

ચેમ્બર ઓફ કોમર્સનું મુખ્યપત્ર

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SGCCI

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

ACTIVITIES OF SGCCI



From the President's Desk

The important exhibition of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yam Expo 2025, was successfully held. The exhibition received an overwhelming response from industrialists and traders. Genuine buyers from across the country visited the exhibition, resulting in a large number of orders for the exhibitors.

With the aim of enhancing global trade and cultural cooperation, at the invitation of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President (Retd.) of Zimbabwe, along with his spouse and a high-level delegation, visited Surat for two days.

At the Chalo Zimbabwe program organised by the Chamber of Commerce, he engaged in direct dialogue with industrialists and traders, highlighting vast investment opportunities in sectors such as mining, textiles, agriculture, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. The high-level delegation from Zimbabwe encouraged industrialists and businesspersons from Surat and the broader South Gujarat region to explore business opportunities with Zimbabwe.

To the pharmaceutical industrialists of South Gujarat, Zimbabwe presented significant opportunities for investment in its pharmaceutical sector and modernisation initiatives. Additionally, in mining and mineral value addition, there are vast prospects across more than 60 minerals, including lithium, gold, platinum, and diamonds, as well as in lithium batteries, mineral processing, and diamond cutting-polishing. In the energy and renewables sector, substantial investment opportunities exist in solar, hydro, and biomass projects. The Vice President of Zimbabwe also invited industrialists



Nikhil Madrasi

from South Gujarat to invest in Zimbabwe's MICE infrastructure and cricket stadium projects.

The Chamber of Commerce held a meeting in New Delhi with delegations from international countries such as Indonesia and Ethiopia. Notably, the meeting with Indonesia's Minister Counsellor involved important discussions on bilateral trade between India and Indonesia, opportunities for export-import, and directions for industrial cooperation.

Under the Gujarat Government's Textile Policy-2024, a guideline on industrial incentives for industries has been released, which will further promote industrial development. During this period, an Income Tax Conclave was also held, where Shri Satish Sharma, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Gujarat, explained policies and regulations to industrialists.

SGCCI organised a seminar on "Trump Tariff War: Deal or No Deal," in which experts highlighted to Surat exporters the necessity of exploring alternative markets. Guidance was also provided on increasing trade with Europe, Japan, Korea, Latin America, and Africa. Through all these initiatives and activities, the Chamber of Commerce continues to strive to provide new directions to the industries of South Gujarat.

Jai Hind, Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat!

From the Vice President's Desk

The city of Surat and the textile industry – both are integral parts of my life's identity. For me this industry is not merely a source of livelihood; it is the purpose and passion of my existence. The dedication, skill and perseverance of Surat's weavers, manufacturers, and entrepreneurs have transformed this industry into a vital pillar of India's economy. It is my privilege and honor to have played an active role in this inspiring journey. For me, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been the finest platform to serve this noble cause.

From the very beginning of my journey as a textile fabric manufacturer, I have always believed that the progress of industry is the prosperity of society. With this conviction, I have consistently endeavored to ensure that my contribution extends beyond my own business – to provide new directions and opportunities for the entire textile fraternity.

I had the privilege of serving for many years as the President of the Federation of Gujarat Weavers Association (FOGWA), and today, that commitment continues through my role in The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI). During this period, I have made several representations at both the state and national levels for the welfare of the textile industry. From the looms of Gujarat to the corridors of the Government of India, wherever the industry's voice needed to be heard, I strived to represent it with clarity and courage.

Building and maintaining positive relationships with policymakers and the administrative system has always been my priority. My years of experience have taught me that meaningful policy reforms can only be achieved when the voice of industry is presented factually, thoughtfully, and with mutual respect. Today, as Vice President of SGCCI, I continue to channel this experience for the greater benefit of our Chamber. From Gandhinagar to New Delhi, our team remains consistently active in pursuing practical solutions to the concerns of the industry.

As a delegation of the Chamber, we frequently engage with government departments at both the state and central levels to advocate for progressive textile policies, export incentives, infrastructure improvements, duty structure rationalization, and MSME reforms. I take pride in the fact that through our collective determination, clarity of vision, and constructive dialogue, the Chamber has been able to achieve meaningful and tangible results



Ashok Jirawala

on several crucial issues.

I firmly believe that the progress of industry should never be measured merely within the confines of factory walls – it must be reflected in the holistic growth of the city, society, and nation. Guided by this philosophy, I remain committed to strengthening the Chamber as a dynamic, responsive, and forward-looking organization.

Recently, under the leadership of our President Shri Nikhilbhai Madrid and myself, an SGCCI delegation participated in the ITMA ASIA + CITME International Textile Machinery Exhibition held in Singapore. This visit provided us a valuable opportunity to explore cutting-edge technologies, robotic systems, innovative textile machinery, and emerging global trends. To share these insights with the industrial community of Surat, the Chamber is organizing special sessions so that our entrepreneurs can prepare to compete more effectively in the global marketplace.

My vision is crystal clear –

'To place Surat at the top of the global textile map' is our collective mission."

With this shared goal, my team and I continue to guide entrepreneurs on technology upgradation, global marketing strategies, export development, and the modernization of the MSME sector.

For me, the Chamber is not merely a position – it is a commitment of service and a pledge of purpose. I firmly believe that every entrepreneur's success is the Chamber's strength, and every young industrialist's inspiration is the future of Surat's textile legacy.

It is my heartfelt desire that in the years ahead, the phrase 'Made in Surat' will not remain just a label – but will stand as a symbol of quality, integrity, and trustworthiness, proudly recognized across the world.

From the Editor's Desk

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI) today stands as a symbol of renewed energy, progressive thought, and dynamic growth. Under the firm and visionary leadership of Mr. Nikhilbhai Madrasa, President of SGCCI, the Chamber's every activity and initiative reflects a unified vision, enthusiasm, and excellence.

Mr. Madrasa's vast industrial experience, organizational ability, wide network, and personal involvement in day-to-day operations are taking the Chamber to new heights. His inherent desire to achieve the best, his meticulous planning, and his strong sense of teamwork have infused fresh vitality into every wing of the Chamber. His close association with staff and members, and his guiding approach, have enhanced SGCCI's prestige and collective strength.

From addressing the key issues of industries and trade to leading international delegations and signing cooperation agreements, SGCCI under his leadership is expanding its reach and reputation on the global stage.

His constant focus on monitoring crucial industrial concerns, representing them effectively at the appropriate forums, and achieving beneficial outcomes for the business community is truly praiseworthy. Especially in the fields of Education and Skill Development, the Chamber's initiatives have become guiding lights for the new generation of entrepreneurs.

The textile sector has always been the hallmark of SGCCI, and today the Chamber's Textile Exhibitions have not only earned immense popularity but have also emerged as excellent revenue generators. Alongside, several MoUs (Memorandums of Understanding) signed at the national and international levels have further strengthened the Chamber's global network and recognition.

The recently launched "Weekly Industry Visit" program has proved to be a thoughtful and successful initiative. It offers entrepreneurs a unique opportunity to experience new technologies, management systems, and innovations firsthand – turning learning into a practical and engaging experience.

Simultaneously, SGCCI has also taken commendable steps in the field of health awareness. The Health and Medical Awareness Seminars, organized every Sunday, have been highly beneficial for members and their families. Topics such as stress management, heart care, diabetes, yoga, and nutrition



Amrish Bhatt

are addressed by expert doctors and specialists, receiving an enthusiastic response from the business community.

SGCCI's flagship initiative SBC - Surat Business Connect has evolved into an outstanding platform for business networking, knowledge exchange, and mutual cooperation among members. Building upon this success, the Chamber has recently launched the new branch STBC - Surat Textile Business Connect, which, within a short time since its inception, has gained steady momentum and direction. These new verticals aim to bring together entrepreneurs from the textile sector to encourage dialogue, collaboration, collective growth, and technology exchange – opening new avenues of opportunity.

The Women's Wing of SGCCI has also emerged as a vibrant force closely associated with the spirit of Samruddhi. Their various cultural and social programs have received overwhelming participation and appreciation. The recently organized Navratri Dandiya Mahotsav was a colourful celebration filled with music, joy, and enthusiasm – a true reflection of unity and festive spirit within the SGCCI family.

Thus, SGCCI today is not merely an organization representing the business and industrial community but a comprehensive institution harmoniously integrating Health, Education, Skill, Ethics, and Culture – becoming a true centre of holistic growth and development.

Under the determined, visionary, and dedicated leadership of Mr. Nikhilbhai Madrasa, the Chamber is poised to write many new chapters of industrial progress, innovation, and global collaboration – truly living up to the spirit and meaning of the word 'Samruddhi'.

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Nikhil Madrasi
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Ashok Jirawala
Vice President

Vijay Mevawala
Imm. Past President

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Articles and speeches in Samruddhi
reflect individual views, not the SGCCI's.

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Your valuable suggestions on this issue of Samruddhi are most welcome

SGCCI's Office Bearers



Nikhil Madrasi
President



Ashok Jirawala
Vice President



Vijay Mevawala
Imm. Past President



Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer

"Yarn Expo - 2025"



"With the objective of enabling the rapid growth of Surat's textile industry and providing entrepreneurs with insights into the latest technologies in yarn production, the Chamber presented the 7th edition of the Yarn Expo," said Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi.

As part of the series of exhibitions organized by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Southern Gujarat Chamber Trade & Industries Development Centre, the "Yarn Expo - 2025"—the second major exhibition of the year 2025—was held on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd August 2025, from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Surat International

Exhibition and Convention Centre in Sarsana. On the very first day of the Yarn Expo, international buyers from Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Bangladesh attended.

The Yarn Expo was inaugurated on Friday, 1st August 2025, at 10:00 AM. The inauguration ceremony was held at Seminar Hall-A, SIECC.





**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI**



**Mr. J. Raghunath
Senior VP of Reliance
Industries Ltd**



**Mr. Satyaki Ghosh
CEO of Fashion Yarn Business
at Grasim Industries Ltd**

Dome Sarsara, Surat and was graced by distinguished guests including Mr J Raghunath, Senior Vice President of Reliance Industries Limited; Mr Satyaki Ghosh, CEO of Fashion Yarn Business, Grasim Industries Limited; Dr S N Modani, Vice Chairman of Sangam India Limited; and Mr Durai Palanisami, Executive Director of Pallava Group.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr Nikhil Madrasi stated that the Yarn Expo was organised by the Chamber with the aim of accelerating the growth of Surat's textile industry and providing entrepreneurs with insights into the latest yarn production technologies. This year marked the 7th edition of the Yarn Expo. The exhibition featured participation from 80 exhibitors across India, including cities such as Surat, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Navsari, Mumbai, Erode, Coimbatore,

Hugli (West Bengal), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bengaluru, Silvassa, Panipat (Haryana), Kolkata, Namakkal (Tamil Nadu), Rajkot, Gir Somnath, Daman, Bharuch, Chennai, Raipur (Chhattisgarh), and Nagpur.

Mr J Raghunath, Senior Vice President of Reliance Industries Limited, stated that in 1981, the monthly consumption of polyester yarn was 150 tons, which has now increased to 100 lakh tons per month. Therefore, the Yarn Expo - 2025, organised by the Chamber of Commerce, will play a significant role in making India a global textile powerhouse. This expo provides a platform for yarn producers, corporates and entrepreneurs to share their ideas and expertise. Major buyers at the expo engage directly with exhibitors to identify and procure products that match their needs. The Yarn Expo is not just a textile exhibition but a blueprint for the



**Dr. S.N. Modani
Vice Chairman of
Sangam India Limited**



**Mr. Durai Palanisami
Executive Director
of Pallava Group**



**Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI**



future, emphasising collaboration and collective growth

Currently, the consumption of MMF (Man-Made Fibres) is increasing and domestic customer demand continues to grow. With fashion trends changing rapidly, MMF is the only solution to meet this demand. MMF has now reached a level of global competitiveness. Polyester is growing at a rate of 6-7% annually, while technical textiles are growing at 10-15% per year. The Yarn Expo attracts participation from corporates to MSMEs, providing a crucial platform for young entrepreneurs to step forward. Additionally, Mr. Raghunath highlighted insights on smart manufacturing, AI-based quality control, digital marketing, technical textiles, fashion technology, 3D garments, and skill training.

Mr. Satyaki Ghosh, CEO of the Fashion Yarn Business at Grasim Industries Limited, provided entrepreneurs with information about viscose filament yarn.

Dr. S.N. Modani, Vice Chairman of Sangam India Limited, stated that India has both textile manufacturing and consumption. He provided insights on technical textiles, industrial applications, and sustainable, eco-friendly products.

Mr. Durai Palarisami, Executive Director of the Pallava Group, also addressed the entrepreneurs

and shared insights on textile development.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala expressed gratitude to all attendees at the inauguration ceremony. Chamber Executive Honorary Secretary Mr. Bhavesh Tailor conducted the event and introduced the distinguished guests. Mr. Giridhar Gopal Mundra, Chairman of the Yarn Expo, provided details about the exhibition. The ceremony was also attended by former Chamber President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, All Exhibitions Chairman Mr. Kiran Thummar, past presidents, sponsors, exhibitors, buyers from other countries, entrepreneurs, and yarn traders.

The fashion show organised by Surat's renowned brand, Righan Fashions (Liberty), created a sensation.

Mr. Dinesh Dhankani and Ms. Karishma Dhankani, directors of Surat's renowned brand Righan Fashions (Liberty) Group, added a special flair to the Yarn Expo by organising fashion shows every two hours. These shows featured students associated with various fashion institutes and famous models from the fashion world. At one point, entries to the fashion show had to be temporarily closed due to overwhelming response.

SGCCI's "Yarn Expo - 2025" received an overwhelming response



In addition to buyers from Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Bangladesh, exhibitors were visited by traders, retailers, and garment manufacturers from across India, raising expectations for more than 20% business growth in the new season, said Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi.

The 'Yarn Expo - 2025' was held from 1st to 3rd August 2023, from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre in Sarsana, organised by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Southern Gujarat Chamber Trade & Industries Development Centre. Over the three days, the expo received an overwhelming response, with a total of 24,884 weavers, traders, retailers, and garment manufacturers visiting from more than 100 cities across India, as well as buyers from Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Bangladesh.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr Nikhil Madrasi stated that entrepreneurs from the country's weaving and knitting industries

gained detailed insights at the Yarn Expo organised by the Chamber into over 100 different varieties of yarn. These included tensile yarn, cotton, N-silk, lyocell, zinc linen, carbon fibre, moisture-management yarn, biodegradable yarn, hemp yarn, anti-microbial yarn, polyester texturised yarn, dope-dyed polyester yarn, recycled polyester yarn, cizo polyester yarn, malange yarn, cationic yarn, air texturised yarn, slub yarn, cotton-look polyester yarn, cotton-feel polyester yarn, fancy polyester yarn, inherent fire-retardant yarn, and inherent anti-bacterial yarn, among others.

In addition to weavers, many traders and retailers from the textile market also visited the Yarn Expo. Garment manufacturers from outside

Over the three days, weavers, traders, and garment manufacturers from more than 100 cities across the country attended the Yarn Expo, with a total of 24,884 buyers visiting the exhibition.

the city explored the various yarn stalls as well. These manufacturers will now request samples from yarn producers and use them to develop new types of fabrics. Through this yarn sampling process, Surat is likely to see the development of diverse new fabrics and creative designs in the near future. Notably, functional garments suitable for sports could also be developed from these yarns in Surat. Such innovative fabrics are expected to be valuable for exports in the future.

Over the three days, international buyers from Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Bangladesh visited the Yarn Expo. In addition, weavers and traders from more than 100 cities across India attended the exhibition. On the first day, 6,128 buyers and visitors attended, on the second day, 8,602; and on the final third day, 10,154 buyers and visitors visited the expo.

Buyers from outside the state placed bulk orders with the exhibitors. As a result, exhibitors

expect more than 20% business growth for the new season. Due to the overwhelming response from out-of-state buyers, many exhibitors have also expressed their willingness to make advance bookings for the Yarn Expo - 2026, organised by the Chamber next year.

It is noteworthy that at the Yarn Expo, 80 yarn manufacturers from across the country participated, showcasing a wide range of products. These included silver jari and gold zari, tensile yarn, cotton, N-silk, lyocell, zinc linen, carbon fibre, moisture-management yarn, biodegradable yarn, hemp yarn, anti-microbial yarn, as well as speciality yarns used to create special fabrics such as 100% polyester texturised yarn, dope-dyed polyester yarn, recycled polyester yarn, cizo polyester yarn, mélange yarn, catonic yarn, air texturised yarn, slub yarn, cotton-look polyester yarn, cotton-feel polyester yarn, fancy polyester yarn, inherent fire-retardant yarn, and inherent anti-bacterial yarn.

Dhanvantari Award – Manavtana Poojari Award ceremony, honouring 75 doctors from South Gujarat





Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that doctors are the true warriors of society, saving lives through their dedicated work. From the time of the COVID-19 pandemic through various medical

challenges, they have served selflessly, often risking their own lives. Through this ceremony, the Chamber not only honoured doctors but also paid a respectful tribute to those who have made exceptional contributions to humanity through their service and compassion in the medical field. For all the doctors honoured by the Chamber, the phrase 'Seva Parmo Dharma' truly applies.

Renowned medical professionals Dr. Vikasaben Desai, Dr. Nirmal Choraria, Dr. Vinod Shah and Dr. S.K. Mahant were honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Their selfless and continuous service in Surat for three to four decades was specially recognised. They have worked with a commitment to provide healthcare to all sections of society.



Renowned medical professionals Dr. Vikasaben Desai, Dr. Nirmal Choraria, Dr. Vinod Shah, and Dr. S.K. Mahant were honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Based on their dedication to social service and professional integrity, they have become a source of inspiration for everyone today.

The event was attended by Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immi Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Executive Hon. Secretary Mr. Bhavesh Tailor, Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Health Worker Committee Dr. Jagdish Vagharia, Group Chairmen Mr. Rakesh Gandhi and Mr. Shailesh Desai, Chairman of the Chamber's Awards and

Recognition Committee Mr. Manish Mali, as well as medical professionals and members

Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, outlined the program for the event. Dr. Jagdish Vagharia, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Health Worker Committee, expressed gratitude to all attendees and concluded the ceremony. The event was coordinated by Mr. Parul Sosa, Mrs. Sneha Jariwala, Dr. Rinkle Jariwala, Mrs. Manjari Desai, and Mr. Ankita Valand, who managed Dhanvantari Award - Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4, and Part 5, respectively.

Ladies Wing organised a painting competition on the theme Mission Sindoor



The Ladies Wing of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a painting competition on the theme Mission Sindoor on Sunday, 3rd August 2015, at 10:00 AM at Jeevan Vikas Trust in the Adajan area. A total of 60 participants, including children, students, and women, took part in the competition.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that this competition aimed to best express the message of gender equality, empowerment, and values. To foster creativity among children and women, the Chamber's Ladies Wing

will continue organising such initiatives regularly.

Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala, Chairperson of the Chamber's Ladies Wing, stated that through the Mission Sindoor theme, they are promoting women's empowerment in society. She expressed pride in seeing the children, students, and women create beautiful and thoughtful paintings reflecting their understanding of the theme. Such programs help develop both awareness and social perspective among children.

The competition was attended by the Chamber's Immi Past President, Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Hon.



Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi, Ladies Wing Advisor Mrs Romaben Patel committee members, students, and their parents

Mrs Alpaben Madrasi, Vice Chairperson of the Chamber's Ladies Wing, expressed gratitude to all attendees of the competition. Mrs Dakshaben Modi, a member of the Ladies Wing, introduced the jury members Mr Jay Gohil and Mr Rajiv Kapadi served as jury members for the competition. Certificates and prizes were awarded to the winners, while all

participants received certificates of participation.

In the under-8 category, winners Pravya Jain, Aarvi Mehta, and Mitansh Sothliya were awarded certificates and prizes. Nayra Zaveri and Priya received consolation prizes in this category. In the 8-16 years category, Nandani Prajapati, Anvesha Jain, and Kashish Badgijar were awarded certificates and prizes. In the 16-20 years category, Nidhi Sharma, Trisha Mehta, and Divya Singh received certificates and prizes.



Lok Sabha in New Delhi to gain a close understanding of the country's democratic system



The Chamber of Commerce delegation visited the Prime Ministers' Museum to learn about the lives and contributions of all the Prime Ministers of India.

A delegation of 65 members from the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, including President Mr. Nikhil Madras, Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Executive

Hon Secretary Mr. Bhavesh Tailor, Hon Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Tour Committee Mr. Arvind Babawala, Co-Chairmen Mr. Chetan Sheth and Mr. Amit Shah,





and Group Chairmen Mr. Giridhar Gopal Mundra, Mr. Rajendra Lalwala, Mr. Bharat Varawala, and Mr. Sanjiv Gandhi, visited the Parliament House in New Delhi for two days on 5th and 6th August 2025 to gain a close understanding of the country's democratic system.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasvi expressed his heartfelt gratitude to India's Union Minister of Water Resources, Mr. C.R. Patil, and Surat MPs Mr. Mukeshbhai Dalal and Mr. Govindbhai Dholakia for facilitating the visit to the Parliament House in New Delhi.

On the first day, the Chamber's delegation visited the Prime Ministers' Museum to gain detailed insights into the lives and contributions of all the Prime Ministers of India. During their visit to the old and new Parliament House, they observed the country's democratic system up close.

At the Parliament House, they met Union Minister Mr. Mansukhbhai Mandaviya, MP Mr. Mukeshbhai Dalal, and Gujarat MLA Mr. Arjunbhai Modhwadia, seeking their guidance.

On the second day, the Chamber's delegation observed the live proceedings of the Lok Sabha at the new Parliament House. During the session, they witnessed the work and discussions of key leaders, including Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Youth Affairs & Sports and Information & Broadcasting Minister Shri Anurag Thakur, Kangana Ranaut, Shri Arun Govil, Shri Akhilesh Yadav, Shri Purushottam Rupala, Shri Shashi Tharoor, Minister Shri Mansukhbhai Mandaviya, Shri Haribhai Patel, Smt. Supriya Sule, Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Speaker Shri Om Birla, Shri Dilip Saikia, Shri J.P. Nadda, Shri Jitendra Singh, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, and other members.

Meetings in New Delhi with the Minister-Counsellor of Indonesia and the Ambassador of Ethiopia



A delegation from the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry including President Mr Nikhil Madrasi, Vice President Mr Ashok Jirawala, Executive Hon. Secretary Mr Bhavesh Tailor, and Hon. Treasurer CA

Mitish Modi held two separate important meetings in New Delhi with Mr Dadang Hidayat Minister-Counsellor (Economic) of the Embassy of Indonesia, and H.E. Ambassador Molalign Asfaw, Deputy Head of Mission of





Ethiopia

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasil stated that the meeting with the Minister-Counselor (Economic) of Indonesia was highly informative and visionary. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on bilateral trade relations between India—including South Gujarat and Surat—and Indonesia, opportunities for exports and imports, and avenues for mutual collaboration between industries of the two countries.

Particularly in South Gujarat, including Surat, sectors such as textiles, diamonds, gems & jewellery, food processing, and small and medium enterprises are rapidly developing. During the meeting, both sides held important discussions on collaboration in these areas. From 15th to 19th October 2025, the 40th Trade Expo will be held in Indonesia, showcasing food and beverages, agriculture, manufacturing products, and lifestyle products at an international level. The Indonesian Minister-Counselor requested that entrepreneurs from Surat participate

under the Chamber's delegation. The Chamber President assured that a business delegation of 30-40 entrepreneurs from various sectors of Surat would be sent to the 40th Trade Expo in Indonesia.

Additionally, the Chamber's office bearers held a highly significant meeting with H.E. Ambassador Melalign Asfaw, Deputy Head of Mission of Ethiopia. The discussion focused on trade, investment opportunities, and mutual cooperation for industrial and business development with Ethiopia. The Chamber's representatives briefed the Ambassador about various industries in South Gujarat, particularly gems & jewellery, technical textiles, and industrial development. They also extended an invitation to visit Surat to meet the Chamber of Commerce and explore the region's diverse industrial sectors.

Through these two meetings, the Chamber of Commerce has taken steps to open new avenues for international collaboration, which will undoubtedly benefit entrepreneurs and traders from South Gujarat in the future.

"Titled 'Mother's Milk: The Best Nutrition for Infants,' the Chamber's Ladies Wing, in collaboration with other organisations, organised a World Breastfeeding Awareness Program."



The program featured an interactive street play throughout, which proved to be highly effective in creating awareness and helping people understand the importance of the message.

The Ladies Wing of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a World Breastfeeding Awareness Program on Thursday, 7th August 2025, at 3:00 PM in Samruddhi

Nar�ura, Surat under the theme "Mother's Milk: The Best Nutrition for Infants." The program featured General Surgeon Dr Ami Yagnik, Child Specialist Dr Ketan Bhardwaj, and Lactation



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI



Dr. Ami Yagnik, General Surgeon



Dr. Ketan Bharadwa, Child Specialist

Consultant Ms. Rachna Dalal, who provided detailed insights on the health, scientific and social aspects of breastfeeding.

On this occasion, Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that breastfeeding is not only an unbreakable bond between mother and child but also the foundation for lifelong good health. He emphasised that awareness about this should be promoted across all sections of society.

The Ladies Wing Chairperson, Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala, stated that breastfeeding is not only the mother's responsibility but also involves the support of her husband, mother-in-law, and other family members. She emphasised that the purpose of World Breastfeeding Week is to raise awareness in society so that every mother becomes more conscious of her role.

General Surgeon Dr. Amiben Yagnik stated that a mother's milk is the sole source of complete and natural nutrition for an infant during the first six months. It is crucial not only for the child's physical development but also for strengthening immunity. Breastfeeding provides the necessary proteins, vitamins, and minerals that help protect the baby from common illnesses.

Child specialist Dr. Ketan Bhardwaj stated that breastfeeding provides the first and best foundational nutrition for the holistic development of an infant. Mother's milk is easy to digest and its nutrients naturally adjust according to the baby's



Ms. Rachna Dalal, Lactation Consultant

needs—something only the human body can provide. Lactation consultant Ms. Rachna Dalal emphasised the need to dispel societal misconceptions and actively promote breastfeeding.

This program was particularly special because the entire dialogue was presented through a street play which proved to be very effective in educating the audience. All attendees felt that the insights shared could be highly useful in both their personal and social lives.

Imm Past President of the Chamber Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Past President Mr. Kamlesh Yagnik, members of the Ladies Wing Committee, the co-chairperson of the Women Entrepreneur Cell Mrs. Roshni Taylor, women entrepreneurs, and representatives from various organisations were present at the program. The Vice-Chairperson of the Chamber's Ladies Wing, Mrs. Alpaben Madrasi, expressed her gratitude to all attendees.

The Chamber's Ladies Wing received support from several organizations for organizing the World Breastfeeding Awareness Week, including Ramakrishna Samvedna Trust, Surat Pediatric Association, Indian Menopause Society, Club 35 Plus, Parenting for Peace, Navsaran - Xavier's Cell for Human Development, Akhil Hind Mahila Parishad, Service to Humanity is Service to God, Ashtagam Trivedi Mewada Brahmin Samaj Trust - Surat, Wellness Center for Women, Adani Foundation - Hazira, Together We Rise, Shramjivi Mahila Kalyan Trust - Surat, and Aajivika Bureau, among others.

Income Tax Conclave, where Shri Satish Sharma, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Gujarat, addressed industrialists, CA, Tax consultants, business professionals, and taxpayers



Shri Satish Sharma, Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Gujarat, stated that professionals, taxpayers, and the business community have played a significant role in the historic growth achieved in project tax collection by the Income Tax Department.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the All Gujarat Federation of Tax Consultants and the Gujarat State Tax Bar Association, jointly organised the Income Tax Conclave on Friday, 8th August 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. Shri Satish Sharma (IRS), Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Gujarat, graced the event as the Chief Guest and engaged in direct interaction with Surat's industrialists, chartered accountants, tax consultants, business professionals, and taxpayers.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Shri Nikhil Madrasi, stated that even today, India's tax structure often feels more like a maze than a plan. Over 90% of disputes arise from

issues of interpretation. He emphasised that if we want people to comply, we must first help them understand the system. He further added that with MSMEs in Surat and South Gujarat progressing and income tax filings increasing, the system should respond with support rather than a penalty when genuine mistakes occur. Mistakes made out of "ignorance deserve empathy, not punishment."

Shri Satish Sharma (IRS), Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Gujarat, stated that the Income Tax Department's project tax collection has witnessed unprecedented growth over the last 35 years. The collection has increased from ₹10,000 crore at that time to the current ₹25,000 lakh crore. He emphasised that this success is not only due



**Mr. Nikhil Madras
President of SGCCI**



**Shri Satish Sharma (IRS)
Principal Chief Commissioner
of Income Tax, Gujarat**



**Mr. Manish Shah
Advocate of the
Gujarat High Court**

to the department but also reflects the significant contribution of professionals, taxpayers, and the business community, and this growth is a marker of holistic societal development.

Presenting the data, he stated that 35 years ago, the number of income tax return filings was 40 lakhs, whereas now it has crossed 9 crores. The faceless assessment system implemented by the Income Tax Department has been well accepted by most stakeholders, and the use of technology has brought speed and transparency to the compliance process.

Additionally, providing statistical information, he stated that the transactions captured by the Income Tax Department include salary-related transactions of Rs. 42 lakh crore, savings bank interest of Rs. 140 lakh crore, fixed deposit interest of Rs. 850 lakh crore, and rent interest of Rs. 550 lakh crore. The department's important technological projects include Data

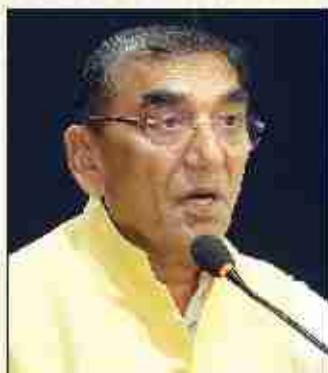
Warehouse and Business Intelligence, through which transactions worth approximately Rs. 600 lakh crore have been captured.

Mr. Satish Sharma (IRS) stated that, at one time, reporting of interest income in the salary class or capital gains in returns was very limited. However, due to the awareness efforts by professionals, the situation is improving today. Sending a clear message to professionals and taxpayers, he said that what is wrong is wrong. Whether it happens by mistake or for other reasons, the department has provided a mechanism for filing updated returns to correct it. Earlier, this was allowed for two years; now it has been extended to four years. Therefore, it is everyone's duty to comply responsibly.

In this conclave, as an expert speaker, Advocate Mr. Manish Shah from the Gujarat High Court provided insights on various important issues and challenges that arise in the daily functioning before tax authorities and the courts.



**Mr. Tapas Rupareliya
Member of ICAI & ICSI**



**Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI**



As an expert speaker Mr Tapas Rupareliya, a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) from Ahmedabad provided an in-depth understanding of how artificial intelligence and technology can be optimally utilised in taxation-related work, office operations, and other accounting processes.

Mr Ashutosh Thakkar, President of the All Gujarat Federation of Tax Consultants, and Mr Narendra Karkare, President of the Gujarat State Tax Bar Association delivered relevant addresses. Advocate Anil Timbadiya, President of the Tax Advocates Association of Gujarat, gave the concluding remarks.

Chamber Vice President Mr Ashok Jirawala thanked all attendees for their presence at the conclave. Hon Treasurer CA Mitish Modi presented the overall outline of the conclave. Hon Past President of the Chamber Mr Vijay Mevawala, Executive Hon Secretary Mr Bhavesh Tailor

Conclave Committee Chairman, Mr Atul Patel, industrialists from Surat, chartered accountants, tax consultants, business professionals, and taxpayers were also present.

The conclave was conducted by Chamber Group Chairman Dr Anil Sarawagi. CA Pragnesh Jagasheth, Chairman of the Chamber's Income Tax Committee, introduced the chief guest CA Akshay Modi. Co-Chairman of the Income Tax Committee, managed the Q&A session during the conclave. CA Ashwin Bhauwala and Advocate Kulin Pathak, President of the South Gujarat Income Tax Bar Association, introduced the speakers.

During the technical session of the conclave, Mr Ujjwal Vora, Cluster Head of IDFC First Bank, delivered a presentation for the industrialists of Surat.

The organization of the Income Tax Conclave was supported by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Surat, the Tax Advocates Association of Gujarat, and the Southern

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala provided guidance to entrepreneurs on MSME sector opportunities at the 'Resources, MSME and Agri Carnival' organized by UCO Bank.



On 11th August 2023, UCO Bank organized the 'Resources, MSME and Agri Carnival' at Dil Se Re Banquet, Imperial Mall, Adajan, Surat, where Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Vice President, Mr Ashok Jirawala, was present as the chief guest. During the event, Mr Jirawala provided guidance to entrepreneurs on the opportunities in the MSME sector.

Alongside Mr Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber, the event was attended by Mr Premshankar Jha, General Manager (MSME, All India) from UCO Bank's Kolkata Head Office, Mr Niraj Dakorkar, Zonal Head of UCO Bank Surat, and Mr KB Pipliya, Chairman of the Chamber's Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Committee.

In his address, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice

President of the Chamber, provided guidance on the current activities, future prospects, and development opportunities in the MSME sector. He emphasised that the MSME sector plays a crucial role in India's economic growth and employment generation. He urged industrialists to adopt advanced technologies and explore new global markets for their products. To achieve this, entrepreneurs and traders should leverage banking facilities effectively to make their businesses competitive both domestically and internationally.

Furthermore, he invited UCO Bank to jointly organise similar programs at the Chamber of Commerce for Surat's industrialists and traders. This collaboration aims to strengthen ties with the industrial sector and promote the holistic development of the MSME sector.

How Ayurvedic and Yoga therapies can bring transformative changes in life



On Tuesday, 12th August 2025, at 4:00 PM, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a session at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat on how Ayurvedic and Yoga therapies can bring transformative changes in life. During the session, Mr. Ghanshyam Lukhi, Managing Director of Tapi Fruit Processing Limited, shared his extensive knowledge and experiences related to Yoga.

Chamber of Commerce Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that in our busy professional lives, amidst targets, meetings, deadlines, and constant competition, we often pay very little



Mr. Ghanshyam Lukhi
MD of Tapi Fruit Processing Ltd

attention to our health. Just as capital and strategy are essential for business success, a healthy mind and a healthy body are equally important. Yoga helps in maintaining overall health and well-being.

Mr. Ghaneshyam Lukhi, Managing Director of Tapi Fruit Processing Limited stated that Ayurvedic practices and yoga therapy not only promote physical health but also enhance mental peace, boost immunity, and improve overall quality of life. Regular yoga practice combined with a balanced and sattvic diet can bring about long-term positive changes in life.

He explained that yoga detoxifies the body and, simultaneously, purifies the mind. Along with yoga, the diet should also be sattvic. The body remains balanced only when the mind is balanced, and yoga helps achieve that mental balance. He further mentioned that many people have benefited from practising pranayama. Most individuals remain stressed due to excessive thinking—not productive thoughts, but non-

productive ones—which keeps them in constant tension. Yoga gradually stabilizes these thoughts, reducing stress over time.

He said that both Ayurveda and Yoga are ancient Indian traditions, but unfortunately, it is ironic that these practices often gain recognition abroad before being fully embraced in India. It is only when Yoga becomes popular internationally that people in India begin to adopt it, which he considers a matter of regret.

Dr. Manisha Chairperson of the Chamber's AYUSH Committee, outlined the framework of the program. Dr. Nipesh Patel Co-Chairman of the AYUSH Committee introduced the speakers, while Co-Chairperson Dr. Parul Patel conducted the session. Committee member Mr. Chirag Gajjar extended thanks to all attendees present in the session. The speakers provided satisfactory responses to the queries of the industrialists and members present, following which the session concluded.

SGCCI Welcomes Reopening of PLI Scheme Window for Textiles

The President of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, said that following requests from textile industry stakeholders and the Chamber, the Ministry of Textiles has decided to invite fresh applications under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Accordingly, the portal has been reopened, and industrialists can submit their applications until 31st August.

The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles was announced in 2021 with a budget of ₹10,683 crore. The aim of this scheme is to make the textile industry more competitive and generate more employment by promoting the production of man-made fibres (MMF), apparel, and fabrics.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, former President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Executive Hon. Secretary Mr. Bhavesh Tailor,

and Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi stated that this announcement comes amid the 50% tariff imposed by the United States. MMF (Man-Made Fibres) includes viscose, polyester, and acrylic, which are manufactured from chemicals. On the other hand, technical textiles represent the fabric of the new era, which can be used in the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, airbags, bulletproof vests, and also find applications in aviation, defence, and infrastructural sectors.

So far, the central government has approved 80 applicants under the PLI scheme for textiles. In the current financial year, the government aims to allocate ₹500 crore as incentives under the PLI scheme. Over the next five years, this scheme is expected to attract new investments exceeding ₹19,000 crore and generate more than 7,50,000 jobs.

Under the Gujarat Textile Policy – 2024, the government has issued guidelines regarding industrial incentives for textile units in the state



These guidelines were announced by Gujarat's Industries Minister, Shri Balwantsinh Rajput.

Under the Gujarat Textile Policy-2024, the state government has classified various talukas into categories and issued guidelines regarding industrial incentives. On Thursday 14th August 2025, these guidelines were announced at the Valsad Collectorate by Shri Balwantsinh Rajput, Minister of Industries, Gujarat. The announcement was attended by Shri Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, along with Valsad MP and Lok Sabha Whip Shri Dhaval Patel, MLA Shri Bharat Patel, K. Swaroop (IAS), and Valsad Collector Shri Bhavya Verma (IAS).

Shri Nikhil Madrasai, President of the Chamber

of Commerce, stated that as per the government guidelines, a minimum of 10 women's groups will be recognised as Self Help Groups for self-employment. Under this scheme, each woman will receive a benefit of up to Rs 5,000 per month. The aim of the Gujarat government is to promote investment in the textile industry, strengthen women's empowerment, and create new employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the state.

Shri Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber, stated that as per the guidelines announced by the Gujarat government, textile units located in GIDC notified areas in urban regions will now be

For self-employment, women's groups will be recognised as 'Self-Help Groups (SHGs)'. The purpose of the government's guidelines is to promote women's empowerment and create new employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas of the state, said Chamber President Shri Nikhil Madrasi.



eligible to avail benefits under the government's incentive schemes. According to the guidelines, composite units covering activities from spinning to fabric production are now included. Following this industry-focused announcement by the government, the textile sector is expected to expand further and gain greater momentum.

It is noteworthy that the Chamber of Commerce had made representations to ensure that textile units

located in the GIDC notified areas in urban regions could avail benefits under government schemes. Consequently, with their inclusion in the guidelines announced by the government, Shri Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, along with other office bearers, expressed their gratitude to Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Industry Minister Shri Balwantsinh Rajput and State-level Industry Minister Shri Harshbhai Sanghvi.

Textile units located in GIDC notified areas in urban regions will now be eligible for government schemes. The textile industry, including activities from spinning to fabric production in composite units, will now receive broader incentives, said Chamber Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala.

A session on "Talking to Body & Mind"



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a session on "Talking to Body & Mind" on Tuesday, 12th August 2025, at 7:30 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat, where Ms. Sakshi Prem, Founder & CEO of Tathastu Vibes, provided detailed insights as the speaker.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madras stated that the Chamber always organises inspirational programs for the benefit of the industry and society. Such sessions provide members with the opportunity to think in new directions, learn new skills, and get motivated to

bring about positive changes in both their personal and professional lives.

Ms. Sakshi Prem explained that the human body and mind are inseparably connected. By understanding the state of the mind and sending appropriate signals to the body, one can improve physical health. Additionally, it can bring significant changes in mental peace and overall quality of life. Through body-mind communication, a person can also activate their internal sources of positive energy.



She stated that body-mind techniques help individuals reduce stress, boost self-confidence, and lead a healthier life. Additionally, she provided detailed insights into practical exercises and meditation techniques.

The Chamber's Vice President, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, delivered a relevant address. Mr. Chirag Desai, the Chamber's Group Chairman, outlined the program. Mr. Niket Shastry, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Skill Development Committee, introduced the speaker. The session was conducted by Committee member Mr. Ajitinh Sohle, and Committee member Mr. Rehman Khan expressed gratitude to all attendees and concluded the session.



Ms. Sakshi Prem
Founder & CEO of Tathastu Vibes

Celebration of 79th Independence Day of India with great enthusiasm



"India is set to become the world's third superpower, and for that, everyone must become an economic warrior and contribute boldly. It's time to cross new frontiers," said Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi.



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a flag-hoisting ceremony today at Sanhati Sarsana to mark the 79th Independence Day of India. The Chamber celebrated the occasion with great enthusiasm and fervour. Chamber President Mr Nikhil Madrasa extended warm Independence Day greetings to all attendees and paid respectful homage to the brave soldiers and martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasa stated that today's freedom allows India to trade across the world. He emphasised that India will give a strong response to the tariffs imposed by the U.S. President. The flag-hoisting ceremony was held with the patriotic spirit of awakening, reflecting the resolve that anyone looking at India with hostility will face the nation's strength. The celebrations included a morning parade and a bike rally. He further said that India aims to

become the third superpower in the world and for that, every citizen must contribute as an economic soldier. It is now time to cross new frontiers. He also expressed gratitude to the Gujarat government, noting that just a day before, the State's Industry Minister announced the textile policy guidelines, providing economic security to the textile sector.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Aashok Jariwala expressed gratitude to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives to secure the country's freedom and paid his respects to them.

Chamber's Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala managed the entire flag hoisting ceremony. The event was attended and celebrated by the Chamber's Hon. Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi, Past Presidents, Group Chairmen, members of the Managing Committee, and staff members.

A session on "Trump Tariff War: Deal or No Deal - Why It Won't Matter Much for India"



Dr. Engineer Mr. Sunil Parekh stated that there is a need to explore alternative markets for products like textiles, diamonds, and chemicals, and that India, Europe, Japan, Korea, Latin American countries, and Africa could serve as potential export destinations.

On Monday, 18th August 2025, at 5:30 PM, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an important session at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat, on "Trump Tariff War: Deal or No Deal - Why It Won't Matter Much for India." The session featured Dr. Engineer Sunil Parekh (Chairman, CERC; Senior Strategy Advisor to Indian MNCs - Zydus Life Sciences & Jubilant Bhartia Group; Founding Curator, World Economic Forum Geneva @ AGS), who explained complex international economic issues in a very simple and easily understandable manner.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the direct impact of the Trump tariff war on India is not expected to be significant. He emphasised that industrialists and exporters should view it not as a crisis, but as an opportunity. Despite being a short-term

disruption, India's economy remains secure due to its strong domestic demand and solid fundamentals. Therefore, whether a deal happens or not, its effect on India will remain limited.

Dr. Engineer Mr. Sunil Parekh stated that in the financial year 2024-25, India's total exports amounted to USD 824.9 billion, of which the US share was USD 77.5 billion. Since exports form a relatively small portion of India's total GDP, experts believe that the long-term negative impact of the US Trump tariff war on India will be limited. This week, S&P Global Ratings upgraded India's credit rating by one notch, indicating that India's long-term growth potential remains strong. However, in the short term, the Trump tariff war could pose some risks to India's global trade, even as the country aims for the 'Viksit Bharat 2047' target.



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI

India's key export products to the United States include textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and gems & jewellery. From Gujarat, the main exports to the US comprise diamonds, pharmaceuticals (currently duty-free), insecticides, bed linen, jewellery, tyres, electrical cables, plastics, and chemical products.

The U.S. market is important for Gujarat, but given the global scenario, it is essential to quickly explore new markets. Sector-wise, pharma, semiconductors, energy, and electronics currently enjoy duty exemptions, reducing immediate risks for these sectors. However, for products like textiles, diamonds, and chemicals, alternative markets need to be explored. Europe, Japan, Korea, Latin American countries, and Africa can serve as potential export destinations for India. Additionally, BRICS countries can play an important role in maintaining the trade balance.

Dr. Engineer Sunil Parekh stated that Canada and Mexico are highly dependent on the U.S. market for their exports. Approximately 78% of Canada's total exports and around 80% of Mexico's total exports go solely to the United States, making their exports extremely reliant on the U.S. market. In contrast, less than 15% of China's total exports are directed to the U.S. Therefore, while additional tariffs imposed by the U.S. would have an impact on China, the effect would be less severe compared to Canada and Mexico. The main reason is that China's export markets are highly diversified, reaching a large number of countries worldwide.



Dr. Engineer Mr. Sunil Parekh

If the U.S. imposes an additional 25% customs tariff on Canada's and Mexico's exports, it would have a serious impact on their economies. Considering this situation, Canada, Mexico, and China are now actively seeking new markets outside the U.S. In particular, they are focusing on the European Union as an alternative to maintain a balance in their export destinations.

Mr. Parekh presented various solutions and options to address the situation arising from the Trump tariffs, detailing what could be done at the national level, chamber level, company level, and CEO level. Additionally, he highlighted that India should promptly sign a Free Trade Agreement with the organization of 12 developed countries, including Japan and Korea (excluding China). This would help boost India's exports and mitigate the adverse effects of the Trump tariffs.

Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce, expressed his gratitude to all participants present at the session. The session was attended by former President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jirawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Past Presidents Mr. Ramesh Vagharia and Mr. Sharadchandra Kapadiya, along with industrialists, traders, and exporters. The session was conducted by the Chamber's Group Chairman, Mr. Sanjay Parijati. The speaker was introduced by Mr. Devkishan Manghani, Chairman of the SGCCI Global Connect Committee. The speaker addressed various questions from industrialists and exporters satisfactorily, after which the session concluded.

"Tariff be damned! Focus on your business!"



Under the Chamber's initiative, an engaging seminar titled "From Local to Global - Secrets of Import-Export" was organised, where experienced exporter Amit Mulani shared numerous practical tricks and insights.

On Monday 18th August 2025, at 5:30 PM the SGCCI Education and Skill Development Centre of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry successfully organised a distinguished seminar titled "From Local to Global - Unlock the Secrets of Export-Import" at Samruddhi Nanpura Surat. The

highly engaging and informative session saw enthusiastic participation from exporters, MSMEs entrepreneurs, business professionals and students aspiring to enter the world of international trade.

Experienced exporter, international trade expert, and corporate trainer Mr. Amit Mulani,

The business community of South Gujarat got to learn and understand international trade tricks, realising that no border can stop trade, no matter how challenging the situation, Chamber President Nikhil Madrasi.

was the chief speaker at this seminar. Through practical examples Mr Mulani shed light on the complexities of global trade and unveiled lesser-known strategies to succeed in today's highly competitive international business environment.

Addressing concerns over tariffs imposed by the U.S. he emphasised that exporters need not worry about them—the government will handle such issues; instead, businesses should focus on trade and quality. Citing a practical example, he noted that despite the suspension of trade between India and Pakistan after the Pulwama attack, data shows that trade continues. Much of it happens via third countries, particularly through Dubai and the UAE, from where it is re-exported. The key takeaway is that this "backdoor trade" demonstrates the resilience of market forces even amid geopolitical obstacles. He stressed that in such strategies, careful verification of partners and strict adherence to international regulations are essential to mitigate risks.

Using this example, Mr Mulani illustrated how to tackle U.S. tariffs and explained effective strategies for Indian exporters to bypass or minimise the impact of such tariffs.

Explaining a similar strategy, he highlighted frontloading shipments—accelerating exports before a tariff increase takes effect. For example, between April and July 2025, Indian exports to the U.S. saw a 21% rise. Another innovative approach is leveraging U.S. Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs), where goods can be stored, processed, or assembled without immediate tariff payment. He emphasised that exemptions for pharma and electronics under Trump's tariffs show the U.S. values Indian goods. Additionally, Mr. Mulani discussed tri-party deals with U.S. buyers, smart negotiations for tariff exemptions or reductions, value addition in products, and diversifying

markets to reduce dependence on the U.S. He noted that these methods could comfortably offset a potential 10-15% tariff increase while providing long-term stability against trade uncertainties.

He stated that the key secrets of international trade include: avoiding costly delays through mastery of customs and regulatory compliance, building strong networks with verified buyers via trade fairs and digital platforms, and implementing robust export planning to safeguard against currency fluctuations and other risks.

Mr. Mulani explained that efficiency in international trade arises from comparative advantages. He also highlighted lesser-known strategies, such as using Incoterms (as defined by the International Chamber of Commerce) to clarify responsibilities in shipping, leveraging trade finance instruments like Letters of Credit for secure payments, and staying continuously updated on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to avail preferential tariffs.

The seminar offered insightful guidance on identifying and verifying genuine global buyers, understanding government incentives and export benefits available to Indian exporters, navigating customs, shipping, and logistics challenges with ease, and recognising the growing global demand for Indian products.

Regarding the outcomes of the seminar, the Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that amidst tariff concerns, the seminar succeeded in injecting renewed energy and enthusiasm among both new and experienced exporters.

Quoting lines from the popular song of the film Border, Mr. Madrasi remarked that the seminar helped participants understand that no matter what happens, whether it's birds, rivers, winds, or storms, trade cannot be stopped by any border.

The Women Entrepreneur Cell organised a 'Skill Development Program'



"If a person's grooming and presentation are appropriate, it strengthens their personal and professional image," said Ms. Anita Singh, Image and International Etiquette Coach.

On Tuesday, 19th August 2025, at 5:30 PM, the Women Entrepreneur Cell of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI) organised a Skill Development Program at Zibrish Banquet Hall, Piplod, Surat. During the session, Ms. Anita Singh, an Image and International Etiquette Coach, provided valuable insights to women entrepreneurs on image management.

Ms. Anita Singh emphasised that image management is crucial for achieving success in business. She stated that proper grooming and presentation strengthen both a person's personal and professional image. She clarified that what one wears is less important than how one presents oneself, as effective presentation leaves a stronger impact. She added that a well-trained team can enhance sales performance and manage customers efficiently. Furthermore, she highlighted that a proper image is highly valuable for building strong customer relations and ensuring the success of sales teams.

At the event, Chamber of Commerce Group Chairman Mr. Shailesh Desai, WEC Advisors Ms. Swatiaben Shethwala and Ms. Knitika Shah, along

with other women entrepreneur members of the Women Entrepreneur Cell (WEC), were present. The WEC Chairperson, Ms. Ankita Valand, delivered the welcome address, while WEC member Ms. Vanita Rawat managed the proceedings. WEC member Ms. Purvi Pachchigar introduced the speaker. At the end, all queries raised by the attending women entrepreneurs were satisfactorily addressed by the speaker. WEC member Ms. Devika Kansara thanked all the attendees, following which the program concluded successfully.



**Ms. Anita Singh
Image and International Etiquette Coach**

The commencement of the two-days visit of the Vice President of Zimbabwe and his high-level delegation to Surat



At the invitation of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Vice President of Zimbabwe, His Excellency General (Retd) Dr C G D N. Chiwenga along with his spouse Zimbabwe's Cabinet Ministers Hon Mr Raj Modi (Deputy Minister - Industry & Commerce) and Hon Mr Tongai Mafidi Mnangagwa (Deputy Minister - Tourism & Hospitality), Zimbabwe's

Ambassador Hon Mrs. Stella Nkomo, and a high-level delegation of senior secretaries, visited Surat. The purpose of this visit was to promote trade and economic cooperation between Zimbabwe and the industrial community of Surat.

Grand Welcome at Surat International Airport

In the morning, upon arrival at Surat International Airport Vice President Mr. Chiwenga



Welcome by the Mayor, Collector-Police Commissioner, and the SGCCI President



Shri Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI, addressing the gathering of entrepreneurs at Sumul Dairy

and his delegation were accorded a warm and formal welcome. They were received by Surat Mayor Mr. Daxeshbhai Mavari, Surat Police Commissioner Mr. Anupamsinhji Gehlot, Surat District Collector Dr. Saurabh Pardhi, and SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, along with Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala and Treasurer CA Mitish Modi.

Day One: Introduction to Surat's Industrial Strength

On the first day of their visit Vice President Mr. Chiwenga explored Surat's prosperous industrial landscape, focusing on its globally renowned textile, diamond, and dairy sectors. This high-level delegation visited three key establishments:

1. **Hare Krishna Exports:** The Vice President visited Hare Krishna Exports, a leading name in the diamond industry, renowned for high-quality diamond cutting, polishing, and export-oriented operations. During the visit, Mr. Savjibhai Dholakiya remarked, "We are ready to seize any opportunity you provide." The Vice President

responded, "We look forward to welcoming all of you in Zimbabwe."

2. **Aishwarya Dyeing Mill:** The Vice President and his delegation also visited the renowned Aishwarya Dyeing Mill in Kadodara, gaining insightful information about Surat's textile industry and man-made fibres. They held discussions with the mill's owner, Mr. Rameshbhai Dumasia.

3. **Sumul Dairy:** During the visit to Sumul Dairy, the Vice President of Zimbabwe learned about the entire process from milk collection to distribution and was impressed by Sumul's cooperative model. He also showed interest in the exchange of dairy technologies. Present at this visit were Mr. Minesh Shah, Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Ex-Director and MLA Mr. Sandip Desai, Managing Director of Sumul Dairy Mr. Arun Purohit, and Administrator Mr. H.R. Patel.

On the second day, the Vice President of Zimbabwe visited APMC, SRK, and Veer Narmad South Gujarat University



Invitation to Surat farmers for a pilot agricultural project in Zimbabwe



Impressed by the APMC model, expressed interest in implementing it in Zimbabwe

On the second day of the two-day visit to Surat, His Excellency Constantino Chiwenga, Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, along with his delegation, continued to explore the city's dynamic industrial, agricultural, and educational ecosystems. Organised by the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI), this visit aimed to encourage discussions on potential collaboration between Zimbabwe and Surat, including notable investments and linkages in the agriculture and diamond sectors.

The delegation, along with SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi and other chamber officials, visited the Surat APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee). The Vice President closely observed Surat's unique model of agricultural trade and management. Impressed by its efficiency, transparency, and farmer-centric approach, he expressed his desire to implement the Surat APMC model in Zimbabwe. He also suggested that a senior team from APMC meet with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate this initiative. He invited Surat APMC to undertake a pilot project in Zimbabwe, where they plan to allocate 6 to 7 acres

of land into separate plots for cultivating multiple crops as a demonstration project. In detailed discussions with APMC President and MLA Mr. Sandipbhai Desai, APMC CEO Mr. Nileshbhai Korat, and other officials, he expressed interest in working on food processing and value addition in agriculture and sought APMC's collaboration for this initiative.

Vice President Chiwenga was impressed by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative undertaken by SRK Exports with the support of SGCCI. He also held discussions with Rajya Sabha MP Mr. Govindbhai Dholakiya, who invited the diamond industry of Surat to establish a factory in Zimbabwe.

During the visit to Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU), the delegation was informed about the university's academic programs, research initiatives, and its role in promoting innovation and skill development in the region. The Vice President expressed interest in future knowledge exchange and student-to-student connections between institutions in Zimbabwe and the academic community in Surat.



Discussion with MP Govindbhai Dholakiya at Ramkrishna Exports

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasu, highlighting the significance of the two-day program, stated, "The Vice President's visits to the textile and diamond industries, VNSGU, and Surat APMC underscore the potential for effective collaboration in education, agriculture, as well as the textile and diamond sectors. We are honoured

by his interest in emulating Surat's models and are eager to support Zimbabwe's vision for sustainable development."

The visit was also attended by SGCCI Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Hon. Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Minister Mr. Bijal Jirawala, and Hon. Treasurer CA. Mitish Modi.



'Chalo Zimbabwe' program at the Platinum Hall



His Excellency General (Retd.) Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President of Zimbabwe, engaged in a direct dialogue with Surat's industrialists, entrepreneurs, traders, and professionals

At the invitation of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry the Vice President of Zimbabwe His Excellency General (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, along with his spouse, Zimbabwe's Cabinet Ministers Mr. Raj Modi (Deputy Minister - Industry & Commerce) and Mr. Tongai Mafidi Mnangagwa (Deputy Minister - Tourism & Hospitality), Zimbabwe's Ambassador Hon. Mrs. Stella Nkomo, and senior

secretaries visited Surat. On 23rd August 2025 at 5:00 PM, the delegation attended the Chalo Zimbabwe program organised by the Chamber of Commerce at Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat, where the Vice President of Zimbabwe engaged in a direct dialogue with Surat's industrialists, entrepreneurs, traders, and professionals.

Welcoming the delegation, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasvi stated that India and Zimbabwe



**Shri Nikhil Madrasvi
President of SGCCI**



**Dr. C.G.D.N. Chiwenga
His Excellency General (Retd.) Cabinet Minister of Zimbabwe (Dy
Vice President of Zimbabwe Minister - Industry & Commerce)**



**Mr. Raj Modi
Cabinet Minister of Zimbabwe (Dy
Vice President of Zimbabwe Minister - Industry & Commerce)**



Mr. Tongai Mafidi Mnangagwa
Cabinet Minister of Zimbabwe
(Dy Minister - Tourism & Hospitality)



Mr. Parbhubhai Vasava
MP from Bardoli

Zimbabwe offers significant investment opportunities in mining and minerals, value addition, energy and renewables, textiles, agriculture and food processing, and the tourism sector.

share a historic relationship of trade and cooperation since 1980. Currently, trade between India and Zimbabwe stands at approximately USD 150-200 million. In 2024 alone, India exported USD 62 million worth of pharmaceuticals to Zimbabwe. Through programs like ITEC and ICCR scholarships, India continues to provide training and support in the field of education to Zimbabwe.

Under a USD 5 million grant, India has established 17 Indo-Zim Technology Centres in Zimbabwe, providing advanced tools and facilities for SME and professional training. In 2024, India imported USD 46.6 million worth of tobacco, USD 9.3 million of iron and steel, and USD 87.4 million of pearls, gemstones, and precious stones from Zimbabwe, directly complementing Surat's diamond jewellery industry as well as the agriculture processing and engineering sectors.

His Excellency General (Retd.) Dr C G D N Chiwenga, Vice President of Zimbabwe, stated that Economic relations between India and Zimbabwe have a historic significance. Under Zimbabwe's Vision 2030, the country is committed to becoming an upper-middle-income economy. With abundant natural resources, a young and skilled workforce, and primary access to regional markets, Zimbabwe presents an attractive investment destination.

Relations between India and Zimbabwe have been sustained over the years on the foundation of mutual respect and shared prosperity. Today, we aim to elevate these relations to greater heights through large-scale investments, advanced technology, and trade models that add value to both countries.

Located in the heart of Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, with its rapidly developing logistics and transport infrastructure, serves as a natural gateway to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – a unified market of 1.4 billion people with a GDP exceeding USD 3.4 trillion. Currently, over 25 Indian companies are successfully operating in Zimbabwe, including Surface Wilmar Investments and Varun Beverages.

Speaking about investment opportunities, he stated that Zimbabwe produces premium cotton, which opens avenues for partnerships with Gujarat's textile industry to access global markets. Additionally, in mining and mineral value addition, there are vast opportunities across more than 60 minerals, including lithium, gold, platinum, and diamonds, as well as lithium batteries, mineral processing, and diamond cutting-polishing. In the energy and renewables sector, significant potential exists for solar, hydro, and biomass projects. He also invited industrialists from South Gujarat to invest



in Zimbabwe's MICE infrastructure and cricket stadiums.

Hon Mr Raj Modi, Cabinet Minister of Zimbabwe, stated that Zimbabwe is a safe country for investors. Indian investors can invest in Zimbabwe and expand their businesses without any fear. The country offers various 'Ease of Doing Business' incentives for investors. He highlighted to industrialists from South Gujarat's pharmaceutical sector that there are special opportunities to invest in Zimbabwe's pharmaceutical industry and contribute to its modernisation.

Hon Mr Tongai Mafidi Mnangagwa, Cabinet Minister of Zimbabwe, stated: 'Zimbabwe is a beautiful destination to experience tourism, featuring world-renowned attractions such as Victoria Falls and abundant wildlife. With fertile land and adequate water resources, Zimbabwe has the potential to become the regional food hub in the future. Indian industrialists can expand their businesses by establishing plastic waste recycling and environmentally sustainable projects. Additionally, with India's collaboration in AI, ICT, startups, and R&D, Zimbabwe aims to become an

African tech hub.'

Hon Mr Parthubhai Vasava, MP from Bardoli, discussed the harmonious relations between India and Zimbabwe on this occasion. He introduced Surat to the Zimbabwean delegation as an important industrial city of India and as 'Miri India'.

The event was attended by Surat Police Commissioner Mr Anupam Singh Gehlot, Immediate Past President of SGCCI Mr Vijay Mevawala, Hon Secretary Mr Bijal Jariwala, Hon Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, former presidents of the Chamber, office bearers of various associations from South Gujarat, leading industrialists of Surat, and SGCCI members. Past President of the Chamber Mr Ramesh Vagharia outlined the program, while Ms Jilpa Sheth, a member of the Managing Committee, conducted the proceedings. At the conclusion, His Excellency General (Retd.) Dr C.G.D.N. Chiwenga, Vice President of Zimbabwe, addressed all business-related queries from the attendees. SGCCI Vice President Mr Ashok Jirawala expressed gratitude to all participants, following which the program concluded.

A session on topic "AI Made Simple"



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised a session on the topic "AI Made Simple" on 20th August 2025 at 5:30 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. Professor Amod Bhatt from the AI and Data for Business and Society School, Paris, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mr. Nirav Chahwala, member of the AIDT Committee, provided entrepreneurs with detailed insights on Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the session on Artificial Intelligence provides members

with an opportunity to stay updated on modern technology, enabling them to take their businesses to new heights.

Professor Amod Bhatt from the AI and Data for Business and Society School, Paris, guided the participants on the extensive applications of AI, its future direction, and how industries can leverage this opportunity to scale new heights. He provided entrepreneurs with detailed insights into the functioning of Artificial Intelligence, its applications in business, and the benefits it offers.

Mr. Nirav Chahwala, member of the AIDT



Professor Amod Bhatt
AI and Data for Business
and Society School, Paris



Mr. Nirav Chahwala
Member of AIDT Committee

Committee, stated that Artificial Intelligence is not just a matter of technology, but an important tool for entrepreneurs to make their businesses more competitive and efficient. Through case studies and presentations, he explained the concepts in simple language to the participants. In particular, he provided clear guidance on the utility of Artificial Intelligence in business and industry, the resulting increase in efficiency and the new opportunities it is expected to create in the future.

Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of

the Chamber, extended a vote of thanks to all the participants present at the session. Mr. Basheer Mansuri, Group Chairman of the Chamber, outlined the program. Dr. Vandana Shah, Chairperson of the Chamber's Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation Committee, introduced the speakers. Mr. Tejal Desai, a member of the committee, conducted the session. The event was also attended by CA. Mitish Modi, Hon. Treasurer of the Chamber, Mr. Deepak Kumar Shethwala, Group Chairman, along with entrepreneurs and professionals.

"SBC 1.0 & 2.0 Joint Business Presentation Meeting; an engaging seminar was held on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in business"



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry, through SGCCI Business Connect, successfully organized the SBC 1.0 & 2.0 Joint Business Presentation Meeting with Expert Talk on Thursday, 21st August 2025, at Seminar Hall A, Sarsana, Surat.

Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the

Chamber, while delivering the welcome address, stated that the Chamber always believes in creating meaningful platforms where business and knowledge converge. He added that we are now in the era of AI, and this program on the use of AI in business will be highly beneficial for industries in South Gujarat. Just like software, every business



**Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI**



Mr. Bhautikkumar Vagharia

will need to adopt AI—if not today then certainly in the near future.

The expert talk by Mr. Bhautikkumar Vagharia on "Use of AI in Business" was the main highlight of the program. Sharing his perspective, he stated, "Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a trend for the future; it is a present reality in business. Those who embrace AI will not only optimise operations but also open new avenues for innovation and competitiveness." Mr. Vagharia also made the session lively and interactive by providing satisfactory answers to the questions posed on the topic.

Mr. Chandrakant Prajapati, Chairman of SGCCI Business Connect, introduced the speaker Mr. Bhautikkumar Vagharia. He then shared details regarding the organisation of the upcoming two meetings. The SBC Co-Chairmen, Mr. Ketan Shah and Mr. Vishal Bakshi, managed the members' impactful 25-second presentations.

The meeting was attended by Eijal Jariwala, Hon. Secretary of the Chamber; Mr. Deepakkumar Shethwala, Group Chairman, SBC Committee Advisors Mr. Chirag Desai and Ms. Sneha Jariwala; along with other members. The vote of thanks was delivered by SBC member Ms. Ankita Valand.

Seminar under the Niryat Bandhu Scheme on India's FTAs & International Marketing & Export Opportunities through Sub-Contracting





Mr. Anupam Kumar
Joint Director General
of Foreign Trade from
Vadodara



Mr. Rohington
Engineer
Deputy Chairman of
EEPC India



Mr. C.H. Nadigar
Regional Director
of EEPC India



Mr. Abhimanyu
Sharma
IDFC Bank Limited

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a seminar under the Niryat Bandhu Scheme on India's FTAs & International Marketing & Export Opportunities through Sub-Contracting on 22nd August at 10:00 AM at Sanhati, Sarasana, Surat. During the seminar, Shri Anupam Kumar, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade from Vadodara, and Shri Rohington Engineer, Deputy Chairman of EEPC India, provided detailed insights on India's Foreign Trade Agreements.

Shri Anupam Kumar, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade from Vadodara, provided guidance on India's Foreign Trade Agreements. He highlighted that India's various FTAs offer the industry an opportunity to access global markets. He also shared detailed insights on the benefits that entrepreneurs and industrialists can gain through these trade agreements.

Shri Rohington Engineer, Deputy Chairman of EEPC India, provided detailed insights to Indian industries on various opportunities and strategies for export expansion through international marketing and sub-contracting. He also explained best practices in the global market and highlighted

the opportunities available for exporters.

Shri Anand Mirani, Director and Lead Advisor at Simplus Exim & Corporate Advisory, delivered a presentation on International Marketing In the Indian Context. Shri Saurabh Jain, Branch Manager of ECGC Limited, Surat, provided insights on Managing Credit Risk - Exploring Markets and Expanding Business. Shri C H Nadigar, Regional Director of EEPC India, presented on Export Opportunities through Sub-Contracting, while Shri Abhimanyu Sharma from IDFC Bank Limited shared information on Banking Facilities for Exporters.

Chamber's Hon Secretary, Shri Bijal Jariwala, stated that the seminar provided industry representatives with an opportunity to gain detailed insights into new opportunities in the global market and the latest technologies in the export sector. He urged industrialists to leverage India's FTAs and expand their businesses in international marketing through subcontracting.

Chamber's Group Chairman, Shri Mayank Dalal, along with industrialists and exporters, attended the seminar. Shri Sudhakar Nayre, Senior Deputy Director of EEPC India, expressed his gratitude to all attendees and concluded the seminar.

'Legal Conclave - 2025' at Platinum Hall



"Surat is renowned across the country as a vibrant destination. While people have faith in the courts, delays often lead them to experience frustration," said Hon'ble Chief Justice Sunita Agrawal of the Gujarat High Court

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with The Surat City Advocates Association, organised the Legal Conclave - 2025 on Saturday, 23rd August 2025, at 10:00 AM at Platinum Hall, Sarasana, Surat. The Chief Guest Hon'ble Chief Justice Sunita Agrawal of the Gujarat High Court provided guidance to industrialists from South Gujarat, advocates, and law students.

Law for business is not just a matter of compliance; it is the cornerstone of trust. When cases remain pending or contracts take years to be enforced, it is not merely a legal delay but also

an economic cost. Currently, over 1,70,000 cases are pending in the High Court of Gujarat, and approximately 17,00,000 cases are pending in district and subordinate courts. In family courts alone, more than 50,000 cases are unresolved. Each delay impacts families, businesses, and society as a whole."

These figures remind us that Commercial Courts, Arbitration, and Mediation are not merely technical terms, but are essential for a fast-paced economy like Gujarat's. A strong economy relies on a legal system where disputes are resolved fairly, efficiently, and with certainty.

Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Gujarat High



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Smt. Sunita Agrawal
Hon'ble Chief Justice
Gujarat High Court



Shri Pranav Trivedi
Hon'ble Judge of the
Gujarat High Court



Shri D.N. Rai
Hon'ble Judge of the
Gujarat High Court

Court Smt. Sunita Agrawal stated that Surat is renowned across the country as a vibrant destination. The Gujarat High Court works through ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) to ensure that people do not have to approach the court for justice—the court reaches the people. While people have faith in the courts, delays often lead them to experience frustration. Gujarat attracts significant domestic and foreign investments, and Commercial Courts instil confidence in investors that their capital and contractual rights will be legally protected.

In the business world, breaches of contracts, payment delays, and commercial disputes between companies can be resolved quickly, saving both time and costs for entrepreneurs. The operation of Commercial Courts in Gujarat's business hubs such as Surat, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Rajkot provides strong support to both local and international businesses.

She further stated that in Gujarat, the disposal rate of arbitration cases is 55%. For smaller disputes, if an internal dialogue does not lead to a settlement, citizens can obtain justice through a mediator instead of approaching the court. After providing training to 96 advocates as mediators, they are now serving in various parts of the state to ensure timely justice for people. For the people of Gujarat, two things are most important in life: first, family, and second, business.

During the technical session, Hon'ble Judge of the Gujarat High Court, Shri Pranav Trivedi

stated that the simplest way to obtain justice without prolonged litigation in court is through ADR. In business, if a dispute remains unresolved for years, it leads to losses. Therefore, if the business community supports ADR, the justice process will certainly become faster. Arbitration involves a less formal procedure, saving time, while also maintaining confidentiality and preserving harmony between the parties involved.

Hon'ble Judge of the Gujarat High Court, Shri D.N. Rai, stated that in 2001, nearly two crore cases were pending in district courts across the country. Currently, approximately 472 crore cases are pending. ADR can play a crucial role in ensuring the speedy resolution of these cases. He also provided detailed information on the mediation process.

Chamber of Commerce Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala, Hon. Secretary Shri Bijal Jirawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Past Presidents, and industrialists were present at the event. Chamber's Group Chairman Dr. Anil Sarawgi conducted the conclave. Advocate Manish Gandhi, Advisor of the Chamber's Law and Compliance Committee, introduced the speakers, while Shri Ajay Mehta, Chairman of the Law and Compliance Committee, outlined the program.

At the conclusion, the judges provided satisfactory answers to all queries from the audience. In his Past President of the Chamber, Shri Vijay Mevawala expressed gratitude to all attendees, after which the seminar was formally concluded.



Workshop on parenting as part of its Health Series



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as part of its Health Series, organised a workshop on parenting on Sunday, 24th August 2025, at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. Dr. Swati Vinchurkar, Dr. Deepa Patel and Dr. Ketan Bharadwaj provided detailed insights during the session.

Chamber of Commerce President, Shri Nikhil Madras, stated that the Chamber organises

workshops on various socially relevant topics. Guidance provided by experts on subjects like parenting is certainly beneficial for parents and helps in shaping responsible citizens for society.

Dr. Swati Vinchurkar, while explaining Balanced Parenting, stated that in today's times, balanced behaviour of parents is essential for the holistic development of children. Instead of putting excessive pressure on them, parents should



Mr. Nikhil Madras
President of SGCCI



**Dr. Swati
Vinchurkar**



Dr. Deepa Patel



**Dr. Ketan
Bharadwaj**

encourage their children to bring out their abilities

Dr. Deepa Patel, while providing insights on Adolescent Parenting, stated that parents need to exercise special sensitivity when dealing with teenagers. At this age, children undergo rapid physical and mental changes, making it essential for parents to understand them, provide appropriate guidance, and create a friendly and supportive environment.

Dr. Ketan Bharadwaj, while discussing Media Literacy & Food Literacy, stated that in today's times, children receive a lot of information through the media, but it is essential to understand how to

use it appropriately. Parents should help children distinguish between true and false information and encourage them to maintain a balanced and nutritious diet. Eating habits and media influence have a direct impact on their physical and mental development.

Dr. Parul Valgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, outlined the program, while Dr. Rajan Desai, Co-Chairman of the committee, conducted the workshop and expressed gratitude to all attendees. Parents present at the workshop had the opportunity to clarify their doubts with the experts through a Q&A session.

The Ladies Wing of the Chamber of Commerce organised an awareness session on 'Stay Safe Online: Cyber Awareness for Women and Senior Citizens'





Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of
SGCCI



Ms. Shweta Daniels
ACP of Surat Cyber
Crime



Mr. D.V. Gamit
PI of Surat Cyber
Crime

In 2024, 25,000 cases of cyber crime were reported in Surat, resulting in an estimated loss of ₹ 170 crore for the residents, according to Inspector D.V. Gamit of the Surat City Cyber Crime Cell

In 2024, 25,000 cases of cybercrime were reported in Surat, resulting in an estimated loss of Rs 170 crore for the residents, according to Inspector D V Gamit of the Surat City Cyber Crime Cell.

The Ladies Wing of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an awareness session on 'Stay Safe Online: Cyber Awareness for Women and Senior Citizens' on Monday, 25th August 2025, at 4:00 PM at Samruddhi Building, Nanpura, Surat. Shweta Daniels, Assistant Commissioner of the Surat Cyber Crime Department, and Inspector D.V. Gamit of the Surat City Cyber Crime Cell provided guidance on precautions to prevent cybercrime.

Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Shri Ashok Jirawala, in his welcome address, stated that in today's digital era, mobile phones, social media, online payments, and e-banking have become an integral part of our daily lives. However, cyber threats such as phishing, OTP scams, identity theft, and online fraud are also on the rise. Women and senior citizens, in particular, often become targets of such threats, making awareness about cybersecurity absolutely essential.

Smt. Shweta Daniels stated that when a person falls victim to cyber fraud, it can also harm India's economy. In a world that has come to a fingertip,

caution is equally important. Cybercrime affects each individual differently. Disaster strikes when a person falls into greed. If someone promises you easy money online, think carefully, remain calm, and discuss with others before making any decision.

Shri D V Gamit stated that globally, one cybercrime occurs every three seconds. In India, a cybercrime case is reported approximately every seven minutes. The highest number of cybercrimes occurs in Russia, with India ranking 10th on the list. In 2024, 25,000 cases of cybercrime were reported in Surat, resulting in an estimated loss of ₹ 170 crore for the residents. He also provided detailed insights on cyberbullying and cyberstalking.

Smt. Mayuriben Mevawala, Chairperson of the Ladies Wing, while outlining the program, stated that our safety is in our own hands.

Other Past President of the Chamber, Shri Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, past presidents, members of the Chamber's Ladies Wing, and senior citizens attended the program. The session was conducted by Smt. Jyotiben Lalwala, a member of the Ladies Wing. At the conclusion, the speakers provided satisfactory answers to all queries from the attendees. Smt. Reshmaaben Mandlewala, Advisor of the Ladies Wing, expressed gratitude to all present, after which the program was formally concluded.

The Chamber organised a patriotic program titled 'Jago Hindustani'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the 'Jago Hindustani' program on 14th August 2025, a day before Independence Day, at Sanjeevkumar Auditorium, Pal, Surat. The event featured performances full of patriotism, including artistic presentations and patriotic songs. The main aim of the program was to ignite patriotic sentiments and inspire the younger generation towards national unity, dedication, and responsibility.

Chamber of Commerce President Shri Nikhil Madras, stated that reflecting on the priceless moments of our independence, it is essential for all of us to fulfil our duties towards society, the

nation, and future generations. Programs like 'Jago Hindustani' help strengthen the spirit of patriotism among the youth.

Surat MP Shri Mukeshbhai Dalal, and Surat City Police Commissioner, Shri Anupamsingh Gehlot, were the guests of honour at the program. In addition, Chamber Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala, Former President Shri Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Minister Shri Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, former presidents, members of the Chamber, citizens, and students attended the event. On the eve of Independence Day, the program created a unique atmosphere of patriotism.





Session on 'Cow Ghee - Beneficial for Health'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a session on 'Cow Ghee - Beneficial for Health' on Tuesday, 26th August 2025, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi Nanpura, Surat. Prof Hitesh Jani from Gau Vishwavidyapeeth provided detailed insights during the session.

Prof Hitesh Jani, Pro-Vost of Gau Vishwavidyapeeth while providing detailed insights on Indian cows, health, and spirituality, stated that cow ghee is highly beneficial for

human health. It enhances digestive power, promotes mental peace, and, according to Ayurveda, protects against numerous diseases. Indian cows are not just a source of milk or ghee but are central to economic, environmental, and spiritual values. Products derived from cows can strengthen the rural economy and help establish a healthy lifestyle in human life.

Dr. Marshall, Chairperson of the Chamber's AYUSH Committee, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Nipesh Patel, Co-Chairman of the committee, outlined and conducted the program, while Dr. Parul Patel, Co-Chairperson, introduced the speaker. Dr. Rujuta Chhatrapati, a committee member, expressed gratitude to all attendees and concluded the session.

The attending industrialists and Chamber members listened to the speaker's insights with great interest and actively participated in the Q&A session.

An interactive session on 'Groundwater Conservation Management and Policy Implementation' with officials from GPCB and CGWB



The officials provided information on rainwater harvesting and water recycling technologies and urged industries to take necessary steps for groundwater conservation in accordance with the guidelines.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an interactive session on 'Groundwater Conservation Management and Policy Implementation' on Thursday, 28th August 2025, at 5:00 PM at Samhati Sarasana, Surat. Dr. D. Biswarup Mohapatra, Scientist from the Central Ground Water Board, Gujarat; Mr. Saddam Hussain, Assistant Hydrogeologist; Mr. Arun Patel, Regional Officer, GPCB, Surat; and Smt. Jignaben Oza, Regional Officer, GPCB, Ankleswar, provided

detailed guidance and insights to the industrialists. Chamber of Commerce President, Shri Nikhil Madras, stated that during the monsoon, an amount of water from the Tapi River sufficient to meet Surat's needs for 70 years flows into the sea. He emphasised that government departments and social organisations must work together to conserve rainwater.

Shri Biswarup Mohapatra informed the industrialists of Surat that the increasing use of



Mr. Nikhil Madras
President of SGCCI



Dr. Biswarup Mohapatra
Scientist - D
CGWB, Gujarat



Smt. Jignaben Oza
Regional Officer
GPCB Ankleswar

groundwater, improper management of rainwater, and industrial processes are severely affecting water levels. Considering this situation, he emphasized the need for industries to adopt rainwater harvesting and water recycling technologies. He also provided details of various regulations and policy implementations framed by the Central Government noting specifically that industries are mandatorily required to take necessary steps for groundwater conservation in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Mr Arun Patel, Regional Officer of GPCB Surat, provided information on environmental and water-related regulations. He stated that the Emission Trading Scheme has already brought significant recognition to Surat, and now the Effluent Trading Scheme is about to be implemented. The purpose of this scheme is to control the quality and quantity of effluents, which can help reduce water consumption. He expressed hope that this scheme will be successful in conserving water.

Smt Jignababen Oza, Regional Officer of GPCB Ankleshwar, stated that industries in Sachin and Pandesara use 115 MLD of treated SUZ water. She emphasised that it is now crucial to conserve groundwater. Wherever SUZ water is available,

instead of letting it go to waste, industries should consider how to reuse it effectively. She also provided detailed information on the current availability of groundwater and future requirements.

Mr Saddam Hussen, Assistant Hydrogeologist of the Central Ground Water Board, Gujarat provided detailed information about the Central Ground Water Authority and its rules and regulations. Through his presentation, he also explained to industrialists about industrial projects, compliance, and the penalty processes.

The Chamber of Commerce President and office bearers appreciated the work of Smt Jignababen Oza as the Regional Officer of GPCB Surat and honoured her with a certificate of appreciation during the session.

Chamber's Honorary Minister Shri Bijal Jariwala, along with representatives from various industrial associations and industrialists, attended the session. Shri Kinjal Shah, Chairman of the Chamber's Environment, Pollution Control, and Waste Management Committee, conducted the interactive session, while Deputy Secretary Shri Paulik Desai introduced the speakers. The officials addressed the various queries of the attending industrialists, following which the session concluded.



SGCCI felicitated Mrs. Jignaben Oza with a Certificate of Appreciation

A Curtain Raiser Ceremony for 'Auto Expo 2026'



Over 100 exhibitors will participate in the 'Surat International Auto Expo-2026', scheduled from 13th to 16th March 2026, providing a significant boost to the automobile industry

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the Curtain Raiser Ceremony for Surat International Auto Expo 2026 on Friday 29th August 2025, at 6:00 PM at Avadh Utopia, during which the launch of Auto

Expo 2026 was announced. The Chamber will host the 7th edition of the Auto Expo from 13th to 16th March 2026, featuring over 100 exhibitors.

Chamber of Commerce President Shri Nikhil Madras stated that the Surat International Auto



Mr. Nikhil Madras
President of SGCCI



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI



Mr. Mehul Desai
Chairman of Auto Expo - 2026

Expo 2026 will mark a new milestone for South Gujarat. He added that the expo will open new opportunities not only in the automobile sector but also in trade, manufacturing, and service industries. This event will be a significant step in establishing Surat as a global auto hub.

Chamber's Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala, while thanking everyone, stated that every expo organised by the Chamber opens new avenues for the industrial community. He added that the Auto Expo 2026 will also make a significant contribution to the economic growth of the city and the region.

Mr. Meenal Desai, Chairman of the Surat International Auto Expo 2026, stated that leading automobile companies from India and abroad will showcase their models, e-vehicles, and auto technologies at the expo. During his presentation, he gave a glimpse of the expo, highlighting a grand display of international automobile brands, electric vehicles, hybrid technologies, and auto components.

Co-Chairmen of the Auto Expo, Shri Kanubhai Modi and Shri Pradyuman Singh Jadeja, stated that the Chamber-organised Auto Expo ranks second in India, providing an excellent opportunity for MSMEs and startups associated with the automobile industry to showcase their products and innovations. They added that the expo will benefit both the industry and the consumers directly.

The Chamber of Commerce honoured the exhibitors who have participated in every edition of the Auto Expo since 2011.

Chamber's Hon. Secretary Shri Bijal Jariwala managed the entire ceremony. Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, All Exhibitions Chairman Shri Kiran Thummar, Group Chairman Shri Rakesh Jain, Past President Shri Ramesh Vagharia, and leaders of Surat's automobile industry were present at the event. During the curtain-raiser ceremony, all attendees were provided with detailed information about the expo's theme, dates, and exhibition layout.



SGCCI and IMA to Launch Joint Campaign for Industrial Workers' Health; TB Patients to Be Adopted and Provided Nutrition Kits



SGCCI and IMA will also organise programs in industrial areas for breast cancer awareness, cervical cancer awareness, non-communicable disease prevention, and TB awareness.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised a meeting on Saturday, 30th August 2025 at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, with Mr. Anil Nayak, National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Dr. Mehl Shah, President of Gujarat State IMA. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nikhil Madrasvi stated that the 100th National Conference of the Indian Medical Association is scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar on 26th, 27th, and 28th December 2025. As part of this, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association, will prioritise the health of industrial workers and their families in Surat and South Gujarat, organising special awareness programs to promote their well-being.

The Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association, will organise programs in industrial areas on breast

cancer awareness, cervical cancer awareness, non-communicable disease prevention, and TB awareness. Additionally, TB patients in the industrial sector will be adopted, provided with regular treatment, and distributed nutrition kits.

In addition, industrial workers will undergo health screenings to detect and manage issues such as blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity, and they will be provided with appropriate guidance. The primary aim of this initiative is to encourage industrial workers and their families toward a healthy lifestyle and to strengthen the healthcare landscape in South Gujarat.

Under SGCCI Global Connect, information about the 100th National Conference of the Indian Medical Association will be shared with eight countries, and they will be invited to promote medical tourism. One-on-one meetings will be held with the representatives of these countries attending the conference to enhance bilateral trade and work toward the development of medical tourism between the two nations.

Session on "Liver and Life"



In the session, Dr. Divakar Jain provided detailed information on various liver-related diseases, their symptoms, prevention, treatment, and liver transplantation.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised a session on "Liver and Life" as part of its Health Series on Sunday, 31st August 2025, at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi Nanpura, Surat. Dr. Divakar Jain, Senior Consultant and Head of the HPB and Liver Transplantation Surgery Department at Shelby Multi-Speciality Hospital, provided detailed insights into various liver-related diseases, their symptoms, prevention, treatment, and liver transplantation.

Chamber of Commerce President, Mr. Nikhil Madrasvi, stated that the Chamber organises sessions on various health-related topics under its Health Series to promote a healthy society. Experts and doctors are invited to ensure that industry leaders and citizens receive valuable information on health and wellness. The Chamber plans to continue conducting such programs regularly under the Health Series in the future.

Dr. Divakar Jain stated that in today's times, unhealthy lifestyles, irregular diets, and stress are

causing liver-related problems to rise rapidly. Timely diagnosis and proper treatment can prevent serious complications. He emphasized the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle and taking necessary precautions. He further explained that the liver is a vital organ of the human body, performing many essential functions, and neglecting it can be dangerous for overall health. To maintain liver health, it is crucial to follow a balanced diet, exercise regularly, avoid harmful substances like alcohol and tobacco, and undergo regular health check-ups.

Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Hon. Secretary of the Chamber, CA. Mitish Modi, Hon. Treasurer, Industrialists, and citizens were present at the session and received important guidance related to health. Mr. Rakesh Gandhi, Group Chairman of the Chamber, provided the program outline. Dr. Rajan Desai, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, conducted the session. Mr. Mahesh Parmani, Chairman of the SGCCI Education and Skill Development Centre, thanked all the attendees and concluded the program.

A workshop on “Decision Making and Problem Solving”



Ms. Heena Jain

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a workshop on ‘Decision Making and Problem Solving’ on Saturday, 2nd

August 2025, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat where Ms. Heena Jain provided detailed insights on the topic.

Mr. Mahesh Pamnani, Chairman of the SGCCI Education and Skill Development Centre, shared information about various courses conducted by the Chamber. During the workshop, participants were given an in-depth understanding of the subject through case studies and interactive activities.

Ms. Heena Jain stated that, whether in professional or personal life, the ability to make the right decision at the right time is the key to success. Critical decision-making skills require logical reasoning, proper analysis of information, assessment of situations, and the careful balancing of alternatives.

A workshop on ‘Basic Excel Level One’

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised a full-day workshop on ‘Basic Excel Level One’ on Wednesday, 13th August 2025, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, in which Chartered Accountant Mr. Keyur Doshi provided detailed guidance.

CA Keyur Doshi stated that in today’s time, Microsoft Excel has become an essential tool for data management, reporting, and analysis. By gaining proficiency in its basic features, professionals can significantly enhance their efficiency and productivity. He provided practical guidance on Excel’s basic functions, formulas, shortcuts, and data presentation techniques, emphasising that mastering these skills helps not only accounting and finance professionals but also professionals in every field to simplify their daily tasks.

SGCCI Education and Skill Development Centre’s Chairman, Mr. Mahesh Pamnani, delivered the welcome address. During the

workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn the subject in depth through live practical exercises. At the end of the workshop, certificates were awarded to the participating industrialists and professionals.



CA Keyur Doshi

A workshop on "LinkedIn Mastery"



Mr. Manthan Madrasi

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a workshop on 'LinkedIn Mastery' on Wednesday, 13th August 2025, at 5:00 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, in which Mr. Manthan Madrasi provided detailed insights.

Mr. Manthan Madrasi stated that in today's digital era, LinkedIn is not just a professional networking platform but a powerful tool for personal brand building, business growth, and career development. Through effective profile presentation, content sharing, and networking, one can unlock vast opportunities. Entrepreneurs, startups, and professionals can enhance their credibility on LinkedIn. By regularly posting quality content, engaging with meaningful connections, and highlighting skills, individuals can reach new heights in their professional journey.

Mr. Mahesh Pamnani, Chairman of the SGCCI Education and Skill Development Centre, delivered the welcome address. During the workshop, participants were effectively guided on profile optimisation, content strategy, networking techniques, and through interactive activities.

The arrival of Lord Ganesha was celebrated with great enthusiasm



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry ceremoniously installed Lord Ganesha at the Chamber office in Sarasana. The auspicious event included a ritualistic worship, and Lord Ganesha was welcomed amidst the resounding beats of drums and chants of Jai Ganesh.

Chamber of Commerce President Shri Nikhil Madras stated that every year, the Chamber traditionally installs Lord Ganesha. Ganeshotsav is not only a religious celebration but also a symbol of

cultural unity.

On this auspicious occasion of Ganeshotsav, Chamber Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala, Hon. Past President Shri Vijay Mevawala, Hon. Secretary Shri Bijal Jirawala, Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, All Exhibitions Chairman Shri Kiran Thummar, group chairmen, members, and staff were present. Everyone performed aarti with devotion and partook of the prasadam. The arrival of Lord Ganesha filled the entire premises with devotion, joy, and enthusiasm.



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MORE DETAILS CONTACT

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