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India Africa

Creating One Future

INSIDE



The theme of India-Africa Business Conclave, 'Creating One Future', is deeply embedded in our civilizational ethos and is amplified in the motto of India's G20 Presidency, which stands for 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'



BIMSTEC countries work together in collaboration to create ways for supporting each other's inclusive growth and development



The key focus areas for the BIMSTEC region are capacity building, economic cooperation and connectivity



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

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Strengthening Economic and Trade Ties between the BIMSTEC

The BIMSTEC Business Summit deliberated on ways to accelerate regional economic growth and social progress through collaboration among member states.

The summit featured several insightful sessions, deliberating on promoting trade facilitation in BIMSTEC through improved cross-border linkages and trade infrastructure, women's economic empowerment, finding synergies between blue economy and mountain economy, creating a seamless ecosystem for MSMEs in the global value chain and strengthening cooperation in the services sector



The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven member countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It serves as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia, focusing on fostering regional cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, energy and technology. BIMSTEC provides a unique link between South Asia and Southeast Asia, bringing together 1.8 billion people, which is about 22 per cent of the world population.

The regional trade between BIMSTEC countries has increased from USD 4.8 billion to USD 35.96 billion from the year 2000 to 2022. Over the years, the interdependence on regional trade has increased, but the optimal trade and investment potential of the region is yet to be harnessed.

In view of this, CII, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized the BIMSTEC Business Summit on 6-7 August in New Delhi, bringing together key stakeholders from across

the region to explore avenues for enhanced economic cooperation and integration.

It is important that the BIMSTEC countries work together in collaboration to create ways for supporting each other's inclusive growth and development, said Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Minister Goyal said that greater collaboration with the startups, entrepreneurs and business communities among the regions has great potential in fostering the BIMSTEC partnership further.

Highlighting some potential areas of collaboration, the Minister added that the blue economy has tremendous potential, which in turn can boost job creation and economic growth in the region. Promoting regional value chains for strengthening agricultural and mineral produce is another area with significant opportunities, he added. Concerted efforts for removing non-tariff barriers, adopting international norms on trade facilitation and measures to promote e-commerce and connectivity were among some critical measures suggested by the Minister to enhance greater trade and regional



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat; Minn Minn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Myanmar; Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India; Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal and Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd at the BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi

cooperation among the BIMSTEC member states.

The Minister also suggested the creation of a BIMSTEC desk to handhold investments and trade and support tourism in each of the seven nations. Shri Goyal noted that there is a need for deeper engagement between the BIMSTEC nations and greater direction and support from the business community is required in making the BIMSTEC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) a reality.

Shri Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India noted that the summit aligns with the Prime Minister's vision for not only women-centric but also women-led development, reflecting India's G20 Presidency goals. He said that the key focus areas for the BIMSTEC region are capacity building, economic cooperation and connectivity.

The Minister of State said that BIMSTEC accounts for almost 25 per cent of the world's population and have abundant resources both natural and human.

"BIMSTEC holds a special significance for India, as it is at the heart of our Neighbourhood First, Act East, and Sagarmala policies," said the Minister as he spoke about India's last decade, which has shown strong growth along with fiscal prudence, appetite for reform, able governance, progress in digital public infrastructure, rapid and appropriate skilling of our population and a vibrant spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. He also mentioned the fact that today India has 1600 global capability centres, which are fast evolving into strategic assets driving innovations.



Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

BIMSTEC countries, in collaboration with startups and business communities, must create new alternatives for a bright and prosperous BIMSTEC.



Pabitra Margherita, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India

Greater collaboration between us (BIMSTEC) promises to be a shining example of the Global South coming together for the shared development and prosperity of our people.



Shri Indra Mani Pandey, Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat said that the critical importance of intra-regional trade has been underlined by the Governments and think tanks, media and academia since inception of BIMSTEC in 1997. He urged the trade ministers and officials to conclude the constituent an agreement by 2027, which would be the 30th anniversary of the BIMSTEC.



(L-R) Chandrajit Banerjee; Indra Mani Pandey; P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Sanjiv Puri

H.E. Mr Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal said that Nepal is committed towards greater collaboration with its BIMSTEC partners for achieving shared goals of sustainable growth, development and prosperity in the Bay of Bengal region.

H.E. Mr Suchart Chomklin, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Kingdom of Thailand said that there is huge potential in the services sector including in tourism, healthcare, logistics and information technology.

H.E. Mr Minn Minn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Myanmar, while highlighting the potential outcomes of the early operationalization of the BIMSTEC FTA, said that it will also enhance the collective bargaining power of the bloc in global trade negotiations and will have transformative impacts across the region including on poverty reduction and environmental stability.

Mr Chhime Tshering, Director General, Department of Industry, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Royal Government of Bhutan advocated for the framework agreement on BIMSTEC free trade area.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd noted that BIMSTEC can be a powerful platform as a global manufacturing hub, a powerful tech house and a preferred investment destination. "Industry as a large economic organ of society has a crucial role to play in fostering closer collaboration, creating jobs and promoting innovation and inclusion," he said. Mr Puri made a few recommendations including

economic integration and trade facilitation being at the core of BIMSTEC. He underlined the importance of the establishment of the BIMSTEC FTA. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that CII is keen to institutionalise the BIMSTEC Business Summit as an annual event.

Amb P Kumaran, Special Secretary (ER & DPA), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India emphasized the importance of setting up regional Centers of Excellence for MSMEs and finalizing the BIMSTEC energy grid. He also highlighted the need for cooperation in various sectors including tourism, mining, maritime security, disaster management and renewable energy trade.

A country session on Sri Lanka and a closed-door session on the BIMSTEC Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also organized during the summit. A CII Study on 'BIMSTEC Economic Cooperation' was also released during the summit by Shri Margherita.

The summit highlighted the immense potential that exists for intra-regional trade in the region as the group enhances connectivity between South and Southeast Asia massively. Among the areas that have considerable investment potential, a blue economy policy thrust is most efficacious to integrate the Bay of Bengal community. Connectivity projects, which are in the advanced stages of completion would also give a huge boost to integration. An FTA would make the region more vibrant and dynamic and prove to be a huge success for the growth and development of the region.

QUOTES



BIMSTEC members must continue to push for greater integration into regional value chains through measures such as trade facilitation and digital transformation, which

will contribute to rapid growth, prosperity and stability in the BIMSTEC region.

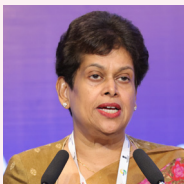
Damodar Bhandari, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Government of Nepal



A regional FTA will make BIMSTEC more attractive to foreign investors by providing a stable and favourable business climate and will enhance the global

competitiveness of local industries by removing barriers to trade.

Minn Minn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Myanmar



The support of the private sector will be key for the early operationalization of the FTA and the connectivity including transport and institutional connectivity

will play a critical role in integrating BIMSTEC nations with global supply chains.

Kshenuka Senewiratne, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India



Given the strong global trends of energy transition, digital transformation and supply chain diversification, this is an opportune time for discussing the BIMSTEC FTA.

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



Despite the current global challenges, there are immense opportunities for the BIMSTEC region in terms of strengthening regional supply chains, trade expansion and

attracting greater foreign investments.

Suchart Chomklin, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Kingdom of Thailand



The framework agreement on BIMSTEC free trade area can serve as a valuable legal framework offering expanded market access in the region. It would also

invariably promote healthy competition, leading to improved economic efficiency and enhance production of premium goods and services.

Chhime Tshering, Director General, Department of Industry, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, Royal Government of Bhutan



There is a renewed commitment among BIMSTEC member countries for an early conclusion of BIMSTEC FTA. Efforts are also on to speed up the Kaladan Multi-

Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral Highway.

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



The engagement with each of the BIMSTEC nations will be a top priority. The sector-specific engagement will be taken up for sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure,

construction, renewable energy, healthcare, tourism and others that will be discussed during the BIMSTEC summit.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII

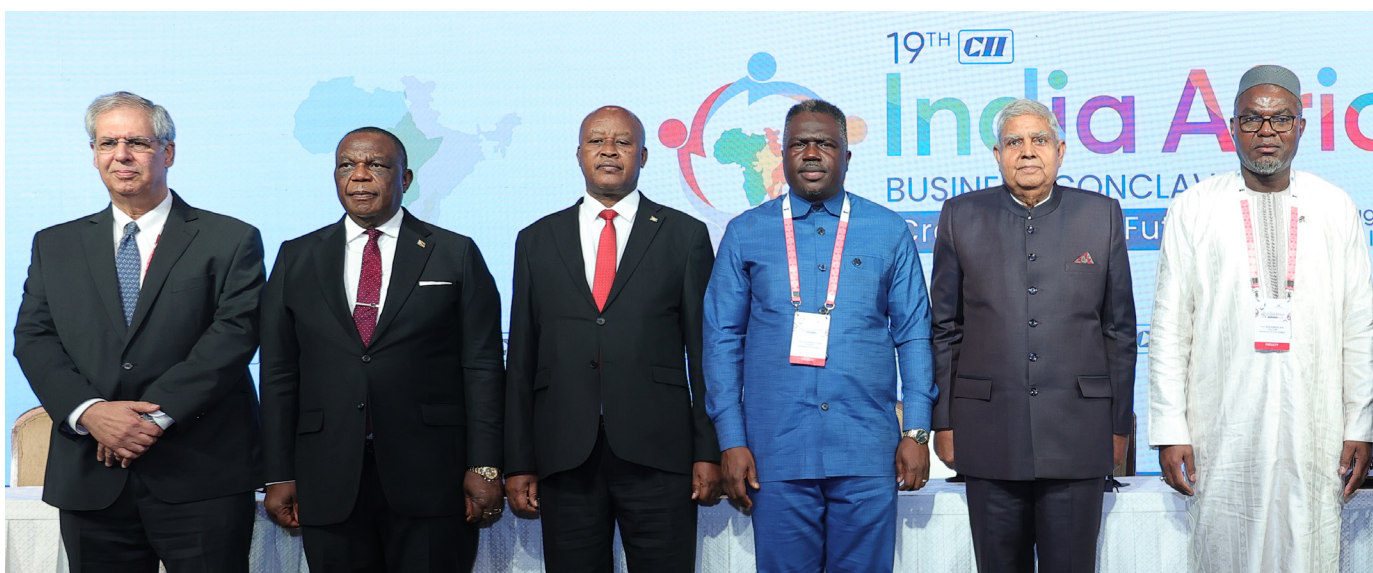


India Africa

Creating One Future

To build stronger and more dynamic economic, trade and investment ties between India and African nations, CII has been organizing the India-Africa Conclave along with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for the past 19 years.

This year's conclave was marked by a strong sense of optimism among the Indian Government and business community, as they eagerly sought new avenues to engage with and expand their presence in Africa. Participants highlighted the economic and governance reforms, which have transformed the African countries into attractive investment hubs and significantly improved the ease of doing business



A relationship rooted in shared history, culture and economy, one that has spanned eons, India and Africa have been working towards strengthening these ties through cooperation. The inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20, hosted by India, marked a milestone in solidifying existing ties and fostering new, stronger partnerships. The bonds between these two regions are a testament to the enduring spirit of unity, mutual respect, and shared ambition.

India and Africa have a long-standing partnership with trade between the two regions having grown from USD 68.5 billion in 2011-12 to USD 83.34 billion in 2023-24, making India, Africa's third-largest trading partner after the European Union and China. India is also the second-largest lender in Africa, with most fiscal aid being channelled through the African Development Bank (ADB). India's total investments in Africa amount to USD 70 billion, which the Indian Industry and the Government aim to increase to USD 150 billion by 2030.

To build stronger and more dynamic economic, trade and investment ties between India and African nations, CII has been organizing the India-Africa Conclave along with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for the past 19 years.

Continuing the initiative, CII, in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, organized the 19th edition of the CII India-Africa Business Conclave on 20-22 August in New Delhi to engage in discussions, share insights and explore opportunities for collaboration in key sectors.

Chief Guest Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India noted that a resurgent Africa and a rising India can provide great impetus to South-South Cooperation, particularly in areas like clean technology, climate resilient agriculture, maritime security, connectivity and green economy. He said that Africa is always a top priority for India and that the bilateral partnership is designed to be mutually beneficial. Highlighting India's progress in digital infrastructure and delivery of public services, Shri Dhankhar said the Indian experience and expertise in this area would be of great relevance to Africa.

H.E. Mr Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President, Republic of Burundi said that India-Africa partnerships in areas like pharmaceuticals, science & technology, ICT and renewable energy sectors have helped African countries improve their participation in the global value chains. H.E. Mr Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice-President, Republic of The Gambia highlighted the potential for joint ventures between India and The Gambia in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, technology and renewable energy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **40** Ministers from **20** African countries
- **870** Indian delegates
- **1200** international delegates
- **120** speakers
- **47** exhibitors
- **39** African countries
- **850** B2B meetings
- **47** African and **18** other countries



(L-R): Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Chairman, Tata International Ltd; Gen (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice- President, Republic of Zimbabwe; Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President, Republic of Burundi; Jeremiah Kpan Koug, Vice President, Republic of Liberia; Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India; Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice President, Republic of The Gambia; Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII at the 19th CII India - Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi



The theme of India-Africa Business Conclave, 'Creating One Future', is deeply embedded in our civilizational ethos and is amplified in the motto of India's G20 Presidency, which stands for 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. The conclave is an opportunity for us to come together, deliberate on contemporary and relevant themes, and synergize our efforts towards creating a common future for the well-being of all.

Jagdeep Dhankar
Vice President of India

H.E. Mr Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice President, Republic of Liberia said the trade agreement signed between India and Liberia helped bilateral trade to grow to the level of USD 325 million. H.E. Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, Vice President, Republic of Mauritius described India and Africa as natural allies with shared civilisational values and called for sustained efforts to derive concrete benefits from India-Africa cooperation in areas such as digitalization, healthcare, space development, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, power and capacity building. H.E. Gen (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice-President, Republic of Zimbabwe said that his country is open to doing business with India to foster collaborative efforts for driving mutual growth across key sectors.

In a Special Plenary Session with Trade Ministers, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India called for doubling India-Africa bilateral trade to scale the USD 200 billion mark by 2030. He underscored the opportunity for deeper India-Africa bilateral partnerships in critical minerals

and entertainment areas. He added that technology-led cooperation in agriculture will strengthen the food security of both regions. Specific areas of cooperation with each African country need to be identified, along with benchmarking of success stories and course corrections where required.

The event was addressed by 40 Ministers from 20 African countries including Mr Rui Miguens de Oliveira, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Republic of Angola; Mr Serge Gnaniodem Poda, Minister of Industrial Development, Commerce, Handicrafts and Small and Medium Enterprises, People's Republic of Burkina Faso; Mr Guibolo Fanga Mathieu, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Chad; Mr Sosten Gwengwe, M.P., Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Malawi; Mr Seydou Asman, Minister of Trade & Industry, Republic of Niger and Mr Omar Said Shaaban, Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. The conclave saw a robust turnout with over 870 delegates from India



(L-R): Guibolo Fanga Mathieu, Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Chad; Sosten Gwengwe, M.P., Minister of Trade and Industry, Republic of Malawi; Serge Gnaniodem Poda, Minister of Industrial Development, Commerce, Handicrafts & Small & Medium Enterprises, People's Republic of Burkina Faso; Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Rui Miguens de Oliveira, Minister of Industry & Commerce, Republic of Angola; Seydou Asman, Minister of Trade & Industry, Republic of Niger and Omar Said Shaaban, Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania



(L-R): S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chair, CII Africa Committee and Senior Advisor, Shapoorji Pallonji Group; Dammu Ravi, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India; Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President, Republic of Burundi; Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice-President, Republic of The Gambia; Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice President, Republic of Liberia; Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Gen (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice-President, Republic of Zimbabwe and Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

and over 1,200 international participants, representing 47 African and 18 other countries.

Shri Dammu Ravi, Secretary - Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India urged Indian companies and investors to establish deep footprints in Africa's manufacturing zones. Shri Sunil Barthwal, Secretary - Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India stated that the India-Africa partnership must focus on the four key areas of automobiles, agriculture & agro-processing, pharmaceuticals and transport & logistics.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd saw a greater role for the Indian Industry in establishing regional production networks in Africa and called for wider engagements between Indian and African MSMEs.

Mr Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Chairman, Tata International Ltd talked about CII's focus on fostering partnerships between SMEs from both regions and bridging gaps in the banking and finance sectors through solutions like rupee trade.

Mr S Kuppuswamy, Co-Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Group Adviser, Shapoorji Pallonji Group mentioned that India approaches Africa with the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', wherein the entire world is looked upon as one family.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that the CII Centres of Excellence are set to play a greater role in Africa. He also mentioned that CII is establishing its office in Eastern Africa, while also expanding its office in Northern Africa.

The programme covered a wide range of sectors crucial to India – Africa collaboration, featuring more than 120 esteemed speakers from India, Africa and other regions. Key sectors deliberated upon included infrastructure, financing, space, agriculture & food processing, defence, manufacturing, trade, ICT, critical minerals, skill development, trilateral partnerships, standards, space, healthcare & pharmaceutical and power & energy. In-depth country-focused sessions on select African nations were also organized to address specific regional opportunities.



India and Africa are very much aligned in our desires, ambitions and aspirations. We are striving for a better quality of life for the people of our countries, seeking greater investments to bring the fruits of increased trade, strengthen our economic profiles and drive growth. To sum it all up, our efforts aim to enhance greater prosperity and a better quality of life for the people of India and Africa.

Piyush Goyal

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India

Inaugural Session

At the inaugural session, speakers discussed that Africa possesses 60 per cent of the world's arable land yet contributes only 10 per cent to global agricultural output. The session emphasised the potential for joint ventures in agro-processing, seed technology transfer and agri-transformation through digital means.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was highlighted as a key driver for enhancing agricultural productivity and food security across the continent. The India-Africa growth partnership is contributing to the global rebalancing that leads to greater global peace and harmony.

In keeping with Africa's rich natural resources endowment and its demographic advantage, the region is emerging as a highly attractive destination for investments and partnerships. It was emphasised that India will stay committed to partnering with Africa in its quest for value addition in its industrial sectors through innovative solutions. Indian experience and expertise in digital infrastructure for the delivery of public services would be of great relevance to Africa.

Special Session on Harnessing Critical Minerals for Sustainable Future

Speakers noted that India has identified a list of 30 critical minerals for its growth development across diverse sectors and the Government of India has extended duty concessions for the import of these minerals. Africa is a major source of critical minerals for India. At the same time, India's expertise in clean technology could be vital in Africa's quest for value addition in its critical minerals sector, the discussions highlighted.

Special Plenary Session with Trade Ministers

Speakers opined that the India-Africa partnership should hereon be guided by an actionable agenda and achievable goals set to short-, medium- and long-term plans that result in tangible outcomes. Angola invited Indian companies to explore investment opportunities in agriculture and agro-processing, manufacturing, financial services, healthcare, among others.

People's Republic of Burkina Faso sought major investments from India in sectors including agriculture, agri-business, IT & ICT services, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy and healthcare. The Republic of Chad offered significant business opportunities in agriculture, animal husbandry, IT & ICT sectors.

The Republic of Malawi called for India's participation in the country's industrialization, which will help narrow down their trade deficits. The Republic of Niger urged Indian companies to step up their engagements in Niger which has abundant mineral-rich land pockets, a long coastline, efficient transport systems and strong prospects for renewable energy development. Seeing India as an all-season partner, The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania invited Indian businesses to explore opportunities in agri-business, tourism, and blue economy.

A critical discussion point was Africa's continued reliance on exporting raw materials, which hampers its ability to balance trade deficits and limits its economic growth. The need for Africa to shift towards value addition and manufacturing was strongly advocated.

Special Session: Expanding Horizon-India Africa Space Collaboration

With a humble journey that started 60 years ago, the Indian Space Sector has made great strides and currently, it is among the top 10 countries that house a robust space sector. Currently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) holds credit for developing and launching multiple navigation satellites monitoring the Indian Ocean, which can also be extended to cover the African marine reserves.

Privatisation of space sector has leveraged the Indian private space companies to collaborate at not just commercial, but also technical level. Along with building capacity and opening up markets for the private sector, New Space India Ltd (NSIL) is working to present a parliamentary space bill.

The major expectations of African countries from India in the space sector are to make improvements in tightening security for natural assets and mineral reserves, agriculture mapping and gathering crucial weather forecasting data. African countries like Ghana and Kenya, along with setting up the world's largest telescope, are exploring collaborations with their Indian counterparts in exploring space capabilities.

Companies in aligned sectors such as physical infrastructure have also been assisting many Indian startups and are willing to collaborate with offshore companies in setting up satellite and launch vehicle manufacturing facilities, ground stations, data centres, R&D institutions, upstream, midstream and downstream services and provides further value-added services within the space sector.



MoU exchange between Confederation of Indian Industry and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC)

Highlighting Opportunities in the Exposition

The exposition at the conclave was a notable highlight, with 47 exhibitors showcasing their strengths and potential for collaboration with African countries. Additionally, seven African missions presented trade, investment and business opportunities available in their respective countries. Throughout the event, 380 project opportunities from 39 African countries were discussed

and over 850 B2B meetings were conducted.

During the event, the CII Centre for International Policy Research released a comprehensive report titled 'Pathways for Shared Progress: India Africa Economic Cooperation', which detailed the growth potential between India and Africa.

The conclave was marked by a strong sense of optimism among the Indian Government and business community, as they eagerly sought new avenues to engage with and expand their presence in Africa.

Participants highlighted the economic and governance reforms, which have transformed the African countries into attractive investment hubs and significantly improved the ease of doing business.

The partnership between India and Africa remains vibrant and promising, offering numerous prospects that will continue to be explored through collaborative efforts. Together, both regions are poised to forge a blueprint for shared growth and prosperity.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Share financing options for investments in Africa from various sources including Indian, African and multilateral banks
- Explore financing routes for trade and manufacturing from local Governments
- Develop modalities for long-term investments by Indian companies in African countries
- Explore policy structures in different African countries to promote sustainable mobility
- Develop partnerships for manufacturing affordable electric vehicles, batteries and charging stations in Africa for Africa and the world
- Share sustainable mobility models in India that can be deployed in African countries
- Develop cooperation mechanisms for space products and services between India and Africa
- Identify ways that African businesses and Governments can benefit from India's space programmes for affordable and accessible space initiatives
- Find solutions to better banking connections for trade and investment transactions.
- Explore processes and procedures and seek ways to harmonise them for ease of doing business in Africa
- Identify mining opportunities for critical minerals for Indian companies in Africa
- Share practices in sustainable mining
- Highlight the huge investment opportunities in building physical infrastructure in Africa
- Find ways that Indian companies can best partner in Africa's infrastructure mission
- Share best models for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) from India for African countries that establish affordable and appropriate facilities
- Define the need for energy security and sustainable transition in Africa's growth
- Build new models for cooperation in renewable energy between India and Africa that are competitive and low-cost models

- Identify Africa’s defence production needs and areas where local manufacturing can be taken up
- Highlight policies in African countries to enable defence investments
- Enable Indian Industry to set up defence manufacturing units in Africa
- Explore the different agro-climatic zones and agri strengths of Africa
- Facilitate Indian companies to invest in food processing for exporting to third markets and India from Africa
- Address barriers to trade and investment and explore setting up mechanisms to resolve them
- Share India’s experiences in digital public infrastructure and how it can benefit African countries
- Develop synergies across sectors such as e-commerce, digital skill development and startups
- Explore mutual recognition agreements and harmonisation of standards
- Develop models for reskilling and upskilling of African youth to enable them to adapt to technological advances
- Enable the Indian Industry to invest in skilling that is affordable, accessible and appropriate for the African investment climate
- Enable the Indian Industry to identify potential investments that will share the low-cost competitive and accessible healthcare model from India to Africa.

QUOTES



India and Africa share prosperous relations. Africa needs support from India across all fronts including greater integration into global value chains. This is imperative for promoting inclusive development to foster efficient trade practices for making business opportunities more viable.

Prosper Bazombanza, Vice President, Republic of Burundi



Mauritius is the first African country to adopt India's UPI system and the first Non-Asian country to issue RuPay cards, enabling both Indian and African tourism. India–Mauritius bilateral ties also cover sectors related to agriculture, education, maritime security and peacekeeping, among others.

Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon, Vice President, Republic of Mauritius



A strong vision is key to deepening India-Africa relations. Africa has provided abundant investment opportunities for India. By investing in and partnering with African enterprises, Indian companies can expand their global footprint. A combination of India's technological prowess and Africa’s rich mineral resources can lead to mutual and beneficial collaboration.

Gen (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice-President, Republic of Zimbabwe



Liberia is open and ready for investment, especially in our hydro projects and various other initiatives. We are eager to collaborate with global partners to drive mutual growth and innovation. Together, we can build a prosperous future.

Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice President, Republic of Liberia



We are ready to explore innovative ideas and trade opportunities between The Gambia and India. The Gambia is open for business and eager to promote new

trade opportunities. I invite you to join us in creating impactful joint ventures together.

Muhammad B.S. Jallow, Vice President, Republic of The Gambia



Indian companies are pioneering value creation across various infrastructure projects in Africa, including roads, railways, power projects, among others.

We must encourage greater Public-Private Partnership (PPP) partnerships with effective planning and implementation for enhancing our collaborative efforts and for driving mutual growth.

Dammu Ravi, Secretary, Economic Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India



India is committed to ensuring Africa's food availability through the supply of essential commodities such as rice. Our pharmaceutical companies

are key in advancing Africa's healthcare while our telemedicine services can support countries around the world, with Africa being a major partner.

Sunil Barthwal, Commerce Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India



From integrating the African Nation into G20, to championing initiatives like the Global Biofuel Alliance and the Global Initiative on Digital Health, India has

been at the forefront of fostering sustainable development. Our joint efforts reflect India's commitment to addressing global challenges alongside our African partners.

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



The CII India-Africa Conclave has been designed to enhance collaborations between India's development and economic partnership with Africa, which includes

affordable and sustainable mobility, banking partnerships, critical minerals, trilateral partnerships, agriculture and food security, digital economy and many others. We look forward to deeper engagement that can enhance our business-to-business relationship further.

Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII



Trade relations between India and Africa have been substantial and have significantly expanded over the last decade. India must leverage the opportunities

offered by the African Continental Free Trade Area and expand areas of collaboration.

Noel Tata, Chairman, CII Africa Committee and Chairman, Tata International



Empowering India's Creative Future

The CII Summit FX 2024: the 5th Global AVGC and Immersive Media Summit deliberated on the latest trends, technologies and creative approaches in AVGC, exploring how these can enhance production quality and drive Industry's growth



India is a leading provider of Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) services worldwide, exporting expertise to various countries. This sector is experiencing a major transformation across segments and genres, creating innovative opportunities for growth and investment.

The AVGC sector's growth rate surpasses other media and entertainment verticals in India. Specifically, the animation, visual effects and post-production segment grew by 6 per cent in 2023, reaching ₹114 billion, and is projected to achieve a CAGR of 17.5 per cent, reaching ₹185 billion by 2026. Industry partnerships are vital for global co-production and financing while addressing talent gaps and enhancing localization present significant opportunities.

CII, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, and with Karnataka

as the Partner State, organized the CII Summit FX: the 5th Global AVGC and Immersive Media Summit on 21-22 August in New Delhi. The event sparked pioneering dialogues on harnessing creativity through technology, exploring the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies, fostering innovation in VFX and enhancing India's global standing in the AVGC landscape.

The summit deliberated on the latest trends, technologies and creative approaches in AVGC, exploring how these can enhance production quality and drive Industry growth.

With a gathering of over 300 stakeholders and 50 esteemed speakers, and featuring 12 engaging sessions, the summit united visionaries, Industry pioneers and policymakers to drive forward India's Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) sector. Discussions focused on the 'hub and spoke'



(L-R): Shalabh Saxena, Partner and Media & Entertainment Industry Leader, Grant Thornton Bharat; Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India; Biren Ghose, Chair, CII Sub Committee on AVGC & Vice Chair, CII National M&E Committee and Managing Director- Asia Pacific, Technicolor Group; Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skills and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Ruchi Bindal, Deputy Secretary, Department of ITBT, Government of Karnataka releasing the CII-GT Knowledge Report on "FX & Beyond: Shaping India's AVGC Landscape" at the CII Summit FX in New Delhi

model for regional AVGC development, the evolution of the National Centre of Excellence and strategies for cultivating both creative and technical talent, ensuring a sustainable and innovative future for the Industry.

During the summit, a knowledge report titled 'FX & Beyond: Shaping India's AVGC Landscape' was released, which was developed in collaboration with Grant Thornton Bharat. The report provided a comprehensive analysis of the sector's current state, its challenges and opportunities. With the global AVGC market valued at USD 180 billion and India's share expected to grow significantly, the report emphasized the need for India to develop its IPs and capitalize on its storytelling heritage. It also identified skill shortages and high technology costs as critical challenges, while recommending policy interventions and strategic collaborations to unlock the sector's full potential.

Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India announced the imminent implementation of the National AVGC-XR Policy, which will be delivered alongside the National AVGC-XR Mission. This policy is set to provide a comprehensive framework to boost the AVGC sectors

and aims to enhance India's global competitiveness by fostering infrastructure development, skill enhancement, innovation and supportive regulatory measures.

The Secretary emphasized India's competitive edge in exporting AVGC services and stressed the importance of creating original intellectual properties (IPs) that resonate globally. He noted that technological advancements now make it easier to adapt and translate content for diverse global audiences, positioning Indian IPs for success on the world stage. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting the AVGC Industry through robust policies and financial backing.

Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India emphasized the Government's dedication to the AVGC sector, including a new project to revamp 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to meet Industry demands. He underscored the importance of collaboration between the Government and the AVGC Industry, particularly in developing clusters in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, which show strong growth potential.



(L-R): R K Chand, Executive Director, The Mill-Technicolor Group; Bejoy Arputharaj, Founder & CEO, Phantom-FX; Himanshu Goyal, Co-founder & COO, FUTR Studios; Gayathri Chandrasekaran, Editor-in-Chief, Tinkle Amar Chitra Katha Ltd; and Upamanyu Bhattacharya, Partner/Director, Otter Studios at the session on 'Case Studies of Successful Indian AVGC Products Making a Global Impact'



(L-R): Gayatri Sethi, Founder, The Verb; Supriya Yariagadda, CEO and Executive Director, Annapurna Studios; Anant Roongta, Managing Director, Famous Studios and Aditya Mani, Founder, YoloGram at the Session on 'World of Realtime and Emerging Technologies'

Ms Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India highlighted that the Government aims to create a comprehensive marketplace for content, supported by global partnerships, to facilitate international interactions. She also shared that substantial work is in progress for setting up the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for the AVGC sector. The NCoE will focus on integrating educational approaches and supporting the development of institutions to train future professionals.

Ms Vrunda Desai, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India emphasised that showcasing India's presence in the AVGC sector requires a multi-pronged approach, including Industry development, skilling, financial viability, diversity, sustainability and access to technology.

Shri Armstrong Pame, Director (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India highlighted the critical role of Government – Industry collaboration in enhancing India's media and entertainment sector. Engaging with officials

and leveraging their support for policy creation was emphasized. He stressed the need for a balanced approach to CSR, advocating for investments in internships and training rather than just financial donations. The potential for significant growth of the sector was deliberated, with India's massive entertainment consumption currently underrepresented in the global economy.

Shri Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments of the Government of Telangana, emphasized that international interest in India is growing, not only due to its large market but also because of its emerging role as a hub for high-quality content creation and innovation. He highlighted Telangana's pioneering efforts in the Media, Entertainment, and Gaming (MEG) sector through its IMAGE policy, which stands for Innovation, Multimedia, Animation, Gaming and Entertainment. Telangana is at the forefront of this revolution, having implemented a comprehensive and business-friendly policy years ago.

Ms Ruchi Bindal, Deputy Secretary, Department of ITBT, Government of Karnataka emphasized the state's proactive role in advancing the AVGC sector through established Centres of Excellence, focusing on providing infrastructure, skilling and market access for startups. She highlighted the State's 'hub and spoke' model, extending support beyond Bengaluru to other cities.

Mr Biren Ghose, Chair, CII Sub Committee on AVGC & Vice Chair - CII National M&E Committee and Managing Director – Asia Pacific, Technicolor Group shared a strategic vision for India's AVGC Industry, advocating for a shift from a defensive to an offensive global strategy. He highlighted the Industry's impressive growth and stressed that more proactive efforts are needed to position India as a global leader.



(L-R): Shajy Thomas, Regional Head of Technology Infrastructure, APAC Technicolor Group; Anant Roongta, Managing Director Famous Studios; Sanjiv Mehta, Country Manager, AMD; Ranganath Sadasiva, Chief Technology Officer, Hewlett Packard Enterprise; Jai Thomas, Chief Information Officer, VerSe Innovation; Bharanidharan TN, CG Technology Supervisor Industrial Light & Magic (ILM))

Key Takeaways

A New Vision for India's AVGC Sector

At the heart of the summit was a bold vision to transform India's AVGC sector to become a creative powerhouse, delivering captivating experiences through cutting-edge technologies along with strengthening its position to create globally recognized Intellectual Properties — characters, stories and franchises that resonate worldwide.

While continuing to excel in service exports, there is a renewed focus on nurturing Indian-created content that can compete internationally. This vision is supported by Government's commitment to fostering an enabling environment through policy frameworks and financial support, which aims to position India as a global leader in the AVGC space.

Building a Robust AVGC Ecosystem: From Policy to Practice

To achieve this vision, the summit emphasized the need for a strong ecosystem that integrates Government support, Industry collaboration and technological innovation. The National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) in AVGC emerged as a cornerstone of this ecosystem. It is envisioned as a hub for global partnerships, innovative content development and advanced education, fostering IPs for new content formats for wider consumption.

Regional growth was another critical focus, with discussions on the 'hub and spoke' model to ensure a balanced distribution of resources and opportunities across India. States like Telangana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were highlighted for their proactive policies and investments in AVGC, setting examples of how regional ecosystems can drive national growth. Collaborative efforts between Central and State Governments are key to building a comprehensive ecosystem that supports innovation, infrastructure development and market access.

Leveraging Technology and Innovation for Global Competitiveness

Innovation was a recurring theme throughout the summit, with particular attention given to how emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Virtual Reality (VR) and Extended Reality (XR) are reshaping the AVGC landscape. AI is playing a transformative role in enhancing creative processes,

from generating quick mock-ups to analysing scripts. Virtual production technologies such as LED walls and immersive media tools are revolutionizing the way content is created and consumed, offering new opportunities for Indian creators to compete globally. However, the adoption of these technologies comes with its own set of challenges, including high costs and the need for specialized skills. The summit underscored the importance of public-private partnerships, skill development programs and targeted investments to address these challenges. It highlighted the growing need for virtual production infrastructure and AI tools that can streamline workflows and reduce production costs, making Indian studios more competitive on the global stage.

Talent Development: The Key to Unlock Potential

The summit recognized that the AVGC sector's growth hinges on the availability of skilled talent. With the Industry projected to reach USD 25 billion by 2030, there is an urgent need to enhance local expertise and elevate India's position in the global value chain. Initiatives such as the revamping of 1,000 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and integrating AVGC skills into the National Education Policy reflect the Government's commitment to building a robust talent pipeline. The focus is on developing skills that foster creative thinking and align with Industry needs, ensuring that Indian talent is prepared to lead in the global AVGC landscape.

Moreover, the summit stressed the importance of regional policies that reflect each State's unique strengths in AVGC, maximizing local potential and addressing specific skill gaps. Building awareness about AVGC career opportunities, particularly in underrepresented regions, is crucial for expanding the talent pool and fostering inclusive growth.

Expanding India's Global Footprint

A major takeaway from the summit was the need for India to expand its presence in international markets and build a robust domestic market to mitigate global fluctuations. Indian content creators are encouraged to adopt a more offensive global strategy, focusing on developing content that resonates with international audiences. Success

stories of Indian AVGC products making a global impact, such as animated series and gaming IPs, underscore the potential for Indian studios to reach wider audiences through innovative storytelling and cutting-edge technology.

Collaborations and co-productions with international partners are seen as vital pathways to achieve this global footprint. The summit highlighted opportunities in emerging markets like Latin America, Africa and Korea, where India's strengths in storytelling and digital content creation can be leveraged.



Successful co-productions, such as the evolution of 'Jungle Book' and 'Purple Turtle' demonstrate how Indian content can achieve international success through originality, cultural relevance and strategic partnerships.

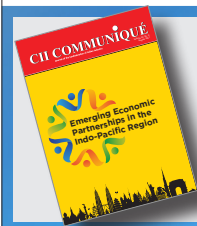
The Road Ahead: Building a Sustainable Future

The summit concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders — Government, Industry and Academia to work together in building a sustainable future for India's AVGC sector. The focus is on creating an ecosystem that supports innovation, nurtures talent and promotes India's creative prowess on the global stage. By leveraging its rich cultural heritage, technological advancements and strategic collaborations, India is poised to transform its AVGC Industry into a global powerhouse.

The summit underscored that while challenges such as skill shortages, high technology costs and infrastructure gaps remain, the opportunities for growth and global impact are immense. As India continues to develop its unique content and innovative technologies, it stands ready to take its place as a leader in the global AVGC landscape, connecting creativity with technology in unprecedented ways.

A Journal of Confederation of Indian Industry

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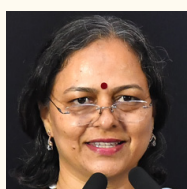
For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, Confederation of Indian Industry
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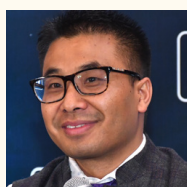
While exporting services is crucial, the future of the Industry lies in developing iconic characters and stories that achieve global recognition.

Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India



Addressing technology and infrastructure challenges will ensure the NCoE remains a leader in innovation and drive the Industry's growth.

Neerja Sekhar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India



There needs to be increased Industry involvement in talent development, particularly in underrepresented regions like the North East.

Armstrong Pame, Director (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India



Karnataka is investing significantly in AVGC and gaming centres and offering seed grants to startups. The state's policies support various incentives, including funding for skilling, employment and early-stage startup support, along with reimbursement for patents and quality certifications.

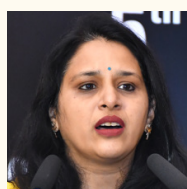
Ruchi Bindal, Deputy Secretary, Department of ITBT, Government of Karnataka



Industry should participate in upskilling initiatives, especially through models like the 'hub and spoke' system, which can help scale skill development and create employment

opportunities.

Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India



Pressing challenges of the sector include inconsistent labour laws, difficulties with local crew utilization and the need for more support for Indian IPs in animation.

Vrunda Desai, Joint Secretary (Films), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India



Telangana is actively engaging with top global institutions to bring high-quality training programs to Hyderabad. The IMAGE Tower will house these skilling facilities, further supporting the Industry's growth.

Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications (ITE&C) and Industries & Commerce Departments of the Government of Telangana



It is important to leverage India's talent and technological advancements to expand globally. To drive the Industry forward, Mr Ghose called for a united front among

stakeholders including content creators, distributors, OTT platforms and Government entities.

Biren Ghose, Chair, CII Sub Committee on AVGC & Vice Chair - CII National M&E Committee and Managing Director – Asia Pacific, Technicolor Group

Smart Industrial Cities can Propel India towards its Export Targets

Competitive manufacturing in 12 new hubs could help India top \$1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030 says Chandrajit Banerjee



India's recent policy decision to create 12 smart industrial cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) looks set to transform Indian manufacturing and create significant employment. The policy will play a significant part in promoting India's export capabilities and also help boost the country's share in global value chains (GVCs).

India's manufacturing sector contributed 14% to nominal gross value added (GVA) in 2023-24, yet it expanded by a robust 9.9% during the year. The construction sector, which accounts for 9% share in GVA, also grew at a similar rate. Government initiatives such as the Smart City Mission, industrial corridor development, National Single Window System and One District One Product Scheme, along with its large allocation of 11.11 trillion (3.4% of GDP) for infrastructure in the Union Budget for 2024-25, have helped boost industrial development. The announcement of 12 industrial townships is in line with this intent and will go a long way in providing businesses with high-grade industrial facilities that will drive their competitiveness in the global economy.

India's Foreign Trade Policy 2023 has set a target of \$1 trillion in merchandise exports by 2030. The industrial-cities policy will aid the effort to augment the export capabilities of states with relatively low exports. Of the 12 projects announced, four are already under construction, while four are ready for allotment. Together, the 12 cities will span 10 states and six key industrial corridors.

Built around the PM Gati Shakti pillars, the programme involves five projects in the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor, two in the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor and one each in the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, Hyderabad-

Nagpur Industrial Corridor and Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (Extension). The proposed budget of 128,600 crore is expected to generate direct employment opportunities for 1 million people and potential job opportunities for 3 million indirectly. It is expected to have significant economic benefits for the regions around the proposed townships.

The project also focuses on enhancing the export potential of states in sectors such as electronics systems, design manufacturing, food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, textiles and apparel, automobiles and auto components, machinery and equipment, and building materials, among others. These sectors have high export potential and the new industrial facilities can enable both large anchor investors as well as smaller ancillary suppliers to set up operations quickly.

Altogether, the initiative promises to yield an overall investment potential of 1.5 trillion. Note that while some proposed cities are located in states that could help India exports and enable India to be already high export performers, such as Maharashtra and Telangana, the policy has taken care to also include states with low export shares, such as Bihar, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. By leveraging each identified state's distinct export capacities and comparative advantages, the initiative will boost export capabilities across the country.

It is also heartening that the project is designed with sustainability at its core, embodying circular-economy principles and concepts such as walk-to-work. This eco-friendly approach is reinforced by key features, including potable and recycled water supply, environmental clearances and effluent treatment plants. The new townships would thus support India's climate objectives, particularly the goals of renewable energy sources



making up half of India's installed power capacity by 2030 and achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. The focus on sustainability can also foster green exports and enable India to better meet the environmental standards that global trade partners will increasingly demand.

Indian industry needs to participate proactively in building the new cities. Public private partnership models can be tailored for quick construction, especially of multimodal logistics facilities and port links. Inland container depots may be considered, along with state-of-the-art transport facilitation mechanisms. It is essential that the new cities provide quality infrastructure to attract highly skilled tech workers, even as smart digital technologies are leveraged to maximize the competitiveness of manufactured goods.

The new cities could also offer common facilities for the use of small and medium enterprises, such as effluent-treatment plants, skill development programmes and testing and certification facilities, apart from regulatory approvals. For clusters to arise, attention

can be accorded to developing the capabilities of small entrepreneurs. This approach can also shorten transportation times and make supply chains more competitive. Last-mile connectivity and efficient trade facilitation at ports would help too.

With multiple objectives being pursued simultaneously, India's industrial city projects could be revolutionary for exports and economic growth. They have the potential to generate significant direct and indirect jobs, expand local industry, streamline logistics and drive sustainability. The projects should attract foreign investment, enhance manufacturing competitiveness and help establish India as a global trade hub.

In all, this initiative is poised to propel India's manufacturing growth, achieve its ambitious target of \$1 trillion in merchandise exports and cement the country's position as an economic powerhouse.

This article was written by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation on Indian Industry. It was first published on 3 September in Mint. ■

Engaging with the **World**

ASIA



Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India at the 9th India-Malaysia CEOs Forum Meeting in New Delhi

Furthering Collaboration between India and Malaysia

H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, accompanied by a high-powered delegation of officials and CEOs, visited India from 19-21 August. In line with the visit, CII, in association with the Malaysia – India Business Council (MIBC), organized the 9th meeting of the India – Malaysia CEOs Forum on 19 August in New Delhi.

Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India highlighted that India and Malaysia enjoy strong economic ties with significant potential for growth. By addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities, both countries could further deepen their partnership and contribute to regional economic prosperity. He emphasized that India has been running a trade deficit with Malaysia, primarily due to the import of palm oil. Therefore, both countries needed to diversify their trade basket to reduce dependence on a few products.

Mr Datuk Surendran Menon, Secretary, MIBC; Mr Tan Sri Kuna Sittampalam, Co-Chair (Malaysia) and President, MIBC and Mr Nikhil Meswani, Co-Chair (India) and Executive Director, Reliance Industries Ltd were among the key speakers. During the meeting, discussions centered around cooperation between the two countries

in services, infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and other sectors. Sectoral interactions were led by sub-group co-chairs from both sides on cooperation in services, healthcare, tourism, education, digital, manufacturing technologies, infrastructure and sustainability.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd highlighted the importance of reviewing the ASEAN India Free Trade Agreement and India – Malaysia CECA for scaling up bilateral trade and investment ties.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII suggested constituting structured working groups in digital transformation, e-commerce, green economy, higher education & skilling, infrastructure development and cooperation in healthcare services, for furthering the economic partnerships.

On 20 August, Mr Meswani and Mr Sittampalam presented a joint statement of the 9th meeting of India – Malaysia CEOs Forum to Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and H.E. YB Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry, Malaysia in the presence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia at the report back session organized in New Delhi.

LAC

Interaction with Saint Kitts and Nevis Minister

CII organized an interaction with a delegation from Saint Kitts and Nevis, led by Rt. Hon. Dr Denzil Douglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Industry, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Investment, Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis on 7 August in New Delhi.

During the meeting, Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII highlighted the substantial opportunities for economic collaboration between India and Saint Kitts and Nevis, suggesting that beyond the conventional sectors, the two countries could explore each other's areas of expertise and foster innovative partnerships. Further potential sectors of collaboration could include information technology, agriculture, healthcare, and education, allowing both nations to leverage their strengths and expand their bilateral relations.

The discussions focused on increasing people-to-people and business-to-business connections, with a primary emphasis on expanding cooperation in key sectors such as energy, particularly solar energy, which presents significant potential for joint ventures and investment opportunities.

Notably, Saint Kitts and Nevis has signed and ratified the Framework Agreement on the International Solar Alliance, reflecting a shared commitment to sustainable energy solutions and creating further avenues for trade and investment in solar energy between the two nations.

Deliberations also covered vital sectors including capacity building and tourism. Saint Kitts and Nevis is also in the process of establishing its diplomatic mission in India, highlighting the intent to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties.

Understanding India – Suriname Relations

On 2 August, CII hosted Mr Subhash Prasad Gupta, the Indian Ambassador designate to Suriname in New Delhi. During this interaction, the Ambassador exchanged ideas with CII about the increasing significance of India's relations with Suriname and the broader Latin America and Caribbean region.

Ambassador Gupta, who will also serve as India's representative to Saint Lucia, Barbados, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, shared his vision for boosting business opportunities in the region with India. He highlighted emerging prospects for Indian businesses to collaborate in small and medium enterprise growth and focus sectors like agriculture, power transmission, education, information technology, infrastructure, and renewable energy. Additionally, he identified offshore petroleum extraction as a crucial sector with potential for cooperation between India and Suriname, given its growing importance in Suriname's economy.

The discussions also emphasized the need to enhance India's collaboration with regional trade groups like CARICOM, emphasizing on India's commitment to strengthening ties across the Caribbean and Latin America. ■





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MedTech

MedTech - Charting the Roadmap for Growth

The 16th CII Global MedTech Summit was held on 6 August in New Delhi. The summit featured in-depth deliberations on regulatory reforms necessary to enhance the MedTech ecosystem, focusing on innovation and advanced technologies.

It brought together policymakers, Industry leaders and innovators to discuss the evolving landscape of the MedTech Industry in India. Emphasizing value-based procurement, the summit shifted the focus from cost-driven to outcome-driven processes. It also highlighted India's potential as a global hub for medical device manufacturing and investment, examining the factors that attract multinational companies and startups.

The inaugural session focused on leveraging existing policies and initiatives such as MedTech Parks, the PRIP scheme and the MedTech Mitra initiative to propel the growth of the sector in India. The need for strategic collaboration with academia, fostering innovation and maintaining high-quality standards to shift from a volume-based to a value-based approach by 2047 was emphasized. The critical role of MSMEs in producing high-quality medical equipment was highlighted, along with the importance of proper maintenance to maximize patient care. It also addressed insights from the first Meditech Stackathon, revealing gaps in local manufacturing of critical materials and the need for further policy development. The sector has been divided into seven verticals to better

manage the ecosystem and a separate marketing code for medical devices is in progress.

Evolving Landscape of Regulatory Reforms for MedTech Growth

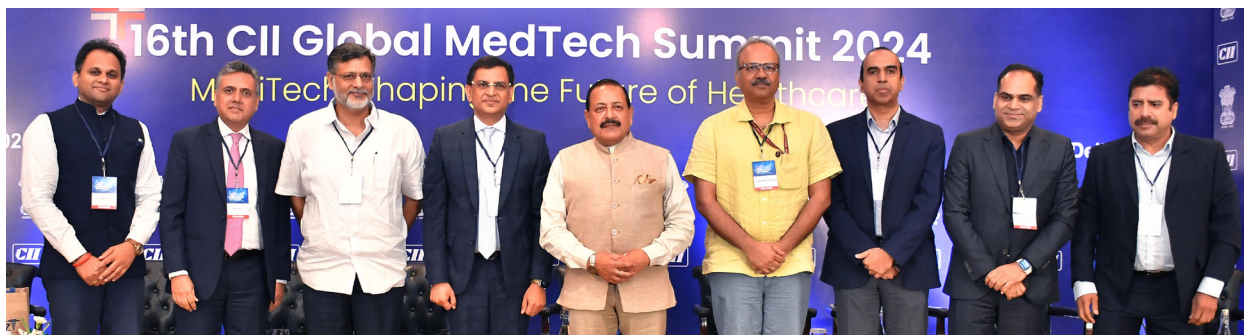
This session emphasized the significant strides India has made in becoming a global leader in healthcare and pharmaceuticals. The Government's focus on eliminating diseases, promoting preventive healthcare and leveraging technology like AI and telemedicine was highlighted. The session underscored the importance of collaboration between public and private sectors, both domestically and internationally, to boost economic and knowledge resources.

Discussions included India's application to the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), the digitization of regulatory processes through the Sugam portal and the harmonization of regulations between Central and State Governments. The Government's efforts to establish a separate vertical for medical devices and simplify the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) were also noted.

Value-Based Procurement for MedTech in India: Opportunities and Challenges

Traditionally, the procurement system in India has prioritized the lowest bid (L1), but there is increasing recognition of the importance of considering value, which includes factors like quality, innovation, patient outcomes and clinician efficiency. Government officials emphasized the need to enhance procurement practices by training managers, incorporating Industry feedback and redefining the L1 system to include value-defining factors.

Additionally, sectors like cataract surgery, where India performs 40 per cent of the world's procedures, present significant opportunities to expand value-based



Speakers with Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences and Minister of State, PMO, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy & Department of Space, Government of India at the 16th Global MedTech Summit in New Delhi



(L-R): Himanshu Baid Chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum & Managing Director Poly Medicure Ltd; Dr Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers; Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General of India, Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation; Hariharan Subramanian, Co-Chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum & Managing Director, Siemens Healthcare Pvt Ltd

procurement. The integration of technology, such as AI and longitudinal patient data, can further enhance procurement by improving post-surgery outcomes, reducing revision surgery risks, and addressing overburdened health systems, ultimately benefiting both patients and clinicians while maintaining affordability.

MedTech Opportunity – Global Spotlight on India

The Government, through the Department of Pharmaceuticals, is actively supporting the sector with initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which has seen success with the commissioning of 19 out of 26 projects. Additionally, the upcoming Stackathon 2 aims to address sector concerns and finalize recommendations. Efforts are also being made to refine existing schemes, such as those for Medical Device Clusters and Human Resource Development, with a strong emphasis on R&D and Industry-academia collaboration. There is also a strong push for 'Make in India for the World,' with an emphasis on increasing domestic consumption of medical devices.

Ensuring Quality and Compliance in the Medical Device Industry

This session emphasized the critical importance of maintaining high-quality standards in the medical device industry, paralleling the established norms in the pharmaceutical sector. The evolving nature of medical device regulations in India was highlighted, with a focus on ensuring the safety, quality and performance of products through comprehensive standards set by bodies like CDSCO, BIS and QCI.

Regulatory authorities, including CDSCO, are working to align India's medical device regulations with global

standards, mandating compliance with BIS standards and Quality Control Orders (QCOs). The session discussed the importance of indigenous standards, while also aligning with international norms to ensure products meet both global and local requirements. The introduction of QCOs has faced resistance, yet they are crucial for enhancing the quality of indigenous products. The need for a single-window clearance system under CDSCO's guidance was noted, particularly in managing older equipment and ensuring compliance with current standards.

Key Takeaways

- **Strengthen Industry-Academia Partnerships:** Facilitate collaborations between Industry and academic institutions to drive innovation and commercialize research outcomes under the 'Make in India' initiative. Create platforms for regular interaction and joint research initiatives
- **Focus on Skill Development:** Partner with educational institutions and Industry to design specialized training programmes for the MedTech sector. Support initiatives that build a skilled workforce capable of driving Industry's growth
- **Advocate for Regulatory Harmonization:** Work with regulatory bodies to ensure that Industry practices align with the highest quality and compliance standards. Engage with Government bodies to streamline regulatory processes and harmonize them with global standards. Work towards creating a code of conduct for the MedTech Industry, prioritizing high standards and innovation
- **Promote Data Sharing:** Encourage the Industry to provide robust data to the Government to facilitate proactive actions and improvements
- **Push for Policy and R&D Support:** Continue advocating for expedited enactment of the Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Bill, and separate code for the Marketing of Medical Devices
- **Address Pricing and Affordability:** Continue engaging in discussions on pricing mechanisms and the harmonization of GST rates to ensure affordability for patients while supporting domestic manufacturing.



Confederation of Indian Industry

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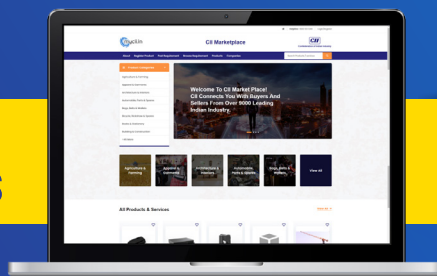
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PM's nudge enthuses India Inc

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO
 NEW DELHI, AUG. 15

India Inc on Thursday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's nudge to all the state governments, creating new employment opportunities along with focus on skill development, ease of living mission, made-in-India chip semiconductor production among others. Besides, he also called for establishing clearer policies and ensuring good governance, law and order to attract investments from global companies. In his address on the Red Fort on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day, Modi said that the world's leading companies want to invest in India. "I urge state governments to establish clear policies to attract investors, provide assurance of good governance



WITH THE blueprint for sustaining high growth with inclusion in place, the industry chambers, especially CII is confident that India would soon emerge as the third largest economy.

and build their confidence in the law and order situation. Every state should engage in healthy competition to attract investors," he said, adding that this competition will bring investment to their states, providing local youth with opportunities and creating jobs. Commenting on the Prime Minister's I-Day address, president of a leading industry body confederation of Indian industry (CII), Sanjiv Puri called it an epochal speech, outlining the bouquet of policies and futuristic goals which would accelerate India's march towards the Viksit Bharat dream. "The key takeaways of the speech presented by the PM, have been the staunch commitment towards environmentally sustainable development, green hydrogen, developing manufacturing excellence, innovation and the quest for a technologically advanced India, especially in futuristic areas such as

semi-conductors and design," Puri said. "This, CII concurs, would be critical milestones in our journey towards a developed India. The emphasis on facilitating ease of living in a mission mode, women-led development, facilitating ODPOP initiative for traditional artisans, improving the quality of life in the urban areas, skilling the youth, among others would pave the way for growth with inclusion," Puri said. Lauding the thrust given to rural development through organic farming given by the Prime Minister, Puri further said that the need to support also deserves special consideration. Mr Puri averred, "Mr Modi added, Deepak Sood, secretary general, Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (Assocham), also said that the initiative to rope in states to establish clear policies to attract investments would be a "double-down approach for scaling up investment-led growth month. With the blueprint for sustaining high growth with inclusion in place, the industry chambers,

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Focus on four sectors to double India-Africa trade

FE BUREAU
 New Delhi, August 22

TRADE IN PHARMACEUTICALS, automobiles, agriculture and logistics will be key to doubling trade between India and Africa to \$200 billion in the next seven years, commerce secretary Sunil Barthwal said on Thursday. Barthwal said that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has identified these four sectors as priority areas which have the potential for collaboration between the two sides. The potential lies in the areas of investment, trade, technology and capacity building, the commerce secretary said at the CII India Africa Business Conclave here. The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area bringing together 55 countries of the African Union and eight Regional Economic Communities to create a single market for the continent. The trade agreement became operational in 2021 but trade under it is yet to take off in a big way. In agriculture, Barthwal said that both sides can increase trade and cooperation in areas like processed foods and seed technology. He added that India's pharmaceuticals exports to Africa stood at \$3.8 billion in 2023 and opportunities are there to increase the trade in the sector and provide affordable medicines and healthcare to the African people. Africa is a key player and supplier of critical minerals as these are fundamental for green energy transition.



Delegates at the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi on Thursday. The three-day meet aims to serve as an instrument for Africa's growth and the role of India-Africa partnership in regional and global value chains integration

review for expansion, which could further bolster trade volumes. Ravi suggested the Indian businesses to consider setting up industries in Africa as well. The secretary said that India can share its expertise and best practices in the logistics sector. He also said that there is a huge scope to expand the import basket from Africa. India can implement capacity building in Africa, Barthwal said. World Trade Organization (WTO) secretary Ravi Kumar said that the ministry of exports and promotion (MoEP) has a duty-free (DFTP) scheme was by Africa and there into those issues. T for at least developed countries

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IMPROVE EASE OF DOING BIZ

Chandrajit Banerjee, director general, CII
 The vision outlined by the PM in his speech to transform India into a global manufacturing hub will require action on further improving ease of doing business and reducing cost of doing business while adhering to the stated sustainability objectives.

controlling a significant portion of the global market. This dependency raises concerns about supply chain vulnerabilities and geopolitical risks. As

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BIMSTEC: India seeks preferential trade agreement

FE BUREAU
 New Delhi, August 7

ASTALSKO a free-trade agreement between members of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) are going on for long, India has proposed a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with them to foster intra-regional trade. The idea of a PTA was proposed by commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal at the BIMSTEC Business Summit, organised by industry body CII and the ministry of external affairs, here on Wednesday. "Maybe, we can begin with a PTA (preferential



Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal urged the member

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 Page : 2

Goyal pitches for doubling India-Africa trade to \$200 bn

FE BUREAU
 New Delhi, August 21

INDIA ON WEDNESDAY suggested partnership with countries in Africa on critical minerals and other emerging areas to double the bilateral trade to \$200 billion in the next seven years. "Africa can complement India's need for critical minerals for some sectors like electric vehicles," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said at the special plenary with trade ministers at the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave. He also highlighted the potential for collaboration in other areas of the mining sector given that Africa is rich in minerals. Critical minerals such as cobalt, copper, lithium and nickel play a crucial role in the production of



Piyush Goyal
 Over the past decade, trade between India and Africa has gone up

Goyal said 33 African countries do not participate in India's duty-free preference (DFTP) scheme for least developed countries (LDCs) and urged them to take its advantage. The DFTP scheme, which has significant benefit for African LDCs, is under review for expansion, which could further bolster trade volumes. He added that opportunities there in increasing collaboration in IT sectors India can help African nations in infrastructure development, health and financial inclusion. "There is a potential in entertainment sector also given mutual strengths. Sports also increase cooperation," he said. food security, India has several forils for Africa and we have de for oil seeds, pulses, lentils," he

Business Line
 Mon, 12 Aug-24; Business Line - Kottai; Size : 469 sq.cm.; Circulation:19100; Page : 4

A strategy for securing critical minerals

Chandrajit Banerjee
 Apart from skilling, tech upgrade and proactive regulation, India must tie up with other countries

Through industry consultations, CII has identified 10 critical areas in advanced materials, critical materials, for focused collaboration to foster commercial and utilisation. These include bioceramics, rare earths, graphite, rare earths, minerals, titanium, storage materials, aluminium. While these materials are worked upon and often are commercially, largescale to meet the increasing demand is lagging. It is most important in this regard relate to the scarcity of raw materials. For India has limited resources of these materials also, elements. For metals also, metallurgical coke is mostly imported. The challenge is the shortage of power in the materials, d metals sectors. This is a cause of gaps in specialised advanced skills, and collaborations. Regulations, standards, and environmental concerns are other challenges to be addressed. India has recognised the need to develop a robust domestic supply chain for critical minerals and metals. As



IN HIGH DEMAND. For tech products critical minerals like copper and lithium. This is a significant step towards securing the supply chains of essential minerals vital for modern technologies.

LOOKING AHEAD
 Going forward, there is a need for several actions.

First, regular updates to regulatory guidelines by incorporating insights from research and academic experts will be essential. This iterative process ensures that new materials or technologies are appropriately regulated thereby promoting indigenous technology. Two, it is important that artificial intelligence, machine learning, and various advanced manufacturing technologies be adopted to solve

The Statesman

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Rise of India augurs well for global stability and peace: VP Dhankhar

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 21 AUGUST

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar Wednesday highlighted the significance of India's inclusive, multilateral approach in driving progress for the Global South.

"The rise of India, a vibrant democracy and home to one-sixth of humanity, augurs for global stability and peace," he stressed.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 19th CII India-



Referring to climate change as 'a ticking bomb' and 'the greatest threat to humanity', he urged all countries to collectively focus on combating

elaborated on various facets of the partnership, touching upon economic, social, environmental, security and diplomatic aspects, among others.

"A resurgent Africa and rising India can give a strong impetus to South-South Cooperation, especially in areas like clean technology, climate-resilient agriculture, maritime security, connectivity, and the blue economy," he said.

Describing the inclusion

India pushes for African unity on WTO reforms, global issues

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India is also planning to start new free trade agreement discussions with South Africa

Chintan Shiv
NEW DELHI

Commerce secretary Sanil Barthwal urged African countries to unite in calling for reforms at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and to address key issues such as food security, technology transfer and industrial policy. He also said that a "far-reaching and unified approach is essential for achieving reforms and improving global trade practices."

The commerce secretary offered tailored capacity-building programmes to African nations in trade facilitation, promotion, finance and other areas. He also said that India is planning to start new free trade agreement discussions with South Africa.



Commerce secretary Sanil Barthwal. The commerce secretary offered tailored capacity-building programmes to African nations in trade facilitation, promotion, finance and other areas. He also said that India is planning to start new free trade agreement discussions with South Africa.

Business Standard

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I-DAY REFLECTIONS



WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE RELATIONS OF A PARTICULARLY PRIVILEGED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA. MOSCOW WILL CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO IT
VI ADIMIR PUTIN President Russia



LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY FRIEND @NARENDRAMODI ON ACHIEVING THE AMBITIOUS GOALS WE HAVE SET FOR OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
EMMANUELLI MACRON President France



HIS (PM MODI'S) SUGGESTION THAT EVEN TWO REFORMS CARRIED OUT PER YEAR AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL ARE SUFFICIENT TO TRANSFORM THE COUNTRY IS SPOT ON
KANISHK DHILLON President CII

Business Standard

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India Inc hails PM's Viksit Bharat roadmap

KRISHNA
New Delhi

Corporate India on Thursday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech and said it laid out a roadmap to transform the country into 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Apex industry bodies were particularly impressed by the key takeaways from the speech, including the commitment to include the environment in all government policies to attract global investments.

Describing Modi's longest Independence Day address, at 96 minutes, as "inspiring on many fronts," industry captains described the PM's longest ever 1-day address, as "inspiring on many fronts."



Industry captains described the PM's longest ever 1-day address, at 96 minutes, as "inspiring on many fronts."

Indeed, come from building consensus with the States for undertaking next-gen reforms, especially in factors of production such as land, labour, etc., which are in the domain of States," he said.

Deepak Singh, Secretary General, ASSOCHAM, said the initiative to rope in the States to establish clear policies to attract investments would be a double-edged approach for scaling up investment-led growth.

He said it was reassuring to see Prime Minister Modi to see Prime Minister Modi connecting his resolve to

strengthening India's design capabilities, bringing self-reliance and a logical self-sufficiency to critical segments of the economy, such as chips and semiconductors, as well as to be recognised for its standards setting national benchmarks. "CII strongly believes that India must be seen as a nation that is not only a global leader in class and a world in terms of sustainability and innovation," Shukla said. "Stronger Agriculture, FDI, and V. The country must be seen as a nation that is not only a global leader in class and a world in terms of sustainability and innovation," Shukla said.

Marketing code for medical gear likely before year-end

SANKET KOUL
New Delhi, 7 August

The medical devices industry has welcomed the government's move to work on a separate marketing code for medical devices, expecting it to be finalised before the end of this year.

This reaction comes after Pharma Association of India (PharmA) in capturing

draft Uniform Code for Medical Marketing Practices (UCMDMP) in 2022. The Code was aimed at bringing in a voluntary code to regulate fair marketing practices by the medical device industry.

A marketing practices code has been a long-standing demand of the medical devices industry

more affordable and quality destination for domestic healing and international medical tourism.

"Bringing a UCMDMP corroborates the fact that the government understands that medical devices (electrical and mechanical entities) need to be regulated by code quite distinct from one used to regulate pharmaceutical (chemical entities)," he said.

Reacting to the same, Himanshu Baid, chairman, CII National Medical Technology Forum and managing director, Poly Medicare, told Business Standard that the code will be continuously tra



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Empowering Startups



Tech for Impact: Driving Social Change Through Innovation

Under the aegis of the CII Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CII-CIES), the National Social Tech Startup Summit was organised on 29 August in New Delhi around the theme 'Tech for Impact: Driving Social Change Through Innovation.'

The summit provided a dynamic platform for exploring the pivotal role of technology in addressing some of India's most pressing social challenges, including education, climate change, health, and livelihoods.

Mr B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII CIES National Social Tech Startup Platform and Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd shared that India can solve many grassroots challenges by developing social technology, at scale. Mr Thiagarajan, while launching the CII CIES Social Tech Platform-Funding Ideas for Social Change (FISCH) said that the platform would work towards supporting solutions that addressed social challenges. FISCH aligns with CII's commitment to nurturing a vibrant ecosystem for social tech startups and enabling them to scale their impact effectively, he added.

Ms Praveena Yagnambhat, Co-Chairperson, CII CIES National Social Tech Startup Platform and Chief of Staff & Head CSR, Boeing India and South Asia, emphasized

on the commitment to fostering innovation that uplifts communities and advances equity. The FISCH platform would connect startups with Industry leaders, providing vital resources to scale impactful solutions in climate tech, education, healthcare, and livelihoods, she added.

Ms Suchitra K Ella, Co-founder & Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd highlighted that social tech startups are transforming the landscape by using innovative solutions to tackle issues such as healthcare access, education, and environmental sustainability. This platform would be crucial in leveraging technology to propel the transformation of the social impact landscape.

The summit brought together thought leaders to explore pivotal themes. The session on "Aligning Capital with Purpose: The Future of Impact Investing", witnessed speakers deliberate upon the evolving strategies to ensure that investments not only yield financial returns but also drive meaningful societal impact.

An engaging discussion was held on "Driving Social Change: Corporate Strategies for Innovation & Impact," where Industry leaders shared insights into how corporations can leverage innovation to foster social progress and create lasting change.

A Fireside Chat on "Technology for Impact through Global Partnerships" provided an in-depth look into the role of technology and international collaborations in accelerating impact-driven initiatives. Speakers also shared insights on driving social impact at grassroots level and emphasized the importance of integrating a gender lens into development.



(L-R): Praveena Yagnambhat, Co-chairperson, CII CIES National Social Tech Startup Platform; B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII CIES National Social Tech Startup Platform and Suchitra K Ella, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd



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The 3rd Suresh Neotia Memorial Lecture by Krishnamurthy Subramanian

The 3rd Suresh Neotia Memorial Lecture was organized by the CII-Centre of Excellence for Leadership (CII-CEL) on 21 August in Kolkata. This year's lecture featured Prof Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Executive Director for India, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India.

Prof Krishnamurthy Subramanian articulated a bold vision for India's economic future, asserting that India could become a USD 55 trillion economy by the centenary of its Independence in 2047. To achieve this ambitious target, he emphasized the necessity for the nation to maintain an annual growth rate of 8 per cent over the next 24 years. This vision, he elaborated, is not merely aspirational but attainable, provided India leverages its strengths and tackles its challenges with strategic foresight.

Key Growth Enablers

Prof. Subramanian identified three key enablers critical for sustaining India's growth trajectory, including enhancing productivity, fostering innovation, and improving capital credit creation. He emphasized the importance of increasing productivity in both formal and informal sectors and highlighted the role of generative AI as a catalyst for boosting economic productivity. He also stressed the need for greater investment in Research & Development to drive innovation, noting India's rising status in the Global Innovation Index as a positive sign of its potential. Lastly, he pointed out the opportunity for growth in private credit, with the current private credit-to-GDP ratio offering substantial room for expansion.

Role of State Governments and Strategic Agility

Emphasizing the latent power of India's federal structure, Prof. Subramanian stated that State Governments would play a pivotal role in achieving the ambitious



(L-R): Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman, CII-CEL and Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group and Prof Krishnamurthy Subramanian, Executive Director, IMF at the 3rd Suresh Neotia Memorial Lecture in Kolkata

economic goal of a USD 55 trillion economy. Their active participation and collaboration with the Central Government would be essential in implementing policies that unlock the nation's full economic potential. He also provided a detailed analysis of the recent global disruptions that have impacted the Indian economy and outlined strategic approaches to navigate these challenges. He was also of the view that by adopting a proactive and adaptive stance, India can not only withstand global economic fluctuations but also position itself as a dominant economic force on the world stage. Mr Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman, CII-Centre of Excellence for Leadership highlighted the significance of Prof Subramanian's vision for India, noting that the lecture's insights would challenge and inspire the audience to consider their roles in India's economic transformation.

The Memorial lecture culminated with the launch of Prof Subramanian's book, "India@100: Building a US \$55 Trillion Economy", which outlines a comprehensive roadmap for achieving this transformative goal. The lecture also witnessed a gathering of over 150 eminent business leaders and executives representing leading companies in the Eastern Region.

Strategic Marketing Leadership Programme

CII-CEL, in association with The Strategy Academy Centre for Advanced Studies (TSACAS), launched Batch III of the Strategic Marketing Leadership Programme.

Building on the success of earlier editions, this long-duration certified course was designed to equip CII’s membership with a new generation of strategic marketing skills. Among many important themes, the course analyzed the impact of evolving media, purchase and consumption behaviours, as well as the basics of a reformulated customer strategy. The programme also covered significant marketing challenges, such as the impact of social media on brand management, low-price competition, market commoditisation, and the role of digital technologies in intelligently spotting new market trends. The ultimate objective of the course was to ensure tangible improvements in marketing and decision-making outcomes.

The digital pedagogy leveraged an interactive, real-time learning platform spread over four months, consisting of a blend of live faculty-led and self-paced sessions. The programme included a robust and continuous assessment process and featured enthusiastic participation from member companies.

to reduce the energy they feed into the grid at such times, through flexible operation. Flexible operations of power plants typically result in reduced efficiencies and significant wear and tear of generation equipment. However, flexibilization is very important in the context of energy security, reliability of power supply and safety and stability of the transmission grid.

In view of this, the Flex India Conference was organized by CII, in collaboration with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), on 22-23 August in New Delhi. The conference served as a platform to explore the current state of flexible operations in India, understand the regulatory framework and technological advancements guiding these changes and exchange knowledge on best practices from both domestic and international perspectives. It brought together key stakeholders from across the thermal power plant sector. The event focused on the critical importance of flexible operations in India’s power generation landscape.

The conference examined flexible operations, both within India and internationally, providing an in-depth analysis of the technologies that enable these operations, exploring strategies for overcoming the challenges associated with flexible operations and offering insights from plant operators who are actively implementing these practices. The goal is to foster deeper understanding and collaboration among Industry leaders to ensure the sustainable and efficient integration of flexible operations in India’s power sector.

The event provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the regulatory framework governing flexible operations, equipping them with the knowledge needed to navigate the evolving landscape of power generation. It also offered valuable insights into conducting load tests and monitoring critical parameters during low-load operations.



Green Building

Navigating Flexible Operations in Power Generation

Greater renewable energy capacity additions in India result in greater power from renewable sources being fed into the national grid, particularly from solar energy during the daytime. Thermal power plants are required



(L-R): Ravindra Kumar, Chairman, Flex India 2024 & Director (Operations), NTPC Ltd; B.C. Mallick, Principal Chief Engineer -II CEA; Rajiv Kumar Porwal, Director (System Operation), Grid Controller of India Ltd. and Stephen Storm, Program Manager, EPRI at the Flex India Summit in New Delhi



Food and Agriculture

Strengthening Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Ecosystem

State Connect is an institutional initiative in association with FSSAI and State FDAs to strengthen the food safety and regulatory ecosystem across the country. It provides

a platform that facilitates capacity building on regulatory compliance requirements, staple food fortification, sampling and testing norms for stakeholders. The initiative is envisaged to establish a cohesive food safety and regulatory ecosystem by facilitating improvement in each state's performance, enhancing the State's Food Safety Index. State Connect sessions were organized in Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Bengaluru, Karnataka on 9 and 20 August respectively.

Addressing the inaugural session in Bengaluru, Shri Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka emphasized strengthening the rapid and instant food testing ecosystem through Public-Private Partnerships in the state.

During his address in Chennai, Shri R Lalvena, Food Safety Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu highlighted the need to adopt a focused approach to augment work on food hygiene practices through public awareness campaigns. He also emphasized pursuing self-regulation, building on self-audit capabilities, and enabling medical testing for food handlers.



(L-R): Dr Geemon Korah, Chairman, CII Foodpro; R Lalvena, Food Safety Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu and Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director, FSSAI at the State Connect in Chennai

Ms Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director, FSSAI provided guidance on recent FSSAI initiatives such as the Tatkal scheme for instant licensing and simplified procedures for Food Business Operators (FBOs) through end-to-end online processes. Special emphasis was placed on empowering women, transgender entrepreneurs and the differently abled in the food Industry.

The focus was on the 'Eat Right India' campaigns across states, which continue to transform food safety across various sectors, with Karnataka leading in certifications. Additionally, the Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme aims to train 2.5 million food handlers over the next three years to ensure nationwide compliance with food safety standards.

Leveraging AI for Sustainable and Safe Food Supply Chain

Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered solutions are revolutionizing the agri-food sector by boosting production efficiency, improving quality control & food safety, minimizing waste and enhancing traceability and supply chain efficiency. Embracing these innovations has become essential for stakeholders in the agri-food supply chain to remain competitive, respond to changing consumer demands and contribute to a safer, more sustainable food ecosystem.

With the aim to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and policy advocacy for making the AI solutions affordable and accessible to the food Industry and to emphasize on the need for responsible AI deployment, the CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (FACE) organized a roundtable on 'Leveraging AI for Sustainable and Safe Food Supply Chain' on 31 August in Hyderabad.

The roundtable is the first in a series of forums planned on the theme 'AI in Agriculture and Food' under the 'Dialogue on Advanced Technology 2024'. It brought together a diverse array of participants, including value chain companies, venture capitalist, incubators and startups to deliberate on critical issues affecting the food supply chain. Special focus was placed on sustainable agrifood, market access, financing and value chain development. The discussions highlighted the need for climate resilience and the role of technology in enabling farmers to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The roundtable underscored the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders — ranging from technology providers to policy makers — in realizing the full potential of AI in agriculture. By working together, stakeholders can ensure that AI solutions are not only cutting-edge but also scalable and accessible to farmers at all levels. A recurring theme throughout the roundtable was the need to democratize AI technologies, making them accessible and affordable for all farmers, regardless of their scale or location.

The roundtable called for concerted efforts in policy advocacy, financing and capacity building. There was a consensus that Government support, in the form of favourable policies and financial incentives, is crucial for scaling AI adoption in agrifood systems. The role of incubators and venture capitalists in nurturing agri-tech startups was highlighted.



CME

Poka Yoke and Zero Quality Control

To explore the fundamentals of Poka Yoke (mistake proofing) and recognize the cost implications of defects and poor quality, a workshop was organized on ‘Poka Yoke and Zero Quality Control’. The workshop, attended by 49 participants representing 20 different companies, highlighted the widespread interest in enhancing quality control and operational efficiency through Poka Yoke. Participants included senior executives, managers and quality control professionals from various sectors, reflecting a strong commitment to advancing their understanding of error-proofing techniques.

The workshop was designed to help organizations adopt a zero-defect philosophy by leveraging the principles developed by Mr Shigeo Shingo, the founder of Poka Yoke. Recognizing the limitations of traditional statistical techniques, Mr Shingo had devised the ZQC approach to eliminate defects at the source through error-proofing. This methodology is also endorsed by Standard IATF 16949, Clause 10.2.4, which requires organizations to implement processes for error-proof verification within their control plans.

The workshop equipped the participants with the skills to identify and analyze sources of problems and defects, explore types of human errors and inspection systems, evaluate various inspection methods and learn and apply the basic principles of Poka Yoke. It showcased Poka Yoke implementation in real-world scenarios and explored different types of Poka Yoke devices. It also encouraged participants to identify potential areas for Poka Yoke application within their processes and develop actionable plans.

Customer Service Excellence, Retention, & Complaint Management

A virtual workshop on ‘Customer Service Excellence, Retention, & Complaint Management’ was organized on 21 August to explore strategies for managing customer relationships in a virtual environment and develop approaches that inspire customer loyalty and prompt recommendations.

The workshop delivered valuable insights and practical strategies for improving customer service and complaint management. Participants left with actionable tools and

methods to enhance their customer service interactions, build stronger relationships and drive customer loyalty.

Understanding that customer service excellence is a key driver for business success, the workshop emphasized building strong customer relationships, increasing sales, and encouraging positive word-of-mouth. The participants learned techniques for handling unsatisfied and irate customers and how to deliver exceptional service to every customer in an organized manner.

Project Management: Planning & Execution

An in-house workshop on ‘Project Management: Planning & Execution’ was tailored for Mankind Pharma to enhance participants’ understanding and application of project management concepts. Designed with a focus on real-life scenarios and global best practices, the course was aligned with the Project Management Institute (PMI) standards, ensuring that participants gained insights into the latest methodologies and tools relevant to effective project management. The workshop, attended by 25 participants from Mankind Pharma, covered a comprehensive range of topics designed to provide participants with a robust understanding of both the planning and execution phases of project management.

The integration of PMI-aligned best practices, real-life examples and practical exercises enabled participants to gain a comprehensive understanding of both the planning and execution aspects of project management.

The workshop equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively manage projects, driving organizational success through improved planning and execution.



CFC

Atmospheric Corrosion Mitigation Through Sustainable Solutions

Atmospheric corrosion, the degradation of materials due to exposure to air and moisture, affects countless structures and costs the global economy losses of billions annually. As we move toward a greener future, it is essential to adopt sustainable approaches to corrosion mitigation.

As part of the Dr Baldev Raj Memorial Lecture Series, CII under the aegis of the Corrosion Management Division (CMD) conducted an exclusive session on 'Atmospheric Corrosion Mitigation through Sustainable Solutions' on 27 August virtually.

Mr Prabhakar Singh, Former Director General, Central Public Works Department (CPWD) shared his views on the challenges of corrosion and the associated dangers including collapse of buildings due to design failure and poor construction quality. He stressed upon the need for accountability and expertise in infrastructure development, as well as the importance of corrosion management and sustainable solutions.

Mr Prasad Talvelkar, Business Head – Protective Coatings, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd underlined the importance of selection of the right paint systems, surface preparation and proper application being crucial for long-term sustainable solutions in mitigating atmospheric corrosion.

Ms Kiran Diwakar, Scientist & Senior Manager, Green Chemical Vindhyachal, NTPC Ltd highlighted the utilization of solar energy for desalination of seawater and compound parabolic collector.

The session was attended by participants from various sectors, including manufacturing, oil & gas, power, academia, supply chain, food & beverage, pharmaceuticals and automotive.

Advanced Problem-Solving Tools & Techniques

CII Centre of Excellence for competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) organized a four-day course on 'Advanced Problem-Solving Tools and Techniques Program' via virtual platform from 20-23 August.

Designed to cater to professionals across various industries, the programme equipped participants with the essential knowledge and skills necessary for effective problem-solving and process improvement. This comprehensive understanding enabled them to identify and tackle complex issues, and attendees honed their analytical abilities, empowering them to address intricate challenges effectively.



One of the key objectives of the programme was to instill a culture of continuous improvement. Participants learned how to foster innovation and efficiency within their workplaces, setting the stage for lasting positive change.

To demonstrate their newly acquired knowledge, participants underwent a rigorous certification examination following the course.

Water Saving in the Industry

CII CFC helps industries to identify water-saving opportunities through its technical expertise in water efficiency and technology. In line with CII CFC services, a water audit was carried out at Moon Beverages Limited (Greater Noida) and Sigma Engineered solution Ltd (Jaipur) on 20 – 23 August and 28 – 29 August respectively.

Water Audit is a systematic process of objectively obtaining a water balance by measuring the flow of water from the site of water withdrawal or treatment through the water distribution system and into areas where it is used and finally discharged. A team of two water auditors conducted the annual water audit over the span of 12 days.

After the detailed observations the auditors observed water savings potential of 15 – 20 per cent in both plants, which will also help to fulfil the company's sustainability goals and Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)/ State Ground Water Authority (SGWA) compliance, which state that all industries abstracting ground water more than 100 m³/d shall be required to undertake annual water audit. ■

Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Navigating Global Trade Frontiers

CII Eastern Region organized the EXIM Conference around the theme 'Navigating Global Trade Frontiers' on 20 August in Kolkata.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Government of India, Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, Dr Shashi Panja, Minister of the Department of Industry, Commerce & Enterprises, Government of West Bengal and Consuls Generals of Japan, Australia and Myanmar were among the key delegates.

The speakers outlined strategies for leveraging regional initiatives, improving infrastructure and fostering international trade relations. The discussions emphasized collaborative efforts to harness regional resources and expertise, aiming to position Eastern India as a pivotal player in the global trade arena. The conference provided a comprehensive platform for addressing the critical strategies needed to elevate Eastern India's economic and export potential.

The discussions also highlighted the need for diversified economic strategies, improved logistical frameworks and targeted skill development to meet the demands of a global market. By emphasizing inter-departmental

cooperation, multimodal connectivity and strategic investments, the conference set a clear roadmap for transforming Eastern India into a prominent player in global trade.

Interaction between MPs and CII

Chhattisgarh

A meeting was held between representatives of CII Chhattisgarh and Members of Parliament from Chhattisgarh on 8 August in New Delhi. The MPs assured their support towards the request to upgrade the infrastructure of the Raipur Airport at par with international standards and pledged to work towards this goal.

They also assured full support to CII in resolving issues being faced by the Industry at both central and state levels. The importance of addressing skill gaps was also highlighted and the need to upskill the youth of Chhattisgarh, to ensure they are prepared for employment opportunities.

Bihar

A delegation from CII Bihar State Council met Members of Parliament from Bihar on 7 August in New Delhi. The MPs underlined the commitment to drive the



(L-R): Debashis Dutta, Vice Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council & Director, BGS Group; Tin Moe, Consul General, Consulate General of Myanmar; Shashwat Goenka, Deputy Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Vice Chairman, RP Sanjiv Goenka Group; Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India; Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of India; Suvendra Kumar Behera, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Vice Chairman and MD, RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd; Hugh Boylan, Consul General, Consulate General of Australia and Nakagawa Koichi, Consul General, Consulate General of Japan at the CII EXIM Conference 2024 in Kolkata

economic development of Bihar. The discussion focused on devising effective strategies to establish Bihar as a leading destination for investments.

The MPs emphasized the need for a collaborative approach between the Government, Industry and civil society to unlock the enormous economic potential of Bihar. Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Government of India highlighted the importance of leveraging the Central Government schemes and infrastructure projects to drive growth in Bihar. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to promote investments in the State and support employment generating initiatives.

Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, Shri Sudhakar Singh, Ms Sambhavi Chaudhary and Shri Vivek Thakur were among the MPs who participated in the interaction.

Capital Markets: Catalyst Towards Developed India

To understand the role of capital markets and how it can drive the potential of a robust future for the country's economy, CII Eastern Region organized the 10th edition of the Capital Markets Conclave with the theme 'Catalyst Towards Developed India' on 14 August in Kolkata. The conference also explored ways to empower the SMEs by raising capital through SME IPOs and taking the operations to the next level.

Senior officials from the Government of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Industry leaders in capital markets participated in the conclave. Plenary sessions were held on 'Critical Role of Capital Markets towards India@100 Vision', 'Secondary

Markets', and 'SME IPO Process and Regulatory Requirements'.

Mr Shekhar Chaudhary, Director, Financial Markets Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India highlighted that the access to capital has always been a challenge for SMEs. But now the SMEs are increasingly being listed on NSE and BSE. These companies have raised around ₹11,000 crores over the period and had a combined market capitalisation of more than 1.6 lakh crores.

A report on the SME IPO was also released during the event.

Members' Meet with CII Vice President

CII organized a Members' Meet and an exclusive interaction with Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd on 12 August in Kolkata.

This interaction focussed on a wide range of topics covering emerging Industry trends and opportunities, membership engagement strategies, policy issues at the state and national levels. Besides exploring areas of collaboration for the overall growth of the Industry in the state.

The meeting, which was attended by nearly 200 members, focused on jobs, skills and MSMEs - the drivers of growth in Eastern India. Emphasis was laid on green initiatives, leveraging water resources and strengthening Government partnerships for trade. Mr R Mukundan advocated for Industry clusters and frequent buyer-seller meets for MSMEs, positioning the region as a trade bridge to Southeast Asia and Australia, supported by its skilled workforce.



(L-R): Pradeep Pal, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Managing Director, Proethic Consultants Pvt Ltd; Kamala K, Chief Regulatory Officer, BSE India; Samir Agarwal, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Director, Indcap Advisors Pvt Ltd; Shekhar Chaudhary, Director, Financial Markets Division, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India; Bijay Murmuria, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee and Director, Sumedha Fiscal Services Ltd and Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business development Officer, NSE Ltd, during the unveiling of SME IPO Report at the Capital Markets Conclave in Kolkata



(L-R): Snehasis Samaddar, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region Safety Subcommittee and Executive Director (Generation), CESC Ltd; Sandip Ghose, Managing Director & CEO, Birla Corporation Ltd; Rajiv Mangal, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Safety Subcommittee & Vice President, Safety, Health & Sustainability, Tata Steel Ltd and Brajesh Singh, Managing Director – Generation, CESC Ltd

Safety Symposium & Exposition

CII Eastern Region organized the 18th Safety Symposium & Exposition on 22 – 23 August in Kolkata to understand how digitization brings opportunities and new challenges in the field of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS). Deliberations were held on harnessing the power of digitization for EHS excellence, which presents a wide array of advantages for organizations.

It was identified that a company can revolutionize their EHS management practices by embracing digital technologies. Discussions were held on how to implement digitization within an ethical framework, which needs education and skilling of employees, involvement of employees and implementing regulations that enhance safety in the digital age. The speakers shared their thoughts on leadership in digitization for EHS excellence, leveraging digitization for EHS excellence, digitalization for sustainable mining, digitization impacting PPE user-friendliness and digital transformation in logistics safety.

The symposium was attended by more than 300 safety professionals of various member companies. A compendium on good practices was released during the symposium. The conclave culminated by Excellence Award on Safety, Health & Environment - SHE Awards for the Year 2023-24. As many as 82 companies participated and were assessed based on a 5-star rating system.

Interaction with Mr Harshvardhan Neotia

CII Indian Women Network (IWN) West Bengal Chapter organized an exclusive interaction with Mr Harshvardhan Neotia, Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence for Leadership and Chairman, Ambuja Neotia Group on 3 August in Kolkata.

Mr Neotia emphasized the importance of integrating cultural heritage and spirituality into business practices, showcasing that true success goes beyond financial achievements. By embodying humility and creativity rooted in his family's traditions, he demonstrates how blending personal and cultural values can enrich modern business practices. His teachings highlighted the potential of using traditional wisdom to inspire innovation and creativity, offering a blueprint for businesses to be both profitable and socially responsible.

Towards Future Ready Green Ecosystem

CII Jharkhand organized the Green Conclave with the theme 'Creating Future Ready Green Ecosystem' in Jamshedpur on 28 August. With a focus on competitiveness, inclusiveness and environmental stewardship, the conclave aimed to chart a course for a greener and more resilient future. Leaders from various sectors such as automobiles, steel, mining, agriculture and food processing deliberated on emerging green technologies and their potential to drive sustainability. The conclave witnessed participants from MSMEs as well as large scale industries.

Deliberations focused on innovative strategies and practices that can be adopted to achieve net zero, reduce waste and create a sustainable ecosystem for the future. Mr Ranjot Singh, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and MD, Emdet Jamshedpur Pvt Ltd highlighted the urgency of collective action, stating "As a nation, we have to become Net Zero."

Dr Amit Ranjan Chakraborty, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Sustainability, Environment Energy Panel and Chief Environment, Tata Steel Ltd highlighted the three important pillars of sustainability viz. Environment, Social & Governance (ESG).



(L-R): Rohit Goyal, Co Convenor, CII Jharkhand MSME Panel & Managing Director, IEMCO Industries Ltd; Muthusezhiyan Nallathambi, Deputy Executive Director, CII Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Centre; Dr Amit Ranjan Chakraborty, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Sustainability, Environment Energy Panel & Chief Environment, Tata Steel Ltd; Ranjot Singh, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council & Managing Director, Emdet Jamshedpur Private Limited and Ritu Raj Sinha, Vice Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council & MD, Tata Steel UISL during the inaugural session at the Green Conclave in Jamshedpur

Mr Ritu Raj Sinha, Vice Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and MD, Tata Steel UISL emphasized the importance of collective commitment to sustainability at both corporate and individual levels and said that sustainability must be at the core of every action undertaken by businesses and individuals alike.

Industry, this forum will serve as a collaborative platform to identify priorities, address challenges and accelerate the development of the IT and E&C sector in Assam.

Mr Arvind Kumar, Director General, Software Technology Parks of India underscored the importance of access to technology in empowering communities and bridging gaps. He emphasized that technology has the potential to instil confidence and ensure that social sector benefits reach every mile.

Mr Bhaskar J Phukan, Chairman, CII Assam State Council and MD, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd emphasized the North East's potential to harness emerging tech opportunities with its rich talent pool of skilled professionals. Other speakers at the conference included Mr Amit Malik, President - India & South Asia, Ciena India; Dr Dipankar Chakrabarti, Immediate Past Chairman, ICT Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region and Founder, CtoE Consultancy Services and Mr Shantanu Son, Founder & CEO, Somnetics.

The conference covered the role of emerging technologies in infrastructure development, agriculture and horticulture, as well as their potential to transform traditional industries. It also highlighted the growing importance of emerging technologies in driving business innovation and social transformation in the North Eastern region.

Deliberations were held on a range of topics from smart infrastructure to digital entrepreneurship, providing insights into how individuals and businesses can stay agile and competitive in an increasingly digital world.



Emerging Technologies Impacting Businesses and Livelihoods in the North East

To explore the potential of emerging technologies to drive business innovation and social transformation, the maiden edition of TechNE was organized on 23 August in Guwahati, around the theme 'Emerging Technologies Impacting Businesses and Livelihoods.'

Shri Syedain Abbasi, Special Chief Secretary – IT, PHE, Water Resources, Government of Assam highlighted the state's potential to become a tech hub with its conducive environment and emerging infrastructure.

CII would constitute a Joint Consultative Forum with the Directorate of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (DITEC), Government of Assam. With representatives from both Government and the



(L-R): Amit Malik, President - India & South Asia, Ciena India; Bhaskar J Phukan, Chairman, CII Assam State Council and Managing Director, Numaligarh Refinery Ltd; Syedain Abbasi, Special Chief Secretary – IT, PHE, Water Resources, Government of Assam; Arvind Kumar, Director General, STPI and Dr Dipankar Chakrabarti, Immediate Past Chairman, ICT Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region & Founder, CtoE Consultancy Services and at the Inaugural session of TechNE in Guwahati

A ‘Startup Clinic’ and a ‘Technology Clinic’ were also organized on the sidelines of the conference to provide additional value to the members and delegates.



NORTHERN REGION

Interaction with MPs from Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh

CII Northern Region organized an interaction with Industry leaders from Uttar Pradesh and Members of Parliament from the state recently in New Delhi. The event focused on initiatives designed by CII Uttar Pradesh to stimulate industrial and economic growth in the region. This interaction provided a platform for gathering valuable insights from the MPs and deliberating on strategic imperatives essential for Uttar Pradesh's development.

The event was attended by several MPs including Shri Anurag Sharma (Lok Sabha – Jhansi), Shri Atul Garg (Lok Sabha – Ghaziabad), Shri Anand Kumar (Lok Sabha – Bahraich) and Ms Ruchi Vira (Lok Sabha – Moradabad). The delegation was led by Mr Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Deputy MD & CEO, JK Cement Ltd along with Ms Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and Director & CFO, PTC Industries Ltd.

CII Himachal Pradesh also organized a similar interaction with MPs from Himachal Pradesh in New Delhi. The session provided a platform for Industry representatives to engage with Shri Sikandar Kumar, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha to address these issues and explore solutions that would foster industrial growth

in the state. The session aimed to address the pressing challenges faced by industries in Himachal Pradesh.

The discussions pivoted around critical issues such as the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017, the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGCR) and challenges specific to the plastic processing Industry.

Exploring UP's Potential in Warehousing & Logistics

Uttar Pradesh, a key economic powerhouse, is rapidly emerging as a leader in the warehousing and logistics sector, due to its strategic location,

robust infrastructure and conducive policies. The



Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Industry Minister, Government of UP

recent CII Uttar Pradesh Warehousing & Logistics Summit organized on 7 August, in association with the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), showcased the state's potential in this field.

The summit served as a platform for Government

officials, policymakers and Industry experts to discuss the evolving landscape of warehousing and logistics, particularly in the context of the Uttar Pradesh Logistics & Warehousing Policy.

Shri Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Minister for Industrial Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh said that Uttar Pradesh, with the largest number of international and domestic airports and the most extensive railway network in the country, is poised to become the hub of the logistics and warehousing sector, potentially transforming the state's industrial ecosystem into a USD 1 trillion economy.

Shri Shrihari Pratap Shahi, Additional CEO, UPEIDA emphasized the significant advancements under the UP Warehousing and Logistics Policy 2022 and noted that the policy offers a range of incentives designed to foster growth and innovation.

Innovation in Roads & Highways

To explore the vast potential and advancements in the road sector in Uttar Pradesh, CII Northern Region organized a Conference on Roads and Highways on 10 August in Lucknow, bringing together experts to discuss the technicalities, opportunities and prospects.

Shri V K Singh, Technical Advisor to the Public Works Department (PWD) Minister and Former Engineer-in-Chief, PWD of UP emphasized the need for Indian roads to shift from conventional methods to modern technologies. Shri Dharamveer Singh, Professor - Transportation Systems Engineering, IIT Bombay noted that while significant technological advancements have been made in the sector to meet international standards, there remains considerable scope for further innovation. Ms Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and CFO & Director, PTC Industries Ltd emphasized the transformative impact of Uttar Pradesh's expressway network on the state's economy.

The insights shared at the conference showcased the importance of continuous innovation and investment in infrastructure to sustain and accelerate this momentum.

Next Steps in the Mobility Revolution

As one of the largest automotive markets in the world, India is rapidly evolving, embracing advancements in electric vehicles, automation and smart technologies. The 6th edition of the CII Conference on the Future of Mobility in India held on 21 August in Gurugram brought together thought leaders, Industry experts, policymakers and innovators.

The conference, themed 'Charting the Course for India's Mobility Revolution,' focused on the intersection of technology, sustainability and policy, highlighting the transformative trends shaping the future of transportation.

The conference emphasized the necessity of adopting a multi-faceted approach to future mobility, recognising

that no single technology will define the landscape. Dr Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India noted that technology will drive the future of mobility. Dr Qureshi highlighted that while EV penetration is expected to reach 10 per cent by 2030, other environmentally friendly technologies such as ethanol, CNG, biogas and hydrogen will also play crucial roles in the mobility ecosystem.

Mr Rahul Bharti, Executive Director, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd stressed upon the importance of a diversified approach to clean technologies. "India can achieve its carbon neutrality goals and oil import reduction much faster if it encourages all clean technologies for mobility.

Mr Vikram Gulati, Conference Chairman and Country Head, Toyota Kirloskar Motor further articulated the Industry's vision for the future. The future of mobility in India will be driven by innovation, energy transition and delivered by the use of greener technologies, he said.

Farm to Fork Summit

The CII Farm to Fork Summit, held on 23 August in Lucknow, brought together key stakeholders from the food processing and dairy sectors to address the pressing need for sustainable food systems.

Mr Jai Agarwal, Chairman, CII Northern Region Committee on Food & Dairy and MD, C P Milk & Food Products Pvt Ltd highlighted the pivotal role of Uttar Pradesh in India's food processing and dairy sectors. He said that as a major producer of agricultural commodities, the state has witnessed significant growth in food processing activities, driven by substantial investments in infrastructure and technology.



(L-R): Som Kapoor, Partner & Leader – Automotive, Ernst and Young; Jyoti Malhotra, Conference Co-Chairman and MD, Volvo Auto India; Dr Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary (Automobiles Division), Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India; Vikram Gulati, Conference Chairman and Country Head & EVP (Corporate Affairs & Governance), Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd; Rahul Bharti, ED (Corporate Affairs), Maruti Suzuki India Ltd at the Conference on Future of Mobility in India in Gurugram



Jai Agarwal, Chairman, CII-NR Committee on Food & Dairy and MD, C P Milk & Food Products Pvt Ltd with speakers at the Farm to Fork Summit in Lucknow

Dr Rasappa Viswanathan, Director, Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research talked about the success of India's biofuel policy, which has led to effective ethanol blending. He highlighted the policy's crucial role in enhancing energy security and sustainability.

Dr S K Chauhan, Director, Regional Food Research and Analysis Centre pointed out the rising demand for plant-based protein due to changing lifestyles, while the reliance on animal protein declines.

The summit highlighted that the resilience of food systems to crises hinges on their sustainability. It emphasized that redesigning food systems to be more sustainable presents new opportunities for all operators in the food value chain.

Innovation, Sustainability and Advanced Technologies in Manufacturing

The 14th edition of the CII Manufacturing Innovation Conclave, held on 28 August in New Delhi focused on the future of manufacturing in India, emphasizing innovation, sustainability and the integration of advanced technologies. The primary objective of the conclave was to foster collaboration, encourage knowledge sharing and promote the adoption of cutting-edge technologies within the Indian manufacturing sector.

A report titled 'Electric Vehicle Aggregates Value Chain and Sustainability,' was released during the event. Presented by Shri Vijay Mittal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India, the report outlines strategic innovations to strengthen India's position in the rapidly evolving electric vehicle sector. Mr Mittal emphasized the Ministry's role in promoting Industry 4.0 and digital technologies among MSMEs, underscoring India's potential to emerge as a global manufacturing hub.

Shri Gaurav Joshi, Deputy Secretary – Manufacturing Sector, Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of

India reaffirmed the Government's commitment to 'Make in India' and the vision to make India a hub for manufacturing, design and innovation.

Mr Kishore Jayaraman, Conclave Chairman and President, Rolls-Royce India & South Asia highlighted India's capacity to excel globally.

Strengthening the Higher Education Landscape

The 5th edition of the CII Northern Region Edu Summit, which was organized on 30 August in New Delhi explored the evolving landscape of higher education in India. The summit served

as a vital platform to deliberate on the pressing need to position India as a global education hub. Emphasis was placed on the importance of enhancing institutional quality, fostering global collaborations and integrating advanced technologies.

Mr Siddharth Banerjee, Chairman, CII Northern Region Committee on Education & Industry Connect and CEO, UNIVO Education stressed that the country's ability to foster innovation through the strategic use of technology and collaboration is setting it apart on the world stage.

The discussions also turned to the role of technology in transforming higher education. Mr Ashok Varma, Partner, Public Sector Consulting, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP emphasized that these advancements would position India as a preferred destination for international students by 2035.

Dr Sundar Venkatesh, Dean, School of Management and Entrepreneurship, Shiv Nadar University underscored the importance of continuously evolving educational curricula to align with Industry needs.

Two key reports – 'The CII-GT Report on Positioning India as the Global Education Hub' and 'The CII Report on the Impact of Social, Economic, and Other Factors in Developing a Culture of Innovation' were released during the event. The former report provides a comprehensive overview of the strategies needed to elevate India's status as a leading education destination, while the latter sheds light on the critical elements that drive innovation within educational institutions.

During the summit, discussions were held on reimagining education, fostering innovation and building pathways for international collaboration. As India continues to navigate these new frontiers, the insights and strategies discussed at the summit will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the country's educational landscape for years to come.



SOUTHERN REGION

Promoting Kerala's Unique Strengths in Medicine, Tourism



Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, Kerala

The Global Ayurveda Summit and the Kerala Healthcare Tourism in Kochi was organized to promote the state as a healing destination by focusing on its unique strengths in modern medicine, ayurveda and tourism on 29 and 30 August. Deliberations during various sessions

stressed the importance of a holistic and integrated approach in healthcare management by combining the latest developments in medical sciences and the indigenous and traditional knowledge systems.

Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala set the tone for the deliberations by focusing on the policy initiatives of the State Government to facilitate a holistic healthcare environment. The State Government has invested ₹1000 crore in the past three years to develop the Ayush infrastructure in the state, including an International Institute of Ayurveda Research and a new Ayurveda Medical College in Idukki district, he said.

Ms Veena George, Minister for Health, Woman and Child Development, Government of Kerala called for further strengthening the synergy between the modern and traditional medical systems of medicine and tourism in Kerala.

Shri Ahmed Gasim, Minister of State for Health, Republic of Maldives said Kerala is the main choice for people from Maldives for their healthcare needs.

Shri Vaiyda Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary (Ayush), Ministry

of Ayush, Government of India said the Indian Ayush market is expected to reach USD 200 billion by 2030 from the current levels of USD 43.3 billion.

During the event, a CII-KPMG report on Kerala's Healthcare Sector and a special edition of Oushadham magazine in memory of Dr M.S. Valiathan were released.

Interaction with Puducherry Chief Minister

Thiru N Rangasamy, Chief Minister of Puducherry interacted with the Members of CII at the 3rd Regional Council Meeting on 10 August in Puducherry.

The Chief Minister said that the State Government is committed to attracting both large-scale industries and MSMEs to start businesses. "We assure a smooth and efficient business environment for all investors. We are actively considering fast-track approval processes for new businesses in Puducherry. The allotment of industries at Karasur spread over 750 acres will happen shortly," he said.

"We are also working on expanding the Airport runway, which will significantly boost domestic and international tourism to Puducherry. In this regard, we are in discussions with the Tamil Nadu Government to acquire additional land to facilitate the expansion of the Puducherry Airport," he further added. The Chief Minister also said that the state is eager to attract food manufacturing industries to establish their businesses.

CII urged the Chief Minister to convene the first meeting of CII Puducherry – Government of Puducherry, a Joint Consultative Forum, to expedite the approval of investment subsidies for MSMEs to commence their business without any delay.

Charting Path for 'Swarna Andhra Pradesh' by 2047

A meeting was organized in Amravati, Vijayawada, between the Government of Andhra Pradesh and a delegation from CII, led by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee,



Speakers with Thiru N Rangasamy, Chief Minister of Puducherry at the Regionla Council meeting in Puducherry



Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh addressing CII leadership

Director General, CII on 16 August. The interaction focused on propelling Andhra Pradesh's economic development, with the vision of making it a global leader by 2047.

Shri Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh emphasized the importance of infrastructure, technology and leadership in India's growth, proposing investments in sectors like tourism, defence and renewable energy. He also highlighted the need for specialized skill universities and innovation in the regulatory environment, particularly in the pharmaceutical sector.

Several significant outcomes were achieved during the meeting. A Task Force on Economic Development for 'Swarna Andhra Pradesh @ 2047' was formed, chaired by Mr N Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons. This Task Force will create a blueprint for the state's economic growth, addressing infrastructure gaps, capital needs and policy reforms. Additionally, it was discussed that a Center for Global Leadership on Competitiveness will be established in Amaravati to conduct research and develop policies aimed at enhancing the state's global competitiveness.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd along with other CII members shared insights, underscoring the importance of job creation, manufacturing growth and rural development. The meeting marked a significant step toward achieving Andhra Pradesh's ambitious vision of becoming a 'Swarna Andhra Pradesh' by 2047.

Interaction with MPs from Telangana

CII Telangana organized an interactive session with Members of Parliament (MPs) from Telangana and key Industry leaders on 8 August in New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to highlight strategic imperatives for the development of the state and highlight the issues faced by the Industry in the state. Shri G Kishan Reddy, Minister of Coal and Mines, Government of

India called for cross-party collaboration to advance Telangana's development.

Shri Bandi Parthasaradhi, MP (Rajya Sabha) emphasized the importance of creating Pharma City clusters to strengthen Telangana's pharmaceutical Industry. He stressed decentralizing opportunities beyond Hyderabad. Mr Gaddam Vamsi Krishna, MP from Peddapalli, highlighted the need to focus on youth employment and address the mismatch between academic training and Industry needs.

Dr Mallu Ravi, MP from Nagarkurnool, echoed these sentiments, advocating for a united effort to prioritize Telangana's prosperity and outlined projects requiring central attention.

Micro-Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu



(L-R): Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council and Managing Director Wheels India; Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Dr T R B Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu; R Dinesh, Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood and Executive Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions and Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region & Managing Director, Chandra Textiles at the launch of the CII Centre of Excellence for Employment and Livelihood in Chennai

CII Tamil Nadu organized a multistakeholder dialogue on Industry-led collaborations to strengthen micro-entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu at the launch of the CII Centre of Excellence for Employment and Livelihood on 13 August in Chennai.

Dr T. R. B. Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu noted that the MSME sector alone contributes to 30 per cent of the state's industrial output and 45 per cent of our exports. He said that the State Government is dedicated to supporting MSMEs with initiatives that provide market linkages, digitalisation and upskilling.

Ms Archana Patnaik, Secretary – MSMEs, Government of Tamil Nadu noted that microenterprises are the backbone of the Indian economy, especially in terms of employment generation.

Mr R Dinesh, Immediate Past President, CII and Chairman, CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain, Solutions Ltd said that the first-ever intervention of the Centre of Excellence on Employment & Livelihood is starting in Tamil Nadu. We are launching the 'Puthiya Payanam: Valarchiyai Noki' project to support 1,000 micro-entrepreneurs from nine districts across Tamil Nadu starting with Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Karur, Trichy, Madurai, Tuticorin and Salem, he added.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that CII has 12 Centres of Excellence across the country focused on building the competitiveness of India Inc. This Centre in Madurai plays a crucial role in enhancing the competitiveness of micro and small enterprises and making them employment generators.

Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region and MD, Chandra Textiles said that the micro-entrepreneurs, who account for 97.8 per cent of Tamil Nadu's MSME sector, are the lifeblood of the state's thriving economy.

Accelerating Growth Scale for Food Industries

CII Southern Region organized the 15th edition of Foodpro - India's biennial event on Food Processing, Packaging & Food Technology on 9-11 August in Chennai, around the theme 'Accelerating Growth Scale for Food Industries'. The event showcased a broad spectrum of opportunities, technologies and solutions available for food processing and allied industries.

Shri P Rajeeve, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir, Government of Kerala said that the state has introduced a new industrial policy focusing on the food Industry and MSMEs.

Ms Apoorva, Principal Secretary & Agricultural Production Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu said that to foster the growth of the food processing Industry, the Tamil Nadu Government has established a mega food park, along with seven agro-processing centres.

Dr Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner of Industries, Commerce and Export and CEO, AP Food Processing Society, Government of Andhra Pradesh said that the state's food processing sector, contributing 10 per cent to the State's GDP, is a major producer of shrimp, chillies and tobacco.

Shri APM Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary (Industries & Commerce), Government of Kerala highlighted that Kerala's Government emphasizes investment in R&D, value addition and global branding to boost the food processing sector, with 2,64,000 new MSME units since April 2022.

CII Aero Def

25 per cent of the Defence R&D Budget has been earmarked to set up defence R&D for the startup Industry and academia. Startups have seen significant orders totalling ₹2400 crore. The two defence corridors in UP and Tamil Nadu have attracted investments exceeding ₹40,000 crore, out of which ₹8125 crore has been realized already, said Shri Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India at the CII Aero Def Tech Summit on 1 August in Bengaluru.

Mr Manoj Jain, CMD, Bharat Electronics noted that startups are developing new technologies that the public sector was initially hesitant to embrace.

Mr Deepak N G, MD, Dassault Systemes India highlighted that India's rapid economic growth positions it to lead global innovation in the aerospace Industry.



(L-R): P Ravichandran, Chairman, CII National Committee on Cold Chain and President, Danfoss Industries; Dr Sreedhar Cherukuri, Commissioner of Industries, Commerce and Exports and Chief Executive Officer, AP Food Processing Society; APM Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary (Industries & Commerce), Government of Kerala; B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII Foodpro Expo 2024 and Managing Director, Blue Star; P Rajeeve, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir, Government of Kerala; Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region and Managing Director, Chandra Textiles; Apoorva, Principal Secretary & Agricultural Production Commissioner, Government of Tamil Nadu; Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and Managing Director, Wheels India at Foodpro in Chennai

Mr C B Ananthkrishnan, Director (Finance) & CFO and CMD (Additional In-charge), Hindustan Aeronautics emphasised the importance of growth for national security and self-reliance.

Dr D K Sunil, Summit Chairman and Director – Engineering, R&D, Hindustan Aeronautics accentuated that the event serves as a crucial platform for collaboration and innovation, aiming to elevate the aerospace and defence sector.

Mr Arun Ramchandani, Chairman, CII National Committee on Aerospace and Defence & EVP & Head – Precision Engineering and Systems, Larsen & Toubro and Mr N Venu, Chairman, CII Karnataka and MD, Hitachi Energy India also addressed the event.

Electrifying the EV Market

CII Southern Region organized the 3rd edition of the EV Summit around the theme ‘Electrifying EV Market: Accelerating Adoption, Shaping Future’ on 21 August in Chennai.

Tamil Nadu is embracing a new era in public transportation by transitioning to electric buses. As one of the major players in the transport sector, 1500 electric buses are to join the fleet by the next year. With this move, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) is taking a significant step towards sustainable and eco-friendly urban mobility, said Dr Alby John Varghese, MD, MTC, discussing the Government's role in supporting the EV sector. He also highlighted the ongoing initiatives and expressed confidence in Tamil



(L-R): M Pallavi Baldev, Special Secretary to Government, Industries Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu; M Ponnuswami, Chairman, CII SR MSME & EoDB Taskforce and Chairman & Managing Director, Pon Pure Chemicals India Pvt Ltd; Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, Judge, Madras High Court; Justice M Sundar, Judge, Madras High Court; S Chandramohan, Past Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu & Director and Group President, TAFE; and V P Sengottuvel, Senior Advocate, Madras High Court at the CII Conference on Commercial Dispute Resolution in Chennai

Nadu's R&D and manufacturing capabilities in producing fully indigenous electric vehicles.

Highlighting the strides Tamil Nadu has made in the EV sector, Shri Thiru Srinivasan, Senior Advisor (EV Sector) FaMeTN & Head, TN EV Task Force said that Tamil Nadu aims to become a global leader in the EV manufacturing sector, with advanced manufacturing capabilities, skilled workforce and thriving R&D ecosystem.

Commercial Dispute Resolution

CII Tamil Nadu organized the first edition CII Conference on Commercial Dispute Resolution on 24 August in Chennai.

Much of the disputes that end up in our courts stem from ambiguities in the arbitration clauses. A simple, yet overlooked, solution lies in the meticulous drafting of these clauses. As we continue to work towards a more efficient judiciary, especially in the commercial realm, it is imperative that we also focus on preventing litigation

from arising in the first place, said Justice M Sundar, Judge, Madras High Court.

Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, Judge, Madras High Court said that the Commercial Courts Act was enacted to improve the country's standing in the World Bank's Doing Business Report, particularly in the enforcement of contracts. Unlike setting up specialized tribunals, commercial courts were integrated into the existing judicial system, leveraging the strengths of public courts, trained judiciary,



(L-R): Sudhakar Vaidyalingam, Managing Director, Balaji Rubber Group and Co-Founder & Managing Director, Birds India Corporation; S A Sundaresan, Head – New Technologies, Ashok Leyland; Thiru Srinivasan, Senior Advisor (EV Sector) FaMeTN & Head, TN EV Task Force; Dr Alby John Varghese, Managing Director, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC); Gajanan V Gandhe, Country Head & Vice President, Dana India and Dr Deepak Ronanki, Department of Engineering Design, Indian Institute of Technology Madras at the EV Summit in Chennai

and infrastructure, leading to positive results despite ongoing challenges.

Ms M Pallavi Baldev, Special Secretary to Government, Industries Investment Promotion & Commerce Department, Government of Tamil Nadu highlighted Tamil Nadu's economic significance as India's second-largest economy, hosting over 130 Fortune 500 companies, high EoDB ranking, numerous factories and effective grievance redressal portals.

Driving Sustainability: Renewables, Green Hydrogen and Electric Mobility

CII Karnataka organized the annual Energy Transition conference themed 'Driving Sustainability: Renewables, Green Hydrogen and Electric Mobility' on 7 August in Bengaluru.

A whitepaper on Energy Transition in MSMEs was released during the conference, emphasizing the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources for sustainable economic growth. Shri Lalit Bohra, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Government of India said that India ranks 4th globally in renewable energy installations, surpassing 85 GW from solar and 46 GW from wind. The Government has waived inter-state transmission charges and introduced Distributed Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).

Shri Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Water Resources Department and MD, KPCL, Government of Karnataka said that the state is a leading player in renewable energy, with 65 per cent of electric energy capacity coming from renewable sources.



(L-R): Akilur Rahman, Convenor, CII Karnataka Energy Transition Panel 2024-25 and Chief Technology Officer, Hitachi Energy; Shivanand Nimbargi, Co-Convenor, CII Karnataka Energy Transition Panel 2024-25 and Managing Director, Ayana Power; Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Energy Department, Water Resources Department & Managing Director, KPCL, Government of Karnataka; N Venu Chairman, CII Karnataka State Council 2024-25 and MD & CEO - India & South Asia, Hitachi Energy during the 'whitepaper release' on Energy Transition in MSMEs



WESTERN REGION

Ushering Investments in Madhya Pradesh

The Government of Madhya Pradesh, with CII as the National Partner, organized the Regional Industry Conclave 2024 in Gwalior on 28 August. The conclave aimed to promote investment opportunities in the state.



Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh addressing the Regional Industry Conclave in Gwalior

Government departments, industries, entrepreneurs and policymakers converged to strategize for the development of the industrial landscape of the region.

Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh participated in meetings held during the conclave. Various sessions deliberated on MSMEs and exports, with a focus on 'One District One Product (ODOP)'. The discussions also focused on footwear, startups, higher education and skill development, tourism, handloom and handicrafts.

The conclave attracted business proposals worth over Rs 8,000 crore, which are expected to create more than 35,000 direct and indirect jobs in the state.

Interaction with MPs from Madhya Pradesh

An interaction was organized with the Members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh in New Delhi on 6 August, which provided a platform to discuss the current state of Madhya Pradesh and explore interventions necessary for its all-around development.

The discussion focused on initiating new and advanced training programmes in collaboration with the Industry. Emphasis was placed on establishing and facilitating the operation of skill development centres in both rural and urban areas.

New employment opportunities were identified across various sectors, with particular attention given to partnerships with local

industries. Plans included creating employment programs tailored for women and differently-abled individuals. Improving the availability and quality of healthcare services in rural and remote areas was a major point of discussion.

Deliberations also focused on enhancing the agricultural sector's potential to boost food processing and dairy production. The empowerment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) was emphasized to catalyze the growth of the cottage Industry, ensuring sustainable development and economic resilience.

SheLeads - Leading Today, Shaping Tomorrow



(L-R): Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson, CII Western Region and President; V.M. Salgaocar & Brother Pvt Ltd and Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat at the Roundtable on SheLeads in Ahmedabad

The CII SheLeads roundtable, titled 'Leading Today, Shaping Tomorrow' was organized on 1 August in Ahmedabad. The event focused on celebrating women's contributions, addressing leadership challenges, promoting inclusivity and strategizing to enhance women's economic participation by 2047.

Ms Mona Khandhar, emphasized the need for prioritizing women's health, education and career support for nation-

building. "Human development index components like life expectancy, education and economic independence must prioritize women's health and education for women, especially in science and STEM," she said. Supporting women in professional careers and during family planning is vital for nation-building with a need for workplaces to facilitate these goals.

Key takeaways included creating supportive environments for women in R&D and emphasizing financial inclusion and literacy programmes for women with media raising awareness and supporting gender equality.

Global Trade - Adapting to Disruption

The 5th edition of the CII Global Trade Scenario Conference was organized in Mumbai on 8 August around the theme 'Adapting to Disruption: Resilience, Sustainability and Innovation'.

Dr Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog shared his views on several macro-economic indicators concerning India. Considering a projection of a 5.4 per cent average growth, India will become an upper middle-income nation by the early 2030s and a high-income nation by 2050, he said. Dr Virmani stressed the importance for India to upgrade its urban infrastructure including drinking water, sanitation and drainage to match the standards commensurate with these income levels going forward.

Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and MD & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd said that to support India on its development journey towards becoming a developed nation, technology and partnerships will be instrumental. Training, development and skilling are areas that India must focus on. India must create an ecosystem characterised by investment risk sharing to enable large-scale investments. While the Government has



(L-R): Vir Advani, Chairman, CII Global Trade Scenario 2024 and Chairman & Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd; Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director, BEML Ltd; R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd; Dr Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog; Swati Salgaocar and Vinod Agrawal, Co-Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on International Trade and Managing Director, Arunaya Organics Pvt Ltd at the CII Global Trade Scenario Conference in Mumbai

unleashed major initiatives to boost exports, there is a need to ensure uniform application of standards.

Mr Vir Advani, Chairman, CII Global Trade Scenario 2024 and CMD, Blue Star Ltd said that business leaders and representatives of India's trade community must devise strategies to navigate global economic and political uncertainties and convert challenges into opportunities.

Ms Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson, CII Western Region and President, V M Salgaocar & Brother Pvt Ltd underlined the need for formulating an integrated trade, investment and industrial policy, setting up a trade promotion organization with offices in key industrial cities, enhancement and harmonisation of quality standards and certification processes for manufacturing and launching a National Mission on Advanced Manufacturing, among others to boost India's global trade.

Mr Shantanu Roy, CMD, BEML Ltd said that the world in the last four to five years faced huge disruptions on account of three Cs - COVID, Climate and Conflict. He credited the Indian economy's resilience to the Government's Atmanirbhar Bharat mission and urged the need for special policies to make MSMEs self-reliant as part of the mission.

Opportunities for MSMEs in Shipbuilding

The CII Goa Panel on Shipbuilding & Defence, in association with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), organized a session on 'Opportunities for MSMEs in Goa Shipyard Ltd' on 7 August in Goa.

The Goa Shipyard Ltd would be working closely with local Industry to develop a robust domestic vendor

base as it seeks to strengthen its supply chain, reduce import dependencies and cultivate a thriving shipbuilding ecosystem in the state.

MSME companies in shipbuilding, allied components and services having their units/offices in Goa participated to explore partnership opportunities.

Tangible opportunities to develop business while contributing effectively to GSL's growth and the maritime Industry at large were explored. Local MSME involvement facilitated valuable collaborations and insights into GSL's procurement processes. It also highlighted practical challenges in the registration process and how to navigate them, thereby enhancing participation in the ecosystem.

Empowering Exports Competitiveness in Gujarat

The maiden edition of the Gujarat Exports Conclave was organised around the theme 'Empowering Export Competitiveness, Enabling Economic Growth - Gujarat's Contribution to India's \$5 Trillion Economy' on 9 August in Ahmedabad. The event brought together policymakers, Industry leaders, exporters, bankers, logistics experts and freight forwarders to discuss trends and opportunities for advancing Gujarat's export sector.

It focused on promoting Gujarat's key export sectors by identifying strategies to enhance export competitiveness in global markets, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), innovations in logistics and freight forwarding for seamless global connectivity, export financing



(L-R): Sunil Dave Co-Convenor, CII Gujarat Panel on International Trade Exports and Collaboration and Managing Director, BC Instruments India Pvt Ltd; Girish Aggarwal, Managing Director, APM Terminals, Gujarat Pipavav Ports Ltd; Kulin Lalbhai, Chairman, CII Gujarat State Council and Vice Chairman, Arvind Ltd; Dr James J. Nedumpara Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), IIFT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India; Tarun Sharma, Deputy Managing Director, India Exim Bank; Vinod Agrawal, Co-Chairman, CII Western Region Sub-Committee on International Trade and Investment, Convenor CII Gujarat Panel on Policy Advocacy, EoDB and EA and Managing Director, Arunaya Organics Ltd and Rajeev Mishra, Gujarat State Head, CII Western Region at the Gujarat Exports Conclave in Ahmedabad



Participants at the Finance Leaders' Symposium held in Mumbai

and insurance and strengthening MSMEs' export competitiveness.

Dr James J Nedumpara, Head, Centre for Trade and Investment Law, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India said that Gujarat is advancing into new industries like real estate and energy, while optimizing trade mechanisms like FTAs.

Finance Leaders' Symposium

The CII Finance Leaders' Symposium was organized on 30 August in Mumbai to create awareness and encourage conversations on topics pertinent to the CFO community spanning across sectors, be it the impact of the new criminal laws on the Industry, the cybersecurity imperative, the digital supply chain dynamics or the way Environment, Social, Governance (ESG) and Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) is changing the way companies operate.

Taking cognisance of the fact that the CFOs' role has expanded beyond their traditional roles, the symposium emphasized the importance for finance leaders to remain relevant. Insights were shared regarding the three new laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023; Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. Creating efficiencies in procurement through digitization was highlighted. Enabling transparent delivery of effective and human-centric AI and an overview of the India Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) was shared.

Sustainability Excellence - Theory to Practical Insights

A session was held on 'Sustainability Excellence: Theory to Practical Insights' on 22 August at Arvind Ltd. Insights were shared regarding sustainability practices, the critical role of sustainability in businesses, key strategies, innovations and the challenges businesses face in meeting environmental standards. The session highlighted advanced strategies for water management, emphasizing both upstream and in-situ techniques, crucial for conserving water.



Participants understanding sustainability practices at Arvind Ltd in Gandhinagar

The importance of compliance was highlighted with Government regulations being vital for building consumer trust and ensuring brand sustainability. The session stressed the need to develop skills and infrastructure to foster sustainable practices across the Industry.

Participants explored cutting-edge sustainability practices firsthand, with a guided tour of the Global Water Innovation Centre for Action (GWICA) Centre and the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) Plant.

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