

येम्बर ओइ कोमर्सनुं मुभपत्र

समृद्धि

RNI REG. NC. 15069/1968

VOL. : 58 / ISSUE-09 / MARCH 2026

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'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' (EPE) Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar



ACTIVITIES OF SGCCI

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BUSINESS CLUB



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शमृद्धि

SGCCI
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e-newsletter - Monthly

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Nikhil Madrasi

President

Ashok Jirawala

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Vijay Mevawala

Imm. Past President

Bijal Jariwala

Hon. Secretary

CA Mitish Modi

Hon. Treasurer

Editor

Amrish Bhatt

Sub Editor

Vipul Sachpara

Editorial & Co-ordinator

Jeetendra Pardhi (Pawar)

Publisher

THE SOUTHERN GUJARAT CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

6th Floor, "SANHATI" Building, SIECC
Campus, Nr. Khajod Crossing, Chamber
of Commerce Road, Sarsana,
Surat - 395007, Gujarat, India.

Phone: +91-261-2291111

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

Contact

Dhanendra Patil, Secretary

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Your valuable suggestions on this issue of Samruddhi are most welcome

SGCCI's Office Bearers



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President



Ashok Jirawala
Vice President



Vijay Mevawala
Imm. Past President



Bijal Jariwala
Hon. Secretary



CA Mitish Modi
Hon. Treasurer

'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' (EPE) Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar



The State Government will take full precautions to ensure that industrialists setting up industries and investing in Bihar do not face any difficulties: Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Southern Gujarat Chamber Trade and Industries Development Centre jointly organized the 'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' (EPE) from February 6, 7, and 8, 2026, between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre, Sarsana, Surat.

The inaugural ceremony was held at the exhibition dome on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM. The Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, graced the occasion as the chief guest and inaugurated the exhibition. Shri Afan Farooq Patel, Director of KP Group, was present as the Guest of Honour.

In his welcome address, Chamber President Shri Nikhil Madrasai stated that the 'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' has been organized keeping

in mind the holistic development of the energy, power, and electrical sectors. "This expo is not just an exhibition; it will provide a robust platform for cutting-edge technology, innovative products, and sustainable solutions in the energy sector. Our main objective is to establish an effective synergy between government policies, the capabilities of PSUs, and the innovations of industrial units. Under the theme 'Powering the Future - Today,' this exhibition will strengthen the vision of green energy, smart infrastructure, and Aatmanirbhar Bharat," he said.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, remarked, "In my understanding, the specialty of Gujaratis is their innovative spirit. They find opportunities even within problems and provide solutions. Nature has bestowed special capabilities upon Gujaratis, which



The responsibility of industrialists is not limited to Gujarat but extends to the entire nation; entrepreneurs of Gujarat must play a significant role in national development:

Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammad Khan

is why they have always remained at the forefront of the business sector.”

Addressing the industrialists, he said, “Your responsibility is not limited to Gujarat; it is for the entire country. Gujarat’s entrepreneurs must play a crucial role in national development.” On this occasion, he invited industrialists from Surat and across Gujarat to invest and conduct business in the state of Bihar, stating that the state is fully prepared to welcome them. He assured that the state government would take all necessary precautions to ensure that industrialists setting up industries and investing in Bihar do not face any difficulties.

The Governor noted that the Government of India has implemented comprehensive reforms in GST and brought significant changes to labor laws. As a result, India’s economy is moving forward

at a rapid pace. As the ‘Mother of All Trades,’ new industrial opportunities are being created for India across the world, including European countries. In the coming times, there is a possibility of generating employment for approximately 7 to 8 million people. Increased employment will also lead to a significant rise in energy demand. To achieve a leading position in Artificial Intelligence at the global level, the availability of sufficient and reliable energy will become essential.

Providing information about the commencement of new semiconductor factories in five states of the country, he mentioned that one of these factories is also set to begin in Gujarat, which will further increase energy requirements. Due to increasing urbanization, industrial development, and technological progress, energy, solar energy, and nuclear energy will become



**Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President, Chamber of
Commerce**



**Hon'ble Governor of Bihar
Shri Arif Mohammad
Khan addressing the
entrepreneurs**



**CA Shri Mitish Modi
Honorary Treasurer
Chamber of Commerce**



**Mr. Bhavesh Taylor
Chairman, EPE Expo 2026**



**Hon'ble Governor of Bihar
Shri Arif Mohammad Khan
during a discussion with the
Chamber President**



**Hon'ble Governor of
Bihar Shri Arif Mohammad
Khan addressing the media
persons**

more popular in the near future.

He stated that when India began its journey of culture and civilization, the spiritual, ideological, and moral values initiated by the sages remain as vibrant today as they were then. Indian culture and civilization work to provide enthusiasm, energy, and the right direction to the youth.

On this occasion, the Governor referred to the Prime Minister's thoughts, stating that one of the important pillars of the 'Five Pillars' concept envisioned by the Prime Minister is Indian culture; therefore, every Indian should feel proud of their culture.

The Governor further stated that India has defined its culture with the soul. The soul is the collective heritage of all Indians. Due to this value-based ideology, India has never attacked other countries or their citizens. However, where plans for terrorism were being hatched in Pakistan, the Indian Army took firm action to eliminate terrorism and set a precedent.

Recalling the thoughts of Swami Vivekananda, he said that those who live for others are the ones who truly live. Swami Vivekananda said that the purpose of life is not the attainment of pleasure but the attainment of knowledge. Referring to Indian philosophical thought, he stated that everything in this world that is changeable is illusory, and only the Brahman is the truth. The Governor emphasized that self-exploration is extremely necessary for the holistic development of personality.

At the end of the ceremony, the Governor recalled the dreams of the freedom fighters, saying

they envisioned an India that, free from subjugation, could walk with its head held high in the world with dignity. To realize this dream, it is necessary to improve the standard of living, strengthen the economic situation, and create an environment conducive to a comfortable life.

Providing information about the expo, the Chairman of the Chamber's 'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' (EPE), Shri Bhavesh Tailor, stated that a total of 60 exhibitors are participating in the expo, including 29 from Surat and others from Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Pune, Mumbai, and Ghaziabad. This includes 65 percent manufacturers and 35 percent traders and distributors.

Exhibitors will showcase various products in the renewable and clean energy sector, supporting services and solutions, electrical equipment and components, and sustainability and green tech segments. Government departments from various states, PSUs (Public Sector Undertakings), and corporate segments will participate in this expo to showcase their innovative schemes, products, and services.

Chamber Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar and all those present at the inaugural ceremony.

Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi conducted the inaugural ceremony. The event was attended by the Chamber's Immediate Past President Shri Vijay Mewawala, Honorary Secretary Shri Bijal Jariwala, All Exhibitions Chairman Shri Kiran Thummar, former presidents, entrepreneurs, exhibitors, and visitors.

Over 12,000 Visitors Attend EPE Exhibition Over Three Days



The President of the Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, stated that the 'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' received an overwhelming response from visitors. The expo was attended by a diverse spectrum of visitors, including industrialists, engineers, consultants, project developers, and students. Among the participants, 65 percent were manufacturers and 35 percent were traders and distributors, all of whom received a positive response from visitors hailing from Surat and various other

cities across the state.

Over the course of three days, more than 12,000 visitors attended the expo to gather information regarding the products and services on display. Consequently, exhibitors reported receiving on-the-spot business inquiries and engaging in constructive dialogues for future deals. It was observed that the 'Energy-Power-Electrical Expo 2026' has proven to be a significant milestone in the development of the energy and electrical sector, not only for Surat but for the entire South Gujarat region.

Surat International Textile Machinery Exhibition 'SITEX 2026'





Under the aegis of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and the Southern Gujarat Chamber Trade and Industries Development Centre, the 'SITEX - Surat International Textile Expo 2026' was organized from February 21, 22, and 23, 2026, between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM at the Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre (SIECC), Sarsana.

The inaugural ceremony of SITEX 2026 was held on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Ushakant Marfatia Hall, SIECC, Chamber of Commerce Road, Sarsana, Surat. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Mr. Rajesh Gandhi, Senior Vice President of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) and Chairman of Vadilal.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber is presenting the 13th edition of the SITEX exhibition. This is the second exhibition of the year for textile machinery,

with a third exhibition scheduled for April 2026. In this three-day exhibition, exhibitors are showcasing world-class textile machinery.

He further added that for the first time in the world, a four-width high-speed rapier jacquard machine was launched at the SITEX Expo. Additionally, a demonstration of a high-speed air-jet machine was presented. New position printer machinery and position embroidery machinery have also been put on display. The latest range of circular knitting machines has also been introduced at this expo.

Addressing the textile machinery manufacturers and industrialists, Mr. Rajesh Gandhi, Senior Vice President of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of Vadilal, stated that world-class, modern textile machinery is being showcased at the SITEX exhibition organized by the Chamber of Commerce. This exhibition will prove to be of paramount importance not only for the growth of the





Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President, Chamber of Commerce



Shri Rajesh Gandhi
Sn. VP of GCCI and Chairman of Vadilal

SITEX will prove to be important not only for the growth of the textile industry but for the holistic development of the entire city: Mr. Rajesh Gandhi, Senior Vice President, GCCI

textile industry but also for the holistic development of the entire city.

Encouraging textile machinery manufacturers, he stated that it is possible to manufacture machinery based on European or Japanese technology within India to the extent of approximately 80 to 90 percent. India is capable of conducting world-class research and development in the field of textile machinery. He remarked that although there are some challenges in integrating the textile industry with Artificial Intelligence, its implementation would lead to a significant increase in production efficiency and speed. Through the use of Artificial Intelligence, high-quality products can lead to a major boost in textile exports.

Mr. Kiran Thummar, Chairman of All Exhibitions at the Chamber, stated that a total of 110 exhibitors from Surat, as well as New Delhi, Mumbai, Ludhiana, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Thane, Panipat, Kolhapur, Pune, Dadra, Bhilwara, and Valsad, have participated in the SITEX exhibition.

Mr. Vijay Mewawala, Immediate Past President of the Chamber, extended a vote of thanks to all those present at the inaugural ceremony. Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, conducted the proceedings of the ceremony. Mr. Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber (CA), Mr. Suresh Patel, Chairman of the SITEX Exhibition, along with various exhibitors and entrepreneurs, were present at the inaugural ceremony.



Shri Bijal Jariwala
Honorary Secretary, Chamber of Commerce



Shri Kiran Thummar
Chairman, All Exhibitions, Chamber

Grand Conclusion of SITEX 2026: New Enthusiasm in the Textile Industry with Over 26,000 Visitors and Orders Exceeding ₹1500 Crore



The 'Surat International Textile Expo (SITEX) 2026' concluded successfully on Monday. This three-day expo has established new milestones in the field of textile machinery and technology. With a footfall of over 26,000 buyers and visitors, exhibitors are expecting orders worth more than Rs. 1500 crore within the next three to four months.

Three-Day Rush

A total of over 26,000 visitors attended the exhibition over the three days. The detailed report is as follows:

Day One - 5,560

Day Two - 11,850

Day Three - 8,597

Total Visitors - 26,007

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President, SGCCI, said, "The feedback received from the exhibitors is extremely encouraging, and SITEX 2026 has truly proven to be a 'super hit'. All exhibitors participating in the exhibition presented their state-of-the-art machinery effectively before buyers who arrived from across the country. As a result of the 'one-to-one' meetings between exhibitors and genuine buyers, a large number of new business inquiries have been generated alongside on-the-spot orders."

Advance Booking for State-of-the-Art Machinery Worth Crores

An impressive business deal was witnessed on the very second day of the SITEX Expo. Impressed by the cutting-edge technology displayed at the exhibition, several leading buyers placed on-the-spot orders with exhibitors for state-of-the-art machinery worth crores.

Buyers Flocked from Over 40 Cities Across the Country

SITEX 2026 garnered attention not only locally but also at a national level. Visitors associated with the textile industry from every corner of the country attended this exhibition, primarily including the following cities:

- Gujarat: Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bhuj, Amreli, Patan, Siddhpur, Surendranagar, Virpur, and Abrama.
- Maharashtra: Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Solapur, Malegaon, and Ichalkaranji.
- North India: New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Ambala, Varanasi, Etawah, Pratapgarh, and Badrinathpuri.
- Rajasthan: Bhilwara, Jodhpur, Bikaner, and Dungarpur.
- South India: Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Coimbatore, Erode, Tirupur, and Salem (Silchur).
- Other States: Kolkata, Indore, and Buxar.

The Union Budget 2026-2027 presented by the Union Finance Minister is a progressive budget that sustains growth in line with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas': SGCCI



The Union Budget for the year 2026-2027 was presented by the Union Finance Minister of India, Nirmala Sitharaman, this morning. Several major announcements were made for the industrial sector in this Union Budget, including special packages and schemes for industries ranging from semiconductors to textiles and MSMEs.

Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber had requested a special scheme for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for the textile sector in India. In the budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

announced a fund for the establishment of such a Centre of Excellence. Furthermore, the Chamber had also requested a cluster-wise upgradation fund, which was also announced in the budget. He further added that this budget fulfills the aspirations of the people. The Union Budget is a progressive budget that maintains growth in line with 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

In addition, the Chamber had demanded provisions to reduce logistics costs. The Finance Minister announced liquidity support for MSMEs. A transaction settlement program has been announced



Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President, Chamber of Commerce



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President, Chamber



Shri Vijay Mevawala
Immediate Past President, Chamber

for the purpose of liquidity support for small industries. A 'Self-Reliant India' (Self India) fund will be created, which will provide direct assistance to micro-enterprises; a credit guarantee support mechanism will be established, and the GeM portal will be linked with trade. Government institutions have been directed to design modular courses for professional support.

Significant announcements have been made in this budget for the diamond and gems and jewellery industry. The limit of Rs 10 lakh in international e-commerce has been removed. Additionally, units located in SEZs have been granted permission to sell certain goods in the Domestic Tariff Area.

Ashok Jirawala, Vice President of the Chamber, stated that a Mega Textile Park and a National Fiber Scheme have been announced for the textile industry in the budget. A special scheme for textile growth in rural areas was announced, a demand that had also been raised by the Chamber. The Chamber has also been demanding a Textile University in Surat for a long time. In the budget, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the establishment of a Textile University in the industrial area. Furthermore, for Micro and Small Enterprises, the provision under the CGTMSE scheme has been increased to Rs 10 crore per unit, up from Rs 5 crore. This matter had also been a long-standing demand of the Chamber. Due to this, the economic development of Surat will accelerate at double the pace.

Vijay Mewawala, Immediate Past President of the Chamber, stated that the budget includes the announcement of implementing a faceless mechanism in the customs clearance process under the customs warehousing framework, which will increase transparency and reduce time and costs. The binding time limit for advance rulings in the customs department, which is currently three years, has been increased to five years, which will provide traders with long-term policy clarity and business stability. Additionally, a reduction in the TCS rate applicable



**Shri Bijal Jariwala
Honorary Secretary,
Chamber**



**CA Shri Mitish Modi
Honorary Treasurer,
Chamber**

to foreign travel has been announced, which will provide relief to the middle class and the travel and service sectors.

Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, stated that the budget announced the abolition of import duty on specific raw materials for the export of textile and leather products. The time period for fulfilling export obligations has been extended. A 'Self-Reliant India' fund will be formed for micro-enterprises within the MSME sector. The National Handloom Policy will provide encouragement and assistance to artisans, with technical support provided by academic institutes. Furthermore, under the Mahatma Gandhi Gram Swaraj, incentives have been provided for the production, training, and marketing of Khadi and handicrafts. 'One District One Product' will be given a boost. Additionally, an initiative has been taken to equip India in the technology sector through the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM 2.0). Under this, special provisions have been made to create production, Indian IP, and supply chains.

Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, stated that the budget has allocated Rs 5000 crore per City Economic Region (CER) for five years under the CER framework. Furthermore, allocations have been made under the BHARAT VISTAAR scheme to enable the multilingual use of AI tools in the agricultural sector. Rs 10000 crore has been allocated to the MSME Growth Fund. Consequently, small and medium-sized industries in the textile and other sectors of Surat and South Gujarat will receive a boost for industrial development. On the other hand, in the new Income Tax Act coming into effect from April 1, 2026, the definition of cooperative societies has been expanded to include Multi-State Cooperative Societies; therefore, Multi-State Cooperative Societies will now be able to avail tax deduction benefits under the Income Tax Act from the tax year 2026-2027. Additionally, the proposal to grant tax deduction benefits on income earned by cooperative societies engaged in cattle feed and cotton seed activities is highly welcome.

“Surat has many admirers, and I count myself as one of them”: Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Shri M. Nagrajan (IAS)



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) hosted a welcome ceremony for the newly appointed Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Shri M. Nagrajan (IAS), where he was felicitated by all present

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a welcome ceremony for the newly appointed Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Shri M. Nagrajan (IAS), on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. During the event, Municipal Commissioner Shri M. Nagrajan engaged in a dialogue with entrepreneurs, professionals, and citizens.

The newly appointed Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Shri M. Nagrajan, remarked, “Surat has many admirers, and I count myself as one of them. Anyone who comes to Surat once eventually becomes a ‘Surti.’ Even officials enjoy working in this city. The State Government has entrusted me with the responsibility of leading Surat in a new direction, a task I intend to fulfill in collaboration with the citizens of Surat. I am merely an instrument; it is my duty to translate the vision of the State Government and the people into reality. A collaborative approach is essential for the holistic development of the city,” he added.

“I have previously served as Deputy Commissioner in Surat. When I left, the city’s budget was Rs 4,000 crore; today, it has reached Rs11,000 crore. This transformation

demonstrates that Surat is now ready for ‘Smart City 2.0.’ The Government of Gujarat is also planning for the ‘Surat Economic Region.’ Surat possesses the necessary capacity for regional economic development and must now take the lead in the development of its surrounding areas,” he stated.

He further added that he has played a role, either directly or indirectly, in the development of Surat. Coordination with the Surat Police regarding traffic management has already been established. The goal is to sustain the achievements Surat has attained thus far while striving to elevate the city to an international level.

Emphasizing the importance of providing the next generation with the best opportunities and advantages in terms of health, education, and a high standard of living, he said, “As the world changes rapidly, there is a need to develop a strong ‘core mindset’ in children. Even as curricula evolve, the Surat Municipal Corporation will make additional efforts to provide quality knowledge to students in its schools. I am confident that these efforts, aligned with the new policies of the Government of India and the sentiments of the people, will certainly be

successful.”

Shri Nagarajan noted that there is a gap in the ‘DTS’ framework that needs to be addressed. “D stands for Diamond and T for Textile; these two pillars are very strong, but now there is a need to strengthen the pillar of Start-ups. When I was Deputy Commissioner, efforts were made to develop a start-up culture in Surat, in which the Chamber played a significant role. Efforts were also made to build communities in schools and colleges,” he recalled.

Regarding skill development, he stated that there is now a need to focus more on implementation. “We will focus on mass skilling and new-generation skilling. This will only be possible through public participation. Entrepreneurs, professionals, intellectuals, social workers, and citizens must contribute actively in this direction,” he urged.

Presenting his thoughts on building a strong brand for Surat, he asked, “What projects can we undertake to make Surat a brand? I am open to suggestions that will benefit the entire city. We will make special efforts to create a distinct identity for Surat in the fields of start-ups, innovation, and research and development. I will strive to repay the debt I owe to the citizens through the city’s development,” he added.

Regarding cleanliness, Shri Nagarajan stated that a special month-long cleanliness drive will be launched, and both short-term and long-term



**Shri M. Nagarajan (IAS)
Municipal
Commissioner of
Surat**

measures will be implemented to make Surat ‘dust-free.’ Special efforts will also be made to reduce air pollution. Cleanliness campaigns will be conducted at religious sites, gardens, government offices, and industrial units. He emphasized that active public participation is essential for the survey scheduled for March. He concluded his address by stating, “We must instill the sentiment that ‘Surat city is mine’ in every citizen.”

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Shri Nikhil Madrasi, delivered the welcome address. The Vice President of the Chamber, Shri Ashok

Jirawala, expressed gratitude to all those present at the ceremony. The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Shri Bijal Jariwala, conducted the proceedings, while the Honorary Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi, introduced Shri M. Nagarajan.

The welcome ceremony for the newly appointed Municipal Commissioner of Surat, Shri M. Nagarajan, was attended by the Immediate Past President of the Chamber, Shri Vijay Mevawala; Past Presidents of the Chamber, Shri Rajendra Chokhawala, Shri Ashok Shah, and Shri Himanshu Bodawala; Chairperson of the Chamber’s Public Health Committee, Dr. Parul Vadgama; Advisor to the Chamber’s Capital and Commodity Market Committee, Shri Hemant Desai; and industrialist Shri Girish Luthra, all of whom shared their thoughts.



Post-Budget Analysis



The Union Finance Minister has made the tax system more pragmatic by introducing rationalization provisions for TDS and TCS in the Union Budget: Advocate Shri Mukesh Patel

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a 'Post-Budget Analysis' program on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, where renowned Ahmedabad-based Advocate Shri Mukesh Patel analyzed the Union Budget.

Advocate Shri Mukesh Patel stated that the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister in the Lok Sabha has made the rules for TDS (Tax Deducted

at Source) and TCS (Tax Collected at Source) simpler and more transparent. Double taxation on a single transaction will no longer be applicable, which is a relief for the industrial sector and taxpayers alike. The Finance Minister has made the tax system more pragmatic by introducing rationalization provisions for TDS and TCS.

He mentioned that several significant provisions have also been introduced in Income Tax.



Necessary amendments have been made to previous provisions regarding revised returns, updated returns, and other return-filing-related procedures.

The Finance Minister has introduced two major amendments regarding updated returns. Previously, taxpayers who had filed a loss return were unable to file an updated return; however, this has now been amended to allow the updating of loss returns, provided the loss is being reduced. He welcomed this provision, noting that the ability to file an updated return by reducing losses is a positive step.

He further stated that previously, updated returns could not be filed once a re-assessment notice was issued, but the Finance Minister has provided relief to taxpayers in this regard as well. Now, the distinction between the 'Previous Year' and 'Assessment Year' in the tax system will be eliminated, and only the 'Financial Year' will be applicable.



**Mr. Mukesh Patel
Renowned Advocate
from Ahmedabad**

The new law will come into effect from the Financial Year 2026-27; therefore, tax professionals will now need to understand 2026-27 in two ways. He added that it will be essential in the coming times to understand both systems: the Assessment Year as per the Income Tax Act of 1961 and the Financial Year as per the new Income Tax Act of 2025.

Chamber of Commerce President Shri Nikhil Madrasi delivered the welcome address. The Chamber's Honorary Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi, provided an outline of the program. The Chairman of the Chamber's

Income Tax Committee, CA Pragadesh Jagasheth, moderated the event.

The Chamber's Immediate Past President Shri Vijay Mewawala, former Presidents Shri Amarnath Dora and Shri Ramesh Vaghasiya, along with various entrepreneurs and professionals, were present at the event.

Special Felicitation Ceremony to Honour Distinguished Personalities from Surat who have been conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award, a matter of national pride



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a special felicitation ceremony to honour distinguished personalities who have been conferred with the nation's pride, the Padma Shri award. The event was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat. The ceremony was specifically organized to honour the Chamber's former President and founder of the Donate Life organization, Shri Nilesh Mandlewala, following the announcement of his Padma Shri award.

In his welcome address, Chamber of Commerce President Shri Nikhil Madrasi welcomed all the dignitaries and stated that those who receive the Padma Shri award are a source of inspiration for society, and it is a matter of great pride for the Chamber to honour them. This Padma Shri felicitation ceremony served as a memorable effort by the Chamber to recognize the luminaries who have contributed significantly to society, service, and nation-building.

During the ceremony, Padma Shri awardees who have made extraordinary contributions in various fields were felicitated.

Dr. Kanubhai Tailor, who was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2011, was felicitated. In his response, Dr. Kanubhai Tailor shared his life experiences and his thoughts on social service.

Shri Mathurbhai Savani, who was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2014, was felicitated. Expressing his sentiments, Shri Mathurbhai Savani spoke about his work for society and the farming community.

Shri Yazdi Bhai Karanjia, who was honoured



**Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President, Chamber**



**Mr. Nilesh Mandlewala
Past President of
Chamber and Founder
of Donate Life**

with the Padma Shri in 2020, was felicitated. In his response, Shri Yazdi Bhai Karanjia emphasized the importance of social responsibility.

Shri Savjibhai Dholakia, who was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2022, was felicitated. His brother, Shri Tulsibhai Dholakia, was present on his behalf to accept the special honour bestowed upon him by the Chamber.

A special felicitation was accorded to the Chamber's former President and founder of the Donate Life organization, Shri Nileshbhai Mandlewala, who was announced as a Padma Shri awardee this year. In his response, Shri Nilesh Mandlewala spoke about organ donation, social service, and the spirit of saving human lives, while inspiring others to pledge their organs.

Shri Nilesh Mandlewala stated, "The Padma Shri award is not mine alone; it is an honour for all the donors who have gifted their organs. It is also a proud recognition for their families who consented to organ donation, the Surat Police, Surat Airport Authority, medical professionals, the press and

media, as well as all the volunteers and staff of the Donate Life organization involved in this sacred activity. This award is an honour for the city of Surat and the entire state of Gujarat. Gujarat has provided a new direction and inspiration to the entire nation, and Surat has done the same for Gujarat in the field of organ donation."

He further remarked that there is no greater reward than the radiant joy on the faces of those who receive a new lease on life through organ donation and their families. He noted that this honour has increased his sense of responsibility. On this occasion,

Special felicitation of Shri Nileshbhai Mandlewala, Former President of the Chamber and Founder of Donate Life organization, upon being announced as a recipient of the Padma Shri award

Felicitation of Padma Shri awardees Dr. Kanubhai Tailor, Shri Mathurbhai Savani, Shri Yazdi Bhai Karanjia, and Shri Savjibhai Dholakia for their extraordinary contributions across various fields

he also remembered the friends and mentors who supported, guided, and inspired him during the difficult early days of the organ donation movement.

During the Padma Shri felicitation ceremony, Surat Police Commissioner Shri Anupam Singh Gahlaut, former Chamber Presidents Shri Kamlesh Yagnik, Shri Sharadchandra Kapadia, and Shri Ketan Desai, as well as Vadodara's revolutionary Shri Margayasmith Swamiji and Chamber member Smt. Reshmaben Mandlewala, presented inspiring thoughts while lauding the contributions of the Padma Shri awardees.

Smt. Reshmaben Mandlewala stated, "For Nilesh, the process of organ donation is not just a task, but a mission in life. He has made many sacrifices and shown immense dedication to make this process successful. He believes that our lives are truly meaningful only when we live for others, and

he imparts this same teaching to all members of our family. Furthermore, I am proud to be the wife of Nilesh Mandlewala."

The citation for Padma Shri awardee Dr. Kanubhai Tailor was read by Chamber Group Chairman Dr. Anil Sarawagi. The citation for Shri Mathurbhai Savani was read by Chamber Group Chairman Shri Kamlesh Gajera. The citation for Shri Yazdi Bhai Karanjia was read by Chamber Honorary Secretary Shri Bijal Jariwala, while the citation for Shri Savjibhai Dholakia was read by Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi. The citation for Shri Nileshbhai Mandlewala was read by the Chamber's Immediate Past President Shri Vijay Mewawala.

Chamber Vice President Shri Ashok Jirawala expressed his gratitude to all the honoured dignitaries, speakers, guests, and attendees present for making the event a success.

Business Presentation Meeting by the SGCCI's Women Entrepreneurs Cell



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Women Entrepreneurs Cell (WEC) organized a Business Presentation Meeting featuring a special presentation on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Amor, Surat.

In his address as the keynote speaker, Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated, "If

you focus only on 'mine, mine,' you will perish, but if you focus on 'yours, yours,' you will thrive. The act of focusing on 'yours' is essentially networking. If you help someone secure business, that individual will inevitably strive to help you secure business as well. Thus, through a spirit of giving, your own business naturally and rightfully grows."



SGCCI President Shri Nikhil Madrasi addressing women entrepreneurs

Regarding success in business, speaker Mr. Nikhil Madrasi advised, “Practice out-of-the-box thinking. Strive to enjoy the work you do. In life, you must fight your own battles; therefore, instead of relying on others, endeavor to become self-reliant. Never choose to be a photocopy of someone else; become a brand yourself. Life is the event between birth and death, so cherish every moment of it.” Furthermore, he lauded the role of women entrepreneurs and their contribution to the economy, assuring that the Chamber will always continue to provide adequate guidance and support to women entrepreneurs.

The program commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Ankita Valand, Chairperson of the Chamber’s Women Entrepreneurs Cell. Emphasizing the importance of women’s empowerment, she stated, “The Chamber’s Women Entrepreneurs Cell committee works to accelerate the latent potential inherent in women. Every individual requires a platform at the

inception of their business; the Chamber has provided a robust platform to empower its female members and make them self-reliant, and everyone should take advantage of it.”

The first feature presentation was delivered by Ms. Meenakshi Bhatnagar, Co-Chairperson of the Women Entrepreneurs Cell, in which she provided useful guidance regarding business growth, presentation skills, and the development of women entrepreneurs.

Ms. Dhara Shah delivered the ‘2026 Vision’ business presentation. Subsequently, she presented a second feature presentation for the committee members, in which future business trends and strategies were discussed.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Swati Shethwala, a member of the Women Entrepreneurs Cell, to all those present at the meeting. The entire program received a positive response from the women entrepreneurs in attendance.



Ms. Ankita Valand - Chairperson, Women Entrepreneurs Cell

Awareness Session on Women's Health and Cardiac Wellness



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an awareness session on 'Healthy Heart and Women's Wellness' under its Health Series on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at 10:30 AM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. Dr. Ravindra Korate, an IVF and Infertility Specialist, served as the keynote speaker and provided comprehensive insights on the subject.

In his address, CA Mitish Modi, Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that in today's fast-paced life, both women's health and cardiac wellness are of paramount importance, and such initiatives are the need of the hour for society. He emphasized that health awareness is essential for both industrialists and workers, noting that the Chamber is actively organizing health-oriented programs under its Health Series and will continue to host similar initiatives in the future.

Dr. Ravindra Korate (MS - Obstetrics and Gynecology), an IVF and Infertility Specialist, placed special emphasis on fertility-related issues in women, hormonal

imbalances, maternal health, and the necessity of lifestyle modifications. He provided detailed information regarding the early symptoms of heart disease, risk factors, the importance of regular check-ups, and timely medical intervention.

He further stated that regular health screenings, a balanced diet, yoga, exercise, and maintaining mental well-being can significantly improve fertility and overall women's health. He urged women not to ignore any health concerns and to seek timely medical advice, which facilitates accurate diagnosis and treatment, thereby preventing complex health complications.

Dr. Jagdish Vaghasia, Chairman of the Chamber's Industrial Workers Health Committee, provided an overview of the program and its objectives. Mr. Nikhil Vaghasia, Co-Chairman of the Industrial Workers Health Committee, conducted the proceedings of the event. The awareness session witnessed the participation of Chamber members, entrepreneurs, women, and health-conscious citizens, receiving a highly positive response.



Dr. Ravindra Korate
IVF and Infertility Specialist

Session on 'From Budget to Bullion' Regarding Commodity Market Trends Post-Budget



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a special seminar titled 'From Budget to Bullion - Understanding Commodity Market Trends Post-Budget 2026' on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The session featured an extensive discussion on the shifts in the commodity market following the Union Budget 2026, with a specific focus on price trends in bullion, metals, and other commodities. Renowned market expert Mr. Deven Choksey provided vital guidance to investors regarding the commodity market.

In his welcome address, SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that it is imperative for industrialists, investors, and traders to understand the volatility in the commodity market post-budget to make informed decisions. He emphasized that global conditions, government policies, and budgetary decisions directly impact the commodity market, making such seminars a necessity of the hour.

Mr. Deven Choksey, Managing Director of DRChoksey Finserv Pvt. Ltd. and a distinguished market expert, provided detailed insights into the state of the commodity market. He presented an in-depth analysis of the potential trends in the prices of bullion, gold, silver, metals, and energy commodities following the 2026 Budget, while also addressing the influence of the global economy, interest rates, inflation, and geopolitical conditions.

"When investing in the commodity market, a long-

term perspective, risk management, and data-driven decision-making are of paramount importance," said Mr. Choksey. He advised industrialists and investors to adopt a balanced strategy amidst market price fluctuations.

The seminar was attended by the Chamber's Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, committee members, investors, and finance professionals. Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera outlined the framework of the program. Mr. Ketan Dalal, Advisor to the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee, moderated the event. During the interactive Q&A session, attendees posed various market-related queries, which were addressed comprehensively by Mr. Deven Choksey.



Renowned Market Expert Shri Deven Choksi Addressing Investors

Third Episode of the 'Progress with Productivity' Program Series by the Chamber of Commerce and South Gujarat Productivity Council



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in joint collaboration with the South Gujarat Productivity Council, organized the third episode of the 'Progress with Productivity' program series - Season One, on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 5:45 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat. During the event, Dr. Rakesh Doshi, an expert in productivity and business excellence, provided specialized guidance on the subject of the 'TOC Way of Productivity'.

In his welcome address, Mr. Nirav Rana, President of the South Gujarat Productivity Council, stated that in today's competitive business environment, productivity has become a necessity rather than an option. He emphasized that the right systems, mindset, and implementation are of paramount importance for enhancing productivity.

Productivity and business excellence expert Dr. Rakesh Doshi explained the 'TOC (Theory of Constraints) Way of Productivity' to the entrepreneurs using simple and practical examples. He noted that every organization or business

faces certain constraints, and if these constraints are identified and managed effectively, a significant increase in both productivity and profitability becomes achievable. He provided detailed guidance on how to implement the principles of TOC within business processes.

Dr. Anil Sarawagi, Group Chairman of the Chamber, provided detailed information regarding the program. He stated that the objective of this series

is to acquaint entrepreneurs, professionals, and MSMEs with modern management tools and productivity concepts, enabling them to make their businesses more effective and sustainable.

Mr. Arvind Kapadia, former President of the South Gujarat Productivity Council, extended a vote of thanks to all those present. The program was moderated by Mr. Sanjay Punjabi, Group Chairman of the Chamber. The event was attended by entrepreneurs, professionals, and members of the organization, who described the session as highly useful and inspiring.



Dr. Rakesh Doshi
Productivity
and Business
Excellence Expert

Guidance for Entrepreneurs on Understanding, Identifying, and Preventing Fraud



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an important awareness session on the theme 'Window to the World of Fraud' on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Sanhati, Sarsana, Surat.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, stated that with the rise in digital transactions and global business, the nature of fraud is becoming increasingly sophisticated and perilous. In such times, awareness and vigilance regarding fraud have become imperative for entrepreneurs, professionals, and organizations.

A special presentation was delivered during this awareness session by an expert team from CDIMS - Mumbai and Singapore. Team members CA Jatin Zaveri, CA Rajan Gupte, CA Amit Agarwal, and Mr. Dhwanil Zaveri provided detailed insights into various forms of fraud, real-life case studies, early warning signs of fraud, and strategies to adopt for fraud prevention. They specifically provided comprehensive information on digital fraud, cyber fraud, investment scams, and internal fraud, cautioning professionals on how to safeguard their businesses.

The experts further stated that in the current era,



CA Jatin Zaveri



CA Rajan Gupte



CA Amit Agarwal



Mr. Dhwanil Zaveri

fraud is no longer limited to large businesses; Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are also becoming serious victims. By implementing proper internal control systems, conducting regular audits, fostering employee awareness, and utilizing technology effectively, most frauds can be prevented at the initial stage. Furthermore, it is crucial to investigate any suspicious transaction immediately without negligence and to seek expert advice.

The Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, Mr. Bijal Jariwala, expressed his gratitude to all the speakers, guests, and participants. He stated that through such awareness programs, the Chamber is continuously striving to make the industrial sector secure, informed, and robust.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, CA Mitish Modi, while outlining the program, stated that the objective of this session was to provide members with an understanding of various types of financial and business frauds occurring at national and international levels, as well as to provide guidance on practical measures to avoid them.

The session was attended by the Vice Chairperson of the Chamber's Ladies Wing, Mrs. Alpaben Madrasi, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Digital Marketing Committee, Mr. Manthan Madrasi, along with entrepreneurs, traders, professionals, and members of the Chamber, who described the program as highly useful and instructive.

Awareness Session on Endometriosis and Egg Freezing



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a special session on “Endometriosis and Egg Freezing” at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, on Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 10:30 AM. The event was held under the Chamber’s Health Series, aimed at fostering awareness regarding critical issues concerning women’s health.

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that there is still a lack of sufficient awareness in society regarding women’s health issues. He emphasized that timely information and guidance on subjects like endometriosis and egg freezing empower women to make informed decisions and secure their future.

Endometriosis Surgeon Dr. Smeet Patel explained that endometriosis is often overlooked as

routine menstrual pain, which leads to the condition remaining undiagnosed for long periods. He stressed the necessity of timely medical examinations, ultrasounds, or advanced diagnostic methods where required for accurate diagnosis. He noted that modern medical techniques now make the treatment and management of endometriosis possible, significantly improving the quality of life and fertility for women. Furthermore, he provided detailed insights into the symptoms, diagnosis, and modern treatment modalities for endometriosis.

Consultant Obstetrician and Infertility Specialist Dr. Shaiju Patel provided comprehensive guidance on egg freezing. He stated that egg freezing offers women the option to preserve their fertility for the future, particularly when decisions regarding marriage,



**Dr. Smeet Patel
Endometriosis
Surgeon**

motherhood, or health-related matters are deferred. He highlighted that when egg freezing is performed at the appropriate age and under expert guidance, the probability of success is significantly higher. Moreover, he affirmed that this procedure is safe and scientifically validated, empowering women to make confident decisions regarding their careers and family planning.

The Chamber's Honorary Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi, introduced the speakers and remarked that through such health-oriented programs, the Chamber continues to fulfill its role in serving the public interest.

Dr. Sonia Chandani, Co-Chairperson of the

Chamber's Public Health Committee, outlined the program, stating that many women suffer from conditions like endometriosis, yet often fail to receive timely identification and treatment. She noted that the primary objective of this session was to educate women about their bodies, symptoms, and available medical options.

The event was attended by women, professionals, and members of the Chamber. During the session, the attendees engaged in a Q&A segment to resolve their queries and lauded the program for its

informative and valuable content.



**Dr. Shaiju Patel
Consultant
Obstetrics and
Infertility Specialist**

Industrial Visits to Various Industries by Chamber Delegation



A delegation of members from The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by the Chairman of the Industrial Tour Committee, Mr. Arvind Babawala, and Co-Chairman, Mr. Chetan Sheth, conducted industrial visits to various prestigious industries during January 2026. The objective of these visits was to gain first-hand insights into the operational methodologies, innovative technologies, quality control measures, and business processes across diverse industrial sectors.

On January 13, 2026, the Chamber's delegation

visited Padma Pulse Processors Pvt. Ltd. During this visit, detailed information was provided regarding the modern machinery utilized in the pulse processing industry, quality control procedures, storage systems, and the methodologies adopted for exports.

On the same day, the Chamber's delegation also conducted an industrial visit to Balaji Agro Products Pvt. Ltd. Here, industry experts provided comprehensive guidance on the processing of agro-based products, packaging, supply chain



management, and marketing strategies. The Chamber members were also apprised of the various challenges and opportunities within the industry.

Furthermore, on January 28, 2026, the Chamber of Commerce delegation organized industrial visits to Sahajanand Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and the 3D Excellence Center. During these visits, detailed presentations were delivered on advanced manufacturing technology, 3D design, prototype development, automation, and innovative

approaches related to Industry 4.0. The Chamber members were informed about the significance of technology for future industrial development.

“Through such industrial visit programs, industrialists and young entrepreneurs gain practical knowledge, and new opportunities for dialogue and cooperation between industries are created. Similar informative and useful programs will continue to be organized in the future,” stated Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce.

A representation was made on various issues before Textile Commissioner Ms. Vrinda Desai in Mumbai



Under the leadership of Vice President of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Ashok Jirawala, a delegation comprising Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Past President and Chairman of the Chamber's Textile Task Force Mr. Ashish Gujarati, and Advisor to the Textile Task Force Mr. S. P. Verma, met India's Textile Commissioner Ms. Vrinda Manohar Desai (IRS) in Mumbai yesterday and presented several important issues.

The Chamber's delegation represented that the Government of India has recently announced an integrated program in the budget for the labour-intensive textile sector, which includes provision of capital support for technology upgradation of traditional textile clusters. The delegation informed the Textile Commissioner that under this scheme, either a new TTDS (Textile Technology Development Scheme) or the ATUFS scheme should be provided.

The Government of India has also announced textile eco initiatives, under which the Chamber's delegation requested a special fund and scheme for large textile clusters like Surat, particularly for sustainable manufacturing practices and water management (CETP).

A representation was also made to expedite the construction process of the PM MITRA Park allotted near Navsari, close to Surat, in order to accelerate its activities.

Further, the delegation requested the

establishment of a Common Facility Center at the Chamber to improve product quality, increase MMF production, and enhance performance in export markets in large textile clusters like Surat.

The Textile Commissioner Ms. Vrinda Desai patiently heard the detailed representations made by the Chamber's delegation and gave a very positive response. She stated that the government prioritizes the interests of the industry and is committed to providing all necessary support for the development of the textile sector.

The Textile Commissioner further stated that the issues presented by the Chamber would be examined, and appropriate decisions would be taken in coordination with the concerned departments. Focus is being given to new policies, technology upgradation, and export promotion to make the textile sector globally competitive. She also expressed her intent to maintain continuous dialogue and work in cooperation with the Chamber and industry stakeholders.

Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that the Chamber has invited Textile Commissioner Ms. Vrinda Desai to visit Surat on February 25 and 26, which she has gladly accepted. During the two-day visit, the Textile Commissioner will visit industries in Surat and listen to various issues of the industry. She also expressed her desire to personally visit every segment of the industry.

Live Practical Workshop on Financial Planning



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a live practical workshop on Financial Planning on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 5:30 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat. The keynote speaker, CMA Jaimin Sheth, Managing Director and CEO of Pyramid Wealth Distributors and CEO of Pyramid Strategic Advisors, highlighted the significance of personal financial planning through practical examples.

Keynote speaker CMA Jaimin Sheth provided guidance on budgeting, emergency funds, insurance coverage, various investment options, asset allocation, and long-term wealth creation using practical illustrations. He particularly advised the youth to commence financial planning at an early age. He stated, "Discipline and long-term planning are the two main pillars of successful financial planning." He further emphasized that investors should avoid making impulsive decisions driven by the lure of short-term gains and should invest according to their individual risk appetite.

He remarked that financial planning is not merely about saving money, but a process of systematic



CMA Mr. Jaimin Seth

planning for various stages of life. Through proper planning, an individual can face economic uncertainties with confidence. In the current era, considering rising inflation and the evolving economic landscape, systematic investment and regular reviews are essential. It is not sufficient to merely increase income; it is crucial to create wealth by investing in the right direction.

Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Kamlesh Gajera delivered the welcome address. Mr. Hashim Yakubali, Co-

Chairman of the Chamber's Capital and Commodity Market Committee, introduced the speaker. Mr. Ketan Dalal, Advisor to the Capital and Commodity Market Committee, proposed a vote of thanks to all those present at the event.

The event was attended with great enthusiasm by the Chamber's Group Chairman Dr. Anil Sarawagi, entrepreneurs, investors, and youth. During the program, an interactive Q&A session was held, where the speaker addressed various queries related to financial planning and provided guidance to the attendees.

Awareness and Training Workshop on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an 'Awareness and Training Workshop on the Digital Personal Data

Protection Act, 2023' at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, at 5:30 PM. Mr. Krishna Agrawal, Associate Partner at SRA Legal, and Ms. Ritika Das, Senior Legal Manager at



CA Shri Mitish Modi
Honorary Treasurer, Chamber

Sporta Technologies Pvt. Ltd., served as expert speakers, providing comprehensive guidance to entrepreneurs and professionals.

SGCCI Honorary Treasurer, CA Mitish Modi, stated that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi introduced the Digital India platform, for which data serves as the primary source. He emphasized that data is confidential, transparent, and impartial, which significantly elevates its importance. With the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, understanding and complying with data protection laws has become mandatory for every industry and organization.

Mr. Krishna Agrawal, Associate Partner at SRA Legal, provided detailed insights into the key provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. Defining personal data, he stated that protecting personal information collected through digital mediums has become essential in the current era. He clarified the rights of Data Principals, the roles of Data Fiduciaries (entities that collect and process data), and specific categories such as Significant Data Fiduciaries, including banks and large corporates. Organizations falling under these categories are subject to additional responsibilities.

He also provided a detailed explanation regarding the Data Protection Board, noting that it is the authority responsible for the implementation and regulation of the law, empowered to impose penalties for violations. Given the stringent penalty provisions under the Act, it is imperative for organizations to ensure compliance.

In addition to discussing penalty provisions, he guided participants on practical steps organizations must adopt, such as drafting a data protection policy, strengthening internal control systems, implementing data security mechanisms, and ensuring timely compliance. He urged entrepreneurs to implement the necessary policies and procedures in a timely manner.



Mrs. Ritika Das

Ms. Ritika Das, Senior Legal Manager at Sporta Technologies Pvt. Ltd., provided guidance on corporate-level data governance, internal controls, and risk management. Through practical case studies, she explained that organizations managing personal information on digital platforms must prioritize transparency and security.

Using examples from case studies, she explained that no company or organization may collect unnecessary personal information. When collecting data, it is essential to adopt the principle of 'data minimization'—meaning only clear and relevant data necessary for the product or service should be collected. Furthermore, citizens should also refrain from providing unnecessary personal information.

Ms. Das stated that some companies use pre-ticked checkboxes on online forms to imply consent, which is not an appropriate practice. Consent must be clear, voluntary, and informed. No company or organization can coerce an individual into providing personal data. She further added that data security is not only a legal obligation but also an ethical responsibility of an organization. Maintaining customer trust can only be achieved by adopting proper data management practices.

SGCCI Group Chairman, Mr. Deepak Kumar Shethwala, outlined the scope of the program. SGCCI Group Chairman, Dr. Anil Sarawgi, moderated the entire event and extended a vote of thanks to all attendees.

Entrepreneurs, business owners, professionals, and representatives from various sectors participated in the workshop with great enthusiasm. During the session, attendees actively participated in the Q&A segment, seeking clarification on their queries from the experts. The entire program proved to be informative and highly beneficial.



Shri Krishna Agarwal

Gujarat Budget to Provide New Direction to Surat's Industries: Chamber of Commerce

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) has welcomed the Gujarat Budget presented by the State Government today, terming it as trade and industry-oriented. The Chamber has described the measures taken in the budget for the development of the state's industries, exports, and particularly the textile sector, as positive and visionary.



Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President, Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, President of the Chamber of Commerce, stated that against the allocation of Rs 2,000 crore made last year under the textile scheme, Rs 2,775 crore has been allocated this year; therefore, this announcement is significant for the comprehensive development of the textile industry. He added that Surat has the highest number of textile units in the country and is considered the nation's leading textile hub due to the availability of a complete value chain ranging from fiber to finished fabric.

Consequently, the industries of Surat will receive the most direct benefit from the announcements made under the textile scheme. The government's measures for modern machinery, technology upgradation, increase in production capacity, and export growth will provide new momentum to Surat's textile industry. He expressed confidence that these schemes would be implemented rapidly, which would further accelerate industrial development in Surat and the entire South Gujarat region, while also increasing employment generation.

The State Government has announced the establishment of the Gujarat State Export Promotion Council, which will prove to be significant for the state's exporters. Through this council, exporters will receive training, market intelligence, guidance on international markets, policy assistance, and branding support. Simultaneously, it will help Gujarat's manufacturers and exporters become competitive in the changing landscape of global trade. The government's main objective is to make the export process from the state simpler, faster, and more systematic, and to help industries reach new international markets.

Chamber Vice President Mr. Ashok Jirawala stated that the decisions taken by the State Government to enhance export promotion, industry-supportive frameworks, infrastructure, and connectivity with global markets will further strengthen Gujarat as one of the country's leading industrial and export hubs.

He mentioned that to take the state forward on a new standard of development, the creation of six economic regions has been announced, which includes the Kutch Economic Region, Saurashtra Economic Region, Coastal Saurashtra Economic Region, North Gujarat Economic Region, Central Gujarat Economic Region, and Surat Economic Region. A total provision of Rs 6,600 crore has been made for the development of these six economic regions, out of which Rs 1,000 crore will be allocated to the Surat Economic Region, which will provide a significant boost to industrial, infrastructure, and employment development in Surat and the entire South Gujarat area.



Mr. Ashok Jirawala
Vice President, Chamber



Shri Vijay Mevawala
Immediate Past
President, Chamber

The Chamber's Immediate Past President, Mr. Vijay Mevawala, stated that Rs 80 crore has been allocated for the development of i-Hubs at Ahmedabad and four regional centers, including Surat, to promote innovation and the startup ecosystem. This step will encourage technology-based industries and startup activities in Surat.

An important announcement has been made to establish a Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) connecting the state's two major economic centers, Ahmedabad and Surat, with satellite towns. This project will make travel faster and more accessible, strengthen connectivity between industrial areas, and provide new momentum to urban development.

Chamber Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala stated that to provide a more conducive environment for industries, the budget includes announcements for developing 25 GIDCs as Smart GIDCs and the upgradation of 120 Mini GIDCs with an investment of Rs 1,300 crore. These measures will boost the 'Ease of Doing Business' and make modern facilities available for new industries.

In the field of healthcare services, as a significant step, the establishment of a multi-specialty hospital in Surat, comparable to that in Ahmedabad, has been announced, which will make modern and high-level healthcare services available locally to the citizens of South Gujarat.



Shri Bijal Jariwala
Honorary Secretary,
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi stated that Gujarat's performance in terms of economic parameters has also been remarkable. The unemployment rate in Gujarat state is only 1.2 percent, which is much lower than the national average. Gujarat's contribution to India's total GDP has increased to 8.3 percent, compared to 6.7 percent in the year 2010-11. These figures are clear evidence of the state's strong industrial and economic progress.

To further strengthen urban development, Rs 16,116 crore has been allocated under the Swarnim Jayanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana, which will accelerate the development of infrastructure, transport, water, sewage, and other civic amenities in cities.

In this manner, the announcements made throughout the budget will prove to be directional for the state's balanced regional development, industrial growth, infrastructure strengthening, and employment generation.



CA Shri Mitish Modi
Honorary Treasurer,
Chamber

Seminar on Budget and Geopolitical Impacts on MMF Textiles in Surat



The South Gujarat Unit of The Textile Association (India) (TAI) organized a significant seminar on the subject of “Impact of Budget and Geopolitical Developments on MMF Textiles” on February 12, 2026, at the Kshitij Banquet Hall, Adajan. Sponsored by The Surat People’s Co-operative Bank, the event witnessed a large turnout of industry leaders, technocrats, and subject matter experts.

On this occasion, Mr. Mitishbhai Modi, Honorary Treasurer of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), attended as the keynote speaker representing the Chamber. During the seminar, while providing an in-depth analysis of the implications of the Union Budget 2026, he stated that the announcement of the National Fiber Scheme in the budget is a welcome move. The inclusion of MMF (Man-Made Fiber) in this scheme will prove to be a boon for a major MMF textile hub like Surat. An integrated program has been announced for the labor-intensive textile sector, which is the second-largest provider of

employment after agriculture.

Budgetary Analysis and Industry Outlook

Chartered Accountant Mr. Mitishbhai Modi analyzed the budgetary provisions during the first session, stating:

- Changes in customs duty on raw materials will positively impact the cost structure of industries.
- Tax reforms will open new avenues for MSMEs and textile processors, fostering the ‘Ease of Doing Business’.

- Incentives for production and exports will make India globally competitive.

Geopolitical Developments and Trade Relations

In the second session, Mr. Sachinkumar Arora, Executive Director of TMMMA(I), shed light on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union and trade relations with the USA. He explained how favorable trade agreements could enhance India’s competitiveness against China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh.



Honorary Treasurer of the Chamber, CA Mitish Modi, addressing the entrepreneurs

New Business Opportunities Identified During Afghanistan Visit Facilitated by the SGCCI



Mr. Deepak Choksi, a member of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) and Chairman of D. Khushalbhai Jewellers, undertook a business visit to Afghanistan from February 15 to February 20, 2026. Facilitated by the Chamber of Commerce, he held meetings with various governmental and commercial agencies in Afghanistan to discuss strengthening bilateral trade opportunities.

The Government of Afghanistan assured special cooperation and demonstrated a positive approach toward expediting registration, licensing, and other essential procedural requirements.

During the visit to Afghanistan, high-level meetings were conducted with the Mayor of Kabul, Mr. Nooruddin Azizi, Minister of Commerce and Industry,

and the Principal Secretariat for Exhibition Management. Discussions were held regarding the organization of a specialized Gems and Jewellery exhibition in Afghanistan in the near future, with a focus on ensuring Indian participation under the leadership of Mr. Deepak Choksi.

Furthermore, he visited gold mines in Afghanistan to gain insights into the status of the mining industry. Additionally, he visited the Business Center of Color Stones to evaluate opportunities within the colored gemstone trade sector.

Terming the visit a success, Mr. Deepak Choksi expressed his gratitude to the Chamber of Commerce for facilitating this opportunity and conveyed his optimism for the further expansion of trade relations with Afghanistan in the future.

**SGCCI member
Mr. Deepak Choksi, during his
visit to Afghanistan, held a
high-level meeting with the
Mayor of Kabul City, Minister
of Commerce and Industry
Mr. Nuruddin Azizi and the
Principal Secretariat of
Exhibition Management**



Textile Conclave 2026



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized the 'Textile Conclave 2026' on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Platinum Hall, Sarsana, Surat, with the objective of providing guidance to textile entrepreneurs regarding global challenges and opportunities. Key speakers at the conclave included Mr. Girish Luthra, Chairman of Luthra Group; Mr. Sanjay Jain, former President of the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) and Chairman of TT Limited; and Artificial Intelligence expert Mr. Gurudas Aras, who provided valuable insights to the entrepreneurs of Surat.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Nikhil Madrasi, stated that Surat's textile industry contributes significantly to the nation's economy, and in the current global perspective, it has become imperative to understand and navigate issues such as sustainability, technology, and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) to move forward.

Luthra Group Chairman Mr. Girish Luthra provided guidance on the topic, 'Sustainability, Circularity and Compliance to Meet European Union Standards for Increasing Exports through FTAs.' He provided detailed information regarding the European Union's stringent environmental standards, the necessity of reducing carbon footprints, circular economy models, and traceability systems. He emphasized that adhering to international regulations and compliance is essential to leverage the benefits of FTAs.

Former CITI President and Chairman of TT Limited, Mr. Sanjay Jain, shed light on the topic, 'India's Recent FTAs and Opportunities for MMF Textiles and Establishing Inter-Cluster Co-ordination.' He provided information regarding the opportunities emerging in the Man-Made Fiber (MMF) textile sector in the context of recent FTA agreements signed by



Shri Nikhil Madrasi
President,
Chamber



Mr. Girish Luthra
Chairman, Luthra
Group



Mr. Sanjay Jain
Past President of
CITI and Chairman of
TT Limited



Mr. Gurudas Aras
Artificial Intelligence
Expert

India. He emphasized the importance of integrated development by fostering synergy between various textile clusters.

Artificial Intelligence expert Mr. Gurudas Aras delivered a presentation on the 'Implementation of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Textiles.' He highlighted the possibilities of increasing production capacity, improving quality control, and enhancing the efficiency of demand forecasting and supply chain management through the application of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

Mr. Ashish Gujarati, Chairman of the Chamber's Textile Task Force and former President of the Chamber, provided details regarding the conclave.

He stated that the primary objective of this conclave was to provide guidance and direction to Surat's textile entrepreneurs to make them competitive in the global market.

The event was attended by the Chamber's Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mewawala, Honorary Secretary Mr. Bijal Jariwala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, COO of Bhilosa Industries Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Deep Dutt Sharma, Advisor to the Chamber's Textile Task Force Mr. S.P. Verma, as well as various entrepreneurs, exporters, and representatives of diverse organizations. Dr. Anil Sarawgi, Group Chairman of the Chamber, moderated the conclave. Chamber member Mr. Atul Patel extended a vote of thanks to all those present at the conclave.

Awareness Session on Common Bone and Joint Diseases in Daily Life



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an awareness session on common bone and joint diseases encountered in daily life on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 6:00 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat.

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that due to today's hectic lifestyle and changing habits, bone and joint-related ailments are increasingly prevalent among the public. This program was organized with the objective of providing participants with valuable information through expert guidance regarding common bone and joint issues, their treatment, and preventive measures.

As the keynote speaker, Dr. Shrujal Shah (Consultant Orthopedic and Computer-Assisted Joint Replacement Surgeon, Green Leaf Hospital

and Sarvam Orthopedic Hospital) provided detailed guidance on common bone and joint diseases, their causes, symptoms, and modern treatment methodologies. He also emphasized the necessity of adopting appropriate exercise, a balanced diet, and an active lifestyle in daily life.

He stated that sedentary work for long durations, lack of exercise, incorrect posture while sitting and standing, and increasing body weight are causing a rapid rise in bone and joint diseases among people. If timely attention is paid, and if one follows proper exercise, a balanced diet, and regular health check-ups, many such problems can be avoided. He also appealed to the public to remain vigilant regarding bone and joint health and to seek expert medical advice when symptoms arise.



Dr. Shrujal Shah



Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Rakesh Gandhi provided detailed information about the program. Chamber Group Chairman Mr. Nainesh Pachchigar introduced the keynote speaker. Chamber Group

Chairman Mr. Bhavesh Tailor extended a vote of thanks to all those present at the event. The program proved to be highly informative for the members in attendance.

Terrace Gardening Presentation - A Programme on Kitchen Gardens



The Ladies Wing and the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Committee of The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI), in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Surat, and the Surat Municipal Corporation, organized a programme on “Terrace Gardening Presentation - Kitchen Garden” on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM at the Exhibition Ground of Veer Narmad South Gujarat University.

Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala, Chairperson of the Chamber’s Ladies Wing, welcomed the dignitaries and attendees, providing insights into the necessity of terrace gardening and cultivating vegetables at home.

She stated that, in light of rising urban pollution and changing lifestyles, developing a kitchen garden at home has become critically important. She emphasized the significance of creating a greener home environment to ensure a healthier life.

The keynote speaker, Mrs. Bhaktiben Panchal (Scientist - Horticulture, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari Agricultural University, Surat), provided detailed guidance on kitchen gardening. She explained the scientific methods of cultivating various vegetables, fruits, and medicinal plants on terraces with minimal cost and limited space. Additionally, she shared



**Mrs. Mayuriben Mevawala
Chairperson Ladies Wing, SGCCI**

valuable information regarding organic fertilizers, water management, the selection of seasonal crops, and pest control.

Mrs. Gayatriben Jariwala, Assistant Municipal Commissioner of the Surat Municipal Corporation, stated that through terrace gardening, limited urban spaces can be utilized effectively to increase greenery, while also making it possible to obtain fresh and healthy vegetables at home.

Mr. Janaksinh Rathod, Deputy Director of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari Agricultural University, Surat, remarked that by following proper guidance and adopting organic methods, a variety of vegetables and medicinal plants can be successfully grown on terraces at a low cost.

Mrs. Alpaben Madrasi, Vice Chairperson of the



Mrs. Bhakitben Panchal (Scientist - Horticulture, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Navsari Agricultural University, Surat)

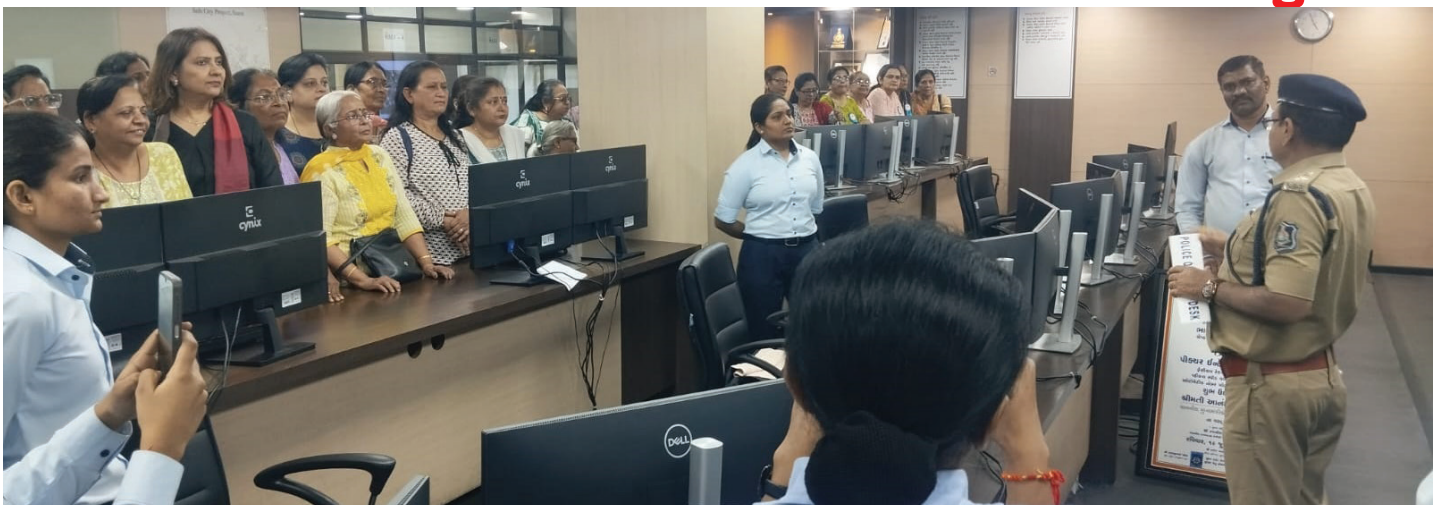
Chamber's Ladies Wing, proposed the vote of thanks. She expressed her gratitude to all collaborating organizations, dignitaries, and members present for the successful organization of the programme.

The programme was conducted by Mrs. Pragnaben Kadakia, a member of the Chamber's Ladies Wing.

The event was attended by the Chamber's Immediate Past President Mr. Vijay Mevawala, Honorary Treasurer CA Mitish Modi, Chairman of the Chamber's Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Committee Mr. K.B. Pipaliya, and members of the Ladies Wing.

The programme proved to be highly informative and inspiring for the women and citizens in attendance. It encouraged people to move toward obtaining clean, fresh, and toxin-free food through terrace and kitchen gardening.

Awareness Session Conducted for Women on Police '112' Services and Traffic Monitoring





Deputy Police Commissioner Shri A.M. Parmar briefing women about the functioning and initiatives of Surat Police

The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized a visit to the Surat Police Control Room on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, with the objective of educating the members of the Akhil Hind Mahial Parishad regarding traffic regulations and safety protocols.

On this occasion, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of Surat, Mr. A. M. Parmar, provided the members of the All India Women's Conference with detailed insights into the operational procedures of the Police Control Room. He specifically elaborated on the Very High Frequency (VHF) communication system, emphasizing that this technology is vital for ensuring immediate and effective communication within the police department.

DCP Mr. Parmar also provided comprehensive information regarding the nationwide emergency service number, '112'. It was explained that by dialing this number, citizens can promptly access essential services, including police assistance, fire brigade support, and

medical ambulance services.

During the visit, the attendees were given a demonstration of the modern CCTV camera network installed within the control room. The practical process of how traffic violators are identified through these cameras and subsequently issued e-challans was explained in detail.

Furthermore, footage of various incidents that occurred in the city over the past month—including road accidents, cases of traffic violations, and thefts from vehicles—was presented. This provided the attendees with a realistic understanding of the city's security infrastructure.

Organized under the leadership of Mrs. Kaminiben Dumaswala, Chairperson of the Chamber's Traffic Awareness and Education Committee, the visit proved to be highly informative and instrumental in fostering public awareness. The attendees commended the police department for its technology-driven operations and its dedicated efforts toward ensuring citizen safety.

Session on 'Tuberculosis: Myths, Facts and Prevention'



The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SGCCI) organized an awareness session titled 'Tuberculosis: Myths, Facts and Prevention - Breaking Misconceptions, Promoting Early Detection, Ensuring Complete Cure' on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Samruddhi, Nanpura, Surat, with the objective of spreading public awareness regarding Tuberculosis (TB).

SGCCI President Mr. Nikhil Madrasi stated that several misconceptions regarding infectious diseases like Tuberculosis still prevail in society. The Chamber periodically organizes such programs to ensure that people receive accurate information and increased awareness through the guidance of experts on such critical subjects.

Dr. Sanjaykumar Mattu, Joint Commissioner and Additional Deputy Director General of the Central TB Division under the National TB Elimination Program of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, provided information regarding the TB prevention and control schemes implemented by the government. He stated that various programs and health services are being implemented by the Government of India for the complete eradication of TB, which include timely testing, free treatment, and awareness campaigns.

"The Government of India is actively

implementing comprehensive programs and health services to ensure the total eradication of TB, focusing on early diagnosis, free-of-cost treatment, and widespread public awareness," said Dr. Sanjaykumar Mattu.

As the keynote speaker, Dr. Rahul Sanghvi (WHO Consultant - Gujarat) provided comprehensive guidance on Tuberculosis. He gave detailed information regarding the symptoms of TB, the causes of its transmission, and the necessity of timely diagnosis and treatment. He emphasized that TB can be completely cured through timely testing and a full course of treatment. Furthermore, he appealed to the public to dispel myths surrounding the disease and to remain vigilant.

Dr. Parul Vadgama, Chairperson of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, provided detailed information about the program. She stated that this session was organized with the objective of fostering a correct understanding of Tuberculosis among the public, facilitating early diagnosis, and assisting in bringing the disease under control through complete treatment.

Dr. Rajan Desai, Co-Chairman of the Chamber's Public Health Committee, moderated the entire program and expressed his gratitude to the dignitaries, speakers, and members present at the event.



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MORE DETAILS CONTACT

Mr. Kirtan Mehta (M) +91 72111 73123
Venue: SGCCI, Samruddhi Building, Nanpura, Surat.
(E) education@sgcci.in (W) www.sgcci.in



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UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26



25-26-27 APRIL 2026
AN EXCLUSIVE TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO



8-9-10 MAY



SGCCI - CHEMEXCIL
**CHEMICAL &
PHARMA EXPO**
15-16-17 MAY 2026



15-16-17 MAY 2026



15 16 17 MAY 2026



15 16 17 MAY '26



**SMART
EDUCATION
EXPO 2026**

15-16-17 MAY 2026



15-16-17 MAY

EXHIBITIONS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26



4-5-6 July 2025



18 19 20 JULY 2025
B2B Platform for Weavers & Knitters



An International Trade Show
1 2 3 AUG. 2025



Celebrating Art, Culture & Handicraft
12th & 13th September, 2025



10-11-12 October 2025



22-23-24 NOV 2025
AN EXCLUSIVE TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO



2 TO 4 JANUARY 2026



EMBROIDERY MACHINERY EXPO
09-10-11-12 JAN 2026



24 25 26 JANUARY 2026



GLOBAL EXCHANGE & TRADE EXHIBITION
24 25 26 JANUARY 2026



24-25-26 Jan. 2026



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Powering the Future - Today
6-7-8 FEBRUARY 2026



21 & 22 FEBRUARY 2026



21-22-23 FEB 2026
AN EXCLUSIVE TEXTILE MACHINERY EXPO



13-14-15-16 MARCH 2026
FUELLING THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY



19 TO 22 MARCH 2026

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