



PHDCCI BULLETIN

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INDIA INC.



41st Ambassadors' Meet

*"Fostering International
Economic Cooperation"*

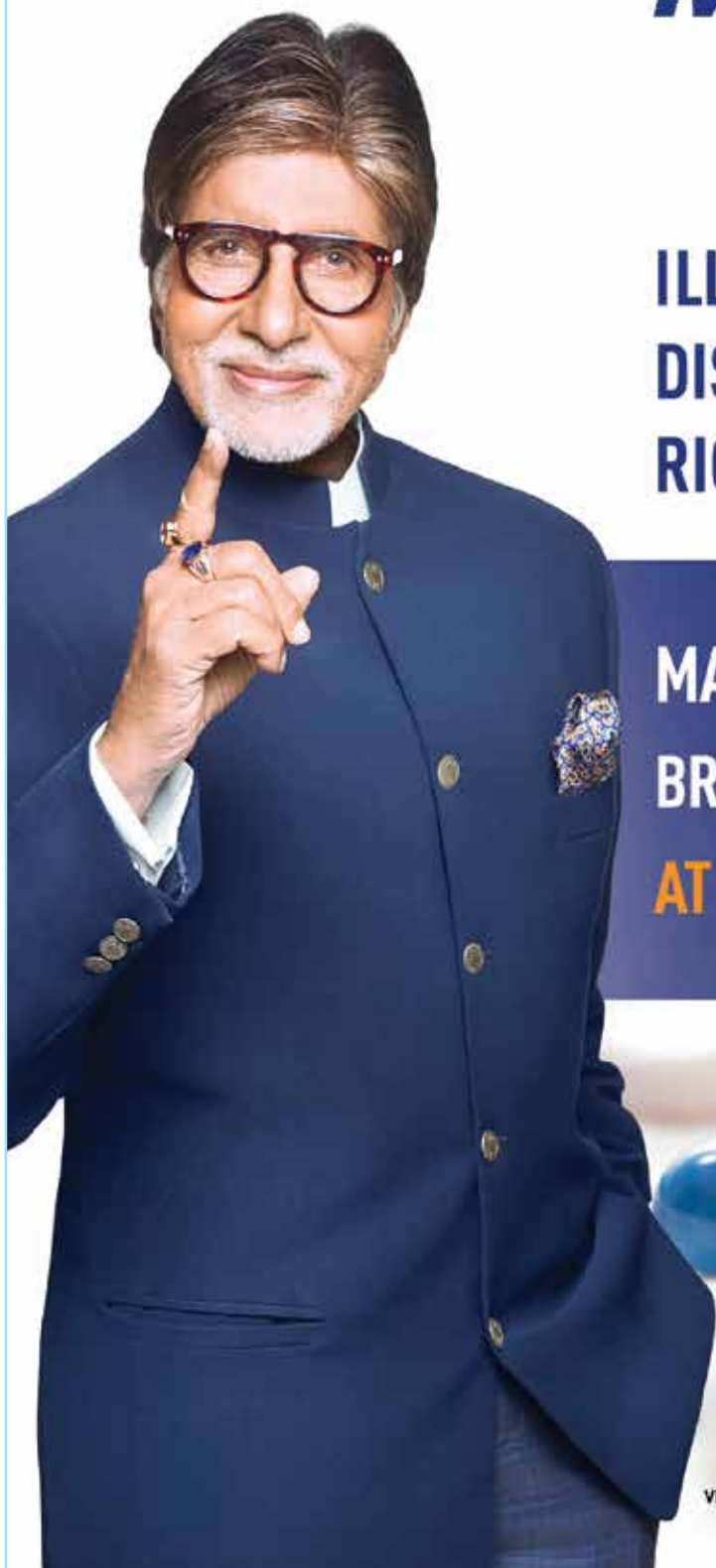




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In the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the global trade finance gap widened, reaching a staggering US\$ 2.5 trillion in 2022. The trade finance gap continues to weigh on the ability of businesses to explore new geographies and scale exports on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

for more details
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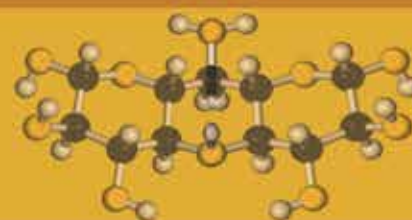
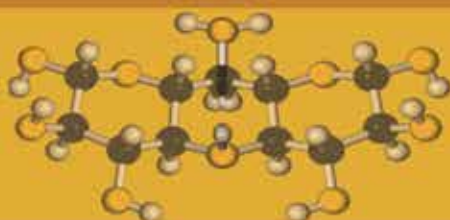


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CONTENTS

MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN OF PHDCCI

Mr. Rajeev Juneja
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Economist & Bulletin Head

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 09

CHAMBER AT WORK 12

FOCUS STATES 50

CAMARADERIE 68

HEADWAY

Towards Inclusive Growth 74

COMMUNIQUE

Special Feature 77

Media Buzz 78

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Message

RAJEEV JUNEJA PRESIDENT



On the global front, our economic diplomacy continues to yield encouraging outcomes. The 41st Ambassadors' Meet, which witnessed participation from over 120 diplomats, stands as a testament to PHDCCI's commitment to deepening global engagement and fostering meaningful partnerships. Equally significant was the Indo-Central America Conclave, which saw enthusiastic participation from several ambassadors, reaffirming growing momentum in India–Central American relations.

"In the midst of every crisis lies great opportunity." — Albert Einstein

As we usher in a new fiscal year, I extend my warm greetings to our esteemed members, government partners, and stakeholders. India stands today at a transformative juncture. In an increasingly uncertain global environment marked by geopolitical tensions and economic headwinds, the Indian economy continues to demonstrate notable resilience and dynamism. Supported by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, calibrated policy measures, and robust domestic demand, India remains firmly on a high-growth trajectory.

Recent global developments further underscore the importance of stability and dialogue. The announcement of a temporary, two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran, alongside the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, has brought a welcome sense of relief to global markets. Early signals, including moderation in international crude oil prices and improved investor sentiment highlight how diplomatic

engagement can swiftly restore confidence in global energy and trade systems. This pause in hostilities serves as a reminder that sustained economic progress is deeply intertwined with geopolitical stability.

Against this backdrop, India's growth story continues to be anchored in structural strengths. Accelerated investments in infrastructure, rapid digital transformation, expanding manufacturing capabilities, and a renewed thrust on innovation and entrepreneurship are enhancing our global competitiveness. The Government's continued emphasis on ease of doing business, fiscal discipline, and inclusive development has fostered a stable and enabling ecosystem for industry. At the same time, evolving global uncertainties call for continued policy agility and close coordination between public and private stakeholders.

The services sector remains a key driver of growth, contributing over

55 percent of Gross Value Added, with sustained expansion across IT, finance, transport, and professional services. Manufacturing and construction are regaining momentum through targeted reforms and Production-Linked Incentive schemes, strengthening domestic value chains. Agriculture continues to play a stabilizing role, supporting rural demand and food security, with increasing diversification into high-value segments.

High-frequency indicators reinforce this momentum. Toward the close of FY 2025–26, GST collections grew by 8.8 percent in March, domestic passenger vehicle sales rose by 16.3 percent, power consumption reached 149.56 billion units, railway freight loading expanded by 3.4 percent, and UPI transactions touched 22.6 billion, reflecting robust consumption and continued digital acceleration. GDP growth for FY 2025–26 is estimated at 7.6 percent, reaffirming India's position among the fastest-growing major economies.

On the policy front, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to maintain the repo rate at 5.25 percent reflects a balanced and neutral approach. Under the leadership of RBI Governor, Mr. Sanjay Malhotra, the Monetary Policy Committee has adopted a "wait-and-watch" stance that prioritizes macroeconomic stability while remaining responsive to evolving global conditions. With easing energy prices following recent geopolitical developments and a steady inflation outlook within the target range of 2-6 percent, the broader economic environment remains conducive for sustained growth and fostering a climate of confidence for investors and consumers alike.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge that recent tensions in West Asia pose significant challenges for trade and industry. The Gulf region remains central to India's energy security, trade flows, and diaspora linkages. Elevated freight rates, rerouting of vessels, and higher insurance costs had placed additional pressure on exporters and supply chains, particularly impacting MSME clusters across sectors such as ceramics, glass, textiles, steel and engineering goods. The government is considering a Rs. 2.5 trillion credit guarantee scheme to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis. The easing of tensions offers an opportunity for gradual normalization, though continued vigilance remains essential.

A substantial share of India's crude oil, gas, and fertiliser imports transit through critical maritime routes, such as the Strait of Hormuz, making stability in the region vital for inflation management and fiscal balance. While recent volatility had raised concerns, India is today better positioned to manage such external shocks. Diversified energy sourcing, strengthened strategic reserves, and expanding

renewable capacity provide important buffers. A substantial push for renewable power can not only address environmental concerns but also reduce India's dependence on energy imports. On-going coordination through inter-ministerial mechanisms has further ensured continuity in supply chains and essential commodities. Domestic LPG and natural gas allocations have been prioritised, while fertiliser import channels have been secured and adequate food grain stocks maintained to support agricultural stability.

We also acknowledge the Government of India's continued commitment to safeguarding the welfare of the Indian diaspora in West Asia through proactive diplomatic engagement and consular support. Such measures reinforce confidence and underscore India's growing stature on the global stage.

In this evolving context, the need of the hour is sustained coordination between government and industry to ensure resilience in supply chains, ease liquidity pressures, and maintain competitiveness. Constructive engagement and evidence-based policy responses will be the key to navigating both opportunities and uncertainties ahead.

On the global engagement front, PHDCCI continues to play a proactive role. Our 41st Ambassadors' Meet held last month, with participation from over 120 diplomats, stands as a testament to PHDCCI's commitment to deepening global engagement. Equally significant was the Indo-Central America Conclave, which saw enthusiastic partnership from several ambassadors, reaffirming growing momentum in India-Central American relations. The Chamber also convened a high-level Strategic Dialogue on India-EU Trade Cooperation, bringing together

policymakers, industry leaders, and diplomats to advance discussions on the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Complementing these efforts, an interactive session with a business delegation from Romania focused on translating strategic intent into tangible partnerships across engineering, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, IT, agriculture, and tourism. Engagements with a distinguished delegation from Ontario have further strengthened prospects for bilateral trade and investment. These initiatives reflect PHDCCI's proactive approach in fostering meaningful global partnerships.

I must highlight that the journey toward Viksit Bharat @2047 is a collective endeavour—requiring strong institutions, inclusive growth, fiscal discipline, innovation, and alignment between capital and capability. If government, industry, and citizens move forward with clarity and conviction, India will not only withstand global uncertainties but emerge stronger. Through active support to national initiatives such as 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', PHDCCI remains committed to aligning industrial growth with the vision of a strong, self-reliant, and future-ready India. As Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi has observed, "When every government and every citizen walks together, we can overcome every challenge." This spirit of partnership will be central to India's continued progress.

Let us hope that the recent ceasefire marks the beginning of sustained peace and a stable global economic order that benefits all. As John F. Kennedy wisely noted, "Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."



Rajeev Juneja
President, PHDCCI

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Interactive Session with Co-Founder, HCL and Chairman, EPIC Foundation, Delhi

Mr. Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI, extended a warm welcome to Dr Ajai Chowdhry, Co-Founder, HCL and Chairman, EPIC Foundation, for sparing his valuable time to interact with the Members of the Managing Committee of PHDCCI on March 19, 2026, at PHD House, New Delhi.

Addressing the Members, Dr Chowdhry observed that India has largely relied on the services sector, which has witnessed significant growth over the years. However, with the rapid advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation, he cautioned that this growth

model may face considerable challenges. He noted that India's per capita GDP remains relatively low and underscored the urgent need to enhance it substantially

by prioritizing high-value manufacturing, drawing lessons from the development trajectories of countries such as Korea and Taiwan.

Dr Chowdhry expressed concern that India has not adequately focused on product design and manufacturing, particularly in sectors like electronics, where the country remains largely engaged in low-value assembly activities. He emphasized that sustainable economic progress can only be achieved through higher value addition, driven by strong capabilities in design, innovation, and brand creation.



Highlighting the importance of strengthening India's R&D ecosystem, Dr Chowdhry pointed out that research efforts have traditionally been government-led with limited commercial outcomes. In this context, he appreciated the Government's initiative to launch the Rs. 1 lakh crore RDI Fund aimed at supporting private sector R&D through financial assistance and long-term, low-interest funding. He stressed that, alongside funding, assured market access through government procurement is equally critical to enable Indian companies to scale effectively.

Drawing global comparisons, Dr Chowdhry cited examples of countries such as the United States and China, where governments have proactively supported domestic industries through funding as well as business opportunities, enabling companies to evolve into global leaders. He emphasized that India must adopt a similar strategic approach to strengthen its domestic industry and innovative ecosystem.

He also highlighted the challenges faced by Start-ups, particularly delays in government procurement processes, which often impede their growth and sustainability. He stressed the need for timely support

and a conducive policy environment to nurture startups and MSMEs.

Further, Dr Chowdhry emphasized the importance of technological self-reliance, especially in the current global landscape where nations are increasingly prioritizing strategic autonomy. He identified key sectors with strong growth potential for India, including space technology, drones, electric vehicles, electronics, and nuclear technology. He noted that continued dependence on imports for critical components constrains India's ability to achieve genuine self-sufficiency.

Concluding his address, Dr Chowdhry urged industry stakeholders and PHDCCI to intensify policy advocacy efforts to promote domestic manufacturing, innovation, and preferential market access for Indian companies. He emphasized that a collaborative partnership between industry and government will be pivotal in transforming India into a product-driven and globally competitive economy.

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

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41st Ambassadors' Meet

The 41st edition of Ambassadors' Meet on the theme, 'Fostering International Economic Cooperation' was held on March 13, 2026 at the Oval Mansion, Hyatt Regency Hotel, New Delhi.

Around 120 diplomats including Ambassadors/High Commissioners representing more than 65 countries Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Congo, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe graced the occasion.



Mr. Rajeev Juneja, President, PHDCCI, while thanking the distinguished dignitaries for sparing their precious time to attend the 41st Ambassadors Meet highlighted the event's significance, tracing its inception back to the 1980s and emphasizing its evolution into a cherished tradition. He extended thanks to Ambassadors and Diplomats for their continuous support, which fosters deeper cultural, political, and economic relations. Additionally, he expressed appreciation to the partners for their crucial support and conveyed gratitude to the Team-International Affairs & Trade Fairs Division for their dedicated efforts in organizing such a pivotal activity for the benefit of members and the Indian Industry at large.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, extended a warm welcome to the diplomats and industry stalwarts present at the event. He highlighted India's commitment to multilateral diplomacy as a key driver for strengthening international linkages,

fostering economic development, and promoting greater global integration. Dr Mehta also expressed his appreciation to the partners for their continued support of PHDCCI's initiatives, including the 41st Ambassadors' Meet. In his concluding remarks, he led the formal recognition of the event to sponsors, acknowledging their contributions to the Chamber's success.

Ms. Deepika Handa, DGM & HoD, BDC – HSIIDC appreciated PHDCCI for organizing the 41st Ambassadors' Meet and highlighted the importance of such platforms in strengthening global partnerships and fostering meaningful dialogue between the diplomatic community and Indian industry. She gave a presentation on the role of Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) in promoting industrial growth, facilitating investments, and creating a conducive ecosystem for businesses and international collaborations in the state.



Glimpses of 41st Ambassadors' Meet



The 41st Ambassadors' Meet had participation of 300 members including 120 diplomats representing 65 countries, former Presidents, senior government officials, Patron and Star members, managing committee members and sponsors.



Strengthening Opportunities for Indo–Central America Trade & Investment

The Indo–Central America Trade & Investment

Conclave was held on March 9, 2026, at PHD House, New Delhi, bringing together policymakers, diplomats, and industry leaders to explore opportunities for deepening economic engagement between India and Central American nations.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI highlighted the Chamber's sustained efforts to strengthen India's trade and investment ties with Central America, emphasizing the need to build long-term, mutually beneficial economic partnerships. Mr. Nishant Berlia, Chair, International Affairs Committee for Americas, PHDCCI, underscored the growing potential of India–Central America cooperation and encouraged industry stakeholders to actively explore emerging markets and collaborative ventures.

Dr Neena Malhotra, Secretary (South), Ministry of External Affairs, addressed the gathering and commended PHDCCI for organizing the conclave. She shared valuable insights into India's diplomatic and economic outreach in the region and emphasized the importance of enhancing institutional and commercial linkages.

The conclave featured a series of country perspectives from diplomatic representatives. H.E. Mr. Juan Carlos Marsan Aguilera, Ambassador of Cuba to India, highlighted Cuba's investor-friendly environment, extensive trade agreements, and opportunities for Indian industry, particularly in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. H.E. Mr. Francisco Manuel Compres Hernandez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to



India, spoke about the country's rapidly growing economy and identified opportunities in tourism, renewable energy, and pharmaceuticals.

H.E. Mr. Guillermo Rubio Funes, Ambassador of El Salvador to India, emphasized potential collaboration in energy, pharmaceuticals, and technology. H.E. Mr. Omar Lisandro Castaneda Solares, Ambassador of Guatemala to India, outlined Guatemala's diversified economic landscape and investment potential in trade, pharmaceuticals, and agribusiness.

H.E. Mr. Jason Keats Hall, High Commissioner of Jamaica to India, presented Jamaica's trade and investment landscape, highlighting opportunities in technology—particularly the adoption of Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—as well as renewable energy and pharmaceuticals, while reaffirming Jamaica's interest in strengthening engagement with India. H.E. Mr. Alonso Correa Miguel, Ambassador of Panama to India, emphasized Panama's investment-friendly ecosystem and opportunities in pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, maritime services, and technology.

Ms. Claudia Keller Lapayre, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Mexico, New Delhi, noted that while India–Mexico trade has historically been dominated by oil, it is now diversifying, with growing cooperation in sectors such as



automotives and pharmaceuticals. Ms. Sunaina P.R. Mohan, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Suriname, New Delhi, highlighted Suriname's focus on diversifying its economy through sectors such as energy and mining, agribusiness, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, IT, and infrastructure, and expressed keen interest in collaborating with India in offshore petrochemical exploration.

Mr. Rajesh Vaishnav, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, appreciated PHDCCI's efforts in convening the conclave and reinforced the importance of strengthening Indo–Central American relations. The session concluded with a vote-of-thanks by Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their valuable contributions.

The conclave witnessed participation from over 80 delegates, serving as a meaningful platform for fostering dialogue and advancing trade and investment cooperation between India and Central America.



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Dispute Resolution and Arbitration Norms for Construction & Infrastructure Sector

The Conference on Dispute Resolution & Arbitration Norms for Construction & Infrastructure Sectors organized by PHDCCI held on March 7, 2026 brought together eminent members of the judiciary, senior government policymakers, legal professionals and industry leaders to deliberate on strengthening India's dispute resolution mechanisms at a time when the country is undertaking ambitious infrastructure development programmes.

Hon'ble Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, Former Chief Justice of India, highlighted the urgent need to improve infrastructure contract design, noting that in many arbitration cases, claims raised by contractors exceed the original project costs. He emphasised that contracts must be thoroughly scrutinised before execution to minimise disputes during project implementation.

Hon'ble Justice Tejas Karia, Judge, High Court of Delhi, emphasised that modern construction disputes lie at the intersection of law, engineering, finance and environmental considerations. He highlighted the importance of efficient, technically informed and time-bound dispute resolution and stressed the role of mediation and dispute boards in addressing disputes early in the project lifecycle.

Hon'ble Justice Hima Kohli, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, asserted that disputes in infrastructure projects should be viewed as structural possibilities in complex commercial engagements. She emphasised that a strong legal architecture for dispute resolution is as vital as engineering capabilities in infrastructure development.



Hon'ble Justice Jayant Nath, Former Judge, High Court of Delhi advocated the expansion of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and observed that mediation, though one of the fastest and most effective methods, remains significantly underutilised.

In the Valedictory Session, Dr Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law & Justice outlined the Government's vision of positioning India as a strong hub for domestic and international arbitration. He highlighted efforts to expand

to participate in infrastructure projects with greater certainty.

Mr. Avnit Singh Arora, Director (Arbitration & Conciliation), Ministry of Law & Justice, clarified that recent policy advisories aim to encourage mediation and conciliation as a constructive first step before arbitration.

Mr. Adarsh Kumar, Co-chair, PHDCCI Infrastructure and Road Development Committee, emphasised that negotiation, mediation, dispute boards, adjudication and arbitration should be viewed as complementary stages within a structured dispute resolution framework.



Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI deliberated that India is at a decisive stage in its infrastructure journey and that a strong and integrated dispute resolution ecosystem is

essential to sustain infrastructure growth.

The inaugural session was followed by six panel discussions and the valedictory session. The conference was supported by the Ministry of Law & Justice; India Infrastructure Arbitration Centre served as the Institutional Partner, ProUltimus as the Knowledge Partner, and GAIL India and NBCC as the Conference Partners.

arbitration and mediation facilities beyond metropolitan centres and emphasised the significance of the Mediation Act, 2023 in promoting a culture of consensual dispute resolution.

Dr Manoj Kumar, Additional Secretary, Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice, highlighted that effective dispute resolution systems are critical for investor confidence and for enabling contractors and financial institutions

The International Affairs Division of PHDCCI organized an interactive session with the Canadian Delegation on March 10, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, highlighted PHDCCI's continued efforts in strengthening India–Canada trade and investment and emphasized the importance of building long-term, mutually beneficial economic partnerships between the two countries.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, IFS (Retd.), Former High Commissioner of India to Canada, thanked PHDCCI for organizing the interactive session and providing an important platform for dialogue. He shared valuable insights on the evolving India–Canada relationship and emphasized the importance of strengthening institutional and commercial linkages.

Mr. Sanat Kumar, Chief Economist, PHDCCI presented Business Opportunities on India- Canada Engagements.

Mr. Kam Rathee, Chair – Advisory Board, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce highlighted the growing potential of India–Canada cooperation and encouraged industry members to actively explore new markets, partnerships and collaborative opportunities.

Mr. Prashant Srivastava, President, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce highlighted the renewed momentum in India–Canada relations following the recent engagement between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra

Interactive Session with the Canadian Delegation

Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, moderated the session and expressed sincere gratitude to all speakers, dignitaries, delegates, industry members, and participants for their valuable contributions and active participation.

The programme was highly engaging and interactive and was



Modi and the Prime Minister of Canada. He emphasized that such high-level interactions provide a positive impetus for strengthening bilateral trade, investment, and industry collaboration between the two countries.

followed by B2B Meetings between the Canadian Delegation and PHDCCI Members, providing a meaningful platform for strengthening India–Canada trade and business cooperation.

Oil Shock Accelerates India's EV Transition

Rising global oil uncertainties are prompting India to fast-track its transition toward electric mobility. As the West Asia conflict disrupts supply chains and heightens price volatility, the government is reinvigorating its 'Go Electric' campaign with a sharper, more targeted focus—particularly on two-wheelers, which account for a significant share of the country's petrol consumption. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency has initiated discussions with leading industry players such as Ather Energy, Ola Electric, and Hero MotoCorp to strengthen awareness and accelerate adoption. The strategy is clear: reduce dependence on imported oil and insulate the economy from external price shocks. With EV costs steadily approaching parity with conventional vehicles and sales witnessing a consistent uptick, this renewed push comes at a pivotal moment. However, to sustain momentum, challenges around charging infrastructure, range anxiety, and consumer confidence must be effectively addressed.

Indigenisation & Modernization Requirement of Central Armed Police Forces

PHDCCI organized the 2nd Edition of the Industry Interactive Conference & Mini Expo on Indigenisation & Modernization Requirement of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) on March 12, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Chief Guest, Mr. Prasana R, IAS, Joint Secretary (Police Modernisation), Ministry of Home Affairs, while addressing the participants during the inaugural session emphasized that the Ministry was open to suggestions from the industry and will consider improvements in procurement procedures, wherever required, to make the process more effective and industry-friendly. He also highlighted that the government has a significant budget allocated for modernization and has high expectations from the industry to develop advanced indigenous solutions.

Mr. Ashok Atluri, Chair, PHDCCI Defence & HLS Committee & Managing Director, Zen Technologies Ltd., delivered the welcome address. The session also featured addresses by Cmde. Neeraj Uday, VSM (Retd.), GM - ECIL, Mr. Tarun Khattar, GM - India Optel Ltd. and Mr. Sanjay Soni, MD - Hughes Precision Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd. The session concluded with the vote-of-thanks by Mr. Vaibhav Gupta, Co-chair, Defence & HLS Committee, PHDCCI & Director, MKU Ltd.



The conference further featured two technical sessions:

Technical Session 1: "Operational Needs of CAPFs: Building Industry Partnerships for Future Readiness" was chaired by Mr. Asif Jalal, IPS, Inspector General (Prov), Border Security Force (BSF), and moderated by Col. K V Kuber (Veteran), Director - Aerospace & Defence, Ernst & Young LLP. A Special Address was delivered by Ms. Anu Kukreja, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Technical Session 2: "Modernisation through Technology: Smart Policing and Force Protection Solutions" was chaired by Ms. Sonal V Misra, IPS,

Inspector General (Prov), CRPF and moderated by Mr. Mukul Sarkar, Professor, IIT Delhi.

The event witnessed participation from 20 exhibitors showcasing innovative technologies and solutions, along with more than 200 industry delegates, senior officials from CAPFs, and key stakeholders from the defence and homeland security ecosystem. The programme also included a Mini Expo, industry interaction, networking sessions, and an open house discussion, fostering meaningful dialogue between the government and industry.





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PHDCCI WE POWER 2026

“Women are at the centre of development, and empowering them requires not just opportunities but a strong ecosystem of support, access, and confidence.”

Dr Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi



PHDCCI Women Entrepreneurship Committee felicitated Women Leaders on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 18, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The initiative marked the institution of WE POWER as a dedicated platform to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women leaders across diverse sectors while fostering dialogue on women's empowerment and leadership.

Chief Guest, Dr Rashmi Singh, Secretary, Department of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi bestowed awards to 11 distinguished women leaders from different walks of life along with Dr Aruna Abhey Oswal, Chair, Women Entrepreneurship Committee, PHDCCI. Also present were Ms. Archana Aggarwal, Co-chair, Women Entrepreneurship Committee, PHDCCI and Ms. Shalini S. Sharma, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI. Ms. Anuradha Goel, Chairperson, PHD Family Welfare Foundation, delivered a special address as a distinguished speaker during the inaugural session.

Highlight of the programme was the felicitation of Ms. Radha Bhatia, Chairperson, Bird Group, with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ten other women



leaders who were felicitated included Ms. Rekha Mody, Founder & Chairperson, Streeshakti – ‘The Parallel Force’, and Ms. Nitya Pathak, Executive Convenor, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, recognized for Social Impact & Community Leadership; Ms. Shallu Jindal, Chairperson, Jindal Foundation & Chancellor, O.P. Jindal University, and Dr. Ileana Citaristi, Odissi & Chhau Danseuse and Founder, Art Vision, for Art, Heritage & Culture; Ms. Ankita Sheel Gupta, Founder & Chief Mompreneur, NewAgeMomprenuers Community, and Ms. Tanvi Loond Chopra,

CEO, Inrole Technologies India Private Ltd., for Innovation & Entrepreneurship; Ms. Manjaree Chowdhary, Senior Executive Officer & General Counsel, Maruti Suzuki India, and Ms. Adyasha Mohanty, Director, Aquilaw, for Law & Legal Affairs; Ms. Anisha Singh, Founder & Managing Partner, She Capital, for Financial Inclusion & Economic Empowerment and Ms. Monica Saxena, Former Captain, Indian Women's Polo Team, for Sports & Youth Leadership.

Dr Singh in her inaugural address underscored that empowering women at all levels—from grassroots to leadership—was essential

for achieving inclusive and equitable growth. Emphasizing the importance of purpose-driven leadership, she noted that impact is measured not in years but in the lives touched. She further highlighted that while barriers today are not only physical but also emotional and societal, meaningful transformation can be driven through a collective focus



on Speed, Scale, and Sustainability, supported by collaboration and co-creation among institutions and stakeholders.

Dr Oswal emphasised that WE POWER goes beyond recognizing achievements to celebrating the journeys, resilience, and contributions of women across sectors. She highlighted that women's empowerment is a shared responsibility—driven by families, communities, and institutions—and described the platform as a symbol of unity and collaboration, where “WE” represents both togetherness and women entrepreneurship.

Ms. Goel reflected on her 52-year journey in social welfare. Drawing parallels between social work and

entrepreneurship, she highlighted the importance of strategic planning, resource mobilisation, and team management.

A key feature of the programme was a panel discussion on “Women in Leadership & Entrepreneurship – Breaking Barriers, Driving Innovation, and Building Lasting Impact.” The session moderated by Ms. Sharma, brought together distinguished leaders including Ms. Mody; Ms. Shikha Rai, Senior Vice President, Canon India Pvt. Ltd.; and Ms. Kavita Ayyagari, Country Director, Girl Effect India. The panellists deliberated on the importance of mentorship, inclusive leadership, innovation, and leveraging technology to expand

opportunities for women across sectors.

A souvenir was released during the occasion and a walk through of the WE POWER Exhibition curated by the community of New Age Mompreneurs. It showcased innovative women-led enterprises and provided a platform for enhanced visibility, engagement, and networking.

PHDCCI WE POWER 2026 was supported by BMW Deutsche Motoren as the Luxury Mobility Partner; Abhey Oswal Group, Archana Aggarwal Timeless Jewellery, and Blossom Kochhar Aroma Magic.



Roundtable on Interpretation of Soft Assets and IPR in IBC

The Virtual Roundtable on “Interpretation of Soft Assets and IPR in IBC” organized by the NCLT & IBC Committee, PHDCCI on March 27, 2026 was conceived as an insightful

platform for knowledge exchange on the evolving interpretation and treatment of soft assets and intellectual property rights (IPR) within the framework of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

The session witnessed participation from more than 50 professionals, including insolvency practitioners, legal experts, industry representatives, and stakeholders, making the discussion highly interactive and enriching. Mr. G.

P. Madaan, Chair, NCLT & IBC Committee, PHDCCI, along with Co-chairs, Ms. Ranjana Roy Gawai, Mr. Abhishek Anand, Mr. Rachit Mittal, and Mr. Harish Taneja, led the discussion.

Extensive deliberations were held on key aspects relating to the interpretation, valuation, and treatment of soft assets and IPR during insolvency proceedings, along with associated legal and practical challenges under the IBC framework.

Interactive Session with the Business Delegation from Romania

An Interactive Session was organized with a Business Delegation from Romania led by Ms. Clara Volintiru, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Romania accompanied by H.E. Ms. Sena Latif, Ambassador of Romania to India, New Delhi on March 3, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI in his welcome remarks to the esteemed dignitaries, highlighted the longstanding ties between India and Romania and emphasized the importance of strengthening economic cooperation. He also outlined PHDCCI's international outreach initiatives, with a focus on fostering deeper collaboration with Romania.

Hon'ble Ms. Clara Volintiru, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania thanked PHDCCI for organizing the session and for its continued support in strengthening India-Romania economic cooperation. She called for a reset in speed, ambition, and scale of opportunities, emphasizing Romania's determination to turn potential into performance. Noting India's transformation of ambition into action and 77 years of diplomatic relations, she stressed translating ties into tangible B2B outcomes, leveraging Romania's EU location, capital access, and Black



Sea connectivity alongside India's innovation ecosystem.

H.E. Ms. Sena Latif, Ambassador of Romania to India, New Delhi thanked PHDCCI for its continued support in strengthening India-Romania economic cooperation. She appreciated the growing partnership anchored in their Strategic Partnership and assured full support for more collaboration. Noting PHDCCI represents 17

Dr Vijay Mehta, Chair, International Affairs – Europe & CIS, PHDCCI, shared insights on sectoral opportunities where India and Romania can deepen partnership, especially in engineering, pharmaceuticals, automobiles, IT, agriculture, and tourism.

Mr. Vikas Khanduri, Co-chair, International Affairs – Europe & CIS, PHDCCI in his vote-of-thanks acknowledged the clear direction provided for the MSME sector and the roadmap to mobilize the Chamber's 150,000 members, emphasizing that trust forms the cornerstone of strong India-Romania economic ties.



million SMEs—nearly Romania's population—she viewed it as one entrepreneurial ecosystem partnering with another, highlighted the India-EU FTA's potential, and emphasized Romania's logistics advantages via Port of Constanta, Danube, and Schengen access, concluding "Romania is back—in India."

Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, moderated the session and provided an overview of PHDCCI's engagements in promoting bilateral trade and investment. He highlighted the significant potential for Indian industries in Romania and assured full cooperation from PHDCCI in expanding commercial partnerships.



RECOGNITION

PHDCCI is proud to announce that Dr DK Aggarwal, Past President of PHDCCI has been conferred the prestigious Honorary Doctorate (Doctor Honoris Causa) in Capital Market Development and Financial Entrepreneurship along with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chicago Open University, USA on March 26, 2026. The honorary recognition stands as a symbol of excellence and distinguished achievement, celebrating his lifelong commitment to strengthening financial systems and fostering economic growth.

PHDCCI extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr Aggarwal on this remarkable accomplishment and takes immense pride in his continued contributions to industry and society.

Strategic Dialogue on India–EU Trade Cooperation

PHDCCI, in collaboration with GIRT and IGEP, convened a high-level Strategic Dialogue on India–EU Trade Cooperation on March 24, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The session brought together senior government officials, industry leaders, diplomats, and domain experts to explore pathways for strengthening bilateral economic ties under the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement.

Mr. Karan Mangla, Co-chair, Foreign Trade & Investment Committee, PHDCCI & Director, SH Haryana Wires Ltd., in his welcome address, highlighted that the proposed FTA is expected to enhance market access, reduce trade barriers, and create a more transparent business environment. He noted that the Germany–India partnership opens new opportunities in green hydrogen, clean energy transition, and smart infrastructure.

Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Chair, AI & Innovation Committee, PHDCCI & Global SVP and Chief Public Policy Officer, InMobi Pte. Ltd., stressed on the immense complementarities between India's digital innovation capabilities and Germany's precision engineering and manufacturing excellence. She underlined that collaboration in AI, green energy, and advanced manufacturing holds transformative potential and both nations have a key role in shaping ethical and responsible technology frameworks.

Dr Stephan Hesselmann, Minister Counsellor, Economic Affairs, German Embassy, highlighted that over 2,000 German companies already operate in India with



a strong interest in expanding investments, particularly in manufacturing. He emphasized for the urgent need for deeper India–Germany cooperation in renewable energy, supply chain resilience, and critical minerals.

Dr Dirk Troendle, Director, ITM GmbH, pointed to the natural demographic complementarity between Germany's ageing workforce and India's young, ambitious talent pool. He advocated for proactive measures, including educational exchanges, skill development initiatives, and supportive ecosystems to facilitate talent mobility between the two countries.



Mr. Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh, IAS, Director, DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, noted that Germany is among India's top FDI partners with over 1,600 German companies operating in India. He highlighted India's open policy environment, including the PLI scheme and Make in India initiative, and assured that the Government remains fully committed to supporting investors and resolving

challenges promptly.

Prof. (Dr) Rakesh Mohan Joshi, Vice Chancellor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, emphasized India's growing global stature as a stable and reliable economy, underscoring its demographic strength, sectoral achievements in pharmaceuticals and agriculture, and the importance of investing in skill development to fully harness its potential as a strategic partner for long-term collaboration.

Dr Dietrich Kebschull, Chairman, IGEP Consult Pvt. Ltd., delivering the vote-of-thanks, acknowledged the collaborative spirit of the session and emphasized the importance of continuing such engagements to

further strengthen India–EU and India–Germany partnerships.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, delivering the opening remarks, described the India–EU FTA as a strategic declaration by democracies anchored in

the rule of law and shared values. He emphasized that policymakers and business leaders on both sides must move forward with a shared sense of ambition and urgency.

The dialogue concluded with a shared commitment to translate the deliberations into actionable policy recommendations to support the evolving India–EU trade framework.

9th PharmaMed 2026

“From complexity to code: Biology is the new technology.”

Mr. Satyaprakash T.L IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals,
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers

PHDCCI, in association with the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government of India, organized the 9th PharmaMed 2026 on March 27, 2026, at The Imperial, New Delhi.

In his inaugural address, Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI, emphasized the need to further strengthen India's position as a global pharmaceutical leader, ensuring that innovation, quality, and accessibility remain central to the sector's growth strategy.

The session was graced by eminent dignitaries, including Dr Vinod K. Paul, Member, NITI Aayog, who underscored the importance of shifting from a volume-driven model to a value-driven, innovation-led ecosystem, leveraging India's strengths to accelerate R&D and global leadership in pharmaceuticals and medical technology.

Dr A. Visala, Joint Drug Controller, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), highlighted India's transition towards an innovation-driven regulatory framework, supported by progressive policies, clinical research advancements, and growth in biologics and digital health.

Mr. Gregory Smith, Country Director, India Office, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (US FDA), emphasized India's strong global standing and the growing importance of quality, regulatory compliance, and global trust. He noted that initiatives such as Quality Management Maturity and strengthened inspection systems are reinforcing India's credibility in global markets.

Mr. Satyaprakash T. L., IAS, Joint Secretary, Department of

Pharmaceuticals, highlighted India's transformative phase in biotechnology and the Government's focused push towards strengthening clinical infrastructure, reducing costs, and accelerating innovation across the pharmaceutical value chain.

Mr. Abhay Kumar Srivastava, Senior President – Global Operations, Mankind Pharma & Chair, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Committee, PHDCCI, stressed that true progress lies in ensuring



accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare for all, bridging healthcare gaps across the country.

The introductory remarks were delivered by Dr Nasir Jamal, Director, PHDCCI, who set the context for the conference by highlighting the evolving landscape of India's pharmaceutical sector and the importance of collaborative dialogue among industry, regulators, and policymakers.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote-of-thanks by Mr. Vishal H. Rajgharia, Co-chair, Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Committee, PHDCCI.

The conference featured four thematic sessions: Redefining India's Pharmaceutical Leadership: From Volume to Value; Strengthening Pharmaceutical Quality: Regulatory Harmonization & Global Compliance; Supply Chain Challenges in Pharma & Tackling Counterfeit Drugs and Last-Mile Access to Medicines: Strengthening



Distribution & Affordability.

These sessions witnessed participation from leading organizations, including Central Drugs Standard Control Organization; U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Pharmexcil; Cipla; Serum Institute of India, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council; National

Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali; Indian Council of Medical Research; OPPI; Jamia Hamdard, Amity University; Fortis Memorial Research

Institute; Apollo Pharmacy; Tata 1mg; Association of Healthcare Providers India; and several other distinguished stakeholders from industry and academia.

Notably, representatives from Central Drugs Standard Control Organization actively contributed to two key technical sessions. Dr Arvind Kukrety, Deputy Drugs Controller, CDSCO, participated in Session 1, while Dr Rubina Bose, Deputy Drug Controller, CDSCO, contributed to Session 2, offering critical regulatory insights on quality, compliance, and strengthening India's pharmaceutical ecosystem.

The conference concluded on a highly successful note, with participation from over 350 delegates, including key stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and global regulatory bodies—reaffirming a shared commitment to building a resilient, innovative, and inclusive pharmaceutical ecosystem aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.



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PHDCCI, through its Nutraceuticals Task Force, organized a conference “NutraVision 2026: Defining the Next Decade of Human Vitality” on March 23, 2026, at PHD House, New Delhi. The event brought together key stakeholders from across the nutraceutical, healthcare, and regulatory ecosystem to deliberate on the future of the sector.

The conference was graced by Mr. Rajit Punhani, CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Mr. Punhani highlighted the initiatives undertaken by FSSAI to strengthen India’s nutraceutical ecosystem. He emphasized the Authority’s focus on building a robust regulatory framework that ensures product quality, safety, and standardization while encouraging innovation. Stressing the importance of compliance and collaboration, he noted that coordinated efforts between regulators and industry stakeholders are essential to position India as a global hub for high-quality nutraceutical products.

Dr Vivek Srivastav underscored the growing importance of nutraceuticals, driven by rising health awareness and a global shift towards preventive healthcare. He highlighted the sector’s immense



growth potential, fueled by increasing demand for safe, effective, and science-backed products. He further emphasized that India’s rich heritage in Ayurveda and natural wellness gives it a unique advantage to emerge as a global leader, provided there is focus on quality standards, research, and regulatory alignment.

NutraVision 2026: Defining the Next Decade of Human Vitality

"Robust Regulation, Responsible Innovation is the way forward for India's Nutraceutical industry." –Mr. Rajit Punhani, (IAS) CEO, FSSAI

Rini Sanyal, Regulatory Chair, HADSA. The panelists focused on maintaining high product standards while enhancing consumer confidence through transparency and regulatory compliance.

In his formal vote-of-thanks, Dr Narendra Deo Tripathi expressed gratitude to all dignitaries and industry leaders for their valuable contributions in making the conference a success. He also appreciated PHDCCI’s timely initiative in establishing the Nutraceuticals Task Force, recognizing it as a crucial step toward strengthening the sector.

Dr Pradeep Multani extended



A knowledge report on India’s nutraceutical sector and its future outlook was also released by Mr. Rajit Punhani during the conference. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the current industry landscape, key regulatory developments, emerging opportunities, and a forward-looking roadmap aimed at strengthening India’s position in the global nutraceutical market. Designed by VEK Consulting, the report emphasizes quality, innovation, and consumer trust as key pillars for growth.

A panel discussion on “Delivering Best-in-class Nutraceuticals Products while Strengthening Consumer Trust” was moderated by Ms.

his best wishes for the successful organization of the conference and highlighted the rapid growth of the nutraceutical sector, both in India and globally. He emphasized the vast opportunities it offers in terms of innovation, investment, and value creation, positioning it as a key driver of future growth.

The NutraVision Conference witnessed strong participation from industry leaders, Ayurveda practitioners, and researchers. The diverse representation facilitated meaningful discussions, knowledge exchange, and collaboration, reflecting the growing significance of the nutraceutical sector and its expanding role in the healthcare landscape.

Corporate Dispute Resolution:

Leveraging Arbitration & Mediation for Sustainable Business Growth

The Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI organised a seminar on Corporate Dispute Resolution: Leveraging Arbitration & Mediation for Sustainable Business Growth on March 20, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The Seminar was a part of the Knowledge Series on Corporate Affairs for FY 2025-26.

Hon'ble Justice, Dr Sudhir Kumar Jain (Retd.) & Member, National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission joined as Chief Guest at the Seminar. He said that litigation is a very cumbersome and lengthy process; it is not a suitable alternative if parties require a speedy redressal of their dispute. It is important to develop early neutral evaluation systems as it is a relatively quick process and if successful, the parties can avoid extensive litigation process altogether. There is a need to percolate the ADR mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation deep into our legal system. Expanding ADR is viewed not just as an alternative but as an "Appropriate" Dispute Resolution approach to ensure speedy, cost-effective, and amicable justice.

He further said that in India, the legal landscape has undergone significant transformations, moving towards integration of technology in ADR through Online Dispute Resolution, which includes virtual mediation and arbitration. While this shift has been accelerated by the need for efficiency and the COVID-19 pandemic, it faces challenges regarding its effectiveness compared to traditional, cross-the-table strategies.

Mr. Satwinder Singh, Chair, Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI during his welcome address said that arbitration is not merely one of the dispute resolution mechanisms, but an essential instrument of commercial certainty



and business community. Many disputes become complicated not because of transaction but because of poor dispute clause design. He opined that the future involves a hybrid model that leverages technology while retaining the personal, trust-building elements of face-to-face interaction. He said that companies that invest time in designing ADR frameworks usually experience faster resolution, lower legal costs and better contract enforcement outcomes.

Mr. Rishi Kapoor, Co-chair, Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI said that mediation and arbitration, have emerged as a cornerstone of modern corporate dispute resolution, reflecting a clear shift away from traditional litigation toward more efficient, flexible, and business-friendly mechanisms. In

The technical session on Arbitration was addressed by Ms. Mani Gupta, Joint Managing Partner, Sarthak Advocates & Solicitors and Mr. Sujoy C Datta, Partner,

Aekom Legal who deliberated on the Future of Arbitration in resolving Commercial Disputes & Key Aspects of International Commercial Arbitration respectively.

The technical session was chaired by Mr. Sumant Nayak, Co-chair, Corporate Affairs Committee, PHDCCI. The panellists included Ms. Varuna Bhandari Gugnani, Advocate & ADR Specialist; Ms. Gitanjali Kapoor, Advocate & Mediator (DDRS); Mr. Mohit Rohatgi, Partner, Trilegal & Ms. Anisha Sharma, Advocate, Mediator & ADR Practitioner. The panel discussed on the importance of Mediation for Resolution of corporate disputes & efforts to make it effective; the enforceability of Mediation Settlement and Mediation Act.



India, growing legal and policy support, coupled with the adoption of technology-driven processes, is strengthening the ADR ecosystem, though challenges remain. Going forward, the integration of multi-tier dispute resolution clauses and a stronger emphasis on early, collaborative resolution approaches will be key to enhancing the effectiveness of ADR in corporate practice.

The Seminar was moderated by Mr. Mohit Luthra, ASG, PHDCCI. The session concluded on a highly engaging note, marked by insightful deliberations among the participants, where diverse perspectives were shared. This was followed by a special felicitation ceremony to acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable support and contribution of our series partners, whose collaboration played a pivotal role in the success of the "Knowledge Series".

PHDCCI Super Sixes Corporate Cricket Tournament 2026

The Super Sixes Corporate Cricket Tournament, organized by PHDCCI on March 7, 2026, at Livesport Arena, CRPF Camp Road, Kadarapur, Gurugram, brought together leading corporates for a day of high-energy sporting action and camaraderie. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 31 men's teams and 4 women's teams, making it a vibrant and competitive corporate sporting showcase.

Designed as a fast-paced and engaging format, the tournament ran from sunrise to midnight, featuring an impressive 45 matches in a single day. It showcased exceptional talent and competitive spirit, with over 6,000 runs scored and more than 190 wickets taken across matches.

The Men's Champions Cup Final emerged as a key highlight,

reflecting remarkable professionalism and sportsmanship. In a rare and thrilling finish, the match ended in a tie, with Maruti Suzuki and Genpact being jointly declared winners. In the Men's Survivor's Cup, Uflex Ltd. secured victory against Hero MotoCorp in an equally exciting contest, demonstrating resilience and determination.

The women's segment also saw commendable performances. Engineers India Limited won the Women's Champions Cup, with Grant Thornton Bharat as runners-up. In the Women's Survivor's Cup, TRC Corporates claimed the title, while Accenture finished as runners-up. The inclusion of women's teams from various corporates underscored the commitment to promoting inclusivity and women's empowerment, especially on the eve of Women's Day.



A special Prize Distribution Ceremony was held on March 15, 2026, at PHD House, New Delhi. Dr. Ranjeet Mehta congratulated the winners and presented trophies to the teams. In his address, he appreciated the dedication and discipline displayed by all participants, noting that true champions are defined by the extra effort invested in preparation and practice.

The tournament was presented by Reliance

Retail, powered by JK Tyre, and co-powered by Radico and UFLEX. Associate partners included KEI Industries; TRC Corporate Consulting; and Multani Pharmaceuticals. The event was further supported by Dabur; MMG; Vega; Cabrini; WOW Skin Care; Evera Cabs; Safexpress Ltd.; CP Plus; FWF; Metro; Moets; Concord Travel; Mitraj; and Sports Grail.





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International Conference on Advanced Textile Structural Composites & Geosynthetics

PHDCCI, in association with The Technological Institute of Textile & Sciences (TIT&S), Bhiwani, and in collaboration with National Technical Textiles Mission, Ministry of Textiles organized the International Conference on 'Advanced Textile Structural Composites & Geosynthetics' from February 28-March 1, 2026 at Bhiwani, Haryana.

The International Conference served as an important platform to deliberate on emerging innovations, sustainable technologies, and advanced applications in textile structural composites and geosynthetics. The event brought together eminent scientists, researchers, industry leaders, policymakers, and academicians from India and several countries, fostering meaningful discussions and collaborations aimed at strengthening research and industrial development in the domain of technical textiles and advanced materials.

Chief Guest, Mr. Giriraj Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Textiles, Government of India, while inaugurating the exhibition highlighted the strategic importance of technical textiles and advanced composite materials in enhancing India's manufacturing ecosystem and supporting infrastructure development. He noted that innovations in textile structural composites and geosynthetics are increasingly being applied in sectors such as civil infrastructure, defense, mobility solutions, and sustainable construction. The Hon'ble Minister emphasized the role of the National Technical Textiles Mission in promoting research, indigenous manufacturing capabilities, and innovation in the sector. He stressed the need for stronger collaboration between industry and academia to accelerate research-led development, enhance skill-building, and boost India's global competitiveness in technical textiles. He also



reiterated the Government's vision of positioning India as a global hub for technical textiles through technological advancements, sustainable materials, and circular economy practices.

Mr. R. K. Vij, Co-chair, PHDCCI Textile Committee; Mr. Ashok Malhotra, Mission Director – National Technical Textiles Mission; and Prof. B. K. Behera, Director, TIT&S, Bhiwani highlighted the significance of advanced textile composites in modern industrial applications and emphasized the importance of collaborative research and industry partnerships.

The conference featured theme lectures and plenary sessions delivered by renowned international and national experts. Distinguished speakers included Prof. Robert Böhm, HTWK Leipzig, Germany, who spoke on tailored multifunctional composites for sustainable lightweight applications, and Dr Rajesh Kumar Mishra, Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague who discussed bio-based polymer composites reinforced with fibrous materials for automotive and construction applications.

Additional plenary sessions featured presentations by experts including Prof. Savvas Vassiliadis, University of West Attica, Greece on the integration of electricity and textiles, Prof. Yasuhito Mukai, Shinshu University, Japan on nanofiber nonwoven fabrics for filtration applications, Prof. Michal Petru,



Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic on lightweight composite structures, and Prof. Frantisek Novy, University of Zilina, Slovak Republic on ultralight structural components for industrial machinery. Indian experts also contributed significantly to the discussions, including Dr Prabhat K. Agnihotri, IIT Ropar who presented research on in-situ delamination sensing in Kevlar composites, Dr P. S. Prasad, Central Road Research Institute who highlighted the application of geosynthetics in faster civil infrastructure construction, and Dr Kameswara Rao and Dr Ankush Sharma from ATIRA Ahmedabad presented their work on flame-retardant modification of jute fiber-reinforced polyester composites.

The conference also provided a platform for research scholars and scientists to present their research papers and posters. Over 100 research papers were presented on technical textiles and geosynthetics during the two days conference.

At the valedictory session, the importance of international collaboration, innovation, and industry-academia partnerships in advancing the technical textiles sector was discussed.

Future of India's Shipbuilding and Ship Recycling

The roundtable on “Future of India's Shipbuilding and Ship Recycling: Decoding Budget Announcements to Power India's Maritime Future” held on March 12, 2026 at New Delhi brought together senior government officials, maritime administrators, industry leaders, and domain experts to deliberate on strengthening India's shipbuilding and ship recycling ecosystem.

Chief Guest, Mr. Susanta Kumar Purohit, IRSEE, Chairperson, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, outlined a transformative roadmap to elevate India's maritime capabilities and position the country as a key player in the global shipbuilding and ship recycling value chain.

He emphasized that the comprehensive policy framework driven by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways rests on four strategic pillars—financing, capacity expansion, policy reforms, and skill development.

Highlighting the Government's commitment, Mr. Purohit noted that the 48 percent increase in the Ministry's budget allocation for FY 2026-27 to Rs. 5,164.8 crore signals a clear strategic intent to expand domestic shipbuilding capacity and reduce India's nearly Rs. 6 lakh crore annual freight outflow to foreign shipping lines—thereby advancing the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the maritime sector.

A major highlight of the discussions was the proposed National Shipbuilding & Heavy Industries Park in Tamil Nadu, to be implemented through a



Special Purpose Vehicle as a 50:50 joint venture between the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu. The project is expected to emerge as a major hub for shipbuilding, maritime manufacturing, and heavy engineering.

Mr. Purohit also underscored the increasing importance of circular economy principles in the maritime sector, particularly through responsible ship recycling. He highlighted the Shipbreaking Credit Note Scheme, which provides vessel owners with credit notes equivalent to 40 percent of the scrap value of ships recycled at Indian yards, redeemable against

Authority as a model aligned with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. The port has emerged as a pioneer in sustainable maritime operations—becoming India's first port to produce green hydrogen and the first to exceed one megawatt of rooftop solar generation.

Mr. Sandeep Wadhwa, Chair, Ports, Shipping & Waterways Committee, PHDCCI and Group Director, J.M. Baxi & Co., highlighted the significant progress made in India's shipbuilding and ship recycling sectors over the past decade under the Make in India initiative.

He noted that Cochin Shipyard Ltd. has delivered nearly 400 vessels, including INS Vikrant, while Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers have collectively delivered around 30–40 vessels.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI in his presentation on “The Future of India's Shipbuilding & Ship Recycling”, outlined opportunities emerging from the Budget 2026–27. He highlighted the strategic importance of the Rs.25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund and Rs. 69,725 crore revitalisation package for strengthening India's shipbuilding capacity.

The roundtable was supported by the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority and partnered by J.M. Baxi & Co. along with IRC Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.



the cost of constructing new vessels domestically.

He further noted that India has emerged as one of the world's most responsible and regulation-ready ship recycling destinations, with 106 recycling yards at Alang already compliant with the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

Highlighting port-led development, Mr. Purohit showcased the progress of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port

Roundtable Discussion on खेत, खुराक और सेहत Soil Health and Food & Nutrition Security



A roundtable discussion on “खेत, खुराक और सेहत – Soil Health and Food & Nutrition Security” organized by PHDCCI on March 11 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi brought together policymakers, industry leaders, scientists, and agri-experts to deliberate on soil health, crop nutrition, and their broader impact on public health.

Chief Guest, Dr P.K. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, said, “India's agricultural transformation must begin with a shift in thinking—from a purely production-oriented approach to one that protects farmers, strengthens soil health, and ensures long-term sustainability. The government is encouraging states to develop clear, measurable roadmaps for sustainable agriculture, including targets such as improving soil organic carbon and overall soil health. Integrated approaches that combine soil conservation, crop diversification, water management, and farmer-centric technologies will be essential to securing long-term food and nutritional security. At the same time, reviving traditional food systems and promoting dietary diversity will play an important role in strengthening both nutritional security and sustainable agriculture in India.”

Mr. N.K. Aggarwal, Chair, Chemicals & Plastic Committee, PHDCCI stated that while agricultural technologies are widely adopted across India, micronutrient management remains critically under-addressed. Deficiencies in zinc and other micronutrients significantly impact both soil fertility and crop quality. Compounding this, overexploitation of soil through multiple cropping cycles demands urgent attention to soil recharging and restoration. As India emerges as a global food security powerhouse with growing export potential, the responsibility to produce nutritious, quality food intensifies.

urea contaminates food and the environment. NFHS data reveals 35.5% of children under five are stunted and 32.1% are underweight — a stark reminder that production alone cannot eliminate “hidden hunger.” Dr Singh said that “Khed, Khurak, and Sehat” aims to collectively address these challenges through sustainable farming, soil restoration, and improved nutritional outcomes.

Mr. N.K. Arora, Secretary of the Governing Council of KAKV Foundation and Knowledge Partner for the discussion, showcased a presentation to the dignitaries.



While setting the context of the roundtable, Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI stated that India produces 351 million tons of food grains annually, yet faces a serious nutritional crisis. Severe soil degradation causes deficiencies in nitrogen, zinc, and iron, while overuse of subsidized

Separately, the KAKV Foundation also released its integrated report titled “Soil Health, Food Production and Nutritional Security in India”.

Dr R.G Agarwal, Chair, Agri Business Committee, PHDCCI delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the dignitaries.

Parliament passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

The Parliament has passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, with the Rajya Sabha approving it on April 2, 2026. Earlier the Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on March 26, 2026. The legislation amends certain enactments for decriminalising and rationalising offences to further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business. The bill will decriminalise minor offences and implement measures such as revising fines and penalties proportionate to the offence. It proposes to amend 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries. A total of 784 provisions are being proposed to be amended, out of which 717 provisions are being decriminalised to foster ease of doing business, and 67 provisions are being proposed to facilitate ease of living. The Jan Vishwas Bill will be the foundation of a developed India, as a nation will only progress through trust but not through fear. The reform in the bill is a significant step towards simplifying laws, reducing compliance burden and fear of penalties.



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**स्वच्छ ऊर्जा में लगातार वृद्धि और नए साधनों के साथ
गेल है विकसित भारत का अग्रणी ऊर्जा साथी।**

पर्यावरण अनुकूल ऊर्जा के निरंतर विस्तार के साथ, गेल स्वच्छ और सशक्त भारत निर्माण के लिए समर्पित है। इस सपने को आकार देने में रांची और बेंगलुरु में स्थित सीबीजी प्लांट्स की अहम भूमिका है। इसमें भारत की पहली हाइड्रोजन ब्लेंडिंग प्रोजेक्ट यानी 10 मेगावाट ग्रीन हाइड्रोजन प्लांट और विजयपुर में स्थित पहले स्मॉल स्केल एलएनजी प्लांट का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान है। गेल स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उत्पादन के माध्यम से हरित कल के निर्माण के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।



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Parivartan Ki Yatra: Transforming Railways for Resilient, Inclusive & Future-Ready Mobility for Viksit Bharat



PHDCCI Railway's Committee organized its 12th Global Rail & Metro Convention—“Parivartan Ki Yatra: Transforming Railways for Resilient, Inclusive & Future-Ready Mobility for Viksit Bharat” on March 06, 2026.

The Convention was graced by senior members from the Ministry of Railways—Mr. Ajay Nandan, General Manager, RCF (Rail Coach Factory), Kapurthala; Mr Alok Tiwari, Addl Member Bridges (CE) Railway Board, Ministry of Railways; Mr. S.M. Sharma, ED/CC, Railway Board, Ministry of Railways; Mr. Lokesh Singh, Executive Director, Mech. Engg. (Freight), Railway Board and Dr Surendra Kumar Ahirwar, EDTC (Rates), Railway Board.

International representation was from Mr. Kawasaki Hiroki, Senior Director, JETRO, New Delhi along with Senior leaders from many Railway PSUs such as Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain (IRTS), CMD-IRCTC; Mr. Praveen Kumar (IRSE), MD-DFCCIL; Mr. Mritunjay Pratap Singh (IRSE), Director (Operations)-

RVNL; Mr. Vijoy Kumar Singh, Director (International Marketing & Operations)-CONCOR; Mr. Manuj Singhal, Director (Infrastructure) – DMRC; Mr. Shobit Bhatnagar, Director OP & BD, DFCCIL and



senior industry stalwarts who took part in the ensuing panel discussions.

While welcoming the industry, Mr Sajal Gupta, Chair, PHDCCI Railways Committee & President Monnet Group shared that the timing of the convention was very significant given that in the current Union Budget the Government has again given a major capex outlay with a clear thrust on expansion, safety, electrification & high speed & freight corridors.

Mr. Mangal Dev, Head of Hitachi Railway Systems Business - India

and South Asia; Director Hitachi India Pvt. Ltd. & Co-chair PHDCCI Railways Committee shared the industry perspective setting the tone of the convention.

Mr. Ranit Rana, Associate Vice President, Sales & Distribution, Jindal Stainless Limited & Co-Chair, PHDCCI Railways Committee shared some recommendations & the benefits of the use of stainless steel in the railway coaches, while advocating the use of more anti corrosive materials.

Mr. Ankur Dev, Executive Director - Transportation Biz - KEC International Ltd. & Co-chair, PHDCCI Railways Committee delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the dignitaries.

Amid the discussions and in presence of dignitaries, PHDCCI in collaboration with ICAI released a Knowledge Study Series “Advancing Resilient, Inclusive & Future- Ready Mobility for Viksit Bharat.” CMA M.K Anand, Council Member&

Chairman, PD & CPE Committee, ICAI also shared a brief about the same.

Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI while moderating the session shared that Indian Railways has undergone transformational growth, with safety,

modernization, and sustainability now at its core.

The Convention saw participation from all Railway PSUs, Industry, Vendors & Start-ups and was supported by RVNL, JSL, IRCTC, DFCCIL, CONCOR, HITACHI, SYSTRA, KEC, LARAON GROUP, RKFS, Knowledge Partner-ICAI, Association Partner-JETRO & Media Partners- Cargo Insights, Cargo Talk & Rail Analysis.

AI Tools for Streamlining Everyday Operations in Public Sector Organizations and Private Businesses

The AI & Innovation Committee of PHDCCI organized a three-day residential workshop on 'AI Tools for Streamlining Everyday Operations in Public Sector Organizations and Private Businesses' from March 11-13, 2026 at Radisson Resort, Goa (Baga).

The programme brought together officials from public sector organizations and representatives from private enterprises to explore the practical application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in streamlining routine operations, enhancing productivity, and enabling data-driven decision-making.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI, who underscored the growing significance of AI in the modern professional landscape and its increasing adoption across sectors to drive efficiency and innovation.

The sessions were led by expert faculty Mr. Rajnish Dass, Managing Director, Catalyst Executive Education Institute (CEEI), and Mr. Muktesh Bhavsar, Technical Lead,



Catalyst.

On Day 1, participants were introduced to the fundamentals of AI, including its evolution, core concepts, and organizational applications. The sessions highlighted the role of AI tools in key operational areas such as data analysis, content generation, workflow automation, and decision support systems.

Day 2 focused on deepening participants' understanding through practical and application-oriented sessions. A key highlight was the hands-on learning approach, where participants engaged in guided exercises to build basic bots and automation workflows, gaining first-hand experience in deploying AI solutions in real-world scenarios.



On Day 3, the workshop advanced to emerging trends in AI, with a focus on AI agents and agentic AI networks. The sessions explored how these technologies enable the development of intelligent systems capable of handling complex tasks with minimal human intervention.

The workshop provided a comprehensive blend of conceptual understanding and practical exposure, equipping participants with actionable insights on integrating AI-driven tools to improve operational efficiency and organizational performance.

Residential Workshop on Board Governance

The NCLT & IBC Committee of PHDCCI organized a three-day Residential Workshop on Board Governance at Radisson Resort, Goa (Baga), from March 11-13, 2026. The workshop focused on strengthening boardroom effectiveness, enhancing governance standards, and equipping participants with practical insights on evolving corporate governance practices.

The event witnessed active participation from leading organizations, including India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited; Steel Authority of India Limited (Refractory Unit); IFFCO-MC Crop Science Private Limited; Chhattisgarh State Beverage Corporation; Goa Shipyard Limited; GAIL (India) Limited; Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited; IST Limited; Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited; Dharampal Satyapal Foods Limited and Cochin Shipyard Limited, bringing together corporate professionals and industry leaders for insightful discussions on governance and leadership.

The sessions were led by eminent expert speakers including Mr. G. P. Madaan, Managing Partner, Madaan Law Offices & Chair, NCLT & IBC Committee, PHDCCI, and Mr. Sudhakar Saraswatula, Chief Consultant, Mehta & Mehta Corporate Law Firm, who shared their invaluable knowledge on strengthening board governance and aligning corporate strategies with regulatory expectations.



Surajkund International Craft Fair 2026 (Theme State – UP)

Under the aegis of its Special Projects Division and State Development Council, PHDCCI partnered with the Theme State-Uttar Pradesh for "Surajkund International Crafts Fair 2026" held from January 31- February 15, 2026. Continuing its track to work at Surajkund International Crafts Fair, PHDCCI worked for a record 6th time for a Theme State. This year, Uttar Pradesh and Meghalaya were designated as the chosen states with a broad guiding theme: ATMANIRBHARTA. Earlier, PHDCCI worked with the Theme States of North East Region: 2023; Jammu & Kashmir: 2022; Uttar Pradesh: 2018; Jharkhand: 2017 and Telangana: 2016.

Occupying a place of pride on the international tourist calendar, more than a million visitors thronged the Surajkund International Crafts fair during the fortnight including



thousands of foreign tourists. The Surajkund International Crafts fair was unique as it showcased the richness and diversity of the handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India, being the largest crafts fair in the world.

This annual fair was organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority (SKMA) & Haryana Tourism, Government of Haryana in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.

A large number of renowned national and international folk artists and cultural groups presented day performances at stages at open-air theatres, located at Surajkund. Also enthralling cultural evening programmes were organized. The Surajkund International Crafts fair was indeed a custodian of the heritage crafts involving use of traditional skills that are fading away due to cheap machine made imitations, and a special section was earmarked for showcasing of these heritage crafts.

The Minerals & Metals Committee and UP State Chapter, PHDCCI, organized the Lucknow B2B Market Linkage Forum 2026 – Exploring Lucknow as a Sourcing Destination on March 12, 2026 at PHD House, Lucknow, with support from L&T SuFin and key industry associations. The Forum highlighted the growing role of B2B industrial e-commerce across sectors such as metals, machinery, solar, building materials and plastics.

Ms. Kavita Nigam Senior Member, PHDCCI and Chief Human Resources Officer, Karam Safety Pvt. Ltd., in her welcome address emphasized the potential of B2B e-commerce to strengthen UP's MSMEs by improving market access, innovation, and ease of

Lucknow B2B Market Linkage Forum



doing business. Ms. Soumya Pathak, Regional Lead- L&T SuFin noted that digital platforms are transforming procurement through enhanced transparency and efficiency, connecting MSMEs across extensive infrastructure supply chains.

Mr. U.P. Tripathi, Secretary, Solar Energy Vendors Association

highlighted the need for MSMEs to build digital visibility and capabilities, while Mr. Keshav P. Mathur, President Laghu Udyog Bharti, Lucknow Chapter underscored the opportunity for local enterprises to become global suppliers through digital platforms. Mr. Keerti Raj Singh, Joint Secretary, Safety Appliances Manufacturers Association, UP Chapter added that e-commerce is

enabling industrial safety equipment manufacturers to scale and compete effectively.

Mr. Punit Chaudhry, Senior Secretary, PHDCCI stressed the importance of digital platforms in expanding MSME market access, followed by a vote of thanks from Mr. Kaushik Fuloria, Deputy Resident Director, PHDCCI.



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Alternative Investments – Expanding Portfolios beyond Traditional Assets

The Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI organized a seminar on Alternative Investments – Expanding Portfolios beyond Traditional Assets on March 13, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The objective of the seminar was to deliberate on the emerging investment trends and position participants to make informed, resilient, and forward-looking investment decisions in the alternative investment space.

Mr. B K Sabharwal, Chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI in his welcome address said that Alternative investments—such as private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, infrastructure funds, real estate investment structures, and other innovative financial instruments—are emerging as powerful vehicles for portfolio diversification, risk management, and long-term wealth creation.

While presenting the theme of the seminar, Mr. Narinder Wadhwa, Co-chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI shared that most of the investors have amassed wealth through investing in real estate. Investment in Bullion and equities are considered as good high return investments as there is an upsurge in the investment space over the past few years. Investment in Bullion acts as a necessary hedge against inflation and portfolio risk.

Mr. Puneet Aggarwal, CEO & Managing Partner, ElementOne Alternatives said that investors look

out for returns & predictability on investments. Since the introduction of AIFs in 2012, the Indian investment landscape has undergone a significant transformation. AIFs play a significant role in supporting the acquisition of companies through the IBC as well. While as an asset class, the equity market is extremely strong in terms of long-term value creation and wealth generation, private credit combines stability with reasonable returns.

than 1700 AIFs are registered with SEBI. Category I and II AIFs are prohibited from investing more than 25% of their investable funds in a single investee company.

Mr. Tejash Gangar, Head - Products, Legal and Compliance, Orbis Financial Corporation Ltd., in his keynote address said that when considering investing in AIFs investors should evaluate several important aspects. One key factor is taxation, as different categories



Mr. Manick Wadhwa, Director, SKI Capital Services Ltd. in his presentation on the AIFs in India, said that the Government has introduced a Research, Development and Innovation Scheme Fund to support India's vision of becoming a global innovation hub. This is a Fund of Funds providing capital through AIF. More than 11.6 lakh crore AIF investments have been made till FY 2025, showing stupendous growth in AIF industry.

Mr. Umesh Khandelwal, Chief Business Officer, Tipson Group spoke on the Emerging Alternative Assets & REITs. He said rigorous due diligence standards have been adopted for AIFs, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) in India to enhance transparency and prevent regulatory arbitrage. He said that the role of wealth manager is extremely important to offer steady income and capital appreciation.

Mr. Mayank Narang, Head of Trustee & RTA, Orbis Financial Corporation Ltd. said that in the present scenario, investment in AIF is the best investment. More

of AIFs are subject to varied tax treatments; for instance, Category I and II AIFs often enjoy pass-through status for certain income streams, while Category III funds may be taxed at the fund level depending on the structure. Within Category I AIFs, Angel Funds offer avenues for investing in early-stage Start-ups, though they involve higher risk and longer gestation periods. Additionally, participation by Qualified Institutional Buyers in AIF structures often signals credibility and institutional confidence, which can influence investment decisions. Therefore, a holistic assessment of tax implications, co-investment opportunities, risk appetite, and the profile of participating investors is essential before committing capital to AIFs.

Mr. Ankur Gupta, Co-chair, Capital Market & Commodity Market Committee, PHDCCI proposed the vote-of-thanks to the participants. The seminar was supported by Orbis Financial and SKI Capital as partners to the event.

GST Jurisprudence Summit 2026: Landmark Judgements & Strategic Roadmap



The Indirect Tax Committee of PHDCCI organized the GST Jurisprudence Summit 2026: Landmark Judgements & Strategic Roadmap on March 16, 2026, at PHD House, New Delhi. The summit brought together leading legal experts and industry professionals to deliberate on evolving GST jurisprudence and its strategic implications for businesses.

Mr. Ashok Batra, Chair, Indirect Tax Committee, PHDCCI, in his theme presentation, outlined key developments in GST jurisprudence, with a focus on landmark judgments delivered by the Supreme Court and various High Courts, and their impact on shaping the evolving GST framework.

Mr. Tushar Aggarwal, Co-chair, Indirect Tax Committee, PHDCCI addressed critical issues on ITC jurisprudence, including blocked credits and the interplay between Sections 16 and 17. He also presented relevant case studies, notably highlighting instances where Special Leave Petitions were dismissed, thereby affirming the availability of input tax credit on goods and services used in the construction of telecommunication towers.

Dr Avinash Poddar of Ashva Legal provided a comprehensive overview of key legal principles, including

the continued relevance of pre-GST rulings in the GST regime, the distinction between supply, sales, and services, and concepts such as works contracts and composite supply. He further elaborated on classification challenges, input tax credit, valuation principles, taxability of reimbursements, and place of supply.



Mr. Yogesh Gaba of GABA & Co. discussed show cause proceedings and appellate strategies, focusing on limitation, validity, interest, and penalties. He elaborated on issues such as interest on wrongly utilized ITC, implications of non-payment to suppliers within 180 days, interest on erroneous refunds, penalties for bona fide defaults, retrospective levy scenarios, and the appellate process before authorities and tribunals.

Mr. Kulraj Ashpanani of Dhruva Advisors addressed interpretation and structural challenges, including secondment arrangements, corporate

guarantees, valuation concerns, and emerging controversies. He traced the evolution of taxability in secondment of employees and inter-company transactions, along with key valuation-related issues.

Mr. Sudipta Bhattacharjee of Khaitan & Co. spoke on investigations and enforcement, covering aspects such as summons, parallel proceedings, and search and seizure. He highlighted taxpayer protections emerging from the 2024 GST investigation guidelines, the legal framework governing summons, recording of statements, and the right to cross-examination.

Mr. Kapil Sharma of Elixir Legal presented insights on sector-specific high-impact rulings, particularly in real estate, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and energy, outlining the GST treatment and key judicial developments across these sectors.

The session was moderated by

Ms. Babeeta Sharma, Director, PHDCCI introduced the speakers and guided the discussions. The summit concluded with remarks by Mr. Nanda Gangadhar Mishra, Joint Secretary, PHDCCI, who encapsulated the key takeaways and emphasized the importance of continued dialogue on GST jurisprudence.

The summit served as a valuable platform for understanding recent judicial trends and developing strategic clarity on GST-related matters.

ILO Living Wages: Concepts & Principles

The HR & IR Committee of PHDCCI participated in a focused discussion session on ILO Living Wages: Concepts & Principles held on March 19, 2026 at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office. The session was led by Ms. Michiko Miyamoto, Director, DWT-South Asia and Country Office for India, ILO.

The PHDCCI delegation was led by Mr. Ashish Wig, Chair, HR & IR Committee, and included Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, and Mr. Jitender Rana, Deputy Secretary.

Mr. Wig drew attention to the fact that India has one of the largest proportions of workers in the unorganized sector globally, spanning construction, agriculture, and the rapidly expanding gig



economy. He noted that despite the scale and significance of this workforce, a vast majority of these workers continue to remain beyond the effective reach of welfare initiatives and social protection frameworks.

While acknowledging the range of government measures already in place, Mr. Wig observed that the impact of these programmes is often constrained by systemic challenges, including limited awareness, inadequate access to education, and

gaps in institutional outreach among unorganized workers.

Mr. Wig emphasized that any meaningful advancement in the global discourse on living wages must account for the unique realities of the unorganized sector in developing economies like India. He called for greater focus and targeted, ground-level interventions to bridge existing gaps and ensure more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable outcomes from ongoing deliberations on living wages.

Supply Chain Disruptions and the Future of India's Fertilizer & Chemical Industry: Towards Greater Self-Reliance

The Chemicals & Plastics Committee, PHDCCI, organized a virtual webinar on "Supply Chain Disruptions and the Future of India's Fertilizer & Chemical Industry: Towards Greater Self-Reliance" on March 13, 2026.

The session brought together leading industry experts to deliberate on the potential implications of disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical maritime trade routes, and the resulting impact on India's fertilizer supply chains, raw material availability, pricing dynamics, and downstream chemical industries.

The webinar featured insightful perspectives from eminent speakers

including Mr. Amit Chugh, CEO-HPM Chemical & Fertilizers; Mr. Abhishek Khandelwal, Head – Procurement- Crystal crop Protection Ltd; and Mr. R. K. Goel, Managing Head – Asia Region Verdesian, who shared valuable industry insights on navigating global supply chain volatility.

During the discussion, speakers highlighted that while geopolitical tensions and trade disruptions often dominate headlines, the real battle is being fought in supply chain control rooms, procurement strategies, and factory floors, where industries are working to ensure continuity of production and supply of raw materials and inputs.

The panel emphasized that self-reliance remains a long-term strategic goal for India's fertilizer and chemical sector. However, in the immediate term, the pressing question for industry stakeholders is how to maintain stable supply chains, manage input costs, and ensure timely availability of fertilizers and key chemical inputs amid global uncertainties.

The discussion also underscored critical challenges within the agriculture ecosystem, particularly the lack of farmer awareness regarding balanced nutrient usage and soil health management. Experts noted that addressing these issues will be essential not only for improving farm productivity but also for ensuring efficient fertilizer utilization and long-term sustainability.

Workshop on Using AI for Productivity: A Practical Guide

The Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Committee of PHDCCI organized a one-day training programme on “Using AI for Productivity: A Practical Guide” on March 26, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi. The workshop aimed to empower students from diverse academic backgrounds including arts, commerce, law, management and humanities with practical knowledge of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

The workshop was designed to simplify AI concepts and enable participants to integrate AI into their daily academic and professional tasks. It focused on building foundational understanding, enhancing productivity, and encouraging ethical and responsible use of AI.

The sessions were conducted by distinguished resource persons including Prof. Manikant Roy, Ph.D. Candidate, IIT Delhi and Assistant Professor – Business Analytics, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, Prof. Poonam Goyal, Chair Professor, Computer Science & Information Systems, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, and Mr. Sanjay Kumar Suri, Founding Partner & CEO, Future IT Advisory, each leading dedicated segments of the workshop.

Prof. Manikant Roy, Ph.D. Candidate, IIT Delhi and Assistant Professor – Business Analytics, Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, conducted sessions on practical AI tools such as Google Gemini and Notebook LM, highlighting their applications in research, documentation, and workflow automation. He also covered prompt engineering basics

and demonstrated how AI can be effectively leveraged to enhance productivity, efficiency, and



decision-making.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Suri, Founding Partner & CEO, Future IT Advisory, introduced participants to the fundamentals of AI, including its real-world applications and differences between AI, Machine Learning, and Generative AI. He also demonstrated how tools like ChatGPT can be effectively used for tasks such as summarization, research, and content creation.

Prof. Poonam Goyal, Chair Professor, Computer Science & Information Systems, BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus, delivered a session on “Computer Vision to Multimodal Understanding: Models, Fusion Strategies, and Applications”, providing insights into evolving AI capabilities and their real-world applications.

Mr. Sumit Bhatnagar, General

Manager & Head of Presales (India), Newgen Software, representing the partner organisation emphasized that AI is increasingly enabling data-driven decision-making by leveraging insights from past data, and encouraged participants to actively adopt and implement the learnings shared by the panelists in their respective

domains.

The workshop also included hands-on activities, enabling participants to apply concepts such as writing effective prompts, verifying AI-generated responses, and building personal productivity workflows using AI tools.

The programme witnessed participation from around 100 students, including those from leading institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Indian Institute of Mass Communication and Institute for Integrated Learning in Management, reflecting strong interest in AI-driven productivity tools and future-ready skill development.

PHDCCI extends sincere appreciation to its partner, Newgen, for their continued support.

National IP Yatra in Leh-Ladakh to Drive Innovation and Strengthen MSME Competitiveness

PHDCCI, with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner (MSME), Ministry of MSME, Government of India organized a two-day National Level Intellectual Property (IP) Yatra Programme on March 26–27, 2026, in Leh-Ladakh. The initiative marked a significant step toward strengthening the intellectual property ecosystem in the Union Territory of Ladakh while promoting innovation, safeguarding traditional heritage, and enhancing MSME competitiveness.

The National IP Yatra aimed to position intellectual property as a strategic tool for enterprise growth, value creation, cultural preservation, and market differentiation. The programme witnessed participation from over 150 stakeholders, including MSMEs, start-ups, innovators, students, aspiring entrepreneurs, senior officials from the Industries Department, leading IPR experts, representatives from the University of Ladakh, and key stakeholders from the tourism sector.

The inaugural session was graced by Adv. Tashi Gyalson, Former Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor, Leh Ladakh. In his address, he emphasized the growing importance of patents, trademarks, and Geographical Indications in protecting Ladakh's unique traditional knowledge, indigenous products, and cultural legacy, while creating new avenues for local economic development.

Mr. Ghulam Mehdi, Former Executive Councillor for Minority Affairs, Ladakh and Mr. Norboo Wangchuk, General Secretary, All Ladakh Hotel and Guest House Association, also addressed the gathering. They highlighted the need

to link heritage-based enterprises with formal IP protection to unlock wider market opportunities.



A key technical session was led by Mr. Mohd Ashraf Bhat (JKAS), Director, Industries and Commerce, UT of Ladakh. He encouraged local MSMEs to identify region-specific and traditional products with potential for GI registration. He also shared insights into flagship government schemes such as the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) and the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), urging entrepreneurs to leverage these initiatives for sustainable growth and expansion.



Welcoming the participants, Dr Jatinder Singh, Deputy Secretary General, PHDCCI, underscored the strategic importance of bringing the National IP Yatra to Ladakh at a time when local enterprises are increasingly moving up the value

chain. He reaffirmed PHDCCI's commitment to strengthening MSMEs through targeted capacity-building initiatives, sectoral outreach, and dedicated IP Facilitation Centres.

The programme featured expert-led technical sessions by distinguished speakers, including Adv. Indraneil Choudhary, United & United; Ms. Zainab Syed, Zainab Syed

& Associates; Dr Kailash Bharti Goswami, University of Ladakh; Ms. Dawa Wangmo, University of Ladakh; Mr. Shahid Khan, Convenor, PHDCCI Education & Skill Committee; Dr Sameena Iqbal, Principal, Degree College Khaltse Leh; and Dr Jigmet Stobdan, University of Ladakh.

The sessions covered key themes such as patents, trademarks, GI registration procedures, patent informatics, prosecution, commercialization, IP enforcement, and IP-led enterprise development.

The programme also highlighted SIDBI schemes supporting MSME growth in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with a presentation delivered by Mr. Iqbal Fayaz Jan, Deputy Director, PHDCCI.

The second day focused on practical and enforcement-related aspects of intellectual property, including patent opposition, infringement, and protection mechanisms. A dedicated IP Helpdesk Camp was also organized, offering MSMEs, start-ups, and innovators one-on-one guidance on IP filing strategies, compliance requirements, and protection pathways.

Awareness Programme on Intellectual Property Rights



PHDCCI, with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, organized a One-Day Awareness Programme on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on March 28, 2026 at The White Hotel, Katra, Jammu.

The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. Kumar Abhishek, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, and was graced by Mr. Vinu Ji Koul, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu, as Guest of Honour. The event brought together senior officials from the Ministry of MSME, representatives from the Department of Industries, members of academia, MSMEs, startups, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Kumar Abhishek emphasized the growing importance of Intellectual Property Rights in today's competitive business environment. He underlined that such initiatives are crucial in helping enterprises understand the value of protecting their innovations and products. Referring to the recent example of Kolhapuri chappals, he highlighted the significance of safeguarding traditional and local products

through appropriate IP protection. He also stressed the need for continuous handholding support to Farmers' Producer Organizations to enable them to grow sustainably and compete effectively, urging all stakeholders to work collaboratively toward this objective.



In his welcome address, Mr. Rakesh Wazir, Chair, PHDCCI Jammu Region Chapter, set the tone for the programme by emphasizing the critical role of branding, innovation, and intellectual property protection in enhancing business competitiveness in Jammu & Kashmir. He reiterated PHDCCI's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and fostering an enabling ecosystem where businesses can thrive through robust IPR strategies.

Mr. Vinu Ji Koul highlighted various schemes of the Ministry of MSME, including the Zero Defect Zero

Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme, the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), and other innovation-driven initiatives. He elaborated on how these schemes support entrepreneurs and promote sustainable industrial growth.

Mr. H. P. Kumar, Former CMD, NSIC & Adviser, PHDCCI, remarked that this is the "age of entrepreneurship" and encouraged MSMEs in Katra to actively explore new business opportunities. He advised participants to fully leverage the schemes offered by the Ministry of MSME and seek guidance from the PHDCCI-IPFC Centre in Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Shyam Lal Kesar, Chairman, Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra, and Mr. Virender Kesar, Head, PHDCCI Katra, also shared their perspectives, highlighting the financial value addition and strategic importance of Intellectual Property Rights for businesses, particularly in the hospitality and tourism sectors.

Ms. Kanchan Zutshi, Director, PHDCCI, elaborated on the role of the PHDCCI Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC), which provides continuous handholding support to MSMEs in filing and securing their IPRs. She informed the participants that PHDCCI has a dedicated panel of experts to guide and assist MSMEs throughout the IPR registration process. Reaffirming the organization's commitment, she stated that PHDCCI remains steadfast in strengthening awareness and facilitating access to IPR services for the MSME community in Katra.

Webinar with the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP)

A webinar with the Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) was conducted on March 31, 2026 in collaboration with PHDCCI. During the session, the QSTP team led by Mr Marwan Habbal, Business Lead provided an overview of its ecosystem, highlighting its role in convening founders, operators, and investors to foster innovation in science and technology. They also outlined the range of programs, infrastructure, and support mechanisms available to startups and enterprises, including workspaces, research facilities, and accelerator initiatives. The discussion further touched upon opportunities for organisations to engage with QSTP's platform for growth, collaboration, and global market access.

E-Commerce Logistics 2026: Leveraging AI & Automation for Next-Gen Supply Chains

PHDCCI, in association with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, organized a seminar on “E-Commerce Logistics 2026: Leveraging AI & Automation for Next-Gen Supply Chains” on March 27, 2026 in New Delhi.

The seminar served as a strategic platform to deliberate on emerging challenges and opportunities in India's rapidly evolving e-commerce logistics landscape.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Mohit Luthra, Assistant Secretary General, PHDCCI, highlighted the rapid expansion of India's e-commerce sector, driven by increasing digital adoption and changing consumer expectations. He reaffirmed PHDCCI's commitment to fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia.

Guest of Honour, Mr. Samuel Praveen Kumar, Director (M&CP), Central Warehousing Corporation, spoke about the significant transformation underway in India's logistics sector. He emphasized the role of digital public infrastructure and technological innovation in building a more efficient and future-ready ecosystem.

Dr Vipin Chandra Shukla, Scientist-G & Head, DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology highlighted DSIR's support mechanisms—including funding schemes, particularly for MSMEs, and called for accelerated adoption of AI and automation across logistics operations.

Mr. I.V. Rao, Distinguished Fellow, Transport & Urban Governance, TERI, highlighted AI-driven route optimization, real-time data analytics, and green supply chain practices as key enablers of operational excellence and



environmental responsibility.

Sharing industry insights, Mr. Prashant Gaur, Vice President, Reliance Retail Limited observed that AI and automation are enhancing delivery speed, visibility, and supply chain efficiency..

Session I: AI-Driven Efficiency in E-Commerce Logistics & Supply Chain

The session examined how artificial intelligence and automation are transforming supply chain operations. Emphasis was placed on predictive analytics, intelligent



warehousing, and AI-powered optimization tools to drive efficiency and cost reduction.

Moderated by Ms. Udisha Srivastav, Senior Correspondent, Business Standard, the panel featured Mr. Anil Manik Rao; Dr. Firoz Zia Hussain; Mr. Vineet Krishana Sachdev; and Mr. Nitin Jain.

Fireside Chat: Smart & Sustainable — Women Leading AI-Driven Circular Supply Chains in E-Commerce

The fireside chat highlighted how

AI-driven solutions are enabling resource optimization, waste reduction, and environmentally responsible operations. Moderated by Ms. Pushpita Dey, Special Correspondent, The New Indian Express, the session featured Ms. Rashmi Chopra and Mr. Yogesh Kumar.

Session II: Green & Sustainable Supply Chains

This session emphasized sustainability as a strategic imperative in logistics. Panelists discussed green warehousing, energy-efficient transportation, carbon footprint reduction, and the integration of clean technologies. Moderated by Mr. Anil Syal, President, Safexpress Ltd., the panel included Mr. Manuj Adlakha; Dr. Uday Narang; Mr. Pramod Rajendran; and Ms. Viral Joshi.

Session III: Intelligent Last-Mile & Returns: Strengthening Trust in E-Commerce

The final session discussed the role of AI, automation, and real-time tracking systems in improving delivery efficiency, route optimization, and transparency. Moderated by Mr. Arupendra Nath Mullick, Vice-President & Associate Director, TERI Council for Business Sustainability, the panel featured Mr. Naveen Mathur; Mr. Girish Nair; Mr. Amit Shankhdhar; Mr. Gaurav Pandey; and Mr. Sonik Sourabh.

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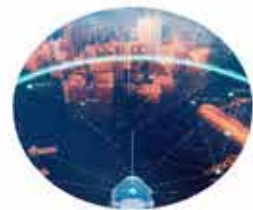
MARINE SERVICES

Marine services are our long-established data-driven business vertical. Combined, all the marine services companies of the group collectively make the group India's largest professional and integrated marine agency.



PORTS & LOGISTICS

As a part of the infrastructure and logistics vertical, the group caters to a need for specially designed shipping logistics infrastructure, including port facilities such as container and multi-cargo port terminals, container freight stations and inland container depots, niche logistics services for project and bulk cargo.



TECHNOLOGIES

To keep abreast and evolve with ever-changing technologies, the group started this vertical ten years ago. With keen presence in communication and digital solutions for the maritime trade, it is the youngest and most dynamic space in the group.



Social Media Graffiti



Petroleum and Natural Gas
Regulatory Board (PNGRB)
@PNGRB_

Shri Anjali Kumar Triwari, Member @PNGRB, spoke at @phdchamber, highlighting:

- PNG adoption in cities
- Faster CNG development
- Boost domestic oil & gas
- Use of indigenous energy

#PNGRB #EnergySecurity



PNGRB with 4.2K followers
mentioned us in a tweet



India in Uganda
@indianUganda

HC@UpendraSRawat alongside Dr. Charles Oloro, Director General of Health Services, inaugurated 5th edition of the Uganda Pharma & Healthcare Expo in Kampala which was organized by @phdchamber. 35 Indian Companies from @phdchamber are showcasing their products at the India Pavilion.



India in Uganda with 12.3K followers
mentioned us in a tweet



Embassy of Mexico in India
@EmbaMexInd

@EmbaMexInd Chargé d'Affaires @Clayton participated with colleagues of Central America and the Caribbean in the "Trade & Investment Conclave" org. by @phdchamber to showcase the opportunities that #PlanMexico offers for investment and discuss areas to expand our trade @SE_mex



Embassy of Mexico in India with 9.4K
followers tagged us in a tweet



United News of India
@unindianews

The Department of Pharmaceuticals, under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in Association with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), is set to host the 9th PharmaMed 2026 on 27th March 2026 in Delhi.

The one-day conference will bring together key stakeholders from across the pharmaceutical ecosystem for a high-level dialogue on the future of India's pharma sector. It seeks to address critical priorities including quality assurance, regulatory harmonization, innovation, and equitable access to medicines.



UNI with 10.9K followers
mentioned us in a tweet



Social Media Graffiti



Shri Arvind Kumar (@arvindtw), DG, STPI, as a Guest of Honour at the AI in Action India Summit 2026, shared key insights on India's AI journey, evolving startup landscape, and the roadmap for inclusive, innovation-led growth.



STPI India with 40.4K followers mentioned us in a tweet



At the [Phdchamber](#) seminar on "Indigenisation & Modernisation Requirements of Central Armed Police Forces" chaired by Shri Wastana R. VAS, Joint Secretary (Police Modernisation), Ministry of Home Affairs, India Optics Limited (IOL) showcased its role as a leader in

General Manager, IOL, Shri Tarun Khattar highlighted the vital link between current operational requirements and IOL's indigenous thermo-optical capabilities, adding to the technical depth. Asst. General Manager, Shri Raghu Gupta emphasized that the path to indigenising complex tactical systems lies in "synergised collaboration" between the industry and the end users.



PRO/IOL with 1K followers tagged us in a tweet



Join Sudipta Bhattacharyya at the [Phdchamber](#) GST Jurisprudence Summit, as he discusses the legal contours, procedural safeguards and emerging enforcement trends shaping investigations under the GST regime.

[@KhaitanCo](#) #tax



Khaitan & Co. with 3.7K mentioned us in a tweet



Join us on 12th March 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi, for the [@phdchamber](#) Industry Interactive Conference & Mini Expo on "Indigenisation & Modernisation Requirements of Central Armed Police Forces".



MKU Ltd. with 5.2K followers tagged us in a tweet

Awareness Session on Accelerating MSME Growth

The Chandigarh Chapter, PHDCCI in association with the Industries Department, Chandigarh Administration, organized an Awareness Session on the theme “Accelerating MSME Growth: Market Access, Timely Finance, Quality Standards & Export Readiness” under the Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme Series on March 24, 2026 at PHD House, Chandigarh. The session focused on strengthening the MSME ecosystem by creating awareness and offering guidance on capacity building, enhanced competitiveness, and sustainable growth.

Mr. Rajneesh Bansal, Chair, Chandigarh Chapter, PHDCCI, delivered the welcome remarks and emphasized the significance of the RAMP Programme in empowering MSMEs. He highlighted how the initiative enables industries to leverage government schemes effectively, adopt emerging technologies, and move towards sustainable and scalable growth.

Mr. Varun Singhwal, Manager, SIDBI, highlighted the critical role of timely payments in strengthening MSME competitiveness. He elaborated on the TReDS platform as an efficient mechanism for invoice discounting, enabling faster access to working capital. The session emphasized how digital financing solutions can reduce liquidity constraints and improve cash flow for MSMEs.



Ms. Talika Sharma, Bureau of Indian Standards, (BIS) Chandigarh, emphasized the importance of quality standards in enhancing MSME competitiveness. She highlighted the role of BIS in ensuring product reliability, safety, and market acceptance. The session also guided MSMEs on certification processes and the benefits of adhering to national standards. Participants gained insights into building trust and expanding market reach through quality compliance.

Mr. Mohit Singh, Addble, New Delhi, highlighted how the

ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is transforming the way MSMEs access digital markets. He explained how ONDC enables businesses to break platform barriers and reach a wider customer base. The session emphasized cost-effective digital onboarding and increased visibility for small enterprises.

Mr. S.K. Gupta, Chief Executive, Exim Enterprises, focused on preparing MSMEs for global market entry. He explained the fundamentals of export documentation, procedures, and regulatory requirements. The session highlighted key opportunities in international trade and the importance of compliance for smooth exports.

Mr. Naveen Kumar, Resident Manager, PHDCCI, while proposing the vote-of- thanks, expressing sincere gratitude to the esteemed speakers, participants, and partners for their valuable contributions to the programme’s success. He appreciated the collaborative efforts that made the session insightful and impactful.

E-Waste Collection Box For A Greener Tomorrow

PHDCCI inaugurated the E-Waste Collection Box at PHD House, Chandigarh on March 17, 2026 as a step towards creating awareness among industry stakeholders on reducing e-waste for a greener and more sustainable future. The initiative was successfully carried out in collaboration with Surya E-Waste, reinforcing the shared commitment towards responsible e-waste disposal and environmental sustainability.

Ms. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI, expressed her gratitude to the leadership for

their support in promoting environmental sustainability through responsible e-waste management.

Mr. Gautam Sharma & Mr. Udit Sharma from Surya E-Waste highlighted the urgent need to sensitize industries on e-waste management and collectively work towards building a sustainable ecosystem.

The inaugural was graced by PHDCCI leadership including Mr. Rajneesh Bansal, Chair, Chandigarh Chapter; Mr. Rahul Jogi, Convener,



Regional NCLT & Corporate Affairs Committee; Mr. Mukul Bansal, Regional Banking & Financial Committee; Mr. Shiv Shankar, Co-convener, Regional Banking & Financial Committee; and Mr. Parv Arora, Convener, Regional Power & Renewable Committee.

As an Industry Partner, PHDCCI collaborated with MAD IDEAZ to organize the “Harit Urja Conclave – Powering Chhattisgarh” on March 24, 2026, at Hotel Sayaji, Raipur. The Conclave was held in association with Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Ltd. (CSPDCL), Government of Chhattisgarh, DRRF, CG-SIMA, and CGS Network.

The Conclave focused on critical themes surrounding renewable energy and industrial transition in Chhattisgarh, including policy and implementation challenges, open access frameworks, and pathways for industrial decarbonisation. It also emphasized strengthening the state’s clean energy ecosystem. Key discussions revolved around: Promoting green energy for industrial growth; Addressing barriers and policy gaps in open access; Aligning state policies with industry renewable energy ambitions and Building climate-resilient energy systems for steel and mining sectors.

A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion on “Can Chhattisgarh’s Policies Keep Pace with Industry’s Renewable Energy Ambitions?”, which examined regulatory bottlenecks, cross-subsidy concerns, and grid constraints affecting renewable energy adoption.

The Conclave featured a distinguished lineup of speakers, including Mr. Rajesh Singh Rana (IAS), CEO, CREDA; Mr. S. S. Bajaj (IFS, Retd.), Head – Corporate Affairs, Jindal Steel Ltd; Mr. J. N. Baiga, CREDA; Mr. O. P. Banjare, General Manager, CSIDC; Mr. Bimbisar Nagarjun, Superintendent Engineer, CSPDCL; Mr. Sumit Sarkar, CEO, Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority; Mr. Jitender Solanki, Disaster Management Consultant; and Dr Ashokaditya Dhurandhar of Bathwal Corporation.

Harit Urja Conclave – Powering Chhattisgarh



Ms. Shivani Lal, Founder & CEO, MAD IDEAZ, aptly noted, “Harit Urja is a platform for actionable dialogue to shape Chhattisgarh’s energy future, enabling industry to align growth with sustainability.”

Located at the heart of India, Chhattisgarh is one of the country’s most industrially significant state, with a strong presence of steel, mining, cement, and aluminium industries. Traditionally a power-surplus, coal-based energy hub, the state is now witnessing a shift driven by evolving market dynamics, the growing cost competitiveness of renewable energy, ESG imperatives, and national decarbonisation goals. The Conclave’s deliberations reflected this transition and explored ways to strengthen the ongoing Energy Efficiency & Decarbonisation Mission in the state.



While the Government of Chhattisgarh has introduced several policy initiatives to promote renewable energy, industrial

decarbonisation, and energy security, participants noted that adoption across industries remains uneven.

A major point of discussion was the Open Access Framework, which enables industries to procure renewable energy from third-party developers. Industry stakeholders

highlighted concerns related to cross-subsidy and additional surcharges, banking provisions, approval timelines, grid constraints, forecasting and scheduling, and frequent regulatory changes. At the same time, distribution companies underscored their concerns around revenue stability, grid management, and demand forecasting—highlighting the need for balanced, collaborative solutions.

Beyond open access, industry representatives also pointed to challenges such as land availability, transmission infrastructure, integration of intermittent renewable energy with continuous industrial loads, and access to financing for hybrid and storage-based solutions. Overall, the Harit Urja Conclave – Chhattisgarh Edition emerged as a vital platform for dialogue

between policymakers, industry leaders, and experts. It enabled meaningful exchange on best practices, regulatory improvements, and actionable strategies to accelerate the transition towards cleaner, reliable, and cost-competitive energy systems. The discussions also

focused on ensuring grid stability and the long-term sustainability of the state’s power sector.

Vendor Development Programme for Strengthening MSMEs

A two-day Vendor Development Programme for SAIL's Bhilai Steel Plant and Ancillary Industries under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme was organized on March 10-11, 2026 at Bhilai Steel Plant, Bhilai. The programme was jointly conducted by the Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation (CSIDC), PHDCCI, Steel Authority of India Limited's Bhilai Steel Plant, and the BSP Ancillary Industries Association to strengthen linkages between MSMEs and large industries.

Welcoming the dignitaries, Mr. Ratan Das Gupta, Member, PHDCCI Chhattisgarh State Chapter, emphasized that such initiatives help vendors understand industry requirements and open new opportunities for MSMEs through stronger industry partnerships.



In his inaugural address, Mr. Rajiv Agrawal, Chairman of CSIDC, highlighted the State's support for industrial growth and encouraged entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing units in Chhattisgarh, generate local employment, and strengthen the MSME ecosystem through quality production.

Mr. K C Mishra, CGM-Materials Management, Bhilai Steel Plant, stressed the importance of developing MSMEs capable of manufacturing reverse-engineered spares currently imported by the plant and encouraged greater participation from SC/ST entrepreneurs. Mr. A K Chakraborty, Executive Director, Bhilai Steel

Plant, reiterated BSP's commitment to integrating local MSMEs into its supply chain to enhance regional industrial development. Mr. O P Banjare, General Manager, CSIDC, also addressed the session.

Technical sessions covered key areas including procurement opportunities, digital procurement platforms, and quality standards. Experts from the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), MSME Technology Centre Durg, and Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai shared insights on GeM onboarding, BSP procurement processes, benefits for women and SC/ST entrepreneurs, the Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme, and reverse engineering in manufacturing.

The programme concluded with a vote-of-thanks by Mr. Sumit Dubey, Resident Director, PHDCCI.

FOCUS STATE GUJARAT

Celebrating Strength of Women

PHDCCI Gujarat Chapter, in association with AIC GUSEC, organized the SHE Forum – “Celebrating Strength & Inspiring Change” on March 7, 2026, in Ahmedabad. The special forum was dedicated to recognizing and empowering women leaders, entrepreneurs, and change-makers, who are shaping the future of business and society.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Hon'ble Mayor Pratibha Jain, whose motivating address on women's empowerment and inclusive development set an inspiring tone for the forum. She emphasized the importance of building supportive ecosystems that enable women to lead, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to economic and social progress.

Mr. Srinivasa Rao Sureddi, Group CEO of Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council was appreciated for his support in enabling impactful initiatives such as this forum.

Dr Munjal Dave, Deputy Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat, shared valuable insights on various government assistance schemes and opportunities available to entrepreneurs, particularly encouraging women-led enterprises to leverage these initiatives for innovation.

An insightful session on “Financial Freedom for HER” was delivered by Mr. Anand Vasani, CEO of Wealthshala, where he shared practical guidance on financial planning, wealth creation, and



strategies for achieving financial independence.

One of the highlights was an engaging panel discussion titled “SHE Drives the Economy – Power of Education & Health.” Panelists shared their professional insights, highlighting how education and healthcare play a crucial role in strengthening women's participation in the economy.

The sessions were moderated by Mr. Jay Samani, Resident Manager, PHDCCI Gujarat. In her vote of thanks, Ms. Parul Goyal, Director at Stoelife Pvt. Ltd., expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, partners, and participants for their valuable contributions in making the Forum a success.

AI in Action India Summit 2026

Transforming Industry, Empowering Bharat



The Haryana State Chapter of PHDCCI, in association with Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), organized the AI in Action India Summit on March 20, 2026, at Radisson Hotel Gurugram. The summit brought together eminent industry leaders, policymakers, technology experts, and innovators to deliberate on the rapidly evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence and its impact on business, governance, and society.

Mr. Rakesh Sangrai, Director, PHDCCI, while moderating the session, emphasized the critical role of AI in enhancing India's global competitiveness. He highlighted the need for robust collaboration between industry, academia, and government to drive innovation and scalability.

Mr. Satish Dev Jain, Chair, Haryana State Chapter, PHDCCI, underscored Haryana's growing prominence as an industrial and

technological hub. He stressed the importance of leveraging AI-driven opportunities to build a future-ready economy.

Mr. Harjeet Singh, Group Chair & CEO, Cerebrent shared insights on the practical application of AI in marketing, analytics, and customer engagement.

Mr. Anupam Shrivastava, MD, Accenture, spoke about the transformative potential of AI in driving business innovation, improving operational efficiencies, and enabling digital reinvention.

Mr. Arvind Kumar, Director General, Software Technology Parks of India, elaborated on various government initiatives aimed at strengthening India's AI ecosystem.

Mr. Shivam Saluja, Co-chair, Haryana State Chapter, PHDCCI, in his vote of thanks, emphasized the critical need for skill development, reskilling, and workforce

readiness to effectively harness AI technologies.

A panel discussion on "Building a Trusted and Resilient AI Ecosystem: Governance, Infrastructure & DPI" featured Ms. Shuchita Gaur, Director of Engineering and AI Programs at SAP; Mr. Harjeet Singh, Group Chair and CEO, Cerebrent; Mr. Alok Agrawal, Co-Founder, AI4India; and Mr. Manas Pandey, CEO, MS Risktec Solutions.

Another panel discussion on "AI Frameworks and the Future of Work: From Technology to Talent Transformation" included Mr. Madhur Arora, Head, AI-Powered Ad Solutions at Google; Ms. Poonam Masand, Senior Director at Genpact; Mr. Gaurav Budhiraja, Director – Data Science and Advanced Analytics, AI & ML, Digital Strategy & Transformation at Tech Mahindra; and Mr. Sachin Puniyani, AI Lead for Public Sector at Amazon Web Services.

The programme also featured workshops and case study discussions led by Mr. Vijay Krishan Gupta, CEO and Director, Think Future Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Alok Gautam, Founder and CEO, Olbrain; Mr. Ritesh Watts, President, Watts Group; and Mr. Mark Walker, Chief Product Officer, Evantiv Digital (Avirat AI), providing practical insights into real-world AI applications across sectors.



PHDCCI SHE Forum, Haryana, in association with Amway and in collaboration with WICCI and WFC, organized an interactive session under its Empowering Mind Series on the theme “Integrating Wellness with Entrepreneurial Excellence” on March 19, 2026, at Hotel Radisson, Gurugram.

Ms. Manisha Singh, Senior Secretary – International Affairs, PHDCCI, highlighted the growing importance of integrating wellness into professional and entrepreneurial journeys. She emphasized that holistic well-being is fundamental to sustainable leadership and long-term organizational success.

Ms. Alka Gurnani, Chair, PHDCCI SHE Forum, Haryana, outlined the Forum’s vision of empowering women through awareness, collaboration, and capacity building. She noted that both mental and physical wellness are critical enablers for women to excel in leadership and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Radhika Gupta, State President – WICCI Delhi Mentoring & Skill Council, underscored the importance of mentorship and skill-

Integrating Wellness with Entrepreneurial Excellence



building in nurturing confident and resilient individuals.

Ms. Harpreet Behl, Women Fun Club, shared insights on maintaining balance between personal and professional life, highlighting the role of community support and positive environments in enhancing overall well-being.

Chief Guest, Ms. Madhu Azad, Former Mayor, Gurugram, emphasized that true empowerment stems from a healthy mind and body. She encouraged women entrepreneurs to prioritize self-care alongside professional commitments

and appreciated the PHDCCI SHE Forum for curating a meaningful platform that brings together thought leaders to discuss wellness as a critical component of growth and leadership.

The panel discussion on “The Wellness Advantage” featured distinguished speakers who shared diverse perspectives on holistic well-being. Ms. Peeyush Goyal, Senior Representative, Amway India, highlighted the role of nutrition and wellness products in enhancing quality of life and productivity of women. Ms. Jyoti Yadav, Nutritionist, spoke about the importance of balanced diets, mindful eating, and lifestyle

modifications for optimal health. Ms. Jigyasa Tandon, Psychologist and State President, Delhi Human Values Council, WICCI, emphasized mental well-being as a cornerstone of overall health, focusing on stress management, emotional resilience, and the importance of self-care in today’s fast-paced world.

The session concluded on an engaging and insightful note, with participants gaining practical perspectives on integrating wellness into their personal and professional lives.

India’s Dominance in Cereals, Pulses, and Millets

Rice and Wheat: India ranks as the world’s second-largest producer of both rice and wheat, with output reaching 150.18 million tons of rice and 117.94 million tons of wheat during the agricultural year 2024-25. Rice production is primarily concentrated in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and West Bengal. At the same time, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Punjab constitute the leading wheat-producing regions, reflecting the geographic concentration of cereal production within the country.

Pulses and Millets: India also leads globally in pulse production, recording an output of 25.68 million tons (2024-25), with Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan serving as the principal producing states. The country also ranks first worldwide in millet production, achieving approximately 18.59 million tons (2024-25), largely driven by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.

In terms of trade performance, Rice exports reached USD 12.95 billion in 2024-2025, while exports of pulses and millets amounted to USD 855 million and USD 59.20 million, respectively. These figures underscore the growing international demand for diversified, climate-resilient cereal crops, reinforcing India’s strategic role in global food and nutrition security.

Intellectual Property (IP) Awareness Programme

A one day Intellectual Property (IP) Awareness Programme was held on March 24, 2026 at Kotshera, Shimla. The programme was organized by MSME DFO Solan, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises under the MSME

Innovative Scheme in association with District Industries Center Shimla and PHDCCI IPFC, Shimla. The programme was aimed at strengthening IP ecosystem by encouraging MSMEs, entrepreneurs, startups, students, and academic stakeholders to recognize, protect, and leverage their innovative and creative assets, while also fostering a culture of innovation and enhancing awareness about IP rights.

The programme was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Guest, Dr Gopal K. Chauhan, Principal, Rajiv Gandhi Degree College. In his keynote address, he commended the initiative undertaken by PHDCCI and the Ministry of MSME, noting its relevance and long-term value for both the academic community and the entrepreneurial ecosystem.



Mr. Anil Kumar Saunkhala, Resident Director, PHDCCI, IPFC Centre Shimla, highlighted the establishment of the Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre (IPFC) at the PHDCCI Shimla office. He emphasized that the Centre is dedicated to providing professional support and facilitation services to individuals, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs across the state for IP filing, registration, and protection.

Dr Rakesh K. Sharma, Head, IQAC and Research & Development Cell, underscored the critical importance of safeguarding students' innovations through mechanisms such as trademarks, geographical indications, and patents.

Dr Rahul Taneja, Scientist (PIC), in his overview of Intellectual Property Rights spoke on the procedures for registration of patents, trademarks,

and other IP assets, and highlighted their strategic importance in brand building and market positioning.

Mr. Shailesh Vatsgotri, Assistant Director, MSME DFO Solan, Ministry of MSME, delivered a formal vote-of-thanks to all the dignitaries, speakers, participants, and organizers for their valuable contributions to the success of the programme.

The event witnessed participation from over 100 attendees, including representatives from local MSMEs, as well as students and faculty members from the Rajiv Gandhi Degree College, Kotshera.



FOCUS STATE

NORTH EAST REGION

Times Now Summit – Assam Chapter

Mr. A Tovi Chophi, Chair, NER Chapter, PHDCCI, was invited by the Times Network as an esteemed speaker at the Times Now Summit – Assam Chapter held on March 13, 2026 at the Sri Sri Madhavadeva International Auditorium, Guwahati. The summit, themed “Jai Ai Axom: Juggernaut of the East”, brought together policymakers and industry leaders to deliberate on Assam's transformation into a strategic gateway for eastern economic growth.

The Chief Guest of the program was Mr. Ashok Singhal, Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Irrigation, Govt of Assam. Mr. Chophi highlighted the state's strong economic momentum in recent years and shared insights on the initiatives and activities being undertaken by the NER Chapter PHDCCI to support industry, promote regional development, and strengthen the business ecosystem in the North Eastern Region.



Series of IPR Awareness Programmes Across Ladakh

In a significant initiative to strengthen innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property (IP) awareness in the Ladakh region, PHDCCI, with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME, organized a series of one-day Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) awareness programmes across the region. The programmes were aimed at sensitising students, entrepreneurs, research scholars, and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to the role of IPR in fostering innovation, building brand value, and promoting sustainable economic growth.

Inaugural Session at Government Degree College (GDC), Khaltsi-Leh (March 27, 2026)

The series commenced at Government Degree College (GDC), Khaltsi-Leh, with the participation of around 60 students and aspiring entrepreneurs. Mr. Stanzin Stamdin, Assistant Professor of English, welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. Mohd. Shahid Khan, Convenor, Education Committee and IPR Expert, PHDCCI. The Principal, Dr. Sameena Iqbal, felicitated Mr. Khan with a traditional khatak.

In his address, Mr. Khan highlighted the essential pillars of success—knowledge, skills, and attitude—and encouraged students to view challenges as opportunities for innovation. The session provided an overview of various forms of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, and Geographical Indications, along with an introduction to MSME and SIDBI schemes that support enterprise development.

Entrepreneurial Engagement in Kargil (March 28, 2026)

The programme in Kargil witnessed the participation of nearly 70 entrepreneurs, SHG members, and business owners. Mr. Iqbal Fayaz Jan, Deputy Director, PHDCCI-IPFC, J&K and Ladakh, emphasized the importance of maintaining industry standards and leveraging institutional support mechanisms.

Mr. Mohd. Shahid Khan addressed participants on developing a progressive business mindset. A technical session was conducted by Advocate Inderneil Choudhary, IPR Attorney (United & United),



who shared practical insights into trademarks, copyrights, patents, and industrial designs. He also explained filing procedures and discussed commercialization avenues such as licensing and franchising.

Knowledge Exchange at School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SAST), Stakna Leh (March 30, 2026)

At the School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SAST), Stakna Leh, around 70 research scholars and entrepreneurs participated in the programme. Dr Dorjay Namgyal, Director, SAST, delivered the welcome address.

Mr. Iqbal Fayaz Jan elaborated on the significance of IPR protection and highlighted various MSME and SIDBI schemes available to

innovators. Mr. Mohd. Shahid Khan delivered an engaging session on innovation and scaling ventures, while a technical discussion on protecting inventions and creative works was also conducted. The programme concluded with remarks by Dr. Maheshwar Singh Kanwar, Professor-cum-Chief Scientist, University of Ladakh.

Concluding Session at Ladakh University, Taru Thang (March 31, 2026)

The concluding session was organized in collaboration with the Department of Travel and Tourism at Ladakh University, Taru Thang. The programme was graced by Dr Saket Kushawa, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Ladakh University.

In his keynote address, Dr. Suyash Pawar, Assistant Professor, emphasized the importance of industry-academia collaboration and invited PHDCCI to consider establishing an IPR facilitation center at the university. He also

proposed signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enable the institution to effectively leverage MSME schemes.

Mr. Iqbal Fayaz Jan spoke on MSME innovative schemes and

the IPR filing process, while Mr. Mohd. Shahid Khan delivered the concluding address, underscoring the importance of cultivating a progressive business mindset through global best practices.

PHDCCI Submits Memorandum on Ease of Doing Business to Chief Secretary J&K

During an Ease of Doing Business interaction in Jammu on March 11, 2026, Chair, PHDCCI Jammu Region, Mr. Rakesh Wazir submitted a detailed memorandum to Chief Secretary, Mr. Atul Dullu, outlining key reforms to enhance the business environment in Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Wazir emphasized the importance of a conducive business ecosystem, welcomed Phase-1 deregulation efforts, and expressed confidence in upcoming Phase-2 reforms. His key recommendations included simplifying the issuance of the Commencement of Commercial Operations Certificate, extending incentives for substantial expansion of units (on the lines of IDS), and reducing documentation for incentive applications.

He also proposed easing tourism regulations through self-registration (similar to the Udyam Portal), enabling one-time registration without renewal, and promoting homestays with minimal formalities. Further, he suggested granting Fire NOCs for five years with norms suited to the hilly terrain.

On infrastructure and planning, Mr. Wazir recommended simplifying building approvals, rationalizing road width norms, introducing transferable FAR (as in



Mumbai), and encouraging vertical construction with fixed setbacks. He also urged expediting the Inter-Modal Station project at Katra.

Responding positively, Mr. Dullu assured that all suggestions would be reviewed, directing officials to assess feasibility and ensure proper tracking for implementation.

Mr. Himayoun Wani, Co-chair of the Kashmir Chapter of PHDCCI presented a comprehensive set of suggestions aimed at revitalizing the industrial and tourism sectors.

Mr. Wani raised critical issues ranging from infrastructure development to financial relief for businesses impacted by recent turmoil, emphasizing the need for a supportive ecosystem to

attract investment and generate employment. Acknowledging the validity of the suggestions, the Chief Secretary constituted a three-member committee to examine the points raised by the stakeholders.

Expressing confidence in the administration's approach, Mr. Himayoun Wani stated, "The proactive response from the Chief Secretary, particularly the formation of a dedicated committee, demonstrates a genuine commitment to addressing ground-level challenges. We are confident that measures such as CIBIL relaxation and infrastructure development will create a competitive, investor-friendly, and employment-generating industrial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir."

3rd Jharkhand Healthcare Summit 2026

The 3rd Jharkhand Healthcare Summit 2026, organized by the PHDCCI Jharkhand Chapter in association with the National Health Mission (NHM), was held on March 28, 2026, at Radisson Blu, Ranchi. The summit deliberated on the challenges, opportunities, and future strategies for strengthening healthcare services in Jharkhand, with special focus on rural and remote areas. The event witnessed the participation of distinguished physicians, healthcare experts, academicians, hospital administrators, policymakers, government officials, and other key stakeholders from across the state and the country.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Finance Minister of Jharkhand, Mr. Radha Krishna Kishore, addressed the gathering and highlighted the state's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare infrastructure, expand quality medical services to underserved regions, and promote human resource development. He also spoke about the existing challenges in the healthcare sector, potential solutions, and the government's future roadmap for improvement.

Prof. (Dr) S.P. Agarwal, Chairman, PHDCCI and Vice-Chancellor, Sai Nath University, Ranchi, welcomed the dignitaries and participants. In his address, he emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to healthcare, advocating the integration of Naturopathy and Artificial Intelligence with modern medical practices. He underscored the need to view the human body as a unified system rather than a



collection of individual organs and stressed the value of blending alternative and holistic therapies with contemporary medicine.

Dr Agarwal also lauded the dedicated efforts of hospitals, doctors, nursing staff, and paramedical personnel across the state. He noted that collaborative efforts between healthcare stakeholders and the Jharkhand Government—supported by progressive policies, administrative backing, and strengthened infrastructure—have significantly improved both the quality and accessibility of healthcare services.

The summit also featured insights from senior leaders including Mr. Raj Kumar Poddar, Co-chairman, PHDCCI Jharkhand and CEO & MD, Air Care Limited; Dr Prashant Kumar, MD & CEO, Panacea Hospital; Dr Priyanka Singh, Managing Partner, AARYAA Resources LLP; Mr. Siddharth

Tripathi, IFS, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Jharkhand; and Dr Ankur Saurabh, CEO, Medifirst Hospital, Ranchi.

Senior physicians and hospital administrators delivered presentations on key topics including medico-legal aspects of healthcare, development of integrated hospitals offering comprehensive facilities under one roof, various forms of Tuberculosis (TB)—with focus on diagnosis and prevention—and the critical human resource requirements of the sector. PHDCCI reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the government, private sector, NGOs, and all stakeholders to further strengthen and modernize Jharkhand's healthcare ecosystem.

The vote-of-thanks was delivered by Dr M.K. Gupta, Chairman, Education and Skills Committee, PHDCCI.

Workshop on Integrating Sustainability and ESG Practices in Business for a Greener Kerala

The PHD Kerala Chapter and the Centre for Sustainable Technologies, NIT Calicut organized a three-day residential workshop on 'Integrating Sustainability and ESG Practices in Business for a Greener Kerala' from March 5-7, 2026 at NIT Calicut campus. The objective of the workshop was to provide participants with an understanding of ESG principles, reporting frameworks, and implementation strategies in industries.

The first day focused on the fundamentals of ESG and sustainability systems.

Dr Loganath, Radhakrishnan, Climate Tech Advisor, Lowest Global explained why ESG has become increasingly important for both large industries and MSMEs, emphasizing that investors, governments, and stakeholders now expect companies to adopt responsible environmental and social practices.

Dr Yogesh Kumar, Co-chair, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, NIT Calicut presented the environmental dimensions of ESG, including climate change mitigation, pollution control, and resource efficiency.

The second day began focused on ESG assessment tools and reporting frameworks. Mr. Mithilesh Kumar, Head Kerala Chapter PHDCCI and Centre for Sustainability, PHDCCI delivered the industry remarks. He emphasized that businesses integrating ESG principles are more resilient. They attract better talent, gain investor confidence, build stronger brands, and most importantly, contribute meaningfully to society.

Mr. Nitin Mishra, Director, Sustainovate Climate Solution discussed various ESG evaluation methods and sustainability reporting standards used by organizations. He also explained the structure and compliance requirements of Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting mandated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.



Mr Sunil Kumar Jain, Former Executive Director of IGL, highlighted how ESG can be integrated into business strategy by identifying key sustainability issues and creating a strategic roadmap.

The third day addressed the legal, financial, and practical aspects of ESG implementation.

Mr. Sunil Kumar Jain, Former Executive Director, IGL, explained the legal and corporate governance aspects related to ESG compliance. Mr. Nitin Mishra, Director, Sustainovate Climate Solution Private explained carbon credits, carbon markets, and green finance, highlighting their role in encouraging companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Dr Panneerselvam Ranganathan, Head Chairperson CST, NIT Calicut presented case studies on Life Cycle Assessment to demonstrate how industries can analyze environmental impacts and improve sustainability.

The workshop provided valuable insights into ESG concepts, sustainability frameworks, and practical tools for implementation. It emphasized that ESG is becoming a crucial component of responsible business practices and sustainable development.

Prime Minister reaffirms commitment to building a healthier society on World Health Day

Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi on the occasion of World Health Day, April 7, 2026 expressed his deep gratitude to all individuals who dedicate themselves tirelessly to the service of others and work towards a healthier planet. Reaffirming the national commitment to building a healthier society, Mr. Modi urged for continued collective efforts to strengthen healthcare systems and prioritize the well-being of every individual. The Prime Minister also extended his best wishes for the good health of all citizens, encouraging everyone to make every possible effort to maintain their personal fitness, highlighting the benefits of physical exercise.

Intellectual Property Awareness Programmes

PHDCCI Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre Amritsar & MSME Committee of PHDCCI with the support of the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of MSME and in association with SROT Foundation organized One-Day Intellectual Property (IP) Awareness Programmes in the state of Punjab.

The programmes were aimed to create awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among MSMEs, entrepreneurs, innovators, startups, and academicians, while encouraging greater participation in IP filings and strengthening the innovation ecosystem.

March 6, 2026 at Sardar Beant Singh State University, Gurdaspur

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Nipun Aggarwal, Co-convenor, Amritsar Zone, Punjab State Chapter of PHDCCI, highlighted the growing importance of IPRs for MSMEs and startups in safeguarding their innovations. He emphasized that awareness and timely registration of IP can help businesses gain competitive advantage and unlock commercial opportunities in domestic and international markets.

Delivering the introductory remarks, Dr Mrigender Bedi, Assistant Director (CR&A), Punjab Technical University and Advisor, SROT, elaborated on the role of IP in promoting innovation-driven growth. He underscored the need for innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs to proactively protect their ideas and leverage IP frameworks to translate innovations into successful enterprises.

The programme featured insightful technical sessions. The first technical



session was delivered by Dr Shweta Sen Thalwal, Founder, Integrum IP, Mohali, wherein she provided a comprehensive overview of IPRs and their growing relevance in shaping technological advancements in India. Her session covered various forms of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and geographical indications, along with procedures for IP registration.

The second technical session focused on Patent Informatics, Patent Prosecution, Commercialization, and Technology Transfer. Dr Sanjay Mahajan, President, International Board of Startup and Entrepreneurship, Amritsar Chapter, and Dr Mrigender Bedi shared

valuable perspectives on building strong IP portfolios and global case studies where intellectual property has generated significant value for innovators.

Dr S K Misra, Vice Chancellor, Sardar Beant Singh State University, emphasized the crucial role of universities in nurturing innovation and supporting

researchers and students in protecting their intellectual creations. He encouraged participants to actively engage with the intellectual property ecosystem and utilize support systems for IP protection and commercialization.

Mr. Mohit Marwaha, Associate Professor, Sardar Beant Singh State University, Gurdaspur moderated the program.

Dr Nripjit Singh, Associate Professor, Sardar Beant Singh State University delivered the formal vote-of-thanks to the speakers, participants, and organizing partners for making the programme a success.

March 27, 2026 at I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University, (IKG PTU) Kapurthala

Welcoming the participants, Dr Satvir Singh, Dean – Student Welfare, IKG PTU, emphasized the importance of academic institutions in nurturing innovation and encouraging startups and students to safeguard their ideas through intellectual property rights.

Mr. Sanjeev Juneja, Convener, Jalandhar Zone, Punjab State Chapter, PHDCCI, underscored the growing importance of Intellectual



Property Rights in today's competitive and knowledge-based economy. Citing real-life examples of IPR infringement, he highlighted the risks faced by businesses due to lack of awareness and stressed the need for timely protection of innovations and brands.

Dr Shweta Sen Thalwal, Founder, Integrum IP, Mohali, delivered a

comprehensive session on various forms of intellectual property including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and design rights. She elaborated on the procedures for registration through the Patent Office, Government of India, along with documentation requirements.

Dr Mrigender Bedi, Assistant Director (CR&A), IKG PTU and Advisor, SROT Foundation, highlighted the role of intellectual property in fostering innovation-driven growth and strengthening industry-academia collaboration. He stressed the need for structured

support systems to assist researchers and entrepreneurs in commercializing their innovations.

Ms. Yashita Singla, Assistant Professor, IKG PTU spoke on technology transfer mechanisms and the importance of bridging the gap

between research and industry for effective utilization of intellectual property.

In the technical sessions, participants engaged with experts and sought guidance on IP protection, filing procedures, and commercialization

strategies.

The formal vote-of-thanks was delivered by Dr Sanjay Mahajan, President, International Board of Startup and Entrepreneurship, Amritsar Chapter..

March 24, 2026 at I.K. Gujral Punjab Technical University (IKG PTU), Amritsar

Welcoming the participants, CA Jaideep Singh, Convener, Amritsar Zone, Punjab State Chapter of PHDCCI, highlighted the growing importance of IPR in a knowledge-driven economy, emphasizing that ideas are valuable assets that must be protected to ensure sustainable growth and competitiveness. Mr. Nipun Aggarwal, Co-convener, PHDCCI underscored the practical relevance of IPR for industry and startups, encouraging young innovators to use IP as a strategic business tool.

The technical sessions were delivered by Dr Shweta Sen Thalwal, Founder,



Integrum IP, Mohali, who provided a comprehensive overview of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and design rights. She explained the procedures for registration through the Patent Office, along with documentation requirements, timelines

Mr. Amit Madaan, Chairman, SROT Foundation, spoke about the role of IP protection and commercialization in enabling

startups to enhance market value, attract investment, and scale effectively. Dr Mrigender Bedi, Assistant Director (CR&A), PTU and Advisor, SROT Foundation, emphasized the importance of awareness and institutional support systems for innovation-driven growth.

Dr Saurabh Sharma, Deputy Registrar, IKG PTU Amritsar, highlighted the significance of licensing, technology transfer, and industry collaboration in converting protected ideas into marketable solutions.

The formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Sanjay Mahajan, President, International Board of Startup and Entrepreneurship, Amritsar Chapter.

March 30, 2026 at Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Sarhali, Tarn Taran

Welcoming the participants, CA Jaideep Singh, Convener, Amritsar Zone, Punjab State Chapter of PHDCCI, underscored the increasing importance of IPRs in today's knowledge-driven economy. He emphasized that ideas are valuable assets and their protection is essential for sustainable growth, competitiveness, and economic development. He also emphasized the role of industry bodies in promoting IPR awareness and supporting MSMEs and startups in protecting their innovations.

Ms. Muskan Sharma, IPR Expert from Integrum IP, Mohali focused on the various forms of intellectual property, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and design rights and also gave an overview of the registration procedures through

the Patent Office, Government of India.

Dr Mrigender Bedi, Assistant Director (CR&A), PTU & Advisor, SROT, encouraged young innovators to safeguard their ideas through proper legal frameworks.

Mr. Amit Madaan, Chairman, SROT, shared insights on the importance of intellectual property in entrepreneurship and startup growth.

The programme was moderated by Ms. Shruti Sharma, Associate Professor, Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Sarhali, Tarn Taran, who highlighted the growing importance of IP awareness in academic and industrial ecosystems.

Mr. Sumit Kumar, Assistant



Secretary, PHDCCI, who encouraged participants to avail the services of the PHDCCI Intellectual Property Facilitation Centre, Amritsar, which provides end-to-end support to MSMEs, startups, and innovators in managing their intellectual property rights.

Dr Jasbir Singh Gill, Principal, Guru Gobind Singh Khalsa College, Sarhali, Tarn Taran in his vote-of-thanks highlighted the role of educational institutions in fostering innovation and protecting intellectual assets among startups and researchers.

Awareness Session on National Pension System (NPS) : Building a Secure Future for MSME Workforce

The Punjab State Chapter of PHDCCI, in association with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), organized awareness sessions on the National Pension System (NPS): Building a Secure Future for the MSME Workforce in regions of Punjab. The sessions aimed to sensitize MSMEs on the importance of structured retirement planning for their employees through the NPS framework.

March 24, 2026, at PHD House, Chandigarh

Delivering the formal welcome address, Mr. Rajneesh Bansal, Chair, Chandigarh Chapter of PHDCCI, underscored the Chamber's commitment to promoting financial literacy and social security awareness. He highlighted that NPS offers a transparent, well-regulated, and cost-effective pension solution, delivering significant value to both employers and employees within the MSME ecosystem.

Mr. Abhishek Dhiman, Assistant Manager, PFRDA, provided insights into the regulatory framework and objectives of the NPS. He emphasized that NPS is a robust, government-regulated pension



scheme designed to encourage long-term financial discipline and ensure a secure post-retirement income. He further noted that, particularly in the MSME sector—where formal pension coverage remains limited—NPS serves as a critical instrument in bridging the social security gap.

A comprehensive presentation on “NPS for MSMEs – Benefits, Enrolment Process, and Tax Advantages” was delivered by Mr.

Aishwarya Mudgal, Senior Manager, HDFC Pension Fund. He elaborated on contribution structures, portability features, seamless online enrolment procedures, employer-employee contribution benefits, and the tax advantages

available under the prevailing provisions of the Income Tax Act.

The session was moderated by Mr. Naveen Kumar, Resident Manager, PHDCCI.

Mr. Gurdarshan Aggarwal, Resident Director, PHDCCI, in his formal vote-of-thanks encouraged industry members to translate awareness into action by facilitating NPS enrolment within their respective organizations.

March 10, 2026 at Nachiketa Papers Limited; Derabassi

Ms. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI highlighted the importance of financial security and social protection for the MSME workforce and the role of the NPS in promoting long-term retirement planning among employees.

Mr. Abhishek Dhiman, Assistant Manager, PFRDA delivered an insightful presentation on the



features, benefits and regulatory framework of NPS, while explaining how MSMEs can leverage the scheme to provide structured retirement benefits to their employees.

Mr. Aishwarya Mudgal, Senior Manager, HDFC Pension Funds elaborated on practical aspects of NPS implementation, investment options and the long-term advantages of systematic pension planning for both employers and employees.

In his vote-of-thanks, Mr. Rakesh Rattan Aggarwal, General Secretary, DIA expressed sincere gratitude to the distinguished speakers for sharing their valuable insights on the NPS.

Bestowing Rajasthan Tourism Sammans-2026



The Samman Presentation Ceremony of 2nd Edition of “PHDCCI Rajasthan Tourism Samman (RTS)-2026” was held on March 21, 2026 at Udaipur Marriott Hotel, Udaipur.

RTS is an excellence frame work instituted for tourism stakeholders of Rajasthan which aims to honour business excellence and desirable sustainable practices in tourism sector by acknowledging and rewarding excellence. PHDCCI aims to inspire continuous innovations, foster a culture a healthy competition amongst industry stakeholders for promoting sustainable and responsible tourism in the State. The initiative will play a crucial role in elevating industry standards, driving sustainable growth, enhancing Rajasthan's tourism profile and fostering collaborations.

Dr Lalit K Panwar, IAS (Retd.) and Former Tourism Secretary, Government of India chaired the Jury for RTS-2026 comprising eminent experts and industry leaders, who diligently reviewed and evaluated nominations received and announced 25 winners in different categories comprising Popular Choice, Sustainability and Culinary Excellence. Under the Jury Choice Category, 4 Sammans were announced for “Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur (Rajasthan Sustainability Champion of Year-2026); “Rajasthan Tours, Jaipur (Service Provider) (Rajasthan Tourism Trailblazers of the Year-2026)”; “Dungarpur Mews (Rajasthan Tourism Trailblazers of the Year-2026)”; and “Bundi Rajasthan (Rajasthan Tourism Destination of the Year-2026)”.

The Tourism Sammans were given

away to winners by distinguished Guests of Honour comprising Mr. Jitendra Singh Rathore, Co-chair, PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter; Ms. Nimisha Seth, Principal, IHM, Jaipur; Ms. Shraddha Gattani, PHDCCI Member and Chairperson, BCI-Tourism, Udaipur; Mr. Mukesh Madhwani, Convener, Udaipur Region, PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter; and Ms. Jatan Kanwar, Director, MRS Group, I Love Foundation and Dhun Foundation. Almost all winners were present to receive the Sammans.

A musical presentation was given by the eminent artists from Gunsar Folk Music School, Jaisalmer.

Mr. R K Gupta, Resident Director, PHDCCI-Rajasthan Chapter moderated the program.



RITEX-2026 Boosts MSMEs and Trade Ecosystem in Udaipur

The 2nd edition of the Rajasthan Industrial Trade Expo-2026 (RITEX) was held from March 20–22, 2026 in Udaipur, organized by PHDCCI Rajasthan Chapter in collaboration with Evention, with support from RIICO, the Industries Department, Government of Rajasthan and the Ministry of MSMEs.

The inauguration was attended by key dignitaries including Mr. Bikas Chandra Naik; Mr. Ajay Pandya, Unit Head, RIICO, Udaipur; Mr. Balram Meena, Deputy Director, MSME-DFO, Jaipur; and leading representatives of Udaipur's trade bodies including Mr. Girish Sharma, Mr. Y. S. Singhvi, Mr. Dilip Talesara, and Mr. Mukesh Madhwani.

Dignitaries appreciated the initiative, highlighting its importance in promoting MSMEs, entrepreneurship, and trade in Tier-2 cities. The expo is expected to benefit the Mewar region, including Dungarpur, Banswara, Chittorgarh,



Sirohi, Bhilwara, and Pratapgarh.

The event featured an ODOP Pavilion and a PM Vishwakarma Yojana Pavilion. Seminars on “Rajasthan ODOP Policy-2024”, Rajasthan MSME Policy-2024” and “Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Yuva Udyami Protsahan Yojana-2025” were conducted by CA Ankit Kothari, who guided entrepreneurs on leveraging financial incentives and subsidies for promoting their business.

A highlight of the Expo was Chefthon-2026, organized

with the Royal Rajasthan Chefs Society, featuring live cooking demonstrations by top hotel chefs and budding culinarians. Chef Vimal Dhar announced plans for similar initiatives across Rajasthan, including “Mini Aahar.”

Around 90 stalls showcased products across sectors such as handicrafts, jewellery, food processing, healthcare, furniture, and GI-tagged products, making RITEX-2026 a vibrant platform for business engagement.



Knowledge Session titled 'Financing Growth – PE and IPO Preparedness & Journey'

The State Executive Council Meeting of the UP State Chapter, PHDCCI was held under the the chairmanship of Mr. Rajesh Nigam, Co-Chair, UP State Chapter, PHDCCI on March 3, 2026 at PHD House Lucknow.

Mr. Rajesh Nigam welcomed the members and thanked them for their presence. .

Following the meeting, a special knowledge session titled “Financing Growth – PE and IPO Preparedness & Journey” was organised in association with Deloitte. The

session provided valuable insights into Private Equity readiness, corporate governance structures, IPO preparedness, compliance requirements, and strategies for sustainable growth, benefiting members who are exploring capital expansion opportunities.

The meeting witnessed active

participation from members, highlighting the Chapter's continued efforts to foster industry collaboration and support economic growth in Uttar Pradesh.



UPEX Pre-Event Awareness Programmes on PM Surya Ghar

The UP State Chapter, PHDCCI as part of the outreach activities leading to the UP Energy Expo (UPEX) 2026, organized awareness programs on PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana” scheduled to be held from May 7-9, 2026 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow.

March 9, 2026 at Kanpur in collaboration with UPNEDA

The session was graced by Ms. Deeksha Jain, IAS, Chief Development Officer, Kanpur. She emphasized the need to accelerate renewable energy adoption in Uttar Pradesh. She highlighted that initiatives such as PM



Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and PM Kusum Scheme are playing a crucial role in encouraging households, farmers and industries to adopt solar energy and contribute towards sustainable development and energy security.

March 20, 2026, at Vikas Bhawan, Prayagraj

The programme was organized by the PHDCCI Uttar Pradesh State Chapter in association with the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency, along with SEVA and supported by KEI Industries Limited.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. U.P. Tripathi, Conference Co-convenor, UPEX 2026 shared that the three-day event will feature over 150 exhibitors and more than 60



speakers across 10 thematic sessions, covering technology, policy, and investment opportunities in the energy sector.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Harshika Singh, Chief Development

Officer, Prayagraj, highlighted that flagship initiatives such as PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the PM-KUSUM Scheme are accelerating the adoption of solar energy across households, agriculture, and industries.

Mr. Vinay Kumar Tandon, President, Eastern Chamber of Commerce and Industry highlighted that UPEX 2026 will feature dedicated segments such as the UP EV Expo, UP Smart Grid Expo, and UP Storage Expo, showcasing innovations in electric mobility, smart grids, and energy storage.

Udyam Pragati Workshop 2026

The UP State Chapter, PHDCCI organized Udyam Pragati Workshop 2026 on March 18, 2026 at PHD House, Lucknow, bringing together a large number of MSMEs, with significant participation from women entrepreneurs, along with representatives from NABARD and Laghu Udyog Bharti. The session focused on strengthening small-scale industries, women-led enterprises and cottage units by enhancing awareness on government policies, institutional support mechanisms and opportunities for sustainable business growth.

Present on this occasion were Mr. Sunil Kumar, Joint Commissioner, Directorate of Industries & Enterprise Promotion, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Mr. Kavita Nigam, Senior Member, PHDCCI and Chief Human Resources Officer, Karam Safety Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Jay Kumar Gupta, General Manager, SIDBI, Lucknow Regional Office; and Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI.



Speakers highlighted the importance of increased awareness and accessibility of government schemes, financial support and digital platforms for MSMEs. The workshop also emphasized the

need for capacity building, skill development and stronger industry linkages to enable sustainable growth.

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 was introduced in Rajya Sabha on March 25, 2026, passed in the Rajya Sabha on April 1, 2026 and passed by the Lok Sabha on April 2, 2026. The Bill seeks to regulate certain matters related to officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). Currently, such matters are regulated under respective Acts. The Bill aims to ensure legislative clarity, preserve operational distinctiveness, and harmonise judicial directions with administrative and federal requirements. The Bill empowers the central government to make Rules on matters related to officers of specified CAPFs. These include recruitment, deputation, promotion, and conditions of service. The Bill applies to five CAPFs listed in the Schedule to the Bill. These are: (i) Central Reserve Police Force, (ii) Border Security Force, (iii) Central Industrial Security Force, (iv) Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and (v) Sashastra Seema Bal. The central government may amend the Schedule by notification to make the Bill applicable to other CAPFs. Officers include: (i) Group A (general duty or executive) officers of the rank of Assistant Commandant and above in CAPFs, (ii) officers on deputation from the Indian Police Service (IPS), and (iii) officers of the Indian Army on deputation or re-employment.



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- Select Issuing Agency from dropdown menu as
- "PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY"
- Fill details and attached Digital Signatures
- Make payment digitally
- The Nodal Officers of PHDCCI will process e-CoO application, once the same is submitted. Thereafter, the eCoO & documents can be downloaded upon approval by PHDCCI

All other services including Attestation of Commercial Documents and Issuance of Visa Recommendation Letters will continue to be available at the PHDCCI Offices in hard copy format.

PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

For further guidance on registration and application submission process or any other information please contact



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MEETING WITH ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF SMALL BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO, CANADA



Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, PHDCCI along with Mr. Prashant Srivastav, President, ICCCI met Hon'ble Ms. Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Small Business, Government of Ontario on March 10, 2026. Dr Mehta apprised the Hon'ble Minister of the proactive role being played by PHDCCI in strengthening international trade and industry partnerships. And also highlighted PHDCCI's keen interest in enhancing engagement with Canada. The Hon'ble Minister assured her full support to PHDCCI for future endeavours and collaborative opportunities for expanding partnerships between businesses from Ontario and India across diverse sectors.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT (ACTING), NCLT AND MEMBERS OF (J), NCLT



Justice Bachu Venkat Balaram Das,
President (Acting), NCLT



Mr. Mahendra Khandelwal,
Member (J), NCLT



Mr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj,
Member (J), NCLT

A delegation of NCLT & IBC Committee of PHDCCI comprising of Mr. GP Madaan, Chair, NCLT & IBC Committee along with Ms. Ranjana Gawai, Mr. Abhishek Anand, Mr. Rachit Mittal & Mr. Harish Taneja, Co-chairs met with Justice Bachu Venkat Balaram Das, President (Acting), NCLT; Mr. Mahendra Khandelwal, Member (J), NCLT and Mr. Ashok Kumar Bhardwaj, Member (J), NCLT on March 20, 2026 at NCLT, New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to extend a formal invitation to the dignitaries for the forthcoming IBC Pulse Conference, scheduled to be held on April 18, 2026 at PHD House, New Delhi.

MEETING WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER OF SEYCHELLES TO INDIA



The International Affairs Division of PHDCCI represented by Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General and Ms. Manisha Singh, Senior Secretary met H.E. Harisoa Lalatiana Accouche, High Commissioner of Seychelles to India on March 25, 2026 at the High Commission of Seychelles, New Delhi. The delegation discussed avenues for enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation between India and Seychelles.

MEETING WITH CABINET MINISTER, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, EXPORT PROMOTION, NRI, AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION, UTTAR PRADESH



A PHDCCI delegation comprising of Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General, along with Mr. Ajay Gupta, DGM, Radico Khaitan Ltd., Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director and Mr. Amresh Rastogi, Assistant Secretary, UP State Chapter met Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi', Cabinet Minister, Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh on March 24, 2026. Dr Mehta extended an invitation the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister to be the Chief Guest for the Uttar Pradesh Energy Expo (UPEX) 2026, scheduled to take place from May 7-9, 2026 at Lucknow.

MEETING WITH CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH



A PHDCCI delegation comprising of Mr. Rajesh Nigam, Co-chair, UP State Chapter; Dr Ranjeet Mehta, CEO & Secretary General; Mr. Parag Misra, Senior Member & Convenor- UPEX and Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director met Mr. S P Goyal, IAS -Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh on March 25, 2026. The delegation invited the Chief Secretary to grace the Uttar Pradesh Energy Expo (UPEX) 2026 scheduled for May 7-9, 2026 at Lucknow. The Chief Secretary appreciated PHDCCI's efforts, particularly in advancing the solar energy sector, promoting electric mobility, and strengthening the renewable energy ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh.

MEETING WITH HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA



Dr S P Aggarwal, Chair, PHDCCI Jharkhand State Chapter met Hon'ble Vice President of India, Mr. C.P. Radhakrishnan at Lok Bhawan, Ranchi on March 28, 2026. Dr Aggarwal apprised the Hon'ble Vice President about the Chamber's activities across different sectors and across different States. The Hon'ble Vice President appreciated PHDCCI's consistent efforts towards economic growth.

MEETING WITH HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF JHARKHAND



Mr. S P Aggarwal, Chair of Jharkhand State Chapter, PHDCCI and Chancellor, Sai University and Mr. Mantosh Singh, Senior Resident Director, PHDCCI Jharkhand met Mr. Santosh Gangwar, Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand on March 18, 2026. The delegation invited the Hon'ble Governor to grace the 3rd Jharkhand Healthcare Summit held on March 29, 2026 at Ranchi.

MEETING WITH MEMBER SECRETARY, AICTE



A PHDCCI delegation comprising of Mr. Shreevats Jaipuria, Chair, Education Committee; Ms. Shalini S Sharma, Assistant Secretary General and Mr. Ravi Shankar, Deputy Secretary met Prof Shyama Rath, Member Secretary, AICTE at her office on March 25, 2026. The objective of the meeting was to apprise the Member Secretary about the initiatives of the Chamber in higher and technical education, such as the annual education summit and periodic workshops on skill building.

MEETING MANAGING DIRECTOR, INDIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



A PHDCCI delegation led by Mr. Rajan Sehgal, Co-chair, Tourism & Hospitality Committee, along with Ms. Shalini S Sharma, Assistant Secretary General; Ms. Sulagna Ghosh, Secretary and Mr. Sanchit Prabhakar, Joint Secretary met Ms. Mugdha Sinha (IAS), Managing Director, India Tourism Development Corporation on March 27, 2026 at New Delhi. The PHDCCI delegation presented an overview of the key initiatives planned by the Tourism & Hospitality Committee for the year 2026-27.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBER MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE, RBI



Mr. Vineet Nahata, Chair of Economic Affairs Committee along with Mr. Sanat Kumar, Chief Economist, PHDCCI met with Professor Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and Member Monetary Policy Committee, Reserve Bank of India on March 24, 2026. During the meeting, various opportunities for market and industrial economic research collaboration between the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development and PHDCCI were discussed.

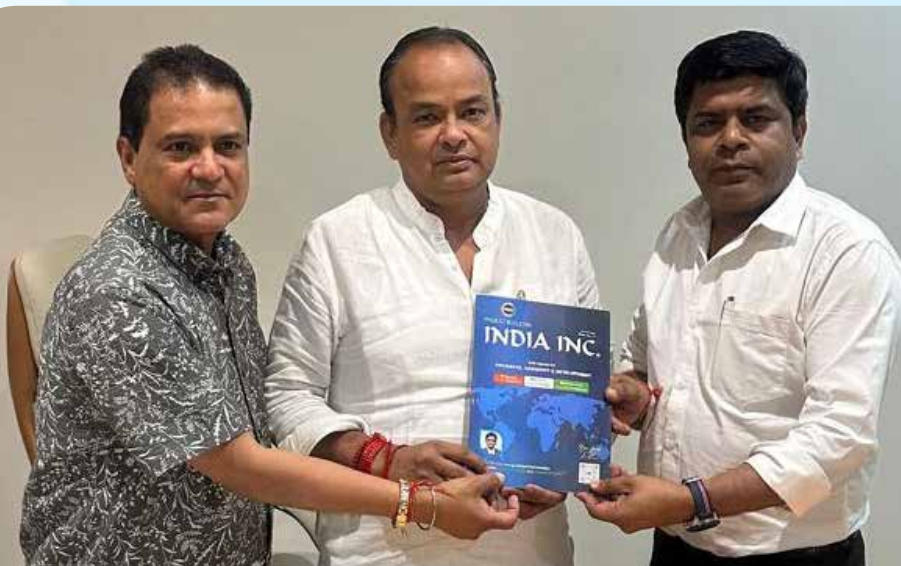
MEETING WITH HIGH COMMISSIONER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO INDIA



PHDCCI International Affairs Division represented by Mr. Naveen Seth, Deputy Secretary General and Mr. Niraj, Director met H.E. Mr. Chandradath Singh, High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago to India on March 24, 2026 at the High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Naveen Seth apprised His Excellency of the various international initiatives undertaken by PHDCCI and also required support the proposed inbound business delegation from Trinidad and Tobago scheduled from April 19-27, 2026.



MEETING WITH HON'BLE MINISTER FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND



A PHDCCI delegation of Jharkhand State Chapter led by Mr. Rajkumar Poddar, Chair, MSME Committee and Mr. Mantosh Singh, Senior Resident Director met Dr Irfan Ansari, Hon'ble Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Government of Jharkhand on March 25, 2026 and invited him to be the Chief Guest for the 3rd Jharkhand Healthcare Summit held at Ranchi on March 28, 2026.

MEETING WITH SECRETARY, INDUSTRIES, CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION



A PHDCCI delegation comprising of Mr. Manish Verma, Chair, Regional Startup and Entrepreneurship Forum and Ms. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, interacted with Mr. Nishant Kumar Yadav, Secretary, Industries Department, Chandigarh Administration on March 18, 2026 at Chandigarh. The delegation discussed potential avenues for collaboration to strengthen the startup ecosystem and explore joint initiatives aimed at fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry-academia linkages in the region.

MEETING WITH CEO INVEST UP, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH



A PHDCCI delegation of UP State Chapter comprising of Mr. Rajesh Nigam, Co-chair, Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director along with Mr. Amresh Rastogi, Assistant Secretary met Mr. Vijay Kiran Anand, CEO Invest UP, Government of Uttar Pradesh on March 20, 2026. PHDCCI extended an invitation to the CEO to be the Guest of Honour for the Uttar Pradesh Energy Expo (UPEX) 2026, scheduled to be held from May 7-9, 2026 at Lucknow.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR, INDUSTRIAL SAFETY & HEALTH, GOVT. OF GUJARAT



Mr. Dipesh Shah, Director, Saurya HSE Private Limited; Mr. Virendra Jauhari, Executive Director, SAMA and Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI, along with Mr. Jay Samani, Resident Manager, Gujarat State Chapter, PHDCCI met Mr. P. M. Shah, Director, Office of the Director Industrial Safety & Health, Government of Gujarat on March 13, 2026. The delegation extended an invitation to serve as the Chair of the Advisory Committee for UFSEC – Gujarat Edition, scheduled to be held in October 2026.

MEETING WITH DISTRICT COLLECTOR & DM, AHMEDABAD, GOVERNMENT OF GUJARAT



Mr. Dipesh Shah, Director, Saurya HSE Private Limited, Mr. Virendra Jauhari, Executive Director, SAMA and Mr. Atul Srivastava, Senior Regional Director, PHDCCI, along with Mr. Jay Samani, Resident Manager, Gujarat State Chapter, PHDCCI met with Mr. Sujeet Kumar, District Collector & DM, Ahmedabad, Government of Gujarat on March 13, 2026. The objective was to brief him about the forthcoming activities of the Chamber and also to invite him as Guest of Honour for UFSEC-Gujarat Edition scheduled for October 22-23, 2026.

MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, GOVT OF PUNJAB



A PHDCCI delegation of Punjab State Chapter, led by Mr. Karan Gilhotra, Chair along with Ms. Bharti Sood, Senior Regional Director, Mr. Gurdeep Singh, Senior Resident Officer and Mr. Tushar Negi, Resident Officer met Mr. Gurkirat Kripal Singh, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Department of Industry and Commerce, Government of Punjab on March 27, 2026 at Chandigarh. During the meeting, various opportunities for collaboration between the Government of Punjab and PHDCCI were discussed, focusing on fostering economic and industrial growth in the state.

PHD FAMILY WELFARE FOUNDATION (PHDFWF)

NARI UTSAV - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Nari Utsav – International Women's Day was organized at Nirmal Chhaya Complex, Delhi, by DWCD, graced by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ms. Rekha Gupta. On the occasion, Ms. Anuradha Goel, Chairperson, PHDFWF, was felicitated in the presence of senior officials. PHDFWF and DWCD signed MoUs for a mobile medical van for child care institutions and for conducting awareness camps in Anganwadi centres and for street children, with two electric vehicles to be provided by DWCD for these initiatives. The Hon'ble Chief Minister appreciated PHDFWF's efforts towards women's empowerment. The programme was attended by over 700 participants.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH TRUSTEE, PALRIWALA INDIA FOUNDATION, SWITZERLAND



PHDFWF organized an interactive session with Mr. Jean Pierre Walder on March 16, 2026, at PHD House. Ms. Anuradha Goel welcomed the guests and highlighted PHDFWF's initiatives, while SMPF members were felicitated for their long-support. The delegation also visited the SMPF-supported Skill Development Centre in Dwarkapuri, interacting with beneficiaries, who expressed gratitude through cultural performances.

CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



A certificate distribution ceremony was organized to recognise the successful completion of the training programme supported by Jaquar Group and Kajaria Ceramics Skill Development Centre. The certificates were distributed in the presence of Ms. Sangita Dutta Das, Chief Executive, making the occasion encouraging and memorable. The event marked the successful completion of the learning journey and motivated the women to utilise their skills for self-employment and personal growth, contributing positively to their families and community.

INAUGURATION OF AJIT SINGH RANA MEMORIAL SKILL CENTER IN SEEMAPURI



On March 2, 2026, PHD Family Welfare Foundation, with support from Jaquar Foundation, inaugurated the Ajit Singh Rana Memorial Skill Center at Old Seemapuri, Delhi, in the presence of Ms. Anuradha Goel, Mr. Rajesh Singh Rana (IAS), his family, and other dignitaries. Mr. R.S. Rana generously donated the Centre's building to promote skill development and uplift underprivileged communities, with the Governing Board members and residents also attending the event.

EDUCATION

PHDFWF is making a meaningful impact through its 33 Skill Development Centres across India, empowering youth with industry-relevant skills for sustainable livelihoods. With the support of its funding partners, the Foundation remains dedicated to fostering employment opportunities and driving community development across the country.



HEALTH CARE



PHDFWF is dedicated to delivering free primary healthcare services to underprivileged communities that face geographical and financial challenges. The Foundation actively works towards the prevention of HIV/AIDS among high-risk groups across multiple states. Additionally, with the support of its partner organizations, PHDFWF operates 12 mobile medical vans—including specialised eye and dental units—to ensure essential healthcare services reach even the most remote areas.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

PHDFWF provides free tutorial classes in Mathematics and Science for needy students with the support of its funding partners, ensuring a safe, caring, and stimulating learning environment. The NL Mehra Pre-Primary School offers free early childhood education through interactive teaching methods that promote basic literacy, numeracy, creativity, and social skills.



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.

MARCH – KEY INTERVENTIONS



On March 22, 2026, Rotary District 3011 and Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT) in collaboration with PHDRDF under Project PWABHI, organized a special event highlighting the urgency of water conservation and collective action. **Mr. Rajendra Singh**, widely known as Jalpurush (Waterman of India) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

HEALTH



Project AROGYA Mobile Health Van, sponsored by Vedanta Power inaugurated at Sakti District, Chhattisgarh by Mr. Devender Patel, CEO, Vedanta

WATER CONSERVATION



15 Check Dams inaugurated in Wada, Maharashtra by Hon'ble MP for Palghar, **Dr Hemant Vishnu Savara** with the support of **Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd.**

EDUCATION



The School Upgradation Project inaugurated at GHS Sotai and GHS Wazirpur, Faridabad by **Voith Paper Fabrics India Pvt. Ltd.**

PWABHI



Exposure Visit and Advanced Agriculture Training of farmers at **Escorts Kubota Institute, Kurukshetra**

SUPPORTED BY

Escalating Logistics Costs and Production Risks:

Industry Concerns from West Asia Crisis



Dr. Ranjeet Mehta
CEO & Secretary General
PHDCCI

The war situation in West Asia is exerting relentless pressure on India's industrial and trade, with signals of a widening operational and financial disruptions. While the situation is still evolving, a comprehensive assessment of difficulties faced by the industry is required for a timely policy intervention.

The emerging shortage of Piped Natural Gas (PNG), critical for a range of manufacturing processes, is one of the primary concerns. Any disruption in gas supply risks production continuity, especially in energy-intensive sectors. To make matters worse, businesses are facing a sharp escalation in logistics costs as both domestic freight and international shipping charges have increased significantly, compounded by war-risk premiums. In some instances, these additional charges have swelled to as high as 700–800% of base freight rates, placing considerable pressure on cost and margins.

Several shipping lines have reportedly suspended fresh export

bookings due to security risks, while transit times have increased substantially. The matter is complicated due to congestion at ports, and the rerouting of vessels is leading to delays in delivery schedules. In certain cases, cargos are being diverted to alternate ports under force majeure conditions causing insurance coverage to jump



substantially.

These disruptions are contributing to a growing blockage of working capital and cash flow problems. Export consignments stuck in transit for extended periods are delaying payments and tightening liquidity, particularly for MSMEs, which

are hampered by limited financial maneuverability. Further, due to the inability to dispatch finished goods as per supply schedules is leading to inventory build-up, and at the same time, production cycles are being constrained by input shortages.

If these conditions persist for a longer term, more than 6 months, the risks of production slowdowns

and, in some cases, temporary shutdowns across industries would aggravate financial stress, especially for firms that face fixed costs such as loan repayments and interest costs.

The need of the hour in this situation is a coordinated policy measure to stabilise supply chains, ease liquidity pressures, and support industry

competitiveness. The government of India while is monitoring the situation, a continuous engagement between government and industry stakeholders is essential to design responsive and timely interventions as the situation in West Asia evolves.

COVERAGE IMPRINTS

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

PHDCCI Urges RBI to Boost MSME Credit, Fix LoC Rules

New Delhi: Industry body PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has urged the Reserve Bank of India to boost credit flow to small businesses and address operational issues such as inconsistent handling of discrepancies in letter of credit (LoC) documents by issuing banks and alleged unfair practices by rating agencies.

In a statement, PHDCCI noted that its leadership met the RBI governor on Monday and requested the banking sector regulator to issue clear guidelines requiring banks to honour LoC documents where discrepancies have been formally waived by the applicant, except in cases involving fraud or material risk.

"The RBI may also prescribe uniform procedures and standardised documentation practices for discrepancy waivers, ensuring consistency across banks," said Rajeev Juneja, president of PHDCCI. —Our Bureau

PHDCCI Urges RBI to fix LC issues, ease MSME credit

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 30 March

The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has urged the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to address several operational and credit-related challenges faced by industry, including inconsistent handling of discrepancies in Letters of Credit as payment instruments. Arbitrary use of discretion by banks in accepting or rejecting discrepancy waivers creates uncertainty for suppliers and exporters," he said.

Juneja urged the central bank to issue clear operational guidelines requiring banks to honour LC documents where discrepancies have been formally waived by the applicant, except in cases involving fraud or material risk.

"We request the RBI to issue clear operational guidelines requiring banks to honour LC documents where discrepancies have been formally waived by the applicant. The RBI may also prescribe

payment even when discrepancies are minor and have been formally waived by the LC applicant.

"Banks sometimes refuse payment even when discrepancies are minor and have been formally waived by the LC applicant. This undermines the reliability of Letters of Credit as payment instruments. Arbitrary use of discretion by banks in accepting or rejecting discrepancy waivers creates uncertainty for suppliers and exporters," he said.

Juneja urged the central bank to issue clear operational guidelines requiring banks to honour LC documents where discrepancies have been formally waived by the applicant, except in cases involving fraud or material risk.

"We request the RBI to issue clear operational guidelines requiring banks to honour LC documents where discrepancies have been formally waived by the applicant. The RBI may also prescribe



uniform procedures and standardised documentation practices for discrepancy waivers ensuring consistency across banks," he added.

The chamber also called for greater credit flow to MSMEs through Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and suggested revisiting the existing cap on loans eligible under priority sector classification.

Ranjit Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of PHDCCI, noted that while the RBI had restored the classification of credit to MSMEs through NBFCs under priority sector

20 lakh per borrower, which he said is inadequate in the current economic context.

"With the revision in the classification criteria of MSMEs announced in the Budget 2025, almost 99 per cent of enterprises in India are now MSMEs, with their turnover limit increasing upto Rs 500 crore. Therefore, this Rs 20 lakh limit is inefficient," Mehta said. He suggested that credit extended by banks to NBFCs for on-lending to MSMEs should be treated as indirect finance eligible under priority sector lending norms, and the existing cap should either be removed or raised significantly.

"It is earnestly desired that the credit given by banks to NBFCs for the purpose of on-lending to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises be treated as indirect finance to MSMEs eligible for classification under banks' priority sector lending. The ceiling of Rs 20 lakh per borrower should

either be removed or increased to at least Rs 1 crore per borrower," Mehta added.

The chamber also flagged operational challenges related to the mandatory use of 800-series numbers for service and transaction calls and 1400-series numbers for promotional calls by regulated entities. According to the chamber, many customers tend to ignore calls from these numbers as they are often perceived as telemarketing calls, thereby affecting legitimate business communication.

In addition, PHDCCI urged the central bank to address several other issues affecting the smooth functioning of industry, including the need for greater uniformity and digitalisation in documentation processes. The chamber also raised concerns about alleged unfair trade practices by rating agencies, stating that some agencies demand rating fees for future periods even when ratings are not required.

Business Standard

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

India ready for peak power surge

India is better prepared to meet a record 270 GW power demand this summer for geopolitical tensions and grid constraints, prices a peak.



Green energy rise in India from 2014 to 2024. The chart shows a significant increase in green energy capacity, with solar and wind being the primary drivers. The total capacity is projected to reach 270 GW by 2024.

The scheme will support 51 lakh person days of employment during the project construction, and will also enable employment in maintenance and operation of these SHTs, which will come up in rural and remote locations. SHT projects being de-centralised in nature, the requirement of a long transmission line is minimal, which also reduces the transmission losses.

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₹2,584-cr small hydro power scheme cleared

SAURAV ANAND
New Delhi, March 28

THE CABINET on Wednesday cleared a ₹2,584-cr small hydro power scheme to add 1,100 MW capacity, making a second push towards renewable energy in the north-eastern region.

The Small Hydro Power Development Scheme for FY24-25 is expected to unlock ₹13,000 crore in investments, with a focus on tapping hydropower in hilly, hilly, hilly and border areas, where grid connectivity remains limited.

The scheme covers projects in the 1-15 MW range and provides higher financial support for projects in the Northeast and border districts — up to ₹1.8 crore per MW (50% of project cost), against ₹1.35 crore per project. Other states will receive

up to ₹1.4 crore per MW (50% of project cost). The scheme has been earmarked for project support. The government will fund, disburse and help develop projects in "remote and difficult-to-reach locations," while ensuring 100% domestic sourcing of plant and machinery, aligning with Atmanirbhar Bharat goals.

The scheme is expected to generate 3.1 million person-days of employment during construction, along with long-term jobs in operations and maintenance. Industry named the move timely amid global energy uncertainties. "The approval marks a targeted path towards decentralised renewable energy, reducing geopolitical uncertainty concerning oil and gas supply chain," said Ranjit Mehta, CEO & secretary general, PHDCCI.

businessline

Govt approves small hydropower policy

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the small hydro power (SHP) development scheme for the period FY27 to FY31, with an outlay of ₹2,584.20 crore for the installation of projects of an approximate capacity of 1,100 megawatt (MW).

The scheme will help set up small hydro projects (between 1 and 15 MW capacity) in different states, and will benefit hilly and North-Eastern States with high potential for such projects, said Prithvi Joshi, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy.

In the North-Eastern States and in districts with international borders, Central financial assistance to the tune of ₹3.6 crore per MW, or 30 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, with an upper limit of ₹30 crore per project, will be available. In other States, ₹2.4 crore per MW, or 20 per cent of the project cost, whichever is lower, with a cap of ₹20 crore per project, will be available. This will



MORE POWER. The scheme will help set up small hydro projects (between 1 and 15 MW capacity) in different States.

help in tapping the small hydropower potential in remote and difficult to reach locations.

CLEAN ENERGY
An amount of ₹2,584.20 crore has been earmarked for such projects. This is likely to bring in ₹13,000 crore of investment in the small hydro sector, giving a boost to the clean energy initiative, investment to remote and rural areas and creating significant employment opportunities.

The investment will also leverage 100 per cent of the plant and machinery from indigenous sources, fulfilling

the objective of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The scheme will also incentivise the States to prepare the detailed project report for about 200 projects to create a pipeline for small hydro projects in future. An amount of ₹30 crore has been earmarked to support State and Central government agencies to prepare such reports.

PHDCCI Secretary General and Ranjit Mehta said this marks a targeted push towards decentralised, renewable energy, in the wake of

geopolitical uncertainty concerning oil and gas supply chain. The initiative bolsters environmental sustainability with rural employment generation, strengthening India's commitment to long-term clean energy transition.

The scheme will support 51 lakh person days of employment during the project construction, and will also enable employment in maintenance and operation of these SHTs, which will come up in rural and remote locations. SHT projects being de-centralised in nature, the requirement of a long transmission line is minimal, which also reduces the transmission losses.

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The Tribune

Industrial growth rose to 5.2% in February: PHDCCI

ADITYA RANGROO
New Delhi, March 28

NEW DELHI, MARCH 28 The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at a healthy rate at 5.2 per cent in February 2026 over 4.8 per cent in January 2026 despite ever increasing geopolitical tensions, says PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry or PHDCCI.

IIP recorded a growth of 5.2 per cent in February 2026, over 4.8 per cent (up 0.4 points) in January 2026, indi-

cating a continued recovery in industrial activity.

Rajeev Juneja, president, PHDCCI, said the improvement in industrial production reflected strengthening momentum in capital-intensive sectors, particularly infrastructure and manufacturing.

Further, sustained expansion in capital goods signalled improving private investment activity, a critical element for medium-term growth.

COVERAGE IMPRINTS

The Statesman

India's foodgrain production projected to reach approximately 368 MT by 2030-31

SOURAV SHEKHAR/UM
New Delhi, 22 March

India's foodgrain production is projected to reach approximately 368 million tonnes (MT) by 2030-31, according to a report released by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighting the growing need for robust storage infrastructure to support the country's agricultural expansion.

The report observed that while production levels are steadily rising, the existing storage capacity remains inadequate to handle the anticipated surge.

It stressed that without timely upgrades in warehousing systems, a significant portion of produce could be exposed to post-harvest losses, affecting both farmers and overall food security.

Emphasising the urgency of the situation, the industry body called for a quick response policy framework that would encourage private and institutional investment in modern storage solutions.



It noted that silo-based warehousing systems, equipped with advanced technology, can play a crucial role in reducing wastage, improving grain quality, and ensuring efficient supply chain management.

The reported Foodgrain Warehouse Market in India 2025-2030 "serves as a comprehensive financial pre-feasibility study, offering a ready-to-use model for investors and stakeholders interested in the agriculture warehousing segment."

It translates extensive market research into actionable insights, enabling

better planning and execution of storage infrastructure projects.

Rajeev Juneja, President of PHDCCI said, "A technology-driven storage infrastructure is essential to support India's transition toward a more efficient agricultural value chain to reduce wastage and creation of value added products both of domestic as well as export markets."

According to the findings, India's transition towards scientific storage methods is essential not only to meet domestic demand but also to strengthen its position in global agricultural trade.

The MORNING STANDARD

Freight rates surge over 200% despite fee waivers, other export relaxations

PUSKAPTA DEY | New Delhi

DESPITE the Government of India waiving certain import procedures at domestic ports for unloading of export shipments and relaxing export obligation periods for several items, surging freight rates continue to be a major concern for exporters and shippers.

As per exporters and freight forwarders, both air and sea freight rates have risen sharply, with air freight charges increasing by nearly 200-300%.

"Both importers and exporters are suffering due to higher freight rates. As shipping lines are taking a longer route, the sea freight rate by some shipping lines has been increased by 300%. Even for air freight, the rate which was previously at ₹200-300 per kg previously, for those going to the US, it is now at ₹500-600 per kg," said Vignit DICKPETER, the Government of India waiving certain import procedures at domestic ports for unloading of export shipments and relaxing export obligation periods for several items, surging freight rates continue to be a major concern for exporters and shippers.

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We are seeing sea-vial surcharges reaching around \$2,000 for a 20-foot container and about \$4,000 for a 40-foot container

Vishwakumar Ravi, chairman, Kamdhenu Group

Vishwa, chairman of Continental Group and managing committee member at PHDCCI. Vishwa added that air freight rates to the US and Europe have doubled from Chennai and



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Vishwa, chairman of Continental Group and managing committee member at PHDCCI. Vishwa added that air freight rates to the US and Europe have doubled from Chennai and

surged four times from Delhi over the past two days after suspension of operations by several Middle East carriers amid the Iran-Israel war. With Gulf carriers suspending or reducing services, freight rates from Chennai to Europe have doubled. Several shipping firms and ports have imposed a War Risk Surcharge (WRS) ranging from \$500 to \$4,000 for cargo moving to and from the Upper Gulf, Arabian Gulf and Persian Gulf due to disruptions around the Strait of Hormuz.

Hapag-Lloyd has imposed a WRS of \$1,200 per TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) for standard containers and \$3,000 per container for reefers and special equipment. CMA CGM Logistics has introduced an Emergency Conflict Surcharge (ECS), effective March 2, 2024, for cargo moving to specified Middle East and Red Sea countries.

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The Statesman

Piyush Goyal calls for WTO reforms keeping 'development' at core

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, 27 March

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has emphasised that necessary reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) should be carried out through a transparent, inclusive and member-driven process by keeping development at its core.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) on Thursday, he highlighted the need to uphold the foundational principles and objectives of the organisation, mainly non-discrimination, consensus-based decision-making and equity.

On the sidelines of the ministerial conference, the Commerce Minister also discussed bilateral and multilateral issues to further strengthen India-Cameroon cooperation with Prime Minister of Cameroon Dion Ngute Joseph.

Goyal also held bilateral talks focusing on the MC14 agenda with Director General of WTO, The Minister also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from the Netherlands, France and Ethiopia.

Apart from this, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Chile, Paraguay, US, Nepal, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, delegation of EU parliamentarians, Mexico, Peru, Russia, New Zealand and the EU on the sidelines of this conference.

Talks were mainly focused on MC14 agenda as well as exploring different options to further strengthen bilateral ties. Chile and Peru touched base



on ongoing India-Chile FTA negotiations and India-Peru FTA negotiations.

Additionally, EU and New Zealand took stock of the progress towards the recently concluded India-EU FTA and India-New Zealand FTA negotiations.

The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organisation opened in Yaounde, Cameroon on Thursday with a ceremonial session chaired by the Trade Minister of Cameroon.

The session was attended by Dr Nguzi Okonjo-Iweala, DG, WTO and Trade Ministers/Senior representatives of the WTO member countries. Welcoming the Indian Minister at WTO Ministerial Conference, Rajeev Juneja, President of PHDCCI said, "We welcome India's positive engagement at the WTO Ministerial Conference with emphasis on a transparent and development-centric reform agenda. A functional dispute settlement system to address expanding role of agriculture subsidies remain critical for India."

Juneja noted that emerging issues such as digital trade and technology governance require careful, consensus-based consideration rather than ad hoc measures resulting in unnecessary disputes later.

दैनिक सवेरा

भारत को न्यूट्रास्यूटिकल उत्पादों का वैश्विक केंद्र बनाने को क्षमता निर्माण की जरूरत : FSSAI

न्यूट्रास्यूटिकल उत्पादों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, भारत को वैश्विक केंद्र बनाने की क्षमता निर्माण की जरूरत है, जो कि न्यूट्रास्यूटिकल उत्पादों के विकास और वितरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए है। FSSAI ने कहा कि न्यूट्रास्यूटिकल उत्पादों के विकास और वितरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, भारत को वैश्विक केंद्र बनाने की क्षमता निर्माण की जरूरत है, जो कि न्यूट्रास्यूटिकल उत्पादों के विकास और वितरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए है।

विराट वैभव

थोक महंगाई फरवरी में 2.13 प्रतिशत पर

विक्रम के फरवरी में थोक महंगाई 2.13 प्रतिशत पर पहुंच गई है, जो कि नवंबर के 2.01 प्रतिशत के मुकाबले है। यह दर पिछले दस महीने में सबसे अधिक है।

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ONLINE MEDIA



Escalating logistics costs and production risks: Industry concerns from the Middle East crisis

Ranjet Mehta
March 26, 2026, 11:18 IST (2 min read)

If these conditions persist for more than six months, the risks of production slowdowns and, in some cases, temporary shutdowns across industries would aggravate financial stress.



The war situation in the Middle East is exerting relentless pressure on India's industries and trade, with signals of a widening operational and financial disruptions. While the situation is still evolving, a comprehensive assessment of difficulties faced by the industry is required for timely policy intervention.

Disruption in gas supply risks production continuity



Ranjeet Mehta, CEO and Secretary General of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Photo/ANI)

Lot of uncertainty in overall ecosystem in country, impacting energy supply, crude oil, says PHDCCI CEO Ranjeet Mehta

ANI | Updated: Mar 23, 2026 19:23 IST



Urvi Shrivastav Mar 23, 2026

India's nutraceutical boom is shifting toward trust, driven by science, regulation, and transparency

India's nutraceutical industry is expanding rapidly, but the conversation is clearly shifting from growth to credibility. At the NutraVision 2026 conference organised by PHDCCI in New Delhi, industry leaders, researchers and regulatory experts came together to examine what it really takes to build best-in-class nutraceutical products while strengthening consumer trust.

The panel brought together voices from across the ecosystem, including Seema Paul, Nutrition and Health Research expert and Retd Professor, Institute of Home Economics; Sanjay Srivastav, Director, Maharishi Ayurveda; Neupama, Senior Manager, Regulatory Policy, Amway India; Kalpana Yadav, Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs, Herbalife; Aparna Tandon, Nutritionist Lead, Signatura; and Vijay Gaur, Head Public Affairs, Danone, to unpack the challenges around quality, regulation and evolving consumer expectations.

Trust Deficit, Misleading Claims And Regulatory Complexity

Setting the tone for the discussion, Rini Sanyal pointed to the growing disconnect between industry expansion and regulatory clarity. "The problem is that the industry is growing and there are many misleading claims." She also highlighted the confusion around compliance frameworks, with companies often unsure about which regulations to follow and what constitutes the most updated standard.



FSSAI CEO urges compliance, capacity building for India's nutraceutical global hub

NEW DELHI: (Mar 23) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) CEO Rajit Punhani on Monday called for industry compliance, capacity building, and collaboration between stakeholders to position India as a global hub for high-quality nutraceutical products.

Nutraceuticals are food-derived products, including supplements and fortified foods, that provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition, aiding in disease prevention and treatment.

Addressing an event organised by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), the CEO highlighted a range of progressive initiatives undertaken by FSSAI to strengthen and promote the nutraceuticals sector in India.



From Ayurveda To Algorithms: Why Botanicals Need Proof

Urvi Shrivastav Mar 23, 2026

Experts say that without robust traceability, standardised testing, sustainability alignment and credible scientific backing, the ambition to scale botanicals in the nutraceutical space will remain constrained

In a panel discussion on "Role of Botanicals in the Nutraceutical Industry: Opportunities, Innovations, and Regulatory Challenges" at NutraVision 2026, experts from across the industry and research examined the scientific, regulatory and operational frameworks required to mainstream botanicals.

The session featured Dr. Nareendra Deo Tripathi, Co-Chair, Nutra Task Force, PHDCCI and AVP-Quality & Regulatory Affairs, Baclo India; Rajesh Kumar, Vice President, Quality & Regulatory, Central Asia & India, Amway India; Rangan Mitra, Head, Analytical Division, Dabur India; V.K. Tripathi, Managing Director, VCA Healthcare Private; and Himanshu Tripathi, who collectively explored how India can leverage its traditional knowledge systems while addressing gaps in standardisation, traceability, validation and global alignment.

Standardisation Gaps And The Need For Credible Data

Mitra emphasised that the reliability of the entire ecosystem depends on the strength of its analytical systems. "Our analysis is as good as the data we get, methods are needed in place, i.e., fit for purpose," he said, pointing to the lack of consistency across laboratories, including pesticide testing facilities.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA



Discussion with Dr. Ranjit Mehta (CEO and Secretary General, PHDCCI) and Dr. Anil Kumar (Professor, Delhi School of Economists) on BHAVYA, which aims to create 100 plug-and-play industrial parks

DD DD News
18 Mar, 2026 • 05:40 PM



In conversation with Bijay Kumar Samal (DGM, State Bank of India), Shweta Agarwal (Chairperson, FICCI FLO) and Jatin Bansal (Member, PHDCCI) over Story of the Rising Stars of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

ET ET NOW Swadesh
30 Mar, 2026 • 07:03 PM



Delhi: PHDCCI Secretary General Ranjeet Mehta, AK Tiwari, Member of PNGRB and other dignitaries attended the Hydrocarbons Summit 2026



6:45 AM • 13/03/26 • 5.9K Views

6:50 PM • 31/03/26 • 459 Views

IANS @ians_india

X.com

Delhi: PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an industry-interactive conference and mini expo on the modernization and indigenization of CAPFs



2:58 PM • 12/03/26 • 383 Views

IANS @ians_india

X.com

Delhi: Sandeep Wadhwa, Chairman, Port Shipping & Waterways committee, PHDCCI says, "Basically, the objective was to inform the industry about the development of shipbuilding and ship bicycling in India. Last year, the government has also organized a fund for this. So, there is a lot of development going on in this."





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.

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 Well designed Conference Room for Seminars, Panel Discussions and High Profile Corporate Meetings.
- MMG Hall (Capacity : 90)**
 Well designed for conducting Training Programmes/ workshops/Audio-Visual Presentations.
- IRC Room (Capacity : 25)**
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For Conference Facilities, please contact: Ms. Rachna Thakur, E-mail: conf.booking@phdcci.in Tel.: +91 9891890800



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Ministry of MSME, Government of India*

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