

Reform Roadmap for the First Quarter of the New Government



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JOURNAL OF THE CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Global Plastics Treaty: Progress, Challenges and the Role of Business

CII recognised the need to inform the global audience about the Indian Industry's work on plastics, led by strong policy from the Government of India, and organized a dialogue 'The 3i Hour: A Conversation on Indian Industry Initiatives' in Ottawa, Canada on 22 April on the sidelines of the fourth round of negotiations for the Global Plastics Treaty



Plastic waste and pollution have been topics of concern and deliberation at the global platforms, including the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). In 2022, UN Member States (countries) endorsed a historic resolution at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) to end plastic pollution by addressing the full lifecycle of plastics and forging an international legally binding agreement, also known as the Global Plastics Treaty, by 2024.

The adopted resolution requested the establishment of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), which started its work in 2022. Since then, four rounds of negotiations have been conducted, with the latest round (INC-4) held in Ottawa, Canada from 23 to 29 April. It brought together over 2,500 participants, representing Governments, academia, civil society organizations, private sector entities, UN entities and international organizations.

As a key representative of the Global South and home to one-fifth of the global population, the Government of India's stance holds a considerable influence in the negotiation process. The Government of India's delegation comprised of representatives from the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Ministry of External Affairs, among others.

Before INC-4, a revised zero draft text was released by UNEP, which compiled all inputs received from Member countries during the third round of negotiations (INC-3). At INC-4, delegates actively participated in contact groups and had constructive discussions to advance specific aspects of the revised zero draft text. Progress was made on aspects such as binding global bans and phase-outs of products and chemicals of high concern, development of Extended Producer Responsibility



L-R: Ankit Gupta, General Manager - Sustainability, ITC Ltd; Ujwal Desai, Co-founder, Lucro Plastecycle Pvt Ltd; Geetanjali Vats, Chair, India Plastics Pact Advisory Committee, Global Plastics Sustainability Lead, Asia & ANZ, Hindustan Unilever Ltd; Vishwa Bandhu Bhattacharya, Director - Sustainability, Tata Consumer Products Ltd; Rahul Juware, Director, Social Lab Environmental Solutions Private Ltd at the CII Dialogue - Introducing the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry, held in New Delhi

schemes, common product design requirements and a financial package to ensure implementation. To ensure further progress, countries agreed to conduct formal intercessional work ahead of INC-5 on topics such as harmful and avoidable plastic products and chemicals, product design and financial resources. Since there was no consensus on any intersessional work at INC-3, this is a significant outcome. However, there is still a need for alignment on some aspects such as the strength of measures to be adopted and the inclusion of provisions on primary plastic polymers.

CII, accredited as an Observer to UNEP, is actively participating in the negotiation process and other events on the sidelines of the negotiations. At INC-3, CII recognised that Indian Industry at large is unaware of the treaty's processes, the current situation and its provisions; leading to limited Industry participation in the negotiations. Recognising the need for broader Industry awareness, CII hosted an in-person dialogue, Introducing the Global Plastics Treaty to Indian Industry in New Delhi, prior to INC-4. The dialogue helped consolidate inputs from the Indian Industry on the Global Plastics Treaty.

On the international front, CII recognised the need to inform the global audience about the Indian Industry's work on plastics, led by strong policy from the Government of India. To fill this gap, a CII delegation participated actively at INC4. An event, 'The 3i Hour: A Conversation on Indian Industry Initiatives', was

organized in Ottawa on 22 April on the sidelines of INC-4. The event highlighted the unique challenges faced by the Indian plastics Industry, which is dominated by MSMEs. The event was attended by over 50 stakeholders from Industry, multilateral organizations and global NGOs. The CII delegation also actively participated in various events during the negotiation process.

CII's engagement at the global forum highlights the critical role of collaboration and diverse perspectives in tackling global plastic pollution. The treaty presents a unique opportunity to leverage these collaborations. A global treaty would significantly accelerate policy and business initiatives. However, its successful implementation will require robust and coordinated efforts to align policy with Government and business actions at a national level.

Leading up to the final round of negotiation (INC-5) at Busan, CII will continue to proactively engage with Indian Industry on the Global Plastics Treaty by facilitating discussions and showcasing Indian Industry's strides toward a circular plastics economy.

CII will continue to enable evidence-based decisions through annual reporting, enhancing transparency and informing business and Government decisions at a national and global level. Additionally, based on the insights and observations, CII will continue to engage with the Government of India and provide evidence in support of various elements of the treaty. ■

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Reform Roadmap for the First Quarter of the New Government

The quest for building an India, which is prosperous, inclusive, equitable, technologically advanced, and future ready to take on the world on equal terms, has been driving India's ambitions for quite some time now. The task ahead is to take the mantle forward and strengthen the foundations of our journey which would help us to secure a rightful place in the comity of nations by the time India turns 100.

The cover story highlights CII's suggestions for the new Government which will pave the way for realising the vision of a developed economy

India has got many things right for realising its developed India vision. For one, with a trailblazing growth of 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, India is in a macroeconomic sweet spot. It is now the fastest growing economy in the world for third year in row. The growth print is much ahead of the most optimistic of estimates and highlights the resilience of the Indian economy, taking it forward in the journey towards Viksit Bharat.

Secondly, India offers the 4Ds advantage - democracy, demography, demand, and diversity, to businesses wanting to invest in India. As a result, global investors are looking at India as an attractive investment destination and want to deepen, widen, and diversify their presence in the country.

The impressive growth rates and strong fundamentals have helped India to resolutely shed its 'third world' tag. But a lot more is required to transform India into a developed economy. Key to this would be to raise

the productivity of the economy, leverage the potential of its youth, and develop the full potential of sectors where India has competitive advantages or could build competitive advantages.

Above all, the Government should ensure policy continuity which would keep the economy on an even keel. Besides, there is a long unfinished agenda of reforms which needs to be addressed to help the





Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd and Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII called on Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India

country to become the third largest economy by 2027 and a developed economy in about a little over two decades from now.

This would require creating the right policy framework that is suitable not just for the next five years but that is in sync with the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. The first quarter of the new Government, which prioritises its key policies and programmes, would provide a broad direction of Government thinking and should set the tone for actioning a high growth and a development driven agenda. CII puts across ten key priorities.

First is to strengthen Industry competitiveness. This would require continued efforts in two areas improving the ease of doing business and reducing the cost of doing business. While the Government has done much in these areas, much more needs to be done.

On ease of doing business, work on reducing the compliance and regulatory burden through digitisation needs to be continued. While more than 3,400 legal provisions have been decriminalized, the process of further decriminalising business facing laws should continue to foster trust-based governance. A system of financial penalties and compounding and in-house adjudicatory mechanisms should be put in place except for serious offences where mala fides are established. It is important to reduce caseloads in commercial courts through timely resolution of cases. A mechanism for

fast tracking long pending cases should be devised. Delays and rescheduling of judgements should be captured, monitored, and addressed. Limit should be set on the number of adjournments that can be made, e.g. not more than three times, to reduce the pendency of court cases and expedite judgements. The judicial system should lead to a finality of judgements within a reasonable time frame.

Further, the initiative of four labour codes is a commendable initiative by the Government to reshape the way companies compensate, regulate, and manage their workforce. The priority of the new Government should be to implement the labour codes to reduce the compliance burden.

On the cost of doing business, the Government should work towards rationalizing power costs. Phasing out cross subsidisation of power by Industry to other consumers, distribution reforms to reduce distribution losses and improve quality of power and bringing all fuels and electricity duty under GST will help mitigate high energy costs. Similarly, cross-subsidisation of railway passenger fares by freight to other user segments should be discontinued to reduce the cost of logistics. Creating a master plan for dry ports in land locked States is essential to reduce costs and promote industrialization in these states.

Second, unlocking India's growth potential, requires close cooperation and building of consensus between the centre and the states on next generation reforms. The Government should consider announcing institutional platforms for building consensus on reforms in areas such as land, labour, power, agriculture and fiscal sustainability.

Third, India will need to integrate deeper with the global supply and value chains to boost its exports. This means that our export and trade policy would require a multi-pronged approach to enhance markets access, including tapping into new, less penetrated markets, boosted by new free-trade and investment agreements.

To boost exports, measures such as extending RoDTEP Scheme beyond June 30, 2024, expanding the coverage of RoDTEP Scheme to EoUs and SEZs, reducing import duty on raw materials not available domestically to bring down manufacturing costs, introducing a scheme to refund taxes for service exports, clearing pending Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) dues, should be prioritised.

Negotiations on the two ongoing trade negotiations with Europe (The UK and the EU) should be expedited. Trade deal with the UK needs to be sealed at the earliest. An interim deal with the EU can be considered in phases. In the negotiations, visa issues for Indian labour need resolution.

To undertake export marketing and to support domestic exporters, a Global Trade Promotion Organisation should be established as an overarching body for enabling reaching the target of USD 2 trillion exports of goods and services. The body should set up offices in key trading hubs across the world.

Fourth, employment generation should be a priority to drive inclusive growth.

Primacy should be given to facilitating the scale-up of labour-intensive job-creating enterprises which would absorb the unemployed youth. Employment Linked Incentive Schemes (ELIs) for employment intensive manufacturing and services sectors, with high growth potential such as apparel, toys, wood-based furniture, tourism, retail, logistics and media & entertainment could be announced. Additional incentives could be provided for women employed in these sectors, to help mitigate the issue of low female labour force participation rate in India.



Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has the potential to boost micro & small enterprises and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), by connecting them with domestic markets and progressively with global markets, at a scale akin to what UPI did for financial inclusion. Government should facilitate onboarding of MSEs and farmer collectives on ONDC in a mission mode

The Government may also consider announcing an International Mobility Authority under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to take advantage of the excellent opportunity to provide skilled manpower to some of developed countries which are experiencing demographic changes on account of a drop in youth population.

Fifth, closely associated with unemployment is the problem of education and skills as massive unemployment co-exists with a severe shortage of workers for skilled and semi-skilled jobs. A strong emphasis on vocational education would help to minimise the skill mismatch between employers and job seekers. An increase in fund allocation for scaling up vocational education in schools and higher education institutions should be considered.

India should encourage adoption of the German dual model of vocational education which supplements classroom education with on-the-job industrial training, for developing skills which are relevant to Industry.

Similarly, making a curriculum which is aligned with Industry needs; stronger Industry engagement with the program design for skill development and their implementation, and skill vouchers for MSMEs are some of the other suggestions.

The approach towards education should be futuristic and the focus should be on what the Industry would need tomorrow.

Government should consider setting up a Task Force comprising of experts in education, edtech, technology and Industry leaders to review comprehensively the issues of quality, accessibility, and affordability in education across the entire education spectrum, in line with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP). Technology solutions should be prioritised. States should also be an integral part of the task force.

Some of the objectives of the Task Force could include achieving 100 percent literacy, creating a workforce which is future ready, creating models for continuous learning in the wake of the rapid technological advances, providing world class education to all, etc.

Alongside education, building human capital also requires requisite attention to quality healthcare. Decisive steps should be taken to strengthen the existing Public Health Infrastructure like PHCs, CHCs, AWCs and District Hospitals as well as facilitate capacity building of practitioners and allied health workers by focusing on their skilling, upskilling, vocational training, etc.

Sixth, the area of research and innovation provides big opportunities for fuelling economic growth and achieving global competitiveness. India's R&D expenditure is low at 0.67% of GDP. This pales in comparison to China's expenditure on R&D at 2.4% of its GDP, Germany's at 3.1% and Japan's at 3.3%, underscoring a critical gap that India needs to bridge to improve its manufacturing competitiveness on the global stage.

The Government should expedite the operationalisation of the ₹ 1 lakh crore fund announced in the Interim Union Budget 2024-25, for providing 50-year interest free loans, to encourage private sector to undertake research and innovation in the sunrise sectors. Industry should be consulted on what to spend on.

Eminent Industry members / experts should be nominated to the board / governing council of the National Research Foundation, to align the research in academic institutions with Industry needs. Introducing a New Design Policy, creating a Task Force to examine use of IP as acceptable collateral for loans are the other initiatives which need to be considered.

The seventh suggestion is to adopt an approach that balances growth with sustainability. At a time when extreme weather events are



becoming more frequent, intense and prolonged, the Government should come out with an action plan to tackle climate change and hasten our journey towards achieving net zero goals.

To incentivise green growth, the Government should announce fund allocation specifically towards building sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure under the budget of PM Gati Shakti Plan. Moreover, guidelines for critical infrastructure projects under the PM Gati Shakti Master Plan should incorporate climate resilience.

Further, a National Commission on Adaptation to climate change should be set up to work on suitable policies which would enable building capacity at the grassroots level to enhance resilience and adaptive capability to climate change. Launching FAME-III Scheme with higher budgetary allocation for Medium and Heavy Freight Vehicles (MHDTs), encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles and conceptualizing a Circular Economy Framework for Batteries are some of the other suggestions for moving towards a more sustainable economy.





Sanjiv Puri and Chandrajit Banerjee addressing the media in New Delhi

Eighth, the water crisis in the country deserves special attention. India is a water stressed economy with access to only 4 per cent of global water resources while hosting close to 18 per cent of the world's population. Hence, water security should be a priority and conserving it should be a national mission.

Considering the severity of water shortage in many parts of the country, a National Mission on Water Security could be launched. Under this Mission Government should create a public database on water balance across all the river basins / sub basins and lay out the strategic goals. Using this data, different organisations viz. corporates, NGOs, Government agencies etc by themselves or in consortia can develop appropriate interventions, and Government could incentivise such interventions through instruments like green credits.

Since agriculture is the largest user of water, the Mission should also promote Climate Smart Agriculture and other water efficient farming practices.

Ninth, although much progress has been made, India should gear up towards faster and more sustainable urbanisation. Migration to cities would open a wide array of opportunities for the citizens to prosper and grow. Our cities should also be prepared to offer amenities such as ease of living, ease of doing business, ease of commute, while also being financially and environmentally sustainable. One suggestion is for the Government to work towards creating new industrial clusters around smaller smart and planned cities. This would transform city planning, facilitate economic development in smaller cities and townships and create job opportunities for the migrants who would otherwise migrate to bigger cities.

Tenth, is continuing with the enduring commitment towards long term fiscal sustainability and fiscal prudence. The Government has, so far, shown a

commendable commitment towards ensuring fiscal discipline and reducing Government borrowings. This process should continue. A steady pace of fiscal consolidation, as announced in the interim Budget 2024-25, should be adhered to considering the record dividend payout received by the Government from the RBI during this fiscal year.

The Government should also revive the practice of publishing deficit indicators for medium term (two years) in the Union Budget. Similarly, the practice of tabling the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework statement should be revived.

While traversing the fiscal consolidation path, the Government should continue to lay emphasis on capital expenditure to improve the medium-term growth prospects of the economy and crowd in private investment. In the Interim Budget 2024-25, the allocation for capex was increased by 16.8 per cent compared to 2023-24 (RE). Private investment is showing early sign of take-off. Hence, Government support through capex should continue. Government can consider increasing the capex for 2024-25 by 25 per cent over the FY 2023-24 (RE) numbers.

To augment revenues, measures such as streamlining the disinvestment process by strategizing a three-year disinvestment pipeline, improving the asset monetisation programme as well as rationalising unproductive expenditure need consideration.

To conclude, India's economy has taken huge strides towards progress and the past decade has witnessed momentous reforms to accelerate the pace of growth. But there is a long way to go. Government's initiatives in the first quarter of its term should provide the requisite impetus to fast forwarding the growth momentum while fulfilling the aspirations of millions of citizens. ■

Reforms for Growth with Inclusion

Employment and job creation should be a high priority. A focus on employment generation would address the issue of a two-speed recovery and create livelihood opportunities for people at the bottom of the pyramid, says Sanjiv Bajaj



The Government has assumed its third term in office at a critical phase of India's development journey when the spectacular performance of the economy has opened new vistas of opportunities for progress and prosperity.

While there have been an assortment of factors underpinning the growth story, the Government's relentless focus on economic reforms has been a key growth enabler. As a result, India is now well poised to enter a new era of inclusive growth, and the reform process should continue with a renewed vigour.

Let us look at some of the priorities which the new Government should consider during the first quarter in office, to deliver on the mandate of inclusive growth.

First, employment and job creation should be a high priority. A focus on employment generation would address the issue of a two-speed recovery and create livelihood opportunities for people at the bottom of the pyramid.

Employment Linked Incentive schemes should be launched for labour intensive sectors with incentives linked to employment generation based on appropriate outcome indicators.

To promote micro enterprises, The PM SVANidhi yojana which provides working capital to street vendors should be extended beyond December 2024. The scheme is currently focused on urban areas, it should be expanded to rural and semi-urban areas and support other categories of self-employed who are earning an income below a certain threshold.

Second, while unemployment is a matter of great concern among the youth, industry is faced with a shortage of skilled and semi-skilled workers. Bridging

the skill gap should be a priority. Industry engagement in designing policies and programs for skill development and their implementation can help bring alignment between the demand and supply sides of skills. Avenues should be created for retraining and upskilling the youth and for scaling up vocational education in schools. Besides, awareness should be created regarding the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) for narrowing skill deficits and reduce unemployment.

Three, India's financial sector stands robust. However, the sector needs to expand rapidly to be able to support the funding needs of a rapidly growing economy. Steps should be taken to implement the announced privatization of the two public sector banks.

NBFCs play an important role specially in providing last mile finance. Strengthening their funding sources will help them expand their reach. Upper layer NBFCs can be considered for uniform deposit licenses. Dedicated funding lines can be considered from FIs like NABARD/SIDBI for MSME lending.

The Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Framework needs a comprehensive review every 3-4 years. For example, sectors like ESG and Infrastructure merit inclusion.

Further, long term patient capital from insurance and pension funds should be made available to infrastructure projects.

Fourth, India should aspire to increase its share in global manufacturing from around 3 per cent at present to 5 per cent by 2030 and 10 per cent by 2047. The Government should continue to work on simplification of regulatory procedures while bringing transparent and predictable policies to facilitate ease of doing business



and reducing the costs of power, logistics, freight, etc to enhance manufacturing competitiveness.

To make manufacturing future ready, we suggest setting up of 2 Missions:

A mission on Advanced Manufacturing, to encourage R&D, skill development, innovation, startups and global collaborations in advanced manufacturing technologies, such as Additive Manufacturing (3D printing), Robotics, Automation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and Nanotechnology.

And a Mission on Advanced Materials to identify key advanced materials and develop roadmaps from mining to their commercial use. Some of these could be titanium, carbon fibre, lithium, extraction of nickel and cobalt from mines, rare earth materials like neodymium, medical materials, graphene etc.

Further, Government should set up inter-ministerial groups to develop sectoral Net Zero roadmaps, in consultation with industry, to promote green manufacturing.

A smart review of our supply chain strategy for Make in India is required, so that we invest in Making in India in the areas where we have skills, materials, capability and capacity; and in other areas encourage a policy of importing smartly at competitive duty rates, so that

the overall Make in India strategy becomes cohesive, predictive, capable & scalable.

Fifth, a conducive trade policy and an impetus to higher sustained export growth would help push investment, create much-needed jobs, and improve overall quality of growth. India should use the opportunities provided by the shifting global supply chains, to deepen its integration with the Global Value Chains. Similar to RoDTEP Scheme, a new scheme to refund embedded taxes in services exports should be introduced. A comprehensive strategy related to Standards and other technical regulations could ensure better market access for Indian exports.

Lastly, the Government should be committed to macroeconomic stability by maintaining fiscal discipline while continuing with the infrastructure spend. Fiscal deficit should be retained at 5.1 per cent of GDP in FY25 as announced in the Interim Union Budget while increasing capital expenditure by 25 per cent over the revised estimates for FY24 and also increasing the allocation for state capex from the current ₹1.3 lakh crores.

This article was contributed by Mr Sanjiv Bajaj, Past President, CII & Chairman, CII Economic Affairs Council and Chairman & Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd.



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CII - Bharat Pavilion Shines Bright at Cannes Film Market

The 77th Annual Cannes Film Festival was held from 14 to 25 May in Cannes, France. Renowned as one of the most prestigious events in the film Industry, the festival aims to publicize and support quality works, foster the evolution of cinema, promote the global development of the film Industry and showcase this art on an international stage.

The Cannes Film Market was infused with an Indian touch with the inauguration of the CII – Bharat Pavilion at the Palais des Festivals. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India and Shri Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France & Monaco. This year marks the 23rd consecutive year that the CII has facilitated India's participation at this renowned marketplace.

Shri Jaju expressed his enthusiasm about India's integrated presence at the Cannes Film Market. He highlighted the CII – Bharat Pavilion as a prime opportunity for filmmakers, producers and exhibitors to explore creativity, engage in networking and forge fruitful international partnerships. "I appeal to foreign producers to explore India's diverse geography, rich heritage and lucrative incentives. The robust support

provided by the Film Facilitation Office for shooting in India, coupled with skilled post-production facilities, will offer a great experience for global filmmakers to create in India for the world," he said.

Shri Jawed Ashraf, Ambassador of India to France and Monaco expressed his delight over Jammu and Kashmir's participation, representing India's rich shooting locations. "I am delighted that this year Jammu and Kashmir is showcasing its beautiful locales, which will be a delight to global filmmakers. I hope there will be many business opportunities explored with India's participation," he added.

A highlight of the inauguration was the announcement of World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES), a global media and entertainment summit, which is being planned at the sidelines of the International Film Festival of India in Goa. Shri Jaju urged the international

GLIMPSES



community to mark their calendars for this significant event.

CII has been a steadfast participant in the Cannes Film Market, providing a platform for small filmmakers and State Governments to engage with the global film community for sales, syndication, international partnerships, co-productions and promotion of shooting locations. The pavilion also serves as a crucial meeting point for Indian delegates to connect with their global counterparts.

This year, Jammu and Kashmir's participation is a major attraction at the CII – Bharat Pavilion. Besides showcasing its breathtaking film locales, Jammu and Kashmir is promoting its newly launched film policy. Ms Rehana Batul, Secretary, Department of Information & Public Relations, Government of Jammu & Kashmir commented "We are disseminating information about the J&K Film Policy, launched in 2024, at the Cannes

Market from our stall at the CII – Bharat Pavilion. The response has been very positive, with many enquiries. Our activities are supported by CII and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India." Around 30 regional filmmakers participated with CII at the market, connecting with global filmmakers. CII is emphasizing the theme 'Create in India for the World', positioning itself as a hub for independent filmmakers and producers and facilitating collaboration and networking at the pavilion. Over a hundred business meetings have been conducted over the week, which is expected to significantly boost India's connections within the global filmmaking ecosystem.

The CII – Bharat Pavilion stands as a testament to India's growing influence and opportunities in the global film Industry, fostering creativity, collaboration and international partnerships. ■

Challenge of Creating a Skilled Workforce

As the employment landscape is witnessing a shift towards skill-based hiring, the importance of vocational training cannot be overstated. It has great potential to boost employability by training workers in specific skill sets, says Chandrajit Banerjee



India stands tall today as the world's fastest-growing large economy. This has been accompanied by the creation of high-quality employment opportunities, as reflected in the latest Periodic Labour Survey, where positive trends can be observed across many indicators. The worker-population ratio (WPR) for people aged 15 and above increased by almost 10 percentage points, from 46.8 percent in 2017–18 to 56 percent in 2022–23. Similarly, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) significantly increased over the same five-year period, from 49.8 percent to 57.9 percent. This was supported by a concomitant decline in the unemployment rate, from 6 percent to 3.2 percent.

This employment landscape has undergone transformative changes over the years, with the emergence of dynamic sectors and entrepreneurial ventures. A host of government initiatives directed towards fostering gainful employment has created a conducive ecosystem fostering innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial talent.

At the same time, a strong impetus has been placed on developing a future-ready, inclusive and employable workforce with relevant and up-to-date skills, supported by various skill development programmes and affirmative action policies that will continue to shape India's future of work.

The central government has undertaken a range of impactful measures to create a vibrant and conducive jobs ecosystem in the country. Notable initiatives, including Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, and Production-Linked Incentive Schemes across India's strategic sectors, are supporting India's aspirational youth and budding entrepreneurs through skilling, enhancing

employability and boosting enterprise development. For example, the PLI scheme has created over 8 lakh new jobs.

The sustained level of government capex spending for physical, social and digital infrastructure, as reflected in consecutive budgets, has also created large-scale employment. With over 33 percent increase in public capex for three preceding years, infrastructure construction has helped connect rural and urban India to create new employment and business opportunities.

A strong education sector is a critical enabler of human capital. The National Education Policy was introduced in 2020 to improve the quality of education, promote skill development and provide universal access to education. A host of digital education initiatives like DIKSHA, SWAYAM, PM e-vidya, etc., have been undertaken to facilitate multi-modal access to education.

The positive impacts of such initiatives are reflected in India's education-wise employment indicators which show several positive trends. As per PLFS data, WPR in the 15 and above cohort for secondary education and above has increased from around 43.2 percent in 2017-18 to 50.3 percent in 2022-23. The ratio for the categories of graduates, postgraduates and above also exhibited significant improvement, going up by 6.1 percent and 4.1 percent respectively over the six-year period. The LFPRs for all categories also displayed similar patterns, reinforcing the positive impact that strong education policies have had on employment.

As the employment landscape is witnessing a shift towards skill-based hiring, the importance of vocational training has great potential to boost employability by training workers in specific skill sets. Under the Skill



India Mission, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is implementing an array of schemes through its extensive network of centres, colleges and institutes. Both short-term and long-term training programmes are training youth and preparing them for the workforce through various schemes, such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme-2, etc. As per CII Research's analysis of the annual PLFS data, vocational training has also translated into higher jobs as a notable increase was seen in the proportion of the workforce who received vocational training from 8.1 percent in 2017-18 to 27.4 percent in 2022-23.

According to PLFS estimates, the Female Labour Force Participation Rate also witnessed a significant increase from 23.3 percent in 2017-18 to 37 percent in 2022-23 (for the 15 and above cohort). This represents a sharp rise in working women, which will contribute greatly to further development. Education, skilling and credit enhancement programmes are further helping close the gender gap, particularly with a surge in the proportion of women in higher education and STEM areas. For accelerating the pace of job creation, CII has suggested an Employment Linked Incentive Scheme in sectors

such as tourism, logistics, retail, film, animation and gaming. Greater focus on promoting labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and jewellery can also yield more employment.

Special attention needs to be accorded to equipping workers with skills in high-growth sectors, particularly in manufacturing, logistics, finance, healthcare and life sciences. With greater automation and Artificial Intelligence (AI), harnessing the potential of AI and related technologies with requisite skills must be a top priority.

India, with a young population with a median age of around 28 years, has immense potential to contribute significantly to global long-term economic growth. It is being positioned as the largest provider of human resources in a world economy faced with the challenges of ageing populations. As India marches forward on the path of growth, propelled by innovation and its talented youth, the horizon of opportunity continues to expand, beckoning a bright and inclusive future for all.

This article was contributed by Mr Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, Confederation on Indian Industry. It was first published on 29 May in The New Indian Express.

Societal Interface

Honouring Grassroots Women Leaders – Catalysts for Social Change

The Woman Exemplar Program has been identifying and promoting powerful change-makers who are breaking social barriers to address local social development needs in their communities and shape a new India, one that is inclusive and empowered

Empowering grassroots women from rural and resource poor areas and marginalized communities is crucial for driving social change. These women often face significant socio-economic challenges including poverty, gender discrimination and limited access to education and healthcare. By empowering them, we not only improve their lives but also create a ripple effect that benefits communities.

To empower these women, CII launched the Woman Exemplar Award in 2005. In 2011, the award became a part of the CII Foundation and evolved into a more comprehensive program called the 'Woman Exemplar Program' in 2017. The award continues to be an integral part of the program.

Under the program, awards are given away each year to grassroots women leaders who have successfully risen above crippling socio-economic challenges to provide access to better education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities to the communities they work with. Winner, in three categories – Education, Health and Micro-Enterprise – receive a trophy, a certificate and a cash award of ₹3 lakh.

For the 2024 Award, the CII Foundation received over 300 nominations from across India. Each nomination underwent a multi-step evaluation process, which included desk reviews of the nomination forms, detailed telephonic interviews with the nominated women and personal visits to meet the women and see the social transformation they have driven. From the shortlisted finalists, three winners were selected by a jury drawn from leaders from Industry, the social development sector and media.

The CII Foundation Woman Exemplar Award 2024

On 17 May, the CII Foundation announced the winners of the Woman Exemplar Award at the CII Annual Business Summit held in New Delhi. The awards were presented by Ms Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India to Ms Ranjita Pawar from Osmanabad, Maharashtra, in the Education category; Ms Rumi Perween from Kishanganj, Bihar, in the Health category; and Ms Saraswathi Malluvalasa from Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh, in the Micro-enterprise category.



Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Government of India; Sanjiv Puri, President, CII and Chairman & Managing Director, ITC Ltd; Rajiv Memani, President Designate and Chairman & CEO, EY India and R Dinesh, Immediate Past President, CII & Chairman, TVS Supply Chain, Solutions Ltd along with the Women Exemplars at the Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi

Winners and Their Impact

Ranjita Pawar from Osmanabad, Maharashtra

Category: Education Category

Ranjita, born into the stigmatized Laman Banjara tribe, rose as a bold advocate from Osmanabad. To overcome the language barrier and the label of being a criminal tribe, she introduced foundational education in the local dialect, Gormati, empowering over 27,000 children, 1,000 youth leaders and 20,000 adults from Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes. This led to notable academic and psychological progress among children of the Laman tribe.

"Every child deserves the right to education. By guiding them on the right path and providing quality education, they can achieve great things. My goal is to transform the children of the tribal communities into responsible citizens and significantly improve their literacy rates."

Ranjita Pawar

Rumi Perween from Kishanganj, Bihar

Category: Health Category

Battling poverty and an abusive marriage, Rumi decided to stand her ground to pursue higher education, a decision that unfortunately marked the end of her marriage. Being outcasted from her own family, Rumi started volunteering at the young age of 14. Striving to improve the health indicators in rural Bihar, Rumi identified and tackled the prevalent issue of tuberculosis and is advocating for increased awareness on menstrual and reproductive health through her NGO, impacting over 1.7 lakh women and children through her work.

"I have been working since 2012 to break the stigma around menstruation and create a safe space for women and girls. Many girls skip school during their periods due to fear of staining clothes and societal judgment. I aim to change this mindset and raise awareness about reproductive health and menstrual hygiene. I want to ensure that every woman feels empowered and confident."

Rumi Perween

Saraswathi Malluvalasa from Vizianagaram District, Andhra Pradesh

Category: Micro-enterprise Category

Drawing from her own experience with domestic violence and gender discrimination, Saraswathi recognized the correlation between food insecurity, economic dependence and violence against women. In response, she established the 'Millet Sisters', a network of small-scale women farmers working together to ensure food security through livelihood enhancement, improving the income of over 20,000 women. Her work exemplifies the 'five Es' for women's empowerment: Education, Equality, Employment, Economic Development and Empowerment.

"For the past 25 years, I have dedicated myself to empowering Dalit, tribal and vulnerable communities. My goal is to uplift our communities, both socially and economically. Through our Farmer Producer Organizations, we collectively pursue various livelihood activities to strengthen our bargaining power and create a robust supply chain."

Saraswathi Malluvalasa

The Woman Exemplar Program has been identifying and promoting powerful change-makers who are breaking social barriers to address local social development needs in their communities and shape a new India, one that is inclusive and empowered.

The program's benefits extend beyond recognition. The program has the following objectives:

- Build the capacity of the exemplars through training and mentoring

- Promotes them on various platforms to amplify their work and social impact
- Makes the women a part of a very powerful network of over 120 woman exemplars to leverage each other's strengths to accelerate change.

The 16 women who make up the 2024 cohort are now integrated into a nationwide network, joining over 120 exemplary women who are actively impacting the lives of 3 million people annually. ■



Engaging with the World

AFRICA

CII Business Delegation to Cameroon, Gabon & Togo

CII, in partnership with the Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC), organized a business delegation to Cameroon, Gabon and Togo from 18 to 25 April. The visits were marked by strategic engagements, high-level discussions and site visits that collectively underscored the immense potential for economic collaboration between India and Africa. The discussions and agreements forged during these visits are expected to pave the way for enhanced trade, investment and industrial cooperation. By focusing on key areas such as manufacturing, health, infrastructure and special economic zones, the delegation laid a strong foundation for a mutually beneficial partnership.

The delegation included senior business leaders, policymakers and Industry experts, all committed to fostering robust, long-term economic partnerships between India and these African nations.

The delegation's visit began in Douala, Cameroon with the Cameroon Business and Investment Forum setting the stage for fruitful engagements. This forum featured an India-Cameroon business session and B2B meetings, providing a platform for direct interactions between Indian and Cameroonian businesses. The business session with CWEIC strategic partners and investors highlighted the vast investment opportunities in Cameroon, especially in sectors like manufacturing, agriculture and infrastructure.

Site visits to key business locations further showcased Cameroon's industrial potential, demonstrating the country's readiness for enhanced industrial cooperation. The delegation held a meeting with the officials of Port Authority of Kribi and subsequently visited the Port of Kribi, an emerging hub for maritime trade in the region.

In Libreville, Gabon, the delegation was welcomed with a series of high-level discussions for deepening economic ties. Meetings with Gabon's Foreign Minister, Minister of Trade & Industry and Minister of Finance focused on aligning trade policies, investment incentives and economic strategies to bolster bilateral trade. These discussions were pivotal in identifying specific areas where Indian investment and expertise could contribute to Gabon's economic growth.

A session with Gabon's business community, including public and private sector entities such as CAISTAB, ANPI – Gabon, and FGIS, provided a comprehensive platform for exploring collaborative ventures. This session emphasized the importance of partnerships in sectors like agro-processing, mining and energy. The delegation also visited the NKOK Special Economic Zone, an industrial area designed to attract foreign investment with its robust infrastructure and supportive business environment.

A subsequent meeting with Gabon's Prime Minister reinforced the commitment to strengthening India-Gabon relations, ensuring that the strategic partnership would continue to thrive.

The final leg of the delegation's visit took place in Lome, Togo, where the focus was on building and solidifying partnerships with Togo's Government and business leaders. The delegation met with Togo's Prime Minister and other senior ministers, including the Foreign Minister, Minister for Investment Promotion and Minister of Commerce. These meetings were crucial in discussing Togo's strategic priorities and the role Indian businesses could play in achieving these goals.

A business interaction organized by the Indian Embassy provided an additional platform for networking and collaboration. This event was essential in laying the groundwork for future business ventures, fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit. The visit concluded with a site visit to the Special Economic Zone PIA Togo, an initiative aimed at boosting Togo's industrial base and making it an attractive destination for foreign investment.

Strengthening India's Bilateral Trade Relations with Nigeria and Ghana

India is the largest trading partner of Nigeria and the country is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Bilateral trade volume between the two nations stood at about USD 11.85 billion in FY 2022-23. India is also among the top trading partners of Ghana and is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports, with bilateral trade at USD 2.8 billion in 2022-23.

To leverage the strengths and complementarities across sectors and improve trade with the two countries in West Africa, CII organized a Business Delegation from

29 April to 3 May on the occasion of the bilateral Joint Trade Committee (JTC) meetings in Abuja and Accra. The delegation was led under the co-chairmanship of Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

The visit provided an opportunity for the delegation members to explore new business opportunities, interact with local businesses and the Government and showcase the Indian Industry’s business potential. Several Indian companies are already doing business with West Africa. Indian companies have not only invested, set up offices and worked on projects in the two countries, but bilateral trade figures also show an upward trend in exports and imports between India and these countries.

Indian High Commissions in Abuja and Accra organized special business networking sessions with the local business community. The business sessions were attended by the key Industry leaders from Nigeria and Ghana respectively, catering to the relevant sectors to ensure meaningful collaboration between both the sides.

In Ghana, the delegation also called on H.E. Mr Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Kwaku Ampratwum-Sarpong, MP, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration In-charge of Political and Economic Matters.

ASIA

CII Business Delegation to Sri Lanka



CII Business Delegation met Santosh Jha, Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka in Colombo, Sri Lanka

CII organized a CII Business Delegation to Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 28-29 May, coinciding with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Business Conclave.

The CII Business Delegation participated in the IORA Business Conclave. The conclave included engaging panel discussions, breakout sessions, and B2B meetings in key sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, ICT, logistics, SME & women empowerment, and tourism.

As part of the programme, the delegation had meeting with Mr Santosh Jha, Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and also with other important dignitaries and stakeholders of Sri Lanka including H E Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr Shantha Weerasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Government of Sri Lanka, Ms Renuka M Weerakone, Director General, Board of Investment of Sri Lanka and Ms Anoma Premathilake, Director, Sri Lanka Export Development Board.

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For more details, please contact: Ms Sharmila Kantha, **Confederation of Indian Industry**
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Confederation of Indian Industry

25th National Award for Excellence in Energy Management 2024

10 - 12 September 2024 HICC, Hyderabad

Objectives

- To recognize and award “Excellence” in Energy Management among the Industrial sectors
- Facilitate sharing of information on best practices & technologies
- To create a sense of competition and motivate organizations in energy efficiency and award their initiatives

150 companies registered



Silver Jubilee Year

Glimpses of 2023



Award categories:

- Excellent Energy Efficient Unit
- Energy Efficient Unit
- Most Innovative Project
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- Most Innovative Energy Saving Product
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Sectorscape



Manufacturing

Advancements in Composites, Chemicals

Global manufacturing is traversing new domains led by emerging technologies and breakthrough innovation. The advancements in composites, specialty fibers and chemicals have played a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future, offering benefits such as lightweight properties, enhanced performance with superior mechanical characteristics and non-corrosive attributes. Considering the significance and diverse applications of these materials, CII and the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association, in partnership with the Ministry of Textiles, organized the 'National Symposium on Advancements in Composites, Speciality Fibers and Chemicals' on 9 May in New Delhi, under the National Technical Textiles Mission.

The symposium facilitated discussions on establishing a conducive ecosystem to encourage the adoption of composites in India and create indigenous capacity for manufacturing value-added products with hi-tech fibers and speciality chemicals in sectors such as aerospace, defence, automotive, wind energy, rail transport and marine engineering.

It also highlighted the global market potential of advanced composites and explored the complexities involved in expanding their usage across various industries. Around

200 participants attended the conference including officials and representatives from central ministries, user departments of Central and State Governments, Industry leaders, scientific experts, researchers and professionals related to technical textiles.



Regulatory Affairs

Deliberations on Digital Competition Law & Draft Digital Competition Law Bill

In the backdrop of the anti-competitive concerns arising out of practices followed in digital markets, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance in its 53rd report, titled 'Anti-Competitive Practices by Big Tech Companies' observed that ex-post approach may not be sufficient to remedy such conducts in fast paced digital markets.

The behaviour of large digital enterprises will be monitored ex-ante and recommended introduction of a Digital Competition Act to create a fair and transparent digital ecosystem. This was stated by Shri Manoj Pandey, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India during a Roundtable on the report of the Committee on Digital Competition



(L-R): Pragnesh Shah, Director, Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA); Nilesh M Desai, Director, Space Applications Centre (SAC / ISRO) - Ahmedabad; Rajeev Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India; Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India; Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog; Ajay Kumar Rana, Director General, Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO); Punit Lalbhai, Chairman, CII National Division on Technical Textiles, and Executive Director, Arvind Ltd at the National Symposium on Advancements in Composites, Speciality Fibers and Chemicals in New Delhi

Law & Draft Digital Competition Law Bill 2024 held on 3 May via virtual mode.

Following the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) had constituted a Committee on Digital Competition Law (CDCL) to examine whether ex-ante digital competition law is required. Shri Pandey explained that the Committee had submitted its report in February 2024 to the Ministry and the CDCL studied the existing domestic law and noted that while some sectoral laws and regulations exist in India, however, they might not be sufficient to deal with the gamut of issues, which may be required to address the concerns of competition on ex-ante basis in digital markets. He encouraged the audience and participants at the roundtable to provide comments and suggestions for consideration of the MCA.

The concerns regarding cyber security, prevention of broad economic viability of operations, prevention of unlawful infringement of existing IPRs, requirement of any other law in force to be met would also be important factors while regulations are framed by Competition Commission of India as per provisions in the Bill, he added.

The participants in the roundtable discussed the objective behind introducing ex-ante digital regulation in terms of the current state of competition in the Indian digital market, whether existing precedent is sufficient to confirm prohibitive rules and bridging the gap in terms of meaningfully deploying ex-ante regulation. The key highlights of the CDCL report, its scope, and the draft Digital Competition Bill were discussed by the participants.



Electronics

Industry-Government Interaction on Electronics Manufacturing

A delegation of CII members from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka interacted with Shri S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 16 May. The delegation discussed host of issues including exploring opportunities in EMS, component manufacturing and power semiconductors,

aiming for a potential growth of 2-3 times compared to other manufacturing sectors.

Discussions were also held on identifying Chennai and Bengaluru as potential corridors for semiconductor development and proposing specifications and PLI schemes tailored to the Industry's needs to foster a robust local supply chain, including incentives for PCB and chip passive components.

The delegation emphasized the need for sector-specific skill development initiatives, particularly in emerging areas like EVs and electronics, drawing inspiration from successful models such as Singapore's high-tech research parks.

Suggestions were submitted for the creation of a conducive ecosystem for the development of IT, ITES and electronics industries, possibly through collaboration with cities like Taipei, Taiwan. The significant potential of the PCB manufacturing Industry and proposing various measures such as tax incentives, streamlined approval processes and Government subsidies to attract investments were also discussed.



Green Manufacturing

Future Ready and Green Manufacturing

CII organized a conference on 'Future Ready and Green Manufacturing' on 8 May in New Delhi. It provided a platform where various stakeholders met and interacted to determine how Indian manufacturing is moulding itself to become future-ready and the measures the future-ready manufacturing organizations are taking in this respect.

Shri Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India emphasised on the need for the share of the Indian manufacturing sector to GDP to rise to 25 per cent, in order to support the country's ambition to achieving a USD 30-trillion economy by 2047.

Mr B Thiagarajan, Chairman, CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics & Durables and MD, Blue Star Ltd noted that energy efficiency has major implications for consumers, businesses and environment in terms of energy access, in reducing carbon footprint and in fostering economic growth.



(L-R): Ranajit Sahu, Managing Director – Chemicals & Natural Resources, Accenture in India; Nagendra Nath Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel; B Thiagarajan, Chairman of CII National Committee on Consumer Electronics & Durables and Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd; and Sunil Duggal, Chairman of CII National Committee on Mining and Chairman – Strategy & Policy, Vedanta Ltd at the Conference on Future Ready and Green Manufacturing in New Delhi

Mr Ranajit Sahu, MD – Chemicals & Natural Resources, Accenture in India; Mr Sunil Duggal, Chairman, CII National Committee on Mining and Chairman – Strategy & Policy, Vedanta Limited and Mr Deepak Jain, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Northern Region and Chairman, Lumax Group were among the other key speakers.

Members from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand were present during the meeting. Government officials from the Ministry of MSME present during the meeting were Ms Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME and Ms Rukmani Attri, Joint Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME.



MSME

Meeting with MSME Secretary

CII organized an SME delegation of over 40 members from across India for a meeting with Shri SCL Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Government of India on 17 May in New Delhi. The agenda for the meeting was primarily related to sharing some of the strategic issues along with the suggestions from the members, especially pertaining to the interventions on various schemes, ease of credit, procurement, upskilling and other administrative related matters.



Meeting between S C L Das, Secretary, Ministry of MSME; Mercy Epao, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME; Rukmani Attri, Joint Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME and CII SME Delegation in New Delhi

MSME Clinic – A Policy Consultative Series

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are playing an important role in India’s economic growth story. To create awareness about the various schemes and funds available to MSMEs from the State and Central Governments, provide them real time solutions to challenges that they are facing and help them leverage the benefit of digital commerce, CII recently organized MSME Clinic in Maharashtra.

This policy forum served as a platform fostering interactions between CII SME members, Industry experts, Government agencies, State Government representative with a primary focus on ease of doing



(L-R): M Ponnuswami , Co-Chairman, CII National MSME Council and Chairman and Managing Director Pon Pure Chemical India Pvt Ltd; P K Singh, Chief Executive Officer, GeM and Dr K Nandakumar, Chairman, CII WR Sub-Committee on MSME and Chairman & Managing Director, Chemtrols Industries Pvt Ltd. at CII MSME Clinic in Pune

business, compliances, trade & market access, public procurement and Government schemes.

Recently, two MSME Clinics were held in Aurangabad and Pune on 8 and 9 May. Some of the key Government officials who addressed and interacted with the members in Aurangabad were Shri A B Chavan, Additional Chief Executive Officer, Government e-Marketplace (GeM); Shri NN Estolkar, Joint Director, Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (Mumbai); Shri Sandeep Varma, CEO, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises and Mr Saravana Kumar A, CEO, NSIC Venture Capital Fund Ltd.

In Pune, the key dignitaries who interacted with the members were Shri P K Singh, CEO, GeM; Ms Anuja Bapat, Deputy Director General, Ministry of MSME, Government of India; Dr Dileeraj Dabhole, Deputy, Regional Authority (Pune); Shri Abhay Daptardar, Assistant Director-I, MSME Development & Facilitation Office (Mumbai) and Shri Dhiraj Kumar, Deputy General Manager, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.



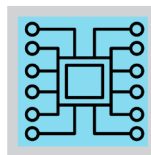
Mining

Industry – Government Interaction on Policy Issues in Mining

Members from Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh met Mr V L Kantha Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India on 17 May in New Delhi. The meeting was attended by Mr Sanjay Lohiya, Additional

Secretary and Ms Farida Naik, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Mines.

The delegation discussed issues related to EoDB in mining, fast track clearances, and beneficiation of low-grade iron ore. Abrogation of discriminatory Rule 12A(2) of MCR, 2016 and anomaly in publication of ASP of CLO below 62% Fe were taken up during the course of the meeting.



Technology

Training on Industry 4.0

CII, in partnership with Rockwell Automation India, organized a training programme on Industry 4.0 on 2-3 May in New Delhi and Gurugram. A diverse group of participants from various companies including attended the programme.

Immersive sessions were held that included classroom learning, digital transformation/technology experience centre visits, an industrial site visit to Addverb Technologies Ltd and research lab tour of the Foundation for Smart Manufacturing at IIT Delhi.

Additionally, there was a virtual presentation and walkthrough of Rockwell Automation’s smart factory in Singapore. The programme highlighted key technology elements such as Industrial Internet-of-Things, augmented reality, virtual reality, industrial information networks & cyber security, independent cart technology and robotics.



Participants at the Training Programme on Industry 4.0

Portfolio for Excellence



CESD

India's Journey Toward Achieving Net-Zero - Sectoral Reports

CII Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) has unveiled four sector-specific roadmaps outlining the Indian Industry's trajectory towards achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. The reports were launched during a session on 'Net Zero India: Opportunities and Challenges for Indian Industry and Buildings' during the CII Annual Business Summit 2024, held on 17-18 May in New Delhi.

The reports including 'Analyzing Energy & Electricity Systems'; 'Financing Industry Transition'; 'New & Emerging Technologies' and 'Transport Systems' are a part of the CII Mission Net Zero initiative and delve into critical aspects vital for India's transition.



The sectoral roadmaps highlight the need for unified efforts to realise India's net-zero goals, advocating for a coordinated strategy among policymakers, Industry leaders and financial entities. It offers policy recommendations, financing solutions and business actions, stressing the critical role of electrification, renewable energy and cutting-edge technologies in meeting net-zero targets by 2070.

The report on 'Energy & Electricity Systems' explores India's pathways toward achieving net-zero emissions in the energy sector. The report emphasises integrating renewable energy sources into the grid, underlining the ongoing need for energy storage and efficiency innovation.

The report on 'Financing Industry Transition' provides an in-depth analysis of the financial strategies necessary for India to achieve its ambitious goal of net-zero emissions by 2070 and outlines the considerable investment needed to facilitate India's transition to a low-carbon economy.

The report on 'New and Emerging Technology' explored strategies to integrate new technologies for India's net-zero goals.

The report on 'Transport Systems Report' explored strategies for India to achieve net-zero emissions in transportation. It presents a roadmap for decarbonising India's transport systems, starting with accelerated adoption of EVs and emphasises scaling up battery production and investing in emerging battery technologies.



CFC

National Kaizen Circle Competition

Over the years, CII Centre of Excellence for Competitiveness for SMEs (CII-CFC) has been continuously engaging and supporting Industry members enhance their awareness and adoption of various excellence concepts by facilitating Industry relevant competitions on manufacturing excellence, energy

efficiency, sustainability, and corrosion management, amongst others. In this context, the 8th edition of the CII National Kaizen Circle Competition 2024 was organized on 30 April - 3 May via CII virtual platform.

Kaizen is utilized worldwide as an important competitive strategy pillar in many successful companies as it creates a culture of continuous improvement where all employees are actively engaged in the improvement journey of the organization.

Over 270 entries were received for the competition from organizations across the country. Mr Harbhajan Singh, Chairman, Regional Committee on Skills, CII NR and Chief of Strategy & HR, XLRI; Mr Sanjay Arora, CEO Electronic Division, Amber Enterprises India Ltd and Mr Rajiv Bhatnagar, CGM (QMS & TPM), JK Tyres & Industries Ltd were among the key speakers. More than 80 projects from the Industry were awarded.

Best Practices on Corrosion Management Through Digitalization

CII Corrosion Management Division (CII CMD) conducted an exclusive session on 'Best Practices on Corrosion Management Through Digitalization' recently via CII virtual platform focusing on spreading awareness among the Industry on digital solutions available to mitigate corrosion to ensure optimal performance, durability and cost-effectiveness.

Mr YPS Suri, Co-Chairman, CII CMC talked about corrosion challenges faced by the chemical and process Industry and how technology can play an important role in corrosion mitigation. Mr Ashutosh Kumar, Technical Head, Corrosion Intelligence talked about how AI algorithms can analyze vast datasets of corrosion data, incorporating material properties, environmental conditions and past corrosion rates that allow the creation of more sophisticated physicochemical models that can accurately predict corrosion behaviour under specific conditions.

Mr Rajesh Pias, Head – Technology, Tata Steel Ltd talked about corrosion management through digitalization at the continuous galvanizing line. He discussed various challenges in galvanized products like exposure to acidic environments, high temperatures, humidity, salt sprays, etc. The participants learned about the concept of digitalization in corrosion mitigation, technologies available for corrosion mitigation and inspection, best practices for implementing a digital corrosion management program and the benefits of using digital tools for corrosion management.

Towards a Corrosion Free India – Government – Industry Interaction

A delegation from CII Corrosion Management Division (CII CMD) met Shri N N Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Government of India on 8 May to discuss the proposal for the formulation of a National Policy on Corrosion Control and Management for India. CII office bearers underscored the urgent need to have a comprehensive policy and regulatory framework to address corrosion challenges causing huge economic loss across sectors.

Mr Sinha assured his support to the CII National Mission on War Against Corrosion and agreed to have the Ministry of Steel spearhead the formulation of the corrosion management policy framework in consultation with CII. The policy should aim to address corrosion-related issues across sectors, promote best practices to control, drive innovation through new material and technologies, enhance infrastructure resilience and drive the sustainable development of metals and alloys, he said.

Deliberations were held on developing and implementing a comprehensive National Corrosion Control and Management Policy for India. Regulations on making corrosion audits mandatory for Industry and for critical infrastructure were discussed. It will extend the lifespan of assets and reduce economic losses significantly.

The inclusion of corrosion-related issues in the sustainability reporting framework mandated by SEBI and push for the development and enforcement of national standards for corrosion management practices were also discussed.

Further, CII CMD, in partnership with the Ministry of Steel, will also be organizing a National Consultative Workshop to develop contours of the National Policy on Corrosion Control and Management with the theme 'Building a Corrosion Free India'. The outcome will be further taken up globally with a few countries that have been able to reduce their economic losses due to corrosion.

Corrosion Challenges and Way Ahead in Oil & Gas Industry

CII Corrosion Management Division (CII CMD) conducted an exclusive session on 'Corrosion Challenges and Way Ahead in Oil & Gas Industry' on 16 May via CII virtual platform with a focus on spreading awareness among the Industry on corrosion challenges in the oil & gas Industry.

This sector is highly susceptible to corrosion and addressing these issues effectively is crucial for maintaining the reliability and longevity of equipment and pipelines. Mr VS Rao, Former GM, HPCL talked about the overview of the corrosion challenges faced in the Oil & Gas Industry in terms of production losses (leakage and equipment failures), safety risks, environmental damages (marine and terrestrial ecosystems) and factors that lead to these problems.

Lt. Col Atul Joshi, GM, IOCL talked about different factors that trigger corrosion problems like water (mixed with produced fluids), gases (H₂S), oxygen (during well drilling) and types of corrosion commonly occurring in the Industry (Upstream, Midstream, Downstream). He discussed about the effect of temperature, pressure and chemical composition in accelerating corrosion and ways to control it vis-a-vis selection of corrosion resistant material, design, anti-corrosive coatings, cathodic protection, technologies, inspection at all stages of application, etc.

Mr Devender Devgun, DGM – Domestic Sales, JSL talked about stainless steel innovations in Oil & Gas Industry by discussing the importance and benefits of material selection. He emphasized upon selection of stainless steel material in Oil & Gas Industry by discussing its unique properties.

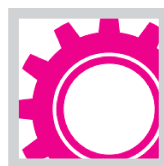
Assessor Training Course on Motor Rewinding Certification

Electrical Motor and motor-driven systems account for approximately 65-70 per cent of the global industrial energy consumption. Many developed and developing countries have taken initiatives to transit towards higher efficiency motors using policy and incentive schemes. With an objective to assist motor repair centres adopt a systematic framework and process to enhance energy efficiency and quality of re-winded motors, CII jointly with the International Copper Association (ICA) India has developed a framework for the assessment and certification of motor repair centres in India. The Motor Rewinder Certification System will act as a holistic framework for enhancing competitiveness, creating awareness and fostering energy-efficient rewinding practices.

CII CFC conducted an Assessor Training Course on 'Motor Rewinding Certification System' on 13 May in Gurugram with a focus on rating system with best practices for motor rewinding. The participants learned about the CII Motor Rewinder Certification System and Framework, the fundamentals of motor rewinding,



efficient operation and maintenance of electrical motors and best practices of motor rewinding. They received training support and were able to conduct an independent assessment of the effective implementation of MRCS for the verification and certification process.



CME

Best Practices in OHS - Learning Mission

A two-day learning mission on best practices in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) by past winner companies of OHS Competition was organized in Mumbai, Maharashtra on 30-31 May by CII Centre of Manufacturing Excellence (CII CME).

These Industry visits aimed to provide the participants with a practical understanding of how organizations effectively manage and implement OHS standards in their operations. As many as 25 managers including heads of manufacturing / engineering / EHS / production from 12 companies participated in this mission.

Visits were organized to Godrej and Boyce Mfg. Company Ltd (Electronics and Electrical Division), TATA Power Company Limited, Croda India Company Private Limited and Mahanagar Gas Ltd. A corporate overview, a presentation on the OHS roadmap, a plant visit and interaction were organized at each site.

During the mission, the participants learned about regulations governing OHS, different OHS management systems, process of identifying and assessing health and

safety risks in the workplace and strategies and best practices for mitigating these risks to prevent accidents and ensure worker safety. They also learned about emergency response protocols, training and coordination with local authorities and how to promote a safety culture and employee involvement in OHS initiatives.

Lean Six Sigma

Lean Six Sigma concept is based on the idea of eliminating 8 wastes and 16 losses from the process, to deliver value to the customer. Lean techniques work on reducing and eliminating the 8 hidden wastes, which occur in the 'Connection or Handoffs' between various value-adding processes, while Six Sigma works on reducing and eliminating the 16 losses.

A two-day virtual session was organized to discuss lean thinking techniques on 27-28 May. These techniques include 5S, pull system of working, single piece flow concept, measurement of OEE overall equipment effectiveness, overall human effectiveness, kaizen, value stream mapping and Six Sigma techniques like five step improvement approach DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control) to identify problems in processes through a collection of data using pareto principles, cause-effect analysis, control, charts, process capability studies, and others, to support the DMAIC process.

The objective of the session was to understand the 24 wastes and losses (16 losses from process and 8 wastes), the various lean techniques to eliminate TIMWOODS and learn about the DMAIC concept and its use in eliminating inefficiencies in any process.

The session also explored the concept of sigma (standard deviation) and the importance of achieving six sigma in any process and its benefits in reducing losses. Over 55 managers from 16 companies attended the virtual session.

Best Practices in Manufacturing Excellence

The second session of the webinar series on 'Best Practices in Manufacturing Excellence' by the Winners of the 3rd Edition of the CII Pinnacle Awards for Excellence in Manufacturing was organized on 28 May.

The participants learned about best practices in terms of achieving manufacturing excellence in production, technology, collaboration, market knowledge, behavioural aspects, policy management and sustainability domains.

Subros Ltd and SEE Linkages Pvt Ltd were the award-winning companies that shared their best practices. The participants learned triggering transformation from a small "m" to a big "M" mindset, improvement opportunities and understanding the 360-degree view of manufacturing. ■

WS CII Awards on Excellence for Women in STEM

CII Confederation of Indian Industry

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Regional Review



EASTERN REGION

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code - Balancing Fairness and Equity

CII organized the 7th edition of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Conclave around the theme 'Balancing Fairness and Equity' on 4 May in Kolkata. The conclave focused on the potential of the code to redefine corporate reorganization and serve as a key driver for availability of credit and promoting entrepreneurship.

An IBC report was also released during the conference reflecting the theme of the conference. Plenary sessions were held on 'Innovative & Hybrid mechanisms of Restructuring: Comparative Analysis and Way Forward', 'Sectoral Challenges and Trends in CIRP with Important Judicial Pronouncement', 'Funding Insolvency Process: Interim Finance & Litigation Funding' and 'Need to Improve Insolvency Governance by CoC & RP towards Efficient IBC Mechanism'. Eminent insolvency professionals, financial consultants and insolvency lawyers shared their insights during the sessions.

Mr Sudhaker Shukla, Whole Time Member, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) said that 2023-24 was a watershed year because National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had given 270 resolutions in one year vis-a-vis 189 resolutions in 2022-23. He appreciated the speed of resolution from the NCLT benches. Mr P Santhosh, MD and CEO, NARCL and Mr B Sankar, Deputy MD - Stressed Asset Group, State Bank of India were among the other key speakers.

Speakers including members from NCLT – Kolkata Bench

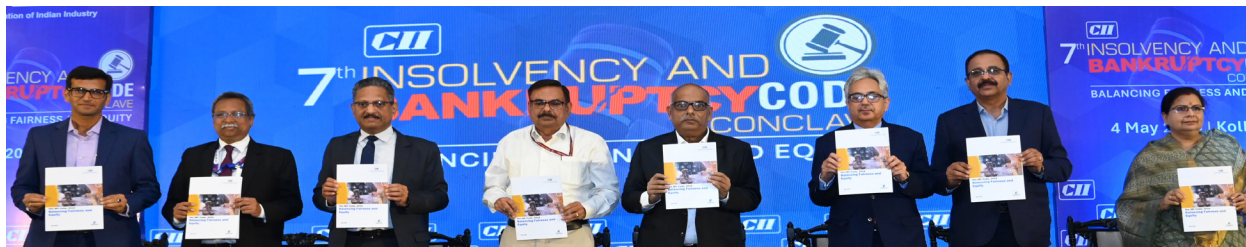
dwelt on IBC challenges and its timely implementation and legal adaptation. Mr Rohit Kapoor, Member-Judicial, NCLT Kolkata Bench; Mr Balraj Joshi, Member-Technical, NCLT Kolkata Bench and Ms Bidisha Banerjee, Member - Judicial, NCLT Kolkata Bench mentioned that timelines are crucial for resolving matters and going forward it is needed to increase the number of benches or the number of courts for a speedy recovery.

The deliberations concluded that necessary steps should be taken in order to ensure that orders are passed on all matters which have been heard and reserved before reconstitution.

During the discussion on the high pendency of cases, it was observed that almost in all cases leniency has been given to creditors for submission of claims from the insolvency commencement date and strict deadlines are needed to be followed. Moreover, an alternate and speedier resolution mechanism is required for MSMEs in financial distress through pre-packs insolvency process and hybrid mechanism of restructuring.

Interaction with British Deputy High Commissioner

CII Odisha organized an interactive session with Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata and Mr Sandip Chaudhuri, Head of Investment – Eastern India, Department for Business and Trade, British Deputy High Commission in Bhubaneswar on 21 May.



(L-R): Samir Agarwal, Co-Chairman, Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region & Director, Indcap Advisors Pvt Ltd; B Sankar, Deputy Managing Director, (Stressed Assets Resolution Group), State Bank of India; P Santhosh, Managing Director, NARCL; Sudhaker Shukla, Lifetime Member, Insolvency Bankruptcy Board of India; Bijay Murmuria, Chairman, Banking & Financial Services Subcommittee, CII Eastern Region & Director, Sumedha Fiscal Services Ltd; Rohit Kapoor, Member - Judicial, NCLT Kolkata Bench; Balraj Joshi, Member - Technical, NCLT Kolkata Bench and Bidisha Banerjee, Member - Judicial, NCLT Kolkata Bench at the 7th edition of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Conclave in Kolkata



(L-R): Sandip Chaudhuri, Head of Investment- Eastern India, Department for Business and Trade; Dr Pradipta Mohanty, Chairman CII Odisha State Council and Chairman, S N Mohanty Group; Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata and Sashi Shekhar Mohanty, Immediate Past Chairman, CII Odisha State Council, MD & CEO, Essar Minmet Limited during an interactive session with CII Odisha Members at Bhubaneswar

Odisha’s market potential and exposure and growth statistics were highlighted during the interaction. There were discussions on bilateral economic relationships encompassing trade and investment of India and UK and how over the years CII has played a strong and effective role in the promotion and facilitation of bilateral trade among the two countries.

Dr Andrew Fleming stated that the regional peers i.e. the companies from Odisha and West Bengal who have a presence in the UK can make the relationship stronger. He said that he will help in connecting businesses and educational institutions for skill development. He further highlighted that the British Deputy High Commission will help in connecting with companies who are working on Green Mining and will act as the bridge with academic institutions of the UK who have specialisation in this sector.

CII Odisha State Council members apprised the British Deputy High Commissioner about the upcoming initiatives for the year 2024 and possible areas of participation of the British Deputy High Commission. The areas of interest that can be explored include livelihood, climate change, recyclable waste management, financial services, health technology, high-end R&D, life science, advanced materials (Graffin), food technology, and deep tech and AI, among others.

Interaction with Indonesia Trade Promotion Center

CII-Odisha organized an interactive session with Mr Nugroho Priyo Pratomo, Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Council and Mr Mohamad Haykal, Deputy Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Council in Bhubaneswar on 8 May. The discussions explored possibilities of collaboration between Odisha with the top manufacturing sectors of Indonesia, especially in coal, mining, silicon, textiles, manufactured products and food and beverages verticals.

A presentation on Ease of Doing Business in Indonesia was shared with the members. There were proposals for identification of potential sectors for collaboration and exploring opportunities in real estate, IT and education. Discussions were also held on the opportunities for startups in agriculture and cold storage in Indonesia. Potential collaboration in IT & ITeS, healthcare sector, universities and IT hubs were explored.



Dr Pradipta Mohanty and Nugroho Priyo Pratomo, Director, Indonesian Trade Promotion Council during an interactive session with CII Odisha Members at Bhubaneswar

Proposals were made on digitalization solutions in mining and education. The interaction concluded with proposals for roadshows in Indonesia, joint ventures in medical and healthcare and bringing more healthcare industries of India to Indonesia.

Ensuring Business Security in the Modern Era

Cybersecurity threats are constantly evolving and increasing in frequency. To equip businesses to deal with the increasing threat, CII Jharkhand organized a workshop on cyber security around the theme of ‘Ensuring Business Security in the Modern Era’ in Jamshedpur on 11 May.

During the workshop, cyber security leaders deliberated on technology advancement in India and the measures



(L-R): Diloo Parikh, Chairman, CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council & Managing Director, Vaidehi Motors Pvt. Ltd and Shivam Kamani, Co-Convenor, CII ICT, Startup, and Innovation Panel & Associate President, Sparx Technologies Pvt Ltd at the Workshop on Cyber Security in Jamshedpur

that needs to be taken for awareness and prioritisation of cyber security. The delegates interacted with cyber security professionals, engaged in brainstorming group activities and learnt the best practices in the domain.

Mr Diloo Parikh, Chairman, CII Jamshedpur Zonal Council and MD, Vaidehi Motors Pvt Ltd highlighted the growth in the adoption of digital technologies by Indian businesses. He remarked that technology advancement has helped businesses, specifically MSMEs with opportunities to increase their efficiencies and have better access to the global market.

Mr Sarajit Jha, Convenor, CII Jharkhand ICT, Startup and Innovation Panel and Chief Business Transformation and Business Solutions, TATA Steel said that 40 per cent of all digital transactions in the world occurs in India, which makes it more relevant to focus on cyber security. He also raised awareness of growing cyber threats for MSMEs and suggested awareness as an antidote.

Mr Shivam Kamani, Co-Convenor, CII Jharkhand ICT, Startup and Innovation Panel and Associate President, Sparx Technologies Pvt Ltd emphasized the threat due to increasing cybercrimes for individuals as well as for companies. Mr Mrinal K Pal, Chief IT Infra, Network and Cybersecurity, Tata Steel Ltd; Mr Bhargo Dev Chakraborty, Network and IT Security Consultant, Skylink Communications and Mr Vidya Shankar, DSP (Cyber Crime), Jamshedpur were among the other key speakers at the workshop.



Interaction with DoNER Secretary

An exclusive interactive session was organized with Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India on 16 May in New Delhi. The delegation was led by Mr Pradeep Bagla, Chairman, CII North East Council and MD, Amrit Cement Ltd. Interacting with the delegation, Shri Kumar gave a detailed overview of the initiatives spearheaded by the Ministry in the North East region, which was followed by a detailed presentation on the focus of the Ministry and outcomes and current status on investment initiative in the region.

The Secretary noted that the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region is in the process of handholding smaller states in drafting attractive policies to improve their economy. He said that there is an intrinsic demand for infrastructure in all North East states in almost all sector including healthcare, IT/ITES, tourism, and logistics, among others. The delegation discussed various sectoral issues on tourism, logistics, agriculture, food processing and startups.

The Secretary informed that the Ministry engages with all departments for resolving issues related to the region.

Connecting Tourism Stakeholders in the North East

A CII delegation comprising of members from the North East held an exclusive interaction with Mr Puneet Chhatwal, MD and CEO, IHCL on 17 May in New Delhi. Mr Prashant Sharma, Past Chairman, CII West Bengal State, Chairman, Healthcare Taskforce and MD, Charnock Hospital, SKM Group said that the multifaceted impact that tourism has makes it a gamechanger for North East India, fostering economic growth, preserving cultural heritage and promoting sustainable development.

Mr Chhatwal said that his group is committed to the development of tourism in the North East and the group has set itself a target of operating 25 properties in the North East by 2025, and is well in course towards achieving the same. He noted that post the pandemic, tourism has picked up strongly and the Industry will continue to thrive in region. While some delegation members offered to pitch in the right property owners in states, others suggested new locales where properties would do good in supporting the tourism Industry.



NORTHERN REGION

Rail Connect

CII Northern Region, in association with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Indian Railways, organized the CII Rail Connect Expo, a vendor development program and exhibition, on 30 – 31 May in Chandigarh. The event saw enthusiastic participation from Indian manufacturers aiming to become component suppliers for the manufacturing of various locomotives and the operations and maintenance of assets within the Indian Railways network.

With a total of 40 stalls being represented by various component manufacturers for railways and over 200 registered delegates, the exhibition showcased a diverse range of products and services, including advanced materials, automated systems, solar power solutions and state-of-the-art inspection technologies. This vibrant exhibition provided a platform for vendors to demonstrate their innovations and capabilities, directly engaging with Indian Railways officials and other Industry leaders.

Mr S K Suri, General Manager (Retired), Indian Railways – Rail Coach Factory (RCF) delivered his address on ‘Emerging Opportunities in Indian Railways’ and highlighted the transformative initiatives driving growth within Indian Railways. Modernization, expansion and outsourcing in Indian Railways have unleashed tremendous opportunities for private entrepreneurs in the railway sectors, he said. Mr Avijit Chakroborty, Chief Design Engineer, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) and Mr Rajesh Bansal, Chief Material Manager, Patiala Locomotive Works (PLW) briefed about the

vendor registration process, emphasizing the importance of the ‘Make in India’ initiative in public procurement.

Conference on Exploring IT Frontiers

To bolster the IT landscape in northern India, a Conference on Exploring IT Frontiers 2024 took place on 24 May in Chandigarh. The event brought together Industry leaders, experts and stakeholders to discuss and explore the latest advancements in technology and their potential impact on the region’s economy. The conference covered a vast spectrum of IT innovations, from the pioneering realms of AI and Generative AI to the intricate field of process mining and the foundational aspects of software engineering. One of the key highlights was the discussion on the role of data centres in enhancing Northern India’s IT capabilities.

Mr Abhishek Gupta, Chairman, CII Punjab State and Chief – Strategic Marketing, Trident Ltd highlighted the importance of the IT sector to India’s economy. He emphasized the immense potential of Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) and how IT can be a catalyst for their growth. He shared that automation and digitalisation of repetitive tasks of routine business operations can save SMBs an average of 10 per cent in productivity costs, which can be achieved through digital transformation, ERP / SCM solutions, cloud computing, SAAS models, data analytics, AI & ML, customer engagement tools, social media and digital marketing tools. Mr Harpreet Nibber, Chairman, CII Mohali and MD, Pritika Auto Industries emphasized the long-term vision for Punjab and stressed the potential of the Industry to explore, innovate and shape the future of IT.

During an exclusive session focussed on AI in manufacturing, Mr Tejpreet Singh Chopra, President and CEO, BLP Group/Industry.AI highlighted challenges that lay in effectively harnessing data and the expertise to



(L-R): Sahil, Senior Material Manager, PLW; Rajesh Bansal, Chief Material Manager, PLW; S K Suri, GM (Retd), Indian Railways – RCF; Avijit Chakroborty, Chief Design Engineer, CLW at the CII Rail Connect Expo in Chandigarh



(L-R): Harpreet Nibber, Chairman, CII Mohali & MD, Pritika Auto Industries; Sarjeet Singh Virk, MD, Finvasia India Pvt Ltd; Gaurav Malik, Chief Strategy Officer, Successive Digital; and Abhishek Gupta, Chairman, CII Punjab State & Chief – Strategic Marketing, Trident Ltd at the Conference on Exploring IT Frontiers in Chandigarh

unlock its full potential to drive productivity, quality safety and sustainability. The conference featured several sessions that provided deep insights into the current and future state of IT in the region. Key discussion areas included the state of IT in North India, understanding the tech landscape in India and maximizing the potential of SMEs by leveraging SAS solutions from Industry experts. The sessions also delved into AI and cutting-edge technologies that are shaping industries, offering a comprehensive overview of the transformative power and future of IT in the region.

Unleashing Manufacturing Potential through Technological Breakthroughs

To revolutionize India's manufacturing landscape, the Next-Gen Manufacturing Forum 2024 was held on 23 May in Chandigarh. Centred around the theme 'Unleashing Manufacturing Potential through

Technological Breakthroughs', the event highlighted the crucial role of Industry 4.0 technologies in transforming India's manufacturing sector into a global leader. The forum brought together Industry leaders, experts and innovators to explore and discuss the transformative potential of technological advancements in the manufacturing sector.

Mr Abhijit A Nanoti, Conference Chairman and MD, Indian Steel & Wires Ltd (a subsidiary of Tata Steel), emphasized the role of technological advancements through the implementation of Industry 4.0 technologies. Technological breakthroughs from basic automation in manufacturing to next-gen technologies such as ML and AI are reshaping the manufacturing landscape, unlocking new opportunities and driving growth for a sustainable future.

Mr V Ramachandran, Conference Co-Chairman and Director & Chief Operating Officer, V Guard Industries

Ltd highlighted the need for technological evolution and how the transformation to newer technologies will aid in attracting foreign investments, boosting exports, driving economic growth and positioning India as a manufacturing powerhouse on the world stage. Mr Mangal Dev, Head - Hitachi Rail Systems (India & South Asia) and Director - Hitachi India Pvt Ltd said that during Amrit-kaal, that is in the next 25 years, India has a golden opportunity to become a manufacturing powerhouse, a strategic country for global companies, and together with MSMEs, to be the global hub.



(L-R): Vivek Verma, Conference Co-Chairman and MD, Spray Engineering Devices Ltd; Ramachandran Venkataraman, Conference Co-Chairman and Director & COO, V-Guard Industries Ltd; Mangal Dev, Head - Hitachi Rail Systems (India & South Asia) & Director - Hitachi India Pvt Ltd and Anurag Gupta, Chairman, CII Chandigarh UT and MD, Usha Yarns Ltd; at the CII Next-Gen Manufacturing Forum 2024 in Chandigarh



SOUTHERN REGION

EHS Excellence Award



(L-R): Sudeep Dalvi, Co-Chairman, CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards 2023 & Senior Vice President & Director - Technical & Purchase, Chief Communication Officer, Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd; G Soundararajan, Vice Chairman, CRI Pumps Pvt Ltd; Dr R Nandini, Chairperson, CII Southern Region & Managing Director, Chandra Textiles Pvt Ltd; P Ravichandran, Chairman, CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards 2023 & President, Danfoss Industries Pvt Ltd releasing a Compendium on EHS Practices at the 16th Edition of the CII-SR EHS Excellence Awards 2023 in Coimbatore

The 16th edition of the CII SR EHS Excellence Awards, held on 15 May in Coimbatore, marked a significant milestone in advancing Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) standards across the Industry.

The awards ceremony featured an upgraded checklist to global standards, a digitized nomination and feedback process, enhanced documentation and assessment guidelines, and a new portal for sharing best practices. The event attracted participation from various sectors, reflecting the Industry's growing commitment to EHS excellence.

The awards recognized outstanding achievements and practices in EHS, setting new benchmarks for the Industry. Out of the 169 applicants, 23 companies were awarded ratings based on their EHS performance, with two receiving the highest accolades.

Puducherry Kaizen Competition

CII Puducherry organized the 4th edition CII Puducherry Kaizen Competition on 22 May, featuring twenty Kaizen teams from CII Member Organizations in Puducherry. The competition was held for the Supervisor and Operator categories.

Mr Shanmuganandam Veerasamy, Chairman, CII Puducherry and CEO, Touch Solar Technologies urged participants to align their efforts towards the nation's economic growth, aiming for a 35 trillion-dollar economy by 2047.

Mr Thiruvassagam Jayaraman, Convenor, Manufacturing & MSME Panel and MD, Schlemmer Technologies India encouraged delegates to implement Kaizen in their daily life for personal and industrial growth. The jury included Mr Muralidharan, CEO, V Max Consultant; Mr Rajan Ramanathan, Consultant and Mr Manikandan, Director Operations & Manufacturing Consultant, PWC.

Interaction with Ayush Secretary

Members of CII Kerala Ayurveda Panel met with Shri Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush and Ms Bhavana Saxena, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Government of India on 15 May in New Delhi.

The discussion focused on outlining a vision for the Ayurveda sector in the coming years. Mr Rajesh Kotecha briefed the members about the initiatives of the Ministry of Ayush, including the facilitation of evidence-based research and research on integrated treatment approaches, leveraging the advantages of Ayurveda and modern medicine.

Interactions with Embassies in New Delhi

Members of CII Kerala Healthcare and Ayurveda Panel interacted with embassies of multiple countries in New



4th Kaizen Competition in Puducherry

Delhi on 15-16 May. The delegation met the embassies of Austria, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Hungary, Oman, Kuwait, Tanzania, Cuba, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Czech Republic.

The discussions aimed at projecting Kerala as a global destination for medical value travel due to its high-quality medical facilities, expertise in traditional medicine like Ayurveda, highly skilled medical professionals, cost-effective healthcare, tourism and hospitality infrastructure, providing a holistic experience that combines modern medicine and Ayurveda treatments. Delegations from these countries were invited to participate in the CII Kerala Health Tourism & Global Ayurveda Summit scheduled on 29-30 August.

Interaction with the Government

Discussions with Shri Arun Roy, Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu

A special interaction with Shri Arun Roy was organized as a part of the 2nd Meeting of Tamil Nadu State Council on 11 May in Chennai. Shri Roy highlighted key focus areas of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

“The Government is prioritizing several key areas for development in the coming times. A significant focus is on crucial sectors such as food processing, with initiatives to promote food parks and enhance agri-processing. For the textiles Industry, the State is making efforts to support the shift from cotton, yarn and apparel to technical textiles. Additionally, efforts are being made to attract more Global Capability Centers (GCCs) to Tamil Nadu, which currently hosts only 10 per cent of these centres,” Shri Roy said.

Meeting with Shri Pradeep Yadav, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Highways & Minor Ports, Government of Tamil Nadu, Mr Srivats Ram, Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Office and MD, Wheels India Ltd met with Shri Pradeep Yadav on 10 May.

CII submitted recommendations including the development of the state's existing road infrastructure and requesting the faster initiation of the Coimbatore-Karur Expressway. The Secretary expressed support for working with CII and enhancing the industrial ecosystem of the state.

Meeting with Shri Kumar Jayant, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government, Department of Labour Welfare and Skill Development, Government of Tamil Nadu.

CII office bearers from Salem and Trichy had a meeting with Shri Kumar Jayant on the prevailing minimum wage issues in the textiles Industry of the state. CII also requested clarification in defining skilled / unskilled workers / semiskilled workers on the Code of Wages (Tamil Nadu) Rules 2022.

Strengthening the Startup ecosystem

CII Office Bearers from Chennai, Salem, Thoothukudi and Trichy met with Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Vice President, Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd to discuss the need for more incubation centres for startups around Chennai.

Meetings with the Thailand, Indonesia Trade Promotion Centre

CII Karnataka organized a roundtable meeting with Mr Racha Aribarg, Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate, Thailand on 3 May in Bengaluru to discuss potential collaboration opportunities with Karnataka members. The session, designed for members interested in Thailand, fostered direct dialogue on business opportunities, investments and partnerships.

Another roundtable meeting exclusively for MSME members, featuring an interaction with esteemed guests from the Indonesian Government and the Indonesia Trade Promotion Centre was organized on 3 May in Bengaluru.

The session included Mr Nugroho Priyo Pratomo, Director and Mr Mohamad Haykal, Deputy Director, Government officials from Indonesia, along with Mr Mohamed Naveed, Marketing Analyst from the Indonesia Trade Promotion Centre. The focus of the discussion was the upcoming International Trade Fair scheduled to take place on 9-12 October in Jakarta. This meeting provided members insights and opportunities to explore participation and collaboration prospects at the trade fair.



Arun Roy, Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion & Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu along with speakers at an interaction in Chennai

Karnataka Second State Council Meeting 2024



Dignitaries at the Second State Council Meeting with Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka in Bengaluru

CII Karnataka Second State Council Meeting 2024-25 was held on 10 May in Bengaluru. Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka interacted with the State Council Members on the industrial ecosystem of the state. She also outlined an action plan aimed at achieving a higher growth rate for Karnataka's economy to become USD 1 trillion economy, with CII playing a key role in realizing this vision.

Members shared their inputs on the issues that they are facing and suggestions and ease of doing business. Dr Rajneesh emphasized on integrated approach involving Government-Industry collaboration in the area of skills, sustainable development and R&D.

Interaction of Karnataka Members with Key Stakeholders

The CII Karnataka delegation organized a few Government interactions during the sidelines of the CII Annual Business Summit on 17-18 May. The delegation met with Shri Rajat Kumar Saini, MD & CEO, National Industrial Corridor Development to discuss prioritizing development work in the Hubballi-Dharwad and Belagavi districts within the Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (BMIC) framework.

A delegation of 15 members from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu met with Shri Sanjay Managal, GST Commissioner, Government of India to discuss enhancing GST procedures across various sectors and a white paper with recommendations was submitted. A delegation met with Shri S Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India to discuss boosting semiconductor and electronics manufacturing in India. The delegation met with Shri Vumlung Vualnam, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India to discuss

strengthening air connectivity in Mysuru, Belagavi and Hubballi districts. Recommendations included connecting Mysuru to Cochin, exploring the Belagavi-Mysuru sector and expanding airlines' frequency were submitted.

The Karnataka delegation met with Shri T K Ramachandran, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India to discuss recommendations for port-led economic development in Uttara and Dakshina Karnataka and enhancing port connectivity for North Karnataka.

Co-Creating the Future Responsibly

CII Telangana organized a regional conclave on 'Co-Creating the Future Responsibly' under the theme 'Role of Industry' in Hyderabad on 10 May. The objective of the conclave was to bring together Industry experts, Government dignitaries, entrepreneurs, influencers, startups, thought leaders and media to reflect on India's significant achievements over the past years and collectively chart a path for a new progressive India.

Dr Jayesh Ranjan, Special Chief Secretary, Industries & IT Departments, Government of Telangana mentioned that past experiences play a major influencing factor in designing future action. He also said great policies need committed implementation. Aspirations combined with strong vision provide clear direction to achieve the goals. Mr Sai D Prasad, Chairman, CII Telangana and Executive Director, Bharat Biotech International Ltd and Mr Sivaprasad Reddy Rachamalla, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana and MD, Rachamalla Forgings Pvt Ltd were among the other key speakers.



WESTERN REGION

IPR for Sustainable Growth

A session was held on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for Sustainable Growth Driving Economic Development on 2 May in Surat. The session, led by Ms Richa M Goyal, Company Secretary, Trademark Attorney and Founder, RM Legal aimed to discuss the transformative potential of IPRs in driving economic growth in developing India.

Ms Goyal delved deep into the pivotal role of IPR in fostering sustainable economic development. Over the course of an hour, participants were treated to a comprehensive exploration of how effective IPR strategies can catalyse innovation, stimulate investment and propel socio-economic progress.

Interaction with US Consul General



Mike Hankey, US Consul General at the interaction held in Vadodra

An interactive session was organized with Mr Mike Hankey, US Consul General on fortifying bilateral relations between India and the US, with particular emphasis on the Central Gujarat Zone. Mr Varang Trivedi, Chairman, CII Central Gujarat Zonal Council and CEO - Admark Polycos Pvt Ltd highlighted CII's ongoing efforts in enhancing international collaboration, emphasizing the paramount importance of deepening ties and bilateral trade with the US for economic growth.

Mr Vinod Agrawal, Co-Chairman, CII Western Region Sub-Committee on International Trade and Investment and Managing Director, Arunaya Organics Ltd expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the Consul General for his active engagement with CII, foreseeing a collaborative approach that fosters interactions among Industry members from both India and the US. Mr Premraj Keshyep, Vice Chairman, CII Gujarat State Council and Managing Director, KYB Conmat Pvt. Ltd underscored the pivotal role of both nations in fostering economic collaboration and innovation. Reflecting on his longstanding connection with India dating back to 1996, Mr Hankey highlighted India's remarkable growth in infrastructure and industries and emphasized the shared values between the two nations.

Annual Conference on Taxation

To deliberate on the latest developments in direct and indirect tax, customs and other pertinent areas, the CII Western Region Annual Conference on Taxation was held on 10 May in Mumbai. Emphasis was laid on drawing a stable, reliable and sustainable tax policy and embracing technology.

Mr Rakesh Gupta, Conference Chairman & Chairman, CII WR Tax Leaders Forum 2024 and Senior Vice-President & Group Tax Head, RPG Group said that tax has become a focus of board meetings with the investor community, closely looking at the tax policies and Effective Tax Rate (ETR) while valuing the company. It is the tax heads'



(L-R): Sanjay Sanghvi, Senior Tax Partner, Khaitan & Co; Rakesh Gupta, Conference Chairman and Chairman, CII WR Tax Leaders Forum 2024 & Senior Vice-President & Group Tax Head, RPG Group; Himanshu Parekh, Partner and Head of Tax (West), KPMG in India and Manish Mishra, Partner & Head of Practice, Indirect Tax, J Sagar Associates (JSA)

responsibility to draw a sustainable, reliable and stable tax policy for organizations and embrace emerging technology, especially AI, he added.

Panel discussions and technical sessions covered critical matters under direct and indirect tax, customs and data privacy. The indirect tax panel highlighted the seven-year journey of GST, dispute resolution mechanisms and prevailing challenges. The direct tax panel witnessed eminent panelists deliberating on the importance of documentation, technical interpretation, tax disputes, faceless assessment appeals and risk management strategies.

The technical sessions encompassed recent judicial precedents, cross charge vs Input Service Distributor (ISD), GST mismatch liabilities, National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA), General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) and Principal Purpose Test (PPT).

The customs session highlighted the recent developments in customs like quality control orders, administration of rules of origin under trade agreements and interplay of tax and customs. A session was also held on the implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 on taxation.

Workshop on PoSH Law

A workshop was organized for management and HR professionals on mandatory compliance for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace on 10 May in Goa. The session addressed topics related to instituting internal committees, the importance of organizing regular training for employees and creating awareness regarding the mandatory requirements of the law.

The importance of creating an internal redressal mechanism, which has the power of a civil court,



Participants at the Workshop on PoSH Law in Goa

was highlighted. It is entrusted with the duty and responsibility to ensure that genuine complaints are given immediate relief and justice and that false complaints are dealt with in an appropriate manner.

Make your Cyberspace Secure

In the age of the internet and rapid digital transformation, the importance of cybersecurity is increasing. Strong cybersecurity policy and infrastructure work together to secure businesses and individuals in protecting their assets and data. In line with this, two sessions on 'Make your Cyberspace Secure' were organized on 10 and 11 May in Rajkot and Bhavnagar respectively. Ms Sonal Patel, Co-Founder & CEO, Secure Smith emphasized that cyber security is not the responsibility of an individual but that of an entire team. The sessions discussed the tools required to enhance cybersecurity awareness, steps to reduce cybersecurity risk and new types of threats evolving. The discussion also revolved around cyber security compromise symptoms, strategies and cyber security frameworks required to deal with increasing security risks. The importance of corresponding laws and regulations was emphasized to keep business data safe.

India@100 - The Future of Business

Over the past decade, India has embarked on a transformative journey and heralded the beginning of the era, which is poised to propel the nation towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. To highlight this and formulate a roadmap to the future, a conclave on India@100 was organized in Mumbai on 11 May around the theme 'The Future of Business'. The conclave aimed to further evolve the contours of an inclusive developed nation with a forward-looking perspective for the next decade.

Mr Jamshyd N Godrej, CMD, Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd said that CII has put institutional structures in place in the form of Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to support members and make them future-ready. This will ultimately enable and support transformation and growth to create a developed India by 2047. Mr R Mukundan, MD and CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd said that the adoption of diversity and gender inclusivity in the Industry requires strong belief and action at the promoter's end. CII's HR-IR Committee is actively promoting the cause of diversity in the workplace.

Ms Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson, CII Western Region and President, VM Salgaocar and Brother Pvt Ltd said that to fit into the global growth story, India needs to focus not just on economic metrics but also on equity for holistic development. The conclave highlighted the critical roles of investments and inclusive leadership in India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. The discussions underscored the need for continuous regulatory reforms, infrastructure improvements and embracing diversity in leadership to achieve sustainable economic growth and social equity.

Colloquium with CEOs and CXOs

In association with the Chamber of Marathwada Industries and Agriculture (CMIA), a leadership development session was initiated with Mr Raman Nanda, CEO and Founder, Step Formation for CEOs, CXOs and Senior Management from the Industry on 22 May in Aurangabad. The session witnessed the unveiling of the Leadership Course brochure by The Captain's Club Learning Series (Pune).

Mr Nanda discussed the leadership challenges faced by organizations and ways to overcome them using learnings through the journey using an effective 'Flash Approach Method Concept'. He explained ways to



Raman Nanda, CEO & Founder, Step Formation with CXOs at the colloquium in Aurangabad

achieve numbers with real-time management without micromanaging to significantly enhance the chances of meeting commitments.

Learning Mission on Manufacturing Excellence

A Learning Mission on Manufacturing Excellence was organized on 23 and 24 May in Nagpur. Participating firms visited leading manufacturing companies based in Nagpur and learnt best practices prevalent in manufacturing facilities. The mission provided an opportunity for participating companies to get insights into the technological strengths of the member companies and leverage the know how to further improve their own manufacturing capabilities.

Mission participants visited the facilities of JSW Kalmeshwar, Tata Advance Systems Limited, CEAT Tyres' Manufacturing Plant and Calderys India Refractories Ltd. The companies emphasized benefits of Kaizen and technology and the importance of safety. The need for stronger collaboration between academia and Industry across engineering disciplines

was highlighted during the visit. Insightful discussions with Industry professionals showcased the intricate web of technologies that drive modern industries and discussions were held on achieving carbon neutrality.

Sensitization Session on ESG

A sensitization session on ESG was organized on 28 May in Rajkot to enable participants to understand the ESG framework that helps an organization manage risks and opportunities related to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), taking the holistic view that sustainability extends beyond just environmental issues.

Focus was laid on making ESG a topic that is not only critical at the management level, but also essential to cascade throughout organizations. Businesses are facing pressure to rethink their operations to reduce carbon emissions in line with net zero targets, providing better sustainability reporting and transparency and adapting to unavoidable climatic risks. Case studies by various participating teams citing initiatives taken by their organizations and key learnings out of the session were shared as best practices during the session.



Participants at Tata Advance Systems Limited in Nagpur



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