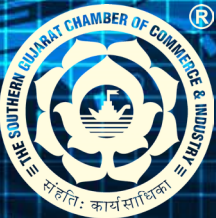


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SGCCI

THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
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Your valuable suggestions on this issue of Samruddhi are most welcome

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Imm. Past President



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Hon. Secretary



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Textile Parva - 2.0

Empowering MSMEs to Conquer Global MMF Markets



MSMEs need to scale up, become more innovative, and integrate with the global supply chain: Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, New Delhi.

The Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre (GFRRC) of SGCCI organized a week-long Textile PARVA at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat from 1st to 8th December 2022 at 5:30 PM. On the inaugural day, Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, New Delhi, guided entrepreneurs on how MSMEs in the MMF segment can become globally competitive.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nikhil Madras, stated that Surat's textile sector makes a significant contribution to the country's MMF segment and offers immense potential for local MSME enterprises to expand into global markets. He added that the expert guidance provided across various sessions of the Textile Parva will prove highly valuable in driving industry growth, fostering innovation, strengthening skill development, and enhancing export capabilities. He reaffirmed that

the Chamber remains firmly committed to the holistic development of industry and to creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Ashwin Chandran, Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry, New Delhi, noted that nearly 60% of total global fibre consumption now comprises man-made fibres (MMF). About 25 years ago, the ratio stood at 60% natural fibres and 40% MMF, but this trend has now reversed. Today, the demand for performance wear, sportswear, technical textiles and sustainable materials is rising rapidly. He projected that global MMF consumption will reach nearly 100 million tonnes by 2030, a shift that signals substantial growth opportunities for India's textile industry.

He further observed that India is among the world's largest producers of polyester fibre and filament. However, when it comes to downstream,



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



**Mr. Ashwin Chandran,
Chairman - CITI, New Delhi**

value-added MMF exports, the country's presence is still not as strong as it should be. Nations such as China, Vietnam and Turkey have built robust, innovation-driven MMF ecosystems, enabling them to become highly competitive in global markets.

Today, Surat has emerged as the principal hub of India's MMF textile sector. It is the only cluster in the country with the capability to compete on par with established textile nations such as China, Vietnam and Turkey. Global buyers and retailers are increasingly seeking scale and reliability in textile sourcing. Rather than engaging with ten or twelve suppliers for a single product, they now prefer to work with only two or three strong suppliers. This makes it imperative for MSMEs to scale up operations, embrace innovation,

and integrate with global supply chains.

The session was attended by SGCCI's Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, immediate Past President of Chamber Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, along with a large number of entrepreneurs and business professionals. The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Mr. Bijal Jariwala, delivered the vote of thanks to all attendees. Former President and Chairman of the Textile Task Force, Mr. Ashish Gujarati, formally introduced the textile expert Mr. Ashwin Chandran. Group Chairman Mr. Girdhargopal Mundra outlined the overall concept and objectives of the Textile Festival. The session was effectively moderated by Mr. Amrish Bhatt, Co-Chairman of the GFRRC.

Session on Smart Investment





**CA Mitish Modi- Hon.
Treasurer of SGCCI**



CA Rasesh Shah



CA Milan Shah



CA Saurabh Shah

Market experts explain unlisted share investments, tax exemptions on long-term capital gains, and SEBI compliance in detail

A guidance session on the theme “Smart Investment & Compliance Strategies for Modern Investors” was organised on Saturday, 15 November 2025 at 5:30 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session provided in-depth insights into the stock market, unlisted shares, SEBI regulations, and the income tax implications of share trading. Expert speakers offered practical guidance to help investors make informed and compliant investment decisions.

In his welcome address, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi stated that more than 250 programmes have been organised over the past five months. He stressed that simply investing is not sufficient; what is essential is smart investing—achieving better returns with lower risk—along with a clear understanding of the law and strict adherence to regulatory compliance.

Speaking on the income tax implications of stock market investments, CA Rasesh Shah explained key concepts relating to Business Income VS Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) and Short-Term Capital Gains (STCG). He also clarified one of the most common areas of confusion among investors—the distinction between business income and capital gains—and supported his explanation with references to relevant judicial precedents. He further elaborated on the tax implications of investments in Portfolio Management Services (PMS), derivatives trading (F&O), and the provisions applicable to traders. In addition, he explained the income tax treatment of mutual fund investments—particularly debt funds—and guided participants on how to claim tax exemption on long-term capital gains under Section 54F of the Income Tax Act.

Speaking on opportunities in unlisted shares, CA Milan Shah explained that unlisted shares are those not traded on any stock exchange. He outlined four key categories of such

investments: startups, pre-IPO companies, employee stock options (ESOPs), and private limited companies.

Highlighting their high-growth potential, he cited the example of Zomato, where investors who invested during the unlisted stage reportedly saw their investments double within a few months. He described unlisted shares as an effective portfolio diversification option for smart investors, noting that they are generally less affected by short-term stock market volatility. He also explained concepts such as rights issue advisory, share warrants and preference shares. Additionally, he guided participants on how to invest in unlisted shares, the associated opportunities, risks and challenges, and the importance of conducting a reality check before committing capital. He emphasized that understanding valuation and having a clear exit strategy are critical before making any investment.

CA Saurabh Shah elaborated on investor protection mechanisms, compliance with SEBI regulations, and the grievance redressal process. He also advised participants on best practices such as verifying margin statements, maintaining proper records, and ensuring regular data backups.

Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera presented the purpose and background of the programme. The Chairman of the Capital and Commodity Market Committee, Mr. Ayub Yakubali, formally introduced the speakers. Committee member Mr. Bharat Dhamelia efficiently conducted the programme and delivered the vote of thanks to all participants.

At the conclusion of the session, the speakers responded to the questions raised by entrepreneurs, business professionals and investors, providing clear and satisfactory clarifications.

Textile Parva 2.0– Day 2 : Focuses on Textile Education, Skills and use of LinkedIn for Business Growth



On the second day of the Textile Festival, entrepreneurs were guided on the importance of textile education, skill development and the effective use of LinkedIn for business growth. The sessions were organised by the GFRRC (Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre) of the SGCCI on Tuesday, 2 December. As expert speakers, Mr. Amrish Bhatt, PhD scholar and Editor of Textile Graph, delivered an in-depth session on the need for stronger textile education and skill development. Mr. Divyank Jain provided valuable guidance on how entrepreneurs and professionals can leverage LinkedIn as a strategic tool for business growth in the textile sector.

SGCCI's Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that Surat is truly the soul of India's textile industry, and that the city's entrepreneurs have earned global recognition through their hard work, innovation and long-term vision. He added that the expert guidance being delivered through various sessions of the Textile Festival on key industry topics will significantly strengthen and energise the sector.

Mr. Amrish Bhatt emphasised that amid rapid modernisation of the textile industry, the younger generation must develop a strong blend of technical knowledge, new competencies and practical skills. He noted that quality textile education not only increases employment opportunities but also

strengthens India's position in the global textile ecosystem. He urged industry-linked institutions to promote more skill-oriented courses, research and innovation.

Mr. Divyank Jain highlighted that in today's digital era, LinkedIn is no longer just a social media platform, but has evolved into a powerful tool for business networking, brand building and lead generation. He explained that through effective profile presentation, meaningful content sharing, strategic networking and industry updates, textile entrepreneurs can expand their businesses at both national and international levels. He encouraged entrepreneurs to enhance their digital presence and adopt a structured communication strategy.

Group Chairman Mr. Girdhargopal Mundra stated that if Surat's fabrics are integrated with technology, enhanced with modern design, and supported by world-class packaging and branding, India can move beyond being merely a global supply hub to becoming a major international textile trade centre. He added that government policies have been simplified to promote exports, new international markets are opening rapidly, and digital platforms have opened global doors for exporters. This environment presents equal and vast opportunities for every entrepreneur.

The programme was effectively conducted by



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI



Mr. Amrish Bhatt



Mr. Divyank Jain

Mr. Atul Patel, Co-Chairman of GFRRC, while Ms. Sejal Pandya, Senior Manager, formally introduced the speakers. Participants—including entrepreneurs,

business professionals and textile experts—received valuable insights into global trends, technology, education and digital business growth.

MSME Issues Raised Before Authorities at Zonal-Level Meeting in Ahmedabad

At a zonal-level seminar on “Cost and Competitiveness for MSMEs in India”, held in Ahmedabad on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, key issues faced by MSME units from Surat were formally presented before senior officials. The seminar was jointly organised by the MSME-DFO (Development and Facilitation Office), Ahmedabad and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Representing South Gujarat, CA Manish Bajrang, Chairman of the MSME Committee, participated in the programme and submitted detailed representations highlighting the concerns of MSME units from Surat.

A few days earlier, a workshop for MSMEs had also been organised in Surat, where various issues faced by MSME units were heard by officials. Subsequently, a comprehensive zonal-level meeting was convened in Ahmedabad, during which nearly 6,000 issues from MSMEs across the region were shortlisted by officials. Out of these, 50 key issues were finally selected, and these will now be forwarded to the Central Government for consideration.

Among the shortlisted issues, five representations submitted by the SGCCI were selected. During the meeting, representations were made before Ms. Kajal Jain, Deputy Director

General, Ministry of MSME, New Delhi, and Mr. Manoj Kumar Vats, Head and Joint Director, MSME-DFO, Ahmedabad. The key demands included bringing traders at par with MSME units under Section 43B(h) of the MSMED Act, and increasing the capacity of Surat’s CETP plant from 600 MLD to 2,000 MLD over the next five years. Officials acknowledged these points and assured that they would be forwarded to the Central Government.

It was also highlighted that Surat currently does not have a man-made fibre testing laboratory, and a demand was raised to establish a dedicated yarn testing laboratory in the city. Further, a representation was made seeking the removal of anti-dumping duty on MEG-PTA and rationalisation of the 18% GST rate applicable to these inputs. Senior MSME officials agreed with the concerns and assured that these matters would also be taken up at the central level.

Although several other issues were presented on behalf of MSME units by the representatives of the chamber, the above four matters remained the primary focus. Officials listened patiently to the representations and assured that they would formally accept these submissions and forward them to the Central Government for further action.

Seminar on 'Retailpreneur: Redefining Retail – Building Trust, Scale and Customer Experience'



Retail experts from Surat shared practical insights and guided entrepreneurs on becoming successful retail professionals

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a seminar on the theme 'Retailpreneur: Redefining Retail - Building Trust, Scale and Customer Experience' on 27 November 2025 at 5:30 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, where leading retail professionals from Surat guided entrepreneurs through their real-life experiences.

In his welcome address, the Chamber's Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala remarked that in Surat, when people shop, they are not asked what they bought, but rather from where they bought it – clearly indicating that

trust is the most critical factor in retail.

Mr. Anil Jetwani of Navin Electronics stated that retail is rapidly evolving and businesses must evolve accordingly. Today's customers are smarter and more demanding than ever. Retail is no longer limited to physical stores alone, yet trust continues to be the ultimate game changer. People do not merely buy products; they buy trust. He shared practical tips on how to earn customer confidence, generate repeat business and referrals, and explained effective ways to handle returns, replacements and sustainable business growth.



Mr. Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary of SGCCI



Mr. Anil Jetwani



Mr. Deepak Choksi



Mr. Praful Modi

Mr. Deepak Choksi of D. Khushalbai Jewellers emphasised that knowledge is the foundation of every successful business. He expressed concerns about the impact of AI on retail but added that continuous innovation must remain at the core of retail strategy. According to him, the principle of transforming challenges into opportunities should define the spirit of retail.

Mr. Praful Modi of Dhiraj Sons shared that one should not open the locks of his/her store on his/her own. Before launching their store, they had appointed a retail consultant. Through his entrepreneurial journey, he explained how success in retail can be achieved and how businesses can sustain themselves amid intense competition.

Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera presented the outline and objectives of the programme. The Chairman of the Chamber's Retail Trade Committee, Mr. Pramod Bhagat, formally introduced the speakers. The entire programme was efficiently conducted by Mr. Bhautik Sheth, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Entrepreneurship Development Committee. The retail experts also responded to various questions raised by participating entrepreneurs.

Chairman of the Chamber's Entrepreneurship Development Committee Dr. Rakesh Doshi, along with a large number of entrepreneurs, remained present at the seminar. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Mitesh Shah, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Retail Trade Committee.

Ladies Wing Visits Surat Police Traffic Control Room



Members of the Ladies Wing of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by Chairperson Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala and Vice Chairperson Mrs. Alpaben Madrasi, visited the Surat City Police Traffic Control Room on Monday, 24 November 2025. The visit proved to be highly informative and insightful. Traffic department officials provided detailed briefings on key aspects such as traffic management, road safety, and crime prevention.

During the visit, members of the ladies' wing were familiarised with the city's traffic management systems, including the operation of traffic signals, monitoring through CCTV surveillance, and methods used to regulate and observe traffic flow. Members were also given a clear understanding of the challan (penalty) process followed in cases of



traffic rule violations.

The members were further briefed on crime investigation procedures undertaken by the traffic police, particularly in cases involving road accidents and hit-and-run incidents. Officials explained how cases are solved using forensic evidence, technical analysis, and witness statements. Important guidance was also shared on road safety and personal security, including advice to safeguard mobile phones and valuables while travelling, remain alert to surroundings, and avoid distractions while driving.

Overall, the visit proved to be extremely beneficial and knowledge-enhancing for the members of the Ladies Wing, enabling them to gain valuable insights into traffic regulation, public safety, and civic awareness.

Students Guided on Traffic Awareness Through Road Safety Seminars in different Schools



As part of its road safety initiative, the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised traffic awareness sessions for students on 17 November 2025 at Smt. I.N. Tekrawala High School, Palanpur Patiya, and on 20 November 2025 at R.N. Nayak High School, Udhna. During these sessions, students were educated on the importance of wearing helmets, using seat belts, and possessing a valid driving licence.

Chairperson of the Chamber's Traffic Education and Awareness Committee, Ms. Kaminiben

Dumaswala, explained the significance of traffic signals and highlighted the serious risks associated with underage driving, riding on the wrong side, and using mobile phones while driving. Through practical examples, she guided students on how to avoid accidents and stressed the need for the regular and responsible use of helmets, seat belts and licences.

Trustees, teachers and students from the participating schools, along with members of the Chamber's Traffic Education and Awareness Committee, remained present during the sessions.



SGCCI Delegation Visits Surat Airport; Discussions Held on International Connectivity and Infrastructure Expansion



Demand raised for new connectivity including Surat-Doha-USA flight

A delegation of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, visited Surat International Airport on Tuesday, 2 December 2025, and held an important meeting with Airport Director Mr. A.N. Sharma and senior officials. The delegation included Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, former President Mr. Rajnikant Marfatia, Aviation Committee Chairman Mr. Linesh Shah, Advisor Mr. Manoj Singapuri, Co-Chairman Mr. Rohan Desai, and committee members Mr. Arvind Babawala and Mr. Atul Patel.

During the visit, detailed discussions were held on airport operations, infrastructure development, air traffic control, runway capacity, and the need for enhanced international connectivity.

Airport Director Mr. A.N. Sharma informed the delegation that three to four new flights have been added in recent months. The work on the parallel taxi track has been completed and approval from DGCA has also been received. The track is expected to become operational shortly, which will effectively double the runway capacity. Several development works are underway at the airport, including the upgradation of emergency exit systems, and the process for establishing a lounge and duty-free shop is currently in progress.

The Chamber delegation strongly advocated for new international routes, including a Surat-Doha-USA (IndiGo) flight, as well as direct connectivity to Singapore and Hong Kong. The Chamber also expressed its intent to make representations to various airlines for the introduction of night flights from Surat.

Discussions were also held regarding the need for a bank branch and ATM facility at the airport. The Chamber assured its support in coordinating with State Bank of India (SBI) for this purpose. The Chamber further proposed organising a joint vendor development programme in collaboration with the Airport Authority, which was positively received by the officials.

On the Surat Airport Master Plan 2047, the Airport Director stated that it forms part of the national-level 'Viksit Bharat' vision document. Considering the city's rapid growth, the Airport Authority will need to conduct a fresh survey. The Chamber will make formal representations on this matter to the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

During the visit, the delegation also toured the airport terminal, ATC tower and Ventura hangar, and held discussions with Ventura officials regarding regional connectivity and the future of aviation.

Textile Parva 2.0 – Day 3

Highlights Global Export Opportunities from Surat



Dubai, the Netherlands and Singapore import textiles from India and re-export them to South Africa, Europe and South Asia respectively. This creates significant opportunities for Surat's entrepreneurs to export textiles directly from Surat to global markets," said Mr. Jagat Shah

On the third day of the Textile Parva, on 3 December, Wednesday, organised by the GFRRC (Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre) of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, export expert Mr. Jagat Shah from Ahmedabad guided Surat's entrepreneurs on emerging global export opportunities.

Mr. Shah explained that several countries which were economically far behind India 60 years ago have now progressed significantly because their economies are export-driven. While India's economy has traditionally been consumer-based, exports from India are now steadily increasing. He noted that in the previous year, the United States emerged as India's largest export market, accounting for nearly 20% of total exports before the imposition of duties.

Dubai ranks second as an export destination. However, Dubai primarily imports textiles from India and re-exports them to South Africa. The Netherlands ranks third, importing textiles and other products from India and re-exporting them to Europe. Similarly, Singapore imports from India and re-exports to South Asian markets. Mr. Shah pointed out that this creates substantial direct export opportunities for entrepreneurs from Surat to markets such as South Africa, the Netherlands and Singapore.

He advised Surat's textile entrepreneurs that while manufacturing high-quality fabrics is essential, it is equally important to develop strong global trading capabilities. He provided detailed information on e-commerce platforms useful for exports and explained how businesses can connect



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of SGCCI



Mr. Jagat Shah
Export Expert, Ahmedabad

with buyers across the world, including in the United States. He also highlighted how artificial intelligence can support export activities through better market analysis, outreach and decision-making.

Explaining the concept of joint ventures, Mr. Shah clarified that joint ventures are not limited to manufacturing but are highly effective in marketing and global distribution, enabling Indian products to reach international markets more efficiently.

Group Chairman Mr. Girdhargopal Mundra outlined the programme and noted that under the Government of India's RoDTEP scheme, exporters receive subsidies on garment exports, while the PLI

scheme has also significantly contributed to boosting exports from India.

President of the Chamber Mr. Nikhil Madrasi delivered the welcome address. The session was efficiently conducted by the Chamber's Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Group Chairman Mr. Paresh Lathiya, and a large number of entrepreneurs were present at the seminar. The expert speaker responded to several questions raised by business professionals and exporters. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Group Chairman Mr. Manish Kapadiya.

Awareness Session on 'Understanding Labour Codes: A Practical Guide for Industries and HR'





Addressing the audience Mr. Sohail Sawani

With the Government of India's Ministry of Labour having implemented four new Labour Codes on 21 November 2025, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an awareness session on 'Understanding Labour Codes: A Practical Guide for Industries and HR' on Thursday, 4 December 2025 at 4:00 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat, with the objective of explaining these critical reforms to trade and industry in simple and practical terms.

In his welcome address, the Chamber's Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that understanding and implementing the new labour codes is not merely a matter of legal compliance, but a meaningful step towards greater transparency in management, improved employee welfare, enhanced safety, and smoother operational practices. He emphasised that for HR professionals, management teams, factory owners and managers, a practical understanding of these reforms is now essential.

Labour law expert Mr. Sohail Sawani, Panel Member of the Labour Law Institute, New Delhi, explained that provisions relating to Provident Fund (PF), ESI, gratuity, maternity benefits, overtime, notice pay, leave and bonus will now be calculated based on the new definition of wages. Organisations employing more than 20 employees will be required to constitute a Grievance Redressal Committee. He further clarified that

employees will become eligible for earned leave after completing 180 days of service, with one day of leave for every 20 days worked.

He also informed that annual medical examinations have been made mandatory for employees above the age of 40. At present, around 8 crore employees are registered under ESI and PF across the country, which is expected to expand to nearly 50 crore beneficiaries under the new Social Security Code. He added that the Central Government will first notify the Central Rules under all four labour codes, which may take about 2-3 months to finalise, following which State Governments will frame their respective rules. The four labour codes are likely to be implemented from April 2026.

President of the Chamber Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, along with a large number of business professionals and industry representatives, remained present at the seminar. The Chamber's Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi presented the programme outline. The session was efficiently conducted by Mr. Paulik Desai, Deputy Secretary of the Chamber, while Mr. Abhiraj Atodariya, HR Executive, formally introduced the speaker. The expert addressed various queries raised by participants with satisfactory clarifications. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Gunvant Hire, Assistant Manager - HR, of the Chamber.

Textile Parva 2.0 – Day 4 : Highlights Sustainable Manufacturing and the Growing Role of MMF



On Thursday, 4 December, the fourth day of the Textile Parva featured expert sessions guiding Surat's entrepreneurs on sustainable manufacturing practices and the rapidly expanding role of man-made fibres (MMF) in the global fashion and textile industry. As expert speakers, Mr. Jitendra Vakhariya, President of the South Gujarat Textile Processors Association, shared insights on how sustainable production can be effectively implemented in Surat's textile industry. Mr. Ashish Gujarati, former President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the Chamber's Textile Task Force, elaborated on how the importance of man-made fibres is growing rapidly in modern fashion and technical textiles, and how Surat's industry can capitalise on this shift.

In his welcome address, Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Immediate Past President of the Chamber, stated that this year the Textile Festival has been organised across all six days of the week. He noted that as the industry increasingly adopts automatic looms and advanced technologies, the need for knowledge, information and expert guidance has become critical, prompting the inclusion of diverse industry experts to guide entrepreneurs.

Mr. Jitendra Vakhariya observed that surviving

in today's highly competitive environment has become increasingly challenging, and that blind expansion is no longer viable. He remarked that while governments earlier prioritised economy, today the focus has clearly shifted towards ecology, with environmental laws becoming stricter. Citing the example of Pandesara, he explained how the textile industry achieved sustainable production by shifting from fresh water usage in the 1990s to recycled water by 2001, an initiative that gained national recognition.

He further stated that while becoming a leader is commendable, becoming a fearless leader is far more challenging. It is the leader's responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of industry. He explained how, through dialogue with government authorities, the Emission Monitoring System was successfully implemented, preventing shutdowns, and how Surat's textile industry earned an international reputation by adhering to legal and regulatory frameworks.

Mr. Ashish Gujarati highlighted that nearly 75% of global textile consumption is based on MMF. He pointed out that the use of polyester bedsheets has increased significantly in colder countries. Elaborating on the characteristics, quality and sustainability of MMF, he explained strategies through which Surat's industry can



Mr. Vijay Mevawala



Mr. Jitendra Vakhariya



Mr. Ashish Gujarati

increase its share in global consumption and derive long-term benefits.

He further stated that MMF offers immense potential in products such as umbrellas, raincoats and sportswear. With fashion trends now changing every two to three hours, MMF provides flexibility and speed unmatched by traditional fibres. Through a detailed presentation, he explained the wide range of products that can be manufactured from MMF,

particularly in the technical textile segment. Referring to the ban on flex banners and the emergence of media paper, he guided entrepreneurs on the future of sustainable and recyclable technical textiles.

Both speakers addressed and clarified the various questions raised by industry participants. The programme was smoothly conducted by Mr. Amrish Bhatt, Co-Chairman of GFRRC, who also delivered the vote of thanks to all attendees.

Textile Parva 2.0 – Day 5 : Explores the Role of India's Textile Industry in 'Viksit Bharat @2047'



On the fifth day of the Textile Parva, organised by the GFRRC (Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre) of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a scientific and strategic discussion was held on the theme 'Viksit Bharat @2047 - The Role of the

Indian Textile Industry'. The session took place on Friday, 5 December, with Dr. Ashwin Thakkar, Chairman of the Ahmedabad Textile Industries Research Association (ATIRA), Ahmedabad, as the expert speaker.

In his welcome address, the President of the Chamber,



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, stated that experts from cities such as Ahmedabad and Delhi had been invited this time with the objective of providing broader and deeper guidance to the textile industry. He highlighted the Chamber's continued efforts to push the industry at the international level and strengthen its global competitiveness.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ashwin Thakkar remarked that the transformation and growth Surat has witnessed after the introduction of polyester is truly commendable. He described Surat's growth rate as exceptional. Explaining the value chain in simple terms, he noted that earlier China used to procure yarn from India and sell finished fabric back at similar prices. Today, however, the entire value chain is developed within India, generating net foreign exchange earnings. While India is now number one globally in polyester production, he explained—using global textile and apparel trade data—why China continues to maintain an edge in the international



Dr. Ashwin Thakkar

market. He also spoke in detail about the rising trend of technical textiles, which offer higher margins and long-term growth potential.

Dr. Thakkar further stated that domestic demand for textiles is set to rise sharply, alongside continued growth in exports. Using technical reasoning, he explained why cotton is unsuitable for sportswear and why polyester has become indispensable in that segment. Presenting detailed data, he emphasised that the textile sector will play a crucial role not only in the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, but also in achieving India's Net Zero Emissions target by 2070. He stressed the urgent need for research and development in technical textiles and highlighted key challenges that could hinder future growth.

The expert speaker addressed and clarified several questions raised by industry participants. The session was smoothly conducted by Mr. Amrish Bhatt, Co-Chairman of GFRRC, who also delivered the vote of thanks.

Awareness Session on “Mantras for Success and Inner Peace”



Our inner state is a spiritual truth—thoughts arise from this state, actions follow thoughts; therefore, good actions require good thoughts,” said Mitra Parna of the Maitribodh Parivar



Addressing the audience Mitra Parn

An awareness session on “Mantras for Success and Inner Peace” was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Sunday, 7 December 2025 at 10:00 am at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured Mitra Parna, a distinguished disciple of Maitreya Dadashreeji, youth mentor and global transformational speaker from the Maitribodh Parivar, who offered profound guidance on achieving success while maintaining inner peace.

Addressing the gathering, the President of the Chamber, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, remarked that it is impossible to conduct business or industry effectively if the mind remains restless. He explained that this is precisely why the Chamber also organises such programmes—to guide business professionals towards mental balance and inner peace, alongside professional growth.

Mitra Parna observed that in today’s fast-paced life, individuals are constantly running—to earn more money, provide a better life for their families, live a luxurious lifestyle, and contribute to society. However, in this relentless pursuit, people often miss something essential within themselves. He pointed out that many individuals are attempting to compensate for an inner void without first addressing it. While luxury and

comfort may be abundant in other countries, he noted, there is often a lack of inner satisfaction, emotional connection, and belonging.

He further explained that people born in India traditionally value time above money. For them, money is merely a by-product, while culture and values come first. When culture and values are strong, prosperity follows naturally. Time, he emphasised, is the most powerful and valuable resource. If utilised wisely, it enables individuals to contribute meaningfully to themselves, their families, society and the nation.

Mitra Parna acknowledged that daily life presents many challenges and struggles, which people constantly face. However, to eliminate recurring difficulties at their root, there is a need to organise and realign something within oneself. He remarked that the present era is a positive and transformative phase, offering individuals the opportunity to bring about meaningful inner change.

Explaining the spiritual foundation of his message, he stated that one’s inner state (avastha) is a spiritual truth. Thoughts arise from this inner state, and actions follow thoughts. Therefore, good actions require good thoughts, and good thoughts require a well-aligned inner state. He urged participants

to consciously cultivate this inner alignment and conveyed a message of transformation, love and universal friendship.

He further shared that the Maitribodh Parivar has taken a profound resolve—that the day complete peace is established on Earth, when every individual experiences love in their life, transforms the mind, walks the path of righteousness with justice and truth, the Maitribodh Parivar will dissolve itself as an

organisation, having fulfilled its purpose.

Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera outlined the programme. The session was smoothly conducted by Mr. Sandip Dobariya, Chairman of the Chamber's Spiritual Awakening Committee. Mr. Shrikant, from the Maitribodh Parivar, formally introduced Mitra Parn and facilitated a meditative process of Maitri Shakti Pravah, allowing participants to experience spiritual awareness firsthand.

Textile Parva 2.0 – Day 6 : Focuses on India's Textile Policy and Surat's Global Role



On the sixth day of Textile Parva 2.0, organised by the GFRRC (Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre) of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a thought-provoking session was held on Saturday, 6 December on the theme “The Future of India's Textile Policy and Surat's Role in the Global Value Chain.” The session was addressed in detail by Mr. S. P. Verma, Advisor to the Chamber's Textile Task Force and former Additional Textile Commissioner, Government of India.

In his welcome address, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, said that Mr. Verma possesses deep and extensive knowledge of the textile industry and has been appointed as a consultant for the proposed Centre of Excellence. He emphasised that continuous innovation in textiles requires everyone to remain a lifelong learner, as

learning is the key to progress and competitiveness.

Mr. S. P. Verma spoke at length on the evolving nature of India's textile policy, emerging global opportunities, challenges in the man-made fibre (MMF) value chain, and Surat's strategic position in capturing a larger share of global textile trade. He elaborated on the importance of technology upgradation, sustainability, skill development and integration with global supply chains, stating that change is the law of nature. If timely attention is given today, he said, the coming era in India's textile sector will clearly belong to Surat. He noted that Textile Policy 2024 places strong emphasis on sustainability, innovation and investment, with special focus on smart and technical textiles.

Highlighting future opportunities, Mr. Verma pointed out that the Commonwealth Games are scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad in 2030, which

will create enormous demand and opportunities for the textile sector. He urged entrepreneurs to begin preparations immediately, remarking that many opportunities are already knocking at the door—now or never. With global demand for synthetic textiles rising sharply, he cautioned that if India does not scale up production, it may eventually have to import such fabrics. He also stressed the need to involve the next generation more actively in the garment segment. Given India's relatively low per capita textile consumption, he stated that the future holds immense promise for Surat, particularly for the MMF industry, which will continue to witness strong demand.

He also addressed future challenges such as environmental concerns and the shortage of skilled manpower. To compete effectively with China, he suggested that Surat should establish a dedicated textile machinery park. He further explained the incentives available under the revised PLI scheme

**Common wealth
Games to unlock major
opportunities for
the textile industry
entrepreneurs must start
preparing now: S. P. Verma**



and responded to various questions raised by industry participants.

Former President of the Chamber and Chairman of the Textile Task Force, Mr. Ashish Gujarati, presented the programme outline and formally introduced the keynote speaker. The session was efficiently conducted by Mr. Amrish Bhatt, Co-Chairman of GFRRC, who also delivered the vote of thanks, marking the conclusion of the seminar.

Industrial Visits Organised Across Multiple Locations to Promote Technology and Best Practices



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry successfully organised a series of industrial visits across various locations in Surat during

November 2025, with the objective of familiarising members with modern technologies, sustainable industrial practices, and emerging manufacturing



models. The first visit was organised on 5 November 2025 to Steam House India Limited, located at Sachin GIDC. During this visit, members were introduced to environment-friendly and energy-efficient facilities, including the community boiler system. Detailed insights were also provided into artificial intelligence-based steam management systems and advanced pollution control technologies.

The second visit took place on 15 November 2025 at Sahajanand Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and the 3D Excellence Centre, where participating members observed state-of-the-art machinery, precision manufacturing processes, and live demonstrations of 3D printing technology. This visit helped participants gain a deeper understanding of new directions and innovations in the manufacturing sector.

The third visit was organised on 19 November 2025 at Make3D.in, where members received comprehensive information on high-precision 3D printers designed in

India, along with insights into rapid prototyping and Industry 4.0-related technologies.

The fourth visit was conducted on 26 November 2025 at Shakunt Ashram and Pragati Glass Industries. At Shakunt Ashram, Chamber members experienced practical yoga sessions, while at Pragati Glass Industries, they gained detailed knowledge of quality-driven glass manufacturing processes.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that the primary objective of these visits was to expose members to modern technologies, sustainable industrial methods, and innovative production models. He added that such industrial visits foster innovative thinking among entrepreneurs, enhance confidence in adopting new technologies, and strengthen networking within the industrial ecosystem. He further assured that the Chamber will continue to organise similar knowledge-driven initiatives in the future.



A New Investment Path Explored Through SIF



“SIF has the potential to generate returns even in volatile and declining markets,” said CA Bipin Hirpara

An informative session on “Specialized Investment Fund (SIF): A New Investment Avenue” was successfully organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 22 November 2025 at 5:30 pm at Samruddhi Hall, Nanpura, Surat.

In his welcome address, the Chamber’s Honorary Treasurer Mr. Mitish Modi stated that the Chamber regularly organises such programmes to ensure collective benefit and continuous knowledge enhancement for its members. He noted that earlier the role of Chartered Accountants was largely limited to audits, whereas today the trend has evolved, with CAs playing an important role in wealth creation and wealth management as well.

Explaining the concept of Specialized Investment Funds (SIF), CA Bipin Hirpara, Founder and CEO of D2A, said that SIFs emerged as a result of successful investment strategies adopted in developed countries. He informed that investments in SIFs can be made with a minimum of ₹10 lakh per AMC. One of the key advantages of SIFs is that they allow up to 25% exposure in derivatives for short positions (hedging)—a flexibility not available in mutual funds or PMS. He also highlighted unique features such as sector rotation strategies and the ability of SIFs to invest in the commodity sector.

He described SIFs as a completely new and advanced investment avenue, capable of delivering returns even



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of SGCCI



CA Bipin Hirpara
Founder & CEO of D2A

during volatile and falling markets. He further explained that SEBI has currently permitted seven categories under SIFs, with the first category being equity-oriented. He also elaborated on the tax implications for investors as well as Asset Management Companies (AMCs). Addressing common investor concerns, he clarified aspects related to expense ratios, lock-in periods and exit loads.

A large number of Chamber members and investors

were present at the session. Mr. Kamlesh Gajera, Group Chairman of the Chamber, shared insights about the programme. Mr. Hasim Yakubali, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee, formally introduced the speaker. The programme was smoothly conducted, and the vote of thanks delivered, by Mr. Balkrishna Vaghasiya, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee

India's Future Mega Themes: Strategies for Extraordinary Wealth



“The stock market will move, but your portfolio may not—stock selection has now become crucial,” said fund manager Kartik Mehta

An engaging seminar on “India's Future Mega Themes: Strategies for Extraordinary Wealth” was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday, 6 December 2025 at 6:00 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured renowned fund manager Mr. Kartik Mehta of CKredence Wealth PMS as the keynote speaker, who shared powerful strategies for long-term wealth creation.

In his welcome address, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, highlighted the Chamber's continuous efforts to ensure that no industry in South Gujarat remains deprived of knowledge. He emphasised that consistent learning is the foundation of sustained success.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Kartik Mehta stated that India is poised to become one of the top three global economies in the near future. Over the past decade, India's GDP has grown by nearly 77%. He noted that in the upcoming growth phase of India's journey towards

becoming a developed nation, the contribution of youth, especially Generation Z, will be significant. The increasing participation of working women, rising per capita income, and evolving consumption patterns will further strengthen India's economic transformation. However, he stressed that economic diversification will be essential to sustain this growth.

Drawing comparisons with other countries, he explained that many nations struggle while transitioning from low-income to middle-income economies, as rising incomes almost inevitably lead to higher expenditure. Using data and simple illustrations, he pointed out that the middle-income growth phase is historically very favourable for equity markets—as capital attracts more capital. Countries like China enjoyed a prolonged boom phase, but India may have a comparatively shorter window of around 25 years, making timely equity participation crucial.

He elaborated on India's future mega themes,



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI

including ease of living, deeper adoption of technology, artificial intelligence, and new-age sectors. He highlighted that the rapid expansion of AI is significantly increasing global power demand and advised investors to consider opportunities in next-generation business funds.

Sharing his outlook on the market, Mr. Mehta remarked that while Nifty falling 23,000 may not be likely, it could move beyond 28,000, though investor returns may not necessarily mirror index growth. The next two years may be favourable for indices, but individual portfolios may still underperform if not structured wisely. He cautioned that the phase of indiscriminate bullishness is over, making selective stock picking more important than ever. He also advised investors to be selective in IPOs.

He further noted that while the global economy could



Mr. Kartik Mehta
Fund Manager of Ckredence Wealth PMS

face a shock within the next year, India is well-positioned to recover faster. This recovery phase, he said, could trigger a major market move, making it a critical period for maximum wealth creation. Investors maintaining a higher allocation to equities during this phase could significantly outperform peers, neighbours and friends over the long term.

Mr. Kamlesh Gajera, Group Chairman of the Chamber, shared insights about the programme and expressed gratitude to all attendees. Mr. Vishal Bakshi, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee, formally introduced the speaker. An engaging question-and-answer session followed. The programme was smoothly conducted by Mr. Balkrishna Vaghasiya, Co-Chairman of the Capital and Commodity Market Committee.

Textile Parva 2.0 Concludes on a High Note; Day 7 : Encourages Surat's Textile Industry to Move Towards Garments



“Surat has everything required for garments,” said Santosh Kataria



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Santosh Kataria
Chairman of CMAI



Mr. Rahul Mehta
Mentor of CMAI

“Do not exit textiles—channel the next generation into garments,” urged Rohit Mehta

The GFRRC (Global Fabric Resource and Research Centre) of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the Textile Parva from 1st to 8th December 2025 at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, every evening at 5:30 pm. On the concluding day, Monday, 8 December, the Parva featured Mr. Santosh Kataria, Chairman of the Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI), and Mr. Rahul Mehta, Mentor, CMAI, as chief speakers and guests. They guided entrepreneurs on the current scenario, challenges and global opportunities in the Indian apparel industry.

In his welcome address, the President of the Chamber, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, remarked that despite facing several challenges, Surat has always demonstrated a remarkable ability to bounce back quickly. He noted that while Surat's textile industry has made significant progress, there is still substantial potential to be unlocked in the apparel segment.

Speaking on opportunities in the garment industry, Mr. Santosh Kataria, Chairman, CMAI, Mumbai, stated that no other city in India offers a platform as strong as Surat for garment manufacturing. He emphasised that Surat has all the essential ingredients—labour availability, raw material, logistics and infrastructure—required for large-scale growth of the garment sector. Expressing surprise, he said it is puzzling that despite such advantages, the garment industry has not yet flourished in Surat to its full potential. He elaborated

on opportunities across front-end marketing, e-commerce, EBOs (Exclusive Brand Outlets), and CMAI's B2B sales channels.

He further explained that once a brand is established, social media enables rapid nationwide reach, making the scope of garments virtually limitless. With India's domestic market expanding rapidly and the ready-made apparel trend growing sharply, he highlighted the immense opportunities ahead for Surat-based entrepreneurs.

Mr. Rahul Mehta, Mentor, CMAI, Mumbai, stated that textiles ultimately serve as raw material for garments, and if Surat moves into garment manufacturing, the level of value addition would be substantial. He clarified that no one is suggesting an exit from textiles—on the contrary, the textile base must be strengthened—but expansion and diversification are essential. He strongly encouraged the industry to draw the next generation towards garments and emphasised the importance of productivity and technology adoption in apparel manufacturing.

The Chamber's Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi delivered the vote of thanks to all participants. Former President Mr. Mahendra Kajiwalla and Mr. Indravadan, along with a large number of entrepreneurs and business professionals, were present at the seminar. The programme was efficiently conducted by Mr. Atul Patel, Co-Chairman of GFRRC. At the conclusion, both speakers addressed and answered various questions raised by the audience.

Ship Globally Through Sharjah Free Zone Special two-day B2B meeting series organised to enable global business expansion via the UAE



A special two-day B2B meeting series on the theme “Expanding Business into International Markets through the UAE” was organised in Surat by the Gujarat Region of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), 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 were held at a hotel in Surat on 20 and 21 November, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The sessions witnessed the presence of CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, who actively participated in the discussions. He highlighted that the Sharjah Free Zone is strategically located close to a seaport, enabling faster and more efficient exports. He explained that apart from certain professions such as chartered accountants and medical practitioners, the Free Zone welcomes almost all types of

businesses.

He also sought in-depth clarity on the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and the UAE, and explored the ease of doing business offered by the Sharjah Free Zone. Through detailed discussions and interactions, it was clarified that businesses operating through the Sharjah Free Zone benefit significantly from a tax-efficiency perspective, making it an attractive destination for international trade and expansion.

The two-day business-to-business meetings received an encouraging response from local industries. The primary objective of this initiative was to enable Indian companies to leverage the UAE as a strategic gateway to access global markets and gain competitive advantages.

Special focus was placed on how exporters can effectively utilise the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, one of the region’s most dynamic and investor-friendly free zones, to strengthen their



export operations.

The B2B meetings held in Surat proved highly beneficial for industries from South Gujarat, as they enabled direct interactions with SAIF Zone representatives to explore investment opportunities, operational support and the ease of establishing businesses in the UAE.

Participants were also provided with focused guidance on effectively leveraging the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which offers duty-free access to nearly 97% of Indian products and significantly strengthens India's reach into African, European and other international markets.

Industrial Visit to Rezon Solar Highlights Advanced Green Energy Manufacturing





The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an industrial visit for its members to Rezon Solar Limited, located at Kim-Kosamba, on Wednesday, 3 December 2025.

The Chamber delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Fenil Patel of Rezon Solar Limited, who received Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, Mr. Kiran Thummar, Chairman - All Exhibitions, along with members of the Chamber's Industrial Visit Committee, including Mr. Chetan Sheth and Mr. Amit Shah.

During the visit, members were taken on a guided tour of Rezon Solar's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility, where they were provided with detailed insights into the advanced technologies used in the production of high-quality solar panels. Special emphasis was placed on the use of TOPCon technology in solar panel manufacturing, highlighting its advantages in terms of higher productivity, improved efficiency, and

enhanced energy savings.

In addition, the Rezon Solar team shared comprehensive information about the company's global market presence, adherence to international quality standards, strong focus on research and innovation, and its growth journey since 2017. The delegation was also briefed on the company's manufacturing processes, quality management systems, raw material handling, and export capabilities.

Commenting on the visit, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that the primary objective of the industrial visit was to promote awareness of sustainable energy solutions, advanced manufacturing techniques, and green energy technologies among members. He added that the visit provided an excellent opportunity for Chamber members to gain first-hand exposure to the technological advancements in the solar energy sector.



Awareness Session on 'Know About Your Liver'



As part of its Health Series, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised an awareness session on 'Know About Your Liver' on 9 November 2025 at 10:30 am at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured Dr. Ritesh Prajapati from Surat's renowned Seeds Multi Super Speciality Hospital, who provided detailed and practical insights on liver health.

Dr. Prajapati explained that the liver is one of the most vital organs in the human body, performing critical functions such as detoxification, metabolism, digestion, and energy storage. He pointed out that liver-related diseases often remain asymptomatic in their early stages, making regular health check-ups extremely important. He further noted that irregular lifestyles, excessive consumption of oily and spicy food, increased alcohol intake, obesity, and conditions such as diabetes significantly raise the risk of fatty liver disease and hepatitis.

He advised participants to maintain good liver health through a balanced diet, regular exercise, avoidance of smoking and alcohol, adequate water intake, and periodic liver function tests.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Rakesh Gandhi, Group Chairman of the Chamber. Dr. Jagdish Vaghasiya, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, formally introduced the speaker. The session was efficiently conducted by Dr. Rajan Desai, Member of the Public Health Committee. During the interactive session, the speaker addressed various queries raised by Chamber members and provided clear guidance.



Addressing the audience Dr. Ritesh Prajapati

SGCCI Delegation Visit to Swaraj Ashram, Bardoli Chamber and Farmers' Cooperative Sugar Mill



A delegation of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Swaraj Ashram in Bardoli on Saturday, 6 December 2025. During the visit, members gained detailed insights into the historic Bardoli Satyagraha, led under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Photographs, documents, records and memorabilia displayed at Swaraj Ashram offered the delegation a vivid glimpse into India's freedom struggle. Guides at the Ashram explained the circumstances surrounding the Satyagraha, the effectiveness of the farmers' movement, and Sardar Patel's exceptional organisational leadership. The visit provided members with an opportunity to experience a deep sense of historical awareness and nationalist spirit.

Following the visit to Swaraj Ashram, the

delegation visited the Bardoli Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Office bearers of the Bardoli Chamber briefed the delegation on local industries, agriculture-based MSME development initiatives, marketing opportunities, and the overall local business ecosystem. The Chamber delegation expressed its commitment to strengthening cooperation with Bardoli's industrial community for the region's economic development.

Thereafter, the delegation visited the Farmers' Cooperative Sugar Industry Limited, Bardoli. Officials of the cooperative explained the entire sugarcane processing cycle, from harvesting to packaging, in detail. Members were shown the sugarcane receiving yard, crushing units, quality control laboratory and packaging facilities,



gaining first-hand exposure to operations of an agriculture-based cooperative industry.

Explaining the objective of the visit, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that such industrial visits are organised periodically to provide members with practical exposure to diverse industries, historic institutions and business organisations, enabling them to better understand different operational models.

The Bardoli visit significantly strengthened members' understanding across three key dimensions—the historical legacy of India's freedom movement, business collaboration with a regional chamber, and the functioning of an agriculture-based sugar industry. The Chamber's mission is to continuously connect its members with knowledge, connectivity and growth opportunities, and such industrial visits serve as an effective medium toward that goal.



Awareness Session on Cervical Cancer Vaccination



An awareness session on Cervical Cancer Vaccination was jointly organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Jai Sardar Vidyalaya on Thursday, 20 November 2025 at 8:30 am at Jai Sardar Vidyalaya, Punagam. The session featured Dr. Usha N. Maniya from P. P. Maniya Hospital, who provided detailed and practical information on cervical cancer prevention and vaccination.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President of the Chamber, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, stated that women's health occupies a vital place in societal well-being, and cervical cancer is one of the most serious health challenges affecting women worldwide. He added

that the encouraging aspect is the availability of a safe and effective preventive solution in the form of the cervical cancer vaccine, which can significantly reduce the risk when administered at the right age.

Dr. Usha N. Maniya explained that cervical cancer is among the most serious cancers affecting women, but timely prevention is possible. She stated that the cervical cancer vaccine, which protects against the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), is both highly effective and safe. The vaccine is recommended for girls and young women between the ages of 9 and 26, as immunity and preventive benefits are strongest during this age group.



Dr. Usha N. Maniya



Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of SGCCI

She further noted that the vaccine provides long-term protection against several high-risk strains of HPV, thereby significantly reducing the likelihood of developing cervical cancer later in life. In addition, she emphasised the importance of regular health check-ups and maintaining a hygienic and healthy lifestyle. Dr. Maniya stated that with proper awareness and timely vaccination, a substantial reduction in cervical

cancer cases is achievable.

On the occasion, Mr. Paresh Patel, Principal of Jai Sardar Vidyalaya, delivered a brief address. Dr. Jagdish Vaghasiya, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Workers Health Committee, outlined the programme and expressed gratitude to all present. The session was smoothly conducted by Mr. Nikhil Vaghasiya, Co-Chairman of the Industrial Workers Health Committee.

Exploring Investment Opportunities in Gujarati Cinema



A special session on investment opportunities in Gujarati films was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday, 9 December 2025 at 6:00 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. The session featured renowned Gujarati film director Mr. Naitik Raval and writer-film producer and theatre artist Mr. Paresh Vora, who provided detailed insights into the creative process, business models, and financial dynamics of Gujarati film production.

In his welcome address, the President of the Chamber, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, shared that he himself had been associated with theatre in the past and recalled the golden era of Gujarati cinema. He noted that today, when an occasional Gujarati film suddenly enters the ₹100-crore club, it comes as a surprise to many. The objective of the session, he said, was to create awareness that such opportunities do exist, and to help participants understand the multiple dimensions involved in film

financing.

Gujarati film director Mr. Naitik Raval stated that since 2010—especially in the post-COVID period—audiences have returned to Gujarati cinema, resulting in the production of several quality films. He noted that the turnover of the Gujarati film industry has increased by nearly 300% this year. Emphasising that filmmaking is also a business, he pointed out that it naturally involves uncertainty and risk. He explained that there are primarily four film financing models, including studio-backed projects, equity participation, and single-production models. In addition to production costs, marketing expenses must also be factored in. He suggested that one should ideally consider film production only with a minimum budget of Rs. 4 crore. Producers also bear exhibition charges, while distributors today generally work on fee-based or profit-sharing models rather than outright film purchases. He also explained the importance



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



**Mr. Naitik Raval
Gujarati Film Director**



**Mr. Paresh Vora
Writer-Film Producer**

of various rights associated with films and advised that investing in ten films is wiser than investing in just one.

Mr. Paresh Vora remarked that blockbuster successes such as Lalo are exceptions, but the growing interest is evident as even major banners like Dharma Productions are now entering Gujarati cinema. He explained that OTT platforms, which initially faced setbacks, have now evolved their models and currently determine pricing based on box-office performance. Elaborating on the commercial aspects of films, he clarified that when figures like Rs. 100 crore are mentioned, the first-week

revenue split in Gujarati films is typically around 55% for exhibitors and 45% for producers. He also highlighted that no other state government offers incentives for films at the scale provided by the Government of Gujarat.

The entire programme was efficiently conducted by the Chamber's Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. Group Chairman Mr. Deepak Kumar Shethwala, along with young artists and investors, remained present at the session. Both speakers responded openly and satisfactorily to a wide range of questions raised by aspiring artists and investors.

SEO Conference 2025 Successfully Concludes, Opening New Digital Pathways for Businesses





Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of SGCCI

A grand conference on “SEO Conference 2025: Search Smart, Grow Smarter” was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday, 12 December 2025 at 4:00 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. The conference featured four leading experts from the digital marketing domain—Mr. Amit Panchal, Founder of DigicoWeb; Mr. Jaydeep Parikh, Founder of Tej SolPro; Ms. Divya Mistry, SEO Head at iVipanan; and Mr. Bhautik Sheth, Full-Stack Digital Marketing Consultant—who shared their deep expertise and practical experience with participants.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that in today’s fast-evolving digital era—where Google and other search engine algorithms are constantly changing—maintaining online visibility and reaching customers has become a business necessity. Keeping this urgent need in mind, the Chamber organised this specialised conference to familiarise entrepreneurs and digital professionals with emerging SEO trends and future-ready strategies.



Mr. Amit Panchal- Founder of DigicoWeb

Mr. Amit Panchal, Founder of DigicoWeb, explained that to ensure websites appear effectively in Google AI Overview and AI-driven search modes, businesses must create detailed, in-depth content. He emphasised focusing on human-written content over purely generative AI content. To remain unaffected by upcoming Google algorithm updates in 2026, he advised businesses to prioritise unique content, mobile-friendly websites, and human-centred blog content that genuinely engages visitors.

Mr. Jaydeep Parikh, Founder of Tej SolPro, highlighted that today’s generation increasingly makes purchase decisions based on AI-generated answers, making accurate, clear and trustworthy brand information the most powerful competitive advantage. He noted that in 2026, brands that succeed will be those that structure their content in a way AI can easily understand and trust. He stressed that the era of rented audiences is fading, and businesses must now focus on owning their audience.

Ms. Divya Mistry, SEO Head at iVipanan,



**Mr. Jaydeep Parikh
Founder of Tej SolPro**



**Ms. Divya Mistry
SEO Head at iVipanan**



**Mr. Bhautik Sheth
Digital Marketing Consultant**

stated that adding an emotional touch to content is a key demand of future SEO. Content that is genuinely useful for website visitors not only improves user engagement but also helps achieve higher Google search rankings. She added that in the AI era, the more personalised storytelling businesses adopt in their strategies, the stronger their website traffic growth will be.

Mr. Bhautik Sheth, Full-Stack Digital Marketing Consultant, pointed out that from 2026 onwards, searcher behaviour research and analysis will become one of the most critical focus areas. While organic results and search ads continue to exist, user behaviour is rapidly changing due to AI Overviews and generative search results. In the age of zero-click searches, he stressed that businesses must prioritise trust-building to drive website traffic and conversions.

The speakers collectively addressed key aspects of Search Engine Optimisation (SEO),

including upcoming changes in Google's algorithms, the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on search behaviour, and how to create AI-friendly content for long-term digital success.

Participants gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of future digital marketing, especially SEO, enabling them to prepare robust digital strategies for 2026 and beyond. The conference proved to be a significant step towards digital advancement for Surat's business community.

Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Group Chairman Mr. Manish Kapadiya, along with entrepreneurs, business leaders and professionals, remained present at the conference. The programme was efficiently conducted by Mr. Manthan Madrasi, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Digital Marketing Committee, while committee members Mr. Nilesh Desai and Mr. Kalpesh Patel formally introduced the speakers.

SGCCI Delegation Visits the New Parliament Building in New Delhi



Discussions Held on Hosting Commonwealth Games Events in Surat during a Courtesy Meeting at Union Cabinet Minister Mansukhbhai Mandaviya's Residence



SGCCI Delegation also Meets the Consul General of Spain and Visits the Paperex Exhibition at Yashobhoomi

A delegation of members from The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Chairman - All Exhibitions Mr. Kiran Thummar, and Chairman - Industrial Tour Committee Mr. Arvind Babawala, visited New Delhi on 4 December 2025. The delegation paid a visit to the new Parliament Building of India, regarded as a sacred institution of Indian democracy. The visit was organised with the guidance and support of Surat Member of Parliament Mr. Mukeshbhai Dalal.

During the visit, the delegation also met Mr. Mukeshbhai Dalal, Member of Parliament from Surat, and Mr. Govindbhai Dholakia, Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament and a leading diamond industry entrepreneur. The members gained valuable insights into the legislative process, parliamentary debates, question hour proceedings, and the functioning of various parliamentary committees, providing them with a close understanding of India's democratic framework.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, stated that such visits play a crucial role in bridging the understanding between the business community and the policy-making process. They offer industry representatives first-hand exposure to legislative functioning and help them appreciate the impact of policy decisions on national development. The primary objective of the visit was to familiarise industry leaders with the workings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and provide experiential learning of the

parliamentary system.

A meaningful and constructive interaction also took place with Honourable Union Cabinet Minister Mr. Mansukhbhai Mandaviya, during which the possibility of hosting certain Commonwealth Games events in Surat was discussed. The Minister also shared detailed information about various government initiatives for youth and startups currently being implemented. On behalf of the Chamber, an invitation was extended to the Honourable Minister to attend an upcoming Labour Conclave.

The delegation further met His Excellency (H.E.) Mr. Juan Antonio March, Consul General of Spain. Discussions during the meeting focused on international trade, export-import opportunities, bilateral cooperation, and industrial expansion, raising hopes for opening new global trade avenues for entrepreneurs from Surat and South Gujarat.

In addition, the delegation visited the Prime Ministers' Museum and the world-renowned Akshardham Temple, gaining cultural and historical perspectives.

The Chamber delegation also visited the Paperex 2025 Exhibition held at Yashobhoomi, where they explored displays by leading paper manufacturers, machinery suppliers, and traders showcasing innovative technologies, productivity-enhancing equipment, and environment-friendly paper solutions. The members interacted with exhibitors to understand current industry trends, market demand, raw material availability, and export opportunities, making the visit highly informative and industry-relevant.

Trainers' Meet Organised to Strengthen Corporate Learning Ecosystem



Trainers' Directory to Be Launched to Help Member Companies Access Need-Based Corporate Trainers

A Trainers' Meet was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Monday, 8 December 2025 at 5:00 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, with the objective of strengthening the training ecosystem for industries and enhancing workforce productivity.

Welcoming the participants, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, emphasised the growing importance of training and skill development, particularly in the area of soft skills. He stated that greater awareness about structured training programmes is required and assured that the Chamber will continue its efforts in this direction. He highlighted the plan to publish a Trainers' Directory and stressed the need to increase participation at the Skill

Development Centre. The core objective of the Trainers' Meet, he added, is to improve productivity and efficiency in member companies through focused training initiatives.

Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, stated that a strong and organised training framework must be developed to meet the evolving needs of the industrial sector.

CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer, remarked that training has become indispensable, especially for the youth, and continuous capacity building is essential for future growth.

Mr. Mrunal Shukla, Group Chairman, briefed the gathering on the programme's objectives and observed



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



**Mr. Bijal Jariwala,
Hon. Secretary of SGCCI**



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of SGCCI



Mr. Mrunal Shukla
Group Chairman of SGCCI



Mr. Chirag Desai
Group Chairman of SGCCI

that as long as an individual's mindset is oriented towards growth, the need for training will always exist.

This was followed by an interactive brainstorming and discussion session, conducted by Mr. Chirag Desai, Chairman of the Chamber's Skill Development Committee. The session featured in-depth discussions on challenges and opportunities faced by trainers, competition arising from online platforms, organisational requirements, and the importance of collaboration. He pointed out that industries will require a significantly larger pool of trainers in the coming years.

Mr. Mahesh Pamnani, Chairman of the Chamber's Education and Skill Development Centre, gave a brief overview of the Centre's activities and outlined its future plans.

Several leading trainers were present at the meet and offered valuable suggestions on how trainers can effectively serve industries through the Chamber's platform.

The session also featured a contextual address by Dr. Vijay Radadiya, Group Chairman. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Nisha Talati Anand, Co-Chairperson of the Chamber's Skill Development Committee.

SGCCI Urges Union Finance Minister to Introduce Faceless Assessment and Appeal Mechanism under GST

Representation also Seeks Conversion of the Existing e-Scheme into a Fully Faceless System

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry has submitted a detailed representation to the Honourable Union Finance Minister, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, urging the implementation of a Faceless Assessment and Faceless Adjudication Mechanism under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that in its representation, the Chamber highlighted how the Faceless Assessment and Faceless Appeal Schemes under the Income Tax system have proved to be historic and highly successful reforms. These initiatives have significantly enhanced transparency, efficiency and consistency in tax administration. By eliminating personal interaction, the schemes have strengthened taxpayer confidence, reduced

discretion, and played a crucial role in curbing corruption. The success and wide acceptance of these schemes by taxpayers underline their effectiveness.

The GST framework is already largely digital, with return filing, e-invoicing, e-way bills, refund claims and various applications being processed entirely online. In such a scenario, the Chamber has emphasised that making GST assessment, adjudication and audit processes faceless is the need of the hour.

At present, an e-Scheme is in operation under GST. However, the Chamber has pointed out that despite online processing, taxpayers are still required to physically visit offices for document submission. Hence, the Chamber has strongly recommended converting the existing e-Scheme into a fully faceless

mechanism to eliminate physical interface altogether.

Currently, GST assessments and proceedings are conducted by jurisdictional officers through physical interaction, often resulting in varying interpretations, higher compliance costs and avoidable disputes. This process is particularly burdensome for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), making compliance complex and expensive.

In its representation, the Chamber has proposed phased implementation of faceless assessment under GST, covering areas such as:

- Return scrutiny and mismatch notices (between GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B),
- Proceedings related to Input Tax Credit (ITC),
- Adjudication of show-cause notices under Sections 73 and 74 of the CGST Act,
- Refund verification, and
- Audit processes.

To enable this, the Chamber has recommended setting up a National Faceless GST Centre, similar to the Income Tax model, with a centralised digital system for automated case allocation and end-to-end electronic communication.

Demand for Faceless Appeal Mechanism under GST

The Chamber has also highlighted that due to the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) not being fully

operational, there is a significant backlog of appeal cases. Introducing a Faceless Appeal Mechanism, particularly at the Commissioner (Appeals) level, would ensure speedy, transparent and uniform justice.

A system based on digital hearings and electronic documentation, similar to Income Tax appeals, would provide substantial relief to the MSME sector and further strengthen Ease of Doing Business in the country.

The Chamber has also stressed that State GST (SGST) authorities should be fully integrated into the faceless system. Through a central digital platform, cases could be allocated to officers outside their physical jurisdictions, ensuring nationwide impartiality and reinforcing the spirit of cooperative federalism.

Implementing Faceless Assessment and Faceless Appeal mechanisms under GST would be a future-oriented, taxpayer-friendly reform, aligned with the vision of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.” Such a move would enhance transparency, efficiency and trust, and position India as a global model for digital tax governance.

The Chamber has urged the Honourable Finance Minister to initiate the necessary policy decisions, legislative amendments and technological roadmap at the earliest to implement these progressive reforms.

Interactive Session with Vikas Khemani Offers Strategic Investment Insights to Business Leaders and Investors





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



**Mr. Krunal Mehta
Managing
Director of Mehta
Wealth Limited**



**Mr. Vikas Khemani
Founder & CIO of
Carnelian Asset
Management &
Advisors**



**CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of
SGCCI**

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with Mehta Wealth Limited, organised an insightful and interactive session with Mr. Vikas Khemani, Founder and CIO of Carnelian Asset Management & Advisors, on Saturday, 13 December 2025 at 4:00 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. The session provided valuable guidance to businesspersons and investors on long-term wealth creation and market strategy.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber, stated that in today's rapidly changing economic environment, long-term investing has become crucial for sustainable wealth creation. Investment, he said, is not merely about profits but about trust, patience and discipline over time. Through such sessions, the Chamber continuously strives to empower its members not only in business but also in financial decision-making.

Speaking to investors, Mr. Vikas Khemani highlighted the remarkable journey of the Indian equity markets. He noted that in 2001, the Nifty index stood at around 800 points, whereas today it has reached approximately 26,000 points, reflecting an 8 to 9 times growth. Over the past two to three decades, Indian markets have delivered exceptional returns. He further pointed out that India's corporate profits have grown from USD 8 billion in 2001 to nearly USD

170 billion today. Despite global volatility and economic disruptions, India's economy has shown consistent growth, rewarding long-term investors handsomely.

Mr. Khemani emphasised that disciplined investing, proper asset allocation and patience are the cornerstones of long-term wealth creation. Investors should avoid reacting to short-term market fluctuations and instead focus on companies with strong fundamentals. He stressed the importance of clearly defining one's risk appetite, financial goals and investment horizon before making any investment decisions.

He further advised that rather than chasing short-term gains, investors should rely on sound research and expert guidance to achieve stable and rewarding long-term outcomes. Diversification across sectors, he added, helps reduce risk and creates a more balanced and resilient portfolio.

At the conclusion of the session, Mr. Khemani addressed a wide range of questions from investors, offering clarity on the current economic scenario, market trends and future outlook. His insights proved extremely valuable to the business leaders and investors present.

CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, delivered the vote of thanks. Mr. Krunal Mehta, Managing Director of Mehta Wealth Limited, formally introduced the speaker, while the session was efficiently moderated by Dr. Anil Sarawgi, Group Chairman of the Chamber.

Seminar Highlights the Transformative Power of 3D Printing Technology



Make3D.in's Meet Dave Explains Advanced Techniques and the Vast Benefits of 3D Printing

The General Engineering Committee of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with Seva and Setu, organised an engaging seminar on the transformative potential of 3D Printing Technology under the series Advances in Manufacturing Techniques 2.0 on 13 December 2025. The session featured Mr. Meet Dave, representing Make3D.in, a leading Indian manufacturer of 3D printers, as the keynote speaker.

Welcoming the participants, CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, stated that the primary objective of the seminar was to encourage the adoption of emerging technologies. He added that the government is also actively promoting advanced manufacturing technologies, making such awareness initiatives highly relevant for industries.

In his 45-minute presentation, Mr. Meet Dave shed light on the rapid evolution of 3D printing technology, demonstrating how Make3D.in's innovative solutions—including their first range of industrial-grade 3D printers—are empowering businesses

through rapid prototyping, customised manufacturing and cost-effective production. He explained that PCL material, used in tissue engineering, can function like natural tissue, enabling damaged tissue to regenerate—illustrating how even severe injuries, such as fractured limbs, can potentially regain functionality through advanced applications of 3D printing.

Explaining the working principles of 3D printing, Mr. Dave highlighted its extensive applications across industrial, medical and several other sectors. While elaborating on resin-based 3D printing, he demonstrated how items such as plastic crates, moulds for broom manufacturing, bottles and handles can be produced using this technology. He emphasised the advantages of reduced cost, faster production speed and design flexibility.

Explaining the working principles of 3D printing, Mr. Dave highlighted its extensive applications across industrial, medical and several other sectors. While elaborating on resin-based 3D printing, he demonstrated how items such as plastic



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of SGCCI



Mr. Meet Dave
Make3D.in

crates, moulds for broom manufacturing, bottles and handles can be produced using this technology. He emphasised the advantages of reduced cost, faster production speed and design flexibility.

An interactive question-and-answer session followed, during which participants raised insightful queries on practical implementation, material selection and future trends in additive manufacturing.

Mr. Pradeep Patel, Co-Chairman of the General Engineering Committee, provided an overview of the programme and highlighted the relevance of 3D printing for the engineering and manufacturing sectors of South Gujarat. Mr. Kishor Patel, also Co-Chairman, formally introduced the speaker, emphasising Mr. Dave's expertise in additive manufacturing. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Devraj Modi, Chairman of the General Engineering Committee

Chemical & Pharma Conclave Charts Growth Path for Exports Amid Global Shifts



Tariffs Have Not Severely Impacted Chemical Exports; Call to Form Consortia to Accelerate Export Growth

A Chemical and Pharma Conclave was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with CHEMEXCIL - The Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council, on 16 December 2025 at UKM Hall, Sarsana. The conclave brought together industry leaders, exporters and experts to deliberate on growth opportunities, challenges and strategic pathways to strengthen India's position in the global chemical export market.

In his welcome address, Mr. Nikhil Madras, President of the Chamber, highlighted that South Gujarat contributes nearly 33% of India's total chemical production, while Gujarat accounts for about 30% of the country's chemical exports. He further noted that Gujarat contributes around 60% to India's pharmaceutical formulation output, underlining the region's strategic importance in both chemical and pharma sectors.

Speaking on opportunities in the Indian dyestuff industry, Mr. Ankit Patel, Vice Chairman of CHEMEXCIL, stated that China fulfils around 35% of global demand for dyes and pigments, followed by India with an 18%

share. The sector comprises companies ranging from micro to large enterprises, with nearly 95% being SMEs. He pointed out that the textile industry is the largest consumer of dyes, and Gujarat has emerged as a major manufacturing hub for dyes and intermediates.

Mr. Patel acknowledged challenges such as instability in Bangladesh and US tariff-related concerns, clarifying that while the US is not a major end-consumer, it functions as a key trade hub. He urged exporters to convert tariff challenges into opportunities by focusing on actual consumption markets such as Vietnam, Latin America and Europe. He stressed the need to reduce dependence on subsidies, prioritise quality, and form export consortia to enhance competitiveness.

Mr. Raghuveer Kini, Director General of CHEMEXCIL, highlighted the Council's pivotal role in promoting chemical exports. He emphasised that forming cartels or consortia has become an urgent necessity. Established under the Ministry of Commerce, CHEMEXCIL has over 3,500 members across India. He noted that despite initial apprehensions, chemical



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Ankit Patel
Vice Chairman of
CHEMEXCIL



Mr. Radhuveer Kini
Director General of
CHEMEXCIL



Mr. Anand Mirani
Director & Lead Advisor
at Simplus Exim &
Corporate Advisory

exports have not declined significantly post-tariffs, and efforts are underway to identify alternative global markets, including the organisation of buyer-seller meets.

Representing NRDC, Ms. Priyanka Agrawal joined the conclave virtually on behalf of DGM Mr. Amitabh Mishra and spoke about research-ready products and their commercialisation, particularly in the pharmaceutical segments.

Mr. Anand Mirani, Director and Lead Advisor at Simplus Exim & Corporate Advisory, provided

insights on leveraging India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to enhance chemical exports and expand market access.

An engaging question-and-answer session concluded the programme. Mr. Rakesh Jain, Group Chairman of SGCCI, briefed participants about the conclave. The event was attended by Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala, Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, and Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, among other industry stakeholders.

National Tax Conclave Brings Clarity on Search Proceedings, Third-Party Assessments and AI in Taxation





Mr. Vijay Mevawala
Imm. Past President of
SGCCI



Mr. Rajarshi Dwivedi (IRS)
Chief Commissioner of
Income Tax, Surat



Advocate Mr. Samir Jani
National President of
AIFTP - Western Zone

A one-day National Tax Conclave 2025 was grandly organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the All India Federation of Tax Practitioners (AIFTP - Western Zone), on Saturday, 20 December 2025 at 10:00 am at Ushakant Marfatia Hall, SIECC Campus, Sarsana, Surat.

The national-level conclave provided in-depth guidance on key legal aspects of taxation, practical challenges faced by professionals, and the growing role of modern technology in tax administration.

The conclave was graced by Mr. Rajarshi Dwivedi (IRS), Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Surat, as the Chief Guest, while Advocate Sameer Jani, National President of AIFTP, attended as Guest of Honour. Advocate Jani urged members of the association to actively work towards projecting

Gujarat as a leading hub of tax professionalism and excellence.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Rajarshi Dwivedi (IRS) elaborated on the concept of third-party searches, explaining that these involve individuals who are not the primary targets of a search but become part of proceedings due to their connection—direct or indirect—to the main assessee. He stated that many search-related complications originate at this stage. When the Income Tax Department conducts a search on a particular individual, evidence found during the operation may automatically bring family members into the scope of investigation due to possible financial transactions. However, the challenge arises in cases involving persons with no direct or evident linkage—such as business associates listed on paper, bank account holders, or casual connections—who



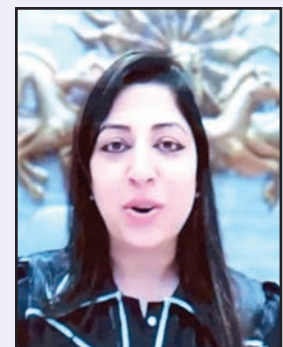
CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer of
SGCCI



Mr. Tushar Hemani
Advocate of
Gujarat High Court



CA Parikshit
Aurangabdkar
Renowned CA
From Pune



CA Anchal Kapoor
Well known CA
from Amritsar

may also face proceedings.

He explained that documents found during searches may not necessarily reflect actual ownership or involvement, especially since residences and offices often contain papers belonging to multiple individuals. Even documents relating to friends, acquaintances or overseas contacts may trigger suspicion, leading to proceedings against unrelated parties. Mr. Dwivedi emphasised that legislative provisions governing search proceedings were introduced precisely to address such complexities, and that the intent of ongoing legal amendments is to maintain a balance between investigative authority and taxpayer rights.

Mr. Dwivedi further highlighted the growing issue of “dummy documents”, particularly in relation to Section 153C and search assessments. He noted that facts on record and ground realities often differ, and while decisions may be based on documented evidence, truth must not be ignored. He stressed that both tax practitioners and tax authorities share the responsibility of carefully examining the factual context, surrounding circumstances and evidentiary value of documents during search proceedings.

Senior Advocate Mr. Tushar Hemani of the Gujarat High Court delivered a detailed session on third-party searches and their implications under Income Tax law. He explained that when documents, digital data or evidence relating to other taxpayers are discovered during a search or survey, the Income Tax Department may initiate proceedings against such third parties. However, for such action to be legally sustainable, strict adherence to prescribed legal procedures and guidelines is mandatory. He emphasised that before reopening assessments under Section 148(3), taxpayers must be clearly informed of the reasons and material basis, ensuring compliance with principles of natural justice.

Renowned Chartered Accountant Mr. Parikshit Aurangabadkar from Pune spoke on the use of Artificial Intelligence in AI-powered finance

and taxation. He explained that AI has significantly enhanced speed, accuracy and transparency in tax compliance. Processes such as return filing, scrutiny analysis, data verification, risk assessment and fraud detection have become more efficient through AI-driven tools. He added that analysing large volumes of data using AI enables better tax planning insights, benefiting both taxpayers and professionals. He strongly emphasised that staying updated with technology and AI will be essential for Chartered Accountants and tax consultants to remain relevant in the future.

Joining online from Amritsar, Ms. Anchal Kapoor, a well-known Chartered Accountant, discussed GST Playbook insights, focusing on GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C filing and tribunal-related issues. She highlighted the importance of careful attention to data reconciliation, Input Tax Credit (ITC) mismatches, turnover differences and audit trails, noting that even minor errors can lead to future notices or disputes. She advised taxpayers and professionals to strengthen compliance through updated legal knowledge, accurate record-keeping and the practical use of GST playbooks.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala. Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi presented the programme outline, while Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala delivered the vote of thanks. Advocate Sachin Gandhi, Chairman of AIFTP (Western Zone), presented the concluding remarks.

The conclave was efficiently moderated by CA Pragnesh Jagasheth, Chairman of the Chamber's Income Tax Committee, while the technical sessions were conducted by CA Akshay Modi, Co-Chairman of the Committee. The event witnessed the presence of former Chamber Presidents CA P. M. Shah and Mr. Ramesh Vaghasia, along with a large number of tax professionals, Chartered Accountants, advocates and industry representatives from Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Mumbai, Valsad, Vapi, Nashik, Malegaon, Nagpur, Pune and Junagadh.

Explore Botswana” Programme Showcases Global Investment Opportunities for Surat Entrepreneurs



Invest in Botswana, Partner in Long-Term Growth — Immense Opportunities in Solar and Wind Energy: H.E. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo

An “Explore Botswana” programme was organised by The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Saturday, 20 December 2025 at 5:00 pm at Platinum Hall, Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. The programme was graced by Her Excellency Ms. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, Minister of Minerals and Energy, Government of Botswana, as the Chief Guest. Addressing Surat’s business community, Her Excellency invited entrepreneurs to invest in Botswana’s renewable energy sector and become long-term partners in the country’s development journey.

Speaking to industry leaders, H.E. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo stated that Botswana’s economic direction is clearly defined and the country is rapidly moving towards diversification. She emphasised that Botswana is no longer limited to exporting raw materials and minerals, but is firmly progressing towards value addition, manufacturing, services and technology-driven growth.

She noted that Botswana welcomes investments that create employment, enable skill transfer, strengthen local capacities and build resilient supply chains. “We do not invite investors merely to extract resources and leave. We invite you to invest in

Botswana, partner with us, and grow together over the long term,” she said.

Highlighting renewable energy as the backbone of Botswana’s industrialisation, she added that the government is actively working towards modernising the energy system and deploying high-quality energy solutions, while also expanding regional value chains. With strong institutions, transparent governance and robust investor-protection policies, Botswana offers significant opportunities for Surat entrepreneurs, particularly in solar and wind energy. She further underlined that the relationship between India and Botswana is built on shared democratic values, mutual respect and strong people-to-people ties.

Mr. Faruk Patel, Chairman of KP Group, stated that KP Group will invest Rs. 36,000 crore in renewable energy projects in Botswana to support the country’s zero-emission commitment. He informed that KP Group has signed MoUs with the Government of Botswana, under which the Ministry of Minerals and Energy will jointly develop renewable energy projects with KP Group, scaling Botswana’s clean energy capacity up to 5 gigawatts.

He further noted that around 1,200 Indians



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Ms. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo
Minister of Minerals & Energy,
Government of Botswana



Mr. Faruk Patel
Chairman of KP Group

currently reside in Botswana, and the renewable energy projects will generate employment for both the Indian community and local citizens. Additionally, under a scholarship programme, 30 students from Botswana will be sponsored to study renewable energy at P. P. Savani University, Surat, with all expenses borne by KP Group. Emphasising responsible development, he remarked that the goal is to undertake initiatives that benefit humanity and the planet, and are remembered positively by future generations.

Former President of the Chamber, former Chairman of Sarvajanik Education Society, and President of SRK Knowledge Foundation, Mr. Kamlesh Yagnik, delivered a contextual address. Mr.

Dinesh Dhankani of Regan Fashions Pvt. Ltd. also addressed the entrepreneurs, encouraging global business engagement.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber, delivered the welcome address, while Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala expressed gratitude to all participants. Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Chairman of SGCCI Global Connect Committee Mr. Devkishan Manghani, along with entrepreneurs, business leaders and investors, were present at the programme. The event was smoothly conducted by Ms. Jilpa Sheth, Member of the Chamber's Managing Committee.

India-Botswana Cooperation Gains New Momentum, Stronger Trade Ties with Gujarat





Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI,
addressing the media



Ms. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo
Minister of Minerals & Energy, Government
of Botswana, addressing the media



Mr. Faruk Patel
Chairman of KP Group,
addressing the media

- **Proposal for Surat-Gaborone Twin City**
- **Wide-Ranging Cooperation from Urban Development to Medical Tourism**
- **South Gujarat Emerging as a Global Collaboration Hub**
- **Chamber Plays a Pioneering Role in International Engagements**
- **KP Group Signs ₹36,000 Crore Investment MoU After First Interaction with SGCCI Delegation**
- **Major Boost to Renewable Energy Partnership**
- **Strong Prospects for Diamond, Textile and Other Sectoral Cooperation**
- **Between Botswana and South Gujarat**

During the state visit of the Honourable President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu, to Botswana, a business delegation from Surat, under the aegis of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), visited Botswana from 10 to 14 November. This highly fruitful visit has now progressed beyond India-Botswana relations to create a strong and structured framework for Gujarat-Botswana cooperation, with tangible outcomes already visible.

It is noteworthy that during the November visit, a high-level meeting was held at the Office of the President of Botswana, attended by SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi and members of the Chamber delegation. The meeting was also 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 (Botswana Investment and Trade Centre).

During this interaction, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi formally invited the President and the Ministerial delegation to Surat for SGCCI Global Village 2026, scheduled from 24 to 26 January 2026. The invitation was warmly accepted, and the President's visit to Surat has now been officially confirmed.

Following this, a high-level coordination meeting was held on Wednesday, 17 December, between SGCCI office-bearers and Botswana's Energy Minister, the Botswana Ambassador to India and senior officials, to finalise the agenda and programme for the Presidential visit. With this meeting, the preparations have entered their final phase.

Surat-Gaborone Twin City Proposal

During the Botswana visit, SGCCI also presented a Twin City proposal, envisioning cooperation between Surat and Gaborone in areas such as urban development, technology and talent exchange, medical tourism, education and student exchange programmes, regular business delegations and exhibitions.

The proposal received a positive response, and it is expected that a formal understanding for the Surat-Gaborone Twin City initiative will be reached during the President's Surat visit itself. Through such initiatives, SGCCI is emerging as a lead institution in shaping Gujarat-Botswana economic relations.

It may be recalled that recently, at the invitation of SGCCI, the Vice President of Zimbabwe had also visited Surat—further reinforcing South Gujarat's position as a global engagement hub.

KP Group's Rs.36,000 Crore Mega Investment in Botswana

5 GW Solar Project a Major Step Towards Zero Emission Goals

The high-level SGCCI delegation that visited Botswana in November included Dr. Faruk G. Patel of Surat-based KP Group. One of the first concrete outcomes of this visit has been a major renewable

energy investment originating from Surat.

KP Group will invest Rs. 36,000 crore (USD 4 billion) in renewable energy projects in Botswana to support the country's zero-emission commitment. An MoU has been signed between the Government of Botswana and KP Group for this investment.

Under the MoU signed between Botswana's Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms. Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, and KP Group, the Ministry of Energy and Minerals of Botswana will jointly develop renewable energy projects, taking Botswana's clean energy capacity up to 5 gigawatts.

The project will be implemented in phases over five years:

- 500 MW by 2027 ● 2,500 MW by 2028 ● 5 GW by 2030

The project will generate employment for over 7,000 people during execution and more than 1,500 permanent jobs thereafter, while providing solar power to nearly 1 lakh households.

For this purpose, the Government of Botswana will allocate 25,000 acres of land, while the Government of India will ensure investment protection. As part of the agreement, KP Group will also offer 30 annual scholarships to citizens of Botswana for education and skill development.

Smart Supply Chain Conclave



Supply Chains Must Be Resilient and Dynamic

Reliance's Ravikumar Nair Decodes the Complexities of Supply Chain Management

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) successfully organised an informative Smart Supply Chain Conclave on 15 December 2025, focusing on the evolving dynamics of supply chain management. The conclave featured Mr. Ravikumar Nair, Head - Supply Chain, Reliance Industries Limited, as the key speaker, who delivered an insightful and inspiring session on building smart, technology-driven supply chains.

Welcoming the participants, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi mentioned that the name of Mr. Ravikumar Nair as a speaker for this conclave was suggested by ChatGPT. He also briefed the audience about the Chamber's ongoing initiatives and upcoming programmes.

Addressing the conclave, Mr. Ravikumar Nair stated that 15-20 years ago, supply chain was not a distinct department within companies. Today, supply chain management has evolved into a science in itself, directly influencing a company's profitability and operational efficiency. Referring to recent disruptions in the aviation sector, he explained how such incidents clearly highlight the critical importance of a robust supply chain.

He spoke about the National Logistics Policy, which aims to bring India's logistics cost down to single-digit levels, with



Mr. Ravikumar Nair
Head, Supply Chain,
Reliance Industries Limited

a strong emphasis on multimodal logistics. He pointed out that transporting goods over distances exceeding 600 km via railways can significantly reduce costs.

Explaining the fundamentals, he said that four key pillars define an effective supply chain, with customer focus and cost efficiency being the most critical. He elaborated on the increasing role of technology in supply chain operations, including:

- Vendor portals
- Automation and digital tools
- Pulling vehicle data from ULIP
- Use of GPS systems
- AI-powered cameras and real-time tracking

He emphasised that any organisation's supply chain strategy must be both resilient and dynamic to adapt to disruptions and changing market conditions.

Mr. Nair also addressed several queries raised by industry leaders and business professionals, offering practical solutions and real-world insights.

The programme was smoothly conducted by SGCCI Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala. Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi shared information about the conclave, while SGCCI Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala was also present on the occasion.

Seminar on "Fair, Fact and Ethical Practices for Travel Agents"



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised a focused seminar for travel agents on the topic “Fair, Fact and Ethical Practices for Travel Agents” on Friday, 19 December 2025, at 5:30 pm at Samruddhi Hall, Nanpura, Surat. The seminar featured Dr. Sandeep Ture, Founder of Travenio Holidays Pvt. Ltd., Kurukshetra (Haryana), Assistant Professor at Chandigarh University and a Gold Medallist, as the key speaker, who guided professionals working in the travel and tourism sector.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Sandeep Ture emphasised that adopting ethical values in business leads to long-term credibility, stability and sustainable success. In today's highly competitive environment, he explained—through practical examples—how businesses can develop models that make competition itself irrelevant. He also highlighted the growing importance of sustainable tourism.

He shared actionable insights on:

- Using technology to differentiate travel businesses



Dr. Sandeep Ture
Founder of Travenio Holidays Pvt. Ltd.
Kurukshetra (Haryana), Asst. Professor at
Chandigarh University & Gold Medallist

- Building trust-based relationships with clients
- Maintaining long-term customer engagement
- Practising transparency and factual communication in operations

The Chairman of the Hospitality, Tours and Travel Committee, Mr. Vinesh Shah, explained the need, objectives and relevance of the seminar for the travel industry. Co-Chairperson Ms. Duriya Tapiya introduced the keynote speaker, while Committee Member Ms. Ashita Jariwala conducted the programme.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Co-Chairman Mr. Ashish Shah.

The seminar proved to be a valuable, thought-provoking and practical knowledge-sharing initiative for professionals engaged in the travel and tourism industry, reinforcing the importance of ethical practices in building resilient and trusted businesses.

Awareness Session on “Mediation Act and Its Importance for Disputes among Industries & Businesses”





Dr. Deepti Mukesh
Former Hon'ble Judge
of NCLT

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised an awareness session on "Mediation Act and Its Importance for the Disputes among Industries & Businesses" on Thursday, 18 December 2025, at 5:30 pm at Samruddhi Hall, Nanpura, Surat. The session was addressed by Dr. Deepti Mukesh, former Hon'ble Judge of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), who provided detailed insights to industrialists and professionals from Surat on the relevance and growing importance of mediation in resolving commercial and industrial disputes.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Deepti Mukesh stated that the existing judicial system is highly time-consuming, which has become one of the primary reasons for delays in the delivery of justice. Over time, as legal awareness among citizens increased, the number of disputes and court cases also rose sharply. Earlier, very few people approached courts, but today litigation has become widespread.

She explained that the Indian Constitution, particularly Article 40 and Part IX, recognises participatory and alternative mechanisms for dispute resolution. However, over the years, adequate emphasis on these provisions was overlooked. She stressed that the time has now come to return to these foundational principles and strengthen alternative systems of justice delivery. Dr. Mukesh

further elaborated that post-independence, India faced numerous challenges such as population growth, lack of infrastructure, political instability, partition, and wars, which limited the government's ability to prioritise judicial reforms. With industrialisation, the Green Revolution and economic expansion, the nature and volume of disputes increased significantly, while the number of courts did not grow proportionately.

Even today, she noted, many districts function with only two to five courts, while legal awareness has reached such levels that almost every second household is touched by some form of legal dispute. This imbalance has resulted in a massive backlog of cases.

She highlighted that the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 formally recognised Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms for the first time in India. ADR, including mediation, aims to resolve disputes outside the traditional court system, thereby reducing mental stress, financial burden and loss of time for the parties involved, while ensuring amicable and efficient outcomes.

The session commenced with a welcome address by Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. The programme was conducted by Advocate Ajay Mehta, Chairman of the Law and Compliance Committee. Group Chairman Dr. Anil Saravagi outlined the objectives of the session, while Managing Committee Member Mr. Arvind Babawala introduced the keynote speaker.

Awareness Session on “Fighting Cancer Smarter”



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organised an empowering awareness session on “Fighting Cancer Smarter” on Sunday, 23 November 2025, at 10:30 am at Samruddhi Hall, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured eminent cancer specialists Dr. Prasad Kasbekar, Dr. Chirag Bhansali and Dr. Rial Govis, who shared valuable insights on advanced cancer treatment methods, modern medical innovations and the importance of comprehensive care in the fight against cancer.

Addressing the gathering, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasa stated that the primary objective of the session was to spread awareness about advanced treatment options, new technologies, early diagnosis and the importance of maintaining hope and mental strength while battling a serious disease like cancer. He emphasized that awareness and timely action can significantly improve treatment outcomes and quality of life.

Speaking on “How Technology is Changing the Game - From Early Detection to Precision Oncology”, Dr. Prasad Kasbekar explained that advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital imaging and genomic testing have made early and highly accurate cancer diagnosis possible. He

highlighted that precision oncology, which tailors treatment based on a patient’s genetic profile and tumour characteristics, has significantly improved treatment success rates while reducing side effects. Modern advancements like robotic surgery, targeted therapies and continuous monitoring systems have made cancer treatment more effective, safer and patient-centric.

Addressing the topic “Healing Beyond the Cure - The Power of Reconstructive Surgery”, Dr. Chirag Bhansali stressed that post-cancer recovery is not limited to disease eradication alone. Physical, psychological and social rehabilitation is equally crucial.

He explained that reconstructive surgery helps restore physical appearance and function altered due to cancer treatment, thereby rebuilding self-confidence, dignity and overall quality of life. Such interventions support patients in returning to normal life and enable holistic healing beyond medical cure.

Speaking on “Bringing One Back to Life - The Importance of Prosthetics”, Dr. Rial Govis highlighted that for patients who lose limbs due to cancer or other serious illnesses, prosthetics provide far more than physical support. Advanced prosthetic technologies



Dr. Prasad Kasbekar



Dr. Chirag Bhansali



Dr. Rial Govis

enable patients to regain independence, confidence and dignity, allowing them to perform daily activities, improve functionality and actively participate in social and professional life. Prosthetics thus play a vital role in comprehensive rehabilitation and renewed hope for patients.

During the session, the expert doctors also guided participants on cancer prevention, lifestyle modifications, regular health check-ups and early symptom recognition. Special emphasis was placed

on the need for busy industrialists and professionals to prioritise their health despite demanding work schedules.

Group Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gandhi outlined the programme objectives, while the session was conducted by Public Health Committee Co-Chairperson Dr. Sonia Chandani. An interactive question-and-answer session allowed members to directly engage with the specialists, who addressed queries with clarity and compassion.

Do Medications Like Ozempic Really Help in Weight Loss?



As part of its Health Series, The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry successfully organized an awareness seminar on modern approaches to weight loss and obesity management on Sunday, 21st December at 10:30 a.m. at Samruddhi, Nanpura.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Mr. Nikhil Madrasasi stated that the Chamber regularly organizes health-related programs every Sunday under the Health Series. Referring to the Chamber's continuously expanding global outreach, he said that there are many opportunities



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Dr. Vikram Lotwala
Obesity Specialist



Dr. Pooja Arora
Diet and Nutrition Expert

in the healthcare sector abroad and encouraged doctors to come forward and leverage these opportunities through the Chamber.

Obesity specialist Dr. Vikram Lotwala spoke about whether new-generation weight-loss drugs such as Mounjaro and Ozempic, widely used by celebrities, actually work. He began by discussing the causes of obesity, stating that around 240 million people in India suffer from obesity, which often leads to diabetes. About 80% of obese individuals have a BMI between 30 and 35. While surgery is an option for those with a BMI above 35, there were no effective solutions earlier for people in the 30-35 BMI range. Now, new medicines have emerged to address this gap.

Dr. Lotwala mentioned that Ozempic is relatively new in India and said that 95% of patients experience weight loss after taking this medication, a success rate unmatched by most other drugs. However, he emphasized that the drug is expensive and cannot be taken lifelong, even if it becomes more affordable. Therefore, lifestyle changes, proper diet, and regular exercise are equally important. He added that

about 10% of Americans are already using these medications, with encouraging results, and nearly 100 new drugs are currently in the pipeline.

Diet and nutrition expert Dr. Pooja Arora guided participants on the topic “Modern Diet Plans for Sustainable Weight Loss” and stressed the importance of healthy eating. She said that many people believe that if they take medicines like Ozempic, diet is no longer necessary—this is a major misconception. A structured and balanced diet plan is absolutely essential, even while using such medications, to ensure proper nutrition and energy.

An engaging question-and-answer session was held at the end of the seminar, during which experts addressed participants’ queries related to weight loss, medications, diet, and lifestyle.

Public Health Committee Chairperson Dr. Parul Vadgama shared detailed information about the program. The session was smoothly conducted and concluded with a vote of thanks by Public Health Committee Co-Chairman Dr. Rajan Desai.

Industrial Safety Awareness Program on Boiler Safety



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Sachin Textile Process Industries Welfare Association, organized an Industrial Safety Awareness Program on Boiler Safety on Tuesday, 16th December 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at Sachin Infra Environment Limited, Sachin GIDC.

During the program, Mr. Paresh Vyas, Deputy Director of Boilers, Government of Gujarat, guided industrialists on various aspects of safe boiler operations, risk prevention, and legal/statutory compliance. He provided detailed insights into best safety practices and regulatory requirements related to boiler usage.



Mr. Paresh Vyas
Dy Director of Boilers,
Government of Gujarat

The program witnessed the presence of industry owners, plant managers, boiler operators, and safety professionals.

On the occasion, Mr. Vinod Agrawal, President of the Sachin Textile Process Industries Welfare Association, delivered a brief and relevant address. The program was coordinated by Mr. Chetan Sheth, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Safety and Security Committee, while Mr. Mahesh Joshi, Co-Chairman of the Committee, introduced the speaker. Mr. Mitul Mehta, Director of Sachin Infra Environment Limited, expressed gratitude to all participants and concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

SGCCI Organised the 9th National HR Conclave 2025



Society does not need robots, but sensitive and thoughtful human beings. A true leader builds a sustainable system so that the organisation remains strong even after him: Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised the 9th National HR Conclave 2025 in a grand manner on Wednesday, 24th December 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. The conclave was

graced by the Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, as the Chief Guest, who guided industrialists and HR professionals on the subject of leadership.

Addressing the gathering, Admiral



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi
Chief of the Naval Staff of
the Indian Navy



Ms. Laxmi C.
Senior MD & CHRO,
Accenture India

Dinesh K. Tripathi said that the Indian Navy prepares leaders from a very young age, instilling the importance of time and responsibility in life. In the Navy, people do not merely follow a leader; they also imbibe discipline, critical thinking, and decision-making abilities from them. The leadership training model of the Navy is based on a scientific and mathematical approach, with special emphasis on clear communication, the ability to take calculated risks, and making well-considered decisions. Before taking any decision, its impact on the last person in the entire chain is carefully analysed.

Explaining the “Banyan Tree Philosophy,” he said that just as a banyan tree provides shade and protection, a good leader offers security and trust to the team. A leader walks along with the team and ensures inclusiveness. A true leader creates a sustainable system so that the organisation remains strong even after his tenure. An effective leader manages nearly 70% of work through delegation, thereby fostering responsibility and leadership capabilities within the team.

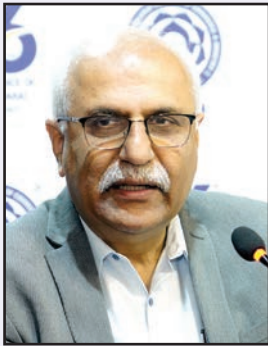
Admiral Tripathi further emphasised that a leader must move ahead with a flexible mindset and a clear vision, supported by continuous quality learning. He remarked

that society does not need robots but sensitive and thoughtful human beings, and encouraged industrialists, HR professionals, and students to cultivate the habit of reading more books.

The conclave also featured eminent guests, including Ms. Lakshmi C., Senior MD & CHRO, Accenture India, Mr. Arun Ramchandani, Senior Vice President & Head, L&T Precision Engineering & Systems, and Mr. Pushkaraj Bidwai, CEO, People Matters, as Special Guests. Dr. Chetan Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of Solex Energy Limited, participated as a speaker.

As a Special Guest, Ms. Lakshmi C. spoke on “Values Over Velocity: Building Ethical Cultures in a High-Speed Business World.” She highlighted that HR leaders play a crucial role in building strong ethical cultures where employees can express themselves fearlessly, take responsibility, and work in alignment with the organisation’s purpose. She stressed that leaders must demonstrate values through their own behaviour and that HR professionals act as custodians of organisational values.

Mr. Arun Ramchandani spoke on “Planet Positive Business: Building Sustainable Workplaces for a Better Tomorrow,” emphasising that alongside business growth, environmental responsibility has become



Mr. Arun Ramchandani
Senior Vice President &
Head of L&T



Mr. Pushkaraj Bidwai
CEO of People Matters



Dr. Chetan Shah
Chairman & MD of Solex
Energy Limited

essential. Sustainable workplaces enhance employee health, safety, and productivity. By adopting green infrastructure, effective technology use, and environmental sensitivity, organisations can lay a strong foundation for the future. Today's decisions will shape the future. Therefore, balancing the environment, people, and profit with a long-term vision is the only truly good and responsible business model.

Mr. Pushkaraj Bidwai addressed the topic "Profit with Purpose: Redefining People Strategy for the Future," stating that organisations must focus on employee engagement, skill development, and leadership pipelines. When employees connect with the organisation's purpose, productivity, innovation, and trust naturally increase. He underlined that people are not a cost but the most valuable asset of any organisation.

Dr. Chetan Shah spoke on "HR as a Strategic Business Partner," explaining that HR today is no longer limited to administrative functions but has evolved into a strategic partner in business growth. With a strong understanding of business and a data-driven approach, HR can contribute directly to organisational success through effective talent management, skill development, and performance evaluation.

The conclave also featured panel discussions on various HR-related themes, moderated by Group Chairmen Mr. Mrunal Shukla and Mr. Chirag Desai. Panelists included Mr. Manish Gaur (L&T Heavy Engineering), Mr. Bishnuram Agrawal (Khazana Group), Ms. Dhara Upadhyay Yadav (ISP Global Consulting Pvt. Ltd.), Dr. Parag Sanghani (PP Savani University), Mr. Hemant Patel (Acutas Limited), and Mr. Sohel Savani, Labour Law Advisor, who shared their insights and perspectives.

The conclave began with a welcome address by SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi. Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mewawala introduced the Chief Guest, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. Hon. Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala introduced Mr. Arun Ramchandani, while Hon. Treasurer CA Mitish Modi introduced Mr. Pushkaraj Bidwai. Group Chairman Mr. Mrunal Shukla introduced Ms. Lakshmi C., and Conclave Chairman Mr. Atul Patel introduced speaker Dr. Chetan. Dr. Nirav Mandir, Chairman of the HR & Training Committee, outlined the structure of the conclave. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Group Chairman Dr. Anil Saravagi, while the overall proceedings were conducted by Ms. Gunjan Patel and Mr. Vishal Shah, members of the Chamber.

Guidance Session on “GST Issues and Solutions”



Guidance provided by CA Hardik Shah in a session organized in association with Surat-Bardoli Timber Merchant Associations

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in association with the Surat Timber Merchant Association and the Bardoli Region Timber Merchant Association, successfully organized a guidance session on “GST Issues and Solutions” on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 5:00 pm at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. The session focused on GST-related challenges faced by the timber trade. The main speaker, SGCCI Group Chairman and GST expert CA Hardik Shah, provided detailed guidance on various GST aspects applicable to the timber business.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi encouraged the attendees to become members of the Chamber and to participate in the Chamber’s international business delegations.

CA Hardik Shah stated that several improvements have been introduced under GST 2.0. He emphasized that it is crucial to regularly monitor suppliers’ returns to safeguard Input Tax Credit (ITC). He explained that both GST departments of the Government of India are now using AI-based tools, and that GSTR-1 must match with e-way bills, as special tools have been developed to detect mismatches. He guided traders on how to avoid common GST mistakes and take necessary precautions to prevent penalties and notices.

Regarding GST refunds, he explained that

there is a 60-day waiting period, after which the authorities must either approve or reject the refund claim, and in case of rejection, the taxpayer has the right to file an appeal. He also addressed specific issues troubling timber traders and provided clarity on Sections 73 and 74, their merger into new

Section 76, refund procedures, product classification, and other important GST provisions.

The session was conducted and moderated by CA Mukund Chauhan, Chairman of SGCCI’s GST Committee, who also offered guidance on practical GST issues faced by traders. The program began with a welcome address by Mr. Kishor Patel, Secretary of the Surat Timber Merchant Association, followed by a detailed overview of the

program by Mr. Gaurang Dhanani, President of the Bardoli Region Timber Merchant Association.

As a special guest, Mr. Premji Patel, former Chief Secretary of the Gujarat Timber Merchants Federation, who had arrived from Australia, shared his valuable experiences. An interactive Q&A and open forum session was also held, where traders presented their GST-related problems and received expert guidance.

A large number of traders and industrialists associated with the timber business attended the session, making it highly informative and beneficial for the sector.



CA Hardik Shah

Ladies Wing of SGCCI Conducts Industrial Visit to D. Khushalbhai Jewellers



The Ladies Wing of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an informative industrial visit on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, to the renowned and prestigious D. Khushalbhai Jewellers in Surat.

During the visit, the Ladies Wing Chairperson Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Alpaben Madrasi, Advisor Mrs. Reshmaben Mandalewala, along with other women members, gained detailed and practical insights into various aspects such as the jewellery design process, purity of jewellery, hallmarking, quality control, and building customer trust.

Mr. Deepak Choksi of D. Khushalbhai Jewellers briefed the women members about traditional and contemporary jewellery designs, the craftsmanship involved in gold, silver, and diamond jewellery, as well as evolving market trends.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that such industrial visits by the Ladies Wing help enhance business understanding and establish direct exposure to industries. He added that this visit, organized by the Ladies Wing of the Chamber, proved highly beneficial for women members from the perspectives of learning, experience, and networking.

Informative Session on All Green Card Options



Dr. Urvish Patel Explained How to Obtain a Green Card Faster Through the EB-5 Investment Visa

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an informative session on “U.S. Green Card - All Available Options” on December 23 at 4:00 PM at Samhati, Sarsana, Surat. The session focused primarily on the EB-5 investment-based Green Card program, which enables investors to obtain U.S. permanent residency through investment.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Urvish Patel (MD, MPH), Director of the U.S.-based Asian Physicians and Professionals EB-5 (APP-EB5) Regional Center and a specialist associated with the Texas Medical Center, Houston. Dr. Patel provided detailed guidance on various aspects of the EB-5 visa program, including investment opportunities, benefits, risks, and procedural requirements.

In his welcome address, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that obtaining a Green Card has become increasingly challenging. Changes in laws and regulations significantly impact immigration pathways, making it essential for aspirants to stay updated with the latest developments.

Dr. Urvish Patel explained different non-

immigrant visa categories such as B-1, B-2, Student Visa, H-1, and L-1, along with their purposes. He also elaborated on family-sponsored (F) visas, and employment-based visas such as EB-1 and EB-2, outlining eligibility criteria and requirements. He emphasized that EB-5 is an immigrant investor visa and discussed reasons for delays in Green Card processing, including annual visa caps and significant backlogs for countries like India and China.

While analyzing Final Action Dates, Dr. Patel explained that among family-based routes, the spouse category is the fastest, whereas sibling sponsorship is the most delayed. In contrast, EB-5 stands out as one of the most practical and efficient options for obtaining a Green Card. Launched in 1990, the EB-5 program requires an

investment of USD 800,000 in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA), either directly or through a regional center.

Highlighting the benefits, Dr. Patel said the EB-5 program offers a two-year conditional Green Card, permanent residency for the entire family,



Dr. Urvish Patel (MD, MPH)

no sponsorship requirement, and a pathway to U.S. citizenship. However, he also stressed the importance of understanding associated risks and challenges, including potential investment failure.

Explaining the difference between EB-5 and the newly proposed Gold Card, Dr. Patel noted that under EB-5, the invested amount is generally recoverable after a few years and all family members receive Green Cards, whereas under the Gold Card, the investment is

non-refundable and benefits only a single individual.

Dr. Patel also addressed queries from prospective immigrants and investors. SGCCI Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala shared detailed information about the program, while Program Convener Dr. Dhiren Patel introduced the speaker. The session was moderated by Group Chairman Mr. Sanjay Panjabi.

For further information, interested individuals may contact 90168 93076 or 98251 28851.

EXIM Conclave



Surat Police Commissioner Mr. Anupam Singh Gahlaut (IPS) attends as Guest of Honour Experts Encourage Boosting Exports by Focusing on Untapped Global Markets and Quality

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized the EXIM Conclave 2025 on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The conclave was held in collaboration with the Centre of International Trade, Surat Management Association, Ahmedabad Management Association, Quality Council of India, and the Wadhvani Foundation. Expert speakers at the conclave encouraged exporters to increase exports by focusing on untapped global markets.

In his welcome address, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madras said that organizing an EXIM Conclave had been his long-cherished dream. He noted that the Chamber conducts export-import training classes and shared that he himself had been a student of the Ahmedabad Management Association. Referring to instability in neighbouring countries, he emphasized that identifying alternative markets has become an urgent necessity.

Mr. Umesh Dixit, Executive Director of the

Ahmedabad Management Association, stated that regardless of the industry one belongs to, skills should be leveraged for exports.

Mr. Nitin Oza, President of the Surat Management Association, said that global partners are actively looking for reliable collaborators and that new markets are emerging. He remarked that this is Surat's moment on the global stage. Understanding customer preferences and maintaining quality will be the key differentiators. He urged Surat to focus on high-potential, untapped global markets.

Addressing the conclave as Guest of Honour, Surat Police Commissioner Mr. Anupam Singh Gahlaut (IPS) said that a city's growth is determined by its mobility. With the introduction of freight corridors, the average speed of goods trains has increased to 70 km per hour. As Surat is included among India's four major growth centers, both road safety and rapid mobility have become essential. Without a strong road network, industrial supply chains remain disrupted. It is also

Experts emphasized the need to enhance exports by focusing on untapped global markets and quality standards



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Anupam Singh Gahlaut (IPS)
Police Commissioner of
Surat City



Mr. Umesh Dixit
Director of Ahmedabad
Management Association

important that manpower reaches factories safely and on time. He added that Surat Police have reduced the size of traffic circles to enable faster movement and have installed around 1,600 CCTV cameras.

The first panel discussion was moderated by SGCCI Group Chairman Mr. Anil Saravagi and focused on ways to enhance Surat's exports, strengthening the next phase of growth, and boosting textile and diamond exports. The expert panellists included Mr. Darshak Narola, Director of Ram Krishna Exports, and Dr. Dinesh Dhankani of the Liberty Group of Companies.

Mr. Darshak Narola stated that compliance has become extremely important in times of global sanctions. As 90% of their sales are conducted online, trust and branding play a crucial role.

Dr. Dinesh Dhankani said that the textile sector holds immense export potential and can grow at a

CAGR of 12-15%. He emphasized that instead of focusing only on the U.S. market, exporters should also look at African countries such as Botswana.

The second panel discussion, titled "From Campus Innovators to Global Entrepreneurs," featured Dr. Hitesh Bhatia, Professor and Dean at Navrachana University, and Dr. Parag Sanghavi, Provost of P. P. Savani University. They guided students on becoming global EXIM leaders. The session was moderated by Mr. Kedar Pandya, Vice President of the Wadhawan Foundation.

Mr. J. B. Dave, General Manager of the District Industries Centre, provided insights into government policies and explained the initiatives undertaken by the government to promote import-export activities.

Speaking on emerging global markets, Mr. Vishal Shah, Senior Vice President of India Exim Finserv



Mr. Nitin Oza
President of Surat
Management Association



Dr. Dinesh Dhankani
Liberty Group of
Companies



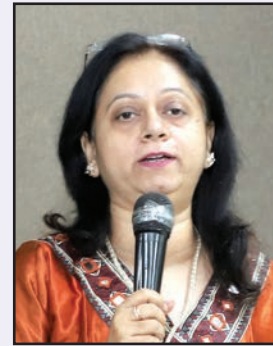
Mr. Darshak Narola
Director of Ram Krishna
Exports



Mr. J.B. Dave
General Manager of District
Industries Center of Surat



Mr. Vishal Shah
Senior Vice President of
India Exim Finserv IFSC Pvt.



Dr. Bhoomi Rajyaguru
Joint Director at Quality Council
of India- NABL, Ahmedabad

IFSC Pvt. Ltd., said that the U.S., Europe, and the U.K. together account for 50% of textile exports. Despite tariffs, exports have seen a marginal increase, and the government is organizing outreach programs in nearly 40 countries, including Canada.

Dr. Bhoomi Rajyaguru, Joint Director at the Quality Council of India-NABL, Ahmedabad, spoke

about the importance of quality control for global competitiveness. She emphasized the need for testing to ensure quality and explained the benefits of NABL accreditation.

The conclave was anchored and coordinated by Ms. Natasha Bhatnagar from the Ahmedabad Management Association.

Seminar on ESI Compliances under the “Code on Social Security, 2020”



All establishments employing more than 10 workers should obtain registration under the ESI Act through the SPREE Scheme before 31/12/2025, so that no past ESI contribution liability will arise: Mr. Deepak Malik (Joint Director – ESIC, SRO-Surat)

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a seminar on “ESI Compliances under the Code on Social Security, 2020” on Tuesday, December 23, 2025, at 4:00 pm at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session was addressed by Mr. Deepak Malik, Joint Director - ESIC (SRO-Surat), who provided guidance to industrialists and professionals.

In his welcome address, SGCCI Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi stated that ESI is a very important component of the government’s social security portfolio. Every Union Budget allocates funds for social security, and ESI forms a key part of it. Social security is managed at the policy level by the Central Government and implemented by State Governments. He added that such sessions help entrepreneurs, businesspersons, and professionals clearly understand changing laws and regulations, enabling industries to function in a more organized manner.

Mr. Deepak Malik informed that all establishments employing more than 10 workers should complete registration under the ESI Act



Mr. Deepak Malik
Joint Director - ESIC
(SRO-Surat)

through the SPREE Scheme before 31/12/2025, so that there will be no liability for past ESI contributions. He further appealed that hospitals and schools/colleges should register under the ESI Act as per the Code on Social Security and ensure compliance by enrolling all employees earning up to Rs. 21,000 per month.

Mr. Malik also clarified that factories and establishments currently located in non-implemented areas are not required to comply at present. He shared that an ESI Model Hospital in

Surat will commence operations in the near future and that Surat will also get an ESI Medical College, providing detailed information in this regard.

The session was moderated by Mr. Sohel Savani, Chairman of the Chamber’s Labour Law Committee. Mr. Ashok Mahant, Co-Chairman of the committee, outlined the program. Representatives from industry, HR professionals, and accountants attended the seminar.

At the end of the session, a question-and-answer interaction based on real-life cases was conducted, which participants found highly useful and informative.

Seminar on “Unidentified Mental Health Disorders”





Dr. Mukul Choksi
Psychiatrist

Psychiatrist Dr. Mukul Choksi explained psychosomatic disorders, hidden depression, functioning depression, silent depression, and functional anarchy in detail

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a public awareness seminar on “Unidentified Mental Health Disorders” on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured in-depth guidance by renowned Surat-based psychiatrist Dr. Mukul Choksi.

Dr. Mukul Choksi explained that psychosomatic science deals with how the mind expresses itself through the body. The mind manifests in different ways because every organ of the body functions under the influence of the mind. There is an invisible control of the mind over every muscle of the body. Two systems operate within this framework—voluntary and involuntary. The involuntary system, also known as the autonomic nervous system, functions automatically. Although it operates on its own, it is still activated by the mind, even if the mind does not issue direct commands.

While explaining hidden depression, functioning depression, and silent depression, he stated that all three fall under what he termed functional anarchy, a condition where there is no structured internal system and behaviour becomes erratic. In functioning depression, individuals continue to perform well at work and students study regularly, yet they fail to experience joy even during happy occasions or are unable to truly enjoy such moments—this is a key indicator of functional depression.

Elaborating further, Dr. Choksi explained that every individual has multiple “levels.” Thinking ability, skills, intelligence, and IQ operate at the higher levels, while emotions function at the mid-levels, and physiological functions such as breathing, cardiac activity, sleep, thirst, hunger, sexual drive, and overall physiology operate at the most basic levels. This is why people react differently to the same situation. Some individuals can control anger due to developed skills or intelligence, whereas those unable to control anger may lack those capacities.

Speaking further on functional depression, Dr. Choksi said that while everyone knows that waking up early to walk or exercise is beneficial, many fail to take the first step. In such cases, the person appears normal outwardly but suffers from inner inertia. To prevent mental depression, he advised engaging in activities such as playing sports, going to the gym, practicing meditation, pranayama, and yoga, spending time outdoors, walking, socializing, dancing, reading, and participating in activities one enjoys.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi delivered the welcome address. Group Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gandhi outlined the program. The session was moderated by Dr. Rajan Desai, Co-Chairman of the Chamber’s Public Health Committee. Mr. Mahesh Pamanani, Chairman of the Education and Skill Development Centre, along with Chamber members, were present at the event.

SGCCI Global Fabric Expo' to Be Organized as a New Chapter of the Vivnit Exhibition; Launch Ceremony Held with Unveiling of New Logo



Change is the first step in the momentum of development; we will achieve the goal of taking Surat's textile industry to the global level: SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized the launch ceremony of 'SGCCI Global Fabric Expo 2026', marking a new chapter of the Vivnit Exhibition, on Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM at La Fountain, Varachha. During the event, the official unveiling of the expo along with the launch of its new logo was carried out, which was enthusiastically welcomed by the guests present, industry leaders, exhibitors, and Chamber members.

Delivering the welcome address, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that the Chamber is continuously working to create new opportunities, international linkages, and business growth for industries, and the new chapter of the Vivnit Exhibition in the form of 'SGCCI Global

Fabric Expo' is a significant step in that direction. He emphasized that change is the law of nature and the first step toward development. With proper planning, targets can be achieved, and the new year is beginning on a very positive note.

SGCCI Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala said that earlier, the Vivnit Exhibition allowed only weavers and knitters to exhibit. However, with the launch of SGCCI Global Fabric Expo and its new logo, the exhibition will now cover the entire textile value chain, including embroidery, digital print, foil print, position print, and more. The expo will include all types of fabrics, including garment fabrics, and aims to take Surat's fabrics to the international stage.

He further added that to take Surat's fabrics

The first edition of 'SGCCI Global Fabric Expo' will be held on June 26, 27, and 28, 2026, aiming to open global gateways for the textile industry



‘SGCCI Global Fabric Expo’ will cover the entire textile value chain; international buyers will be brought to take Surat’s fabrics from local to global markets: SGCCI Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala

from local to global markets, international buyers will be invited to the SGCCI Global Fabric Expo. Efforts are being made to position this newly launched expo at a global level so that the entire textile industry value chain can benefit. Through this exhibition, the Chamber is striving to open global doors for the textile industry. He also advised entrepreneurs to focus on research and

development and develop innovative patterns in their products.

SGCCI Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala expressed gratitude to all attendees and stated that renaming the Vivnit Exhibition as ‘SGCCI Global Fabric Expo’ will give the exhibition a global identity and provide a strong platform for domestic and international buyers, manufacturers, and traders.



Mr. Nikhil Madrasi
President of SGCCI



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President of SGCCI

SGCCI Group Chairman Mr. Kiran Thummar remarked that exhibitions are the best medium to showcase products effectively at a global level. He noted that the Chamber had earlier presented the fourth edition of the Vivnit Exhibition, and it will now be taken to a global platform as SGCCI Global Fabric Expo, urging textile entrepreneurs to participate as exhibitors.

Managing Committee Member Dr. Haresh Patel announced that the first edition of SGCCI Global Fabric Expo will be held on June 26, 27, and

28, 2026, with participation from exhibitors, buyers, textile leaders, and experts from across the country. Roadshows will be conducted to promote the expo, and exhibitors will gain access to new buyers through this platform.

The event was anchored by Managing Committee Member Mr. Atul Patel. Industry leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals associated with textiles, fabrics, garments, and the broader textile industry, along with SGCCI members, were present at the program.

Seminar on BIS Standards and Quality Control



Senior BIS officials from Surat provided guidance on quality control and BIS standards for hand tools, hardware, and furniture products

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), successfully organized an awareness seminar on important aspects of quality control and BIS standards for hand tools, hardware, and furniture products on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 5:30 PM, at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat.

The key speaker, Mr. S. K. Singh, Senior Director and Head of the BIS Surat Office, provided detailed

guidance on BIS standards, quality control and compliance, and explained the process of obtaining BIS certification.

Mr. Singh stated that adopting BIS standards ensures reliable and quality products for consumers and helps manufacturers increase exports. He elaborated on products covered under mandatory certification such as plywood and flush doors, the timelines for implementation of Quality Control Orders (QCOs), hallmarking requirements, and

related regulatory aspects.

Mr. Dhanraj Karade, Scientist SC /C Deputy Director, BIS Surat, highlighted the practical aspects of BIS and its implementation in business operations. He explained the procedures and requirements for obtaining mandatory and voluntary certifications for various hand tools.

Mr. Kirit Patel, President of the Surat Hardware and Building Material Merchants Association, delivered the welcome address. Mr. Pramod Bhagat, Chairman of the SGCCI Retail Trade Committee, outlined the objectives



Mr. S.K. Singh

industrialists actively participated in the program. At the end of the session, the speakers addressed various queries raised by the participants.

of the seminar. The program was smoothly conducted by Mr. Mitesh Shah, Co-Chairman of the Retail Trade Committee. Mr. Dilip Patel, Secretary of SHABBMA, proposed the vote of thanks.

Through this seminar, the Chamber aimed to enhance quality awareness and BIS compliance among retail and hardware businesses. Retail traders, hardware merchants, and

Informative Seminar on Eye Health



Dr. Nirav Shah explained the latest surgeries for removing spectacle power, while Dr. Anku Raja guided participants on advanced cataract and glaucoma surgeries

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), under its Health Series, organized an awareness seminar on eye health and the latest treatment options on Sunday, December 28, at Samruddhi, Nanpura. The program featured two leading eye specialists from the city, who provided guidance ranging from spectacle-free vision to advanced eye treatments and surgeries.

The program began with a poetic welcome address by SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, who mentioned that this seminar was the 25th episode in the Chamber's Health Series. He emphasized that good

vision is one of life's most valuable assets and that with increasing life expectancy, eye-related problems are also likely to rise.

Cataract and refractive surgeon Dr. Nirav Shah, while explaining the latest refractive surgeries for eliminating spectacle power, stated that such procedures can be performed once a person reaches the age of 20-21 years and the spectacle number has stabilized. He explained five types of refractive surgeries, noting that refractive surgery works on correcting the corneal power. He also mentioned that in cataract surgery,



Dr. Nirav Shah- Cataract & Refractive Surgeon

multifocal lenses can correct both near and distance vision. Dr. Shah described blue-light blockers as largely a marketing gimmick and provided practical guidance on spectacles and cataract surgery.

Cataract and glaucoma surgeon Dr. Anku Raja explained that glaucoma (also known as “silent blindness”) can lead to permanent vision loss if not detected in time. Risk factors include high spectacle power, family history, addictions, steroid use, increased eye pressure, and diabetes. He explained that there are two main types of glaucoma and emphasized the importance of early diagnosis to preserve vision. He added that newer eye drops now cause less redness, and that while earlier glaucoma



Dr. Anku Raja- Cataract & Glaucoma Surgeon

surgery focused on creating new drainage pathways, minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS) are now available, including procedures involving eye-stent implants. Speaking on cataract surgery, he noted that advanced phaco techniques and newer lenses are now available, and that selecting the right lens is crucial for successful outcomes.

Dr. Jagdish Vaghasia, Co-Chairman of the SGCCI Public Health Committee, provided detailed information about the program. Dr. Shalini Halwawala, Committee Member, introduced the speakers. A question-and-answer session was also held, during which participants received expert answers to their eye health-related queries.

Seminar on the 7 Habits of Successful Investors



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an engaging seminar on the “7 Habits of Successful Investors” on Saturday, December 26, at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session was led by Mr. Vishal Bakshi, Founder & CEO of Kevi Wealth: Invest & Insure and Co-Founder & CEO of Arthvruddhi Finserv Pvt. Ltd., who provided detailed guidance on the seven key habits.

In the welcome address, SGCCI Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala stated that as India's economy is progressing rapidly, the Chamber's Knowledge Series aims to ensure that its members—and Indians at large—do not fall behind in global competition.

Mr. Vishal Bakshi began by explaining who qualifies as a successful investor—one who achieves all life's financial goals. He noted that challenges are inevitable on the path to success, and investors too face hurdles such as market volatility. To overcome these and become successful,



Mr. Vishal Bakshi
Founder & CEO of Kevi Wealth

investors must cultivate seven habits:

1. Investing with clear goals
2. Starting early
3. Investing in equities
4. Investing regularly
5. Controlling emotions
6. Ensuring adequate risk cover
7. Engaging an expert to help

implement the first six habits

In this context, he explained the benefits of long-term equity investing and the advantages of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) in mutual funds.

Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera shared detailed information about the program. The seminar was moderated by Mr. Ketan Dalal, Advisor to the Capital & Commodity Market Committee, while Co-Chairman Mr. Balkrishna Vaghasiya introduced the speaker. Mr. Vishal Bakshi also addressed various questions raised by investors during the interactive session.

Chamber of Commerce Delegation Visits Reghan Fashion Pvt. Ltd.



A delegation of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) visited Reghan Fashion Pvt. Ltd., Surat, on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, as part of an industrial visit. The delegation was warmly welcomed by Mr. Dinesh Dhankani, Director of Reghan Fashion.

During the visit, Mr. Dhankani provided detailed information about the establishment of Reghan Fashion, its manufacturing processes, use of modern technology, and quality control systems. He also shared insights on innovation in the textile industry, design development,



and sustainable practices.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that Reghan Fashion Pvt. Ltd. is an excellent example of the strength of Surat's textile industry and its global reputation. With its adoption of modern technology, strong commitment to quality, and innovative approach, Reghan Fashion has emerged as a source of inspiration for the industry. He added that such industrial visits promote knowledge exchange among Chamber members and help strengthen local industries to compete more effectively at the global level.



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EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

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

4th EDITION
**WEAVE
KNITT** 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

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

SGCCI
DiMaS
DIGITAL MARKETING
SUMMIT & EXPO

**Health &
Wellness Expo**

3rd Edition
**Surat
Startup
Summit**

SPARKLE 26
INTERNATIONAL
Gems & Jewellery Exhibition

ACT WITH ONE MIND