

Key CII Initiatives for 2024-25



INSIDE



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JOURNAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Deepening India – U.S. Relations

India and the US have had a strong and multifaceted partnership, which is growing steadily. This story shares a vivid picture of some of the significant milestones covered in this partnership and CII's role in facilitating them



The ties between the world's largest democracy and the oldest democracy have never been stronger. The values that India and the US share highlights commitment to democracy and pluralism, a convergence of strategic interests, promoting a rules-based international order, and a robust, multifaceted bilateral agenda. Economic ties between the two countries have not only weathered the global pandemic but grown substantially in terms of both bilateral trade and investment.

In an impressive sign of the deepening economic relationship, bilateral trade in goods and services crossed USD 191 billion in 2022, marking the largest trade value in a calendar year of India-US economic history. The bilateral trade has likely crossed USD 200 billion in 2023. In 2022-2023, as per Indian data, India had a trade surplus of USD 28 billion with the US, down from USD 32 billion in the previous year. Intentional efforts have been undertaken by the Indian Government through ramping up purchases of US defence products, shale oil and natural gas, among others.

According to CII estimates, the goal of USD 500 billion trade set by the two countries is achievable by 2030-2035 but it will take a concerted efforts by the Government and Industry to create a more conducive

business environment in terms of regulatory frameworks and enabling smooth talent movement on both sides. According to the CII Report, Indian Roots American Soil, launched in 2023, 163 companies have invested over USD 40 billion in all 50 US States. Together, they have created or saved over 425,000 jobs in the US. Their R&D investments and CSR contributions are also on the rise.

On the other hand, the United States is the third largest investor in India, having invested over USD 60 billion over the last two decades. There are hundreds of US companies currently investing in India or sourcing from India and many Indo-American joint ventures are in operation.

India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's state visit in June 2023 represented a high mark in bilateral relations. The visit saw many key outcomes, including an MoU on Semiconductor Supply Chain, an Innovation Partnership and the Mineral Security Partnership (MSP). Since the visit last June, the two leaders met in India for the G20 Summit, where they both reaffirmed the importance of technology in deepening the strategic partnership and the ongoing efforts under the US – India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET). This encapsulates both leaders' shared vision

of creating resilient supply chains and transforming the high-technology partnership.

The two countries have been in discussion regarding strengthening the economic cooperation across a range of bilateral platforms including the India-US Trade Policy Forum, India-US Commercial Dialogue, India-US CEO Forum, and India-US Economic and Financial Partnership Dialogue, which have held meetings over the last year. They have also participated together in various plurilateral platforms such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Quad (India, US, Australia, and Japan), I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE, and US), and most recently, the India – Middle East – Europe Economic Corridor.

Recent CII Initiatives

iCET Industry Roundtable

The Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was announced in May 2022 and launched in January 2023. It represents a landmark agreement between the two countries on emerging technologies such as AI, semiconductors, biotech and defence innovation. iCET is a significant development in the India-US relationship, as it elevates the two countries' partnership on emerging technologies to new heights. The initiative is also important for both countries' economic and security interests. It is a unique initiative as Industry from both countries have been engaged to actively participate and share recommendations to drive technology collaborations to the next level. iCET is anchored in a shared commitment to ensuring that technology is designed, developed and deployed in a manner consistent with the democratic values embodied by both countries. Moreover, a strengthened US-India partnership is key for the future security and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific.

Partnership between the private sector is a key component of this initiative and CII is the lead secretariat on the India side. During its launch, CII organized an Industry Roundtable followed by a Track 1.5 dialogue on iCET on 13 June 2023 in New Delhi with Mr Ajit Doval, Indian National Security Advisor and Mr Jake Sullivan, US National Security Advisor. There was a strong participation from Indian and US Industry as well.

As a follow up to the launch, on 18 June 2024, both the US and Indian National Security Advisors chaired the second iCET meeting in New Delhi. During this meeting, they set the vision for the next chapter of the strategic technology partnership, underscoring

their commitment to orienting cooperation around breakthrough achievements in priority critical and emerging technology areas. Business leaders across various iCET-focused sectors discussed current activity that is underway and future prospects for India-US collaboration and made recommendations for Government facilitation by streamlining processes and regulations wherever required.

CII CEOs Delegation to the US

The annual CII CEOs delegation to the US, led by Mr R Dinesh, Immediate Past President, CII and Chairman, CII International Council and Chairman, TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd from 24-26 June 2024 visited Washington D.C. to gain a comprehensive understanding of the US domestic, economic and geopolitical imperatives, and reaffirm Indian Industry's commitment to strengthening the US-India relationship at a national and sub-national level. Members of the delegation spanned across sectors, including logistics & supply chains, health, defence, critical minerals and clean energy.

The delegation engaged with several stakeholders over the three days, meeting senior officials across the Indian and US Embassy, US Administration, US Government and federal agencies, US States leadership, think tanks including the Center for New American Security and the Hudson Institute as well as business representatives to strengthen bilateral economic relations.

During the mission, the high-level delegation met with Mr Don Graves, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Commerce. A number of productive ways to collaborate and further the US-India economic and commercial partnership were discussed, including strengthening small and mid-sized business engagement, a potential US-India business event anchored in India with involvement from several US states, as well as proposals to strengthen an affordable healthcare partnership between the US and India, and furthering commercial defence collaboration. Deputy Secretary Graves gave an overview of plans under the US-India Commercial Dialogue and appreciated CII's role in furthering the US-India Innovation Handshake, bringing together the startup ecosystems on both sides in emerging technology areas.

The delegation also met with Ambassador Doug McKalip, Acting Deputy US Trade Representative (USTR) and Chief Agriculture Negotiator. CII has had a long and impactful partnership with the Office of the USTR facilitating a substantive exchange of ideas

on enhancing bilateral trade and building supply chain resilience. The discussion focused on ways to catapult trade volumes from the current USD 200 billion to USD 500 billion, including suggestions to build stronger and more resilient supply chains between the US and India, reinstate benefits for India under the Generalized System of Preferences and cooperate to remove India from Special301 IPR watchlist. Ambassador McKalip outlined plans for the next trade policy forum, expected to be held in DC by the end of the year.

The delegation engaged with the US EXIM Bank Chair Ms Reta Jo Lewis and a team of experts to strengthen the US-India trade partnership and explore financing tools and avenues available to build a stronger collaboration across the Indo-Pacific.

During the mission, the delegation also had the opportunity to have three meetings at the White House, including senior officials from the National Security Council (NSC), National Economic Council (NEC), Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the Office of Pandemic Preparedness (OPPR) as well as the Office of the Vice President. The discussions encompassed impact of Indian FDI in the US and the role of industrial innovation, cooperation towards an affordable healthcare partnership, prospects for limited sector-focus trade agreement such as in critical minerals and other strategic areas.

To strengthen sub-national engagement, the delegation attended the Select USA Investment Summit at National Harbor, MD, and joined a special Global Gateway reception hosted by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. The delegation called on Mr Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey; Mr Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan and the Mr Eric Holcomb, Governor of Indiana, highlighting significant investments Indian companies have made in the states and discussed

prospects for greater collaboration. Mr Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina announced a special initiative in collaboration with CII, a South-Eastern US (SEUS)-India Partnership, meant to deepen economic ties for the South-Eastern region of the US with India.

CII, in partnership with the Embassy of India, also hosted an India reception on the occasion of the Select USA Investment Summit, a meaningful collaboration that dates back to the inception of Select USA 10 years ago. From hosting a handful of Indian companies to the largest-ever country delegation with over 200 companies present at the Summit this year, CII has come a long way in furthering Indian investment in the US, reflecting the truly two-way partnership and deep engagement at the bilateral level.

This year, CII welcomed dignitaries including Charge d' Affaires at the Indian Embassy, Ambassador Ms Sripriya Ranganathan; US Ambassador Mr Eric Garcetti; Mr Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina; Mr Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma; Ms Lou Guerrero, Governor of Guam and federal officials including US Assistant Secretary of Commerce Mr Arun Venkataraman and the Executive Director of Select USA Mr Jasjit Singh.

Innovation Handshake

CII has been pleased to support the US Department of Commerce and India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry to take forward the Innovation Handshake initiative. In November 2023, the US and India signed an MoU on 'Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems' and CII led an iCET-sector startup delegation to San Francisco at the time, where the inaugural roundtable on 'Decoding the Innovation Handshake' was organized. The discussion was led by Ms Gina Marie Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce, US and Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.



Don Graves, Deputy Secretary, US Department of Commerce with CII CEOs delegation at the Select USA Summit in Maryland



CII CEOs delegation met Phil Murphy, Governor of New Jersey



Charge d' Affaires at the Indian Embassy, Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan; US Ambassador Eric Garcetti; Roy Cooper, Governor of North Carolina; Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma and Lou Guerrero, Governor of Guam at the India Reception at the Select USA Summit

Thereafter, CII organized Innovation Handshake 2.0 held in March 2024 in New Delhi, where Industry recommendations were shared with both Governments, including establishing an innovation corridor connecting India and the US, bridging the gaps between educational curricula and Industry demands and streamlining regulatory frameworks and export control regulations, especially in the space sector.

The US-India bilateral partnership has drawn bipartisan support in the United States across administrations. Interactions at every level remain stable, sturdy and poised for enduring growth. Major topics of discussion have included defence and security, climate change, strategic energy partnership, technology cooperation,

global connectivity, trade relations and people-to-people ties. Future areas of cooperation include emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, 5G, cybersecurity and other services trade avenues, which need to be supported for further growth and exploration. CII stands ready to support a stronger partnership with the US, whether it is leveraging opportunities at the strategic level, resolving policy, regulatory or ground level challenges for Industry in key traditional sectors or high-tech emerging areas, integrating small business for resilient global supply chain cooperation, deepening state-level interactions to further trade and investment or enabling a dynamic innovation corridor connecting startup ecosystems on both sides.



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Key CII Initiatives for 2024-25

For 2024-25, CII has identified four critical issues for intervention on a mission mode viz. Climate Adaptation, Health for All, Responsible AI, and Digital for Social Good. The cover story details the priorities for the year including new interventions to address crucial needs for the Indian Industry



CII plays a crucial role in shaping India's economic landscape and works towards creating an environment conducive to growth and development. Through strategic policy advocacy efforts for key sectors and several important initiatives, CII, over the years, has contributed to nation building. Largely, CII has facilitated a strong business ecosystem in the country, opened up opportunities for the Industry at domestic and global levels, enhanced competitiveness of businesses through its Centres of Excellence (CoEs), and ensured comprehensive growth and integration across the economic spectrum.

Through dedicated Councils, Committees and Task Forces on key sectors and sub-sectors of the economy, CII pursues policy advocacy initiatives for strengthening

the overall business ecosystem, while its Centers of Excellence (CoEs) drive flagship initiatives and programmes to upscale the competitiveness of Indian businesses. The CoEs cater to a wide range of sectors including manufacturing, sustainability, startups and innovation, and skill development.

A large segment of CII's work concerns the upliftment of the MSME segment and therefore, CII continues to support smaller enterprises through dedicated capacity-building initiatives, providing them with the tools and knowledge to thrive. CII's focus on skill development prepares the workforce for crucial Industry roles. Social work is driven through the CII Foundation which works on several causes including women empowerment, climate change, education, and healthcare.

The organization will continue its work in 2024-25, under the leadership of its new President, Mr Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd. with “Globally Competitive India: Partnerships for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth” as the theme for his presidency at CII and identified four critical issues for the economy for intervention on a mission mode viz. Climate Adaptation, Health for All, Responsible AI, and Digital for Social Good.

Climate Adaptation

The mission of climate adaptation must take priority to ensure that economic development doesn't come at the cost of the environment. Innovation, collaboration among all stakeholders, and knowledge exchange are needed to build a sustainable and resilient economy.

CII's ongoing initiative, 'Building Climate Resilience for Indian Industry,' aims to develop a comprehensive framework for assessing and quantifying climate risks faced by businesses. The Indian Industry, across sectors has suffered economic losses due to extreme weather. The Climate Transparency Report indicates that excessive heat has resulted in income losses amounting to USD 159 billion in the service, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction sectors in the nation. These sectors have faced asset losses from physical risks like flooding and cyclones, productivity losses due to extreme heat or heavy rainfall, and shortages of raw materials caused by disruptions along the value chain. CII has been actively collaborating with its members to tackle these challenges arising from extreme weather events.

The framework will help sectors identify risks from extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and cyclones exacerbated by climate change. It will enable adaptive actions across various sectors and regions, enhancing resilience.

Furthermore, the initiative will create an enabler matrix to assist industries in prioritizing adaptation strategies based on their climate risk assessments. Workshops are being conducted under this initiative to raise awareness, particularly among Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and at the Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) level. These efforts are crucial as they empower businesses to proactively address climate risks and adopt sustainable practices.

Currently, the focus spans two key sectors vital to the Indian economy: manufacturing, specifically automobile and iron and steel, and agriculture including cereal and



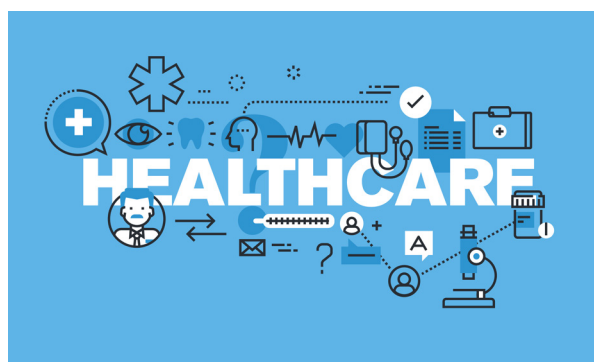
dairy and their associated value chains. These sectors are particularly vulnerable to both acute and chronic impacts of climate change due to their resource-intensive nature.

By targeting these areas, CII aims to mitigate vulnerabilities and strengthen adaptive capacities, thereby safeguarding economic stability and fostering sustainable development across the board.

Health for All

The healthcare vertical of CII, by means of a range of initiatives and platforms, is uniting policy makers and Industry leaders to address critical policy issues and catalysing private sector engagement to complement Government initiatives.

In 2024-24 CII would work on 'Health for All'. In collaboration with members, CII will continue to drive policy changes through comprehensive recommendations to the Government. Major policy suggestions that will be pursued includes - increasing healthcare spending to 2.5-3 per cent of the GDP,



actively investing in training programmes, upskilling medical/allied health personnel, enabling Universal Health Coverage by 2030 and positioning India as a premier medical value travel destination.

CII has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen health systems and improve public health outcomes. These ongoing initiatives will further be scaled and strengthened. CII partnered with Tiruvallur's Public Health Department to provide medical equipment to 17 health facilities, benefiting 9.5 lakh people through enhanced early screening, diagnostics, and treatment in Tamil Nadu. The Model Post Natal Ward at Guntur's Government General Hospital in Andhra Pradesh serves 21 lakh people and handles 6,000 pregnancies annually. In Varanasi's Sevapuri Block, the WASH and Nutrition Intervention project impacted 1,200 children by providing safe drinking water infrastructure, developing Poshan Vatika, installing sanitary pad vending machines and conducting awareness sessions on sanitation and nutrition.

CII also launched the 'Model Blood Bank' project at Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital in Varanasi to improve infrastructure and mobilize the community for safe blood access. Through the Safe Blood Campaign, it also organizes blood donation camps across Delhi NCR to support thalassemia patients. CII has conducted pilot assessments using its workplace wellness index tool. Moving forward, more assessors will be trained to scale up this initiative, promoting holistic employee well-being.

These initiatives, both at the community level as well as the workplace, carry the promise of scale. Health Systems Strengthening can be replicated with minimum customization to improve PHCs as well as medical colleges by leveraging State Government partnerships and developing standardized implementation frameworks for efficient scaling efforts. CII will facilitate the digitalization of health systems to integrate health records, thereby enhancing healthcare quality and strengthening health systems. CII can also function as technical support units to strengthen first referral units to provide quality healthcare by enabling NQAS/LaQshya/Kayakalp certifications.

CII is committed to catalysing climate and health action and will support this by planning and implementing initiatives like decarbonizing the health supply chain, promoting sustainable and low-carbon health facilities and developing heat action plans in collaboration with State Governments to address heat-related health challenges.

Responsible AI

The Union Cabinet, in March this year, had approved a nearly ₹10,000 crore Artificial Intelligence (AI) programme to build a high-end, scalable AI computing ecosystem in India. This initiative includes the development and deployment of indigenous large multimodal models and the promotion of AI applications in critical sectors. CII is committed to supporting this effort through its Mission on Responsible AI. CII will work to evolve a regulatory framework for AI and promote extensive AI development and adoption.

CII has taken steps to create a robust and responsible AI ecosystem in the country. This involves collaborating with various experts, leaders, technology players, and other stakeholders to complement the national strategy.

CII will also consult Industry leaders and experts on pressing issues around AI, such as ethics, bias, transparency and privacy to ensure the ethical use of AI. Additionally, CII will focus on addressing skill challenges and promoting AI adoption in specific sectors including agriculture, health, education and skills. Through these efforts, CII aims to create a robust and responsible AI ecosystem that aligns with national priorities and drives innovation and growth in India.



Digital for Social Good

CII believes that digital technologies can serve a higher purpose than just propelling economic growth by harnessing it for greater societal good and empowering and enabling those at the bottom of the pyramid. This



will be the objective of our Mission on 'Digital for Social Good'.

CII will facilitate digital literacy programmes to bridge the digital divide, promote digital inclusion by supporting

access to technology, and encouraging the adoption of digital tools in education, healthcare, and agriculture to improve efficiency and outcomes. Also, CII will continue to advocate for policies that support digital innovation, infrastructure development, and enhanced research and development.

The CII Centre for Digital Transformation (CII CDT) drives initiatives to improve organizations, industries, and society through digital transformation. It helps organizations build intelligent systems, enhance personal computing, and develop intelligent cloud solutions, thereby reinventing productivity and business processes. Workshops and training sessions are organized across the country to build digital skills and competencies among working professionals. CII also supports startups and innovators in networking and scaling socially impactful digital solutions.

NEW CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

During the course of the year, CII will continue its capacity building and competitiveness enhancing measures through its dedicated CoEs and will start work in two new areas with dedicated centres including CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood, and CII Centre of Excellence on Skills. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the CII Centre of Excellence on Employment and Livelihood. The Centre of Excellence, headquartered in Madurai, Tamil Nadu and sub-offices across the country, will generate productive livelihood and support the scaling up of MSMEs across various sectors including textiles



and food processing, among others much beyond the automotive sector.

The Centre aims to create and sustain livelihoods for a million people over the next decade by fostering the growth and establishment of 5000 micro enterprises annually. It will identify, train, mentor and incubate aspiring and existing small businesses towards sustainable transition and accessing new technologies, markets and finance for setting up and scaling up their businesses. The Centre will customize interventions for pilot sectors such as automobile, textile and food processing, among others.

The CII Centre of Excellence on Skills will set up high-tech AI-driven sectoral skill labs in high-growth sectors such as manufacturing, healthcare, hospitality, financial services, IT/ITES & UI/UX, automotive (including EV), green energy, and drone technology. The Centre aims to impact 10 million people in the next five years. It will offer curated services to Industry for sourcing talent and create a talent pool with higher productivity through skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling programmes. Leveraging the Recruit Train Deploy (RTD) Model, it will demand and mobilize potential candidates accordingly while coordinating training and absorption by the Industry. Additionally, it will map new and emerging roles in the market, set their standards, and facilitate the creation of relevant curricula.

Proposed Centre on Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a key focus is crucial to foster a stable business environment, encouraging investment and economic growth. It reduces legal costs and offers a faster, more cost-effective and flexible alternative, building business confidence and allowing creative solutions tailored to parties' needs.

CII will continue to promote ADR as an acceptable alternative mode for resolving disputes effectively



and efficiently outside the litigation system. This year, CII, through a dedicated Center of Excellence: CII Alternate Dispute Resolution Centre will initiate focused activities on alternate dispute resolution. The Centre will offer the Indian and global business communities a world-class user-friendly digital platform to resolve their differences and disputes via arbitration and mediation built on mutual trust and engagement of parties.

CII will continue its pivotal role in driving India's economic and social progress through robust policy advocacy across sectors, capacity building, skilling and reskilling initiatives, and support for MSMEs and startups to scale up and drive innovation. This year, CII will also prioritize the development of rural enterprises nationwide, with a special focus on Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast region. By leveraging strategic partnerships, innovative programmes and targeted interventions, CII aims to impact millions of lives, foster sustainable development, and position India as a global leader in various high-growth sectors, creating a resilient and inclusive economy. ■

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India and Bangladesh: Strengthening Business Ties

To strengthen business relations between India and Bangladesh, CII organized a high-level meeting of select Indian CEOs with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 21 June, coinciding with her visit to India

India and Bangladesh share a unique relationship, marked by mutual understanding and respect. This partnership is not just built on shared experiences, but also on centuries-old people-to-people connections. The economic ties between the two countries have flourished over the years, with bilateral trade steadily exceeding USD 14.2 billion in 2022-23. Notably, Bangladesh is India's biggest trade partner in South Asia, while India holds the position of Bangladesh's second-largest trade partner in Asia.

To further strengthen business relations between India and Bangladesh, CII organized a high-level meeting of select Indian CEOs with H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh on 21 June, coinciding with her visit to India. The meeting underscored the deep historical and cultural bonds and aimed to build on this exceptional friendship between the two nations.

The meeting brought together prominent Industry leaders from both sides. Ms Shobana Kamineni, Past President, CII and Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd; Mr Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation; Mr Mohit Malhotra, CEO, Dabur India Ltd; Mr Pradeep Kumar Bagla, MD, Amrit Cement Ltd; Mr Deepak Amitabh, CEO – Energy, Adani Power Ltd; Mr Vishwakumara Kayargadde, Executive Director and COO, Saankhya Labs and Dr Kumar Sivarajan, CTO and Founder, Tejas Networks Ltd (Tata group company), among others, represented the Indian side.

From Bangladesh, the meeting was attended by H.E. Mr Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP, Private Industry and Investment Advisor to Prime Minister; H.E. Mr Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Posts,

Telecommunications and Information Technology; H.E. Mr Ahasanul Islam Titu, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Commerce; Mohammad Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister; H. E. Md. Mustafizur Rahman, High Commissioner of Bangladesh, New Delhi, India; Mr Mahbulul Alam, President, FBCCI; Mr Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Chairman, Nitol Niloy Group-Nitol Motors Ltd; Mr Ahson Khan Chowdhury, Chairman, Pran RFL Group; Ambassador-at-large Mohammad Ziauddin and Kazi Zafarullah, Awami League Presidium Member, among others.

H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh emphasized the vast market potential in India and called for enhanced collaboration between the two nations to leverage this opportunity. Highlighting her vision for a stronger and more sustainable Bangladeshi economy, she outlined plans for developing infrastructure projects such as ports, waterways, rail networks and road connectivity.

"Doing business is a key part of the bilateral relationship," she said, underscoring the importance of joint ventures and knowledge sharing. Additionally, she expressed Bangladesh's desire to diversify its economy beyond agriculture by focusing on industrial development through Special Economic Zones, inviting Indian businesses to invest in these zones.

H.E. Mr Salman Fazlur Rahman, MP, Private Industry and Investment Advisor to the Prime Minister noted that Bangladesh has a close relationship with India, supported by both Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Prime Minister Hasina's priority on neighbouring countries.

Mr Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman and Managing Director of ITC Ltd said that Bangladesh is India's land bridge to the vibrant regions of Southeast Asia and that the two countries can address the market together at a time when supply chains are shifting. He mentioned that in agriculture, India and Bangladesh can set up joint ventures between private sectors. Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII said that to drive economic engagement, CII plans to take a CEOs' delegation to Bangladesh later this year.

During the interaction, business leaders from India and Bangladesh highlighted several sectors of joint collaborations, including increasing the supply of energy to Bangladesh, with a special emphasis on hydropower, and creating more energy transmission lines to Bangladesh. They also spoke about education and skill development in Bangladesh through telecommunications solutions. Other areas of collaboration such as agriculture, trade and IT were also discussed.

Strengthening Ties between Northeast India and Bangladesh

Mr Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII Northeast Council and Managing Director, Amrit Cements Ltd made an eight-point recommendation on 'Strengthening Ties between Northeast India and Bangladesh'. The recommendations included:

- Northeast India is already using Chattogram and Mongla Ports for Transshipment of Goods to and from Northeast of India. Fully operationalizing this agreement will bring economic benefits to a range of stakeholders from both countries. While Northeast India will benefit from steady supply of goods, the transport and logistics sector in Bangladesh will gain considerably, bringing prosperity on both sides of the border
- The next step is how to make the transshipment process through the ports and the land customs stations more efficient. The improvement in logistics and the infrastructure will be the key to increase more trade through NE corridor. The completion of the Matarbari deep sea port would be also significant to the improved connectivity



(L-R): Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII during a call-on meeting at New Delhi

- The improved connectivity will bring closer economic integration with Bangladesh and would diminish these NE states' economic isolation, while simultaneously strengthening their linkages with India's heartland
- There is a need to work closely to strengthen border infrastructure to ensure smooth transit of goods and people. Establishing additional border haats and integrated Check Posts (ICPs) is an example of this
- The proposed operational of the air connectivity between Guwahati/Agartala and Chattogram would further benefit the Northeast and Bangladesh. Bangladesh will benefit from using the air connectivity for availing medical treatment and it would also increase inbound tourist footfalls for Chattogram having access to seashore
- The rail link between Agartala and Akhaura which was inaugurated on 1 November 2023 is yet another milestone in connectivity which would further improve trade and connectivity to the Northeast and Bangladesh.

The meeting served as a springboard for further economic cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The discussions highlighted the vast potential for collaboration across various sectors, from infrastructure development to education and technology. The participation demonstrated by both nations, coupled with the proactive initiatives of the CII, indicated a stronger and more mutually beneficial economic partnership in the years to come. ■



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Focus Sectors

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Launch of Hamara Rahul Book – a Tribute to Rahul Bajaj



(L-R): Tarun Das, Former Director General, CII; Sanjiv Bajaj, Past President, CII and Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd; Sunaina Kejriwal, Director, Kamalnayan Bajaj Hall & Art Gallery; Rajiv Bajaj, Managing Director, Bajaj Auto Ltd and Kiran Pasricha, Former CEO, Ananta Aspen Centre at the book launch event in Mumbai

On the birth anniversary of the Late Mr Rahul Bajaj, a homage book named 'Hamara Rahul' was launched in Mumbai on 10 June at an event jointly organized by CII, Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation and Juggernaut Books. The book is a compilation of tributes by over 75 Indian Industry leaders, edited by Mr Tarun Das, Former Director General, CII and Ms Kiran Pasricha, Former CEO, Ananta Aspen Centre. The book encapsulates Mr Rahul Bajaj's contributions, achievements and impact on the Indian Industry for over five decades.

"Rahul Bajaj, a leader and institution builder, left an indelible mark through numerous initiatives. From founding institutions to establishing a ladies' hostel, his vision encompassed both the telescopic and microscopic aspects of progress - A legacy that transcends generations," said Mr Raghunath Mashelkar, Former Director General, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).

Mr Uday Kotak, Founder and Former MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank noted that Mr Rahul Bajaj was ahead of his time and prioritized consumer needs with a futuristic mindset. Mr Bajaj always saw the big picture and analysed matters in great detail, he said. Mr Kotak said that Mr Rahul Bajaj was an icon of the Indian Industry who never feared speaking the truth.

Mr Tarun Das, Former Director General, CII and Co-Editor of the book lauded the Bajaj family for upholding traditions and values and announced that 'Hamara Rahul' would be his last book.

Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII acknowledged Mr Rahul Bajaj's vision, which consistently prioritised the nation's interests. "Even if Mr Bajaj started out with views contrary to the others in the room, people resonated with his vision - the larger picture," he said.

Engaging with the World

EUROPE

Furthering India-Spain Business Collaboration

India and Spain have been long standing partners. Given the enhancement of bilateral trade and investment between the two nations in last few decades, CII organized a Business Delegation to Spain from 3-6 June.

The delegation, led by Mr Amit Sawhney, Member, CII Europe Council and MD, Nippon Global SL and CEO, Kiz Foods Pvt Ltd, included representatives from various industrial clusters of advanced manufacturing, auto components, infrastructure, general engineering and technology from New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

During the visit, the delegation members were able to explore various business and collaboration opportunities through engagements in Bilbao, the leading manufacturing cluster of the Basque region in Spain and the capital city of Madrid. The delegation participated in BIEMH Bilbao, one of the largest international machine tool and advanced manufacturing trade show in Spain, offering the latest technology and innovative solutions by the advanced manufacturing brands in Europe. They also participated in AdditEd and Be Digital, international trade shows on additive manufacturing, 3D Printing and industrial application of digital technologies.

The delegation also met senior leadership in Basque Region including Basque Trade and Investment HQ, Port of Bilbao, Basque Hydrogen Corridor, Tecnalia and Invest in Basque. A Spain-India Roundtable was also organized by CII, Embassy of India in Spain and Spain Chamber of Commerce (CAMARA). The roundtable,



CII members with leaders of the Basque Trade and Investment HQ chaired by the leader of the Indian delegation and Mr Jaime Montalvo, International Director, CAMARA, explored collaboration and joint venture opportunities. Ms Laura Jarillo, SG for Europe, Asia and Oceania, Secretariat of State for Trade – Ministry of Economy, Trade and Business and Mr Dinesh K Patnaik, Ambassador of India to Spain emphasised the plethora of opportunities for the Industry leaders in the India – Spain corridor in various sectors. The roundtable was also attended by Ms Berta Fuertes Ferragut, Director, The Spain-India Council Foundation.

An interactive session on investments and joint venture opportunities for Indian and Spanish businesses was organized at ICEX, Madrid. During the session, the delegation members had one-on-one interactions with Ms Valero San Paulo, Director of Institutional Coop. and Business Development, ICEX; Ms Huidobro Martin-Laborda, Deputy Director of Industrial Technology and Professional Services, ICEX and Mr Juan Manuel Álvarez Ugalde Jefe de Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales y Diplomacia Económica Europea, ICEX. The members also explored beneficiary programmes, state incentives and aid for the companies willing to do business in Spain.



Participants at the India Spain Roundtable

Healthcare Collaborations with Hungarian Delegation

CII hosted a delegation from the Hungarian healthcare sector and organized the India-Hungary Roundtable on Healthcare on 12 June in New Delhi. During the roundtable, members of the healthcare sectors of both countries deliberated on collaborations in nuclear medicine, diagnostics, oncotherapy, medical devices, infant incubators and more. They also explored the scope of healthcare opportunity and Government regulations for foreign healthcare products in India.

The Hungarian delegation, led by Mr Levente Kardos, Economic and Commercial Counselor, Embassy of Hungary in India, comprised leading healthcare players. Mr Abhishek Dubey, Partner, Trilegal gave a presentation on the current business climate of healthcare sector in India.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Exploring Investment Opportunities in Indonesia

CII in Indonesia, in association with the Embassy of India, organized a session on 'Investment Opportunities in Indonesia - Impact of Elections 2024' on 13 June in Jakarta. With the conclusion of the elections in Indonesia, the new Government will commence office in October 2024. The session was aimed at providing insights into the continuity of existing policies and initiatives.

Mr Rajesh Sethuraman, Chairman, CII India Business Forum and CEO, PT Godrej Consumer Products

Indonesia highlighted that Indonesia is a preferred destination for investment in the region for Indian businesses. Mr Sandeep Chakravorty, Ambassador of India to Indonesia and Timor-Leste said that the growing presence and role of Indian companies in Indonesia is testimony to their interest in the country. Agreements on the Local Currency Settlement System to bring down transaction costs, UPI, the introduction of more direct flights, and a visit of the transition team of the President-Elect to India to understand the social welfare schemes of the Indian Government indicate a keenness to engage. He said that the Embassy, along with CII, will facilitate businesses to improve their engagement.

Mr Cahyo Purnomo, Investment Promotion Director, Ministry of Investment of Indonesia gave a presentation on the macroeconomics of the country, investment climate, investment opportunities, focus areas, policies, initiatives and requirements for investors. In terms of FDI, he highlighted that India has moved from 21st position in 2022 to 14th in 2023, with a realized investment of USD 275.38 million. The session was attended by leading corporates from India.

LAC

Interaction with IAgora Brasil Project Coordinator

CII hosted an interactive meeting between Professor Isabela Oliveira, Coordinator of the IAgora Brasil Project and Associate Professor at the University of Brasilia with prominent Indian Edtech platforms-upGrad and Avishkaar in New Delhi on 18 June. The focus of her



Participants at the Session on Investment Opportunities in Indonesia - Impact of Elections 2024 in Jakarta

visit was to understand how the Indian edtech platforms are utilizing tools such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in imparting knowledge to students in India.

The IAgora Brasil project aims to empower 1,000 basic education teachers in the Federal District with AI skills through a hybrid course that combines online and face-to-face training. The programme focuses on expanding responsible AI use, digital literacy and practical applications to 10,000 teachers by 2026. Additionally, her post-doctoral research compares educational experiences in different countries that use digital technologies in their curriculum.

Mr Praneet Singh, Director, upGrad spoke about integrating AI and ML into education, emphasizing how their AI-driven modules enhance learning by tracking students' progress. Ms Amarpreet Kaur, Senior Curriculum Designer, Avishkaar shared insights on teaching AI and robotics to students right from a young age and how the organization is partnering up with the Indian Government to set up Atal Tinkering Labs at Indian schools and providing technical training courses for teachers.

The meeting highlighted the potential benefits for Brazil in learning from India's edtech infrastructure, given the



(L-R): Amarpreet Kaur, Senior Curriculum Designer – Avishkaar; Professor Isabela Oliveira Coordinator of IAgora Brasil Project and Associate Professor at the University of Brasilia, Brazil and Praneet Singh, Director – upGrad at the Interactive Meeting held in New Delhi

similar demographics in both countries. The discussion concluded with a consensus on IAgora Brasil's goal of equipping educators to integrate AI into their teaching practices. This will help foster an innovative and adaptive learning environment to meet students' evolving needs. India and Brazil can further explore opportunities for collaboration in preparing future-ready educators equipped with the latest technological methodology in education. ■

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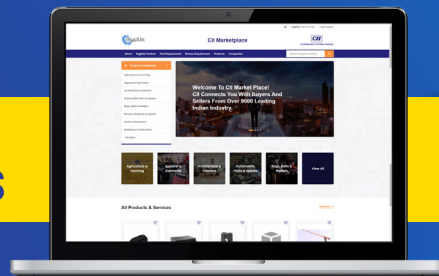
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Foreign Affairs

CII leadership calls on Dr S Jaishankar



(L-R): Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd. and Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India

Mr Sanjiv Puri, Chairman and Managing Director, ITC Ltd and Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII met Dr S Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs recently in New Delhi. The discussions covered various crucial aspects of India's foreign policy.



Infrastructure

Opportunities in Kuwait in Real Estate, Construction

CII, in collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, organized an interactive session with Public Authority of Housing Welfare (PAHW), State of Kuwait on 6 June, virtually. Dr Adarsh Swaika, Indian Ambassador to Kuwait chaired the interaction and apprised members about the upcoming opportunities in Kuwait in the real estate and construction sectors.

Mr Nasser Adel Ibrahim Khraibet, Deputy General Manager for Planning & Design, PAHW, State of Kuwait informed members about the various projects for private sector, which are in construction and tender phase. PAHW is a Kuwaiti organization which implements Government housing policies by development of residential areas including basic social amenities and construction of affordable housing complexes.

About 25 representatives from the Indian real estate sector participated in the session, which was moderated by Mr Ashwinder R Singh, Co-Chairman, CII Northern Region Committee on Real Estate and CEO Residential, Bharitiya Urban.

Smart Urban Futures - Data Driven Strategies for Sustainable Cities

CII organized a roundtable on 'Smart Urban Futures – Data Driven Strategies for Sustainable Cities' in New Delhi on 24 June. The objective of the discussion was to enable longevity through design of core city services using ROI lens, create innovation in services and monetization using data and analytics. It also aimed to address data sharing and privacy considerations while cascading success by peer mentorships and other mechanisms.

Chairing the roundtable, Ms D Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India emphasized on the potential of leveraging CCTV networks and mobile data to enhance women's safety in urban spaces. She called for development of real-time monitoring apps and community engagement platforms to ensure safer streets. She suggested integrating alternative energy solutions and establishing feedback loops through Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCCs), thereby underscoring the importance of comprehensive, citizen-centric urban planning.

Discussions focused on leveraging data as a catalyst for sustainable development. The roundtable not only charted a roadmap for smarter urban futures but also highlighted India's potential to lead in data-driven urban innovation on a global scale.

Experts from the Industry including technology developers, solution providers, consultants, and EPC players, amongst others, participated at the roundtable. The participants underscored that data-driven strategies are not just about monetization but also about enhancing efficiency and sustainability of urban services.

Promoting Synergy Between Industry and Railways

An interaction was organized in New Delhi between CII members and officials of the Railway Board on 28 June for promoting synergy between Industry and the Ministry of Railways.

The discussion focussed on Industry issues in railway safety, infrastructure and equipment, wagon and

coach manufacturing, track, signalling, sustainability and environment and other focus areas. Mr Satish Kumar, Member - Traction and Rolling Stock and Mr Anil Kumar Khandelwal, Member – Infrastructure were the key speakers during the meeting. The delegation was led by Mr Umesh Chowdhary, Chairman, CII Rail Transportation and Equipment Division and Vice Chairman & MD, Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd.

Mr Shailendra Singh, Principal Executive Director (EnHM & Projects) and the Convenor of the Executive Director, Level Committee, Railway Board addressed the issues faced by the Industry players.

Mr AK Khandelwal, Member - Infrastructure and Mr Satish Kumar Member - Track and Rolling Stock encouraged the Industry to work with the Ministry of Railways, focusing on quality and adhering to the laws. They also spoke on the timely completion of railway projects. The interaction saw fruitful exchange of ideas and recommendations in the existing policy framework.

digital trust via cybersecurity and leveraging emerging technologies for sustainability.

During the summit, the importance of empowering manufacturing with technology to enhance productivity was emphasized. It highlighted the importance of human connection in the digital age and the role of CII in driving Industry adoption of digital technologies. Digital literacy is crucial as it goes beyond just having internet access and can help bridge language and gender divides, the speakers noted.

The importance of trust and cybersecurity in the digital era were emphasized, and the discussions focused on cybersecurity frameworks, capacity building and data privacy. It is crucial to address potential biases in AI systems to ensure fairness and equity. Additionally, it was noted that the role of telecom in enhancing network efficiency through AI should be emphasized and leveraged.

Understanding Cyber Threats: The Modern Landscape

An Awareness Session on Cyber Security was organised on 15 June in Gurugram around the theme ‘Understanding Cyber Threats: The Modern Landscape’. The session underscored the vulnerabilities of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and provide participants with the necessary strategies to improve cybersecurity preparedness, reduce the risk of breaches and effectively navigate the changing threat landscape and more.

Mr Priyanshu Dewan, ACP Cyber Crime, Gurugram noted that digital literacy is key component to fight cyber threats and talked about different types of cyberattacks including fire horse attack, black hat attack, ransomware attack, phishing, social engineering, cyber slavery, among others.

In his presentation, Mr Amit Dubey, Author, National Cyber Security Expert showcased how hackers easily bypass OTPs and passwords and damage the user



Digital

Empowering Digital India

CII organized the 5th edition of DX Summit on 28 June in New Delhi, under the aegis of the CII Centre of Digital Transformation (CDT), around the theme ‘Empowering Digital India: Inclusivity, Trust, and MSME Transformation’.

The summit, a flagship programme of the CII CDT, hosted several sessions on key issues, which provided insights into inclusive growth through digital literacy, MSME transformation with digital strategies, ensuring



L-R: Vijay Thadani, Co-Chair, CII CDT and Vice Chairman, & MD, NIIT Ltd; S. Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India; Sandhya Devanathan, Head – India & Vice President, Meta India; Tejpreet Singh Chopra, Co-Chair, CII AI Forum & Founder and CEO BLP Group & Industry.AI, India and Shiv Siddhant Kaul, Managing Director, NICCO Engineering Services Ltd at the DX Summit in New Delhi

account. He also noted that it is important to update browsers regularly to minimize cyberattacks.

During the session, it was noted that cyber hygiene is crucial to protect sensitive data, prevent financial loss and maintain system integrity. Regular updates and security measures create a strong defense against cyber threats, making it essential for navigating the digital world securely. The 'Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System' module now links 85 banks, payment intermediaries and wallets with the cybercrime backend portal. This integration enables citizens to report cyber financial frauds through the National Helpline number 1930, which is available in all states and union territories.



Manufacturing

AI in Manufacturing & OT Cybersecurity Roundtable

CII organized a roundtable on 'AI in Manufacturing & OT Cybersecurity: Enhancing Operational Excellence and Security' on 21 June in New Delhi. The roundtable explored the transformative role of AI in optimizing manufacturing processes, improving efficiency and enhancing quality control. It focused on using AI for OT cybersecurity, including detecting threats and responding in real-time to protect critical systems.

Speakers shared insights on successful AI implementations, best practices and collaborative approaches to enhance manufacturing efficiency and security.

AI in Predictive Maintenance

CII organized a webinar on 'AI in Predictive Maintenance' with focus on metal and mining Industry. The session, held on 11-13 June, aimed to understand the relevance of predictive maintenance in metal and mining Industry, identifying the potential failures in furnaces, ladle heating systems and other heat-intensive processes for timely maintenance.

The three-day session included modules on AI in predictive maintenance, AI in metal production and case-based analysis on metal Industry. The participants learned about the need for process automation and a centralized control room in mining plants, remote diagnostics in a single place/plant, the need for prescription maintenance for a more holistic process excellence and the feasibility, challenges, cost advantages and potential productivity growth of predictive maintenance.

Failure Elimination in Manufacturing Process

CII organized a virtual session on 'Failure Elimination in Manufacturing Process: Harnessing Root Cause Analysis' on 27 - 28 June. Root Cause Analysis (RCA) is essential for identifying the root causes of asset failures and production losses, ensuring quality assurance, production efficiency, lead times and operational costs.

Traditionally, manufacturers have focused on fixing immediate equipment faults, but these short-term solutions often fail to address recurrent defects due to unidentified root causes. RCA helps manufacturers trace faults and failures back to their origins, especially in complex manufacturing processes.

This session focused on updated strategies for failure elimination, problem-solving in maintenance management and enabled participants to explore structured processes that companies may adopt to achieve greater consistency and reliability in eliminating asset failures and preventing related incidents. Participants from member companies pan India attended the session.



Participants at the Roundtable on AI in Manufacturing & OT Cybersecurity: Enhancing Operational Excellence and Security in New Delhi



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Portfolio for Excellence



Food and Agriculture

Strengthening the Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Ecosystem

The 12th and 13th State Connect sessions were organized by CII Food and Agriculture Centre of Excellence (CII-FACE), in association with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), on 10 and 11 June in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh respectively.

State Connect is an initiative in association with FSSAI to strengthen the food safety and regulatory ecosystem across the country. It is set to provide a common platform for State FDA and FBOs including SMEs, HORECA and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the challenges on regulatory compliance requirements for food Industry.

The sessions included expert-led training on regulatory compliance for food businesses, online portal demonstrations and specialized training for state food labs to strengthen the State Food Safety Index. In Shimla, particular emphasis was placed on the fortification of staple foods, highlighting its cost-effective

role in enhancing the vitamin and mineral content of diets.

Ms Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director, FSSAI underscored the significance of digitizing processes to simplify compliance and reduce surveillance. Mr Ravinder Thakur, Joint Director, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Himachal Pradesh highlighted the state's enhanced focus on food nutritional security. Dr Vijaya Gautam, Assistant Commissioner (Food Safety), Directorate of Health Safety and Regulations, Himachal Pradesh emphasized the state's dedication to eradicating foodborne illnesses through robust food safety measures.

To create awareness and share knowledge amongst personnel involved at point of sale of Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals products, CII's Resource Centre for Health Supplements and Nutraceuticals (ReCHaN) convened 'Point-of-Sale' (PoS) Training Sessions for Pharmacists' as part State Connect. The objective was to provide adequate and accurate information to consumers to enable them to make informed choices.

With over 250 food processors, lab professionals, startups, pharmacists and FSOs participating, the State Connect session in Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh strengthened stakeholder engagement and enhanced regulatory compliance capacity by providing updates on key food safety and quality measures.



Inoshi Sharma, Executive Director, FSSAI along with other speakers at the State Connect session



CFC

National Low-Cost Automation Competition

To foster innovation and recognize cost-effective automation solutions addressing real-world challenges, CII - Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) organized the 7th edition of the National Low-Cost Automation Competition on 12-13 June via virtual platform.

The competition witnessed an overwhelming response from innovators, engineers, students, and technology enthusiasts across the nation, showcasing creativity and expertise in developing low-cost automation solutions.

Approximately 100 best practices were presented across various categories and 12 Industry experts served as jury members for the competition. It provides recognition and visibility to organizations that demonstrate excellence in maintenance practices.

Corrosion Mitigation in Chemical Industry

CII Corrosion Management Division conducted an exclusive session on ‘Corrosion Mitigation in Chemical Industry’ on 20 June via CII virtual platform, with a focus to spread awareness in the chemical Industry on corrosion challenges and strategies to mitigate it, in order to significantly extend equipment life, improve operational efficiency and ensure a safer work environment.

Mr PD Samudra, Independent Director, Deepak Nitrites Ltd and Deepak Chem Tech Ltd highlighted the challenges of corrosion in the chemical and process Industry and how it affects plants, incurring costs associated with repairs, replacements, production losses and safety incidents. He discussed various methods for mitigation including material selection, coatings, cathodic protection, and proper design and maintenance in detail.

CII Corrosion Management Division Advisory Council Meeting

To accelerate the national Mission on ‘War Against Corrosion’, the Advisory Council Meeting of CII Corrosion Management Division (CII-CMD) was conducted via CII virtual platform on 24 June. The main objectives of the meeting were to align the division activities with goals and objective of the mission and enhance CII CMD members’ leadership and engagement in the mission.

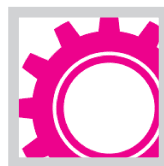
Capacity building in corrosion management, Government policy and regulation on corrosion, need of awareness and initiatives were the major discussed.

Design Against Corrosion

CII CMD conducted a training program on ‘Design Against Corrosion’ on 27-28 June via CII virtual platform to equip Industry professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to design and maintain corrosion-resistant systems.

Speakers discussed suitable designs for corrosion mitigation, designer’s role in controlling corrosion, equipment service life factors, corrosion rate conclusion and case studies related to design against corrosion in chemical and oil & gas industry.

They also discussed solution to corrosion problems based on fabrication techniques and environmental conditions, common forms of corrosion, best practices and avoiding common pit falls, right material selection, and fabrication techniques, among others.



CME

Unleashing Leadership Excellence

CII Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII-CME) conducted a two-day workshop titled ‘Unleashing Leadership Excellence’ on 21 – 22 June in Mumbai to equip both existing and potential leaders with a practical toolkit to build and enhance their leadership capabilities. Recognizing that leadership is the ultimate test of a professional's competence, the workshop addressed the multitude of responsibilities that modern-day leaders face, including managing oneself, teams and business expectations.

The workshop focused on sensitizing participants on of skills required to accomplish leadership excellence. It aimed to enhance the leadership quotient through effective people skills and superior team management capabilities and build leadership competence to communicate with diverse organizational stakeholders, including management, clients, team members and peers.

Buyer-Seller Meet for Oil & Gas Sectors

CII-CME organized a Buyer-Seller Meet for the oil & gas sectors on 14 June in Mumbai. The event brought

together over 65 seller organizations from across the country to interact with major buyers from the Industry, including Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs).

It aimed to facilitate direct interactions between buyers and sellers and create a platform for sellers to showcase their products and capabilities. During the meet, over 180 impactful meetings were organized. These meetings provided a platform for sellers to present their offerings, discuss potential collaborations and explore business opportunities.

Session on Green Manufacturing

CII CME organized a two-day virtual session on 'Green Manufacturing' on 27-28 June to highlight the importance of green manufacturing in India's journey towards achieving its ambitious Net Zero target by 2070, emphasizing the integration of green products, processes and energy into manufacturing. The session underscored the critical role of green manufacturing in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability.

The virtual session covered various aspects of green manufacturing, including green energy usage, resource efficiency, zero waste production and sustainable practices. It was an opportunity for professionals to delve into the principles and practices of green manufacturing, also known as Lean & Green, which aims to minimize waste and pollution while conserving natural resources for future generations.



SNCEL

Certified Programme on Emerging Technologies

The CII Centre of Excellence for Leadership, in association with The Strategy Academy Centre for Advanced Studies (TSACAS), launched the inaugural batch of the Certified Programme on Current and Emerging Technologies (CPCET) on 28 June.

This online course has been meticulously designed to provide an in-depth understanding of critical emerging technologies and practical applications aimed at solving business challenges while driving competitiveness. These technologies include: Artificial Intelligence (AI)



and Machine Learning (ML); Internet of Things (IoT) and the Metaverse; Cloud Services; Robotic Process Automation (RPA); Augmented and Virtual Reality and Blockchain Technology

The course also leverages an interactive, real-time learning platform featuring 70 hours of live, faculty-led sessions, complemented by an additional 70 hours of self-paced learning. Moreover, the CII-CPCT Programme comprises a robust and continuous assessment process, evaluating participants through a multi-element grading system.

The maiden edition of the programme saw enthusiastic participation from CII members. Over its course, participants will gain an optimal knowledge of the emerging 6 pivotal technologies, ensuring tangible improvements in manufacturing and business outcomes.



CIES

Pitching Session for Startups

CII CIES hosted a pitching session at T-Hub in Hyderabad on 3 June, where 10 startups presented cutting-edge solutions in AI/ML, robotics and Industry 4.0. Mr Amitesh Sinha, Vice President & Head - Corporate Venture Capital & Spark, Vedanta Ltd and Mr Parijat Verma – Head PMO engaged in deep discussions with the startups, fostering innovation and collaboration.

The session facilitated the connection of startups with corporates. The CII CIES Corporate Market Access Programme continues to drive pioneering ideas and Industry evolution.



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EASTERN REGION

Nursing Conclave - Care, Compassion & Commitment

CII West Bengal and IWN organized the 8th edition of CII Nursing Conclave and the 5th edition of 'Joyee: Recognition of Excellence for Caregivers' on 27 June in Kolkata. The central theme of the Conclave was 'Care, Compassion & Commitment'. On the occasion, a whitepaper on the theme was unveiled by Shri N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal.

N S Nigam said that nurses need to understand newer technologies, modern equipment, telemedicine needs and latest trends in healthcare to stay relevant in the future. Once completing the education, nurses should upgrade their knowledge to remain relevant with the changing healthcare ecosystem.

Mr Rupak Barua, Mentor, Healthcare Taskforce, West Bengal and MD & CEO, Woodland Hospital said that global healthcare market is expected to grow at 10.4 percent CAGR between 2023-2027 and in India the healthcare market is growing by 22.5 percent, as of 2022. This shows that Indian healthcare market is growing much faster, she said.

Speakers emphasised the need for increased investment to improve training, facilities and potentially nurse's salaries, attracting and retaining talent. The conclave

explored adapting advanced practices from developed countries and upskilling nurses through continuous professional development and specialization courses.

The conclave culminated in recognizing and celebrating the exceptional contributions of caregivers - Joyee. In its 5th edition, Joyee felicitated the caregivers' team from different hospitals / home health cares / old age homes, who all worked relentlessly to combat against all sorts of diseases and treat the patients with utmost care. More than 400 caregivers and prominent Industry professionals attended the programme.

Analysis of Recent GST Council Decisions and Industry Issues

CII Eastern Region organized a virtual session on GST on 27 June, around the theme '360 Degree Analysis of Recent GST Council Decisions and Industry Issues'. The objective of the session was to understand the key decisions taken at the 53rd GST Council Meeting.

The Government had announced that the GST Council has set a monetary threshold for the tax department to file appeals before various appellate authorities. There have been other significant amendments to the GST Law.

Shri Devendra V Nagvenkar, Additional Director General, Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) Pune,

Ministry of Finance, Government of India talked about the amnesty scheme proposed by the 53rd GST Council Meeting, wherein taxpayers who had received certain notices may pay off the tax amount only and avail a relief of the interest and penalty thereon.

Proposals were made on various GST relaxations in the Insurance sector and rationalisation of tax rates for specific sectors. Notably, the GST Council has taken up many recommendations proposed by CII on ease of doing businesses favourably.



(L-R): Rupak Barua, Mentor, Healthcare Taskforce, West Bengal & MD & CEO, Woodlands Hospital; Sandeep Kumar, Chairman, West Bengal State Council & MD, TSDPL; N S Nigam, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal; Prashant Sharma, Past Chairman, West Bengal State Council & Chairman, Healthcare Taskforce, West Bengal & MD, Charnock Hospital and Dr Usha Ukande, President, Nursing Honor Society, during the 8th CII Nursing Conclave in Kolkata

Interaction with Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to India



(L-R): Ashwani Kumar Lal, Co-Chairman, CII International Trade Subcommittee, Eastern Region and Chief of Steel Exports (Flat Products), Tata Steel; Nicholas McCaffrey, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to India; Hugh Boylan, Consul-General, Australian Consulate-General at the interactive session in Kolkata

CII Eastern Region organized an interactive session with Mr Nicholas McCaffrey, Deputy High Commissioner of Australia to India on 25 June in Kolkata. Mr McCaffrey said that Australia aims to collaborate with India in clean energy and innovation.

Mr McCaffrey mentioned that the focus is to upgrade the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) with the Government of India. He highlighted that the Subsea Innovation Cluster Australia (SICA) – a free trade agreement, to collaborate and innovate the market expansion, which will put India and Australia at the centre of clean energy supply chains. Mr Hugh Boylan, Consul-General, Australian Consulate General also shared his inputs during the interaction.

Interaction with Chief Commissioner of Customs

An interactive session with Shri Madan Mohan Singh, Chief Customs Commissioner of Kolkata was organised on 8 June in Kolkata. During the session, discussions were held on the shifting dynamics of the economy, highlighting that the tertiary sector is now surpassing the primary and secondary sectors in importance. He pointed out that as economies develop, the share of

indirect taxes usually increases; however, this trend is reversed in India.

Shri Singh emphasized the need for effective utilization of digital platforms like e-Sanchit and Turant Customs. Turant Customs, a faceless assessment initiative by the CBIC, is designed to streamline customs procedures and enhance the ease of doing business. He noted that the customs department is transitioning from a regulatory role to a facilitative one, aiming to support businesses rather than hinder them.

Workshop on Machine Safety

CII Eastern Region organized a virtual workshop on Machine Safety on 12 June to highlight the requirements of regulations and standards in relation to machinery, mechanical guarding, its application to the design & maintenance and identifying optimal safety system solutions. The workshop was attended by over 90 participants.

Mr Gobinath Rajendran, Assistant Manager, Safety Consultant – Tec.nicum, Schmersal Group said that human error was the leading cause of industrial accidents. Despite technological advancements, the reliance on human intervention in industrial processes introduces the possibility of mistakes and oversights.

The attendees of the workshop embraced the risk evaluation process, risk assessment process, risk reduction process and the effective approach for safer machine and workplace.

National Supervisory Skills Competition

CII Eastern Region organized the 24th edition of National Supervisory Skills Competition on 7 June in Kolkata to recognize and reward supervisors who excel in their roles, fostering a culture of skill development and achievement. It provided a platform for supervisors to enhance their competencies through learning and sharing best practices,

promoting professional growth and continuous improvement within the Industry.

This year, 43 teams from various companies participated in the National Supervisory Skill Competition, out of which 27 teams emerged as finalists. The competition was focused on inspiring and motivating industrial supervisors. The acknowledgement through



(L-R): Sumit Goyal, Chairman, CII International Trade Subcommittee, Eastern Region and President (Operations), Patton International Ltd.; Madan Mohan Singh, Chief Commissioner Customs, Kolkata; Sanjay Budhia, Chairman CII National Committee on EXIM & Managing Director, Patton International Ltd and Ashwani Kumar Lal, Co Chairman CII ER International Trade Subcommittee & Chief Steel Exports, Flat Products Tata Steel Ltd at the interactive session in Kolkata



(L-R): B Sumant, Chairman, CII ER Government Industry Agri and Food Processing Forum, and Executive Director, ITC Ltd; Dr Pradipta Mohanty, Chairman, CII Odisha State Council and Chairman, Surendra Mining Industries Pvt Ltd; Andalib Elias, Deputy High Commissioner, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission; Suvendra Kumar Behera, Chairman, CII Eastern Region and Vice Chairman & Managing Director, RSB Transmissions (I) Ltd. and Sunil Gupta, Vice Chairman, CII Odisha State Council and Chief Executive Officer, Vedanta Ltd at the event on Farm2Fork in Bhubaneswar

this competition amongst the supervisors played a pivotal role in elevating productivity and ensuring the delivery of high-quality service.

Farm2Fork: Exploring opportunities for Export Augmentation

CII Odisha organized the tenth edition of 'Farm2Fork: Exploring opportunities for Export Augmentation' on 28 June in Bhubaneswar. The event focused on how Odisha can improve the opportunities to export the agricultural products of the state in the global market.

Farm2Fork aimed to expand business horizon through special focus on access to new markets, promote entrepreneurship for products with higher export potential and promote skill development and capacity building to improve competitiveness in the global market.

Mr Andalib Elias, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh highlighted the strong connectivity between India and Bangladesh by rail and waterways and said that waterway is the cheapest and railway is second cheapest option for transportation which can be leveraged to enhance trade between two sides.

Discussions were held on the necessity of introducing varied products to the international market from Odisha including rice, Koraput coffee, non-timber forest products and marine products in frozen and chilled forms.

Future of GST

CII Jharkhand organized a session on 'The Future of GST' around the theme of 'Navigating Key Issues and Charting the Way Forward' on 7 June in Jamshedpur,

where professionals deliberated on the future of GST, amendments and the litigation updates. Plenary sessions were held on 'GST: 2.0 – Paving the way for the Future'; 'Navigating GST Evolution: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges in the Era of Amendments' and 'Decoding GST Litigation: Trends, Risks and Strategies for Business Compliance'.

Mr Ritu Raj Sinha, Vice Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and MD, Tata Steel UISL spoke about the understanding of the subject and address the meaning of GST 2.0. He explained that clear understanding is the key to take the country, Industry, economy and its people forward.

Mr Arun Prakash, Convenor, CII Jharkhand Economic Affairs, Finance & Taxation Panel and Senior General Manager (Finance), Tata Cummins Pvt Ltd highlighted that the future of GST in India is not just about tax collection; it's about fostering a culture of compliance, simplifying business operations and paving the way for a more equitable and progressive economic system. Mr Ranjot Singh, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State Council and MD, Emdet Jamshedpur Pvt Ltd noted that the Government needs to co learn with us.

Cloud Computing

CII Jharkhand organized a session on Cloud Computing, around the theme of 'Accelerate, Innovate and Expand Securely' on 27 June in Jamshedpur, where Industry leaders deliberated on emerging technologies and their potential impact on cloud services.



(L-R): Sarajit Jha, Convenor, CII Jharkhand ICT, Startup and Innovation Panel & Chief Business Transformation and Business Solutions Tata Steel Ltd; Diloo Parikh, Chairman, CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council & Managing Director Vaidehi Motors Pvt Ltd; Sanjay Sabherwal, Chairman, CII Eastern Region MSME Subcommittee & Managing Director Metalwork Industries Ltd; Rohit Goyal, Director, IEMCO Industries Pvt Ltd at the session on Cloud Computing in Jamshedpur

During the session, cloud security and compliance and case studies and success stories were discussed. The session demonstrated its positive impact through business use case and data analysis and provided deep insights to potential cloud users.

Mr Diloo Parikh, Chairman, CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council and MD, Vaidehi Motors Pvt Ltd emphasised on India's digital business landscape as a rapidly advancing economy, driven by technological progress, supportive Government policies and a flourishing startup ecosystem.

Mr Sarajit Jha, Convenor, CII Jharkhand ICT, Startup and Innovation Panel and Chief Business Transformation and Business Solutions, TATA Steel said that cloud technology is viewed as an indispensable part for enabling growth, with AI adoption seen as the ultimate goal.



NORTH EASTERN REGION

GST Recommendations to Assam Government

A delegation, led by Mr Abhijit Barooah, Past Chairman, CII North East Council and Managing Director, Premier Cryogenics Ltd has submitted recommendations on GST to Ms Ajanta Neog, Minister of Finance, Government of Assam on 26 June in Guwahati. Shri Ashok Singhal, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Irrigation, Government of Assam and Shri Pallav Gopal Jha, Commissioner & Secretary, Taxes, Government of Assam were also present at the meeting.

The recommendations put forward suggested opening public fast-track sessions in every district to recover the GST licenses of small traders, which remain suspended due to non-filing of returns / late filing of GSTR3B during the amnesty scheme, by producing relevant documents as per the GST Act instead of relying on practitioner chartered accountant. It will boost the confidence of lower middle-class entities and contribute to the economy.

It highlighted that the time limit to reply to a notice is less than 30 days, which leads to erroneous harassment, as the notices are being issued for previous financial years and it takes time to compile them.

The recommendations also highlighted that small businesses and enterprises having a yearly turnover of a few lakhs in 2017-18 are getting notices for payment taxes for allegedly taking inputs wrongly, for filing returns late or for other reasons. Many of the units have closed down their businesses since then. Some units are getting tax notices even after cancelling their GST registration and getting confirmation of cancellation from tax authorities.

The Minister assured that the department will look into the suggestions made by CII.



NORTHERN REGION

Trade Finance Ecosystem in India - a Comprehensive Review



Members in discussion during the Stakeholders' Consultation on 'Trade Finance Ecosystem in India'

CII Northern Region, in collaboration with EY, organized a Stakeholders' Consultation on 'Trade Finance Ecosystem in India – A Comprehensive Review' on 30 May in

Chandigarh. The primary objective of the consultation was to identify the current challenges faced by exporters and importers, particularly MSMEs, across the trade finance supply chain.

Discussions focused on critical issues such as credit availability, regulatory barriers and the need for technological advancements to streamline processes. Participants shared valuable insights and experiences, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the existing gaps.

One of the key outcomes of the consultation was the development of actionable recommendations for the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). These recommendations aim to address the identified gaps and ensure the seamless facilitation of trade finance in India.

The consultation emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts between Government bodies, financial institutions and the business community to foster a robust trade finance ecosystem.

Cloud Summit

Organizations are set to unlock their full potential through advancements in technology and growing demand for efficient, cost-effective and scalable solutions. This transformation has made it easier for organizations of all sizes to adopt the cloud, reaping the benefits of increased efficiency, agility and scalability.

The 4th Cloud Summit was organized on 14 June in New Delhi to present a broad range of views on the emergence of cloud as a disruptor, while seeking to

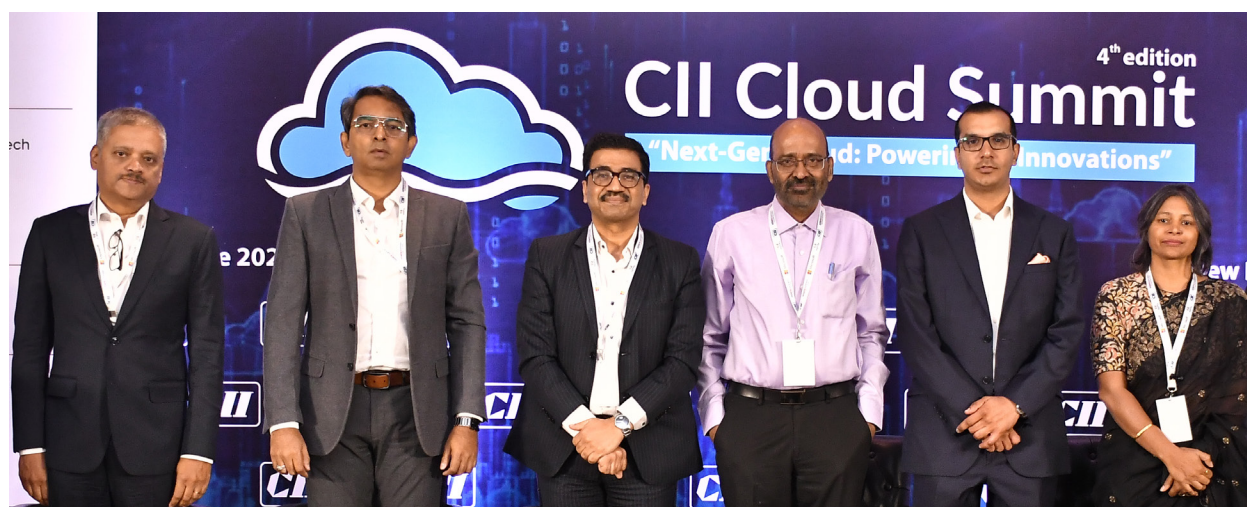
provide perspectives on challenges and barriers to its economic adoption, usage and continued sustenance.

The summit opened with a session on 'Next-Gen Cloud – Powering AI Innovations,' highlighting the cloud's integral role in modern business infrastructure. "Cloud computing is the backbone of business and a key component of corporate innovation. Cost and scalability are key factors to cloud adoption," said Mr Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII Northern Region and Deputy MD & CEO, JK Cement Ltd.

Security and resilience emerged as critical themes during the discussions, particularly in the context of data protection. Shri G Narendra Nath, Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India said that security mechanisms and resilience are critical aspects of cloud and data protection. There is a need for transparency for critical organizations moving to the cloud. He highlighted the necessity for robust security measures to ensure safe and reliable cloud adoption.

Discussions were held on 'Getting to Cloud - Faster, Better and Certainly Cheaper' and 'Responsive Supply Chain with Cloud'. Mr Sunil Gupta, Chairman, CII Cloud Summit and Co-Founder & CEO, Yotta Data Service and Mr Sandeep Bhambure, Co-Chairman, CII Cloud Summit and MD, India & SAARC, Veeam Software were among the other key speakers.

The insights shared by Industry leaders and experts underscored the transformative potential of cloud technology and AI, setting the stage for a new era of technological advancement and economic growth.



(L-R): Monojit Mazumdar, Partner, Deloitte India; Sandeep Bhambure, Co-Chairman, CII Cloud Summit and, Managing Director, India & SAARC, Veeam Software; Sunil Gupta, Chairman, CII Cloud Summit and Co-Founder & CEO, Yotta Data Service; G Narendra Nath, Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat, Government of India; Madhav Singhania, Chairman, CII-NR and DMD & CEO, J K Cement Ltd; and Himani Agrawal, Country Head – Azure, Microsoft India; at the 4th Cloud Summit in New Delhi

Auto Industry - Exploring the Upcoming Trends

The maiden edition of CII Automotive Aftermarket Conclave was organized on 20 June in Gurugram around the theme 'Upcoming Trends in the Age of Shorter Product Lifecycle' under the chairmanship of Mr S D Chhabra, Conclave Chairman and Executive Officer – Parts, Accessories & Logistics, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

Discussions centred around important elements of the aftermarket such as navigating disruption, product lifecycles, customer focus and digital transformation. During the conference, Mr Chhabra mentioned that India's strong GDP growth, rising disposable incomes and urbanization are boosting the automotive Industry. Mr Rajiv Gandhi, Past Chairman, CII Haryana and Member of Executive Board, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd highlighted that the Industry is poised for significant growth, embracing digitalisation and emerging technologies to meet evolving customer needs.

According to Mr Manas Trivedi, Senior Project Manager, Roland Berger India Pvt Ltd leveraging new-age routes to market, including B2C platforms, O2O players and B2B/B2C apps, is essential. Mr Atul Jaggi, President & Managing Director of Mahle Anand Filter Systems Pvt Ltd highlighted that with over 300 million vehicles on the road, regulatory initiatives such as Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norms are driving a 20-25 per cent increase in demand for emission-related components.

Senior Industry representatives who addressed the conclave include Mr Naveen Jain, MD, NTF Group Companies; Mr R Kannan, Director Parts & Accessories, MG Motor India Pvt Ltd; Mr Srikumar Krishnamurthy, Senior Vice President, ICRA Ltd; Mr Pankaj Tiwari, Vice

President - Parts Sales & Channel Development, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd; Mr Rakesh Kher, CEO – Aftermarket, UNO Minda Ltd; Mr Tanuj Goyal, Senior Vice President and Head – Group Aftermarket, Anand Group & COO, HL ANAND Automotive Parts Private Ltd and Ms Komal Gill, Senior Account Director – Conglomerates and Large Enterprises, Google India, amongst others. The conclave was attended by over 200 delegates.

Cyber Security and Data Protection

A conference on Cybersecurity and Data Protection, organized on 20 June in Lucknow, brought together Industry leaders, cybersecurity experts, Government officials and academic professionals to deliberate on the evolving landscape of cybersecurity threats and the importance of data protection in today's digital age. The event highlighted critical insights and strategies to safeguard businesses and individual data in an increasingly connected world. The conference provided a platform for valuable discussions on the current and future challenges in cybersecurity.

Ms Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and Director & CFO, PTC Industries Ltd highlighted the critical need for robust cybersecurity measures to safeguard businesses and individual data.

Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP, Chief Corporate Affairs & Public Policy Officer, InMobi Group emphasized the growing importance of cybersecurity and shared that India is more frequently targeted by cyber-attacks as compared to other countries in the world.

Mr Vishal Vikram Singh, Additional SP, UP Special Task Force (STF) provided an insightful discussion on various types of cyber threats and highlighted the importance of understanding these threats to effectively safeguard



(L to R): Rajiv Gandhi, Member of the Executive Board, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd; S D Chhabra, Chairman, CII Automotive Aftermarket Conclave and Executive Officer – Parts, Accessories & Logistics, Maruti Suzuki India Ltd; Atul Jaggi, President & Managing Director, Mahle Anand Filter Systems Pvt Ltd and Manas Trivedi, Senior Project Manager, Roland Berger India Pvt Ltd at the CII Automotive Aftermarket Conclave in Gurugram



(L-R): Smita Agarwal, Chairperson, CII Uttar Pradesh and Director & CFO, PTC Industries Ltd; Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Global SVP, Chief Corporate Affairs & Public Policy Officer, InMobi Group; and Raghav Krishna, Chair, Yi Lucknow and Co-Founder, CyberSecureIT at the Conference on Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Lucknow

personal and organizational data. Mr Raghav Krishna, Chair, Yi Lucknow and Co-Founder, CyberSecureIT said that the landscape of cyber threats is constantly evolving, with increasingly sophisticated attacks targeting both individuals and organizations.

Making Apple Farming Sustainable for the Future

India's apple production stands at 2.4 million metric tonnes, with Himachal Pradesh contributing a significant 26 per cent to this total. Apples dominate the state's fruit crop sector, covering 49 per cent of the area and 85 per cent production, generating over ₹ 5,000 crore in revenue, which accounts for 5 per cent of the State's GDP. However, the apple Industry in Himachal Pradesh still faces numerous challenges, including increased production costs, low returns, rising packaging and transportation costs, competition from imports and adverse weather conditions.

To deliberate on these challenges, the 5th edition of the CII Himachal Pradesh Apple Conclave was organised on 26 June in Kufri, Shimla, around the theme 'Making Apple Farming Sustainable for the Future.' The platform has emerged as the largest forum for apple growers and stakeholders to discuss the challenges and opportunities in apple farming. The event brought together key stakeholders from the apple farming Industry to discuss critical aspects of sustainable apple cultivation.

Shri Mohan Lal Brakta, Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Horticulture, Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Himachal Pradesh highlighted the State Government's farmer-friendly decisions, including the introduction of universal cartons for packaging, freight pricing by weight and a significant increase in the minimum support price

for apples. "By tackling key challenges and exploring innovative solutions, we aim to secure the future of this crucial Industry and support the well-being of our apple farmers", he added.

Shri C Paulrasu, Secretary, Horticulture and Agriculture, Government of Himachal Pradesh reiterated the Government's support for sustainable apple farming.

Mr Navesh Narula, Chairman, CII Himachal Pradesh and Director, Tesna Tech Pvt Ltd expressed CII's commitment to collaborating with the state's apple growers to promote sustainable apple farming practices.

The conclave featured sessions on disease management & nutrition management in apple farming, new-age apple farming, marketing, packaging, post-harvest and supply chain management. These sessions provided a platform for Industry experts, researchers and policymakers to share their knowledge and experiences.



SOUTHERN REGION

Building Sustainable Business & a Greener Tomorrow

CII Andhra Pradesh organized the Environment Social & Governance Summit around the theme 'Building Sustainable Business & Greener Tomorrow' on 21 June in Visakhapatnam. Noting the importance of individual actions, Shri M Sribharat, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha underlined the need for institutional support to effectively implement Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles. The burden of developing a sustainable economy should be shared globally, with developed nations supporting developing countries," he said.

"India aspires to become the world's third-largest economy. Currently, 87 per cent of our energy is derived from fossil fuels. We aim to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, with a corresponding reduction in fossil fuel dependence," Mr Sanjay Kumar Jha, Executive Director, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Dr V Murali Krishna, Chairman, CII Andhra Pradesh State Council and MD, Vizag Hospitals & Cancer Research(P) Ltd said that only 15.8 per cent of India's workforce is in the organized sector. He emphasised the need for diverse frameworks to ensure health, safety and a sustainable environment, asserting that safety and sustainability are essential at all levels.

Mr Grandhi Rajesh, Chairman, CII Visakhapatnam, and MD, Integral Trading & Logistics stated that ESG is becoming a strategic imperative and a fundamental business driver, enhancing value for stakeholders. He noted that companies prioritizing environmental and social responsibilities tend to perform better financially.

Pharma Services - Policy Discussions

CII Telangana organized a CEO's roundtable on 'Policy and Advocacy Discussion on Pharma Services' on 21 June in Hyderabad. The objective of the session was to understand the needs and create a vision roadmap for the pharma and life sciences sector in the state.

Mr Manni Kantipudi, Co-Convenor, CII Telangana Pharma and Life Sciences Panel & CEO, Aragen Life Sciences Ltd said that the pharma services sector is the future growth driver. "China's pharma manufacturing market is many times bigger than India's market. Novel drug discovery is quite challenging and may cost around USD 2-3 billion and take about 10 years, whereas generic drugs may cost around USD 40-50 million and could be developed in two years. Investments and time frames play a key role in success," he added.

Mr Jonathan Hunt, CEO, Syngene International Ltd noted that pharma services companies needed to collaborate with the Government and academic institutions to create training programmes and develop talent for the Industry.

Industry-Institute Collaboration on Manufacturing

CII Karnataka, under the aegis of the Ease of Doing Business Task Force organized a stakeholder roundtable on manufacturing on 21 June in Bengaluru to strengthen core manufacturing and emerging sectors.

The roundtable engaged key stakeholders from various zones and districts in Bengaluru to develop

comprehensive recommendations for the manufacturing sector. Key suggestions included providing incentives for the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies by MSMEs through financial support and categorizing industries into high-tech and low-tech. The roundtable was moderated by Mr Sai Golla, Convenor, TQM Forum, CII Karnataka and Vice President – Quality, 3M India Ltd.

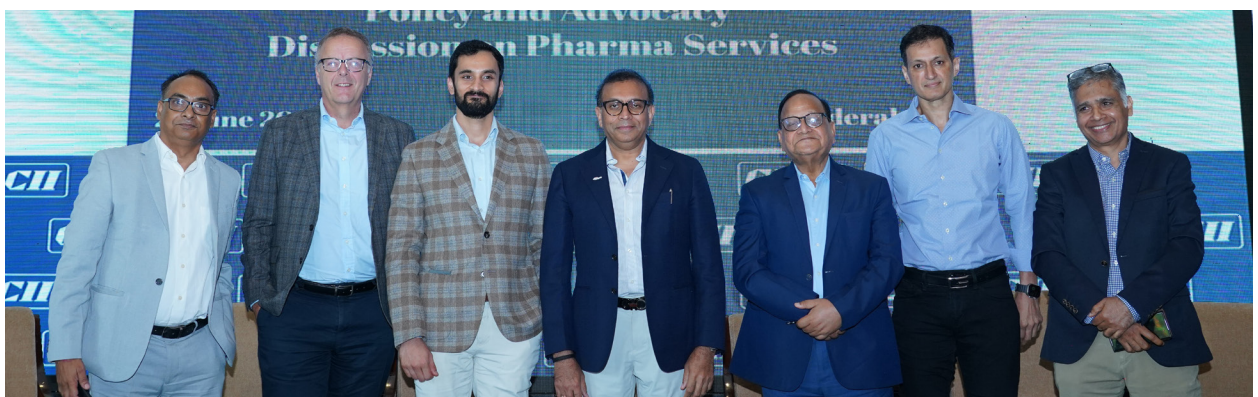
CII Karnataka EODB Task Force held another stakeholder roundtable to address reduced mechanical engineering intake in engineering colleges on 24 June in Bengaluru. Key recommendations included utilizing 150 ITIs, providing Industry incentives and promoting collaboration through awareness programmes and hackathons. The roundtable was moderated by Mr BV Sudharshan, Convenor, Industry Institute Panel, CII Karnataka and MD - Edutech, Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF).

Strategies for Brand Building and Marketing Excellence



Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary – Industries, Government of Kerala addressing the participants at the CII Kerala Brand Summit in Thiruvananthapuram

CII Thiruvananthapuram organized the CII Kerala Brand Summit around the theme 'Navigating the Digital Frontier: Strategies for Brand Building and Marketing



(L-R): Vikas Dandekar, Editor (Pharma & Healthcare) – Economic Times; Jonathan Hunt, CEO, Syngene International Ltd; Akhil Raavi, CEO, Aurigene Pharmaceutical Services; Manni Kantipudi, CEO, Aragen Life Sciences Ltd; Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance; Krishna Kanumuri, CEO & MD, Sai Life Sciences; Dr Ganesh Sambasivam, Co-Founder, Anthem Biosciences Pvt Ltd at the CEO's Roundtable on 'Policy and Advocacy Discussion on Pharma Services' in Hyderabad

Excellence' on 20 June in Thiruvananthapuram. The summit covered topics including Navigating the Digital Frontier: Strategies for Brand Building and Marketing Excellence; Global Branding: Adapting your Brand for International Markets and The Future of Retail Branding: Blending Online & Offline Experiences.

Shri Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary – Industries, Government of Kerala said that the relevance of brand building is multifaceted and crucial for the long-term success of any business. In an increasingly competitive and dynamic market environment, effective brand building is not just an advantage; it's a necessity for sustainable growth and success, he added.

Mr Arjun Ranga, CEO & MD, N Ranga Rao & Sons Pvt Ltd noted that transparency has become a critical aspect of brand building in today's market landscape. As consumers become more informed and discerning, they demand greater honesty and openness from the brands they support.

Interactions with the Government



Meyyanathan Siva V, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu with Srivats Ram, CII Tamil Nadu, Chairman & MD Wheels India Ltd

CII Tamil Nadu office bearers met Shri T Udhayachandran, Principal Secretary to Government, Department of Finance, Government of Tamil Nadu on 3 June to discuss the VAT on the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and the Taxation policy of the state.

On 6 June, Mr Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu and MD, Wheels India Ltd held a courtesy meeting with Shri Meyyanathan Siva V, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu. During the meeting, he highlighted the activities and initiatives undertaken by CII Tamil Nadu over the past year and presented the CII Tamil Nadu Annual Report for 2023-24.

The CII Tamil Nadu leadership team also met with Shri Shiv Das Meena, Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu on 7 June. During the meeting, discussions were held on recommendations submitted by CII to

various Government of Tamil Nadu departments. The Chief Secretary appreciated CII's continued efforts to enhance the Industry ecosystem of the state.

CII Tamil Nadu leadership team and members of the IGBC also met Ms Kakarla Usha, Principal Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu on 7 June. The discussion focused on IGBC Green Certification for Government buildings and transforming Tamil Nadu cities into green cities. In line with this initiative, a selection of Government buildings has been chosen by IGBC to serve as pilot projects.

CEO Moment: Leadership for a New Era



Unnikrishnan AR, Vice Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu & Managing Director (Glass & Glass Solutions Business), Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd & Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman of Honeywell Automation India during one of the sessions.

CII Tamil Nadu organized a Summit on 'CEO Moment: Leadership for a New Era' as an outcome of their CEO forum on 15 June in Chennai. The summit offered a series of deliberations with prominent keynote speakers contributing thought-provoking insights.

"Leaders must accept change and foster innovative thinking," said Mr Ganesh Natarajan, Chairman, Honeywell Automation India. He cited the financial services sector as a success model and recommended that other sectors adopt its growth techniques.

Mr Vellayan Subbiah, Chairman, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company imparted critical insights into the principle of compounding interest within an organization.

Mr R G Chandramogan, Chairman, Hatsun Group shared the growth story of Hatsun Agro Products and key learnings from experiences.

Interaction between CII Members and Minister of Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu

CII Coimbatore organized a special meeting with Dr TRB Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu on 14 June in Coimbatore. Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region and MD, Chandra Textiles sought the



(L - R): R Arun, Vice President, SIEMA; B Sriramulu, President, The Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Coimbatore; Arjun Prakash, Past Chairman, CII Coimbatore; Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region; Dr T R B Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu; Dr K Senthil Ganesh, Past Chairman, CII Coimbatore & CEO, Transform Tech India; Thirugnanam, President, CODISSIA; K Veluswami, Chairman, IIF Coimbatore Chapter and Nandakumar, Director, Kongu Global Forum at the meeting in Coimbatore

Government's support in establishing a Joint Consultative Forum to enhance the Industrial ecosystem in the state, thereby creating a platform for the Industry and Government to have measurable outcomes.

Addressing members, Dr T R B Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Government of Tamil Nadu emphasised the importance the Government lays on the development of Coimbatore. Appreciating the efforts of Coimbatore NXT in strengthening the information about the city and nurturing the startup ecosystem in the State, he mentioned that a Tamil Nadu startup cell will be established in Coimbatore. He announced that Coimbatore will soon get an International Cricket Stadium, as per the Government's assurance towards promoting sports in the region.

MSME Growth Insights: Leveraging Government Schemes

CII Madurai Zone organized a session on 'MSME Growth Insights: Leveraging Government Schemes' on 18 June in Madurai. The objective of this session was to provide valuable insights and strategies for MSMEs to maximize their growth potential through various initiatives by the Government.

The speakers from the District Industry Centre, Tamil Nadu Industrial Investment Corporation, Government e-Marketplace, TReDS – Receivables Exchange of India Limited, Open Network for Digital Commerce and Small Industries Development Bank of India shared their perspectives. They also provided valuable insights into navigating and benefiting from a wide array of Government schemes available. They offered detailed explanations of various Government programmes designed to support MSMEs, including funding opportunities, tax benefits and regulatory support.

IP Landscape - Powered & Disrupted by Tech

CII Southern Region and Tamil Nadu Technology Development & Promotion Centre (TNTDPC) organized IP NEXT - IP Landscape - Powered & Disrupted by Tech on 27 June in Chennai.

IP NEXT explored how technological advancements and global connectivity present challenges such as digital content proliferation and complex international laws. The speakers expounded upon how effective IP management is crucial for safeguarding digital assets, necessitating robust frameworks and global collaboration.

Mr C N Shashidhara, Joint Controller, Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & TradeMarks, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Ms Amelia Betsy, Deputy Director, MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Government of India underscored the importance of inclusive and adaptive IP systems and schemes in fostering innovation, economic resilience and sustainable practices.

Conference on Emerging Technologies

The 4th edition of the Conference on Emerging Technologies, organized by CII, in collaboration with the TNTDPC, took place on 7 June in Chennai. Ms Innocent Divya, MD, Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, Government of Tamil Nadu underscored the importance of Industry-academia collaboration, curriculum integration and real-time skill demand assessment in preparing a skilled workforce aligned with the Industry needs.

The conference witnessed the participation of 150 tech leaders. Sessions at the conference centred around the transformative potential of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning and automation.

Interaction with CG of Indonesia

CII Puducherry hosted an interactive session with the Consul General of Indonesia, Mumbai on 1 June in Puducherry. Mr V Shanmuganandam, Chairman, CII Puducherry and Founder & CEO, Touch Solar Technologies and Touch Energy Technologies discussed various topics including CII's functions in Puducherry, promoting Indonesian trade, tourism, investment opportunities and business and tourism potentials with the Consul General.

They also talked about future cooperation to enhance India-Indonesia bilateral relations and planned trade and investment promotional events. They also discussed organizing the Annual Trade Event 'TradExpo Indonesia (TEI) 2024' and promoting delegations to TEI 2024 in Jakarta.

Key officials from Indonesia including Mr Eddy Wardoyo, Consul General, Republic of Indonesia; Mr Tolhah Ubaidi, Consul (Economics), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mumbai; Mr Musoni, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr Aldrin Herwany, Education and Culture Attache, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi; Mr Nugroho Priyo Pratomo, Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC), Chennai; Mr Mohamad Haykal, Deputy Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Center (ITPC), Chennai and Mr Vijay V Tawde, Assistant (Economics), Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mumbai participated in the meeting.

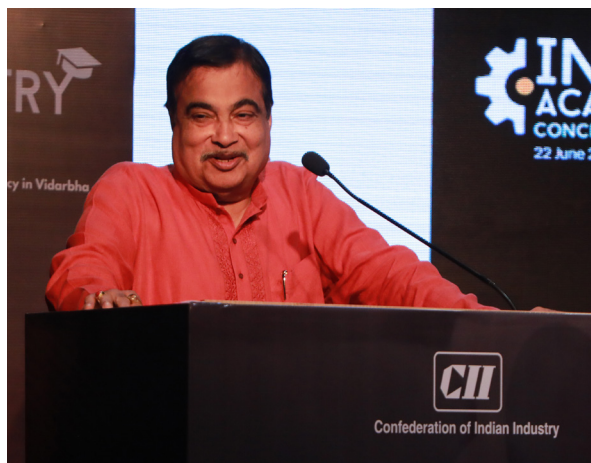


WESTERN REGION

Accelerating the National Education Policy in Vidarbha

The CII Industry-Academia Conclave was held on 22 June in Nagpur around the theme 'Accelerating the National Education Policy in Vidarbha'. The conclave focused on driving regional growth through educational excellence and industrial integration.

Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India highlighted the need for synergy between Industry and academia. He said that by bridging the gap between research and practice, we can drive forward the technological advancements



Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India at the CII Industry-Academia Conclave in Vidarbha

and infrastructural developments that will propel India into a future of prosperity and resilience.

Mr Sunil Chordia, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on Manufacturing & Industry 4.0 and CMD, Rajratan Global Wire Ltd underscored the urgency of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) in Vidarbha. He said that accelerating the NEP in the state, particularly in Vidarbha, is not just an educational imperative but a socio-economic necessity. By addressing the unique challenges of the region and leveraging its strengths, the NEP can transform the educational landscape of Vidarbha.

Members' Meet with CII Vice President

Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd held interactions with members across CII Western Region in Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Indore, Nashik and Pune in June. The discussions during these meetings revolved around CII's vision for the year, issues faced by members and interventions required, including policy advocacy.

Mr Mukundan emphasized CII's proactive stance on enhancing efficiency and competitiveness among its members and highlighted several initiatives taken by CII to improve the policy framework for job creation, collaboration between the private sector and the Government, and the role of CII's Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in building capacity and competitiveness at the grassroots level.

CII's efforts in driving sustainability through ESG practices, circular economy and climate-resilient agriculture were also emphasized. He underscored the importance of Industry-Academia partnerships, innovation and technology, through initiatives like the Promote One Company – One IP Mission.

Innov-Tech - Disrupt, be disrupted or Innovate



(L-R): M S Shankar, President & Group Head, Technology & Innovation, ANAND Group; Dr Ravi Kulkarni, Managing Director, Elkay Silicones; Sven Östberg, Consul General, Consulate of Sweden in Mumbai; Kiran Acharya, Chairman, CII Pune Zonal Council and Managing Director and CFO, Sandvik Coromant India Pvt Ltd at the Innov-Tech Conclave in Pune. The Innov-Tech Conclave was organized on 27 June in Pune on the theme 'Disrupt, be Disrupted or Innovate'. The discussions revolved around technology and innovation, transforming the future of services in India, innovation & entrepreneurship and challenges and experiences of start-ups.

Mr Sven Östberg, Consul General, Consulate of Sweden in Mumbai discussed the potential opportunities for collaboration between India and Sweden in innovation. Dr Ravi Kulkarni, Chairman, Innov-Tech Conclave and MD, Elkay Silicones deliberated on disruption and the barriers to innovation. He said that the future belongs to those who embrace change with open arms and a curious mind.

Building Research Capacity in Institutions

A learning mission to Melbourne and Sydney in Australia was organized on 'Building Research Capacity in Institutions' from 3-7 June to explore opportunities for institutional collaboration and Industry-academia partnerships. The five-day mission also explored building institutional excellence and understanding best practices of teaching pedagogy.

The delegates interacted with the Government officials from the Department of Education (Government of Victoria / Study Melbourne) through campus visits and meetings, held at various institutions in Melbourne and Sydney.

Delegates visited the Department of Education (Government of Victoria / Study Melbourne), Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Swinburne University, Deakin University and Monash University. The delegates also engaged with the Indian Consul General at the Indian Consulate.

Meetings were held at Kangan Institute, Victoria Institute of Technology, Department of Education, New South Wales Government, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Technology Sydney and University of Western Sydney. The mission enabled the delegation to gain insights into the country's education ecosystem as the prevalent technical education system offers an excellent combination of skill development along with higher education through the public university system.

MoU between CII Western Region and Homi Bhabha National Institute



Prof. U. Kamachi Mudali, Vice Chancellor of HBNI and Dr Rajesh Kapoor, Regional Director, CII Western Region signing the MoU in Mumbai

In an effort to enhance Industry-academic collaboration, CII Western Region signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) signed on 3 July in Mumbai. The primary objective of the MoU is to foster collaboration between HBNI and CII and curate initiatives as part of Industry-Academic engagement.

The partnership aims to leverage the strengths of both institutions in organizing and supporting mutually planned initiatives, bridging the gap between academic research and industrial application.

Prof U Kamachi Mudali, Vice Chancellor, HBNI emphasised the significance of this collaboration and said, "Our partnership with CII is a testimony to our commitment to fostering a strong Industry-academic interface. By collaborating with CII and its members, we aim to drive innovation and enhance the practical relevance of our research."

Inauguration of CII Marathwada Zonal Office

The new CII Marathwada Zonal Office was inaugurated in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar on 22 June in the presence of national, regional, state and zonal CII leadership. The office will serve as a hub to drive economic growth and development in the Marathwada region. The new office will focus on strengthening



(L -R): Dr Chandrika Kaushik, Outstanding Scientist & Director General: Production Coordination & Services Interaction, DRDO; Anjali Pandey, Chairperson, CII WR IWV and COO, Cummins India; Dr Praveer Sinha, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Western Region and CEO & Managing Director, The Tata Power Company Ltd with core team members at the launch of SPARK in Mumbai

Industry-Government collaboration, promoting ease of doing business and supporting the region's Small and Medium Enterprises.

Mr R Mukundan, Vice President, CII and Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd said that the CII Marathwada Office is a strategic move to deepen engagement in this important region of Maharashtra. It will provide tailor-made services for Industry members to identify their specific requirements and serve them through knowledge inputs, assessments, training and capacity building.

Launch of Women in STEM

CII Indian Women Network (IWV) launched its initiative SPARK on 26 June in Mumbai to encourage and support women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The program is dedicated to empowering women and girls in STEM through four strategic pillars.

The first pillar, 'Generating Interest in STEM: Road to School Initiative,' focuses on early intervention by engaging girls in primary and secondary education with interactive learning and role models to break stereotypes and inspire interest in STEM.

The second pillar, 'Nurturing Girls and Women in STEM: Financial Support,' provides scholarships, grants and

innovative financial aids to eliminate economic barriers, encouraging women to pursue and succeed in STEM fields.

The third pillar addresses the 'leaky pipeline' issue by facilitating job placements for women in STEM through mentorship, flexible work arrangements and unconscious bias training, thereby bridging the gap between education and employment.

Lastly, the fourth pillar, 'Retaining Women in STEM: A Handbook for Inclusive Workplaces,' aims to support women in sustaining their STEM careers by offering actionable insights and best practices for creating gender-inclusive workplaces, particularly for MSMEs and startups. Together, these pillars aim to close the gender gap in STEM, fostering a more diverse and innovative future.

Interaction with Delegation from Sao Paulo, Brazil

A roundtable interaction was organized with Mr Jorge Lima, Secretary of Economy Development, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil on 4-5 June in Ahmedabad and Mumbai to boost economic collaboration and explore potential business opportunities. The key points of the discussion focused on the potential investment opportunities available.



Members with delegation from Brazil at the Roundtable held in Ahmedabad

Brazil's presidency of the G20 in 2024 provides a strategic opportunity to enhance economic ties and collaborate on global business initiatives. Mr Jorge Lima spoke about São Paulo's emergence as a prime investment destination in Latin America, citing favourable factors such as its population, infrastructure and GDP.

Learning Mission on Manufacturing Excellence



Mission participants at Liebherr Ltd

Learning missions of manufacturing excellence were organized by CII on 13 June and 26 June in Aurangabad and Vadodara respectively. The participating delegates visited shopfloors of Liebherr Ltd, Greaves Cotton Ltd, Siemens Ltd, Bajaj Auto Ltd, Plasser India Pvt Ltd and TBEA Energy India Pvt Ltd.

As part of the mission, the participants interacted with senior officials from the organizations and were apprised of the best practices adopted by these organizations who have done commendable work and excelled in world-class manufacturing.

Best practices were discussed regarding automation, precision, innovation and the quest for excellence along with the latest techniques through Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), lean methodologies, implementation of industry

4.0 and digitalization, which helped them evolve as world-class manufacturers.

Inspire: Women Challenging Stereotypes, Breaking Barriers

A session on 'Inspire: Challenging Stereotypes and Breaking Barriers' was organized on 21 June in Bhopal to challenge stereotypes and break barriers for women in leadership. The primary objective of the session was to empower women entrepreneurs, support women-led businesses, foster innovation and create a conducive ecosystem for their growth and success.

The event celebrated the resilience and determination of exemplary women who have achieved remarkable milestones, starting from the grassroots level. Mr Chandra Bhushan Chakraborty, Senior Vice

President & Regional Head – East & West, Amway India emphasised the crucial role of women entrepreneurs in driving economic growth and societal progress, noting that women own 20 per cent of the 63 million MSMEs in India and employ up to 27 million people.

The discussions delved into the gender gap in entrepreneurship, exploring societal norms, networking barriers and cultural biases. The panel discussed strategies and best practices for women entrepreneurs to scale their businesses, emphasising financial literacy, startup culture and the importance of mentorship. A virtual address by Ms Nirmala Bhuria, Minister of Women & Child Development, Government of Madhya Pradesh and a special address by Ms Malti Rai, Mayor of Bhopal further underscored the significance of empowering women entrepreneurs.



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