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HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026



SGCCI

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

ACTIVITIES OF SGCCI



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INDEX

01	Business delegation's visit to Botswana opens new doors for bilateral cooperation	05
02	SITEX-2025 dazzles Sarsana, showcasing the future of textile machinery	09
03	SITEX Expo-2025 generates an overwhelming response, with capital investment in textile machinery likely to exceed ₹2,000 crore within the next six months	12
04	National-Level Leadership for Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been appointed to several prestigious industrial bodies at the national level	13
05	Matter raised with the Rajasthan Chief Minister following the attack on former President Mr. Ashish Gujarati near Udaipur	14
06	Former President of Oman Chamber of Commerce visits SGCCI	15
07	Pre-Budget Memorandum submitted to the Union Textile Secretary, highlighting key recommendations on GST, Customs, and Direct Taxes	16
08	An invitation to entrepreneurs and businesses from South Gujarat, including Surat, for the Sri Lanka Economic and Investment Summit	17
09	'Cost and Competitiveness' workshop organized to strengthen MSME performance	18
10	'Prakruti-Ayush Conclave 2025' Celebrates Wellness and Tradition	20
11	1,000 retro-reflectors installed in Pandesara to enhance worker safety under the Road Safety Campaign	22
12	'Ushakant Kanchanlal Marfatia Hall' inaugurated as the new name of Seminar Hall-A at Sarsana	23
13	Key meeting held to strengthen air connectivity from Surat	24
14	PTA Supply, Pricing and Market Trends Discussed at Chamber Meet	25
15	ICAI Western Zone Visit Marks Collaboration for 'Seva Sarathi' Initiative	26
16	An insightful seminar on 'Foodpreneurs: From Kitchen to Market'	27
17	A health awareness programme was organized jointly with IMA-Surat to mark World Diabetes Day	29
18	Awareness Session on Collateral-Free Loans for MSMEs	31
19	Online Meeting with National Center for Good Governance (NCGG)	33
20	Important Discussions on International Cargo with Air India's West Zone Cargo Head	34
21	Banking Conclave 2025: Deliberations on Inclusive Growth of Cooperative Banks	35
22	Session on 'Journey to Financial Freedom'	38
23	Inspiring Session Organized on 'Why Entrepreneurs Miss Opportunities'	39
24	Textile Knowledge Session Organized Jointly by Chamber and MANTRA	41
25	Awareness Session on Cervical Cancer Vaccine Organized by Chamber and Jay Sardar Vidyalaya	43
26	Two-Day Special B2B Meet Series Organized by FICCI Gujarat with SGCCI and Sharjah Government	44
27	Industrial Visits Organized at Various Locations	45
28	Awareness Session Organized by the Chamber on 'Know About Your Liver'	47
29	A New Path for Investment: Session on SIF Organized at the Chamber	48
30	'Fighting Cancer Smarter' Session Raises Cancer Awareness	49

Your valuable suggestions on this issue of Samruddhi are most welcome

SGCCI's Office Bearers



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Business delegation's visit to Botswana opens new doors for bilateral cooperation



Under the auspices of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), a business delegation of entrepreneurs and industrialists from Surat visited Gaborone, the capital of the Republic of Botswana, from November 10 to 14, 2025. This business delegation's visit took place during the visit of the Honorable President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, to Botswana.

This business delegation included Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Brijesh Dholakia of Hare Krishna Group; Dr. Faruk Patel of KP Group; Mr. Roby Rajasekharam of KPI Green Hydrogen; Mr. Darshak Narola of Shree Ramkrishna Exports; Mr. Hitesh Shah of Venus Gems; Mr. Jayanti Savaliya and Mr. Rajat Wani of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council; Mr. Gurmeet Singh Maan and Mr. Rakesh Shah of Taranjyot Energy; Mr. Dinesh Dhankani of Liberty Group and Reagan Fashions Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Milan Parikh of Jainam Shares; Mr. Deepak Sheta of Apple Lifestyle Industries Limited;

Mr. Krunal Mehta of Mehta Wealth; and Fenil Patel of Rayzon Solar.

The Chamber of Commerce delegation was welcomed by Indian industry leaders in Botswana and held meetings with local business authorities. These meetings were organized by Mr. Ashit Mehta, Chairman of the Botswana-based Blue Star Group. During these sessions with local industry leaders, detailed discussions were held regarding Botswana's economic factors, business structure, and corporate culture, as well as the potential for bilateral cooperation and investment across various sectors.

On November 11, 2025, an important meeting was held between the Chamber of Commerce's delegation and the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC), attended by BITC Executive Director Ms. Trunclina Gabontone and senior departmental heads from various sectors. The Executive Director of BITC stated that the center would serve as the primary focal point for business-related investments for the Chamber members. During this meeting, vast



opportunities for investment and cooperation were presented in sectors such as diamond and mineral processing, mining (coal, copper, soda ash), power generation (solar, biofuel), and railway infrastructure development.

A meeting was held between the Chamber of Commerce delegation and the Botswana Ministry of Minerals and Energy, which was attended by senior advisors of the ministry. During this meeting, Surat's entrepreneurs were primarily invited to actively participate in the expansion of Botswana's mining sector.

A meeting was held with the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA), attended by the Authority's Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Verily Molatedi, and the Director of Capital Markets, Ms. Juliana White.

The Chamber's business delegation was briefed on the regulatory framework for non-banking financial institutions in Botswana, as well as the operational structure and policies of the Botswana Stock Exchange. Discussions were held regarding interest rates for business investment loans and deposits, new possibilities in the fintech sector, and real-time transaction systems.

Mr. Nikhil Madras, President of the Chamber of Commerce, presented a detailed vision of the Chamber to further strengthen bilateral trade between India and Botswana. He specifically emphasized enhancing cooperation for the

necessary arrangements for Ease of Doing Business, partnerships in the diamond industry, textile sector, and renewable energy field, as well as ensuring the security and reliability of trade and investment.

High-level meetings were held between the Chamber's delegation and key organizations associated with Botswana's diamond industry, such as the Okavango Diamond Company (ODC), KGK Diamonds, and officials from the Kimberley Process. These meetings involved deliberations on cooperation regarding diamond trading and its expansion, certification processes, and skill development exchange programs, including training between India and Botswana. Furthermore, joint possibilities to further strengthen the India-Botswana diamond value chain were discussed. Through these meetings, deep cooperation and new opportunities in the diamond sector between both countries were promoted.

A grand state reception was organized by the Honorable President of Botswana, Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, in honor of the Honorable President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu. This event was integrated with her official state visit to Botswana. The Chamber of Commerce's delegation was extended a special invitation to this prestigious ceremony.

Botswana's President, Honorable Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, warmly welcomed India's Honorable President Smt. Draupadi Murmu and



expressed Botswana's commitment to further strengthening the India-Botswana bilateral partnership. President Boko provided detailed information regarding the country's priorities for Botswana's economic transformation and, making a significant announcement, stated that Botswana will gift 8 cheetahs to India. This gesture will be regarded as a symbol of the growing friendship between the two nations. He further expressed hope that this heart-touching gesture would attract more Indian tourists to Botswana, allowing them to gain a unique experience of the country's wildlife heritage and natural beauty.

Honorable President Smt. Draupadi Murmu expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the excellent gift presented by the Government of Botswana. She reaffirmed India's commitment to further strengthening multi-sectoral cooperation between India and Botswana. She praised Botswana's progress and extended full support to advance cooperation in priority sectors identified by India. Detailed discussions were held regarding bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, renewable energy, digital public infrastructure, agriculture and food processing, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, skill development and capacity building, defense, mining, and cybersecurity. Botswana showed a special interest in India's digital public infrastructure model.

On November 13, 2025, a meeting was held

with the Chamber's delegation at the Office of the President of Botswana, which was attended by President Advocate Duma Gideon Boko, the Minister of Trade and Industry, the Principal Secretary to the President, the Botswana High Commissioner to India, and the CEO of BITC. Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi expressed special gratitude for the excellent hospitality and well-coordinated arrangements provided by the Government of Botswana. He also praised the historic 4-hour economic roadmap presented by the President in Parliament on November 10.

The Twin City proposal for Surat and Gaborone was presented, involving discussions on urban development, technology and talent exchange, medical tourism, education, student exchange programs, and the regular exchange of business delegations and exhibitions. The Chamber's delegation also put forward representations regarding long-term business visas, a single-window system, land allocation for Indian investors, and 100% FDI in mining, finance, and technology sectors. Furthermore, an invitation was extended to the President of Botswana and the Cabinet to attend the SGCCI's Global Village 2026, which is to be organized by the Chamber of Commerce in Surat from January 24 to 26, 2026. The President of Botswana praised the Chamber's various activities, its leadership, and the efforts being made for the development of trade and industry in South Gujarat.

He supported cooperation in the stock exchange and fintech sectors. He encouraged Gujarati entrepreneurs to explore tourism opportunities in Botswana. Providing assurances regarding the safety and security of Indian investors, he described India as a long-term development partner. Additionally, he praised the Chamber's commitment toward Botswana.

Honorable President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, addressed the Indian diaspora living in Botswana at an Indian Community Meeting organized by the High Commission of India in Gaborone. On this occasion, the Chamber's delegation held direct discussions with India's Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, Mr. V. Somanna; Member of Parliament, Mr. Prabhubhai Vasava; Member of Parliament, Mrs. D.K. Aruna; and senior officials from both India and Botswana.

On November 14, 2025, a meeting was held with the Indian business community in Botswana, involving B2B discussions with prominent entrepreneurs of Indian origin. Discussions focused on investment in key sectors such as retail, mining, diamonds, construction, hospitality, finance, and renewable energy. Local entrepreneurs assured the Chamber's delegation of full cooperation regarding local market entry, regulations, and investment facilitation.

**Mr. Jayanti Savaliya - Gujarat Regional
Chairman, GJEPC (Gem & Jewellery
Export Promotion Council)**

"This business delegation's visit has brought historic and leading results for the diamond industry. A commitment has been secured from the ODC to supply rough diamonds directly to Surat, and institutional ties with the diamond hub of Botswana have been strengthened. The praise for GJEPC's white paper by the President of Botswana and the instruction to declare Surat-Gaborone as Twin Cities have proven to be a solid foundation for establishing deeper and future-oriented cooperation between the diamond industries of both nations.

**Mr. Deepak Sheta - Founder & Chairman,
Apple Lifestyle Industries Limited**

"Surat has always operated on the principle of

creating global value rather than just targeting the global market. Botswana's warm acceptance and visionary outlook on cooperation show that both countries together can build a strong textile ecosystem based on innovation, women's empowerment, and skill-based industrial development."

**Mr. Darshak Narola - Shree Ramkrishna
Exports Pvt. Ltd.**

"We see vast opportunities for cooperation in sectors such as sourcing, beneficiation, skill development, and diamond innovation. We aim to build a diamond ecosystem that is more transparent, sustainable, and globally competitive."

**Dr. Faruk G. Patel - Chairman & Managing
Director, KP Group**

"The Chamber's business delegation to Botswana has proven to be a milestone for KP Group. This visit provided a unique opportunity to establish direct contact with Botswana's top leadership and influential business houses. Through this strategic alliance, multi-gigawatt renewable energy opportunities have opened up, strengthening KP Group's vision for expansion across the African continent, including Botswana."

Mr. Krunal Mehta - Founder, Mehta Wealth

"We met with high-ranking officials of Botswana's pension funds and held constructive discussions regarding increasing their investment allocation toward India."

**Dr. Dinesh J. Dhankani - Chairman, Reagan
Fashions Pvt. Ltd. & Liberty Silk Mills**

"By presenting a white paper on the Surat-Botswana Textile Corridor, a clear path was shown to strengthen stable industrial cooperation, skill development, and textile trade. This initiative, which links Surat's expertise in synthetic and man-made fabrics with Botswana's strategic position in Africa, creates an important partnership promoting economic growth, job creation, and sustainable manufacturing."

**Mr. Gurmeet Singh Maan - Managing
Director, Taranjot Group & Mr. Rakesh Shah
- Head of Corporate Affairs, Taranjot Group**

"It was a matter of pride for us to be part of the Botswana business delegation tour. The meetings

held with the Honorable President of Botswana and his prestigious team were extremely inspiring. We are deeply grateful to BITC, Botswana, for organizing excellent interactions with us. We hope that in the future as well, such new opportunities will arise for us again and bilateral cooperation will become even stronger.”

Mr. Hitesh Shah – Venus Jewel

“The visits of the Surat business delegation to Botswana were extremely encouraging. Extensive discussions were held with the President of Botswana and senior officials regarding increasing cooperation in the diamond industry. Positive signs were received toward developing Surat-Gaborone as Twin Cities. Discussions also covered skill-based cooperation, improved labor facilities for workers, and the simplification of the visa process.”

Mr. Fenil Patel – Rayzon Solar

“The Chamber’s delegation visit to Botswana

has created strong opportunities for Rayzon Solar Limited in the field of advanced solar module supply for large-scale utility projects. The meetings held during this visit have strengthened Rayzon’s commitment to meeting Botswana’s growing renewable energy needs through world-class, high-efficiency solar modules.”

**Mr. Brijesh Dholakia - Second
Generation Entrepreneur, Hari Krishna
Exports Pvt. Ltd.**

“The visit to Botswana provided an important opportunity to gain direct experience of the strong government commitment toward an ethical diamond ecosystem and responsible trade. Positive discussions took place during the visit regarding cooperation in natural diamond sourcing, skill exchange between Surat and Botswana, and new opportunities in the direction of value-addition.”

SITEX-2025 dazzles Sarsana, showcasing the future of textile machinery



The textile industry, equipped with new machinery and modern technology, will play a vital role in Surat’s future development; Union Minister for Jal Shakti Mr. C.R. Patil and Gujarat’s Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Harsh Sanghavi are continuously holding meetings regarding the PM Mitra Park: **Mayor of Surat, Mr. Dakshesh Mavani**



As the third major exhibition of the year 2025-26 in the series organized by SGCCI, the SGCCI Trade & Industries Development Center, and the Surat Texmac Federation, 'SITEX-2025' was held from November 22 to 24, 2025, between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Center in Sarsana.

The inauguration ceremony of SITEX Expo took place on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at 11:00 AM, where Mr. Dakshesh Mavani, the Mayor of Surat, attended as the chief guest and inaugurated the expo.

In his address, Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the SITEX exhibition is a vital platform accelerating the growth and global connectivity of Surat's textile industry and overall businesses. Surat city is a national leader in the textile

sector, and in the coming times, modern machinery and new technology will bring about a massive transformation in the industry. The innovations adopted by entrepreneurs will further strengthen Surat as a global textile hub.

Surat City Mayor Mr. Dakshesh Mavani stated that the textile industry, with its new machinery and modern technology, will play an extremely vital role in Surat's future development. Providing information about the PM MITRA Park near Surat, he stated that Union Minister Mr. C.R. Patil and Gujarat's Deputy CM Mr. Harsh Sanghavi are constantly striving for this park and are holding meetings to make it operational. He expressed confidence that infrastructure projects like the ongoing Metro Rail, Bullet Train, DREAM City, and the International Airport will significantly improve



Addressing the industrialists, Mr. Daksheshbhai Mavani, Mayor of Surat



Addressing the industrialists, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI



Addressing the industrialists, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of SGCCI

Surat's connectivity and transport facilities. He stated that there is a plan to operate 100 flights from Surat within the next three to four months.

The Mayor expressed confidence that Surat's GDP will double in the next five years, as no other city in the country possesses a connectivity network as extensive as Surat's. He remarked that "Surat's sun is shining at its zenith," meaning that the city is progressing toward the peak of development. He praised the youth and entrepreneurs of Surat for constantly taking new initiatives. He also congratulated the Chamber for the proactive way it organizes various exhibitions and programs for the development of industries.

He added with pride that the reason Surat is called the number-one city in India is that it has received 15 national awards in the last one and a half years. Surat has ranked first in the country for air quality surveys and water sanitation, as well as in the model for recharging rainwater underground in the state of Gujarat. In the coming times, Surat will become the city with the fastest connectivity in the



country.

The Mayor mentioned that the Union Railway Minister of India has visited Surat three times in just one month to oversee the progress of the Bullet Train project. If any city is to benefit the most from the Bullet Train, it will be Surat, as facilities will be available to reach Ahmedabad and Mumbai in just one hour from Surat.

Furthermore, he stated that every fifteen days, a municipal corporation comes here to learn from and study the "Surat Model," including the municipal corporations of Hyderabad and Chandigarh.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that the SITEX exhibition has been providing a business-to-business platform to industries for years, enabling Surat's textile industry to access new opportunities and markets at both national and international levels. The tradition of continuously encouraging entrepreneurs through such exhibitions and programs will be maintained by the Chamber in the future as well.

Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Secretary of the



Chamber, conducted the inauguration function of the SITEX exhibition. The ceremony was attended by Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mewawala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, All Exhibitions Chairman Mr. Kiran Thummar, SITEX Expo

Chairman Mr. Suresh Patel, along with Surat Texmac Federation Joint Secretary Mr. Bhavesh Vaghasia, Treasurer Mr. Mahendra Kukadiya, committee members, former Chamber presidents, exhibitors, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

SITEX Expo-2025 generates an overwhelming response, with capital investment in textile machinery likely to exceed ₹2,000 crore within the next six months



More than 35,000 buyers and visitors from various corners of the country visited the SITEX Expo over three days, resulting in significant orders for the exhibitors

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stated that feedback from exhibitors indicated SITEX Expo-2025 was a “super hit”. All exhibitors were able to effectively present state-of-the-art machinery to buyers coming from cities across various states, and they also connected with new buyers. Exhibitors held one-on-one meetings with genuine buyers from across the country, during which the buyers placed substantial orders.

Furthermore, an analysis of the significant inquiries generated for exhibitors regarding state-of-the-art textile machinery and ancillaries suggests a strong potential for capital investment of more than Rs. 2,000 crore in textile machinery over the next six months. This is because SITEX Expo showcased advanced textile machinery manufactured in India alongside sophisticated textile machinery featuring

other international technologies.

On the first day of the SITEX exhibition, 9,450 buyers visited; on the second day, 15,380 buyers; and on the third day (Monday), 10,888 visitors came. Thus, a total of 35,718 visitors visited SITEX Expo over three days, providing extensive benefits to the exhibitors and the entire textile industry of Surat.

During these three days, visitors from various cities across the country visited the exhibition, including Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Surendranagar, Sidhpur, Kolhapur, Kolkata, Bhilwara, Indore, Ichalkaranji, Bhavnagar, Varanasi, Nashik, Malegaon, Dungarpur, Hyderabad, Amreli, Abrama, Erode, New Delhi, Pune, Aurangabad, Coimbatore, Tirupur, Patan, Solapur, Itwa, Chennai, Bhuj, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Ghaziabad, Buxar, Ambala, Virpur, Pratapgarh, Badrinathpuri, Bakshad (Rajasthan), Bangalore, and Silchar.

National-Level Leadership for Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been appointed to several prestigious industrial bodies at the national level



Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi has been appointed as an elected member of the Managing Committee of ASSOCHAM (Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India), New Delhi; a nominated member of the National Executive Committee of FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), New Delhi; a nominated member of the Managing Committee of IMC (Indian Merchants' Chamber), Mumbai; and a nominated member of the Managing Committee of GCCI (Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Ahmedabad

As a result of these appointments, industries in South Gujarat will reap numerous benefits, such as the ability to make representations at national and international levels for industrial interests, effectively conveying the needs of South Gujarat to the Central Government. An influential

participation in the policy-making process for trade and industry will become possible, which will accelerate the industrial development of the region. New avenues for cooperation, partnership, and networking will open at both national and international levels, opening doors for new opportunities and innovation. Additionally, the benefits of specialized knowledge, guidance, and resources will be more easily accessible to the industries of South Gujarat.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi has received these prestigious appointments due to his selfless service, commitment, and leadership toward the industrial world. Heartfelt congratulations are extended to Mr. Nikhil Madrasi on behalf of the Chamber family and the entire industrial community of South Gujarat, along with best wishes for taking the industrial sector of South Gujarat to new heights under his leadership.



Matter raised with the Rajasthan Chief Minister following the attack on former President Mr. Ashish Gujarati near Udaipur

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry has made a representation to the Honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajanlal Sharma, expressing grave concern regarding the attack on former Chamber President Shri Ashish Gujarati in the state of Rajasthan and requesting his intervention for appropriate legal action.

Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasai stated that on the night of October 26, 2025, around 11:30 PM in the Pipali area near Udaipur, former Chamber President Mr. Ashish Gujarati and his family were attacked by robbers armed with sticks. The attackers struck his head and issued death threats, leaving the entire family terrified and in a state of mental trauma.

Following this attack, Mr. Ashish Gujarati's family members immediately contacted the nearby Surajpole Police Station for help. However, the officers there refused to register a 'Zero FIR' citing jurisdictional issues. In its letter, the Chamber highlighted that the practice of registering a Zero FIR is accepted across India, allowing any police station to record a crime regardless of whether it occurred within its limits. Ultimately, higher-ranking officials extended their cooperation, and through their support, an FIR was finally registered three days later, on October 29, 2025.

The Chamber has also brought to the attention of the Rajasthan Government that due to the lack of

mobile network connectivity (specifically Vi service) across an approximately 50-kilometer stretch between Pipali and Udaipur, the victimized family was unable to seek immediate assistance. Furthermore, the emergency helpline number provided by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) remained unresponsive, leaving the family in a completely helpless state.

The Chamber has requested the Chief Minister to ensure a time-bound and impartial investigation of the incident, to apprehend the culprits and punish them legally, and to take appropriate action against the police officers who showed negligence in registering the Zero FIR. Additionally, they requested that security arrangements on the state's highways and tourist routes be further strengthened. Simultaneously, the Chamber has demanded improvements in mobile network connectivity, emergency helpline responsiveness, and highway communication infrastructure, so that such incidents do not happen to anyone else in the future.

The Chamber further stated that just recently, the Honorable Chief Minister of Rajasthan visited Surat and invited the industrialists of South Gujarat to invest in Rajasthan; however, such an unfortunate incident deals a blow to the confidence of the industrial world and also affects Rajasthan's image as a 'safe and investor-friendly' state.

Former President of Oman Chamber of Commerce visits SGCCI



Former President of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry and entrepreneur Mr. Redha Juma Mohammed Ali Al Saleh visited the Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, 5 November 2025.

As part of SGCCI's Global Connect initiative, he visited the Chamber and held extensive discussions with President Mr. Nikhil Madras and the office bearers regarding the expansion of business cooperation and people-to-people contact between India—specifically South Gujarat—and Oman. He also provided detailed information regarding investment opportunities in Oman and the incentives available for establishing industries there.

Mr. Redha expressed optimism that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Oman is in its final stages and is expected to be signed by the end of this year, which would double the trade between the two nations. He suggested a strategic move: since Indian exporters, especially in textiles, are affected by U.S. tariffs, they could export via Oman. As Oman already has a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S., exporters from South Gujarat could leverage this to access the American market. He further highlighted that Oman offers Free Trade Zones and major ports like Sohar, Salalah, Duqm, and Port Sultan Qaboos in Muscat, which form a primary maritime network for international trade.

Pre-Budget Memorandum submitted to the Union Textile Secretary, highlighting key recommendations on GST, Customs, and Direct Taxes

The Honorary Treasurer of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, CA Mitish Modi, and CA Rajeev Kapasiyawala met with the Union Textile Secretary, Neelam Shammi Rao (IAS), in New Delhi on Monday, November 3, 2025. During the meeting, they submitted a Pre-Budget Memorandum featuring key suggestions for the textile sector concerning GST, Customs, and Direct Taxes

A delegation from the Chamber personally met with Mr. S.C.L. Das (IAS), Secretary of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in New Delhi to submit a representation regarding MSME issues. The Chamber proposed that the definition of 'Micro and Small Enterprises' under Section 15 of the current MSME Act should be expanded to include traders and retailers. This change would enable traders to also benefit from the provisions of Section 43(B)(h) of the Income Tax Act. The Chamber made this representation on the grounds that the original objective of Section 43(B)(h) was not being fully realized under the existing framework

In addition, the Chamber delegation invited the Secretary of the Ministry of MSME, Mr. S.C.L. Das (IAS), to visit the Chamber in Surat and provide guidance to Surat's entrepreneurs regarding the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME); he responded with a positive approach toward this invitation.

The Chamber's delegation also met with Shri Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha (IAS), Secretary of the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in New Delhi.



An invitation to entrepreneurs and businesses from South Gujarat, including Surat, for the Sri Lanka Economic and Investment Summit



The Sri Lanka Economic and Investment Summit is scheduled to be held on December 2 and 3, 2025, in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, under the auspices of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. Regarding this event, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce organized an online meeting with the office bearers of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI). The meeting was attended by the Immediate Past President of the Chamber, Mr. Vijay Mewawala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and other entrepreneurs.

Ms. Priyanga Wickramasinghe, the Consul General of Sri Lanka for Western India, welcomed everyone during the online meeting. Presentations regarding trade and economic opportunities in Sri Lanka were delivered by the Sri Lanka Export Development Board and the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. Additionally, the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce gave a detailed presentation about the summit and extended a formal invitation to the entrepreneurs and businessmen-

professionals of South Gujarat to participate and attend.

During this online meeting, a Q&A session was also held. The Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, CA Mitish Modi, sought information regarding the primary goods exported from India to Sri Lanka and vice versa. He specifically inquired about the special facilities and incentives available to Indian entrepreneurs under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Sri Lanka. Furthermore, he requested data on the current levels of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Sri Lanka and which countries are the major contributors to those investments.

Mr. Paresh Bhatt, CEO of SGCCI Global Connect, provided detailed information about the Chamber and the industries of South Gujarat. Ms. Shirani Ariyaratne, the Consul General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, delivered the vote of thanks. The Ceylon Chamber stated that this summit will prove to be significantly important for the industries of South Gujarat.

'Cost and Competitiveness' workshop organized to strengthen MSME performance



“Information is being gathered regarding the difficulties industries are facing in terms of markets, technology, and skills. Suggestions are also being sought from entrepreneurs to resolve these challenges. A comprehensive document will be prepared based on these findings, which will serve as the foundation for future industrial policy formulation.” : Ms. Ankita Pandey

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a workshop on 'Cost and Competitiveness' for MSME units on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 3:30 PM in Seminar Hall-A, SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat. The event was graced by the presence of Ms. Ankita Pandey, Director of the department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India (New Delhi), and Mr. Manoj Kumar Vats, Joint Director of the MSME Development and Facilitation Office (Ahmedabad).

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, stated that for MSME industries to survive and thrive amidst global competition, it is absolutely essential to reduce costs and enhance operational efficiency. He reaffirmed that the Chamber will remain steadfast in its commitment to the development of the MSME sector and will continue to organize various programs and activities in the best interest of the industrial community.

Ms. Ankita Pandey, Director of MSME, Government of India, stated that while entrepreneurs are performing

well in both domestic and global markets, they have the potential to contribute even more significantly on a global scale. She mentioned that MSME officials are visiting various industrial clusters to understand the specific challenges faced by entrepreneurs. Information is being gathered regarding difficulties related to markets, technology, and skills, while also seeking suggestions from business owners for their resolution. A comprehensive document will be prepared based on these findings, which will serve as the foundation for formulating appropriate industrial policies.

Mr. Manoj Kumar Vats, Joint Director of the MSME Development and Facilitation Office (Ahmedabad), advised Surat's entrepreneurs to establish multiple manufacturing units as a strategy to manage costs and maintain competitiveness in business. Furthermore, he urged entrepreneurs to provide detailed information in the consultation note regarding the challenges they face in their business operations and their suggested solutions.

Mr. Girish Luthra, President of FICCI-CMSME; Mr.



**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi,
President of SGCCI**



**Ms. Ankita Pandey, Director,
MSME, Government of India**



**Mr. Manoj Kumar Vats,
Joint Director, MSME DFO,
Ahmedabad**

Amit Korat, President of the Surat Jewelry Manufacturers Association; and Mr. J.B. Dave, Joint Commissioner of the District Industries Centre (DIC) - Surat, briefed the entrepreneurs of Surat regarding NITI Aayog's roadmap.

CA Manish Bajrang, Chairman of the Chamber's MSME Committee, moderated the ceremony and expressed his gratitude to everyone present at the workshop. He also facilitated the Q&A session during the open-house discussion.

A technical session was held during the workshop, conducted by Mr. Brijesh Kumar Swarnakar, Assistant Director of the MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Ahmedabad.

Mr. Ashish Gujarati, Former President of the Chamber and Chairman of the Textile Task Force, provided detailed insights and information to the entrepreneurs during the technical session.

Mr. Kuldeep Singh Rajput, In-charge of the National SC-ST Hub for Gujarat and Rajasthan, provided information regarding various government schemes specifically designed for SC-ST entrepreneurs.

Mr. Umesh Sharma, Assistant Director of the MSME Development and Facilitation Office (Ahmedabad), shared insights on various schemes offered by the Ministry of MSME for entrepreneurs. Additionally, Mr. Tipul Mangukiya, Proprietor of BMD Consultancy, provided detailed information regarding the ZED (Zero Defect Zero Effect) and MCLS (MSME Competitive Lean Scheme).

Mr. Akash Suman, DGM of SIDBI, provided information regarding the GIFT and SPICE schemes. Mr. Nirmal Patel, DGM of Bank of Baroda, shared insights regarding the various financing options available to MSME

entrepreneurs.

Mr. Premkumar Sonkusare, Assistant at the DGFT, provided detailed information to the entrepreneurs regarding India's Foreign Trade Policy and the India-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

Ms. K.G. Thakkar, Joint Commissioner of GST Surat, briefed professionals on GST-related matters, while Ms. Veena K. Shah from the SLBC (State Level Bankers' Committee) addressed the MSME professionals.

Mr. Arun Patel, the Regional Officer of GPCB (Gujarat Pollution Control Board) in Surat, provided comprehensive guidance to entrepreneurs regarding industry regulations and environmental matters.

The event also featured insights from Mr. Nikhil Raj, Joint Director of BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) Surat, who shared vital information about BIS certification and standards. Additionally, Mr. Nilay Pandya, Assistant Director of the Powerloom Service Center in Surat, briefed local entrepreneurs on various textile ministry schemes designed to support the industry.

The workshop was well-attended by prominent leadership from the Chamber, including Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, and Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. Also in attendance were Group Chairman Mr. Nirav Mandlewala, along with numerous local entrepreneurs and traders.

During the interactive segment, officials provided satisfactory answers to various queries raised by entrepreneurs regarding MSME regulations and policies. The event concluded successfully following this productive Q&A session.

'Prakruti-Ayush Conclave 2025' Celebrates Wellness and Tradition



Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), joined the conclave virtually to deliver an inspiring message. He emphasized that for the well-being of the entire world, it is essential to remain mindful of nature and actively work toward its preservation and care

With the objective of promoting a nature-based lifestyle, Ayurveda, and alternative healing methods, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized the 'Prakruti-Ayush Conclave 2025'. The event took place on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Platinum Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat.

Mr. Parshottam Rupala, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), joined the conclave virtually as the Chief Guest and congratulated the Chamber of Commerce for organizing the event. He stated that for the welfare of the world, one must be mindful of nature and take dedicated steps toward its preservation.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor. Additionally, Swami Shri Ashokanandji (Amrit Prakashji), Head of Shri Bhagirathi Dham and Shri Krishnayan Gauraksha Shala in Haridwar, attended as the Guest Speaker and provided profound guidance on meditation and yoga.

Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Acting President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that in today's stressful times, connecting with nature has become absolutely essential. Through this conclave, an effort was made to spread awareness regarding healthy living, natural healing, and Ayush-based therapies. The objective was

to establish harmony between health, spirituality, and nature through our country's ancient wellness traditions of Ayurveda and Yoga.

"Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni stated that since human beings have been blessed with this body, they should use it to fulfill a noble purpose. Currently, people are solely chasing wealth (Artha) and desire (Kama), setting aside righteousness (Dharma) and liberation (Moksha). He emphasized that a balance must be struck between spirituality and materialism, which can be achieved through meditation and yoga. Furthermore, people must learn to respect nature. While much focus is placed on academic and worldly education, there is an urgent need to also prioritize physical and wellness education.

Swami Shri Ashokanandji stated that spiritual practice (Sadhana) can only be performed through the human form. He explained that divine realization is achievable through spiritual consciousness. Through meditation comes practice, and through practice, one attains perfection (Siddhi). By focusing meditation on the Aagya Chakra, all seven chakras become activated.

He further emphasized that meditation grants immense willpower and energy, and therefore advised everyone to practice it every morning and evening. He remarked that in the modern era, the human body is becoming increasingly prone to illness; thus, one should



Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of SGCCI



Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, Founder, Ahinsa Vishwa Bharati & World Peace Centre



Swami Shri Ashokanandji, Head, Shri Bhagirathi Dham, Haridwar & Shri Krishnayan

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muniji : “people must focus on physical education alongside formal academic or worldly education, striking a meaningful balance between spirituality and materialism is must

A human being should not be a victim of ailment, but instead should strive to be a Karmayogi and a Bhaktiyogi. Through the practice of meditation, any power of resolve can be achieved.” : Swami Shri Ashokanandji

strive to be a ‘Yogi’ rather than a “rogi”- patient. A person has the potential to become both a Karmayogi (one who excels through action) and a Bhaktiyogi.

Ms. Kavita Gupta, Director of Shakunt Ashram, provided specialized guidance on the benefits and techniques of Sound Therapy.

Dr. Manshali, Chairperson of the Chamber's AYUSH Committee, presented the outline of the entire program. Dr. Manshali envisioned the concept of the ‘Prakruti-Ayush Conclave’ and played a crucial role in bringing this concept to the public. In recognition of her contribution to the program's success, the Holistic Medicine Research Foundation honored her with a Life Membership. Dr. Manshali stated that the true essence of

the AYUSH mantra is to live a healthy life by maintaining harmony with nature.

Rashtra Gaurav Awardee Professor Dr. Deepak Raut provided insightful guidance on ‘Manifestation and Global Consciousness’ at the symbolic time of 11:11 AM on November 11th (11/11). Additionally, fellow Rashtra Gaurav Awardee Mr. Chirag Gajjar conducted a live session for over 700 attendees, demonstrating techniques for Aura Cleaning and the balancing of the Seven Chakras.

“At the event organized by the Chamber at Platinum Hall in Sarsana, a world record was set for the highest number of individuals receiving Reiki healing simultaneously at a single venue. In recognition of this



unique feat, Dr. Chirag Gajjar was presented with a provisional world record certificate by the World Record of Excellence - England. Furthermore, the Shree Sai Yoga and Reiki Healing Center - Surat was also honored with the Sifa Book of Records International Certificate.

In conjunction with the conclave, a Mega Exhibition was held featuring more than 20 stalls. The exhibition showcased a diverse range of AYUSH products, herbal wellness solutions, natural lifestyle items, healthcare innovations, and organic herbal products.

Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Immediate Past President of the Chamber, expressed his gratitude to all those in

attendance. The conclave saw a massive turnout of over 700 participants, including Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Chamber members, and local citizens.

The introductions of the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor were presented by Group Chairman Dr. Vijay Radadiya and AYUSH Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Nipesh Patel. To conclude the event, Dr. Parul Patel, Co-Chairperson of the AYUSH Committee, delivered the concluding remarks. The entire program was efficiently moderated by Dr. Vishal Shah and Dr. Shilpa Agrawal from the AYUSH Committee.

1,000 retro-reflectors installed in Pandesara to enhance worker safety under the Road Safety Campaign



With the aim of spreading public awareness regarding road safety, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) conducted a 'Bicycle Retro-Reflector and Two-Wheeler Road Safety Awareness Campaign'. The initiative took place on Monday, November 10, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Pramukh Park Industrial Society, located between Pandesara and Bhestan on the Udhna-Navsari Main Road, Surat.

This Road Safety Awareness Campaign was launched under the initiative of the Chamber of Commerce's Traffic Education and Awareness Committee. The primary objective of this campaign is to raise awareness regarding road accidents in Surat city and its surrounding areas.

Specifically, cyclists, two-wheeler riders, and

tempo drivers were educated on the critical importance of installing retro-reflectors for nighttime visibility. To safeguard the lives of industrial workers, 1,000 retro-reflectors were installed on their bicycles and three-wheeled tempos to minimize the risk of road accidents.

The Chamber of Commerce has consistently strived to raise awareness among the citizens of Surat by undertaking various public interest initiatives as part of its Social Responsibility. As part of these efforts, retro-reflectors were installed on workers' bicycles in industrial areas. Mrs. Kaminiben Dumaswala, Chairperson of the Chamber's Traffic Education and Awareness Committee, along with other committee members, actively participated in the drive. The campaign was also supported by the local police department.

'Ushakant Kanchanlal Marfatia Hall' inaugurated as the new name of Seminar Hall-A at Sarsana



A naming ceremony was organized by Saar Infracon and The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre (SIECC) campus in Sarsana. During the ceremony, Seminar Hall-A was officially named the 'Ushakant Kanchanlal Marfatia Hall'. The event was graced by the former President of the Chamber, Mr. I. J. Desai, who attended as the Chief Guest.

Mr. I. J. Desai, Past President of the Chamber,

fondly recalled his personal memories and long-standing friendship with Ushakant Kanchanlal Marfatia.

ચેમ્બરના પૂર્વ પ્રમુખ શ્રી આઈ.જે. દેસાઈએ મિત્ર તરીકે ઉપાકાંત કંચનલાલ મારફતિયાની સાથેના પોતાના સંસ્મરણો તાજા કર્યા હતા.

During the ceremony, a special felicitation was held for the Past Presidents of the Chamber, Mr. Rajnikant Marfatia and Mr. I. J. Desai. On this occasion, members of the Marfatia family, Mrs. Vibhaben Marfatia and Mr. Rajnikant Marfatia, shared heartfelt reminiscences and paid tribute to the cherished



memories of their senior family member Ushakant Marfatia.

Mr. Bharat Gandhi, Chairman of Saar Infracon, stated that the Chamber's role in the industrial development of Surat has been extraordinary, and the contributions of the Marfatia family have always been remarkable. He added that the naming of this hall serves as a dedicated tribute to their enduring legacy.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that the collaboration between the Chamber and Saar Infracon is providing Surat with world-class infrastructure facilities. He added that the Ushakant Kanchanlal Marfatia Hall is destined to become a central hub for many significant commercial and industrial events in the future.

Mr. Ashok Shah, Director of Saar Infracon,

expressed his heartfelt gratitude and proposed a vote of thanks to everyone in attendance at the ceremony.

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished gathering, including Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, and Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. Also present were the office bearers of Saar Infracon and the Chamber, several Past Presidents of the Chamber, former Gujarat State Education Minister Mr. Nanubhai Vanani, and Mr. Hemant Desai and Mr. J. Raghunath from Reliance. The proceedings of the ceremony were conducted by the Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Mr. Bijal Jariwala. A significant highlight of the event was the presence of nearly all the Past Presidents of the Chamber, marking a rare and distinguished gathering.

Key meeting held to strengthen air connectivity from Surat



Under the leadership of Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), a key meeting was recently held at the Chamber with Mr. Pradeep Popat, Gujarat Head of Air India and Air India Express.

The meeting was attended by Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and the Chairman of the Aviation Committee Mr. Linesh Shah.

During the meeting, detailed discussions

were held regarding the expansion of national and international air services from Surat, improvements in passenger facilities, and the enhancement of Air India's services. The discussion also emphasized the growing role of Surat International Airport, which is significantly contributing to the development of trade, industry, and tourism in Gujarat and Western India.

The Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Air India and Air India Express, will continue to make persistent efforts to transform Surat into a premier aviation gateway for Gujarat and Western India.

PTA Supply, Pricing and Market Trends Discussed at Chamber Meet



GAIL's PTA manufacturing plant is located in Mangalore; however, recognizing the needs of the industry, they are developing specialized logistics support for Surat and South Gujarat."

Mr. H.K. Srivastava, Executive Director, GAIL (India) Limited

"Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Acting President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that PTA is a crucial raw material in the textile value chain, particularly essential for Polyester Yarn and Fiber. This meeting was organized at the Chamber to provide Surat's MSME entrepreneurs with vital information regarding raw material availability, pricing, logistics, and future market trends.

In this meeting, Mr. H.K. Srivastava (Executive Director of GAIL India Ltd.), along with Mr. Vijay Chokkar and Mr. Ajay Chitre, delivered a comprehensive presentation. They provided detailed information on:

- **Market Dynamics:** The rising domestic demand for PTA in India and future growth prospects.
- **Production Excellence:** The manufacturing capacities and stringent quality standards of GAIL's Mangalore-based PTA plant.
- **Innovation:** New application areas for PTA in the market and the integration of modern technologies.
- **Supply Chain & Projects:** GAIL's ongoing and upcoming projects aimed at making the supply chain more efficient.
- **Cost Efficiency:** GAIL's distribution network designed to help entrepreneurs significantly reduce their logistics expenses.

Mr. H.K. Srivastava stated that Surat is the largest textile hub in all of India and possesses the highest concentration of MSME entrepreneurs. For this reason, it

was decided to hold GAIL's very first 'Customer Meet' in Surat. While GAIL's PTA manufacturing plant is located in Mangalore—where they also maintain a warehouse within a Special Economic Zone (SEZ)—they have recognized the specific requirements of the local industry. Consequently, they are now developing a specialized logistics support system dedicated to Surat and the South Gujarat region.

Mr. H.K. Srivastava expressed confidence that by organizing a convenient supply of PTA from the warehouse directly to Surat, GAIL will be able to support the business needs of Surat's entrepreneurs more robustly. He noted that in the coming years, the PTA-Polyester value chain is poised to make a significant contribution to India's textile exports, making cooperation between the industry and PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings) vital. Furthermore, he shared detailed information regarding the warehousing and distribution networks being established to ensure rapid supply for Surat and South Gujarat.

"Chamber Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and several MSME entrepreneurs attended the meeting. Mr. Niraj Modi, President of TiE India (South Gujarat Unit) and Chairman of the Chamber's Petroleum and Natural Gas Committee, outlined the program's framework. Program Convenor Mr. Arvind Babawala introduced the guests, and Mr. Pavan Panwala, Honorary Secretary of TiE India (South Gujarat Unit), proposed the vote of thanks to all attendees.

ICAI Western Zone Visit Marks Collaboration for 'Seva Sarathi' Initiative



In a significant move to benefit Surat's entrepreneurs, discussions were held on various key issues, including the joint organization of AI (Artificial Intelligence), Start-up, and Labour Law Conclaves

A meeting was held at The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) on Thursday, November 13, 2025, with a delegation from The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) - Western Regional India Council (WIRC). The ICAI-WIRC delegation engaged in detailed discussions with the Chamber's office bearers regarding trade, industry, and mutual collaboration for various upcoming programs.

The delegation from the ICAI - Western India Regional Council (WIRC) included high-ranking officials from both the Regional Council and the Surat Branch.

Delegation Members from WIRC (Mumbai):

- CA Ketan Saiya: Chairman, WIRC, Mumbai
- CA Piyush Chandak: Vice Chairman
- CA Jinal Savla: Secretary
- CA Dr. Fenil Shah: Treasurer
- CA Jitendra Saglani: Chairman, WICASA, Mumbai

Delegation Members from ICAI Surat Branch:

- CA Ashwin Bhauwala: Chairman
- CA Rahul Agrawal: Vice Chairman
- CA Shailesh Lakhankiya: Chairman, WICASA, Surat
- CA Pritesh Shah: Secretary
- CA Chimpu Lapsiwala: Treasurer

The delegation from ICAI - Western Zone held extensive discussions with the Chamber's leadership, including Acting President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, and Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi.

Key Discussion Points:

- Growing Professional Demand: Addressing the increasing need for Chartered Accountants within Surat's industrial sector.
- Financial & Legal Framework: Focus on enhancing financial transparency and providing robust legal counsel to local businesses.
- Future Readiness: Strategies for providing essential professional support to industries as they scale.
- Social & Corporate Synergy: Surat's Chartered Accountants expressed a strong desire to become more actively involved in corporate leadership alongside their ongoing social service initiatives.

This meeting was organized through the efforts of the Chamber's Honorary Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi. The 'Seva Sarathi Project' has been launched by ICAI - Western Zone. The CSR Committee of ICAI - Western Zone is active for NGOs and Charitable Trusts. Since the Chamber of Commerce also has its own CSR Committee, CA Mitish Modi requested the Chairman

of ICAI - Western Zone, CA Ketan Saiya, to involve the Chamber's CSR Committee in the 'Seva Sarathi Project' so that the CSR committees of both organizations can work together on corporate world activities in addition to service-oriented tasks; he showed a positive attitude toward this.

CA Ketan Saiya (Chairman, WIRC, Mumbai) stated that the ICAI - Western Zone will soon organize an AI Conclave, Start-up Conclave, and Labour Law Conclave in Surat. To ensure that the entrepreneurs of Surat receive maximum benefit, he requested that all these conclaves be organized jointly with SGCCI in

Surat, a proposal which the Chamber's office bearers accepted. Through these conclaves, the industrial world and professionals will receive guidance on modern technology, the start-up ecosystem, legal matters, and financial management.

Detailed deliberations were held between SGCCI and ICAI - WIRC regarding the enhancement of mutual cooperation in the future. Both organizations expressed their commitment to strengthening a 'Knowledge Partnership' and making joint efforts to lead the industrial and professional sectors toward greater progress.

An insightful seminar on 'Foodpreneurs: From Kitchen to Market'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a seminar titled 'Foodpreneurs: From Kitchen to Market' on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

The event featured industry experts including Mr. Himmat Patel from Taiyaba Food Products, Mr. Nitesh Shah from Maharana Foods, and Mr. Chandresh Raja from Raja Beverages Pvt. Ltd. They provided valuable guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs on business opportunities within the food industry, as well as critical topics such as marketing and branding.

Mr. Himmat Patel shared his inspiring journey,

stating that he started making chocolates without overthinking and gradually progressed in the business. He admitted that when he first began, he had no knowledge regarding the product, marketing, or packaging; he simply dived into the business with a strong determination to achieve something. He emphasized that if you create a product solely with the intention of earning money, you might not find success. However, if you do business with the mindset of establishing the product in the market and building it into a brand, success is certain. He advised never to compromise with the product, to maintain high standards, and to provide excellent



Mr. Himmat Patel

service and quality to customers. He concluded by saying that if a business delivers excellence in Packaging, Product, and Service, no one can defeat them in the market.

Mr. Nitesh Shah stated that while businesses are ultimately run to earn money, the highest importance must be given to product quality. He emphasized that quality should not only be maintained at the initial stage but must remain consistent throughout. He further highlighted the human element of business, stating that one should maintain excellent relationships with everyone involved—including traders, vendors, customers, and most importantly, employees. In today's market, where every product faces intense competition, he suggested that if we work through collaboration instead of competition, business growth is guaranteed.

Mr. Chandresh Raja, who is associated with the packaged water industry, sells bottled water under various brand names. Drawing from his own experience, he provided highly practical insights to the aspiring entrepreneurs. He shared a detailed account of his journey—how he successfully transitioned from the mobile phone business to establishing a foothold



Mr. Nitesh Shah

in the water industry. He emphasized that to succeed in business, one must have a “burning fire” (intense passion) within. Furthermore, he discussed critical aspects such as understanding customer needs and developing robust strategies to thrive in a highly competitive market.

Mr. Yogeshbhai from Stuti Foods (Stuti Khakhra) shared a powerful perspective on business longevity. He stated that if you provide customers with a high-quality product and timely, excellent service, there is eventually no need for active marketing. He revealed that while they focused heavily on marketing for the first five years, their products have required zero marketing for the past ten years. Today, the brand is so well-established that orders are placed directly over the phone, and the supply is managed solely based on that existing trust and demand.

Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera delivered the welcome address. The session was moderated by Dr. Rakesh Doshi, Chairman of the Chamber's Entrepreneurship Development Committee, who also proposed the vote of thanks to all those present.



Mr. Chandresh Raja



Mr. Yogeshbhai

A health awareness programme was organized jointly with IMA-Surat to mark World Diabetes Day



An awareness program on diabetes was organized as part of 'World Diabetes Day' under the joint auspices of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) - Surat. The event took place on Friday, November 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat.

Detailed guidance on diabetes was provided by a panel of distinguished speakers from IMA - Surat, including:

- Dr. Mukur Petrolwala (President, IMA - Surat)
 - Dr. Niraj Soni
 - Dr. Amita Tambekar
 - Dr. Piyush Desai
 - Dr. Kevin Shah
- Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi

stated that, according to the ICMR 2023 analysis report, diabetes has already been diagnosed in 101 million people. Among those above the age of 45, nearly 19.8% are living with diabetes, which accounts for more than 50 million people. In Gujarat, an average of 8% of the population suffers from diabetes, while 10.5% are pre-diabetic. The prevalence of diabetes among the people of Gujarat has been recorded at approximately 7.1%. He noted that in a rapidly developing city like Surat, cases of diabetes are on the rise due to changes in lifestyle and dietary habits.

On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, Dr. Mukur Petrolwala, President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) - Surat, stated that diabetes is a rapidly growing global health issue. He emphasized that the disease can be completely managed through



**CA Mitish Modi, Honorary
Treasurer of SGCCI**



**Dr. Mukur Petrolwala, President,
Indian Medical Association - Surat**



Dr. Niraj Soni

timely diagnosis, a proper lifestyle, and regular medical check-ups. He further noted that raising awareness about diabetes within society is the need of the hour.

Dr. Niraj Soni addressed the topic of 'Importance of Exercise - Stay Active and Be Fit in Diabetes.' He stated that regular exercise is absolutely essential for controlling diabetes. Daily walking, yoga, stretching, and overall physical activity help in long-term blood sugar management, weight control, and reducing the risk of heart disease.

Dr. Amita Tambekar provided insightful information on 'Functional Food in Diabetes.' She emphasized that a diet rich in high-fiber grains, seeds, nuts, millets, and antioxidants plays a vital role in stabilizing blood sugar levels. Furthermore, she noted that proper nutrition can simplify diabetes management by as much as 50%.

Dr. Piyush Desai shared expertise on the topic 'Obesity - Primary Target in Diabetes Management: Upstream Approach.' He stated that obesity is the leading risk factor for diabetes. Following

an 'upstream approach,' he emphasized that fundamental changes in lifestyle are necessary. By focusing on proper nutrition, regular exercise, and weight management, diabetes can be significantly prevented.

Dr. Kevin Shah provided guidance on 'Know More and Do More for Diabetes at Work.' He stated that sitting for prolonged periods is harmful for those with diabetes. He emphasized that regular movement at the workplace, choosing healthy snacks, practicing stress management, and ensuring timely health check-ups are essential.

Dr. Parulben Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, outlined the program's framework. The session was moderated by the Committee's Co-Chairman, Dr. Rajanbhai Desai. Dr. Haresh Bhavsar, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) - Surat, proposed the vote of thanks to all attendees. During the interactive Q&A session, the expert medical speakers addressed various difficulties and cleared the doubts of the participants regarding diabetes.



Dr. Kevin Shah



Dr. Amita Tambekar



Dr. Piyush Desai

Awareness Session on Collateral-Free Loans for MSMEs



The Chamber organized an awareness session on the Business Rules Engine (BRE) for collateral-free loans up to ₹5 crore for MSMEs

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a special awareness session on the SBI banking product–Business Rules Engine (BRE)–on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Ushakant Marfatia Hall, Sarsana, Surat. Guest speaker and SBI DGM Mr. Rajesh Kumar provided detailed information about these loans to Surat's entrepreneurs and professionals.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasī stated that those who do not embrace change are often pushed out of the market. He noted that SBI has evolved with the times, gaining universal acceptance, and has now come to the customer's doorstep. He also provided a detailed overview of the Chamber's various activities.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala remarked that previously, textile MSME entrepreneurs had to struggle significantly to secure loans. However, loans up to Rs. 5 crore are now

available without collateral, and that too within an hour. He encouraged entrepreneurs to benefit from this facility.

Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi mentioned that South Gujarat is a hub for MSMEs. During an online meeting with the RBI during COVID-19, the Chamber suggested an online loan approval system. Later, a personal representation was made to RBI Deputy Governor Mr. Swaminathan Janakiraman regarding collateral-free loans up to Rs. 5 crore for small industries. The very positive response from the Deputy Governor led to the creation of SBI's BRE software.

SBI DGM Mr. Rajesh Kumar informed entrepreneurs that a sophisticated software has been developed for business loans, requiring only Income Tax and GST user IDs and passwords. The specialty of this software is that it determines the loan limit within minutes without any human intervention.

SBI DGM Mr. Rajesh Kumar and other officials provided a detailed explanation of the BRE software, which determines loan limits quickly online, and urged MSME entrepreneurs of South Gujarat to take advantage of this facility



**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi,
President of SGCCI**



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

The Chamber of Commerce had previously made a representation to the Deputy Governor of RBI, Mr. Swaminathan Janakiraman, requesting such loan facilities for small entrepreneurs

Users can even select their preferred branch, and no collateral is required. The software sets limits based on turnover and business performance. Through this system, 900 loans totaling Rs. 433 crore have already been approved in South Gujarat. He urged entrepreneurs and suppliers to take full advantage of this.

SBI officials explained that AI-driven technology is used to set loan limits, with interest rates starting from 8.40%. Special incentives are available for women entrepreneurs. Cash credit is provided quickly, and SBI even assists MSMEs in building websites. Guidance was also given on loans for establishing captive and non-captive solar parks. Additionally, SBI has started a cluster for Surat Textiles, offering special products for loans

exceeding Rs. 5 crore.

SBI officials gave a detailed technical presentation on the BRE, explaining features like digital documentation, automated risk assessment, and real-time credit decisions. They also provided insights into on-the-spot loan approvals.

Former Chamber President Mr. Ashish Gujarati, SBI officials Mr. Harish Jain, Mr. Vikas Kumar, Ms. Rini Singh, and Mr. Desh Deepak, along with MSME entrepreneurs and professionals, attended the session. CA Vipul Shah, Chairman of the Chamber's Banking (Nationalized and Private) Committee, moderated the program. The session concluded with SBI officials answering various queries from the participating entrepreneurs and businessmen.



**CA Mitish Modi, Honorary
Treasurer of SGCCI**



**Mr. Rajesh Kumar, DGM,
State Bank of India**

Online Meeting with National Center for Good Governance (NCGG)



A significant online meeting was conducted on Thursday, November 20, 2025, with Dr. Surendrakumar Bagde (IAS), Director of the National Center for Good Governance (NCGG), New Delhi. The meeting saw participation from the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI), The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), and several prominent associations of Gujarat.

Representing the Chamber, President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, and Deputy Secretary Mr. Paulik Desai participated and made detailed presentations on key issues affecting the 'Ease of Doing Business' in Gujarat.

During the online session, the government's attention was drawn to the following critical points:

1. Demand to Abolish Professional Tax: Although the amount of Professional Tax is negligible, it requires monthly compliance, creating an unnecessary administrative burden for industries, including MSMEs. Therefore, the Chamber recommended the total abolition of Professional Tax to save time and reduce the operational burden on businesses.

2. Clarity on 30% Banking under Gujarat Green Energy - Open Access Regulations: Due to varying interpretations of the clause requiring at least 30% banking of total consumption—a long-standing disputed

issue—investments made by the MSME sector in renewable energy are facing hurdles.

The Chamber requested a clear definition of this clause so that MSMEs can invest without fear, thereby fostering growth in the renewable energy sector.

3. Need to Extend Time Limits under the Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy: For renewable energy projects ranging from 1 MW to 100 MW, additional time is required for necessary approvals after receiving the Technical Feasibility Report. Previously, GUVNL had the authority to adjust these timelines, but since this power now rests with GERC, the process takes several months. This leads to project stalls and potential financial losses for industries.

Consequently, the Chamber requested a policy amendment to return the authority to extend timelines to the Energy and Petrochemicals Department or GUVNL, ensuring smoother project implementation for MSMEs and other industries.

Dr. Surendrakumar Bagde listened to all the points seriously and assured that appropriate steps would be taken after discussing them with the relevant departments. The Chamber and other associations expressed hope that suitable actions would be taken on the presented issues to strengthen the 'Ease of Doing Business' in Gujarat and provide momentum to the MSME sector.

Important Discussions on International Cargo with Air India's West Zone Cargo Head



Another major step has been taken toward progress in the city's air commerce sector. Mr. Mahesh Ganesan, Air India's West Zone Cargo Operations Head, visited Surat to conduct preliminary procedural studies and discussions for launching 'Precious International Cargo' operations from Surat International Airport. This visit is considered extremely vital for giving a new direction to international cargo handling from Surat.

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) played a central role in this entire process. During the meeting held at the Chamber on November 21, 2025, Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi and the Chairman of the

Aviation/Airport Committee, Mr. Linesh Shah, were present. The Chamber is continuously striving to improve international cargo facilities and establish the city as a major cargo hub.

This visit is seen as a significant opportunity for Surat's trade, industry, and exporters. The commencement of precious cargo operations will provide direct and rapid access to global markets for Surat's diamonds, textiles, and other high-value products, thereby strengthening the city's economy.

Welcoming this initiative, the Chamber expressed its commitment to working alongside all stakeholders to firmly establish Surat on the global cargo map.

Banking Conclave 2025: Deliberations on Inclusive Growth of Cooperative Banks



The umbrella organization of cooperative banks is working on several challenges; the conclave saw the participation of urban and rural cooperative banks from across South Gujarat





**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi,
President of SGCCI**



**Mr. Gautam Vyas,
Chairman, SCOPA**



**Mr. Satish Marathe, Director,
Central Board, RBI, New Delhi**

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with The South Gujarat Co-operative Banks Association Ltd. (SCOPA), organized 'Banking Conclave - 2025' on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Avadh Utopia, Surat. Centered on the theme of 'Inclusive Growth for Cooperative Banks,' national banking leaders, policymakers, and stakeholders discussed emerging opportunities and challenges within India's cooperative banking ecosystem.

The conclave was divided into two parts. In the inaugural ceremony, Mr. Satish Marathe, Director of the Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), discussed policy reforms, the RBI's vision for strengthening the cooperative financial system, and the critical role of cooperative banks in supporting inclusive growth in rural and semi-urban India.

In the technical session, Mr. Prabhat Chaturvedi, CEO of the National Urban Co-operative Finance and Development Corporation (NUCFDC), New Delhi—the new umbrella organization for cooperative banks—provided detailed information on NUCFDC's initiatives, future roadmap, and latest solutions aimed at enabling cooperative banks to modernize and expand their services.

Mr. Milind Kale, Vice President of NAFCUB and former Chairman of Cosmos Co-op Bank Ltd., highlighted the necessity of robust governance frameworks, digital transformation, and risk mitigation strategies to strengthen the cooperative banking sector.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated in his welcome address that the cooperative sector belongs to the poor and middle class. Even during economic crises, cooperative banks remained resilient. They have maintained such a distinct position and level of customer trust that while large banks must chase customers,

customers themselves come to cooperative banks. The government also want that co op banks should grow.

SCOPA Chairman Mr. Gautam Vyas remarked that cooperative banks have a glorious history. Technology is the bridge between the cooperative banks of yesterday and tomorrow. By embracing these changes, cooperative banks will play a vital role in the vision of a \$5 trillion economy and a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). We should seize the opportunity together.

RBI Central Board Director Mr. Satish Marathe remarked that all cooperative banks in Gujarat serve as a role model for the entire country. He stated, "I even urge management institutes to study the model of Gujarat's urban cooperative banks." According to advanced data for the current year, he noted that the performance of urban cooperative banks across the nation has been at its best in the last five years. He added that while cooperative banks are doing excellent work, they now need to enhance their promotion and marketing efforts.

Presenting a picture of the country's economy, Mr. Marathe said that our economy, which was considered among the "Fragile Five" a decade ago, is in the top five today and is preparing to reach the third position. All three sectors—manufacturing, agriculture, and services—are performing very well. The number of SMEs is constantly increasing in both urban and rural areas. By giving a push to agriculture, the government has encouraged agro-processing, and the world's largest project for decentralized warehouses has started in the country.

The banking sector is at a level of strength today that it has never been before. The NPA (Non-Performing Asset) level is better than international standards. Inflation is at a historically low level. Thus, there are many growth opportunities and a favorable environment for the banking



**Mr. Prabhat Chaturvedi, CEO, NAFCUB,
New Delhi**

sector, especially for cooperative banks. Every bank needs to create a vision document for growth. He said that cooperative banks need to remain well-capitalized. After COVID, the RBI had asked all banks to increase their capital.

Cooperative banks should invest in technology with the same level of concern they show for their own physical assets

Mr. Marathe stated that banking has become more complex today. He noted that the fact that enough work hasn't been done regarding technology yet is a matter of concern. While it is good that the boards of cooperative banks are concerned about having their branches in their own properties, they will become more competitive only if they also invest in technology.

Subsequently, at the start of the technical session, Mr. Prabhat Chaturvedi was introduced by Mr. Deven Choksey. Mr. Chaturvedi stated that the primary challenges for cooperative banks are technology, cybersecurity, and costs. He mentioned that the umbrella organization, NUCFDC, is taking several initiatives to address these issues.

He suggested that there should be a platform similar to PolicyBazaar for loans, and that cooperative banks should be integrated into online trading apps like Zerodha and Groww. He also noted challenges such as declining deposits. Furthermore, he discussed innovative current accounts for SMEs, products for minors, and steps to reduce UPI charges for banks. He announced that a shared Core Banking System, similar to the one in Australia, will be launched in the near future, allowing even small banks to participate.

Mr. Milind Kale stated that although the RBI has made the appointment of a Risk Officer mandatory only for banks with a loan portfolio exceeding Rs. 5,000 crore, he believes that every bank—regardless of size—should appoint



**Mr. Milind Kale, Vice President, NAFCUB,
New Delhi**

one. In this context, he cited the 2018 example of Cosmos Bank, which lost Rs. 94 crore in a massive cyber attack. He emphasized that even if intentions are noble, every financial decision carries inherent risk; therefore, cooperative banks must adopt Risk Management as an integral part of their growth strategy.

Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Nirav Mandlewala, while providing information about the entire conclave, stated that this is the first time such a conclave is being held for cooperative banks. Its purpose is to provide a well-structured business platform for the inclusive growth of cooperative banks by increasing collaboration between policymakers and regulators, and by expanding capacity through risk management. He added that in the future, cooperative banks will play a very important role in the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).

Chamber Honorary Treasurer Mr. Mitishbhai Modi introduced the keynote speaker, Mr. Satish Marathe. Former Chamber President Mr. Rohit Mehta moderated the entire conclave. The vote of thanks for the inaugural ceremony was proposed by Mr. Amit Gajjar, Chairman of the Surat People's Co-op Bank, the main sponsor of the event.

The vote of thanks for the entire program was proposed by Mr. Kanjibhai Bhalala, Second Vice Chairman of SCOPA. He remarked that just as India is undergoing a transformation, the banking sector is also evolving in tandem with the changing times.

On this occasion, Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mewawala, as well as Directors, office bearers, and employees of cooperative banks from across South Gujarat were present. During an engaging Q&A session, the speakers provided satisfactory answers to various questions raised by the cooperative bankers.

Session on 'Journey to Financial Freedom'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a session on 'Journey to Financial Freedom' on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. During the event, Dr. Dhananjay Banthia, a Business Consultant and Social Entrepreneur, provided detailed insights to entrepreneurs and professionals regarding achieving financial independence in business.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that in today's era, in order to survive in business, it has become crucial to understand knowledge updation,

payload management, financial planning, and market dynamics. Sessions like the 'Journey to Financial Freedom' provide entrepreneurs with the necessary direction for appropriate investments and guidance for long-term growth. He further mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce is committed to providing industries with opportunities for knowledge, guidance, and networking.

As the keynote speaker of this session, Dr. Dhananjay Banthia stated that wealth creation is purely a result of one's mindset. When a person has clarity



**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi,
President of SGCCI**



**Dr. Dhananjay Banthia, Business
Consultant & Social Entrepreneur**

regarding both money and life, their investment path becomes clear, enabling them to create true wealth. He pointed out a social irony: people congratulate someone who buys a Rs. 2 crore flat on an 80% loan, yet they try to scare or discourage those who invest in an SIP (Systematic Investment Plan). He further noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally shifted the mindset of people in India. Post-Covid, people are traveling more and are no longer willing to sacrifice the experiences they used to put off. As more people enter the formal economy, the overall economic patterns are undergoing a significant transformation.

Furthermore, he stated that expenses are bound to increase in the future. Those who are young today must ensure that by the time they grow old, their money becomes “young” (grows and stays productive). To achieve this, people must secure financial freedom

by investing at various levels starting now. Financial freedom does not lie solely in earning money; rather, it is achieved by mastering proper understanding of money, disciplined investment, risk management, and diversification.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala proposed the vote of thanks to all those present at the session. Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, along with other office bearers, members, entrepreneurs, and professionals, attended the session. Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera outlined the program's framework. Dr. Rakesh Doshi, a member of the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee, moderated the entire session and the Q&A segment. Committee member Mr. Uday Dhandhal introduced the guest speaker.

Inspiring Session Organized on 'Why Entrepreneurs Miss Opportunities'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an inspiring session on the topic “Why Do Entrepreneurs Miss the Bus? - Your Time to Board is NOW!” The event was held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM

at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat.

In this program, renowned transformational coach, motivational speaker, and business mentor, T.I.G.E.R. Dixit Teraiya, provided guidance as the keynote speaker. He delivered a 60-minute lively



**CAMitish Modi, Honorary
Treasurer of SGCCI**

and inspirational lecture on critical topics such as “Secrets of Success and Business Transformation,” which was attended by industrialists, professionals, and young entrepreneurs.

Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mr. Mitish Modi, in his welcome address, remarked that while the phrase “Apna Bhi Time Aayega” (Our time will also come) is true, one must be able to recognize the opportunity when it arrives. He cited the late Dhirubhai Ambani as the best example of recognizing an opportunity. By quoting a story from Ambani’s childhood, he explained that an entrepreneur can become successful only by utilizing opportunities in a timely manner.

Renowned motivational speaker Mr. Dixit Teraiya explained through various examples why entrepreneurs miss the bus of growth and fail to advance in business. He stated that major industrialists have turned their companies into “Auto-Pilot Organizations.” However, 90% of entrepreneurs have not been able to achieve this. He emphasized that one can only think innovatively if they remain detached from routine day-to-day tasks. To grow as big as you desire and expand your business, you must step out of the daily operations



**Mr. Dixit Teraiya, Renowned
Motivational Speaker**

of your business as quickly as possible.

He further stated, “Why can’t we do what successful industrialists can?” Providing several examples, he explained that there must be a specific mechanism for hiring. If a balance between obligation and commitment is not maintained, professional life is bound to deteriorate. He explained the difference between ‘Revenue Work’ and ‘Non-Revenue Work’, urging entrepreneurs to focus primarily on Revenue Work. He emphasized that ‘New Thinking’ is absolutely essential in business.

In the Q&A session, participants raised questions regarding their own business problems and shared their experiences. Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera provided information about the program’s objectives. The Program Convener Mr. Bharat Patel introduced the guest speaker.

Dr. Rakesh Doshi, Chairman of the Chamber’s Entrepreneurship Development Committee, moderated the program and concluded the session by expressing his gratitude to all those in attendance. Following his remarks, the event was officially brought to a close.

QCO Order on Textile Machinery Suspended by Government of India

The Quality Control Order (QCO) for textile machinery, which was originally scheduled to be implemented from September 2026, has been officially suspended by the Government of India. According to the Notification S.O. 5179(E) dated

November 13, 2025, the enforcement of this order will remain on hold until further notice from the government. Following this notification, all types of QCO orders in the textile sector have currently been suspended.

Textile Knowledge Session Organized Jointly by Chamber and MANTRA



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA) jointly organized a Textile Knowledge Session on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. This significant session, held for Surat's textile entrepreneurs, provided detailed guidance on current textile policies, challenges, and emerging global opportunities.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, in his welcome address, stated that Surat's textile industry is carving out a unique identity at both national and global levels based on constantly evolving

technology, innovation, and quality. He emphasized that knowledge-based programs organized by the Chamber and MANTRA keep industries updated, enhance their competitive capabilities, and further strengthen Surat's position as India's textile hub.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, in his address, stated that the future of the textile sector depends on knowledge, research, and technology-driven growth. He noted that Surat's entrepreneurs have always embraced innovation, and this very approach will make them more powerful in the international market.

MANTRA President Mr. Rajnikant



**Mr. Nikhil Madrasi,
President of SGCCI**



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



**Mr. Rajnikant Bachkaniwala,
President, MANTRA**



Mr. S. P. Verma, Director, Product Development Centre, Viv Water Enviro Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Viral Shah, Founder & Director, Export Import Leadership Institute

Bachkaniwala, while outlining the program, stated that MANTRA is committed to taking the textile industry to new heights by focusing on technology, research, and skill development. He added that considering the changing structure of the industry and the emerging opportunities in the global market, such knowledge sessions have become extremely important.

Mr. S.P. Verma, Director of the Product Development Center at Viv Water Enviro Pvt. Ltd., provided guidance to Surat's entrepreneurs on the "Policy Framework for Indian Textiles - Current Scenario and Future Prospects." He stated that India's textile policy has undergone rapid changes in recent years, making it absolutely essential for industries to adopt technology upgradation, sustainability, waste management, and eco-friendly processes to face global competition. He emphasized that entrepreneurs must focus on green processes and environmental compliance.

Furthermore, he shared detailed information regarding the benefits of PM MITRA Parks and the related schemes of the Government of Gujarat. He stated that these parks will strengthen the textile value chain while creating vast opportunities for modern infrastructure, common facility centers, technology support, waste management, and sustainable manufacturing. The incentives and subsidy schemes provided by the Gujarat Government will make industries more competitive globally and give new momentum to Surat's textile hub.

Mr. Viral Shah, Founder and Director of the Export Import Leadership Institute, provided guidance to Surat's entrepreneurs on the topic

"Indian Textile Exports - Navigating the Current Market Scenario." He stated that vast opportunities are available for Indian industries by focusing on product diversification, branding, e-commerce, and emerging markets. Currently, 165 countries worldwide are engaged in daily export-import activities. He emphasized that the global market is looking for an alternative to China and the USA, and India is perfectly positioned to become that alternative.

He mentioned that in 1991, India's share in global exports was 0.50%, which increased to 2.0% in 2024. Efforts are now underway to take India's global export share to 8% by 2030. To achieve this, India initiated large-scale manufacturing under the 'Make in India' campaign ten years ago.

According to projections for 2025, India is expected to account for 5.5% to 5.8% of global textile exports and 3.5% to 3.8% of apparel exports. He further emphasized that Surat's textile sector is ready for global competition, and with the right market strategy and quality-based production, Surat's exports can see significant growth.

MANTRA Honorary Secretary Mr. Praful Gandhi proposed the vote of thanks to everyone present at the session. Mr. Himanshu Desai, Head of the Environment Department at MANTRA, moderated the session. The knowledge session was attended by former Chamber President Mr. Ashish Gujarati, as well as several entrepreneurs and professionals. Through the guidance of textile experts, participants gained vital information regarding textile policies, global trends, and export-import dynamics.

Awareness Session on Cervical Cancer Vaccine Organized by Chamber and Jay Sardar Vidyalaya



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and Jay Sardar Vidyalaya jointly organized an awareness session on the Cervical Cancer Vaccine on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 8:30 AM at Jay Sardar Vidyalaya, Punagam. During this session, Dr. Usha N. Maniyya from P.P. Maniyya Hospital provided detailed information regarding

the vaccine and preventive measures.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, in his address, highlighted that women's health holds a special place in the health protection of society. He noted that cervical cancer is one of the most serious health challenges affecting women worldwide. But the happy news is that today, an effective and safe



Dr. Usha N. Manekia



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

preventive option—the Cervical Cancer Vaccine—is available.”

Dr. Usha N. Maniya stated that cervical cancer is one of the most serious types of cancer among women, but fortunately, its timely prevention is possible. The cervical cancer vaccine available to protect against the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is extremely effective and safe. This vaccine is recommended for girls and young women between the ages of 9 and 26 years, as protection is most effective at this age.

She further stated that taking this vaccine provides long-term protection against many high-risk strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), which significantly reduces the likelihood of developing

cervical cancer in the future. Along with vaccination, she emphasized that it is also essential for women to adopt regular health checkups and a hygienic lifestyle. Dr. Usha added that if proper awareness is spread throughout society, there can be a substantial decline in cervical cancer cases.

Mr. Paresh Patel- Principal of Jay Sardar Vidyalaya delivered the occasional address. Dr. Jagdish Vaghasia, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Workers Health Committee, outlined the program's objectives and expressed gratitude to everyone in attendance. The session was moderated by Mr. Nikhil Vaghasia, Co-chairman of the Industrial Workers Health Committee.

Two-Day Special B2B Meet Series Organized by FICCI Gujarat with SGCCI and Sharjah Government



The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Gujarat Region organized a special series of B2B meetings in Surat under the theme “Business Expansion into International Markets via UAE.” The event was held in collaboration with The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone), Government of Sharjah, UAE. The meetings

took place at the Marriott Hotel, Surat, on November 20 and 21, from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi was specially present at these meetings. He noted that the Sharjah Free Zone's proximity to the sea allows for rapid and easy exports. He mentioned that almost all types of businesses—excluding certain professions like CAs and doctors—are welcomed in the Sharjah Free Zone.



Furthermore, he engaged in an in-depth Q&A regarding the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the two countries and the prospects of Ease of Doing Business. He got clarity that businesses utilizing the Sharjah Free Zone benefit significantly from these agreements, making it highly advantageous from a taxation perspective.

This two-day Business-to-Business (B2B) meet received an enthusiastic response from local industries.

The objective of this initiative was to enable Indian companies to gain strategic advantages by using the UAE as a gateway to seize global opportunities. Special emphasis was placed on how the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone

(SAIF Zone)—one of the most dynamic and investor-friendly hubs in the region—can be utilized to boost exports.

The special series of B2B meetings held in Surat significantly helped South Gujarat's industries explore investment potential, operational support, and the ease of setting up businesses in the UAE through direct interactions with SAIF Zone representatives. Participants were provided with specific guidance on how to effectively leverage the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). This landmark agreement provides duty-free access to approximately 97% of Indian goods and strengthens India's reach into African, European, and other international markets.

Industrial Visits Organized at Various Locations





In November 2025, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) successfully organized a series of industrial visits across various locations in Surat. On November 5, 2025, a Chamber delegation visited SteamHouse India Limited located in Sachin GIDC. During the visit, members were briefed on eco-friendly and energy-saving facilities such as the Community Boiler System. Detailed explanations were provided regarding their Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based steam management system and advanced pollution control technologies.

The second visit was held on November 15, 2025, at Sahajanand Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and the 3D Excellence Center. Participating members studied live presentations of advanced machinery, precision manufacturing, and 3D printing technology. This visit helped develop a deeper understanding of new frontiers in the manufacturing sector.

The third visit took place on November 19, 2025, at Make3D.in, where members received detailed



information regarding high-precision 3D printers designed at the national level, rapid prototyping, and technologies related to Industry 4.0.

The fourth and final visit of the month was organized on November 26, 2025, at Shakunt Ashram and Pragati Glass Industries. At Shakunt Ashram, Chamber members gained practical experience through a yoga session, while at Pragati Glass Industries, they received detailed information regarding the high-quality production processes involved in glass manufacturing.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the primary objective of this initiative was to inform members about modern technology, sustainable industrial practices, and new production models. He emphasized that such industrial visits foster innovative thinking among entrepreneurs, build confidence in adopting new technologies, and strengthen networking within the industrial sector. He added that the Chamber will continue to organize such informative activities in the future.



Awareness Session Organized by the Chamber on 'Know About Your Liver'



As part of its ongoing Health Series, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an awareness session titled 'Know About Your Liver' on November 9, 2025, at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. Dr. Ritesh Prajapati from the renowned SIDS Multi Super Specialty Hospital, Surat, provided detailed information during the session.

Dr. Ritesh Prajapati stated that the liver is one of the most important organs in the human body, which performs vital functions such as detoxification, metabolism, the digestive process, and energy storage. Since liver-related diseases often remain asymptomatic in the early stages, regular check-ups are extremely necessary. He further mentioned that an irregular lifestyle, a diet high in oil and spices, increasing alcohol consumption, obesity, as well as

conditions like diabetes, can increase the risk of fat accumulation in the liver (fatty liver) and diseases like hepatitis."

To maintain good liver health, he advised adopting a balanced diet, engaging in regular exercise, staying away from smoking and alcohol, drinking sufficient water, and undergoing periodic Liver Function Tests (LFT).

Dr. Rakesh Gandhi, Group Chairman of the Chamber, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Jagdish Vagharia, Co-chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, introduced the speaker. The entire session was moderated by Dr. Rajan Desai, a member of the Public Health Committee. During the session, the speaker also provided guidance to the Chamber members by addressing their various doubts and queries.

A New Path for Investment: Session on SIF Organized at the Chamber



An informative session on the topic “Specialized Investment Fund (SIF): A New Investment Avenue” was successfully organized by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Samruddhi Hall, Nanpura, Surat, on November 22nd at 5:30 PM.

In his welcome speech, Chamber Honorary Treasurer Mr. Mitish Modi stated that regular programs are being held through the Chamber to ensure everyone benefits and gains knowledge. Earlier, CAs were limited to audits; however, the current trend is such that they also play a significant role in wealth creation and wealth management.

Explaining SIF, CA Bipin Hirapara, Founder and CEO of D2A, said that the need for SIF arose as a result of successful strategies in developed countries. For SIF, an investment can be made starting from a minimum of ₹10 lakh per AMC. It allows hedging (shorting derivatives) up to 25%, which is not permitted in Mutual Funds or Portfolio Management Services (PMS). Unique features like sector rotation

have also been provided. SIF can also invest in the commodity sector.

He added that this is a completely new and advanced path for investment. It possesses the capability to provide returns even in volatile and falling markets. SEBI has currently permitted 7 categories, the first of which is equity-oriented. He also provided information regarding the tax implications for investors and AMCs. Furthermore, he answered queries troubling investors regarding expense ratios, lock-in periods, and exit loads.

On this occasion, a large number of Chamber members and investors were present. Mr. Kamlesh Gajera, Group Chairman of the Chamber, provided information about the program. Mr. Hasim Yaqubli, Co-chairman of the Chamber’s Capital and Commodity Market Committee, introduced the speaker. The entire program was moderated, and the vote of thanks was delivered, by Mr. Balkrishna Vagharia, Co-chairman of the Capital and Commodity Market Committee.



CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of SGCCI



CA Bipin Hirapara, Founder & CEO, D2A

'Fighting Cancer Smarter' Session Raises Cancer Awareness



An empowering session titled “Fighting Cancer Smarter” was organized by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. During the event, cancer specialists Dr. Prasad Kasbekar, Dr. Chirag Bhansali, and Dr. Reiyaal Goveas highlighted innovative treatment methods, modern medical innovations, and the importance of treatment.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the primary objective of this session was to spread awareness about advanced treatment methods, innovative technology, timely diagnosis, and maintaining hope and

courage among patients facing a serious illness like cancer.

Dr. Prasad Kasbekar, providing information on “How Technology is Changing the Game - From Early Detection to Precision Oncology,” stated that in today’s times, early and more accurate diagnosis of cancer has become possible due to advanced technology, Artificial Intelligence, digital imaging, and genomic testing. Through the Precision Oncology method, personalized treatment is being provided based on the patient’s genetic profile and tumor structure, resulting in increased treatment success and reduced side effects. Modern facilities like robotic surgery,



**Addressing the gathering, Mr. Nikhil
Madrasi, President of SGCCI**

targeted therapy, and continuous monitoring are making cancer treatment safer, more effective, and patient-centric.

Dr. Chirag Bhansali, sharing insights on “Healing Beyond the Cure - The Power of Reconstructive Surgery,” mentioned that for patients, it is not just the cure from the disease that is important after cancer treatment, but also physical, mental, and social rehabilitation. Through reconstructive surgery, physical changes resulting from cancer treatment can be corrected, restoring confidence, self-esteem, and quality of life in patients. This type of surgery helps patients return to normal life and paves the way for holistic healing along with complete cure.

Dr. Reiyaal Goveas, providing information on “Bringing One Back to Life - The Importance of Prosthetics,” stated that for patients who have lost a limb due to cancer or other serious illnesses, prosthetics are not merely physical



Dr. Prasad Kasbekar

aids but give them the ability to live life again with self-reliance, confidence, and dignity. Due to advanced prosthetic technology, patients can perform daily tasks easily, their efficiency increases, and active participation in social life becomes possible again, providing overall rehabilitation and new hope in patients' lives.

During the session, the expert doctors also provided guidance on cancer prevention, lifestyle changes, regular health check-ups, and the importance of identifying symptoms at the earliest. Emphasis was placed especially on the need for busy entrepreneurs and professionals to remain conscious of their health.

Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gandhi provided the outline of the program. Dr. Sonia Chandani, Co-chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, moderated the program. Members present at the event participated in a Q&A session with the expert doctors, where the specialists resolved the members' doubts.



Dr. Chirag Bhansali



Dr. Reiyaal Goveas



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EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

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

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

7th EDITION
YARN EXPO™
An International Trade Show
1 2 3 AUG. 2025

संस्कृति
The Mega Art Festival
Celebrating Art, Culture & Handicraft
12th & 13th September, 2025

Diwali
BUSINESS MELA
10-11-12 October 2025

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

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

6th EDITION
**SGCCI
Food & Beverages**
EXPO
24 25 26 JANUARY 2026

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

WEE'26
25-26-27 Jan. 2026

SGCCI
EPE EXPO
ENERGY • POWER • ELECTRICAL
Powering the Future – Today
6-7-8 FEBRUARY 2026

**SMART
EDUCATION
EXPO 2026**
6-7-8 FEB, 2026

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

SURAT INTERNATIONAL
auto exp.
1st Edition
13-14-15-16 MARCH 2026
FUELLING THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY

Art
EXHIBITION
AHMEDABAD
19 TO 22 MARCH 2026

**vibrant
GUJARAT
REGIONAL
CONFERENCES**
Regional Aspirations, Global Ambitions
9 & 10 April, 2026

SGCCI
**WEALTH
EXPO 2026**
8-9-10 MAY

SGCCI
DiMaS
DIGITAL MARKETING
SUMMIT & EXPO

**Health &
Wellness Expo**

3rd Edition
**Surat
Startup
Summit**

SPARKLE
INTERNATIONAL
Gems & Jewellery Exhibition
'26

ACT WITH ONE MIND