



TOURISM SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT 2025



PHDCCI is association with the Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), organized the 2nd edition of the “Tourism Sustainability Summit: Mainstreaming Sustainability in Tourism” on March 26, 2025 at Hotel Le-Meridien, New Delhi. This flagship initiative aimed to strengthen India’s position as a global tourism and hospitality destination, besides fostering cooperation at national, bilateral, regional & sub-regional, multilateral and international levels.

Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister for Tourism, while speaking on sustainability challenges in the Tourism sector, urged the industry to collaborate with the government. “Until and unless it becomes everybody’s business, we will not be able to solve this problem” said the Hon’ble

Minister. He added that the tourism sector’s situation and conditions present both opportunities and challenges.

Hon’ble Minister concluded by taking a pledge to convert this into action after identifying the responsibilities and work in tandem toward the sustainability goals in the tourism sector.

Mr. Suman Billa (IAS), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism emphasized the need to design tourism growth in a mindful manner. He added that tourism is a rapidly growing sector and that the industry is at the beginning of a long-term growth cycle for tourism and hospitality. Highlighting key points, he stressed that tourism should not be viewed merely as an economic activity but as a shared responsibility. Referring to the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s Mission

LiFE initiative, he spoke about the need to shift from a paradigm of mindless consumption to mindful living.

He further mentioned that the Ministry of Tourism has launched the sustainability criteria under “Travel for LiFE,” which promotes a community of green travellers. Further, Mr Billa emphasized that if sustainability is the goal, there is a need to rethink the approach by building resilient, inclusive, and future-ready infrastructure.

He further highlighted the importance of community engagement and creating livelihoods through tourism for these communities. And lastly, the involvement of the private sector, businesses, and the adoption of technology was necessary in driving sustainable tourism growth.

Mr. Sheo Shekhar Shukla (IAS), Principal Secretary (Tourism) & Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, Government of Madhya Pradesh, informed that Madhya Pradesh has a Responsible Tourism vertical within its state department. He highlighted that the state is home to 498 State Protected Monuments, 290 ASI Protected Monuments, and 14 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, establishing it as a significant historical and cultural destination. Further, he mentioned that efforts are underway to develop 50 new destinations and 20 cultural sites to enhance the tourism landscape.

Speaking on environmental aspects, he highlighted that Madhya Pradesh has the highest forest cover (25%) in India, 12 National Parks, 9 Tiger Reserves, and 3 Biosphere Reserves. Emphasizing the growth of spiritual and religious tourism, the state is home to the Narmada, one of the world's oldest rivers, and comprises five cultural zones. The State also focuses on eco-tourism, tribal tourism, and rural tourism, added Mr Shukla.

Mr. Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI indicated that Sustainability is no longer a choice or an option- it is our responsibility now. If we do not make our hotels sustainable and more green-compliant today, we will lose a significant part of the market. Initiatives like this and sincere efforts towards sustainability will further strengthen India's position in this sector.

Amb Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Chair, India-Nepal Centre, PHDCCI & Distinguished Fellow, TERI urged everyone to internalize sustainability in their organizations, emphasizing the need for climate-proofing and building resilience.

He added, our lifestyle in India has always been aligned with sustainability, and as we progress in tourism let us not forget that sustainability is what



will keep resources ready for future generations.

It is important that every single one of us acts, as India has a national commitment to a net zero target by 2070.

Mr. Glenn Mandziuk, CEO, World Sustainable Hospitality Alliance (UK), discussed that we have significant sustainability and human rights issues present in our industry, and we need to act collectively as an industry.

Mr. Mandziuk said that we need to think about the workforce and not just focus on serving the customer. He further informed 'Overtourism' was the word of the year in the Oxford Dictionary in 2018. However, tourism holds great potential, and the sustainability revolution is crucial. Enabling every hotel to operate responsibly and grow sustainably, the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance brings together engaged hospitality companies and the wider hospitality value chain, along with strategic partners, to address key challenges affecting the planet, people, and places around the world, he added.

Mr. K Syama Raju, President, FHRAI discussed the importance of sustainability in tourism and the contributions made by the Industry alliance. He further emphasized that while tourism continues to grow, it also presents significant challenges. He stressed the need to ensure that tourism is not just an

economic driver but also a catalyst for social change. He called for collective efforts toward a greener and more inclusive future.

Mr. Surendra Kumar Jaiswal, President, HRANI & Vice President, FHRAI delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the esteemed guests.

A Knowledge Report on Tourism was released at the event.

The Tourism Sustainability Summit 2025 was supported by the Ministry of Tourism, with partnership from the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board. Gujarat Tourism participated as an Associate Partner.

It is reckoning that tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and an important source of foreign exchange and employment. As a sector, it also keeps a very significant bearing to the economies, especially so for developing countries and endowed with high tourism potential. Noticeably, sustainable tourism practices are applicable to all forms of tourism in all types of destinations, including mass tourism and the various niche tourism segments. Sustainability principles refer to the environmental, economic, and socio-cultural aspects of tourism development, and a suitable balance must be established between these three dimensions to guarantee its long-term sustainability.



CREATING FUTURE READY MANPOWER FOR THE MINING SECTOR

Chief Guest, Mr. Satish Chandra Dubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal & Mines at PHDCCI's Conclave on 'Creating Future Ready Manpower for the Mining Sector' held on March 21, 2025 at New Delhi was quoted to have said, "With 65% of India's population being young, I urge the youth to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat. While India has become self-reliant in coal production, it still depends on imports for critical minerals. The government is making continuous efforts to bridge this gap, so I urge the industry to train its employees to build expertise in this sector."

Further, while stressing on the importance of skill development, the Hon'ble Minister encouraged industry to establish colleges and universities focused on mining education to equip the youth with the necessary skills. He highlighted that the mining industry is undergoing a major transformation and urged the mining industry to shift from being a labor-intensive sector to a high-tech industry driven by automation, digitalization, and sustainable development.

Lastly, the Hon'ble Minister assured PHDCCI of the government's support for any future initiatives and reiterated that Hon'ble



Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi envisions India becoming self-reliant in every sector and contributing significantly towards the 2047 Viksit Bharat goal.

Mr. Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI emphasizing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat said that the mining industry's future will be shaped not just by the resources we extract, but by the human capital we develop.

He added that we must address the challenge of skill development head-on through three key pillars: education transformation, industry-academic partnerships, and inclusive workforce development. He observed that as we must stand at the crossroads of tradition and innovation, we must acknowledge that the mining industry's future will be shaped not

just by the resources we extract, but by the human capital we develop.

Mr. Aman Sethi, Co-chair, Minerals & Metals Committee, PHDCCI, envisioned mining communities transforming into hubs of innovation whereby miners become knowledge workers utilizing technology to extract resources with minimal environmental impact and maximum value creation. He added that mining careers are still perceived as physically demanding and dangerous, discouraging young talent from entering the industry at a time when fresh talent is needed the most.

He informed that PHDCCI plans to sign an MoU with the Skill Council for Mining Sector (SCMS) for designing and conducting skill development programs for

upskilling India's mining workforce in new technologies.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI informed that PHDCCI is celebrating 120 years of legacy this year, and the key focus areas in the current era are digital transformation, sustainability, and global competitiveness. In this context, skilling is crucial in the mining sector. As technology advances people need to be skilled in AI and the latest innovations. He added, in India, five million people enter the workforce annually, making it the youngest country in the world, which is why skill development is so important.

Mr. Pankaj Satija, Chairman, Skill Council for Mining Sector & Executive In Charge, Ferro Alloys Mineral Division, Tata Steel Ltd. discussed the Prime Minister's request to revive Nalanda



University and mentioned that SCMS is working on this initiative. Mr Satija further highlighted that the percentage of formally skilled workers in India remains low and India must work towards becoming cost competitive which can be achieved by focusing on skill development. He informed that SCMS was encouraging entry of women and transgenders in the mining workforce.

Mr. Naveet Kumar, CEO, Skill Council for Mining Sector discussed

the roadmap for skill development in the mining sector.

A number of technical sessions on skill development ecosystem, regulatory mechanisms, role of technology in skill development, bridging skill gaps for future -ready mining workforce, etc were held which were addressed by experts.

A knowledge report, titled 'Creating Future Ready Manpower for the Mining sector.' was released during the Conclave.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) WITH EESL ENERGY EFFICIENCY SERVICES LIMITED



PHDCCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EESL Energy Efficiency Services Limited on March 6, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi.

The MoU was signed between Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO &

Secretary General of PHDCCI and Mr. Venkatesh Dwivedi, Group Executive Director of EESL. The MoU is designed to work jointly on the modalities for promoting EESL Mart's collaboration with PHDCCI, which could create significant

advantages for both parties in terms of sustainability, energy efficiency, and government relations. The partnership appears to be a strong step toward promoting environmental responsibility and aligning with India's goals for a net-zero emissions future.



INDO-GERMAN DEEP TECH COLLABORATION FOR MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE

PHDCCI organized an interactive session on Indo-German Deep Tech Collaboration for Manufacturing Excellence on March 7, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi. The key objective of organizing this session was to deliberate on the new technologies in smart manufacturing such as IoT, AI, capacity building etc

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General of PHDCCI in his welcome address talked about the India and Germany sharing a strong and strategic partnership, built on a foundation of industrial expertise, technological innovation, and a shared vision for progress. Dr. Mehta also proposed that PHDCCI plans to mount a Technology Delegation for the Indian companies to Germany.

Mr. Marc-Alexander Winter, CEO & Co-Founder, Servitize, Germany in his keynote address spoke on the futuristic deep tech enabling smart manufacturing and the huge potential and opportunity between India and Germany in



manufacturing as India endeavours to become a manufacturing hub.

Mr. Siddharth Bhasin, Managing Director, German India Innovation Corridor (GIIC) shared the perspective GIIC as the bilateral highway that will help India and Germany to innovate and collaborate.

A dedicated Session on Deep Tech: Where Innovation Meets Excellence also took place.

The Sessions were moderated by Col. K V Kuber, Indian Army Veteran,

Director - Aerospace & Defence, Ernst & Young LLP. The session featured panellists including Mr. Marc-Alexander Winter, CEO & Co-Founder, Servitize, Germany, Mr. Upen Barve, Vice President Strategy and Chief Fusionist, Servitize, Germany, Mr. Vijay Kishan Gupta, CEO, Think Future Technologies, Mr. Suryakant Sharma, Director - Strategic Alliances, CorePeelers followed by the vote-of-thanks from Mr. Harish Saraf, Co-chair, PHDCCI ICT, Telecom & Electronics Committee.



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40TH EDITION OF AMBASSADORS' MEET 2025



The 40th edition of Ambassadors' Meet was held on March 7, 2025 at the Oval Mansion, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Delhi.

Around 125 diplomats including Ambassadors/High Commissioners representing more than 70 countries including Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Colombia, Cote d' Voire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal,

Niger, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Phillipines, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, UAE, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zambia graced the occasion.

More than 200 industry members including, former Presidents of PHDCCI, central and state government officials from various ministries, made the most of the opportunity to interact with the diplomatic community.

Mr. Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI, in his presidential remarks thanked the distinguished dignitaries for sparing their precious time to attend the 40th edition of PHDCCI Ambassadors' Meet. He highlighted the event's significance, tracing its inception back to the 1980s and emphasizing its evolution into a cherished tradition that continues to strengthen global partnerships and foster meaningful dialogues.

He underscored the importance of such engagements in promoting international collaboration, trade, and investment opportunities. He extended heartfelt thanks to the Ambassadors, High Commissioners

Ambassadors' Meet is PHDCCI'S flagship event that has been held every year since its inception in 1998. The main objective of the Ambassadors' meet is to provide a platform for a direct interaction between the diplomatic community based in New Delhi, the Industry members of PHDCCI and the Government of India officials.

The Theme of Ambassadors' Meet "Fostering International Economic Cooperation" has remained the same since its inception and true to its meaning, it has given Indian Business Houses a platform to interact with the diplomats of the countries of their interest. Several of the State Governments in India have taken advantage of the gathering of the diplomatic community in the past to showcase their strengths and project their respective states as a significant contributor to the economic and trade relations of India with its partners. The meet is an opportunity to host several high ranking central government officials, state officials, heads of relevant government institutions and academia.





and the diplomats for their unwavering support, which plays a crucial role in deepening cultural, political, and economic relations between India and the global community. Their presence, he noted, reflects a shared commitment to mutual growth and cooperation. Additionally, he expressed sincere appreciation to sponsors and partners for their invaluable contributions, recognizing their pivotal role in enhancing the event's success and impact. He concluded by reiterating PHDCCI's commitment to fostering international cooperation and strengthening India's global economic footprint.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI

extended a warm welcome to the esteemed dignitaries, diplomats, and industry stalwarts, expressing deep appreciation for their presence and emphasizing the event's role in fostering global partnerships and meaningful dialogue.

He highlighted India's commitment to multilateral diplomacy as a pillar of international cooperation, trade, and economic development. He elaborated on how India's proactive global engagement creates opportunities across various sectors, reinforcing the nation's position in the world economy. He reaffirmed that the Ambassadors' Meet serves as a vital platform for high-level discussions, idea exchange, and strategic partnerships that drive mutual

growth and strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties.

Acknowledging the indispensable role of partners, he extended sincere gratitude for their continued support and contributions. He emphasized their crucial role in ensuring the success of PHDCCI's initiatives, particularly the 40th Ambassadors' Meet, which has grown into a distinguished platform for diplomatic and business engagement. He recognized their efforts in helping PHDCCI expand its outreach and impact and position India as a key hub for trade, investment, and international cooperation.

INDIA TO EMERGE AS A DEVELOPED NATION AND NUMBER ONE MILITARY POWER IN THE WORLD

Defence Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh laid out a compelling vision for a self-reliant and future-ready India at a Defence Conclave in New Delhi on April 17, 2025. With a clear focus on indigenisation, innovation, and global leadership, he declared that India is not only securing its borders but also positioning itself as a key player in the international defence ecosystem. "The day is not far when India will not only emerge as a developed country, but our Military Power will also emerge as number one in the world," said Mr. Singh. The revival and strengthening of the defence sector is one of the biggest priorities for the government. The government's first and foremost challenge is to change the mindset that India would simply import to meet its defence needs. India will reduce its dependency on imports and create a defence industrial complex that will not only meet India's needs but will also strengthen the potential of defence exports. The Make in India program is not only strengthening the country's defence production but also has the capability to make the global defence supply chain resilient and flexible. He further stated that while India's defence manufacturing capabilities are aimed at national security and strategic autonomy, they are also insulating manufacturing from global supply shocks.



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MULTI-SECTOR BUSINESS DELEGATION TO JAPAN

A 14-Member Multi-Sector Business Delegation led by Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI visited Japan, March 17-21, 2025 with the objective to strengthen bilateral trade relations, explore growth opportunities, and foster partnerships between Indian and Japanese businesses.

Day 1 Highlights

Meeting with Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Executive Vice President of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), along with their officials at Tokyo- The discussion focused on setting up alliances with Japanese companies.

Meeting with Mr. Jagmohan S. Chandrani, President, Indian Commerce and Industry Association of Japan- The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral trade relations and exploring collaboration across technology, manufacturing, and RE sectors.

Day 2 Highlights

Meeting with Officials of Mitsubishi Electric at Tokyo- Mr. Hideaki Hyodo, Senior Manager gave a presentation on the Mitsubishi group and their products and also showed different factories of Mitsubishi.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President,



PHDCCI highlighted PHDCCI's activities with the Mitsubishi group's officials.

Meeting with Mr. Takehiro Toba, MD, Daiwa Securities Co. Ltd. Mr Toba pointed out that Japanese companies are looking for investment in the Indian market.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI discussed the Indian

market scenario.

Meeting with officials of Mizuho Bank Ltd., at Tokyo- Mr. Katsumi Onishi, Director, Global Advisory Team 2 spoke about Mizuho Bank Ltd.'s specific products. The Bank supports Japanese companies as well as Indian companies. Mizuho Bank has acquired two companies

in India.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, discussed Mizuho Bank Ltd.'s activities.

Meeting with Mr. Yuki Kishi, Co-Founder, Sustainability Data Standardization Consortium, MD, Fintech Association of Japan, Tokyo- Mr. Yuki Kishispone spoke on Fintech Association of Japan and gave a presentation on 'Creating a community where people come and grow together and invest in new opportunities'.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI, highlighted on the various fintech companies working in India.

Day 3 Highlights

Meeting with Mr. Koichi Matsushita, Chairman of The Investment Trust Association, and Mr. Jun Sugis, Vice Chairman Japan, at Tokyo. Mr. Koichi Matsushita briefed about the Investment Trust Association and was looking for possibilities for investment in India.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI highlighted that Indian markets have more potential for investment, and it is giving good returns to foreign investors.

Meeting with Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) to Japan in their office at Tokyo- Mr. R. Madhu Sudan, Deputy Chief of Mission to Japan indicated about the various opportunities available between India and Japan across various sectors, notably in health and medical care, IT/ITES, transportation, power and energy, urban environment management, and agriculture.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI highlighted sectors of cooperation that existed between both nations in sectors like Electrical wires & Cables, Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals, IT/ITES, Green Energy, Textile, Automated products, FMCG, Finance, etc.

The delegation was invited



by Indian Embassy in Japan for a program on 'Make in India – The Next Big Opportunity: Collaborate, Invest, Grow.'

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI gave a presentation on the 'Outlook of the Indian Electrical Industry.'

Mr. Vishal Dhingra, Co-chair of Foreign Trade and Investment Committee, PHDCCI spoke on opportunities in Textile & Apparel Industry. Mr. Manish Agarwal, Managing Committee Member, PHDCCI highlighted on the prospects of real estate in India.

Dr. Jatinder Singh, DSG, PHDCCI spoke on 'Role of Chamber in India-

Japan Business Relations'.

Mr. Kiyoshi Shikano, Executive Vice President, Director, CEATEC invited PHDCCI members to collaborate with them in their upcoming IT, start-ups, and AI Exhibition in Tokyo.

Dr. Jatinder Singh, DSG, PHDCCI said that the delegation was happy to collaborate with CEATEC for further engagements.

Day 4 Highlights

Visit to Hitachi Plant in Nagoya- Mr. Yoshihiro Nakatani, General Manager, Hitachi highlighted Hitachi's activities and indicated



that their products have huge demand in emerging economies.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI highlighted there are requirements for these products in India.

Visit to Osaka Municipal University Hospital in Osaka- Mr. Takeshi Fukuda, Section Manager, Planning Division, Osaka Municipal University Hospital spoke about the hospital activities and the availability of highly advanced medical care in the hospital.

Mr. Vivek Seigell, SVP, Corporate Affairs, Apeejay Styra Svan Group, and member, PHDCCI discussed how Apeejay Styra Svan Group could collaborate with Osaka Municipal University Hospital on the operational aspects of the hospital. He looked forward to the engagement in terms of MoU, showing that it could benefit both countries.

The delegation attended a joint seminar on 'India-Japan Business Relations: Strengthening the Strategic Partnership for a Shared Future' hosted by Osaka Chamber



of Commerce and Industry (OCCI). Mr. Chandru Appar, Consul General of India, Osaka said that the Consulate Office helps Indian and Japanese businesses communicate with each other.

Mr. Setsuo Iuchi, President, OCCI highlighted the opportunities that exist between Japan and India. He urged Indian industries to collaborate with Japanese companies in sectors, such as IT/ITES, textiles, pharma, real-estate, engineering and electronic goods, gems and jewelry.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Vice President, PHDCCI outlined areas of collaboration between the two countries.

Mr. Manish Agarwal, Managing

Committee Member, PHDCCI gave a presentation on the prospects of real estate in India. Mr. Sandeep Agarwal, Founder, Mahadeva Esys Pvt. Ltd., Brand – D&J, spoke on opportunities in the Textile & Apparel Industry.

Meeting with Mr. Paramjit Chadha, President, ICCJ at Osaka- Mr. Paramjit Chadha suggested that ICCJ would like to collaborate with PHDCCI to advance their members' interests between India and Japan.

Mr. Anil Gupta, VP, PHDCCI outlined the areas of cooperation between the two nations. With the help of government measures, India is growing its export market and solidifying its standing as a trustworthy provider to the world.



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DEMYSTIFYING ESG AND SUSTAINABILITY IN SUPPLY CHAIN

The conference on 'Demystifying ESG and Sustainability in Supply Chain' held on March 5, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and experts to explore the critical role of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles in transforming supply chains. The event emphasized the need for responsible sourcing, carbon footprint reduction, and ethical supply chain management to drive long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

Inaugural Session Highlights:

Mr. Niraj, Director, PHDCCI emphasized the urgency of integrating ESG principles into supply chains amid global challenges like climate change and resource depletion. He highlighted the conference's focus on key challenges, opportunities, and strategies for sustainability.

During the Fireside Chat on ESG vs. Profitability: Bridging the Gap for Sustainable Growth, Mr. Bhaskar Chatterjee, Former DG, Indian Institute of Corporate



Affairs, Senior Adviser, Deloitte India and Dua Associates (Father of CSR) underscored the critical intersection of ESG and profitability, emphasizing that sustainable business practices are not just ethical imperatives but strategic drivers of long-term growth. He highlighted how companies adopt energy-efficient operations, responsible sourcing, and transparent ESG reporting gain a competitive edge, attract investor confidence, and enhance brand value. However, he also cautioned against greenwashing, stressing the need for measurable, data-backed sustainability efforts to build trust and ensure genuine impact. He urged businesses to move beyond compliance and integrate ESG as a core business strategy to drive both financial success and environmental responsibility. The session was moderated by Mr. Prateek Kanwal, Director, Deloitte.

Thematic Panel Discussions:

1. the session on Decarbonizing Global Supply Chains - Solutions & Strategies for Reducing Carbon Footprints was moderated by Mr. Inderjeet Singh, Partner, Climate Change & Sustainability, Deloitte India. Panelists included: Ms. Shweta Goela, Associate Vice President, Safexpress, Mr. Dipankar Bhattacharya, National Sales Head, VIP Industries Ltd., Mr. Abhishek Mukherjee, Senior Project Officer (Transport), SG-TRA, India Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank and Mr. Deepak Baidur, Project Manager, Smart and Climate-Friendly Logistics in India.

This session focused on practical solutions and strategies for reducing the carbon footprint of global supply chains. Experts discussed key approaches such as electrifying transportation, utilizing alternative fuels, and optimizing logistics routes to minimize



emissions.

2. The session on ESG Compliance - Turning Sustainability Mandates into Competitive Advantage was moderated by Mr. Abhishek P Rao, Founder, CEO & Director, CSRLSC & Advisor to the Chairman, RSA Global. Panelists included: Mr. Anil Mishra, National Logistics Head, Pladis Global, Mr. Udit Babbar, Founder, Pavitr Mittr, Mr. Dhritiman Chakraborty, Director Operations, Ingram Micro India Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Ranjit Kumar, National Head- Leasing, Pragati Warehousing and Mr. Nitin Mishra, Founder, Sustainovate Climate Solutions.

The session explored how organizations can turn Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance into a strategic advantage. By aligning business practices with sustainability mandates, companies can enhance their brand reputation, attract investors, and meet regulatory requirements while driving growth. Industry leaders shared insights into how ESG compliance can be integrated into corporate strategy, demonstrating that sustainable practices not only reduce risks but also open new business opportunities. The discussion emphasized the growing importance of ESG metrics in shaping consumer preferences and

investor decisions.

3. The session on ESG Culture Building - Going Beyond KPIs was moderated by Mr. Dhritiman Chakraborty, Director Operations, Ingram Micro India Pvt. Ltd. Panelists included: Ms. Sheetal Sharad, Chief Ratings Officer, ICRA ESG Ratings, Mr. Tarun Verma, PLM Planning Manager, SHELL India (Virtual), Mr. S.K. Jain, Former Executive Director, IGL, Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, Senior Secretary & Head, Centre for Sustainability, PHDCCI and Ms. Banaja Mishra, Co-Founder & COO, Freight Forwarding, CSRLSC

This session delved into the importance of building a robust ESG culture within organizations that goes beyond just tracking key performance indicators (KPIs). Speakers discussed how fostering a culture of sustainability involves embedding ESG values into the company's core operations and leadership mindset. The session highlighted the need for companies to build awareness and support for ESG initiatives internally, driving authentic change that resonates with employees, customers, and investors alike.

Mr. Mithlesh Kumar, Senior Secretary, PHDCCI proposed the vote-of-thanks to all the attendees.



B2B MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM DP WORLD, UAE

PHDCCI, in collaboration with JAFZA, UAE, organized an Interactive Session with the delegation from DP World from UAE on March 3, 2025 in PHD House.

Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, welcomed the delegation and provided an overview of PHDCCI's activities, with a special focus on international engagements.

Mr. Amitesh Misra, Director - Business Development, DP World GCC, expressed gratitude to PHDCCI for hosting the delegation. He presented UAE's economic potential and growth trajectory, emphasizing the importance of strengthening bilateral and multilateral relations, boosting trade, and enhancing B2B interactions to encourage investment. He also underscored the significance of investments under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and potential collaborations



in sectors such as oil & gas, logistics, warehousing, IT, and software.

Mr. Deon D'Mello, Senior Manager - Business Development (Parks & Zones), DP World, also extended his appreciation to PHDCCI for hosting the delegation. He outlined DP World's expansion strategy in India, focusing on the development of Free Trade Warehousing Zones (FTWZs) and the enhancement of cold chain logistics. He highlighted DP World's

collaboration with India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) through Hindustan Infralog Pvt. Ltd. (HIPL), an initiative aimed at investing up to USD 3 billion in the logistics sector. This strategic partnership led to the acquisition of 90% of Continental Warehousing Corporation, a key player in India's logistics landscape.

Mr. Sanjay Beswal, Co-chair, International Affairs Committee for GULF, PHDCCI in his vote-of-thanks assured the support of PHDCCI in all the endeavors of DP World in India especially in Tier 2 cities and suggested mounting a business delegation to Bharat Mart in near future.

The session was moderated by Mr. Niraj, Director - International Affairs Division, PHDCCI. A networking session and B2B meeting was also held.

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NATIONAL AGRI INPUT CONCLAVE

Concluding the second edition of its series, the Agribusiness Committee at PHDCCI organized the National Agri Input Conclave 2025 on March 25, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Mr. Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare urged farmers to get their soil tested to understand its specific needs and highlighted that research centres and FPOs are available to support them. He further appreciated the efforts of scientists, industrialists, and farmers and said that their hard work has made India self-reliant in many areas. While India is self-sufficient in grain production, challenges persist in pulses and oilseeds. Speaking on the fluctuating agricultural prices, he stressed the importance of focusing on high-value products. The Minister expressed that agriculture will be the biggest industry in the future and it requires greater attention and investment from the Industry.

Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, while deliberating on Government schemes, discussed the Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme and informed that nearly Rs. 3 lakh crore have been invested into the overall rural economy. He also appreciated



PHDCCI's efforts through such events in supporting the upliftment of farmers.

Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member, Niti Aayog pointed out that the agriculture sector in India is highly complex and diverse. Over the past 10-12 years, significant positive changes have taken place in this sector and given its potential, a fresh and updated approach is required. He further highlighted that despite COVID-19, the overall growth rate of the agriculture sector was 4%, with around six states recording growth above 5%. He urged farmers not to focus solely on MSP but also to demand support from the government for factors that drive growth, such as R&D, technology, monitoring systems for fake seeds, and a competitive market.

Dr. PK Singh, discussed that to become sustainable and self-reliant by 2047 informed about the Digital Agriculture Mission, where efforts are being made through Agri Stack to create a digital identity for farmers and Oilseed Mission, a seven-year program aimed at increasing production along with the value chain of oilseeds and pulses which are imported commodities.

Mr. Hemant Jain, President, PHDCCI, shared how PHDCCI has been working for the development of industry and trade for the past 120 years, with agriculture at the centre of its activities. He commended the government for initiatives like the National Food Security Act, Rashtriya Krishi Kisan Yojana, and Kisan Beema Yojana. He expressed confidence that the strategies and discussions held at the conclave

will further strengthen India's agriculture sector and empower our farmers for a sustainable future.

Dr. R. G. Agarwal, Chair, Agribusiness Committee, PHDCCI, emphasized the importance of research and suggested three key measures to empower farmers—providing them with proper training, ensuring fair pricing, and addressing the issue of counterfeit pesticides in the market.

Mr. Abhishek Aggarwal, President & COO, Bharat Group summarised the conclave and informed that a lot of innovation has been done by agro chemical industry and urged government support to hand hold industry for promoting farmer literacy and bring in lot of molecules in the agriculture industry.

Ms. Mili Dubey, ASG of PHDCCI concluded the conclave by urging partners and stakeholders to share their insights for the betterment of the sector.



OPTIMIZING CARBON TRADING IN INDIA

In the webinar on “Optimizing Carbon Trading in India: Approaches for Eco-Friendly Progress and Climate Mitigation through Emerging Technologies, Sustainable Finance & Market Stimulation” held on March 11, 2025, Mr. Dalal, Principal Consultant & Director - GRC & ESG Practice, eDelta Consulting, Inc., NY, USA delivered an insightful session on Decarbonization Strategy and Carbon Pricing in India and the role of Green Hydrogen in driving the decarbonization revolution to stimulate sustainable growth.

Ms. Umang Vats, Asia-Pacific Regional Analyst, UNEP FI shared her perspective on UNEP Finance Initiative's with banks, insurers and investors to foster a sustainable finance sector. She spoke on the ongoing Climate Mitigation Journey and its significance for financial institutions.

Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, Head of the Carbon Market Forum & Centre for Sustainability delivered the vote-of-thanks to the guests, while Mr. Mohit Kumar, Senior Assistant Secretary, and Ms. Shipra Shristy, Executive Officer, PHDCCI moderated the session.



AYURVEDA HEALTH CAMP



PHDCCI's AYUSH Committee in collaboration with Karma Ayurveda organized an Ayurveda Health Camp held on April 4, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi. The aim of organizing the Ayurveda Health Camp was to promote holistic health and well-being using the principles of Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine.

The inaugural session was graced with the presence of Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, Dr. Santosh Joshi, Chair, AYUSH Committee, PHDCCI & Head R&D, Hamdard Laboratories India and Dr. Puneet Dhawan, Co-chair, AYUSH Committee, Founder & Director, Karma Ayurveda. Dr. Nasir Jamal, Director, PHDCCI moderated the session.

A guest lecture by Dr. Puneet Dhawan, Co-chair, AYUSH



Committee, PHDCCI and Founder & Director, Karma Ayurveda spoke on the "Benefits of Diet Plan for Overall Health and Well-being." Dr. Dhawan explained that in Ayurveda, diet is considered one of the most powerful tools for maintaining health and preventing disease. It emphasizes that food is medicine, and when chosen wisely according

to one's body type and digestion strength, it can promote physical, mental, and emotional balance. A proper Ayurvedic diet helps in improving digestion, boosting immunity, enhancing energy levels, and maintaining a healthy weight.

The Health camp was well attended by various employees and members of PHDCCI.

SYMPOSIUM ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

A Global Symposium on Occupational Safety and Health: Risks and Strategies was held on April 5, 2025, organized by PHDCCI in association UN GCNI, IGFP-India, and CTAG/NLUD. The webinar focused on global and national strategies to strengthen workplace safety.

The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Ashish Wig, Chair, HR & IR Committee, PHDCCI, Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UN GCNI, Dr. Fuelleman (Switzerland), and Prof. Bimal Sahu, Director, Indo-German Focal Point.

Session 1 focused on Vision Zero – Global and National Strategies;

Session 2 focused on Policy and Institutional Perspectives. Session 3 focused on Legal and Enforcement Dimensions and Session 4 focused on Challenges and Solutions.

Dr. Somnath Singh, Deputy Director, UNGCNI delivered the vote-of-thanks to the delegates.



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COOPERATIVES AS ENGINES OF GROWTH: A STRATEGIC PATH TO VIKSIT BHARAT

PHDCCI, through its Task Force on Cooperatives, organized a summit on "Cooperatives as Engines of Growth: A Strategic Path to Viksit Bharat" on March 5, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi. The discussions focused on enhancing the efficiency, sustainability, and global competitiveness of cooperatives, aligning with India's vision of Viksit Bharat.

Mr. Vineet Nahata, Chair of the Task Force on Cooperatives, PHDCCI, highlighted the vital role of cooperatives in India's economic transformation, emphasizing PHDCCI's ongoing commitment to strengthening the sector. Mr. Nahata stressed the importance of leveraging technology, embracing digital transformation, and adopting innovative business models to boost cooperatives' impact, aligning with India's vision of "Viksit Bharat." He also acknowledged the contributions of the Ministry of Cooperation and other stakeholders, emphasizing the need for continued collaboration to unlock the full potential of the cooperative sector.



Mr. Vikrant Dogra, Chairman of The Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multistate Cooperative Society Ltd., spoke about the importance of integrating agriculture, allied sectors, and cooperatives for sustainable growth. He shared insights on the socio-economic impact of cooperatives, emphasizing that success lies in community participation and leadership.

Mr. Rajneesh Pandey, Director General Manager (Marketing) at IFFCO, highlighted cooperatives' vital role in India's economic development and rural

empowerment. He also discussed how the Government of India has taken significant steps to strengthen the sector, such as expanding cooperatives' presence in Panchayats and integrating them with digital platforms.

Mr. Ashok Thakur, Director at NAFED, reflecting on the success of Amul, pointed out that cooperatives can drive substantial change when built on trust and collaboration.

The summit featured three technical sessions: Corporate-Cooperative Connect explored synergies for collective growth;

Cooperative Education and Branding focused on strengthening cooperatives for global success, and Transforming FPOs & Cooperatives into Global Agri-Export Leaders highlighted strategies to enhance market linkages. Distinguished speakers shared valuable insights on innovation, education, and global competitiveness for cooperatives.

Mr. Santosh Shukla, General Manager, IFFCO, a strong advocate for the growth of India's cooperative sector, highlighted its crucial role in agriculture, fertilizer distribution, and rural entrepreneurship. He focused on empowering farmers and women through technology and generating employment opportunities.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Deputy CEO, NCUI, a leader in cooperative education and training, advocated for digitalization, youth involvement, and the cooperative sector's role in addressing social issues like waste management and renewable energy.

Dr. Vinay Kumar Chauhan, Chairman, National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited focused on labor rights and employment generation. He works to improve labor cooperatives, ensuring fair wages and better

conditions, in collaboration with the International Labor Organization.

Col. Himanshu, Senior Director, NCDC works on strengthening cooperatives by promoting leadership training, technology integration, and collaboration with the corporate sector. He advocated for empowering cooperatives to become world-class organizations and expand market reach.

Mr. V K Dubey, Managing Director, Cooperative Bank of India (COBI), emphasized the importance of cooperatives in rural development, particularly in providing financial support to the poor and empowering local communities. He highlighted successful models like Amul and IFFCO and stressed the need for agricultural cooperatives to create job opportunities and promote economic growth.

Mr. J.P. Singh Head CS, Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited discussed the growing success of cooperatives in agriculture, especially in seed production, and advocated for blending public, private, and cooperative sectors for greater efficiency and impact.

Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, Assistant Financial Advisor, NFCSF highlighted the significant role of cooperative sugar mills in India's

sugar industry, contributing to sugar exports. He called for greater focus on value-added products for global competitiveness.

Dr. S. K. Tehedur Rahaman, Director FPO Cell, NCDC, provided insights on the formation and support for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), emphasizing the importance of credit access, capacity building, and market linkages for FPO success.

Mr. Sandeep Saha, Manager, APEDA, focused on the challenges and opportunities in exporting fresh fruits and vegetables, including perishable goods, and stressed the importance of proper infrastructure and certification for export success.

Mr. Jyoti Swaroop, Director, Unati Agri Allied and Mkt. Multistate Cooperative Society Ltd., shared Unati Cooperative's vision for the future, focusing on empowering women through the "Unati Sister Model" and creating decentralized production systems.

Dr. Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General of PHDCCI, concluded the event with a vote-of-thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers and participants for their valuable insights and emphasizing the need for continued cooperation between industry and cooperatives.

RECENT AMENDMENTS TO CIRP AND LIQUIDATION REGULATIONS

The NCLT & IBC Committee of PHDCCI organized a virtual round table on "Recent Amendments to CIRP and Liquidation Regulations" on March 21, 2025. The session, was led by Mr. GP Madaan, Chair, NCLT & IBC Committee, PHDCCI. Participants discussed the IBBI discussion paper on 'Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons'.





INTERACTION WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

An interactive session & B2B Meetings with a delegation from the Czech Republic, focusing on Water & Waste Management was held on March 5, 2025 at the Embassy of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Niraj, Director - International Affairs Division, PHDCCI provided an overview of PHDCCI's activities to the delegates, with a special focus on international engagements.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI in his address highlighted India's commitment to multilateral diplomacy in strengthening international partnerships, particularly with the Czech Republic. He also underscored PHDCCI's role in fostering business linkages, promoting bilateral trade, and creating opportunities for Indian and Czech enterprises.

Mr. David Surý, Director General for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic led the delegation and discussed how India and the Czech Republic share strong trade relations. He highlighted the major sectors of collaboration between

the two countries, with India primarily exporting broadcasting equipment, pharmaceuticals, and aluminum, while the Czech Republic exports motor vehicle parts, liquid pumps, and machinery.

H.E. Ms. Eliška Segovia, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to India highlighted the strong ties between the two nations and also emphasized the importance of cultural exchange, innovation, and technological cooperation in strengthening bilateral relations. Furthermore, she expressed optimism about future joint ventures in key sectors such as manufacturing, education, and sustainable development, fostering a deeper and more dynamic partnership between the two countries.

Ms. Pavla Hosnedlová & Ms. Martina Foytlová both from the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic delivered a comprehensive presentation highlighting the country's strong commitment to environmental sustainability, climate action and green innovation.

Representatives from TGM Water Research Institute, EKO –

KOM, Elkoplast, and Bonno – Filbec Czech companies showcased expertise in environmental sustainability, waste management, and water conservation. TGM Water Research Institute discussed advanced water management and pollution control, while EKO – KOM highlighted recycling and circular economy models. Elkoplast introduced efficient waste management solutions, and Bonno – Filbec presented air filtration technologies.

Mr. Sunil Duggal, Head Of International Business, KENT RO System Private Limited discussed on the increasing demand for advanced filtration technologies such as RO, UV, and smart systems due to rising water quality concerns. He explored potential collaborations with Czech companies to strengthen India's water purification infrastructure and drive technological advancements in the sector.

Ms. Laura Vlachová, First Secretary, Embassy of the Czech Republic moderated the networking session.



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NAVIGATING EQUITY MARKETS & EMERGING THEMES

The Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI organized a conference on 'Navigating Equity Markets & Emerging Themes' on March 18, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Mr. B.K Sabharwal, Chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI in his opening remarks said that understanding the nuances of equity markets requires both a forward-looking perspective and a deep appreciation of historical patterns. He said that equity markets have undergone significant swings in the past also but have rebound to give decent returns to the investors.

Mr. Gurmeet Chadha, Co-chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI in his welcome address pointed out that based on historical data, Indian Stock Markets have not shown a downward trend lasting beyond 4-5 months and eventually bounce back to attain highs. The markets recover with even greater intensity as it declines, setting the stage for the next industrial revolution. He said that markets do get impacted by developments in the domestic economy including corporate tax



cuts; RBI infusing liquidity through rate cuts; increase in advance tax collection, among others. Global factors including China rolling out DeepSeek; performance of the US stock markets; Germany undertaking defence expenditure, among others also have an impact on the Stock Market sentiments leading to swings.

Mr. Aashish P Somaiyaa, Chief Executive Officer, WhiteOak Capital Asset Management Ltd. in his keynote address said that the markets have cyclical process like a pendulum. The deeper it falls, the higher it will eventually rebound. Its behaviour is largely driven by investor perceptions and greatest opportunities arise when the market is undervalued, offering a fair value. He said that visualisation

of markets in the correct perspective is important to understand the market behaviour. EPS is an indicator of the performance of any company and should be viewed to gauge the performance of any company. Any fall in the markets and investors losing wealth does not imply that the company has stopped growing. He said that all past corrections look like missed opportunities while the present is perceived as a threat.

Mr. Ankur Gupta, Co-chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI proposed the vote-of-thanks to the guests.

Mr. Mohit Luthra, ASG, PHDCCI moderated the session and expressed gratitude towards the speakers.



B2B MEETINGS WITH BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM VIETNAM

The International Affairs and Trade Fairs Division of PHDCCI organized an interactive session & B2B Meetings with a Business Delegation from Vietnam in collaboration with the Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi and Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam on March 26, 2025 at New Delhi.

Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, welcomed the delegation and provided an overview of PHDCCI's activities, with a special focus on international engagements. He spoke on PHDCCI's wide-ranging efforts, emphasizing its pivotal role in supporting business growth, fostering innovation, and promoting trade relations both within India and globally.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, during his special address stressed on India's commitment to multilateral diplomacy in strengthening international partnerships, particularly with Vietnam, a key strategic partner in Southeast Asia. He emphasized on the growing economic cooperation between India and Vietnam, focusing on trade, investment, technology, and emerging sectors,

such as renewable energy, digital economy, and infrastructure. He also underscored PHDCCI's role in fostering business linkages, promoting bilateral trade, and creating opportunities for Indian and Vietnamese enterprises.

Mr. Le Hong Minh, Director of Investment Promotion Center for Industry and Trade (Investprocen) in his special address stressed on the growing economic and trade relations between India and Vietnam, emphasizing their collaboration in key sectors, including food and agriculture. He noted that India exports pharmaceuticals, machinery, iron and steel, and a wide range of agricultural products such as spices, tea, coffee, and seafood to Vietnam, while Vietnam supplies India with electronics, textiles, cashew nuts, coffee, and processed foods. He focused on the increasing cooperation in the food and agriculture sector, highlighting Vietnam's demand for Indian grains, pulses, dairy, and spices, while Vietnam's aquaculture and processed food industry offer opportunities for Indian businesses. He also emphasized the need for modern farming techniques, food

processing, and cold chain logistics to enhance trade efficiency.

Mr. Bui Trung Thuong, Trade Counsellor, Trade Office, Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi highlighted the strong ties between India and Vietnam, anticipating significant rise in trade and tourism that would strengthen strategic partnerships and economic collaboration. He emphasized the importance of cultural exchange, innovation, and technological cooperation in deepening bilateral relations. Furthermore, he expressed optimism about future joint ventures in key sectors such as agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, education, and sustainable development, fostering a more dynamic and long-term partnership between the two nations.

The session was followed by B2B Meetings between 27 Vietnamese Companies and 70 Indian Companies representing Food and Beverages, Manufacturing (PU Foam, Mechanical Products, Aluminum, Freezers, Refrigerators, Air Coolers, etc.) and Logistics sector providing further opportunities for participants to connect and explore potential collaborations.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENT GOAL- 4

In a concerted effort to drive impactful change in the education sector, PHDCI organized a Conclave on SDG 4 on March 24, 2024 at PHD House, New Delhi, bringing together distinguished experts, policymakers, and stakeholders. Focused on Collaborating for Quality Education: Innovations, Partnerships & Impact, the Conclave provided a dynamic platform for discussions on the role of multi-sector partnerships in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4).

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCI highlighted the indispensable role of NGOs in driving innovation and creating a lasting impact in the education sector. He emphasized that NGOs, with their grassroots connections and deep community engagement are well-positioned to address the challenges in the education sector and deliver meaningful changes.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Sharma, Professor (Economics), Dept. of Management Studies, IIT Delhi, underscored the urgency of improving India's SDG rankings, where the country currently stands at 109th position among

166 nations. She stressed that education is the foundation of all other SDGs, shaping societal and environmental awareness. She advocated for a tripartite collaboration model involving NGOs, the corporate sector, and the government, leveraging corporate social responsibility funding for impactful educational initiatives.

Ms. Anuradha Goel, Chairperson, PHD Family Welfare Foundation (PHDFWF), reiterated the importance of SDG 4 in unlocking human potential and fostering a sustainable and just society. With India's demographic advantage of a youthful population, she emphasized the need for comprehensive improvements in health, education, and skill development. She shared PHDFWF's successful track record in community development, skill training, and family welfare initiatives over the past 35 years, reaffirming their commitment to advancing education and development at the grassroots level.

Prof. Sridhar Srivastava, Joint Director, NCERT emphasized the importance of collaboration among institutions and stakeholders to

ensure that every child receives a holistic education. He pointed out that parents must be recognized as key stakeholders in the education ecosystem, as their awareness and involvement can significantly impact students' learning experiences and outcomes.

Mr. Amitabh Ranjan, Registrar, Indian Institute of Public Administration provided a historical perspective on India's deep-rooted educational legacy, citing ancient institutions like Nalanda and Takshila. He emphasized the urgent need for continuous teacher training programs to maintain quality education in the evolving digital era.

The conclave requested stakeholders to collaborate more effectively, leverage available resources, and adopt innovative approaches to ensure quality education for all. The discussions reinforced that achieving SDG 4 is pivotal in realizing India's broader developmental aspirations and global commitments. The conclave was supported by Pustak Mahal, further strengthening the commitment towards enhancing educational opportunities and resources.

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PRACTICAL INSIGHTS ON GST & CUSTOMS LITIGATION

The Indirect Taxes Committee of PHDCCI organized a seminar on “Practical Insights on GST & Customs Litigation” on March 24, 2025 at New Delhi.

Mr. Pramod Kumar Rai, Chair, Indirect Tax Committee, PHDCCI in his theme presentation highlighted numerous issues relating to omnipresent officer of the customs at the port and officers of customs appointed under Customs Act 1962. He explained Section 2 (33), Section 11A and Section 11H. He also elaborated on Section 46, related to entry of goods on importation and Section 50 related to entry of goods on exportation. He described Section 2 (39), which is smuggling in relation to goods means any act or omission which will render such goods liable to confiscation under Section 111 or Section 113.

Ms. Shivam Mehra, Director, Lakshmi Kumaran & Sridharan delivered a presentation on relief by judicial forums in matters of investigation/enquiry, search, seizures and

summons. He described how to handle GST investigations, adjudication process, self-assessment, assessment, audit and investigation, determination of tax liability, pre-show cause notice, order and appeal, etc. Further he spoke on the role of taxpayers and CAs and the power of tax officers.

Mr. Tushar Aggarwal, Co-Founder, Tattvam Advisor in his presentation spoke about application of input service distributon. He also narrated the concept of ISD and Cross Charges, application of ISD and cross charges, Manner of distribution of ITC in ISD mechanism, Challenges in implementation of ISD mechanism and its way forward.

Mr. Yogesh Gaba, Managing Partner, GABA & Co., gave an overview about recent judgements on input tax credit. He explained the turnover differences in GSTR-9, GSTR-1, GSTR-9C and GSTR-3B. Under article 265, no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. Section 9 (1) of

CGST Act stated that a tax called central goods and service tax on all inter-state supplies of goods and services shall be levied. He further described Section 75 of CGST Act. And ITC reversal in case of exempt services.

Ms. Neha Jain, Partner, Dhruva Advisors presented issues on customs HSN, classification, FTA benefits and its valuation. Various contents of the subject matters such as objectives of classification, tariff determination, rate of duty, eligibility/ validity of exemption, benefits under PTA/FTA and eligibility for benefits under FTP were explained by Ms. Jain.

Mr. Ajeet Kumar, IRS, Commissioner, CGST, the Guest of Honour of the seminar, gave a practical example about the law and working system of the GST Department and how the Department can support the taxpayer to mitigate their assessment.



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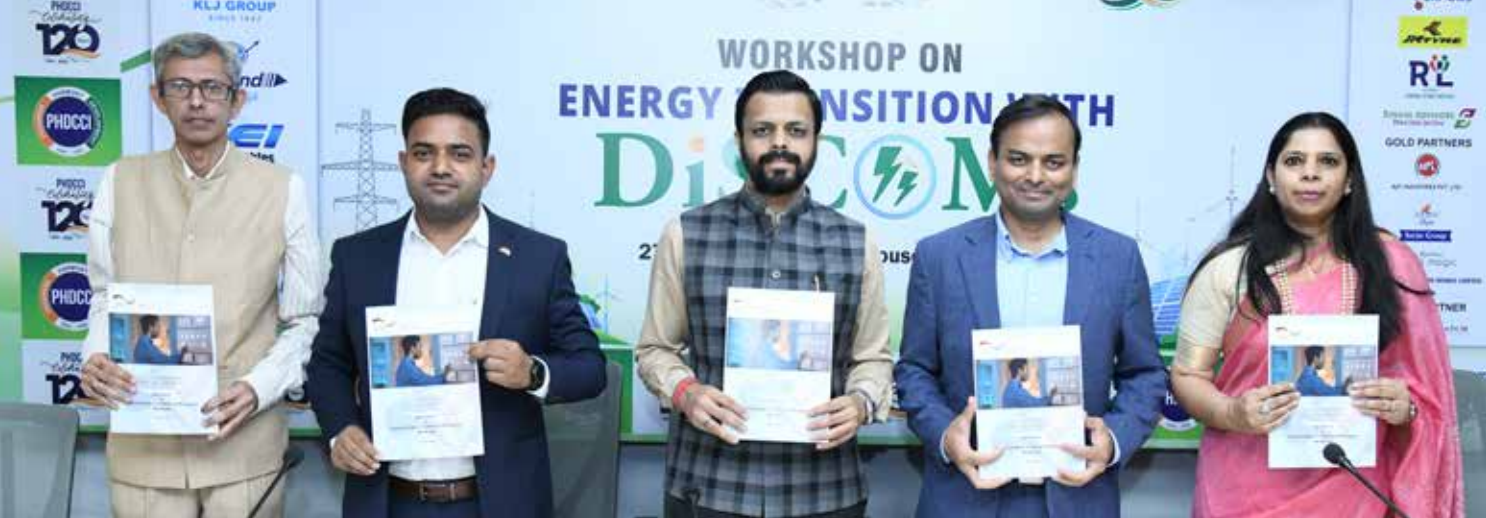
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ENERGY TRANSITION WITH DISCOMS

The Power Committee PHDCCI with GIZ as the Knowledge Partner organized a workshop on 'Energy Transition with DISCOMs' on March 27, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Chief Guest, Mr. Abhishek Ranjan, CEO, BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., in his address stated that DISCOMs are the link between grid and customers and have the most important role to play in sustainability in the power sector. He spoke about the Energy Trilemma – Energy Security-Energy Equity and Energy Sustainability with affordability. He gave a brief about BRPL's initiatives in promotion of RE and informed that they have now started installing energy storage projects in Delhi, which are essential for creating sustainable DISCOMs and are signing Green PPAs as also adding distributed RE. As a next step, he suggested District Cooling and Cooling-as-a-Service in new colonies to decongest the grid. He termed Peer-to-Peer power trading as a game changer and called for creating an energy trading system (UEI) on the lines of UPI to create equitable and sustainable power distribution in India.

Mr. Salil Gupta, Chair, Power Committee, PHDCCI, stated that despite significant reforms over the past decades, many DISCOMs continue to struggle with financial viability, operational inefficiencies, and the complex task of balancing



social obligations with commercial sustainability. He announced that PHDCCI and GIZ will work together for the promotion of RE and smooth energy transition.

Mr. P R Kumar, Co-chair, Power Committee, PHDCCI & MD & CEO, Noida Power Company Ltd. said that DISCOMs should take a lead in RPO compliance for which grid infra needs to be modernised. DISCOMs have to act as an enabler for energy transition and collaboration between DISCOMs, industry, regulators and policy makers is required for creating financially strong and sustainable DISCOMs in India.

Mr. Kuldeep Sharma, Head – Energy Transition with DISCOMs, GIZ INDIA, gave an overview about the initiatives of GIZ in transforming DISCOMs in India. He informed that GIZ has worked with 13 states and 26 DISCOMs in India and has been supporting the decarbonisation journey in India in the transport and energy sector. He conveyed that India can only achieve net zero by 2070 goal if the DISCOMs are sustainable.

A handbook on Implementation of Demand Response Measures was also released at the workshop.

Speakers at the technical sessions included Mr. Kulbhushan Kumar, Partner, Grant Thornton Bharat LLP; Mr. Aniket Borse, Senior Consultant – Technology & Transformation, Deloitte India; Mr. Nirmal Dubey, Associate Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP; Mr. Anil Thomas, Principal Consultant, DNV; Mr. Anket Kapoor, CEO, Solarfix; Mr. Rishabh Dev Bajaj, Founder and CEO, Volt Energy; Mr. Sunil Bhatnagar, National President - Zero Emissions, International Federation of Electric Vehicles Association; Ms. Shubra Thakur, Country Director, Long Duration Energy Storage Council and Mr. Ajeet Singh, Associate Fellow, TERI.

Ms. Mili Dubey, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI moderated the inaugural session, while Mr. Punit Chaudhry, Secretary, PHDCCI, moderated the technical sessions.

GIZ was the Knowledge Partner, while TERI was the Supporting Partner for the workshop.



MAHARASHTRA'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONCLAVE 2025

PHDCCI's Infrastructure and Road Development Committee, in collaboration with the Hydrocarbons Committee, PHDCCI Maharashtra State Chapter, and PHDCCI Railways Committee organized the Maharashtra Green Infrastructure Conclave 2025 on March 27, 2025, at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai. The conclave, themed "Viksit Bharat 2047 – Maharashtra's Green Yatra to USD 1 Trillion GSDP by 2028," served as a strategic platform to address key challenges and opportunities in Maharashtra's infrastructure sector.

The discussions emphasized the pivotal role of innovation in driving sustainable development, harnessing green and futuristic technologies to optimize resource allocation, enhance efficiency, and minimize environmental impact, and integrating sustainable transportation solutions to transform Maharashtra's logistics and connectivity ecosystem. The collective vision is to position Maharashtra as the first state in India to achieve the milestone of a USD 1 trillion economy by 2028.

Chief Guest, Mr. Pramod L. Bongirwar, Former Principal Secretary, PWD, Government of Maharashtra, underscored the importance of adopting innovative and futuristic technologies in infrastructure development.



He highlighted that sustainable construction practices, as seen in landmark projects, like the Maharashtra Mahasamriddhi Marg and Mumbai-Pune Expressway have significantly reduced project costs while minimizing environmental and societal impact.

Mr. Sudhir Hoshing, Chair, PHDCCI Infrastructure and Road Development Committee, emphasized the urgent need to tackle pressing environmental challenges, including rising temperatures, urban floods, depleting groundwater, and deteriorating air quality. He asserted that smart, sustainable solutions integrating nature with

modern. The inaugural session was followed by the plenary session on the themes: Sustainable and Futuristic Technologies for Infrastructure Development; Decarbonization and Sustainable Urban Infrastructure; Sustainable Mobility & Multimodal Connectivity; Pioneering Green Infrastructure in Railways; Aviation & Logistics and Harnessing Growth through Maritime Infrastructure.

The conclave was moderated by Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI. This high-impact event reaffirmed Maharashtra's commitment to sustainable infrastructure, positioning the state as a frontrunner in India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.



ADVANCING THE DRONE ECOSYSTEM TOWARDS VIKSIT BHARAT

PHDCCI Civil Aviation Committee organized a two day Bharat Drone Manthan 2.0, March 11-12, 2025 at PHD House. The Expo was themed 'Advancing The Drone Ecosystem Towards Viksit Bharat' & aimed at fostering Innovation, Indigenization, Investment & Industry Integration.

Mr. Shekhar Dutt, Member IIPA & Former Governor, Chhattisgarh ; Former Dy NSA & Secretary NSCS ; Former & Defence Secretary graced the inaugural session along with Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India & Major General C. S. Mann, AVSM, VSM, Additional Director General, Army Design Bureau (ADB). Dr. Manish Pande , Director & Head of Project Analysis and Documentation Division, (PAD Division)-Quality Council of India; Mr. Michael Jain, Co-Chair, PHDCCI; Dr. Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & SG, PHDCCI & Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI.

Mr. Shekhar Dutt shared that at present, drones weighing less than 250 grams do not need permits or approval. He said we should evaluate whether this can be regulated, as such drones can be misused. Regulations are needed to prevent the exploitation of drones' offensive capabilities. He further



said that drones have multiple uses and suggested using them for tasks such as estimating traffic jams and diverting traffic, cleaning solar modules, and monitoring the atmosphere. Mr. Dutt added that Drones have significant capabilities in defence, aerial monitoring, early warning mechanisms, and operations & while designing

drones, one must consider the point of view of the user. This will help in designing drones accordingly and identifying areas that require changes and upgrades he opined.

Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation, while complimenting PHDCCI for organizing the second edition of the Drone Manthan



shared that the drone industry is poised for a quantum leap and has an immense revenue potential. Further discussing on the 'Drone Didi' initiative, he emphasized how it empowers women and optimizes the utilization of fertilizers and pesticides. Mr. Srivastava also spoke about the innovative use of drones in the floods of Andhra Pradesh, land mapping by the Panchayati Raj Ministry, and highway surveys. Mr. Srivastava also appreciated the government's role as a market maker and informed that the private sector demand is not picking up at the same pace, despite the private sector being the biggest contributor to GDP. He further urged that the sector must recognize its potential. He assured the industry that the Government is focusing on the growth of this sector & rules for drone exports have been relaxed to promote indigenization for development and security requirements. Mr. Srivastava further requested everyone to ensure that regulations are not flouted and the industry works towards the indigenization of this sector.

"The military goal is to have a drone for every soldier and establish drone incubation hubs at all military stations," said, Major General C. S. Mann, AVSM, VSM, Additional Director General, Army Design Bureau. He said one must consider Counter-strength measures for Drones to contribute towards Viksit Bharat. Citing the example of the recent Ukraine-Russia conflict, drones became a



game changer in warfare tactics due to their capability, flexibility, and versatility in operations. He opined that tanks have their own relevance, but the capability of drones is significant, and we need to use them for target strikes and precision attacks.

Major General C. S. Mann while talking about the challenges

being faced in this arena, shared that the major challenge for the Indian Army is high-altitude areas, where operational and terrain conditions are very different & the batteries dry out very fast due to the peculiarities of the Himalayas and the varied atmosphere, with the machine's performance going down by 50%. He believed that the



industry will gradually be able to meet this requirement and improve drone performance in battlefields as drone stability is crucial in these challenging situations. Speaking on how drones can contribute towards the Viksit Bharat vision, he emphasised that we need to think beyond and consider counter-strength measures, for Viksit Bharat. And this vision will only be possible with Surakshit Bharat. He further emphasized on indigenization and national security issue to avoid vulnerabilities and evolve a framework that can mitigate security risks, as the capability exists, but the problem is awareness. He advised industry bodies like PHDCCI to map the entire industry's capabilities and create awareness through such events, while also considering an industry consortium approach.

Dr Manish Pande, Director & Head of Project Analysis and Documentation Division (PAD Division)-Quality Council of India, discussed on the conformity assessment framework to ensure due diligence in quality certification. He informed, the criteria include staking a lot of inputs from a multi-stakeholder committee and further briefed on the cybersecurity

aspect, mentioning that they are in discussion with DGCA to look into it.

Mr. Michael Jain, Co-chair, PHDCCI presented the vote of thanks and discussed that immense prowess of drone for India is huge and the opportunities are immense, indigenization is a must and urged everyone to think large.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, while discussing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, emphasized that technology is a key driver in realizing this vision and accelerating growth. He highlighted that India currently has around 65 million MSMEs and the third-largest startup ecosystem, with 110 unicorns—demonstrating immense entrepreneurial potential. He further noted that drones present new opportunities for innovation and development. He further discussed how drones can play a role in mapping afforestation, precision agriculture, and deforestation, while also have drone corridors in the logistics sector, serving the last mile & deliver critical medicines. The country is full of talented people, and this technology can play an important role and truly be one of our strengths, concluded Dr. Mehta.

Day 2 of the Bharat Drone Manthan was graced by Mr. Maneesh Kumar, Jt. DG, DGCA, Directorate General of Civil Aviation as the Guest of Honour; Dr Manish Pande, Director & Head of Project Analysis and Documentation, Division (PAD Division)- Quality Council of India; Mr. Smit Shah, President, DFI; Mr. Brijesh Kumar Awasthi, JS, Min Of Agriculture & Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI. The session saw presentations from various partners & exhibitors. Wg Cdr Satyam Kushwaha (Retd), Founder & Director, Chakra Dialogues Foundation, the knowledge partner shared the objective & future focus of the foundation in this space. The Exhibitors & Partners were also felicitated by the Guest of Honour.

The two-day panel discussions saw the presence of various Industry stalwarts from the Armed Forces & Private Industry addressing the challenges & sharing their recommendations for the growth of this industry.

The expo also saw showcasing of the latest drones; drone technologies & the allied sector innovations & was visited by more than 400 people.



EVOLUTION OF CARBON CREDITS FOR MSMEs - POST COP 29

PHDCCI organized a seminar on 'Evolution of Carbon Credits for MSMEs – Post COP 29' on March 5, 2025 at PHD House, New Delhi for understanding Carbon Credits for MSMEs post COP 29.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI in his introductory address said that the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises can generate additional revenue from carbon credits while reducing their carbon footprint.

Dr JP Gupta, Chair, Environment & Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI said that reducing emissions helps MSMEs align with global sustainability goals and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Also carbon credits are important for MSMEs because they offer financial, environmental, and strategic benefits.

Mr. Vinamra Mishra, Director (GA&TP), Ministry of MSME said that promoting carbon credits in India requires collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including the government, private sector, financial institutions, and civil society.

Dr. Anjali Jain, Consultant Grade-2, NITI Aayog said that MSMEs can sell excess carbon credits to large corporations and this will create an extra income stream while promoting sustainability. NITI Aayog has undertaken several initiatives to advance carbon credit



mechanisms and support the country's transition to a low-carbon economy.

Dr R K Malhotra, President, Hydrogen Association of India said that India needs more Clean Energy and it is actively integrating carbon credit mechanisms with its green hydrogen initiatives to promote a low-carbon economy.

Mr. Rakesh Sarin, Co-Founder & Director, U Turn Carbon said that MSMEs should have a sustainable plan and should measure their ecological footprint.

Mr. Saurabh Diddi, Director, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, (BEE) Ministry of Power highlighted that BEE is actively involved in capacity building and engaging with stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of carbon markets.

Ms. Sunita Mantri, CMD, Enkay Enviro Services Private Limited said that many MSMEs lack comprehensive knowledge about carbon credit mechanisms and their benefits, leading to hesitation

in participation. Also limited access to finance hampers the ability of MSMEs to invest in the necessary technologies for generating carbon credits.

Mr Umesh Sahdev, Co-chair, Environment & Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI highlighted that process of verifying and certifying carbon credits can be intricate and resource-intensive, posing a challenge for MSMEs with constrained capacities.

There was a technical session which was chaired by Mr. Umesh Sahdev, Co-chair, Environment & Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI. Speakers included Mr Sagar Midha, Manager - Inside Sales, Logic Ladder, Mr Surendran D, Chief Commercial Officer, Maxbyte Technologies, Mr Archit Batra, Head - New Business Initiatives, Fair Climate Fund, Dr. Ajay Jha, CEO, Enkay Enviro Services Private Limited and Mr Mahendra Rustagi, Co-chair, Environment and Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI.



BUSINESS DELEGATION TO MAURITIUS

PHDCCI, International Affairs Division mounted a High Level delegation to Mauritius, March 23-26, 2025 to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties with Mauritius, with a focus on the healthcare sector.

India and Mauritius share a long-standing and deep-rooted historical relationship. Their robust healthcare partnership was further reinforced in 2025 through an Enhanced Strategic Partnership at an opportune time following Hon'ble Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's state visit, March 11-12, 2025 to Mauritius.

The delegation met H.E. Mr. Anil Kumar Bachoo, Hon'ble Minister of Health, Government of Mauritius, Port Louis on March 24, 2025. He appreciated PHDCCI's enhanced cooperation in maritime security, trade, digital health and traditional medicine, AI, and cultural connectivity, highlighting the shared vision for sustainable growth and mutual prosperity.

The delegation met Mr. Sawan Singh Purmessur, Acting Senior Chief Executive, Ministry of Health and Wellness on March 24, 2025, Port Louis, Mauritius. He discussed the expanding opportunities for collaboration between India and Mauritius in the healthcare sector.



The delegation met Mr. Vimarsh Aryan, Deputy High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, at the High Commission of India, Mauritius. The discussions focused on the growing potential in healthcare, medical tourism, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

Dr Drishty Singh Ramdennee, Secretary-General, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted the strengthened partnership in

healthcare and wellness sectors, underscoring the potential for collaborative initiatives and investment opportunities between the two nations.

At the luncheon meeting and B2B hosted by the Hindu Business Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Professionals (HBCCIP), Mr. Shardanand Beeharry, President, HBCCIP, highlighted the expanding opportunities in Mauritius' healthcare and wellness sectors.



At the interactive session hosted by Indian Business Council (IBC), on March 26, 2025, Dr. Suresh Nanda, President, IBC, highlighted the vast potential for Indian healthcare businesses in Mauritius, emphasizing telemedicine, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and holistic wellness solutions.

The delegation also attended a session with the Economic Development Board (EDB), Mauritius. Mr. Sanjay Bhunjun, Chairman, EDB, encouraged Indian businesses to invest in Mauritius' healthcare sector, focusing on pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and medical research.

The delegation visited Victoria General Hospital, Port Louis on March 25, 2025, wherein Mr. Dalip Chopra, Leader of the Delegation and Co-chair, International Affairs Committee for Africa, PHDCCI, emphasized on international healthcare collaboration. The hospital representatives showcased their expertise in specialized treatments, medical research, and patient care, highlighting the potential for joint initiatives to enhance healthcare services in both countries.

The delegation also met representatives of New Cancer Hospital, Port Louis, where Mr.

Dalip Chopra emphasized India's advancements in oncology and digital health solutions.

The PHDCCI Business Delegation successfully reinforced India-Mauritius economic and healthcare collaborations, fostering partnerships in telemedicine, pharmaceuticals, and medical research. This visit reaffirmed India's commitment to Mauritius' healthcare sector and strengthened its outreach into Africa. As both nations continue to explore synergies, this partnership is set to contribute significantly to regional healthcare transformation and economic growth.



GI MAHOTSAV: PROMOTING INDIA'S HERITAGE THROUGH GI PRODUCTS

PHDCCI organized a three-day GI Mahotsav: Promoting India's Heritage through GI Products an initiative by the Ministry of MSME, March 21-23 2025 at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The event featured products from 15 states, with diversified range of GI-certified products, including Bengal Kantha, Kashmir's Pashmina, Maheshwari Sarees, Chamba Rumal, Kangra Painting, Madhubani Painting, Black Pottery, Mysore Soap and Agarbathi, Kannauj Perfumes and many other traditional artisan products from different regions.

This GI Mahotsav marked a significant milestone in promoting GI Products of our country's rich cultural heritage and economic potential. Through collaborative efforts, the event brought together artisans, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders to showcase the diverse range of Geographical Indication (GI) products, highlighting their unique qualities and traditional craftsmanship.

Day 1: On this occasion, a conference of stakeholders including senior officials from the Government participated and addressed the exhibitors.



Dr Rashmi Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner, J&K in her inaugural address mentioned that she herself is a great proponent of GI products and complimented PHDCCI & the Ministry of MSME, for organizing this GI Mahotsav which has provided an excellent opportunity to the GI product

manufacturers from all over the country to showcase and market their products.

She pointed out that this sector is relatively new, and not many people are aware of GI products. And thus it is crucial to promote these schemes through conferences to create awareness.



Prof. (Dr) Unnat P. Pandit, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM), RoC, GI & SICLDR, DPIIT, MoC&I in his address informed that as a GI registrar, it is truly a privilege to witness the exhibition of diversified GI products and interact with the artisans. He discussed that it has been 20 years since the GI Act was enacted, and so far, 650 GI products have been registered. He further highlighted that efforts are being made to bring GI products into every household through the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative and the GeM portal.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General, PHDCCI, while welcoming the dignitaries mentioned that India is proud of its incredible variety of GI-tagged products across multiple sectors. These include traditional textiles, handicrafts, agricultural goods, and food products, each deeply tied to

the culture and heritage of their regions.

Mr Vinod Karwa, Chair, MSME Committee PHDCCI, appreciated the Ministry of MSME giving PHDCCI this opportunity to host the 3-day GI Mahotsav, bringing together the artisans and manufacturers of GI products from across the country.

Mr D P Goel, Co-chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts in harnessing the full potential of GI products to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Dr H P Kumar, Advisor, PHDCCI and Former CMD, NSIC highlighted the various government schemes and policies that have been initiated to promote new business enterprises and facilitate MSMEs to grow and build sustainable businesses.

Dr R K Bharti, Joint Director, HOO, MSME-DFO, Okhla, New Delhi,

Ministry of MSME highlighted the importance of intellectual property rights and GIs which bring together cultural heritage and traditional art from different regions. He mentioned that the Ministry of MSME is providing various support services for the promotion of the GI product and this GI Mahotsav is a part of the Ministry's initiative.

Dr S S Acharya, CMD, NSIC offered to extend NSICs support services to GI participating units for their technology development and building competitive strength in the global market.

Day 2: The day-2 featured a technical Session on 'Legal aspects of GIs, Enforcement of GI' and also covered on-boarding of GI products on GeM platform. Mr. Santanu Mitra, Senior Economic Adviser, Ministry of Corporate Affairs graced the occasion.

Mr D P Goel, Co-chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI in his welcome

address highlighted the importance of GIs and its role in boosting local economies, and ensuring consumers can make informed choices about authentic goods.

Dr. H.P. Kumar, Former CMD, NSIC and Advisor, PHDCCI chaired the technical session and mentioned that besides the objective of showcasing GI products for marketing, promotion, sales and marketing, this session would help participating GI units to connect with other stakeholders like banks, GeM, IPR advisors. He also apprised about PHDCCI's Intellectual Property Rights Facilitation Centre, whereby participants can seek assistance for various IPR related queries and registration.

Mr Gaurav Gogia from United and United IPR in his address, touched upon the various types of IPRs and the procedure for registration of GI and covered ways to enforce GI.

Mr Tushar Agarwal, from GeM in his address highlighted the importance of on-boarding products on GeM platform for

public procurement. He also shared the pre-requisite for registration and explained steps to register in detail.

Day 3: Mr Vinamra Mishra, Director, Ministry of MSME graced the valedictory session, wherein he appreciated the 16 states that participated and exhibited 70 products from all over India. He encouraged the GI artisans to focus on their quality and price to penetrate in the International markets and assured the support of the Ministry of MSME. Further, he apprised that the Ministry will soon organize International GI programmes in India with the support of leading Industry Associations like PHDCCI and conduct Reverse Buyer and Seller Meets.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI in his introductory address thanked the Ministry of MSME for their unwavering support in organizing the GI Mahotsav. He mentioned that India should have GI products in each district so that filing of GI

products increase. He mentioned that PHDCCI IPFC helps in filing and registration of IP applications and asked MSME participants to take maximum benefit of the MSME Innovative Scheme.

Mr Vinod Karwa, Chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI in his address highlighted the importance of GI tagged products and maintaining rich cultural heritage. He further informed that it is important to register more GI products to meet the target of registering 10,000 GI tagged products.

Mr Ashutosh Makup, Director, National Productivity Council in his address apprised the participants that skills are important to maintain the quality of traditional crafts. He mentioned that maintaining quality and keeping competitive pricing of products will help these crafts to scale up in the international markets.

The GI Mahotsav concluded with an exhibition, discussions, cultural performances, and networking opportunities.

CBIC issues instructions for processing applications for GST registration

Several grievances were received by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, regarding difficulties being faced by applicants during the GST registration process, mainly on account of queries raised by officers on the grounds of seeking additional documents. To resolve these grievances and to smoothen GST registration process, CBIC has issued instructions on April 17, 2025 (Instruction No. 03/2025-GST) to the officers for processing GST registration applications. Officers have been instructed to strictly adhere to the prescribed list of documents provided in registration application form. Requisite documents in specific cases to be uploaded with registration application form have also been delineated in the instructions. Officers have been directed not to issue notices based on presumptive grounds, minor discrepancies, or for additional documents that are not essential for processing applications. Officers have been also directed to seek approval of the concerned Deputy/Assistant Commissioner in cases where document apart from the listed documents is required to be sought. This will further facilitate in the process of getting GST registration, ease compliance burden, and promote ease of doing business. Follow the following links for detailed instructions:

[HTTPS://TAXINFORMATION.CBIC.GOV.IN/VIEW-PDF/1000532/ENG/INSTRUCTIONS](https://taxinformation.cbic.gov.in/view-pdf/1000532/eng/instructions)



PHDCCI

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Water Audit



**Impact Assessment
of CSR Projects**



**Environment Social
Governance (ESG)**



**Electrical and Fire Safety
Risk Assessments and
Management**



**Alliance for Water
Stewardship (AWS)**



**Business Responsibility
and Sustainability
Report/auditing (BRSR)**

**GHG Inventory
Preparation
and Verification**



**Occupational Health and
Hygiene**



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GLOBAL CONNECT WITH BHARATIYA RANG 2025

PHDCCI's (Creative Team) organized a spectacular art exhibition namely, 'Global Connect with Bharatiya Rang 2025,' that celebrated the vibrant spirit of Indian art. Held in collaboration with the 40th Ambassadors Meet at the Oval Mansion, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Delhi, on March 7, 2025, the event brought together Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Diplomats, Government Officials, and Industry Members.

The exhibition showcased the remarkable works of 10 exceptionally talented artists from Delhi NCR, as well as fine arts students of Apeejay School

International - An IB World School, Panchsheel Vihar, New Delhi, who were appreciated by PHDCCI's Leadership, former presidents, and esteemed guests. This cultural extravaganza not only highlighted India's rich artistic heritage but also demonstrated PHDCCI's commitment to promoting creative excellence.

The 40th Ambassadors' Meet had participation of 125 diplomats representing 70 countries, Former Presidents of PHDCCI, senior government officials, Patron & Star Members of PHDCCI and Industry Stalwarts.



