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SGCCI

THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
ACT WITH ONE MIND

ACTIVITIES OF SGCCI



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Vijay Mevawala

Imm. Past President

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Editor

Amrish Bhatt

Sub Editor

Vipul Sachpara

Editorial & Co-ordinator

Jeetendra Pardhi (Pawar)

Publisher

**THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

6th Floor, "SANHATTI" Building, SIECC
Campus, Nr. Khajod Crossing, Althan
road, Sarsana, Surat - 395007,
Gujarat, India.

Phone: +91-261-2291111

(E) info@sgcci.in (W) www.sgcci.in

Contact

Dhanendra Patil, Secretary

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Hon. Secretary



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Hon. Treasurer

Taking South Gujarat's Industrial Concerns to the State's Decision Table



Under the leadership of Chamber Vice President Ashok Jirawala, the Chamber submitted representations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Finance Minister regarding the simplification of the GIDC Transfer Policy and the release of pending ITC refunds for the imitation jari sector, blocked since 2023.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Vice President, Ashok Jirawala, along with Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi and Deputy Secretary Paulik Desai, led a delegation on Monday, September 1, 2025, to Gandhinagar. The delegation made detailed representations to Hon'ble Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Finance Minister Karubhai Desai on key issues concerning industries

across South Gujarat.

Chamber President Nikhil Madrasl and Vice President Ashok Jirawala stated that the Chamber specifically urged the government to announce a financial relief package to offset the potential losses faced by industries due to the recent tariff measures imposed by the United States. The Chamber also requested an extension of VAT refund benefits

under the 2012 Textile Policy for an additional two years and providing a subsidy of Rs. 2 per unit on electricity tariffs for the textile sector.

Immediate appointment of a Master Developer for the PM Mitra Park and inclusion of the Chamber's President in its SPV Board were requested. Representations were also made to grant industrial status to automobile sales and service units currently operating in GIDC. Furthermore, requests were made to abolish vehicle tax in municipal areas, provide electricity rates for mp farming at par with agricultural rates, and approve offline applications

received under Gujarat's 2019 Textile Policy.

The Chamber of Commerce delegation informed the ministers that quick resolutions to the above issues would encourage South Gujarat's industries and provide new momentum to the region's industrial development. The representations made by the Chamber received a very positive response from Gujarat's Chief Minister and Finance Minister. The ministers listened to the Chamber's representations very patiently and assured that various issues of the industries would be resolved at the earliest.

An Honour for the Chamber: President Appointed to the Ministry of Textiles' key Committee on Fiscal and Credit Interventions

The committee will provide suggestions for resolving difficulties in banking finance and credit for the textile, apparel, and handicraft sectors, as well as other various recommendations



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi - President of SGCCI

The Government of India's Ministry of Textiles has appointed the Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) as the Chairman of the Committee on Fiscal, Banking and Credit Interventions for the Textile, Apparel and Handicrafts Sector. Along with this, the President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Nikhil Madrasi, or a representative appointed by him, will be appointed as a member of the committee.

Regarding the main objectives of the above committee of the Government of India's Ministry

of Textiles, suggestions for resolving difficulties in banking finance and credit for the textile, apparel, and handicraft sectors will be made in this committee. Additionally, suggestions for GST rate rationalization, tariffs, ensuring timely, affordable, and required credit for SMEs in working trade finance will be given.

A model study from around the world for export finance will be conducted, and suggestions on which model can be adopted for our country will be made by the committee members. Suggestions on how to achieve the target of \$100 billion in textile exports by the year 2030 will also be provided in the committee.

The meetings of the above committee will be held once every 15 days, with a provision to submit a annual report within four weeks. In this committee, along with the President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representatives from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), AEPC, TEXPROCIL, CEPC, and PDXECIL will join as members.

Empowering Research Excellence: SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust of the chamber Extends ₹ 3 Lakh Scholarships to each Ph.D. Student



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry's SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust has provided scholarships of Rs. three lakh each to two Ph.D. students to encourage talented students excelling in education and research. In the first phase, both students were presented with cheques of Rs. one lakh each.

Chamber of Commerce President Nikhil Madrasl stated that the SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust has awarded scholarships of Rs. one lakh each to Bhavyesh N Desai (SVNIT) and Aniket H Sawant (Uka Tarsadia University) who are pursuing

Ph.D. This scholarship will be valid for one year. If the students' academic performance and research work are satisfactory, they will continue to receive Rs. one lakh each for the next two years. In this way, each student will receive a total financial assistance of Rs. 3 lakh over three years. The main objective of the Trust is to provide opportunities to deserving students and advance the new generation in the research field.

SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust Chairman and former Chamber President Rajnikant Marfatia stated that the scholarship provided by the Trust is not just financial assistance for students but will prove



Mr. Aniket Sawani
(Uka Tarsadia University)



Mr. Bhavyesh Desai
(SVNIT)



to be a direction-giver for their research careers. The Trust believes that this initiative will conquer new heights in education and research in South Gujarat. At

this stage, the SGCCI Golden Jubilee Memorial Trust has received cooperation from Rajhans and Colortex Group.

Renewed Demand: Chamber Insists on Global Precious Cargo Operations at Surat Airport



Under the leadership of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nikhil Madras, SGCCI submitted a detailed proposal on July 19, 2025, to Airport Authority of India (AAI), AAICLAS CEO Ajay Bhardwaj, and Surat Airport Director A N Sharma to start International Precious Cargo Operations (Import-Export) from Surat International Airport.

Prior to that, on February 7, 2025, under the leadership of the immediate past President of the chamber Vijay Mewawala and office bearers, the Chamber's Aviation and Airport Committee Chairman Limesh Shah invited the Air India Cargo team including Shekhar Mohanty, Sanjeev Sharma, and Joshua Fernandez to Surat. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Chamber of

The Chamber highlighted to the Airport Authority the potential for annual diamond and jewelry imports and exports worth USD 10-12 billion

Commerce, Surat Diamond Bourse SDB Custom House, as well as Surat Customs officer Anunay Bhati (Hazira Office) and the Airport Customs team.

In the above meeting, discussions were held on the urgent need for direct International cargo movement from Surat, the necessity of a strong room for precious goods, fast and cost-effective logistics for exports, and making Surat India's future Precious Cargo Hub.

Meanwhile, on September 3, 2025, the proposal was further strengthened with robust data by the Chamber's Aviation and Airport Committee Chairman Linesh Shah and the Chamber's Group Chairman and GJEPC (Gem & Jewellery Export

Promotion Council) Gujarat Regional Chairman Jayanti Savaliya. The potential for annual imports-exports of diamonds and jewelry worth approximately 10-12 billion US dollars was presented to the Airport Authority. Along with this, the immediate need to establish a dedicated strong room facility at the Passenger Terminal Building was also highlighted.

In the initial phase of this proposal, the guidance of former AAICLAS CEO Keku Guzdar also proved important. After getting approval from the authorities, the implementation of this proposal will be a game-changer for Surat's exporters and will give new heights to Surat's global connectivity.

Outstanding Guruvarya Awards': 56 Surat Educators Honored



As part of Teachers' Day celebrations, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the Outstanding Guruvarya Award Ceremony on September 5, 2025, at 3:00 PM

In Seminar Hall-A, Samhati, Sarasana, Surat, where the Chamber of Commerce honored 56 teachers, i.e., Guruvaryas, from Surat.

Chamber of Commerce President Nikhil



Madrasif stated that today we had the opportunity to honor teachers who impart values and knowledge to society which is a matter of pride for us. Teachers are the true nation-builders. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of society and the country. Students advance in life through the guidance and inspiration of gurus. To express this respect, the Chamber of Commerce organizes this award ceremony every year.

In the ceremony, special appreciation was extended to the esteemed jury members who conducted the selection process with complete fairness and transparency. Identifying the most

deserving Guruvaryas for the awards Rupin Padchigar, Mahesh Parmani, Smt Nandiben Shah, Smt Ranjanben Patel, Dr Ritaben Phulwala, Smt Praharsha Mehta, and Smt Amiben Nayak rendered invaluable service as members of the jury.

Chamber Vice President Ashok Jirawala thanked all present at the Guruvarya honor ceremony. Chamber Hon Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Group Chairmen, and teachers were present at the ceremony. Smt Snehaben Jariwala, Ms Vanitaben Rawat, Ms Vandaben Shah, and Ms Pavnamiben Dave conducted the honor ceremony held in four phases.



Delegation Meets Union Minister C.R. Patil, Pushes for 5% GST Rate Across MMF Textile Value Chain



C.R. Patil assured to convey the Chamber's representation to Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmalaben Sitharaman and Union Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister J.P. Nadda

Under the leadership of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Vice President Ashok Jirawala, a delegation including former Chamber President Ashish Gujarati, member of the managing committee Suresh Patel, Deputy Secretary Paulik Desai, and leaders of the Nylon Spinners Association met India's Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil on September 6, 2025, in Surat.

The Chamber delegation represented with a request to bring the entire man-made fiber textile value chain, from various chemicals like para-xylene, caprolactam, MEG, PTA to textiles, under a uniform 5% GST rate.

Nikhil Madrasai, President, Chamber of Commerce, said that a representation made by the Chamber's delegation stated that the inverted duty structure at the yarn manufacturing stage has become more severe with the rate on MMF yarn being reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent at present, which will lead to a huge input credit constraint. Because of this

inversion, MMF spinners will not be able to use the input credit on capital goods during their projects as the sector is expecting an investment of up to Rs 24,000 crore in the next 3 to 4 years. A major impediment arising from this input credit issue on capital goods will be the loss of competitiveness, which will ultimately increase the cost burden on subsequent components of the value chain.

The delegation of the Chamber requested the Hon'ble Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil to convey this representation from the Chamber to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman as well as the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers, J.P. Nadda.

Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber said that Mr. C.R. Patil listened to the representation made by the Chamber very calmly and assured to convey the representation of the Chamber to the departments concerned as well as to the Ministers.

Kidney Care Session Held: Raising Awareness on Renal Health



As part of the Health Series, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an awareness session on 'How to Take Care of Your Kidneys?' on Sunday, 7th September 2025 at 10:30 am at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. In this session, Dr Siddharth H. Jain, Nephrologist and renowned Kidney Specialist from Surat's Kidney Care Clinic, provided detailed guidance on kidney care.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madras, stated that the main objective of this session was to create awareness among people about proper kidney care and a healthy lifestyle. Such awareness sessions help people understand the importance of adopting healthy habits and encourage the community to stay more conscious and committed towards better health.

Dr Siddharth H. Jain stated that in today's fast-

paced world, people often fail to devote enough time to their health. Taking care of vital organs—especially the kidneys—is extremely important, as kidneys play a crucial role in maintaining the body's water balance. Therefore, regular check-ups are essential for kidney health. He further emphasized that drinking adequate water is key to ensuring the long life of the kidneys. Consuming at least 2-3 liters of water daily helps keep the kidneys clean and functioning properly.

He further added that regular control of blood pressure and sugar levels is essential, as these conditions can damage the kidneys. One should avoid overusing medications and take them only as prescribed by a doctor. It is advisable to consume foods that are low in sugar and less oily. Regular exercise and a proper diet are also very important. He emphasized that reducing stress in daily



Mr. Nikhil Madras - President of SGCCI



Dr. Siddharth H. Jain - Kidney Specialist

life is necessary, as stress, too, affects kidney health

Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, delivered the keynote address. Group Chairman of the Chamber, Rakesh Gandhi, outlined the framework of the programme. Co-Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Dr. Rajan Desai, conducted the

proceedings, while Co-Chairman Nikhil Vagharia introduced the expert speaker, Dr. Siddharth Jain.

The speaker satisfactorily answered various questions posed by the entrepreneurs and citizens present at the session. Chairman of SGCCI's Education and Skill Development Centre, Mahesh Pannani, proposed the vote of thanks and concluded the session.

A NRI Marriage Awareness Seminar at Vanita Vishram University jointly by NRG Centre, Chamber and Gujarat State Non-Resident Gujarat Pratishtan



Supreme Court advocate Preeti Joshi provided detailed guidance to young women aspiring to marry abroad, explaining the important precautions they should take

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Gujarat State Non-Resident Gujarati Foundation, and the NRG Centre functioning at the Chamber of Commerce, Surat—jointly organised an NRI Marriage Awareness Seminar with support from Vanita Vishram University, on Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 10:00 am. at Vanita Vishram University, Surat. In this seminar, Supreme Court advocate Preeti Joshi provided detailed guidance to young women wishing to marry men settled abroad, explaining the important precautions they should take.

Vijay Mevawala, immediate past president of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the institution of marriage is deeply rooted in Indian culture. In today's digital era, relationships develop rapidly. When an acquaintance grows and matures into a marriage proposal, several precautions become essential. These precautions become even more crucial when the marriage involves a person settled abroad.

as one wrong decision can potentially ruin a daughter's entire life.

The keynote speaker, Supreme Court advocate Preeti Joshi, stated that the number of people migrating abroad from India is increasing day by day and consequently, problems arising out of such marriages are also on the rise. This often leads to complex legal issues.

In cases of marriages involving Non-Resident Indians, not only Indian laws but also the private and international laws of the respective foreign country apply – many of which are far more complex. Therefore, such marriages carry higher risks.

Women often face several challenges such as language barriers, lack of awareness about local police procedures and legal systems, difficulty in accessing immediate financial assistance, and the absence of a safe place to seek shelter during emergencies.



Mr. Vijay Mevawala
IPP of SGCCI

Therefore, young women should consider the language, food habits, culture, lifestyle, and family environment of the country they plan to marry into. They must also obtain accurate and verified information about the person they intend to marry. She advised young women to take all necessary precautions before entering into a marriage abroad.

She further stated that one should never place blind trust in any bureau, agent, broker, or mediator for marriage arrangements. Under no circumstances should anyone agree to prepare fake documents. One should not be misled by promises such as obtaining a green card through marriage, nor should one agree to proposals that require traveling to another country solely for the wedding. It is essential to verify the marital status of the person living abroad—whether he is unmarried, divorced, widowed, or legally separated. In addition, one must thoroughly check matters such as immigration status, type of visa, eligibility to reside abroad as husband and wife, financial status, property ownership, residential address, and the family background of the prospective groom.



Ms. Priti Joshi
Advocate - Supreme Court

Chintan Prajapati, System Manager of the Non-Resident Gujarati Pratishthan, Gandhinagar, provided detailed information about the various activities carried out by the Foundation. He also outlined the structure of the programme.

Dr. Dakesh Thakar, Provost of Vanita Vishram Women's University, shared detailed information about the University and its various initiatives.

The Chamber's Hon. Secretary, Bijal Jariwala, Group Chairman, Paresh Lathia, Deputy Accountant of the Non-Resident Gujarati Pratishthan, Gandhinagar; Sunil Solanki, and the college students were present at the seminar. Kalpesh Lathia, Chairman of the Chamber's NRG Centre, conducted the entire seminar, while Co-Chairman Chetan Sheth introduced the keynote speaker. Dr. Vinita Mode, Dean of Vanita Vishram Women's University, Faculty of Vocational Studies, and Chairperson of the Women's Development Cell, expressed gratitude to all attendees.

The keynote speaker, Advocate Preeti Joshi, satisfactorily answered various questions posed by the students, after which the seminar concluded.



Mr. Chintan Prajapati
System Manager of NRG Foundation - Gandhinagar



Dr. Dakesh Thakar
Provost of Vanita Vishram Women's University

Chamber Leads National Online Meet on GST Rates with Major MMF Textile Associations

Industrialists expressed concern that since the GST rate of 18% on yarn raw material remains unchanged, a large amount of ITC credit will remain accumulated with the government.

Under the leadership of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, an online meeting regarding GST rates was held on Tuesday 9th September 2025, with major MMF textile associations from across India. Representatives from the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, SIMA (Southern India Mills Association), MATEXIL (SRTEPC), Nylon Spinners Association, the Textile Association of New Delhi, Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association, PDEXCIL, and PTA User Associations participated in the meeting.

Representatives of all the above associations expressed concern that, following the recent 56th GST Council meeting, the decision to retain the 18% GST rate on raw material for yarn has brought all synthetic yarn spinners across India under inverted duty. As a result they fear that a very large amount of ITC credit will remain accumulated with the government.

Most spinners were planning expansion, but with such a large amount of Input Tax Credit remaining blocked with the government, the tax paid on machinery will never be recovered in their lifetime. As a result, India's MMF textile production will not remain competitive at the global level, causing losses to all spinners in the country. According to calculations approximately Rs. 9 per kilogram of GST credit will remain accumulated.

During the meeting, all associations unanimously stated that the recent changes in GST rates by the Central Government have removed inverted duty at the fabric level, but have created significant inverted duty at the yarn level. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce the GST rate on the primary raw materials of the textile sector—Paraxylene, Caprolactam, MEG, PTA, as well as Nylon and Polyester chips—from 18% to 5%. There should be no inverted duty anywhere within the entire MMF textile value chain. Only when inverted duty is eliminated across the full value chain will India's textile industry become globally competitive.

To achieve the target of USD 350 billion in textile exports from India by the year 2030, the polyester yarn sector alone will require an investment of nearly Rs 24,000 crore over the next five years. Additionally, the MEG and PTA production sectors will require investments of around Rs. 40,000 crore.

If the government does not remove the inverted duty structure, it will severely affect these investments.

At present, with the United States imposing a 50% tariff on Indian products, the export of yarn from many Indian manufacturers to the US will come to a halt. Industrialists expressed concern that if domestic yarn producers lose competitiveness under these circumstances, imports of textile products into India will increase significantly.

Representatives from the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, SIMA (Southern India Mills Association), MATEXIL (SRTEPC), Nylon Spinners Association, the Textile Association of New Delhi, Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry, Polyester Textile Apparel Industry Association, PDEXCIL, and PTA User Associations participated in the online meeting

A session on 'Homeopathy'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a session on 'Homeopathy' on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 4:30 p.m. at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat.

In this session, Dr. Rajendra Ashara, Chief Medical Officer and Advisor of Vyara's Satya Sai Seva Samiti Homeopathic Dispensary, provided detailed insights into homeopathy.

In his welcome address, the Chamber's Hon. Secretary, Bijal Jariwala, stated that modern medical systems offer treatments for many diseases and health issues, but they also involve several concerns—especially related to side effects and high costs.

Considering these factors, homeopathy, though ancient yet scientifically effective and based on nature and the body's internal balance, has today emerged as a highly significant alternative.

Dr. Rajendra Ashara stated that homeopathy is an alternative system of treatment developed through scientific methods which works by stimulating the body's natural immune response.

Highlighting the significant role of homeopathy in the digital era, he noted that people today increasingly depend on allopathic medicines to improve their quality of life. However, homeopathy is emerging as a safe and effective option for both



Mr. Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary of SGCCI



Dr. Rajendra Ashara
CMO & Advisor of Satya Sai Seva Samiti Homeopathic Dispensary - Vyara

physical and mental well-being

During the session, the entrepreneurs and professionals present asked questions about the commercial aspects of homeopathy, its benefits and its business potential in Gujarat. Dr. Rajendra Ashara provided guidance to entrepreneurs interested in starting a business in this field. He added that increased research and greater awareness in this area would also lead to improvements in public health.

A meditation session was also organized during the programme, in which the participating

entrepreneurs and professionals were taught systematic meditation techniques for stress relief.

Dr. Manashali, Chairperson of the Chamber's AYUSH Committee, outlined the programme. Aayush Committee member Dr. Rijutaben Chhatrapati introduced the speaker. Committee member Ms. Jayashree Patel conducted the meditation session. Committee member Chirag Gajjar coordinated the entire programme, while committee member Ms. Vaishali Damaniya proposed the vote of thanks and concluded the session.

Chamber of Commerce launches 'SGCCI Job Portal', offering greater convenience for both job seekers and recruiters

This new initiative of the Chamber will help entrepreneurs find the right talent and assist young individuals in securing suitable employment based on their skills, said Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry has launched the 'SGCCI Job Portal' as part of a significant initiative for entrepreneurs of South Gujarat and young job seekers. This digital platform has been designed to create a more effective connection between individuals seeking employment and companies looking for suitable employees.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madrasi, stated that this new initiative of the Chamber will help entrepreneurs find suitable talent and enable young individuals to secure employment according to their skills. Through the SGCCI Job Portal, we aim to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity, thereby delivering benefits on a wider scale. So far, 680 candidates and 290 recruiters have registered on the portal. This platform will help industries, businesses, and Chamber members overcome manpower-related challenges.

For guidance on using the SGCCI Job Portal, a detailed YouTube tutorial is available directly within the portal link. After registration, interviews can be easily scheduled as per requirement.

For job seekers as well, the process of finding employment becomes much simpler. They can view and apply for available job openings according to their

needs.

Group Chairman Advisor to the President, and in charge of the SGCCI Job Portal, Deepak Kumar Shethwala, stated that job seekers can easily create their profiles on the SGCCI Job Portal based on their skills and experience and find suitable job opportunities.

They can also set notifications to receive daily job updates, ensuring they are immediately informed when new opportunities are posted on the portal. In addition, the portal provides categorized job listings across various sectors and categories, making it much easier for young candidates to explore employment opportunities across different industries and companies.

As for entrepreneurs and companies, the SGCCI Job Portal enables them to easily find suitable candidates. With the help of the resume search system available on the portal, recruiters can identify the right candidates with great ease. The portal also offers complete end-to-end recruitment solutions, making the entire hiring process—from posting a job to final recruitment—much simpler.

By using this job portal, entrepreneurs will be able to find the best talent for their businesses and industries, while young individuals will gain access to excellent career opportunities.

The SGCCI Relief Fund sent 7,000 sarees, valued at ₹12 lakh, for the flood-affected residents of Punjab



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry has taken an important humanitarian step in the service of society. From the SGCCI Relief Fund, 7,000 sarees worth ₹12 lakh were sent to support the flood-affected people of Punjab.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madrasai, stated that a few days ago, several villages and cities in Punjab were devastated due to heavy rainfall and flooding. Thousands of families lost their homes, and the affected people are facing severe shortages of food and clothing.

In view of this critical situation, the Chamber of Commerce decided to take immediate relief measures to support the flood-affected communities.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry Relief Fund is managed by Chamber President Nikhil Madrasai, Vice President Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Secretary Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and former presidents Ramesh Vagharia, Himanshu Bodawala, Ashish Gujarati, Dinesh

Navadia, and C A P. M. Shah, who serve as trustees.

From the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry Relief Fund, 7,000 sarees worth ₹12 lakh were sent to Punjab through the District Industries Centre, Surat. These sarees were specifically provided keeping in mind the essential needs of women, and their distribution was carried out in the most severely affected areas with the assistance of local authorities.

The trustees of the SGCCI Relief Fund stated that several parts of the country are currently facing severe flood situations, and during such difficult times, it is essential for every individual and institution to come forward and support the affected people. Sending sarees to the flood-affected residents of Punjab is a humble effort by the Chamber of Commerce. Through this humanitarian initiative, the Chamber has conveyed a clear message that the industrial community is committed not only to business and trade, but also to extending support to society and standing beside those in need.

Chamber of Commerce launches two-day 'Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry has organized 'Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival'. This unique art, culture, and handicraft festival is being held on 12th and 13th September 2025 at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m.

The festival was inaugurated on 12th September at 12:00 noon, with Gujarati film actress and fitness coach Sapna Vyas gracing the occasion as the chief guest, and Padma Yazdi Karanjia attending as the special guest of honor.

President of the Chamber of Commerce Nikhil Madras, stated that the concept and significance of the word 'Sanskriti' are truly remarkable. Art and culture are the heartbeat and soul of everyone.

Through this Art, Culture, and Handicraft Festival, the Chamber team has created a new world within the Platinum Hall, showcasing various artistic creations—including paintings, photography, and handicrafts—by talented artists from Surat. The integration of industry, business, and culture is the true energy of society.





Gujarati film actress and fitness coach Sapna Vyas said that those who worship Saraswati are truly the greatest, because anyone blessed with Saraswati—knowledge—possesses everything. She shared that while her journey as a fitness coach continues, she has also stepped into the world of art and cinema, having acted in two Gujarati films and produced one. She emphasized that art and culture are essential for the development of society. Through this festival, the Chamber has encouraged new ideas while honoring culture and tradition, and has provided a meaningful

platform for the artists of Surat.

Padma Yazdi Karanjia stated that India is a culture-loving nation where every state reflects its own unique traditions and artistic heritage. Surat, known for its festive spirit and cultural richness, is rightly called the 'City of Festivals'. He emphasized that appreciating art is essential in life, as it energizes us from within and brings society together. Sanskriti, he said, is the foundation of our lives; those who truly understand art and culture make their lives more fulfilling and enriched.

Art and culture are essential for the development of society:

Gujarati film actress and fitness coach Sapna Vyas



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Ms. Sapna Vyas
Gujarati Film Actress & Fitness Coach



Padma Shri Yazdi Karanjia

Sanskriti is the foundation of our lives; those who understand art and culture enrich their lives even more: Padma Shri Yazdi Karanjia

Immediate Past President of the Chamber, Vijay Mevawala, expressed gratitude to all attendees at the inauguration ceremony. Chairperson of the Chamber's Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee, Smt. Swati Shethwala, shared details about the programs scheduled over the two days. Committee Co-Chairperson Smt. Krutika Shah conducted the inauguration ceremony. Hon. Secretary of Chamber, Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi, Group Chairman CA. Mayank Desai, Chairperson of the Chamber's Ladies Wing and Advisor to the Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee, Smt. Mayuri Mevawala, along with Committee Co-Chairpersons CA. Avani Desai and Ms. Vanita Rawal, and several artists from Surat, were present at the inaugural event.

At Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival, young participants are showcasing their art, creativity, and

cultural expressions. Exhibitions featuring painting, handicrafts, and creative photography are on display. In addition, artists are also presenting live rangoli and live couch painting demonstrations.

On 13th September 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., a special panel discussion on Art, Culture & Creative Expressions will be held at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana. The panel will feature insights from Saurabh Desai, Ms. Vaishali Gohil, Ms. Twisha Shukla, and Dr. Jasmin Kaur. From 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., a Music Talent Competition will take place at the same venue.

Thereafter, at 8:00 p.m., a Musical Entertainment Evening will be held, featuring a live performance by Vishva - The Band. Talented artists including Kuldeep Vishwakarma, Nishant Patel, Mohit Bhaga, Dev Sharma, and Krutag Jariwala will also present live performances.



Learn Short Filmmaking: Workshop Held as Part of 'Sanskriti' Mega Art Festival



During Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival organized by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, a Short Film Making Workshop was held on 12th September 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. Dhruvin Jain, Founder of the Dhruvin Jain Film Academy, provided detailed insights on various aspects of short film creation.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madras, stated that in today's era, creativity and innovative thinking play a crucial role. Sessions like short film making can inspire the younger generation to develop their artistic talents and create a positive impact on society by addressing important social issues through their work.

Chairperson of the Chamber's Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee, Smt. Swati Shethwala, stated that Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival is an

excellent platform where entrepreneurs and young people can come together to express their ideas. We are delighted that through such sessions, the youth receive proper guidance in the field of film-making and get opportunities to bring their talent to life.

Dhruvin Jain stated that short films are a powerful medium that help convey creative expressions by drawing meaningful insights from current events. During the workshop, he explained in detail the various important aspects of short film making, such as the overall process, how to prepare a storyboard, the use of camera angles, and editing techniques. He also encouraged the youth by explaining how good ideas can be transformed into impactful short films and how such films can deliver a positive message to society.

He stated that the most important aspect of



Mr. Dhruvin Jain - Founder of Dhruvin Jain Film Academy

By overcoming fear and believing in one's own creativity, it is possible to create meaningful and inspiring short films for society: Dhruvin Jain

making a short film is presenting a good idea in a simple yet impactful manner. Short film making is not just about technical knowledge—it also requires strong storytelling, good acting, thoughtful visual composition and clarity of message. Today, young people have numerous opportunities in the field of short film making. He emphasized that only by consistently adopting a creative approach can the youth achieve success in the film industry. Encouraging the young participants, he said: overcome fear, believe in your creativity, and create meaningful and inspiring short films that contribute positively to society.

Co-Chairperson of the Chamber's Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee, CA. Avani Desai introduced Dhruvin Jain. Co-Chairperson Ms. Vanita Rawat expressed gratitude to all attendees.

Committee member Ms. Shraddha Shah conducted the workshop. Vice Chairperson of the Chambers Ladies Wing, Smt. Alpa Madrasvi artists and youth participants were present at the workshop.

Under the Sanskriti festival, a Traditional and Contemporary Garba Competition was held on the evening of 12th September at 5:30 p.m. at the Platinum Hall. A total of ten groups participated, of which six performed traditional garba and four performed contemporary garba. Women aged between 20 and 65 years took part in each group. In the Traditional Garba category, the S.P.B. High School group from Amroli secured the first position, while the Umiya Dham - Sakhi Saheli group stood second. Similarly, in the Contemporary Garba category, the Nrutyanjali group won first place, followed by the Adya Shakti group in second position.



As part of Sanskriti, a Traditional and Contemporary Garba Competition was also organized

'Sanskriti' Mega Art Festival Features In-Depth Panel Discussion on the Arts



During Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival organized by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry a panel discussion on 'Arts' was held on 13th September 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. Panelists Saurabh Desai, Ms. Vaishali Gohil, Ms. Twisha Shukla and Dr. Jasmin Kaur shared their views on various aspects of art and held an in-depth discussion on how art should play a significant role in society from a creative perspective.

President of the Chamber of Commerce Nikhil Madrasi, stated that 'Sanskriti - The Mega Art Festival' brought together entrepreneurs, artists, students, and art enthusiasts, offering them an opportunity to present new ideas in the fields of art, culture, and handicrafts. Through the panel discussion, new directions and inspiration

emerged within the arts sector, giving young people opportunities to progress in creative fields. 'Sanskriti' has become a positive platform for young talent and individuals with creative thinking to express themselves.

Saurabh Desai stated that Arts are not merely a form of creative expression, but also a powerful medium to convey messages to society, through which various social issues can be effectively presented.

Ms. Vaishali Gohil stated that platforms like this are essential for inspiring artistic talent among the youth, as they allow them to showcase their abilities and advance their innovative ideas.

Ms. Twisha Shukla stated that Arts are an integral part of human culture, contributing to both personal and social development. Through fashion



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Saurabh Desai



Ms. Vaishali Gohil



Ms. Twisha Shukla

painting, handicrafts, music, and other creative activities, individuals can clearly express their personality and convey meaningful messages.

Dr Jasmin Kaur stated that 'Arts' are not just for entertainment but also serve as a unique medium to create awareness and initiate discussions on various social issues. The integration of education and art is essential for the holistic development of society.

Ms. Vanita Rawat, Co-Chairperson of the Chamber's Art, Culture & Handicraft Committee,



Dr. Jasmin Kaur

served as the moderator for the panel discussion. Committee member Ms. Mansi Virani conducted the programme while another committee member Vaibhav Sutarlya proposed the vote of thanks and concluded the session. Chairperson of the committee Smt. Swati Shethwala, Co-Chairperson Smt. Krutika Shah, committee members Ms. Nimisha Parekh and Smt. Roshni Tailor, along with several young participants were present during the panel discussion.

Successful Health Conclave 2025 Draws Massive Crowd



In India, 60% of deaths occur due to non-communicable diseases, and with 11 crore people currently living with diabetes in the country, the Chamber organized the Health Conclave to promote preventive healthcare," said Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi

If you skip 40 minutes of walking after 40, your life will stop walking too, said Dr. Anil Nayak, National President-Elect of the Indian Medical Association



Mr. Nikhil Madras
President of SGCCI



Dr. Anil Nayak
National President of IMA



Mrs. Sangita Patil
MLA

Due to obesity, the body becomes a home for various diseases; therefore, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate sleep, and good mental health is essential," said MLA Smt. Sangeetaben Patil

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized 'Health Conclave 2025' on Sunday 14th September 2025 at 10:00 am at the Platinum Hall SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat. Dr. Anil Nayak, National President-Elect of the Indian Medical Association graced the event as the Chief Guest. MLA Smt. Sangeetaben Patil, Dr. Mehul Shah, Gujarat State President of the Indian Medical Association, Dr. Kichoraih Chawda, Vice-Chancellor of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University and Professor Dr. K.C. Poriya, Vice-Chancellor of Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University attended as Guests of Honour.

During the Health Conclave, an MoU was signed between the Chamber of Commerce and the Indian Medical Association. As per the agreement, joint efforts will be made to bring an AIIMS-level hospital to Surat to improve the health of industrial workers, and to collectively adopt 5,000 TB patients for their care and support.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madras, stated that in India, 60% of deaths occur due to non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and respiratory illnesses. With 11 crore people in India

currently living with diabetes, the Health Conclave was organized with the objective of promoting preventive healthcare.

Indian Medical Association's National President-Elect, Dr. Anil Nayak, said that while money can always be earned, health is the most important asset. After the age of 40, if you don't walk for 40 minutes a day, nothing in your life will walk the way it should. Food intake should also be in proper measure.

The human body is made up of 70% water; therefore, one must drink plenty of water. A good 8 hours of sleep is essential. People tend to eat the most on fasting days, but the true meaning of fasting is not abstaining from food – it is coming closer to God. He added that if we take proper care of our health, we will rarely need a doctor. One must stay stress-free, because whatever we already have is our real profit. Maintaining a positive attitude and good behaviour is equally important.

MLA Smt. Sangeetaben Patil stated that if individuals are not healthy, society becomes weak – and a nation with a weak society can never progress. Doctors play a vital role in keeping the community healthy. She emphasized the need to spread awareness about good



Dr. Mehul Shah
Gujarat State
President of IMA



Dr. Kishor Sinh Chavda
Vice Chancellor of
VNSGU



Dr. K.C. Poriya
Vice Chancellor of Hemchandracharya
North Gujarat University

Today, physical and mental stress are increasing, and along with that, both obesity and malnutrition are also on the rise. In such a situation, the support of industry becomes essential for building a healthier society," said Dr. Mehul Shah, Gujarat State President of the Indian Medical Association

health among people, especially motivating those living in rural areas. She added that obesity turns the body into a home for various diseases; therefore, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, balanced diet, regular exercise, adequate sleep, and mental well-being is essential. She also shared information about the 'Fit India Movement' launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Furthermore, she suggested organizing Health Conclave-type programmes in villages as well.

Dr. Mehul Shah, Gujarat State President of the Indian Medical Association, stated that when food, education, and healthcare are available free of cost, society becomes stronger.

Currently, the average life expectancy is 72 years for women and 68 years for men. When the medical fraternity and industry work together, it leads to better social development. Today, both physical and mental stress are increasing, and alongside these, obesity and malnutrition are also rising. In such a situation, the support of industry becomes essential for building a healthy society.

Dr. Mehul Shah stated that industries, companies, and community groups must take responsibility for the health of their employees and their families – only then can the overall health of society improve.

Industries must take ownership of the well-being of industrial workers and their family members.

In this regard, the initiative taken by the Chamber to support the treatment of TB-affected industrial workers is truly commendable. If industries adopt such practices, we will be able to set a benchmark not only for Gujarat but for the entire nation.

Dr. Kishor Sinh Chavda, Vice-Chancellor of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, stated that most problems arise due to issues of the mind. Senior citizens require medical care the most.

Currently, medical expenses per household are relatively low, but in the future these costs will rise significantly. Therefore, if we continue to follow Indian cultural values, many such problems can be avoided. He added that everyone must make efforts to ensure a clean and healthy environment.

Prof. Dr. K.C. Poriya, Vice-Chancellor of Hemchandracharya North Gujarat University, stated that during the COVID period, the world truly understood what India is capable of. India not only protected its own citizens but also played a commendable role in saving lives in other countries. He added that as Gujarat is now emerging as a medical hub, it is equally important to give due importance to ethics in the medical field.

While outlining about the programme, Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, stated that a panel discussion on Doctor-Patient Relationship was organized to improve trust

and strengthen the bond between doctors and patients. The discussion covered issues faced by patients, their perspectives and expectations, as well as the challenges encountered by doctors in their practice, providing a comprehensive understanding from both sides.

Dr Anish Chandarana, Interventional Cardiologist at Marango CIMS Hospital, Ahmedabad, provided detailed insights on preventive health.

Dr Haneal Bhachech – Member of the Gujarat State Mental Health Authority, Western India author, psychiatrist, and relationship expert – shared insights on the Art of Healing.

To improve the health of industrial workers, Dr Bhavesh Modi, Chairman of the National Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, provided detailed insights on industrial health and offered guidance to industries.

Dr Pragnesh Vachharajani of the Federation

of Family Physicians' Associations of India provided detailed insights on healthcare technology.

Immediate Past President of the Chamber, Vijay Mevawala expressed his gratitude to all attendees during the inaugural session. The Conclave was attended by SGCCI Vice President Ashok Jariwala, Hon. Secretary Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Group Chairman Rakesh Gandhi, Senior Consultant Physician & Chief of Medical Services at AMNS Dr Mukur Patelwala, Psychiatrist Dr Mukul Chokshi, Pulmonologist Thoracic (Chest) Surgeon & Tuberculosis and Chest Disease Specialist Dr Sameer Gami, Dr Dhiren Patel, Dr Mukesh Jagiwala, Dr Sonia Chandani, Dr Vikaasben Desai, Dr S.K. Mohanty, along with various entrepreneurs, professionals, and medical practitioners. At the end, Vice Chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee Dr Jagdish Vagharia, delivered the concluding remarks and formally closed the programme.

Industrial visit to Astral Pipes and Vadilal Ice Cream in Ahmedabad, observed the live proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in Gandhinagar, and also visited GIFT City



During the visit to India INX at GIFT City, the Chamber gained insights into global trading mechanisms and the ways in which businesses connect with international financial markets.



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organizes industrial visits to familiarize entrepreneurs and Chamber members with modern manufacturing processes and management practices. As part of this initiative, a delegation from the Chamber recently visited the industrial facilities of Astral Pipes in Ahmedabad and Vadilal Ice Cream in Gandhinagar.

During the visit to Astral Pipes in Ahmedabad, the Chamber's delegation received detailed information about the pipe manufacturing process, quality control methods, new technologies, and production standards required for the global market. The delegation also studied the management of the industry, machinery operations, and automation-driven systems used within the facility.

Thereafter, the Chamber's delegation visited the Vadilal Ice Cream factory in Gandhinagar, where they learned about the ice-cream production process, hygiene standards, food safety protocols, and the strategies adopted to remain competitive in the market. The delegation also received detailed insights into key aspects of the industry, such as research and development and quality control.

The Chamber's delegation also visited the Legislative Assembly in Gandhinagar, where the entrepreneurs observed the live proceedings. They gained an understanding of the state's political system

by witnessing real-time discussions and decision-making on various policy-related and developmental matters.

This visit proved highly beneficial for the entrepreneurs, as it helped them better understand government schemes and policies.

During the Chamber's industrial visit, the inspection of the world-class GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) in Gandhinagar was one of the major highlights. The delegation learned about GIFT City's modern infrastructure, facilities, and its objective of connecting India with the global economic ecosystem. GIFT City is known as a Global Financial and Technology Hub, where industries receive single-window clearances and approvals under one roof. The Chamber's representatives also gained detailed insights into the functioning of such a city and the wide range of business opportunities it creates.

During their visit to GIFT City, the Chamber's representatives also visited India INX, the Indian Stock Exchange located within the campus. The delegation learned in detail about India INX's modern operational systems, global trading mechanisms, and the ways in which it connects with international financial markets. India INX is recognized in Gujarat as one of the world's fastest and most advanced financial services.



exchanges, contributing significantly to the business and financial sector.

President of the Chamber of Commerce, Nikhil Madrasi, stated that the visit to the industrial facilities of reputed companies like Astral Pipes and Vadilal Ice Cream provided valuable insights and inspiration to Chamber members for improving their businesses. The visit to the Legislative Assembly gave entrepreneurs and traders greater clarity regarding government policies and offered useful information to help them

advance their business operations.

He further stated that the visit to GIFT City provided the Chamber's representatives with a clear understanding of the developments taking place in Gujarat's industrial and financial sectors. The visit to India INX also proved to be highly informative for the delegates. The Chamber will continue organizing such industrial visits in the future to help entrepreneurs gain new knowledge and to encourage the overall growth and progress of industry.



An awareness session on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an awareness session on 'Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace' on Tuesday, 9th September 2025 at 5:30 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. POSH-certified corporate trainer Ms. Ashu Manchanda provided detailed insights during the session.

In his welcome address, SGCCI Vice President Ashok Jirawala stated that when employees and organizations work together to create a positive environment at the workplace, it leads to overall professional growth. Through such awareness sessions, the Chamber aims to enhance responsibility and understanding among all individuals.

POSH-certified corporate trainer Ms. Ashu Manchanda stated that a well-structured policy and employee awareness are essential for preventing sexual harassment at the workplace.

Every employee must understand their responsibilities and use proper channels to report complaints.

and ensure they follow the safety measures provided by the organization. Creating a positive and secure work environment and conducting regular training sessions are crucial for the growth of both employees and the organization. She provided detailed information on sexual harassment at the workplace, its various forms, the relevant laws, and the responsibilities of companies and employees.

Immediate Past President Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Group Chairman Dr. Anil Sarawgi, and other members were present at the session.

Chairman of the Chamber's Skill Development Committee Chirag Desai outlined the programme and conducted the proceedings. Committee member Rehman Khan introduced the speaker.

The speaker satisfactorily answered various questions from the attendees, and the session concluded thereafter.



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI



Ms. Ashu Manchanda
POSH-Certified Corporate Trainer

The two-day 'Techno Talk Convention 2025' on the theme 'Adopting Next Generation, Next Practices'



Major General Shamsher Singh Ahlawat (Retd.), Advisor at NICDC Logistics Data Services; Ms. Megha Bansal, Vice President – Supply Chain & Logistics, ONDC, Government of India; Minesh Mohile, Chief Technology Architect – Metal & Precious Stocks; and Prasad Puranik, CEO of Comprinno Technologies, shared comprehensive insights on various topics with MSME entrepreneurs, business leaders, professionals, and students of Surat

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized the 'Techno Talk Convention 2025' on the theme 'Adopting Next Generation, Next Practices' on 19th and 20th September 2025 from 10:00 a.m onwards at the Platinum Hall SIECC Campus Sarsana Surat. Major General Shamsher Singh Ahlawat (Retd.), Advisor, NICDC Logistics Data Services, graced the event as the Chief Guest.

Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi stated that the global Artificial Intelligence market is expected to exceed USD 1 trillion by the year 2030.

India alone is estimated to contribute more than USD 500 billion to its GDP through Artificial Intelligence by 2035. India's digital economy is also

advancing rapidly and is projected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030. Initiatives such as ONDC and ULIP will greatly strengthen MSMEs and start-ups.

The cloud computing market in India is expected to reach USD 178 billion by 2027, providing even small businesses with opportunities to grow at a global level. By adopting Industry 4.0 technologies in the manufacturing sector, the productivity of Indian factories is projected to increase by up to 25% by 2030. In today's Industry 4.0 era, MSME entrepreneurs, start-ups, and traditional industries must move beyond 'best practices' and embrace 'next practices' to stay ahead.

The Chief Guest of the convention, Major



**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI**



Major General Shamsher Singh Ahlawat (Retd.)



**Ms. Megha Bansal
Vice President of Supply
Chain & Logistics,
ONDC - Government of India**

General Shamsher Singh Ahlawat (Retd.), Advisor at NICDC Logistics Data Services, shared insights on NICDC's ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform) and LDB (Logistics Data Bank). He stated that nearly 50 lakh containers are searched on the LDB portal every month. NICDC also provides extended services for domestic and coastal containers across 16 terminals, enabling the tracking of 100% EXIM containers in India (covering 90% of the total container volume).

ULIP is a key initiative under PM Gati Shakti, launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 17th September 2022 as part of the National Logistics Policy (NLP). All modes of logistics—waterways, air, rail, and road—are integrated under ULIP, covering containerised cargo, break-bulk cargo, and more. He also guided the entrepreneurs and business community of South Gujarat on Public Infrastructure for Logistics.

Additionally, he provided an in-depth

explanation of the digitalization of the supply chain and logistics ecosystem.

Ms. Megha Bansal, Vice President - Supply Chain & Logistics, ONDC, Government of India, shared insights on digital commerce ecosystems. She stated that the number of sellers on e-commerce platforms in India is extremely low. Across the country, only about 5-6% of total purchases happen through digital commerce, while less than 2% of MSME entrepreneurs sell their products online.

ONDC is an open network that shifts e-commerce from a platform-centric model to a network-based model. Until now, buying and selling primarily took place only through large platforms like Amazon and Flipkart. However, ONDC enables any seller, buyer, and service provider to connect within a single interoperable network.

Minesh Mohile, Chief Technology Architect at Metal & Precious Stocks, explained the journey from



**Mr. Minesh Mohile
Chief Technology Architect
Metal & Precious Stocks**



**Mr. Prasad Puranik
CEO of Comprinno Technologies**

supply chain to responsive chain and highlighted the importance of rapid agility in industries. Prasad Puranik, CEO of Comprinno Technologies, shared insights on the importance of cloud infrastructure for micro, small, and large industries, along with new pathways in digitalization.

Immediate Past President Vijay Mevawala expressed his gratitude to all attendees.

Group Chairman Basheer Mansuri delivered the concluding remarks. Advisor of the Chamber's IT & Communications Committee Hareesh Kalkattawala outlined the programme, while Committee Chairman Punit Gajera conducted the proceedings.

On Saturday, 20th September, from 10:00 a.m. onwards, Sanjeev Sharma, Director - Tech Sales & Partner CTO at Microsoft, will address the audience.

on AI-driven business transformation for next-generation technology. Ms. Renuka Kulkarni from ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India will explain the importance of adopting next-generation technologies through industrial automation in manufacturing units.

Chandrasekhar Velgapudi, Chief Delivery Officer at Trazix, will brief entrepreneurs on proactive governance measures essential for the success of technology projects. Sanjay KV, Director at SAP India, will share insights on next-level growth in finance and logistics through enterprise solutions.

Meanwhile, Sanjay Chavan, Vice President - Technology at Mahindra & Mahindra, will explain how large corporations implement digital transformation.

The two-day 'Techno Talk Convention 2025' on the theme 'Adopting Next Generation, Next Practices', concluded successfully with great enthusiasm



IT and AI industry leaders provided valuable guidance, emphasizing that AI will reduce workload — not jobs



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Sanjeev Sharma
Director - Tech Sales &
Partner CTO Microsoft



Ms. Renuka Kulkarni
ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel
India

Microsoft's Director – Tech Sales & Partner CTO, Sanjeev Sharma; Ms. Renuka Kulkarni of ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India; Chandrashekhar Velgapudi, Chief Delivery Officer at Trazix; Sanjay K.V., Director at SAP India; and Sanjay Chavan, Vice President – Technology at Mahindra & Mahindra, shared comprehensive insights on various topics with MSME entrepreneurs, business professionals, and students of Surat.

The two-day Techno Talk Convention 2025, organized by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry concluded today. Held on 19th and 20th September 2025 at the Platinum Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat, the convention featured the theme 'Adopting Next Generation, Next Practices'. Veteran experts from the technology sector shared in-depth insights on various subjects with MSME entrepreneurs, business professionals, and students of

Surat followed by interactive Q&A sessions.

On the second day of the convention, Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi, in his welcome address, stated that this is a new initiative by SGCCI. Only those individuals, institutions, and brands that evolve with time are able to sustain themselves. Change is the only constant law of nature, and embracing change is the true foundation of success.

Addressing the session on 'AI-Driven Business'



**Mr. Chandreshkhar
Velgapudi**
Chief Delivery Officer - Trazix



Mr. Sanjay K.V.
Director - SAP India



Mr. Sanjay Chavan
Vice President - Technology
Mahindra & Mahindra

Transformation for Next-Generation Technology, Sanjeev Sharma Director - Tech Sales & Partner CTO at Microsoft stated that this is not just India's decade - it is India's century. India is the most exciting market for technology, and in the next 5-6 years, the country will add as much growth as its current size. He noted that even when supercomputers were introduced, people feared job losses. In his view, AI will reduce workload - not jobs.

Speaking on the topic 'Next-Generation Technology Adoption for Manufacturing Units', Ms. Renuka Kulkarni from ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India stated that next-generation technology is everywhere today. Industry 4.0 is not optional - it is essential. She provided an in-depth explanation of the use of technology in large-scale manufacturing and the importance of transformational leadership. She also explained how her company streamlined and simplified processes at the Hazira plant through the effective adoption of modern technologies.

Speaking on the topic 'Proactive Governance Measures to Make Technology Projects Successful', Chandrasekhar Velgapudi, Chief Delivery Officer at Trazix, stated that nearly 90% of start-ups fail, and 42% of them fail solely due to lack of market demand. He discussed how such project failures can be

prevented and highlighted the importance of proactive governance and strategic planning to ensure the success of technology initiatives.

Speaking on the topic 'Adoption of Enterprise Solutions for the Next Level of Growth - In the Areas of Finance and Logistics', Sanjay KV, Director at SAP India, stated that India is giving significant priority to logistics. He emphasized that AI will not replace humans but will coexist with them.

He discussed the digitalization of the supply chain and explained the recently launched SAP Sovereign Cloud for India, where all data will reside exclusively within the country.

Speaking on the topic of 'Digital Transformation', Sanjay Chavan, Vice President - Technology at Mahindra & Mahindra shared insights on the in-house technological innovations developed at M&M, including 'GENIE'. He also discussed cloud transformation and highlighted how large enterprises are leveraging cloud technologies to drive efficiency and scalability.

On this occasion, SGCCI Vice President Ashokbhai Jirawala, Hon. Secretary Bijal Jirawala, and Advisor to the Chambers IT & Communications Committee, Haresh Kalkattawala were present.

Group Chairman Bashir Mansuri delivered the vote of thanks.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Chamber of Commerce, Sarvajanik Education Society-Surat, and Sarvajanik University-Surat for collaboration in areas such as student internships, industrial training, placement support, and skill development

This MoU has been signed as part of an effort to bridge the gap between industry and academia and to equip students with professional capabilities, stated Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sarvajanik Education Society-Surat and Sarvajanik University-Surat, covering key areas such as student internships, industrial training

placement support, skill development, and enhanced collaboration between industry and academic institutions. The MoU was jointly signed by Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi and Bharatbhai Shah, Chairman of Sarvajanik Education Society-Surat and



President of Sarvajanik University-Surat SGCCI Vice President Ashok Jirawala and Past President Ketan Desai were also present on the occasion.

Chamber President Nikhil Madrasa stated that the primary objective of the MoU is to provide students with internship opportunities at the Chamber and various trade and industry-related organizations enabling them to gain practical knowledge of the industrial sector. Through these internships, students will gain hands-on experience in day-to-day industrial operations, management practices, marketing, accounting, production processes, and business-related regulations.

This programme will make students more job-ready while strengthening their professional profiles. The MoU has been signed as part of an effort to bridge the gap between industry and academia and to equip students with greater professional competence.

Bharatbhai Shah stated that Sarvajanik University will share students' placement profiles and skill sets with the Chamber, making it easier for deserving candidates to access suitable opportunities.

To enhance employability, joint workshops,

"Through internships, students will gain practical exposure to industrial operations, management practices, marketing, accounting, production processes, and business-related regulations," said Bharatbhai Shah, Chairman of Sarvajanik Education Society-Surat

certification programmes, mock interviews, and soft skills training sessions will be organized. The Chamber will collaborate with HR heads, recruiters, and domain experts to conduct seminars, where these experts will guide students on career planning, entrepreneurship, and emerging industry trends.

As per the MoU, the Chamber will collaborate with its member-industrialists and business organizations to facilitate internships and industrial training programmes for students of Sarvajanik University, enabling them to gain practical professional experience. Under the placement support initiative, the Chamber will share information on job openings in the industry, organize recruitment drives, career fairs, and industry-student interaction seminars, thereby creating employment opportunities for students.

In addition, job fairs, innovation showcases, industrial visits, career conclaves, and similar programmes will be jointly organized by both institutions. This MoU will help prepare students for modern entrepreneurship, equip them with essential competencies for career development, and further strengthen the industry-academia relationship.

A session on the importance of language in marketing



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a session on 'The Importance of Language in Marketing' on Wednesday, 16th September 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Samruddhi Nanpura, Surat. Corporate Trainer and Language Consultant Dr. Dharmendra Sheth provided detailed insights to the entrepreneurs and professionals of Surat.

In his welcome address, SGCCI Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi stated that when we use the right words, the right language style, and the right expressions, it not only conveys information but also touches emotions. As a result, a stronger brand image is created, trust is built, and new avenues for business growth open up.

Corporate Trainer and Language Consultant Dr.

Dharmendra Sheth stated that in today's era, language is not merely a medium of communication – it plays a crucial role in marketing by building brand image, fostering customer relationships, and presenting a product effectively to drive sales. Just as the quality of a product or service is important, so is the expression of the message associated with it. Using the right language becomes essential for conveying a message to customers in a simple and impactful manner. The choice of language directly influences the customer's perception, and selecting the right words is critical for making any marketing campaign successful.

He explained with examples that the language, tone, and choice of words vary depending on different



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of SGCCI



Dr. Dharmendra Sheth
Corporate Trainer & Language Consultant

products and markets. Using the local language helps build trust among customers, while the appropriate use of English or other relevant international languages strengthens a company's identity in the global market. He also elaborated on the significant role of language in social media advertising and content marketing in today's digital era.

Entrepreneurs, marketing professionals, and

students present at the session asked various questions to the speaker and benefited from his insights and guidance.

Bhautik Sheth, Chairman of the Chamber's Digital Marketing Committee, outlined the programme and introduced the speaker. Co-Chairman Manthan Madrasi conducted the entire session, expressed gratitude to all attendees, and concluded the programme.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Surat Embroidery Association have signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the 'SITME-2026' exhibition



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Surat Embroidery Association will jointly organize 'SITME-2026' on 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th January 2026 at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sarsana, Surat. In this regard, the office bearers of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Surat Embroidery Association signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) on Thursday, 11th September 2025, at Sanhati, Sarsana.

The MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed by SGCCI President Nikhil Madrasi and Surat Embroidery Association President Manohar Tekchandani. On this occasion, SGCCI Vice President Ashok Jirawala, Hon. Secretary

Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and from the Surat Embroidery Association, Secretary Dilip Lathiya, Sanjay Jha, and Virat Gilltwala were present.

SGCCI President Nikhil Madrasi stated that Surat's textile industry has traditionally held a strong identity at the global level. In this context, 'SITME-2026' will serve as an important platform to promote Surat's textile machinery, embroidery machinery, and related industries at both national and international levels. The exhibition will help industries connect directly with new technologies, innovations, and business opportunities. Leading textile machinery manufacturers, technology providers, and traders from India and abroad

will participate in this exhibition, offering Surat's entrepreneurs direct access to new opportunities.

President of the Surat Embroidery Association, Manohar Tekchandani, stated that the embroidery industry is an integral part of Surat's economy. Through SITME-2026, we will be able to give this sector a new direction. This exhibition will provide a golden opportunity to strengthen connections between international buyers, technology suppliers, and local industries.

During the MoU signing ceremony, office bearers of both organizations expressed confidence that this exhibition will further strengthen Surat's

position on the global textile industry map and will prepare industries of all scales—small, medium, and large—to compete at an international level.

To further advance Surat's embroidery industry in the field of technology and elevate it to global standards, the Chamber has been consistently making efforts. As part of this initiative, SGCCI President Nikhil Madrasai and Vice President Ashok Jirawala will join the delegation of the Surat Embroidery Association to visit CISMA 2025 (China International Sewing Equipment Exhibition), scheduled to be held on 24th, 25th, and 26th September 2025 in Shanghai, China.

A guidance session on the reforms made in GST 2.0



The amendments introduced in GST 2.0 will directly benefit consumers through price reduction, significantly ease the burden on the healthcare and insurance sectors, and relieve small traders from excessive paperwork. However, clarity is still awaited regarding the textile and footwear sectors, as well as on cess ITC, said Chartered Accountant experts.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a guidance session on the amendments introduced in GST 2.0 on Wednesday, 17th September 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at Sanhati Sarsana, Surat. CA Niteeh Jain, Managing Partner at N.J. Jain & Associates, CA Rishmin Vaja, Partner at Kandhar Mehta & Shah, and CA Punit Prajapati, Founder of Punit Prajapati & Co., provided detailed insights on the benefits that the GST 2.0 amendments will bring to consumers, businesses, and industries.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasai stated that GST 2.0 has established itself as a historic reform in the Indian economy. The new reforms under GST 2.0 will now lead industries towards greater transparency, simplicity, and efficiency. These reforms are crucial—enabling large industries to remain competitive in the global market and helping small enterprises strengthen their competitiveness. He further added that to ensure that entrepreneurs in Surat gain a proper understanding of the new tax framework and



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI

can implement it smoothly, the Chamber will continue to organise such guidance sessions in the coming days.

CA Nitesh Jain, CA Rashmin Waja, and CA Punit Prajapati discussed the practical implementation of the new GST rules and the benefits expected for industries. The chartered accountant experts stated that the Government of India has announced several major GST reforms that will come into effect from 22 September and 1 October 2025. These changes will have a direct impact on common consumers, small traders, and industries.

Under GST 2.0, the tax structure has now been simplified to just two core rates:

- 5% GST on essential commodities
- 18% GST on most goods and services
- 40% GST on luxury items

With GST 2.0, essential goods will now become cheaper. In the agriculture and handicraft sectors, tractors and fertilizer chemicals have been placed under the 5% GST slab, offering significant relief to farmers and artisans.

Clarifying the concerns of traders, the chartered accountant experts stated that traders are not required to change the printed MRP on old stock, but relabelling will be mandatory. If tax rates are reduced, the benefit must be passed on directly to consumers. It is compulsory for businesses to ensure that the reduction in GST rates reflects in the final consumer price. If companies retain the benefit instead of passing it on to customers, strict action will be taken. They further explained that compensation cess has been removed from several products. However, clarity is still awaited regarding the input tax credit on cess already paid for old stock.

Under the new system, post-sale discounts will no



CA Punit Prajapati



CA Nitesh Jain



CA Rashmin Waja

longer attract double taxation. The benefit of discounts received by the customer will directly reach them, and traders will not face any additional burden. The reforms introduced under GST 2.0 will provide consumers with immediate price reduction benefits, while significantly reducing the burden on the healthcare and insurance sectors. Small traders will also get relief from excessive paperwork. However, clarity is still awaited regarding the textile and footwear sectors, as well as on the issue of cess ITC.

The chartered accountant experts further stated that uncertainty still persists in the textile and footwear sectors. Although GST rates have been reduced on most goods, the higher tax rate on job work remains unchanged, which continues to create an inverted duty structure. Under ISD, no ITC refund is available on input services such as job work, logistics, and packaging, and government clarification on refunds in such cases is still awaited. Traders with an annual turnover of up to ₹2 crore will no longer be required to file returns. Newly registered businesses will now receive GST registration approval within just three days. Additionally, appeals in all cases will now be heard by a single-member bench.

The Chamber's Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitesh Modi, along with industrialists, business professionals, CA practitioners, and students, were present at the session.

The Chamber's Group Chairman, CA Hardik Shah, outlined the structure of the session. The Chamber's GST Committee Chairman, Mr. Mukund Chauhan, conducted the entire session. Chamber member CA Shailesh Lakhaniya proposed the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to all attendees.

A delegation of 20 industrialists visited textile units in Tirupur, Karur and Erode in South India



During the meeting with the office-bearers of the Tirupur Exporters' Association, discussions were held on policy-related representations to the Central Government, increasing the export of MMF textile products from Surat, the availability of textile raw materials, the impact of U.S. tariffs, and strategies to address these challenges

A 20-member delegation of industrialists from The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited textile units in Tiruppur, Karur, and Erode in South India to gain insights into the industry and its business ecosystem. During the visit, the delegation toured two CFC centres—SIMCO (Tiruppur) and AIC NIFTEA—as well as two major industrial units: Technosportwear Pvt Ltd. in Erode and ASIAN FABRIX Pvt Ltd. in Karur. Meetings were also held with the Tiruppur Exporters' Association and the Karur Textile Manufacturers Exporters Association, where both sides agreed to sign an MoU to foster mutual cooperation for the development of their respective industries.

On 16 September 2025, the Chamber's delegation met with office-bearers of the Tiruppur Exporters' Association, where discussions on mutual cooperation were held. Key topics included policy-related representations to the Central Government exploring how the Tiruppur Exporters' Association could support the export of MMF textile products from Surat, the availability of textile raw materials, the impact of U.S. tariffs, and strategies to address these challenges.

In addition, the discussion also focused on boosting exports to countries other than the United States. During the meeting, both the Tiruppur Exporters' Association and The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry expressed their

willingness to collaborate for the growth of their respective industries.

The Tiruppur Exporters' Association assured that they would guide MMF manufacturers in Surat on how to export their products, share export inquiries with Chamber members, and also extend support in facilitating exports on their behalf.

The delegation also visited the CFC established by the South India Imported Machines Knitters Association in Tiruppur. This CFC center supports micro and small enterprises in Tiruppur with product development, research & development, and sample creation. The delegation further visited the exhibition organized by the India Knit Fair Association, where Surat-based industrialists interacted with Tiruppur exporters and exchanged business inquiries.

AIC NIFTEA provides research, product development, design development, and skill-development training in the garment sector and supplies nearly 700 skilled graduates and post-graduates to the industry every year. One of the institute's students founded the company Technosportswear Pvt. Ltd., whose plant was also visited by the Chamber's delegation. This company has earned a strong reputation in India's sportswear

sector and has invested Rs. 150 crore under the Central Government's PLI scheme. In just two years, the company has achieved an annual turnover of Rs. 450 crore. The plant handles the complete production process – from weaving to finished garments – and is equipped with an ultra-modern Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) facility.

In Karur, the delegation visited ASIAN FABRIX Pvt. Ltd., India's second-largest textile company in the home-textile segment, which is also a primary vendor for IKEA, the world's largest home-furnishing brand. The company operates with ultra-modern technology and manages the entire production cycle – from yarn manufacturing to the creation of fully finished home-textile products.

The representatives of both companies handed over samples of MMF fabrics that are currently being imported from China and informed the Surat industrialists that if these MMF fabrics are manufactured in Surat, they would procure the fabrics directly from Surat-based producers. They also assured that any inquiries they receive would be shared with Surat's entrepreneurs. The company officials expressed a strong willingness to fully support Surat's textile industry in achieving new heights and expanding its capabilities.

The Chamber submitted a written representation to the Union Finance Minister of India and the Chairman of the CBDT, requesting an extension of the deadline for filing Tax Audit Reports for the financial year 2024–25, as well as for the renewal of registrations of Public Trusts and Societies

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry has submitted a written representation to the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, and the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ravi Agrawal (IRS), requesting an extension of the due dates for filing Tax Audit Reports for the financial year 2024–25, as well as for the renewal of registrations of Public Trusts and Societies.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasvi stated that although the deadline for non-audit filers has been extended, taxpayers and businesses falling under

tax audit are still facing recurring challenges such as technical glitches on the portal, delayed release of the final ITR utility, multiple changes in formats, and a significantly compressed calendar of only eight working days. If these issues remain unresolved, there is a high possibility of errors in submissions, which would then require subsequent corrections. This will increase administrative burden and adversely affect the quality of compliance. Considering these difficulties, the Chamber has requested that the due date for filing Tax Audit Reports and related returns be extended to 31st December, 2025.

An interactive session on 'National Pension System (NPS) for Corporates' by SGCCI, PFRDA and FICCI



The National Pension System (NPS) is not just a pension scheme; it is a strong pillar of disciplined savings and long-term financial security," said Mr. Sumit Kumar, Chief General Manager, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce

and Industry (FICCI), organized an interactive session on the National Pension System (NPS) on Friday, 19 September 2025 at 3:00 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat.

As of 14 September 2025, the total corpus under



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Sumit Kumar
Chief General Manager (PFRDA)



Ms. Khushbu Shukla
Asst. General Manager (PFRDA)

the National Pension System (NPS) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has reached Rs 15.77 lakh crore, with more than 8.92 crore subscribers enrolled across the country. Under the National Pension System, Gujarat has emerged as a leading state in India in terms of participation from the private sector, with over 3,66,585 subscribers and more than 1,500 corporates registered. Surat—Gujarat's economic hub, known for its MSME and corporate sectors—has also witnessed a growing awareness and increasing participation in the National Pension System.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, in his welcome address, stated that the objective of this program was to guide corporates on the structure of the National Pension System (NPS), its tax benefits, and its role in ensuring long-term financial security.

Mr. Sumit Kumar, Chief General Manager of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), stated that the National Pension System (NPS) is not merely a pension scheme, but

a strong pillar of disciplined savings and long-term financial security.

Ms. Khushbu Shukla, Assistant General Manager at the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), provided detailed insights into the retirement benefit scheme under the National Pension System (NPS). Meanwhile, Chartered Accountant Mr. Pragnesh Jagasheth explained in detail the benefits of the National Pension System and its tax advantages.

FICCI-Gujarat State Council Head Mr. Biju Namboothiri emphasized the importance of increasing awareness and stated that the National Pension System is emerging as a reliable tool for retirement planning.

Chamber Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, various industrial entrepreneurs, and corporate representatives were present at the session. The program was conducted by Mr. Sohel Savani, Chairman of the Chamber's Labour Law Committee.



CA Pragnesh Jagasheth



Mr. Biju Namboothiri
Gujarat State Council Head - FICCI

Despite having quality products, Indian exporters often struggle to convert global buyers due to a lack of proper communication," said Mr. Amit Mulani



Mr. Amit Mulani - Exporter, International Trade Expert & Corporate Trainer

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry recently organized an interactive session at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat on opportunities in export-import, where experienced exporter, international trade expert and corporate trainer Mr. Amit Mulani shared in-depth insights with exporters.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the industries of Surat and South Gujarat are now poised to make a strong mark globally. The export-import sector offers immense opportunities but without proper guidance and effective communication strategies, these opportunities cannot be fully utilized. The purpose behind organizing such interactive sessions is to equip entrepreneurs and exporters with the knowledge and skills required to successfully enter international markets. This initiative will make industries more competitive and help position Surat as a global trade hub.

Experienced exporter, international trade expert and corporate trainer Mr. Amit Mulani stated that in today's global era, the demand for Indian products has not diminished. From textiles to jewellery and natural stones, the quality of Indian products is appreciated worldwide. Yet, many exporters still struggle to convert inquiries into actual deals. Despite having quality products, Indian

exporters often face difficulties in converting global buyers due to a lack of proper communication.

He explained that platforms like LinkedIn, international trade fairs, and B2B portals make it easy to find buyers, but weak pitching, poor follow-up, and a lack of understanding of buyer psychology cause most exporters to lose out on closing deals. Many exporters assume that finding a buyer means the job is done, whereas, in reality, that is only the beginning.

Mr. Amit Mulani said that global buyers look for trust. If your pitch is unclear, your communication lacks structure, or you disappear after the first message, you lose the deal even before it begins. The toughest part is not finding a buyer – it is building trust and consistently presenting your value. Even small-scale exporters can build long-term international relationships if they adopt a professional approach and maintain discipline in their follow-ups.

He further said that while product quality opens the first door for exports, it is communication, consistency, and an understanding of the buyer that keeps that door open. India's true export potential will be unlocked only when businesses combine the strength of their products with the right global mindset.

A session on "Good Habits for Good Health - Future-proof Your Health"



By adopting good habits such as proper nutrition, adequate sleep, regular exercise, and effective stress management, one can truly future-proof their health: Senior Nutritionist Jinal Shah

Under the Health Series, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an awareness session on 'Good Habits for Good Health - Future-proof Your Health' on Sunday, 21st September 2025 at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. Senior Nutritionist Jinal Shah (Mumbai) provided in-depth guidance on adopting essential healthy habits for long-term well-being.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil

Madras stated that the Chamber is consistently committed to the overall development of trade, industry and society. The various sessions organized under the Health Series are an important initiative in this direction. A healthy business community, healthy citizens and a healthy workforce are essential for driving the growth of the city and its industries.

Senior Nutritionist Ms. Jinal Shah said that in today's fast-paced lifestyle, people often neglect



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi - President of SGCCI

their health, which can lead to serious problems in the future. By adopting good habits such as a balanced diet, adequate sleep, regular exercise and stress management, one can future-proof their health. She added that among the youth, the growing dependence on fast food, irregular routines, and lack of proper sleep are major concerns. Only when these habits change can the true meaning of 'Good Habits for Good Health' be realized.

She further added that adopting good habits is essential for a healthy life, as these habits strengthen our health in the long run. If we start focusing on good habits from today, we can prevent major health



Ms. Jinal Shah - Senior Nutritionist

issues in the future.

Hon. Secretary of the Chamber Bijal Jariwala, Chairman of the SGCCI Education & Skill Development Centre Mahesh Pannani, and citizens of the city were present at the session. Dr. Vijay Raddadiya, Group Chairman of the Chamber, introduced the speaker. Dr. Manshali, Chairperson of the Chamber's AYUSH Committee, conducted the session and delivered the vote of thanks. Dr. Sonia Chandani, Co-Chairperson of the Committee, outlined the program. The speaker addressed various questions related to nutrition and healthy lifestyle posed by the attendees, following which the session concluded.

Written representation by the Chamber of Commerce to the Industries Commissioner of Gujarat, requesting allocation of funds for clearing the pending claims sanctioned under the "Gujarat Scheme for Assistance to Specific Sectors of the Textile Value Chain - 2019"

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry submitted a written representation yesterday to the Industries Commissioner requesting allocation of funds for disbursing the pending amounts of claims approved under the "Gujarat Scheme for Assistance to Specific Sectors of the Textile Value Chain - 2019".

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that in the representation submitted to Gujarat's Industries Commissioner Mr. Swaroop P. (IAS), the Chamber has pointed out that every year, before Diwali, the Industries Department clears the backlog

of subsidy files under various Industrial policies. However, under the "Gujarat Scheme for Assistance to Specific Sectors of the Textile Value Chain - 2019", no funds have been allocated so far for claims approved after February 2024.

In the representation submitted to the Industries Commissioner of Gujarat, it has been stated that the pending amount of approved claims under the above scheme is approximately 0500 crore. Therefore, the Chamber has requested that funds be allocated at the earliest to the concerned industrial units so that this large backlog can be cleared before Diwali.

Traffic Awareness Program at G.D. Goenka School



Detailed guidance on traffic regulations and road safety norms was provided to school students and school van drivers

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI) organized a Traffic Awareness Program on Friday, 19 September 2025 at 10:00 AM at G.D. Goenka School. During the session, students and school van drivers were informed about traffic regulations and essential road safety practices.

Ms. Kaminiben Dumaswala, Chairperson of the Chamber's Traffic Education & Awareness Committee, addressed the students, emphasizing that driving on the road is a matter of great responsibility. She explained the importance of

wearing a helmet, understanding traffic signals, and avoiding underage driving. She also highlighted the dangers of wrong-side driving and using mobile phones while riding, citing how such violations often lead to serious accidents. She guided the students on safe road habits to prevent mishaps.

District Traffic Education & Welfare Society President and Road Safety Trainer Mr. Brijesh Verma, Committee Member Ms. Archana Desai, the school principal, teachers, and students were present during the seminar.

Concern for workers health, SGCCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and other organizations conducted an awareness session



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Government of India), the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the National Institute of Occupational Health, and Aajeevika Bureau, organized an awareness session on 'Impact of Air Pollution, Noise Pollution, and Heat Stress on Workers Health' on Tuesday 23 September 2025 at 6:30 PM at Sanhati Sarsana, Surat.

During the welcome address, SGCCI's Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala said that the Chamber consistently organizes awareness programs that deliver meaningful guidance. He noted that this session is especially important as it will help industries adopt the right direction and become more sensitive towards workers' health and well-being.

Mr. Sanjay Kotadia, Technical Officer, ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health, explained

in detail the effects of noise pollution and excessive heat on the human body. He stated that not only loud industrial machines but also the use of earphones and headphones can adversely impact hearing. In Surat's embroidery and weaving sectors, machines generate high noise levels, affecting nearly 30% of workers. He elaborated on temporary and permanent hearing loss caused by noise pollution and emphasized that while temporary damage can often be prevented with precautions, permanent hearing loss is irreversible.

He added that if workers need to shout even from a distance of just three feet, it indicates a high-noise work environment. In such cases, the use of hearing protection devices becomes essential. He also pointed out that noise pollution affects us outside the workplace as well – for instance, passing near loud DJ speakers can increase heart rate. Prolonged use of headphones can cause ear infections, which may even affect the brain since ears are directly connected.



Mr. Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary of SGCCI



Mr. Sanjay Kotadia
Technical Officer - ICMR-NIOH



Mr. Mohammad Idrish Shaikh
Technical Assistant - ICMR-NIOH

to it. He explained how their institute measures noise levels using advanced tools like personal noise dosimeters.

Mr. Mohammad Idrish Shaikh, Technical Assistant at ICMR-NIOH explained the harmful effects of air pollution, the pollutants responsible, their health impacts and ways to reduce exposure.

Mr. Kunjal Shah, Chairman of the Chamber's Environment, Pollution Control & Waste Management Committee outlined the purpose of the program and stated that factors like coal usage and high-noise machinery in industries significantly impact workers' health – often without workers

realizing long-term consequences. Therefore, protecting workers' health is equally important.

Ms. Parul Vats, Program Officer, and Mr. Ajay Neerje, Information Officer from the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad, shared details about the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building & Livelihood Programme.

Mr. Sharad Jhagade from Aajeevika Bureau proposed the vote of thanks. SGCCI Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi, industry representatives, businesspersons, and workers attended the session. The program was coordinated by SGCCI Deputy Secretary Mr. Poulik Desai.

A session on 'Australia-India Circular Synergies: Transforming Waste into Opportunities'



CA Mitish Modi, Hon. Treasurer of the SGCCI, addressing the entrepreneurs



Ms. Neha Modi

When a product is prepared for reuse through a recycling process, it is crucial that the quality of the product is preserved: Neha Modi

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized a session on "Australia-India Circular Synergies: Transforming Waste into Opportunities" on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 5:00 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. In this session, Ms. Neha Modi, Business Partner - Innovation & Circular Economy at Cleanaway, Australia, shared insights on waste management and sustainability with Surat's industrial entrepreneurs.

While delivering the welcome address, SGCCI's Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi said:

We all know that waste increases with development, but the real question is - Is waste only a burden? Or can it become an opportunity for us? Today, the 'Circular Economy' has shown that waste is not a problem but a resource. If utilized correctly, it can help protect the environment, open new avenues for industries, and most importantly, build a sustainable future. Recycling industries, waste-to-energy units, plastic pelletizing plants, and textile recycling projects create employment and new business opportunities, strengthening the local economy."

Neha Modi said: "Australia is the world's

largest consumer of textiles per capita. Surprisingly, only 8% of its textile imports come from India. Like Australia, India too needs to focus more on textile recycling. When a product is recycled and prepared for reuse, it is essential that the quality of the product is retained. Governments should consider introducing incentive-based policies mandating at least 30% recycled material in packaging."

She further added: "In India, people still do not segregate dry and wet waste. This makes the recycling process more difficult. Even children need to be educated about this from an early age so that waste segregation becomes a habit. With proper recycling systems, landfill gas, food waste, and industrial waste can be transformed into new energy sources. Biogas, hydrogen, and renewable diesel are emerging as strong alternatives to traditional fuels."

Mr. Devkishan Manghani, Chairman of SGCCI Global Connect Committee, conducted the entire session.

Ms. Neha Modi also responded satisfactorily to all questions raised by the participants. The session concluded thereafter.

An Investor Awareness Meet on Green Bond Issuance organized jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and Surat Municipal Corporation



Surat Municipal Corporation Delivers Presentation on Green Bond Issuance: Detailed Insights on International green Certification, Investment Structure, Benefits & Impact

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), organized an Investor Awareness Meet on Tuesday, 23 September 2025 at 4:00 PM at Seminar Hall-A, Sarsana, Surat. The SMC team presented comprehensive information on the Green Bond issue, including topics such as international green certification, investment structure, benefits, and environmental impact.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madarasi stated that the future development of Surat must be planned with environmental sustainability at its core. Financial instruments like Green Bonds will accelerate eco-friendly projects and help build Surat into a smart and sustainable city. He emphasized that if the industry and investors actively participate in this initiative, Surat can become a unique model at the global level.

The Surat Municipal Corporation explained that Green Bonds are a modern and credible financial tool that helps fund environment-friendly projects. SMC is planning several sustainable development initiatives in the coming years, for which Green Bonds will play a key role. As Surat continues to grow rapidly, maintaining environmental balance is crucial, and Green Bonds can serve as an effective solution. For investors too, this represents a secure

and beneficial opportunity.

SMC briefed industry leaders and investors that the Government of India, Government of Gujarat, and Surat Municipal Corporation are collectively working towards strengthening green infrastructure. With rising concerns regarding global warming, deteriorating air quality, and climate issues, there is an urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and move toward net-zero carbon goals. Efforts are underway to reduce pollution and carbon emissions in the city by increasing the use of renewable energy. Public awareness is also being enhanced in this direction.

Surat Municipal Corporation is the first municipal corporation in Gujarat to issue a Green Bond through its first IPO. With public participation, this Green Bond will fund major projects such as solar and wind power plants, e-vehicle depots, and water treatment plants. The corporation is also actively promoting electric mobility in the city.

The meeting was attended by SGCCI's Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi, business leaders, investors, and chamber members who received detailed guidance on the structure, benefits, and investment opportunities under the Green Bond program. SGCCI Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera proposed a vote of thanks after which the meeting concluded.

A 'Civil Defence - A Necessity' awareness session



After arrows, cannons and missiles, this is now the era of drones. With the changing nature of modern warfare, industries too must recognise the importance of civil defence. The more aware our citizens are, the stronger our nation will stand against war or any disaster - Kanjibhai Bhalala

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an awareness session on 'Civil Defence - A Necessity' on Friday, 19 September 2025 at 5:00 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The keynote address was delivered by Kanji Bhai Bhalala, former Chief Warden of Surat Civil Defence and President of Saurashtra Patel Seva Samaj. He explained in detail the difference between self-defence and civil defence.

In his welcome address, the Chamber's Group Chairman, Paresh Lathiya, highlighted the growing need for civil protection in light of the recent geopolitical and war-like situations. He stated that civil defence originated during World War II in 1941, proved its importance during the 1962 and 1965 wars, and was formally enacted through legislation in 1968. The Civil Defence unit in Surat was established in 1997, and in 2009, its scope was expanded to include natural and man-made disasters.

Kanji Bhai Bhalala emphasised that industries must recognise the importance of civil defence, especially in modern times when warfare technologies have dramatically shifted. He said,

"Today, after arrows, cannons and missiles, we have entered the age of drones. Well-informed and alert citizens form the first and strongest line

of defence during wars and disasters. Citing the 2001 earthquake, he explained how misinformation had caused many deaths. Civil defence, he said, aims to protect lives and minimise losses through awareness, preparedness and correct guidance.

He also shared detailed information on how citizens and industries can participate in civil defence activities. Surat is classified among the 40 most critical locations in India for civil defence due to the presence of Kakrapar Atomic Plant, Ukai Dam, and major industrial zones in Hazira. He appreciated the Chamber for hosting a programme on such a vital subject. Since Operation Sindoor, Civil Defence has once again come into focus. The role of Civil Defence is to save lives, minimise damage to property, restore essential supplies at the earliest, and maintain public morale during disasters.

The Chamber's NGO Committee Chairman, Mohammed Naved Shaikh, urged all attendees to undergo civil defence training and announced that civil defence units will soon be established in every college.

The Chamber member Ghanshyam Nasit delivered the vote of thanks, marking the conclusion of the programme.

'China International Sewing Machinery and Accessories Show (CISMA) 2025', held at Shanghai, China



Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi and Vice President Ashok Jirawala held meetings with representatives of various international companies, where they discussed technology transfer in the field of textile machinery and accessories, along with possibilities for future collaboration

Mr Nikhil Madrasi, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala recently visited the international exhibition 'China International Sewing Machinery and Accessories Show (CISMA) 2025' held at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre in Shanghai, China.

During the international exhibition, the representative of China's well-known Daho Company—which supplies machinery to Surat and South Gujarat—addressed the gathering. He stated that political relations between India and China are

improving, which is opening up new opportunities in trade and industry. He further added that India has emerged as a significant market for textile and garment machinery. In the coming years, commercial cooperation between India and China will grow, and advanced technologies will help Indian industries expand rapidly.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi said that for industrialists of Surat and South Gujarat, this is an excellent opportunity to understand advanced machinery and technology from China and other countries. Such international exhibitions

play a crucial role in making industries globally competitive. He emphasized that the textile sector of Surat urgently needs to adopt modern technology. These global exhibitions provide industry players access to new machinery, increased production efficiency and better connectivity with international markets.

During the international convention, the Chamber's Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala extended an invitation on behalf of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and the Surat Embroidery Association to participate in the

upcoming 'SITME Exhibition', scheduled to be held on 9, 10 and 11 January 2026 at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sarsana. Representatives from more than 15 countries have expressed interest in this.

The President and Vice President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry met representatives of various international companies during the event. The Chamber's office-bearers held detailed discussions on innovation, technology transfer and potential collaborations in the field of textile machinery and accessories.



Meeting at Chamber with Ministry of Textiles Under Secretary on PLI Scheme for Surat's Textile Entrepreneurs



Textile industrialists suggested that entrepreneurs investing up to ₹50 crore should also be included under the PLI Scheme, and that new HSN codes should be added to the scheme

The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in association with The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI) and MATEXIL, conducted a meeting with textile industrialists on 25 September 2025 at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. During the meeting Mr Bhaskar Kalara, Under Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, who had specially come from New Delhi, provided detailed information about the PLI Scheme and also gathered suggestions

from Surat's textile entrepreneurs.

Under Secretary Mr. Bhaskar Kalara from the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, provided detailed information to the textile industrialists about the benefits of the PLI Scheme. At present under this scheme, textile units making an investment between ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore, as well as those investing above ₹300 crore, are eligible for incentives. A total of 116 HSN codes are covered under the scheme. He informed



Mr. Bhaskar Kalara

Under Secretary - Ministry of Textiles Government of India

that the application window for availing the scheme benefits is open until 30th September 2025, and urged industrialists to apply at the earliest. He also invited suggestions and feedback from the industry regarding the scheme.

In this meeting, Chamber of Commerce Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jarjwala, METEXIL's immediate past Chairman Mr. Dhiraj Shah, FIASWI Chairman and former Chamber President Mr. Bharat Gandhi Pandesara CETP Chairman Mr. Ravindra Arya, the Chamber's former President and Chairman of the Chamber's Textile Task Force Mr. Ashish Gujarati, as

well as other textile industrialists were present.

Under the PLI scheme, only textile entrepreneurs investing between Rs 100 crore to Rs 300 crore and above Rs 300 crore are currently eligible for benefits. Therefore, the textile industry stakeholders suggested that the scheme should also extend benefits to entrepreneurs investing up to Rs 50 crore. In addition, they recommended that new HSN codes be incorporated into the scheme. Furthermore, the industry representatives urged the Ministry of Textiles' Under Secretary, Mr. Bhaskar Kalra, to include import-substitute textile products within the scope of the scheme.



A session on 'Innovation in Zero Liquid Discharge for Industrial Wastewater Management' by SGGCCI and MANTRA



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with The Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA) organized a session on 'Innovation in Zero Liquid Discharge for Industrial Wastewater Management' on 26 September 2025 at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat.

In this session, Mr. Neeraj Mithani, Director of Aeolus Sustainable Bioenergy Pvt. Ltd. provided detailed insights to the industrialists on the subject.

Former President of the Chamber Mr. Vijay Mevawala, in his welcome address, stated that liquid discharge is a burning issue today. While many industrialists are shifting from water-jet to air-jet machines, these solutions will still be highly beneficial for weavers and processors who continue to use water-jet machinery. Protecting the environment is our collective responsibility. Innovations in industrial wastewater management will help leave behind a cleaner environment for the next generation.

Mantra Director Dr. Anup Rakshit briefed the industrialists about the objectives of this programme.

In his keynote address, Mr. Neeraj Mithani, Director of Aeolus Sustainable Bioenergy Pvt. Ltd. highlighted how ReEM can play a crucial role in achieving environmental compliance and sustainability. He explained practical applications, technological advancements, electro-oxidation methods, and shared industry case studies. He stated that, just like the Emission Trading Scheme, Surat has become the first city in the country to implement the Effluent Trading

Scheme from this year. There are several economical and simple technologies through which industrial wastewater can be effectively treated. He further explained how these technologies are highly effective not only in the textile sector, but also in sugar, molasses, pharma, and power industries. He added that removing colour from wastewater is relatively easy with the right treatment approach.

Hon. Secretary of the Chamber, CA. Bijal Jariwala, along with industrialists and business professionals, attended the session. MANTRA's Deputy Director, Dr. Hitesh Jariwala, conducted the entire program and the Q&A session. MANTRA's Hon. Secretary, Mr. Pramod Gandhi, delivered the vote of thanks and concluded the event.



Mr. Neeraj Mithani
Director of Aeolus Sustainable Bioenergy Pvt. Ltd.

An exporter meet on 'Navigating Global Credit Risks with Confidence'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized an Exporters Meet - Navigating Global Credit Risks with Confidence' on Monday 29 September 2025 at 4:00 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat, where Mr Saurabh Jain, Branch Manager, ECGC Limited (Surat) provided entrepreneurs with detailed insights into global credit risks.

Chamber of Commerce President Nikhil Madrasi highlighted the various initiatives undertaken by the Chamber. He further stated that India is currently progressing at a remarkable pace. However, for India to achieve all-round development comparable to other leading nations of the world, MSME entrepreneurs must come forward and intensify their efforts.

Mr. Saurabh Jain stated that ECGC plays a crucial role in international trade, as it protects exporters from the risk of non-payment. It helps businesses obtain bank finance and promotes exports by ensuring that Indian enterprises remain secure and competitive in the global market. If a foreign buyer fails to make payment after purchasing goods,

ECGC provides insurance protection to the exporter. It safeguards exporters against both political risks (such as war or import restrictions) and commercial risks (such as the buyer's weak financial condition).

He further explained, "Micro, small, and medium enterprises usually face the highest risks in international trade. In such cases, ECGC's insurance schemes help MSMEs establish themselves in the global market and increase their export business." He provided detailed information on the Standard Policy, Specific Shipment Policy, Small Exporter Policy, Buyer's Credit Insurance Policy, and Export Credit Insurance to Bank Policy.

The Chamber of Commerce's Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi along with several industry entrepreneurs were present at the session. At the end, the speaker addressed all the queries raised by the participants satisfactorily.

Mr. Pares Bhatt, CEO of SGCCI Global Connect, conducted the program and delivered the vote of thanks, marking the conclusion of the session.

Session on 'Emotional Wellness: Strategies to Overcome Anger & Anxiety'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a session on 'Emotional Wellness: Strategies to Overcome Anger & Anxiety' on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 4:30 PM in Samruddhi Building Nanpura, Surat, where Clinical Hypnotherapist and Mind Trainer Ms. Shilpa Agarwal provided detailed information on ways to control anger and anxiety.

Chamber of Commerce Hon. Minister Bijal Jariwala, in his welcome address, stated that in today's fast-paced era, every person is running to

achieve success, fulfill family responsibilities, and advance in business or job. In this race, anger, anxiety, and stress enter a person's life like unwelcome guests. Sometimes anger arises over small things, sometimes the mind becomes restless due to future worries, and all these affect a person's relationships, work, and inner peace. In such a situation, a person needs to give proper direction to their anger and restless mind.

Ms. Shilpa Agarwal stated that emotions have a vast part in human life. Feelings like happiness,



Mr. Bijal Jariwala - Hon. Secretary of SGCCI



Ms. Shilpa Agarwal
Clinical Hypnotherapist & Mind Trainer

sorrow, love, anger, anxiety affect our daily behavior, relationships, and decisions, but when anger and anxiety are in excess, they can be harmful to mental and physical health. Emotional Wellness is the ability where a person can recognize their emotions, express them healthily, and maintain balance.

Anger is a natural emotion. It arises from injustice, insult, failure, or when desires are not fulfilled, but uncontrolled anger can cause stress in relationships, obstacles in work, and health problems. Anxiety arises from future uncertainty, pressure, or fear. Mild anxiety is natural, but constant anxiety leads to mental fatigue, reduced decision-making ability, and decreased self-confidence.

She further stated that Breathing Techniques

deep breathing habit provides immediate peace in both anger and anxiety. The 4-7-8 breathing technique (inhale for 4 seconds, hold for 7 seconds, exhale for 8 seconds) is very effective. Meditation & Yoga, Positive Thinking, Expressing Emotions, Physical Exercise, Time & Work Management, and professional help can skillfully control anger and anxiety.

Chamber of Commerce's Ayush Committee Chairperson Dr. Manish Patel introduced the speaker, while Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Nipesh Patel outlined the program. The entire program was conducted by Committee member Chirag Gajjar. In the end, satisfactory answers to all questions from the attendees were provided by the speaker. Committee member Dr. Jayshree Patel expressed thanks to all present and concluded the program.

Power Session on 'Nurturing Startups: Building Resilience and Scaling New Horizons'



Startups Should Focus on Effective Solutions for Make in India in Defense: Former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane

All Components for Developing Startup Ecosystem in Surat are Present: Ashish Bhatia



Mr. Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary of
SGCCI



Mr. Manoj Mukund Naravane
(Retd.)
Former Indian Army Chief General



Mr. Ashish Bhatia
Co-Founder of Finvolve VC

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a power session on 'Nurturing Startups: Building Resilience and Scaling New Horizons' on Saturday, September 27, 2025, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi, Sarasana, Surat where Former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane (Retired) and India Accelerator Founder and CEO, as well as Finvolve VC Co-Founder Ashish Bhatia, provided important guidance to Surat's entrepreneurs and startup businesspersons.

Chamber of Commerce Hon. Minister Bijal Jariwala in his welcome address stated that to achieve success, one must rise before the sun and run like a horse. Chamber Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, outlining the program, said that India's startup and unicorn ecosystem is developing rapidly yet 90% of startups fail. However, the future belongs to startups.

Former Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane (Retired) provided guidance to entrepreneurs and startup businesspersons on resilience, discipline, and strategic planning on 'The Cost of War: Strategic and Financial Lessons for India's Startup Ecosystem'. Explaining the cost of war, he said that war should be the last option, not the first. Speaking on self-reliance in defense, he said startups also have a major role

to play in defense. We still have to buy airplanes from abroad. Battles are now between drones and anti-drone systems. He advised startups to focus on effective alternatives and solutions.

Ashish Bhatia provided guidance to startups on 'How India Accelerator Can Turn Surat into Silicon Valley?'. Supporting the help startups are getting for rapid growth at the international level through guidance, networking and capital from investors, he shed light on how Surat's entrepreneurial ecosystem can be expanded. Comparing startups to making burgers, he said that 25% of the world's unicorns are in Silicon Valley. Surat ranks only 15th in the country's startup ecosystem but now 45% of startups are happening in Tier 2-3 cities. Surat is the world's fastest-growing city. All components for developing a startup ecosystem in Surat are present. Surat which polishes 90% of diamonds, is now ready to polish the world's startups.

Chamber member Samkit Shah and Chamber's Income Tax Committee Co-Chairman Advocate Anil Shah introduced the speakers. The entire session was conducted by program convener Dharmech Mehta. Both speakers resolved various confusions of young entrepreneurs in the Q&A session. Chamber Deputy Secretary Paulik Desai thanked all and concluded the session.

Investor Alert: Awareness Session Held for Surat's Green Municipal Bonds



Surat's Green Initiative Should Have Contribution from Even the Smallest Citizen, So We Have Brought These Green Municipal Bonds, Let Us All Participate and Take Surat Further Ahead: Surat Mayor Daxesh Mavani

As Surat Municipal Corporation is issuing Green Municipal Bonds from October 6, 2025. The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Investor Awareness Meet at Sarasana. These bonds will be listed on both stock exchanges, taxable, redeemable, secured, and non-convertible debentures, certified under the Climate Bonds Initiative.

Surat Municipal Corporation Commissioner Smt. Shalini Agarwal (IAS) provided information on the emphasis made by Surat SMC on sustainable and green energy along with development and the achieved targets, stating that the 12-13 awards received by Surat city belong to the people and are dedicated to them. The country's economy is continuously advancing and in the coming times, 55% of the country's GDP will come from cities. Cities and urban planning will play an important role in the country's economic system. In terms of urban planning, Surat has set an example for the country. In

water recycling and reuse, Surat city and the textile sector have also set an example generating Rs 140 crore in revenue for Surat Municipal Corporation. Surat is also leading the entire state in solar rooftops. Surat has become the first city in the country to run 100% electric buses on the BRTS corridor.

She said that both the central and state governments emphasize urban infrastructure. The Rs 200 crore green bonds are for people's participation in environmental projects. Despite more paperwork, we chose the IPO route with 15% retail investors. In this way, Surat is the first to go to people for municipal bonds. Its purpose is more to connect people with Surat SMC and its green initiative than funding. We are going to people with credibility. The 8% yield on the bond is also attractive, and our aim is to connect even small investors. She appealed to the people of Surat to subscribe to these bonds.

On this occasion, Surat Mayor Daxesh Mavani



The Purpose of Green Municipal Bonds is More to Connect People with Surat Municipal Corporation and Its Green Initiative Than Funding, Our Aim is to Connect Even Small Investors: Surat Municipal Commissioner Smt. Shalini Agarwal

said that Surat is shining. In Surat's green initiative, even the smallest citizen should contribute, so we have brought these green bonds; let us all participate and take Surat further ahead.

The filing of the offer document under the green bond to be issued by Surat Municipal Corporation through public issue was done with SEBI on September 18, 2025, and the bond subscription will be from October 6 to October 9, 2025.

Chamber members were informed about

green bond subscription and various state-level and national-level operations of Surat Municipal Corporation's green initiatives.

On this occasion, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Nikhil Madrasi, Vice President Ashok Jirawala, then former President Vijay Mewawala, Hon. Minister Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, former Presidents, Chamber members, entrepreneurs, and investors were present.



**Mrs. Shalini Agarwal (IAS)
Municipal Commissioner of SMC**



**Mr. Daxesh Mavani
Mayor of Surat City**



Mrs. Shalini Agarwal (IAS), Municipal Commissioner of SMC, addressing the entrepreneurs

Awareness Session on Regenerative Medicine



Stem Cells Can Bring Regenerative Power, In the Near Future Teeth Will Regrow, No Need for Implants, Child's Education Should Start from One and a Half Years of Age: Dr. Pradip Mahajan



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an awareness session on 'Cutting-Edge Science of Regenerative Medicine - Touching Chronic Disease and Anti-Aging' on Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, where Maharashtra Bhushan Award winner and pioneer in regenerative medicine, as well as founder of StemRx Bioscience Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Dr. Pradip Mahajan provided useful guidance.

Dr. Pradip Mahajan shed light on the progress in cutting-edge regenerative medicine in stubborn diseases and anti-aging stating that nature has given humans only healing power; we can bring regenerative power. Now, after 45 years of age, women can produce eggs. Our body has its own repairing kit.

Explaining this complex science in simple language, he said that from one cell, a body of 150 trillion cells is formed, 222 organs are formed. Master cell, i.e., stem cell, stores our genetic information. Aging is a wrong belief; it is not natural but a disease. When you go to any hospital or surgeon and don't find a solution, that's when my role starts. My words may seem like miracles to you, but they are facts. Today, this science has advanced so much that age can be reversed, embryos can be recreated from cells.

Technology is at hand where teeth can regrow, no need for implants.

He said that in organ transplants, there are higher chances of rejection (body not accepting). With stem cells, regrowing organs doesn't pose this problem. He explained how eyesight deteriorating due to diabetes can be regained. Citing science, he said that a child's education should start when they are one and a half to two years old because at that time neurons are most connected, and we don't have to teach them; that's why in earlier times, a child was sent to Gurukul at two years old.

He explained the science behind living a centenarian life without paracetamol and antibiotics. Science is advancing to the extent that we will live so long that we get bored. Immortality is impossible today; instead of a boon, he emphasized the need to increase healthy lifespan and explained age management.

Chamber Group Chairman Rakesh Gandhi gave the welcome address. Chamber's Industrial Worker Health Committee Chairman Dr. Jagdish Vaghasiya outlined the program. While Chamber's Public Health Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Sonia Chandani introduced the main speaker and thanked all present in the program.



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MORE DETAILS CONTACT

Mr. Kirtan Mehta (M) +91 72111 73123

Venue: SGCCI, Samruddhi Building, Nanpura, Surat.
(E) education@sgcci.in (W) www.sgcci.in

EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

**RAKHI SPECIAL
SHRAVAN
BUSINESS MELA**
4-5-6 July 2025

**Diwali
BUSINESS MELA**
10-11-12 October 2025

 **SITME '26**
SURAT INTERNATIONAL
TEXTILE & MACHINERY EXPO
09-10-11-12 JAN 2026
EMBROIDERY MACHINERY EXPO

 **WEE'26**
25-26-27 Jan. 2026

 **auto expo**
1st Edition
13-14-15-16 MARCH 2026
FUELING THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY

 **WEAVE KNITT EXHIBITION 2025**
4th EDITION
THE COMPLETE FABRIC SHOW
18 19 20 JULY 2025
B2B Platform for Weavers & Knitters

 **SITEX**
12th EDITION
SURAT INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE EXPO
22-23-24 NOV 2025
AN EXCLUSIVE TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO

 **Food & Beverages EXPO**
SGCCI
24 25 26 JANUARY 2026

 **DiMaS**
SGCCI
DIGITAL MARKETING
SUMMIT 27 28 29 FEB 2026

 **YARN EXPO**
An International Trade Show
1 2 3 AUG. 2025

 **EPE EXPO**
SGCCI
ENERGY • POWER • ELECTRICAL
Powering the Future – Today
20-21-22 December 2025

 **SGCCI GLOBAL VILLAGE**
GLOBAL EXCHANGE & TRADE EXHIBITION
24 25 26 JANUARY 2026

 **SITEX**
13th EDITION
SURAT INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE EXPO
21-22-23 FEB 2026
AN EXCLUSIVE TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO

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