

Telangana Members' Meet

Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region and Managing Director, Chandra Textiles and Mr Thomas John Muthoot, Deputy Chairman, CII Southern Region and Chairman, Muthoot Group interacted with CII Telangana Members on 21 November in Hyderabad.

“On the technology front, CII will work towards catalyzing Industry-Academia partnerships. CII proposes leveraging IP as a driver of innovation and technology through our IP services and Promote One Company – One IP Mission,” said Dr Nandini.

“As a first-of-its-kind initiative, CII Southern Region launched CII CoE Capacity and Capability Building workshops for MSMEs last year under the leadership of Mr Kamal Bali. These workshops are focusing on enhancing the business competitiveness and growth of MSMEs across the South to cover 1000 MSMEs overall,” said Mr Muthoot.

Interaction with Puducherry Government Officials

CII Puducherry office bearers held discussions with Government officials in November, focusing on key

initiatives to support local industries. On 7 November, a meeting was held with Shri P Jawahar, Secretary to Government, Industries and Commerce and Mr P T Rudra Goud, Director, Department of Industries and Commerce, Government of Puducherry, to discuss the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme. The conversation centred on how the scheme can enhance the performance and growth of MSMEs in the region.

On 13 November, office bearers met Shri Y L N Reddy, Labour Commissioner, Department of Labour, Government of Puducherry to explore ways to submit recommendations to minimize minimum wage concerns, fostering a more supportive environment for businesses.

CSR Conclave



Speakers at the CII Karnataka CSR Conclave

The CII Karnataka CSR Conclave 2024 was organized under the theme ‘A Decade of CSR in Karnataka, Learning from the Past, Shaping the Future’. The event focused on the transformative role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in shaping the future of Karnataka, emphasizing its impact on education, healthcare and nutrition.

Sadhguru Sri Madhusudhan Sai, Spiritual Leader & Global Humanitarian highlighted the potential of grassroots CSR interventions to bring about lasting changes, stressing the importance of partnerships between Industry and Government in driving impactful initiatives.

Shri Ritesh Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary for the School Education & Literacy Department, Government of Karnataka shared insights on successful PPPS including the Marusinchna initiative, which is improving education across 93 talukas. The conclave discussed the challenges and opportunities in CSR, including expanding initiatives to underserved areas and the growing role of technology and innovation. Over 100 Industry leaders attended the event and shared their expertise and insights on the evolving CSR landscape.



WESTERN REGION

CII Mumbai International Week

The CII Mumbai International Week, a flagship initiative to celebrate the confluence of global trade, innovation, sustainability and culture, was held on 11-15 November with a focus on positioning Mumbai as a hub for international collaboration and innovation.

The curtain raiser event, held on 11 November in Mumbai, featured a panel discussion titled 'Mumbai through Different Lenses'. Ms Nidhi Choudhari, Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, Ministry of Culture, Government of India highlighted that Mumbai's peaceful and tranquil environment makes it a huge contributor for economic growth.

Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd said that the future of any country won't be dictated by states but by urban areas. The vibrancy of our cities is crucial for our country's future, he added.

The week saw multiple engagements like the Youth Connect interaction and a unique sensory experience 'Dialogue in the Dark'. Members held discussions with the faculty from IIT Bombay on upcoming projects as well as areas for potential collaboration. A delegation of doctors and healthcare experts visited the Society for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (SINE), where medical startups showcased their cutting-edge technology innovations.

On the second day, an interactive session on 'Building a Fintech Startup' offered valuable insights into the FinTech landscape. An exclusive delegation tour to Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) was organized to have a glance at JNPA's advanced infrastructure, seamless logistics ecosystem and its essential role in driving international trade.

Another member delegation was led to Siemens Ltd to understand best practices in Manufacturing Excellence and Industry 4.0. A roundtable discussion was organized on 'Bridging East and West: India as a Confluence of Global Fashion & Textile Industry'. Faculty and students visited the Neeta Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) to explore art and culture.

On 13 November, a digital panel interaction was held, where the CII Members from the Goa chapter participated in a closed-door discussion with Mr Mike Hankey, US Consul General, where he highlighted the shared democratic values, strategic cooperation and growing economic interdependence.

The inaugural panel discussion showcased the rise of Mumbai as a global hub for trade, culture and connectivity. Shri Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) announced a 4.2 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) capacity addition by December, raising the total capacity to 10 million TEUs.

Ms Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson, CII Western Region and President, VM Salgaocar & Brother Pvt Ltd highlighted Mumbai's cosmopolitan ethos and pivotal



(L-R): Nidhi Choudhari, Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Brinda Miller, Fine Artist, Hon Chair, Kala Ghoda Association; Dr Vithal Venkatesh Kamat, Executive Chairman and Managing Director, Kamat Hotels (India) Ltd and R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd at the International Week held in Mumbai

role in global trade, commerce and cultural exchange. Mr Rishi Bagla, Deputy Chairman, CII Western Region and CMD, BG Electricals & Electronics India Ltd mentioned that Mumbai serves as a nerve centre for driving liveability and growth.

The CII India–Japan Business Dialogue, held on 14 November, marked the inaugural edition of the high-level closed-door discussion themed ‘Building Resilient Business Ecosystems: Enhancing Collaboration Between India and Japan’.

The last day witnessed the CII Pitch session, where Mumbai’s best business ideas were unveiled. The CFO roundtable held sessions on navigating pillar two and reimagining AI along with securing the digital future. The manufacturing conclave focused on driving productivity and quality in manufacturing. Alongside, cultural activities were also held included Virasat Vogue and Bharatanatyam performances.

Advancing Technologies in Defence and Aerospace

The Regional Defence MSME Conclave was organized in Indore on 21 November around the theme ‘Advancing Technologies in Defence and Aerospace’. Ms Mudita Mishra, DDG (Investment & Financing), Ministry of Defence, Government of India spoke about the steps undertaken by the Government of India to encourage the Indian defence Industry, including MSMEs and startups to develop indigenous design and defence equipment, thereby promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing and technology.

MSMEs engaged with buyers and procurement officials. These interactions provided them insights into the procurement processes of major defence players, helping them align their capabilities to meet the requirements of the sector.

Wellbeing at Work and Life



(L-R): Robin Banerjee, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Responsible Business and Chairman, Nucleon Research Ltd; Mahua Bisht, CEO, 1to1help.net Pvt Ltd and Sangeeta Chandran, Head, Safety and Well Being Programs at Tata Consultancy Services at the conference held in Mumbai at the Conference on ‘Wellbeing at Work and Life’ held in Mumbai

The Conference on ‘Wellbeing at Work and Life: The Path to Emotional Balance’ was held on 29 November in Mumbai. Mr Robin Banerjee, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Responsible Business and Chairman, Nucleon Research Ltd said that this initiative seeks to address emotional well-being at work and life.

The need to channelise one’s emotions is important to create profound leaders and professionals. Disbalance causes health issues like diabetes and hypothyroidism, said Dr Harish Shetty, Consultant Psychiatrist, Hiranandani Hospital.



(L-R): Akshat Chordia, Chairman, CII Malwa Zonal Council and CEO Rini Life Science P Ltd; Mudita Mishra, DDG (I&F), Ministry of Defence, Government of India; Praveen Toshniwal, Past Chairman CII WR, Chairman, SIDM Membership Committee and Chairman & Managing Director, Nivo Control Systems P Ltd and R N Aparajit, Joint Controller, DGQA at the Regional Defence MSME Conclave in Indore



(L-R): Mahendra Wani, Convenor, CII Goa Panel on Manufacturing Excellence, General Manager & Unit Head, Siemens Goa Unit; Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, Chairman, CII Goa State Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Goa Shipyard Ltd; Mauvin Godinho, Minister for Industries, Transport, Panchayat & Protocol, Government of Goa; Mahesh Patil, Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control Board, Government of Goa; Arjun Chowgule, Vice Chairman, CII Goa Council and Executive Director, Chowgule & Company Pvt Ltd and Mahesh Chandak, Head, Sustainability, Safety, Health Environment (SSHE) - South Asia and Global Road Safety Lead – Bayer at the Conference on Sustainable Manufacturing in Goa

Sustainable Manufacturing

To drive Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) excellence and digital transformation, a conference on Sustainable Manufacturing was held in Goa on 13 November. Deliberations were held on digitalization, sustainability and the crucial need to build a strong EHS culture. Emphasis was placed on the vital role of EHS professionals in authority, who must drive and influence stakeholders through a data-driven management systems approach. Moreover, building a strong EHS culture that is visibly reflected in leadership and employee behaviour is essential.

Shri Mauvin Godinho, Transport, Industries, Panchayat and Protocol, Government of Goa, encouraged Industry leaders to prioritize environmental protection and a circular economy to enhance sustainability, health and safety in Goan industries.

Shri Mahesh Patil, Chairman, Goa State Pollution Control Board shared initiatives, regulatory challenges and opportunities while offering support to advance sustainability while protecting the environment.

Madhya Pradesh Government delegation to Germany

CII facilitated a delegation of the Government of Madhya Pradesh to the Germany from 27 to 29 November. During the delegation, Dr Mohan Yadav,

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh interacted with the Government of Bavaria to explore possible opportunities for collaboration.

Madhya Pradesh received investment proposals worth Rs 78,000 crore from companies in the UK and Germany during the Chief Minister's visit.



(L-R): Dr Rajesh Rajora, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Government of Madhya Pradesh; Sanjay Dubey, ACS, Science & Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh and Dr Lars Krogmann, Scientific Director, Natural History Museum Stuttgart during the MoU signing

During the delegation, an MoU was signed between the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh and the Natural History Museum Stuttgart to collaborate on exploring the paleontological wealth of Madhya Pradesh.



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