



PHDCCI BULLETIN

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Empowering Viksit Bharat

- President, PHDCCI

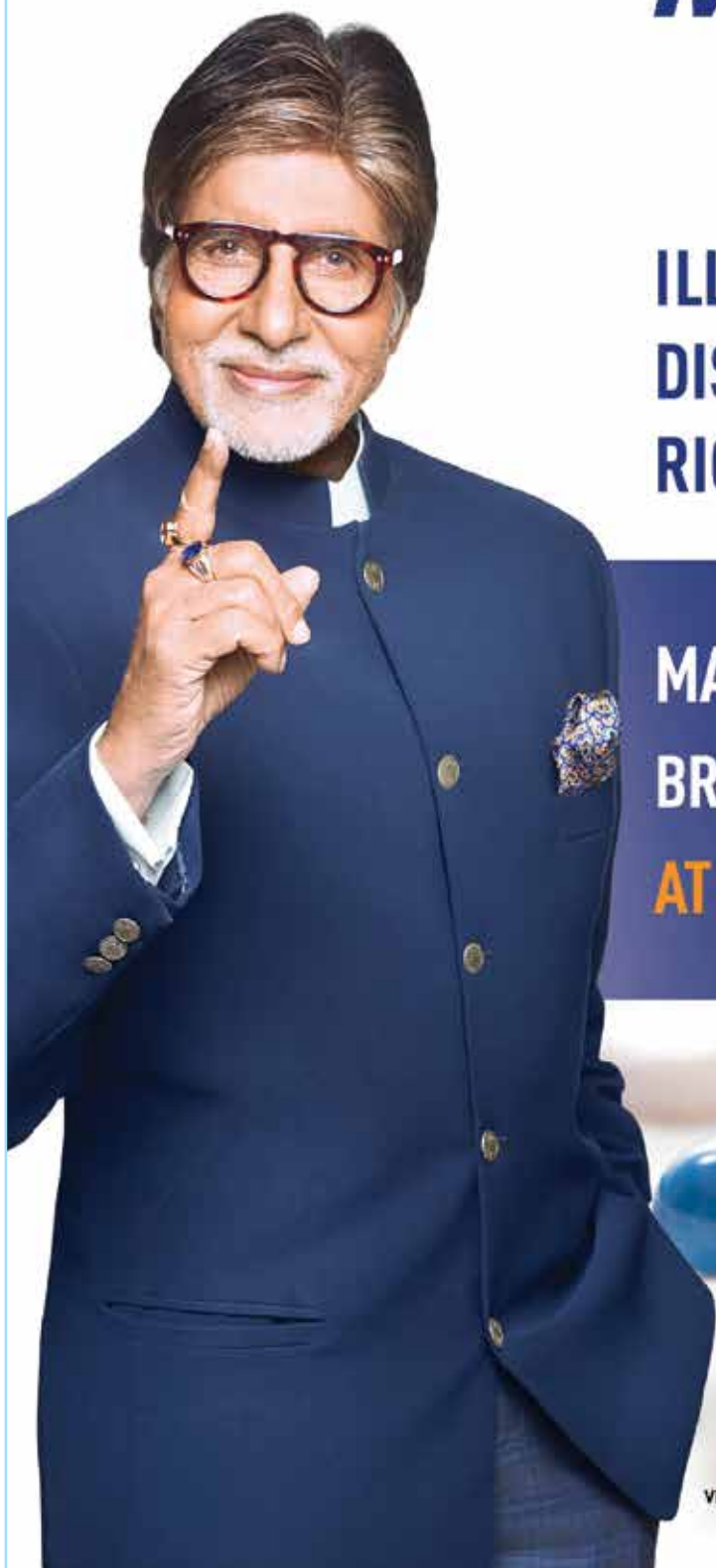




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TAP INTO GLOBAL MARKETS

With India Exim Bank's Trade Assistance Programme

In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the global trade finance gap widened, reaching a staggering US\$ 2.5 trillion in 2022. The trade finance gap continues to weigh on the ability of businesses to explore new geographies and scale exports on account of rising global uncertainties.

It is in this context that the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank), has conceptualised the Trade Assistance Programme (TAP). This first-of-its kind initiative in India is enabling Indian exporters to expand into new, high-risk markets.

Under TAP, Exim Bank provides credit enhancement to trade instrument(s), thereby enhancing the capacity of commercial banks/financial institutions to support cross-border trade transactions involving markets where trade lines are constrained or where the potential has not been harnessed. The various credit mechanisms are in the form of Stand-by letter of credit, risk participation and fronting of guarantees.

Further, India Exim Bank also confirms and negotiates Letters of Credit (LCs) issued by overseas banks (Issuing Bank), for export of goods/ services from India. Support is also extended for UPAS LC financing and confirmation/discounting of long tenor capex LCs.

The objectives of the programme are as under:

- Increase confidence of counterparties in settlement of trade transactions;
- Incremental exports to untapped and challenging markets;
- Provide market entry mechanism and support market diversification of exporters, including MSMEs;
- Risk coverage for challenging trade transactions; and
- Enable local banks in target countries to establish working partnerships with large number of commercial banks in India.

Under TAP, Exim Bank has identified 72 focus countries, mainly including untapped geographies and countries with higher risk perceptions across Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe & CIS region. The Bank is currently partnering with over 100 banks (overseas and domestic), under the programme and is in active discussion with many more.

Further, under TAP, Exim Bank extends credit lines to overseas financial

institutions who act as intermediaries and on-lend to overseas buyers for import of equipment, goods and services from India. Moreover, the Bank also extends refinance to banks, for supporting underlying export transactions.

Since inception, the Bank has facilitated over 1200 transactions across 52 countries under TAP, including relatively untapped geographies and countries with higher risk perceptions. By increasing confidence in trade settlements, TAP has led to more than USD 3 bn of incremental exports by more than 160 exporters across diverse sectors.

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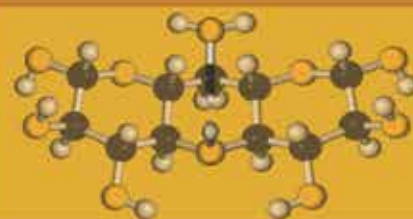
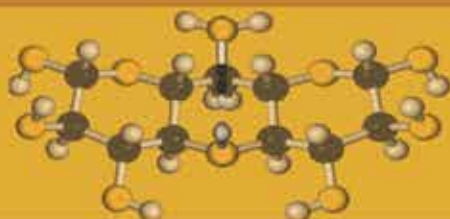


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Message

RAJEEV JUNEJA PRESIDENT



We appreciate the budget's emphasis on the 'Three Kartavya'—accelerating and sustaining economic growth, empowering citizens, and ensuring inclusive access to growth opportunities. The budget is not just a collection of numbers, but an expression of our values and aspirations.

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."
— Warren Bennis

India today stands as a compelling embodiment of this principle. Over the past twelve years, under the decisive and visionary leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, the nation has moved with clarity, speed, and scale, translating reforms into outcomes and aspirations into sustained action. This continuity of leadership has strengthened policy certainty, institutional confidence, and global trust in India's long-term trajectory.

The Indian economy continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience and momentum, growing at a steady pace of around 7-7.4 percent. Strong domestic demand, sustained public capital expenditure, low inflation, investments in roads, power, renewables, and digital connectivity, coupled with disciplined macroeconomic management, have reinforced India's position as the fastest growing major economy in the world. At a time of persistent global uncertainty and geopolitical flux, India has emerged as a relative anchor of stability with its policy focus increasingly shifting towards long-term structural reforms, improved ease of doing business, and inclusive growth.

In this context, we commend Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, for presenting a

forward looking and well calibrated Union Budget for FY 2026–27. Anchored in fiscal discipline and structural transformation, the Budget reinforces India's long term vision of building a Viksit Bharat. Its emphasis on inclusive growth, citizen empowerment, and economic resilience provides clarity of direction to households, enterprises, and investors alike. The articulation of the 'Three Kartavya' accelerating economic growth, empowering citizens, and ensuring inclusive access to opportunities offers a cohesive framework that strengthens both economic and social foundations. As economist Paul Samuelson once observed, "The budget is the skeleton of the state stripped of all misleading ideologies." In that sense, this Budget reflects both intent and realism.

A defining feature of this year's Budget is the continued thrust on capital expenditure, pegged at Rs. 12.2 lakh crore, an increase of 11.5 percent over FY 2025–26. This underscores the Government's unwavering commitment to infrastructure led growth. Sustained public investment of this nature will ease supply chain bottlenecks, enhance logistics efficiency, and crowd in private capital. It is particularly encouraging that this allocation aligns closely with PHDCCI's pre-budget

recommendation of Rs. 12.98 lakh crore submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Equally noteworthy is the Government's steadfast commitment to fiscal prudence and debt consolidation. Achieving a fiscal deficit of 4.4 percent in FY 2026 RE and budgeting a further reduction to 4.3 percent in FY 2027 reflects responsible macroeconomic stewardship. This balanced approach enhances India's credibility in global markets, preserves financial stability, and creates room for sustained public investment without compromising long-term fiscal sustainability.

The Budget's focus on scaling manufacturing across seven strategic and frontier sectors, rejuvenating 200 legacy industrial clusters, strengthening infrastructure, ensuring long term security, and developing City Economic Regions is timely and well-conceived. These initiatives will deepen manufacturing's contribution to GDP and integrate India more firmly into global value chains. The emphasis on technology-led growth, particularly in semiconductors, rare earths, electronics manufacturing, and cloud services, lays the foundation for India to emerge as a global technology hub by 2047. This direction not only strengthens economic competitiveness

but also empowers India's youth, aligning squarely with the vision of a technologically self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

Recognising the pivotal role of MSMEs, which account for over 70 percent of PHDCCI's membership, we welcome the allocation of Rs. 10,000 crore to the SME Growth Fund and the additional Rs. 2,000 crore infusion into the Self Reliant India Fund. These measures will improve access to risk capital, foster innovation, and support the emergence of globally competitive MSME champions, an area consistently advocated by the Chamber.

The Budget's emphasis on services led employment, skilling, and aligning education with industry needs is both timely and impactful. The proposed high-powered Education to Employment Standing Committee will provide strategic direction to the services sector, enhance employability, boost productivity, and support inclusive and sustainable growth. In this context, our National Skill Summit 2026, addressed by Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State, Independent Charge, Ministry of Science and Technology, reinforced that skill development is the bedrock of innovation, productivity, and national competitiveness, and central to realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047.

Agriculture, a foundational pillar of the Indian economy, received a 7.2 percent increase in allocation to Rs. 1.62 lakh crore. The focus on strengthening agriculture, enhancing productivity, improving quality, building climate resilience, and supporting sustained farmer incomes is commendable. We also appreciate the dedicated programme for Indian cashew and cocoa, which will enhance high value crop production, strengthen processing capabilities, and improve export competitiveness. Measures to strengthen women-led enterprises and promote targeted regional development will further boost rural demand, entrepreneurship, and balanced economic growth.

India's healthcare system requires forward looking transformation, and the announcement of a dedicated Rs. 10,000 crore five year programme to develop India as a global biopharmaceutical manufacturing hub marks a significant policy shift. By

placing biosimilars and biologics at the core of the long-term healthcare strategy, the Government has responded to India's evolving disease burden and the need for affordable biological medicines. Proposals to expand medical education, allied health training, caregiver skilling, health research, digital health, Ayushman Bharat, and AYUSH systems collectively reinforce the commitment to accessible, affordable, and future ready healthcare.

The Chamber welcomes the direct tax reforms, including the simplified Income Tax Act, reduction in TCS rates, and lower MAT. As articulated during our post Budget interaction with Mr. Arvind Srivastava, Revenue Secretary, the Budget represents a structural shift towards greater tax certainty, reduced compliance burden, lower litigation, and an improved investment climate, while strengthening consumer confidence.

Steps to enhance the competitiveness of labour intensive exports, particularly marine and leather products, through increased limits for duty-free imports of specified inputs are also welcome. These initiatives will support employment generation and export growth.

The Budget's strong alignment with green growth and advanced manufacturing is noteworthy. Exemptions on basic customs duty for capital goods used in lithium ion cell manufacturing, support for domestic solar glass production, and extension of duty exemptions for nuclear power projects till 2035 underscore the Government's commitment to clean energy, energy security, and future oriented industries.

We congratulate the Government for advancing trade agreements of strategic scale under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. The prospective India-United States trade agreement, yet to be formally concluded, reflects the confidence of a rising nation with reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods to be reduced. India's commitment to expand imports of energy, technology, and agricultural products from the United States will strengthen supply chains, enhance energy security, and widen market access for Indian industry.

Equally significant is the India-European Union Free Trade

Agreement, alongside Investment Protection and Geographical Indications Agreements. These pacts are expected to expand India's exports to the EU by 35-45 percent over five years, spanning pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, auto components, electric vehicles, textiles, and IT services. By easing tariffs, reducing regulatory barriers, and unlocking support for green transition initiatives, these agreements will deepen value chain integration and promote sustainable growth.

The Chamber's 4th Uttar Pradesh Industrial Trade Expo 2026, held in Lucknow and inaugurated by Mr. Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture, Handloom and Textiles, witnessed an impressive footfall of over 1.8 lakh visitors. The Expo strongly supported Uttar Pradesh's vision of achieving a one trillion dollar economy. We also had the opportunity of gracing Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Assam at our GI Mahotsav, wherein the Hon'ble Governor pointed out that the GI tagging system not only safeguards India's rich traditional heritage but also contributes to rural economic development and women entrepreneurship.

As a Chamber, PHDCCI remains committed to enabling enterprise, strengthening global linkages, and advocating reforms that support inclusive, sustainable, and innovation driven growth. The journey ahead demands agility, collaboration, and speed. PHDCCI's legacy of 121 years places upon us the responsibility to lead with vision and purpose, while continuously evolving through digital engagement, data driven insights, and sector focused interventions.

Let us continue to build a future ready Indian economy, confident, competitive, and committed to shared prosperity. Together, let us carry forward the Chamber's legacy of Progress, Harmony, and Development into a new era of national transformation. Great nations are not built by chance, but by vision, discipline, and collective resolve.



Rajeev Juneja
President, PHDCCI

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The Economic Affairs Committee of PHDCCI organized an Exclusive Session – Budget Day 2026–27: "The Numbers that Shape Tomorrow" on February 1st, 2026 at Hotel Shangri-La Eros, New Delhi.

The Session was graced by PHDCCI leadership, Mr. Rajeev Juneja, President and Mr. Sanjay Singhania, Vice President, along with eminent dignitaries, former Presidents, Managing Committee Members, and Chairs and Co-chairs of various Expert Committees.

The Union Budget 2026–27 was widely welcomed for its strong emphasis on growth, ease of doing business, competitiveness, and long-term economic resilience. Key highlights included a sustained push towards capital expenditure, infrastructure development, and manufacturing-led growth, which will attract private investment and generate more employment opportunities.

The Budget's focus on ease of doing business, support for MSMEs through improved access to credit and compliance simplification, and incentives for innovation, R&D, and green transition were seen as positive steps for strengthening industrial productivity. Additionally, targeted measures for energy transition, logistics efficiency, skilling, and digitalisation are expected to enhance India's global competitiveness, while fiscal prudence and policy continuity provided industry with greater certainty for long-term planning and investment.

Media interactions were held with leading media houses, including PTI, ANI, IANS, Zee News, among others, both prior to and

Exclusive Session Budget Day 2026-27 'The Numbers that Shape Tomorrow' PHDCCI insights on Union Budget 2026-27



following the Budget announcement. The Session featured a live viewing of the Budget Presentation by Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, followed by in-depth deliberations and discussions on the Union Budget 2026–27.



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Interactive Session with Managing Director & COO, Moglix



Mr. Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI, extended a warm welcome to Mr. Sandeep Goel, Managing Director & COO, Moglix for sparing his valuable time to interact with the Members of the Managing Committee of PHDCCI on January 22, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Addressing the Members, Mr. Sandeep Goel shared the inspiring journey of Moglix, highlighting how the company was founded nearly a decade ago with a clear vision to transform the B2B procurement ecosystem in India. Mr. Sandeep Goel explained that Moglix started as a small idea focusing on solving inefficiencies in industrial supply chains and gradually evolved by deeply understanding customer pain points and leveraging technology to create scalable solutions.

Mr. Sandeep Goel emphasized that the early years of the company were challenging, requiring



strong perseverance, continuous innovation, and the ability to adapt to market realities. He highlighted the importance of building trust with industry partners, maintaining operational discipline, and investing in technology-driven processes. According to Mr. Sandeep Goel, a strong focus on execution, data-driven decision-making, and customer-centricity played a critical role in Moglix's steady growth.

Further, Mr. Sandeep Goel discussed how Moglix expanded its footprint across sectors, strengthened its

digital platform, and built robust supply-chain capabilities, which eventually led to the company achieving unicorn status. He noted that the journey was not overnight success but the result of consistent efforts over several years, learning from failures, and building a resilient organizational culture.

Concluding the session, Mr. Sandeep Goel encouraged entrepreneurs and industry members to remain patient, think long-term, and not be discouraged by initial setbacks. He highlighted that with the right vision, ethical business practices, and continuous innovation, Indian startups can scale globally and create significant value for the economy, as demonstrated by Moglix's successful journey.

Mr. Anil Gupta, Senior Vice President, PHDCCI proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the dignitaries.

Union Budget 2026-27

Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi stated that this budget is a highway of immense opportunities, one that fulfills the dreams of the present and strengthens the foundation of India's bright future. He emphasized that the budget serves as the basis for India's high flight towards becoming a developed nation by 2047. The Prime Minister further noted that the reform express on which India is riding will gain new energy and new momentum through this budget. He underlined that the path-breaking reforms undertaken provide the aspiring, courageous, and talented youth of India with an open sky to soar. He further remarked that the budget realizes the vision of trust-based governance and a human-centric economic framework. The Prime Minister stressed that this is a unique budget, focused on reducing fiscal deficit and controlling inflation, while simultaneously ensuring high capital expenditure and high growth.

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Post-Budget Session on Union Budget 2026–27

The Post-Budget Session on the Union Budget 2026–27, organized by PHDCCI on February 4, 2026, in New Delhi, brought together senior government officials, policymakers, economists, industry leaders and financial experts to deliberate on the key reforms, fiscal road-map and economic implications of the Union Budget 2026–27 for industry and trade.

Budget Insights

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Arvind Shrivastava, IAS, Revenue Secretary, Ministry of Finance, stated that the Union Budget 2026–27 represents a structural redesign of India's tax administration framework, aimed at empowering taxpayers, while significantly reducing procedural friction and discretionary intervention. He highlighted key reforms such as extended timelines for filing revised and updated returns, the facility to update returns even during reassessment proceedings, combined issuance of assessment and penalty orders, and strengthened dispute settlement mechanisms to reduce litigation. He further outlined the shift from transaction-based scrutiny to a trust-based, entity-level compliance framework, supported by digital systems, risk-based audits and enhanced monitoring of importers, exporters, authorised economic operators and customs warehouses.

The macroeconomic framework of the Budget was outlined by Dr V. Anantha Nageshwaran, Chief Economic Adviser who noted that the Budget continues the accelerated reform momentum witnessed since early 2025. He emphasised the focus on urbanisation, viewing cities as integrated economic systems, sustained support for MSMEs through credit guarantees and improved payment discipline, and targeted policy support for



manufacturing in a geopolitically fragmented global environment. He also highlighted continued fiscal consolidation, record capital expenditure of Rs. 12.2 lakh crore on infrastructure, and improving sovereign credit metrics, all of which support stable, non-inflationary economic growth.

Speaking on growth and industry impact, Mr. Anil Gupta, Senior



Vice President, PHDCCI stated that the Budget has been presented at a pivotal juncture for the Indian economy and reinforces the Government's commitment to fiscal prudence, growth acceleration and the vision of Viksit Bharat. He

underscored the strong emphasis on capital expenditure, infrastructure and manufacturing, including initiatives such as the Rs. 10,000 crore SME Growth Fund, revival of legacy industrial clusters and the Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, along with the positive impact of recent trade agreements on industry expansion and employment generation.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, noted that the Union Budget 2026–27 reflects months of rigorous institutional effort, extensive data analysis and continuous stakeholder consultations. He placed on record PHDCCI's appreciation for the team led by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman and emphasized that effective on-ground implementation, supported by close government–industry partnership, will be critical to translating policy intent into tangible economic outcomes.

Taxation Perspectives

Mr. Ashok Batra, Chair, Indirect Taxes Committee, PHDCCI, observed that despite a limited number of amendments, the indirect tax proposals address several long-pending industry concerns. He



highlighted measures such as the redefinition of intermediary services enabling export benefits, faster provisional refunds in inverted duty structure cases, and rationalisation of post-sale discount provisions, which are expected to significantly reduce GST-related litigation. He also welcomed customs duty rationalisation, extended validity of advance rulings, simplified warehousing procedures and relief measures for exporters, while emphasizing the need for early resolution of legacy GST disputes.

Sharing industry feedback on direct taxes, Mr. Mukul Bagla, Chair, Direct Taxes Committee, PHDCCI, stated that the Budget reflects constructive stakeholder engagement, with several industry recommendations having been incorporated. He highlighted key measures including reduction in TCS rates, extended timelines for revised and updated returns, taxation of buyback proceeds as capital gains, exemption for compulsory acquisition of land, rationalization of penalties and a lower stay-of-demand requirement. These measures, he noted, enhance certainty and significantly reduce litigation. He also flagged concerns relating to high effective personal tax rates, delays in faceless appeals and challenges in rectifying legacy tax demands.

Ms. Pallavi Dinodia, Co-chair, Direct Taxes Committee, PHDCCI, stated that the Union Budget 2026 marks a decisive shift towards a simplified and trust-based

tax regime. She welcomed the implementation of the new Income Tax Act from April 1, 2026, and emphasized that timely notification of rules and faster disposal of pending appeals would ease compliance.

BFSI Perspectives

Mr. Gurmeet Chaddha, Chair, BFSI Committee, PHDCCI, highlighted that the Budget underscores the quality of government borrowing, with net borrowing broadly aligned with capital expenditure. This, he noted, signals a clear focus on infrastructure-led growth rather than revenue-driven spending.

Release of PHDCCI Publication

On the occasion, PHDCCI released its analytical publication on the Union Budget 2026–27, providing an in-depth assessment of the Budget's fiscal stance, capital expenditure strategy, infrastructure and manufacturing priorities and employment initiatives.

Interactive Panel Discussion

An interactive panel discussion on the 'Analysis of Union Budget 2026–27' featured experts including Mr. Ashok Batra, Chair, Indirect Taxes Committee; Mr. Shivam Mehta, Co-chair, Indirect Taxes Committee; and Mr. Sunil Bhansali, Co-chair, Direct Taxes Committee, PHDCCI; Mr. Dinesh Balachandran, CFA, Head of Investment, SBI Funds Management Ltd.; Mr. Krishna Sanghavi, Chief Investment Officer – Equity, Mahindra Manulife Mutual Funds;



and Mr. Raman Agarwal, Co-chair, BFSI Committee, PHDCCI. The panellists shared detailed insights on proposals relating to direct and indirect taxation, financial markets, investment outlook and the broader financial sector. The discussion covered policy reforms, compliance considerations and sector-specific opportunities emerging from the Budget announcements.

Ms. Babeeta Sharma, Director, PHDCCI, while moderating the session, observed that the Union Budget 2026–27 received an overall optimistic response from experts, with a strong focus on long-term reforms aimed at driving growth through infrastructure, manufacturing and inclusion, even amid global uncertainties.

PHDCCI gratefully acknowledges the support extended by Mahindra Manulife Mutual Funds towards the successful organization of the event.

National Cooperatives Workshop on Building PACS

Led Smart Cooperatives for Viksit Bharat @2047

The National Cooperatives Workshop on “Building PACS-Led Smart Cooperatives for Viksit Bharat @2047” held on January 14, 2026 at New Delhi brought about 300 policymakers, cooperative leaders, institutional heads, and grassroots stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) as the backbone of India’s cooperative movement and rural economy.

Strengthening Cooperatives for a Developed India

Mr. Dileep Sanghani, Chair, Committee on Cooperatives, PHDCCI referred to the Hon’ble Prime Minister’s vision of “Sahkar se Samridhi” and highlighted that the creation of the Ministry

of Cooperation has provided a dedicated institutional framework for strengthening the cooperative sector. He emphasized that cooperatives both multi-state and state-level along with PACS form the backbone of the cooperative ecosystem and play a critical role in rural and agricultural development. He underlined the need for PACS to evolve into professionally governed, digitally enabled, multi-purpose institutions delivering credit, services, value addition, storage, marketing, and market linkages at the grassroots level.

Dr Sudhanshu, Secretary, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Ministry of Commerce and Industry, stressed

that a developed India by 2047 cannot be envisioned without strengthening PACS, which form the foundation of rural and agrarian India. Highlighting India’s globally recognized cooperative model, he called for transforming PACS into multi-functional, technology-enabled institutions. He outlined APEDA’s initiatives with FPOs, FPCs, cooperatives, and agri-startups, including innovation-led solutions, technology-enabled services, and SPS compliance, noting that nearly 50% of India’s agri-exports are facilitated through APEDA-supported ecosystems.

Mr. Prakash Naiknavare, MD, NFCSF noted that PACS are increasingly evolving from single-purpose credit institutions into multi-service rural business hubs, improving access to credit, reducing dependence on informal lending, strengthening rural supply chains, and promoting cooperative entrepreneurship.

Welcoming the gathering, Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI stated that the workshop on PACS-led smart cooperative models is a significant step towards strengthening grassroots institutions through collaboration, innovation, and policy alignment, thereby supporting inclusive rural growth and the vision of a developed India.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, extended greetings to farmers and rural communities on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, noting the festival’s symbolism of prosperity through sustained effort. He highlighted that the workshop reflected the collective strength of farmers, cooperatives, and rural entrepreneurs coming together to advance national development. Emphasizing the role of the Ministry



of Cooperation, he underscored the importance of strengthening PACS through technology adoption, smart services, and institutional support, especially to create opportunities for rural youth and women.

Technical Session-I, led by IFFCO, focused on nano-fertilisers and sustainable agriculture, bio-fertilizers and specialty nutrients, IFFCO Bazar and digital agriculture platforms, drone-based agricultural services, and IFFCO's cooperative-led innovation model was chaired by Dr Yogendra Kumar, Director (Marketing), IFFCO, with insights from Mr. Sanjay Kulshrestha, Senior General Manager (Marketing), IFFCO, and Mr. Tarun Bhargava, Co-chair, Committee on Cooperatives, PHDCCI and SGM, IFFCO.

Technical Session-II on "Capacity Building, Banking Linkages and Institutional Convergence for Strengthening Cooperatives", with special focus on cooperative-led seed ecosystems, addressed the institutional and financial foundations of strong cooperatives. The session featured Dr Yogendra Kumar, Chairman, BBSSL; Mr. Vivek Pandey, COO, Sahakar Taxi; Dr Mallika Kumar, Professor, SRCC, Delhi University; Mr. Ritesh Dey, Executive Director, NCUI; Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Former Director, NCUI; and Mr. Sumit Jha, Secretary, NFCSEF.

Technical Session-III was on "Real-World Impact of Multistate Cooperatives, Technology



and Leading PACS Models" highlighted best practices from multistate cooperatives, PACS

The Unati Multistate Cooperative Society; Dr R. B. Doule, Chief Cane Advisor (Technology), NFCSEF;

Mr. Qazi Mohd. Monis, Chairman, Uttarakhand State Sheep, Goat and Rabbit Farmers' Cooperative; and Mr. Vishal Sharma, DGM, NABARD.

Mr. Rupesh K. Pandey, Senior Secretary, PHDCCI delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the participants, with

a collective resolve to empower PACS as drivers of rural prosperity, innovation, and inclusive growth towards Viksit Bharat @2047.



computerization, technology-driven governance, and emerging cooperative enterprises. The session featured Mr. Jyoti Saroop, Co-chair, Committee on Cooperatives, PHDCCI and Founding Director,



Dominance of Electromagnetic Spectrum in the Defence Sector

PHDCCI Defence & HLS Committee organized DESCOM 2026: Defence Electronics & Secure Communications Conference on January 16, 2026 at The Imperial Hotel, New Delhi on the theme “Dominance of Electromagnetic Spectrum.” More than 200 industry delegates from the defence and electronics ecosystem participated in the conference.

The conference featured a distinguished line-up of speakers including Vice Admiral, Vineet McCarty, AVSM, DCIDS (Policy Planning & Force Development), HQ IDS, who highlighted the SSS mantra of Sense, Secure and Strike as critical for dominating the electromagnetic spectrum and informed that the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 is under revision.

Other eminent speakers included Lt Gen Vivek Dogra, SM, Signal Officer-in-Chief & Colonel Commandant, Corps of Signals, Indian Army; Dr (Ms.) Chandrika Kaushik, Distinguished Scientist

& Director General (PC & SI), DRDO; Mr. Ashok Atluri, Chair, PHDCCI Defence & HLS Committee & CMD, Zen Technologies; Col. K. V. Kuber (Retd.), Director – Aerospace & Defence, EY LLP; and Mr. Rajiv Mehrotra, Founder & Chairman, Shyam VNL Pvt. Ltd.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions titled “Next-Generation Defence Electronics, EW

(Retd.), respectively, and saw insightful deliberations by panelists including Capt. S. K. Singh, Lt. Col. Amitabh Bhardwaj (Retd.), Prof. Sudhir Saxena, Mr. Ashok Kanodia, Mr. Girish Nilange, Maj. Gen. (Dr) A. K. Channan (Retd.), Mr. Vinod Kaul, Mr. Satya Gopal Panigrahi, Capt. Puneet B (Retd.), and Col. Niraj Kalra (Retd.).

A Knowledge Report on “Dominance of Electromagnetic

Spectrum,” jointly prepared by Sugosha Advisory and PHDCCI was released during the conference.

The event concluded with remarks by Mr. Vaibhav Gupta, Co-chair, Defence & HLS Committee, PHDCCI and Director, MKU Ltd. The sessions were moderated by Dr Nasir Jamal, Director, PHDCCI followed by B2B interactions and networking.



Superiority & Battlefield Digitalization” and “Secure, AI-Driven & Quantum-Ready Military Communications for Network-Centric Operations.” The sessions were moderated by Col. K. V. Kuber (Retd.) and Major Sadhna Singh



Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

The Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) has emerged as a cornerstone of India’s electronics manufacturing strategy. The Union Budget 2026–27 has announced an increase in the outlay for the Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme to Rs. 40,000 crore, signalling a strong policy push to deepen domestic manufacturing capacity. Over the past eleven years, India has rapidly transformed into a major electronics-manufacturing hub, achieving nearly a six-fold increase in production. The sector has expanded its industrial base, created 25 lakh jobs, and emerged as a key driver of employment and economic growth. ECMS seeks to build on this momentum by reinforcing the domestic component ecosystem and positioning India as a credible global hub for advanced electronics manufacturing. With the ambitious vision of building a \$500 billion domestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem by 2030–31, India is poised to emerge as a global technology leader, innovating for the world while creating vast opportunities at home.

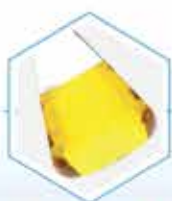
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GI Mahotsav at Guwahati



PHDCCI, with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME) organized a four-day GI Mahotsav: “Promoting India’s Heritage through GI Products”, an initiative of the Ministry of MSMEs on January 15, 2026 at Guwahati.

The GI Mahotsav featured a diversified range of Geographical Indication (GI) products from various states across the country. The event marked a significant milestone in promoting India’s rich cultural heritage and economic potential embedded in GI products. Through collective efforts, the Mahotsav brought together artisans, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and stakeholders to showcase the uniqueness, authenticity, and traditional craftsmanship of GI products. The exhibition serves as a vital platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and business opportunities, thereby fostering growth and recognition for India’s GI ecosystem.

Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Hon’ble Governor of Assam, while inaugurating the GI Mahotsav, highlighted that the GI tagging system not only safeguards India’s rich traditional heritage but also contributes significantly to rural economic development and women entrepreneurship. He appreciated PHDCCI and the Ministry of MSME for organizing the GI Mahotsav and emphasized that the North Eastern Region holds a special place in India’s GI landscape, as its products are deeply rooted in ecology, tradition, and community life. He further noted that these products reflect sustainability, craftsmanship, and cultural identity, making them highly relevant in global markets.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the Chamber’s pivotal role in promoting industry and trade. He emphasized that the GI Mahotsav is an important platform for GI-

authorised artisans to showcase, promote, and market their unique products, thereby strengthening the overall GI ecosystem.

Mr Vinod Karwa, Chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI, in his theme address underscored the protective power of GI by citing the case study of Kolhapuri Chappals. He advocated for accelerating the filing of GI applications to achieve the national target of 10,000 GI tags by 2030.

Mr. Satinder Kumar Bhalla, ITS, Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC) in his special address stated that the NEC plays a vital role in promoting GI by providing financial and logistical support for the registration of unique agro-horticultural products from the North Eastern Region. He emphasized that as the nodal agency for the region’s economic and social development, NEC’s support for GI initiatives is integral to enhancing regional prosperity.

Mr. A. Tovi Chophi, Chair, NER Chapter, PHDCCI, proposed the formal vote-of-thanks and expressed special gratitude to the Hon’ble Governor of Assam for gracing the occasion.

The event was also graced by Dr Ravi Kota, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam; Dr Hemant Khosla, Head of Office, Trademarks Registry, Kolkata; Dr Kuladhar Saikia, IPS (Retd.), Former DGP, Assam; along with Mr D. P. Goel, Co-chair, MSME Committee, PHDCCI and Dr H. P. Kumar, Former CMD, NSIC & Advisor, PHDCCI.





The Valedictory Session was graced by Dr M. Ariz Ahammed, IAS, Chairman, Assam Administrative and Pension Tribunal, Government of Assam; Mr. Mara Kocho, Managing Director, North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation and Dr Pankaj Kumar, DPIIT IPR Chair Professor, IIT Guwahati.

The event concluded with felicitation of GI artisans from various states and a vibrant cultural evening organized by officials of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and witnessed enthusiastic participation from policymakers, industry leaders, artisans, and stakeholders.



PHDCCI National Young Chef Competition Grand Finale

**“Young chefs are torchbearers of India’s culinary heritage,”
said Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister of
Tourism and Culture**

Tourism Development Corporation; Chef Debjeet Majumdar, Consultant Chef & Co-founder, Passion 4 Hospitality; Chef Nitin Shende, Professor – Food Production, GIHMCT Nagpur; Chef Srinivas V, Executive Chef, Travel Food Services, under the chairmanship of Chef Anil Grover, Certified WorldChefs Judge.

Gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon’ble Minister of Tourism and Culture said, “Indian cuisine is among our most powerful cultural assets and a vital pillar of tourism-

led growth. Our food traditions reflect the diversity, wisdom and lived heritage of our regions and our young chefs are the torchbearers of this legacy. Rapid urbanisation and changing consumption patterns present Indian chefs with a unique opportunity to lead innovation in value-added, nutritionally balanced and ready-to-eat food solutions are rooted in India’s traditional knowledge systems. Platforms like

Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts and Nutritional Sciences, Pune emerged as the Winner of the maiden PHDCCI National Young Chef Competition (NYCC) 2025-26, while teams from Maharashtra State IHMCT, Pune and Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa were declared the 1st Runner-Up and 2nd Runner-Up respectively, at the Grand Finale held on January 19, 2026 at IHM, Pusa, New Delhi. The award for the Best Bhaja Dish was conferred upon the team from Chef’s Kitchen Institute of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management, Kolhapur.

The Grand Finale witnessed participation from 10 leading hospitality institutions representing all four zones of the country, including Asian Christian Culinary & Agricultural Science Institute, Hosur; Chef’s Kitchen Institute of Culinary Arts and Hotel Management, Kolhapur; Culinary Academy of India,

Hyderabad; IHM Bhubaneswar; IHM Kolkata; IHM Kufri; IHM Pusa, New Delhi; IHM Hyderabad; Maharashtra State IHMCT, Pune; and Symbiosis School of Culinary Arts and Nutritional Sciences, Pune, underscoring the pan-India character of the competition.

The finalists were evaluated by an eminent jury comprising Chef Nand Lal Sharma, Deputy General Manager, Himachal Pradesh



NYCC are essential in nurturing chefs who are deeply rooted in tradition, yet globally confident and capable of representing India's culinary excellence on the world stage."

Organized by PHDCCI in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism; Indian Federation of Culinary Associations and Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council, the National Young Chef Competition marked the culmination of a six-month nationwide culinary journey celebrating India's rich gastronomic heritage while creating a focused national platform for Indian cuisine.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Anil Parashar, Chair, Tourism & Hospitality Committee, PHDCCI, said, "NYCC was envisioned not merely as a competition, but as a national movement to restore pride in Indian cuisine among young professionals. By providing a credible, national platform, we are encouraging students to rediscover their regional food traditions and reinterpret them with contemporary relevance."

The Steering Committee of NYCC comprised Chef Manjit Gill, President, IFCA; Chef Anil Grover, Certified WorldChefs Judge; Chef Sudhir Sibal, Founder Member, IFCA; Mr. Rajan Bahadur, CEO, Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council; Prof. Kamal Kant Pant, Principal, IHM Pusa; and Mr. Amarjit Singh Ahuja, Director – Procurement, Le Meridien New Delhi.

Delivering the theme address, Chef Manjit Gill, President, IFCA and Chair of the NYCC Steering Committee said, "Indian cuisine is not merely a collection of recipes; it is a philosophy shaped by history, science and cultural memory. Before innovation comes understanding. NYCC encourages young chefs to respect the roots of Indian cooking and then reinterpret them with honesty, skill and responsibility. This is how we safeguard our culinary identity while preparing chefs for global kitchens."

Mr. Rajan Sehgal, Co-chair, Tourism & Hospitality Committee, PHDCCI,

stated, "NYCC is a strong example of what collaboration between industry, academia and government can achieve. When young talent is supported through mentorship, national exposure and fair evaluation, it results in confident, employable and future-ready professionals."

The Grand Finale followed an intense live cook-off format, challenging participants to prepare a traditional Bhojan comprising a bhaja preparation, main dish, vegetable preparation, pulses preparation, curd preparation, rice or bread preparation and a sweet dish within two and a half hours, with evaluation based on technique, authenticity, innovation, sustainability and presentation.

Presenting a brief on the NYCC journey and outlining the vision ahead, Ms. Shalini S Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI, said, "From the curtain raiser to four zonal rounds across North, East, West and South India, NYCC has engaged over 100 hospitality institutions nationwide. Our vision is to scale NYCC into a sustained national platform that identifies talent, provides structured mentorship, industry integration and positions young Indian chefs confidently on global culinary platforms."

Proposing the formal vote of thanks, Ms. Meena Bhatia, Co-chair, Tourism & Hospitality Committee,

PHDCCI, said, "The successful culmination of the first edition of NYCC reflects the collective commitment of government, industry, academia and our young chefs. PHDCCI remains firmly committed to institutionalizing NYCC as a flagship national initiative and expanding its impact in the years ahead."

NYCC was supported by leading industry partners including TATA Consumer Products, Lee Kum Kee, Nestle Professional, Cremica



Food Industries, Venus Industries, Hospitality & Kitchen Solutions, Hilton, Roseate Hotels & Resorts, Wagh Bakri Tea Group, Welbilt India, McCain Foods, Chefs Unlimited, Le Meridien New Delhi and Purchasing Professional Forum India, whose continued engagement underscores strong industry confidence in the initiative.

Energy Storage System

Key to Green Energy Transition

The seminar on “Energy Storage System – Key to Green Energy Transition” held on January 5, 2026 at New Delhi organized by the Environment and Climate Change Committee of PHDCCI brought together policymakers, industry leaders, technology providers, and energy experts to deliberate on the pivotal role of energy storage in India’s clean energy journey.

In his welcome address, Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, emphasized that renewable and alternative energy sources have become an imperative for businesses, particularly SMEs. Referring to global projections, he noted that grid-scale battery storage must expand significantly by 2030, supported by declining costs, and

F, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy emphasized the importance of expanding energy access to support improved living standards and sustain 7-8% economic growth. He noted that rapid growth in renewable capacity, declining storage costs, supportive policies, indigenous manufacturing initiatives, and regulatory reforms are collectively making battery energy storage and pumped storage commercially viable and integral to India’s power ecosystem.

Industry leaders provided valuable insights into manufacturing, investment, and execution challenges. Mr. Prasoon Chaudhary, Director, Invergy India Pvt. Ltd., shared the company’s journey as a Make-in-India battery energy storage system manufacturer and cautioned

Mr. Lilachand Patil, Lead Electrical Engineer, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), presented an overview of EESL’s solution-driven approach and national initiatives across LED lighting, smart metering, electric mobility, solar infrastructure, and energy-efficient buildings, along with its growing engagement in battery energy storage and tri-generation projects. He also highlighted emerging storage technologies, policy support, and challenges related to financing, supply chains, regulation, and recycling.

Mr. R.K. Jaain, CFO, Kushmanda Power Limited emphasized that energy storage is now a core infrastructure for grid stability and renewable integration. He recommended recognizing energy

storage as a distinct asset class, establishing technical and safety standards, strengthening financing mechanisms, promoting domestic manufacturing and recycling, and enhancing collaboration among



underscored that energy storage must be treated as core infrastructure rather than as an ancillary solution.

Dr J.P. Gupta, Chair, Environment and Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI, highlighted India’s strong progress in achieving over 50% non-fossil fuel installed capacity ahead of its 2030 target. He stressed that while solar and wind energy are central to India’s clean energy transition, their intermittency necessitates robust energy storage systems to ensure grid stability, energy security, and sustained economic growth, while reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Sharing the government perspective, Dr Jeevan Kumar Jethani, Scientist

that while bid prices appear to be declining, rising raw material costs pose risks to execution quality and long-term sustainability, calling for balanced bidding and effective regulatory oversight.

Mr. Ananthanarayanan Shanmugam, Sr. Vice President, Invest India, highlighted the significant gap between global renewable investments and India’s current share, despite the country’s requirement of nearly US \$240 billion in the coming years for renewable energy and storage expansion. He emphasized that the key challenge lies in mobilizing capital and connecting global investors with credible, bankable projects.

government, industry, and financial institutions.

Dr Wally Jiang, Managing Director, Welson Power Technology Co., Ltd., shared international best practices and emphasized the importance of safety, efficiency, and energy transport in storage systems. He highlighted opportunities for local manufacturing, skill development, and global collaboration to accelerate India’s energy storage ecosystem.

Mr. Mahendra Rustagi, Co-chair, Environment and Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI delivered the vote-of-thanks to the delegates. The seminar was moderated by Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI.

The Environment and Climate Change Committee of PHDCCI organized a seminar on “Safety & Risk Analyses in Green Hydrogen Economy” on January 23, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

The seminar aimed to support MSMEs and process industries in strengthening process safety frameworks, consequence analysis, and human factor risk management, particularly in the context of emerging green hydrogen technologies.

In his welcome address, Dr J. P. Gupta, Chair, Environment & Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI highlighted the growing safety crisis in India, drawing attention to recent industrial, road, and infrastructure accidents that have resulted in tragic loss of life. Despite significant economic progress, he noted that safety continues to be treated largely as a compliance requirement rather than an embedded organizational culture. He emphasized the urgent need for collective action by government, industry, and academia to develop indigenous safety solutions and transform safety into a national mission for sustainable development.

Prof. (Dr) Chitra Rajagopal, PSA Fellow, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, observed that while India has achieved notable global advancements, the rising incidence of accidents highlights the long road ahead in safety preparedness. With the National Green Hydrogen Mission gaining momentum, she stressed that new technologies bring new risks, necessitating systems

Safety & Risk Analyses in Green Hydrogen Economy

thinking, proactive risk assessment, indigenous tools, and strong multi-stakeholder collaboration. Safety, she emphasized, must be designed into projects from inception, supported by trust-building, capability development, and a safety-ready workforce.

Mr. Harsh Nupur Joshi, Chief Operating Officer, ONGC Green Limited, underscored that as India advances toward ambitious renewable energy and green hydrogen targets, safety and risk assessment must be embedded from the earliest stages of project planning. Drawing upon ONGC's decades of experience in managing gas and hydrocarbons, he highlighted the importance of systems-based, data-driven risk analysis across the hydrogen value chain, positioning safety not merely as compliance, but as a core organizational value and a key enabler of sustainable scale-up.

Mr. M. K. Biswas, Executive Director (Risk Management), TQM Department and Chief Risk Officer, GAIL (India) Ltd., emphasized that India's green hydrogen ambitions must be matched with equally rigorous risk management practices. Sharing insights from live project experiences, he highlighted challenges related to hydrogen

production, purity, transmission, pipeline standards, and blending with natural gas. He stressed that uniform regulations, enhanced stakeholder awareness, and safety-first infrastructure are critical for responsible and sustainable scaling.

Mr. Arun Mittal, Executive Director, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), highlighted the crucial role of safety regulation as hydrogen transitions from confined industrial use to broader public applications. He emphasized the need for cautious adoption, strong asset integrity management, skilled manpower, and data-driven risk assessment, along with collaboration, shared incident databases, and continuous feedback mechanisms to build public trust and a safe hydrogen ecosystem in India.

Following the inaugural session, the technical session focused on the importance of integrated regulations, effective monitoring systems, skilled personnel, and rapid response mechanisms for the safe transport and management of hazardous and hydrogen-based fuels. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Umesh Sahdev and Mr. Mahendra Rustagi, Co-Chairs, Environment & Climate Change Committee, PHDCCI. The event was moderated by Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI. The deliberations reinforced that India's energy transition—particularly toward green hydrogen—demands a robust indigenous safety culture, strong regulatory standards, and sustained collective action to manage emerging risks and safeguard lives.



National Skill Summit 2026

Charting India's Road-map to a Future Ready Workforce



PHDCCI, through its Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Committee organized the National Skill Summit 2026 on January 23, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi, under the theme “Skilled Bharat for Viksit Bharat@2047.” The Summit served as a high-level platform bringing together senior policymakers, industry leaders, global organizations, Sector Skill Councils, academia, and training institutions to deliberate on India's evolving skilling ecosystem and the pathways required to build a future-ready, inclusive, and globally competitive workforce.

Dr Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the Inaugural Address. He underscored that skill development is the bedrock of innovation, productivity, and national competitiveness, emphasizing that a Skilled Bharat is central to realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. Highlighting India's demographic

“PHDCCI has played a sustained and focused role through its ‘World of Work’ initiative in advancing skill development across States and Union Territories”
– Dr Jitendra Singh

dividend, the Minister noted that while the nation possesses abundant talent and intellect, there is a pressing need to foster confidence, adaptability, and the meaningful application of knowledge. He also drew attention to flagship initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, which are strengthening employability and promoting on-the-job learning across sectors.

Welcoming the dignitaries and setting the context, Dr Neha Berlia, Chair, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Committee, PHDCCI, stated that skilling is no longer optional but a national imperative. Drawing insights from the education sector, she emphasized the need to equip learners not only with academic qualifications but also with practical skills, communication abilities, and interview readiness

to ensure a smooth transition into the workforce. She highlighted that the National Skill Summit has emerged as a flagship platform for collaborative thinking, enabling policy, industry, and academia to co-create solutions for India's future workforce.

The Inaugural Session also featured a keynote address by Prof. Indrani Bhaduri, Head, ESD, NCERT & CEO, PARAKH, who stressed the importance of stronger integration between education systems and industry requirements. She emphasized embedding skills, employability, and entrepreneurship across learning pathways—from school to higher education—and underlined the need to clearly define future-oriented competencies, including skills related to artificial intelligence, ethics, and emerging technologies.

A key highlight of the Summit was a presentation by Siemens Digital Industry Software on “Bridging Classroom to Industry through Siemens Pathway to Learning Engineering.” Mr. Prashant Kulkarni, Senior Director – Mainstream Cloud Products, Siemens Digital Industry Software, showcased how industry-led digital learning pathways can equip students with practical, industry-relevant skills and significantly enhance employability in advanced manufacturing and engineering domains.

The Summit featured two high-level panel discussions addressing critical dimensions of India's skilling journey. The first panel, “Building a Future-Ready & Sustainable Workforce: Skills for India@2047,” moderated by Ms. Shalini S. Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI, brought together Dr. Poonam Sinha, Director General, NIESBUD; Col. Suhail Zaidi, Director General, MAIT; Mr. Prashant Kulkarni, Siemens Digital

Industry Software; Ms. Bhavna Chopra, Head – Stainless Academy, Jindal Stainless Limited; and Ms. Gunjan Kathariya, Global Skills Excellence Lead, Microsoft. The panel deliberated on emerging job roles, future careers, talent pipelines, and the growing need for stronger industry-academia collaboration to build workforce resilience amid rapid technological change and the rise of artificial intelligence.

The second panel, “Powering Workforce Transformation: Industry, Inclusiveness and International Partnerships,” moderated by Dr. Debdeep De, Head – Research & Impact, National Skill Development Corporation focused on demand-driven skilling models, global collaborations, and inclusive frameworks to ensure the meaningful integration of women, youth, persons with disabilities, informal workers, and disadvantaged communities into the future workforce.



The deliberations emphasized the urgent need for India's skilling ecosystem to transition from supply-driven approaches to demand-driven, industry-anchored frameworks, supported by global standards, apprenticeships, digital

platforms, and international mobility pathways. The Summit reaffirmed PHDCCI's sustained commitment to strengthening India's skilling ecosystem and advancing the national vision of Skilled Bharat for Viksit Bharat@2047.



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The Chemicals and Plastics Committee, PHDCCI organized B2B Interaction on “India’s Semiconductor Opportunities & Global Partnerships” on January 8, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The interaction brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academia, and technology experts to deliberate on India’s rapidly evolving semiconductor ecosystem, focusing on policy facilitation, manufacturing capabilities, innovation, and global collaboration across the value chain.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI welcomed the Chief Guest, speakers and the delegates.

Chief Guest, Dr Manish Kumar Hooda, Director (Technology), Indian Semiconductor Mission (MeitY) in his special address highlighted India’s significant progress in semiconductor manufacturing, supported by a US \$1 billion government commitment, operational pilot lines, and investments in fabs and advanced packaging. He emphasized the importance of strengthening supply-chain reliability, material quality, and vendor qualification to establish India as a trusted global semiconductor hub.

Prof. Dr Abhishek Dixit, Professor, IIT Delhi in his address said that while India has made strong strides in the sector, gaps remain

B2B Interaction on India’s Semiconductor Opportunities & Global Partnerships



in indigenous chip manufacturing, product-level innovation, and access to advanced equipment. He underscored the need for sustained policy support and close industry-government collaboration to bridge these gaps.

Prof. Dr Vikram Kumar, Professor, IIT Delhi in the technical session, stressed the importance of long-term capability building beyond immediate manufacturing goals. He highlighted emerging opportunities in silicon carbide, gallium nitride and next-generation materials such

as gallium oxide and diamond, calling for deeper and structured industry academia collaboration.

As the supporting partner, representatives from Praher Plastics Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Malaysia, Ms. Schvonne Choo Si Wen, Vice President Sales and Mr. Thanesh Manickam, Sales Engineer shared insights into its role in enabling high-reliability industrial infrastructure. The company emphasized that its solutions

deliver predictability, reduced operational risk and long-term reliability across the entire lifecycle of an installation. With over 5,000 products in operation globally, Praher Plastics’ core valve portfolio including VaporTech, butterfly, diaphragm, and modular M1 ball valves is engineered for critical industrial applications. Designed with flexibility, advanced materials and modular actuation options, these systems ensure dependable performance in environments where failure is simply not an option.

AI@Work- Management Development Programme

PHDCCI in collaboration with Rukmini Devi Institute of Advanced Studies (RDIAS), organized AI@Work, a One-Day Management Development Programme (MDP) on January 10, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The workshop witnessed knowledge

sharing and hands-on learning, led by distinguished speakers — Dr Bhajneet Kaur Ahuja, Professor and Dr Upasana Diwan, Associate Professor from the Rukmini Devi Institute of Advanced Studies.

The speakers shared valuable insights on building an AI-first mindset and leveraging technology for sustainable growth, with a strong focus on real-world business applications.

Ms. Babeeta Sharma, Director, PHDCCI, while moderating the session emphasized that AI is no longer a choice but a necessity—

empowering businesses to stay competitive and future-ready. Ms. Minakshi Srivastava Deputy Secretary, PHDCCI coordinated the workshop.



IBC Pulse Conference

The NCLT & IBC Committee of PHDCCI organized the IBC Pulse Conference on January 10, 2026 at Hyatt Regency, Chandigarh, highlighting emerging trends, challenges, and reforms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, with a strong emphasis on the need to strengthen the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for faster insolvency resolution.

In his keynote address, Justice (Retd.) M.M. Kumar, Founder President of the NCLT and former Chief Justice of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, stated that establishment of NCLTs were aimed at addressing long-pending industrial disputes through an effective dispute resolution mechanism. He emphasized that the IBC has significantly simplified and expedited bankruptcy resolution, aligning legal processes with economic realities. He further highlighted that NCLTs reflect a synthesis of constitutional values, legislative intent, and judicial experience to meet the evolving needs of the economy.

In his welcome address, Mr. G.P. Madaan, Chair, PHDCCI NCLT & IBC Committee, stressed that insolvency resolution and the IBC have become integral to India's corporate framework.

He emphasized the urgent need to increase the number of NCLT benches and strengthen infrastructure to manage rising caseloads, and announced that PHDCCI will continue organizing similar programs to enhance awareness of the IBC framework.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, outlined the objectives of the conference and highlighted its focus on policy dialogue, judicial developments, and practical challenges in insolvency resolution.

Members of NCLT, highlighted the need for infrastructure upgrades and pre-institutional mediation reforms to improve efficiency.

Highlighting the economic impact of the IBC, Mr. L.N. Gupta, former NCLT Member, stated that nearly 87% of cases have been successfully resolved, with approximately Rs. 19 lakh crore recovered over the past nine and a half years, making the IBC one of India's most effective economic reform mechanisms.

The conference featured panel



Mr. Harnam Singh Thakur, former Judicial Member of NCLT, supported the call for more benches, members, and better infrastructure to reduce pendency. Dr U.K. Chaudhary, Senior Advocate and President, NCLT Bar Association, emphasized the need for realistic timelines while ensuring justice. Mr. Rajshekhar V.K. and Dr. P.S.N. Prasad, former Judicial

discussions on CIRP in Transition, Personal Insolvency Resolution, and Liquidation under IBC, with participation from leading experts.

The sessions were moderated by Co-chairs of NCLT & IBC Committee – Ms. Ranjana Gawai, Mr. Abhishek Anand, Mr. Rachit Mittal, and Mr. Harish Taneja.

The Roundtable on “Recent Prominent Judicial Pronouncements under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)” held on December 29, 2025 facilitated a focused discussion on recent landmark judgments, evolving judicial interpretations, and their practical implications for insolvency professionals, legal practitioners, industry stakeholders, and policymakers. The session witnessed participation from legal practitioners, insolvency experts and industry representatives, who joined virtually, making the discussion highly interactive and enriching.

Recent Prominent Judicial Pronouncements under the (IBC)

Mr. G.P. Madaan, Chair, NCLT Committee, PHDCCI and Ms. Ranjana Roy and Mr. Harish Taneja, Co-chairs, NCLT Committee, PHDCCI, CA Jalesh Kumar Grover, Founder, Chairman & wholetime Director of Ducturus and CA Mr. Krishan Vrind Jain, Jain K Vrind & Co. deliberated on key judicial pronouncements under the IBC, offering critical insights

into interpretational challenges, procedural developments, and their impact on insolvency resolution processes. Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI in her welcome remarks highlighted the relevance of continuous legal discourse in the evolving IBC ecosystem.

The session also featured an introduction to the PHDCCI NCLT & IBC Committee Newsletter, launched as a monthly publication proposed to be released by the 10th of every month, aimed at disseminating timely updates and expert perspectives on developments under the IBC.

PHDCCI Kerala State Chapter conducted a one-day seminar on “Driving Kerala’s Sustainable Future: The Role of Industries in Decarbonization and Environmental Stewardship” on January 29, 2026, at Holiday Inn, Kochi. The event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, sustainability practitioners, and thought leaders to deliberate on climate action, industrial decarbonization, ESG integration, green finance, and innovation-led sustainable development in Kerala.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI in his welcome address, highlighted India’s evolving role in the global economic and sustainability landscape, paving the way for a new global economic order. Emphasizing Kerala’s leadership in sustainability, he cited Cochin International Airport—the world’s first fully solar-powered airport—as a benchmark for scalable green practices. He underlined that expanding sustainability initiatives and integrating MSMEs more deeply into Kerala’s economic framework would be critical for both environmental improvement and inclusive growth.

Dr P. B. Boss, Co-chair, PHDCCI Kerala Chapter, lauded Kerala’s reputation as one of India’s leading green industrial states and stressed its strong potential for industrial expansion and global connectivity. He also underscored PHDCCI’s role as a vital bridge between policy formulation and long-term industrial vision.

Mr. John Simon, Managing Director, JSF Holding and Charter Member, SICCI, outlined the three pillars of sustainability—social, environmental, and economic—and highlighted Kerala’s unique geographical and natural advantages that support sustainable development pathways.

Dr N. M. Sharafudeen, Chairman, Indo Gulf and Middle East Chamber of Commerce, spoke on the urgent need for decarbonization. Referring to global carbonization trends and rising greenhouse gas

Driving Kerala’s Sustainable Future

The Role of Industries in Decarbonization and Environmental Stewardship

emissions that are intensifying extreme heat events, he emphasized the global shift away from carbon-intensive systems. He noted Kerala’s ambition to emerge as a solar-powered and climate-conscious state.

Guest of Honour, Mr. S. Suhas, IAS, Chairman, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), presented CIAL as a global sustainability model. He highlighted how the integration of renewable energy, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies has enhanced both operational efficiency and environmental performance. He stressed that maintaining a balance between environmental and social priorities is fundamental to long-term sustainability.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Director (Systems), Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), stated that sustainability is synonymous with survival. He drew attention to the

pressures of rapid urbanization and fragile coastal ecosystems, while showcasing KMRL’s green buildings and sustainable urban mobility initiatives as benchmarks for low-carbon infrastructure.

Technical Session I, moderated by Dr Ravi Verma, Professor and Dean (International, Alumni and Corporate Relations), NIT Calicut, focused on Kerala’s climate vulnerabilities, ESG integration, and resilience strategies. He called for actionable ESG frameworks, community-driven adaptation, and deeper collaboration between academia, industry, and government to translate research into scalable solutions.

Dr D. Dhanuraj, Chairman, Centre for Public Policy Research, emphasized the importance of community participation through institutions such as Kudumbashree and local governments. He pointed to gaps in preparedness despite data availability, highlighting challenges linked to urbanization, mobility, pollution, lack of vulnerability mapping, and insufficient R&D investment.

Dr Hari Kumar Ramadas, Director, Energy Management Centre, Kerala, noted that renewable energy has moved beyond mitigation to become a crucial adaptation tool. Citing the success of hybrid solar-battery systems during floods, he advocated decentralized green energy solutions backed by strong energy-efficiency measures and innovation.



Dr K. V. Ashokan, Chairman, Kairali Agriculture Multi State Cooperative Society Ltd., proposed a farmer-first approach to carbon credits, positioning them as incentives for sustainable agricultural practices rather than subsidies.

Dr Krishna Kumar G., Founding Member, Society of Independent Directors and Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (Kerala), cautioned that resilience without progress toward net-zero is unsustainable. He stressed the need for greater awareness, technical capacity, and structured guidance for industry to leverage ESG as a strategic advantage.

Technical Session II, moderated by Dr Tarun Gupta, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur, examined the scientific basis of climate change and practical emission-reduction pathways. He emphasized that carbon dioxide remains the dominant greenhouse gas and warned that although India's per capita emissions are lower than those of developed nations, future growth could push emissions toward critical thresholds if not managed prudently.

Mr. Vijay Mathew, Vice President, Carbon Check, discussed the implementation challenges of carbon credits, pointing to gaps in monitoring, verification, and social relevance. He urged stakeholders to



farmer participation, and financing. Referring to Kerala's mixed cropping systems, he noted gains in productivity and resilience, while stressing that carbon credit programmes must deliver direct, tangible benefits to farmers.

Mr. Shaju Raphel, Deputy General Manager, SIDBI, Kochi, outlined financial enablers for sustainability, including Government of India subsidies and institutional credit support for solar and energy-efficiency projects. He emphasized SIDBI's role in providing affordable finance to help industries adopt clean energy solutions.

Technical Session III, moderated by Dr Athira P. S., Director (i/c), Centre for Intellectual Property Rights and Assistant Professor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi, explored the intersection of academia, innovation, and policy. She highlighted the growing

Sustainability, drew attention to tightening regulatory pressures on sectors such as pharmaceuticals to manage effluents, and pointed to gaps in institutional preparedness.

Dr V. Sivanandan Achari, Dean, Faculty of Science and Professor of Environmental Chemistry, CUSAT, identified decarbonization as a future priority and highlighted green hydrogen as a promising pathway, calling for stronger industry-academia collaboration to nurture innovation.

Dr Manuj Bhardwaj, Former International Civil Servant and Head – ESG, Carbon Markets and Sustainability, Dhirubhai Ambani University School of Law, positioned carbon markets as an important financial lever for climate action. He stressed rigorous Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV), comprehensive ESG reporting across Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, and suggested that mechanisms such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism be viewed as opportunities rather than barriers.

The seminar concluded with a formal vote-of-thanks by Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, Senior Secretary, PHDCCI, while Mr. Mohit Kumar, Senior Assistant Secretary, PHDCCI, efficiently coordinated the proceedings.

Overall, the deliberations underscored that Kerala's pathway to a low-carbon future will depend on coordinated action across policy, finance, technology, and community participation, with industry playing a central role in driving scalable and inclusive sustainability.



treat carbon markets as instruments of real impact rather than merely financial opportunities.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar, CEO, Kairali Agriculture Multi-State Cooperative Society Ltd., highlighted practical hurdles in agriculture such as data collection, documentation,

importance of green patents and intellectual property protection for environmentally friendly technologies.

Dr Manoj Tiwari, Associate Professor, IIT Kanpur and Adjunct Faculty, Kodaikanal School of

Commercial Contracts, Joint Ventures & Shareholder Agreements



A seminar on 'Commercial Contracts, Joint Ventures & Shareholder Agreements' organized by the Corporate Affairs Committee held on January 21, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi provided insights into key contractual clauses, governance and control mechanisms, regulatory considerations, and dispute and exit strategies, enabling participants to structure legally sound, commercially viable, and future-ready agreements aligned with business objectives.

While presenting the theme of the Seminar, Mr. Satwinder Singh, Chair, Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI said that often, clients treat agreements—even shareholder agreements—as routine formalities, assuming they can avoid legal scrutiny. However, when any dispute, ambiguity, or conflict arises, the contracts and agreements only come to a rescue. Any dispute emanating from the clauses of commercial contracts takes years to settle. That is when proper drafting, analysis, and foresight matter the most. A well-drafted document

becomes the key to resolution leaving little room for confusion, misinterpretation and conflict. He said that drafting is not about using heavy language, but about crystal-clear intent. A well drafted document keeps the arbitrator away.

The theme address was followed by technical presentations on - Key Clauses of Commercial Contracts, Structuring & Governance of Joint Venture Agreements, Earn-out and Purchase Price Adjustment in M&A Transactions, Rights, Protections & Compliance in Shareholder Agreements, & Practical Lessons from Commercial Transactions highlighting the lessons from failed and successful Joint Ventures arrangements and case snippets on ambiguous clauses and judicial interpretation covering recent judicial trends impacting commercial contracts.

The eminent speakers leading the technical sessions included Mr. Anubhav Tiwari, Partner, Sarthak Advocates & Solicitors; Mr. Arun Gupta, Managing Partner, Factum Legal; Mr. Kalpit

Khandelwal, Partner, Aekom Legal; Mr. Siddharth Sawhney, Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan & Mr. Siddharth Dang, Partner, Trilegal.

Mr. Rishi Kapoor, Co-chair, Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI, while moderating the session, said that Commercial Contracts, Joint Venture Arrangements and Shareholder Agreements sit at the very heart of business collaboration, investment structuring and corporate governance. Poorly drafted or inadequately negotiated agreements can expose businesses to operational uncertainty, shareholder conflicts and prolonged litigation—often at great cost.

Mr. Mohit Luthra, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI during his opening remarks said that one should view contracts not as defensive documents, but as enablers of trust, clarity and long-term collaboration in an ever-evolving business landscape.

Budget 2026-27 announces the launch of India Semiconductor Mission, 2.0

The Finance Minister in the FY 2026-27 announced the launch of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 to produce equipment and materials, design full stack Indian IP, and fortify supply chains. The focus will be on industry led research and training centres to develop technology and skilled workforce. Provision of Rs. 1,000 crores has been made towards this for FY 2026-27. ISM 1.0 has expanded India's semiconductor sector capabilities and ISM 2.0 will build on the same.

The International Affairs Division of PHDCCI organized the Exclusive AI Products Showcase for SMEs and Enterprises, featuring Elite Mindz, a leading technology-driven AI solutions company, on January 29, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Ms. Manisha Singh, Senior Secretary, International Affairs for Europe & CIS, PHDCCI delivered the opening remarks and reaffirmed PHDCCI's strong commitment to empowering MSMEs through cutting-edge technologies.

Mr. Mahim Jain, Team Zyno, delivered the welcome remarks to the distinguished delegates at the venue. He expressed gratitude for their participation, outlined the session's agenda focused on practical AI integrations, and set an enthusiastic tone for the interactive demonstrations and discussions ahead.

Mr. Simerjeet Singh, Director, Zyno by Elite Mindz presented his company's overview along with the products they offer. He elaborated

Exclusive AI Products Showcase for SMEs and Enterprises

The session was also graced by Mr. Sanjay Beswal, Co-chair, International Affairs Committee for Gulf, PHDCCI. He shared his thoughts about the growing needs for AI inclusions in day-to-day tasks of MSMEs and interdepartmental coordination, which makes AI



on ZYNO AI's transformative capabilities, showcasing how its intelligent automation tools streamline operations, enhance decision-making with real-time analytics, and deliver scalable solutions tailored for SMEs to boost productivity and reduce costs in a competitive landscape.

far easier for businesses to adapt seamlessly.

The session was highly interactive and attended by over 70 participants, making it a truly enriching AI Products showcase workshop.

The conference on "Quality Mandate in Manufacturing: Architecture for Viksit Bharat", held on January 20, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi, witnessed participation from over 80 industry representatives spanning the manufacturing ecosystem.

The conference was graced by Mr. Bharat Khera, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs as the Chief Guest and Mr. H. J. S. Pasricha, Deputy Director Certification, Bureau of Indian Standards as the Guest of Honour.

During the inaugural session, Mr. H. J. S. Pasricha underscored the critical role of robust, industry-aligned standards and strong institutional mechanisms in strengthening India's manufacturing quality ecosystem. He highlighted key reforms aimed at easing compliance and enabling faster alignment with global quality benchmarks.

Quality Mandate in Manufacturing: Architecture for Viksit Bharat

Chief Guest, Mr. Bharat Khera emphasized that realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 requires quality to be positioned as a strategic enabler for global competitiveness, enhanced market access, and deeper integration into global value chains. He stressed the importance of a phased and consultative implementation of quality frameworks, supported by adequate testing, certification, and accreditation infrastructure.



The conference featured in-depth technical deliberations on manufacturing standards, government initiatives, industry best practices, and supply chain optimization, followed by interactive discussions, B2B meetings, and networking sessions. The deliberations reinforced the need for close collaboration between government and industry to strengthen India's quality and manufacturing ecosystem.



Uncovering Your Blind Spots Before Penalties Hit: DPDP Act & Rules 2025

PHDCCI, in collaboration with Khaitan Legal Associates organized an immersive seminar on “DPDP Act & Rules 2025 — Uncovering Your Blind Spots Before Penalties Hit” on January 28, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

The seminar focused on the practical implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the evolving compliance landscape, with particular emphasis on identifying organizational blind spots before regulatory penalties come into effect.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, Ms. Babeeta Sharma, Director, PHDCCI, highlighted the significance of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act and explained why DPDP compliance often fails in practice. She introduced the concept of “blind

spots” that organisations frequently overlook while implementing data protection frameworks.

Ms. Shruti Dwivedi Sodhi, Partner, Khaitan Legal Associates, brought a seasoned practitioner’s perspective on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. Drawing from her extensive experience advising MSMEs and startups on end-to-end data protection compliance



and governance, she highlighted common blind spots across business operations and shared insights on building data protection frameworks that are realistic, scalable, and regulator-ready.

Sharing implementation-focused insights, Ms. Purvi Morwal, Associate, Khaitan Legal Associates, spoke from the trenches of execution. She discussed common implementation gaps and demonstrated how organizations can move from paper-based compliance

to defensible and effective execution in day-to-day legal and operational practices.

Adding a crucial technology perspective, Ms. Sonia B. Kudchadkar, Partner, CNK & Associates LLP, focused on how technical and organizational measures can be effectively leveraged to achieve DPDP compliance. Bridging law and technology, she

explained the critical role of security controls in meeting statutory obligations under the DPDP Act.

Mr. Gagan Kumar, Partner, Khaitan Legal Associates summarised the key aspects of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

The seminar was efficiently coordinated by Ms. Minakshi Srivastava, Deputy Secretary, PHDCCI, ensuring its smooth and successful conduct.

Boost to the Tourism Sector in Budget 2026-27

The Budget proposed the following measures for the promotion of the Tourism Sector:

- Thematic Tourism Trails launched across mountains, coasts, wetlands, and biodiversity zones. Mountain trails in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir
 - Eco & Nature trails in Araku Valley (Eastern Ghats) and Podhigai Malai (Western Ghats)
 - Turtle trails along key nesting sites in Odisha, Karnataka, and Kerala
 - Bird Watching trails at Pulicat Lake in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
- Iconic Archaeological Sites such as Lothal, Dholavira, Rakhigarhi, Adichanallur, Sarnath, Hastinapur, and Leh Palace to be transformed into experiential heritage destinations.
- Buddhist Circuit Development in North-East with preservation, connectivity, and pilgrim facilities.
- 10,000 Tour Guides to Receive IIM-led World-Class Training.
- National Council for Hotel Management to Become National Institute of Hospitality.
- Five Regional Medical Tourism Hubs & Global Big Cat Summit to Boost Niche Tourism.

India–Sri Lanka Cooperative Dialogue to Strengthen Cooperative-to-Cooperative Collaboration

The India–Sri Lanka Cooperative Dialogue: Strength, Synergies and Opportunities for Cooperative-to-Cooperative (C2C) Collaboration held on January 22, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi brought together senior cooperative leaders, policymakers, and institutional representatives from India and Sri Lanka to deliberate on structured cooperation in areas such as trade, value chains, capacity building, institutional partnerships, and cooperative-led development models.

The Dialogue was organized during the official visit of Dr Shantha Jayarathne, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Cooperatives and Director, International Cooperative Development (ICD), Sri Lanka, and aimed at strengthening cooperative-led economic engagement and institutional collaboration between the two neighbouring countries.

Welcoming the Sri Lankan delegation, Mr. Dilip Sanghani, Chair, Committee on Cooperatives, PHDCCI highlighted the global standing of Indian cooperative institutions and underscored the vast scope for India–Sri Lanka collaboration across agriculture, dairy, fertilisers, marketing, and multi-sector cooperatives.

Mr. Prakash Naiknavare, Managing Director, National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd., highlighted the evolution of India's cooperative sugar sector, noting that India is among the largest consumers and producers of sugar globally. He emphasized the Federation's role in policy advocacy and future engagement with ICD, Sri Lanka.

Mr. Jyoti Saroop, Founder Director, UNATI Multi-State Cooperative Society, showcased women-led and SHG-based cooperative models, highlighting successful initiatives in manufacturing, PACS-linked retail, and community marketing.

Ms. Savitri Singh, Deputy CEO, NCUI referred to NCUI's engagement with SAARC countries and expressed willingness to extend structured training and capacity-building support to Sri Lankan cooperatives, particularly in emerging sectors and social infrastructure.



Mr. Tarun Bhargava, Senior General Manager, IFFCO and Co-chair, Committee on Cooperatives, PHDCCI, shared that IFFCO currently works with over 50 million farmers, has 22 subsidiaries, and is actively engaged in cooperative-to-cooperative business models. He reaffirmed IFFCO's interest in strengthening cross-border cooperative trade.

Dr Mukta Girdhar, Founder & Director, Disaster Resilient Research Foundation, highlighted the role of cooperatives in disaster risk reduction, resilience planning, and

community-based preparedness.

Mr. Sanjay Verma, former Director, NCUI, emphasized the need for youth-centric cooperative training, digital skills, and career-oriented cooperative education. He advocated for stronger integration of cooperatives with national skill development initiatives and the creation of structured career pathways for young professionals.

In his keynote address, Dr Shantha Jayarathne outlined Sri Lanka's ongoing economic recovery, governance reforms, and cooperative sector transformation. He highlighted improved revenue performance and reaffirmed India's critical role under the Neighbourhood First Policy. He noted that cooperatives are now recognized as the third pillar of Sri Lanka's economy and

expressed strong interest in expanding cooperation through training programs, exposure visits, and institutional partnerships with Indian cooperative bodies. He also highlighted ongoing and upcoming India-supported training programs, including exposure visits, faculty exchange, and experiential learning initiatives, and expressed strong interest in deeper engagement with PHDCCI, NCUI, IFFCO, NCDC, and Indian cooperative training institutions.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, delivered the vote-of-thanks, reiterating PHDCCI's commitment to fostering international cooperative collaboration and supporting cooperative-led inclusive growth.

The session was anchored by Mr. Rupesh K. Pandey, Senior Secretary, PHDCCI, who set the tone for the proceedings.



GSTAT and Beyond

Operationalising GST Appeals, Key updates in Discount Schemes and other Developments in GST Law

The Indirect Tax Committee of PHDCCI organized a seminar on GSTAT and Beyond: Operationalising GST Appeals, Key updates in Discount Schemes and other Developments in GST Law on January, 23, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Mr. Shivam Mehta, Co-chair, PHDCCI, in his theme presentation highlighted in-depth knowledge on key aspects shaping the current GST landscape. The discourse on operationalising the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) provided participants with a clear understanding of its procedural framework, assessment of pending matters and insights on selecting the appropriate appellate pathway. The session also deliberated on recent developments relating to the treatment of discounts and incentives, and addressed recurring anomalies in recent decisions and Advance Rulings, with special focus on parallel proceedings and intermediary services.

Mr. Yogesh Gaba, GABA & Co, highlighted various points and errors in drafting litigations that need due consideration.

Mr. Onkar Sharma, Khaitan Co. explained that the 56th GST Council has proposed significant changes to the taxation of discounts and incentives, aiming to align GST law with commercial realities. Key proposals include removal of the pre-agreement requirement for post-sale discounts and mandating GST credit notes for value reduction.



Mr. Abhishek Mittal Elixir Legal briefly explained about the parallel proceedings under GST. The Armour Security Judgment brings much-needed clarity on cross-empowerment and parallel proceedings, clearly discouraging duplicate investigations on the same subject matter.

Mr. Arun Futela, from Dhruva Advisors, deliberated on the long-standing issue of intermediary services under GST. For over

Litigation in this area has grown significantly, with tax authorities frequently denying export benefits by classifying cross-border services as intermediary. Though the courts have largely provided relief to taxpayers, a substantial number of disputes are still pending final adjudication. In this context, the recommendation in the 56th GST Council Meeting to omit the specific place of supply provision for intermediary services is a welcome step.

Mr. Ashu Dalmia, from Ashva Legal, highlighted various points like Navigating Rule 96B: Key Insights for GST Refunds and Foreign Exchange Realization. Rule 96B under GST highlights the process for claiming refunds from foreign exchange while Section 16(3) and 16(4) address refund provisions. Proactive measures are crucial to avoid situations where the department may demand the return of refunds already granted.



a decade, businesses have been required to pay tax on intermediary services provided to overseas recipients by treating these as non-export supplies, thereby increasing costs across the supply chain.

Ms. Babeeta Sharma, Director, PHDCCI moderated the session and also introduced the speakers. Mr. Nanda Gangadhar Mishra, Joint Secretary organized the seminar.

Update on the Defence Budget

The Union Budget 2026-27, announced by the government on February 01, 2026, places national security at the core of India's modernisation, self-reliance and innovation priorities. The Ministry of Defence has received the highest-ever allocation of Rs. 7.85 lakh crore, an increase of 15.19% over Budgetary Estimates (BE) of FY 2025-26, accounting for 14.67% of the Union Budget which is highest among the Ministries. Out of the total allocation made to the Ministry of Defence, 27.95% of the Defence Budget allocation is for capital expenditure, 20.17% for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness, 26.40% for revenue expenditure on pay and allowances, 21.84% for defence pensions, and 3.64% for civil organisations.

The Conference on IBC Pulse, held in Lucknow on January 31, 2026, deliberated on emerging trends, challenges, and reforms under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, with a strong focus on strengthening the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) framework to ensure faster and more effective insolvency resolution.

Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mr. Brajesh Pathak, Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, highlighted the key causes of loan defaults and underscored the need to strengthen India's credit culture and banking reforms to promote sustainable industrial growth. Emphasizing the pivotal role of the IBC in the recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs), he noted significant progress and an improving credit culture in Uttar Pradesh.

Hon'ble Justice Rajesh Dayal Khare, Chairperson, DRAT Allahabad, stated that the IBC has played a transformative role in resolving stressed assets and reintegrating blocked capital into the financial system.

In his welcome address, Mr. G.P. Madaan, Chair, NCLT & IBC Committee, PHDCCI, observed that insolvency resolution and the IBC have emerged as complementary pillars of India's corporate

IBC Pulse Highlights Urgent Need to Strengthen NCLT for Faster Insolvency Resolution

ecosystem. Highlighting the effectiveness of the Code, he noted that gross NPAs have declined to a historic low of around 2.2% and net NPAs to 0.5%, adding that "the best use of the IBC is not to use it."

During the deliberations, Dr U.K. Chaudhary, Senior Advocate and President, NCLT Bar Association, emphasized the need to increase the number of NCLT benches and members, along with upgrading infrastructure, to reduce pendency and expedite dispute resolution.

Mr. Praveen Gupta, Hon'ble Member (Judicial), NCLT, highlighted progressive developments under the IBC, including the shift from a debtor-in-possession to a creditor-in-control

regime and the growing relevance of cross-border insolvency.

Prof. (Dr) Amar Pal Singh, Vice Chancellor, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, stressed that banking reforms are integral to the evolving IBC regime. He emphasized effective implementation of ease-of-doing-business measures and highlighted the expanding role of MSMEs and India's growing entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The technical sessions were chaired by former NCLT Members — Mr. L.N. Gupta, Mr. Rajasekhar V.K., and Dr Deepti Mukesh — and moderated by the Co-chairs of the PHDCCI NCLT & IBC Committee, Ms. Ranjana Gawai, Mr. Abhishek Anand, Mr. Rachit Mittal, and Mr. Harish Taneja.

The sessions focused on key themes, including "CIRP in Transition: Judicial Developments and Emerging Trends" and "The Evolving Framework of Insolvency Resolution of Personal Guarantors and Liquidation under IBC: Practices and Emerging Developments."

The conference witnessed participation from over 150 delegates from across the country, reflecting strong national interest in strengthening India's insolvency resolution framework.





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@gopalkagarwal

कम नोडल क्लस्टर-334 जिला विभाग द्वारा Ministry of MSME एवं PHDCCI द्वारा आयोजित Geographical Indication (GI) पहचान में सुका ब्रह्म के शाय में सहभागिता की।

इस अवसर पर देवदर से आए 20 से अधिक व्यापारिक व इंसालिफ कारीगरों को संबोधित करते हुए बतलाया कि अपने शाय के काम में भारतीय इंसालिफ टाकड़ी की वैश्विक स्तर पर निर्माण प्रक्रिया होती है। वैश्विक स्तर पर ब्रह्म के शाय की कारीगरी को उनके शाय की अतिरिक्त मुद्रांकन प्रिंट लेबल, जिसके तहत OMOC के डी-लेबलिंग से जुड़ने आवश्यक है।



Shri Gopal Krishan Agarwal, BJP National Spokesperson with 35.1K followers mentioned us in a tweet

 **United News of India** 
@unindianews

RG Agarwal, Group Chairman, Chirukha Agrahar, on Monday said that India's agriculture sector needs a decisive shift towards technology, innovation and stronger research support.

In an exclusive interview with UNI, he advocated incentives to spur agricultural science development and full removal of a tax exemption on research and development spending tax. "The withdrawal of the earlier 3 per cent tax exemption on Research and Development (R&D) spending has come at a difficult time," Agarwal said, adding that the industry was "struggling to invest in research due to high costs and limited institutional support. Without incentives, companies find it harder to push scientific development."



UNI India News with 8.9K followers mentioned us in a tweet

 **UPEIDA** 
@upeidaofficial

Spread across 333 acres, IMLC Unnao is emerging as a high-potential hub for manufacturing and logistics. With 311 registered industrial units and district exports of ₹11,800 Cr, the region is driving strong industrial growth and accelerating Uttar Pradesh's economic momentum.

For land bank and further details, click on the link below:



UPEIDA with 55.6K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Social Media Graffiti



Office of Shivraj
@OfficeofSSC

RT @ShivrajSinghChouhan: मन्त्री श्री @ShivrajSinghChouhan जी ने आज राई बिल्ली में @PhdcciHampus द्वारा आयोजित 'Agribusiness Summit 2025' में भाग लिया और उपस्थितियों को संबोधित किया।

इस अवसर पर केन्द्रीय मंत्री जी ने कृषि क्षेत्र में नवाचार, मानव संसाधन और किसान-इलेक्ट्रोनिंगों पर विस्तृत विचार साझा किए तथा कृषि-आधारित उद्योगों को नए आयों के सपने के लिए प्रेरित किया।



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare with 2M followers mentioned us in a tweet



India in Denmark
@indiainddenmark

Amb @ManishPashar06 addressed the International Federation for Education Research & Development (IFERD) Global Summit 2025 which focused on the theme of 'Innovate, Educate and Sustain: Building the Future through Knowledge & Collaboration'. Ambassador spoke on the need for greater partnership between Indian and Danish universities and higher educational institutions in the light of the India-Denmark Green Strategic Partnership and the Mobility & Migration Partnership Agreement between the two countries.



India in Denmark with 24.6K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Hero MotoCorp
@HeroMotoCorp

#HeroTriangaTrails 2025 flags off from Air Force Station Hindon with 100 officers riding out together towards Haldwani. In partnership with the #IndianAirForce Adventure Wing, this trail brings together the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and allied forces on one united mission.

#PHDCCI #HeroMotoCorp



Hero MotoCorp with 164.1K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Skill India
@MSDESkillIndia

Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from industry partners to modernise Government ITIs in Chandigarh under the PM-SETU Scheme. With focus sectors such as Advanced Manufacturing, EY (Automotive), ICT & Electronics, Electrical, Renewables and other emerging technology, take the opportunity to create a sustainable, industry-ready talent pipeline to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.



Skill India with 336.2K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Social Media Graffiti



India's youth today are more enlightened than ever; We must learn to listen to them: Union Minister of State [@DrIitendraSingh](#) addressing the "National Skill Summit 2026" organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in New Delhi



PIB India with 3.1 M followers mentioned us in a tweet



Ministry of Statist., [@GoIStats](#)

Shri Sanat Kumar, during the 2nd Series of the Pre-Release Consultative Workshop on the Base Revision of CPI, GDP and IIP, organised by NSO, MoSPI, noted that official data revisions are vital for industry forecasting, production and investment planning, and for linking contracts to CPI and WPI inflation to ensure clarity and reduce disputes. To learn more interesting facts about the base revision of CPI, GDP and IIP, watch the full video.



Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation with 59.3K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Embassy of India [@eoilima](#) is pleased to inform you that PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) [@phdchamber](#) jointly with Vizagapatnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) is organising the "Vizag International SME Business Expo ? Think Global, Build Local", scheduled on 27-29 March 2026 at the Gadiraju Palace Convention Center, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India



India in Peru with 11.5K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Productive meeting between Consul General [@venkatifs](#) & Dr Ranjeet Mehta, SG & CEO - PHDCCI along with other members of [@phdchamber](#), discussing feedback from their delegation's visit to [#Birmingham](#) last year and exploring opportunities for British SMEs to trade with India, alongside growing UK investment in India [@MEAIndia](#) [@CinGGI](#) [@DoC_GoI](#) [@IndianDiplomacy](#) [@makeinindia](#)



India in Birmingham with 13.3K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Social Media Graffiti



UPEIDA
@upeidaofficial

Firozabad IMLC (Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Cluster) is a key part of Uttar Pradesh's plan to boost industry along expressways, leveraging Firozabad's glass sector and planned world-class infrastructure, warehousing, and connectivity via the Agra-Lucknow Expressway to create an investment hub with the #UPEIDA...



UPEIDA with 55.8K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Export Promotion...
@epchindia

Step into the world of India's rich craft heritage at Bhartiya Hastkala Utsav (National Handicraft GI Expo) — a special celebration of authentic GI-tagged Indian handicrafts, organised by EPCH in collaboration with PHDCCI and supported by the O/o Development Commissioner Handicrafts to showcase the finest GI Handicrafts across India.



Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts with 5.6K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Investment Guru India
@InvGurind

Economists hail India GDP estimates, trade deal with US to further boost investments.

investmentguruintia.com/newsdetail/eco...



Investment Guru India with 19.3K followers mentioned us in a tweet



Indian Institute of F...
@iift_official

This week at Research Talks, join us for an insightful session with @DrSPSharmaPhD as he unpacks how economies, institutions, and leaders can move beyond linear forecasts in a volatile global landscape.



Indian Institute of Foreign Trade with 2.6K followers mentioned us in a tweet

Workshop on Export Awareness, Procedures & Documentation

A workshop on “Export Awareness, Procedures & Documentation” under the RAMP Scheme by the Ministry of MSMEs was organized on January 22, 2026 at Durg by PHDCCI Chhattisgarh State Chapter, as industry partner in collaboration with Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation.

Mr. Ratan Das Gupta, Member of PHDCCI Chhattisgarh State Chapter in his welcome address, indicated that the workshop aimed at empowering MSMEs and entrepreneurs with practical knowledge to enhance India's export potential and competitiveness in global markets.

Mr. Sanjeet Kumar, Manager, ECGC stated that ECGC plays a vital role in promoting India's exports by providing credit risk insurance and supporting exporters against payment risks in international trade. ECGC aims to create greater awareness among MSMEs and new exporters about safe exporting practices, access to finance, and effective risk-mitigation tools.

Mr. S.K. Singh, General Manager, DIC, Government of Chhattisgarh stated that the Directorate of Industries, Chhattisgarh, is committed to strengthening MSMEs and enhancing their participation in exports. Under the RAMP initiative, the workshop aims to build awareness on export procedures, documentation, and global market opportunities.

Mr. Alok Kumar, APEDA stated that APEDA plays a key role in promoting India's agricultural and processed

food exports by providing guidance, market access support, and quality compliance assistance to exporters. APEDA aims to create awareness among MSMEs and exporters about export procedures, standards, and global opportunities in agri-exports.

Mr. Rahul Choudhary, PMU Team on Export Promotion, Directorate of Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh said that the PMU Team of the Chhattisgarh Export Promotion, Directorate of Industries, Government of Chhattisgarh, is working to support MSMEs and entrepreneurs in building export readiness.



Mr. Sumit Dubey, Resident Director, PHDCCI, Chhattisgarh State Chapter delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the guests.

Update on the Pharmaceutical Sector

The Union Budget 2026–27 marks a decisive shift in India's approach to pharmaceuticals by placing biopharma and biologic medicines at the centre of its healthcare and manufacturing strategy. This aligns with the Government of India's vision of transforming India into a leading global biopharma industry and capturing 5% of the global biopharmaceutical market share. Acknowledging the growing burden of non-communicable diseases and the increasing global reliance on biologics and biosimilars, the Budget positions biopharma as a high-value, future-facing segment critical for both public health and economic growth. Biopharma involves production, manufacturing, or extraction of therapies through biological organisms, such as human cells, fungi, or microbes.

The budget proposes the launch of Biopharma SHAKTI, a dedicated national initiative with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores over five years, aimed at strengthening India's end-to-end ecosystem for biologics and biosimilars. The initiative is designed to support domestic development and manufacturing of high-value biopharmaceutical products and medicines, reduce import dependence, and enhance India's competitiveness in global biologics supply chains.

The budget also proposes expansion and strengthening of the Biopharma-focused network through the establishment of three new National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) and the upgradation of seven existing NIPERs. This measure seeks to address the growing requirement for highly specialised human resources in biopharma research, development, manufacturing and regulation.

Finance Forward Catalyzing Sustainable Growth through Innovation, Finance and Quality

The Finance Forward Conclave, themed “Finance Forward: Catalyzing Sustainable Growth through Innovation, Finance, and Quality,” was held on January 29, 2026, at Ahmedabad, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 220 MSMEs.

The conclave commenced with the traditional Lamp Lighting Ceremony, followed by a welcome address by Mr. Vaibhav Shah, Chairman, PHDCCI Gujarat & Director – Monarch Network Capital Ltd. An insightful inaugural address was delivered by Mr.



Vishrut Pathak, Partner – RarEver Financial Advisors & Founder – PI Square Investments. Ms. Parvathi Moorthy, AVP – National Stock Exchange, set the context with valuable insights on SME IPOs and capital market opportunities.

Two Panel Discussions were held including: I: The Next Decade of Indian Investing: Opportunities, Risks & Returns, II: Taking SMEs Public: Readiness, Regulation & Reality.

The Technical Sessions highlighted key schemes and financial solutions for MSMEs. AU Small Finance Bank presented its MSME-focused



service offerings, followed by an informative session on “MSME Schemes: Benefits & Subsidies” by Mr. T. K. Solanki, Assistant Director & Head of Office, Ministry of MSME, MSME-DFO, Ahmedabad.

The conclave concluded with a formal vote-of-thanks by Mr. Vishal H. Rajgarhia, Co-chair, Pharma, PHDCCI Gujarat and Director – Finecure Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

QCI Gunvatta Yatra Programme

PHDCCI Gujarat State Chapter organized the QCI Gunvatta Yatra on January 18, 2026, in Rajkot, with the participation of around 70 dental professionals, including members of the Indian Dental Association. The programme focused on promoting quality standards, accreditation, and patient safety in the healthcare and dental sectors, underscoring the importance of continuous quality improvement.

A representative from the Quality Council of India (QCI) introduced the QCI Gunvatta Yatra initiative and shared valuable insights on



strengthening India’s quality ecosystem. Dr Nayana Patel, NABH Assessor, provided an overview of NABH accreditation and highlighted its significance in enhancing quality and safety across healthcare institutions.



Awareness Workshop on National Pension System (NPS) for MSMEs



PHDCCI Gujarat Chapter, in association with PwC India and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), organized a workshop on the National Pension System (NPS) for MSMEs in Ahmedabad on January 21, 2026.

Mr. Alak Kumar Mitra, IEDS, Deputy Director, MSME Development & Facilitation Office, highlighted key Government



initiatives for MSMEs and emphasized the importance of long-term pension planning. Ms.

Khushbu Shukla, AGM, PFRDA, underscored the role of NPS as a flexible, portable, and tax-efficient retirement solution tailored to the needs of the MSME sector.

Mr. Jay Samani, Resident Manager, PHDCCI Gujarat Chapter, delivered the introductory remarks.

The session featured practical demonstrations by officials from SBI Pension Fund and HDFC Pension Management Company Limited, followed by an interactive Q&A session. The workshop significantly enhanced awareness on NPS benefits, enrollment procedures, and its positive impact on employee retention and sustainable enterprise growth.

Pre-Budget Consultation on "Haryana Vision 2047"

Women Entrepreneurs of PHDCCI Haryana State Chapter presented Visionary Recommendations to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. Nayab Singh Saini at the Haryana Pre-Budget Consultation on "Haryana Vision 2047" on January 12, 2026 at Gurugram.

A delegation comprising PHDCCI Women Entrepreneurs, COWE Haryana, IamSMEofIndia, and women entrepreneurs from diverse sectors participated actively and highlighted the need for women to move beyond startups and large



scale employment-generating enterprises. The delegation presented key recommendations including identification of priority sectors for women, a state-wide micro business program, centres of excellence in emerging technologies, scholarships

for women, market-linked support for SHGs, improved access to finance, public procurement enforcement, export facilitation, co-manufacturing incubation centres, workplace health measures, and green livelihood initiatives.

The Renewable Energy & Electric Vehicle Expo (REV) organized from January 9-11, 2026 by the Haryana State Chapter of PHDCCI in collaboration with CREST and Eventage marked an important milestone in advancing India's clean energy and electric mobility agenda.

Chief Guest, Mr. H. Rajesh Prasad, IAS, Chief Secretary, Chandigarh Administration, emphasized on India's transition towards a low-carbon and sustainable economy. He highlighted the critical role of renewable energy and electric vehicles in addressing climate change, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and improving urban air quality. He called upon industry, academia, and government institutions to work collaboratively to scale-up clean technologies, strengthen infrastructure, and create an enabling ecosystem for innovation and investments in the renewable energy and EV sectors.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Saurabh Kumar, IFS, Secretary, CREST, Chandigarh shared insights on Chandigarh's progressive initiatives



in renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and sustainable urban development, and stressed the need for innovation, capacity building, and public-private partnerships to achieve clean energy targets.

Mr. Satish Dev Jain, Chair, Haryana State Chapter, PHDCCI, emphasized that the REV Expo has emerged as a significant platform for showcasing cutting-edge technologies, encouraging industry-government collaboration, and creating new business and

Advancing India's Renewable Energy & Electric Mobility Agenda



investment opportunities across the clean energy value chain.

Adv. Lokesh Jain, Co-chair, Haryana State Chapter, PHDCCI, in his vote-of-thanks acknowledged the efforts of the PHDCCI Secretariat and supporting partners for their dedication in organizing the event.

At the session on "Business Opportunities for Women in Solar Industry," speakers Mr. Bhupinder Kumar, Director, Inter Solar Systems talked about success story on the scope of solar in Chandigarh; Mr. Parag Mishra, President, Solar Energy Vendor Association, UP spoke on the success story of scope of solar business in India; Mr. Siddharth Mittal and Mr. Milan Goel from PNB Bank gave an insight about the funding schemes under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana; CS Arshdeep Kaur Judge, Co-convenor, Regional NCLT and Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI indicated the ways and means to establish a new solar company in Chandigarh; Ms. Kanika Monga from CREST talked about the usage of solar energy in various industries in Chandigarh and Mr. Shailender Gaur, Sub Divisional Engineer, Mechanical Wing, Public Works Department, Government of Haryana pointed

out the future needs of energy and solar power.

Valedictory Session: At the valedictory ceremony of REV Expo held on January 11, 2025, Mr. Rajneesh Bansal, Chair, Chandigarh Chapter, PHDCCI stated that the 4th Edition of REV Expo has reinforced PHDCCI's commitment

towards promoting sustainable development, clean energy adoption, and electric mobility in the region.

Mr. Dinkar Sally, Director, Dinkar PV, Mr. Anuj Jain, Director, Voltra, Mr. Sorabh Sharma, President, Sreshtha Foundation and Mr. Vijay Kumar, President, Solar Ardent Association shared their visions to promote renewables and electric vehicles in India.

Outstanding exhibitors were recognized for their exemplary participation and innovation as per the following categories:

Best Display: Dinkar PV; Best Display – Runner Up: Millennium;

Best Footfall: Mavricks; Best Footfall – Runner Up: Deye Watthut;

Best Innovation in Electric Vehicle: Mahindra; Best Innovation in Battery Technology: Voltra.

Mr. Gurdarshan Agarwal, Resident Director, PHDCCI noted that the Expo witnessed vibrant interactions, knowledge-sharing sessions, and meaningful networking, reflecting the growing momentum of renewable energy and EV sectors in India.

Pre-budget Memorandum to Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K



PHDCCI's Jammu Region, led by Chair, Mr. Rakesh Wazir, submitted a pre-Budget memorandum to J&K Chief Minister, Mr. Omar Abdullah on January 28, 2026, outlining urgent measures to revive trade, industry and tourism, with special focus on the Jammu region.

Key demands included extension of the New Central Sector Scheme

beyond September 2024 with benefits for local entrepreneurs, support for hotel renovation and industrial expansion, and restoration of incentives on the lines of the 2017 Industrial Package. The Chamber also sought GST reimbursement and power tariff relief for hotels at par with manufacturing units.

To drive tourism-led growth, PHDCCI proposed strengthening

tourism infrastructure and dispersing Vaishno Devi pilgrim traffic to other destinations through integrated packages, new attractions, town beautification of Katra, film tourism promotion, and improved publicity. It also flagged the adverse impact of Punjab's 6% mandi fee on J&K flour millers and called for corrective intervention.



Pre-Budget Recommendations to Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K

The Kashmir State Chapter of PHDCCI on January 23, 2026 submitted a visionary set of pre-budget recommendations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Omar Abdullah. The delegation, spearheaded by Mr. Himayu Wani, Co-chair, and Mr. Iqbal Fayaz Jan, Deputy Director, presented a detailed roadmap designed to unlock investment, empower local businesses, and accelerate sustainable development. The comprehensive proposal focused on three critical pillars: providing urgent relief to businesses navigating post-2019 challenges, radically simplifying regulatory frameworks, and directing strategic investments into high-potential sectors like Tourism, Information Technology and MSMEs.

DST Strengthens India–Netherlands Cooperation in Green Hydrogen

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, strengthened India–Netherlands scientific cooperation in clean energy with the launch of the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme, and the hosting of the signing of a MoU between the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and 19 Indian Institutes of Technology to establish an enabling academic cooperation framework in green energy and hydrogen research. International collaboration and targeted capacity-building initiatives are critical for advancing hydrogen technologies from research to deployment, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors aligned with India's clean energy transition goals. The fellowship is designed to ensure that research outcomes directly contribute to national clean energy priorities.

Awareness on Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance

PHDCCI under the aegis of its Madhya Pradesh State Chapter, and in its role as “Industry Partner” organized an Exposure Visit under the RAMP Scheme to WoodAsia Expo 2026, with a special focus on the furniture sector, for MSMEs of Madhya Pradesh Laghu Udyog Nigam Ltd. (MPLUN), Government of Madhya Pradesh. The visit was held from January 16–18, 2026 at the Ludhiana Exhibition Centre.

The exposure visit was conducted under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, an initiative of the Government of India aimed at enhancing the competitiveness, productivity, and market access of MSMEs.

The delegation had the privilege of meeting Mr. Sanjeev Arora,

Hon’ble Minister for Commerce and Industry, Local Government, and Town and Country Planning, Government of Punjab, who appreciated the initiative for promoting inter-state learning, industry exposure, and MSME development.

With the support of the Ludhiana Office (Punjab Chapter), the PHDCCI Madhya Pradesh State Chapter also interacted with Mr. Vishal Garg, Convener, along with members of the PHDCCI Punjab Chapter in Ludhiana and the Furniture Association of Punjab. Further enriching the visit, Mr. Gurmeet Singh Kular, CMD, Darshan Group of Companies, a renowned industrialist of Ludhiana,



shared valuable insights into the region’s industrial ecosystem, highlighting growth opportunities, market trends, and Ludhiana’s strengths in furniture manufacturing. The participating MSMEs engaged with industry counterparts from Punjab, focusing on future collaboration, technology adoption, innovation, and best practices in the furniture industry.

Overall, the exposure visit proved to be a meaningful platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and exploring collaborative opportunities for MSMEs of Madhya Pradesh.



Enhancing Awareness About National Pension System

In association with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and under the aegis of its Madhya Pradesh State Chapter, PHDCCI organized an NPS Awareness Workshop titled “Enhancing Awareness about the National Pension System: A Smart Investment Choice – Enroll Today, Secure Tomorrow” on January 13, 2026 at Jabalpur. The workshop aimed at sensitising MSMEs to the importance of structured retirement planning.

Supported by the Mahakoshal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

(MCCI), the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of

MSMEs, industry representatives, and officials from UTI Pension Fund and ICICI Prudential Pension Funds Management.

The key benefits of the National Pension System (NPS), including portability, flexibility, regulated fund management, and tax advantages, were highlighted as effective tools for strengthening employee security and enhancing enterprise sustainability. The sessions featured insightful addresses by Mr. Vineet Kumar Rajak, Joint Director, Department of Industries, Government of Madhya Pradesh; Mr. Satyapal Rajput,

State Head (MP), ICICI Prudential Pension Funds Management; Mr. Piyush Kishor Tidke, Assistant Manager, UTI Pension Fund; Mr. Arun Kumar Jain and Mr. Subodh Kumar Jain, Members, PHDCCI; and Mr. Ravi Gupta, President, MCCI, Jabalpur. The sessions were moderated by Mr. Anirudh Dubey, Assistant Resident Director, PHDCCI Madhya Pradesh Chapter.

The workshop concluded with a strong call for MSMEs to adopt pension planning as a strategic investment in workforce welfare and long-term business growth, reinforcing PHDCCI’s commitment to expanding NPS outreach and pension literacy across the MSME ecosystem in Madhya Pradesh.

Participation in Startup Punjab Conclave 2026

The Regional Startup & Entrepreneurship Forum of PHDCCI (Punjab, Chandigarh and Haryana Region) participated in the Startup Punjab Conclave 2026, held at Lovely Professional University (LPU), Phagwara, on January 12, 2026, reinforcing its continued commitment to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and startup-led economic growth in Punjab.

The conclave was inaugurated by Mr. Bhagwant Singh Mann, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab. Addressing entrepreneurs and stakeholders, the Hon'ble Chief Minister emphasized that the government's clear objective is to transform Punjab's youth from job seekers into job creators, unveiling "Update and Create" as the new mantra for youth-led growth. He reiterated that startups are the biggest engines of job creation and economic development, assuring full institutional support to innovative business ideas.

Several innovative startups including The School of Metaphysics; Ventin Organics and Davesar Consultants showcased their products and services under the dedicated "PHDCCI Startup Arena," attracting significant interest from industry representatives and investors.

Mr. Sanjeev Arora, Hon'ble Minister for Industry and Commerce, Power and Department of Local Body Government of Punjab, visited the PHDCCI Startup Arena and interacted with the participating startups.

The PHDCCI delegation was led by Mr. Manish Verma, Chair, Regional Startup and Entrepreneurship Forum; Dr Anirudh Gupta, Convener, Regional Education & Skill Development Committee; Mr. Satyendra S.



Choudhary, Convener, Mohali Zone, Regional Startup and Entrepreneurship Forum & Dr Ati Priye, Convener, Ludhiana Zone, Regional Startup and Entrepreneurship Forum.



The participation of PHDCCI enabled startups to interact with potential clients, investors, and industry partners to enable networking, business development, and future collaborations.

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting with Invest Punjab

A PHDCCI delegation led by Mr. R S Sachdeva, Management Committee Member, along with other stakeholders took part in Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Unified Talent Connect Portal organized by Invest Punjab on January 22, 2026 at Chandigarh.

Mr. Sachdeva emphasised the need to make industrial training mandatory for students and job seekers, highlighting that structured industry exposure is critical for bridging the skill gap and enhancing employability among youth. Mr. Supreet Singh, Convener, Regional Pharmaceutical, Health and Wellness Committee underscored the importance of developing industry-ready manpower from Punjab, stressing on locally sourced talent that is aligned with the evolving requirements of regional industries. CS Rahul Jogi, Convener, Regional NCLT and Corporate Affairs Committee highlighted the potential of integrating Corporate Social Responsibility funding with ITIs, suggesting that strategic deployment of CSR resources could significantly strengthen infrastructure, training quality, and outcome-based skilling initiatives.

The consultation provided a constructive platform for industry stakeholders to share inputs and recommendations aimed at strengthening Punjab's skilling ecosystem and enhancing employment opportunities through effective utilisation of the Unified Talent Connect Portal once it is rolled out.



National Pension System (NPS)

Building a Secure Future for MSME Workforce

The Punjab State Chapter & Regional Banking & Financial Services Committee of PHDCCI, in association with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), organized an Awareness Session on National Pension System (NPS): Building a Secure Future for MSME Workforce on January 31, 2026 at Ludhiana.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Shiv Shankar Kumar, Co-convenor, Regional Banking & Financial Services Committee, PHDCCI, emphasized the importance of structured retirement planning for MSME employees, highlighting NPS as a vital instrument for financial independence and post-retirement security.

Delivering the keynote address, Mr. Arashdeep Singh, AGM, PFRDA, underscored the Government of India's strong commitment towards expanding pension coverage and strengthening the social security



framework, particularly for the MSME workforce.

Mr. Abhishek Dhiman, Assistant Manager, PFRDA, delivered a presentation encouraging MSMEs

to actively enrol their workforce to ensure long-term financial well-being.

A comprehensive presentation on the benefits of NPS, enrolment process, investment choices, and tax advantages was delivered by Mr. Aishwarya Mudgal, PoP, PFRDA & Senior Manager, HDFC Pension Funds, who explained how NPS makes it an ideal retirement solution for both employers and employees in the MSME sector.

The session was moderated by Mr. Ajay Bharti, Financial Secretary, CICU, who emphasized the role of NPS in building a financially secure workforce.

Dr S.B. Singh, Joint Secretary, CICU, delivered the formal vote of thanks and highlighted the importance of such initiatives in empowering MSMEs with financial knowledge and promoting a culture of long-term savings.

Tax Incentives for Manufacturing Sector in Budget 2026-27

- Exemption from income tax for five years to non-residents providing capital goods, equipment or tooling, to any toll manufacturer in a bonded zone.
- Provision of safe harbour to non-residents for component warehousing in a bonded warehouse.
- Deferred duty payment window to trusted manufacturers.
- Increase the limit for duty-free imports of specified inputs used for processing seafood products for export, from the current 1% to 3% of the FOB value of the previous year's export turnover.
- Duty-free imports of specified inputs extended to export of shoe uppers in addition to leather or synthetic footwear.
- Extension of time for the export of final product from the existing 6 months to 1 year, for exporters of leather or textile garments, leather and synthetic footwear.
- Exemption from basic customs duty on specified parts used in the manufacture of microwave ovens.
- Exemption from basic customs duty on raw materials imported for manufacture of aircraft parts used in maintenance, repair, or overhaul requirements defence units.
- Regular importers with trusted longstanding supply chains to be recognized in the risk system.
- Export cargo using electronic sealing to be provided through clearance from the factory premises to the ship.
- A special one-time measure to facilitate sale in domestic tariff area at concessional rate of duty by eligible manufacturing units of SEZs.

Press Meet & Industry Meet For Rajasthan Industrial Trade Expo-2026 (RITEX)

PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter in association with Evention, Event Partner organized "Press Meet & Industry Meet for Rajasthan Industrial Trade Expo-2026 (RITEX)" on January 7, 2026 at Hotel Ashoka Green, Udaipur.

A new chapter is set to begin in Rajasthan's industrial, trade and investment landscape as Udaipur prepares to host the second edition of the Rajasthan Industrial Trade Expo – RITEX 2026, the three-day mega industrial exhibition to be held from March 20-22, 2026 at B.N. College Ground, Udaipur.

Mr. Mukesh Madhwani, Senior Executive Member of PHDCCI and Convener, Udaipur Division welcomed the media and presented a comprehensive overview of RITEX 2026. He informed that more than 200 exhibitors will participate, while over 30,000 visitors including industrialists, traders, investors, government officials, technical experts and institutional buyers are expected to visit the Expo. Around 50 foreign delegates may also attend.



The expo will facilitated B2B, B2C and B2G interactions, on-site business deals, supply contracts, dealership agreements, export orders and discussions on future projects. .

Mr. R K Gupta, Resident Director, PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter stated that the three-day event is likely to create business prospects worth more than Rs.1,000 crore, giving fresh momentum to the economy of Udaipur, the Mewar region and Rajasthan as a whole. He highlighted that the expo will feature a wide range of sectors including stones, handicrafts, mining and minerals, machinery and equipment, renewable energy (solar products), agriculture and value-added food products, organic foods, food processing machinery, farm equipment, pharmaceuticals, textiles, fashion products, home décor, electrical goods, construction and building materials, tourism, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery, AYUSH products, wood and

furniture, One District One Product (ODOP) items, and products made by NGOs and cottage industries.

He highlighted that, several technical sessions will be organised during RITEX on topics such as ODOP-based trade opportunities, GI tagging and branding, GST awareness, new investment prospects in Udaipur, and developing Udaipur as a film production hub.

Mr. Piyush Khawal, Director, Evention said the expo will prove to be a milestone for the development of trade and industry in Udaipur and southern Rajasthan. Exhibitors from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and other states will also participate.

The Press Meet was attended by 40 Media and the Industry Meet was attended by more than 100 Industry and trade members of Udaipur region.





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PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

For further guidance on registration and application submission process
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UPITEX

Industrial Trade Expo-2026



The Uttar Pradesh State Chapter of PHDCCI, in collaboration with the Ministry of MSME, ODOP and Invest UP, Government of Uttar Pradesh organized UPITEX – 4th Edition from January 23–26, 2026 at Lucknow.

The mega trade expo was formally inaugurated by Mr. Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister for MSME, Khadi & Village Industries, Sericulture Industries, Handloom and Textile, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the Inaugural Session, the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister stated that UPITEX has successfully facilitated seamless connections between producers and consumers while contributing meaningfully to the State's economic growth. He congratulated PHDCCI for bringing entrepreneurs, ODOP producers, and multiple stakeholders together under one roof and suggested that future editions of the Expo be extended by two more days.

UPITEX witnessed an impressive footfall of over 1.8 lakh visitors, including state ministers, senior bureaucrats, industry leaders, buyers, and trade delegations. The overwhelming response reaffirmed UPITEX as a flagship platform supporting Uttar Pradesh's ambitious vision of achieving a US\$ 1 trillion economy.

UPITEX–4th Edition showcased a diverse spectrum of industries

and sectors, with prominent participation from the NABARD Pavilion, ODOP–Government of Uttar Pradesh Pavilion, Madhya Pradesh Pavilion, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts Pavilion, Gujarat ODOP Pavilion, National Jute Board Pavilion, and Auto Expo Pavilion, among others.

Serving as a vibrant confluence of culture and commerce, UPITEX not only highlighted Uttar Pradesh's rich cultural heritage but also reinforced its growing economic strength. The Expo significantly boosted investor confidence, opened new avenues for local businesses to scale and diversify, and strengthened the foundation for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The Trade Expo stands as a testament to PHDCCI's leadership and commitment in creating impactful platforms that accelerate industrial development and position the State as a preferred investment destination.



During the Valedictory Session, Dr Hari Om, IAS, Principal Secretary, Vocational Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department, Uttar Pradesh Government emphasized that India is steadily progressing towards becoming a major global economy. He highlighted the critical role of skilled manpower, noting that industries risk stagnation without it. He encouraged industries to partner with the government by providing on-the-job training to youth, with training costs supported by the government.

Mr. Puklit Khare, IAS, Mission Director, Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission, informed that the Mission offers both online and offline training programs free of cost, enabling youth to choose courses aligned with their interests. Upon completion, certified candidates can participate in job fairs. He further urged industries to become training partners, adding that the Mission reimburses training costs provided at least 80% of trained candidates are placed.

Welcoming the dignitaries during the Conference on "Credit Facilities for MSMEs in the Healthcare Sector,"



Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, underscored the pivotal role of healthcare in social and economic welfare. He stated that the healthcare sector would be a major contributor to realizing Hon'ble Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanathi's vision of a US \$1 trillion economy for Uttar Pradesh. Dr Mehta lauded the State Government's investment-led industrialization efforts and noted that Uttar Pradesh has emerged as a champion of traditional and modern MSMEs under the current governance. He also highlighted that UPITEX is among the largest expos in Northern India, with participation from over 400 domestic and international exhibitors across multiple sectors.

Mr. Rajesh Nigam, Co-chair, UP State Chapter, PHDCCI, stated that UPITEX aims to create new business opportunities for MSMEs, startups, and traditional industries.



Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, noted that UPITEX focuses on strengthening trade linkages, promoting MSMEs, uplifting rural and border economies, supporting women entrepreneurs, and creating new pathways for investment and collaboration. He emphasized that UPITEX 2026 was not merely an exhibition but a platform for meaningful dialogue between industry, policy, and markets, reflecting Uttar Pradesh's rapid emergence as a reliable hub for trade and investment.

Delivering the formal vote-of-thanks, Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director, UP State Chapter, PHDCCI said that UPITEX was conceptualized to enhance the

State's economy and accelerate business growth of MSMEs and startups by enabling national and international business linkages.

UPITEX featured stalls from Fashion, Lifestyle, Home Décor, Food & Cuisine, Consumer Durables, FMCG, Furniture, Building Materials, EVs, IT, and several other sectors. The Expo provided an ideal platform to promote Indian products under the 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local to Global' initiatives, infusing renewed confidence and momentum into the State's economy.

Recognized as one of the largest trade events in Uttar Pradesh, UPITEX showcased products and services from over 400 domestic and international exhibitors. Exhibitors and sponsors expressed high satisfaction after securing substantial business leads, with over Rs. 500 crore worth of business enquiries generated during the four-day Mega Expo.

FOCUS STATE **UTTARAKHAND**

79th BIS Foundation Day

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) commemorates its Foundation Day every year on January 6. On the occasion of the 79th BIS Foundation Day on January 6, 2026, the programme was graced by Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhami, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, along with Ms. Savita Kapoor, Hon'ble MLA (Cantt), Mr. Umesh Sharma Kau, Hon'ble MLA (Raipur Vidhan Sabha) and Mr. Khajjan Das, Hon'ble MLA (Rajpur Vidhan Sabha).

PHDCCI Uttarakhand Chapter was felicitated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister in recognition of the initiatives and activities undertaken by the Chamber for the growth and development of the region. The felicitation was received by Mr. Ritesh Singh, Deputy Resident Director, PHDCCI Uttarakhand Chapter.



MEETING WITH HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM



Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI and Mr. Premashis Mittra, Joint Secretary, PHDCCI met with Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Assam on January 16, 2026 at Raj Bhavan, Guwahati. Dr Mehta apprised the Hon'ble Governor of the various initiatives undertaken by PHDCCI for the promotion of trade and industry across the country and also highlighted the activities of the PHDCCI North East Region (NER) Chapter aimed at fostering industrial development in the NER. The Hon'ble Governor appreciated the initiatives of the Chamber and encouraged PHDCCI to continue undertaking impactful initiatives in the NER, aligned with the focus areas and vision of Hon'ble PM, Mr. Narendra Modi.

MEETING WITH HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY



A PHDCCI delegation led by Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General and Mr. Sanket Srivastava, Head (Power Management, Sustainability & Policy), Noida Power Company Ltd., along with Mr. Punit Chaudhry, Senior Secretary and Mr. Suresh Joshi, Secretary met Mr. Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy on January 21, 2026. The purpose of the meeting was to invite the Hon'ble Minister for PHDCCI's 4th Discom Conclave on the theme "Creating Next Gen Discoms: Financially Strong and Digitally Smart", scheduled for February 24, 2026 at PHD House.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT & CEO, IKEA INDIA PVT. LTD.



A PHDCCI delegation led by Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General along with Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General & Ms. Aparajita, Director met with Mr. Patrik Antoni, President & CEO, IKEA India Pvt. Ltd., to discuss potential engagement between IKEA and PHDCCI, with a key focus on the Sustainability Sector on January 6, 2026.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICALS, MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS



A PHDCCI delegation of the Health Committee led by Mr. Abhay Kumar Srivastava, Chair, Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Committee along with Dr Nasir Jamal, Director, Dr Ravi Rathod, General Manager – Policy & Strategic Affairs, Innvolution Healthcare Pvt. Ltd, and Mr. Jatin Nagpal, Secretary met with Mr. Manoj Joshi, IAS, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilisers on January 21, 2026 to deliberate on key policy priorities aimed at strengthening India's pharmaceutical and medical devices ecosystem. The delegation extended the invitation to Mr. Joshi to be the Chief Guest at PHDCCI's upcoming 9th PharmaMed to be held in March 2026.



MEETING WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORT CORPORATION



A PHDCCI delegation led by Mr. Adarsh Kumar, Co-chair, Infrastructure and Road Development Committee, Mr. Ramesh Acharya, Joint Secretary and Mr. Kabir Roy, Assistant Secretary met Mr. Shalabh Goel, Managing Director, National Capital Region Transport Corporation on January 27, 2026. The objective of the meeting was to apprise Mr. Goel of PHDCCI's ongoing initiatives and activities and to extend an invitation to address industry stakeholders at the upcoming Conference on Arbitration Norms for Construction and Infrastructure Sectors.

MEETING WITH ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR, NACIN, MINISTRY OF FINANCE



A PHDCCI delegation comprising of Mr. Manish Sharma, CEO, VeK Policy; Mr. Adhiraj Gupta, VeK Policy; Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sangrai, Director, and Mr. Youdhvir Singh, Joint Secretary met Dr Bijender Meena, IRS, Additional Director, National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics, Ministry of Finance on January 8, 2026. The discussion focused on anti-counterfeiting, emerging industry trends, technology adoption, and aligning training and capacity-building programs with current and future industry needs. Mr. Sangrai presented the “Track and Trace” Conference report organized by PHDCCI with the support of CBIC and DRI, highlighting industry best practices in traceability and compliance.

MEETING WITH JOINT SECRETARY (POLICE MODERNISATION), MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS



A PHDCCI Defence & HLS delegation led by Mr. Ashok Atluri, Chair along with Dr Nasir Jamal, Director and Mr. Sachin Sharma, Joint Secretary met Mr. Prasana R, IAS, Joint Secretary (Police Modernisation), Ministry of Home Affairs on January 21, 2026. The delegation shared the various industry issues related to the promoting of Indian indigenous defence and security industry and invited the Joint Secretary to the 2nd Edition of the Industry Interactive Conference & Mini Expo with CAPFs.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR (WORKS), IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.



A PHDCCI delegation led by Mr. Adarsh Kumar, Co-chair, Infrastructure and Road Development Committee, along with Mr. Ramesh Acharya, Joint Secretary and Mr. Kabir Roy, Assistant Secretary met Mr. Ajit Kumar Mishra, Director (Works), IRCON International Ltd. on January 30, 2026. The objective of the meeting was to extend an invitation to Mr. Kumar to address industry stakeholders at the upcoming Conference on Arbitration Norms for Construction and Infrastructure Sectors.

MEETING WITH MANAGING DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.



A PHDCCI delegation of Infrastructure and Road Development Committee led by Mr. Himanshu Agarwal, Co-chair, along with Dr Satish Pandey and Mr. Adarsh Kumar, Co-chairs; Mr. Ramesh Acharya, Joint Secretary and Mr. Kabir Roy, Assistant Secretary met Mr. Krishan Kumar, IAS, Managing Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. on January 13, 2026. The delegation extended an invitation to Mr. Kumar to address industry stakeholders at the upcoming Conferences on Arbitration Norms for Construction and Infrastructure Sectors and the NER Roads and Highways Summit.

MEETING WITH HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF ASSAM



Mr. A Tovi Choppi, Chair, NER PHDCCI, and Ms. Meghmala Choudhury, Assistant Resident Director and In-Charge, NER Chapter, PHDCC met with Mr. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Hon'ble Governor of Assam at Lok Bhavan on January 3, 2026. The delegation invited His Excellency to grace the GI Mahotsav: "Promoting India's Heritage through GI Products", organized by PHDCCI with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME held at Guwahati from January 15-18, 2026.

PRE-BUDGET TRADE CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER, RAJASTHAN



Mr. Digvijay Dhabriya, Chair, Rajasthan Chapter, PHDCCI attended a Pre-Budget Trade Consultative Meeting convened by Mr. Bhajan Lal Sharma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan on January 13, 2026 at Jaipur. Mr. Dhabriya submitted a detailed submission containing various suggestions received from industry members for their incorporation in the forthcoming Budget 2026-27 of the State for the development of the trade and industry.

MEETING WITH, HON'BLE CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA, BIRMINGHAM



A PHDCCI delegation led by Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General and the Secretariat team met Dr Venkatachalam Murugan, Hon'ble Consul General of India, Birmingham on January 28, 2026 to discuss potential collaboration opportunities between India and UK business communities at PHD House, New Delhi.

PHD FAMILY WELFARE FOUNDATION (PHDFWF)



The PHD Family Welfare Foundation organised the **11th Women Astitva Samman and 10th Junior Astitva Samman 2026** on Friday, 16 January 2026, at the PHD House, New Delhi to honour inspiring women, young innovators and organisations working for social development and women empowerment. Women Astitva Samman 2026 awardees: Government: SPUWAC, Delhi Police (received by Mr. Ajay Chaudhry, IPS) Corporate: McLeod Russel India Limited (received by Mr. Saneer Gurung) MSME: My Kinda Holidays (Ms. Ira Narula & Ms. Alka Jha) NGO: Sewa Bharti (received by Mr. Ramesh Agarwal) Special Category: Ms. Menuka Poudel (Indian Idol Season 14) and for Junior Astitva Samman 2026 awards were given to Nemo AI project received by Abhigyan Nayak, Amity International School, Saket, Neer project by Team from Shiv Nadar School, Noida, FREAX project received by Annaya Gandhi & Kanav Jain, Bal Bharati School, Rohini and In Rhyme Project by Sia Gupta, Modern School, Barakhamba.



The PHD Family Welfare Foundation organised the **Second FWF Cricket League 2026** on January 10, 2026 at Laxman Public School, New Delhi. The initiative was undertaken as part of PHDFWF's holistic development approach aimed at promoting sportsmanship, teamwork, confidence-building, and overall physical and mental well-being of its beneficiaries.

EDUCATION



NL Mehara Pre-Primary School run by PHDFWF is dedicated to building strong educational foundations for underprivileged children through joyful, child-centred learning. The school offers free early childhood education using interactive teaching methods that promote basic literacy, numeracy, creativity and social skills. In addition, PHDFWF provides free tutorial classes in Mathematics and Science for needy students with support from its funding ensuring a safe, caring, and stimulating learning environment.

HEALTH CARE



PHDFWF has been committed to providing high-quality, free primary medical care to low-income and underprivileged groups with limited access to healthcare due to geographical, economic, or infrastructural barriers. The foundation's Target Intervention project focuses on preventing HIV/AIDS among high-risk groups across Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. To reach the most remote areas, PHDFWF operates 11 mobile medical vans, including specialized eye and dental vans, supported by organizations like DSACS, Jaquar Foundation, Imperial Auto Industries Ltd, Seth Madanlal Palriwala Foundation, Rotary Club of Delhi Premier, Sangneria Foundation for Health and Education Trust and AAOT

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



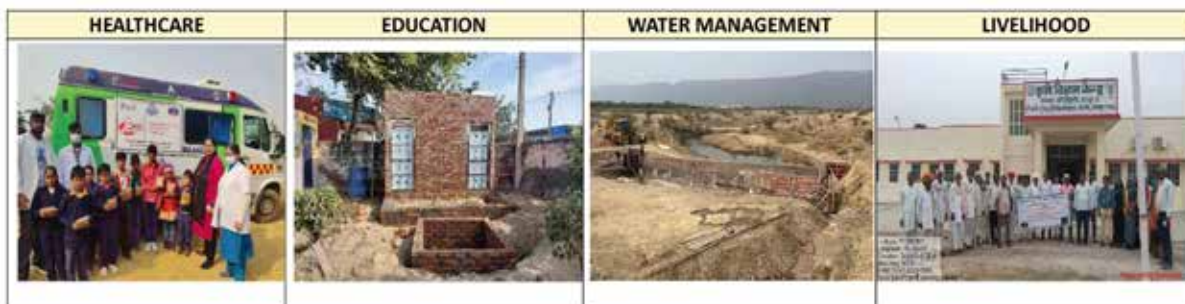
PHDFWF is making a significant impact on communities by running 25 skill development centers, in Pan India including Gujarat, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Haryana, and Delhi-NCR. These centers are trying to make youth skilled and employed through our various training projects and programs to give them marketable skills so they can easily get permanent employment for Sustainable Livelihood. The Foundation is dedicated to addressing community needs through its skill development center initiatives, supported by its funding agencies.

SUPPORTING PARTNERS



PHD RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (PHDRDF)

PHD Rural Development Foundation, the social arm of PHDCCI actively works in the field of Healthcare, Education, Skill Development, Water Conservation, Agriculture and Integrated Village development.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of **383 health camps**, including generic OPDs, gynaecology camps, eye care camps, dental OPDs, anaemia screening camps, and mobile medical health camps were organised across **Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh** with support from **Dhampur Sugar Mills Limited, Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., Magadh Sugar & Energy Ltd., Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Dharampal Satyapal Limited, and TSPL Vedanta**. A total of **24,558 patients**, including men, women, and children, were treated and received medical consultations, diagnostics, free medicines, counselling, and referrals.

3 check dams were inaugurated in Ahilya Nagar, Maharashtra by PHDRDF in partnership with **RJ Foundation** to enhance groundwater recharge and ensure two additional months of irrigation water for local farming communities.

Under **Project Dignity**, PHDRDF, in partnership with **Olam Food Ingredients**, is upgrading girls' sanitation facilities in four government schools in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, benefiting over **800 students**.

PHDRDF and **Voith Paper Fabrics India Ltd.** are developing two government schools in Faridabad with smart classrooms, libraries, staff rooms, whitewash, and BaLA paintings, benefiting **770 students**.

PHDRDF in partnership with **HTWL** under **Project Shiksha Path**, is upgrading a girls' primary school in Sonapat, Haryana with sanitation facilities, smart classrooms, whitewash, and BaLA paintings, benefiting **104 students**.

Under the **TB Nutrition Support Initiative** PHDRDF, **Donaldson India Filter Systems Pvt. Ltd.** are distributing protein diet kits to **200 active TB patients** in Gurugram and implementing a skill development centre in Sohna for girls and adolescent girls.

Under **Project Swachh Shala**, PHDRDF and **Olam Food Ingredients** are constructing a boys' sanitation facility at Marathi Vidyamandir, Chandgad, Kolhapur, benefiting around **200 students**.

PHDRDF in collaboration with **Vedanta Sesa Goa** is strengthening rural livelihoods through skill development across agriculture and allied sectors under the **RuTAGE Smart Village Centre Project**, benefiting approximately **3,600 people**.

Under the **PWABHI Project**, **52 training programs** on good agricultural practices and water resource management, including exposure visits were conducted to strengthen farmers' knowledge and adoption of sustainable practices.

SPECIAL EVENTS



PHDRDF was honoured with a **Certificate of Appreciation** as "**Jal Yoddha**" by the Department of Watershed Development & Soil Conservation, **Government of Rajasthan**, at Khairthal-Tijara,



PHDRDF has re-established a Primary Health Center (PHC) in Bhondsi village, Sohna in collaboration with **Donaldson India Filter Systems Pvt. Ltd.**

Partners/ Donors

						Vedanta SESA Goa	Rotary Club of Delhi Premier
							Rotary

Digital Personal Data Protection Law in India

Suman Jyoti Khaitan

Managing Partner, Suman Khaitan & Co. (Khaitan & Partners Advocates)

With the advent of technology, people have started relying on online platforms for all kind of services such as banking, healthcare, education, etc. A lot of information, including sensitive personal information, is being collected by such online platforms without any adequate safeguards and measures, which often result in data breaches and misuse of personal profiles. Hence, robust data protection laws had become the need of the hour. Recognizing the urgency, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology introduced the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (“DPDP Act”) and quite recently, notified the Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 (“DPDP Rules”) to give full effect to the DPDP Act. Together, they constitute the digital personal data protection law in India (“DPDP Law”).

Key highlights of the DPDP Law are:

- a. Data Fiduciary [the person who determines the purpose and means of processing personal data] is required to give notice to Data Principal [the individual to whom personal data relates], which shall be in clear and plain language, providing with the details necessary to enable the Data Principal to give specific and informed consent for the processing of personal data. In addition to this, the Data Principal shall provide the link to access the website or app which shall allow the Data Principal to withdraw consent, exercise rights under the DPDP Act, or to make a Complaint to the Data Protection Board of India.
- b. A Data Fiduciary shall protect personal data which is in its possession or control and hence, is required to ensure reasonable security safeguards to prevent personal data breach. Such reasonable security safeguards includes encryption, obfuscation, or masking for securing of personal data, retention of logs for a period of one year to enable detection of any unauthorized access, its investigation and its remediation, and inclusion of appropriate provisions in any contract between Data Fiduciary and Data Processor [person who processes personal data on behalf of a Data Fiduciary].
- c. Data Fiduciary is obligated to intimate, without delay, of any personal data breach to the affected Data Principal. The Data Fiduciary shall also intimate the Data Protection Board of India of such breach.
- d. Every Data Fiduciary is required to prominently publish on its website or app the business contact information of the person who shall answer on behalf of the Data Fiduciary the questions received from Data Principal about processing of personal data.
- e. Before processing personal data of any child, a Data Fiduciary is required to adopt appropriate measures to ensure that verifiable consent of the parent is obtained.
- f. In cases of processing personal data of person with disability who has a lawful guardian, it is the duty of the Data Fiduciary to observe due diligence, while obtaining verifiable consent from an individual identifying as lawful guardian of a person with disability, in order to verify that such guardian is appointed by appropriately under the applicable law.
- g. The law provides penalties for breach of the provisions of DPDP Act or DPDP Rules, which extends up to Rs 250 crores.

The DPDP framework is designed to empower individuals, referred to as Data Principals, by granting them clear rights and meaningful control over their digital personal data, through the following rights provided to the Data Principals:

- a. The Data Principal has the right to obtain and access the information about personal data from the Data Fiduciary to whom consent was given previously.
- b. The Data Principal has the right to correction, completion, updating and erasure of personal data in accordance with any requirement or procedure under any law in force.
- c. The Data Principal has the right of grievance redressal for any act or omission by a Data Fiduciary regarding the performance of obligations under the DPDP Act or DPDP Rules.
- d. The Data Principal has the right to nominate any other individual to exercise rights in the event of death or incapacity of the Data Principal.

Conclusion

The enforcement of DPDP Law 2025 marks a significant step towards strengthening data privacy in an increasingly digital and data-driven world. However, effective implementation of the DPDP Act and Rules cannot be achieved merely through regulatory mechanisms, and must be accompanied by appropriate awareness, education, and compliance initiatives.

By ensuring to curb data breach and digital harm, the DPDP Law aims to create a trusted digital economy, while simultaneously build trust and confidence in the minds of the citizens that their personal data is being handled responsibly.



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ELECTRONIC MEDIA

क्या MSME, रेलवे को 'रफ्तार' देगा बजट?

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Delhi: Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of PHDCCI, says, "We have not received any official confirmation regarding the tariffs, nor have we seen any executive order. However, if this information is correct, it would place an additional burden on Indian exports. After [Show more](#)



Press Trust of India @PTI... · 13/01/26 X
VIDEO | Expressing worry over US President Donald Trump imposing 25 pc tariff on countries doing business with Iran, PHDCCI CEO and Secretary General Ranjeet Mehta (@ranjeetmehta) says with additional 25 pc tariff, on top of existing 50 pc tariff is not sustainable to do the [Show more](#)





CONFERENCE FACILITIES

PHD HOUSE, NEW DELHI

PHD House, New Delhi is a prestigious, most conveniently approachable, as located in the heart of South Delhi and suitably equipped venue for corporate and business events. It provides facilities to suit specific requirements, backed-up by excellent infrastructure with 100% power backup such as latest public address system, audio-visual facilities, etc. Our meeting rooms provide a bespoke setting and serene atmosphere that are ideal for exclusive business networking events, conferences, seminars, Board Meetings, Interviews, Annual General Meetings, Academic Discussions, exhibitions, panel discussions, cultural programmes, training programmes, Audio – Video presentations, etc. Our meeting rooms tend to make a difference in the way you do your business.

- Lakshmi Pat Singhania Auditorium: (Capacity : 300)**
 A newly designed, aesthetically architected fully air-conditioned Auditorium with well-designed soothing interiors, excellent acoustics, modern & professional audio visual facilities has a seating capacity of more than 300 people. The Auditorium is ideal for conducting large meetings, seminars, conferences and cultural & social programmes.
- GM Modi Hall (Capacity : 60 to 90)**
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- Radico Room (Capacity : 70)**
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- MMG Hall (Capacity : 90)**
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- IRC Room (Capacity : 25)**
 Ideal for Board Meetings and Small Meetings.
- Arbitration Hall (Capacity : 12-15)**
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- The RE Walker & JC Chandiok Library**
 The Library' Lounge & Café shall provide an exclusive and elegant ambience with gourmet catering and a well-stocked bar at reasonable prices for our members to conduct their business meetings, for hospitality or simply as a tranquil place to relax.

PHDCCI approved Caterers at the rates/menus provide catering facilities in PHD House, New Delhi.



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For more information you may please contact :

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